

Swedes breeze to 16-8 win

Written by Gothenburg Times
Friday, 06 September 2013 13:27 -

Normally a knockdown battle between two rivals, Gothenburg's 16-8 victory over Cozad Thursday was relatively easy.

It could have been easier.

A nine-run third inning put the Swedes on top 12-2 and a run-rule early end was in sight. However, three Gothenburg errors in the fourth inning gave the Haymakers new life.

"When we were up 12-2 after three we should have got it put away," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said.

It took a couple of more innings before the eight-run deficit ended the game after five.

"We're an inexperienced team," Neujahr said. "Sometimes more experienced teams go for the jugular, if you will. We haven't been through that with this group.

"We made some errors and we need to work on a couple of things. Hopefully, that will take care of those types of games for us.

Becca Riley got things started for Gothenburg in the first inning with an RBI double and then she scored on a single by Kyndal Holmes.

Kerry Wellmann made it 3-0 with a solo run in the second. She was hit by a pitch, stole both second and third and raced home on a catcher's throwing error.

A two-out rally that featured a triple and two singles put the Haymakers on the scoreboard with

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a pair of runs in the third.

Momentum quickly swung Gothenburg's way in the bottom of the frame. The Swedes hammered out seven hits including a bases-clearing three-run double by Emily Franzen, a run-scoring double by Ashley Eskew and singles by Kaitlyn Aden and Katlin Harm that knocked in two runs apiece.

The 10-run lead at 12-2 could have ended the game early after four innings, but Gothenburg failed to hold Cozad scoreless.

Another triple and three Swede errors kept the Haymakers' hopes alive. Cozad came away with five runs to cut the deficit to five, 12-7.

After Gothenburg went down in order, the Haymakers sliced another run off the Swede lead in the fifth.

In the bottom of the fifth, though, the Swedes spoke with their bats that it was time for the contest to end. Seven batters went to the plate and only one was retired. Four hits each drove in a run with Eskew ending the game with an RBI single.

"We were happy with the way we hit the ball and how many runs we did score," Neujahr said. "We had eight out of nine people in the starting lineup get a hit."

Harm, Franzen and Holmes each had two hits and three runs batted in to lead the team.

Rebecca Anderson earned the pitching victory with Karleigh Kleinknecht throwing two solid innings of relief.

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SWEDE RESERVES CRUSH Cozad

Gothenburg's junior varsity breezed to an 11-2 win over Cozad

The line score:

Cozad 200—2

Gothenburg 263—11

HITTING: Josee Hotz had a pair of singles to lead Gothenburg.

PITCHING: Karleigh Kleinknecht and Morgan Cardenas combined to give up just two hits. Kleinknecht earned the win.