

1974-1975 SEASON REVIEW



FREMONT ROSS Little Giants basketball team for the 1974-75 season. Seated (left to right): Kevin Smith, Ken Berlekamp, Mark Celek, Neal Oberholtzer, Bob Ford, Jim Flower; Standing: manager Jon Kerns,

Garry Clark, John Kiser, Brent Borden, Dave Fahrbach, Dennis Smith, Steve Sloma, Pat Belch, Kim Stout. (N-M photo by Bruce Crippen)

Five lettermen back for Little Giants' cage team

Fremont Ross basketball may be on the upswing this season. Indeed, last year the Little Giants rebounded from a 3-15 mark to an 11-9 record and a spot in the district tournament.

All that improvement came with the tutelage of veteran coach, Kenny Miller. Ross struggled in Miller's first year, the 3-15 mark, but showed considerable improvement by more than tripling its wins in the '73-'74 season.

Gone from this year's squad are Mike Reardon, a first team all-state selection last season, and Paul Fahrbach, a 6-4 hustler who helped plug up the middle of the Ross defense and produced points from the center slot.

Back this season for Miller's third edition of the Little Giants are five players that earned letters. All five figure to be in the starting lineup when the Little Giants take to the hardwood for its inaugural game of the season at Fostoria High School Saturday.

"We went into preseason practice," Miller recalled, "with the five returning lettermen. We told the five that the five starting positions were theirs or till a player pushed them out of it or they lost it because they didn't hustle to keep it."

But those five have been working fairly well for the coach of 17 years on the varsity ranks and will start the first game. Garry Clark, a 5-9, junior guard is the only underclassman. Clark is a junior and will probably start at the "point" position of Ross' offensive attack.

Four seniors will fill out the remainder of the Ross lineup. Bob Ford, 6-2, and Neal Oberholtzer, 6-5, will function as the forwards and 6-8 Mark Celek gets the call at center. Jim Flower, 6-0, will start at the guard opposite Clark.

"Actually," Miller pointed out, "we feel that we have eight players that we are definitely going with at first. It's really a healthy situation to be in right now."

The other three, Pat Belch, Kevin Smith, and Dave Fahrbach, may not start but they will play quite a lot for us."

Smith is a 6-1 senior and will alternate duties at guard and forward while Belch is a 5-10 senior guard

and could spell Clark at the point spot. Fahrbach is a 6-4 junior, who has improved tremendously during the off-season.

Miller describes Fahrbach as a real "go-getter." Fahrbach will be pressing Celek for the center spot during the season.

Ford and Oberholtzer are probably the better shooters on the Ross team but Miller claims that he feels that all eight of his main line players can score. Celek is still a victim of inconsistent play but when going smoothly, the 6-8 Little Giant will be a big boost in the center of the Ross offense and defense.

Clark and Flower will be expected to get the ball upcourt for the Little Giants with Clark running the offense once the Ross team gets into its own forecourt.

"Last year we were very dependent on Reardon," Miller admitted. "At times we were too dependent on him but I think this year that we will not have to depend on any one person."

"In our offense we like to give the guy that has scoring potential a little freedom but at the same time keep him in the offensive pattern," Miller said and hinted that the man with the "restrained" freedom will be Oberholtzer.

Miller added, "But I still think we have eight guys that can score."

Defensively, Ross will be a bit faster depending on which lineup Miller has in at the time.

"We could have what looks like a small team on the floor but the small team will be quicker and we will probably be playing a pressure defense."

"We may also have our big lineup of 6-8, 6-5, and 6-4 across the front line which would mean that we change defenses."

Miller's teams tend to go for the man-to-man defense but the Little Giants cannot be played to stay in that particular coverage.

"We like to use a number of defenses," he says. "It just depends on the situation and the team which defense, zone or man-to-man that we use."

Whatever lineup the Little Giants have or what defense they play, Ross basketball figures to take another step upwards in this, Miller's third season.



FOSTORIA'S GARY DUBOSE IS CHARGING ... Ross' Pat Belch, left, and Dave Fahrbach, right

Streaks welcomed

The Fremont St. Joe football squad was welcomed home Saturday by a lively crowd in the school's gym. The Crimsons won the state title from Upper Arlington with the second place trophy in Class A football after losing to Middletown Fenwick, 21-0, in the championship game Friday.

Wes Dunn, president of the St. Joe Boosters Club, was one of the guests at the welcoming ceremonies in the gym. Various dignitaries from Fremont and Sandusky County were present to laud the Streak football team.

Mayor Walter Oxley expressed the general sentiments of all when he said, "Our entire city is proud of you. You may be number two in the state but you are number one in Fremont and will always be remembered that way."

Coach Rick Wonderly, who guided the Streaks to the high state finish in only his first year as head coach, introduced the team to the assembled parents, fans, and dignitaries.

Wonderly praised the seniors by saying, "The seniors have done more than I have ever asked ... they've done it well and that's about all you can ask of them."

They added, "Everyone has worked hard for this."

The high point of the ceremonies went to co-captains Mike Molyet and Joe Guyer who presented the runner-up trophy to the school.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

New race in NFL East

By Ken Rappoport
AP Sports Writer

The Miami Dolphins have been submerged by the New York Jets — and now it's on to the Bills for the defending National Football League champions.

Shocked 14-1 Sunday by the Jets, the Dolphins are through in a flailing three-way fight for the National Football Conference's Eastern Division title.

With just three games left in the season, the Dolphins find themselves treading water with the Buffalo Bills and just a kick or two ahead of the New England Patriots.

The Bills, 15-10 on quarters of the Cleveland Browns, are tied for first place with the Dolphins, each with 8-3 records. The Patriots, 27-17 winners over the Baltimore Colts, moved within a game of the top at 7-4.

Jets 17, Dolphins 14
Joe Namath, suffering through one of his worst seasons and troubled by the hospitalization of his

number with 32 points coming on tipins, jumpers from the side and out front, driving layups, and a perfect eight for eight from the free throw line.

"Tillman held us together tonight," praised Goode, who earlier in the week said he was thinking of starting three sophomores but only started two when one got hurt. "He kept these guys run the opposing team's patterns and you know, sometimes they beat the five starters!"

"I was really impressed with the team tonight," admitted Jim Goode, Mansfield's new head coach who picked up his initial win as a head mentor, but in the next breath claimed the winning effort was brought on by at least 10 of his Tygers.

"There are five other guys on this team that really jump and run. The guys that start during the week," Goode said, "if one of these five guys run the opposing team's patterns and you know, sometimes they beat the five starters!"

It may have been the key to the Tyger win but the man that locked out the Little Giants was senior jumping jack, Stan Tillman. At 6-3, Tillman is not an imposing giant but when it comes to jumping, the Tyger forward ceases to be 6-3 ... it's more like a 6-8 man has taken over.

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Jefferson and Cliff Belmer, Jefferson clicked on seven fielders in the first half, three coming from 25-30 feet out for all 14 of his points while Belmer, who grabbed off several rebounds, scored only four but his board work was impressive.

With Tillman's 32 and Jefferson's 14, the Tygers needed little help but got some just in case from junior

Ross rolls over Fostoria, 57-26

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FOSTORIA — Ross High School basketball coach Kenny Miller learned one thing from Ross' lopsided victory over Fostoria High School in the Saturday night opener for both schools. His defense does not give up.

"In a game like that," Miller conjectured after the game, "a defense tends to get a little sloppy. When you are winning like that, most players will feel a little sorry for their opponents and not do the job they are supposed to do."

"But we hung together for all four quarters and I'm happy about it."

A "game like that" for Miller and the Little Giants was really a farce, a scalped, hapless Redmen team coached by veteran Fred Winkler. He kept only 26 straight points covering the second and third quarters to build up a 41-8 lead. It was not until Ted Grine loffed in an 18-footer from the key with 2:05 to play in the third quarter that the point string was broken.

The basket by Grine brought down a chorus of cheering that lasted for a minute in the Fostoria gym. But that was the only consolation for the Redmen.

Ross' man-to-man defense intimidated the Redmen into poor shot selection and frequent turnovers. The

Little Giants did not come out of that defense for the entire 32 minutes and it proved to be impenetrable for Fostoria.

Fostoria's Gary DeBoise, the Redmen's key man, was guarded by 6-5 Neal Oberholzer and the Ross players held Dubose to a single field goal and four free throws for six points, tops, for Fostoria.

Bob Ford, the Little Giant player to reach double figures, was Fahrbach's best. Fahrbach picked up nine points in a substitute role as 10 of the Ross' 12 players that saw action hit the scoring column.

Oberholzer started the Ross scoring with Ford canning one from the left side to a 4-0 lead in the first stanza. Terry Munger clicked for Fostoria's first two points but Ford's 10th bucket made it 6-2. Ross guard Jim Flower tossed in the next seven points to lead Ross to a 13-7 first quarter lead.

Fostoria turned stone cold in the second period as Ross took full control of the game. Ross fired in 15 points to only a single free throw for Fostoria in the quarter to take a commanding 28-8 halftime lead. Rick Tyler's charity toss was the Redmen's only score while Ross got five from Fahrbach, and four apiece from Ford and Kevin Smith.

SCORE BY QUARTERS
Ross 25-12-13-27
Fostoria 7-12-12-26

SCORING

ROSS — Oberholzer 3-6; Ford 6-2; Celen 3-0; Clark 2-1; Flower 1-0; Munger 2-1; Fahrbach 2-0; Smith 2-0; Borden 2-0; Kiser 0-2; Berlekamp 1-0; Totals 25-16-57

FOSTORIA — Durkin 1-4; Tyler 1-3; Munger 2-1; Chapman 1-1; Bixler 1-0; Grine 2-0-4; Combe 1-2; Fagan 1-0; Borden 1-0; Kiser 0-2; Reserve game: Fostoria 55, Ross 41
Season records: Ross 14-0; Fostoria 0-1

DUBOSE HAS NOWHERE TO GO AGAINST ROSS DEFENDERS
... Neal Oberholzer (41) and Bob Ford (43) have Fostoria star cornered

Mansfield burns Ross in Buckeye opener

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Writer

MANSFIELD — The pressure from another source that helped the Mansfield Tygers thrash Fremont Ross Friday night in the opening Buckeye Conference game for both schools. The Tygers went over, around and through Ross for a 68-57 win and it came because of the pressure from within the Tyger team.

"I was really impressed with the team tonight," admitted Jim Goode, Mansfield's new head coach who picked up his initial win as a head mentor, but in the next breath claimed the winning effort was brought on by at least 10 of his Tygers.

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Brent McFarland who popped in 16, including 12 in the second half when Ross cut the lead to eight from a high of 18 at several points.

"I knew those guys were going to be quick," Ross coach Kenny Miller said while referring to Mansfield, "but I didn't think we were going to be that slow."

Ross was sluggish except for a 6-3 spurt at the start of the third when he led 51-49. Both Ford and two Neal Oberholzer free throws gave Ross its biggest lead of the night. That lead lasted for less than a minute as the Tygers ran off 10 straight points with McFarland and Tillman tossing in four apiece in the drive.

Ross narrowed it to 14-12 shortly before the quarter but Jefferson connected for two quick buckets to put the Little Giants down 18-12 at the first rest period.

That was as close as the Little Giants were to get the rest of the night as the Tyger lead reached as much as 16 points in the first half.

Tillman had 16 to go with Jefferson's 14 for 32 of the first half Tyger points.

Ross hit a hot streak early in the third period, closing to within eight points at 38-30 before the Tygers put the fire out. Oberholzer, Dave Fahrbach, and Ford hit the key points to cut the lead.

"I think Tillman's kill credit," Goode said, "they didn't give up when they got down. I was worried about getting them stopped when they started to come on in that third period."

Mansfield stopped the Ross streak and then stayed comfortably in the lead after spurring to a 50-34 lead with Tillman driving in 12 final rest period points.

Oberholzer tallied 10 in the final eight minutes for Ross to finish with 21, high to net 13, nine in the final half of play. Ford had eight with six in the opening quarter.

Ross is idle till Friday when they open up the home season by hosting Marion. Mansfield, Mansfield will travel to assess Buckeye Conference top pick, Admiral King on Friday in the second round of Conference games.

Little Giants face Marion in home basketball test

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Mansfield and Marion may have something in common. That "sameness" may work its hardships on Ross Friday night when the Marion Harding Prexies invade the home of the Little Giants.

Mansfield sported a pair of deadly sophomores that helped riddle the Little Giants, 68-57, in the opening Buckeye Conference game for both schools. And the Prexies have one of their own sophs that has stood out in the team's first three games.

Luther Jones is a 6-2 Prexie that operates from either guard or forward or wherever first year Prexie coach Doug Riley wants him. In Marion's first three games (1-2), Jones has averaged only six points per game, but has the potential to score more.

"He can do quite a bit,"

Sports

Briefs

FOOTBALL

LOUISVILLE, KY. — T.W. Alley resigned as football coach at the University of Louisville.

TENNIS

LOS ANGELES — Billie Jean King announced her withdrawal from regular tournament competition following the Sarasota women's indoor pro tennis tournament in January because of her involvement in a series of television specials about women in sports.

GENERAL

MILWAUKEE — Juste Fontaine, a nationally ranked lightweight in the 1940s who turned to promoting and teaching when he quit boxing, died of cancer at the age of 50.

Riley confided in a phone conversation Wednesday afternoon. "He's going to be quite a player."

The Prexies dropped the first game of the season to Brookhaven, 61-50, and in the loss, a glaring statistic that has haunted Riley's team in all three games was never more evident.

"We have been advocating a more aggressive defense and we have been fouling a lot."

In that Brookhaven loss, the Prexies listened to the men in the striped shirts sound the whistles 30 times.

"We have been fouling a lot and we have at other times been turning the ball over too much," Riley said. "In the loss to Marion Franklin, we were down by 17 points but we came back to within seven.

"I'm pretty sure that if we had not turned the ball over so much after coming back to within seven, we would have won the game."

Lack of execution is the reason for the unusually large amount of miscues by the Prexies Riley says.

"They (Marion) have been coming around slowly," Riley said as he talked about his style of offense and his type of defense.

"We play a lot of man to man . . . how much I won't say."

Chief returnees and listed as starters for Riley, who is no stranger to winning, having posted an 86-26 record at New Lebanon Dixie from 1968-71, are Randy Gipson, senior, 6-3, a forward who topped 10 points per game for the 6-13 Prexies last year. Little, 5-6, Tom Owens, who ruined Ross with some long bombing last season at Marion, will start at a guard slot.

Joining that trio will be returning letterman Doug

Roseberry, who played sparingly last season but will start at guard, opposite Owens. At center will be 6-4 Pete Detra, who averaged five points per game last season and is at that norm this year.

Gipson is currently averaging over 20 points in the first three games while Roseberry is up above 10 points per game. Gipson dropped in 31 points in the Prexies' 56-42 win over Sandusky last Friday night.

News
Messenger

Streak in fi

The Perkins Pirates, a Sandusky Bay Conference pushover last year, invade Fremont St. Joe Friday and the Crimson Streaks are faced with an opponent willing and able to settle all debts, in the opening game of the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Last year St. Joe picked off the Pirates 52-39 and 80-65. Perkins' second year coach Paul Yocum makes no bones about it after trimming Port Clinton last weekend 54-51.

"I've got some experience back this season and the pressure is on me to do something with it." He rates St. Joe as one of four possible league contenders (Perkins, St. Mary's and Margaretta being the other three) and sees this Friday's tilt as crucial to a winning season.

The Pirates and the Crimson Streaks are

Patient Marion spills Ross

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

Patience has its virtues and the person that made up that little ditty would hit the nail on the head if it had been used to describe Marion High's basketball win over Fremont Ross Friday night. The Prexies made the home opener sour for the Little Giants by posting a 47-36 win.

The win was the first on the road for the Prexies in two years and the second against no losses in the Buckeye Conference this season. The loss drops Ross to 0-2 in the BC and 1-2 in the conference.

Defense and sloppy play took its toll of Ross in the second half. Both teams were even at 21 after the first 16 minutes but the longer the game went, the worse it got for the Little Giants.

"We had to be patient," explained Marion coach Doug Riley after a happy celebration in the Marion dressing room. "That's what we have to do and I think everybody did a tremendous job for us."

While Ross handled the pressing, "trap" defense in the first half in fairly easy fashion, it was a complete turnaround in the second half. The Marion press forced numerous turnovers by the Little Giants and most of those turnovers were turned into Marion points.

"We really work hard on the press," Riley said. "We try to trap you so you have to play ball at both ends of the court."

While the defense was doing its job at the Ross end of the court, the Prexies were looking toward "roses" at its end of the floor.

Doug Roseberry was the Prexie rose garden for points. The 6-1 senior guard looped in 10 first half points and popped home 10 more in the final half to pull the run out from under Ross.

Roseberry hit the key buckets for the Prexies. After 5-7 Tom Owens hit the first two buckets to open the second half, Roseberry hit eight of the next 14 to hand the Prexies a 37-29 lead early in the final stanza.

When Roseberry cooled off, or the Ross defenders were able to defend him, the Prexies went to Randy Gibson, the leading scorer for Marion through the first three games of the season. Gibson, held to only four points in the first three quarters by Bob Ford of Ross, hit eight in the final eight minutes to go with Roseberry's six.

After Gibson sent him (Gibson) to the weak side and then cut him across to the strong side," Riley said as he explained how Gibson got loose in the final period. "I'll tell you . . . you can't leave him alone because he's a heck of a shot."

The Prexies biggest lead was 41-29 as they ran off the first 10 points in the fourth period. Pat Belch's free throw for Ross at the 3:40 mark in the period broke the string.

After racing out to a 35-29 lead, Riley ordered his team to go into a deliberate style of offense and it paid off as Ross was forced to foul at the ball. When the Little Giants had the ball, they worked the ball around for a clear shot and like as not, Roseberry or Gibson hit it.

In the Ross dressing room, faces were downcast.

"We certainly haven't put it together yet," muttered Ross coach Kenny Miller. "I don't think Marion has better individuals but they had a better team."

Miller was referring to Neal Oberholtzer who dropped in 11 points, nine in the second period. He hit the first two points of the second half for Ross and then the tight man-to-man defense of Marion kept the ball away from him.

