

Turnovers sink Ross

News-Messenger Reports

Turnovers can kill a basketball team.

The Fremont Ross girls learned that Saturday in their season opener after Bellevue forced the Little Giants into 31 miscues en route to a 55-40 decision in Bellevue.

The victory lifts the Redmen to 2-0.

Alisa Raifsnider scored 20 points to lead Bellevue to the victory. Using full-court pressure, the Redmen outscored the Little Giants 31-19 in the second half after leading 24-20 at the intermission.

Amy Schepflin had 10 points for Ross and Shelley Hetrick added nine. Kim Zelms had nine for Bellevue.

Huron50

Ross.....34

Amy Majoy scored 18 points to lead the Huron over Fremont Ross at Huron.

The Tigers also had 16 points from Teresa Gibson to give Huron a 1-0 start. Ross fell to 0-2.

"They began pressing us and we turned the ball over too many times," Ross Coach Sue Wolf described succinctly.

The Little Giants were led by Shelley Hetrick, who scored 10 points. Amy Schepflin added eight, and Shannon Watts and Cindy Laird both had six.

Ross suffered from poor shooting, hitting only 28 percent from the field.

Ross will host Toledo Macomber Thursday in its home opener. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

Macomber tops Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross was its own worst enemy Thursday as Toledo Macomber rolled to a 43-29 victory in the Little Giants' home opener.

The defeat dropped Ross to 0-3 while the Lady Macs picked up win number four against no losses.

"If we got rid of the dumb turnovers, we would have been in the game," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

Ross committed 35 turnovers, 14 of them in the first eight minutes. The turnovers helped erase a 48-20 rebounding advantage Ross had against the bigger Lady Macs.

"We did," Wolf said, "get into our offense. We had not been able to do that in the other two games because of turnovers."

Ross led twice — 3-2 and 5-4 before Macomber, with Kim Hutchens scored six points, outscored the Little Giants 10-1 in the last four minutes of the first quarter to take charge of the game.

Macomber built the lead to 22-9 and it never got below 10 after that.

Amy Schepflin had 12 points and 15 rebounds for Ross.

"I could not ask her to do anything more," Wolf said about Schepflin, a six-foot senior. "She is helping bring the ball upcourt

and getting the girls into the offense. She showed good leadership."

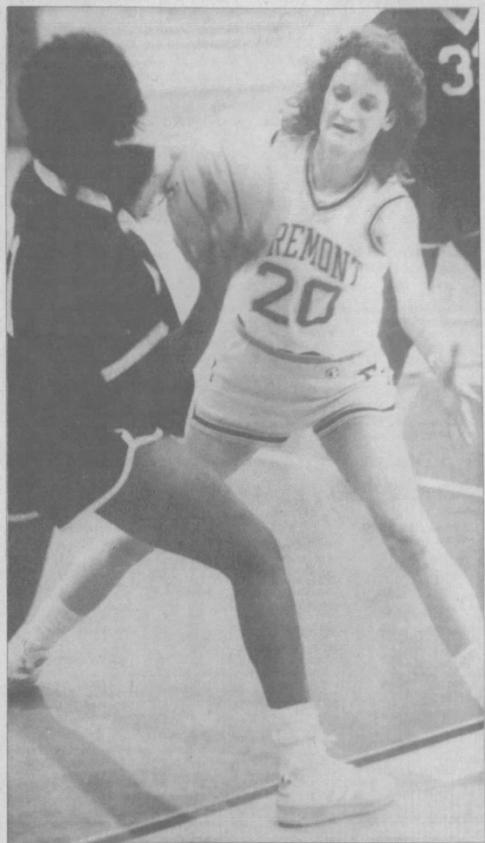
Hutchens led Macomber with 13 points and 6-2 freshman Shonda Purley came off the bench to score 10.

Shelly Hetrick added seven for Ross, with Shannon Watts and Cindy Laird getting five apiece.

Ross made 12 of 46 shots and Macomber 19 of 46.

In the junior varsity game, Ross raised its record to 3-0 with a 31-26 victory. Joy Eishen had eight points and Shari Root seven for Ross.

Saturday, Ross travels to Newark in the Buckeye Central Conference opener.



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

AMY SCHEPFLIN of Ross cuts off the path of a Toledo Macomber player during Thursday's game at Ross High School.

St. Joe rolls to 2nd victory

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Pressure defense, balanced scoring and strong rebounding are the ingredients for a blowout.

At least they were for the St. Joseph Central Catholic girls basketball team in its Midland Athletic League opener against Hopewell-Loudon Thursday night.

St. Joe's convincing 58-26 home court victory over the Chieftains upped its overall record to 2-0 and served notice to the other teams in the MAC that it is one of the teams to beat.

"That is the way I feel we are capable of playing all year," said St. Joe Coach Gary Geller. "It's a great feeling to see your top seven players sitting on their butts with five minutes to go in the game."

The Crimson Streaks scored the first 11 points of the game and never looked back. Ann Hossler led the Streaks scoring parade, which included 10 players, with 11 points and Elaine Gonya had nine.

Defense, though, was the key to victory.

