

Swede basketball will attack with speed

Written by Austin Benson

Thursday, 05 December 2013 15:42 -



Koehler wants Swedes to score in transition

The last couple seasons the Gothenburg boys basketball team was blessed with height in a number of positions.

This season, the Swedes plan to use their speed to get up and down the floor in transition for easy baskets.

“I’d like to push the ball and pick up the tempo offensively,” head coach Roger Koehler said. “If we can’t get an easy bucket out of a break or secondary break then we will back it out and set something up.”

That’s when Koehler said he plans to use 6-8 Tanner Borchardt to get points inside.

“I expect us to be competitive in all of our games,” Koehler said. “We have to eliminate mental mistakes made in the past.”

In most games this season, Koehler feels the Swedes will have a height advantage with Borchardt in the middle and guards all around six feet tall.

He said he hopes that height advantage carries over into good Southwest Conference play.

“Cozad is improved and has a lot of athleticism and Ainsworth creates tough matchups because

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of their shooting ability.”

He added that Gothenburg should be in the mix at the top of the conference if the Swedes continue to get better.

“I expect everyone on the team to improve,” Koehler said. “High school-aged kids are always developing and shouldn’t ever be satisfied with good.”

To stand at the top of the SWC rankings this season, Koehler looks to seniors for ball security and, more importantly, leadership.

“It’s their senior year. I’m looking for them to lead and take charge,” Koehler said. “They have knowledge of what we want to do.”

Although winning games is important, and takes leadership, Koehler said that isn’t the most important aspect of the season.

“The guys will do the right thing both on and off the court,” Koehler said. “We push good academics, good behavior on the bus. Those are the things that will take them places in life.”

To be clear, Koehler said the team will do well and win games.

“We should have a good year,” he said.

Members of the 2013-14 boy’s basketball team are (*denotes returning letter winners):

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Seniors—Drake Brand, Nathan Graham*, Ross Ostendorf*, Blake Ristine*, Roy Slack* and Adam Speck.

Juniors—Tanner Borchardt*, Jacob Clark, Jacob Franzen, Jake Peterson, Connor Schwanz* and Levi Tripp.

Sophomores—Ziek Brian, Braeden Brundage, Matt Bruntz, Jiraput (Peak) Chatisaranuwat, Marcus Fritton, Bryce Kowalewski, Mathiel Martinez, Patrick Messersmith, Riley Ostendorf, Ryan Rehbach and Levi Scott.

Freshman—Tate Bartlett, Nathan Belanger, Ty Clement, Josh Elliott, Dawson Graham, Collin Hahn, Will Healey, Dominic Long, Bryan Martinez, Patrick Peterson and Noah Royce.

abenson@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636