

1983 Class AAA District Tournament

Lima Senior waiting for Ross at BG

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross will take on Lima Senior in the next step in a Cinderella season for the Little Giants.

Ross, 13-9, will face the Spartans, 18-4, at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, at Anderson Arena on the Bowling Green State University campus in the first game of the Northwest Ohio Class AAA District Boys Basketball Tournament. The second game at 9 p.m. will pit upstart Findlay, 4-18, against Sandusky, 14-8.

It will be the second district appearance in the last four seasons for Ross, and Coach John Sawyer is hoping there will be many Fremonters to see the event.

"Some people, who have not been coming to the games, have been saying, 'We'll see you when you get to Bowling Green,'" Sawyer said. "Well, we are going to be in Bowling Green."

Lima Senior was a state tournament

semifinalist last season and the Ross coach says the Spartans are a formidable group again this year.

"They are quick, jump well and rebound well both offensively and defensively," the Ross coach explained.

In other words . . . just what Ross has been facing all season.

"Lima likes to run the fast break but it is an organized break," Sawyer explained, "and they can go nine-deep and not be hurt."

"If we get them to play our half-court game and keep them from running, we'll do all right because I feel we can play with anyone in the half-court game. "But," Sawyer added, "if we let them get us in a running game, it will be over very quickly."

Sawyer rates 6-2 junior Anthony Thompson as the Spartans' top player. A second team all-district player, Thompson can score from inside as well as outside. He has speed to burn according to Sawyer.

Sophomore Andre Reed, 5-11, is the "brains of the operation," Sawyer says. Lee Meek, 6-0

senior, Greg Tyson, 6-2 senior, Marvin Little, 6-3 senior and Bill Hagman, 6-0 junior, are probable Spartans in the starting lineup.

"Size-wise," Sawyer said, "we match up very well but they get way up in the air."

The Little Giants may be handicapped against the Spartans because sophomore Greg Bender is listed as doubtful for the game. The 6-4 Little Giant led Ross with 37 points in the two sectional game wins but he suffered a painful ankle sprain late in the 52-51 win over Malabar last Friday.

If Bender is unable to go, Sawyer could possibly insert junior Dan Brudzinski or senior Tom Polk. Other than that possibility, Sawyer will have seniors Dave Aschenbach and William Johnson, junior Jim Hufford and sophomore Chris Simmons in the lineup.

"Boy, if we could just get this one," Sawyer smiled, "we'd have a good shot at the 'Sweet 16.'"

The "Sweet 16" is a name attached to the regional tournaments.

If that shot comes for Ross, it will be at 2 p.m. Saturday against the Findlay-Sandusky winner.

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Boys

Lima 65

Ross 55

Score by quarters

Lima Senior 10 11 20 24—65

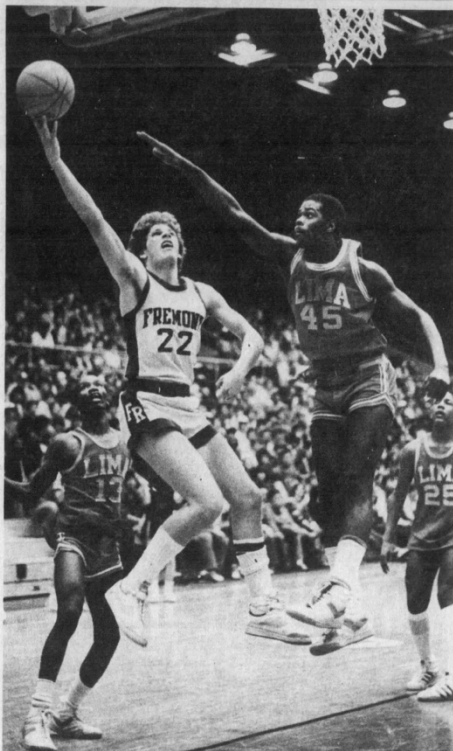
Ross 9 16 10 20—55

Scoring

LIMA SENIOR: Lee Meeks 5-3-13, Bill Hageman 0-0-0, Andre Reed 5-4-14, Anthony Thompson 3-7-13, Marvin Little 2-0-4, Greg Tyson 5-1-11, William White 4-2-10, totals 24-17-65.

ROSS: William Johnson 8-2-18, Dave Aschenbach 4-0-8, Jim Hufford 5-0-10, Dan Brudzinski 4-2-10, Chris Simmons 1-3-5, Greg Bender 2-0-4, totals 24-7-55.

Season records: Lima Senior 19-4, Ross 13-10.



JIM HUFFORD of Ross lays one up over the outstretched hand of Lima Senior's Greg Tyson (45) Wednesday night in Bowling

Green. Hufford scored on this play. Other defenders for Lima are Lee Meeks (13) and Andre Reed (25).

