

Volleyball girls keep composure

Written by Deb Egenberger

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After letting first set get away, Swedes handle Broken Bow

It wasn't first-game jitters.

In fact, Gothenburg volleyball coach Mary Clark says there were really no nerves at all Thursday night when the Swedes opened the volleyball season at home with Broken Bow.

"I think it was more like they were so hyped up and excited to play. They really wanted to make a statement and I think they came out trying too hard," Clark said. "It's like they were over-playing."

Gothenburg gave up 13 unforced errors in the first set against the Indians and dropped the match 25-23.

"We handed them that game," Clark said. "But I was so proud of the girls. They never doubted themselves. They knew they were forcing too many things in that first set. They knew what they had to do to get the job done and they did it."

The Swedes came back in dominating fashion to sweep the next three sets 25-16, 25-12, 25-15

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and take the match.

“We just told them they needed to play more efficiently, to play smart,” the coach said. “They just needed to worry about our side of the net and I think they did an excellent job of turning things around.”

By maintaining their composure on the court, Clark said the Swedes were able to play more to their strengths and worry less about what Broken Bow had to offer.



Sophomore Tiani Reeves led Gothenburg with 19 kills and seven blocks, four of which were stuff blocks. Junior Regan Geiken chipped in 13 kills

“She (Reeves) really came to play,” Clark said. “Even when Broken Bow was trying to triple block her, she knew all she had to do was hit over them.”

Geiken was 21-of-25 serving with five aces while Jacey Wiggins was 71-of-73 setting with 30 set assists.

The Swedes have a tough string of matches to start the season, already preparing for the Southwest Conference tournament in Ogallala on Saturday.

“There’s nothing easy about this week,” Clark said, “but it will give us a good baseline for the season.”

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The tournament begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. Brackets will be released sometime Wednesday (today).