Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 23 August 2012 14:15 -



Swede coach Roger Neujahr didn't notice a game-ending double play Friday against McCook.

His eyes and concentration were focused on senior pitcher Amanda Barkmeier who had just been struck by a line drive off the bat of Madison Chitwood.

Shay Wear, playing deep at second base, went to her knees to catch the ball after it caromed off Barkmeier, and then threw to first baseman Emily Franzen before a base runner could get back to the bag.

"I didn't see either one of those things happen because I was worried about Amanda," Neujahr said. "(The ball) knocked her flat."

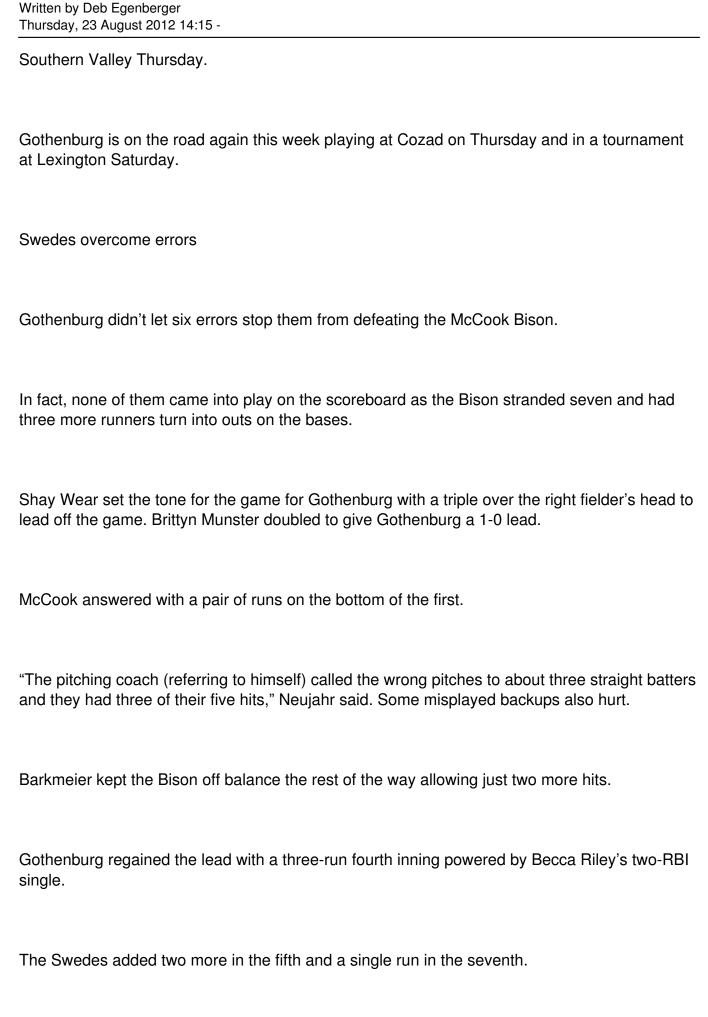
The coach was surprised to hear to the umpires approach the crowd around Barkmeier saying the game was over.

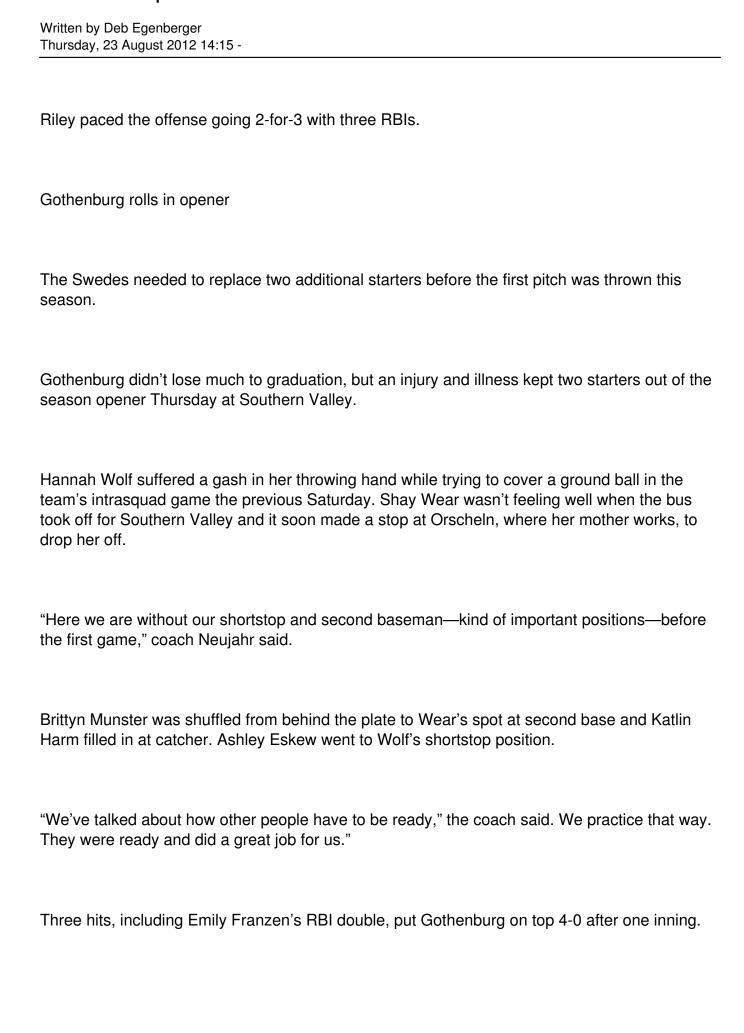
The hard-hit ball struck her in the lower left shoulder, narrowly avoiding a facial injury, and bounced high in the air.

Neujahr isn't taking any second chances on a re-occurence.

"The next time you see us, we're going to have a new look because our corners (at first and second base) and pitchers are going to be wearing protective masks," he said.

The 7-2 win at McCook kept the team perfect for the season after the Swedes won 12-0 at





Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 23 August 2012 14:15 -

Southern Valley's pitcher may have kept the Swedes off balance with batters going down in order, except for one walk, over the next three innings.

Gothenburg's bats came alive in the fifth with three consecutive singles scoring two runs. A flurry of Eagle errors and two hits produced six more runs in the sixth.

Three players had a pair of hits for the Swedes led by Kyndal Holmes going 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

Barkmeier gave up just three hits and fanned eight batters.