

Ross plays Mansfield for girls sectional title

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls basketball team will play for a sectional championship Saturday against Mansfield Senior.

The Little Giants will travel to Ontario High School for a 6:30 p.m. game against the top-seeded team in the Division I sectional tournament.

"I think we have a real good shot at it," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "We have to be ready to play.

"I think the thing that scares me more than anything else is being off since last Thursday."

Ross, 11-9, defeated Findlay 62-56 in its last regular season game Feb. 15 and has won four

of its last five.

Mansfield, 17-4, is led by Aynna Black and Janine Davis.

"They have a good inside game (Black) and a good outside game (Davis), but I think we match up well," Wolf said. "Hopefully our man-to-man (defense) is working and we can stay with with them."

Ross will start Kim Borys and Amy Ritzman at guard, Missy Smith and Joy Eishen at forward and Dian Schepflin at center.

"We need to try to control the boards" Wolf said. "They are really good getting off-side rebounds so we have to concentrate on boxing out."

Vickie Castile, Stephanie

McGee and Tanya Stull are the first Little Giants off the bench, but Shari Root and Shannel Monaghan have seen increased playing time lately.

"I think its real important for us," Wolf said. "We want to put pressure on the ball and you need people to come in and give you good minutes off the bench."

Mansfield defeated Mansfield Madison 57-41 Tuesday to reach the championship game.

The winner of Saturday's game will play the winner of Saturday's other sectional final between Ashland and Tiffin Columbian in the district tournament at Hopewell-Loudon High School in Bascom March 1.

Mansfield Senior dominates Little Giants

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

ONTARIO — Mansfield Senior's 65-37 victory over Fremont Ross Monday night in the Division I girls sectional tournament at Ontario High School was punctuated with question marks.

"We got drilled," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I don't know what it was?"

Wolf's reasoning why the Tygers were able to dominate was based on fact — a 36-16 Mansfield rebounding advantage, 27 percent shooting by Ross and 22 Little Giants turnovers.

The cause of those numbers, though, escaped Wolf.

"I don't know why?" she said.

Mansfield, 18-4, will play Toledo Central Catholic Thursday in the district tournament at Hopewell-Loudon High School in

Bascom. TCC defeated Defiance 57-31 in a sectional championship game Monday at Cory-Rawson.

The Tygers collected 16 offensive rebounds against Ross and cleared the defensive glass throughout the game.

"They killed us with second and third shots," Wolf said. "I was hoping we would box out a little better."

"We've played bigger teams ... I don't know why we didn't box out?"

Nine of the Little Giants' 22 turnovers came in the first quarter against the Tygers' press.

"Maybe we panicked," Wolf said. "It's the same press-breaker we have used all season."

"I don't know why we (weren't able to break the press)?"

Ross, 11-10, made 13 of 48 shots.

"We had some people taking some good shots," Wolf said. "They just didn't go in. There's nothing you can do about that."

The game spiraled in Mansfield's favor after Marinese Penders banked in a 3-point field goal at the first-quarter buzzer.

The pivotal play was the result of a Ross turnover after the Little Giants had the ball out of bounds under the Tygers' basket with three seconds left in the period.

"That helped," Mansfield coach John Miefert said. "It gave us a little momentum. I thought it was big."

Penders' 3-pointer from the top of the key gave the Tygers a 16-7 lead.

Amy Ritzman, who scored 12 points but was the only Ross player in double figures, sparked the Little Giants early in the second quarter.

Ritzman opened the quarter with two

free throws and a layup following a steal. Later in the period, she retrieved a missed Mansfield shot at the top of the circle and outraced the defense for a layup.

Vickie Castile followed with a layup off a feed from Shari Root and Ross trailed 22-17 with 2:32 left before halftime.

After a timeout, the Tygers closed the second quarter with a flourish.

Ayanna Black, who led all scorers with 19 points, picked up a loose ball and scored with 1:42 left in the half. Missy Hutchinson scored off a rebound seven seconds later and Janine Davis closed the half with a shot from along the left baseline.

The Little Giants managed only a Kim Borys foul shot in the final 2:32 of the half and trailed 28-18 at halftime.

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Ross

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Mansfield's defense and strong inside game finished off Ross in the second half.

"We felt we could beat them inside," Miefert said. "If we couldn't get it inside on the bounce pass, we were going to shoot and get the rebound."

"We were quicker than they were; we denied them spots with our defense. When they shot, it was off balance and we screened out and got the rebound."

Black scored 11 points in the third quarter as Mansfield pushed its lead to 46-26.

The Tygers made seven of eight free throws in the fourth quarter. Davis, who backed Black with 11 points, made five of six foul shots in the quarter and seven of eight in the game.

Ross made four of 10 foul shots in the period and finished nine of 19 from the line.

"We needed those points and didn't put them in," Wolf said with an inquisitive inflection in her voice.