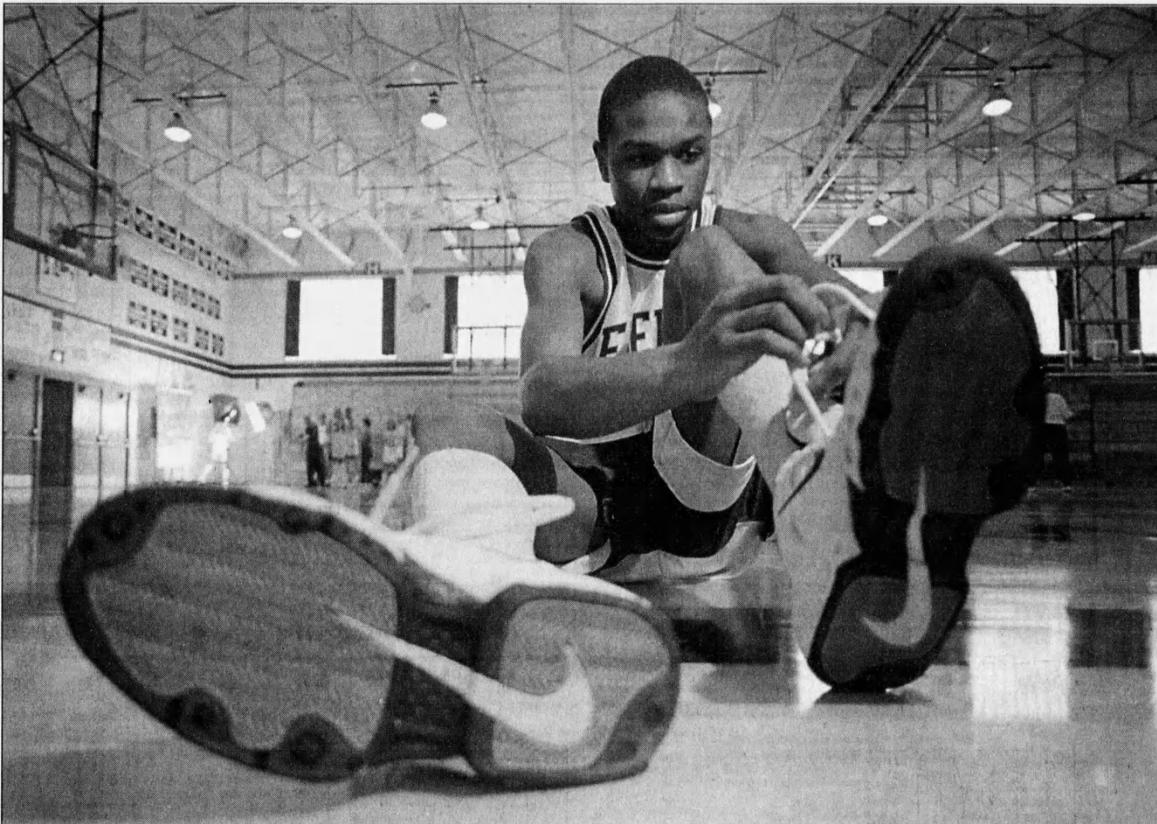


1997-1998 Season Review

Laced up and ready to go



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

REGGIE JONES, a sophomore on the Fremont Ross boys basketball team, laces up his shoes prior to picture day Wednesday at the Purple Pit. The Little Giants, who reached the regional semifinals last season, play their first regular season game Dec. 5 at Bowling Green.

Young Little Giants forced to step up

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Joell Heidelberg and Reggie Jones have developed a keen sense of hearing.

How else would they decide who was the better dunker?

"If the crowd goes, 'Ooooh' really loud, you'll know who wins," Heidelberg said of the playful competition between the two leapers. "The crowd gets hyped up and so do our players. We can get a spark."

But Heidelberg, a junior, and the sophomore Jones are more than a dunking duo. They are now the Little Giants veterans.

"We need them to be leaders for us," said coach Mark Gedeon, who graduated eight players and 58.8 points per game from last season's 16-8 team.

Derrick Hershey led last year's team in points (16.9) and rebounds (5.8) to earn all-Northwest Ohio honors. Also gone are assists leader Sam Root, defensive specialist Harry Liggins, 3-point threats Kurt Snyder and John Overberg, Ed Peters, Rob Liggins and Kevin Mosser.

Sophomore Juan Vela and junior Tyson Liggins are back after seeing limited varsity playing time in 1996-97.

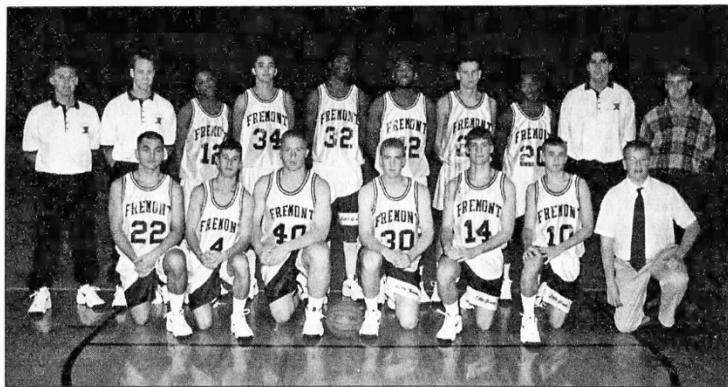
"You can tell we're young," Gedeon said. "We have a lot of teaching to do."

"What we did last year, it's never been done before," Gedeon said of the Little Giants' regional semi-final birth. "Last season was a dream season. It shows what can happen when you have one goal."

"This year we'll have talent. There will be flashes of what we did last year."

And it starts with Heidelberg, who will split his time between point guard and shooting guard.

"He's an electrifying athlete,"



Gedeon said. "He's extremely quick, extremely explosive. Last year he was 5-foot-9 and he led our team in dunks, he was second in scoring (8.3 ppg). Now he's 5-11."

And it's not all flash.

"A lot of guys have that kind of talent and all they can do is run transition," Gedeon said. "Joell can run a half-court offense, he plays half-court defense. You don't see him make a lot of mistakes on the floor."

After playing in parts of five varsity games as a freshman, Heidelberg was a Ross regular in his sophomore season. And after hitting just one 3-point shot in the regular season, he hit several in a sectional championship win against Tiffin Columbian and a crucial overtime shot against Mansfield Senior in the district final.

"I need to be a threat to drive or to pass," Heidelberg said.

Those passes will likely end up in the hands of Jones, who scored 5.2 ppg while blocking 17 shots in his freshman campaign.

"Reggie is one of the best leapers

1997-98 schedule

Dec. 5	at Bowling Green	Feb. 20	Bedford
Dec. 6	Clay	Feb. 21	at Port Clinton
Dec. 9	Waite	Feb. 27	at Sandusky
Dec. 12	at Findlay		
Dec. 19	Whitmer		
Dec. 23	at Fostoria		
Dec. 30	at Bowers		
Jan. 3	Sandusky		
Jan. 9	at Bedford		
Jan. 10	at Madison		
Jan. 17	St. Francis		
Jan. 23	at Clay		
Jan. 24	at Tiffin Columbian		
Jan. 30	Findlay		
Jan. 31	at Whitmer		
Feb. 6	Fostoria		
Feb. 14	Rogers		

in northwest Ohio," Gedeon said. "He's a great athlete and a great finisher around the basket."

At 6-4, 180, Jones is also one of the team's better passers.

The team's two seniors, Mike Weaver (6-3) and Matt Martel (6-4), played junior varsity last season.

"Mike Weaver has been with us (grades) 7-12 through the entire program, and that puts a little bit of leadership on him," Gedeon said.

1997-98 roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
4	Mack Cole	G	5-11	145	Jr.
10	Robb Ritzman	G	5-11	150	Jr.
12	Joell Heidelberg	G	5-11	150	Jr.
14	Andrew Diller	G	5-11	165	Jr.
20	Jorel Heidelberg	G	5-11	165	Jr.
22	Juan Vela	G/F	5-11	180	So.
24	Drew Root	F	6-1	165	Jr.
30	Mike Weaver	F	6-3	180	So.
32	Reggie Jones	F	6-4	180	So.
34	Greg Garcia	F	6-3	180	So.
40	Matt Martel	C	6-4	230	Gr.
42	Tyson Liggins	F/C	6-2	200	Jr.

Martel, who played his first season last year, has "developed a lot from last year and has good post moves," Gedeon said.

Tyson Liggins is a 6-2, 200-pound forward/center.

"He's a special player because he can do so many different things," Gedeon said. "He's like Anthony Mason of the Charlotte Hornets. He can bring the ball up ... all on a 200-pound frame."

Robb Ritzman, a 5-11, junior, will play point guard after guiding the junior varsity team to a 16-2 record last year.

"He's not as fast as Sam (Root), but he's got a lot of savvy for a point guard and he's a better 3-point shooter," Gedeon said.

Vela, who stands 5-11, will play both guard and forward. He shot 49 percent from 3-point range on JV, but his main attribute is attitude.

"Ask anyone on this team who the hardest worker is, it would be unanimous Juan Vela," Gedeon said of the sophomore.

Joel Heidelberg, Joell's twin brother, is this season's defensive specialist.

Andrew Diller, a junior, is the smartest Little Giant, Gedeon said.

"He's on the floor in the right spot at the right time and our best mid-range shooter," Gedeon said.

Drew Root, Mack Cole and Greg Garcia are also on the roster.

"We will run and be aggressive," Gedeon said. "Defensively we want to put a little pressure on the basketball."

Defending Great Lakes League champion Toledo Whitmer is again the team to beat with the return of two-time Player of the Year Floyd Campbell. Sandusky joins the league with nine returning lettermen. Findlay and Clay can also compete for the title, along with Ross.

"We can compete with any of those teams on any given night," said Gedeon, whose team finished second to the Panthers.

"This year we can be good if everybody works together," Heidelberg said.

"We'll be as good or maybe not quite as good as last year because we're such a young team," Jones said. "We've got to step up and communicate more."

Whitmer expected to win GLL crown

By DAVE HANNEMAN
Special to The News-Messenger

For the second straight year, the Great Lakes League takes on a new look. But with Floyd Campbell back in the fold at TOLEDO WHITMER, the Panthers may be the odds on preseason favorite once again.

Whitmer (11-1, 18-5) outlasted Fremont Ross (9-3, 16-8) and Napoleon (9-3, 16-6) for the 1996-97 GLL championship. Campbell led the way, earning GLL Player of the Year honors after 23.4 points and 8.5 rebounds a game.

A four-year starter, Campbell will be joined in the Panthers lineup by seniors Chuck Isom, a 5-10 senior guard, and 6-2 senior forwards Dann Shanteau and Kris Barnswell.

But Whitmer Coach Bruce Smith will also be counting on some talented juniors to fill the gap left by first-team all-GLL guard Jake Lyons (14.9 ppg), second-team all-league win Andy Boyd (12.1 ppg) and honorable mention guard Chad Baxter. Mike Kurdiel, a 6-0 guard, is one of the top prospects, along with 6-3 forwards Jason Wagner and Cedric Jaynes.

SANDUSKY, the new kid on the GLL block, will be out to make an immediate impact on the league with its up-tempo brand on "Streak Ball."

Sandusky, which replaces Napoleon in the GLL ranks, has four of its top players back for head coach Ed Kurt, including first-team all-Erie Shores Conference selection JaMarcus Hampton, a 5-9 guard who averaged 13.7 including points, 3 rebounds and 5.8 assists a game during last years 12-9 season.

The Blue Streaks also return two talented 6-3 forwards in Orlando Williamson (8 ppg, 7.4 rpg) and Quinn Redding (11.1 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 4 apg), as well as 6-1 senior guard James Mason (7.8 ppg).

A key loss for the Blue Streaks was Bobby Crabb, a wing player who led the team in scoring (14 ppg).

FREMONT ROSS has blossomed into a solid basketball program under the direction of head coach Mark Gedeon, who had the Little Giants on the threshold of a GLL title in just his second year at the helm.

Graduation hit Fremont as hard as any school in the conference, however. Eight seniors dotted the Little Giants 1996-97 roster, including first-team all-GLL center Derrick Hershey (17.5 ppg) and second-team guard Sam Root (14.7 ppg). Also gone are 6-5 post Kevin Mosser, two-year veterans John Overberg and Harry

Liggins, and subs Kurt Snyder and Rob Liggins.

In Joell Heidelberg and Reggie Jones, however, Gedeon has the foundation to keep the program at its current level.

Heidelberg, a talented guard, saw considerable time as a sophomore while Jones, a 6-3 sophomore leaper, also saw extensive varsity action.

Juniors Robb Ritzman (5-10), Drew Root (6-0) and Tyson Liggins (6-1) and 5-10 sophomore Juan Vela will be pushing for a starting spot as well.

OREGON CLAY (5-7, 12-10) could be contending for the GLL title with two of its top players back in 6-4 senior Tom Clay and 6-5 junior Ben Tobias. Clay averaged 17.2 points and 7.4 rebounds a game as a first-team all-GLL selection; Tobias, who averaged 14.8 points and 9.1 rebounds, was an honorable mention all-league pick.

Clay Coach Joe Guerrero must replace guard Aaron Tobias and second-team all-GLL wing Ryan Hugueley (11.1 ppg). But the Eagles strong inside game, complimented by 5-11 senior guard Ben Beshalske on the perimeter, will make Oregon Clay a solid contender.

In addition to his three returning starters, Guerrero will also be looking for big contributions from seniors Ron Henneman, Ben Warnke, Dave Watruba, Adam Pfeiffer, Chris Morris and Doug Miller.

FINDLAY (4-8, 10-12) has reached double figures in wins for nine straight seasons should be consistent once again under head coach Jerry Snodgrass.

Mark Wilson, a 6-6 senior center who averaged 10.2 points and 4.3 rebounds, and 5-11 senior forward Shaun Ball (5.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg) give the Trojans a solid front line combination. Leading scorers P.J. Martinez (10.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg) and David Buck (11.7 ppg) graduated, along with guard Andy Watson, 6-6 back Derrick Jackson and 6-2 forward David Bills.

Seniors Kurt Lindamood (6-4), Kevin Cox (6-2), Tony Ritzler and Benji Ballmer (6-2) give Snodgrass some added size up front, however, and 6-2 junior Doug Barnes is a solid guard. There's some excellent talent coming along in 6-3 junior Jason Wenner, 6-2 sophomore Ryan Truax and 6-1 sophomore Ben Roethlisberger. FOSTORIA (3-9, 8-13) Coach Jim Rutter will be hoping to offset some heavy graduation losses that cost him the likes of Richard Newsome (19.1 ppg), Leo Frieron, Brent Fisher, Seth Brandeberry, Ryan Freshour, John Rivera, Malcolm Robinson and



News-Messenger/Steven Garner
REGGIE JONES of Fremont Ross dunks during a scrimmage against Port Clinton Saturday.

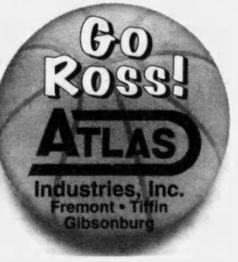
Jeremy Young.

