

Bellevue girls hold off Little Giants for 50-48 victory

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

BELLEVUE - It was a shutout followed by a slump that ended just in time.

Bellevue held Ross scoreless in the first quarter, taking a 13-0 lead, but struggled before slipping past the Little Giants 50-48 in a high school girls basketball game Saturday.

"All we needed was a basket and a free throw," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said about her team's scoreless opening period, "and we would not have had this."

As it was, Wolf had to settle for a half-hearted state of satisfaction: Happy over the comeback but down because of

being unable to finish off with a win.

After the dismal first eight minutes, Wolf's team rallied to trail 26-20 at halftime. Late in the third quarter, Ross ran off nine consecutive points for a 39-30 lead.

Ross's first points — Joy Eishen's two free throws — of the season, 13 seconds into the second quarter, closed Bellevue's lead to 13-2. It was a quick trip uphill after that.

With Eishen scoring seven points, Amy Ritzman coming off the bench to add six more and Stephanie McGee three to go with a scrambling defense, Ross closed to 24-19 before settling for

the halftime deficit.

Ross caught the Redmen 28-28 on Eishen's bucket 2½ minutes into the second half. Kim Borys' basket gave Ross the lead and after Danielle Somogyi pulled Bellevue even, the Little Giants ripped off the next nine points.

Eishen took a pass from Dian Schepflin for a layup and Borys fed McDonald for another for a four-point Ross lead. Ritzman knocked in a free throw and Schepflin got a pass from Missy Smith for a layup and a 37-30 lead. Borys' bucket put Ross up by nine with a minute left in the third quarter.

"We played very well for eight minutes but there were six (third

quarter) that we did not play at all," Bellevue Coach Ron Brown said.

But it was wakeup time for the Redmen. Tracy Powell's long 3-pointer with a half-minute remaining in the third quarter, provided the spark.

Bellevue, with Kim Zelms, Somogyi and Heather Mowery, cut the Ross lead to 46-43 with 1:35 to play. Eishen's two free throws stopped the Redmen drive temporarily, but Somogyi's bucket and a pair of costly turnovers in the final 1:10 cut down Ross.

Zelms' hit a pair of free throws after a Somogyi interception. Another turnover with 45 seconds was followed by two more Zelms

free throws, putting Bellevue on top 49-48, and the Ross comeback was over.

Jim Ross lost Eishen, who led all scorers with 16, and McGee in the final four minutes on fouls.

Schepflin finished with 12 points. Powell had 11 and Zelms 10 to lead Bellevue.

Ross was 18 of 52 shooting from the floor and Bellevue 18 of 41.

The Little Giants had a 44-24 rebounding edge. Ross had 37 turnovers, six more than Bellevue.

"Well, a lot of players played," Wolf said.

But the sting of the loss wiped out any real satisfaction.

Ross girls notch first basketball win

Lakota wins for new coach

News-Messenger reports

An early taste of victory was the way Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf described the Little Giants' 60-54 victory Tuesday night over Huron.

"It's a great feeling to get (the first victory) this early," Wolf said.

Ross, 1-1, didn't win its first game in 1988

until **Girls Basketball** Dec. 8 after an 0-5 start.

In other games Tuesday, Lakota won its first game under new coach Jim Balsizer, 42-38 over Old Fort, Sandusky St. Mary's beat Gibsonburg 64-45, Oak Harbor routed Genoa 66-32, Buckeye Central topped Margareta 52-46 and Norwalk defeated Bellevue 45-30.

At Huron, Kim Borys scored 20 points and Ross held off a late Huron comeback. The Little Giants led 48-35 after three quarters but the Tigers got no closer than the final count.

Stephanie McGee, who led Ross with eight rebounds, chipped in 12 points as did Joy Eishen.

Stacie Esposito scored 18 points and Michelle Drury added 16 for Huron, 2-1.

Esposito, who scored 33 points against Danbury Saturday, was held to six in the first half by Ross's Missy Smith.



Little Giants stop Pirates

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Three games into the season and Ross is a game away from equaling its victory total of a year ago.

The Little Giants struggled early but pulled together in the second half for a 50-42 high school girls win over Sandusky Perkins Tuesday night in the Ross Purple Pit.

Ross was 3-17 last season but is now 2-1.

"I don't want to think about that," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said when reminded that Ross did not win its second game last season until Jan. 28.

"This one is a win we'll think about tonight and tomorrow we'll start getting ready for Clay (Dec. 16)."

She had wiped out the doldrums of last season quickly.

Ross trailed 14-8 before rallying in the second quarter. Stephanie McGee tossed in six points, Kim Borys five and Dian Schepflin four as Ross chugged to a 24-22 halftime lead. Perkins,

1-2, never regained the lead but never let Ross out of its sight.

In the second half, Wolf had her team in gear. After being outrebounded in the first half, the Little Giants began aggressively boxing out on the boards. Joy Eishen, who scored 10 of her 11 points in the second half, grabbed 10 second half rebounds and Schepflin corralled six more.

"Rebounding was one thing we stressed at the half," Wolf said. "We said 'Keep them off the boards.'"

It was advice heeded and when Ross began to pull the Perkins defense out away from the basket, Wolf had the Pirates where she wanted them.

"We pulled the offense higher up on the floor and was trying to make them come out further away from the basket," Wolf described. "That gave us more room to work to get position for shots."

Ross led consistently by four to six points in the second half until

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Perkins closed to 42-41 on Jackie Dixon's free throw with 3:40 to play.

Borys gave Ross breathing room with a one-hander from the top of the key with two minutes remaining but Nikole Dye's free throw two seconds later kept Perkins within a bucket.

Shari Root gave Ross a boost after that. Schepflin made the front end of a one-and-one, missed the second but Root grabbed the rebound, went back up and was fouled. She made one

of two for a 46-42 lead with 1:02 remaining.

Amy Ritzman was fouled on a rebound and sank both shots, giving Ross a 48-42 lead with 38 seconds remaining. Eishen, who finished with 16 rebounds, was fouled on her last retrieve and salted the game away with a pair of charity tosses.

Ross had 24 second half rebounds and won the board battle 41-27. Schepflin finished with 14 rebounds.

Borys had 16 points and Schepflin nine. Dixon had 16 for Perkins and Dana Cote added 10.

Ross was 16 of 51 from the floor and Perkins 13 of 39. The Little Giants had 17 turnovers and Perkins 12.

Clay deals Ross girls 47-45 loss

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff Writer

Oregon Clay spotted Fremont Ross an 18-point lead, then stood back and watched the Little Giants self-destruct at the foul line in a 47-45 high school girls win Saturday.

Ross, 2-2, missed 12 of 16 free throws and a chance up upsetting the unbeaten Eagles. Clay, 7-0, made six of eight free throws.

