

Swede girls overcome jitters

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg battles back to beat Cozad 44-38

COZAD—No matter how hard Gothenburg girls basketball coach Chris Lecher tried to reassure his players that Thursday night's game at Cozad was just another game, there were still plenty of Swede nerves.

"I think the girls were nervous," Lecher said. "It's Cozad. It's never going to be 'just another game.'"

But the Swedes counteracted a higher than usual number of turnovers and sketchy shooting in the first half with intense defense in the third period to erase a five-point halftime deficit and turn it into a six-point 44-38 victory.

"I think the girls just settled down and did our thing instead of allowing Cozad to force us into some helter-skelter offense," the coach said.

In the first half, Lecher said Cozad's Kaylea Reyes hurt the Swedes, scoring 12 of her game-high 19 points before halftime.

"We were not playing our best game," he said. "Honestly, I think we were lucky to only be down five at halftime."

A strong defensive effort in the third quarter and a six-point run to finish the period allowed the Swedes to take a slim 28-27 lead into the final frame.

"Cozad had been trying to take Brittyn (Munster) and Regan (Geiken) out of the game," Lecher said. "In the third quarter, that didn't work any more."

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A 7-0 run midway through the fourth period put the Swedes in charge and a three-pointer by Munster kept them there.

She finished with 12 points on the night and Aryn Meisinger pitched in 10 for her first double-digit scoring of the season.