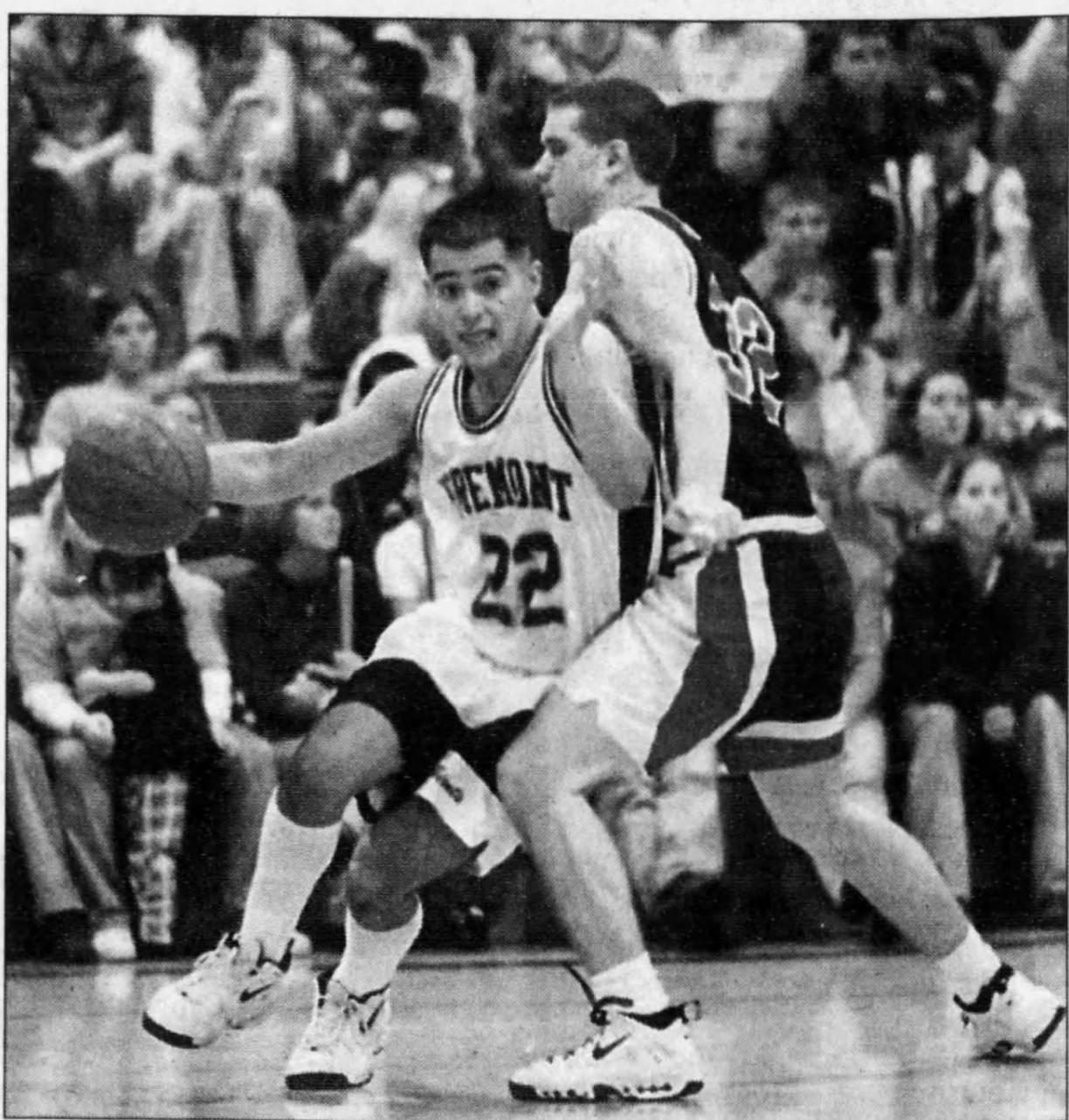
Rutter went to his bench deep and often, though, and returning seniors Lerone Martin (6-3), Bo Robinson (6-2), Matt Shaw (5-10) and Dustin Miller (5-8) saw extensive varsity action.

Rutter also has some good incoming talent to build on in the form of 6-3 juniors Max Mendoza and Cory Echelberry and 5-10 junior Ryan Gerritsen.

Rounding out the GLL is BEDFORD, Mich. (1-11, 8-16). The Mules graduated four of five starters, but return one of the top players in the league in Chad Clay, a 6-4 senior who averaged 15 points and 6 rebounds a game last season. Also back for the Mules are seniors Clark Main (6-3) and Nick Weaver (6-1).

Dave Hanneman covers high school basketball in northwest Ohio for The Courier in Findlay.





News-Messenger/Steven Garner

JUAN VELA of Fremont Ross (32) has worked hard in the weight room to make himself a better basketball player. His coach says it has helped.

Late rally saves Ross

By JEFF KRAUS
For The News-Messenger

BOWLING GREEN — The roads near the high school were slick, but Fremont Ross's come-from-behind road win was even slicker.

The Little Giants used a 9-0 fourth-quarter run and held off a Bowling Green Bobcats' rally to win the season-opener 66-64.

Ross hosts Oregon Clay tonight in its first Great Lakes League game.

"It's difficult anytime you go on the road and play a quality opponent like Bowling Green," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon, a graduate of the Wood County school. "We never lost our hearts or our focus tonight. We're young and we're learning. We showed character down the stretch tonight."

Ross did not have a senior in the starting lineup, and the inexperienced Little Giants trailed the Bobcats for much of the game.

Bowling Green dictated the tempo of the game for three quarters, playing solid half-court offense and feeding the ball to 6-foot-6 sophomore Josh Almonson (17 points) and 6-foot-4 senior Chris Campisi (18 points). The productive performance of the Bowling Green front court allowed the Bobcats to lead 19-15 after one quarter, 34-30 at the half, and 51-49 after three periods.

But the Little Giants made their move in the fourth quarter. Trailing 55-51 with 6:35 left,



HEIDELBURG

See Giants, B3

Giants hold off Bowling Green challenge in opener

Continued from B1

the Little Giants went on a 9-0 run and led 60-55 with 3:07 left.

The run was highlighted by the inside play of Reggie Jones and Tyson Liggins. Liggins gave Ross a 56-55 lead when he scored inside off a Little Giant miss, then stole the ball on Bowling Green's next possession and fired an outlet pass to Joell Heidelberg who was fouled. Heidelberg

made both foul shots for a 58-55 lead.

The run was capped off by a Jones basket inside and the Little Giants were up by five with slightly more than three minutes left.

The Bobcats wouldn't go away, however. With Ross holding on 63-59 edge with only 46.5 seconds left, Bowling Green's Tim Campisi was fouled and made both foul shots to pull the Bobcats within two at 63-61 with 38 seconds left.

Bowling Green had a chance to tie with 22 seconds left, but Campisi hit one of two free throws to trim the lead to 63-62.

The Little Giant defense then stopped Bowling Green on their next two possessions and Heidelberg's two foul shots with 10 seconds left put the game away at 66-62. A Campisi basket at the buzzer did not affect the outcome.

"We played good defense in the

fourth quarter. We had a better energy level and all five guys played as a team. We need to learn how to play for 32 minutes."

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 66, Bowling Green 64

Ross	15	15	19	17	—	66
Bowling Green	19	15	17	13	—	64

ROSS—Robb Ritzman 3-5-13, Joell Heidelberg 6-3-18, Juan Vela 6-1-14, Drew Root 1-0-2, Reggie Jones 4-0-8, Matt Martel 2-0-4, Tyson Liggins 3-1-7. Totals 25-10-66.

BOWLING GREEN—Tim Campisi 0-2, Rich Ellis 3-0-6, Josh Almonson 7-1-17, Matt Sanelholtz 5-3-13, Brian Maienknecht 3-2-8, Chris Campisi 9-0-18. Totals 27-8-64.

3-point goals: Ross 6 (Heidelberg 3, Ritzman 2, Vela 1), Bowling Green 2 (Almonson 2).

Records: Ross 1-0, Bowl. Green 0-1.

JV game: Ross 65-33.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Ross lets one slip away



News-Messenger/Steven Garner

MATT MARTEL of Fremont Ross fights for an offensive rebound during Ross's game against Oregon Clay Saturday night at the Purple Pitt.

Little Giants lose to Clay 52-51; St. Joe captures its first victory

News-Messenger reports

Boys basketball came to Fremont Saturday night, where the city's two high schools turned in different results in their home openers.

Fremont Ross was beaten 52-51 by Oregon Clay in a Great Lakes League matchup. St. Joseph Central Catholic defeated rival Woodmore 71-58.

Ross (1-1) had three chances to win the game in the final 20 seconds but could not convert. The loss came one day after the Little Giants beat Bowling Green on the road.

"It was a very exciting game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We definitely played much better than we did Friday night."

"As a coach, it comes down to one or two possessions," Gedeon said. "When we get a little bit more experience we'll come out on top in these games."

Ross took an early 11-6 advantage before Clay went on a 15-4 run in the first and second quarters and led 31-25 at the half.

The Little Giants opened the third quarter with an alley-oop dunk by Joell Heidelberg, sparking a 6-0 run to tie the game. From there the teams remained close throughout.

Reggie Jones had a dunk and one of his three 3-pointers in a key fourth-quarter sequence to keep the game close, and Robb Ritzman added two 3s of his

own to offset the Eagles' offense.

Trailing 52-49 with about 40 seconds to play, Tyson Liggins stole the ball and made a layup to cut the lead to 52-51.

After a Ritzman steal, Liggins got a chance to score again but was whistled for a traveling violation. Yet Ross got another chance after forcing Clay into a 5-second violation with 19 seconds left in the game.

Ross set up a play for Heidelberg, who was double-teamed and passed the ball to Juan Vela. Vela's baseline jump shot was off the mark, but Clay was called for an over-the-back violation. With 5.8 seconds to play



News-Messenger/Steven Garner
JOELL HEIDELBURG looks for an opening Saturday night.

See ROSS, B2

Ross comes up just short in loss to Clay

Continued From B1

the Little Giants got the ball to Jones, who missed a 3-point attempt. The ball ended up in the hands of Ritzman, who narrowly missed winning the game with a shot from the foul line.

"The kids laid it all on the floor," Gedeon said. "We continuously put ourselves into a position to win. We're proving to people that we can go out and play."

Jones finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds for Ross, which made 7 of 16 3-pointers but just 2 of 8 free throws.

Vela and Jorel Heidelberg slowed Clay's all-Ohio returnee Tom Clay, allowing him to score just two of his 13 points for Clay. Ben Tobias had 18 to lead the Eagles' scorers.

Ross returns to the Purple Pit Tuesday against a Toledo Waite team Gedeon said is among the school's best in recent years. The Indians return four starters.

High School Boys

Clay 52, Ross 51

Clay	17	14	8	13	—	52
Ross	13	12	11	15	—	51

CLAY — Romano 2-0-5, Ron Henne-
man 2-0-4, Miller 2-0-6, Tom Clay 6-0-
13, Besgrove 1-0-2, Pfeiffer 2-0-4, Ben
Tobias 8-2-18. Totals 23-2-52.

ROSS — Robb Ritzman 3-2-11, Joell
Heidelberg 5-0-11, Juan Vela 1-0-2,
Reggie Jones 9-0-21, Tyson Liggins 3-0-
6. Totals 21-2-51.

3-pt. goals: Clay 4 (Miller 2, Romano,
Clay), Ross 7 (Jones 3, Ritzman 3, Hei-
delburg).

Rebounds: Ross 24 (Jones 13), Clay
24.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Weaver big in Giant win

Reserve player has key role in non-league win

By JEFF KRAUS
For The News-Messenger

A Toledo Waite banner hoisted prior to Tuesday night's game at Fremont Ross proclaimed that the Indians were going to kick some "Giant booty."

It didn't happen.

Fremont Ross, behind a spirited performance by one of its bench players, defeated the visiting Indians 70-66.

Senior Mike Weaver came off the bench to score nine points and grab a team-high seven rebounds for Ross.

"Mike Weaver was by far the game's MVP," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We needed some positive energy off the bench. He did a fantastic job and without him, we're not in this game."

Weaver stepped up on a night when 6-foot-4 sophomore Reggie Jones was ill with a stomach problem. Weaver filled in for several stretches of the game and helped Ross compete upfront against a talented Waite front court.

The Indians, using 6-2 Roshaun Gilmer and 6-3 Michael Evans, had their way inside for much of the game. Gilmer finished with 26 points while Evans added 14.

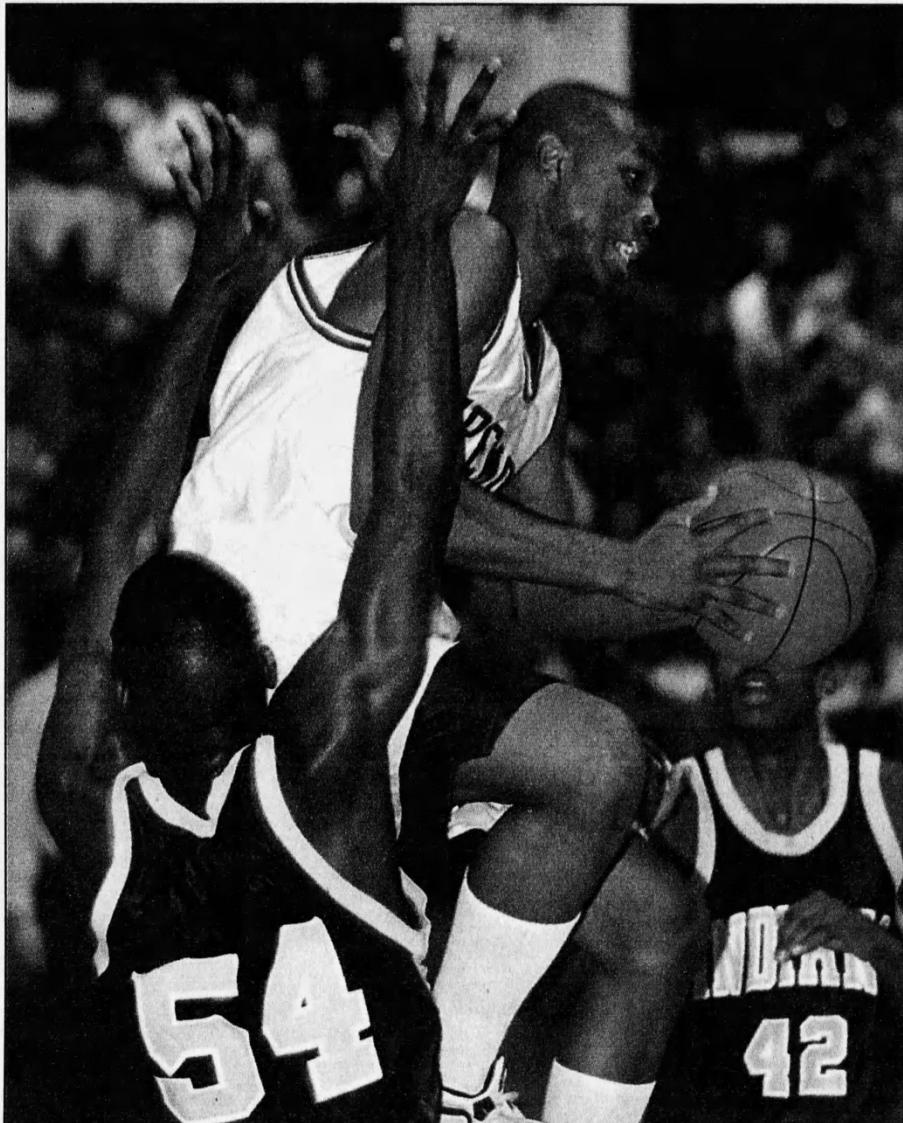
When Gilmer scored with 3:45 to play in the second quarter, Waite had a 27-23 advantage. The Little Giants went on a 7-3 run to tie the game, but Gilmer, who scored 12 times in the second quarter alone, gave his team a 32-30 lead on the next possession.

Ross's Juan Vela responded with two 3-point field goals to help Ross take a 36-34 lead at the half.

In the second half Ross made key defensive adjustments,



WEAVER



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

REGGIE JONES of Fremont Ross, center, rebounds a ball and prepares to pass while surrounded by Toledo Waite's Roshaun Gilmer (54) and Michael Evans (42). Jones was ill and missed much of the action in Ross's 70-66 win.

forcing Waite to shoot from the outside.