"The free throws beat us," Ross Coach Sue Wolfe said, "but I'm happy with the kids; I see a lot of progress."

Ross trailed 2-0 before outscoring the Eagles 24-4 in the next 8½ minutes for a 24-6 lead.

"We could not put the ball in the hole," Clay Coach Mike Csehi while issuing a sigh of relief. "We missed 11 layups in the first half and you can't win many games doing that."

Ross led at the half 26-17 on Amy Ritzman's 30-foot, 3-point shot at the buzzer. But Clay, with Sue Pollauf, Andrea Wasserman, Tracy Vargo and Julie Unsinger leading the way, outscored Ross 21-12 in the third quarter, forging a 38-38 deadlock.

Unsinger's 3-pointer cut the

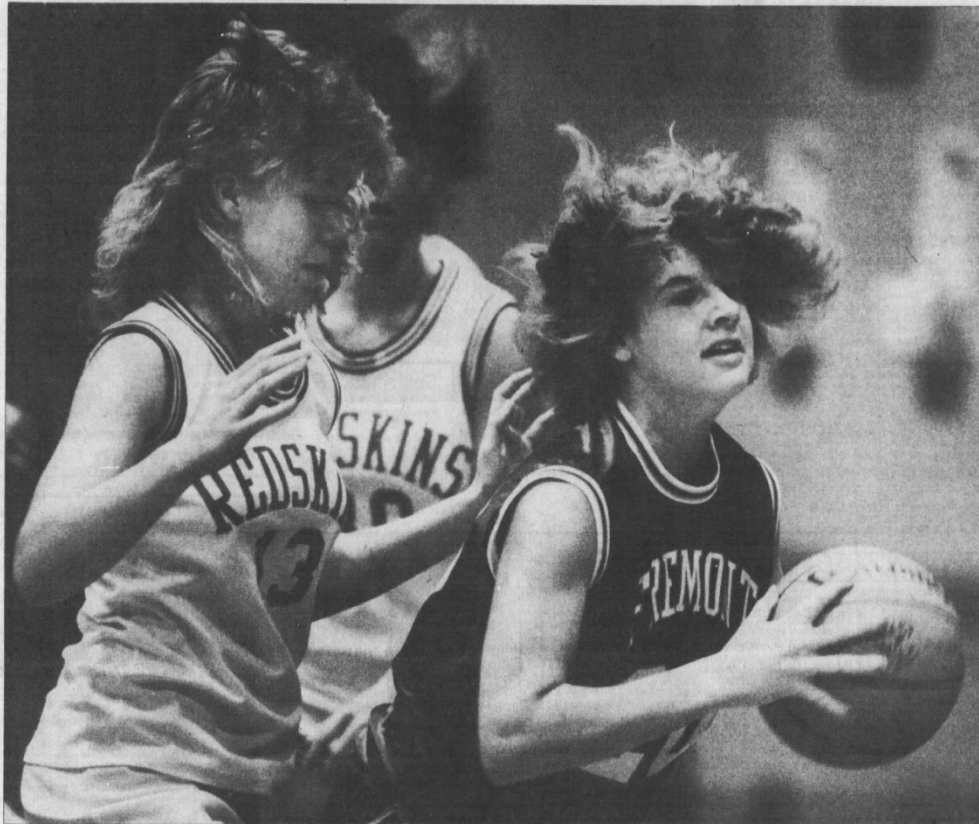
Ross lead to 35-34 but Shari Root put Ross back up by three before Wasserman's basket pulled the Eagles back within a point with a minute remaining in the third quarter. Ten seconds later, Wasserman's rebound bucket gave Clay its first lead since the first basket. Kim Borys' free throw tied it after three quarters.

Ross never led again but tied it at 40 before falling behind 46-40 with 2:55 left. Dian Schepflin hit a free throw, Joy Eischen followed with a bucket and Schepflin hit a rebound shot, cutting Clay's lead to 46-45 with a minute to play but a pair of turnovers in the last 40 seconds sealed the Ross defeat.

Eischen popped n a game-high 18 points for Ross and Borys added 11, but just one in the second half. Unsinger had 13 and Wasserman 10 for Clay.

Ross was 20 of 48 shooting and Clay 20 of 54. The Eagles held a 43-33 rebounding advantage. Clay had 31 turnovers, 21 in the first half. Ross had 24.

In the junior varsity game, Deana Lilley's last second five-foot jump shot from the middle of the lane gave Ross a 37-35 win. Ross is 3-1.



Ross spurts past PC

News-Messenger reports

A 21-6 second-quarter scoring outburst by Fremont Ross sent Port Clinton to its sixth straight loss Tuesday night.

Joy Eishen scored 12 of her 14 points in the second quarter as Ross improved to 3-2.

In other games, Genoa routed

Girls Basketball

Ottawa Hills 70-34 and Margaretta beat Bellevue 73-42.

At Port Clinton, the Redskins and Little Giants played to a 14-all tie after one quarter. Port Clinton, 1-6, outscored Ross 17-10 in the third quarter and 15-13 in the fourth.

Kim Borys matched Eishen's 14 points for the Little Giants.

Patty Bradbury scored a game-high 18 points for the Redskins and Chery Druyor added 15.

Genoa70

Ottawa Hills.....34

At Toledo, Lisa Witt scored 24 points and Amy Sander added 11 points to go along with nine rebounds, six assists and six steals.

Genoa, which shot 54 percent (30 of 55) from the floor, also got 13 points from Kristi Koester.

News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

DIAN SCHEPFLIN (right) of Fremont Ross looks to make a move on Port Clinton's Chery Druyor Tuesday night at Port Clinton.

See GIRLS, B-3

Lancaster hands Ross 51-46 loss

News-Messenger reports

Holly Coll's 26 points and poor free throw shooting by Fremont Ross Saturday were enough to lift Lancaster to a 51-46 Buckeye Central Conference victory.

"Holly Coll is an excellent inside player," Ross Coach Sue

Girls Basketball

Wolf said, "but free throws were the difference."

In other games, Oak Harbor defeated Toledo Waite and Fostoria beat Bettsville 60-16.

At Lancaster, the Little Giants shot 41 percent (nine of 22) from the foul line. The Golden Gales, meanwhile, made 17 of 23 (74 percent) free throws including an 8-for-8 effort by Coll.

Lancaster, 9-1 and 3-0 in the BCC, led 15-9 after one quarter, 29-22 at halftime and 41-32 after three quarters.

Joy Eishen scored 16 points and Kim Borys added 12 for Ross, 3-3 and 0-1 in the BCC.

Little Giants' comeback stops Newark 42-39

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross had problems putting the ball in the basket but had little trouble holding onto it while squeezing past Newark 42-39 Saturday in a Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball game Saturday in the Purple Pit.

