

Line play by Swedes earns win

Written by Austin Benson
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Before the game against Ord last week, head coach Craig Haake said powerful offensive line play and formation recognition would be the difference in the game.

Haake was on to something.

The Swedes averaged 6.9 yards rushing on 62 carries in their 43-14 road win over the Chanticleers.

“We executed well dominating their defensive line,” Haake said. “They were changing up looks and we were moving them out of the way.’

Although Gothenburg ran for 431 yards it was a 42-yard pass from Dawson Graham to Blake Ristine two minutes into the game followed by a Trenton Long PAT that put the Swedes ahead 7-0.

“They had everyone stacked in the box and we used a play action fake,” Haake said. “Blake beat the guy by 15 yards.”

Gothenburg held the Chanticleers to 190 total yards.

Ord experienced success in the second and third quarter using the option, but not much other than that, Haake said.

Gothenburg scored three more times in the first half extending its lead.

After Ord successfully drove down the field and scored its first touchdown in the second quarter,

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the Swedes put a drive of their own together.

Runs by Zach Wolf, Ristine and Dawson Graham chewed up chunks of yardage.

The drive ended on a quarterback keeper by Graham that found the endzone from two yards out.

A PAT by Long pushed the Swede lead to 14-7.

A three-and-out by both Ord and Gothenburg stalled the scoring before Adam Speck forced a fumble on Ord's own five-yard line.

Blake Ristine made the Chanticleers pay taking the ball in from five yards and the lead was up to 14, 21-7.

Defensive pressure by the Swedes led to Skyler Kottwitz forcing a fumble that was recovered by Tanner Borchardt with less than 10 seconds left in the first half. It was enough time for Gothenburg to run one play and set up Long for a field goal.

The Swede senior stepped into the kick and booted the ball 42 yards between the uprights to send Gothenburg into the locker room with a 24-7 lead.

Ord answered back in the third quarter marching down the field and scoring on their first possession, closing the gap to 10, 24-14.

The Swedes were in control after that, racking up 19 more points in the half.

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Ristine got things started taking a reverse sweep to the house from 21 yards out for his third score of the night.

Long converted a PAT and the Swedes led 31-14.

Both offenses would be held at bay the remainder of the third quarter.

The Swedes struck again in the middle of the fourth quarter behind the forceful offensive line.

Wolf, the workhorse for the Swedes carrying the ball 25 times for 210 yards for the game, reached the endzone from three yards out.

An Ord turnover gave the ball back to the Swedes with a short field, allowing Skyler Kottwitz to jump across the goal line for the final score of the game as the Swedes led 43-14

Graham completed 1-4 passes for 42 yards and a touchdown while adding 20 yards rushing and a score.

Long was 4-4 on PAT's and made a 42-yard field goal.

Gothenburg will take its 5-2 record on the road against 6-1 Kearney Catholic on Thursday night.

'They have a lot to cover in one less day for preparation but it isn't something we haven't seen yet this season,' Haake said.

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