

Gothenburg shuts down Chase County's offense

Written by Deb Egenberger
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The Longhorn girls got little if any breathing room Friday night as the Gothenburg girls smothered them with defense and hammered them with offense.

The Swedes held Chase County to only two points in the first half, defeating the Longhorns 49-16 to complete a four-game winning streak.

"I was a little worried going in," said Gothenburg coach Chris Lecher. "It had been a long week and we were tired. I really didn't want them to come out flat."

No worries. The Swedes clamped down on Chase County to build a 30-2 halftime lead.

Lecher said the one bucket Chase County managed in the second quarter was actually a fluke.

"We had one of their girls trapped pretty well," he said. "When another one of our girls stepped into the trap, they threw up a long desperation pass that was open under the basket."

Lecher said keeping intensity with a halftime lead like that could have been difficult, especially since he decided back off on the full-court pressure.

But the girls were pumped up and riding momentum that began with a buzzer-beater shot for a victory in the junior varsity game.

Three Swedes scored in double figures, led by Regan Geiken with 14 points. Brittyn Munster and Jacey Wiggins added 10 points each.

The Swedes improve to 7-8 on the season as they travel to Broken Bow this week to take on

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the 1-12 Indians.

"It's kind of another rivalry game," Lecher said. "Broken Bow will be competitive and they'll play us hard, probably giving us their best game. We just have to go take care of business."

Then the Swedes will focus their attention on the Southwest Conference tournament, which begins Monday with first-round games at the higher seed of the matchups.

Gothenburg will host Ogallala (4-6) at 7 p.m.

"Every team in the conference is beatable," Lecher said. "I think we have as good a chance at a championship as anybody."

Second-round games will also be hosted by the higher seeded team with the finals at North Platte High School on Saturday.

The championship is set for 4:30 p.m. with the consolation finals at 1 p.m.