Ross made only 14 of 54 shots (26 percent) but committed only 10 turnovers, two in the second half.

"That is the worst we have shot the ball in quite awhile," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

Wolf also pointed out that her team did have its best free throw shooting game. The previous three games, Ross made 21 of 55 from the foul line while dropping

two of the three, but Saturday, the Little Giants were 14 of 25, including seven of 10 in the final eight minutes.

Ross, 4-3 and 1-1 in BCC play, trailed 17-11 after one quarter and fell behind 21-11 in the second quarter before Vickie Castile came off the bench to spark the Little Giants. Castile sank a pair of free throws and two baskets and Ross trailed 23-22 at the half.

Castile sparked a 16-0 scoring run, putting Ross up 29-23 with 3:22 remaining in the third quarter.

Joy Eishen, who led all scorers with 18 points including eight of 10 at the foul line, pulled Ross even with a free throw and put

the Little Giants ahead 90 seconds into the second half with a bucket from the left corner for a 25-23 lead.

Newark, 2-8 and winless in three BCC games, tossed a couple more scares into the Little Giants, going ahead 33-31 and 36-35 before Kim Borys tied it with a free throw and Dian Schepflin's sank two more foul shots for a 38-36 lead with 1:59 to play.

Eichen made two more charity tosses for a 40-36 lead before Tasha Davis hit a layup and a free throw, cutting the Ross lead to 40-39 with 43 seconds on the clock. Eishen iced it with 17 seconds remaining, hitting two more free throws.

"The kids did not quit," Wolf said, "when you get down that far — it is sort of funny — with this year's team, I was not nervous."

"I knew they were going to come back and they did."

While Ross had a poor shooting game, Newark was only slightly better, making 16 of 51 shots (31 percent) but just five of 32 in the second half. The Wildcats had 20 turnovers and outrebounded Ross 47-38.

Eishen was the only Little Giant in double figures but Schepflin had nine and Castile finished with eight. Bekkah Berryhill had 15 and Davies 11 for Newark.

Little Giants beat Madison

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross made quick work of an early charge by Madison and rolled to a 58-41 high school girls basketball victory Thursday night in the Purple Pit.

"That did not look like an oh-and-eight team at first," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

The Rams started quickly, trying to get the Little Giants to run but after Ross pumped in nine of 16 first quarter shots, the Rams had only brief charges left. The Little Giants, despite missing five layups, led 22-11 after one quarter before knocking in eight of 14 shots in the second quarter for a 40-19 halftime lead.

Madison, 0-9, chopped the Ross lead to 43-31 late in the third quarter before a Little Giants spurt made it 47-31 heading into the final eight minutes.

Dian Schepflin scored 10 of her game-high 15 points in the first quarter and Vickie Castile came off the bench to score eight of her 13 in the second quarter.

"The girls off the bench (Castile, Tanya Stull and Stephanie McGee) did not do well the first time they went in," Wolf said, "but the second time, they played well."

"McGee had several nice steals and came up with a couple of rebounds that helped."

After making 17 of 30 in the first half shots, Ross cooled off, making just seven of 23 in a loosely-played second half.

Ross, 5-3, outrebounded the Rams 41-35 after Madison had dominated the boards early in the first quarter. Madison, with Christa Wirt scoring six points, got offensive rebounds off their first three shots, converting on two of them.

That was it, though. Ross broke the Rams's full-court press easily and used the hot hand to put the Rams in a hole too big from which to climb.

Kim Borys had 10 points and Joy Eishen nine for the Little Giants. Laurie Chambers tossed in 13 for the Rams and Wirt finished with eight.

Old Fort tops St. Joe

News-Messenger reports

The Old Fort girls basketball didn't rock the Midland Athletic League girls basketball race Thursday night.

The Stockaders did, however, move ahead of Fremont St. Joe in the league standings with a 22-20 victory over the Crimson Streaks.

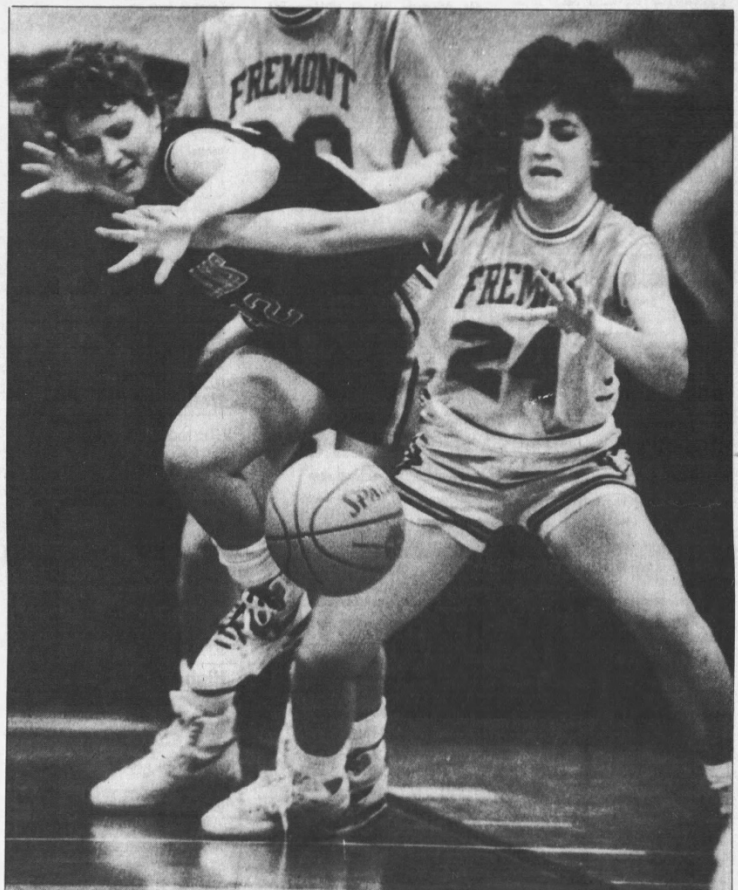
Old Fort improved to 5-4 and 5-2 in the MAL. St. Joe fell to 6-4 and 5-3 in the MAL.

"It was a good defensive game," Old Fort Coach Gary Perkins said. "We were in a zone but started to get lethargic."

"We went to a man-to-man in the third quarter and it made a difference."

Not for St. Joe, which missed many easy shots after executing its offense in the fourth quarter, St. Joe Coach Gary Geller said.

See MAL, B-3



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

MELISSA SMITH of Fremont Ross fights with Mansfield Madison's Christa Wirt for a loose ball

Thursday night during the Little Giants' 58-41 victory over the Rams in Fremont.

Northview slips past Ross 40-39

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

A stone-cold final quarter and numerous missed opportunities tripped Ross Monday night in the Purple Pit.

