

## 2005-2006 Season Review



### **Ross falls**

Brittney Miller scored eight points but Fremont Ross lost to Toledo St. Ursula 50-22.

The Little Giants (0-1) were held to 12 points through three quarters.

**BASKETBALL ROUNDUP**

# **Ross defense holds Rogers**

**News-Messenger roundup**

Stephanie Reed scored nine points, and Brittney Miller and Ashley Long each added eight as Fremont Ross topped Toledo Rogers 43-35 on Tuesday.

The Little Giants (1-1) held Rogers to three points in the first quarter and led 24-10 at the half.

Long added eight rebounds.

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### **Ross struggles on offense**

Ashley Long scored 12 points but Fremont Ross lost to Marion 53-27.

Jessica Jenkins led all scorers with 19 points for Marion (1-1).

The Little Giants (1-2) scored in single digits the first three quarters before outscoring Marion 10-6 in the final frame.

Long had eight rebounds and Brittney Miller added seven for Ross.

## **Girls basketball**

### **Ross falls in GBC play**

The Little Giants exploded for 22 points in the fourth period, but couldn't overcome Lima's lead, falling 51-43.

Ross falls to 1-3 after losing a game where they turned the ball over 41 times.

Ashley Long scored 14 for the Little Giants, and Brittney Miller added 13.

# Turnovers lead to Ross loss

By RYAN AUTULLO

News-Messenger correspondent

The Fremont Ross girls had little trouble making shots.

They had difficulties attempting them, though.

The Little Giants shot an exceptional 63 percent from the field in the first half Friday but turned the ball over at a similar rate in a 46-30 loss to visiting Napoleon in Greater Buckeye Conference play.

The Little Giants continued their season-long woes on offense, producing more turnovers (35) than field-goal attempts (29).

"I don't know how, but it's always turnovers that we have problems with," said Ross junior Ashley Long. "I think it was because of the pressure on the guards and the lack of help from the other people."

Ross, which fell to 1-5 (0-3), had 41 turnovers in a 51-43 loss at Lima Senior on Saturday.

Simply crossing half court was a major challenge for Ross on Friday.

"We had to get there first, and I think we didn't run our offense the way we should," Long said. "They got better looks and more chances. We don't get second chances."

Ross had no double-digit scorers with Melinda Meggitt's eight points leading the team. Brittney Miller added six.

The Little Giants were a solid 12-of-29 but attempted just two more shots all game than Napoleon did in the first half.

"I'll take that (percentage) but you have to have a lot more shots than that," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "They had 20 more shots than we did and part of that is turnovers."

The Wildcats (5-2, 3-0) were led by Chelsea Gerken and Kristen Gilgenbach, who scored 17 and 11 points, respectively. Napoleon will battle Findlay for first place in the conference Tuesday.

# Ross has more turnovers than field goal attempts in Greater Buckeye setback

Continued from B1

Long, who has shown flashes of brilliance the last two years, scored two early buckets in the first quarter but was shut out the remainder of the game and finished with just four points.

"Sometimes Ashley takes herself out," Wolf said. "Sometimes she just disappears. She did that last year, too."

Napoleon went on a 14-2 run to end the first quarter, taking an 18-6 lead entering the second and Ross was never close again. Ross attempted just six shots in the first quarter, 13 fewer than the opposition. The 35 turnovers are the most the Wildcats have caused this season.

"I don't know if we always turned them into points, but we kept the pressure on them enough that we had a couple runs," said Napoleon coach Rod Hersha. "And I think a couple runs were really the difference in the score."

Hersha said juniors Gerken, Hannah Heaston and Jenna Lauf are primarily responsible for the Wildcats' attacking defense, which had 17 steals, including 12 in the first half.

"We have pretty good quickness when we work on it and

that was probably the biggest factor in the game," he said. "We got good pressure on the ball and forced some turnovers."

Napoleon took a 27-16 halftime

lead and opened the third quarter with six unanswered points in less than two minutes.

Gerken opened the fourth quarter with three consecutive baskets before leaving the court

with 6:00 remaining and Napoleon leading 41-22.

Gerken came in averaging 9 ppg and filled a scoring void by team leader Kelsey Rolander, who scored just six points —

eight below her season average.

Wolf hopes the fact Ross committed just 13 turnovers in the second half compared to 23 in the first is a sign of improve-

ments as the team tries to overcome a slow start.

