

1975-1976 Season Review



MEMBERS of the Fremont Ross basketball team for 1975-76 are shown above. Left to right standing: Dave Dorobek, Lee Shaffer, John Kiser, Russ Daman, Dennis Smith, Larry Williams, Head Coach Ken Miller, assistant Coach Don Burgess, Dave Fahrbach,

Brent Bordon (no longer with the team), Randy Smith, Dave Ballenger, Garry Clark, Pat Belch, Kim Stout; kneeling: manager John Kerns, student trainer Marty Warcola.

Defense key to Ross game

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

If a basketball coach does not have a lot of size or a lot of experience, there are two things that he can do: go find the nearest dark corner and hide or prepare his team to think defensively.

Ross Head Coach Ken Miller meets all those factors only he has not given a thought about hiding in the corner and for all intents and purposes, his team has not given that extreme measure a thought.

Miller sat in his office in Ross High School and thought awhile before talking about his fourth Little Giants hardwood team. When he finally started to talk, he confirmed the defensive thinking.

"We don't have a lot of size or experience," he reaffirmed, "so in order for us to get the job done, we are going to have to be prepared mentally to do a strong aggressive job on defense.

"In other words, our whole game centers around defense."

Miller, whose team got off to a wobbly 2-6 start before winning seven of eight last season returns three lettermen who played instrumental parts in Ross' final 10-10 mark. The brightest hope is probably 6-6 senior Dave Fahrbach, a third team All-Buckeye Conference selection a year ago.

The one-year lettermen who will draw the starting assignment against Fostoria Wednesday in the season home opener, showed glimpses of brilliance last year but during practice this fall has been hampered by a foot injury.

A pair of returning guards, two-year letterman Garry Clark, a senior, and single letter winner Pat

Belch, also a senior, will handle the out front spots for the Little Giants.

"Fahrbach is probably our biggest offensive threat," Miller speculated, "but Clark and Belch can also score."

Teammed with this threesome will be a pair of seniors who stood out on the Ross JV squad a season ago; John Kiser, and Denney Smith.

Kiser is 6-0 while Smith is a high jumping 6-2. Both will go at forward slots.

Backing up the first Ross five for the Fostoria game will be 5-8 senior Kim Stout at guard, 6-2 senior Randy Smith (played JV ball as a sophomore but sat out last season) at forward, and 6-5 sophomore Larry Williams who will help Fahrbach with the center duties.

Miller rates his team's over all quickness as its biggest asset. "We are going to have to put it to use by playing a tight man-to-man defense," he said.

Pointing to the fact that his team has been inconsistent in scrimmages from the mental aspect of the game, Miller feels that he and assistant coach Don Burgess have the Little Giants to the point where they know they have to be "competitive to win."

Some of the mental problems that the Ross squad has faced in scrimmage are defensive breakdowns. "You have to have all five doing the job because when one breaks down, everything breaks up."

Rebounding will be one of the items Ross will have to work hard on this season. Because of the size element, Miller concedes that he will have to send more people after the ball this season, consequently, Ross' fastbreak possibilities may be canceled out the bigger portion of the time.

"We don't really force the fast break on them," Miller said. "They have the green light to go if it is there but we have to get the ball first."

Fahrbach and Smith are rated as the best Ross rebounders with Smith's inexperience at the varsity level a possible handicap when it comes to positioning.

At the offensive end of the court, Miller says his teams have always been pattern oriented but this year's team will have to be diversified.

"When one of the big scorers is out," he said, "we are going to have to go deliberate — when everyone is intact, we will play our normal game."

Ross gets its first chance to act "normal" Wednesday night when they host Fostoria, a team that the Little Giants pounded 57-26 in the opener last season. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30 p.m. with the doors to the school opening at 6:15.

School of Hope No. 2 loses

OAK HARBOR — Riverview School handed School of Hope's number two basketball team a 28-24 loss Monday in the opening game of the season for both schools.

Riverview outscored School of Hope 20-7 in the two middle quarters.

Rod Winke scored 20 points to lead Riverview, Jay Willmeth with 13 and Jim Smith with 11 scored all of School of Hope's points.

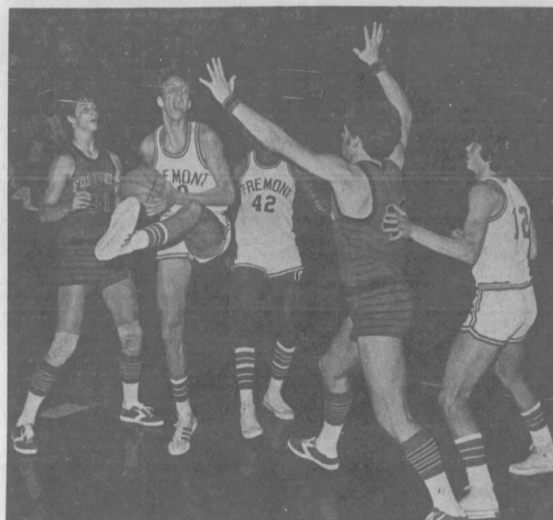
SCORE BY QUARTERS

SOH	4	1	6	13-24
Riv.	4	8	12	14-28

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

SCHOOL OF HOPE: Jim Smith 5-1-11, Jay Willmeth 6-1-13; Wayne Pesnell 0-0-0, Ron Geyer 0-0-0, Mark Rusch 0-0-0; totals 11-2-24

RIVERVIEW: Ron Winke 10-0-20, John Basil 1-0-2, Ed Pointer 1-0-2, Sam Conley 1-0-2, Ken Newton 1-0-2; totals 14-0-28



DAVE Fahrbach hauls down a rebound for Ross Wednesday as two Fostoria cagers close in. Surrounding Fahrbach from left are Terry Munger, Fostoria; Denny Smith, Fremont; Don Fagan, Fostoria; and Pat Belch of Fremont.

Young cagers impressive as Fremont wins, 47-31

By ROY WILHELM
News-Messenger Managing Editor

Ross High School's head basketball coach Ken Miller wasn't particularly surprised that his Little Giants got off to a slow start in their season opener against Fostoria Wednesday night, but he had some good reasons to be pleasantly surprised by the work of some of his young cagers.

The Giants, after struggling for almost a half, pulled away from the visiting Redmen and posted a 47-31 victory.

"I thought both of our starters who didn't have any varsity experience did an outstanding job," Miller said after the game. "Once they got a little experience they were quite poised I thought."

John Kiser and Denny Smith, two seniors who were key men on the Ross junior varsity team last year, played big roles as the Giants moved from a deficit late in the second quarter to a solid lead by the end of the third period.

Both scrambled on defense and Kiser had five points and Smith four as Ross moved away in the third period.

Kim Stout and sophomore Larry Williams also gave Miller something to smile about.

Stout, the backup guard, "did an outstanding job coming off the bench," Miller said. "He knows what he has to do."

"And, I thought Larry Williams held up real well for a sophomore."

Williams saw plenty of action and had a couple of key buckets when the Little Giants were behind early in the second quarter.

Williams is due to continue seeing plenty of action, working as one of three Ross big men who will be shuffling in and out of the lineup. Williams, Smith and senior center Dave Fahrbach play the shuffling game and Miller has good reason.

"We are going to have to alternate because our defense is so demanding on the big man," The Ross press, as is the case in many successful full court presses, has the big men putting pressure on the in-bounds pass. That means, as Miller points out, "They have to be tough on their men from end line to end line."

So, Miller had some reasons to be pleasantly surprised even though he "expected that slow start."

That expectation was fulfilled as the Giants struggled for the first period and most of the second, having difficulty finding the hoop and the opening in the defense.

"We had some kids without any experience out there and Fahrbach hasn't practiced much during the last six days because of a sore foot," Miller explained.

Fahrbach was one of those who had some problems in the early going, but once he got loosened up the lucky center began to stand out in the crowd.

He finished the night with 12 points as one of three Little Giant players in double figures and was a dominant figure on the boards.

Other double figure scorers for the Giants were Kiser with 11 and Garry Clark with 10. Clark and Pat Belch started at the guard spots for the Giants and helped the Giants fight off their first game problems with their scrappy floor play.

After trailing for most of the first half, the Giants finally went ahead to stay on Clark's basket with just 40 seconds to go before the intermission. Clark took a timely pass from Fahrbach after working himself free along the baseline. Fahrbach then canned a hook with just six seconds on the clock and the Giants took a 21-18 lead into the lockerroom.

The lead seemed to help the Giants relax and they began finding the open man, moving more confidently and hitting the mark with their shots. They outscored Fostoria 14-6 in the third period to put the game out of reach.

Fostoria had some of its own first game problems, but many of those could be directly attributed to the Ross defense. The Little Giants' pressing man to man was active and persistent throughout the night, forcing some turnovers and making the Redmen take some poor shots.

The Ross High reserve team also scored an opening game victory. The reserves thrashed the Fostoria crew, 42-27.

The Little Giants do not play again until they tangle with Mansfield at home next Friday.

		SCORE BY QUARTERS			
Fostoria	Fremont	11	7	6	7-31
		7	14	14	12-47

		INDIVIDUAL SCORING			
ROSS:	Kiser 5-1-11, D. Smith 1-3-4, Fahrbach 4-4-12, Belch 1-2-4, Clark 4-2-10, Stout 1-0-2, Williams 2-0-4, TOTALS 18-11-47.				
FOSTORIA:	Phillips 2-4-8, McCullough 1-0-2, Munger 2-0-4, Beckelman 1-0-2, Fagan 1-3-4, Cousins 4-3-11, TOTALS 11-9-31.				
Reserve game:	Ross 42, Fostoria 27				



A COLLISION in the three-second lane had bodies flying at the Ross High Gymnasium Wednesday. Pat Belch of Ross was charged with an offensive foul on the play. Marty Phillips of Fostoria is taking the big tumble banging into Darnell Cousins on the way.

Floor hockey league being formed at YMCA

A new YMCA Floor Hockey League is starting Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. in the YMCA for all third and fourth grade boys at a cost of \$6 for non-members. It is free to YMCA members.

This is an all new sport being played indoors. Floor hockey is played with tennis shoes and plastic sticks and pucks for safety. Techniques, sportsmanship and group cooperation are the major emphasis.

Games are played at the YMCA on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays depending on the schedule for each team. Teams will be formed according to schools with 10 players to each team. Each team will have a coach to help the youngsters with positioning

Mansfield at Ross tonight

Elyria is favored in Buckeye race

The race to see who can get ahead of Elyria begins tonight in the hardwood battles of the Buckeye Conference.

The Pioneers, winners of the title last season with an overall 22-2 mark, were picked by seven of the eight BC coaches to win the 1975-76 crown. The eighth coach, Mike Riley of Elyria, said the conference is well balanced with any one of four teams capable of winning the title.

Games around the conference tonight have Admiral King visiting Elyria; Findlay at Lorain; Marion at Sandusky; and locally, Ross will host Mansfield.

Elyria returns 6-9 junior Richard Montague, who lettered as a 6-6 sophomore. Riley has built his team around the lanky center this season and stopping him will be difficult.

Mansfield, Admiral King, and Findlay are picked to battle for second spot with Lorain and Sandusky being noted as the loop's "dark horses." Ross and Marion are not given much of a shot at escaping the lower two rungs of the BC ladder.

Ross split with Mansfield last season as each team won at home. The Tygers have six returning lettermen, four of them sophomores.