Hopewell, 1-3, was limited to 32 shots from the field including just eight in the first half. St. Joe rebounded the backboards, outrebounding the Chieftains 42-22.

"(St. Joe) played that pressure defense and we never got into our offense," said Hopewell Coach Jim Dillard. "I thought they really played well. We knew coming in they would be the team to beat.

"If they play that good, or even half that good, they will be awfully tough to beat the rest of the way."

Geller said the Crimson Streaks executed the game plan to perfection.

"It feels good to be able to pick up on what they did and make it work for you," he said. "We knew we had to prevent Arbogast (Hopewell's Wanda) from shooting the outside shot and keep their big people off the boards.

"We did an excellent job stopping the outside shot. The pressure on (Hopewell) at the guard position really hurt them. Gonya, (Tracy) Overmyer, (Teresa) Reardon, (Maureen) Barry and (Amy) Kramer really did a nice job."

And although Stephan Dutcher and Lisa Reinhart (the big people Geller talked about) had 14 of Hopewell's 22 rebounds, they scored just six and three points respectively.

Newark.....	50
Ross.....	39

Despite a 19-point outburst in the fourth quarter, the Little Giants fell to 0-4 in losing their Buckeye Central Conference opener on the road.

Ross trailed 40-20 entering the fourth period before making a run. By then, however, it was too late.

Amy Schepflin topped Ross scorers with 10 points.

Pirates rally past Ross girls

News-Messenger Reports

Amy Litz scored eight points in the third quarter as Perkins erased a five-point deficit while defeating Ross 51-44 in high school girls basketball Tuesday.

The Little Giants, 0-5, out-scored the Pirates, 4-0, 18-5 in the second quarter for a 24-19 lead.

"We were running our offense in the first half," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said, "but in the second half, we just did not get up and down the floor. We should not have been tired because we played a lot of people (10)."

In other area games, Eastwood defeated Gibsonburg 71-32, Woodmore toppled Otsego 68-56 and Lakota stopped Genoa 58-46 in Suburban Lakes League play while Danbury downed Old Fort 40-32, Bettsville lost to Fostoria St. Wendelin 39-26 and Shelby downed Bellevue 85-43 in non-league action.

Cindy Laird scored all eight of her points in the first half and Shannon Watts put in six as Ross made seven of 15 second quarter shots to grab the halftime lead.

In the other three quarters, Ross made just 10 of 42 shots.

Shelly Hetrick had 16 points, including a pair of three-point shots in the final quarter, to pace Ross. Litz finished with 20 and Shannon Chill had 18 for Perkins.

Clyde is Little Giants' first victim

By CLIFF PINCKARD
Staff Writer

The Fremont Ross girls basketball team took advantage of inexperienced team to win its first high school girls basketball game of the season 63-36 Thursday.

Ross, 1-5, jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back.

Clyde, 1-4, struggled early and was never able to recover. The Fliers didn't take a shot until five minutes into the

game and had only four in the first quarter.

"We never shoot well, we usually shoot around 25 percent," Clyde Coach Butch Nelson said about a problem that plagues his team.

"I think we were intimidated by their height. We wouldn't get the ball inside."

The Little Giants took advantage of the intimidation, moving the ball inside to six-foot center Amy Schepflin. Schepflin finished with 12

points.

Cindy Laird was successful outside as well as inside for Ross, leading the Little Giants with 15 points.

The closest the Fliers came was in the second period, when Ross held an 18-8 lead. But the Giants outscored the Fliers 13-1 for a 31-9 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, Clyde was more aggressive, but it was too little, too late. Ross took just six shots in the third,

but still scored 11 points.

"We played pretty well our last game, and we turned things around this game," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

"We missed some easy shots, but we made more easy ones than we usually do." Wolf said the Giants' heavy schedule hurt the team early in the season.

"This team is young and inexperienced. We needed more practice time. We've got to get it together."

Redskins top Little Giants 53-46

Mattox gets 34;
PC ends streak

By DAVE SHEDLOSKI
Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — The Port Clinton Redskins painted themselves a victory portrait.

The Redskins made 20 of their 23 field goals on layups and other assorted shots in the paint to brush by Fremont Ross 53-46 Wednesday night in a non-conference girls basketball game.

Jacque Mattox scored a game-high 34 points, 21 in the first half, to lead the Redskins to their third straight victory and their first win over the Little Giants since 1973.

"Obviously, we got the shots we wanted, especially in the first half," said Port Clinton Coach Doug Armstrong, his team now 3-2. "What we have to do now is learn to play with a lead. We lost some intensity in the second half and let them back in the game."