"We've got room for improvement," Long said. "We still have 14 more games, so it should get better."



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News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross scored 37 second-half points in a 59-40 rout of Toledo Whitmer in non-conference play Tuesday. Adam Gries scored a team-high 12 points and Robbie Hall, in his first action of the season, added nine.

**Bears roll**

Gibsonburg's Derek Wasserman scored a game-high 24 points, nearly topping Hopewell-Loudon's total in a 60-28 drubbing. The Golden Bears allowed double-digit points in just one quarter and made eight 3-pointers. Nathan Kirwen also scored 13 points for Gibsonburg.

**Lee not enough**

Justin Lee tied for game honors with 22 points but Old Fort fell to Northwood, 63-57, out of conference. Jon Cuff and Bud Seigley also added 14 points apiece, but only four Stockaders found their way to the scoring column.

**GIRL'S BASKETBALL**

**Comeback falls short**

Fremont Ross nearly pulled off a fourth-quarter comeback before falling 54-53 to rival Sandusky. The Little Giants, who were paced by Ashley Long's 18 points, outscored the Blue Streaks 15-8 in the final frame. Stephanie Reed added 16 points for Ross.

"We put a lot of pressure on them and got back into it," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We were down 12 at one point in the fourth and went to a scramble defense. We put pressure on the ball and got some turnovers. We gave ourselves

a chance to win."

**Lakota falls**

Erin Graber and K respectively, but Lak Athletic League power

**WRESTLING**

**Ross sweeps tri-meet**

Ross defeated Genoa a tri-meet at the Pur Mendoza (112), Devon Matt Ott (145), Jorge all won two matches f

**Rockets victorious**

Oak Harbor lost just Elmwood. Ian Giache Magrum (189) picked

**SWIMMING**

**Swint takes two event**

SJCC fell 140-28 to Columbian in a tri-me butterfly in 59:12 and t

The Margareta gi Columbian 121-55. Col

Sarah Stierwalt rec IM and 100 backstroke

## **Ross struggles to score in loss to Perrysburg**

Brittney Miller scored 14 points but Fremont Ross lost to Perrysburg 52-30 out of conference Tuesday.

The Little Giants were held to single digits in three quarters. Only four players registered points for Ross.

Nicole Parrish scored 28 points for Perrysburg.

# Girls show hustle, heart in conference setback

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger Correspondent

FINDLAY — The Fremont Ross girl's basketball team entered Saturday's contest against Greater Buckeye Conference foe Findlay knowing the Trojans were the superior team.

However, the Lady Giants played with heart and emotion in their 56-32 loss.

"I told the kids that this was the first time I've been proud of the way they've played," said Fremont coach Sue Wolf. "We got beat by 24 points tonight, but we went out and tried the best we could."

The Little Giants were led by senior Brittney Miller, who finished with nine points, six of which came late in the second quarter to bring Fremont within sixteen at the half.

"(Miller) is very offensive minded," Wolf said. "When she got in, she always looked to take the ball to the basket, looking to score."

Fremont fell behind 27-4 midway through the second quarter as Findlay junior Carlee Roethlisberger, hit a 3-point basket and a lay-up and Janette McQueen added two easy baskets on fast-breaks.

"We were fortunate to get a lot of buckets out of our transition game," Findlay coach Connie Lyon said. "That gave us some momentum throughout the course of the game."

Roethlisberger finished with a game-high 20 points while McQueen finished

with six.

The Little Giants played the Trojans evenly during the third quarter as both teams tallied 10 points, while four other Fremont players contributed offensively.

Juniors Ashley Long and Samantha Durnwald finished with six and four points respectively, while sophomore Stephanie Reed notched a 3-pointer and freshmen Victoria Logan added four points.

"I thought everyone came out and really played hard," said Wolf. "(Findlay) was just better than us. We got beat by a better team."

Coach Lyon also complimented Fremont's effort.

"Fremont did a nice job getting some easy baskets inside on put-backs and second chance points," Lyon said. "I thought we could have done a better job on the rebounding end but overall (Fremont) did a nice job."

The Little Giants lost the rebounding battle 20-16 to a much taller Findlay squad.

Findlay improved to 8-2 overall and 5-0 in the conference while Fremont fell to 2-8 and 0-5 in conference play.

"If we can take our next ten games and work this hard we have a chance to win some games," Wolf said.

