



Three shutouts propel Swedes to second consecutive state tournament

Gothenburg accomplished a season-long goal Friday, that was not unexpected, of earning a repeat berth in the state softball tournament.

The Swedes were expected to breeze through the competition which had a combined record of 52-121 going into District C-6 play. Three straight run-rule victories—Gothenburg outscored three opponents 31-0—earned the championship hardware.

The Swedes played well in all phases of the game despite the lack of competition. They combined for a .424 batting average (25-59) and committed just one error.

They got stellar pitching performances from Amanda Barkmeier who allowed just five hits overall while striking out 11 batters and walking none.



“We worked hard all week in spotting our fastball and our inside and outside pitches,” Swede coach Roger Neujahr said. “I thought she did an excellent job, probably the best we’ve seen (with her pitch location).”

Gothenburg, now 25-6, will open the state tournament at 3 p.m. Wednesday against Arlington.

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Quick start boosts Swedes

Gothenburg struck for nine runs in the first two innings to set the tone in an 11-0 victory over Chase County.

Becca Riley's RBI double led a five-run rally in the first inning. Three other Swedes drove in runs with singles.

Gothenburg batted through the order again in the second. Three singles combined with a couple of errors and a walk for a four-run burst.

Consecutive doubles by Emily Franzen and Kyndal Holmes helped score three more in the third.

The Lady Longhorns couldn't respond in the fourth and the game ended early.

Franzen went 3-for-3 and had three RBI.

Wildcats tamed 10-0

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