In their only game to date, the Tygers lost to Ashland 57-50, despite three players hitting double figures. Eric Jefferson, 6-2, and Don Gross, 6-2, both canned 15 points. Jefferson is a junior and Gross, a senior.

Bernard Ford, 6-0 senior who played at Mansfield Madison last season, dropped

in 11 points. The rest of the Tyger lineup against Ross will probably consist of Brent McFarland, 6-0 senior, Cliff Belmer, 6-2 junior, or Joe Adamescu, 6-4 junior.

Ross coach Ken Miller will counter with 6-6 senior Dave Fahrback as center; senior John Kiser (5-11) and Denny Smith (6-2) at forwards; and seniors Pat Belch (5-10) and Garry Clark (5-10) at guards.

The Mansfield game is part of a double weekend for the Little Giants. Saturday night, Wapakoneta will visit the home of the Little Giants.

Both evenings begin with the junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. at the Ross gym.

Other area teams in action tonight will have Margaretta going up against Danbury-Lakeside at the Lakers' home.

A full slate of games is scheduled in the Suburban Lakes League. Genoa is at Oak Harbor in the inaugural game at the new Oak Harbor High School.

Lakota visits Gibsonburg, Eastwood at Woodmore, and Otsego is at Elmwood.

Galion will visit Bellevue in a northern Ohio League game and Port Clinton will visit Bedford, Mich. in a Great Lakes League encounter.

In the Seneca County League, Bettsville will take on Old Fort on the latter's home court in the first of the two school's annual shootouts. The game marks the first SCL game for each school.



I USED TO HAVE a ball right here or at least it was here a second ago Ross' Pat Belch could be saying. The ball

bounced off the foot of Belch and went out of bounds on the play. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

Miller irked at media coverage

Ross varsity basketball coach Ken Miller had something to get off his chest after the Mansfield game Friday night. He was hot at the news media and he said so in so many words.

"The game is not the only thing," he began, "we have worked our butts out here for four years and you know I did not know there was going to be a basketball game in this town until two hours before the game. I didn't know it from the radio or from the newspaper."

"The cooperation we have received from the news media has not been any good," he said.

"It seems like when the football season ends, news media coverage dies around here."

"I'm not using this as an excuse for our performance, what I am talking about is entirely divorced from the game," the Ross coach finished his blast at what he considered poor pregame coverage of Ross games.

First UCLA victory

By BERT ROSENTHAL

75-74 and Nevada-Las Vegas trailed

Buckeye Conference opener

Tygers rip Little Giants 58-48

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

It took Ross forward John Kiser only 12 seconds to score the first two points of the game against Mansfield but after that, the Ross buckets were few and far apart.

Mansfield, after a slow start, warmed up to thump Ross 58-48 in the Buckeye Conference lifeline for both schools. The Tygers stumbled to a slow start but started to take charge in the second period. By the time the first few moments of the second half rolled around, the Tygers had matters well in hand.

Ross was stone cold from the field and the free throw line for the night. No matter what they tried, nothing seemed to work and the farther the game progressed, the more futile the Little Giants attempts became.

Playing a full court man-to-man pressing defense, Ross was even at the end of one 10-10 despite eight turnovers. Mansfield had given the ball away nine times in the initial stanza and did not find the handle on the ball until midway through the second eight minutes of play.

At that point the Tygers, with Bernard Ford leading in eight points in the period, built up a 26-18 lead before Ross' 6-6 center Dave Fahrback canned a shot from the left side to cut the margin to six. The Tygers then began what Mansfield coach Jim Goode considered the turning point of the game.

"When we got those two baskets at the end of the first half, it seemed to really get our kids up," Goode said. "Then when we got those two quick baskets at the start of the third quarter, that gave us a 14-point lead."

The buckets Goode referred to at the end of the first half were actually a pair of free throws by Orin Butler and a 20-footer from the left side with one second to play by Ford.

Don Gross and Ford canned the two quick buckets in the third period, forcing the Ross coach Ken Miller to call time at the 7:13 mark. Ross, however, was not able to make up the deficit of the quick scores.

Brent McFarland hit two more free throws to make it 36-20 before Fahrback canned a layup a minute and one-half into the period.

It was the free throw line in the first half that turned the tide against Ross. The Little Giants hit only two of nine charity tosses, including five on the one and one in the first 16 minutes. From the field, it was little better with only nine of 31.

Goode, whose team plays a tight man-to-man, watched his team flash some good play with some poor play.

Defensively, the way the Tygers played did not surprise their coach.

"That's all we do in practice is work on our defense," the Tyger handler pointed out. "Really, though, we wanted to stop Fahrback but I still think he got his points. We did stop the other four players."

Fahrback led all scorers with 22 points but the next best scoring for Ross was turned in by John Kiser and Denny Smith with six points apiece. Mansfield was led by Ford's dozen. A trio of other Tygers, Eric Jefferson, Joe Adamescu, and Brent McFarland, notched 10 points.

Miller was unhappy with the loss but commented he still had confidence in the

group of players he has and feels that they will get better with experience.

As for the Mansfield loss, Miller said, "I felt our execution and our shot selection was not good."

"Defensively, we were slow picking up our men and we were not getting the pressure that we would have liked to have seen."

Miller hinted that he may have some doubts about the type of pressing man-to-man defense that his team has played in the first two games of the season.

"Maybe some of our kids don't have the endurance to play the base line to base line defense. I know it seemed that every phase of our game tailed off after awhile."

Ross will host Wapakoneta tonight at the high school. The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mansfield	Ross	10	20	12	16-58
		10	10	7	21-48
SCORING					
MANSFIELD: Gross 4-0-8, Jefferson 3-4-10, Adamescu 4-2-10, McFarland 3-4-10, Butler 2-2-6, Washington 0-2-2, Ford 6-6-12, totals 22-14-38					
ROSS: Kiser 3-4-8, D. Smith 3-4-6, Fahrback 9-2-22, Clark 2-1-5, Belch 1-3-5, Williams 0-0-0, Stout 1-0-2, R. Smith 1-0-2; totals 20-8-48					
Season records: Mansfield 1-1 (1-0); Ross 1-1 (0-1)					
Ross Jvs 49, Mansfield 48					
SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mansfield	Ross	9	12	15	10-46
		14	13	16	6-49
SCORING					
MANSFIELD: Powell 6-12, Curry 3-1-4, Chalmers 3-3-8, Fry 2-4-4, Davis 4-3-11, Carter 3-2-2, Peoples 1-2-4, totals 18-10-46					
ROSS: Price 3-0-6, Belch 2-0-4, Hammer 4-0-8, Jones 5-2-12, Sachs 3-1-7, Miller 2-0-4, Brown 0-0-0, Zimmerman 4-0-8; totals 23-8-49					
Season record: Ross 2-0					

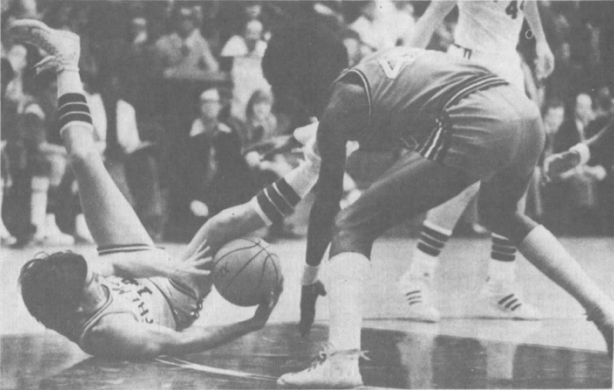
Steelers can clinch

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers can clinch a "wild card" playoff berth — and perhaps their division title — by beating the Cleveland Browns here Sunday.

The game will also be a rematch of a light-interrupted game Pittsburgh won 42-6 early this season in Cleveland.

"This will be a big one for us. Every week gets bigger and bigger," said Steeler Coach Chuck Noll.

The Steelers, 10-1, have won nine in a row. Their streak started when they beat the Browns in Cleveland the third week of



ROSS' JOHN KISER WRESTLES WITH THE BALL AS TYGERS' ORIN BUTLER MOVES IN

14 The News-Messenger, Fremont, O., Monday, Dec. 8, 1975

Ross thumps Wapakoneta 67-40; Clark nets 24

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross reacted on a lesson from the coaches' pulpit Saturday night and cast out a hapless Wapakoneta Redskins basketball team. Playing the pressure defense, Ross bounced back from a lackluster showing on Friday night to outmatch the Redskins 67-40.

The win, number two in three games, was in doubt for only the first few seconds. Garry Clark, who had his biggest night in three years of play for the Ross varsity with 24 points, dropped in a layup off the opening tip for a 2-0 Ross lead three seconds into the game. Ross slapped on its full court pressing man-to-man after the bucket and the issue was settled.

"It was a good comeback," assistant varsity coach Don Burgess explained after the game, referring to the Ross 38-48 loss to Mansfield on Friday. "We played a good hustling, aggressive defense, the kind that we preach."

The preaching taken to heart, Ross forced three quick turnovers and bounced out to a 9-0 lead on Denny Smith's bucket, and two free

throws and a bucket by Dave Fahrback. Kurt Hegemier ended the Ross scoring domination with a goal from the middle for Wapak at the 5:10 mark.

Hegemier scored the first eight points as the Redskins closed to within 14-8 but a Clark charity loss and a bucket got the little Giants rolling and started turning the night into a nightmare for Wapak.

"Clark had a good driving game," Ross Head Coach Ken Miller smiled after the game and then added, "Last night we did not play with the same intensity that we did tonight."

Hegemier was actually the only offense the Redskins could muster. The only returning letterman, the 6-3 forward dropped in 16 points before having to depart the game with a cut over his left eye in the third period. He did not return to action and the Redskins, trailing 34-34 at the end of the third stanza, scored only six points without him in the final period.

The only thing that bothered the Ross coaches was the fouls that the Little Giants committed.

Ross was charged with 10 fouls in the first period alone and 21 in the game.

"That was probably the biggest disappointment of the night," Burgess said about the fouls. "There was too much reaching and grabbing but when you play an aggressive defense you will get the fouls. The reaching and grabbing comes when you are tired and we may have been feeling the game Friday toward the end of this game."

Wapak used a man-to-man defense but switched to a pressure 2-3 zone in the third period which immediately forced Miller to call time-out.

"The fouls we had did not force us to adjust anything," he said. "We did make an adjustment when they went to the zone but our kids adjusted well after the time-out."

Fahrback was the only casualty of the fouls, being whistled to the splinters with 5:17 to go in the game. He scored 11 points before being excised. Clark's 24 led the Little Giants whose final 27 point lead was the biggest of the night.

Smith tossed in 14 for his season high.

Hegemier's 16 paced Wapak. He was the only double figure scorer for the Redskins.

Coach Jim Riley's Ross junior varsity team upped its record to 3-0 with a 43-32 win. The JV held a commanding 22-7 lead at the half. Dan Sachs and Tim Price with eight points apiece led the JVs. Eddie Jones added seven.