Riley made the fact clear about Oberholtzer. "We had to shut him off. We knew he was a hell of a ball player so we let our guards sag back in him in the second half and he had the ball in the fourth period."

The defense worked and with Oberholtzer taken care of, Riley put his team to work shoring up the other first half problem that plagued them: rebounding.

Ross dominated the boards in the first half, allowing the Comets only 12 but in the second half, Marion hauled in 19, the majority off its defensive board.

The Little Giants had an eight point lead at 19-11 for its biggest lead in the second period but were outscored 10-2 in the final three minutes for the first half tie.

Roseberry was the man to lead the Prexies while Gibson had 12. Oberholtzer's 13 paced Ross while Jim Flower and Dave Fahrbach had eight for Ross.

Marion was 17 of 44 from the field while Ross was 14 of 38.

Brown staying

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — Paul Brown, pro-football's oldest coach, admits the Cincinnati Bengals' 7-5 season has been a success and he squelched rumors that he might consider retirement.

"I can only say," said Brown, amid reports of unrest in the locker room following Monday's loss to Miami, "that I'm still here doing coaching as long as it doesn't weigh too heavily."

Brown, 66, shrugged off reports of players praising Miami Coach Don Shula as being the best coach in the league.

"To lose our point now," Brown said, "well, we just don't do it. We fight it out to the end every year. It's a tradition every year. We may get beat but we'll fight out. That's the way it'll always be."

He said he is already making plans for selections in next year's college player draft.

"The fact that I don't put my players relationship in public now doesn't mean I don't let my players understand when they're doing good and when they don't," said Brown in his 40th year of coaching. "I just don't air this relationship . . . I don't believe in it."



A FEW TOO MANY HANDS FOR THE SITUATION
. . . Ross' Neal Oberholtzer and Marion's Doug Roseberry (31) struggle

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Genoa chalks up 4th straight win

By JON DONNAN

News-Messenger Sports Writer

GENOA — Despite a few ragged

edges, the Genoa Comets emerged an easy 67-59 victor over Ottawa County rival Oak Harbor in a Friday night Southern Lakes League game.

The Comets got double-figure performances from four of their starters with 6-7 senior Harlan Niehaus gathering in 20 points from right under the basket against the Rockets' hefty senior center Ron Nietz who also scored 20 points.

Niehaus led the Comets' first quarter charge with eight points but fell into foul trouble, a problem he's carried with him from the highly successful 1973-74 campaign, by the middle of the second quarter. Harlan Hitchen, who attempted to take advantage of their inside height advantage when Niehaus was seated with 5:21 remaining in the half.

Bob McAdoo and Gar Heard put on a two-man performance to help Buffalo hold off a second-half rally by the Port Huron Trail Blazers. After leading by 10 in the first half, the Comets, except for McAdoo, turned cold. McAdoo scored 18 of his team's 24 points in the third period, then Heard took over in the fourth quarter, scoring 10 of his 22 points in the closing minutes.

BRAVES 114, TRAIL BLAZERS 109
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"Hartin played a good game for us tonight," commented Genoa's Dave Christy. "I think if he had been in there a little longer our lead would have been bigger."

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commented Hitchen who is in his ninth year as head of the Comets' basketball program. Genoa committed 19 turnovers and Oak Harbor mishandled 17 times.

"They're still trying to do something but just isn't there," Hitchen said.

"They haven't learned that if the pass is still isn't there, they are better off setting up with the ball than making the play."

The turnovers, however, are a part of the Comets' pressure-cooker speedball that gave the Rockets more problems than opportunities.

"We're making a lot of silly mistakes out there. We changed our man-to-man defenses and a couple of guys didn't change and then we got mixed up a couple times in the press they put us in," Hitchen commented.

"That's what and foolish fouls. That's what hurt us the most, when our guards got in foul trouble."

Plint-sized Kevin Gackstetter entered the second half with four fouls and Dick Wood had fouled out by the end of the third quarter with Gackstetter holding on in the fourth stanza. Genoa's Lonnie Shiffert and Andy Sanchez took their seats on fouls in the third and fourth periods.

"We've played a little inconsistent so far," said Christy whose Rockets came back in the third period to outscore

JIM FLOWER OF ROSS IS CAUGHT IN A CROWD OF PREXIE PLAYERS
. . . Tom Owens of Marion is at left while Luther Jones is at right (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

Standings

WHA		East Division		
W	L	T	Pts	
New Eng.	15	8	0	89
East	15	8	0	77
Cleveland	10	12	0	55
Chicago	8	13	0	68
Indpls	4	20	0	51
West	17	8	0	117
Houston	12	10	0	74
San Diego	12	10	0	70
Phoenix	9	11	0	68
Minn.	9	11	0	68
Mich.	7	14	1	61
Canadian Division	15	9	1	115
Toronto	13	11	0	105
Quebec	12	12	0	98
Winnipeg	12	8	0	90
Edmonton	10	7	0	83
Vancouver	7	14	1	60

Friday's Games

Minnesota 94	Winnipeg 2
Phoenix 102	Edmonton 96
Saturday's Games	
Quebec 102	Edmonton 96
Indiana 103	Winnipeg 96
Toronto at Chicago	
Michigan at Vancouver	

Bucks skim past Bulls

By BOB GREENE
AP Sports Writer

The Milwaukee Bucks have the Chicago Bulls' number. But it's a low one.

"They're not very good. They've got three of four from the Bucks by a total of seven points, you can't stand around and pat yourself on the back," said Milwaukee Coach Larry Costello.

With forwards Bob Dandridge and Cornell Warner controlling both backboards and combining for 12 points in the final minutes, the Bucks pulled out a 99-96 National Basketball Association victory over the Bulls.

CELTICS 120, ROCKETS 114

Center Dave Cowens scored with three seconds showing on the clock to send Boston into a 108-108 tie with Houston. The Celtics then outscored the

KNICKS 96, 76ers 88

New York used a three-minute Philadelphia cold streak to sprint into the lead, then scored 16 points in the final five minutes to wrap up the victory. Walt Frazier's 10 points and Earl Monroe's 20 paced the Knicks while Philadelphia's Fred Carter led all scorers with 26 points.

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Lorain and Findlay this week for Ross

Ross faces it's first "double duty" weekend by taking on the Lorain Steelmen at Lorain Friday night and by hosting Findlay Saturday night. The Little Giants will be aiming to stop a two game losing streak and even its Buckeye Conference record with the two game set.

The Little Giants are coming off one of the worst showings that they have experienced in recent seasons. Marion helped humiliate the Little Giants, 47-36, on the Little Giants' home opener last Friday night and the Ross team could not have played much worse.

Lorain, 0-2 and 1-2 in the Buckeye Conference, has the same records as Ross but the Steelmen have lost by a total of 10 points in the two games. One loss was to Ross' Saturday night opponent, Findlay, 54-51, in a game that they trailed in by as much as 12 points.

Dale Reichert, coach of Lorain, has been using about all of his varsity players in the three games to date.

"We've played at least 10 a game so far and we will probably do that against Ross . . . we may even use more," Reichert says.

The reason for the mass migration of Steelmen players to front line action is simple. "We're still looking for a good combination and we have not come close to hitting it yet," Reichert says.

Turnovers have plagued the Steelmen. In the first two Conference encounter, Lorain has booted the ball away 54 times and it has been costly.

"If we could cut our turnovers in half," Reichert says, "we figure that we could get off about 13 more shots a game and I feel that we could have won the two games that we lost, including the one to Findlay."

Reichert continued, "The turnovers

have been stupid ones such as dropping passes. We have been throwing the ball inbounds and it has been going right through our guy's hands . . . we are just not alert yet."

Primary starters for the Steelmen are Fred Pagan, 5-10 junior, and Mark Maxwell, 5-9 junior, at the guards. Virgil Williams, 5-11, 180 junior, will start at one forward while George Pressick, 6-1 senior, or Dave Chandler, 6-2 senior, will start at the other forward. At center will be either Byron McCall, 6-2, 180 junior, or Jim Pufnock, a 6-4 junior. Numerous others will play.

As for Saturday night, the 1973-74 Buckeye Conference co-champions will invade Ross. Last year the Trojans were lucky to escape Ross with a one-point win and veteran coach John Stozich is not letting Ross' bad start fool him.

"They're 0-2 in the Conference right now but they are not going to be there all season. They are the best 0-2 club in the Conference," Stozich said.

Findlay has only one starter back from the team that went all the way to the state regionals. He's 5-9 Scott Hamlin, a guard, who is capable of stealing a team blind. He's a good shot from outside and can drive with the best in the Conference.

"We have been forced to go a bit more deliberate this year," Stozich said. "We have to because we don't have the real big men or the big scoring threat."

Stozich will start Hamlin at guard along with John Zitkovic, a 5-11 senior, at the other guard. The forwards will be Dave Arnold, 6-3 senior, and Ron Linhart, 6-1 senior. At center will be 6-6 Mark VanGunten, a junior.

Top subs for Findlay are John Vielhaber, 6-0 senior, and Scott Bernhardt, a 6-4 senior.

Ross drops third straight

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

LORAIN — What it was supposed to be was a game called basketball but what it turned out to be was a game of giveaway with a hot potato. The setting for the hot potato game was the Lorain High School gym and it was labeled as a Buckeye Conference basketball game only it didn't resemble the game the way Dr. James Naismith invented it.

Friday the 13th proved to be not quite as unlucky for the host Steelmen as it did for the Ross Little Giants. The Steelmen handed Ross its third straight loss, 54-50, simply because they did not throw the ball away as much as Ross did.

"We didn't play worth a darn," grunted Lorain coach Dale Reichert. "We weren't running our offense right in the first half so we came up at halftime and went into the small gym and ran through it then."

Whether the halftime practice session worked or not could not be seen because it really did not matter to a great degree. If the Steelmen failed to run an offensive pattern right, the Little Giants would make sure they had another shot at it by giving the ball right back to them for another try.

Ross, who struggled through a lackadaisical show last Friday in losing to Marion, 47-36, booted, kicked, and threw the ball away 28 times (that may be a conservative estimate) against the Steelmen. Lorain handed the ball to Ross 24 times but the Little Giants' turnovers were more glaring.

The Little Giants looked good for a minute in the first quarter and possibly a few more minutes in the second. After that, it was disaster.

Ross grabbed a 6-0 lead on two baskets by Bob Ford and a pair of free throws by Jim Flower to start the game but then a case of "stone hands" set in and Lorain took over. With Dave Chandler and Adrian Jones, the latter a sophomore just brought up from the JV squad this week, doing all the scoring, Lorain grabbed a 13-7 first quarter lead.

Neal Oberholtzer led a Ross charge that eventually put the Little Giants on top, 23-22, but a turnover and an easy eight footer from the side by All-Buckeye Conference football star, turned basketball star, Virgil Williams, put Ross down by one at the half.

Although the game remained close, it was a study in sloppiness for the better part of the second 16 minutes. Neither side really wanted the game but Lorain did want it just a little more.

For Ross coach Kenny Miller, it must have been torture on the sidelines. He got to see so many bad passes and bad shots that he must have thought all 10 players on the floor were against him.

"If we don't put together four quarters of concentrated play, it's going to keep on being like this," Miller said gloomily and then added, "It's really a shame, too, because I don't think this team is that bad."

The stark truth was that they were that bad against Lorain.

Ross hit on only 20 of 55 from the field while Lorain clicked on a much worse 19 of 58 but the Steelmen took

advantage of some clutch free throw shooting in the final half to keep ahead.

It was like money in the bank when a Steelman stepped to the foul line in the final period. 6-4 junior center Byron McCall led the charity shooters in that period with four of five as the Steelmen hit on 12 of 15. Williams hit the only fielder of the quarter early in the period to give the Steelmen their biggest lead of the night, 44-37.

Ross did creep back to within three at 44-41, with 3:20 to play in the game but once again, bad passing took the flickering hopes of the Little Giants out of reach. Four straight free throws by McCall put the lead back to seven at 48-41 at that point with less than two minutes to play.

McCall, who was held scoreless in the first half, thanks to a strong defensive job by Oberholtzer, canned 11 in the final half to tie Chandler for the Lorain high. Williams finished with 10 and Bernard George clipped the Little Giants for nine.

Lorain hit on 16 of 22 charity tosses with Ross managing only 10 of 21.

Ford led Ross with 18 points while Oberholtzer was one point behind his teammate. Dave Fahrbach added seven.

Ross has just a few hours to pick itself up by the boot straps because the Findlay Trojans, 82-70 conquerors of Sandusky last night, will invade the home of the Little Giants. One thing is for sure, Ross cannot go much lower; they were near the bottom Friday night.

There is only one way to go now (and that is wrapped up in the old sports cliche) and that is up.

Basketball sc

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE

Lorain 54, Ross 50	Cincinnati Bacon 69, Cincinnati St. Xavier 54
Elyria 90, Mansfield 50	Cincinnati Colerain 72, Cincinnati Northwest 58
Findlay 82, Sandusky 70	Cincinnati Country Day 71, Batavia 38
Marietta 56, Admiral King 55	Cincinnati Elder 58, Cincinnati LaSalle 57
SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE	Cincinnati Purcell 71, Cincinnati Moeller 61
St. Joe 82, Clyde 70	Cincinnati Reading 77, Harrison 41
Tiffin Calvert 64, Margaretta 57	Cincinnati Western Hills 66, Cincinnati Walnut Hills 49
Perkins 54, St. Mary's 49	Cincinnati Woodward 67, Cincinnati Withrow 51
SUBURBAN LAKES LEAGUE	Circleville 71, Greenfield
Oak Harbor 82, Woodmore 73	McClain 66
Genoa 85, Gibsonburg 71	Circleville Logan Elm 60, Millersport 52
Elmwood 80, Lakota 54	Clayton Northmont 73, Brookville 50
Eastwood 87, Oltego 52	Cleveland Benedictine 70, Painesville Harvey 65
NORTHERN OHIO LEAGUE	Cleveland Latin 64, Lakewood St. Edward 61
Bellevue 66, Shelby 54	Cleveland Catholic 64, Lorain Catholic 56
Galion 68, Bucyrus 44	Cleveland East 52, Cleveland Hay 48
Columbian 56, Willard 53	Cleveland East Tech 97, Akron Central-Howell 61
Upper Sandusky 63, Norwalk 53	Cleveland Adams 48, Cleveland Glenville 36
GREAT LAKES LEAGUE	
Bowling Green 76, Port Clinton 55	
Sylvania 96, Bedford 52	
Clay 52, Fostoria 50	
SENECA COUNTY LEAGUE	
Bettsville 83, Hopewell-Loudon 67	
Old Fort 74, New Riegel 64	
Seneca East 83, North Baltimore 79	

Friday's Results

Akron Buchtel 67, Akron Firestone 62

Findlay nudges Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Fremont Ross snapped out of its three game doldrums against Findlay Saturday night but the Little Giants basketball machine fell, 50-47, to the Buckeye Conference leaders.

"It's encouraging to see the determination we had," Ross coach Kenny Miller said after the game as he talked about the Little Giants upset bid. "When a team is down by 11 points with only three minutes to go and comes back like we did, it shows a lot of character."

Come back is what the Little Giants did. Led by substitute Kevin Smith, the Little Giants cut a 45-34 deficit to trail by 49-47 with just 24 seconds to play.

Smith, a 6-2 senior, dropped six of his eight points in the run and with his ball hawking tactics, set up the other points for the Little Giants. It was Smith's theft from Findlay guard John Zitkovic and subsequent basket that cut the Trojan lead to two points.

"Kevin (Smith) came in and gave us a big lift," Miller praised. "When you get someone that can come off the bench like he did, it's got to be a tremendous help in the game and in the future games."

After the final Smith basket, Findlay called timeout but got their signals crossed in the huddle.

"I told Scott (Hamlin, Findlay's clever little guard) to line up four guys on the foul line," Findlay coach John Stozich said, "but when we went back on the floor, we lined up four deep in front of where the ball was to be passed inbounds and wouldn't you know it, we get the ball into our worst ball handler."

And what ensued after that inbounds play brought the near capacity Ross crowd to its collective feet. No fewer than six players, three from both teams touched the ball before it ended up out of bounds in front of the Findlay bench off the hand of Ross' Dave Fahrbach who made a desperation dive for the elusive ball.

"I almost had heart failure," Stozich said. "I could have intercepted it."

The Trojan mentor then added, "I must be living good. We were awfully lucky tonight . . . we just didn't play too good but Ross had a hand in that because they came at us. I just think I would rather be lucky in this place than good if it turns out to be like this all the time."

Ross led most of the first three quarters until an old

familiar problem cropped up. Miller described it.

"We just fell into a mental lapse and that let them open the game up on us."

Leading by only one at 30-29, Findlay ran off five unanswered points to take a 35-29 lead. A free throw by Mark Van Gunten, Findlay 6-6 center, started the string and two free tosses by Hamlin and Van Gunten's layup finished off the string.

Findlay continued to take advantage of a couple of Ross miscues and ran up the 11 point margin in the final quarter before the Little Giants revived.

A free throw by Neal Oberholtzer got it started. Smith hit on two more charity tosses before Findlay called timeout with 3:47 to play. When time was back, Ross forward Bob Ford poured one in from 15 feet to make it 45-39. Ron Linhart broke the Ross string with two free throws before Pat Belch hit from the right of the free throw circle.

At that point, Scott Bernhart, who had taken over for Van Gunten, hit two free throws for a 49-41 Findlay lead. With Smith seemingly all over the court, Ross fought back as Smith hit from in close. Smith stole the ball on the inbounds pass and fed it to Oberholtzer for another bucket with 28 seconds to play.

Smith closed the margin to 49-47 with the theft from Zitkovic before Findlay called for a time-out.

Bernhart was fouled when time was back in and hit the front end of a one and one to ice the win with seven seconds to play.

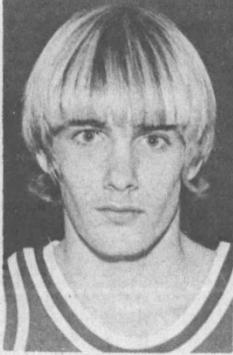
Despite the fourth straight Buckeye Conference loss Miller had more to smile about than he had in the loss to Lorain on Friday night. He was most pleased over the play he got from the guards.

