

1976 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Girls begin tournament play

The first rounds of the first Ohio High School State Girls Basketball Tournaments for Fremont area teams will get underway tonight with sectional tournament play.

At Findlay's Class AAA sectional, second-seeded Fremont Ross will go up against Tiffin Columbian in a 9 p.m. contest. Bellevue, unbeaten in 12 games, will take on Malabar at Ashland College's big school sectional at 8:30 p.m.

Port Clinton will swing into action Wednesday night with a game against Anthony Wayne in a game at Toledo Start High School. Tipoff time is at 9 p.m.

In Class AA sectionals, Lakota will challenge Elmwood tonight in a 7 p.m. game at Eastwood High School in Pemberville. Following that game, top seeded Gibsonburg will go against Genoa.

Margaretta will play Huron in a 7 p.m. game Wednesday night followed by a contest between Clyde and Edison at 9 p.m. Both games will be played at Huron High School.

At Eastwood on Wednesday, Eastwood will play Oak Harbor in a 9 p.m. matchup.

Fremont St. Joe will play Norwalk St. Paul tonight in a 7 p.m. game at Norwalk Junior High School in its Class A tournament inaugural. Following that game, top seeded Woodmore will tackle Western Reserve.

Tiffin Calvert High School will be the site of the top seeded Carey and Bettsville contest. The 7 p.m. game will be followed by the Old Fort versus Hopewell-Loudon game.

Sectional finals are slated for Friday night, March 12, for all girls sectionals.

Ross has played and beaten Columbian previously this season and Coach Sue Wolf also managed to scout the Tornados last Thursday night.

"They played about the same type of game as they



did previously against us," she said. "They used a 2-2-1 press and a 2-1-2 zone most of the time.

"They do have one good shooter from the outside," Wolf said indicating that Ross's zone defense will have to put pressure on the Columbian outside attack.

Ross closed out the season with two straight wins and Wolf was happy over the improvement of her team in those two games.

"We started to shoot better and our defense was better," she pointed out, but then added a worrisome thought. "We may have some kids who may be a little scared because it is the first tournament game but statistically, we should win the game."

Carolyn Long, St. Joe's coach, has not seen St. Paul play this season. "I have talked to a coach who saw them play," she said, "and I do know they have a good sized center.

"I think, though, they are just like us — young and inexperienced with a skill level that isn't too great."

Long, like Wolf, was satisfied with recent performances.

"If we play like we did last Thursday (a 52-37 win over Huron), we can beat them. We also may have a little advantage over them because we play on a larger floor."

Wolf said that her starting lineup for tonight's game will have Roxie Price and Diane Flickinger at the guards, Sara Sherick and Sue Buehler at the forwards, and Mara Tolhurst at center.

Long will start Tina Durnwald and Roxanne Steinle at the guards, Sue Barbour and Mary Beth Kennedy at forwards, and Pam House at center.

Little Giants roll over Columbian

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross easily defeated Tiffin Columbian 47-35 in a first round game in the Class AAA sectional girls basketball Tournament at Croy Physical Education Center.

The win will pit the Little Giants against Celina at 7 p.m. Friday night in the sectional finals. Celina dumped Lima Senior 42-29 in the first game Tuesday night.

Sue Buehler tossed in 15 points, Roxie Price 11, and Mara Tolhurst 10 in the Little Giants' win. Buehler connected for three buckets and Price, two, as Ross skated to a 12-6 first quarter lead and a 21-12 lead at the half as Tolhurst popped in five points in the second stanza.

The Little Giants survived 31 turnovers in the game with one of their

better shooting nights of the season. Ross hit 47 per cent on 19 of 40 shots.

Ross's zone defense forced Columbian into taking several hurried shots and only 17 of 61 from the field.

Columbian made a run at Ross in the third frame but three more buckets by Buehler helped keep the Little Giants on top by eight, 33-25.

Buehler led Ross with eight rebounds but Ross lost the battle of the boards 28-25.