Gilmer scored 10 second half points, but Ross contained him enough to pull out the win.

Ross led 52-51 after three periods and outscored Waite 18-15 in the final quarter to win.

The Indians hit just 5 of 19

field goals in the final quarter.

"This game could've gone either way," Gedeon said. "We made our foul shots when we needed to and we forced them to shoot from the outside. That slowed them up in the second half."

More inside

Woodmore's Dan Avers scored 22 points in his team's 65-56 win against Eastwood. In another Suburban Lakes League game, Genoa defeated Lakota 67-50. **See B2**

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 70, Waite 66

Waite	15	19	17	15	—	66
Ross	19	17	16	18	—	70

WAITE—Jeremy Pratt 2-0-4, Aaron Peacock 3-0-7, Michael Evans 7-0-14, Jamele Croom 1-3-6, Roshaun Gilmer 11-4-26, Tony Scruggs 2-3-9. Totals: 26-10-66.

ROSS—Reggie Jones 8-2-18, Tyson Liggins 3-2-8, Juan Vela 6-4-20, Joell Heidelberg 2-0-4, Andrew Diller 2-0-4, Mike Weaver 4-0-9, Drew Root 1-0-3, Robb Ritzman 1-2-4. Totals: 27-10-70.

3pt. goals: Waite 4 (Scruggs 2, Peacock 1, Croom 1); Ross 6 (Vela 4, Weaver 1, Root 1).

Rebounds: Waite 36 (Evans 15); Ross 27 (Weaver 7).

Records: Waite 0-1, Ross 2-1.

Ross JVs 44, Toledo Waite 37

WAITE	4	9	11	13	—	37
ROSS	11	3	18	15	—	44

WAITE—Keith Rocker 1-0-3, Jeremy Krueger 2-1-5, Darryl Lyons 5-1-11, Billy McGowan 2-2-6, Jason Gladieux 2-0-4, Eric Pegish 3-2-8. Totals: 15-6-37.

ROSS—Mack Cole 5-7-20, Doug Garvey 1-1-3, Thomas Mason 1-0-3, Greg Garcia 4-1-9, Bryan Root 3-0-6, Brooks Obermeyer 0-1-1, Kevin Byers 1-0-2. Totals: 15-10-44.

3pt. goals: Waite 1 (Rocker 1); Ross 4 (Cole 3, Mason 1).

Records: Waite 0-1, Ross 3-0.^N

Little Giants still searching for GLL win

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross could have used a few extra defenders to stop all of Findlay's weapons in the Trojans' 66-57 win Friday.

When the Little Giants collapsed on Findlay's 6-foot-7 center, the Trojans nailed 3-point shots. When Ross adjusted to the outside threats, Findlay when back inside.

Findlay big man Mark Wilson scored 23 points and Ben Roethlisberger, Benji Ballmer and Doug Barnes each hit two 3-pointers in the Trojans' Great Lakes League win.

Ross dropped to 2-2, 0-2 in the GLL.

"Wilson is somebody who has worked very hard on his game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We went to a zone trying to neutralize his touches."

It worked early, and Ross grabbed a 12-5 first quarter edge. "But then they start to shoot the



VELA

ball well and get six 3s between then and the end of the first half," Gedeon said. "Wilson created problems for us and that always gave him that inside focus. We were so concerned with him on the inside that our wings rotated late and they got a lot of great looks early — and they drained them."

Findlay (1-1, 1-0 GLL) led 37-34 at the half.

Baskets by Reggie Jones and Juan Vela helped Ross tie the game at 39-all early in the third quarter. Findlay responded with a three-point play by Shaun Ball, a free throw by Ballmer and a put-back by Wilson to pull ahead for good.

"We could never really get closer than seven points," said Gedeon, whose team did not score on any of its first eight possessions of the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile Wilson began to assert himself, scoring 14 second half points as the Little Giants took away the Trojans's outside game.

Sophomore Juan Vela was the Giants's biggest bright spot,

Gedeon said.

Vela made two 3-point shots and scored 18 points to lead all Ross scorers.

"I've just got to brag about Juan Vela," Gedeon said. "He's a true blue-collar worker, and he has developed into one of the best shooters in the GLL. And at 5-11 he's our second leading rebounder," behind Jones.

Yet Vela's points, along with Joell Heidelberg's 17, were not enough to give the young team its first league win.

The loss comes at the end of an eight day stretch in which Ross played four games and lost to GLL foes Clay and Findlay. The Little Giants now have a week to regroup and prepare for GLL favorite Toledo Whitmer.

"It's definitely disappointing to be 0-2 (in the GLL)," Gedeon said. "I thought Clay, Findlay and us would be in mix for the middle of the league."

"It's a learning process. We are young, and some of our mistakes can be attributed to our youth," Gedeon said. "We need to make sure we learn from mistakes."

Basketball

High School Boys

Findlay 66, Fremont Ross 57

Ross	17	17	14	9	—	57
Findlay	19	18	12	17	—	66

ROSS — Robb Ritzman 1-0-3, Joell Heidelberg 7-2-17, Juan Vela 8-0-18, Mike Weaver 1-0-2, Reggie Jones 5-2-12, Greg Garcia 0-1-1, Tyson Liggins 2-0-4. Totals 24-5-57.

FINDLAY — Ben Roethlisberger 2-0-6, Benji Ballmer 3-1-9, Doug Barnes 5-4-16, Mark Wilson 10-3-23, Shaun Ball 2-2-6, Kurt Lindamood 1-0-2, Ryan Truax 2-0-4. Totals 25-10-66.

3-point goals: Ross 4 (Vela 2, Ritzman, Heidelberg), Findlay 6 (Roethlisberger 2, Ballmer 2, Barnes 2)

Rebounds: Ross 29 (Vela 6, Jones 6), Findlay 22 (Wilson 6, Barnes 6)

Turnovers: Ross 14, Findlay 9

Records: Ross 2-2 (0-2), Findlay 1-1 (1-0).

Ross JV 42, Findlay 64

Ross	18	7	8	9	—	42
Findlay	14	22	19	9	—	64

ROSS — Mack Cole 4-0-8, Aaron Hammer 3-1-9, Doug Garvey 1-2-5, Austin Miller 1-0-2, Greg Garcia 5-0-10, Brian Root 4-0-8. Totals 18-3-42.

FINDLAY — Imke 0-3-3, Sonnett 1-1-3, Acheson 5-2-12, Webb 1-2-5, Riity 2-2-7, Baxter 6-1-13, Slack 0-1-1, Addington 3-0-6, Hardy 3-1-7, Skulina 3-1-7. Totals 24-14-64.

3-point goals: Ross 3 (Hammer 2, Garvey), Findlay 2 (Webb, Riity).

Rebounds: Ross 31 (Miller 9).

Records: Ross 3-1 (1-1), Findlay 2-0 (1-0).

Whitmer survives Ross heat

Little Giants remain winless in league play

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

The only thing hotter than the Purple Pit Friday was Floyd Campbell's game.

Campbell, a 6-foot-5 Whitmer forward, overcame the flu and a steamy gym to score 27 points and grab 11 rebounds in the Panthers' 67-64 win against Fremont Ross.

The Little Giants, playing without fouled out forward Reggie Jones for the final 11 minutes, rallied to tie the game at 64-all before dropping the Great Lakes League matchup.

Whitmer improves to 3-1 (2-0 GLL) while the Little Giants fall to 2-3 (0-2).

"It was exactly the kind of game I expected," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said. "It was really a game they needed to win and we knew it was going to be a struggle."

The Panthers knew it would not be easy as soon as they stepped on the floor. The typically warm Purple Pit was even more so Friday.

"It's about 150 degrees in here," said Campbell. "This is always a real tough place to play."

The Panthers took an early advantage thanks to Mike Kur-

dziel, who nailed 3-point shots at the start and finish of the opening quarter to give Whitmer a 20-18 lead.

Whitmer led by as many as seven points in the second quarter, but a four-point play by Joell Heidelberg put the Little Giants back in the game at 30-27. A Kur-dziel putback to close the quarter gave Whitmer a 41-36 halftime lead.

Ross outscored the Panthers 5-0 to start the third quarter. A Robb Ritzman free throw completed the run to tie the game at 41-all with 5:09 to play in the quarter.

But the Little Giants quickly fell behind by four points when Campbell converted after a pretty baseline drive and Jason Wagner scored on a layup.

And things got worse for Ross

on the next trip to the Whitmer end. Jones, whistled for his third foul on a reach-in moments earlier, was called for an over-the-back violation with 3:11 to play in the third.

Frustrated at picking up his fourth foul, Jones yelled something and was called for a technical foul which also counts as personal foul No. 5.

"I think you saw our team go through a maturing process," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We're going against the top team in the league and Jones goes from two fouls to being out of the game in about 30 seconds.

"The kids never lost their focus," Gedeon said. "They knew they could go out and win the ball

See ROSS, B3



News-Messenger/Steven Garner
TYSON LIGGINS scored 14 points in Fremont Ross's 67-64 loss to Toledo Whitmer Friday night.

Ross falls short in comeback attempt

Continued from B1

game if they executed."

Shortly after Jones went out the Panthers jumped ahead 51-41. Ross scored the final five points of the third to narrow the deficit to 51-46.

Whitmer led 64-61 when Heidelberg scored two of his team-high 18 points to cut the lead to one point. Whitmer's B.J. Barre fouled Heidelberg going after a loose ball on the ensuing possession to send the Ross junior to the free throw line.

Heidelberg made 1-of-2 shots to tie the game at 64-all with 34.5 seconds to play.

Whitmer went right back to Campbell.

Last year's GLL Player of the

Year got the ball and drew a foul. He made the first of two free throws to give his team a 65-64 lead.

Heidelberg missed a jump shot from the left baseline and Greg Garcia could not control the rebound before Cedric Jaynes pulled in the ball for Whitmer. He was fouled with 2 ticks left on the clock and made two free throws to give Whitmer a three-point edge.

Garcia threw the inbound pass toward Heidelberg but Kurdziel intercepted to end the game.

"We should have had it," said Tyson Liggins, who scored a career-high 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Ross.

The Little Giants play at Fostoria Tuesday.

High School Boys

Whitmer 67, Ross 64

Whitmer 20 21 10 16 — 67

Ross 18 18 10 18 — 64

WHITMER — Floyd Campbell 10-7-27, Chuck Isom 2-0-4, Jason Wagner 2-1-6, Mike Kurdziel 5-1-13, B.J. Barre 4-0-8, Cedric Jaynes 3-3-9. Totals 26-12-67.

ROSS — Robb Ritzman 0-1-1, Joell Heidelberg 6-4-18, Andrew Diller 1-0-2, Jorel Heidelberg 1-0-2, Juan Vela 0-1-1, Mike Weaver 3-2-9, Reggie Jones 7-0-14, Greg Garcia 0-2-2, Matt Martel 0-1-1, Tyson Liggins 5-4-14. Totals 23-15-64.

3-point goals: Whitmer 3 (Kurdziel 2, Wagner), Ross 3 (Joell Heidelberg 2, Weaver)

Rebounds: Whitmer 31 (Campbell 11), Ross 30 (Liggins 10)

Turnovers: Whitmer 17, Ross 24

Records: Whitmer 3-1 (2-0), Ross 2-3 (0-3). N

Heidelberg, Jones lead Ross victory

Oak Harbor wins to stay unbeaten

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA — Fremont Ross's Joell Heidelberg and Reggie Jones got hot in the second half Tuesday, helping the Little Giants overcome a "frustrating" first-half performance to beat Fostoria 65-55.

Heidelberg and Jones each finished with 21 points as Ross (3-3) won its first Great Lakes League game in four tries. The Redmen dropped to 1-4 (1-2).

"Actually it was a frustrating game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We didn't play to the best of our ability."

When players are off of school they get out of their routine, Gedeon said, and that can lead to a slump on the court. The Little Giants' first-half performance would back up Gedeon's theory.

Fostoria led 16-12 after one quarter and took a 32-24 halftime lead.

"They totally outplayed us," Gedeon said of the first two quarters. "We didn't execute well, we didn't show patience."

At halftime Gedeon challenged his team to play better defense and to reverse the 18-11 rebounding edge Fostoria had in the first half.

The team responded.

Ross outrebounded Fostoria 22-6 in the second half and scored 14 points off offensive rebounds. Ten of those second-chance points came from Jones, who scored all but two of his points in the second half.

"When he's aggressive and working he's an outstanding player," Gedeon said. "When he tends to watch he's just an extra body out there."

Heidelberg too was more aggressive in the second half, scoring 13 of his 21 in the third and fourth quarters. He finished with three 3-point goals.

The game was tied at 43-all entering the fourth quarter, where Ross outscored the Redmen 22-12.

The Little Giants play at Toledo Bowsher Tuesday.

In other action:

Oak Harbor 55, Perrysburg 47

OAK HARBOR — In this season of giving, Oak Harbor's boys basketball team relied on the charity stripe to win its fifth game without a loss Tuesday night.

The Rockets, under first-year coach Doug Oates, outshot Perrysburg 13-2 from the free throw line and defeated the Yellow Jackets 55-47.

"We did a nice job controlling the tempo of the game," Oates said.

Three Oak Harbor players — Gary Skeel (16), Chris Rygalski (14) and Zack Gutilla (10) — finished with double-figure scoring efforts in the non-conference win.

Ryan Niemic scored 15 points to lead Perrysburg.

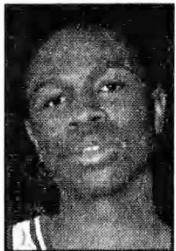
"The big difference in the game really boiled down to free throws," Oates said.

Gutilla and Skeel each hit four free throws apiece to pace Oak Harbor at the line.

St. Wendelin 58, Bettsville 46

BETTSVILLE — Andy Faber scored 22 points to lead Fostoria St. Wendelin to a Midland Athletic League win against Bettsville.

Mike Wescott scored 13 points to pace Bettsville, which also got an 11-rebound effort by Tony Bonawit.



JONES



HEIDELBURG

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 65, Fostoria 55

Ross	12	12	19	22	—	65
Fostoria	16	16	11	12	—	55

ROSS — Robb Ritzman 1-0-2, Joell Heidelberg 7-3-21, Juan Vela 1-4-6, Drew Root 1-0-2, Mike Weaver 2-1-7, Reggie Jones 9-3-21, Tyson Liggins 3-0-6. Totals 24-11-65

FOSTORIA — Lamphom Lata 1-0-2, Greg Fleming 3-0-6, Matt Shaw 3-0-8, Dustin Miller 2-0-4, Lerone Martin 3-4-13, Max Mendoza 4-1-9, Doug Bringman 1-0-2, Cory Eckleberry 3-2-9, Scott 2-0-4. Totals 22-7-55.

3-point goals: Ross 6 (Heidelberg 4, Weaver 2), Fostoria 5 (Martin 3, Shaw 2).

Records: Ross 3-3 (1-3), Fostoria 1-4 (1-2).

Rebels survive Ross rally

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross was outscored 19-8 in the third quarter and saw its fourth quarter rally come up short in a non-league loss Tuesday at Toledo Bowsher.

The Rebels, which got 22 points from Keith Triplett, beat Ross 61-56 to improve to 5-1. The Little Giants fell to 3-4.

"For three of the quarters we played well enough to win," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said, referring to quarters one, two and

BOYS BASKETBALL

four. "It was that fourth quarter where we were in a lull."

Ross, which had led 25-24 at the half, committed turnovers on four consecutive possessions in a third quarter stretch, allowing the Rebels to score 11 unanswered points to take a 41-30 lead. Entering the fourth quarter Bowsher led 43-33.

The Little Giants, which connected on nine 3-point shots in the game, rallied in the fourth quarter using more pressure defense.

"Greg Garcia gave us a nice fourth-quarter spark," said Gedeon, who was also pleased with the leadership and outside shooting of Joell Heidelberg, who finished with a team-high 19 points and four 3-point goals.