"They (the guards, mainly Belch and Garry Clark, along with Smith) were making things happen and that has not been happening this season. I was glad to see it."

Hamlin led all scorers with 19 points and two other Trojans, Linhart with 12, and Van Gunten with 10, got into double figures. Oberholtzer led Ross with 15, the only Little Giant in double figures.

Ross outgoaled Findlay 18-17 but lost at the foul line, hitting only 11 of 19. Findlay had 16 of 22, including five of six by Bernhart, all in the final quarter.

Ross cut down on its turnovers with 17, far below the Friday loss to Lorain.



KEVIN SMITH

Ross scoring

Score by quarters
Findlay 9 12 16 13-50
Ross 8 14 9 16-47

Scoring

FINDLAY — Arnold 1-0-2; Linhart 5-2-12; Van Gunten 3-4-10; Hamlin 7-5-19; Zitkovic 1-0-2; Bernhart 0-5-5; TOTALS 17-16-50

ROSS — Oberholtzer 4-7-15; Ford 4-0-8; Celek 1-1-3; Belch 4-1-9; Clark 1-0-2; Fahrbach 1-0-2; Smith 3-2-8; TOTALS 18-11-47

Reserve game: Findlay 56, Ross 36

Season Records: Findlay 5-1 (Conference 4-0); Ross 1-4 (Conference 0-4)

Perrysburg stops Genoa winning streak at five

GENOA — Arch rival Perrysburg brought an end to Genoa's five game winning streak while handing the Comets an 83-77 setback. It was only the second regular season loss in two years for the Genoa team.

Up by as many as 12 points in the first half, Genoa was caught flat footed as 5-11 senior David Keig led Perrysburg back to trail only by seven at the half, 34-27, before the visitors took the lead in the third period.

"We had them by 12," Genoa coach Dave Hitchens recalled, "but we quit hustling. This is the second night in a row that we have had this happen. Friday night at Gibsonburg we had a 15 point lead and nearly blew that when we started to stand around."

While the Comet defense stood around, Keig was taking advantage of it by sneaking downcourt for five uncontested

"bunny" shots for 10 of his game high 32 points.

"We made some stupid turnovers and started to force our shots when we got behind," Hitchens said. "I'm not taking anything away from Perrysburg but we just stopped hustling."

Harlan Niehaus muscled in 30 points for the Comets with Andy Sanchez, Gary Mathews, and Lonnie Shiffert also reaching double figures in scoring. Niehaus, with 20 rebounds, led the Comets to a 41-32 edge in that category.

Score by quarters
Perrysburg 12 25 22 24-83
Genoa 19 15 22 21-77

Scoring

PERRYSBURG — Keig 15-2-31; Calevro 4-5-13; Daly 3-2-8; Eckel 6-0-12; Hoffman 5-4-14; Kurucz 2-0-4; TOTALS 35-13-83

GENOA — Marko 4-0-8; Sanchez 5-4-14; Mathews 6-1-13; Niehaus 12-16-30; Shiffert 4-2-10; Brown 0-2-2; TOTALS 31-15-77

Reserve score: Genoa 64, Perrysburg 49
Season record: Genoa 5-1

Woodmore comes from 11 down to edge Clyde Fliers

Blue Streaks next

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — "Floundering, too," is how Sandusky High School basketball coach Gary Reynolds described his team in obvious reference to his Friday night opponent, Fremont Ross. The Blue Streaks are currently 1-3 in the Buckeye Conference and 2-4 overall, both marks are one better than Ross.

"We have a young team," Reynolds continued, "We usually start five juniors and we're small . . . that's a bad combination in this Conference."

Reynolds says that he may start Ken Pearson, 6-2, and Jesse Jackson, 5-11, at the guards with John Clark, 6-2, in the pivot. Ken Grant, 6-2, and in a departure from the all junior lineup, 6-1 sophomore Tony McKenzie may go at forwards. Also listed as a possible starter and a starter in the first six games is Dale Schnittker at a guard.

"Offensively we have had trouble getting set up," Reynolds said. "Defensively, we have given up only 51 points a game until these last two games."

The Blue Streaks have had problems

getting the ball to Pearson who is their leading scorer with a 14 point average. Jackson has been hitting nine points per game but Pearson is the key to the offense for the Streaks.

"We just like to go into each game with the idea of improvement. We sort of profit by our mistakes," Reynolds said.

In the Ross camp, coach Ken Miller is trying to get his charges out of the dumps after dropping four straight. Coming off two exceptionally poor showings against Marion and Lorain, the Little Giants bounced back to flash glimpses of good steady play in the three-point loss to Findlay Saturday night.

"What we need right now is a win," Miller said matter-of-factly. "I think we showed that we can play good ball in the Findlay game. Our defense is there but our offense is inconsistent."

The Little Giants, despite the losing skid, did show improvement Saturday. That showing, although a loss, could prove to be a starting point for the Ross squad in reversing its season.

Friday night could be the real start.

Ross crushes Sandusky

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — There's a difference a day makes as goes a song by the case of the Fremont Ross basketball team. One day it's a week, and a week's difference was like the difference between night and day for Ross.

The Little Giants broke a four game losing streak at the Buckeye Conference, while walloping Sandusky 64-30 to get back on the winning track. For Ross and coach Ken Miller, it was a complete turnaround from last Friday night when the Little Giants were plagued with numerous turnovers and mental mistakes, losing a 54-50 at Lorain.

With Bob Ford, Neal Oberholtzer and Mark Celek controlling the boards, Miller's Little Giants overcame a 10-2 deficit in the first three and one-half minutes of the game to run off a 16-2 spurt for an 18-12 first period lead. The scoring streak started the Ross squad toward what Miller termed as a "confidence builder."

"This game just proves what we (the coaches) have known all along about this team . . . we can do the job and we can win," Miller said. "This has got to do a lot for our confidence."

"You know," Miller continued, "we, the coaches, can say that we have the talent to win but it's up to them, the players, to prove themselves that they can win."



SANDUSKY'S JESSE JACKSON IS SURROUNDED BY LITTLE GIANTS . . . Pat Belch, left; Neal Oberholtzer, center; Mark Celek, right

Ross did prove themselves last night. Not that they were world beaters, that's for sure, but that they could play four quarters of consistent basketball. The most consistency shown by the Little Giants was on defense, a strong point all season long.

"I think we did a super job on defense," Miller said. "They chased us out of the zone at first and forced us to go to our man-to-man but we did a good job on that."

Change in that man-to-man did cause Miller and assistant Don Burgess some worry. "We thought they would be quicker than us but I found out that we have some quickness of our own at the guards in Belch (Pat) and Clark (John)."

Belch and Clark were able to contain the Blue Streak guards and also managed to drop in eight and 10 points, respectively. Both were able to penetrate the Sandusky defense and when they were not open, hit the open man for an easy layup.

For the first time this season Miller was able to get good performances from all eight of his top men. While Belch and Clark were taking a breather, Jim Flower and Kevin Smith were able to plug the defensive holes. Celek, with a 6-4 frame, recorded his most prolific rebounding night of his career with 10 grabs while dropping in six points.

Celek got into foul trouble in the first half but the Little Giants felt no ill effects as Dave

Fahrnbach handled the center chores. The 6-4 junior finished with four points and seven rebounds.

Ross broke the game open in the two middle periods by holding Sandusky to only 14 points while scoring 29. Ford with 21 points for the night, and Oberholtzer who finished with 11, led the Ross drive to the big lead.

Change in that man-to-man did cause Miller and assistant Don Burgess some worry. "We thought they would be quicker than us but I found out that we have some quickness of our own at the guards in Belch (Pat) and Clark (John)."

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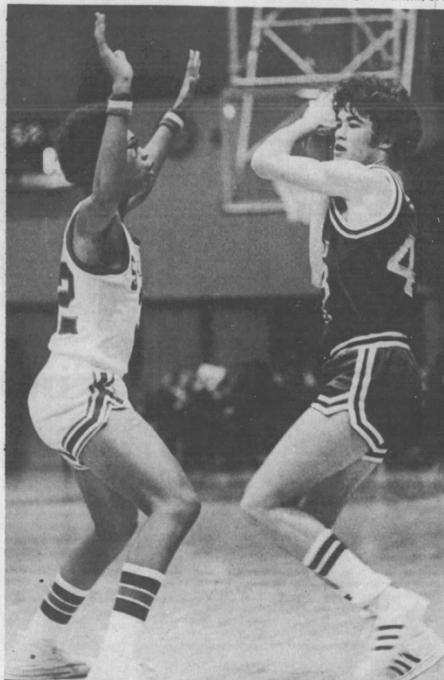
Ross hit 27 of 55 from the field but were guilty of 20 turnovers.

But the turnover factor was about all that Ross could complain about afterwards. And for Miller the win brought out an embarrassing fact.

"It's been so long since we had a victory, I don't know how to talk."

With the coach needs is a little practice and if the Sandusky game was an indication, he's going to be able to get back in the talking groove in a hurry.

Saturday, Dec. 21, 1974, The News-Messenger, Fremont, O. 11



BOB FORD OF ROSS HUNTS FOR A TEAMMATE IN FIRST HALF ACTION . . . Sandusky's Ken Grant (left) guards Ford (Photos by Bruce Crippen)

Elmwood upsets Genoa

By JON DONNAN

News-Messenger Sports Writer

BLOOMDALE — As champs for two years running in the Suburban League, Elmwood's basketball team has weathered jitters of all kinds.

But Friday night, the Comets ran head-on into more than mere potshots in the Elmwood Royals. A pair of high-scoring seniors combined with a trio of poised sophomores blasted Genoa 66-57.

The loss is Genoa's first in the SLL since the league was formed two years ago. Although there's "a long road" between the Comets' triumph and coach Charlie Reynolds' first league title, the Royals established themselves as the frontrunner in the SLL championship race by the victory.

"It's going to take a helluva team to beat them," said Dave Hitchens, a coach given more to philosophy than anger after the lackluster Comet showing. "I think we can beat them, Oak Harbor could and Eastwood has a shot. The championship is a long way off for everybody." Elmwood is the only undefeated SLL team.

Led by senior captain Randy Farabee, Elmwood did exactly what the Comets anticipated but did it with a vengeance.

"We weren't really surprised they shot so well from the field," said Hitchens of the Royals. "50.7 percent. But we thought we could take the long shots away from them. But they outshot us and outhustled us."

Farabee and Bob Avery, the other starting senior, scored 24 and 17 points respectively to lead the scoring. Genoa's Harlan Niehaus tallied 16 points.

The field house which housed the event is located smack dab in the middle of a cornfield and a beanfield and it was with some amount of humor that winning coach Charles Reynolds had his phone "Madison Square Garden" after the match.

"This feels very, very good," said the veteran

coach who hasn't beaten Genoa since their first

Cats claw Bears

By JERRY ROSEN

N-M Staff Writer

WOODVILLE — There weren't any flares, but there probably should have been after the Woodmore Wildcats clawed the Gibsonburg press and then smoked the nets for an 86-80, SLL win here Friday night.

The Wildcats screened in from the start, holding 36 of 50 shots, or 61 percent on the night, including eight of 11 in the critical final period to ice the win. Blake Wilker led the Wildcat bombers with 31 points, many on unconscious bombs taken from somewhere near Elmore.

Woodmore was even

similar. McElfresh said

of the clubs. "We both

press for our bread and butter."

"They were beating us

on the press. If we don't get our traps, we're going to get beat."

"I think they handled us

because they probably

practice the press as

much as we do and, if

they're used to playing

against pressure, you can

handle it better."

The Wildcat passing

game was really clicking

too, according to Dave

Sunman.

"We made some really

nice passes — amazing

passes," he said. "We

were consistent. We didn't

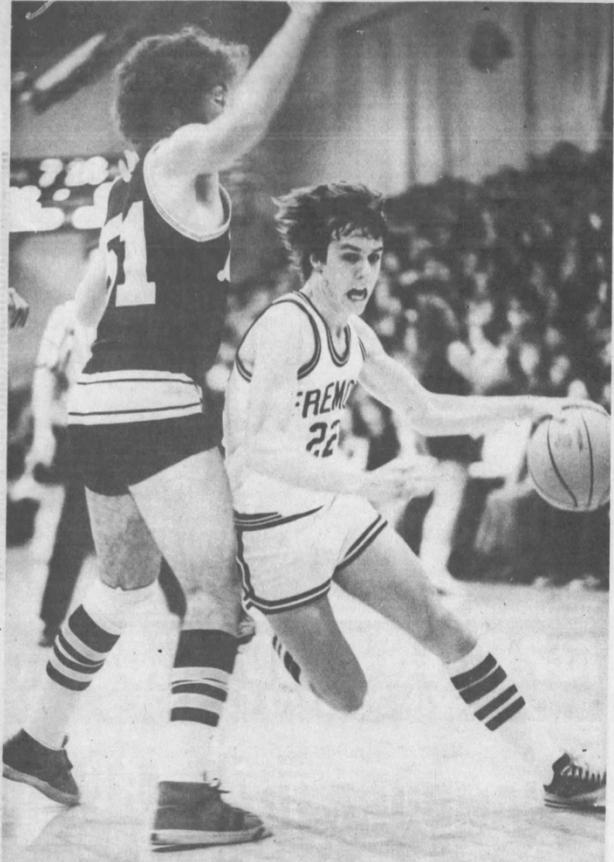
lose our composure even

outscored Woodmore 11-2 in the first three minutes of the final frame to take the lead, 69-65. And with Shreffler back, it

appeared that Gibsonburg might break the game open.

But at 4:44 Shreffler was called for blocking Fredericks on a driving trip that ended with only a 3-point opportunity, but Shreffler converted the three-point opportunity, but Shreffler was out for good. He had been "held" to 20 points when he left.

"I've been trying to get him to shoot more," the coach said. "If it was up to him, he'd shoot only about 12 to 15 times a game. I want him to shoot 20 times.



ROSS' GARRY CLARK DRIVES AROUND DENNIS LESNER OF ADMIRAL KING

Finley loses 2nd round

OAKLAND (AP) — Oakland A's owner Charles O. Finley says he's going "all the way" in his fight to overturn a judge's ruling that a baseball arbitrator was justified in declaring pitcher Catfish Hunter a free agent.

"This is not the end of this issue," Finley told newsmen Friday as he left an Alameda County Superior Court hearing after losing another round in his battle to uphold baseball's reserve system.

"I'll go all the way," he told reporters, said, apparently referring to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Finley and his attorney, Neil Papiano, had sought a preliminary injunction overturning the Dec. 16 finding by arbitrator Peter Seitz that Hunter, 28, was exempt from the reserve system and free to negotiate with other teams.

Seitz ruled that Finley violated Hunter's contract by withholding half of his \$100,000 salary for 1974. Hunter's contract stipulated he be paid \$50,000 in salary and \$50,000 in nontaxable deferred compensation for both 1974 and 1975.

Hunter, who last season won 25 games and the American League's Cy Young Award, signed last Tuesday with the New York Yankees for a reported \$3.75 million five-year package—the most lucrative in sports history.

"I think the award should be confirmed," Judge George W. Phillips told Papiano, "but I'm sure you'll proceed much further."

Papiano, who called Seitz' decision "akin to giving the Devil a free pass," said he was considering filing objections to the judge's ruling by Jan. 7 in preparation for taking the case to the state Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Judge Phillips ruled that Seitz acted "within his jurisdiction" and said the question of whether he properly agreed with the decision is for the Supreme Court.

He said the Supreme Court "has a very limited jurisdiction" and said he was empowered to overturn the ruling only if he concluded that Seitz exceeded his authority or made a "completely irrational" decision.

That question, Papiano had argued, was whether an arbitrator could legally rule on the subject of baseball's controversial reserve system—which binds a player to one team throughout his career unless he is traded or released.

Papiano said Hunter was involved in a legitimate dispute over the \$50,000 and therefore his contract should not have been ruled terminated.

He said that even if Finley breached the contract, Hunter should have been allowed only to renegotiate with the A's for more money.

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Hoosiers
play
Spartans

AP final
standings

Comics

Footer from deep in the corner with 1:10 to play but a turnover and two timely free throws by Lovett iced the Admirals' fifth Conference win.

Dave Fahrbach spearheaded the final minutes drive for 20 points with 10 of fielders and six of seven free throws shooting for 10 final quarter points.

Fahrbach's performance from the line was an exception. As a team the Little Giants could only 22 of 39 missing the front end of five possible bonus situations. The 6-4 junior who alternated with Mark Cook to hold Admiral King's Art Cook to 11 points, eight below his average, finished the night with 11 points.

Ford connected for 14 points for the Little Giants as seven of eight Little Giant players scored. Lovett finished the night with 14 for the Admirals with Cook claiming 11 and Cook 10.

With Fahrbach held to his season scoring low, he responded with 14 rebounds before fouling out with seconds left to play in the game. Al Harris, the Conference's third leading rebounder, tallied eight points and hauled down 11 rebounds.

Mike Oberholzer was the only one to miss only two free throws by Harris in the game. The 6-5 forward for Ross had been averaging 15 points in the game and led the BC in rebounding before the contest. He had only four rebounds against the Admirals.

Ross clicked on 15 of 41 from the field while Admiral King hit 50 percent of its shots.

The Admirals were coming up with 13 more than Ross. The Admiral was guilty of 18 turnovers while Ross had 13.

Miller had very little to say about the game but did make a request. "Let the student body and the adults know that we appreciate their support and hope that they continue to back us as we work hard to try to straighten out."

For the most part, the veteran coach started for the drawing board to take a bead on next Friday's opponent, Mansfield. All he has to figure out is how to eliminate four bad minutes in the third period of each game and we could have a different replay to watch.

King defeats Ross 58-52

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross lost to Admiral King 60-52 Friday night at the Ross High School and you would have thought it was an instant replay. A replay of the five previous losses to the Little Giants have suffered this season this was different in this one.

"Just typical," Ross coach Ken Miller said as he searched for better words to describe Ross' fifth Buckeye Conference loss. "It was just like an instant replay last night. It was close and exciting at the end but just like the other games, there was a period where we lost it ourselves."

The particular time span that Miller referred to came in the third period, a period that has hurt the Little Giants this season. Trailing, 24-19 at the half, Ross fell behind in the first three and one-half minutes of the third period. The Little Giants to play catch up ball at the rest of the game.