Fremont will have that opportunity twice this week as they travel to Tiffin Columbian Tuesday night and host Marion Harding Friday night.

## Second-half turnovers, free throws doom Little Giants

Road gets no easier; girls face Marion Harding on Friday

By KYLE TIMMONS  
News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — Typically, the basketball team with the fewest turnovers wins ball games.

Additionally, the team that makes their free throws down the stretch wins as well.

Tiffin Columbian did both Tuesday night as they sent the Fremont Ross girl's basketball team to their ninth loss in eleven games by a score of 51-44.

The Little Giants were up by three at the half, but finished with 32 turnovers. Tif-

fin senior Carah Illig made five of her final six free throws to cap the win for the Tornados.

"Your point guard needs to be a good free throw shooter," Tiffin coach Chip Weingart said. "And when the ball was in (Illig's) hands at the end of the game, she knocked them down."

Illig finished with nine points, seven coming in the final period.

Fremont got off to an early lead as senior Melinda Meggitt nailed one of her two 3-point shots and junior Ashley Long rebounded a missed shot to give the Little Giants an 8-2 lead.

But the six-point advantage was largest lead Fremont would have as Tornado senior Ashley Botton drained one of her three 3-pointers from the corner.

"She's a nice shooter," said Ross coach Sue Wolf. "She's averaging around 18 points a game."

Botton, who finished with a game-high 16 points, and senior teammate Debbie Almy each added another 3-pointer in the second quarter to keep Tiffin (5-7, 4-4 Northern Ohio League) within striking distance.

"We're normally a fairly good shooting team," Weingart said. "By our totals we were only 7 of 31 shooting the first half."

But those seven shots were enough to keep the Tornados alive as they trailed 24-21 at the half.

"I knew we would come back in the second half and shoot it better," said Weingart. "We talked at half-time about being more patient and knocking down

shots. I knew we just had to be more patient."

Tiffin's patience would pay off as they forced the Little Giants into three consecutive turnovers to start the second half and junior Megan Florence gave Tiffin its first lead at 28-26 with 5:10 remaining in the third quarter.

"When we would get the ball, we would look like we were trying to pass it the other direction instead of going towards our hoop," Wolf said of Fremont's turnover problem. "I don't have an answer for that."

Weingart credited his team's preparation for the turnover differential.

"We practiced for (Fremont)," said Weingart. "We thought we could pressure and surprise them in different areas of the court and force

them into bad decisions."

Fremont would bounce back quickly as Long, who finished with a team high 13 points, would follow her missed shot with a bucket to knot the game back up at 28-28.

Both teams would battle back and forth until the final two minutes of the third quarter when Tiffin closed the period with a 10-3 run.

"We didn't take the floor in the third quarter," said Wolf. "We weren't ready to play basketball when we came back out."

After taking a 40-33 lead into the fourth quarter, Tiffin scored four quick points to open up an 11-point lead.

Meggitt quickly responded with another 3-point shot as the Little Giants battled their way back to within five points following Karie

Marroquin's only score of the night.

However, that would be the closest Fremont would get as Illig and Botton sealed the game from the free-throw line, making six of their eight combined attempts.

Meggitt finished with ten points and senior Britney Miller added seven for the Little Giants.

Fremont (2-9, 0-5 Greater Buckeye Conference) will return to action Friday night against league opponent Marion Harding.

Wolf said that the Little Giants will have to focus on defense as they battle the second-place Presidents.

"We need to find the determination to go out and play as aggressive defense as we possibly can," said Wolf.

## Lady Presidents sweep season series

By KYLE TIMMONS  
News-Messenger Correspondent

The Marion Harding girls basketball team beat Fremont Ross 42-21 at the Purple Pit using a defensive strategy similar to the one they used in a 53-27 win earlier this season.

The Presidents forced seventeen turnovers and limited Fremont to two field goals in the first half.

"We used the same defense we used at our place earlier this year," said Harding coach Bill Sycks. "We started with a half-court trap and fell back into a man-to-man until the very end there."

Both teams started the game a little sluggish as it took the Presidents (8-4, 5-1 Greater Buckeye

Conference) three minutes to notch the game's first bucket as sophomore Cyncere White scored off an assist from sophomore Jessica Jenkins.

Each team exchanged missed shot after missed shot for the next three and a half minutes before Fremont junior Ashley Long tied the game at 2 with 1:32 remaining in the first quarter.

