

HELENA — The University of Great Falls men's basketball team suffered its first loss of the season Saturday in a 72-71 defeat to Black Hills State.

Leon Sutton gave the Argos a chance to win, but his 8-foot runner did not fall and UGF slipped to 8-1 on the season with the non-conference loss.

The Yellow Jackets drained 42 percent of their 3-point attempts and shot 47 percent from the field. BHSU took the lead with nine seconds to play when Tommy Earl drained a 3-pointer to set up Sutton's final attempt.

"Black Hills came ready to play," said UGF coach Steve Silsby, whose team defeated the Yellow Jackets by 16 points in November. "We were a little sluggish and did not work hard defensively. Their effort was a little better than ours."

Earl finished with 26 points to lead all scorers. The Yellow Jackets led by 12 points early and took a four-point lead into halftime. The Argos battled back to lead by five points in the second half, but were unable to make shots at the end to put the game away.

"It was kind of an eye-opener for our guys," Silsby said. "It was a good game. We battled, but we put ourselves in a hole early."

UGF travels to Lewiston, Idaho, this weekend for a tournament at Lewis-Clark State College. The Argos will take on the host school on Friday and Quest University on Saturday.

Story courtesy of the Great Falls Tribune