

Swede girls on four-game streak

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg takes down state-rated Arapahoe

Perseverance through a string of top-notch opponents in the early part of the season is beginning to pay off for the Gothenburg girls basketball team.

So is facing a more physical style against five Class B schools.

“There’s a definite difference in the type of physical play from Class D-1 to C-1,” said Swede girls coach Chris Lecher. “And Class B is even more physical yet.”

Lecher credits his team’s tough defense against state-ranked Arapahoe last week in the Swedes’ 58-47 victory.

“They’re not used to the type of game we play,” he said. “We were able to kind of keep them in check, especially in the third quarter.”



Gothenburg got off to a decent start, matching the Warriors nearly bucket for bucket in the first quarter until Swede senior Jacey Wiggins managed two quick back-to-back baskets with 1:45 to play in the period to put Gothenburg up 11-6.

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Then Arapahoe went on a 9-0 run, capped by a three-pointer at the buzzer by Warrior standout Kaylea Watson.

“She scored 27 on us,” Lecher said. “But she’s the kind of player who is going to get her double digits every game.”

The teams continued to trade buckets through the second quarter until the half ended with Arapahoe leading 28-26.

“I could tell by visiting with their coach before the game that he was a little nervous,” Lecher said. “He told me they are just getting to the toughest part of their schedule.”

Gothenburg, on the other hand, has already weathered five previous Division I opponents.

The Swedes used that experience to hammer the Warriors in the third quarter, out-scoring Arapahoe 18-6 in the period and then they finished off the game going 8-of-12 from the line in the fourth quarter.

“We have been shooting free throws pretty well,” Lecher said. “This was probably our worst game at 59% but if we hadn’t forced them into fouling us and made at least 8-of-12 in the last quarter, we’d have struggled to win that game.”

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On a recent evening, the Swede girls' basketball team, led by captain, Stephanie...