

Girls look to develop depth

Written by Deb Egenberger
Thursday, 03 December 2009 21:17 -



Gothenburg opens the season at Hershey.

The Gothenburg girls basketball team took a big hit last spring when five seniors who all contributed to the Swede success throughout their careers graduated and moved on.

“We’ll be a little different team,” coach Tim Peterson admits, “but we’ve got four seniors this year who have played a lot of ball. It’s not like we’ll be lacking experience.”

Depth, though, is another matter, Peterson said.

Beyond the four seniors who also make up the returning letter winners—Ali Abramson, Emily Max, Tabitha Paul and Kira Peterson—few younger Swedes have seen much varsity playing time.

“Depth is always important and that’s something we’ll have to develop,” the coach said.

With the work ethic of this squad, Peterson doesn’t think that will take too long.

“These kids work very hard and as a whole they are a smart bunch. We just need to get the chemistry going.”

That shouldn’t take long either, Peterson thinks, because the successes from the fall sports will likely carry over.

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Gothenburg's strength this winter will come from its defense.

"We are going to be tough defensively," Peterson said. "These girls like to get after it."

SWEDE GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Dec. 4— at Hershey 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 22— BROKEN BOW 3 p.m.
Dec. 5— LEXINGTON 3:45 p.m.	Jan. 23— at Kearney Catholic 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 10— at Southern Valley 4:50 p.m.	Jan. 26, 29— SWC Tournament consolation and championship games at Lexington, TBA
Dec. 12— PERKINS COUNTY 4:50 p.m.	Jan. 30— SWC Tournament consolation and championship games at Lexington, TBA
Dec. 18— at Holiday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 5— VALENTINE 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 22— MINDEN 4:50 p.m.	Feb. 9— at Ogallala 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 28-30— HOLIDAY TOURNEY HERE TBA	Feb. 12— at Fairview 4:50 p.m.
Jan. 8— SUTHERLAND 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 15-16, 18— C1-11 sub-district at Lexington, TBA
Jan. 9— at Central 3:30 p.m.	Feb. 26— District Finals TBA
Jan. 14— COZAD 4:50 p.m.	Mar. 4-6— State tournament at Lincoln, TBA
Jan. 15— Chase County at Imperial 4 (w) 5:30 (h) p.m.	
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The Swedes open the season at Hershey on Friday and host Lexington Saturday.

"Hershey was a very good team last year," Peterson said. "They gained some quality freshmen and I don't think they're going to miss a beat."

Lexington, he said, will be one of the most improved teams the Swedes face as the Minutemaids bring back all of their difference makers.

"We have two tough opponents right off the bat," Peterson said. "They will find our weaknesses real quick and show us what we need to work on."

The Swedes' schedule doesn't change much from previous years. Gothenburg hosts the holiday tournament in late December in addition to playing at home seven times.

The Swede coach expects Ogallala and Minden to be the teams to beat in the Southwest Conference. Both teams return a host of solid players.

And the C1-11 sub-district will likely be dominated again by Kearney Catholic.

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The Stars, he said, did not play a senior last winter earning an 18-5 record.

“We’re going to have to work hard,” Peterson said, “but this group knows what’s going on and they want to succeed. That’s where we have to start.”

Members of the 2009-10 Goth-enburg girls basketball team are (*denotes letter winner):

SENIORS—Ali Abramson*, Emily Max*, Tabitha Paul*, Kira Peterson*.

JUNIORS—Ali Clark, Shelby Eggleston, Karen Franzen, McKenzie Geiken, Jordyn Haake, Janae Wiggins, KaTrina Winter.

SOPHOMORES—Erica Houchin, Casey James, Kersten Nelson, Payton Prall, Leah Schwanz, Kelsey Wahlgren.

FRESHMEN—Kenzi Hiebner, Kayla Ostendorf, Brittyn Munster, Siera Schwanz, Heidi Teahon, Jacey Wiggins, Hannah Wolf, Taylor Wolf.