VARSITY GAME		10	9	15	6-40
Wapakoneta	Ross	23	12	19	13-47

WAPAKONETA: Hegemier 7-2-16, Drexler 3-0-6, Linder 0-0-0, Helm 1-1-7, Zofko 0-2-2, Bartlett 1-1-3, Price 1-0-2, Weiss 2-0-4, totals 17-4-40

ROSS: D. Smith 5-14, Kiser 2-0-4, Fahrback 3-5-11, Clark 10-4-24, Belch 3-0-6, Williams 2-1-5, Damman 0-1-1, Ballenger 1-0-2, totals 26-11-47

JV GAME		4	3	8	17-32
Wapakoneta	Ross	6	16	10	11-43

WAPAKONETA: Webb 1-0-4, Piggelman 3-0-6, Turner 1-0-4, Haytett 3-1-7, Lenhart 3-0-6, Nagel 0-1-1, Gibson 1-0-4, totals 12-8-32

ROSS: Price 2-4-8, Belch 1-0-2, Hammer 3-0-6, Jones 3-1-7, Sachs 3-2-8, Miller 1-0-2, Brown 2-0-4, Frey 1-0-2, totals 18-7-43



GARRY CLARK
... 24 points

Little Giants bid to get even in BC

Ross will try to balance its Buckeye Conference basketball account at the expense of Marion Harding Friday night in dark confines of the Prexies' home.

The Little Giants, sporting a 2-1 overall record but 0-1 in the BC, will be facing a team that could try anything. Harding has been beaten in all three games this season including a 63-43 loss at Sandusky in its BC opener

Graders win

Gibsonburg eighth grade he seventh and freshman

ied North Baltimore 51-38 ts. Dave Sanchez and Dan Gibsonburg.

h grade won 43-40 despite Doug Elmer. Larry Arndt aided Elmer.

a 37-33 deficit in the final hman Golden Bears 43-37. her were in double figures

last Friday night.

"I know one thing," Ross coach Ken Miller pointed out in a universal coaches' comment, "we must be prepared for anything."

Miller did say that his team would be "ready to meet the press."

Last year, Harding and Ross split with both teams winning on each other's home floors.

Harding, like Ross, fields a team that lacks a lot of experience. There is some but three returning people who did see varsity action for the Prexies did not start all the games last season.

Chief returnee is Luther Jones, a high jumping 6-3 junior forward who had 12 points in his first three games. Teammed with Jones is another junior, Jeff Turner, 6-4.

At the guards will be a pair of junior varsity players from a season ago, 6-1 junior Bob Gooding and

Sports news

6-1 senior Jeff Kirkpatrick. The center is Clyde Lutsch, a 6-6 junior.

Chief subs for Coach Doug Riley's squad is Mickey Williams, a letterman, who plays forward. He is a 6-3 senior. In the first game of the season, Williams tossed in 18 points but has cooled off to six in his last two contests.

The center replacement is burly 6-2, 230-pound Darrell Middleton with Thurmon Floyd, senior, 5-11, and Kelly McGowan, junior, 5-7, at the guards.

"They tried a man-to-man press and two different zones against Sandusky," Miller said when he was asked what defense he expected to face.

"Against them, Sandusky pressed and they had trouble with it," Miller said.

As for his team, Miller

will start the same five that have opened the first three games of the season. At center will be Dave Fahrbach, 6-6, with 6-2, Denny Smith and 5-11 John Kiser at forwards. The guards will be 5-10 Pat Belch and 5-10 Garry Clark.

Clark hit 24 points in last Saturday's win over Wapakonetta (67-40), which is the top point effort of the season for Ross.

"We are going to go with what we have spent a large amount of time working on," Miller said, indicating that his team will stick with the full court press and a tight man-to-man.

Ross' success against Wapak was explained by Miller as being relaxed after being "uptight" against Mansfield on Friday night.

"The fact we were uptight affected our shooting and offensive execution," he said. "Then we got behind for the first time this season and it was the first time they experienced that as a team."

That's one experience that Miller and his Little Giants will be trying to avoid Friday night.

Directions to Marion Harding High School will be published Thursday.

Locally For

IGS - SERVICE - SALES

Deliberate Ross sacks Harding

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

MARION — The dark depths of Marion Harding High School's gym was no place for "race horse" basketball fans Friday night.

There were no shot a second offenses or fire at will strategy. Instead there was patient deliberate offense.

Ross proved that patience and being deliberate with virtues by using both to win its third game in four contests with a 48-44 Buckeye Conference win over the Harding Presidents. The win evened the Little Giants' BC mark at 1-1 but dropped Harding to 0-2 in the conference and 0-4 overall.

Denny Smith, who two years ago had not competed in an organized basketball game, hit three clutch layups in the final period to turn the tide of the game toward Ross. The 6-2 senior popped in 12 for the night but really made his presence in the final eight minutes.

"He hit three key drives," Ross Coach Ken Miller confirmed. "I think when he got the easy layups in the final period, that really got us the game."

With Harding playing a tight man-to-man defense which, according to Miller cut off the Ross passing lanes, the Little Giants were forced out and away from the basket in the final eight minutes. Miller had its team working deliberate in the period with the idea of getting the middle open for drives.

The Little Giants responded to the deliberate play by controlling the ball so much, that at times the offense ate up 30 seconds before a shot was taken and the shot usually came from in close.

Tied at 33-33 at the start of the final stanza, Smith gave Ross the lead with a layup off a missed shot by Dave Fahrbach. Two straight buckets by Fahrbach had Ross in front 39-33 before Harding's Jeff Turner scored on a layup off a pass over Ross' full court press.

Smith's second layup plus two free throws by Pat Belch upped the Little Giants' lead to 43-35, the biggest of the game. A bucket and two free throws by Mickey Williams cut Ross' lead to 43-39 before Smith dropped in another driving layup and Belch clicked again on two charity tosses to put Ross back up 47-39 with 1:35 to go. That was the game for Ross.

Harding had taken a 27-23 lead into the dressing room at the half thanks to a defense that limited Ross to a mere six shots in the second period.

"They were switching defenses quite well in the first half," Miller said. "The way they were switching was really unexpected."

Miller was pleased as he added "Our kids adjusted well to the switches so they did not get rattled."

Doug Riley, Harding's coach, was dejected but complemented Ross on the win by simply saying, "They played well."

About his own team Riley said, "We made a couple of mistakes — you can't dribble up the middle through a crowd and expect to keep it."

Riley was referring to two costly turnovers in the final period that led directly to Ross baskets that opened the lead from four to eight points for Ross.

Harding's offense plus whistles from the men in the striped shirts helped force Ross from it's pressing man-to-man into a "2-3" zone in the latter stages of the second period. Playing deliberately, Marion's Bob Gooding and Jeff Kirkpatrick hit from long range to bring Ross out of the zone but the defensive switch accomplished what Ross wanted assistant coach Don Burgess said.

"We were just trying to buy time," Burgess said, "and we did get the time because they did not shoot right away. We didn't expect them to hit the two long shots though."

Ross will have little time to savor the win because Tuesday they face Findlay, an upset 46-45 winner over Elyria Friday night. The Little Giants take on the Trojans Tuesday at Findlay.

Dave Fahrbach was high for Ross with 13 against Harding with Smith's dozen next in line. John Kiser and Belch had nine apiece. Williams had 12 for Harding.

The Little Giants JV team lost its first game in four outings, 49-38 to the Harding JVs. Randy Hammer had 11 and Eddie Jones 10 for the Ross team.

VARSITY GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	13	10	10	15—48
Harding	11	16	6	11—44

SCORING

ROSS: Smith 6-0-12, Kiser 4-1-9, Fahrbach 4-5-13, Belch 2-5-9, Clark 1-1-3, Stout 1-0-2; totals 18-12-48

HARDING: Jones 0-0-0, Turner 4-0-8, Lutsch 3-1-7, Kirkpatrick 3-0-6, Gooding 2-2-6, Middleton 0-1-1, Williams 5-2-12, McGowan 2-0-4; totals 19-6-44

Season records: Ross 3-1 (1-1); Harding 0-4 (0-2)

JV GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

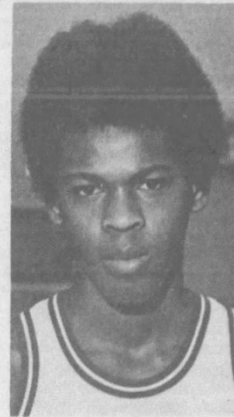
Ross	10	12	9	7—38
Harding	10	14	10	15—49

SCORING

ROSS: Price 0-1-1, Belch 1-6-8, Hammer 4-3-11, Jones 3-4-10, Schaas 2-1-5, Brown 1-1-3, Miller 0-0-0; totals 11-16-38

HARDING: Rubcich 5-1-11, Miller 2-6-10, Russell 3-2-8, Garver 1-2-4, Harris 2-3-7, Craig 1-1-3, Logan 1-0-2, McDuffie 1-2-4; totals 16-17-49

Season records: Harding 2-2; Ross 3-1



DENNY SMITH

Toledo ties Saginaw

By The Associated Press
Port Huron and Kalamazoo have swapped defenseman in an International Hockey League trade that will last only a year.

Port Huron sent Henry Lehtonen to Kalamazoo Friday and received Frank Bath, who started the season with the Detroit Red Wings.

At the end of the year, the two will return to their original IHL teams.

In IHL action Friday

Ross at Findlay

Findlay, coming off a pair of hardwood wins over the weekend, will host the Ross Little Giants in a Buckeye Conference Tuesday night game.

The Trojans are at the top of the Buckeye Conference heap along with Admiral King with a 2-0 mark. One of the wins was a 46-45 verdict over Elyria, the team that had been favored to walk away with the title in preseason picks.

"They (Findlay) are big, talented, and quick with a couple of good shooters," Ross Head Coach Ken Miller summed up his view of the Trojans.

"They try to fast break on you and they had that big win over Elyria which will help them," Miller said as he described what in other words is a "typical" Findlay team.

Saturday night the Trojans nipped Toledo Whitmer 51-49 in a game that was close only at the end. Leading by 19 at the start of the final period, the Trojans ran into foul trouble and it nearly cost them the game.

Findlay has size in its top six men. Mark Van Gunten, 6-7, is at center with 6-3 Mike Brickman at a forward slot. Brad Bosse or Steve Brooks, both 6-4, will get the call at the other forward slot. The guards are Dave Wilson and Tom Hall, both 5-11.

Miller rates Brickman and Hall as the two best Trojan shooters.

Ross, 3-1, and coming off a 48-44 win over Marion Harding on the Presidents' home court, will open with 6-6 Dave Fahrbach at center and 6-2 Denny Smith and 5-11 John Kiser at the forwards. Garry Clark and Pat Belch, both 5-10, are the Ross guards.

The Trojans are now 4-1 overall.

The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the varsity contest at approximately 8 p.m.

Findlay High School is located at the junction of route 224 and Interstate 75.

Third straight conference win for Trojans

'Foul' fourth quarter foils Ross Little Giants

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Staff Writer

FINDLAY — A strong effort looked as if it might pay off well for the Ross High School Little Giant basketball team Tuesday night, but the Findlay Trojans had some cashing in to do before it was all over.

The Trojans went to the free throw line 14 times in the fourth quarter and made 12, to help wipe out a nine-point Ross lead and eke out a 59-55 victory.

The pressure-packed final period featured three Ross players and one Findlay player fouling out, and two technical fouls assessed against the Little Giants. The victory was Findlay's fifth straight since an opening loss to Columbus Linden-McKinley, and is the third in as many Buckeye Conference games. Ross dropped to 3-2 on the season and 1-2 in the Buckeye.