Sylvania Northview surged briefly at the end to hand the Little Giants a 40-39 setback in high school girls basketball.

The loss left Ross even at 5-5, matching the Northview mark.

"The effort is there," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said about her team's hustling but futile play, "but you've got to shoot better than that."

Ross was two of 13 from the floor in the final eight minutes after scrambling to a 32-29 lead at the end of three periods.

Dian Schepflin put in a rebound shot and an eight-foot jumper in the final minute of the third quarter for the Ross lead.

Schepflin's buckets came at the end of a string of futility for

"We miss easy, easy shots. Make those shots and you win."

Sue Wolf
Ross head coach

Ross. Trailing 29-28, the Little Giants failed to convert on six trips down the court. Four of the six came off Northview turnovers.

"We miss easy, easy shots," Wolf said. "Make those shots and you win."

Northview lost the lead only once but never led by more than five points.

Deanna Kreidel scored 10 of Northview's 11 fourth-quarter points before fouling out with over two minutes remaining. Before going to the bench, Kreidel broke a 35-35 deadlock with a

pair of buckets.

Ross still had a chance. Kim Borys' free throw made it 39-36 and Amy Ritzman's steal and short jumper closed the gap to 39-38 with 28 seconds on the clock.

Four seconds later, Jessica Keeler hit the front end of a one-and-one for Northview but missed the second.

Schepflin was fouled by Julie Collins and made the first shot but missed the second with seven seconds left.

Northview's Bevin Jacobson missed a free throw with four seconds left, but Borys' mid-court shot hit the rim and spun out at the buzzer.

Borys and Ritzman had nine points apiece for Ross and Kreidel finished with 21 for Northview.

Ross will return to Buckeye Central Conference action Thursday, hosting Findlay.

Ross girls find way to win

Little Giants top BCC foe Findlay

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

A year does make a difference. Just ask Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf.

"Last year, if a team went ahead of us at that point, we would not come back," Wolf said, "but this year's team looks for a way to come back and it did tonight."

The short-order comeback netted a 45-40 win for the Little Giants over archrival Findlay in a Buckeye Central Conference game at the Purple Pit.

Ross, 6-5 and 2-2 in the BCC, led by as many as 10 points, 22-12, in the first half but fell behind twice by a point in the frantic fourth quarter.

Findlay took its last lead, 40-39, on sophomore Stacy Corso's foul line jump shot with 1:24 to play.

The Little Giants put on fast-paced but cautious offense on its trip downcourt before Joy Eishen launched a jumper from the right of the foul circle. The ball hit the front of the rim, bounced up and dived lazily through the net with 23 seconds left.

"My heart was really pounding on that shot," Eishen said about the last of her 14 points.

A breakaway bucket by Dian Schepflin and Vickie Castile's rebound at the final buzzer polished off the win.

The game was characterized by a pressure defense and a crushing rebounding assault by the Little Giants.

Ross led 13-12 after one quarter, a period in which it had 13 offensive rebounds while missing 18 of 24 shots.

"I don't know why we are missing the shots we are missing," Wolf said quizzically, "they are good shots."

Ross, despite making just 10 of 43 first-half shots, led 24-18 at halftime after Schepflin followed up her own missed shot.

"She always gets a basket when you don't want her to. That one at the end of the half was a big one," said Findlay coach Bill Lobb.

But it was the Ross defense and a commanding 29-12 first-half rebounding advantage that held the Trojans off in the first half.

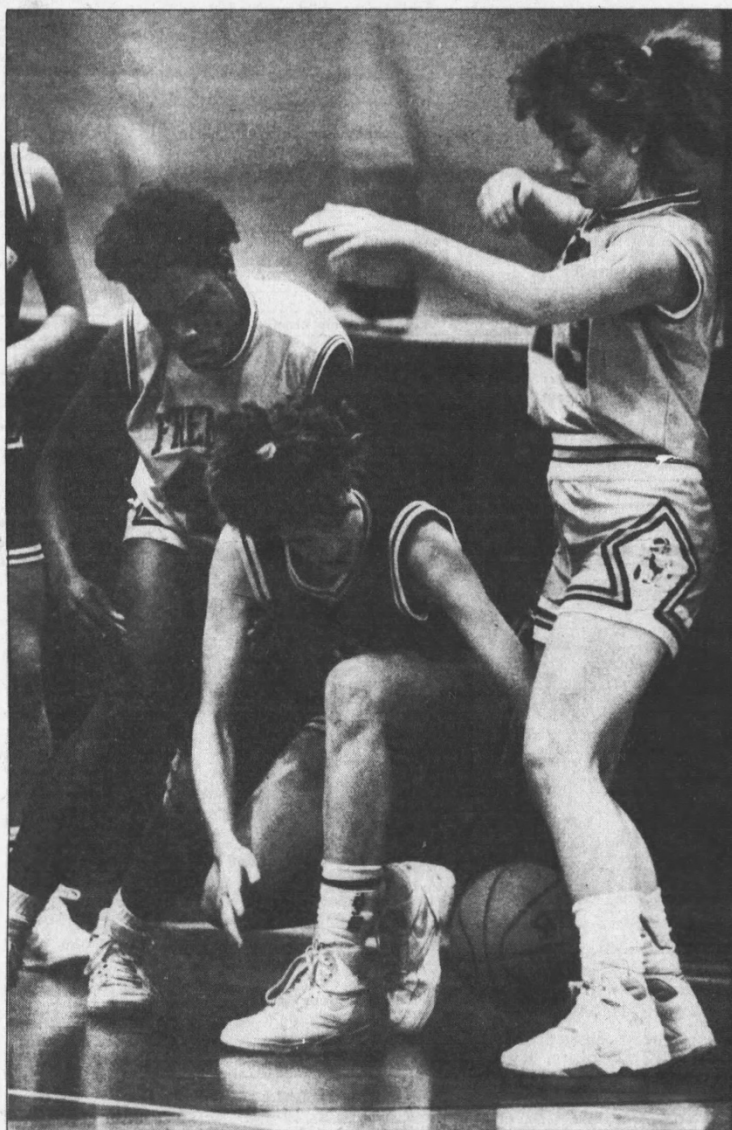
"We wanted to block out and take the baseline away," Wolf said, "and we accomplished both."

And the pressure?

"We wanted to put the pressure on their guards," Wolf said.

That was not lost on Lobb.

"Anyone who has seen us play, knows that is what to do," Lobb said while admitting his team.



News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

VICKIE CASTILE (left) of Fremont Ross ball as Ross's Joy Eishen looks on Thursday and Findlay's Buffy Kagy chase a loose ball during the Little Giants' win.

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

lacked guard strength.

The Little Giants forced 24 Findlay turnovers while committing 20, eight in the final quarter.