Marion would close the quarter scoring the final four points of the period on buckets by Leslie Clark and Sarita Feliciano.

"We didn't do a bad job defensively on (Harding)," said Ross coach Sue Wolf. "We just need to be able to put the ball in the basket a bit more and we just couldn't do that."

The Little Giants continued to struggle offensively in the second quarter as it took them until the 4:15 mark to score their second basket of the game when senior Britta Barron scored her lone field goal of the game. The Presidents led 14-4.

Barron, who finished with three points, was instrumental on defense as she was tasked with guarding Marion's leading scorer, Jessica Jenkins.

"(Barron) did a nice job on (Jenkins)," Wolf said. "I think she even had her a little frustrated at times."

But while Jenkins was held to just one field goal in the first half, Feliciano gave the Presidents a little boost scoring four of her

game-high 10 points in the second quarter and gave her team a 19-4 half time lead.

"She has the best nose for the ball than anybody we have," Sycks said of Feliciano. "She plays real hard. It used to be take it to the basket, take it to the basket but now she takes jump shots and she made a few of those tonight."

Feliciano wasn't just proud of her own performance.

"It feels good," Feliciano said of leading the team in scoring. "But it feels great that we won and everyone contributed. I like it when everyone gets to score."

And just about every Marion player did score as seven different players contributed to the

team's victory.

The second half was a little bit more friendly to the Little Giants (2-10, 0-6 GBC) as senior Britney Miller scored all eight of her points in the half and teammates Meghan Mills and Victoria Logan finished with three points and two points respectively.

Long finished five points for Fremont, who travel to Toledo Whitmer Tuesday night.

Kaylee Kepford, Jenkins and White each added eight points for Marion.

The Presidents will return to action Tuesday night against non-league opponent Buckeye Valley before hosting Findlay next

Saturday for a battle between the top two teams in the league.

## **Ross loses heartbreaker**

Toledo Whitmer's Ashley Hooker connected on a short jumper with 5 seconds remaining and Fremont Ross missed two free throws to close out a 42-40 non-conference setback.

Mindy Meggitt scored a game-high 13 points for the Little Giants.

Ross was outscored 23-13 in the first half but regrouped to win the second half 27-19.

# Ross scores season high, falls to Spartans

By KYLE TIMMONS  
News-Messenger Correspondent

This season has been a struggle at time for the Ross girls basketball team.

Missing easy shots, being out-rebounded by taller squads and struggling to score points has plagued the Little Giants (2-12, 0-7 Greater Buckeye Conference) all year.

Things got a little better Saturday night, as Ross mustered its season high in points despite falling to Lima Senior 73-65.

Both teams lit up the scoreboard in the first quarter as Lima junior Ladaija Upshaw knocked in 10 of her game-high 24 points.

"(Upshaw) has been stepping it up for us," said Spartan coach Phil Sensabaugh said. "This is the time of the season I want to see the girls peaking. The last few games she's stepped up tremendously."

The Little Giants used the duo of senior Brittney Miller and junior Ashley Long to keep pace as the two had seven and six points respectively during the period.

Miller, who led the Little Giants with 20 points scored her team's first four points, helping Fremont stay within five after the first quarter at 21-16.

Lima (3-12, 3-4) would open a 27-18 lead early in the second quarter as senior Andrea Garrett six of her 17 points in a row.

A few minutes later Fremont went on a 7-0 run as freshman Victoria Logan knocked in four of her six points in a span of :25 seconds, cutting the Spartan lead to 30-28.

But as they did so often, Lima responded with a run of their own, scoring the quarter's final 10 points and taking a 40-28 lead at the



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

**FREMONT ROSS'S BRITTNEY** Miller drives to the hoop during Saturday's game. Miller led the Little Giants with 20 points in the GBC loss.

intermission.

"The girls still came out and tried again," said Fremont coach Sue Wolf about Lima's spurts. "We just didn't get it done. We worked hard and missed some shots, some shots we just needed to put in."

After an Upshaw basket to open the third quarter, Ross fought its way back to within two at 50-48, sparked by eight points from sophomore Stephanie Reed, who finished with 15 points, and a 3-point field goal by senior Melinda Meggitt who had seven points in the contest.

"Stephanie stepped it up," Wolf said. "Her last couple games haven't been that strong. It was nice to see her come out and have a good game."

That's when Lima's Tarshay Dennard drained a 3-pointer of her own to thwart Fremont's second attempt at a comeback.

