Gothenburg made a three-point basket with 35 seconds left in regulation to pull within three points of McCook but the Swedes couldn't complete the comeback falling to the Bison 42-35, Jan. 7.

Even though his team lost the game, head coach Roger Koehler praised the players' effort in the second half.

"The team didn't give up. They are battlers," Koehler said. "Hopefully that continues the rest of the season."

All in all, Koehler took the blame for the team's poor preparation. That, in addition to cold shooting, lead to the Swedes' loss.

Gothenburg trailed from the beginning as McCook took a 14-10 lead after the first quarter.

However, a two-point second quarter for the Swedes gave the Bison a 22-12 advantage at halftime and a lead they would never relinquish.

"We got a lot of good looks in that period but we didn't knock many of the shots down," Koehler said.

The Swedes came out in the third quarter and outscored the Bison 7-5 but still trailed 27-19 with one quarter to play.

Both offenses found their marks often in the fourth quarter with the teams combining for 31 total points.

McCook led by 10 with three minutes remaining when Tanner Borchardt connected on a three-pointer from the left wing to bring the Swedes within seven.

Layups by Collin Hahn and Adam Speck countered a basket by McCook's Mack Alspaugh with under a minute remaining.

After a McCook timeout, Dawson Graham dribbled down and pulled up from 26 feet to sink a three and Gothenburg shrunk the deficit to 38-35.

After a Swede timeout, the Bison scored on the following two possessions before the time had expired on Gothenburg's comeback.

Even though the Swedes scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, Koehler said he didn't think the team played well.

"I was afraid of a let down after the tournament," Koehler said. "We didn't practice well on Monday and it showed in the game."

Although it came out on the wrong end of the contest, Koehler said Gothenburg gave effort the entire game and that's why they had a chance to win.

Borchardt led the Swedes with a double-double performance. He scored 17 points and snatched 19 rebounds.

Alspaugh paced the Bison with 17 points.

Swedes over Bison by one

Gothenburg's junior varsity outscored McCook 11-1 in the second quarter which proved to be the difference in a 28-27 win over the Bison Jan. 7.

Ty Clement led all scorers with a game-high 12 points.

Scoring by quarters:

McCook. 12186—27

Gothenburg 31168—28

SWEDE SCORING: Ty Clement 12, Patrick Messersmith 6, Collin Hahn 5, Dawson Graham 3, Jacob Franzen 2.

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