"It was a good effort, but not quite good enough," said Ross coach Ken Miller, disappointed, but calmed down after being noticeably upset at the turn of events in the final stanza.

After falling behind 39-36, the Giants scored eight unanswered points at the end of the third quarter to take a 44-39 lead. The streak continued into the fourth period when Denny Smith and Garry Clark hit on shots to boost the Ross lead to 48-39.

It was then that things started turning the other way for the Giants, although not too quickly. Two free throws by Findlay center Mark VanGuten and a basket by Steve Brooks cut it to 48-43 with about five minutes left. It stayed that way for more than two minutes.

With the score 50-49, Ross center Dave Fahrback fouled out with 2:14 left and two free throws by leading scorer Mike Brickman put Findlay on top 51-50. Two more free throws by VanGuten was followed by a John Kiser jumper to make it 53-52 Findlay.

Kiser, it was ruled, then got his hands too far over the baseline and hit the ball while the Giants were pressing on the inbound pass. He was assessed a technical foul for the infraction despite protests from the Ross bench. Brickman was successful on the foul shot to make it 54-52 with 1:30 left.

After a missed free throw by the Trojans when Belch fouled out while trying to intercept a pass, the fifth foul was assessed on Smith while he was fighting for an offensive rebound. Miller was furious about the call and was assessed a technical for coming out on the floor.

Brickman, who scored 23 points before fouling out, sank the one and one plus the technical to make it 57-

52, and for all practical purposes ended the game with under a minute left.

"I thought they took it to us and outplayed us a good part of the game," said Findlay coach John Storch. "In the late stages we were able to make our free throws and that was the difference," he said.

Miller agreed wholeheartedly. "What happened in the fourth quarter is that they had more opportunities at the free throw line than we did," he said.

Ross outshot the Trojans from the field, but hit on only 35 per cent with 22 of 63 shots. Findlay took only 47 shots, but connected on 20 for 43 per cent.

Smith and Fahrback paced the Trojans on the boards, as well as in the scoring department. Fahrback led Ross with 14 points and Smith had 12-all in the second half. The two helped give the smaller Giants a 49-31 edge in rebounds.

"We didn't control the boards as well as I thought we would," Storch said. The coach was without 6-4 forward Brad Reese, who was ill.

The quickness and full-court press used by the Trojans helped force 16 Findlay turnovers to only 11 for Ross.

"We didn't utilize our quickness as effectively as we should have," Miller commented. "There were a lot of

times when we weren't making the transitions from offense to defense."

Ross will have another Buckeye Conference encounter Friday night at home against Lorain. Will they be able to bounce back after the disheartening defeat here?

"That remains to be seen," Miller said. "If they are made of what I think they are made of, they will." The Ross junior varsity rallied from a 12-point deficit to cut the margin to 46-42, before losing by a 48-42 score Tuesday. Randy Hammer led Ross with 12 points, while Steve Mahoney led Findlay with 16.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	10	18	16	11	55
Findlay	11	10	12	20	53

SCORING

ROSS: D. Smith 5-12, Kiser 2-24, Fahrback 6-9-14, Clark 5-9-10, Belch 4-8, Williams 0-5-5, totals 22-11-55
FINDLAY: Brickman 8-22, VanGuten 6-16, Wilson 1-3-5, Hall 1-0-2, Brooks 4-9-9, Hochstetler 5-5-3, totals 20-19-59
Season records: Findlay 5-1 (54) Ross 5-2 (1-2)

IV GAMES

Ross	4	14	12	12	42
Findlay	10	14	16	8	48

SCORING

ROSS: Price 5-10, Belch 1-0-2, Hammer 6-9-12, Jones 4-8-8, Sachs 1-0-1, Miller 1-0-2, Daniels 3-6-6, totals 21-10-42
FINDLAY: Jeffries 3-6-6, Mahoney 5-9-16, Gase 1-0-2, Greg Gee 1-0-2, Grant Gee 3-4-6, Dean 4-6-6, McCleave 1-0-2, Litzenberg 1-0-2, totals 22-4-48

Clyde skips by Gibsonburg despite Shull's hot hand

CLYDE — The Fliers of Clyde withstood a blistering shooting display by Gibsonburg's Steve Shull to defeat the Golden Bears 79-65 Tuesday night.

Shull, a 6-2 senior, pumped in 15 of 20 shots and collected 33 points for the Golden Bears.

"He was throwing them in from way out in the hemisphere," Clyde Coach Bob Flack pointed out. "I don't think he had five buckets on the inside all night."

Flack, who watched his team win its second game in four starts, made a defensive switch that got the Fliers off the runway and flying toward the win.

The Golden Bears had rattled the Fliers' 2-1-2 zone with nine of 12 shooting to take an 18-17 lead after the first eight minutes.

"We went to a man-to-man and mixed it up with a full court press in the second quarter," Flack said. "We got a couple of turnovers from the press, not many, but enough to make it effective."

Mike Caudill, who missed the half day of school because of illness, led the Fliers with 22 points. Bill Baker, making his first start in place of Brad Farrar, dropped in 18 markers. Farrar came off



STEVE SHULL
... Game high 33

the bench to net a dozen points.

"He (Farrar) had a great game," Flack pointed out. "He had a couple of assists that were of the NBA type."

Shull, who netted 13 at the half, gave the Golden Bears the first quarter lead with a 25-footer at the one second mark. He pulled off the same type of shot at the end of the third period, but the Fliers had built up a 60-50 lead by that time.

Clyde started to put the game away in the second

period, outscoring the visitors 20-12 to take a 37-30 lead into the locker room at the intermission.

The Fliers, after 10 of 42 shooting in the first half, ended the game with nearly 50 per cent on 33 of 68. Gibsonburg cooled off to 28 of 68. Pete Crooks grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Fliers to a 46-45 edge in that category.

Gibsonburg was guilty of 28 turnovers while Clyde had 19.

Flack was happy for more than one reason with the win—it was his birthday and it could not have been happier.

"It was a birthday present," he laughed, "and I think it set us up for St. Joe Friday night."

The Friday night game will be the second Sandusky Bay Conference game for the Fliers. Both teams will be entering the game with 2-2 marks.

Scores by quarters
Gibsonburg 17 20 23 19-79
Clyde 15 13 15 19-79

SCORING
GIBSONBURG: Shull 15-33, Brubaker 3-6-6, Reno 3-17, Ertshausen 2-5-7, Sc. Ruesher 1-0-2, Bowers 1-2-4, Gruner 1-0-2, totals 26-23-65

CLYDE: Zimmerman 2-4-5, Crooks 4-1-9, Caudill 9-22, Farrar 6-0-12, Berlekamp 1-2-4, Baker 8-2-18, Young 2-4-4, Roth 1-0-2, totals 33-13-79

JV game: Clyde 48, Gibsonburg 22
Season records: Clyde 2-2, Gibsonburg 2-5



AT LEAST three players (top) got tired of standing on their feet and engaged in some floor action at the Ross-Findlay basketball game Tuesday night. Pat Belch (11) of Ross is in a struggle for the ball with Dave Young of Findlay. Mark Hochstetler is to the left of Belch. In the left photo, Dave Fahrback of Ross is shown ready to hand the ball to Garry Clark. Denny Smith is shown to the left of Clark. (News-Messenger photos by Bill Stewart)

Flames' streak grows

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Flames have extended their unbeaten streak to six games with an easy triumph over Kansas City, and Coach Fred Creighton compared his club's torrid stretch to that of a golfer.

"You go back over the games and you see different people chipping in

High school basketball

By The Associated Press
Albany Alexander 61, Glouster Trimble 54

Amanda-Clearcreek 69, Millersport 52
Amherst, Lorain Brookside 65, Barbours 59, Akron St. Vincent 72

Cincinnati Hughes 57, Cincinnati Withrow 53
Circleville, Miami Trace 50, Cleveland Lutheran East 60, Richmond 41

Cleveland Baptist, Christian 82, Grand River 42
Cleveland Kennedy 75, Cleveland Glenview 65

Cleveland Ignatius 82, Cleveland Max Hayes 62
Cleveland South 84, Cleveland Rhodes 56

Cleveland Marshall 50, Cleveland W. Tech 47
Cleveland Benedictine 51, East Central, Ind. 72, Harrison 66

Eastlake North 82, Mayfield 61, Euclid 61, Bedford 52
Fairbanks 52, Marysville 46, 2 CRT, Fairfield Union 108, Lancaster Fisher 56

Findlay 59, Fremont Ross 53, Groveport 81, Columbus Beasley 79 OT
Hilliard 73, Brookhaven 62, Kirtland 58, Fairport Harding 66

Lorain Union 64, Canal Winchester 62
Lodi 73, North College Hill 63

Logan Elm 73, Berne Union 56, Lorain Clearview 76, Vermilion 54

Maple Heights 78, Willoughby South 58
Marian Harding 65, Mansfield Sr. 57

North Ridgeville 51, Wellington 62
Northwest 12, Lakota 68

Oberlin 80, Gratton Midview 58, Ohio Deal 71, Briggs 54
Painesville Riverside 67, Chardon 56

Pickerington 60, Bloom-Carroll 51
Ridgedale 71, Marion Catholic 49

South Point 64, McDermott Northwest 52
Upper Arlington 64, Columbus Whitehall 62

Wadsworth 72, Copley 56, Bloomfield 70, Jamestown, Pa. 59
Boardman 72, Hubbard 66

Bristol 71, Rymond, Pa. 60, Brookfield 56, Lakewood 62
Labree 45, Champion 41

Liberty 54, Newton Falls 23, Maplewood 61, Grand Valley 23
Springfield Local 36, McDonald 34

Salem 51, Youngstown Mooney 41
Sebring 50, Crestview 38

Shawnee, Pa. 78, Youngstown Rayen 40
Sharon Kennedy Christian 78, Columbiana 61

Sharon Local 74, Lisbon 69, Youngstown Chaney 52, Ursuline 54

Lorain next for Ross

Lorain started the season on the right foot but since that time, the Steelers have not had a leg to stand on in basketball action.

The Steelers bounced highly regarded Lorain Southview 62-44 in the season opener but have dropped the next three contests, including two Buckeye Conference encounters. The Lorain crew will roll into Fremont Friday night to test Ross, a disappointing loser (59-55) to Findlay Tuesday night.

"About the only thing I am disappointed with (other than the score) in the Findlay game," Ross Head Coach Ken Miller said Wednesday, "was the defense.

"We started out changing from man-to-man to zone and back and forth but we had to give it up when our kids became confused with the switching," Miller said. "I guess it's our (the coaches) fault that we put the kids on the floor that way."

But out of disaster, Miller did point out one thing that worked out for Ross in the defensive quandry. "Normally, being confused on defense as much as we were should have killed us but I think because we were so confused, it may have confused Findlay offensively."

Lorain is quick according to Miller but putting aside the defensive lull against Findlay, the veteran Ross coach said his team would open with the man-to-man. "I think we have the quickness to play them that way," he said.

Providing much of that quickness in the Steeler lineup is returning lettermen and starters Bernard George, Virgil Williams, and Bryson McCall.

George, a 6-0, senior, is the Steelers' chief scoring threat from the outside and on the fastbreak. In the

two BC games, he has dropped in an average of 17 points. Williams, 6-0, senior who was an All-Ohio football selection the past two years, cavorts at a forward spot and is mainly a defensive player.