Admirals' coach Mitch Gillam described the Ross downfall in that third period.

"We switched presses in that period," the boisterous Gillam said. "We put it on the zone press at the end of the first half and we could see how they lined up and when we went into it, they couldn't handle it."

Gillam had his club in what he termed a "box" press and it cost Ross three straight turnovers and six points in a row. Ty Lovett, a spirited 5-11 junior hit two of the buckets on breakaways and Eddie Smith, on the other side of the floor, had 10 of Ross' 11 points.

The Ross doldrums continued until the Admirals, with Smith and Lovett getting a helping hand from 6-4 Joe Corrao, hit the high water mark of 47-33 with 6:36 to play. The Little Giants started to come back at that point.

Kevin Smith keyed the Ross resurgence with 10 second half points and some clutch defensive steals. Smith, a 6-1 senior, entered the game with two minutes to play in the first half and took over the leadership on the floor for the Little Giants.

Ross came within six at 55-49, on Bob Ford's 20

Miami cracks top 10

OXFORD, Ohio (AP) — Miami of Ohio overshadowed by its Big Ten neighbors, has shed its "small school" image by being named to The Associated Press final Top 10 college football poll.

The Redskins, only one of two teams in the nation to go unbeaten (10-0), finished 10th. It marked the highest ranking ever achieved by a Mid-American Conference team.

"It's just fantastic ... for our school and our conference," said Richard Shrider, athletic director at the school of 14,000.

Known as the "Cradle of Coaches" for producing outstanding mentors, Miami is currently in its 22nd season, the second longest unbeaten string (23) in the country.

Miami is approximately half the size of the other nine teams listed in the major college poll.

"It's a golden era of football for us," said Shrider. He praised first-year coach Dick Crum for producing a second unbeaten season capped by a 21-10 victory over Georgia in the Tangerine Bowl.

Crum was unavailable for comment. He is in Tampa, Fla.



JIM FLOWER STARTS TO GO UPWARD WITH BALL

King's Art Cook, left, and Eddie Smith, center (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)



GARRY CLARK MAKES HIS MOVE
...past defender. (Photos by Bruce Crippen)

Area league scores

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE

Ross 59, Mansfield 52
Elvira-Adams 59, King 48
Marion Harding 56, Sandusky 44
Findlay 79, Lorain Senior 44

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE

St. Mary's 73, Clyde 59
Tiffin Calvary 85, Huron 84 (OT)
Perkins 51, St. Mary's 41

SUBURBAN LAKES LEAGUE

Otsego 65, Woodmore 64
Elmwood 71, Oak Harbor 66
Genoa 79, Huron 58
Eastwood 79, Gibsonburg 65

NORTHERN OHIO LEAGUE

Belleview 47, Tiffin Columbian 40
Willard 71, Bucyrus 51
Galion 75, Huron 59
Shelby 63, Upper Sandusky 58 (OT)

GREAT LAKES LEAGUE

Clay 87, Port Clinton 31
Bellefontaine 75, Marion 65
Bedford 65, Fosteria 64

SENECA COUNTY LEAGUE

Old Fort 92, Hopewell-Loudon 77
Seneca East 77, New Riegel 71



I DUNNO, HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO
...says Ross's Brent Borden of what's-his-name

Ford finds 'gold' in Ross victory

By JERRY ROSEN

News-Messenger Staff Writer

While the rain poured down outside, the Little Giants' fans were looking up at Mansfield rainbows in the Ross gym. But it was Ross that found the pot of gold.

Strong last-minute efforts by Bob Ford, Neal Oberholzer and Pat Belich gave the Giants to the gold and a seat-squeezing 59-57 win over the Tygers as the second half of the Buckeye Conference basketball season got underway Friday night.

The Giants crammed what seemed like an entire basketball game into the final two minutes after watching the long arching rainbows of Tyrone Mathews, a senior and Eric Jefferson, a cat-like sophomore, keep the Tygers in the game all the way.

Ross coach Ken Miller said, "You have to play the rest of the game to get to the final two minutes," but there was little question in the minds of the fans streaming out of the gym that the most basketball was played in the last moments.

Belich had a nifty three-point play when the Giants were down by five.

"I didn't know if we could make up those five points," Miller said. "Belich's three points when we were five down was one of the most important parts of the game."

The play put the Giants down by only two, 53-51, but the Tygers, who had begun to stall the ball on offense shortly before, continued the tactic and got buried.

Oberholzer, moving toward center court on what Miller termed "a desperation half-court trap," batted a pass away, scooped it up and walked in for a layup following a Jefferson score, to cut the Tyger lead back to two, 55-53, with 1:24 left.

Then it was Ford's turn, and he showed he had a better idea of what was going on. Ford took a pass on the left side of the key about 18 feet out and pumped it home to knot the score at 55.

He then stole the ball with 52 seconds left and walked in for another hoop to put the Giants up 57-55. Mathews answered that with a skyscraper from the corner, but with 16 seconds left, Ford connected on a jumper from near the foul line, then came downcourt to steal a pass and kill the Tygers' hopes.

"There wasn't any doubt who was going to shoot the ball those times," trainer Glen Foster quipped in the locker room dressing room later. "He found the confidence we were expecting him to have earlier in the year."

Although he was happy with the win that improved his record to 3-6 overall and 2-5 in the Buckeye Conference, Miller had some misgivings.

"We had the opportunities to break the game open," he said, "but we missed some shots."

"We still aren't moving the ball the way we should be moving the ball," he said.

"So why did Ross win?"

"We were able to capitalize on their turnovers and on their missed shots when we didn't give them second chances," Miller continued.

Ford led the Giants with 17 points, while Oberholzer had 12 and played a very tough board game nabbing 18 rebounds. Junior guard Garry Clark had 10.

For the Tygers, whose record now is 2-4 in the Buckeye and 6-6 overall, Mathews had 16, Jefferson 12, and jumping jack Cliff Belmer had 10. The Tygers were playing without their scoring and rebounding leader, Stan Tillman, who also was the leading total point man in the conference. Tillman, who led the Tygers to a 32-point win over Ross on Nov. 29, had a 32-point performance, was permanently suspended from the team, according to Tyger coach Jim Goode.

The Giant reserves gave the crowd an indication of what was to come in the varsity game, as they edged the Tygers 44-43 in the preliminary contest. Tonight, Ross hosts Toledo Woodward in a non-conference game.



SMOKING DOWNCOURT, JIM FLOWER LOOKS
...for a pass around Mansfield's Eric Jefferson

Clyde troubled by SBC roughhousing

SANDUSKY — The St. Mary Panthers, paced by a 21-point outburst from Kevin Krieger, and double figure scoring and rebounding from Jude Meyers and Brian Davie, ran roughshod over the Clyde Fliers 73-50, in Sandusky Bay Conference basketball Friday night.

Meyers scored 16 points and grabbed 17 rebounds and Davie ripped the cords for 14 points and cleared the boards of 13 caroms.

The Panthers opened up a five-point edge after the first quarter and were up by 10, 38-28, at halftime. In the third quarter, the Panthers stretched their lead with a 12-4 run and took a 58-46 lead into the final stanza, outscoring the still winless Fliers 20-14.

Ice-cold shooting seriously hurt the Fliers, but lack or rebounding was the finishing blow.

The Fliers were out-rebounded 48 to 27 and coupled with their 19 of 70 field goal shooting just could not keep pace. The Panthers nailed 31 of 72 floor tries.

From the line, Clyde shot 12 of 23 while St. Mary's hit 5 of 13. Sandusky turned the ball over 16 times to 14 for Clyde.

Mike Caudill paced the Fliers with 15 points while Pete Crooks hit 11 and John Gregg had 10.

Bears lose tiff

GIBSONBURG — The Eastwood Eagles pulled away in the fourth quarter and downed the host Gibsonburg Golden Bears 79-65 in Suburban Lakes League basketball action Friday night.

Eastwood led by just seven points at the end of the third quarter, but rolled up 27 points in the final period.

The visitors shot a hot 53 per cent from the field in gaining the victory. They canned 34 of 64 field goal attempts.

The Eagles also controlled the backboards, grabbing 49 rebounds to 31 for the host Golden Bears.

Gibsonburg and Eastwood split the first two games terms for the first half. The Eagles took a five point first quarter margin, but led just 34-30 at the halftime break. The Eagles added three points to the margin in the third period and then erupted for the big fourth quarter.

Troy Swartz led all scorers, hitting 23 points for the winners.

Steve Shreffles was high man for Gibsonburg, canning eight field goals and five free throws for 21 points. Steve Shull, who also was Gibsonburg's leading rebounder with 11, scored 17 points for the Golden Bears. Mark Gruner had 12.

School of Hope wins

SANDUSKY — The School of Hope scored a 59-39 basketball victory Thursday over the Betty Rindler Lady Giants. Riley was the leading scorer in the game and hit 20 points for the winners. Tom Celek added 19 points.

The School of Hope now has a 4-2 record and will play Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Larc Lane School in Toledo.

Ross caps perfect weekend with win over Woodward

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Staff Writer

It was more of the same for both teams but the result was the second two-point victory in as many nights for the Ross Little Giant basketball team.

Besting Toledo Woodward 70-68, the Giants raised their season record to 4-6 Saturday night, with it being the first time this season they have won two in a row.

The Polar Bears, like the Giants, were coming off a thrilling win the night before in edging Toledo St. Francis in overtime. Their record fell to 7-6.

"We sure do like to make it interesting," quipped Ross coach Ken Miller, who saw his team edge Mansfield 59-57 at the Ross gym on Friday night.

"When you have two two-point victories in a row, the area where you improve is confidence," Miller said. "We've taken some licks that were hard to digest this year."

The Giants were boosted by a great individual performance by 6-5 forward Neal Oberholtzer who scored 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, 13 of them on the offensive boards.

Ross was handicapped from the beginning when center Mark Celek drew his third personal foul five minutes into the game and his replacement Dave Fahrbach had three fouls midway through the second period.

Celek picked up his fourth foul quickly after replacing Fahrbach in the second quarter, but played the entire second half and had 10 rebounds to combine with Oberholtzer and

give the Giants a 39-38 edge on the boards.

The Giants played the entire game using mostly a 2-1-2 zone defense.

"We did that for a couple of reasons," commented Miller. "We were leary of Ross (Gary, Woodward's 6-5 forward and leading scorer) and we got our men in foul trouble. We were more or less forced to stay in it."

The Giants seemed to lose control of the game early in the second quarter when Woodward scored 10 unanswered points to turn a 20-16 Giant lead into 26-20 for Woodward.

"We had our patented dry spell," stated assistant Ross coach Don Burgess. Ross battled back at the end of the quarter to narrow a 34-26 lead to 34-32.

Ross started in the third quarter where they left off and opened up a six-point lead mostly on the shooting of Oberholtzer and Bob Ford.

"The third quarter was the turning point and we could have gone up farther but some shots didn't go in," the coach said.

The Polar Bears stayed in the game in the fourth quarter on some fine outside shooting of guard Dan Tyburski, who pumped in six long range bombs in the final stanza.

Ross went ahead 67-64 with 45 seconds left after a steal by Ford, who found Oberholtzer alone for an easy basket. A basket by Woodward's Ross after he got his own rebound made it 67-66.

Ford then lost the ball out of bounds with 18 seconds left, when the Polar Bears called time out and it looked as if the Giants could be in trouble.

However, Woodward immediately turned the ball over on the inbounds pass and Garry Clark sank two free throws to make it 69-66. A quick bucket by Tyburski made it 69-68. It looked as if Dave Fahrbach had scored the winning bucket for Ross with one second left, however it was ruled he was fouled before the shot. He sank the first free throw to finish the scoring.

The Giants withstood a subpar shooting performance, hitting on 24 of 70 shots for 34 per cent. They won the game at the charity stripe, particularly in the second half hitting on 22 of 31. The losers hit on 29 of 61 shots from the field for 47 per cent and canned 10 of 11 free throws.

"We moved the ball well at times, but at other times we didn't have enough patience," Miller said. "We just want to continue to work and improve each week."

The Giants have a tough order to keep their winning streak alive as they go to Elyria on Tuesday and Marion on Friday to face the two top teams in the Buckeye Conference.

The Ross reserves kept their game exciting, overcoming a 31-15 halftime deficit, only to run out of time in losing 46-45.

Score by quarters

Woodward	14	20	12	22-68
Ross	15	17	16	22-70

Scoring

WOODWARD	— Haynes 5-0-10, Ross 6-10-22, L. Whitlock 3-0-6, Walker 4-0-8, Tyburski 8-0-16, Frankowski 1-0-2, Quinn 2-0-4. TOTAL 29-10-68.
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ROSS	— Oberholtzer 9-8-26, Ford 8-0-16, Celek 4-2-10, Belch 0-1-1, Clark 1-4-6, Flower 0-2-2, Smith 1-2-4, Fahrbach 1-3-5. TOTAL 24-22-70.
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Reserve game: Woodward 46, Ross 45.

Season records: Ross 4-6, Woodward 7-6.

Ross takes on 8-1 Pioneers

Ross travels to Elyria tonight in a game where a person could wonder if it should be played if the last three scheduled Ross-Elyria encounters have any bearing. The Little Giants and Pioneers have gone through a series of three postponements and a cancellation since they last met on the hardwood.

Last year, a teacher's strike in the Elyria schools forced two postponements and eventually the cancellation of the game. This year, the Elyria

schools closed early for the holidays due to lack of funds, forcing the postponement of the game from Dec. 27 to tonight, Jan. 14.

The reserve game will start at 6:30 while the varsity game must start before 8 p.m. according to Buckeye Conference rules.

Directions to get to Elyria High School: Take the turnpike to the Elyria exit. Go south to Lodi (dead end), turn left; go to West Street, turn right. School is on West Street.

Another way is to take State Route 20 to Elyria. Go past the 20 by-pass. Route 20 turns into Oberlin. Take Oberlin to West Street and turn left.

When it's all over, Ross may wonder if it should have been played. What the Little Giants are walking into is this: The Pioneers are currently 6-1 in the BC and in a virtual tie with the 7-1 Marion Harding team while carrying an overall 8-1 mark. The only loss for the Pioneers was a 48-41 setback at the hands of Findlay.

If that is not enough, the Pioneers are the leading offensive and defensive team in the Conference and boast two of the BC's top 10 scorers. Add to those two totals the top rebounding average and the best field goal shooters and Ross will have its hands full.

The Pioneers are hitting

65.3 points per game with 6-2 senior Fred Balser leading the pack with a 15.6 norm. Teammate Clint Harris is averaging 12.7 per game, 10th in the BC.

Elyria is allowing 48.3 points per game while Ross is scoring at a 57.9 clip and giving up 53.4, third in the Conference.

Possible starters along with Balser and Harris are Eclister James, 5-9 senior, and Matt Mericle, 5-10 senior, at the guards and 6-7 sophomore Richard Montague at center.

On the plus side for Ross are Neal Oberholtzer, the Conference's leading rebounder with 10.4 average while scoring 13 points a game. Bob Ford is ninth in scoring with a 12.9 for Ross.



Punchless Ross loses to Pioneers

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

ELYRIA — "That's what killed us," Ross basketball coach Ken Miller gritted as he pointed an accusing finger at the scorebook. The book was not to blame but Elyria's Richard Montague was as the Pioneers rammed their way into a first place tie in the Buckeye Conference by stinging Ross, 54-45.

The Pioneers are now 7-1 in the BC, matching Marion Harding's mark. It was also the ninth win in 10 games for the Elyria team.

Miller's accusing finger was aimed at the first half showing of Montague, a 6-7 sophomore center. The Elyria leaper, who gives the appearance of a body supported by two toothpicks, popped in 15 first half points over the Ross defense and it wasn't supposed to happen.

"We were supposed to shut him off in the first half, too," Miller pointed out when he was asked what he had changed

in his defense to hold Montague to only two second half points. "We sagged in on him in the second half like we were supposed to do in the first half."

Elyria led at the half, 31-18.

While the Ross defense was helping to control the tempo of the game, Elyria coach Mike Riley credited Ross' defense and a bit of sluggishness on the part of his squad for the narrow score.

"I can't take anything away from the Ross defense . . . they handled us pretty good but there were times out there tonight where our kids seemed like they did not know what they were doing."

Riley continued talking about the slow start of his Pioneers. "We expected Ross to try an unorthodox defense against us and we thought they did when they played what appeared to be a 'box and one' with the one man on Balser (Fred)."

Whether Ross had a special defense or not, when it came down to the nitty

gritty, Ross did not have enough offense. The Little Giants were never out of the game but never came close enough to cause the Pioneers to panic.

From a deficit as high as 15 (45-30) in the third period, the Little Giants came back on the shooting of Neal Oberholtzer, Bob Ford, and Kevin Smith to trail by seven with less than a minute to play.

With Montague carrying the load, Ross' defensive effort on Balser, Elyria's leading scorer with a 15 point plus average, was nearly overlooked. Balser was held to only four points after a scoreless first half.

Matt Mericle turned field general in the final half to hit three key buckets to keep Ross off balance and the Pioneers out front. He finished with nine points while stinging Clint Harris dropped in 12 for Elyria.

Ross seemed to control the tempo of the game and Miller explained why.

"Elyria is a fast breaking team, a running team, but we played good defense and we were able to handle the press. When we got through that press, we were content to be patient and wait for our shot and our kids were patient."

Ross was patient but managed to hit only 16 of 44 shots while the Pioneers canned 24 of 50. The Little Giants hit 13 of 20 from the line to prevent a Pioneer pullaway.

Both Ford and Oberholtzer hit 14 points with Oberholtzer also grabbing 12 rebounds. Ross, unofficially, outrebounded Elyria, 32-28.

Score by quarters

ROSS	6	12	10	17	45
MARION	12	19	8	15	54

Scoring

ROSS	Oberholtzer 6-2-14, Ford 5-4-14, Celek 1-1, Balch 1-2-4, Clark 0-0-4, Fahrbach 0-2-2, Smith 2-0-4.
MARION	Flower 1-2-4, TOTALS 16-13-45

ELYRIA — Harris 5-2-12, Balser 2-0-4; Montague 8-1-17, Mericle 3-3-9, James 5-0-10, Underman 1-0-2; TOTALS 24-6-54

Reserve game: Elyria 49, Ross 41

Season records: Elyria 9-1 (7-1); Ross 4-7 (2-6)

'Ready Ross' wallops Marion Harding

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

MARION — Ross turned down the lights during practice early in the week and the effect made it feel like home in the Marion Harding High School gym.