Ross carried a 33-26 lead into the final quarter but the Trojans outscored Ross 12-4 in the first 4½ minutes, taking the lead on Jodi Brewer's rebound.

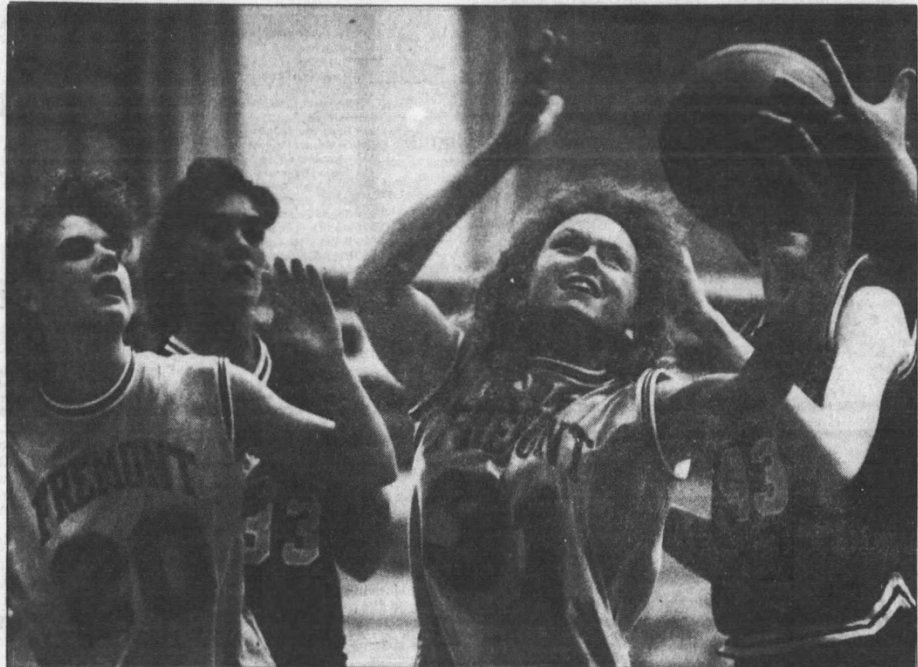
Eishen followed with a 12-foot jumper with 1:34 remaining to put Ross up by one but Corso's shot gave Findlay the 40-39 lead.

That set up Eishen's heart-pounder.

Findlay, 7-5 and 1-3 in the BCC, had a chance to tie and go ahead, but Allyson Creel missed the front end of a one-and-one with 13 seconds left and Eishen grabbed the rebound. Eishen fired the ball to Kim Borys who lobbed it to Shepflin for the layup.

It was the last of three fourth-quarter assists for Borys. Her other two were to Castile who had six of her nine points in the final period.

The Little Giants finished with a 44-21 rebounding edge.



News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

KIM BORYS(31) of Fremont Ross grabs a rebound as teammate Dian Schepflin (20) and Findlay's

April Rodenhoffer (33) and Heather Stamg (43) look on Thursday night.

Ross49

Columbian.....42

Ross trailed after three quarters in Tiffin, but a 15-7 fourth-quarter edge allowed the Little Giants to improve to 7-5.

"It was back-and-forth," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "This was a good win for us."

Kim Borys, who scored a game-high 18 points, handed off nine assists and made five steals, scored six points in the fourth quarter. Teammmate Joy Eishen, who scored 15 points, made five of six free throws in the fourth period.

Ross, which led 14-12 after one quarter, was knotted with the Tornadoes at 22-all at half-time and trailed 35-34 with one quarter left to play, made 20 of 44 shots to Columbian's 18 of 47.

Kara Gordon scored 14 points and Angie Puffenberger 12 for Columbian, 7-6.

Macomber routs Little Giants;

News-Messenger reports

ShaRhonda Purley scored 24 points for Toledo Macomber and led her team to a 66-34 victory over Fremont Ross Saturday in a girls high school basketball game.

In other games Saturday, Clyde defeated St. Mary's 67-61, Oak Harbor topped Edison 55-44, Margaretta held off Port Clinton 58-49, New Riegel beat Lakota 62-43, Danbury defeated Woodmore 70-57, Mohawk beat Bettsville 50-23 and Galion topped Bellevue 55-48.

Visiting Ross, 7-6, committed 35 turnovers against Macomber, 13-2. The Little Giants trailed 13-6 after one quarter, 25-16 at half-time and 45-26 after three quarters.

Kim Borys was the only Ross player in double figures with 11 points.

Girls Basketball

The game was tied nine-all after one quarter and 20-all at halftime before Clyde grabbed a 38-37 lead after three quarters.

Oak Harbor.....55

Edison.....44

Alison Golnick scored a game-high 20 points and Janice Butzin added 11 as the host Rockets remained undefeated in 13 games including eight SBC contests.

Oak Harbor won on the strength of an 18-point second quarter and an 18-point fourth quarter.

Margaretta.....58

Port Clinton.....49

Port Clinton led Margaretta

PC with 13 points, Patty Brabury added 12 and Jennifer Armstrong chipped in 10.

New Riegel.....6

Lakota.....4

New Riegel raced to a 19-first-quarter lead and led comfortably throughout the game.

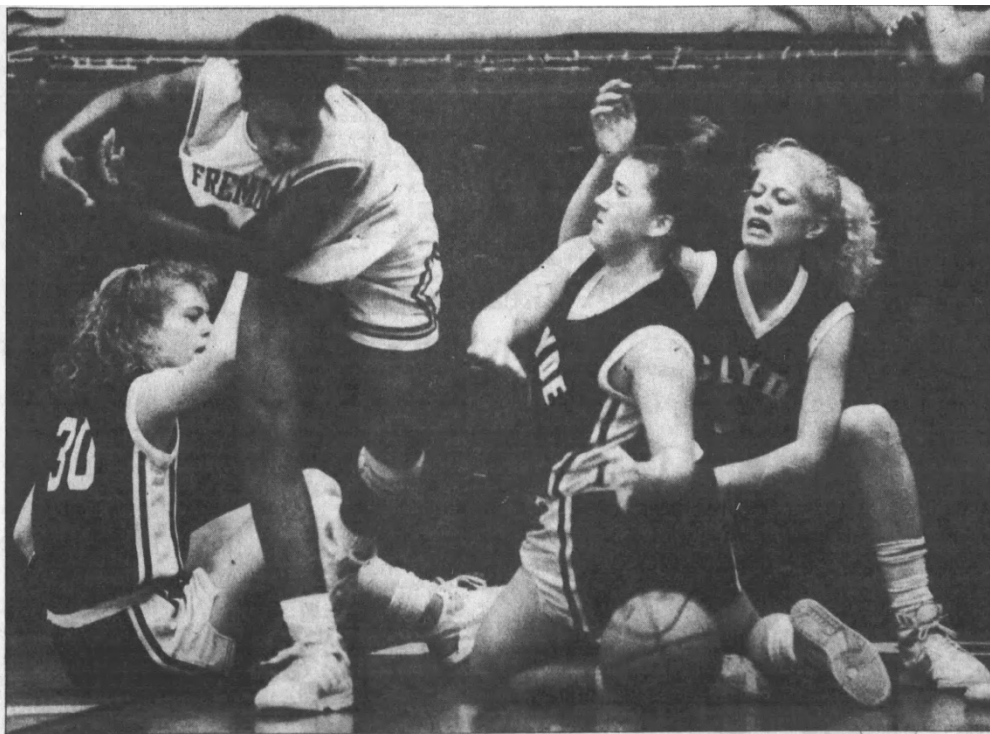
Lakota wasted 21 points by Patty Stowers on the road as the Raiders slipped to 3-10 and the Blue Jackets improved to 12-1.