Lima Senior's big 2nd half ends Little Giants' season

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
BOWLING GREEN — Lima Senior duplicated Ross's first half success and used it to stop the Little Giants' tournament drive with a 65-55 victory in the semifinals in the Class AAA District Basketball Tournament at Bowling Green State University Wednesday.

"We were able to go inside in the second half, just like they did in the first half," Lima Senior Coach Ron Niekamp said. "In that first half, we played their way. That slow tempo made us uncomfortable."

Ross, with William Johnson scoring eight points and Dave Aschenbach directing the floor game, outscored the Spartans 16-11 in the second quarter to take a 25-21 lead into the locker room at intermission.

"In the second half, we did not hit out shots," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "and they were able to come down and make their's."

The Spartans, using a balanced scoring attack, hit eight of their first nine shots in the second half and 10 of 13 in the third quarter to overtake the Little Giants for a 41-35 lead.

"We forced a couple of turnovers and got the lead back with our defensive pressure," Niekamp pointed out, "and we got the ball inside."

Sawyer agreed with that assessment. "Strangely, playing tough on the inside has been our strength this season," the Ross coach, who guided the Little Giants to a 13-10 record, said. "Tyson (Greg) did a good job inside and then we let Thompson (Anthony) penetrate a couple of times."

Tyson, a 6-3 senior, pumped in nine of his 11 points in the final half. All of his scoring came on the inside. Thompson, Lima Senior's leading scorer with a 17-point average, poured in seven points in the final quarter and nine of his 13 in the second half to help the Spartans pull away. The biggest spread of the game was 52-39.

"Then they got some scoring from players inside that we did not expect," Sawyer said. "White (William) hurt us. According to the scouting report, he was not a good scorer."

White popped in 10 points and Andre Reed, sophomore guard, hit 14. Reed hit three buckets on driving layups in the third period.

Ross was hurt by the absence of Greg Bender who played sparingly. He suffered a badly bruised ankle during Friday's 52-51 win over Malabar in the sectional finals at Ashland.

"Sure," Sawyer said, "if we would have had Bender we might have scored more off their press but Dan Brudzinski did a good job for us in taking Bender's place."

Bender scored four points while the 6-4 Brudzinski hit 10 points and grabbed three rebounds.

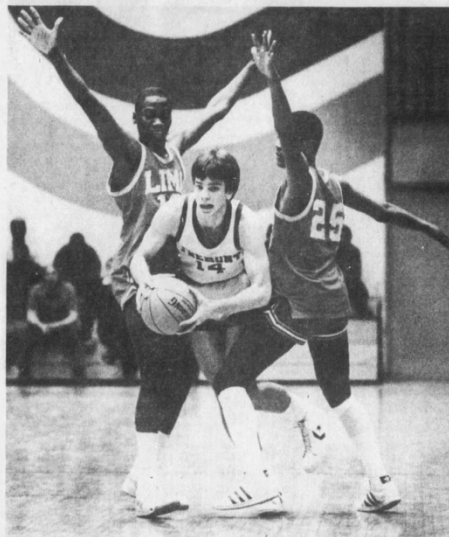
Ross was outscored by only a 24-23 margin officially but it seemed like a bigger margin. Jim Hufford, who had 10 points, led Ross in rebounding with six. Johnson, who fouled out with 2:03 to play, led Ross in scoring with 18, hitting eight of 12 shots.

Aschenbach ended up with eight points and seven assists, the same number as Reed had for Lima Senior.

For the game, Ross and Lima Senior had 24 baskets but the Spartans hit 17 of 25 free throws, Ross seven of 11. The Spartans were 24 of 40, 60 percent from the floor. In the final half, the Spartans hit 15 of 23 shots.

Ross finished with 24 of 49 from the floor.

Lima Senior will play Saturday at 2 p.m., in the district finals against Sandusky, 70-45 winner over Findlay last night.



(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

LEE MEEKS (left) and Andre Reed (25) of Lima Senior put the squeeze on Ross's Dave Aschenbach during first-half action of the two teams' Class AAA district semifinal game at Bowling Green State University's Anderson Arena Wednesday night.

UTEP track coach dislikes new format

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Larry Heidebrecht, coach at the University of Texas-El Paso, is uncertain whether the Miners can win their fourth consecutive NCAA indoor track and field championship. But he is certain that the meet's new format is hurting his team.

Heidebrecht, who took over the Miners' coaching job last August after serving two years at the University of Montana, is upset — like many other coaches — over the elimination of the three-mile race and the distance medley relay, plus the limited number of entries in

last year, when they competed for their national championship under the banner of the AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women).

Twenty eight of the 29 finals will be held Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome. The other final, the men's 35-pound weight throw, will be contested Friday, along with trials and semifinals in most events.

Heidebrecht said the coaches voted 43-0 last year against eliminating the two events and they were fully supported by the

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