McCall is the tallest of the Lorain crew at 6-3. The senior center ranks fourth in the BC scoring race behind George with a 15-point average.

Teammed with that threesome is 5-10 junior Perry Rush at guard and 6-0 junior Doug Zientarski at a forward. Top replacement is Roger Jones, a 6-3 junior, who is listed as doubtful because of a dislocated finger.

Ross will counter with the same lineup that has started the previous five games for Miller. Dave Fahrback, the conference's second leading scorer with an 18.5 mark, will be at center. John Kiser and Denny Smith are the forwards, and veterans Garry Clark and Pat Belch will be at the guard slots.

"We may rest Fahrback a little more each quarter," Miller pointed out. "When David gets tired, he has a tendency to get into foul trouble."

At 6-6, Ross can ill afford to lose Fahrback's height on the boards. Spelling the Ross center will be sophomore Larry Williams who has scored 14 points in Ross' games to date.

Other games in the BC Friday, include a battle of the leaders at Sandusky. The Blue Streaks, with Paul Biddle (14.5) and 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the conference, will host Findlay, 5-1 and 3-0 in the BC.

At Elyria, the Pioneers (2-2) will be bidding for BC win number one against Mansfield (1-2 and 1-1). Admiral King, who along with Findlay and Sandusky is unbeaten in conference play with a 2-0 mark, will host Marion Harding (1-4 and 1-2) in the final conference game.



PAT BELCH OF ROSS GETS OFF A SHOT
Lorain's Adrian Jones is on the floor and Byron McCall is in the foreground

Erratic Kentucky slips by Georgia Tech 66-64

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Sports Writer

The Kentucky Wildcats took Coach Joe Hall on a roller coaster ride and he may have a hard time recovering.

"The last 25 minutes of the game was just beyond comprehension," Hall said Friday night after watching his team's highly erratic performance in the first round of the Kentucky Invitational Basketball Tournament at Lexington, Ky.

The 20th-ranked Wildcats had a runaway 21-point lead over Georgia Tech in the first half, then almost lost it in the end, finally pulling out a 66-64 thriller.

"The emotional instability of the team was evident," noted Hall. "When we saw it was going to be easy, we let up. And

when we let up, we are not a good ballclub. "We can beat Oregon State (tonight) if we play like we did earlier (against Georgia Tech). But we'll get beat by 40 if we play like we did the rest of the way."

The exciting game was the nightcap of a first-round doubleheader. Oregon State whipped 19th-ranked Arizona State 87-83 to gain tonight's finals against the Wildcats.

The Kentucky Invitational was one of a basketful of holiday season tournaments around the country.

Top-ranked Indiana walloped Georgia 93-56 and Virginia Tech crushed Oregon 87-60 in the opening round of the Indiana Classic at Bloomington; No. 8 Alabama beat Pittsburgh 62-53 and Florida State took South Florida 78-71 in the Big Sun

Tournament at St. Petersburg, Fla.; No. 11 Tennessee breezed past Army 99-49 and Clemson outscored Middle Tennessee State 82-46 in the Volunteer Classic at Knoxville; No. 14 San Francisco beat Oral Roberts 98-76 and Providence defeated Santa Clara 73-66 in the Cable Car Classic at San Francisco and No. 17 Auburn lost to SMU 87-85 in overtime and Texas-El Paso beat Tulsa 77-67 in the Sun Bowl Tournament at El Paso.

Elsewhere, Michigan crushed Southern Illinois 74-49 and Miami, Ohio, tripped Princeton 66-61 in the Michigan Invitational at Ann Arbor; Mississippi State nudged Dayton 56-54 and Long Beach State turned back Washington State 80-74 in the Dayton Classic at Dayton, Ohio.

BALED CORN HUSK NOW AVAILABLE

Columbus surprises Gems

Slumbering Ross defense helps Lorain to 59-53 conference win

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Lorain arrived late, started slowly, but speeded up, and left Ross wishing that they had never trudged through the doorway to the hallowed halls of the Little Giants' kingdom.

The Steelmen, delayed on the Ohio turnpike by a stubborn bus, played listlessly in the first 16 minutes but set fire to the nets in the third period and eventually stormed to a 59-53 Buckeye Conference win over the Little Giants. The win was the first in conference play for the Steelmen in three outings and dropped the Ross squad to 1-3 in BC play.

Lorain Coach Dale Reichert, not so handy with broken down buses, stepped on his starter at half time and fired up the Steelmen. Trailing 23-21 at the half, Lorain nipped off 25 points in the third period to leave the Little Giants reeling.

"We made a change in our offensive starts," the Steelmen's coach said. "We had the low post men cross instead of coming straight out when we went on offense."

While that may have keyed the Lorain pullaway, Ross assistant coach Don Burgess had a better description.

"We just went to sleep on defense," he said. "They beat us down the floor and then ate us up on the inside."

Ross Head Coach Ken Miller backed up his assistant's thinking. "It (Ross' defense) just didn't get the job done."

With Byron McCall pouring in 10 of his game high 25 points in the third quarter, Lorain bolted from the two-point halftime deficit to grab a 27-23 lead one minute into the quarter. Three minutes later, the Steelmen, keyed by McCall's two fielders, ran off six straight points to take a 42-31 lead, the biggest of the night.

Lorain opened the game with a light "2-3" zone, switched to a pressing man-to-man late in the second quarter before switching back to the zone in the third period to paralyze Ross.

"Really it wasn't their defense as much as it was ours that beat us," Miller said in explaining that the Lorain zone did not affect his team all that much.

Then the Ross mentor threw a jab at the officials. "They (Lorain) are quick and they are a good ball club," he began, and then added, "as long as the officials (Dean Sterling of Ashland and Fred Mohri of Elkhart, Ind.) let them knock you around like they did."

Lorain, with McCall, Virgil Williams, and burly Kevin Huff, shoved, slammed, and pushed their way to domination on both boards and strangely enough, Reichert had to pull his charges away from the offensive boards to get the job accomplished.

"Our kids seem to forget about the defensive board," he explained. "They go to the offensive board well but I had to remind them at the half to concentrate on the defensive boards."

His attempts at bringing back memories to his team clicked and helped shove Ross to its third loss in six games.

The Little Giants started slower than it took Lorain to get to Fremont but grabbed a 9-8 lead on Dave Fahrback's bucket in the first quarter after trailing 0-3. Ross led after one stanza 11-10, fell behind twice in the second period, but took the lead at intermission behind Fahrback's six points and Garry Clark's four.

The Little Giants never led in the second half after falling behind in the first minute but Ross did cut the Lorain lead to three at 54-51 with 2:09 to play. However, back-to-back buckets by Williams and McCall a half minute later erased the Ross hopes of pulling the game out of the fire.

Ross hit only 18 of 45 shots unofficially to Lorain's 25 of 56. The Steelmen fired in 11 of 19 in the third period while Ross had five of 11.

In addition to McCall's 25, Lorain got eight points from Williams, Huff, and Bernard George. Fahrback led Ross with 20 and Clark had 10. Pat Belch led the last ditch effort for Ross with eight last quarter points to go with his two in the first half.

"What we do now," Miller concluded, "is pick up the pieces from here and go."

The Little Giants will get a chance to put the pieces together when they host Sandusky, Saturday, Dec. 27. The Blue Streaks remained undefeated Friday night with a 66-56 win over Findlay. Sandusky plays at Elyria tonight.

The Ross junior varsity game was canceled because of Lorain's late arrival.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

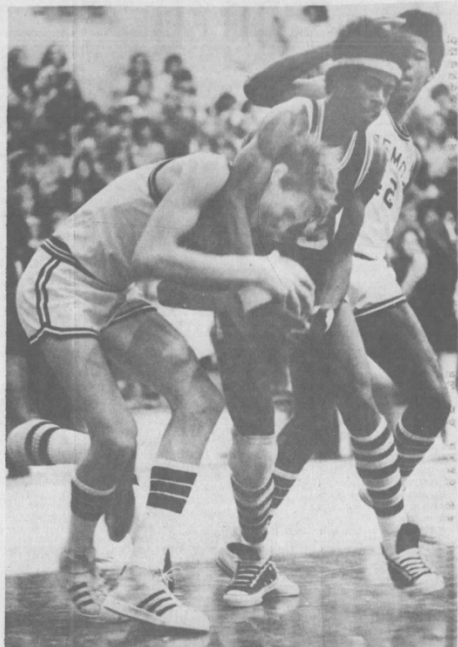
Lorain 10 11 25 13-59
Ross 11 12 18 53

SCORING

LORAIN: Williams 4-8, Zientaraki 1-0, McCall 10-25, George 4-0, Huff 1-4, Jones 1-2, Huff 4-0, Totals 29-59

ROSS: Smith 2-15, Kiser 1-3-5, Fahrback 7-4-30, Clark 4-2-10, Belch 3-4-10, Williams 6-11, Reed 1-0-2, Totals 19-17-63

Season records: Ross 3-1 (1-3); Lorain 2-3 (1-2)



THERE WAS NO foul on the play in the above picture. Lorain's Bryon McCall has a headlock on Ross' Dave Fahrback in a play that led to a jump ball. At the left, Fred Pagan of Lorain was called for blocking Ross' Garry Clark on a drive to the bucket. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

News-Messenger
Sports
news

Pro basketball
standings

By The Associated Press	
NBA	
Eastern Conference	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct. GB
Boston	18 7 720 -
Philadelphia	19 6 704 -
Buffalo	15 13 536 4 1/2
New York	10 20 333 10 1/2

Miller. Watson

Ross hosting Sandusky Saturday night

Ross will square off against the surprise team of the Buckeye Conference, Sandusky, Saturday night at the Little Giants home court.

The Blue Streaks, currently the BC's top scoring team with a 61.0 average, opened the season with four consecutive wins, which included the first three conference tilts. Sandusky dropped its first game of the season last Saturday night to a hot shooting Elyria quintet but still holds a share of the BC lead with Findlay at 3-1.

Led by Jesse Jackson, Paul Biddle, and Ken Pearson, the Blue Streaks are classified as a "quick team but not exceptionally tall," according to Ross coach Ken Miller.

"Against Elyria," Miller recalled, "Sandusky had a strong first half but I think the game the night before (a 66-56 win over Findlay) may have taken something out of them in the second half."

Elyria sank 11 straight shots in eight minutes in the contest to pull away for a 62-47 win.

Biddle is the tallest Blue Streak at 6-4. The junior center is 13th in the conference scoring race with 12 point average but has hit on 56 per cent of his shots. Jackson, a 5-10 senior guard, is 10th in the BC scoring parade with 12.8 norm, and, like Biddle, is hitting over 50 per cent from the field with a 53-plus percentile.

Pearson, a 6-3 senior, is dropping in points at a 10.3 pace in conference games to give the Blue Streaks three potent scorers. Teammed with that threesome is 6-2 senior John Clark and 5-8 junior Mike Pettis or 5-10 junior Mike Ehrhardt.

Normally, it is not unusual for Sandusky Coach Gary Reynolds to use 10-11 players during a game.

"They'll pick you up and play you base line to base line on defense," Miller said about the Sandusky

defensive system. "Primarily, they play man-to-man."

Ross is coming off a two-game losing streak with the last loss to Lorain 59-53 which dropped them to 1-3 in the conference.

"We have not developed consistency," Miller said about his team. "At times they have played a brand of ball better than any of the teams I have had here but we are not consistent."