Danbury.....71

Woodmore.....57

Woodmore led 15-4 after the first quarter at Lakeside, but the Wildcats scored just four points in the second quarter and were outscored 21-14 in the third quarter and 29-24 in the fourth.

Dan Schaffer scored a game



VICKIE CASTILE (light jersey) of Fremont Ross scrambles for a loose ball as Clyde players Choel Morrison (30), Missi Wilkerson

and Lindi Morrison (34) try to recover and get back in the play Tuesday night during the Little Giants' victory.

News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Ross girls top Clyde

BY JOHN CUMMINGS
Staff correspondent

The Clyde Fliers found out Tuesday night that sometimes big things really do come in small packages.

Fremont Ross's Kim Borys (5-1), Amy Ritzman (5-2), and Joy Eishen (5-6) combined for 25 points and 15 rebounds in the Little Giants' 49-35 homecourt, non-conference victory over the Fliers.

Borys scored 13 points and Eishen added 10, supporting Dian Schepflin's game-high 16 points.

Ritzman and Borys also led the Ross attack throughout the slow-paced first half. Both were either the thief, or villain, in most of Clyde's 19 turnovers.

Ross, 8-6, started sluggishly (four of 16 shooting from the field) but the Little Giants led 13-11 after one quarter.

Ross took a six-point lead, 23-17, with just under two minutes left in the first half on a 13-foot jump shot by Borys. Clyde, though, scored the final five points of the half and trailed 23-22 on Sherri Nelson's 3-point shot from 30 feet at the buzzer.

"I told the girls at halftime that they had better be able to dominate coming out because that shot had swung the momentum the other way," Ross Coach

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Sue Wolf said. "They also slowed us down and made us play their tempo; in the third and fourth quarter we played more our style."

Nelson, who led Clyde with 12 points, scored the first basket of the second half, giving the Fliers their first lead of the game since an 8-7 advantage in the first quarter.

The Fliers, 4-11, never led again after Ross regained the lead on a three-point play by Eishen that made it 26-24.

Ross outscored the Fliers 26-13 in the second half.

"We weren't moving on defense in the first half," Wolf said. "We had to move our feet. We had to keep our intensity up and we did that."

The Little Giants also moved their feet on defense, limiting Clyde to four points in the third quarter.

Borys connected on consecutive 18-footers and Eishen added a basket to push the Ross lead to 32-26 after three quarters.

"Their press bothered us, and we panicked," Clyde Coach Nancy Hanger said. "When we did break the press, we weren't able to use finesse with the ball."

"There were a lot of body fouls that threw our passing off, and that gets you upset when you feel people on the court aren't observing what happens."

Ross won the battle inside, gathering 38 rebounds to 34 for Clyde. Schepflin led Ross with 10 rebounds and Lindi Morrison had 10 for the Fliers.

Ross built its biggest lead, 45-30, with 2:08 left on a layup by Schepflin, who scored half of her points in the fourth quarter.

Lancaster clinches BCC title with win over Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Lancaster survived a pair of cold quarters with a sizzling free throw exhibition to defeat Fremont Ross 44-36 in a Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball game Saturday.

The victory clinched Lancaster's third consecutive conference title. The Golden Gales are 7-0 in BCC play. In three BCC seasons, Lancaster has lost just two conference games.

Lancaster, tied for 10th in the latest Division I Associated Press rankings, made 18 of 20 free throws including 12 of 12 in the final quarter.

That shooting offset a second quarter in which the Golden Gales did not make a basket and a fourth quarter that produced just a single field goal.

"That's not good," Lancaster Coach Steve Clippinger said.

"... They (Lancaster) knew when they had to score and that is the mark of a good team."

— Sue Wolf
Ross head coach

But he took it with a smile. The torrid free throw shooting made up for a 13-of-31 shooting performance.

"All of them are good at the free throw line," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "That is where they beat us."

The Little Giants made just 13 of 51 shots, five of 20 in the final eight minutes, and just seven of 17 free throws.

Ross trailed 14-4 after one quarter but six minutes into the

second quarter, the scrapping Little Giants cut the lead to 15-14 on Vickie Castile's rebound.

"Ross played hard," Clippinger said, "and we cannot expect to them (opponents) to come out and quit."

"Ross had a lot to gain," the Lancaster coach continued. "They could have gotten back into the conference race."

The Golden Gales did not afford the Little Giants the chance. Instead, Ross slipped to 2-3 and 8-7.

"Every time we would get to within three to five points," Wolf said, "they would spurt; they knew when they had to score and that is the mark of a good team."

Lancaster made five of six free throws in the second quarter for a 19-14 halftime lead. After Joy Eishen's bucket cut the lead to 19-16, Lancaster ran off six

straight for a 25-16 lead. In that spurt, Ross point guard Kim Borys picked up her fourth foul.

"We cannot afford to have Borys on the bench," Wolf said. "She is the one that gets the ball around to people."

Ross got back to 25-20 on back-to-back Eishen baskets with 3:15 to go but the Little Giants went cold, not getting on the scoreboard again until 5:18 remained in the game. By that time, Lancaster had a 34-20 lead.

Ross pulled close in the final three minutes on a trio of 3-point baskets by Amy Ritzman but the final margin was as close as Ross was to get.

"I'll take this effort every time

we play," Wolf said. "I told them in the locker room I have not seen a team that I would trade them for ... I'm proud of them."

Holly Coll, the BCC scoring leader with 21 per game, quietly scored 16 for the Golden Gales while Stacy List had nine on nine of 10 free throws.

Eishen led Ross with 12 points and Ritzman 10, all in the final three minutes. Castile added seven.

Ross outrebounded Lancaster 35-27, but the Gales committed 28 turnovers, three more than Ross.

Ross hosts Eastwood this evening. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

Great travel starts with a trip to AAA Travel Agency

• Instant Airline Ticketing at Airline • VISA and Passport Information

Ross girls make giant comeback

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Eastwood had the big beginning but Ross had the big finish.