Spartan senior Shannon Williamson, who finished with 19 points, made the final shot of the third quarter to give Lima a 55-48 advantage.

The Spartans opened up an eleven point lead fourth quarter lead before the Little Giants made one last thrust at Lima.

Following another Meggitt 3-point shot, Long added a basket and Reed made a free throw, pulling Fremont to within four.

But that was all the closer Fremont would get as the Spartans made their final seven free throw attempts to clench the victory.

"We blew 12- and 14-point leads at times," Sensabaugh said. "Fortunately we stepped it up and stayed in it and the girls never gave up."

Fremont will host Port Clinton Tuesday night. The Redskins, an early Sandusky Bay Conference favorite, have been having their own problems as of late, coming off a conference loss to Clyde — their third SBC loss this year and fourth overall.

# Strong second half can't overcome sluggish start

**Little Giants score 21, force 10 turnovers in third period**

By MATTHEW HORN  
Sports Writer

As has often been the case in Sue Wolf's tenure at Fremont Ross, the Little Giants used defense to facilitate offense Tuesday.

But Ross couldn't overcome a sluggish start in losing to Port Clinton 64-53 in a non-conference matchup.

The Little Giants regrouped to score 21 points

and force 10 turnovers in the third quarter after the Redskins led 35-19 after two quarters. Ross outscored Port Clinton 34-29 in the second half.

"We came out not in foul trouble in the second half and we told the girls they had nothing to lose," said Wolf. "Let's get in the passing lanes and be more aggressive. We had to start that way against a team that size. We have to get more offensive rebounds or shoot better."

Ross was outrebounded 29-17 — including 11-5 on the offensive end. Port Clinton shot 25-for-47 from the field while the Little Giants were 18-of-39.

The Little Giants' Brittney Miller scored a game-high 21 points to go with seven steals, five rebounds and three assists. Miller scored eight points — including a putback bucket, one off penetration and a little baseline turnaround — in the second quarter.

Stephanie Reed had five steals and Karie Marroquin added three for Ross.

"We just tried to attack the basket more in the second half," Wolf said. "We got more steals and that led to open shots. Our defense really created our offense."

Wolf said Miller started slow and finished strong. "She started the game in

a fog," Wolf said. "She was standing straight up on defense and was having trouble catching the ball. She really took off and when she plays like that it opens things up for other people."

The Redskins' Kelly Logsdon (13 points), Mari Monaco (12) and Tonya Tigner (10) each scored eight points in the first half. Paula Wargo added 12 of her team-high 18 in the second half.

The Redskins led 17-7 after the first quarter.

"The first quarter killed us," Wolf said. "We were already down 10. We came back and made some runs but couldn't get over the hump to where we needed

to be."

Ross committed eight turnovers in the second quarter.

"Our defense stepped up in the second quarter," Logsdon said. "Forcing turnovers was the big thing (Tuesday)."

Ashley Long scored 11 points, Reed had nine and Victoria Logan added eight for Ross. Logan grabbed five rebounds.

"She's only a sophomore," Wolf said of Reed. "We're looking for her to improve all the time. She's a hard worker. Sometimes she'll pout but she'll always come back and work hard."

Logan is a freshman and we expect big things.

She just has to work hard all the time. She's starting to improve now. She has to develop some touch on her shots. She certainly has the strength to be a good player."

Long split two free throws for a 49-40 deficit to start the fourth. Long converted two free throws for a 51-42 margin with 7 minutes, 20 seconds left and Miller scored off an assist from Long for a 53-45 margin with around 6 minutes to play but Ross could get no closer.

Matthew Horn can be reached at mhorn@fremont.gannett.com.

### **Ross struggles to score**

Brittney Miller scored 10 points but Fremont Ross fell to Napoleon 52-24 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

Napoleon had more than twice as many field goals (21-10) as the Little Giants. Ross scored a total of nine points in the first, second and fourth quarters combined.



N-M/Ken Dumminger

**ROSS'S ASHLEY LONG**  
gets bottled up by two Mansfield players during Saturday's game.

## Little Giants fall to Tygers

Mansfield forced 37 turnovers — 25 in the first half — in beating Fremont Ross 62-43.