In the final period Ross outscored Bowsher 23-18, including a 3-point shot by Reggie Jones with five seconds to play to narrow the gap to 59-56.

Ross fouled Corey Reynolds immediately, and he connected on both free throws to seal the win for the Rebels.

Bowsher made 16 of 27 free throw attempts, while Ross hit just 3 of 7 free shots.

"That just shows who was the more aggressive team," Gedeon said.

Jones finished 17 points and seven rebounds for Ross. Reynolds had 13 for Bowsher.

Bowsher's defensive pressure and the athletic play of Triplett were good preparation for Saturday's home game against Sandusky, Gedeon said.

"It's another one of those things where it is a learning process," Gedeon said. "We need to learn from our mistakes and keep making improvements."

Basketball

High School Boys

Bowsher 61, Ross 56

Ross	12	13	8	23	—	56
Bowsher	12	12	19	18	—	61

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 7-1-19, Andrew Diller 0-1-1, Juan Vela 3-0-8, Reggie Jones 7-1-17, Greg Garcia 2-0-5, Matt Martell 1-0-2, Tyson Liggins 2-0-4. Totals 22-3-56.

BOWSHER—Reynolds 2-8-13, Kanady 1-0-2, Lee 5-0-10, Hartwig 1-0-2, Triplett 7-8-22, Hill 6-0-12. Totals 22-16-61.

3-point goals: Ross 9 (Heidelberg 4, Vela 2, Jones 2, Garcia), Bowsher 1 (Reynolds).

Rebounds: Ross 16 (Jones 7), Bowsher 28 (Triplett 14).

Turnovers: Ross 14, Bowsher 13.

Records: Ross 3-4 (1-3), Bowsher 5-1.

Ross JV 59, Bowsher JV 51

Ross	11	17	13	18	—	59
Bowsher	12	8	15	16	—	51

ROSS—Matt Cole 5-0-11, Aaron Hammer 1-5-7, Doug Garvey 4-5-15, Greg Garcia 3-0-6, Brian Root 7-2-16, Kevin Byers 0-4-4. Totals 20-16-59.

BOWSHER—Cooper 2-1-6, Perrin 5-4-14, Brown 4-5-13, Toles 2-0-4, Triplett 1-2-4, Sanders 2-0-4, Hamilton 3-0-6. Totals 19-12-51.

3-point goals: Ross 3 (Cole, Garvey 2), Bowsher 1 (Cooper).

Ross roars past Blue Streaks

News-Messenger reports

Joell Heidelberg scored 29 points Saturday and Fremont Ross rallied from a nine-point deficit to beat Sandusky 72-69.

"This was definitely the biggest win (of the season) for us," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon, whose team won its second consecutive Great Lakes League game after three league losses and is 4-4 overall. "It proves what a lot of people said about the GLL. This league is just so tough, anybody can beat anyone on a given night."

This appeared to be Sandusky's night to win, as the Blue Streaks (7-2, 3-2 GLL) jumped ahead 54-45 late in the third quarter. But Andrew Diller scored at the buzzer to narrow the margin to seven points entering the final quarter.

Ross would then score on 13 of its 18 fourth-quarter possessions to rally, first taking the lead at 59-58 on a Heidelberg basket.

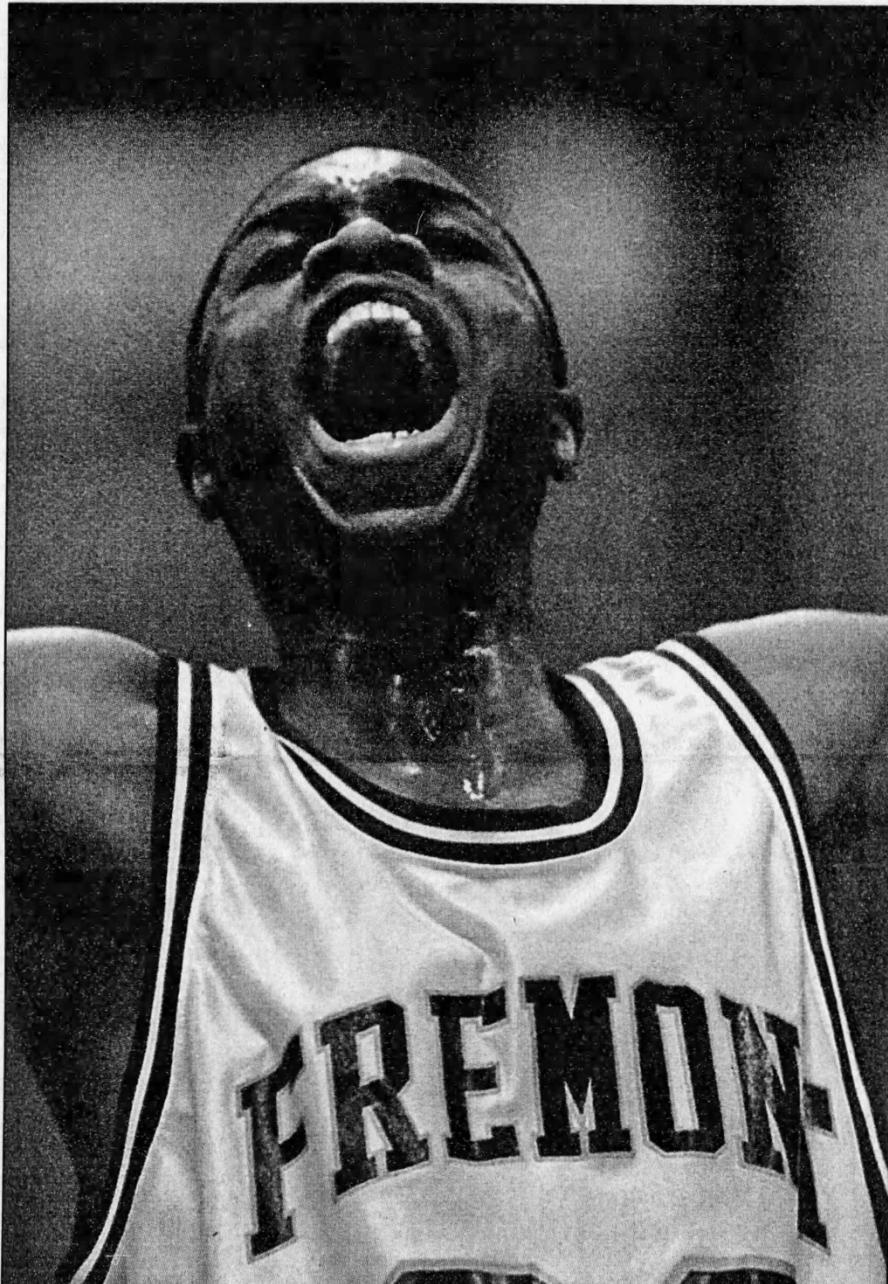
"Our execution was good in the fourth quarter," Gedeon said.

The teams traded leads several times after that, with Jamarcus Hampton scoring to give Sandusky a 66-62 lead with 2:40 left. A Heidelberg 3-point shot trimmed the lead to one before Hampton traveled to give the ball back to the Little Giants. Tyson Liggins converted a Reggie Jones pass for a layup to give Ross the lead for good, 67-66.

Jones, who scored 13 points, blocked a Sandusky shot on the Blue Streaks' next trip, and Liggins made a save to Robb Ritzman, who was fouled. He connected on both ends of the 1-and-1 to give Ross a 69-66 advantage.

Following a Hampton miss and Ross rebound, Heidelberg finished a fast break with a dunk to push the lead to 71-66. Hampton, who led Sandusky with 22 points, made a 3-point shot to trim the lead to 71-69.

See ROSS RALLIES, B2



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

REGGIE JONES of Fremont Ross reacts as he misses a free throw late in the game against Sandusky. A double lane violation gave the ball back to Ross and Joell Heidelberg iced the 72-69 win at the Purple Pit.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MATT MARTEL of Fremont Ross puts up a shot against Sandusky's El Desheon Nix during the fourth quarter Saturday at Ross.

Ross rallies to win GLL game

Continued from B1

After Jones missed a free throw and the Little Giants got the ball back on a double lane violation, Heidelberg was fouled and made the first of two shots to give his team a three-point lead.

Hampton missed a 3-pointer on Sandusky's last shot.

Gedeon credited the leadership of Heidelberg (5 steals, 3 assists, 12-19 shooting), the bench play and the home-court advantage for the win.

"It was a full house," Gedeon said. "They were putting people on the stage. That energy really put us over the top."

Ross will not have that edge when it plays at Bedford Friday and at Mansfield Madison Saturday.

High School Boys

Ross 72, Sandusky 69

Sandusky 17 18 19 15 — 69

Fremont Ross 20 14 13 25 — 72

SANDUSKY — Orlando Williamson 3-0-6, El Desheon Nix 2-2-7, Jamarcus Hampton 8-4-22, Jahn Farris 2-0-5, Anthony Roberts 0-1-1, Quinn Redding 8-2-19, James Mason 2-0-5, Bobby Manuel 2-0-4. Totals 27-9-69.

FREMONT — Robb Ritzman 1-4-6, Joell Heidelberg 12-2-29, Andrew Diller 1-0-2, Juan Vela 3-0-8, Drew Root 1-0-2, Reggie Jones 6-1-13, Matt Martel 2-0-4, Tyson Liggins 3-2-8. Totals 29-9-72.

3-point goals: Sandusky 6 (Hampton 2, Nix, Farris, Redding, Mason), Fremont Ross 5 (Heidelberg 3, Vela 2)

Records: Fremont Ross 4-4 (2-3), Sandusky 7-2 (3-2).

Sandusky JV 74, Ross 64

Sandusky 14 17 20 23 — 74

Fremont Ross 14 9 18 23 — 64

SANDUSKY — Brandon Alexander 1-0-2, Kirby 0-2-2, Cotton 4-3-11, Graves 4-4-12, Swain 1-0-2, Pressley 0-1-1, Hampton 8-2-18, Brock Alexander 9-5-24, Pearson 1-0-2. Totals 28-17-74.

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 3-0-6, Aaron Hammer 5-2-13, Doug Garvey 4-2-12, Jordan Mackey 1-0-2, Thomas Mason 3-0-6, Austin Miller 3-3-9, Ryan Werling 1-0-3, Greg Garcia 0-3-3, Bryan Root 3-0-2, Brooks Obermeyer 1-0-2, Kevin Byers 1-0-2. Totals 25-10-64.

Records: Ross 6-2 (3-2), Sand. 6-1.

'He's always had that love'



News-Messenger photos by Andrew Morrison

Heidelberg's work pays off at Ross

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Joell Heidelberg dribbles between his wiry legs, accelerates toward the basket and stops — just in time to loft a shot high in the air. Swish.

No crowd roars. No teammates high-five. No opponents scowl.

Those things don't usually happen before breakfast.

Heidelberg, then a freshman, was practicing at 5 a.m. at Birkard Park for that day's Gus Macker basketball tournament in Toledo, where he and three classmates eventually finished third.

Today Heidelberg is a 5-foot-11 junior at Fremont Ross, showing crowds, teammates and opponents the benefits of hard work.

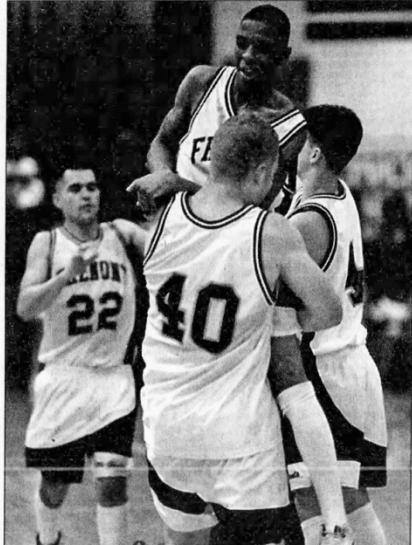
Heidelberg is averaging 17.1 points, three rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.6 steals per game this year. Saturday he scored 29 points in a win against rival Sandusky, earning him The News-Messenger's Athlete of the Week award.

"He's always had that love of the game," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon, who first met Joell and twin Jorel when the brothers were fifth graders attending a Ross camp.

"They both had that love, and they wanted to play open gym against the high school kids," Gedeon said. "I knew then that Joell was going to be something special."

Fifth grade was the first year of organized basketball for Joell Heidelberg. At the urging of grandmother Adeline Heidelberg and aunt Minnie Lull, who wanted to keep the boys out of any mischief, Joell and Jorel began to play basketball on the Croghan School team for coach Phil Bauer.

"It was very obvious that Joell had some talent then," Bauer said. "He was one of the



JOELL HEIDELBURG is hugged by Matt Martel (40) as the Little Giants celebrated their win against rival Sandusky Saturday in the Purple Pit.

smaller players even then. But he played all around. He had very good ball handling skills, and he could jump and out-rebound anybody."

Bauer remains in contact with Heidelberg through his work as a substitute teacher and as an eighth-grade girls coach. He said Heidelberg was — and is — modest despite his athletic talent.

"He still calls me coach, which makes me feel really good," Bauer said.

In addition to his brother Jorel, Joell Heidelberg had another playmate in Tyson Liggins, who also grew up on Ohio Avenue. The three played basketball and football together until seventh grade, when Joell gave up football.

"He was never as into (football)," said Jorel, who played on Ross's 11-1 football team this year with Liggins.

"He just loved basketball," Liggins said.

After playing sparingly on the varsity basketball team as a freshman, Joell Heidelberg gained notoriety among area teams and fans in his sophomore season with a dazzling mix of shooting and dunking. Heidelberg made more 3-point shots in Ross's four-game postseason run than he had all season, and punctuated a district semifinal win with a two-handed stuff.

"Last year I made a name for myself," he said. "This year I want to keep my name up."

With the graduation of eight seniors from last year's team, the junior guard has had to assume a key leadership role along with sophomore Reggie Jones.

"If there is a huddle out there, it is probably because Joell called it," Gedeon said.

JOELL HEIDELBURG, above, shoots to give his team a 72-69 lead against Sandusky Saturday. Heidelberg finished with 29 points in the upset win.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Joell Heidelberg

profile

School: Fremont Ross
Grade: Junior
Sports: Basketball
Hobbies: Watching NBA tapes
Family: Mother Betty Abeny; Brother Jorel, 18; Sisters Traci Abeny, 17, Staci Abeny, 17, Denise Abeny, 11.

"Now he's thinking like a coach, too."

Heidelberg, who is as recognizable by his knee-high socks as his No. 12 jersey, said he takes pride in setting screens and playing defense as well as scoring and passing.

College coaches have taken notice of his all-around skills, said Gedeon said, who cited interest from the University of Wisconsin, Cleveland State and Youngstown State.

Because Heidelberg — called "Man" by coaches and teammates — has been receptive to coaching and has great talent, Gedeon believes he will have no problem competing on the college level. And one concern, Heidelberg's attitude toward schoolwork, is less of a problem this season as he recognizes the correlation between athletics and academics.

"He knows now what's at the end of the tunnel," Gedeon said.

But Heidelberg stills has 1½ seasons to play in the Purple Pit, and he has dedicated this year to three deceased relatives: Grandmother Heidelberg and cousins Derrick and David Heidelberg.

Whatever success Heidelberg achieves, few believe it is undeserved.

"We grew up seeing him do the work," Jorel Heidelberg said. "We know he deserves it."

Ross beats Bedford; Giants play Mansfield today

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon was unhappy when his Little Giants played to the level of their competition in Friday's 71-61 win against winless Bedford.

But he'd love for Ross to play to their competition today.

Ross (5-4) plays at Mansfield Madison, considered one of the top teams Ross could face in its

sectional tournament next month.

But Friday it was a Great Lakes League battle with Bedford (0-6).