The gym at the home of the Pioneers is not one of the better lighted playing areas in the state. As a matter of fact, if you put a match to two candles in that place, it would improve the lighting 100 per cent.

To counter the dim viewing and the surrounding darkness, Ross coach Ken Miller had his squad go through midcourt drills in dim lights at Ross High School. It worked wonders. The Little Giants drubbed the Pioneers, 66-52, in a crucial Buckeye Conference game for the Pioneers.

The loss booted Marion out of a first place tie for the Conference lead. The Pioneers, now 7-2 in the BC, fell one game back of Elyria, a 51-49 winner over Findlay.

Although Ross turned the lights out at home, Miller discounted the effect it had on his team. "It doesn't make any difference when it comes to playing the game, you have to be ready and we were ready. We had to play the game."

It was Ross off with Neal Oberholtzer and Dave Fahrbach controlling the boards and Pat Belch knifing his way through Marion's

pressing defense, the Little Giants raced to a 16-4 first quarter lead. That tempo set the pace for Ross.

From as little as a five point lead early in the third quarter, Ross zoomed to as much as a 17 point lead at the end of the period and late in the final period.

"We just played 32 minutes of good basketball," Miller said. "Everybody that was in played well."

The 6-5 Oberholtzer clicked on 10 of 13 shots while scoring 25 points and grabbing a team high 16 rebounds. Fahrbach, who took over for Mark Celek when the 6-8 senior went into foul trouble, grabbed 15 rebounds and tossed in 12 points for good measure.

Belch hit 13 points including nine of 11 free throws, six of them coming in the final period. It was Belch and fellow guard Jim Flower that were the weavers of the ball through the Marion press.

While Ross was having its day on offense, Oberholtzer and Bob Ford were putting the clamps on high scoring Randy Gipson of the Pioneers. Gipson managed to hit 17 points but for the better part of the game, the Ross duo did not allow him to get off a shot.

Ford scored eight first half points but did not score in the second 16 minutes. While he did not score, Ford came up with some key defensive

plays and was instrumental in the Little Giants' stalling offense in the last period.

It was a pleasant team effort for Miller and his team, which raised its BC record to 3-6, Ross sub Kevin Smith and Garry Clark gave Belch, Flower, and Ford enough rest to keep the five players on the floor fresh.

Celek, although hampered by fouls early in the game, helped to control the inside offense of the Pioneers. Flower, center, Pat Belch, scored only one point against Fahrbach and Celek.

Inside was where Marion coach Doug Riley wanted his team to go. "We knew we had to go inside on them but we weren't getting it in there," he said.

Early in the third period, Gipson hit three straight jumpups as Marion cut Ross' lead to 33-27, and it appeared as if the inside problem was licked. But Ross called time out and the inside game was a thing of the past for the Pioneers.

"We dropped our guards back in the middle and out of the ballandler," Miller said as he explained the adjustment he made in the timeout. "Belch and Flower did a good job of getting back on the ball."

Ross led by a 52-35 count at the end of third period but had to play the final 10 minutes with one player. Pat Belch hit the third and fourth of six straight free throws to stop the string. Belch hit two more free tosses while Oberholtzer

ipped one to give the Little Giants a 62-46 lead with 3:10 to play.

A few minutes later Ross iced the lead to 64-47 as Belch hit two consecutive technical four tosses. The game was over for the Pioneers at that point.

Ross canned 25 of 48 from the field while leading the rebounding war with a 46-26 margin. The Little Giants were guilty of only 16 turnovers in the contest.

Miller summed up his feelings about the game. "No one has been more disappoint with the season than the players. But they have goals . . . it's pretty easy to stop when things aren't going right but they have the character to stick it out and they did."

That's the way this team is going to play the rest of the way."

And with that Miller closed the door on the brightest page of the season for Ross.

Score by quarters

ROSS	16	14	22	14-66
MARION	47	17	15	54

Scoring

ROSS	Oberholtzer 10-5-25, Ford 4-4-8, Celek 1-0-4, Belch 2-0-4, Flower 4-4-8, Fahrbach 5-2-12, Smith 2-0-4.
MARION	Gipson 6-6-17, Harris 5-2-12, Balser 2-0-4; Montague 8-1-17, Mericle 3-3-9, Jones 2-0-4, Wigton 3-3-9, Kirkpatrick 3-0-4; TOTALS 25-16-64

Reserve game: Marion 38, Ross 29

Season records: Marion 7-1 (7-1); Ross 5-7 (3-6)



Streak mistakes costly in SBC loss

By JON DONNAN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

HURON — A disastrous series of three-second violations and turnovers in the last moments of a dull but deciding Sandusky Bay Conference clash Friday vaulted Huron into a first-place tie with Marion. The Tigers won 55-53.

The St. Joe team traveled to Huron only to suffer a 55-55 setback that neither coach was particularly pleased with but which Jess Hagy could accept.

"It was a big win for us," he said later. "I would have liked our team to play better but we'll take it." The Tigers won the SBC crown in 1971.

Marion, Carroll, St. Mary's and Perkins at 3-3 in the SBC. League action tonight between St. Joe and Perkins and Huron at Margaretta could iron out a few of the SBC wrinkles but it appeared to Carroll Cooley as though there might be a coincidence.

"The turnovers and lane violations killed us. There were probably eight or nine lane violations. We just didn't play

man defense in the first period when St. Joe ran up a 17-16 score with balanced scoring from Mark Strausbaugh, Dave Saller and Tom Kowaleks.

Kowaleks finished the night with a game-high total of 22 points, two ahead of Huron's sharpshooter Joel Link. Saller scored 10 points and Strausbaugh pushed through 17 points as well as leading the rebounding with 12 snags.

St. Joe gathered in 45 rebounds to Huron's 36.

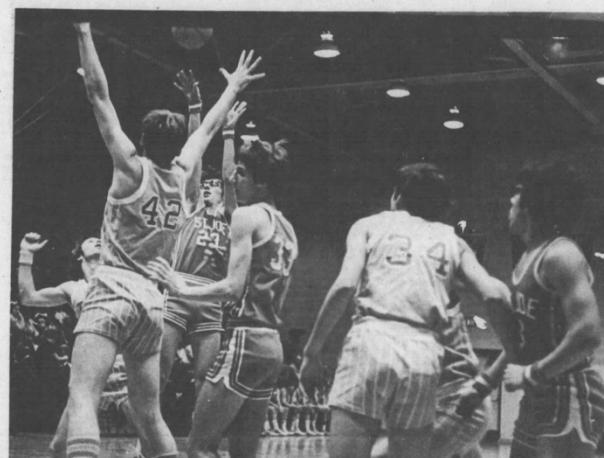
"The turnovers probably indicate that we weren't hustling, we were getting caught reaching in," Cooley said.

Hagy's thoughts ran parallel to Cooley's.

"I don't think the defense had anything to do with the poor offense both teams had. There were good shots from men on the floor but when you play an aggressive team that is slapping at the ball and reaching in, well you've got to win on fouls."

He felt that, "It's unusual to get beat on field goals and still win."

St. Joe's offense stuttered as the evening wore on with the Streaks



Two games for Ross

Ross will be coming off its best showing of the basketball season to face the team that whipped them earlier in the season in the Little Giants' poorest showing. The game marks the first of two Buckeye Conference encounters for coach Ken Miller's 5-7 squad.

The Little Giants, convincing upset winners over former BC pace setter, Marion Harding, last Friday, will host the Lorain Senior Steelmen on Friday and come back on Saturday for the trip to the land of the Trojans, Findlay.

Ross left little doubt about the outcome of last

de tonight

will take on Marion in the Little Giant tankers will stop a three-meet losing 2 p.m. meet.

I travel to St. Mary's to take wrestler. The two teams to battle it out for the Conference title later this

a will be at Ontario in a 11 meet, also on Saturday, in restling, Genoa will host

Friday's 66-52 win over Marion. The Ross squad jumped into the lead on the first bucket of the game and never surrendered it for the 32 minutes.

Miller called it the best 32 minutes of play his team has had and vowed that is "how they will play the rest of the season." However, one of the key players in the win over Marion, Dave Fahrbach, will miss both games this weekend due to the death of his father.

Fahrbach came off the bench to score 12 points and grab 15 rebounds.

Lorain won the first test of the season between the two schools, 54-50, in a game that was far less exciting than the score indicated. Ross played sloppily to say the least but those times are behind and Ross has improved vastly since that loss.

Leading the Steelmen will be Dave Chandler and Virgil Williams. One big change has been made in the Lorain lineup, Jordon Fitzpatrick will start in place of Bryon McCall, the Steelmen's 6-3 junior.

On Saturday night, Ross will be seeking to stop a Findlay club that edged them 50-47, the night after the Lorain game. Ross had a poor third period in the game and missed a chance to tie the game with 24 seconds to play and Findlay up by two.

Scott Hamlin of the Trojans is the chief nemesis for opposing teams. Hamlin tossed in 19 points against Ross and he is the BC scoring leader with a 19.1 average for the Conference games.

Findlay is 7-6 in the season and 5-4 in the BC, which has them in fourth spot behind pace setter Elyria, second place Marion, and third place Admiral King. Ross at 3-6 is tied for fifth spot with Mansfield.

Lorain is 2-7 and in a tie for last in the Conference with Sandusky.

Neal Oberholtzer of Ross continues to be the top rebounder in the league with 101 total rebounds and an 11.2 average per game. The 6-5 Ross forward is also fourth in scoring with a 14.4 norm. Bob Ford of Ross is eighth in scoring with a 12.4 average.

Oberholtzer pours in 28

Ross rolls over Lorain

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

Ross started the game off quickly with a good deal of steady play in between to win its sixth game of the season, 63-50, over Lorain Senior. The win upped the Little Giants' record to 6-7 overall and 4-6 in the Buckeye Conference.

Neal Oberholtzer tossed in 28 points with Jim Flower hitting 14 and Bob Ford, 12, as the Ross squad dominated the Steelmen. Ford was worth 22 points to the Ross cause with 10 timely assists to his teammates.

The Little Ross followed a pattern that they had established after last Friday night's upset win over Marion. In that game, the Little Giants proved that patience is a virtue by careful selection of their shots and in the Lorain win, patience played a big part again.

"We were patient," the Marauders' coach, Jim Miller, agreed. "I don't think we were as patient tonight. We may have had a little too much dribbling from our guards."

Overall, however, the varied play of the Little Giants pleased Miller. Flower's performance was a big help, naturally, but his defense on Bernard George, Lorain's second leading scorer, was possibly a bigger plus.

Flower was joined by steady Pat Belch, who only scored a single point, but directed the Ross offense with 10 assists and 12 points when the Steelmen started to press. Garry Clark took over in the latter stages of the game but the guard play did not sag for Miller.

"Hey," Ross assistant coach Don Burgess said as he thought about the game, "that's the kind of basketball we like to play."

Ross used a patterned offense against the switching defenses of the Steelmen and the offense paid off with the second straight .500 plus shooting night. The Little Giants canned 27 of 53 with Oberholtzer hitting 12 of 17.

Oberholtzer, a 6-5 senior forward, was the Ross man in control. He hit from the inside and disrupted the Steelmen's man-to-man defense. Oberholtzer also grabbed 14 rebounds, most of them coming in the second half of play.

He scored 18 points in the second half, 10 in the third period.

Ross scored the first seven points of the game and Lorain never got any closer throughout the rest of the game.

Mark Celek clicked on a three-point play a minute into the game and Ross was off running. The 6-8 Celek had possibly the best night of his Ross career with six points and 12 rebounds. He was not charged with a foul and generally stayed up in the middle of the Ross defense.

Ross played nearly flawlessly during the 22 minutes of play with only eight turnovers charged to them. Six of the miscues came in the second half of play.

The Little Giants' biggest lead was 59-41 with 1:45 left in the game, but that was when the Steelmen started to press. Garry Clark took over in the latter stages of the game but the guard play did not sag for Miller.

Miller explained the high scoring of

Oberholtzer (he has scored 83 points in the last four games).

"He's been in the middle of the game," Miller said. "Losing the ball during the middle of the game," Miller said. "Now we have him playing with his back to the bucket . . . when he was facing the bucket, he was getting forced too far outside; now he is getting inside and staying inside."

"Yeah," Burgess chimed in. "It was a 'hit and run' situation up there."

Byron McCall came off the bench to lead Lorain in scoring with 15. Virgil Williams had 13 but the rest of the Steelmen were pretty well bottled up by the Ross man to man defense.

Ross won the rebounding war with a 40-31 edge. Oberholtzer's 14 lead all rebounders with Celek's 12 next in line.

Tonight, the Little Giants travel to Findlay to try to keep its modest two-game win streak going. The Trojans swamped Sandusky, 77-57, Friday night to up their record to 8-6 and 6-4 in the BC. Findlay won the first meeting of the season, 51-48.

Score by quarters

Lorain	1	14	16	12-50
Ross	15	13	15	20-63

LORAIN — Williams 6-13, Fitzpatrick 3-6, George 2-5, McCall 7-15, Pressick 1-3, Sennone 1-2, Pagan 2-4; TOTALS 22-45. Ross — Oberholtzer 12-17, Celek 2-2, Belch 0-1, Flower 7-14, Clark 1-2; TOTALS 27-50.

Reserve game: Lorain 48, Ross 39

Season records: Ross 6-7 (4-6); Lorain 3-10 (2-8)

News-Messenger

Sports

Bob Marker, editor

Racial bias tag faces UC mentor

CINCINNATI (AP) — The 9-5 University of Cincinnati basketball team plays at Bowling Green State University tonight and reports of racial strife between black and white players at the school.

Melvin Posey, assistant professor of Afro-American Studies and president of the University Black Faculty Association (UBFA) said a report would be made to UC President Warren G. Bennis Monday.

"I deals with a number of complaints by the black faculty members about relations between the coach and black players," said Posey.

"The issues have been discussed with us by the players. There appear to be certain discriminatory practices on the part of the coach toward black players," Posey said.

"We've got to bring him back. I didn't think we talked about racial discrimination. It just was a rap session—you know."

"But what I may think is not discrimination may be discrimination to somebody else."

Catlett was suspended at the airport and said he did "not contact UBFA," Posey said.

"Now, I'll say this again. I run this basketball team, not the faculty, not the players, not white groups, not black groups, not Jewish groups, not Catholics. If the University wants them to run it, then they can get another basketball coach."

Artis Brown, a black assistant coach, defended Catlett.

"I will say Coach Catlett definitely is not racially prejudiced," he said. UBFA had contacted him but did not discuss the racial situation.

"As long as I'm playing for the University of Cincinnati, I've got to do what the coach says. He's in charge of the basketball team. He tries to be fair with me. He has respect for me," said Franklin, adding he was not aware of any prejudice.

Williams said "I don't know anything."

Said Jones, a freshman, "I have problems, period. I just listed them. Racial matters? I don't think they were. I could have more and more to say about it. It's hard. I'll say this, this could be a helluva program if they get things straightened out, a helluva program."

"We feel," said Posey, "the need for an investigation because there are apparently some difficulties. The findings of our investigation will be reported to the president, the athletic director and the university's board of directors."



ONE MIGHTY SCREAM AND HE'S OFF AND RUNNING . . . Pat Belch of Ross cuts toward the basket in the fourth quarter.

Liquori runs additional mile

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Miles Marty Liquori, racing what he said will be his only two-mile run of the season, came from 20 yards back with two laps to go and beat John Ngeno at the San Francisco Examiner Games Friday night.

Ngeno, a Washington

State junior from Kenya and NCAA three-mile indoor champ, led by a big margin from the first quarter-mile until Liquori made his move.

At the mile mark, Ngeno was 1.17 seconds ahead, about 30 yards. Frank Shorter of the Florida Track Club, Liquori moved

ahead of Shorter, but Ngeno kept a quarter-lap lead with a half-mile to go.

With the crowd of 12,598 urging him on, Liquori took the lead at the start of the last lap and sped away from Ngeno, who faded into fourth.

Liquori's time of 8:40.8 was well under the New York Athletic Club runner's best two-mile of 8:52.5, and the second clocked 8:45.8; John Lawson of the Pacific Coast Club 8:47.8, and Shorter 8:54.2 in fourth.

In the shot put, Al Feuerbach won the event with 69-3 1/2.

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Liquori's time

Ross stuns Findlay in triple overtime

FINDLAY — Ross picked up an elusive win against Findlay and Findlay coach John Stozich got one of his "druthers" that he did not particularly want.

The Little Giants pulled off a 77-75, triple overtime win over the Trojans at a place where the Trojans were seldom seen on their own court. The game marked the first time that Ross has beaten Findlay since 1968, a game span of 14.

"And it was by one point that time," Stozich said referring to the point spread in that last Ross win over the Trojans.

Stozich continued, "I have to lose a game to anyone. I'd rather lose it to Kenny Miller."

It was one "druther" that he would just as soon not have had. The Trojans have a 6-5 Buckeye Conference mark now and the previous four losses have been by 4, 3, 1, and 2 points.

"I led all the stops out for this one," Miller, Ross head coach, laughed after the game.

Two of the "stops" that Miller pulled out in the second period with the insertion of Kevin Smith and Dave Fahrbach, into the Ross lineup. Trailing, 21-15, going into the period, the reserve duo paced the Little

Giants to a 32-31 lead midway through the period on Fahrbach's shot from the left side.

Fahrbach scored nine points in the period while Smith had eight.

The second half was nip and tuck all the way with Ross never getting even with the Trojans until the last two minutes of the game when Fahrbach threw a short shot to deadlock the game at 61-all.

Ross, however, was in trouble after that scrappy Trojan guard Scott Hamlin put Findlay on top, 63-61. The second half was at the 1:25 mark of the game. Ross missed a chance to tie it with Findlay's 10th ball with 16 seconds to play and seemingly had the game wrapped up.

But Ross's Bob Ford had a better idea. He stepped in front of a Findlay pass with 12 seconds to play and deflected the ball down to Kevin Smith who was in right corner. Smith put the ball in and in from set to score the game in the first overtime with the score at 63-63.