Linda Reiss led Columbian with 26 points.

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Columbian	6	6	13	10-35
Ross	12	9	12	14-47
COLUMBIAN: Reiss 13-0-26, Kimmel 0-0-0, Morris 2-1-5, Sliger 1-0-2, Fraley 1-0-2; totals 17-1-35				
ROSS: Tolhurst 3-4-10, Buehler 7-1-15, Sherick 3-1-7, Flickinger 1-2-4, Price 5-1-11; totals 19-9-47				
Season record: Ross 9-4				

Bellevue's second half blitz buries Malabar

ASHLAND — Bellevue came to life in the second half to win its 13th straight girls basketball game of the season 55-26 over Malabar in the first round of the Ashland Class AAA girls sectional tournament.

The Redmen led only 14-12 after the first 16 minutes of play but with 10 of 15 shooting in the third period, Bellevue pulled away from Malabar.

"I'll take a 41-point second half anytime," Bellevue Coach Carol Allan chuckled. "I think we had some tournament jitters in the first half. We played good defense but offensively, we were standing around."

The Redmen, with Sharon Bollenbacher and Pat Schoen scoring nine points apiece, came to life with an inside game in the third period. "We had our post girls cutting down inside," Allan

said, "and our outside people hit them with some good passes."

The Redmen outscored Malabar 24-8 in the third frame and 17-6 in the final eight minutes.

Bollenbacher led Bellevue's balanced attack with 17 points. Schoen and Linda Gower had 10 apiece and Halle Queen dropped in 11. Jane Botkin led Malabar with 16.

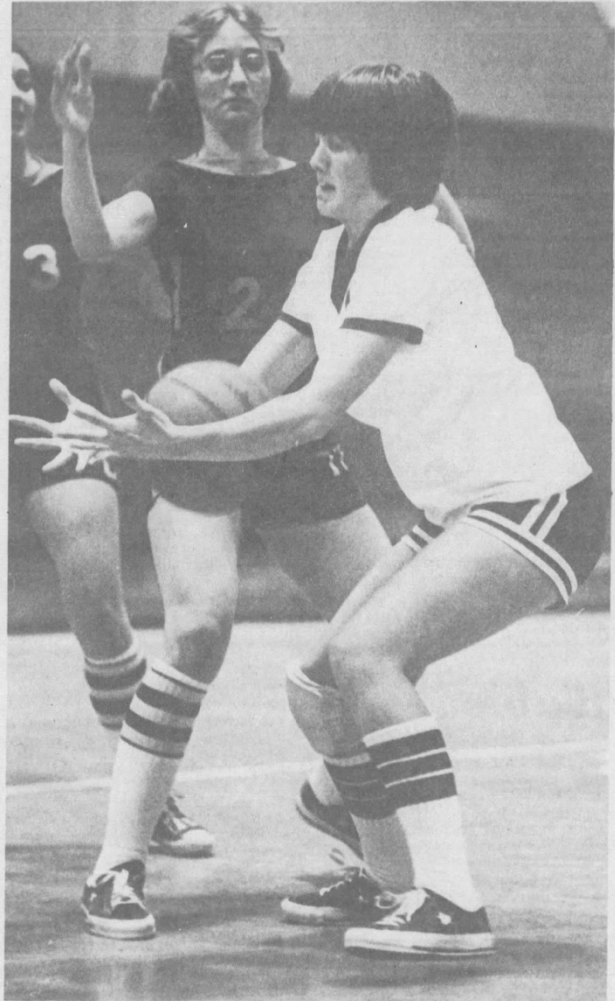
Bellevue will take on Ashland Friday night at 8:30 p.m. in the sectional finals at Galion High School.

