

Late surge powers Dusters past Swedes

Written by Austin Benson

Thursday, 26 December 2013 15:55 - Last Updated Thursday, 26 December 2013 16:03

Holdrege rallies in fourth quarter

Basketball teams often give up offensive runs at a time that decides the outcome of a game.

A 14-point run in the fourth quarter by Holdrege proved just that in the Swede boys' 50-38 loss to the Dusters Friday.

Gothenburg played hard and battled throughout the entire game, head coach Roger Koehler said.

"At times in the games we could've folded but the guys answered instead," Koehler said.

Gothenburg found itself down eight in the first quarter but fought back and reduced turnovers to only trail by three 12-9 after one period of play.

The Swedes got comfortable against the Duster press and tied the game 23-23 at halftime.

Our early turnovers came from us forcing stuff that wasn't there, Koehler said.

He added a reason the Swedes remained in the game was Ross Ostendorf's play and handling of the ball.

"Ross didn't have a single turnover in the first half," Koehler said. "He was calm against the press and took care of the ball."

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However, not taking care of the ball led to offensive surges by the Dusters in the second half.

After three quarters of play, Holdrege led the Swedes by seven, 36-29.

Gothenburg used a 9-0 run to take a 38-36 lead over the Dusters before Holdrege came storming back to victory.

“We were outscored 14-0 at the end of the game,” Koehler said. “We were getting the open looks out of the offense but nothing was falling.”

Duster shooter Jared Karlson got hot and hit two threes in a row to help Holdrege gain control of momentum.

“The game was closer than the final score showed,” Koehler said. “It was a weird game with a lot of runs.”

Although Gothenburg didn't win, Koehler said he feels like the Swedes are moving forward in a positive direction.

The guys stayed the course with the offense and the last two games have been some of the best we've played, Koehler said.

Gothenburg is on break before the Cabelas Shootout in Sidney Jan. 2-4. Koehler said the Swedes need to shoot free throws better and get some confidence in its outside shooting after the holidays.

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