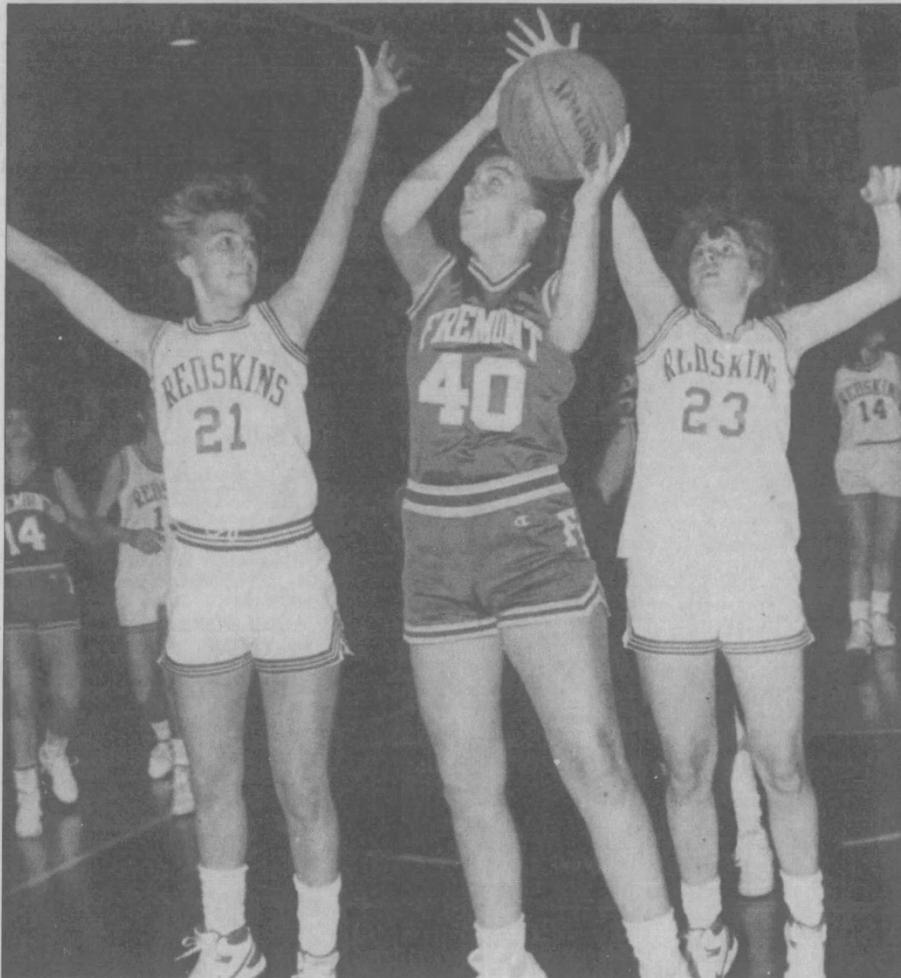
The Redskins built a 31-13 half-time lead, mainly by picking up easy baskets off their 2-2-1 full court press and by picking through Ross pressure for other uncontested shots.

Mattox scored both ways. She had five steals to set up seven of her points, and was the recipient of numerous lob passes from guards Jennifer Heigel and Jodi Fall to set up another eight points. Heigel scored the other 10 in the half and finished with 13.

But the Little Giants, who trailed by as many as 19, managed to make things close by settling down and running their offense. They scored the last six points of the third quarter and the first six of the fourth get within four 42-38 with 6:18 to play. Lela Dorsey and Amy Schepflin had four each in that stretch.

Sandi Brough broke the string with two free throws and Mattox broke loose for a pair of short baskets to bring the lead back to 10. Ross came no closer until the final count.

"When we ran our offense and did what we were supposed to, we were able to get back in it,"



News-Messenger/Dave Shedloski

FREMONT ROSS forward Cindy Laird goes up for a shot while Port Clinton's Sandi Brough (21) and

Christina George defend during high school girls action Wednesday at Port Clinton.

said Ross Coach Sue Wolf. "In the first half, I had to ask our girls what game we were playing so I knew what to coach. I don't know what we were doing."

What the Little Giants were doing was playing Port Clinton's game.

"That's the first time we ever

ran a press, and it worked well for us," Armstrong said. "We got them (Ross) to play the way we wanted to and I think it was the difference."

Despite the many easy shots, Port Clinton was just 23 of 59 from the field for 39 percent, and only 9-for-31 in the second half.

"That doesn't surprise me. We missed a lot of easy shots," Armstrong said.

Ross, which fell to 1-6, missed easy and hard ones alike. They finished 17 of 60 from the floor for 28 percent and had 22 turnovers. Schepflin led the Giants with 17 points and Dorsey added 10.

Lancaster 62

Ross 28

Lancaster, 5-2, 2-0 in Buckeye Central Conference games, trailed only once — 4-3 — while rolling to the lopsided BCC win.

Ross led 4-3 but the Golden Gales ran off 11 unanswered points to take command. Leading 14-6 after one quarter, Lancaster ran to a 26-6 advantage.

The Little Giants, 1-7, 0-2, bounced back to trail by 12 — 29-17 — midway through the third quarter but Lancaster went on an 11-3 spurt to put the game away.

Nikki Bell had 16 points to lead the Gales.

Shelley Hetrick led Ross with 14 points, including a pair of three-point goals.

Ross girls fall to Zanesville

News-Messenger reports

It's basic: Teams cannot do what Ross did Tuesday afternoon and win many basketball games.

"Too many missed easy shots and too many turnovers," Ross High School girls basketball Coach Sue Wolf said after Zanesville defeated the Little Giants 46-41 in a Buckeye Central Conference game at Ross.

