

## Swedes earn rematch against rival Haymakers

Written by Austin Benson

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Gothenburg defeats Indians at home.

The Gothenburg football team advanced to the third round of the Class C1 state playoffs with a 32-14 win over Broken Bow last Wednesday.

The win set up a rematch with rival Cozad on Tuesday (too late for The Times' press deadline).

Haake said the defense has played well since the last match up with Cozad on Oct. 5 and the offense has come along too.

"I thought we played well in all facets of the game except punt coverage," Haake said. "Offensively we didn't have the ball much but we executed."

The Swedes got on the board first with 3:30 left in the first quarter when Trenton Long made a 28-yard field goal. An eight-play drive was halted by the Indians at the 11 yard line.

Both offenses struggled to move the ball until the 5:40 mark in the second quarter when Broken Bow's Marcus Miller scored from the one yard line, finishing a seven play, 36-yard drive.

The Indians led 7-3 after a successful PAT.

On the ensuing kickoff Ross Ostendorf returned the ball 62 yards setting up a first down from

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Bow's 18 yard line.

On the first play from scrimmage, in a new formation, Dawson Graham pulled an option read and went untouched into the endzone.

Haake called the formation of three running backs around Graham in shotgun formation the "Gunboat."

"It gives us a different look and it worked as Dawson found the endzone," Haake said.



Long completed the PAT and the Swedes led 10-7.

The Indians used a strong rushing attack to move down the field on the Swedes, but the defense held on three consecutive runs by Grayson Minnick to stall the Indians at Gothenburg's 35 yard line.

On fourth and six, a rollout pass was batted into the air by Tanner Borchardt and intercepted by Dylan Folkers.

He returned it 35 yards to the 30 of Broken Bow and Gothenburg was threatening with just under a minute left in the half.

The Swedes tried finding running room but didn't manage a first down, and Long kicked a

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38-yard field goal with just under 10 seconds left.

The snap was high but Ostendorf got it down and Long sent it through the uprights, extending the lead going into halftime, 13-7.

Broken Bow received the second half kickoff and controlled much of the quarter including a 57-yard run by Minnick to get the Indians down to the Gothenburg seven.

The Indians tried three plays up the middle and each failed to penetrate the endzone.

On fourth down from the two yard line, a gang of Swede tacklers took down Jeremy Christner before he could reach the pylon.

Gothenburg didn't move the ball and were in the shadow of their own endzone for three plays before punting to the Indians and Bow was threatening again.

This time Minnick and the Indians wouldn't be denied,

Starting from the 38 yard line, the Indians used running plays to chip away at the Swedes and get down to the 10.

On first and goal, Minnick broke through the middle and stumbled into the endzone and the Indians took the lead 14-13 with 4:31 left in the third.

A 30-yard kickoff return by Ostendorf gave the Swedes great field position near midfield, but the offensive struggles continued.

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With momentum from the score, Broken Bow's defense forced a punt.

Long put the Indians in a deep hole booming a 52-yard punt that was downed at the two yard line.

The Swedes forced a fumble recovered by Skyler Kottwitz and were back in business on the Indian three yard line.

One play later, Graham handed to ball to Zach Wolf who found the endzone and put the Swedes ahead for good.

Swedes were up 19-14 after a two-point conversion was unsuccessful.



"That was the breaking point for them I think," Haake said. "They had momentum and that punt followed by a fumble was a deciding factor in the game."

Broken Bow moved the ball in the fourth quarter but didn't break any big runs like in the first half.

They punted again and Gothenburg chewed up some yards before attempting a 18-yard field goal.

The kick was good but a roughing the kicker penalty gave Gothenburg the ball inside Bow's five yard line.

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Graham handed the ball to Wolf who found paydirt extending the Swede lead to nine, 25-14 after another unsuccessful two-point conversion.

Just two minutes later, Gothenburg's Blake Ristine intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards inside the Indian 5.

Once again, Wolf broke through the line and stumbled into the endzone putting Gothenburg ahead 32-14 after a successful PAT by Long.

Gothenburg's offensive attack was led by Wolf with 78 yards rushing and three touchdowns on 16 carries.

The Swedes were outgained in yardage but forced four turnovers that played huge parts in the game.

"We took advantage of their turnovers and gave ourselves a short field in the second half," Haake said.

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