

Gothenburg boys let lead slip away

Written by Deb Egenberger

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SIDNEY—The Swede boys passed well and shot well in the first quarter against Sidney in the opening round of the Cabela’s Holiday Shootout on Thursday.

Gothenburg pushed to a 17-8 lead and looked to be rolling past the Red Raiders until a couple of untimely turnovers turned into three-pointers for Sidney.

The Swedes gave up a 14-0 run toward the end of the first period into the second and Sidney used the momentum to finish with a 59-48 victory.

“I don’t know what happened,” said Swede coach Roger Koehler. “We were playing well and we had good overall ball movement.”

But when Paxton Ehler found his stride behind the arch, the Swedes struggled.

“That’s their game,” Koehler said. “They like to dribble drive and then kick it out. We didn’t defend that well.”

Ehler went 4-for-4 from behind the three-point line in the second quarter, leading the Red Raiders to a 30-23 halftime advantage.

In the second half, the Swedes moved 6-foot-7 Logan Koehler out to defend Ehler and he didn’t score again. He finished with 17 points.

“I wasn’t sure with his quickness that Logan was a good match,” the coach said. “But his length

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made a difference.”

Gothenburg pushed to within three points of the Red Raiders again with about two minutes left in the third quarter but a 7-0 run by Sidney put the Swedes behind 47-36 heading into the final frame.

“It was definitely a game of spurts,” Koehler said, “and we allowed way too many of them.”

Sophomore Tanner Borchardt led Gothenburg with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

Koehler said Borchardt did a good job getting open inside and receiving passes from Logan Koehler, who finished with eight assists and 10 rebounds.

The Swedes fall to 1-6 with the loss, moving on to play Love Christian Fellowship of Denver, CO, in the consolation semi-finals on Friday.

Results of the Friday and Saturday games from the tournament were too late for the early holiday deadline of The Times.

Complete results will be available in next week’s edition.