The Little Giants, 1-8 and 0-3 in the BCC, made 19 of 50 shots and committed 27 turnovers. Zanesville was worse with 18 of 51 shooting but the Golden Gales made 10 of 18 free throws (while Ross was four of six) to pull out the win.

While it was a loss, Wolf saw improvement in her team.

"We were horrible in the last game (a 62-28 loss to Lancaster), but we came back in this one. It would have been nice to win but we played well," Wolf said.

Trailing 24-14 early in the third quarter, Ross ran to a 31-30 lead on Shelly Hetrick's basket 34 seconds into the final quarter. The Little Giants led again 33-32 on Amy Schepflin's bucket before Zanesville ran off six straight points for a 38-33 lead with five minutes to play.

A basket and a free throw by Schepflin cut the Zanesville lead to 38-36 with four minutes remaining but that was the end of the line.

Eve Johnson led Zanesville with 16 points.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won for the seventh time in nine games 31-18. Joy Eischen had 14 points and Dian Schepflin 11 for Ross.

Ross.....59

Findlay.....40

The Little Giants won for just the second time this season with a rare victory over the Trojans. Ross, 2-8, 1-3 in the Buckeye Central Conference, was led by Shelly Hetrick with 18 points while Amy Schepflin added 13.

Ross countered a 34-24 rebounding disadvantage with 49 percent shooting from the floor.

Julie Alspach led Findlay with 11 points. The Trojans are winless in 10 games including four in the BCC.

Ross girls fall to Columbian, 29-27

News-Messenger reports

Tiffin Columbian wiped out a 10-point halftime deficit to defeat Ross 29-27 in a high school girls basketball game Tuesday at Ross High School.

Ross made just four of 19 second half shots.

"You don't win many ball games doing that," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

Ross was 13 of 46 for the game.

Magnifying the poor shooting, was the fact that all seven Ross shots in the third quarter were inside the foul lane. The Little Gaints made just two.

Shelley Hetrick scored seven points and Amy Schepf-

lin had six as Ross grabbed a 19-9 halftime lead.

Columbian cut the Ross lead to 23-21 after three quarters as Jill Garrett tossed in seven points. In the final quarter, Columbian outscored Ross 8-4 with Garrett getting three and Shanon Alberts four.

The loss dropped Ross to 2-9. Columbian is 4-7.

Spotty play by Ross leads to another loss

News-Messenger reports

Oregon Clay took advantage of the spotty play of Ross to post a 56-39 high school girls basketball victory at the Little Giants' home Tuesday.

Clay, 9-3, did about everything expect take control of the game.

"We had some good spots where we played well," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said, "but we had other spots that hurt us."

Three times Ross fell behind by as many as 12 points only to chip the lead to under 10. In the second quarter, Clay led 24-12 before Ross came back to 24-16 and in the third quarter, Ross closed the gap to 28-22.

Late in the third quarter, after falling behind 37-24, Ross charged back to trail 38-32 before another bad spell struck, allowing the Eagles to outscore the

Little Giants 11-1 in the first four minutes of the final quarter.

Julie Unsinger led the balanced Clay attack with 17 points. Dena Romstadt and Tammy Schneider added 14 and 13 points, respectively, to the Clay attack.

Amy Schepflin led Ross with 10 points. Shelly Hetrick and Cindy Laird added eight points apiece for the Little Giants, 2-10.

Ross trailed 19-10 after one quarter and 26-16 at the half. The Eagles held a 41-32 lead after three quarters.

The Little Giants made 18 of 48 shots and Clay 23 of 56. Clay had a 39-35 rebounding edge. Ross had 20 turnovers, two less than the Eagles.

Ross will travel to Lancaster for Buckeye Central Conference game at 1 p.m., Saturday.

Lancaster girls coast against Ross

News-Messenger reports

Lancaster built a 30-15 half-time lead and coasted to a 57-39 Buckeye Central Conference high school girls basketball victory Saturday at the Golden Gales' home.

In other games Saturday, Clyde fell to Huron 67-42, Hopewell-Loudon defeated Woodmore 63-55, and Bellevue toppled Galion 56-36.

Lancaster remained undefeated in the BCC while raising its record to 11-4. Ross fell to 2-11 and 1-4 in conference play.

Jill Hiles and Penny Sorrell paced a balanced Lancaster attack with 16 points apiece. Teammate Tina Azbell added 12.

Cindy Laird had 11 points and Amy Schepflin eight for Ross.

Lancaster was 26 of 51 from the floor and Ross 13 of 45. The Golden Gales outrebounded Ross 32-26.

Ross will return to action Tuesday, hosting Sylvania Northview.

Huron 67

Clyde 42

The Tigers jumped ahead 21-8 after the first quarter and cruised the Sandusky Bay Conference victory at home.

Teresa Gibson was tops for the Tigers with 19 points. Huron is 10-2, 5-1 in the SBC.

Clyde, 2-10, 1-6, was led by Heather Dick with 12 points.

H.-Loudon 63

Woodmore 55

The Wildcats committed 30 turnovers, including 21 in the first half, and were outscored 19-2 at the foul line in dropping a

non-league contest.

