

## 2nd quarter dooms girls in loss to Valentine

Written by Austin Benson

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A 10-day break was too long for the Gothenburg girls basketball team.

After losing in the first round of the Southwest Conference tournament Jan. 28, the Swedes had plenty of time to rest before facing a .500 Badger team Friday.

Unfortunately for Gothenburg, Valentine had its best shooting game of the season and the Swedes gave up a combined 35 points to two girls in a 56-43 loss.

The Swedes led 10-8 after one quarter of play but a huge second period for Valentine proved to be a thorn in Gothenburg's side.

The Badgers outscored the Swedes 25-9 and led at halftime 33-19. Head coach Chris Lecher said the opponent didn't do anything they hadn't practiced for but they were surprised by their movement.

"They were quicker than I thought they'd be after watching film." Lecher said.

That quickness allowed the Badger guards to drive to the rim and score or to get past a primary defender before kicking to an open shooter.

The Swedes adjusted in the third quarter limiting the Badgers to six points but couldn't gain any real momentum still trailing 39-29 with a one period remaining.

In their effort of a come back, Lecher said the girls got tired at the start of the final frame. Gothenburg managed to score 14 points but gave up 17 more and lost by 13 as the clock ticked down to zero.

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“We struggled all night to make shots from the field and we didn’t shoot well from the line,” Lecher said. “We weren’t able to get back into the game after their big second quarter.”

Regan Geiken led the Swedes with 11 points and Aryn Meisinger pitched in 9.

The Badgers leading scorers were Emily Perrett with 20 points and Brittney O’Keif with 15.

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