**Page B3**

# Tygers force turnovers to beat Little Giants

## Ross loses ball 37 times, including 25 in first half

By KYLE TIMMONS  
News-Messenger correspondent

The Fremont Ross and Mansfield Senior girl's basketball teams braved the wintry elements Saturday afternoon at the Purple Pit, but the Little Giants forgot to bring some of the key basketball elements as the Tygers won in a convincing 62-43 fashion.

Mansfield, who used a variety of defensive presses and traps during the contest, forced Fremont to turn the ball over 37 times, 25 of them in the first half.

"That's how we want to play," said Tyger coach Todd Krill. "We want to get it up temple and trap a lot. We try to throw different types of presses at people so they just can't recognize what we're doing all the time."

Both teams started a little sluggish offensively in the first quarter as both teams combined for a total of five field goals.

After an opening basket by Mansfield's Yanette Feagin, the Little Giants responded with a 3-point field goal from senior Melinda Meggitt for their only lead of the game at 3-2.

The Tygers would score the remainder of the opening quarter's points as senior Jessica Hairston scored four of her team-high 16 points in the quarter, establishing a 9-3 lead at the end of the quarter.

"(Hairston) didn't score in our last game," Krill said. "She played a lot better today and played under control and let the game come to her."

After Fremont scored the opening basket of the second quarter, the Tygers used their defensive press and trap strategy to run off 15 unanswered points to open their lead to 24-5 with 3:33 left in the first half.

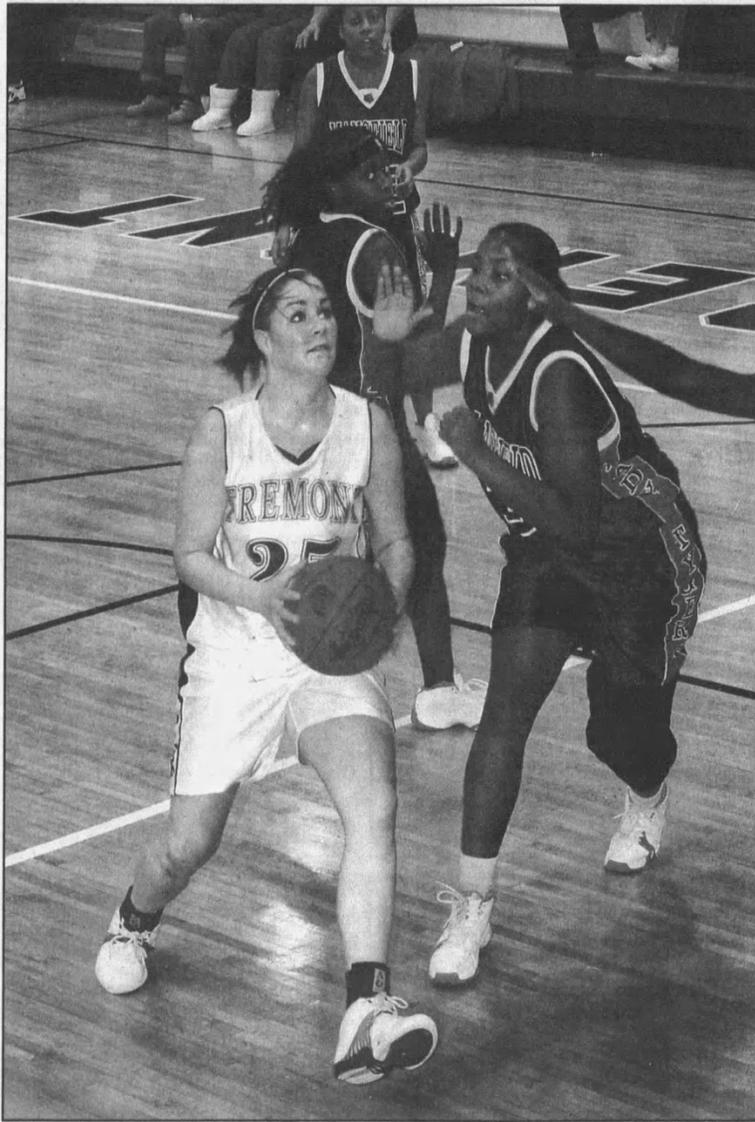
"(Mansfield) was more athletic than us and more physical," said Fremont coach Sue Wolf. "We couldn't catch the ball period."

"If you have that many turnovers in the first half you aren't going to win a ballgame because you don't get any shots at the basket. And even the shots we got at the basket, we missed, and some of them were pretty easy shots."