Joanne Arbogast led three Chieftains in double figures with 21 points. Wanda Arbogast had 14 and Mindy Myers added 11.

Becky Riseborough led Woodmore with 17 points, Lori Gnepper added 11 and Stephanie Grady chipped in 10.

Hopewell-Loudon improved to 10-3 and Woodmore fell to 5-9.

Bellevue 56

Galion 36

Jodi Hay scored 17 points as the Redmen won their fifth game in a row.

Bellevue, 8-6, 5-4 in the Northern Ohio League, used strong first and third quarters to put the Tigers away. The Redmen led 14-2 after one quarter and outscored Galion 16-8 in the third to build their advantage to 42-23.

Ross girls fall short

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

FREMONT — Sylvania Northview held off a late Ross rally with a couple of long bombs to defeat the Little Giants 51-40 in a high school girls basketball game Wednesday.

The game at Ross High School had been postponed from Tuesday.

"The kids played hard," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "The effort was there but they are just never getting any rewards."

Ross, 2-12, had a good beginning and a portion of a good ending. Shannon Watts tossed in three buckets as Ross led 11-9 after one quarter. That lead grew to 17-9 before the Lady Kats came to life.

Behind Jenny Evans, Northview overtook Ross with 30 seconds remaining in the first half, taking a 20-18 lead.

Ross became its own worst enemy in the second half, committing four turnovers early in the third period, allowing Northview to open up a 28-18 lead.

"The beginning of the third quarter was horrible," Wolf said. "They say that is the time when you set the tone for the rest of the game and we did not do it."

The Northview lead jumped to 37-24 with six minutes remaining in the game but Ross fought back, outscoring the Lady Kats 14-2 in the next three minutes to trail 39-38.

Northview bounced back after a timeout, stinging Ross with three long inbounds passes over the Ross defense for layups. Northview ran off eight consecutive points to put Ross down 47-38 with a minute to play.

Evans led Northview with 17 points. Teammates Denise Ardoino and Janice McCombs added nine and eight, respectively.

Hetrick topped Ross with 16 and Schepflin added 11.

Frustrating season continues for Ross girls

News-Messenger reports

It was an addition to a frustrating season for the Fremont Ross girls basketball team Saturday.

The Little Giants played well in spurts but not consistently enough to stave off their 13th loss in 15 games. This time, Newark pulled away late with torrid free throw shooting to a 62-43 Buckeye Central Conference victory.

In other games Saturday, Margaretta rolled over Clyde 108-47, Shelby defeated Bellevue 50-32 and New Riegel topped Old Fort 53-48.

"I wish we could start a ball game like we played in the second half," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

"I was proud of them in the second half," Wolf continued, "they fought hard but when we had to foul to get the ball in fourth quarter, we buried ourselves.

Newark, though, made the first 11 foul shots and 16 of 19 in the final eight minutes to do the burying. Before that, the Little Giants had clawed their way back from a 31-18 halftime deficit to within five, 42-37, with four minutes remaining in the game.

The Wildcats were 20 of 27 from the foul line and a nearly as hot 20 of 34 in field goal shooting. Ross was six of 13 at the line and 18 of 55 from the floor.

Shelley Hetrick scored six points to lead the Little Giants' third quarter resurgence which ended 40-31. Amy Schepflin and Shannon Watts scored four points apiece to lead the short-lived Ross fourth quarter comeback.

Jennifer Foote led Newark with 17 points, nine on final quarter free throws.

Hetrick topped Ross with 17, Schepflin had 12 and Watts six.

Margaretta.....108

Clyde.....47

The Polar Bears shattered the school girls and boys single-game scoring record and presented Coach Tim Tucker with his 100th career win.

The old girls scoring record was 93 points set in 1980 while the boys mark was 107 set in 1978.

Five Polar Bears scored in double figures led by Andrea Carter with 18 and Angie Kenne with 17. Kristen Riley had 15, Vicki Czekaj 14 and Vicki Lemberios added 13.

Margaretta improved to 15-1 and 9-1 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Clyde, 2-11 and 1-8 in the SBC, got 12 points from Rhonda Pearce.

Shelby.....50

Bellevue.....32

Shelby broke open a close Northern Ohio League game with a 16-5 advantage in the third quarter. The Whippets led 18-16 at halftime.

Tami Nauman led Shelby with 16 points and Jodi Enzman added 13. Alisa Raifsnider topped Bellevue with 11.

Bellevue dropped to 8-7 and 5-5 in the NOL while Shelby improved to 11-2, 9-1.

New Riegel.....53

Old Fort.....48

Shannon Smith scored 20 points and Dana Kuhlman had 18 for New Riegel to counter a 19-point performance by Old Fort's Hope Kessler in a non-league game between Midland Athletic League foes.

Old Fort fell to 6-8 and New Riegel improved to 12-4.

Early lead fails to hold up in Ross girls loss

News-Messenger reports

Ross forged to an early lead before Zanesville came to life and earned a 52-39 Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball victory at Zanesville High School Saturday.