Ross, as a team, is averaging 51 points per game in conference play, a figure that puts them dead last. Defensively, the Little Giants are second, allowing only 55 per game, five behind Elyria.

Dave Fahrbach is the top point scorer for Ross with a 17.8 norm in the conference. That is second to Byron McCall of Lorain.

The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 Saturday night.

In other Buckeye Conference games, Findlay will travel to Admiral King where a share of the conference lead is at stake. Findlay is 3-1, the same record as the Admirals after a 67-53 win over Lorain Tuesday night.

Elyria, 2-2 in the conference, will travel to Marion Harding. The Prexies are also 2-2 in BC play. The final conference tilt will send Lorain to Mansfield.

St. Joe headed for Mansfield

The St. Joe High School basketball team will be trying to snap a three-game losing streak Saturday night against an old

"typical St. Pete's team." He said they are big inside and like to run and shoot, as well as utilize a man-to-man press. Senior 6-3 pivotman

and Rob Boukissen will be at guard.

In a limited area schedule Saturday, Genoa will travel to

Sandusky soph too much for Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Sophomore Glen Redding helped Sandusky to "regroup" and at the same time, caused Ross Coach Ken Miller to see a replay.

Ross lost its third straight game 60-57 to the Blue Streaks in a game that was not as close as the score indicated. The win upped Sandusky's Buckeye Conference record to 4-1, good enough for the lead along with Admiral King. Ross slipped to 1-4 in the BC and 3-4 overall.

The Little Giants led at the half 23-22 but only because of some sloppy play by the Blue Streaks. The lead could have been more substantial for Ross but misses on six short shots early in the first period served as a warning to how erratic the Little Giants' play was to be in the game.

Gary Reynolds, Sandusky coach, pulled a switch on Ross by starting Redding and Ken Grant in place of Paul Biddle and Ken Pearson, the latter two of the top scorers in the conference.

"We played sluggish in the first half," Reynolds said about the obvious. "The people we started had not played together that much and it showed."

Denny Smith of Ross scored six of his 16 points for the night in the first period to lead Ross to a 12-12 tie. The Little Giants, taking charge of the boards early in the game, had taken a 12-7 lead but watched it melt away by going scoreless the last three minutes of the first stanza.

Pat Belch popped in five points to lead Ross to the narrow halftime lead. The Little Giants, showing a trait that has become common to them in the first six games of the season — missing free throws — connected on only five of 13 charity tosses to give Sandusky a first-half break.

The Blue Streaks, trailing by one, ripped off 11 unanswered points at the start of the second half before the stunned Little Giants could score. Two timeouts and nine turnovers into the period, Ross trailed 41-27 and the game was as good as in the bag for the Blue Streaks.

"We were trying to regroup our starting lineup," Reynolds explained while reflecting on his team's first half showing. "In the second half we started to get it together a little better."

Pearson made his appearance in the period and responded with six points. "He (Pearson) missed three days of practice because of the flu," Reynolds explained, "and his doctor and our trainer did not want him to play much."

Biddle, the other deposed Blue Streak starter, dropped in four points in the third period pullaway.

With the deposed starting duo scoring in the clutch, the man with his foot on the accelerator was Redding. The 5-10 soph, making his first varsity start,

pumped in 11 points in the period and continually befuddled Ross defenders with his drives and quick accurate jumpers from 15 feet or more.

"We are trying to bring him on slowly," Reynolds said about Redding.

Redding finished the night with 27 points to top all scorers. He hit all three of Sandusky's last period field goals as Ross crept close at the end.

Up 59-47 with less than two minutes to play, the Blue Streaks eased up and Ross warmed up a little. Three buckets by Smith, two more by Kim Stout, and a single fielder by Garry Clark closed the gap for Ross. Smith's layup with a second to play brought the Little Giants to within three but the issue was no longer in doubt at that point.

"This was just like a duplicate copy of last week's game with Lorain (Ross lost 59-53)," Miller recalled. "I don't think you could have come any closer to duplicating it even if you had drawn it up."

Commenting about the shift in the Sandusky lineup, Miller said, "It didn't make any difference who he started, they all played in their other games and have played about the same amount of time. I don't think he (Reynolds) really has a set lineup."

The third quarter breakdown by Ross was a mystery to the Ross coach. "I wish someone would tell me what happened in that period. We asked the players and they don't know and we (coaches) don't know either."

Smith's 16 led Ross with Clark notching 12, all in the second half. Dave Fahrbach added 11 for the Little Giants.

Ross came from a 13-0 count in the junior varsity game to dump the Blue Streaks 48-46 to up their record to 5-2. Eddie Jones led the Ross JVs with 14 points.

Varsity Game Score by Quarters

Sandusky	12	10	27	11—60
Ross	12	11	12	22—57

Scoring

SANDUSKY: Jackson 3-0-6, Pettis 0-1-1, Biddle 3-5-11, Clark 1-0-2, Pearson 4-1-9, Grant 2-0-4, Redding 12-3-27; totals 25-10-60

ROSS: Smith 7-2-16, Kiser 2-0-4, Fahrbach 4-3-11, Belch 2-4-8, Clark 5-2-12, Stout 2-0-4, Daniels 1-0-2; totals 23-11-57

Season records: Sandusky 5-1 (4-1); Ross 3-4 (1-4)

JV Game

Score by Quarters

Sandusky	15	8	16	7—46
Ross	4	9	16	19—48

Scoring

SANDUSKY: Cunningham 1-0-2, Koonce 3-2-8, Gage 1-0-2, Clark 7-1-15, Graves 2-4-8, Hathorn 2-2-6, Wooten 2-1-5; totals 18-10-46

ROSS: Price 0-4-4, Belch 2-2-6, Hammer 4-2-10, Jones 5-4-14, Sachs 1-0-2, Brown 4-0-8, Zimmerman 0-2-2, Daniels 1-0-2; totals 17-14-48

**Superior
Muffler**

Elyria tonight for Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Smarting from three straight losses, Ross basketball Coach Ken Miller may be sending a "new look" Little Giants team onto the floor against Buckeye conference toughie, Elyria. The BC clash will begin with junior varsity play tonight at 6:30 p.m.

Miller, who has started the same lineup of Dave Fahrback at center, John Kiser and Denny Smith at forwards, and Garry Clark and Pat Belch at the guards, in Ross's first seven games, said he will be going with that same lineup again but that it may not remain intact very long into the game.

The Ross coach had wanted to rest Fahrback, the 6-6 senior by using sophomore Larry Williams two games ago but his plans were discarded when Williams became ill. Now it appears that Miller will be returning to that format.

While spelling the guards with Kim Stout as he has all along, Miller will be testing sophomore Randy Hammer, 5-10, at a wing spot at favor of Kiser or Smith.

"We are going to keep him (Hammer) eligible for two quarters of play in the varsity game," Miller said and added that Darrell Daniels, a junior who played two quarters against Sandusky after seeing action in the junior varsity game, will also be eligible for two quarters of varsity play.

Miller looked back over the recent

losses and said that the brute strength of conference teams has taken its toll on Ross.

"It seems that the strength of Buckeye Conference teams is the distinguishing feature of the conference," he said. "In the first half we can stay with the teams on brute strength but really start getting knocked around as we start to get tired in the second half."

Still, despite his team's 3-4 record, Miller has seen some bright spots and has not tossed the season away to a complete experiment with younger players.

A few of the bright spots occurred against Sandusky last Saturday in a 60-57 loss. Down by as many as 16 points, the Little Giants refused to cash in their chips and closed the gap on a very quick, potentially high scoring Blue Streaks squad.

Ross will face Elyria and its pressurized defense which features 6-9 junior Richard Montague. The guards are 5-9 Hubert Oliver and 5-9 Mark Haddox. The forwards are Robert Trice, 6-0, and Rick Hoskin, 6-0. Haddox and Hoskin are the only seniors on the starting Elyria five.

Elyria carries a 6-2 record overall and 3-2 BC slate after thumping Marion Harding 50-29 a week ago. They are the top defensive team in the BC allowing only a little over 46 points per game.



DAVE FAHRBACH of Ross goes high in the air for a rebound against Elyria Saturday. The 6-6 senior scored on the play. Rich Hoskin (25), Richard

Montague (33), and Hubert Oliver of Elyria watch along with Ross's Pat Belch.

New Cincy coach vows to be 'his own man'

Ross rally falls short

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Say "third quarter" in the locker room at Ross High School and you see a pained expression appear on the faces of Ross basketball coach Ken Miller and his assistant Don Burgess.

The third quarter has been a jinx for the Little Giants in the last four contests and the Ross staff would just as soon not hear those two words. Like it or not, the third period was the Ross team's bugaboo again Saturday night but that stanza was a carry-over from Elyria's second quarter spurt.

In the end, the Pioneers held off a determined Ross rally for a 52-47 win. The win was the seventh in nine games for the Pioneers and fourth against two losses in the Buckeye Conference. Ross dipped to 3-5 and 1-5 in the conference race.

"Some night before the year is out," Miller began with a slight smile on his face, "we are going to surprise someone and win one of these close ones."

If the Ross coach had made that statement before the game, he would have had the crowd believing it during the first five minutes of the game. The Little Giants scored the first eight points as a scrambling man-to-man press caused five first period Elyria turnovers. Until Robert Rice's looper from the left corner ripped the nets at the 2:53 mark of the first period, the Pioneers had shown little offensive spark.

Elyria closed the gap to 10-8 at the quarter as Rich Hoskin tossed in four of his game high 16 points. Richard Montague, Elyria's 6-9 junior center, dropped in the other two points. Dave Fahrbach had popped in four for Ross in the initial stanza.

Montague's two charity tosses tied the game at 10 and Hubert Oliver's jumper from the left of the key gave Elyria its first lead at 12-10. Ross's Larry Williams caromed in a shot from the left side to give Ross the tying bucket but that was the last time the Little Giants were to be on an even keel with Elyria.

Elyria outscored Ross 16-10 the remainder of the half and then put its defense and offense together to outscore Ross 16-6 in the third stanza to carry a 44-28 lead into the final period.

Montague, with Fahrbach in foul trouble, scored eight points in the third period and Oliver, experiencing his best

game of the season, clicked on three more buckets.

While the loss was hard to take for Miller, he did get to use a format in the game that he had wanted to implement three games ago; getting more players into the game to get more rest for his first stringers and the move helped Ross close in on Elyria in the first period.

One of those shuttled in players, was sophomore Randy Hammer. After playing for two quarters in the junior varsity game, the 5-10 soph entered the game in the final period and scored four points, igniting a 19-point period for the Little Giants.

The spark Hammer provided helped bring the Little Giants from as far as 18 points down (46-28) to 50-44 with 1:36 to play.

"You have to give Hammer credit for the way he played," Miller said and then added that Hammer was definitely in Ross's rotation plans "right now."

Burgess expressed his views of the game by saying, "I thought our kids really gave us an effort."

"Defensively it was good — there were only two areas we should have been better and that was on the inside against Montague. We did not collapse on him and force him to 'kick' the ball out, instead he had the jumper from in close."

Garry Clark, fired in 17 points to lead Ross and all scorers in the game. His six points down the second quarter stretch kept the Little Giants hopes alive. Clark was the only Ross player in double figures. Montague finished with 15 with Hoskin taking top point honors for the Pioneers. Oliver finished with 12.