Joell Heidelberg (20 points) connected on back-to-back 3-pointers to start



HEIDELBURG

the game, giving Ross a 6-1 lead. But each time Ross tried to put the game out of reach, Bedford clawed its way back in.

"Even though we won each quarter, which we wanted to do, it was just enough to win each quarter," Gedeon said. "We never really put them away."

Having been blown out by Sandusky in their last game, the Kicking Mules gained confidence as the game wore on.

With 2:35 to play in the game Ross led 62-56. But Greg Garcia responded with a basket off of an offensive rebound to give Ross an eight-point edge. On Ross's next possession Tyson Liggins hit both ends of a 1-and-1 to make it 66-56.

The win was Ross's third in a row in the league, evening its GLL mark at 3-3.

Ross 71, Bedford 61

Fremont Ross	13	16	22	20	—	71
Bedford	12	13	17	19	—	61

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 1-3-5, Joell Heidelberg 7-2-20, Andrew Diller 1-3-5, Jua Vela 3-0-6, Drew Root 3-0-6, Reggie Jones 5-1-11, Greg Garcia 1-0-2, Tyson Liggins 7-2-16. Totals 28-11-71.

BEDFORD — Mike Meinhart 1-4-6, Tony Nicol 3-1-7, Andy Francis 4-5-15, Chad Funk 3-0-7, Chad Clay 5-1-13, Nick Weaver 6-0-13. Totals 22-11-61.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 4 (Heidelberg 4), Bedford 6 (Francis 2, Clay 2, Funk, Weaver)

Rebounds: Ross (Jones 6)

Turnovers: Ross 16, Bedford 19

Records: Ross 5-4 (3-3), Bedford 0-6 (0-6).

Ross JV 46, Bedford 36

Ross	15	4	12	15	—	46
Bedford	12	3	8	13	—	36

ROSS—Mack Cole 1-0-2, Aaron Hammer 3-3-10, Doug Garvey 2-0-5, Thomas Mason 2-0-6, Greg Garcia 4-4-12, Brian Root 3-2-8, Kevin Byers 1-1-3, Totals 16-10-46.

BEDFORD—Sheroian 1-0-2, Hubbard 0-8-8, Weins 0-1-1, Welch 4-2-10, Elsworth 2-2-6, McKinney 3-2-9, Totals 10-15-36.

3-point goals: Ross 4 (Mason 2, Hammer, Garvey), Bedford 1 (McKinney).

Rebounds: Ross 28 (Garcia, Byers 5), Bedford 20.

Turnovers: Ross 15, Bedford 18.

Records: Ross 7-2, Bedford 0-6.

Little Giants lose at Madison.

News-Messenger reports

MANSFIELD — Fremont Ross boys basketball coach Mark Gedeon is convinced his inexperienced team can compete with the big boys.

Now he wants more.

"There is no question we've improved so much since we beat Bowling Green (Dec. 5)," Gedeon said after Saturday's 69-62 loss to Mansfield Madison. "Now I want us to go to the next level and win some of those games as well."

Justin Lerrick helped make sure that did not happen Saturday, however. The Rams' senior scored 28 points to lead his team to its seventh straight victory after three losses.

Joell Heidelberg countered with 19 points and Reggie Jones added 16 for Ross, which dropped to 5-5.

The Rams charged ahead early, taking a 9-2 lead in the opening minutes and stretching it to 36-22 late in the second quarter.

BOYS BASKETBALL

"Our defensive intensity was very poor," said Gedeon, whose team allowed Madison to hit 8 of 11 field goals in the second quarter. "I challenged them at half time to step up their intensity, play with heart and pride."

The Little Giants opened the second half with an alley-oop to Jones, and scored on 5 of 6 possessions to narrow the deficit to 47-42 entering the final quarter. A Jones steal and slam dunk in the fourth quarter cut the lead to a point at 51-50, and Heidelberg's two free throws with 5:01 to play gave Ross a 52-51 edge.

The teams traded points until Madison surged ahead 64-60. But a Robb Ritzman basket made it 64-62 with 40 seconds to play. Ross fouled with 29 seconds to play, but Tim Mergel connected on two free throws to give the Rams a 66-62 advantage. Ross missed three 3-pointers in the

closing seconds of the loss.

All five of Ross's defeats have been by less than 10 points, and each of the teams which has beaten Ross has at least seven wins.

Liberty Benton 58, Old Fort 54

FINDLAY — Old Fort's Derek Huber and Jeff Meeker combined for 31 points, but it was not enough to stop Liberty-Center in a non-league game.

Steve Burgel scored 18 points for Liberty-Benton, which outscored Old Fort 15-11 in the decisive third quarter. Huber had 16 points and Meeker 15 for Old Fort.

Maumee Valley 74, Bettsville 59

TOLEDO — Three Bettsville players scored nine points apiece in a non-league loss to Maumee Valley Country Day.

Ken Kizer, Tony Bonawit and Darl Lanning led the Bobcats in scoring. Bonawit added 11 rebounds.

Bob Mahajan scored 15 points to pace the Hawks.

■ **Summaries, B2**

High School Boys

Mansfield Madison 69,

Fremont Ross 62

Fremont Ross 9 17 16 20 — 62
Madison 16 22 9 22 — 69

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 3-2-9, Joell Heidelberg 6-5-19, Juan Vela 4-1-11, Mike Weaver 1-0-3, Reggie Jones 7-2-16, Tyson Liggins 1-2-4. Totals 22-12-62.

MANSFIELD MADISON — Justin Lerrick 12-4-28, Josh Kentosh 1-3-5, Tim Mergel 4-4-14, Mark Plank 2-3-8, Nate Lautzenhiser 3-2-11, Mike Meyers 1-1-3. Totals 23-17-69.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 6 (Heidelberg 2, Vela 2, Ritzman, Weaver), Mansfield Madison 6 (Lautenhisre 3, Mergel 2, Plank)

Rebounds: Fremont Ross 21 (Liggins 6), Mansfield Madison 22 (Kentosh 6, Lerrick 5)

Turnovers: Fremont Ross 10, Mansfield Madison 12

Records: Fremont Ross 5-5, Mansfield Madison 7-3

Mansfield Madison JV 68,

Fremont Ross JV 59

Fremont Ross 12 16 15 16 — 59
Madison 9 12 23 24 — 68

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 8-0-17, Aaron Hammer 2-1-5, Doug Garvey 2-0-6, Greg Garcia 5-2-13, Bryan Root 3-5-11, Brooks Obermyer 1-0-3, Kevin Byers 2-0-4. Totals 23-8-59.

MANSFIELD MADISON — Burton 0-2-2, O'Brien 7-2-17, Hicks 3-1-7, Messer 2-4-10, Wright 1-1-3, Kentosh 5-4-17, Jones 0-2-2, Cantrell 4-2-10. Totals 22-18-68.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 5 (Garvey 2, Cole, Garcia, Obermyer), Mansfield Christian 6 (Kentosh 3, Meser 2, O'Brien)

Records: Fremont Ross 7-3, Madison 2-8

Giants gets big win on small Knights

Three Little Giants score in double figures in 12-point win

By JOHN VARGO
News-Messenger correspondent

As 6-foot sophomore forward Reggie Jones elevated from the left baseline to jam home the first two points of the game, Fremont Ross had an inkling that they were not playing the same Toledo St. Francis DeSales team of a year ago.

They were right.

The Little Giants beat St. Francis 63-51 Saturday night at the Purple Pit, improving Ross's record to 6-5 and dropping the Knights to 2-7.

Last year Robierre Cullars, Zack McClellan and Rick Fox, who ranked in height from 6-4 to 6-7, provided the muscle for St. Francis and Cullars had 42 points in a 73-69 defeat of Ross at Toledo.

The Knights were rank No. 1 in the state at that time.

Saturday, Knights' 6-1 senior

guard Keith Cuda had 18 points to lead all scorers. "We were 6-6, 6-7 and 6-4," said St. Francis head coach Joe Suboticki. "And now our biggest starter is 6-3, 165 pounds."

"It makes a big difference."

Fremont held a two-point advantage after one quarter, 16-14.

To begin the second, the Little Giants came up big from behind the 3-point arc.

Junior Robb Ritzman nailed back-to-back 3-pointers in a Ross' 17-8 run which put Ross up 33-17.

"It was a real critical time for

■ Box scores, B2

us to get that momentum, give our fans a chance to get really excited for the first half," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "It really carried us all the way into the locker room."

The Giants hit five of seven 3-pointers in the second quarter. They were five of eight from 3-point range in the first half (63 percent), and seven of 13 for the game (54 percent).

St. Francis was five of 19 from the 3-point arc for 26 percent.

"We felt pretty good about that number," Gedeon said.

Gedeon said the team's two returning letterwinners, Jones and 5-11 junior guard Joell Heidelberg are beginning to take on their new roles — as leaders.

"You can see some of the maturity coming through in some of those ball players," Gedeon said. Jones and Heidelberg took the game into their own hands — literally — with 6:36 left before intermission.

See ROSS WINS, B3

Ross wins against Knights

Continued from B1

Jones snared the rebound in between two St. Francis defenders and promptly heaved it to Joell halfway down the court.

Heidelberg did the rest as he lifted himself in the air, floated to the basket, cradled the ball with his right hand and windmilled the ball into the bucket.

Heidelberg and Juan Vela led the Little Giants with 12 points each and Jones added 11.

Ross was 19 of 32 for 59 percent from two-point range, while Toledo St. Francis was 17 of 33

for 52 percent.

St. Francis was coming off a 75-72 loss to Toledo Waite on Friday.

Suboticki said his team was emotionally drained from the heart-breaking loss.

"We usually like to full-court press the whole game," he said. "We're just getting back."

"We took it off and went back into a zone. It worked a little bit, but not enough — obviously. So, we took it on the chin."

Ross plays at Oregon Clay Friday in a Great Lakes League game.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 63, St. Francis 51

St. Francis 14 12 17 8 — 51

Fremont Ross 16 23 14 10 — 63

ST. FRANCIS—Nick Scalzo 2-0-4, Jason Smalinski 4-1-10, Nick Tallent 3-0-8, JePaul Baskin 2-0-5, TP Behan 1-0-2, Tim Pierce 2-0-4, Keith Buda 8-1-18. Totals 22-2-51.

FREMONT ROSS—Robb Ritzman 3-1-9, Joell Heidelberg 4-3-12, Jorel Heidelberg 2-0-4, Juan Vela 5-1-12, Drew Root 1-0-3, Reggie Jones 5-0-11, Greg Garcia 2-0-4, Tyson Liggins 2-1-5. Totals 25-6-63.

3-point goals: St. Francis 5 (Tallent 2, Smalinski, Baskin, Cuda), Fremont Ross 7 (Ritzman 2, Joell Heidelberg, Vela, Root, Weaver, Jones).

Rebounds: St. Francis 21 (Behan 10), Fremont Ross 35 (Jones 9).

Turnovers: St. Francis 20, Fremont Ross 19.

St. Francis JV 40, Ross JV 38

St. Francis 5 15 5 15 — 40

Fremont Ross 8 15 6 9 — 38

ST. FRANCIS—Szenduski 1-2-4, Tafalski 1-1-4, Kookathe 2-0-4, Caputo 2-5-9, Burchick 1-2-4, Kantener 2-2-7, Curtis 3-2-8. Totals 12-14-40.

FREMONT ROSS—Matt Cole 3-0-7, Aaron Hammer 1-2-4, Doug Garvey 2-0-4, Austin Miller 5-0-10, Brian Root 1-4-6, Kevin Byers 3-1-7. Totals 15-7-38.

3-point goals: St. Francis 2 (Tafalski, Kantener), Fremont Ross 1 (Cole).

Records: St. Francis 8-1, Fremont Ross 7-3 (4-2).

Clay nips Ross in overtime

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Ron Henneman converted on a three-point play with a little of three second remaining to Clay a 61-58 overtime victory over Fremont Ross Friday night.

The win gave the Eagles sole possession of second in the Great Lakes League race with a 5-2 mark. Clay, 8-4 overall, are a game ahead of Sandusky which lost to league leader Whitmer 77-70. Ross is 6-6 and 3-4 in the GLL race.

"It was a very tough loss," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

The game was knotted at 52 at the end of regulation. Ross has the last shot in regulation but Joell Heidelbvr's 14-footer from a bad angle rolled off the rim.

In the extra session, Henneman put Clay up 54-53 with a free throw before Heidelburg's bucket made it 55-54. Two free tosses by Joe Romano gave Clay the lead but Reggie Jones rebound shot put Ross ahead 57-56 with 1:47 left.

Clay turned the ball over with 1:28 to play and the Little Giants chewed nearly a minute off the clock before Juan Vela was fouled with 31.9 seconds remaining. The sophomore missed the first of a one-and-one and Henneman's two foul shot gave Clay at 58-57 lead. Jones' free throw tied it at 59 with 9.7 second left, setting up Henneman's game-winning shot.

The Little Giants' first lead was 44-43 when Joell Heidelburg hit the front end of a one-and-one with three minutes into the final quarter. The teams swapped the lead from that point until the overtime.

"We played outstanding defense in the second half but we were aggressive and gave them the easy shot at the foul line," Gedeon said.

The Little Giants allowed the Eagles five baskets in the second half, three in the final 12 minutes. But Clay took advantage of the tight Ross defense, making 22 of 27 free throws.

Ross trailed 31-24 at halftime after Clay scored on six of its last eight possessions of the first half.

The Little Giants held the Eagles to one basket — a 3-pointer by 6-foot-6 Ben Tobias — in the first 13 offensive efforts of the second half.

Tobias paced Clay with 17 points. Heidelburg had 19 for Ross with Vela adding 13 and Greg Garcia 11.

Ross 58, Clay 61 (OT)

Ross	12	12	13	16	5	—	58
Clay	17	14	18	14	8	—	61

ROSS — Rob Ritzman 1-0-2, Joel Heidelburg 7-4-19, Juan Vela 6-0-13, Reggie Jones 3-1-7, Greg Garcia 4-2-11, Tyson Liggins 2-2-6, Totals 23-9-58.

CLAY — Joe Romano 3-4-10, Ron Henneman 2-7-11, Doug Miller 1-0-3, Tom Clay 4-5-14, Adam Pfeiffer 1-2-4, Ben Tobias 6-4-17, Totals 17-22-61.

3-point goals: Ross 3 (Heidelburg, Vela, Garcia), Clay 3 (Miller, Clay, Tobias).

Rebounds: Ross 23 (Jones 8), Clay 22 (Tobias 9).

Turnovers: Ross 19, Clay 23.

Records: Ross 6-6, (3-4), Clay 9-4, (5-2).

Ross JV 45, Clay 32

Ross	14	8	6	17	—	45
Clay	9	8	7	8	—	32

ROSS — Mack Cole 3-0-9, Aaron Hammer 1-0-3, Doug Garvey 4-4-12, Austin Miller 3-3-9, Ryan Werling 2-0-2, Brian Root 3-2-8, Brooks Overmeyer 2-0-2, Totals 17-9-45.

CLAY — Hofbawer 1-0-3, Fisher 1-1-3, Wasserman 0-1-1, Andrzejewski 2-0-5, O'Shea 1-0-2, Morris 3-0-6, Harrington 0-1-1, Huguley 0-4-4, Katschke 1-0-2, Nowaki 1-3-5, Totals 10-10-32.

3-point goals: Ross 2 (Hammer, Cole), Clay (Hofbawer, Andrzejewski).

Rebounds: Ross 27 (Miller 8), Clay 16 (Nowaki 4).

Record: Ross 8-4 (5-2).

10 score in Little Giants' win

News-Messenger reports

TIFFIN — With one of its stars drained by the flu, Fremont Ross relied on balance in Saturday's game against Tiffin Columbian.

It worked.

The Little Giants (7-6) got points from 10 different players and defeated the Tornadoes 77-70 in a non-league game. Tiffin Columbian dropped to 5-7.