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Malabar	6	6	8	6-26
Bellevue	7	7	24	17-55
SCORING				
MALABAR: Botkin 5-6-16, Miller 1-0-2, VanMeter 0-2-2, Knight 3-0-6; totals 9-8-26				
BELLEVUE: Andrews 1-0-3, Gower 5-0-10, Queen 3-5-11, Bollenbacher 8-1-17, Schoen 4-2-10, Windsor 1-0-2, Haynes 0-1-1, Coe 0-1-1; totals 22-11-55				
Season records: Bellevue 13-0				
BELLEVUE: Andrews 1-1-3, Gower 5-0-10, etc.				

Baseball tries again

NEW YORK (AP) — Representatives of major league baseball's players and club owners, apparently further apart

Court ruled unanimously against the owners and affirmed the decision of arbitrator Peter Seitz, who granted free-



SARA SHERICK of Ross juggles the ball between her arms trying valiantly to hold on as an unidentified

Tiffin Columbian player closes in. (N-M photo by Bruce Crippen)

Giants lose game to Celina 42-38

By JERRY ROSEN

News-Messenger Staff Writer

FINDLAY — A game last quarter comeback fell just short for the Ross Little Giants girls basketball club as it was eliminated from tournament action, 42-38, by Celina.

The Giants, having their poorest shooting night of the season (17 of 74), closed a 13-point fourth quarter Celina lead to one, 39-38, with 33 seconds to go, but could not pull out the game played Friday night at Findlay College.

Celina's Bulldogs pulled away in the see-saw game late in the second quarter behind the steals and line-drive, long-range jump shooting of tiny Priscilla Wood. Wood scored 10 of her 14 points in the second quarter, including the last six points of the stanza, to give Celina a 20-14 edge at halftime.

Wood's final run capped an 8-0 spurt that wiped out a 14-12 Ross lead with 1:28 left.

Opening the third quarter, Celina's center Kathy Youngs completed a three point play to start the Bulldogs on a 7-point run that built the Bulldog lead to 13 at 27-14. The lead bounced between 11 and 13 points helped tremendously by Woods' passing underneath to Cindy Dorsten for easy shots.

With 7:24 left in the game, the Woods-Dorsten combination converted on the same play for a 33-20 edge and then Ross started its comeback. Dorsten led everyone with 16 and Youngs finished with 10.

Roxie Price, hobbled by an ankle injury that put her out of action several times in the second half, hit a 15 footer and seconds later tossed in a layup on a nice inside move to pull the Giants within 9, 33-24. But Price hurt that ankle on the play and had to sit down.

However, Celina's Cynthia Noren forgot which hoop she was supposed to be shooting at when she corraled a jump ball at Ross's foul line and scored two for the Giants.

The fluke play fired the Ross attack, and 30 seconds later, Tracy Hull made the score 33-28.

With 33 seconds left, Barb Bliss connected over Youngs to make the score 39-38, but with 10 seconds left, Hull was called for an intentional foul in a scuffle under Celina's hoop. Sue Ballinger made one of those, and with three seconds left, Woods stole the ball and went in for a layup.

Price's injury was a key problem for the Giants, according to Coach Sue Wolf.

"We can't afford to have her out," said Wolf. "And when she got back and we tried to double team them, she couldn't move as fast as she usually does." Price still led the team with 10 points.

The coach also had some complaints about the officiating, the work of the scorer and the opposing coach.

"The (scorer's) table made me mad," she said. "They charged a time out to me that should have been charged to them. That's the kind of thing that loses ball games for you."

She also was upset that Celina coach Tom Helentjaris wasn't "honest" enough to admit the mistake.

"We didn't give up," she continued. "We've worked hard all year."

The loss finishes the Giants with a 9-5 record.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	6	8	4	20-38
Celina	5	15	11	11-42

SCORING

ROSS: Buehler 4-0-8, Sherick 2-0-4, Flickinger 2-0-4, Price 4-2-10, Hull 2-0-4, Weaver 1-0-2, Bliss 1-2-4; totals 16-4-38.

CELINA: Noren 1-0-2, Youngs 3-4-10, Dorsten 5-6-16, Wood 6-2-14; totals 15-12-42.