VARSITY GAME				
SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Elyria	8	20	16	8-52
Ross	10	12	6	19-47

SCORING				
ELYRIA:	Hoskin 5-6-16,	Trice 1-1-3,	Montague 6-3-15,	Haddock 1-2-4,
OLIVER:	6-0-12,	Lindquist 1-0-2,	totals	29-12-52

ROSS:	Smith 2-3-7,	Kiser 2-0-4,	Fahrbach 2-3-7,	Belch 1-4-6,
CLARK:	3-3-17,	Williams 1-0-2,	Stout 0-0-0,	Hammer 2-0-4,
totals	17-13-47			
Season records:	Elyria 7-2 (4-2);	Ross 3-5 (1-5)		

JV GAME				
SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Elyria	11	10	18	10-49
Ross	12	9	10	10-41

SCORING				
ELYRIA:	Balser 7-2-16,	Underman 3-2-8,	Lindquist 5-2-12,	Hoskin 4-1-9,
PAIGE:	2-0-4,	totals	21-7-49	

ROSS:	Price 3-0-6,	Miller 1-1-3,	Jones 6-1-13,	Sachs 2-0-4,
BEICH:	1-2-4,	Hammer 1-2-4,	Daniels 1-1-3,	totals
17-7-41				
Season records:	Elyria 8-1,	Ross 5-3		

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

LORAIN — A "phantom" foul took the thunder out of the best showing of the season for Ross and gave Admiral King just enough of a boost to keep the Admirals atop the Buckeye Conference standings.

The Admirals withstood 25 of 42 shooting from the field by Ross to post a 58-57 conference win to keep the top spot with a 6-1 record.

"Did you see it?" Ross Coach Ken Miller asked in disbelief in the Ross dressing room while referring to the foul on Kim Stout with only 25 seconds left to play in the game.

"I didn't have the slightest idea there was a foul," Miller continued to talk about the call that set up a three-point play by the Admirals' Eddie Smith just seconds after Ross had tied the score at 53-all.

John Kiser's shot from 15 feet out on the left side had knotted the score for Ross with 1:21 showing on the clock in the fourth period to set up the phantom foul that very few people in the sparse crowd witnessed with the exception of the man in the striped shirt.

After an AK timeout, the Admirals wasted a few seconds in getting ahead. Smith took a pass off a screen by John Brown and launched a shot from the top of the circle. The screen had cut off Stout, a 5-8 senior, from the play and Smith seemingly was not touched as he let fly with the shot. The ball whistled cleanly through the nets and Ross quickly took the ball

out-of-bounds and had started upcourt when a shrill whistle was heard.

Stout had been called with tapping the wrist of Smith, who at 5-10 jumps like a 6-6 high jumper, as he was shooting. Smith calmly put the ball through the hoop and the Admirals, for all intents and purposes had enough of an edge to keep Ross at bay.

"That was the farthest thing from my mind," Miller explained, "we had the ball inbound already and had started to come up court. I thought if there was a foul it was under the bucket."

Miller did not stop there, he went on describing how he felt Stout could not have accomplished a foul of that nature.

"Kim plays defense like this," Miller said as he squatted and let his arms hang down. "I mean his butt is nearly on the ground when he plays defense!"

One other call, that was rightfully made by the officials midway through the second quarter cost Ross a bucket by Stout. On a battle for a rebound, Ross's Dave Fahrbach went down injured just to the left of the hoop.

The ball bounced back to Stout at the foul line who dropped it cleanly through only the whistle had blown to stop play and protect the injured Fahrbach. The episode caused Miller, who had gotten the ball to slam it angrily to the floor.

"Two things happened on that," Miller said.

"David got kicked in the head when he went down and just after the referee had blown the whistle to stop play and let me onto the floor to get to David, I saw the go through the hoop and I got provoked."

Miller's anger was not directed at anyone, just the breaks that the Little Giants had on the play. Fahrbach was only shaken up on the play.

Garry Clark was the hot man of the night for Ross with 20 points. His shooting brought Ross from a 49-41 deficit early in the final period to the tie. Clark dropped in nine of his points in the quarter.

The Little Giants, behind by as many as 10 points in the second period, rallied to trail by only 33-31 at the half as Fahrbach connected for seven second quarter points. Ross has hit on 15 of 24 from the field to keep the spread close at the half.

In the final period, Ross hit six of seven from the field with the only miss, a desperation heave by Randy Hammer as the buzzer went off ending the game.

In those last few seconds, trailing 56-53, Denny Smith muscled in a bucket with 25 seconds to go for Ross to close the gap to one. Rennie Harris hit both ends of a one and one with 13 seconds to go to put AK back up 58-55.

With Ross working quickly, Fahrbach got the ball on the inside but was fouled on his shot. He hit both free throws and on the Admirals' loss inbound, Hammer fouled Pete Kimbrough. The AK junior missed the free

throw but there was only three seconds left and the game ended on Hammer's desperation try.

Clark was high for the game with 20. Fahrbach had 15 and Smith 10. Harris had 15 for the Admirals, Smith ended with 13, and Brown and Mike Cook had a dozen apiece.

"I am proud of the way these kids played tonight," Miller said. "The only thing that would make me prouder is if they come back against Woodward and play as well as they did tonight."

Ross will host Woodward tonight. The JV game begins at 6:30.

VARSITY GAME				
SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Ross	14	17	9	17-57
Admiral King	18	14	13	58

SCORING				
ROSS:	Smith 5-0-10,	Kiser 2-0-4,	Fahrbach 6-3-15,	Belch 1-0-3,
CLARK:	3-3-17,	Hammer 0-0-0,	totals	25-7-57

ADMIRAL KING:	Harris 4-7-10,	Brown 5-6-12,	Cook 6-0-12,	Smith 6-1-13,
McCove 3-0-6,	Kimbrough 0-0-0,	totals	22-16-58	
Season records:	Admiral King 7-2 (6-1);	Ross 5-6 (1-4)		

JV GAME				
SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Ross	3	13	8	12-36
Admiral King	11	12	11	14-48

SCORING				
ROSS:	Price 2-3-7,	Belch 2-1-3,	Miller 0-0-0,	Daniels 4-0-8,
BROWN:	0-0-0,	Zimmerman 1-1-3,	Jones 1-0-10,	Hammer 1-0-7,
totals	12-12-36			

ADMIRAL KING:	Wilson 2-4-4,	Pagan 1-1-7,	Hillland 4-4-12,	Gage 1-0-2,
Turley 2-3-8,	Brown 2-2-4,	Vaquer 0-2-2,	Jeter 0-3-3,	Price 0-4-4,
totals	15-18-48			
Season record:	Ross 5-4			

Hammer and Clark spark Ross win

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Staff Writer

C. W. McCall may have a hit record but the C and W music star has nothing on Ross High School's basketball team when it comes to putting the "hammer down."

Instead of down, Ross Coach Ken Miller put his Hammer (Randy) in and the Little Giants took off against Toledo Woodward Saturday night. With the sophomore sharpshooter hitting 10 points in two quarters, Hammer led Ross to a 62-52 come-from-behind victory.

When Hammer went to the bench, the rest of the Ross convoy kept the Little Giants rolling and helped break a five-game losing skid.

"All it takes is a couple of kids getting hot," Miller pointed out. "We may have had a little mental letdown after the game with Admiral King (a 58-57 loss Friday night) and you have to have a couple of players to ignite you."

It was Hammer that lit the fuse and Garry Clark that kept the fire burning high for Ross after the 5-10 sophomore's departure. Clark tossed in 21 points, 15 in the second half.

Hammer had a shooting night that bordered on the near perfect at the halftime break of the varsity game. The Ross hotshot had played two quarters of junior varsity ball and hit six of six shots in the third period for a Ross high 12 points. Eligible for only two more quarters of play for the night, Hammer started the second quarter of the varsity game and hit three of four shots.

With the four minutes to go in the half and Ross down 23-17, Miller called a timeout to straighten out the Little Giants' attack against the Polar Bears' "2-3" zone. Hammer, playing on the wing was prompted to shoot and responded with three straight shots to bring Ross back to only a 27-24 halftime deficit.

In the third period, Clark began to warm up with eight points but it was Hammer who hit the bucket to get Ross even at 32 with two minutes to go in the stanza. Clark scored from the corner to give Ross its first lead of the night (a lead they never lost) and Hammer's fielder from the left corner put Ross's lead up to four.

From that point, it was the scoring of Clark and Denny Smith plus the scoring and rebounding Dave Fahrback down the stretch to complete the fourth Ross win in 10 games.

Fahrback, a 6-6 senior, played one of

his better games as a Ross varsity player, collecting 16 points and grabbing 25 of the Little Giant's 49 rebounds. Smith, held scoreless in the first three periods, scored six in the final eight minutes to go along with Clark's seven.

With hot shooting (from the field) Randy Damron and Dan Tyburski holding the hot hands, Woodward trailed Ross by only one, 51-50, with two minutes to play but Kim Stout clicked on both ends of a one and one and Fahrback tapped one in to open a 55-51 margin to sew up the game.

Woodward was stone cold at the charity stripe with only four of 15. Damron, who was an 80 per cent foul shooter going into the game, hit only two of eight with four misses coming on the front end of the one and one.

"I was just about ready to tell him (Damron) to go out to the top of the circle and shoot jump shots," a dejected George Patterson, coach of Woodward said about his star's poor shooting from the stripe.

Ironically, Damron could hardly miss from the field and led all scorers with 24 points.

"We just lost it at the line," Patterson said.

He was right on that point as both teams hit 24 buckets. Ross fired up 68 shots and Woodward, 65. Ross hit 14 of 19 free throws and outrebounded the Bears 49-33 while being guilty of only 14 turnovers, 12 in the first half.

Speaking of the Ross "igniters" Miller concluded his views of the game, "We got a couple of kids to ignite up and David (Fahrback) started to rebound better — things just started to fall into place."

All Miller has to hope for is that things continue to fall in the right places even if he has to "Hammer" them into place.

Varsity Game Score by Quarters

Woodward	15	12	9	16	52
Ross	10	14	14	24	62

Scoring

WOODWARD: Matthews 1-1-3, Frankowski 3-1-7, Damron 11-2-24, Haynes 2-0-4, Tyburski 6-0-12, Harris 1-0-2; totals 24-4-52

ROSS: Smith 2-2-6, Kiser 2-0-4, Fahrback 6-4-16, Belch 0-0-0, Clark 8-5-21, Stout 1-3-5, Hammer 5-0-10; totals 24-14-62

Season records: Ross 4-6; Woodward 4-6

JV game (2 OTs)

Score by Quarters

Woodward	13	8	12	9	2	46
Ross	8	16	14	4	2	50

Scoring

WOODWARD: Bell 6-2-14, Daugherty 5-0-10, Jacobs 4-5-13, Paredes 1-0-2, Wells 2-1-5, Bobak 0-2-2; totals 18-10-46

ROSS: Brown 0-0-0, Belch 4-2-10, Miller 3-0-6, Daniels 1-0-2, Price 5-1-11, Sachs 2-1-5, Hammer 6-0-12, Jones 2-0-4; totals 23-4-50

Season record: Ross 6-4

Ross loses heartbreaker to Mansfield

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — The second time around in the Buckeye Conference proved to be more of the frustrating same for the Ross High School Little Giant basketball team.

The Giants, who began their second swing around the Buckeyes here Friday, dropped a heartbreaking 56-55 decision to the Mansfield Tygers.