The Tygers outscored the Little Giants 21-7 during the second quarter and led at the half 30-10.

Fremont freshmen Victoria Logan led her team in scoring during the second quarter with four of her six points.

The Tygers opened the second half on a roll as well as four different players sparked an 11-0 run to open a 41-10 lead two and a half minutes into the quarter. Feagin added two of her 11



News-Messenger/Ken Dummerger

**FREMONT ROSS'S BRITNEY** Miller goes to the hoop during Saturday's game against Mansfield. Miller scored 23 points, more than half of Ross's total output in the 62-43 loss.

points while Hairston scored five points and teammates Shanetta Hartfield and Jessica White added a basket each.

White finished with 15 points and Hartfield had two points.

"It really helps us," Krill said of his entire team getting into the action. "It puts you up on a different level and helps other girls recognize that they're part of the program."

"They are getting to score, they are all attributing. It only leads to us getting better and the girls getting closer together."

Fremont, who fell to 2-15, was able to pick it up offensively later in the third quarter as the Tygers relaxed their press.

Sophomore Britta Barron scored four points during the quarter while Ashley Long and Stephanie Reed netted two points each.

Senior Brittney Miller took over offensively during the final quarter for Fremont as she tallied 16 of her game-high 23 points in the final stanza.

The Little Giants outscored the Tygers (8-9) 20-10 in the final quarter.

Fremont will host Clyde tomorrow night but they may be a little depleted as several players were banged up during the course of the afternoon.

Long, along with juniors Samantha Durnwald and Eve

McElfresh, sustained injuries between the junior varsity and varsity games.

"We just need to keep on working on everything we've been working on," Wolf said.

Clyde junior Stephanie Meyer will be seeking a milestone as she is just 11 points away from scoring 1,000 points in her career.

## Replace Old With New Spe

FREMONT, OH - Merv Hollander, owner of WeatherTite Windows, announced a great savings plan. His deferred payment plan along with reduced pricing is

# Ross struggles mounting wins

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

It's been a long time since the Fremont Ross girl's basketball team has been held to three victories or less.

Eighteen seasons to be exact.

Friday's game against Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky posed the Little Giants their best opportunity to pick up their third win of the season with just one game remaining after that, against league-leading Findlay.

Unfortunately, the 4-14 Blue Streaks dampened the hopes of the Little Giants as they prevailed by a score of 39-35 Friday at the Purple Pit.

"I commend our girls on their teamwork and defense," said Sandusky coach Tracy Redding.

"They played under control and kept the defensive pressure on."

Sandusky's defensive pressure was crucial in the third quarter, as they outscored the Little Giants 12-3.

Senior post player Candace Diaz opened the quarter posting up for two early buckets for the Blue Streaks.

Trailing by a score of 23-20 at the half, Diaz sparked Sandusky with her two baskets while four other teammates scored.

"(Diaz) was the key toward the end," Redding said.

Sandusky earned its largest lead of the game on the opening basket of the fourth quarter as senior Ashley Evans scored two of her four points to open a 34-26 lead.

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# Little Giants fall to GBC rival

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Fremont senior Brittney Miller would answer with a field goal and two free throws, narrowing the Sandusky lead to 34-30 with 4:06 left in the contest.

After a free throw by Sandusky's Jasmine Brown, Fremont sophomore Britta Barron cut the lead to 35-32 with 1:08 left.

Both teams struggled in the final minute of the contest before Diaz made two free throws with :19 seconds left sealing the victory for the Blue Streaks.

Brown led the Blue Streaks with 11 points while Diaz finished with six points.

Miller again led the Little Giants in scoring as she finished with 15 points.

Fremont coach Sue Wolf said that while Miller continues to lead the team, she would still like to get her some assistance.

"There's no help for (Miller)," Wolf said. "No one else is scoring. We get one (player) back (from injury) and we lose another."

Ross, who has been plagued with injuries over the past few weeks, had junior Ashley Long back at her disposal but lost Stephanie Reed to an injury.

"We have no size to begin with," said Wolf. "We only have four people who are 5'9", and when you lose one of them you don't have any rotation at all."

Other scorers for the Little Giants were Melinda Meggitt with six points, Long and Victoria Logan with five points each, and Barron with four points.

Fremont was outrebounded by Sandusky 35-19.

The Little Giants will look for their first league victory in their season finale next Friday, as they host Findlay before entering the tournament.