Columbian's Rob Price made three 3-point shots and led all scorers with 21 points, while Ross got 17 points and six rebounds from Reggie Jones and 15 points and eight rebounds by Tyson Liggins.

"It was nice to get a lot of different people involved," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "Andrew Diller had by far his best varsity game. Joell (Heidelberg) has had the flu for the last week and we needed Andrew to contribute."

The Little Giants led 36-34 at the half, then outscored the Tornadoes 24-16 in the third quarter to open up a lead they would not relinquish.

"We wanted to make it an up and down game, to use our athleticism to get Tiffin out of their half court sets," Gedeon said.

Columbian drew within four points at 69-65 with 3:44 to go in the game, and Price made his final 3-pointer with :32 left to make it a 76-70 game. Ross missed two free throws but Columbian could not capitalize after missing a 3-point shot.

Neither team shot well from the free throw line. Ross made 2 of 30 for 40 percent while Columbian hit 10 of 24 for 42 percent. The teams did better on field goal attempts. Ross made half of its 58 attempts, while Columbian's 27-of-55 performance was equal to 49 percent.

Ross hosts Findlay Friday and travels to Whitmer Saturday in a pair of Great Lakes League games.

In other games Saturday:

Marion Catholic 78, St. Joe 76

MARION — Nick Hasselbach continued his recent scoring tear with 31 points, but St. Joseph Central Catholic could not hold off a fourth-quarter rally by the host Fighting Irish.

BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Joe (7-6) led 58-53 entering the final quarter and increased that edge to 12 points before Marion Catholic used a barrage of 3-point shots to earn the win.

"You hope to become better through close games," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said. "We had a very solid team effort and offensively everybody stepped it up."

While the Fighting Irish made six 3-pointers, the Crimson Streaks had none. Their points came on the interior.

Besides Hasselbach's game-high scoring total, Nick Haynes scored nine points and Jason Eberly had seven. Scott Celek had 10 for St. Joe.

Hasselbach has now scored 54 points in two games after scoring 23 in Friday's Midland Athletic League win against Bettsville.

"He's just taking the ball to the basket strong and going hard," Gabel said.

In the closing seconds of the game, the Fighting Irish made one of two free throws to take a two-point lead.

"Brady Busold tried a runner at top of key that went off the rim," Gabel said.

St. Joe hosts MAL rival Calvert Friday.

Ashland 48, Clyde 37

CLYDE — Lucas Messer scored nearly half of his team's points in a non-league loss to Ashland.

Messer, a 6-foot-5 junior, followed Friday night's 25-point effort with 18 more points.

The Fliers (7-5) fell behind 18-15 at the half, then scored just six points in the third quarter to trail by nine entering the fourth quarter.

Clyde returns to Sandusky Bay Conference action Friday when it plays at Margaretta.

Bellevue 92, Port Clinton 44

BELLEVUE — If Port Clinton entertained any thoughts of upsetting non-conference rival Bellevue Saturday night, the host Redmen had other ideas.

Bellevue outscored the Redskins 23-8 in the second quarter and 30-13 in the third en route to a 92-44 victory.

Twelve different players scored for the Redmen (11-2), who got a game-high 20 points from 6-foot-7 senior forward David Falknor.

Falknor became Bellevue's all-time leading scorer in Friday's 84-69 win over Norwalk.

Justin Whiting led struggling Port Clinton (1-12) with 14 points and Joe Webster added nine.

Ed Rich added 13 points and Adam Love and Brad Rohrbach added 10 apiece for the Redmen, who connected on 48 percent (35-of-73) of their shots.

Bettsville 43, Arcadia 39

ARCADIA — Arcadia's Rob Ellis outscored Bettsville's Tony Bonawit, but Bonawit's Bobcats outscored Ellis' Redskins in the non-league game.

Ellis connected on four 3-pointers and scored 24 points, five more than Bonawit's Bobcat-leading total. Bettsville also got 11 points from Doug Wolf and seven points and 14 rebounds from Darl Lanning.

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LOOP

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 77, Tiffin Columbian 70

Fremont Ross 18 18 24 17 — 77

T. Columbian 15 19 16 20 — 70

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 2-1-6, Joell Heidelberg 3-3-9, Andrew Diller 4-2-11, Jorel Heidelberg 1-0-2, Juan Vela 2-0-5, Drew Root 1-0-3, Mike Weaver 2-1-7, Reggie Jones 8-0-17, Greg Garcia 0-2-2, Tyson Liggins 6-3-15. Totals 29-12-77.

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN — Josh Zirger 4-4-14, Burns 2-0-5, Ryan Fretz 1-1-3, Craig Hill 3-1-7, Rob Price 8-2-21, Beau Carmoh 8-2-18, Brian Foos 1-0-2. Totals 27-10-70.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 7 (Weaver 2, Ritzman, Diller, Vela, Root, Jones), Tiffin Columbian 6 (Price 3, Zirger 2, Burns)

Rebounds: Fremont Ross 38 (Liggins 8, Joell Heidelberg 7, Jones 7), Tiffin Columbian 37 (Carmon 9)

Turnovers: Fremont Ross 21, Tiffin Columbian 17

Records: Fremont Ross 7-6, Tiffin Columbian 5-7

Columbian JV 50, Ross JV 48

Fremont Ross 10 15 13 10 — 48

Columbian 18 6 11 15 — 50

ROSS—Mack Cole 7-2-19, Aaron Hammer 1-0-2, Doug Garvey 4-1-12, Austin Miller 1-1-3, Ryan Werling 4-2-10, Kevin Byers 1-0-2. Totals 18-6-48.

COLUMBIAN—Albert 2-1-5, Wise 2-0-4, Legrant 1-0-2, Clouse 1-0-2, Focht 5-5-15, Slosser 1-0-2, Naum 6-5-17, Price 1-1-3. Totals 19-12-50.

3-point goals: Ross 6 (Cole 3, Garvey 3).

Record: Ross 8-5 (5-2).

Fremont Ross rips Findlay

Heidelberg ignites Giants in GLL victory

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Joell Heidelberg unveiled a new dunk, nailed a 3-point shot and completed a three-point play in Fremont Ross's battle with Findlay Friday night.

And that was just the first quarter.

Heidelberg scored 10 of his 15 points in the first eight minutes and the Little Giants avenged a Dec. 12 loss by beating Findlay 70-54.

Ross improved to 8-6 overall and 4-4 in the Great Lakes League. Findlay fell to 8-6 and 3-4.

"In the locker room before the game we really got together and were pumped up and that helped us out," Ross junior Robb Ritzman said. "Hopefully, it is a big win for us. One to put us over the top."

Heidelberg was up and over everyone in the early minutes.

Findlay's Mark Wilson slapped the opening tip toward Heidelberg, who took four quick dribbles and hit a jump shot from the right wing to give Ross a 2-0 lead.

With 6:15 to play and Ross leading 5-4, Heidelberg scooped up a loose ball and raced ahead of the pack toward a wide-open goal. Veering right to set up his angle Heidelberg leaped and put down a two-handed reverse dunk, igniting the Ross players and fans.

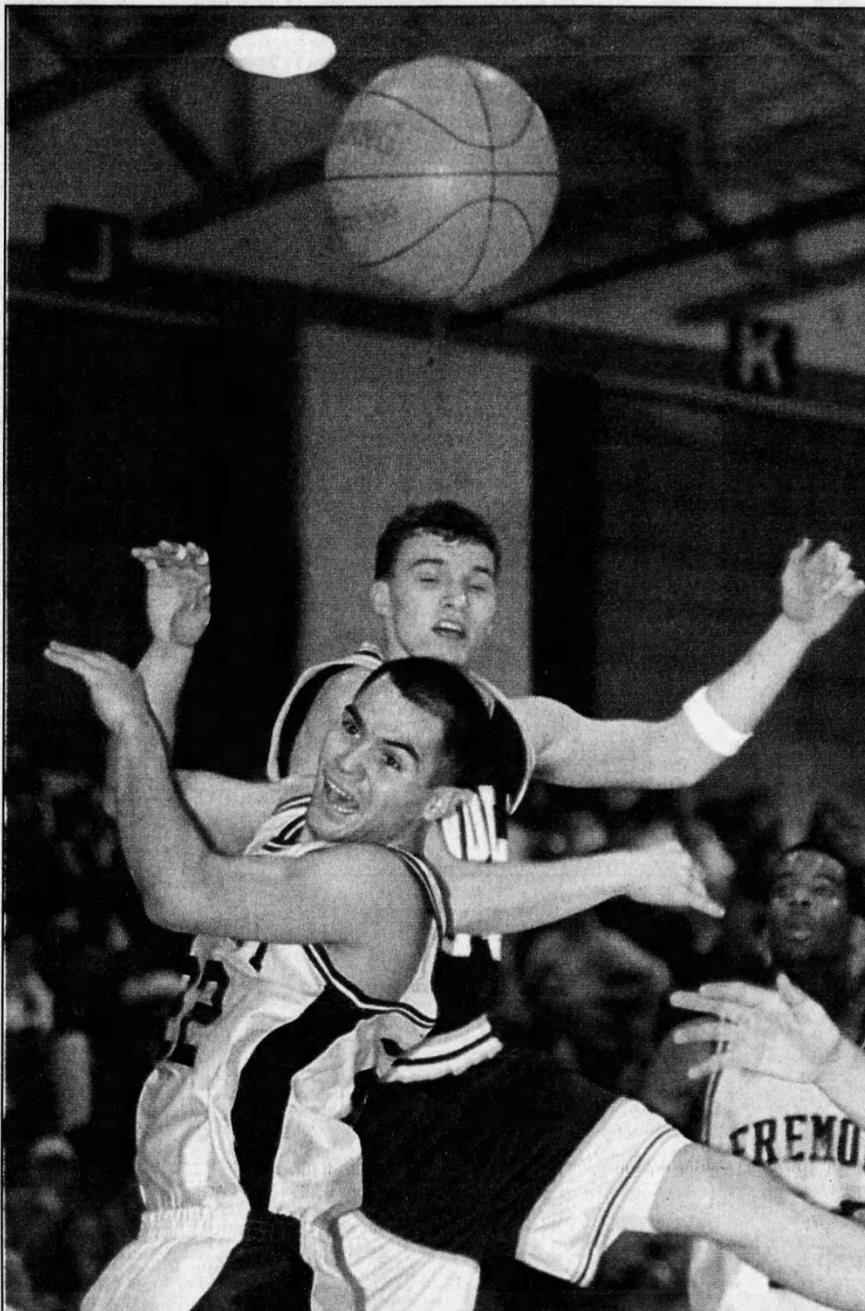
"It felt really good to see the crowd go wild," said Heidelberg, who had never had a reverse dunk in a game.

Then with 5:10 to play Greg Garcia grabbed a loose ball and threw it ahead to Heidelberg, who quickly redirected the ball to Juan Vela for a layup and a 9-4 lead. At the 3:00 mark, Heidelberg hit a 3-point shot to complete a 9-0 run.

When Findlay's Doug Barnes made a 3-point shot to narrow the gap to 14-7, Heidelberg responded by drawing a foul and scoring for a three-point play.

"That's Joell going out and playing the game of basketball the way his talent dictates," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "He can hurt you in a lot of different ways."

Ross led 23-9 after one quarter, but the Trojans fought back. Barnes scored seven of his game-high 21 points in the quarter and Shaun Ball added four points as Findlay cut the lead to 27-23.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
JUAN VELA of Fremont Ross, left, has the ball knocked away by Findlay's Jason Wenner during the second half Friday at the Purple Pit. Vela and Joell Heidelberg scored 15 points apiece to help lead Ross to a 70-54 win.

Findlay then committed six turnovers, however, and Ross took advantage. The Little Giants closed the half with five straight baskets, including Ritzman's jumper over the 6-foot-7 Wilson at the buzzer to give Ross a 37-23 lead.

"He's been coming in before school to get some extra shooting in and working on getting his shot back," Gedeon said of his 5-11 point guard.

Ross pushed the lead to 52-30 in the third quarter when Mike Weaver made two free throws.

The Trojans closed to within 12 points when Barnes made the fourth of his five 3-pointers, but never got back within single digits.

Vela tied Heidelberg for team-

See ROSS, B2

Ross avenges earlier loss to Findlay

Continued from B1

high honors with 15 points, and Ritzman added 10. Reggie Jones scored eight points.

More importantly, Wilson was limited to nine points. The GLL's second-leading scorer was fronted by Tyson Liggins and had several Little Giants collapsing on him whenever he caught a pass.

Findlay outrebounded Ross 41-35, but Ross was all over the boards on the offensive end.

"We got pounded on the offensive boards," Findlay coach Jerry Snodgrass said. "It gave us no chance."

Findlay made just 7-of-17 free throw attempts.

The game ended when Matt Martel, a senior center, realized there were only two ticks left on the clock and shot a rare 3-pointer that found the bottom of the net.

"That was a nice reward for our players to end the game tonight," Gedeon said.

NOTES: Ross cannot enjoy Friday's win for long. The Little Giants play at Toledo Whitmer tonight (6 p.m. JV start). "Our kids know it's possible. We have the ability to hurt people in quite a few different ways," said Gedeon, whose team lost 67-64 to the Panthers on Dec. 19 at Ross. ... Findlay beat Ross 66-57 earlier this season in Findlay.

Basketball

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 70, Findlay 54

Findlay 9 14 17 14 — 54

Fremont Ross 23 14 22 11 — 70

FINDLAY — Ben Roethlisberger 2-2-6, Doug Barnes 8-0-21, Kurt Lindamood 2-0-4, Shaun Ball 1-2-4, Benji Ballmer 3-0-6, Jason Wenner 1-0-2, Mark Wilson 3-3-9, Mike Iriti 1-0-2. Totals 21-7-54.

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 4-0-10, Joell Heidelberg 6-1-15, Juan Vela 6-2-15, Drew Root 1-0-3, Mike Weaver 2-2-7, Reggie Jones 4-0-8, Greg Garcia 1-0-2, Matt Martel 2-0-5, Tyson Liggins 2-1-5. Totals 28-6-70.

3-point goals: Findlay 5 (Barnes 5), Fremont Ross 8 (Ritzman 2, Heidelberg 2, Vela, Root, Weaver, Martel)

Rebounds: Findlay 41, Ross 35

Turnovers: Findlay 23, Ross 14

Records: Findlay 8-6 (3-4), Fremont Ross 8-6 (4-4)

Ross JV 52, Findlay 41

FINDLAY — Ryan Imke 1-0-2, Clayton Acheson 6-2-16, Mike Iriti 5-3-13, Chad Baxter 3-0-6, Rich Slack 1-0-2, Andy Hardy 1-0-2. Totals 16-5-41.

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 11-2-27, Aaron Hammer 2-0-5, Doug Garvey 2-1-6, Austin Miller 1-0-2, Bryan Root 2-4-8, Kevin Byers 2-0-4. Totals 20-7-52.

3-point goals: Findlay 2 (Iriti 2), Fremont Ross 5 (Cole 3, Hammer, Garvey)

Whitmer whips Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — What goes around comes around.

Fremont Ross, which blitzed Findlay early in the game Friday en route to a Great Lakes League blowout, was beaten in similar fashion Saturday by Toledo Whitmer in a 74-53 loss.

Whitmer's Cedric Jaynes scored 15 of his game-high 17 points in the first half as the ninth-ranked Panthers improved to 14-1 overall and 8-0 in the GLL. Ross fell to 8-7 and 4-5.

"You could definitely tell who had the bye the night before," said Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon, whose team beat Findlay 70-54 at home Friday. "Whit-

BOYS BASKETBALL

mer was down scouting us against Findlay and they came out with that same type intensity and maintained it from the beginning of the game."

Whitmer led 18-6 after one quarter and 35-18 at the half. Ross made just 6-of-23 shots in the first two quarters.