In other games, Sandusky St. Mary's defeated Gibsonburg 71-49, Bellevue upset Upper Sandusky 48-47 and Mohawk defeated Old Fort 52-42.

Ross, with Amy Schepflin scoring all of the points, led 9-3 after the first eight minutes. In the second quarter, Zanesville's Fleschia Johnson, whose three-point goal was the only scoring for the Devil Devils in the first quarter, scored 10 points, as Zanesville took a 19-17 halftime lead.

Johnson was eight of eight at the foul line in the second quarter as Ross fell victim to 15 first-half fouls.

Zanesville took command with an 18-8 scoring advantage in the third quarter.

Johnson finished with 22 points, including 11 at the foul line. Teammates Mary Newton and Eve Johnson had 12 points apiece.

Schepflin paced Ross with 11, all in the first half. Shelly Hetrick, the Little Giants' leading scorer, had three first half fouls. She picked up her fourth early in the second half and was held to two points, nine below her average. Joy Eischen and Kim Borys had six points apiece for Ross.

Ross was 17 of 51 from the floor and six of 12 at the foul line. Zanesville made 18 of 58 shots and 15 of 25 from the line. Ross committed 32 turnovers, 20 more than Zanesville. The Little Giants held a 35-29 rebounding advantage.

St. Mary's 71

Gibsonburg 49

The Panthers, 11-4, ran to an 18-10 first quarter lead and steadily added to that lead.

Ranae Beaudin tossed in 27 point which included a trio of three-point goals. Jenny Olsen added 15 and Becky Humphrey had 12.

Linda Reineck had 11 points and Monica Binsack 10 for Gibsonburg, 6-10.

Bellevue 48

U. Sandusky 47

Bellevue wiped out a 39-29 three-quarter deficit to hand the Rams their first Northern Ohio League loss. The Redmen outscored Upper Sandusky 19-7 in the final eight minutes.

The Rams had three shots in the final seconds to win the game.

Alisa Raifsnider led Bellevue with 11 points.

Upper Sandusky is 14-2 and 10-1 in the NOL. Bellevue is 9-7 and 6-5.

Mohawk 52

Old Fort 42

Mohawk, 9-6, built a 41-23 lead at the end of three quarters and

coasted in the final quarter to defeat Old Fort, 6-10.

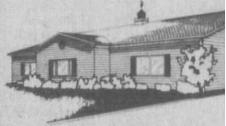
Mohawk made 16 of 29 throws and outrebounded Stockaders 41-22.

Tammy Harrison and Brueggemeier topped the scoring with 13 points apiece. Brueggemeier had six rebounds.

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Ross girls rewarded with victory over Woodward

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Sue Wolf has known the agony of defeat all too well this high school girls basketball season.

Several weeks ago, the Ross girls coach said that when her team play well, there were no rewards.

The reward finally came Monday night at Ross High School and Wolf was more than happy that several had a hand in the victory, a 45-43 tripping of Toledo Woodward.

That stopped a six-game losing skid, putting the Ross record at 3-14, not enviable, but a light at the end of a what had been a long, dark tunnel.

"We did a nice job," Wolf said as she clicked off the names of Kim Borys, Amy Schepflin, Shelly Hetrick, Shannon Watts and Becky Thiessen, the Ross starters.

"The girls who came off the bench played very well when Shelly got into foul trouble."

Cassie Wolfe, Joy Eischen,

Ross-Harding tickets

Student tickets for the Fremont Ross at Marion Harding game Saturday are on sale in the Ross High School Athletic Department.

The tickets are \$2. There is no presale for adult tickets.

Erica Straugh and Dian Schepflin picked up the slack when Hetrick, the Little Giants leading scorer, picked up her third foul

early in the second quarter.

Dian Schepflin scored six points in three quarters and Eischen added a pair of second half baskets, the last on a rebound that put Ross up 40-36 with under two minutes to play.

Hetrick got her fourth foul with two minutes remaining in the third quarter but still scored eight second-half points, including the final two Ross buckets.

"I have confidence in Shelly," Wolf said. "She has the green light to shoot anytime in any sit-

uation."

The final Hetrick bucket with 10 second to go put Ross up 45-40 and it became the game-winner when Woodward's Brenda Sikorski hit on a final seconds three-pointer.

The Little Giants trailed until Amy Schepflin's jumper 40 seconds into the final period tied the game at 32. Shannon Watts gave Ross its first lead 34-32 two minutes later.

See ROSS, Page B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Sikorski tied it was a pair of free throws before Amy Schepflin scored from the foul lane and Borys sank a pair of free throws for a 38-34 lead.

Jeanette Well brought Woodward to within two but Eishen tossed in her rebound, Borys followed with a free throw and Hetrick sealed Woodward's doom in the final minute.

Ross, after making its only shot in the first quarter, trailed 12-5 and 26-22 at the half. Woodward took a 32-30 lead into the final quarter.

Hetrick finished with 13 points with Watts, playing her "best game of the season," according to Wolf, adding nine. Amy Schepflin had eight points and 12 rebounds.

"Amy has really be ripping the boards the last two games," Wolf said.

Sikorski had 17.