After that, the score was tied at 67 and 73, at the end of the first two overtimes. Ross had command of the first extra three minute session with Neal Oberholzer's two free throws drawing first blood at

the 2:20 mark. Ron Linhart hit two charity tosses for Findlay to knot the score but Ford put Ross on top with 45 seconds to go with 12 footer from the left side.

The Trojans 6-6 junior center Mark Van Gunten tied the game with 35 seconds to go to cry the second extra period. Findlay scored first in the second overtime on Van Gunten's bucket but Ross' Jim Flower tied the game with a pair of free throws. However, Findlay took charge again on a bucket by Brad Bosse.

Flower got the equalizer for Ross with six seconds to go with a popping 6-footer. On the return movement, Findlay's Kevin Arnold was called for charging into Fahrbach's shot with one second showing on the clock. But Fahrbach's shot rimmed the basket and the teams marched into the third overtime session.

Linhart hit from the middle to give the Trojans a 78-77 lead to the surprise of Ross. Ross' Fahrbach responded with a shot from underneath to tie the game and Ford hit the game winner at the 1:35 mark from the top of the key. Bosse missed a free throw after Fahrbach picked up his fifth foul and Ford pulled in the rebound.

Ross called timeout with 1:07 to play and afterwards, worked the ball down until Smith was called for carrying the ball at the 24 second mark. Ford came up with the big play again by forcing a jump ball but Findlay came up with the ball and called time with seven seconds left to play.

The Ross zone had not been during the final seconds as the Trojans tried to get underneath but had to settle for Linhart's shot from the side which sailed over the buckey and into Ford's hands as the buzzer ended the game.

Ford finished the night with 24 points in what had to be Ross' sweetest win in many years. Fahrbach had 20 with Smith and Oberholzer coming a dozen apiece. Linhart had 13 and Findlay had 15 of those coming in the first half of play. Hamlin had 19 fouled out in the first overtime. He had 13 in the first 16 minutes of play. Van Gunten ended up with 17.

Findlay was 30 of 64 while Ross had 30 of 57, the third consecutive time that the Little Giants have hit over .500. Findlay outrebounded Ross, 35-21. Ross hit 17 of 23 from the line while Findlay had 15 of 22.

Defenses, halftime talk helped Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FINDLAY — "A little optimism and a positive way of talking" helped revive Ross from halftime doldrums and pointed the way to a triple overtime, 77-75, upset win over the Findlay Trojans.

That was how Kenny Miller, Ross head coach,

described his halftime talk to his team.

"They were down mentally despite trailing by only four points (42-38) at the half," Miller recalled Sunday afternoon after the big Ross win Saturday night.

But Miller's talk and a defensive suggestion by Miller's assistant coach, Don Burgess, brought the Little Giants back in the second half and the three subsequent overtimes to the Buckeye Conference win.

"Coach Burgess suggested at the half that what we were doing defensively in the first half was good but that we were staying put too long. Because we were staying put so long, Findlay was adjusting to the particular defense we were playing."

He suggested we attack the ball defenses (two zone defenses) in the second half. If you recall, they slowed down in that third quarter when we started to do this."

Ross would change defenses after scoring and it seemed to confuse the Trojans.

Miller credited the insertion of Kevin Smith and Dave Fahrbach into the lineup as a definite key to the win.

"Those two and the play of Kevin, Findlay," Miller mentioned and then added, "actually, all eight players

that played contributed key plays at one point or another."

Miller was right but the play of Ford, Smith, and Fahrbach was impressive because of the pressure he may have been under. The Little Giants' 6-4 junior was faced with a personal crisis: his father died early in the week and had been buried Saturday night.

"What can you say about David," Miller asked, but said immediately afterwards, "He's a person with fantastic courage to do what he did. I don't know if I could have done it."

Fahrbach explained his play and gave an indication that he may have been playing the game of his life. "Dad should have wanted it this way," he said simply.

For the group of Ross seniors, Neal Oberholzer, Smith, Ford, Jim Flower, and Mark Celek, it was easy to see that they had beaten Findlay on the hardwood. Ford and Oberholzer explained the bedlam that dominated the Ross locker room after the game. "Three pointed words: 'It's just Findlay,'" they both said.



Rob McAdoo of the Buffalo Braves and Don Nelson of the Boston Celtics stretch for a loose ball in the first period of their game in Boston Sunday. Paul Silas of the Celtics and Jack Marin of the Braves are at left.

Tankers knock off Marion

Ross won nine of 11 events while coasting to a 52-31 win over the Marion Harding swim team. But the large amount of firsts and the easy win did not rest easy with Ross coach Tim Loehr.

"We're in a rut," the first year swim coach said. "The girls are dropping as we expected and our swimmers are still making basic mistakes that are costing us points in meets."

Loehr said that most of the trouble seems to be coming at the finish when the swimmers are easing up instead of swimming through to the finish.

But Ross did not lose too many points to the Prexies. With Kirk Hess and Marty Mason coming up with two wins apiece and a quartet of other tankers turning in good performances, the Little Giants cruised to the win.

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — It's characteristic of the man that Gene Littler sometimes infrequently refers to my mind-set-back of a couple of years ago.

He's a soft-spoken, unemotional, low-key type and generally is considered one of the finest gentlemen in the game of golf.

His "little set-back" was cancer.

He underwent surgery that involved some irreparable damage to shoulder muscles. His career appeared to at an end. His life was in danger.

But the quietly determined man came back, working, exercising, finally playing again. He came back to win the 1973 St. Louis Open. But there was always the thought lurking in his mind, he

"There's not a lot to say," mused Miller, who seemed relieved that the intense pressure of constant, daily national attention had been shifted from him.

"I don't have any regrets," he said. "I tried hard on every shot."

"My game just needs rest," he continued. "There's nothing wrong with my game. I have the technical part of it down pat. It's now 90 per cent."



'New look' Ross brightens season

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

A "change in direction" and a rearrangement of goals" has turned the Ross Little Giants basketball team from a lack-lustre 2-6 team into a very respectable and exciting 7-7 team. Those two observations of the change were expressed in a conversation with head coach Ken Miller last Sunday afternoon, the day after his team had reached the .500 mark.

Reaching that break even mark came at the expense of archrival Findlay and it was an old fashioned "barn burner" to the last degree. Ross won, 77-75, but not before the final buzzer had sounded at the end of the third overtime.

This weekend, Ross will get a chance to go two games above the break even mark by hosting Sandusky Friday night in the 12th Buckeye Conference game of the season, and traveling to Toledo Whitmer Saturday night.

Ross downed the Blue Streaks of Sandusky, 64-38, in the first meeting of the two schools. Bob Ford led Ross in that game with 21 points with Ken Pearson dropping in 11 for Sandusky.

Miller talked about the transition his team has made since the team hit its rock bottom mark of 2-6.

"We had a team meeting," he began. "We established at the meeting that we would have to rearrange our goals — change our directions. I told them that there was no way that we could win the Buckeye Conference since we had lost five Conference games at that point. We had simply blown our chance.

"From that meeting we set new goals

and the kids have been working hard to reach those goals," Miller said. "We always felt that we had the ability, but it was just a question as to when we would begin to believe in ourselves again."

Although Miller did not go into specifics about the new goals that the Ross team set, getting to the .500 mark was one of the first aims. That much they accomplished in quick, smooth style.

Ross will face a Sandusky roundball team that is struggling. It's simply that factor that makes the Blue Streaks all the more dangerous. They can play just as reckless as they want in going all out against any opponent.

The Blue Streaks are led by Pearson who is producing points at a 12.3 rate in the BC. The Blue Streaks are now 3-11 overall and in a tie for the bottom rung of the BC ladder with Lorain at 2-9.

Sandusky will start the game with 6-3 junior John Clark at center with Pearson, 6-2 junior, at one forward and 6-2 junior Ken Grant at the other forward spot. One guard will be Dave Aaron, 6-1 junior, while the guard position is a tossup between junior Dale Schnittker, 5-10, or Jesse Jackson, 5-10 junior.

On Saturday, the Little Giants make the short trip to Toledo to face Whitmer, a team that has won six of 15 games.

The Panthers will start a lineup that will be a bit smaller than the Ross team. At the guards will be Ray Smith, 6-0, and Mark Hamilton, 5-10, both seniors. Paul Graham, 6-4 senior, and Mark Chitwood, 6-1 junior, will get the call at forwards, and 6-4 Dave Baker, a junior, will start at center.

Smith's shot shades Blue Streaks, 53-52

By BOB MARKER

N-O Sports Editor

Kevin Smith must have a deed to the right baseline of basketball gyms. There is no doubt about it, he owns the area five to 15 feet out along that place and it's a good thing for Ross High School's basketball team that he does claim most of it.

For the second game in a row, Smith hit the clutch basket that saved the Little Giants. This time it was a six footer from the right baseline with six seconds to play to give Ross its fourth straight win and send Sandusky with a 53-52 Buckeye Conference loss.

It leveled the BC mark at 6-6 while Sandusky fell to 3-10.

The Blue Streaks scored four points within eight seconds to take a 52-51 lead with 17 seconds to play in

the game. The last two pointer coming on Ken Grant's theft of an inbounds Ross pass and subsequent layup.

But Smith was the man of the seconds for Ross. Little Giants' coach Ken Miller called timeout at the second mark to set up the inbounds play against the Blue Streaks.

Smith was the man to toss the ball inbounds. The Ross guard got the ball into Bob Ford in the right corner but Ford was immediately surrounded by Blue Streaks, but he managed to get the ball to Neal Oberholzer at midcourt. The 6-5 Ross forward took a couple of dribbles as the seconds ticked off the clock, looked downcourt, and eased a pass to Smith who was in his prime. Little did the Ross fans know.

Smith put that one up and through and Sandusky had been saddled with its 12th loss of the season.

Had Miller aimed to go to Smith.

"No," he said, "the play was not set up for Smith, it just happened to be him that got the shot and we were glad it was him tonight."

But Smith had the last laugh. The second mark to set up the inbounds play against the Blue Streaks.

Smith was the man to toss the ball inbounds. The Ross guard got the ball into Bob Ford in the right corner but Ford was immediately surrounded by Blue Streaks, but he managed to get the ball to Neal Oberholzer at midcourt. The 6-5 Ross forward took a couple of dribbles as the seconds ticked off the clock, looked downcourt, and eased a pass to Smith who was in his prime. Little did the Ross fans know.

Smith put that one up and through and Sandusky had been saddled with its 12th loss of the season.

Last Saturday night, Smith had hit a 15 footer from the same general area at Findlay to tie the game at 63-all with six seconds to play. Ross eventually won, 77-75, in three overtimes.

Findlay's Paul Belch along with Smith starred in the Findlay win, once again played a big part in Ross' play. Fahrbach, a 6-3 junior, scored 18 points and grabbed several key rebounds.

Fahrbach and Smith had help in the final eight minutes from guards Paul Belch and Jim Flower. Belch had six markers and Flower, three, with the duo providing the final perimeter action.

The win was a good one for Ross and Miller

concluded that it was under the circumstances.

"We have played better than we did tonight," he admitted, "but on the other hand, Sandusky was a good team tonight."

"They have been putting together two good quarters of play in recent games but tonight they played four good quarters against us."

Sandusky's defense may have forced Ross into a poor game but as Miller pointed out to his team in the locker room afterwards, "You (Ross) took what was a

bad ball game for you and turned it from disaster into success. You had to have it, you had it."

Ross led by four, 45-41, on Fahrbach's turn around shot with 4:16 to play for its biggest lead of the night. However, the hot shooting of Greg Collins in the final period brought them back when Ross was bidding to go up by a bigger margin.

But it boiled down to Ross having the chief homeleader in Smith and he had the right shot at the right time.

Fahrbach's 13 led Ross with Oberholzer and Ford hitting eight apiece. Ken Pearson and Dale Schnitter fired in 14 apiece to lead Sandusky.

Statistically, Ross had 19 of 54 while the Blue Streaks converted 18 of 49. Fahrbach and Little Giant took it at the foul line with 15 of 18. Sandusky hit six of nine. Ross won the battle of the boards with a 29-20 edge but had 18 turnovers to Sandusky's 13.

In the junior varsity contest, Ross won only its third game of the year, 44-36, tripling the Junior Blue.

Stevens, 44-36, John Kiser led Ross with 15 points while Denny Smith had 12 and Kim Stout 10.

Tonight, Ross will travel to Toledo Whitmer in

search of its ninth win in a row.

Score by quarters

Sandusky 14 12 11 15-52

Ross 12 14 8 19-52

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Aaron 1-0-2, Grant 2-0-4, Clark 2-2-6, Pearson 5-14,

Stevens 4-6-12, Collins 3-0-4, McKenzie 2-0-4, Schnitter 7-0-14;

TOTALS 23-4-32

ROSS — Oberholzer 4-1, Ford 3-2-8, Fahrbach 6-6-18, Celek 1-0-2,

Smith 4-4-14, Clark 3-0-6, Pearson 3-0-6, TOTALS 19-12-53

Reserve game: Ross 44, Sandusky 38

Season records: Ross 8-7 (6-0); Sandusky 3-12 (2-10)



BUCKEYE CONFERENCE commissioner Dick Baron, second from left, presented Ross principal Dick Budorf, right, with a pennant symbolizing the Buckeye Conference All-Sports championship. Ross won the award in the 1973-74 school year, the second

year that the award has been given. At the left of Baron is Ross Athletic Director Dick Sherman. The ceremony was held at halftime of the Ross-Sandusky basketball game.



Whitmer directions

Directions to Toledo Whitmer High School

Take 20 to 200. Take 200 through Toledo and pick up I-75 south to Douglas Road. Turn right on Douglas and go to Alexis. Turn left on Alexis. Whitmer is on Alexis Road.

The reserve game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Laver pitted against Connors

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Jimmy Connors made \$285,490 in tennis tournaments in 1974.

Not bad for a year that's 22 years old.

Even though 20 years old, Connors can win more than a third of that—\$100,000 and a new car.

His opponent, Rod Laver, can almost match his 1974 earnings—\$117,450—by winning their nationally televised best three-of-five set match which begins at 1 p.m. EST, before 4,000 spectators in a special tennis tournament park.

If you feel too sorry for the loser, you should know he will make perhaps as much as \$60,000, even though the match is billed as a winner-take-all.

Twenty years ago the world's top pros squared off on a tennis court for a \$100 prize. Laver remembers leaner days.

When reporters asked him Friday if he felt challenged by the match, considering the fact that he has won tennis' grand slam twice, the 36-year-old Australian quickly replied, "There's definitely

Cavs blasted by Celts

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics keep rolling along and Coach Bill Fitch of the Cleveland Cavaliers is still interested in getting a team that's unable to find a flaw in the defending National Basketball Association champs.

"They're a great club right now," said Fitch Friday night after his Cavaliers were trampled 121-99 by the Celtics before a packed crowd of 15,320 at

"We shot like sons of guns, we didn't have many turnovers and we ran well," said Boston Coach Tom Heinsohn.

The Celtics didn't show any rustiness from four days off. Everything they did seemed to click and the Cavaliers, playing without injured ace Austin Carr, were blown out of contention. Cleveland also was hurt when 6-foot-10 Jim Havlicek was needed for only 26 minutes, getting 12

points and passing in

Steve Patterson and Luke Witte shared Chones' center spot. They totaled only nine points and 11 rebounds.

Boston center Dave Cowens scored 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds while playing only 31 minutes. Jo Jo White had 24 points in 36 minutes of action. Captain John Havlicek was needed for only 26 minutes, getting 12

points and passing in



MARK CELEK

Arnie trails by one

HONOLULU (AP) — "Just one shot back," mused Arnold Palmer. "One shot. Well, that's not too bad. Not bad at all. I'm always pleased to go into the last round — any last round — just one shot behind."

And that's the position the 45-year-old Palmer found himself in today, one shot back of young Forrest Fezler going into the rain-delayed final round of the \$220,000 Hawaiian Open Golf Tournament.

Palmer, a struggling non-winner for the last two years and trying to make a comeback from 1974, his worst season ever, twice had a share of the lead in third-round play but had to be content with a three-under-par 69 and a 205 total, one shot back of Fezler, who carded a 68.

"It wasn't a bad round, but it wasn't a good one," Palmer said. "I made some mistakes I shouldn't have made. But it's better than I've been playing. And I have a little more confidence in what I'm

Whitmer is Ross' roundball victim

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Staff Writer

TOLEDO — A nearly 2-1 edge in rebounds proved to be just enough for the Ross High Little Giant basketball team Saturday night at the Toledo Whitmer gym.

The Giants took the lead for good midway through the third period and held on for a 56-50 victory over the host Panthers for their seventh win in their last eight games.

The 50-27 edge in rebounds was the story for Ross, who overcame a somewhat subpar shooting performance for the victory.

"Anytime you win on the road you have to be a little happy," commented Ross coach Ken Miller. "We've certainly played better," he admitted.

Ross was again paced by Neal Oberholtzer who pulled down 19 rebounds and scored 17 points and was aided by a season high scoring mark for 6-8 center Mark Celek, who tallied 14 points.

"For the most part we were giving them just one shot, especially in the second half, commented Miller. The Giants also used their height advantage underneath to pull down 24 offensive rebounds. With Celek and 6-5 Oberholtzer, the Panthers were at a definite disadvantage with high scorer Paul Graham and Dale Lewis, both at 6-3, as their tallest men underneath.

Although the Giants looked as if they could have broken the game open in the fourth quarter, the Panthers were never out of the game until Celek sank two free throws to put the Giants ahead 55-48 with less than a minute to play, and the ball out of bounds because of a technical foul.

Ross pulled ahead 49-40 midway through the fourth period on a bucket by Oberholtzer, but turned the ball over on five different occasions to allow Whitmer to pull within five at 53-48, before Celek was fouled by Graham when rebounding a missed shot and a technical foul was called on Whitmer's Dave Watkins.

"We started getting careless," said Miller, whose team was able to handle a Whitmer press most of the game. "It looked as if our players thought we had the game won before it was over," explained Miller.

Ross held Whitmer to one field goal in the lackluster first quarter, which

featured mostly missed shots and turnovers a department which Ross won 17 to 15.

