

Broken Bow has Gothenburg's number ... twice

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Indians knock boys out of SWC.

The desire was there, the effort was there and the comeback surge in the second half was almost as good as it gets.

When the final buzzer sounded, though, Gothenburg's boys faced a long, two-week break with an early exit ticket from the Southwest Conference tournament.

For the second time in four days, Broken Bow handed Gothenburg a disappointing loss. The Indians advance in the SWC tourney with a 41-38 victory Monday night.

"We need to put together four full quarters of basketball," said Swede coach Kent Koehn. "It's late enough in the season that we should be able to do that."

But the first half was virtually non-existent for the Swedes.

Gothenburg fell behind early, struggling to get the ball through the hoop.

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At the same time, the Swedes' zone defense that had worked well in previous games allowed easy Indian buckets.

"We did a great job of packing it in on (Nathan) Scott in the first quarter but somehow their other players were finding open shots that shouldn't have been there."



Six different Indians scored in the first period as Broken Bow took a 17-9 lead.

Things got worse for the Swedes in the second quarter when only two field goals fell.

"We had plenty of attempts," Koehn said. "We just couldn't get anything to go in."

Gothenburg went to the locker room trailing 25-13.

"I told the kids to quit focusing on Broken Bow and worry about what we want to accomplish for ourselves," Koehn said of his halftime talk.

That philosophy seemed to work in the third period, the quarter in which Gothenburg has struggled all season.

"Broken Bow ran a high-low play and got a wide open layup for Scott right off the bat," Koehn said.

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Then Gothenburg made a run.

"We were attacking off the dribble and rebounding well and playing solid defense," Koehn said.

Seven different Swedes made field goals to bring Gothenburg within one, 29-28, when the period drew to a close.

The Swedes kept climbing until they were up 30-29 early in the fourth.

"It was nice to see them fight back in the third quarter," Koehn said. "Then I think we lost a little bit of discipline on both ends of the floor. Tired legs bring on tired minds and tired minds often take us back to old, bad habits."

Broken Bow made four trips to the free throw line on consecutive possessions making 7-of-8 free throw attempts while going just 1-for-7 the rest of the game. The Indians regained the lead and never relinquished it again.

BROKEN BOW 41		GOTHENBURG 38			
	Fg	Ft	Pf	Rb	Pt
GOEN	3-7	0-0	1	6	6
K. Ahlenstorf	1-1	0-0	0	1	2
A. Collins	1-1	0-0	0	0	2
J. Dudley	1-1	0-0	0	0	2
D. Fraizeh	1-3	0-0	1	4	2
L. Haake	2-10	3-5	4	8	9
M. Hillstrand	2-7	1-2	3	4	5
F. Jones	2-2	0-0	1	5	4
T. Sheets	2-3	0-0	2	0	4
J. Tashon	2-4	0-0	2	2	5
TOTALS	16-42	4-7	15	29	38

Three-pointers: Gothenburg, Josh Tashon, 1; Landen Haake, 1; Broken Bow, Jacob Holcomb, 1.
Field goals: Gothenburg, 16-42, 38%.
Free throws: Gothenburg, 4-7, 57%;
Broken Bow, 8-15, 53%.
Fouls: Gothenburg, 15.
Rebounds: Gothenburg, 4 offensive, 22 defensive, 26 total.
Turnovers: Gothenburg, 14.
Scoring by quarters:
Broken Bow 13 8 4 12-41
Gothenburg 9 4 15 10-38

"When we needed to attack the basket in the fourth quarter, we didn't get it done," Koehn said.

Gothenburg senior Landen Haake led the Swedes with eight points and four assists. Corey Ahlenstorf pulled down six rebounds.

Scott led Broken Bow with 12 points.

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With the first-round elimination from the SWC tournament, the Swedes have a long break until they play again,

Gothenburg (6-9) will host Valentine (7-8) on Feb. 5.