Ross was 18 of 34 from the floor and outrebounded Woodward 33-21. After committing 22 turnovers in the first three quarters, Ross had just two more down the stretch.

Thursday, Ross will entertain Findlay in the Buckeye Central Conference finale.

Ross girls ride big first half to victory

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross parlayed a near-perfect first half and an adequate second half into a 67-58 Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball victory over hapless Findlay Saturday at Ross High School.

The victory was the second straight for the 4-14 Little Giants, who closed out the BCC season with a 2-6 slate. Findlay is 0-18 and finished 0-8 in conference play.

Ross Coach Sue Wolf wore a smile that replaced words after her team's win.

"We played well in the first half," Wolf said.

It may have been an understatement.

The Little Giants used 17 points by Shannon Watts, one of six seniors playing in their final home game at Ross, a domineering

Ross 2nd in BCC meet, B-4

ing rebounding game and a full-court press defense to lead 49-24 at halftime. Ross poured in 30 second-quarter points, one of the highest scoring quarters for a Ross girls team in recent years.

In the second half, Findlay outscored Ross 16-10 in the third quarter and 18-8 in the fourth period.

"The first half was better than the second half," Wolf said, "but we were still getting the ball inside in the second half."

"Findlay outrebounded us in the second half, too," Wolf pointed out.

The Little Giants were 17 of 28 from the floor in the first half but slipped to six of 20 in the second half.

Watts finished with 19 points and Schepflin 15.

Ross boys get hurt in first half

News-Messenger reports

MARION — Harding poured in 46 first half points and then held on to defeat Fremont Ross 80-73 in a high school boys basketball game Saturday.

"They shot the ball extremely well in the first half," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said after watching his team fall behind 46-31. "We played well offensively, too, but we could not slow them down in the first half."

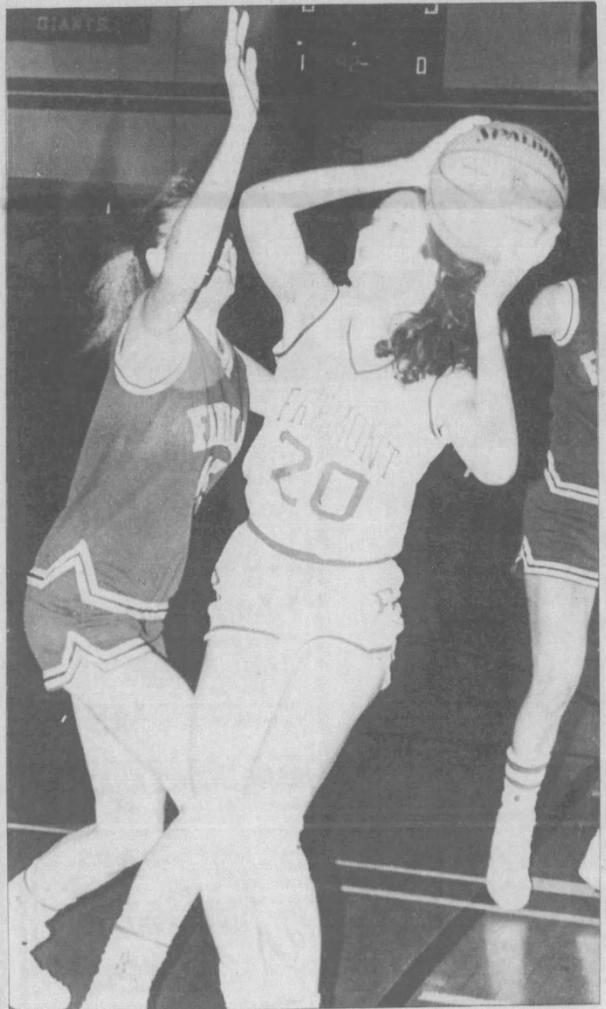
"It seemed as if every thing they threw up would go in. 31

points is a pretty good clip for us but when you give up 46 ..."

John Courtwright scored 27 points to pace the Presidents. Nick Hall of Ross matched Courtwright for game scoring honors.

Brad Hammer had 16 and Todd Clark 10 for the Little Giants, 6-11. Rick Howell with 14 and Pete Cressor with 12 backed up Courtwright.

Ross hosts Fostoria, Tuesday. The JV game begins at 6:15 p.m.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

AMY SCHEPFLIN of Ross looks to score against a Findlay defender during the Little Giants victory over the Trojans.

Sandusky ends Ross streak

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Trina Aaron scored 18 points to lead Sandusky to a 61-43 victory over Fremont Ross in high school girls basketball Tuesday.

The loss ended a two-game Ross winning streak. The Little Giants are 4-15.

The Blue Streaks, 9-10, out-scored the Little Giants 19-9 in the third quarter after leading 27-20 at the half.

Shelley Hetrick topped Ross with 17 points. Amy Schepflin added 12. Adrienne Watts had 13 points for Sandusky.

Columbian tops Ross; awaits rematch

News-Messenger reports

Tiffin Columbian warmed up for a tournament rematch with a 48-34 victory over Fremont Ross in high school girls basketball Saturday.

