

## Things click for Swedes in opener

Written by Austin Benson

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With a new pitcher that hadn't throw competitively in five years and a majority of new position players in the field, Gothenburg softball coach didn't know what to expect as the Swedes opened the season at home Thursday against Southern Valley.

The results—a 10-0 win for Gothenburg—were quite pleasing for the program that is entering its ninth year at the school.

“It was a great start for us,” Neujahr said.

Just two of the Eagles' 12 outs came from hit balls. Rebecca Anderson and Karleigh Kleinknecht combined for 10 strikeouts.

“I'm really happy with the way our pitchers pitched,” the coach said.

Anderson last pitched in a competitive softball game in a 12 and under league, Neujahr said. The Swede senior fanned five of the first six batters she faced and ended up with seven K's.

“She did a good job of placing the ball,” Neujahr said. “Her changeup was good.”

Three hits and aggressive play on the bases put the Swedes on top 4-0 after one inning.

Gothenburg squandered a scoring chance in the second leaving the bases full.

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Emily Franzen closed out a 3-for-3 night with a run-scoring double, one of three RBI plays for Gothenburg in the third inning.

A suicide squeeze bunt led to two runs for Gothenburg in the fourth inning. Ashley Eskew was at third and Kerry Wellmann at second when Kylee Beyea laid the bunt down on the third base line. Eskew slid home safely and Wellmann dove across the plate soon behind.

Josee Hotz singled in Beyea for the game-ending 10th run.

“We did some good things on the bases,” Neujahr said. “We did some good things with our short game. We’re going to need that.”

Reserves beat Eagles

Gothenburg rallied with four runs in the last two innings to beat Southern Valley, 10-8.



The line score:

Southern Valley 170—8

Gothenburg 613—10

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**HITTING:** Tish Winter went 2-for-3 with a double and a single. Kaitlyn Aden, Haley Juarez and Kylee Beyea each singled.

**PITCHING:** Karleigh Kleinknecht earned the win in relief.