

# Ross plays Shelby in 'AAA'

By BOB MARKER  
News-Messenger Sports Editor  
Shelby will be Ross's first opponent in the Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament Wednesday at Ashland College.

The Little Giants will take on the Northern Ohio League school at approximately 8:30 p.m., one-half hour after the Mansfield Malabar-Ashland game.

Shelby, after absorbing a 66-50 beating at the hands of NOL member Galion Friday, bounced back to top the Tigers 49-44 in Monday's opening round of the sectional. Shelby is 7-14.

The Little Giants, 11-9 and insured of their first winning season in three years, are coming off a 69-50 win over Findlay.

"I could not ask for a better finish," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "Everyone is

healthy as far as I know and is ready to go."

Sawyer feels his team is capable of winning the sectional. A win over Shelby would put the Little Giants into the Friday finals against the winner of Wednesday's first game.

"I think we have a shot at winning it," Sawyer agreed, "but it all depends on how bad these kids want it."

The Ross coach ticked off some of the things he is concerned about on the eve of the tourney opener.

"Tourney jitters?" he mused. "Sure, I believe in them but I think it would affect the sophomores more, but they should last only a couple of minutes."

"The reason you get them," he explained, "is that you know if you lose, you are through and no one wants to be a goat should you lose."

"But I feel our kids have played relaxed all season and I don't think there has been a game where they have been really up tight," Sawyer said. "However, I do think we play a little better if we are jittery."

Weather is another concern of Sawyer.

"Yeah," he smiled, "I wish it would be snowing a little, raining, or cold. All this nice weather gets kids thinking about other things."

Shelby is another concern but the Ross coaching staff got its first good look at the Whippets in the sectional opener. The scouting report and game plan won't be developed until shortly before today's practice.

Sawyer will be going with the lineup that has started the last two-thirds of the season: seniors Dave Aschenbach and William Johnson, junior Jim Hufford and sophomores Greg Bender and Chris Simmons.

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## Ross disposes of Shelby 73-54; Malabar next

By BOB MARKER  
News-Messenger Sports Editor  
ASHLAND — Ross will face Mansfield Malabar Friday night in the Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament finals at Ashland College after the Little Giants dumped Shelby 73-54 Wednesday.

The Little Giants, 12-9, will face Malabar, 17-4, at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Ross suffered through its poorest night at the free throw line but offset that with 32 of 61 from the floor to knock the Whippets out of the tourney. The loss finished Shelby's season at 7-15.

Although Ross hit over .500 from the floor, Coach John Sawyer said it did not seem like one of his team's better shooting nights.

"It was more like we would hit them in spurts," he said.

The key run of Ross points came at the beginning of the final period as Shelby had trimmed Ross's 18-point second period lead to 53-46 at the end of three quarters.

The Little Giants outscored Shelby 12-4 in the first four minutes for a 65-50 lead. The run was the kiss of death for Shelby. Jim Hufford, who was not having one of his better games for Ross, helped seal the Whippets' doom a minute later.

The 6-1 Ross junior blocked two consecutive shots with both resulting in baskets as Ross rolled up a 71-50 lead with less than three minutes to play. After that, it was a battle of the subs.

The Little Giants with Greg Bender hitting 10 points in the

### Tickets on sale now at Tremper's

Tickets for the Ross-Mansfield Malabar sectional final basketball game are on sale now at Tremper's until Friday at 2 p.m.

The game will be the second of a doubleheader Friday night at Ashland College. The first game will be Sandusky vs. Mansfield Senior at 6:30 p.m. Ross's game will start approximately a half-hour after the first contest. It will not be a split session.

Tickets are \$1.50 for students and \$2.50 for adults.

first quarter and Dan Brudzinski coming off the bench to score eight in the second quarter, held a 39-27 halftime advantage.

Bender, hitting 10 of 16 from the field, led Ross with 21 points. Dave Aschenbach had 17 points, seven assists, and a team high 11 rebounds with William Johnson scoring 14 and Brudzinski finishing with 10 for the Little

Giants. Hufford dished out four assists.

The Ross coach had his team depart from its normal zone defense by opening with a man-to-man.

"We played our good man-to-man," Sawyer chuckled. "We thought that we would do a better job on the boards against them by playing the man-to-man."

In the first half that philosophy worked as the Little Giants held a 21-10 advantage on the boards. Nine of the retrievers were off the offensive boards in the first quarter. For the game, Ross held a 48-35 rebounding edge but the Whippets had a 12-4 edge on the boards in the third quarter.

Shelby Coach Don Thallman said, "We knew that Ross could shoot the ball but I still thought we played good defense. We came back at the half and were still in the game."

"The key point for us was when we had three chances to cut the lead to less than six and did not do it."

That was at the end of the third quarter.

Shelby, which hit only 18 of 55 shots, was led by Darrell Arnold's 13 and Steve Stine with 12.

Against Malabar Sawyer said that his team would see quickness out front, a big guy who was named the player of the year in the Northwest district and possibly a man-to-man defense.

"Malabar has been a zone defense team but after they saw us shoot tonight," Sawyer said, "I am expecting the man-to-man."

Steve Martenet, 6-5 junior, was the Associated Press player of the year. The quick guys out front will be the brother combination of Melvin and David Selmon.

