

Swedes suffer pair of losses at McCook

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Untimely errors hurt Gothenburg in one loss at the McCook Invitational Saturday and a powerful hitting attack buried the Swedes in another.

Gothenburg opened the tournament with a 6-4 loss to Holdrege. The Swedes dropped a 6-0 shutout to Gering in the contest for fifth place. In between was a 16-0 victory over Alliance.

An injury in Thursday's game at Lexington to Becca Riley, a key defensive player on the infield, forced Swede coaches to re-arrange the defense and batting order for the tournament.

Gothenburg, now 6-4, will compete this weekend in the Scottsbluff Invitational. The varsity is scheduled to play five games and the reserves four. Other schools entered include Alliance, Chadron, Chase County, Gering and Scottsbluff.

"It's good for our kids because we get a lot of playing time," Swede coach Roger Neujahr said.

Holdrege rallies for win

Gothenburg led for much of the game, but a five-run rally by the Dusters in the fifth inning turned things around.

Holdrege combined a double and a triple for a solo run in the first inning. The Dusters were blanked the rest of the game until the fifth frame.

Gothenburg answered Holdrege's solo tally in the first with a two-run second inning that could have been bigger.

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An error and a walk put Emily Franzen and Kyndal Holmes on base. They eventually scored on a passed ball and a wild pitch, respectively.

Kerry Wellmann singled and made it to third base. Kaitlyn Aden laced a line drive at the first baseman, who caught it and doubled up Wellmann at third base.

Gothenburg wasted another scoring opportunity in the fourth inning when Franzen doubled with one out but was stranded.

Two Swede errors gave Holdrege some life to start the fifth inning. The Dusters used four hits in the next six batters to score five runs—all unearned—and take a 6-2 lead in the fifth inning.

Holdrege did the same for Gothenburg with the first two Swede batters of the sixth inning getting on base via errors. Gothenburg couldn't match the Dusters' hitting, though, and came away with just two runs.

Franzen topped the Swede hitting chart with a double and a single.

Karleigh Kleinknecht gave up just one earned run in 5 2/3 innings and suffered the loss.

Swedes blast Bulldogs

Alliance offered little challenge to Gothenburg in a 16-0 Swede victory.

There wasn't much doubt in the outcome after Gothenburg erupted for 10 runs on just one hit in the first inning.

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Six more runs in the second, coming from a four-hit attack, made it even worse for the Bulldogs. Alliance couldn't rally in the third inning and the game ended early.

Katlin Harm hit two singles to pace Gothenburg.

Rebecca Anderson threw all three frames and was the winning pitcher.

Gering overpowers Swedes

Both teams got seven hits, but Gering made them count in the 6-0 victory over Gothenburg.

"We did get seven hits; they got seven hits," Neujahr said. "How can one team score six and the other team score none?"

It can happen when one team gets a triple and four doubles.

Gering got three of those extra base hits in a row in the first inning, but scored just two runs.

An RBI single and a two-run double made it 5-0 for Gering after two. The Bulldogs added an unneeded insurance run in the fifth inning.

Gothenburg had plenty of opportunities to score but stranded two runners in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Kylee Beyea, Kyndal Holmes and Kerry Wellmann each hit a pair of singles for Gothenburg.

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Jessica Rogers blasted three doubles to lead Gering.

Rebecca Anderson, who suffered the loss, started on the mound for Gothenburg and was relieved by Karleigh Kleinknecht after two innings.