Floyd Campbell and Chuck Isom scored 14 points apiece for Whitmer. Robb Ritzman led Ross with 10 points.

"We were outplayed in every phase of the game," Gedeon said. "They showed a lot of physical toughness, and that's the level that we want to make ourselves get to."

Ross hosts Fostoria Friday.

Basketball

High School Boys

Whitmer 74, Ross 53

Fremont Ross 6 12 14 21 — 53

Whitmer 18 17 17 22 — 74

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 4-1-10, Joell Heidelberg 2-3-7, Andrew Diller 1-0-2, Jorel Heidelberg 2-0-4, Drew Root 1-0-2, Mike Weaver 1-3-5, Reggie Jones 3-0-6, Greg Garcia 2-0-4, Matt Martel 2-0-4, Tyson Liggins 4-1-9. Totals 22-8-53.

TOLEDO WHITMER — Floyd Campbell 7-0-14, Chuck Isom 5-4-14, Rusty Calmes 2-0-4, Jason Wagner 1-0-2, Mike Kurdziel 3-0-8, Veshon Campbell 0-2-4, B.J. Barre 4-1-9, Dann Shanteau 2-0-4, Cedric Jaynes 8-1-17. Totals 32-8-74.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 1 (Ritzman), Toledo Whitmer 2 (Kurdziel 2)

Rebounds: Fremont Ross 22 (Jones 6), Toledo Whitmer 34 (Jaynes 10)

Turnovers: Fremont Ross 16, Toledo Whitmer 15

Records: Ross 8-7 (4-5), Whitmer 14-1 (8-0).

Whitmer JV 45, Ross 44

Fremont Ross 14 6 12 12 — 44

Toledo Whitmer 10 13 12 10 — 45

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 4-0-9, Aaron Hammer 4-5-13, Doug Garvey 3-1-8, Jordan Mackey 0-1-1, Bryan Root 2-1-5, Kevin Byers 4-0-8. Totals 17-8-44.

TOLEDO WHITMER — Armentrout 4-4-12, Veres 3-2-9, Mosley 3-0-6, Watt 2-5-9, Hill 4-1-9. Totals 16-12-45.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 2 (Cole, Garvey), Toledo Whitmer 1 (Veres).

Record: Fremont Ross 9-6 (6-3).

Ross, St. Joe smother foes

Giants blow out rival Fostoria

By CHUCK KRUMEL
News-Messenger correspondent

When Fremont Ross and Fostoria met Dec. 23 in Fostoria, the Redmen led by as many as 10 points early before the Little Giants regrouped for a 10-point win.

The Little Giants allowed the Redmen no quick start Friday.

Ross jumped ahead 16-4 midway through the first quarter and cruised to a 76-52 Great Lakes League win at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants improved to 9-7 overall and 5-5 in the Great Lakes League. Fostoria fell to 3-13 and 1-8.

Mike Weaver got Ross off and running by hitting a pair of 3-pointers and a field goal as Ross amassed 29 first quarter points.

"Mike was a substitute starter for Reggie Jones who missed several days this week with an illness," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "Andy Diller also did a nice job I thought right off the bat stepping in for Robb Ritzman, who sprained his ankle during the middle of the week.

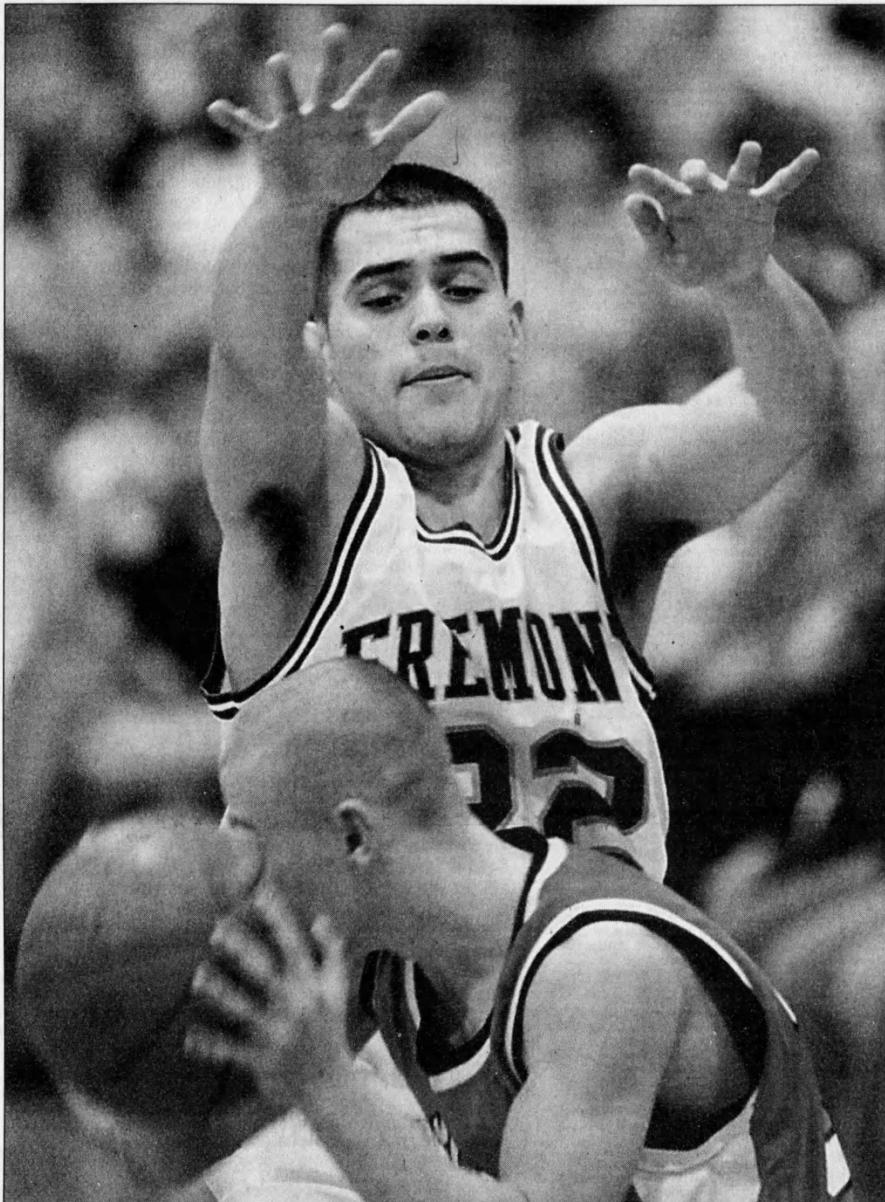
"It's nice for us to go through and have some of our bench players be able to be thrust in starting positions and give us the energy we need to go out and get that nice first-quarter run for us," Gedeon said.

It was not so fun from the other bench, however.

"That first quarter was a disaster for us," Fostoria coach Jim Rutter said. "Defensively we didn't do much of anything to slow them down in the first quarter. When you give up 29 points, unless you're sitting there with 30, you're in pretty bad shape in a high school basketball game."

The Little Giants continued their assault in the second quarter as sophomore Juan Vela scored eight of Fremont Ross' 13 points in the quarter and the Little Giants took a 44-27 half-time lead.

Fostoria made an 8-2 surge late in the first half, but it would be the Redmen's last run at Ross.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JUAN VELA of Fremont Ross (22) pressures Fostoria's Dustin Miller at the half court line Friday night.

Fostoria's Cory Echelberry scored a game-high 20 points and Joell Heidelberg led the Little Giants' attack with 17 points.

Weaver added 13 points, Vela 11 and Jones 10 for the Little Giants.

Lerone Martin and Doug Bringman were the other Redmen who scored in double figures, notching 14 and 10 points, respectively.

"What happened here is what I think a little maturing process

of our team," Gedeon said. "We're a very young team but you can tell the experience is starting to pay off."

Ross is off until Feb. 14, when it has a Valentines Day date with Toledo Rodgers.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 76, Fostoria 52

Fostoria 14 13 11 14 — 52
Fremont Ross 29 15 13 19 — 76

FOSTORIA — Lerone Martin 5-3-14, Max Mendoza 3-0-6, Cory Echelberry 7-6-20, Doug Bringman 2-5-10, Greg Fleming 1-0-2. Totals 18-14-52.

FREMONT ROSS — Joell Heidelberg 8-0-17, Andrew Diller 1-2-4, Tyson Liggins 2-0-4, Mike Weaver 5-0-13, Juan Vela 5-1-11, Reggie Jones 4-2-10, Greg Garcia 2-4-8, Matt Martel 2-1-5, Robb Ritzman 1-0-2, Bryan Root 1-0-2. Totals 31-10-76.

3-point goals: Fostoria 2 (Martin, Bringman), Fremont Ross 2 (Weaver 3, Heidelberg)

Rebounds: Fremont Ross 34, Fostoria 25

Turnovers: Fremont Ross 13, Fostoria 25

Records: Fremont Ross 9-7 (5-5), Fostoria 3-13 (1-8)

Ross JV 65, Fostoria 39

Fostoria 3 13 10 13 — 39
Fremont Ross 13 10 18 24 — 65

FOSTORIA — I. Grine 2-0-5, Campbell 4-0-8, Schiebel 5-2-13, Lentz 0-1-1, Russell 3-0-6, Burley 1-0-2, Botimer 1-0-2, A. Grine 0-2-2. Totals 16-5-39.

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 3-2-8, Aaron Hammer 3-1-8, Jordan Mackey 4-0-10, Austin Miller 7-2-16, Ryan Werling 0-3-3, Bryan Root 5-4-14, Brooks Overmyer 0-1-1, Kevin Byers 2-1-5. Totals 24-14-65.

3-point goals: Fostoria 2 (I. Grine, Schiebel), Fremont Ross 3 (Hammer, Mackey 2).

Record: Fremont Ross 10-6 (7-3).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fremont Ross 67, Rogers 62

Tyson Liggins scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds as Fremont Ross beat Toledo Rogers in a non-league game.

The Little Giants (10-7) jumped on the Rams early.

"We wanted to get them in foul trouble. ... They've only got seven players on the varsity," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. Two Rogers players have been kicked off the team for disciplinary reasons and a third injured a knee, Gedeon said.

Rogers dropped to 4-14.

Ross was playing without second leading scorer Reggie Jones, who was "being disciplined," according to Gedeon.

Justin Chapman, who led all scorers with 23 points, got into foul trouble in the first half.

Ross hosts Bedford Friday on Senior Night.

Basketball

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 67, Rogers 62

Rogers 9 14 14 25 — 62
Fremont Ross 16 19 13 19 — 67

ROGERS — Smith 7-2-17, Campbell 2-2-6, Boyd 5-0-11, Chapman 10-3-23, Wojdyla 2-0-5. Totals 26-7-62.

FREMONT ROSS—Robb Ritzman 0-1-1, Joell Heidelberg 4-6-15, Andrew Diller 1-0-3, Juan Vela 7-2-16, Drew Root 1-0-3, Mike Weaver 1-0-3, Greg Garcia 2-1-5, Matt Martel 1-0-2, Tyson Liggins 7-5-19. Totals 24-15-67.

3-point goals: Rogers 3 (Smith, Boyd, Wojdyla), Ross 4 (Heidelberg, Diller, Root, Weaver)

Rebounds: Fremont Ross 28 (Liggins 8), Rogers 22 (Smith 6)

Turnovers: Fremont Ross 15, Rogers 14

Records: Fremont Ross 10-7, Rogers 4-14

Rogers JV 52, Ross JV 44

Rogers 13 11 11 17 — 52
Fremont Ross 8 11 14 11 — 44

ROGERS — West 2-1-5, Armstead 5-2-12, Flowers 4-3-12, Morris 0-5-5, Edwards 3-0-6, Williams 4-2-10, Awls 1-0-2. Totals 19-13-52.

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 5-5-15, Doug Garvey 1-0-2, Austin Miller 1-2-4, Bryan Root 6-5-17, Kevin Byers 1-1-3, Brooks Overmyer 1-0-2, Kelly Lytle 0-1-1. Totals 15-14-44.

3-point goals: Rogers 1 (Flowers).

Record: Fremont Ross 10-7 (7-3).

Giants rally to kick Mules

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

With his team trailing at half-time, Frehont Ross coach Mark Gedeon questioned his players:

"Are you satisfied?"

The Little Giants answer to that question was evident on the court, as they exploded for a 19-0 run in the third quarter and went on to a 79-67 win over Bedford in the Purple Pit.

"We definitely started out slow," Gedeon said. "But in the second half we played better defense and we got our transition game working."

The Little Giants trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half, but were able to rebound to win on Senior Night.

All eleven varsity regulars scored for the Little Giants, who improved to 11-7 and 6-5 in the Great Lakes League. Bedford fell to 4-14 overall and 1-11 in the league.

"We definitely came out slow," said Ross's Reggie Jones, who scored 18 points and grabbed 10 boards. "But in the second half we did what had to be done, execution wise."

Joell Heidelberg added 17 points and five rebounds and Mike Weaver scored all nine of his points from 3-point range.

Bedford played the game without its leading scorer, Chad Clay, who has missed the last two weeks due to illness.

The Kicking Mules were led by Andy Francis who netted 24 points, including six 3-pointers. Mike Meinhart added 13 and Devin Smith scored 10.

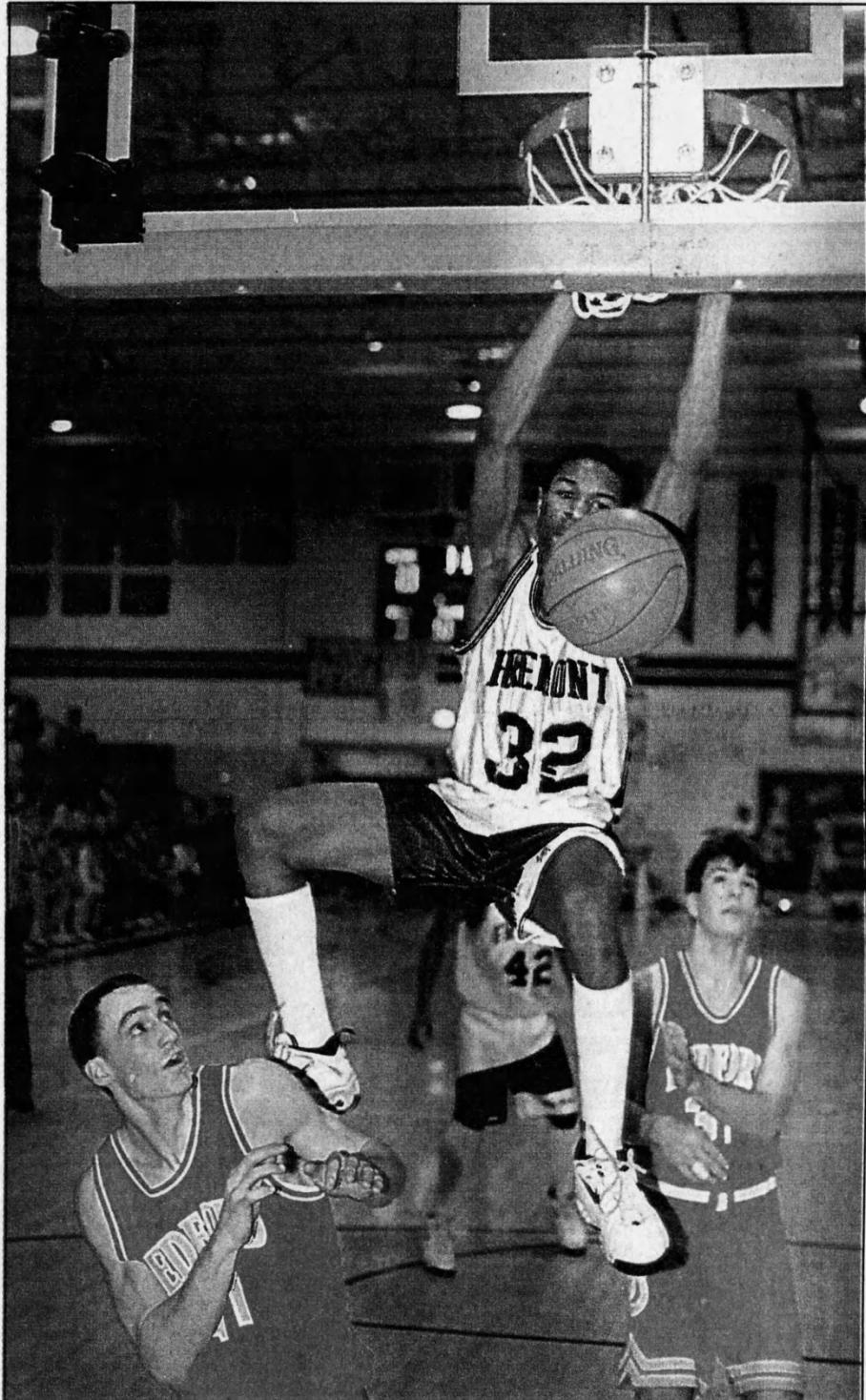
"We didn't do the things we had to do and didn't match their intensity in the second half," said Bedford coach Frank Scheuer. "Give a lot of credit to Ross. They're a real good basketball team."