Ross led through most of the beginning, but six unanswered points on a bucket and two free throws by Graham and two by Lewis put the Panthers ahead for the first time 18-16.

Whitmer led 21-18, but Celek connected on two field goals and a free throw to send Ross ahead 23-21 at the halftime buzzer.

Two buckets by Graham and one each by Ray Smith and Mark Chitwood helped Whitmer turn a 25-21 deficit into a 29-27 lead. It proved to be the last time they led, as a bucket by Oberholtzer put the Giants ahead for good 30-29, midway through the third period.

Giant high scoring forward Bob Ford was held scoreless in the first half, but helped key the second half spurt with five field goals and 12 points, before fouling out in the last minute.

"He (Ford) started connecting," said Miller. "I felt he put some crucial shots in for us," the coach continued.

A 2-3 zone defense employed by Ross in the late stages slowed down the Whitmer offense even more and prevented them from taking too much advantage of the Ross miscues late in the game.

"We did that to change the pace," said Miller. "They (Whitmer) did hit a couple outside, though," he continued.

Both teams shot about 38 per cent from the field, with Ross connecting on 21 of 55 shots and Whitmer, hitting on 17 out of 44. Ross had trouble from the foul line, going to the line 27 times and connecting on 14. Whitmer hit 16 out of 23 from the charity stripe.

Ford and reserve Dave Fahrbach fouled out for Ross and reserve Dave Baker fouled out for the Panthers.

The Giants, who once found themselves at 2-6 this year, are now assured of at least a .500 record in regular season play.

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Ross	9	14	17	16-56	
Whitmer	8	13	13	16-50	
SCORING					
ROSS	— Oberholtzer 7-3-17, Ford 5-2-12, Celek 5-4-14, Smith 2-0-4, Fahrbach 1-4-6, Beilch 1-1-3; TOTALS 21-14-56				
WHITMER	— Lewis 2-9-13, Chitwood 3-2-8, Graham 7-4-18, Smith 2-1-5, Hamilton 1-0-2, Baker 2-0-4; TOTALS 17-16-50				
Reserve game: Whitmer 45, Ross 37					
Season records: Ross 9-7, Whitmer 6-10					

Elyria can clinch title against Ross Friday

The Elyria Pioneers roll into town Friday night with a mission as they take on the hottest team in the Buckeye Conference, Fremont Ross.

The Pioneers, 14-1

Ross girls at Bellevue

The Ross girls basketball team will travel to Bellevue today to face the Redmen girls team. Ross is 1-1 with a victory over Willard in the first game of the season.

The junior varsity game will start at 4:15 with the varsity contest slated to follow immediately afterwards.

McGilton's 21 paces Red win

Steve McGilton scored 21 points and the Fremont Red eighth grade team tripped Sandusky, 52-41. Sandusky never got back into the game after the Red ran up a 22-8 score in the first period.

The Red had a 31-23 lead at the half.

Score by quarters

Sandusky	8	15	6	12-41
Fremont Red	22	9	12	9-52

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Evans 3-4-10, DeHenning 6-2-14, Abrams 4-1-9, Kirksey 0-2-2, Fuller 1-0-2, Guerra 1-2-4; TOTALS 15-11-41

FREMONT RED — McGilton 8-5-21, Darling 2-1-5, Holmes 4-0-8, Brudzinski 3-0-6, Fahrbach 3-0-6, Szakovits 3-0-6; TOTALS 23-6-52

overall, and 11-1 in the Conference race, have already clinched at least a tie for the BC crown and can win it by knocking off Ross. The Little Giants are 9-7 overall and 6-6 in the BC (tied with Findlay for fourth) but have won five in a row and seven of the last eight.

"I think Ross is the most improved team from the middle of December up till now that we have faced," Elyria coach Mike Riley said. "Statistically, they have cut down on the turnovers which has in turn made their offense more effective."

Elyria beat Ross in the first tussle between the schools, 54-45, in a game that Ross was never out of until the last minute of play.

Riley, a good friend of Ross coach Ken Miller from their coaching days at Bellefontaine and Sidney high schools, respectively, commented about the Ross size.

"Ross is getting good mileage out of their size . . . and it shows on the rebounding chart. I think that no matter who they have in the middle, Fahrbach (Dave) or Celek (Mark), they get the job done."

Miller and Riley both agreed about changing any of the Pioneer system. Miller said it wryly with a "why change when you are 14-1?"

And Riley concurred adding that "no major

changes" are in store for his team.

Miller hinted that he is not sure about his starting lineup for the Conference leaders while Riley's lineup is pretty well set.

Ross' lineup could see any of the eight regular players in the starting five with Miller also talking about a "tall" lineup that could play at some time during the game. That lineup would have 6-5 Neal Oberholtzer, 6-8 Celek, and 6-4 Fahrbach on the floor.

"We've been looking at the taller players," Miller said, "but I am not saying that we will start that type of a lineup. The 'tall' lineup is the same one we experimented with before the season started."

Miller has adopted a "restful" practice schedule for his team this week. Ross did not practice Monday and Wednesday but was on the floor Tuesday and will go back out today in

preparation for Friday night.

"Last week we were a little sluggish," Miller said as he explained the unusual practice setup. "And the flu bug has been going around . . . that, and the season gets to be pretty long this time of the year and it helps sometime to take a little time off."

Elyria will send Eclister James, 5-9 senior, and Matt Mericle, 5-10 senior, at the guards; Richard Montague, 6-7 sophomore, who hurt Ross in the first game, at center; Fred Balser, 6-2 senior and Clint Harris, 6-3 senior, at the forwards, onto the floor against Ross.

Ross will probably counter with the same starting five that has carried them to the winning streaks. That will be Jim Flower and Pat Belch at the guards; Celek at center; and Oberholtzer and Bob Ford at the forwards.

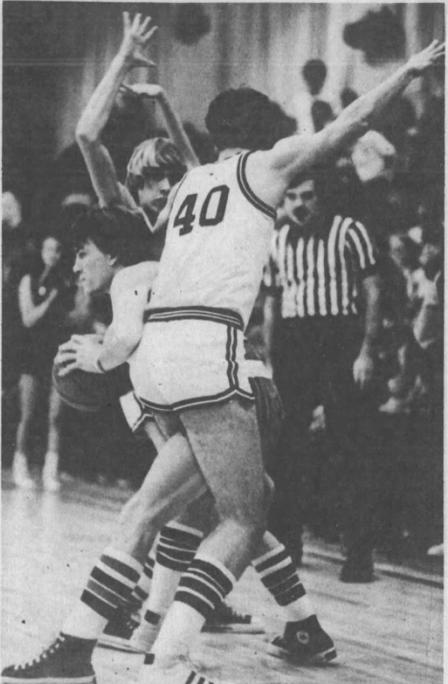
Purple wins seventh

Fremont Purple racked up its seventh straight dual win by thrashing Fassett junior high, 49-19. Four pins were registered for the Purple with Bob Kanan's 38 second effort the quickest of the day in the 155 pound class.

Other pins were turned in by Charlie Clark, Junior Rodriguez, and Karl Schabel.

95—Chester Fry (FP) defeated Randy Pyle (F) 7-4
100—Stacy Simmons (FP) defeated Chuck Drain (F) 11-0
105—Greg Orndorf (FP) defeated Dave Drain (F) 12-0
110—Doug Winslow (F) defeated Rex Mason (FP) 5-4
115—Dave Campbell (FP) and Gregg Anthony (F) drew, 1-1
120—Bob Growel (FP) defeated Ron Baker (F) 10-2
126—Dave Garza (FP) defeated Joel Roberts (F) 2-0
132—Rob LaPlante (F) defeated Jim Howell (FP) 21-0
138—Bob Maier (FP) defeated Rick Kersey (F) 11-4
145—Charlie Clark (FP) pinned

Elyria wraps up Buckeye Conference title



A FEW TOO MANY legs can make the situation a bit crowded. Neal Oberholzer (40) and Kevin Smith (background) surround Elyria's Matt Mercile in fourth quarter action. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

Pioneers knock off Ross, 64-48

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Elyria clinched the Buckeye Conference championship by shooting by Ross, 64-48, before a jam packed Ross High School gymnasium Friday night. It was the first Conference title since Mike Riley took over as coach in 1971.

The Pioneers are now 12-1 in the BC with only Lorain Senior left in its Conference slate next Friday. Elyria plays 12-4 Ashland tonight in the Pioneer home.

Despite the 16-point loss, Ross coach Kenny Miller could manage a smile. "That's a good team we lost to," he said.

"We missed a lot of open shots, especially from 15 feet and less that we normally make. In other words, the ball just didn't bounce the right direction for us tonight."

The Little Giants connected on only 19 of 60 shots from the field while Elyria canned 26 of 50 enroute to the title.

For Riley, the game did not fail to offer a few surprises.

"I was a little concerned when I saw the lineup that Ross started. It was bigger than we expected and we didn't know how we'd handle it," he said.

Miller started what he termed as his "tall" lineup with 6-8 Mark Celek, 6-5 Neal Oberholzer, and 6-4 Dave Fahrbach on the front line and 6-2 Bob Ford and 6-0 Jim Flower in the backcourt.

Riley felt he came up with the neutralizer for the tall Ross team in the form of a 2-3 zone defense.

"That and we were getting down floor faster than they were in the second quarter."

The Pioneers jumped on Ross for the first eight points of the stanza to run up an 18-8 lead. Later in the quarter, Elyria reached 13 at 24-11.

Elyria had a 10-0 run in the first period but did not score for the last three and one-half minutes of that period. But Ross could not find the bucket in the same interval and trailed 10-8 after one quarter of action.

"The defense had a lot to do with that in the first quarter," Riley said. "Ross' team was getting out of the half court shot and that was it."

Elyria led at the half, 28-18, after building up a 28-14 margin with 15 seconds to go in the half. Celek's tip and Ford's steal resulted in two quick buckets to get the Elyria margin down to 10.

That was about as close as Ross came during the final 15 minutes of action. On two different occasions, Ross did pull to within nine, late in the third period and once in the fourth stanza.

Clint Harris, a 6-3 forward for the Pioneers, hit six straight charity tosses in the last period and Fred Balser dropped five points to draw any Ross hopes off.

Harris led all scorers with 18 points while Balser had 15. Richard Montague, a 6-7 sophomore, popped in 13 to give Riley's team good balance. Eclister James contributed 10.

Miller summed up the loss with a shrug and said, "Right now we are still working on our season and getting ready for the tournament."

The loss stopped Ross' five game win streak and put the Little Giants at 9-8 for the season.

Some of Miller's work for the one game remaining in the season and the tournament included all eight players in the varsity action for Ross. Ford led Ross with 11 points but Kevin Smith came off the bench to score 10 second half points in another good game by the 6-3 senior.

Ford and Smith were the only Ross scorers in double figures.

Elyria won the rebounding battle, 43-30, but committed 17 turnovers to Ross' 15.

Elyria also won the reserve game, 49-37, with John Kiser dropping in 14 points for Ross.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

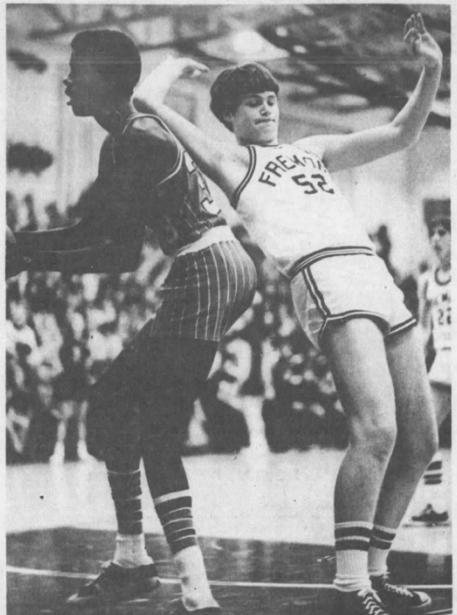
Elyria	Ross	10	18	17	19-44
		8	10	16	14-48

ELYRIA — Balser 6-3-15, Harris 6-6-18, Montague 5-5-13, Mercile 1-0-2, James 5-0-10, Underman 3-0-5, TOTALS 26-12-64

ROSS — Oberholzer 6-2-18, Ford 5-5-14, Celek 3-6-4, Flower 1-1-3, Montague 6-2-13, Balser 6-2-13, Smith 5-0-10, Clark 1-0-1, TOTALS 19-10-48

Reserve game: Elyria 49, Ross 37

Season records: Elyria 15-1 (12-1); Ross 9-8 (6-7)



THE WIND appeared to be a bit strong in the Ross gym Friday night as Ross' Mark Celek (52), above, has his problems keeping his balance. Elyria's Richard Montague is at the

left. In the bottom photo, Fred Balser of Elyria looks for someone to throw the ball to despite being on the floor. Bob Ford, right, of Ross is ready to go after the ball.



News Messenger

Sports

Bob Marker, editor

NFL appears gullible, drug charges dropped

ST. LOUIS (AP) — "I'm sure Roxie is going to write a book on this—she'll make a million dollars," a federal drug official said Friday as he announced an unsuspecting and a young woman's allegations that she acted as a drug courier for professional athletes.

The federal agent's remarks were welcomed by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, who said the league's investigation concurred with that of the DEA.

"Unfortunately, as has happened in the past, because of the enormous publicity given to the irresponsible allegations,

the results do not fully remove the stigma placed on some players and therefore on the league as a whole," Rozelle said.

The story of Miss Rice's travels posing as a journalist, medical researcher and socialite from the African nation of Ghana was disclosed last month following her arrest on charges of defrauding an

involvement and fraudulent use of a credit card.

In a police memorandum, she detailed how she traveled in late 1974, supposedly to provide NFL players with drugs. There were statements implicating the American Basketball Association.

Those, too, were discounted by Maher.

He told reporters her travels began at about the same time an issue of Ebony Magazine appeared in which several black NFL players were pictured.

He said some of them and the same players Miss Rice mentioned in her report to police.

Miss Rice is free on bail pending a reappearing trial March 3 to face the charges.

Maher said "there are extortion possibilities" in the actions of Miss Rice and he said his office's report would be sent within a week to the U.S. attorney for possible action.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The University of Cincinnati lost more money on its athletic program than any of the 12 state-supported or assisted universities in the state—\$909,999—according to the Ohio Auditor's office.

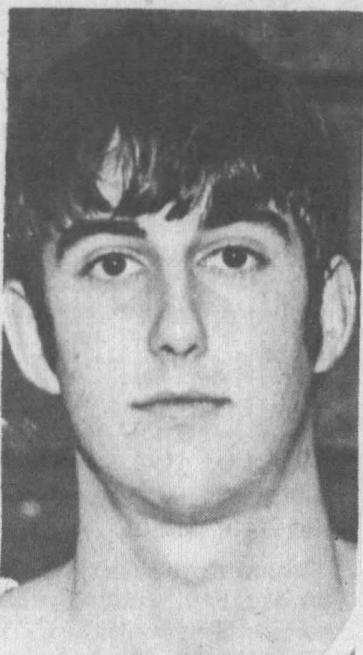
Auditor Thomas E. Ferguson said 11 of the 12 universities lost money in the 1973-74 school year.

Ohio State was the only one to make money, \$518,322.

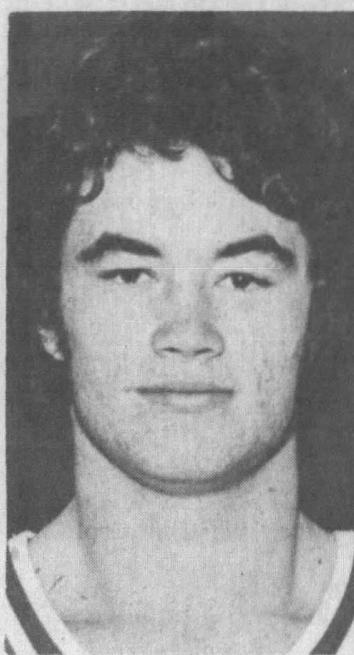
Ferguson conceded after reviewing income and expense reports from the universities that taxpayers are subsidizing intercollegiate athletics.

He said the universities spent \$14.1 million but took in only \$8.7 million, leaving a deficit of \$5.4 million that had to be made up from general operating funds or student activity fees.

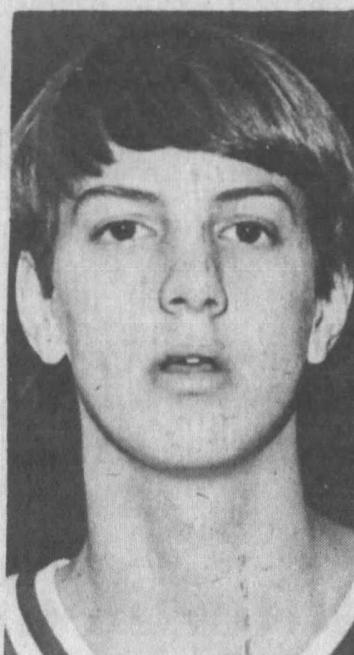
Ohio Gov. James A. Rhodes last week at a news conference disapproved of Conlen's suggestion. "I don't think the board of regents has any business investigating the universities' athletic programs.



NEAL OBERHOLTZER



BOB FORD



DAVE FAHRBACH

Three Ross players on All-BC teams

Ross placed players on each of the three All-Buckeye Conference basketball teams in voting by the various Conference coaches.

Scott Hamlin of Findlay was named as the BC's "player of the year" while Elyria coach Mike Riley was tabbed as the "coach of the year" by his fellow mentors. It was the second straight year that the Conference's leading scorer was accorded the top player award. Last year, Ross' Mike Reardon won the scoring title and the "player of the year" award.

Neal Oberholtzer, Ross' 6-5 senior forward, was voted onto the first team along with Hamlin, Fred Balser of Elyria, Randy Gipson of Marion, and Art Cook of Admiral King.

Bob Ford of Ross, a 6-2 senior, leads the second team. Ford is joined by Doug Roseberry of Marion, Al Harris of Admiral King, and Clint Harris and

Eclister James of Elyria round out the second team.

Ross junior Dave Fahrbach, a 6-4 center, was named to the third team along with junior Ken Peirson of Sandusky, Virgil Williams, a junior from Lorain, and seniors Matt Mericle of Elyria and Ron Lenhart of Findlay.

FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Gr.	Avg.
Scott Hamlin	Findlay	5-9	12	21.2
Fred Balser	Elyria	6-2	12	14.3
Neal Oberholtzer	Ross	6-5	12	13.9
Randy Gipson	Marion	6-3	12	16.8
Art Cook	A. King	6-6	12	14.7

SECOND TEAM

Bob Ford	Ross	6-2	12	12.9
Doug Roseberry	Marion	6-0	12	13.5
Al Harris	A. King	6-4	12	8.4
Clint Harris	Elyria	6-3	12	13.3
Eclister James	Elyria	5-9	12	9.0

THIRD TEAM

Ken Peirson	Sandusky	6-2	11	12.4
Matt Mericle	Elyria	5-10	12	8.9
Virgil Williams	Lorain	5-10	11	11.7
Dave Fahrbach	Ross	6-4	11	8.6
Ron Lenhart	Findlay	6-3	12	13.9

Player of the year: Scott Hamlin, Findlay

Coach of the year: Mike Riley, Elyria

Area players lead stars

Neal Oberholtzer of Fremont Ross, Harlan Niehaus of Genoa, and Tim Steinhilber of Wynford were named players of the year in the three high school classifications by the District "6" coaches of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association.

District 6 is made up of eight counties (Crawford, Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot) in North Central Ohio plus the city of Marion.

The coaches selected two all-star teams for Classes AAA, AA, and A. Oberholtzer won the AAA honor while Niehaus and Steinhilber won AA and A honors, respectively.

Don Kegerreis of Bellevue joined Oberholtzer on the first team along with Galion's Bill Fox and Chuck Roser. Columbian's Marty Thallman and Randy Gipson of Marion Harding rounded out the six-man first team.

Bob Ford of Ross was named to the second team. Ken Pearson of Sandusky was the only junior to make the top two AAA squads with his second team selection.

Niehaus led the Class AA teams with Eric Hansen of Margaretta, Roger Winemiller of Willard, Chuck Rohrbach of Calvert, and Tim Hahn of Lexington joining the Genoa star on the first quintet.

Blake Witker of Woodmore and Mike Adams of Lakota were named to the second team by the Class AA coaches.

With Steinhilber on the Class A first team were Steve Lemming and Greg Givens of Mansfield St. Peter's; Virgil Ward of Bettsville; Joe Sprowl of Monroeville; and Jim Hahler of Seneca East.

Second team honors were to Steve Williman of Old Fort and Steve Shreffler of Gibsonburg.

Jim Kirk, coach of Galion, was named the Class AAA coach of the year while Dave Hitchen of Genoa was accorded that honor in AA. Ron Barbo of St. Peter's is the Class A coach of the year.

CLASS AAA First team

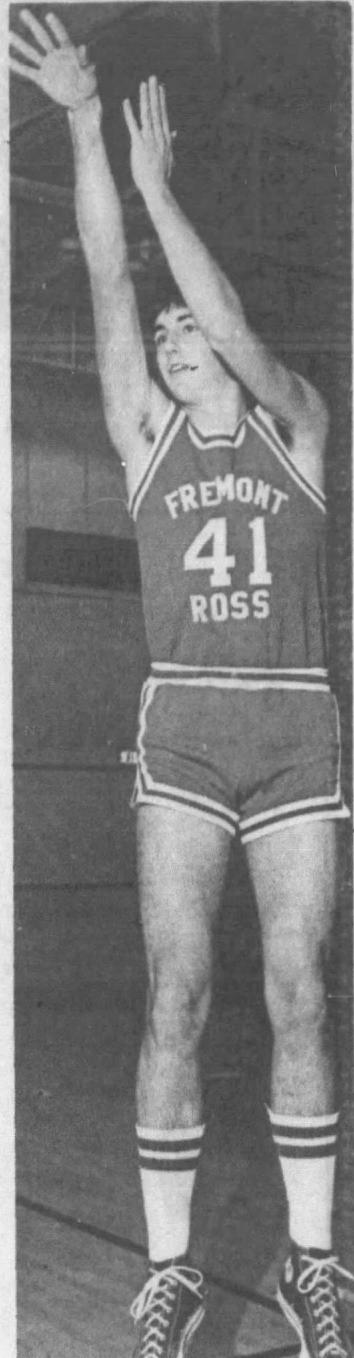
Player	School	Gr.	Ht.	Avg.
Neal Oberholtzer	Ross	12	6-5	14.5
Bill Fox	Galion	12	6-4	16.6
Chuck Roser	Galion	12	6-3	16.6
Randy Gipson	Harding	12	6-3	16.9
Marty Thallman	Columbian	12	6-0	15.1
Don Kegerreis	Bellevue	12	6-4	17.0

Second team

Brad Kentosh, Mansfield Madison; Doug Roseberry, Marion Harding; BOB FORD, Fremont Ross; Ken Pearson, Sandusky; Jeff Jenkins, Mansfield Madison.

Player of the year: Oberholtzer

Coach of the year: Jim Kirk, Galion



NEAL OBERHOLTZER

of Fremont Ross succeeded Mike Reardon, also of Ross, as the District "6" Class AAA "player of the year." Oberholtzer, a 6-5 forward, averaged 14.5 points a game this season.

Four area athletes on All District, three on second team, nine mentioned

Terry Crosby of Toledo DeVilbiss picked up where he left off on the hardwood last year. The 6-4 senior was named co-player of the year on the Associated Press Class AAA All-District Basketball teams.

Crosby, who shared the Class AAA player of the year honor with Ross' Mike Reardon last year, shared the honor this season with Truman Claytor, 6-2 Scott senior, in this year's voting by a panel of sports writers.

Crosby and Claytor joined Steve Lemming of Mansfield St. Peter and Chuck Thompson of Van Wert in the top individual honors. Lemming was tabbed as the Class A player of the year with Thompson, a 5-10 guard, garnering the same award for Class AA.

Virgil Ward of Bettsville was named to the first

CLASS AAA		
First team		
Terry Crosby	DeVilbiss	6-4 12
Truman Claytor	Scott	6-2 12
Chuck Thompson	Galion	6-4 12
Randy St. John	Clay	6-6 12
Keith Page	Sylvania	6-4 12
Second team		
Dick Albaugh	Anthony Wayne	6-1 12
Mark Hets	Defiance	6-7 11
Kim Leonard	Rogers	6-2 11
Bill Hause	Galion	6-4 12
Jeff Jenkins	Madison	6-2 12
Scott Hamlin	Findlay	5-10 12

Co-players of the year: Crosby and Claytor
Co-coaches of the year: Jim Kirk, Galion and Bill Gladieux, Rogers

AREA SPECIAL MENTION: Don Kegerreis, Bellevue; Mark Thalman, Columbian

AREA HONORABLE MENTION: Bob Ford and

Neal Oberholtzer, Fremont Ross

team Class A to lead top area players. Ward has been scoring at a 27-plus average this season while leading Bettsville to a 17-5 record. Steve Williman of Old Fort was accorded second team Class A honors. He has averaged over 21 points a game this season.

Eric Hansen of Margaretta duplicated last year's feat of gaining second team Class AA honors. Hansen is hitting at a 16 point norm for the Polar Bears.

Genoa's Harlan Niehaus concluded a fine season for the Comets with a berth on the Class AA first team.

Gaining special mention honors in Class A was Steve Shreffler of Gibsonburg. In Class AA, Dudley McPeek of Margaretta and Chuck Crim of Oak Harbor were given special mention.

CLASS AA		
First team		
Chuck Thompson	Van Wert	5-10 12
Harlan Niehaus	Genoa	6-7 12
Jim Arnzen	St. John's	5-10 11
Kevin Appel	Fairview	6-8 12
Mitch Kopystynsky	Rossford	6-5 12
Second team		
Tim Hahn	Lexington	6-4 12
Eric Hansen	Margaretta	6-2 12
Scott Spencer	Rossford	6-7 11
Dick Altman	Springfield	6-6 12
Rock Wurz	St. John's	6-5 12
Coach of the Year: Thompson		
Coach of the Year: Arnzen, St. John's		

AREA SPECIAL MENTION: Roger Winemiller, Willard; Chuck Crim, Oak Harbor; Tom Swartz, Eastwood; Randy Farabee, Elmwood; Dudley McPeek, Margaretta

AREA HONORABLE MENTION: Blake Witker, Woodmore; Mike Caudill, Clyde; Mike Adams, Lakota; Ron Nietz, Oak Harbor

Gaining honorable mention status in Class A were Dave Saller and Tom Kowaleski of St. Joe. In Class AA, Blake Witker of Woodmore; Mike Caudill of Clyde; Mike Adams of Lakota; and Ron Nietz of Oak Harbor were given honorable mention.

In Class AAA, Ross' Bob Ford and Neal Oberholtzer picked up honorable mention while Bellevue's Don Kegerreis was given a special mention.

In voting for coach of the year, Ron Barbo of Mansfield St. Peter won the Class A honor while Bob Arnzen of Delphos St. John's was awarded the Class AA top award.

Jim Kirk of Galion and Bob Gladieux shared the coach of the year award in Class AAA.

Following are the All-District teams:

CLASS A				
Player	First team	Second team	School	Ht.
Steve Lemming	St. Peter		St. Peter	6-5 12
Virgil Ward	Bettsville		Bettsville	6-1 12
Tim Selgo	Pettisville		Pettisville	6-1 11
Tim Steinhilber	Wynford		Wynford	6-3 12
Steve Hartings	Marion Local		Marion Local	6-6 11
Greg Givens	St. Peter		St. Peter	6-2 12
Steve Williman	Old Fort		Old Fort	6-1 12
Joe Sprowl	Monroeville		Monroeville	6-5 12
Brad Spittle	Continental		Continental	6-2 11
Dave Agin	Ada		Ada	6-8 12
Player of the year: Lemming				
Coach of the year: Arnzen, St. John's				
AREA SPECIAL MENTION: Steve Shreffler, Gibsonburg; Jim Hahler, Seneca East; Duane Trares, St. Paul				
AREA HONORABLE MENTION: Kevin Krieger, Sandusky St. Mary's; Dave Saller, Tom Kowaleski, Mansfield St. Joe; John Meesig, Norwalk St. Paul; Steve Fries, Norwalk St. Paul; Paul Roeder, Monroeville				



SPECIAL AWARD winners for the Ross winter sports teams are shown above. Front row (left to right) Karol Svancie, Lena Mercer, Dave Fahrbach, Neal Oberholzer, John Kiser, Jim Flower; Back row: Tony

Munoz, Pete Werling, Kirk Hess, Hal Hawk, Marty Mason, Kevin Casey, Eugene Reyes and Jesse Heidelberg. Missing from the picture is Sara Sherick.

Ross winter sports teams honored

Tony Munoz walked off with an armload of trophies to highlight the Ross High School winter sports awards program Tuesday night.

Munoz picked up the "most valuable wrestler," "most takedowns," and "most pins" to dominate the wrestling awards handed out by coach Al Voggenthaler. Munoz, a junior, and fellow classmate Pete Werling, were presented with gold certificates from the Ohio

High School Athletic Association as momentos for participation in the state tournament. Munoz was second in the state for Ross at 101.

Other wrestling special awards went to sophomore Jesse Heidelberg for the "most improved" wrestler and to Eugene Reyes who received the "coaches award." Werling and Reyes received captain's trophies.

Both Reyes and Munoz have been tabbed as High

School All-American Wrestlers.

Voggenthaler announced that Munoz and Werling would be co-captains of the team in the 1975-76 season.

The "most valuable wrestler" trophy is the Mal Mackey Award sponsored by the Fremont Jaycees.

In all, 17 wrestlers and managers were presented with letter awards with Reyes getting his third year letter award.

Neal Oberholzer and Sara Sherick picked up

"most valuable player" trophies in boys and girls basketball, respectively.

Oberholzer, a senior, also was awarded his third letter award, a feat matched by Jim Flower and Bob Ford. Miss Sherick is a junior who paced the varsity team to a 3-8 record.

Junior Dave Fahrbach and John Kiser were jointly awarded the boys basketball "most improved player" award, by head coach Ken Miller. Jim Flower won the Dave Brockscie Foul Shooting Award while Oberholzer was the team's top rebounder.

The "most improved player" on coach Jolyn Smith's team was won by Lena Mercer with Karol Svancie receiving a 6-4 ace.

Kirk Hess was tabbed by his teammates as the "most valuable swimmer." Hess was presented the award by coach Tim Loehr.

In his Ross career, Hess has set over 30 records and presently holds four of the individual event records for Ross High School. The senior has the standards in the 200 free and 200 individual medley as well as the 100 and 500 freestyle.

Mike Keller, Marty Mason, and Hess received captain's trophies while Hal Hawk and Kevin Casey were given the "most improved sophomore" trophies.

There were three other special awards.

Miller, calling it the first trophy of its kind at Ross and one that he would like to see continued, presented the "Super Fan" Award to Ross senior Noe Almaguer.

Voggenthaler presented Tom Wolfe with a plaque emblematic of the Ross coach's description of being "the number one wrestling fan in Ohio." Wolfe was also presented a plaque by the wrestling squad for his work with the team during the season.

AP Class AA team

ers beat out 6-9 John Mullen of Akron who scored at a 24-point clip, for the year award.

vo led an eight-man first team, filled iors.

Cobb, Olmsted Falls' 6-foot senior with iue of more than 34 points, gained his uccessive spot on the top unit.

in the first team were 5-10 Chuck on of Van Wert, 6-foot Rich Babcock

Lafayette, Ridgewood, 6-1 Kevin of Neilsonville-York, 6-5 Fred Poole of Mohawk and 6-7 Tim Waterman of eld Shawnee.

Yance, a 6-6 scorer and rebounder r Tiltonsville Buckeye South, paced -man second team. Yance was a third ection last year.

the second team were 6-2 Dave Siler

llon Badin, 5-9 John Williams of River View, 6-1 Joe Holland of , 6-foot Sam Dixon of Columbus on, 6-5 Mitch Kopystynsky of 6-3 Ralph Zerick of Brooklyn and 6-3 an Cobb of Campbell Memorial.

third squad were 6-4 Mike Hausfeld bus St. Charles, 6-4 Jim Bradley of la Harbor, 6-6 Tommy Thompson of Manchester, 6-9 Steve Shale of eld Shawnee, 6-9 David Porter of New

Paris National Trail, 6-8 Kevin Appel of Sherwood Fairview, 6-3 Larry Ferst of Columbus Franklin Heights and Jack Saxon, Coshocton's 6-4 ace.

The 1974 Associated Press All-Ohio Class AA high school basketball team, selected with the recommendations of a statewide panel of sports writers and broadcasters:

FIRST TEAM

Frankie Sanders, Dayton Stivers, 6 foot 5 Sr., 18.0; John Muller, Akron South, 6-9 Sr., 24.0; Greg Cobb, Olmsted Falls, 6 foot Sr., 35.4; Chuck Thompson, Van Wert, 5-10 Sr., 27.8; Rich Babcock, West Lafayette Ridgewood, 6-6 foot Sr., 19.4; John Carter, Neilsonville-York, 6-1 Sr., 23.3; Fred Poole, Columbus Mohawk, 6-3 Sr., 17.7; Ralph Zerick, Brooklyn, 6-3 Sr., 12.0; and Duane Van Cobb, Campbell Memorial, 6-3 Jr., 21.3.

SECOND TEAM

Dave Siler, Hamilton Badin 6-2 Sr., 14.3; John Williams, Warsaw River View, 5-9 Sr., 18.1; Bruce Yance, Tiltonsville Buckeye South, 6-6 Sr., 22.2; Joe Holland, Waverly, 6-1 Sr., 14.2; Sam Dixon, Columbus Wattersom, 6 foot Sr., 24.1; Mitch Kopystynsky, Rossford, 6-3 Sr., 17.7; Ralph Zerick, Brooklyn, 6-3 Sr., 12.0; and Duane Van Cobb, Campbell Memorial, 6-3 Jr., 21.3.

THIRD TEAM

Mike Hausfeld, Columbus St. Charles, 6-4 Sr., 22.7; Jim Bradley, Ashtabula Harbor, 6-4 Sr., 23.2; Tommy Thompson, Akron Manchester, 6-5 Sr., 21.0; Steve Shale, Springfield, 6-9 Sr., 16.0; John Williams, New Park National Trail, 6-5 Sr., 20.5; Kevin Appel, Sherwood Fairview, 6-8 Sr., 19.7; Larry Ferst, Columbus Franklin Heights, 6-3 Sr., 19.9; and Jack Saxon, Coshocton, 6-4 Sr., 17.4.

Player of the year — Frankie Sanders, Dayton Stivers. **Coach of the year** — John Lawhorn, Circleville. **Area honorable mention** — Harlan Niehaus, Genoa.

players on UPI state teams

First team

Frank Sanders, Dayton Stivers, 6-5, sr (31.6); Fred Poole, Columbus Mohawk, 6-5, sr (17.6); Bruce Yance, Buckeye South, 6-7, sr (24.5); Greg Cobb, Olmsted Falls, 6-4, sr (31.1); Rich Babcock, Ridgewood, 6-0, sr (32.0).

Second team

Robin Vincer, Firelands, 6-6, sr (22.1); Mitch Kopystynsky, 6-5, sr (18.8); John Mullen, Akron South, 6-9, sr (27.0); Ricky Lee Bellairs, 6-4, sr (29.4); John Williams, River View,

Third team

Gregg Thompson, Beaver Local, 6-5, sr (18.0); Richard Altman, Holland Springfield, 6-6, sr (21.2); Kevin Appel, Sherwood Fairview, 6-8, sr, (19.8); Mitch Miracle, 6-1, sr (31.1); Chuck Thompson, Van Wert, 5-10, sr (27.8).

Special mention

Dudley McPeek, Margaretta, Harlan, New Park, Genoa. **Area honorable mention** — Mike Caudill, Clyde; Gordon Hahn, Huron; Eric Hansen, Margaretta; Tom Swarren,

Rossford; Ed Arlin, Norwalk. **Player of the Year** — Greg Cobb, Olmsted Falls. **Coach of the Year** — Walt Harrop, River View.

Coaches resign

Two area high school coaches called it quits