

'Good' loss, two wins place Swedes fifth

The Gothenburg boy's basketball team has a positive outlook for the second half of the season after a 2-1 record and fifth place finish at Sidney's Cabela's Holiday Basketball Shootout last weekend.

Gothenburg lost its first game against Class B Gering last Thursday but bounced back to earn wins over Cheyenne (WY) South on Friday and Hershey on Saturday.

The Swedes are 4-5 on the season.

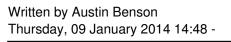
Gering over Gothenburg

Facing a Class B state contending Gering team, the Swedes battled for four quarters but lost to the Bulldogs in the opening round of the shootout, 64-49.

Gothenburg jumped out to a 10-5 lead hitting its first five shots of the game but a complete lull allowed Gering to go on an 8-0 run to end the first quarter and lead 17-12.

"We had one of our classic lulls," head coach Roger Koehler said. "That got us behind and we had to stay with them the rest of the game."

The Bulldogs continued their offensive edge outscoring the Swedes 13-12 in the second quarter



to lead 30-24 at halftime.

"After that first quarter, there weren't any big runs for either team," Koehler said.

He added that Gothenburg did a nice job defensively for the remainder of the game and kept the game close.

The Swedes limited their turnovers and got some good looks but couldn't close the eight-point gap going into the final period.

Leading 45-37, Gering fought off defensive pressure most of the fourth quarter and knocked down free throws to secure a victory.

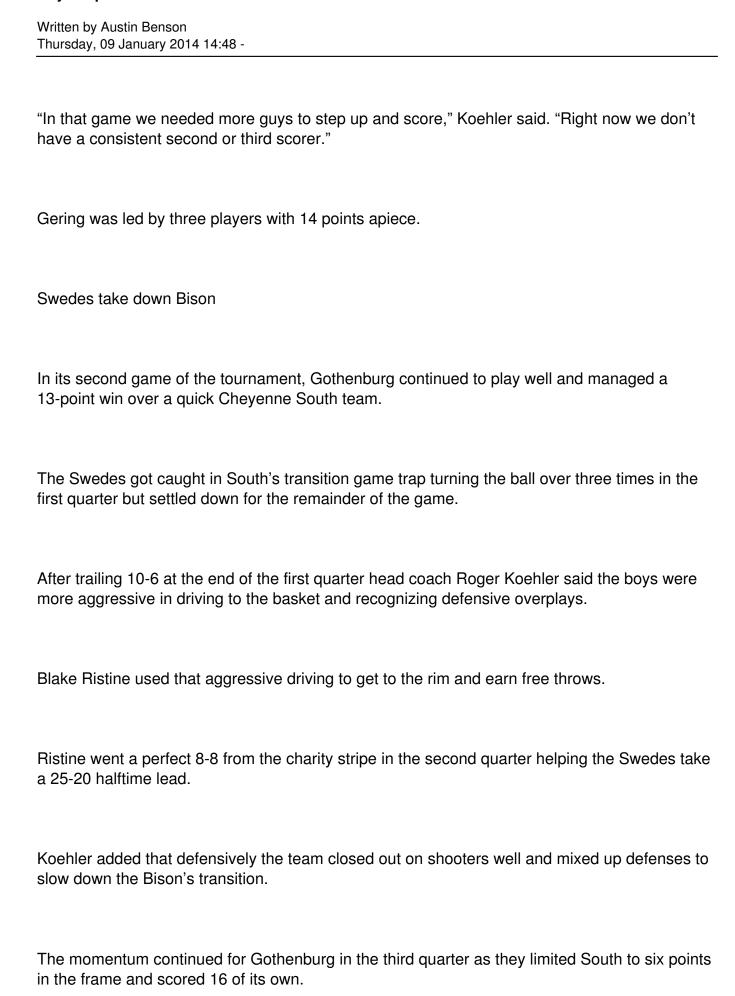


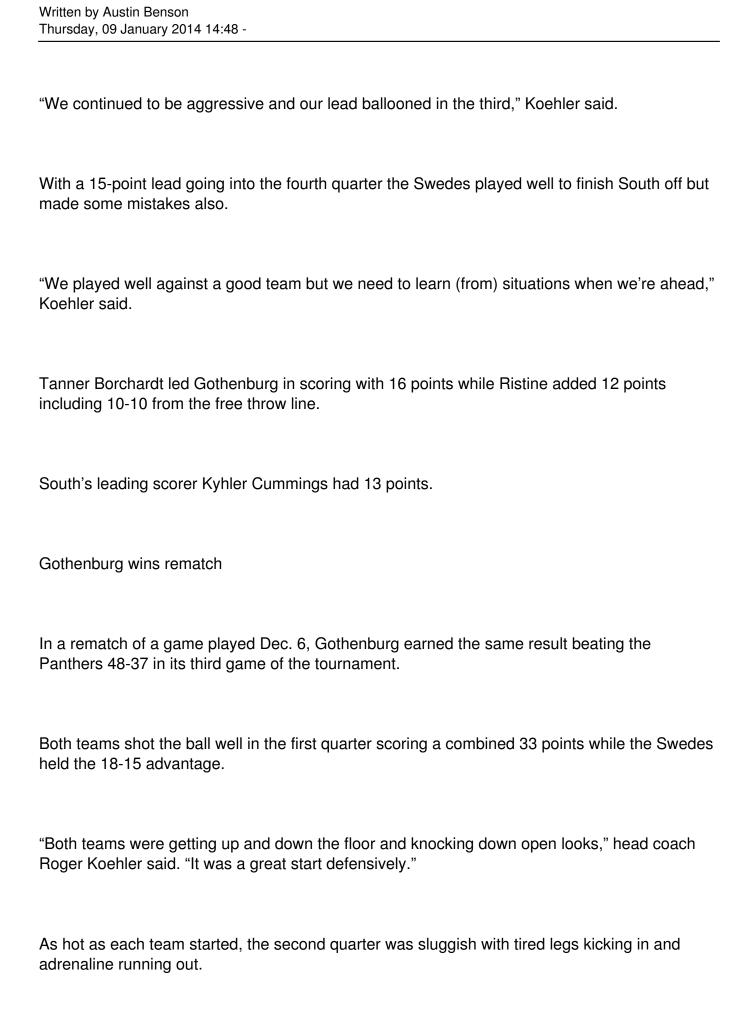
Despite the loss, Koehler said he thinks this might have been the best game the Swedes had played.

"The game was closer than the 15-point difference," Koehler said. "We played well but not well enough."

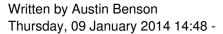
Gothenburg's Tanner Borchardt had a big night scoring 30 points and pulling down nine rebounds.

No other Swedes scored more than five points.









"They took a step forward and left with a good mindset for the second half of our season."

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