"We are going to have to play a good game," the Ross coach pointed out, "but I think we will be playing with more intensity Friday."

# Basketball

**Ross 73**  
**Shelby 54**

## Score by quarters

Shelby	11	16	19	8—54
Ross	17	22	14	20—73

**SHELBY:** Steve Stines 5-2-12, Wes Johnson 0-1-1, Augie Schreiber 0-4-4, Todd Schreck 2-5-9, Darrell Arnold 6-1-13, Tim Roller 3-1-7, Rob Mahon 1-0-2, Terry Baldrige 1-2-4, Doug Rhodes 0-1-1, Dave Kanney 0-1-1, totals 18-18-54.

**ROSS:** Greg Bender 10-1-21, Chris Simmons 2-1-5, William Johnson 6-2-14, Dave Aschenbach 7-3-17, Jim Hufford 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 4-2-10, Jerry Snodgrass 1-0-2, totals 32-9-73.

Season records: Ross 12-9, Shelby 7-15.

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# Ross edges Malabar for sectional title

By BOB MARKER  
News-Messenger Sports Editor  
ASHLAND — Chris Simmons sank four free throws and Dave Aschenbach scored on a base line layup in the final three minutes as Ross upset Mansfield Malabar 52-51 to win the Class AAA Boys Basketball Tournament Friday.

The win catapulted Ross into the district tournament against Lima Senior at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Anderson Arena on the Bowling Green State University. The second game that night will have Sandusky against Findlay at approximately 8:30.

Lima Senior defeated Elida 78-63 while Sandusky nudged Mansfield Senior 64-63 in overtime, also at the Ashland sectional.

The Little Giants won the game at the foul line, hitting 12 of 19 while Malabar made its one charity toss of the game as Ross was charged with only seven fouls in the contest. Malabar hit 25 of 52 shots and Ross 20 of 54.

Ross, 13-9, trailed Malabar, 17-5, by as many as 12 points early in the second half.

"In the first half our defense was very poor," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "We were standing around and letting Steve Martenet do about anything he wanted."

Martenet, a 6-5 junior who was named the player of the year by the District Six Coaches Association, scored his game total of 10 points in the second quarter. In the second half, an adjustment on Ross's defense limited the Malabar star to two

fourth quarter shots.

"We went more into a '2-1-2' zone," Sawyer explained, "by pulling Bender (Greg) out more toward the foul line. That took the ball away from him."

Ross fell behind 32-22 at the half and was lucky to have kept it that close. The Little Giants made several mental miscues in the first 16 minutes including allowing two fast-break buckets in the final minute.

"These kids deserve a heck of a lot of credit," Sawyer praised.

"They were playing poorly on defense in the first half and shooting badly. The bottom line in the game was our kids just did not give up."

Simmons, who wound up with eight points, gave Ross its first lead 48-47 at the 3:08 mark of the final quarter with two free

throws. Dave Selmon erased that deficit for Malabar with a bucket 18 seconds later but after a Ross turnover was followed by two Malabar miscues.

Aschenbach's bucket put Ross on top for good 50-49 at the 1:05 mark.

Martenet missed a shot and fouled Simmons on the rebound. After a Malabar timeout, the 6-2 Ross sophomore calmly hit both free tosses with 30 seconds remaining to put the Little Giants up 52-49.

Jon Getz's layup with five seconds remaining brought Malabar to within one.

"I think a big part of the game," Sawyer pointed out,

"was Martenet played the whole game. I thought they would rest him but I think he got tired and that helped us."

Martenet fouled out when he sent Simmons to the line for the final time.

The win could prove costly for Ross. An injury to the right ankle of sophomore Greg Bender leaves him doubtful for the district contest. After scoring 16 points to lead all scorers, Bender stepped on the side of a player's foot while being fouled late in the game. He went to the floor, got up but was visibly limping as he played the final 1:16.

"That's a part of the game," Sawyer said about Bender's injury. "We got to play the next game with him or without him."

The sectional title made a prophet out of Sawyer who had said his team could win it.

"I felt that Malabar was just like Sandusky in speed but I felt

that Malabar could shoot better from the outside," he explained.

"My worry was that Malabar's record would intimidate the kids."

During the regular season, Ross had defeated Sandusky twice.

Sawyer did not substitute in the game. Jim Hufford had 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds. William Johnson who combined with Simmons to keep Martenet bottled up in the second half, scored two points but had six rebounds.

Bender ended up with 11 rebounds, and Simmons seven.

"I felt that we were doing a hell of a job on the boards in the second half," Sawyer agreed.

Ross had a 34-30 advantage overall including a 17-13 edge in the second half.

**Ross 52**

**Malabar 51**

**Score by quarters**

Ross	9	13	14	16—52
Malabar	14	18	8	11—51

**Scoring**

ROSS: Chris Simmons 2-4-8, Greg Bender 7-2-16, William Johnson 1-0-2, Jim Hufford 3-6-12, Dave Aschenbach 7-0-14, totals 20-12-52.

MALABAR: Dan Patterson 3-0-6, Jon Getz 6-1-13, Steve Martenet 5-0-10, Melvin Selmon 3-0-6, David Selmon 5-0-10, Robert Tucker 0-0-0, Delbert Caldwell 3-0-6, totals 25-1-51.

Season records: Ross 13-9, Malabar 17-5.