Bedford took a 23-12 lead early in the second quarter before Ross began its comeback. Two 3-pointers by Heidelberg and a bucket by Jones brought Ross to within three.

Bedford led 33-31 at halftime and after a Ross free throw, Francis buried a 3-pointer to extend the lead to four.

The Kicking Mules turned the ball over on seven of its next 10 possessions, and Ross took control of the game.

"A lot of that had to do with what they did defensively with their press," Scheuer said. "But



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

REGGIE JONES of Fremont Ross dunks as Bedford's Matthew Wintersteen, left, and Mike Meinhart get out of the way. Jones scored 18 points in a 79-67 win at the Purple Pit.

See ROSS, B2

Ross beats Bedford

Continued from B1

we didn't do a very good job of taking care of the ball, either."

Jones scored five straight points to put the Little Giants ahead. Heidelberg hit a bomb to put Ross ahead 40-36.

"We picked it up defensively and came up with three or four steals in a row and we were able to get some easy baskets," Heidelberg said.

On Bedford's ensuing possession, Robb Ritzman came up with a steal and dished to Heidelberg, who threw down a one-handed dunk and drew a foul, to bring the Ross fans to their feet.

"I like to dunk anytime I can because it gets the players and fans pumped up," Heidelberg said.

The Little Giants were also helped by the enthusiastic home fans, many of which stood each time Heidelberg or Jones raced towards the basket, in anticipation of a dunk.

"There is something special about playing in the Purple Pit," Gedeon said. "It's definitely an advantage for us."

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 79, Bedford 67

Bedford 22 11 7 27 — 67

Fremont Ross 12 19 20 28 — 79

BEDFORD — Mike Meinhart 4-4-13, Tony Nicol 3-1-7, Andy Francis 6-6-24, Nick Roberts 0-2-2, Devin Smith 4-2-10, Wintersteen 2-0-4, Dave Elsworth 1-2-4, Wiens 1-0-3. Total 21-17-67.

FREMONT ROSS — Robb Ritzman 2-0-5, Joell Heidelberg 6-2-17, Andrew Diller 2-0-4, Jorel Heidelberg 1-2-4, Juan Vela 3-1-7, Drew Root 1-0-3, Mike Weaver 3-0-9, Reggie Jones 8-1-18, Greg Garcia 0-2-2, Matt Martel 1-4-6, Tyson Liggins 0-4-4. Total 27-10-79.

3-point goals: Bedford 8 (Francis 6, Meinhart, Wiens) Ross 9 (Joell Heidelberg 3, Weaver 3, Root, Ritzman, Jones)

Rebounds: Ross 29, Bedford 24

Turnovers: Bedford 22, Ross 12

Records: Ross (10-7, 6-5) Bedford (4-14, 1-11)

Ross JV 70, Bedford 52

Bedford 9 14 18 11 — 52

Fremont Ross 13 21 16 20 — 70

BEDFORD — Adamski 0-1-1, Hubbard 0-2-2, Brown 1-0-3, Tippin 1-3-6, McKibben 7-10-26, McKinney 5-2-12, Eiseman 1-0-2. Total 15-18-52.

FREMONT ROSS — Cole 8-2-21, Garvey 0-3-3, Mackey 3-0-7, Mason 1-0-3, Miller 2-0-4, Werling 2-0-4, Root 6-3-15, Obermeyer 1-5-8, Byers 2-1-5. Total 25-14-70.

3-point goals: Bedford 4 (McKinney 2, Tippin, Brown); Ross 6 (Cole 3, Mackey, Mason, Obermeyer)

Records: Ross 11-7 (8-3)

Ross rips Port Clinton in non-league win

News-Messenger reports

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon got his wish Saturday when the Little Giants jumped on Port Clinton early.

Ross, using a variety of traps, outscored the Redskins 24-12 in the first quarter and 42-19 in the first half of Saturday's 80-52 non-league win.

The Little Giants improved to 12-7 while Port Clinton fell to 1-18.

"We went to about every single trap play we had in the book," Gedeon said. "Full, half. Trapping the first wing pass, anything that went to the baseline.

"We did play good defense for

BOYS BASKETBALL

the most part."

That defense translated into points at the other end. Twelve Little Giants scored, including four players who reached double figures. Greg Garcia and Joell Heidelberg scored 13 points apiece, followed by Robb Ritzman (11) and Tyson Liggins (10).

Jason Whiting scored 16 points for the Redskins, who outscored Ross 19-16 in the fourth quarter.

"In the second half our defense was a little more relaxed," Gedeon said. "In the first half we wanted to make sure the tempo was in our favor. We knew we

had to use our athleticism to get going to a more up-tempo game."

In other games Saturday:

Clyde 60, Willard 58

WILLARD — Lucas Messer scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Clyde defeated Willard in a non-league game.

The Fliers led 28-25 at the half and clung to their 13th win in 19 games. Willard dropped to 4-15 despite 29 puts by Jeremiah Diebler.

Sepp Newsom added 11 points for Clyde, which shot 58 percent from the field.

Old Fort 55, Van Buren 50

OLD FORT — Phil Riehm and

Eric Miller combined for 34 points and Old Fort won a non-league battle.

The Stockaders (12-7) led 35-33 entering the fourth quarter, where they used a 21-16 run to pull away.

Riehm scored 19 points and Miller 15 for Old Fort.

N. London 61, Margaretta 59

NEW LONDON — J.J. Folk scored 23 points, but it was not enough as Margaretta lost on the road.

The Polar Bears (8-11) led 36-30 at halftime before being outscored 17-13 in the third quarter and 14-10 in the fourth quarter of the non-league game.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 80, Port Clinton 52

Ross	24	18	22	16	—	80
Port Clinton	12	7	14	19	—	52

ROSS — Robb Ritzman 2-7-11, Joell Heidelberg 6-0-13, Andrew Diller 2-0-5, Jorel Heidelberg 2-0-4, Juan Vela 1-5-7, Drew Root 2-0-4, Mike Weaver 1-0-3, Reggie Jones 2-2-6, Greg Garcia 5-2-13, Matt Martel 0-2-2, Tyson Liggins 3-4-10, Brian Root 1-0-2, totals 27 22-32 80.

PORT CLINTON — Cort Kaufman 2-0-4, Jarrett Rhode 3-3-9, Corey Cutcher 1-0-2, Jonathan Unter 0-1-1, Ted Rupert 2-5-10, Scott Holmes 3-0-6, Jason Whiting 7-2-16, Webster 2-0-4, totals 20 11-15 52.

3-point goals: Ross 4 (Joell Heidelberg, Diller, Weaver, Garcia), Port Clinton 1 (Rupert).

Rebounds: Ross 31 (Jones 6), Port Clinton 16 (Cutcher 3, Whiting 3, Webster 3).

Turnovers: Ross 13, Port Clinton 21.

Records: Ross 12-7, Port Clinton 1-18.

Ross JV 61, Port Clinton 53

Ross	7	13	22	19	—	61
Port Clinton	2	8	17	26	—	53

ROSS — Matt Cole 1-0-2, Doug Garvey 1-0-2, Jordan Mackey 6-0-14, Austin Miller 4-2-11, Ryan Werling 2-3-7, Bryan Root 5-8-18, Brooks Obermeyer 0-1-1, Kevin Byers 1-4-6, totals 20 18-32 61.

PORT CLINTON — Jamaine Smith 3-1-8, T.J. Estep 1-3-5, Tim Belden 7-4-24, Howell 1-2-4, Brandon Greear 1-1-3, Carrisales 2-0-4, Edwards 0-2-2, Ryan Heise 1-1-3, totals 16 14-22 53.

3-point goals: Ross 3 (Mackey 2, Miller), Port Clinton (Belden 6, Smith).

Records: Ross 12-7

Ross beats Sandusky on road

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — This was one repeat Fremont Ross fans did not mind sitting through.

The Little Giants, who stunned Sandusky at the Purple Pit earlier this season, defeated the Blue Streaks 80-67 on the road Friday to end the regular season.

Ross closed the season with five consecutive victories to equal last season's regular-season record of 13-7.

"We really played an outstanding ball game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "And to do it against that kind of competition. ... Both games against Sandusky rank up there with our best games this season."

Joell Heidelberg scored 29 points — the same total he notched in the win at Ross — to lead all scorers.

"He did a little bit of everything," Gedeon said of Heidelberg, who drained three first-quarter 3-pointers.

Juan Vela added 17 points for Ross.

"Juan shot the ball extremely well for us," Gedeon said. "When they overrotated on Joell he was able to hit the jumper."

The Little Giants outscored Sandusky in each quarter and led by six points with 1:30 to play in the game. Robb Ritzman scored all nine of his points in that final stretch to seal the win.

Is Gedeon surprised at his young team's success?

"I knew we could get 13 wins if certain things came together," he said.

In other games Friday:

St. Joe 78, Arcadia 61

ARCADIA — St. Joe received a huge performance from senior Nick Haynes and closed the regular season with a 78-61 win at Arcadia.

Haynes scored 26 points and grabbed 20 rebounds to lead the Streaks to their 12th win of the



HEIDELBURG

year.

He was all over the floor," said St. Joe coach Mike Gabel. "He had 10 offensive rebounds and scored off of eight of them."

The Streaks were slowed by illness. Five players missed practice time this week.

"We had sore throats and ear infections," Gabel said. "I had to play a lot of kids, and 11 of 12 guys scored."

"The win was important," said Crimson Streaks coach Mike Gabel. "Now we've won four of five going into tournament."

St. Joe outrebounded Arcadia 41-22.

Bellevue 78, Tiffin Columbian 65

BELLEVUE — David Falknor scored 31 points and the Redmen got help from Galion to earn a share of the Northern Ohio League title.

Bellevue improved to 17-3 overall and 12-2 in the NOL, while

See **BELLEVUE**, B2

Basketball

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 80, Sandusky 67

Fremont Ross 16 19 22 23 — 80

Sandusky 15 15 19 18 — 67

FREMONT ROSS — Rob Ritzman 3-3-9, Joel Heidelberg 10-5-29, Jorel Heidelberg 0-1-1, Juan Vela 7-2-17, Reggie Jones 2-0-4, Greg Garcia 2-2-6, Matt Martel 3-0-6, Tyson Liggins 4-0-8, Totals 31-13-80.

SANDUSKY — Orlando Williamson 6-2-14, EIDashen Nix 3-1-7, Jamarcus Hampton 3-5-11, Jahn Farris 4-5-14, Anthony Roberts 1-0-2, Quinn Redding 6-2-14, James Mason 2-0-5, Totals 25-15-67.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 5(Joel Heidelberg 4, Vela), Sandusky 2(Farris, Mason).

Rebounds: Ross 30(Joel Heidelberg 7), Sandusky 33(Nix 8).

Turnovers: Ross 10, Sandusky 13.

Records: Ross 13-7 (7-5), Sandusky 15-5 (8-4).

Sandusky JV 77, Ross 51

Fremont Ross 9 12 8 22 — 51

Sandusky 21 15 18 23 — 77

FREMONT ROSS — Mack Cole 3-0-6, Doug Garvey 6-0-13, Jordan Mackey 0-2-2, Thomas Mason 0-5-5, Austin Miller 4-0-8, Ryan Werling 0-1-1, Bryan Root 5-1-11, Brooks Overmeyer 2-0-5. Totals 20-9-51.

SANDUSKY — Kirby 2-2-6, Brandon Alexander 1-1-3, Smith 3-1-7, Cotton 2-0-4, Harris 6-0-12, Swain 5-0-10, Pressley 1-0-3, Hampton 7-0-14, Brock Alexander 5-0-12, Finn 1-0-2, Hart 2-0-4. Totals 35-4-77.

3-point goals: Fremont Ross 2 (Garvey, Overmeyer), Sandusky 3 (Pressley, Brock Alexander 2).

Record: Fremont Ross 12-8 (8-4).

Basketball

High School Boys

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The 1997-98 Associated Press Northwest All-District boys high school basketball teams as selected by a media panel from the district.

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Mark Wilson, Findlay, 6-foot-7, Senior, 18.6 points per game; Floyd Campbell, Tol. Whitmer, 6-5, Sr., 26.1; Jeremy King, Tol. Scott, 6-5, Sr., 18.1; Justin Lerrick, Mansfield Madison, 6-4, Sr., 19.2; Marquis Sykes, Mansfield Senior, 5-11, Jr., 18.2.

SECOND TEAM: Keith Triplett, Tol. Bowsher, 6-1, Soph., 18.5; Ryan Carder, Tol. St. John's, 5-9, Jr., 15.2; Romel Hightower, Tol. Start, 6-2, Sr., 19.4; **Joell Heidelberg, Fremont Ross, 5-11, Jr., 15.6**; Jamarcus Hampton, Sandusky, 5-8, Sr., 14.3.

THIRD TEAM Tom Clay, Oregon, Clay, 6-5, Sr., 18.5; Garwin Patterson, Tol. Libbey, 5-10, Sr., 16.4; Quinn Redding, Sandusky, 6-4, Sr., 15.8; Lewis Shine, Lima Senior, 6-0, Sr., 16.7; Kyle Dingle-dine, Celina, 5-10, Jr., 13.5.

Player of the year: Floyd Campbell, Tol. Whitmer.

Coach of the year: Blake Kindle, White-house Anthony Wayne.

Area Honorable Mention

Reggie Jones, Fremont Ross; Juan Vela, Fremont Ross.

GLL ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM

Tom Clay, Clay, Sr.; Joell Heidelberg, Fremont Ross, Jr.; Marck Wilson, Findlay, Sr.; Jamarcus Hampton, Sandusky, Sr.; Ben Tobias, Clay, Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Chuck Isom, Whitmer, Sr.; Quinn Redding, Sandusky Sr.; Doug Barnes, Findlay, Jr.; Cedric James, Whitmer, Jr.; Reggie Jones, Fremont Ross, So.

HONORABLE MENTION

Bedford: Andy Francis, Jr.; Mike Meinhart, Sr.

Clay: Ron Henneman, Sr.; Joe Roamno.

Findlay: Ben Roethlisberger, So.

Fostoria: Lerone Martin, Sr.; Cory Echelberry, Jr.

Fremont Ross: Tyson Liggins, Jr.; Juan Vela, So.

Sandusky: El'Da Sheon Nix, So.; John Farris, So.

Whitmer: Rusty Calmes, Sr.; Mike Kurdzeil, Jr.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bruce Smith, Whitmer

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Floyd Campbell, Whitmer, Sr.