The result was a 50-34 victory for the Little Giants Monday night over the Eagles in a girls high school basketball game.

"I think they are just trying to see how many gray hairs they can give me," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said with a smile while savoring her team's ninth win against seven losses.

The gray hairs sprouted quickly as Ross fell behind 18-3. It was 20-4 before the Little Giants showed signs of life.

Eastwood, 11-5, started as hot as a team could get, making its first nine shots from the field and sinking two of two at the foul line to open up the 20-4 lead early in the second quarter.

"We started well because we were playing aggressively and smart," Eastwood Coach Mike Godfrey said, "but then we became complacent with our lead."

And the Little Giants awoke.

"We started so flat," Wolf said. "I tried subbing to get things changed around but we were not playing any defense at all."

That changed quickly.

The pressurized Ross defense forced 10 second-quarter turnovers and the Little Giants ran off 14 consecutive points to trail 20-18 at halftime.

"Our defense, like I have always said, picks up our offense," Wolf insisted. "Once we started moving our feet on defense ... that was the key."

Plus the tenacious play of seemingly everyone that Wolf sent in off the pine.

"Ross picked up its intensity and never stopped," Godfrey said, "and we never responded. Normally, we don't back off from anyone but we did tonight."

"You should never lose a game when you are up 20-4."

Five players scored for Ross in the 14-point run. Joy Eishen tossed in six points, Dian Schepflin three, Amy Ritzman and Kim Borys two apiece and Vickie Castile one.

Eastwood scored the first four points of the second half before Ross surged again. Schepflin's putback and Ritzman's foul line jump shot cut the Eagles' lead to 24-22. Jenny Parson's bucket interrupted the Ross onslaught,

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

but only temporarily.

Scheplin scored again and Eishen took a pass from Borys to tie it at 26-all with 3:39 remaining in the third quarter. Eishen returned the favor, hitting Borys with a pass for a layup, putting Ross up 28-26 with 3:03 left and the Little Giants never trailed again.

By the time Patty Caris hit a short jumper for Eastwood with 1:10 left in the quarter, Ross had a 32-28 lead as Borys dished off

to Castile and Scheplin for layups. It was 33-28 at the end of the quarter.

It was no contest in the final eight minutes. Ross outscored the Eagles 12-4 and led 45-32 with 1:40 to play and Wolf's hair was not getting any lighter.

Borys had eight assists unofficially and 13 points for Ross. Eishen tossed in 14 and Scheplin 10. Castile had seven while patrolling the boards.

Ross, after making one of 10 shots and falling behind 14-3 after one quarter, finished with 18 of 43 while Eastwood made just six of its last 32 shots, finishing 15 of 41.

Ross girls win by 10 at Newark

News-Messenger reports

"It was our first win on a long trip," Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf said.

Joy Eishen scored a season's best 26 points Saturday and the Little Giants defeated Newark 55-45 at Newark High School.

The win was the first Buckeye Central Conference win south of

Girls Basketball

Fremont for the Little Giants since the BCC began play three years ago.

In other games, Oak Harbor beat Clyde 52-31, Huron defeated Margaretta 63-53, Old Fort topped Tiffin Calvert 48-39 and

Tiffin Columbian defeated Lakota 47-39.

Eishen made eight field goals and 10 of 11 free throws. Ross, 10-7 and 3-3 in the BCC, made 18 of 34 shots and committed only 12 turnovers.

Kim Borys added 13 points for Ross, which led 12-7 after one quarter and 24-21 at halftime.

"We were four of 12 from the foul line in the first half," Wolf said. "I told the girls at halftime that we would have to shoot better from the line in the second half."

The Little Giants made 15 of 17 foul shots after halftime includ-

See GIRLS, B-4

Girls

Continued From B-1

ing Eishens' seven of seven effort.

Ross led 36-33 after three quarters and outscored the Wildcats 18-12 in the fourth quarter.

Bekkah Berryhill scored 16 points for Newark, 2-15 and 0-7.

Ross girls handed nightmarish loss

Devils overcome 16-point deficit

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was a dream beginning that ended in a nightmare Saturday for the Ross girls.

Zanesville overcame a 16-point second quarter deficit to hand Ross a 54-50 loss Saturday in a Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball game at Ross High School, dashing the Little Giants' hopes of a second-place finish in the conference race.

"We lost it completely," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "We just did not do what we were supposed to do."

The loss dropped Ross to 3-4 in the conference race while Zanesville finished 5-3. Ross is 10-8 with games at Sandusky Tuesday and Findlay Thursday. The Blue Devils finished the regular season 8-12.

Ross, using precision passing, clutch rebounding and a hot shooting streak, charged from a 6-6 first quarter deadlock to a 26-10 lead three minutes into the second quarter. The Little Giants made six of their first nine shots in the period but missed their last four.

"The first quarter, we did not do anything," Zanesville Coach Dave Bell said, "but from about the third minute of the second quarter, I was proud of them."

The Little Giants lost their momentum in that second quarter swing.

Zanesville ran off five points as Ann Davy, Regina Gibson and RaShawndra Horton asserted themselves. By halftime, the Ross lead had dwindled to 30-26.

In the third quarter, neither team could muster an offense but Zanesville cut into the lead further, trailing 33-32.

In the final eight minutes, Zanesville put on a sizzling free throw exhibition, connecting on 10 of 10 and outscoring Ross 22-17.

"They did not do anything dif-

ferent to us defensively," Wolf said. "We started to miss some shots and then got gun shy."

"It's a tough loss for us," she said.

Zanesville took the lead 36-35 on Shelly Thompson's short jumper but Ross regained the advantage on Joy Eishen's two free throws with 5:11 remaining in the game.

Horton put the Blue Devils up for good 10 seconds later on a jumper from the left side.

The Little Giants closed to 46-44 with 1:35 remaining on Amy Ritzman's free throw but fell behind 52-45 with 32 seconds showing.

Thompson and Stacy Bennett hit four straight free throws apiece as Zanesville opened up its biggest lead of the game but Eishen hit a 3-point basket and followed up with a steal and layup, cutting the Zanesville lead to 52-50 with 11 seconds left.

Thompson sealed the win with a pair of free throws two second later.

"We played well the fourth quarter," Bell said, "and Thompson and Bennett hit those free throws."

Zanesville entered the game making 55 percent of its free throws but made 18 of 23 against Ross.

Horton led the Blue Devils with 14 points, 16 rebounds and six blocked shots. Thompson finished with 12 and Davy had 11.

Eishen, Dian Schepflin and Kim Borys had 13 points apiece for Ross.

Ross made 18 of 56 shots and Zanesville 18 of 46. Ross was 13 of 20 at the foul line and led in rebounding 38-30. Zanesville had 17 turnovers and Ross 18.

