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The Hooker Bulldogs struggled in the middle quarters, and a fourth quarter rally fell short in a 45-40 loss at Walsh, Colo.

“Seemed like we lacked energy,” Bulldogs coach Chad Hussey said. “We came out flat and stayed flat most of the game. We did a decent job coming back in the fourth, but by then we had given up too much.”

Hooker led 10-9 at the end of the first quarter, but Walsh took the lead at half with a 12-9 advantage in the second to go up 21-19.

Walsh controlled the third quarter, holding the Bulldogs to just six points, and increasing their lead to eight (33-25) heading into the fourth.

Hooker rallied in the fourth, outscoring Walsh 15-12, but fell short of a comeback win.

Bulldogs struggle on the road, fall to Walsh, Colo.

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“We lost to a team we should not have lost too,” Hussey said. “We are not defending the way we are capable of. We’re missing some experience because of injuries, but at some point that has to stop being our excuse.”

John Godfrey and Daytin Metcalf scored 13 a piece for the Bulldogs.

Hooker (5-13) will take on No.1 Forgan Feb.7.