The Tornadoes will play the Little Giants again at approximately 8 p.m., Tuesday at Ontario High School in the Division I sectional tournament.

In other games, Oak Harbor rolled over Clyde 75-33 in a Sandusky Bay conference game and Eastwood defeated Woodmore 53-46 in a Suburban Lakes League clash.

Columbian won for the second time this season over Ross. After trailing 10-6 after the first quarter, the Tornadoes, getting six points from Kendra Cartwright, produced an 18-18 halftime tie.

The Tornadoes took command in the third quarter, outscoring Ross 14-9 as Shanon Alberts tossed in eight of her game-high 14 points.

Shelley Hetrick had 13 points to pace Ross. Amy Scheplin added 12. Cartwright finished with 10 for Columbian.

Columbian finished the regular season with a 11-9 mark and Ross, 4-16.

Ross was 15 of 39 shooting and Columbian 23 of 58.

Oak Harbor.....75

Clyde.....33

The Rockets roared to a 21-4 first quarter lead and never looked back while closing the regular season with a 15-5 record and a 10-4 SBC slate.

Amy Klavinger had 17 points, Amy Harrell 13 and Alison Gollnick 12 to lead 11 Rockets who scored.

Lindi Morrison had eight points for the Flyers.

Clyde finished 2-18 and 1-13 in SBC play.

Eastwood.....53

Woodmore.....46

Kelly Cassidy had a strong game for the Wildcats, scoring 19 points and grabbing nine rebounds, but Woodmore fell to Suburban Lakes League foe Eastwood.

Deb Dewese led Eastwood, 16-3 and 11-2 in the SLL, with 13 points. Julie Schnitker and Betsy Schuerman added 12 each and Sheila Neeb added 10 for Woodmore, 6-14 and 5-9.

Mike Bennett rolled a 662 on the final weekend to win the singles title in the Fremont Men's City Association Bowling Tournament at Maple Lanes.

Polar Bears win SBC title

News-Messenger reports

CASTALIA — Margaretta shook off first half shooting problems with a strong second half and trounced Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic 62-36.

The win gave the Polar Bears their third consecutive Sandusky Bay Conference girls basketball crown.

Margaretta, 18-1 and 12-1 in the SBC, made just 11 of 29 first quarter shots but bounced back in the second half, outscoring the Panthers 39-21. Margaretta had led 23-15 at the half despite the cool shooting performance.

Vicki Czekaj and Andrea Carter paced the Polar Bears with 14 and 12 points, respectively. Ten Margaretta players scored.

Becky Humphrey led St. Mary's with 11 points.

The Polar Bears close the regular season tonight at Huron.

Winners crowned in city men's tourney

News-Messenger reports

him a 722.

In other divisions, first weekend leaders John Stull Sr. and Jim Stull won the doubles title with a 1,333, Jim Wollan took the

See TOURNEY, Page B-4

Ross honors winter athletes

News-Messenger reports

Six athletes won "most valuable" awards during the Ross High School Winter Sports Awards program Tuesday.

Amy Schepflin and Nick Hall won the MVP honor for boys and girls basketball, B.J. Blair took the top honor in boys swimming while Todi Heslet and Ann Wells shared the honor for the girls swim team, and Jon Ramirez won the award in wrestling. Blair and Wells are sophomores, Heslet a junior and the others, seniors.

Other special awards presented by girls basketball Coach Sue Wolf went to sophomore Kim Borys, most improved; Shannon Watts, highest free throw percentage (74 percent) and top defensive player; Schepflin, most rebounds and captains trophy, and Shelley Hetrick, captains trophy.

In girls junior varsity awards, Joy Eischen was named MVP and Shanell Moneghan won the most improved honor.

Hall, in addition to his MVP honor, took home the top rebounding, free throw, field goal shooting honors and captains trophy.

Other boys special awards handed out by Coach Pat McGhee went to Brad Hammer for most assists and a free throw trophy. Hammer and Hall tied

for the free throw honors, hitting 68 percent apiece.

Kevin Crawford and Tracy Hufford also received captains trophies for boys basketball.

In addition to Blair capturing the most valuable honor, junior diver Chad Root won the most improved honor for Coach Tom Thomson's boys swim team. Brian Schaaf won the coaches' award and Steve Schaaf and Todd Vogel received captains trophies.

For the girls, Heslet and Wells shared the top honor with the most improved honor going to diver Michelle Velliquette. Leah Baker won the coaches' award and Jamie Brudzinski and Tina Streeter received captains trophies. Brudzinski also received her fourth-year letter award.

Ramirez received three trophies and shared another for Coach Al Voggenthaler's Buckeye Central Conference championship team. In addition to his MVP award, Ramirez got trophies for the most takedowns and for being the captain while tying Matt Marinis and Rob Beck for the most pins.

The most improved wrestler award went to Troy Williamson and the coaches award was won by Greg Abdo.

Marinis, who was ill and could not attend, won his fourth-year letter award.



News-Messenger

ROSS MOST valuable performers were, left to right, Todi Heslet, Amy Schepflin, Ann Wells; B.J. Blair, Nick Hall and Jon Ramirez.