Editor's note: In a Friday story, Zanesville was listed incorrectly as being 5-2 in the BCC. Instead, the Blue Devils took a 4-3 conference record into the game with Ross.

Early blitz paces Sandusky past Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Sandusky outscored Fremont Ross 20-9 in the first quarter Tuesday night and went on to a 69-50 high school girls basketball victory.

In other games, Margaretta defeated Clyde 47-38, Port Clinton beat Edison 66-53 and Tiffin Columbian topped Bellevue 50-38.

Ross, 10-9, committed 28 turnovers at Sandusky High School.

Joy Eishen scored 11 points and Kim Borys 10 for the Little Giants.

Michelle Butler scored 18 points, Angee Jordan 17 and Char Dubois 13 for the Blue Streaks, 15-3.

Margaretta47

Clyde.....38

Clyde led 31-29 after three

Girls Basketball

quarters, but Margaretta outscored the Fliers 18-7 in the fourth quarter for the Sandusky Bay Conference win.

Margaretta's Amy VanCauwenbergh was the only player in double figures with 18 points. Mindy Swartz and Jodi Ferrell scored eight and seven points, respectively, for Clyde.

The Polar Bears improved to 15-5 and 12-2 in the SBC. Clyde fell to 5-15 and 4-10.

Port Clinton66

Edison53

Jennifer Armstrong scored 26 points and Patty Bradbury added 11 points and 14 rebounds

See GIRLS, B-2

Borys, McGee pace Ross victory

News-Messenger reports

Kim Borys scored 19 points and Stephanie McGee had a season-high 15 off the bench as Fremont Ross defeated Findlay 62-56 Thursday night.

In one other game, Sandusky ripped Bellevue 88-46.

Ross, 11-9 and 4-4 in the Buckeye Central Conference, trailed 27-26 at halftime.

The Little Giants outscored the Trojans 36-29 in the second half at Findlay High School.

With starters Joy Eishen and Dian Schepflin hampered by illness, McGee, Tanya Stull and Vickie Castile played key roles off the bench.

Stull connected for two 3-point

Girls Basketball

field goals and scored seven points and Castile chipped in five points.

"They played a real good game," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "That's one of the things we need to win."

"We need that kind of help from the bench."

Eishen and Schepflin finished with four points apiece, while Amy Ritzman added eight.

Findlay, 10-10 and 3-5 in the BCC, committed 31 turnovers to 17 for Ross — negating a 39-35 rebound advantage over the Little Giants.

Allyson Creel led all scorers

with 24 points but was the only Trojan in double figures.

Sandusky88

Bellevue46

Michelle Butler scored 24 points and Char Dubois had 22 as the Blue Streaks beat the Lady Redmen.

Sandusky, 17-3, shot 58 percent (40 of 69) from the field, while Bellevue struggled at 35 percent (18 of 52). The Streaks also committed just 12 turnovers to 25 for Bellevue and held a 36-18 rebound advantage.

Nicki Schwiefert scored 13 points and Kim Zelms added 12 for Bellevue, 8-12.

Two Little Giants on first team ^N

News-Messenger reports

Kim Borys and Joy Eishen of Fremont Ross were named to the All-Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball first team released today.

Both seniors, Borys, 5-6, averaged 10.9 points per game while the 5-7 Eishen scored at a 12.6-per game pace.

Joining the Ross duo on the first team were co-players of the year Allyson Creel of Findlay and Holly Coll of Lancaster. Creel, a junior, averaged 19.8 points per game, tops in the BCC, while Coll scored at a 19.2 pace while leading her team to its third consecutive BCC title.

The fifth member of the first team selected by the five conference coaches is Rashaundra Horton, a sophomore out of Zanesville. Horton averaged 14.1 points per game.

Amy Ritzman of Ross was named to the second team. The 5-2 junior was joined by Ann Davy of Zanesville, Stefanie Holt of Lancaster, Jody Brewer of Findlay and Tasha Davies of Newark.

Dian Schepflin of the Little Giants received honorable mention. ^N

ds all-district team

Old Fort and received honorable mention in the Division IV voting. ^N

Kim Borys of Ross gained third team honors and teammate Joy Eishen was honorable mention in Division I.

Blair, four others named 'most valuable' at Ross awards program

News-Messenger reports

Ohio high school state diving champion B.J. Blair led a quintet of Fremont Ross High School athletes voted "most valuable" by their teammates in winter sports.

The winners of the special awards announced at the Ross Winter Sports Awards Program in the high school cafeteria Tuesday night.

Other "most valuable" performers named were Kim Borys in girls basketball; Shane McConnell in boys basketball; Tracie Baker in girls swimming; and Dan Lopez in wrestling.

Blair, a senior, was a four-time state meet qualifier, finishing 17th as freshman, fifth as

a sophomore and third last year before winning the title earlier this month. He also received the "Coaches Award" from head coach Neal Wensinger.

Chase Baker was named most improved swimmer on the BLAIR boys swim team. Blair and Baker took home captain trophies.

Tracie Baker, a freshman, led the girls swim team.

Molly Zinkand won the most improved swimmer award while Ronda Mahr received a captain



trophy. Ronelle Mahr won the Coaches Award.

Lopez, a fifth-place finisher in the Division I state meet at 140 pounds, also won the most take-downs award with a school record 165. The previous record was 96.

Heavyweight Chad Green won the most pins (19) trophy and Phil Missig was the winner of the Coaches Award. David Boda was the team's most improved wrestler in awards handed out by coach Al Voggenthaler.

Terry Carter and Brian Palomo were given captain trophies.

Borys also took home a girls basketball captain trophy along with Missy Smith.

Coach Sue Wolf presented

Vickie Castile, a junior, the most improved honor.

Other special awards went to Joy Eishen as the best percentage free throw shooter and Dian Schepflin for being the leading rebounder.

McConnell paced the boys honorees in awards handed out by coach Pat McGhee.

Justin Oxley and Todd Clark were presented with captain trophies while Clark took home the awards for the highest free throw percentage and most assists. Oxley won the best defensive player honor.

Jeff Green had the highest field goal percentage and Chris Wolfe took home the rebounding award.

Other special awards were presented by the Ross Athletic Boosters to Blair and Lopez for their state tournament accomplishments.

Members of the wrestling team who competed in the Buckeye Central Conference Tournament, were presented with championship plaques including conference champs Boda, Lopez, Carter, Scott Mezinger, Green and Brian Moreno.

Blair also won a four-year letter award. Three-year letter winners included Borys and Clark, wrestlers Palomo, Charles Chapman, Daniel Costilla and Moreno and swimmers Chase Baker, David Tallman and Sheila Poust.



McCONNELL



BORYS



BAKER



LOPEZ