It was the seventh conference loss in eight games for the Giants as they have dropped seven games by a total margin of 30 points. Ross is 4-7 overall.

The Tygers upped their record to 3-5 in the conference, with two of the victories coming against the Giants. They are 3-4 overall.

The winning basket for Mansfield was scored by guard Brent McFarland, who broke loose for a left corner jumper with 26 seconds left. A hook shot by Dave Fahrbach missed the mark in the final seconds to insure the victory for Mansfield.

Although Mansfield coach Jim Goode said the game was another of many indicators this season of the balance in the conference, Ross coach Ken Miller is wondering when the breaks will start balancing in favor of Ross.

"Talk about luck it sure can't get any worse," related a dejected Miller after the game. "It's tough on them, (players) but it will start turning for them one of these times."

"This is typical of the balance in the Buckeye

Conference," Goode said. "This is the best balanced I've ever seen it. Fremont's only won one game, but that doesn't mean anything."

The game was as tightly contested throughout as the final score showed. A slow first quarter by Ross helped Mansfield pull to a 13-8 lead. The Tygers led by five twice in the second period and it was the largest lead any team had.

Some good free throw shooting helped Ross cut the gap in the second period, as it sank six of seven in the period and 13 out of 15 for the game. In contrast, the Tygers had two out of five from the line.

"When you play a zone (Ross was in a 1-3-1 throughout the game) you don't foul much," Goode observed. "Especially as good as they were playing it. We had trouble penetrating against their defense, but when we did penetrate we were fortunate to hit some."

The lead changed hands five times and was tied four times in the third quarter, before the Giants, on two buckets by game leading scorer Fahrbach (17 points) and Denny Smith scored six unanswered points to take a 40-36 lead.

Going into the fourth quarter the Tygers switched from their man-to-man defense to a half court zone press. It forced three Ross turnovers and helped the Tygers regain the lead at 48-44.

"We thought we would put a little rat on them to change the pace," said Goode. "We were able to deflect some passes."

Ross tied it 48-48 midway through the period on a

basket by Pat Belch and two free throws by Fahrbach. Fahrbach, on a three-point play put Ross ahead 53-52 with 2:27 left, after Tyger leading scorer Cliff Belmer (15 points) scored on two buckets underneath. Orin Butler put Mansfield back on top 54-53 on a rebounded shot. But Garry Clark, who had 16 points for Ross, quickly put Ross back into the lead on an outside jumper.

With 1:22 left to play Fahrbach was fouled by Don Gross, who then fouled out with 14 points scored. Fahrbach had just come up with a steal before the foul.

The 6-6 center missed the first of the one and one opportunity, but the Giants got the ball back again after a missed Mansfield shot. An errant pass turned the ball over to the Tygers, which set them up for McFarland's game winner.

"That one hurt, that really hurt," Miller said of the Ross turnover.

With 26 seconds left after Mansfield had taken the lead for good, Miller said he had no intention of holding it up for a final shot.

"We were one down," Miller revealed. "If we miss it we don't have anything. We take it when it comes."

Denny Smith appeared open underneath the bucket in the final 30 seconds, but a pass to him was quickly knocked out of bounds by Mansfield. After Fahrbach missed his 15-foot hook shot there was a jump ball with one second left. Miller had something to say about Fahrbach's shot.

"It looked like he was fouled to me," the coach said. Fahrbach and Smith combined to help give a Ross a 30-21 edge in rebounds. Ross hit on 21 of 51 from the field for 41 per cent, while the Tygers hit on 27 of 58 for 46 per cent.

Goode said he felt only 10 turnovers committed by his team (it is averaging 20) kept the Tygers in the game. Ross committed 17 turnovers.

Miller revealed that the Giants played the Tygers differently than in their 58-48 loss in Fremont. He said they pressed them in Fremont, but found the Tygers to be too quick.

A bad fourth quarter hurt the Ross junior varsity team as Mansfield turned a 34-33 deficit into a 56-44 victory.

		SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Ross		8	16	16	15	55
Mansfield		13	12	11	20	56

		SCORING				
Ross:	Smith 3-0-6, Kiser 1-0-2, Fahrbach 5-7-17, Clark 6-4-16, Belch 4-5-10, Stout 1-0-2, Williams 1-0-2, totals 21-33-50					

MANSFIELD:	Gross 7-0-14, Belmer 7-1-15, Butler 3-0-6, McFarland 5-0-10, Ford 3-0-6, Adamescu 1-1-3, Jefferson 1-0-2, totals 27-30-56					
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Season records:	Mansfield 34 (3-3), Ross 4-7 (1-7)					
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		TV GAME				
		SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Ross		8	10	16	10	44
Mansfield		7	12	14	23	56

		SCORING				
Ross:	Price 3-1-7, Belch 4-0-8, Miller 1-0-2, Daniels 3-1-7, Sachs 1-3-5, Brown 4-0-8, Zimmerman 3-0-4, Hanner 1-0-2, Jones 0-1-1, totals 18-6-44					

MANSFIELD:	Powell 1-1-3, Curry 5-1-11, Woods 3-1-5, Davis 3-4-4, Fry 1-1-3, M. Davis 1-3-4, Carter 2-0-4, Chatman 6-2-14, Williams 3-0-4, totals 22-12-56					
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ts, Lemon

Lemon, who started as an infielder-outfielder, won 20 or more games seven times over a nine-year span. He didn't try serious pitching until 1946. Two years later, he had a 20-14 record when the Cleveland Indians won the American League pennant. His best record was 23-7 in 1954 when Cleveland won another pennant.

After retiring as an active player, Lemon managed the Kansas City Royals for 2½ seasons. Last month, he was named pitching coach of the New York Yankees.

Sports

Bob Marker, editor

layers now'

each — a total of \$4.4 million — "it would make things a lot easier," Garvey said.

"But they are going to vote on playing the Pro Bowl, and I don't know what course they will decide, or what action they will take, if any."

He said that if the players decide to play the game, "That's fine — no problem."

The Players Association decided not to pursue its demands at the Super Bowl in Miami, he said, because of what that game means to the players involved.

"The Super Bowl is the pinnacle of success to players and teams. You don't want to interfere with it."

Harding visits Ross Friday

What's a home court advantage?

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

You can throw out the old cliché of the home court advantage when it comes to Ross going against Marion Harding.

Last season, Ross and Harding split with each team winning on the road and this season, Ross has already stopped the Presidents in their own house 48-44 in a game that was not all that close.

Ross, 4-7 overall but 1-7 and dead last in the Buckeye Conference race, will face the Prexies, 3-7 and 3-5 in BC play, Friday night in the Little Giants' home. Ross will be pressing to break the home court jinx in this game and it could boil down to a battle in the lanes.

Clyde Lutsch, a 6-6 junior center for Harding, will square off against Ross's 6-6 senior, Dave Fahrbach in the battle for the middle and the battle promises to be a good one.

Lutsch started against Ross in the first meeting of the school but did not start in Harding's upset (58-56) win over Sandusky last Friday. He came off the bench, however, to have one of his finest games according to Ross scouting reports. Paramount in Lutsch's performance were 10 blocked shots.

Fahrbach, meanwhile, has started every game for Ross this season and drew spot starting assignments last year. The third leading rebounder in the BC with an even 10 grabs a game, the Ross senior has played steadily all season.

The fourth in a line of Fahrbach brothers to play ball at Ross, the Little Giants' center has had to overcome some problems the last two years.

"I've tried to keep my emotions down," Fahrbach pointed out before practice began Wednesday. "When I was younger, I was always getting in trouble with the officials by talking too much."

Another problem that Fahrbach has worked on and is still working on is stamina. "I've been working on that for a long while," he admitted. "When I get tired my shooting gets bad and my play falls off."

Ross coach Ken Miller agrees with his center about



DAVE FAHRBACH

stamina and has been subbing 6-5 sophomore Larry Williams for Fahrbach to give him some rest during games.

"When he is fresh," Miller said, "he can go with anyone but when he gets tired, he has a tendency to make mistakes and lose aggressiveness on the boards."

Facing Lutsch, Fahrbach will need his stamina if the Harding junior comes through with a performance ala the Sandusky game. However, facing adversity is not unusual for him.

Last season, Fahrbach came off the bench to score 20 points and led Ross to a triple overtime 77-75 win over Findlay. On that day, his father had been buried.

"That had to be one of the most courageous things I have ever seen," Miller declared.

Although scoring at a 15 point norm in the BC, rebounding is Fahrbach's forte. "I think I have gotten stronger," he pointed out while explaining his boards success. "It may not show it but I have put on 15 pounds over last year."

Going against Lutsch, Fahrbach will need the weight for the rough and tumble Harding center. It's one problem that he is probably looking forward to. If he responds to the problem as he usually does, that home court jinx against Harding stands a good chance of slipping by the wayside.

The Harding game is one of two for Ross this weekend. On Saturday, the Little Giants travel to Tiffin to face Columbian.

In other BC games Friday, Elyria (8-3 and 5-3) visits Findlay (6-3 and 6-2), conference leader Admiral King (8-3, and 7-1) hosts Mansfield (4-6 and 3-5), and Lorain (5-7 and 3-5) travels to Sandusky.

Pro basketball standings

NBA				L.A.			
Eastern Conference				Seattle			
Atlantic Division				Phoenix			
W L Pct. GB				Portland			
Boston	29	13	.690	Wednesday's Results			
Philolia	27	15	.643	Boston 114, Phoenix 100			

Sports in Brief

HOCKEY

KANSAS CITY — Bep Guidolin resigned as coach of the Kansas City Scouts of the National Hockey League because of a dispute with General Manager Sid Abel over personnel.

FOOTBALL

WASHINGTON — Utility-player Ray Schoenke of the Washington Redskins retired from pro football to devote more time to his life insurance company.

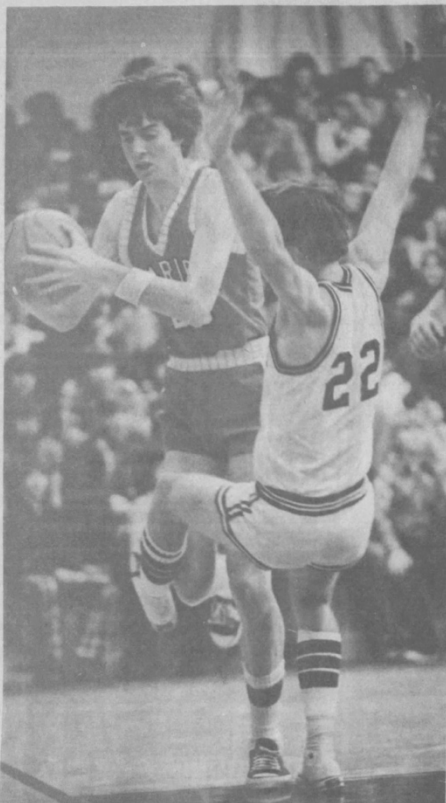
NEW LONDON, Conn. — Bill Hicke, Army's defensive line coach and a former assistant to Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame, was named head football coach at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

BASKETBALL

CHICAGO — Veteran guard Jerry Sloan underwent knee surgery and will be lost to the Chicago Bulls for the remainder of the basketball season.

TENNIS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Top seeded Jimmy Connors defeated Sid Ball of Australia 6-3, 6-1 in second-round action in the Birmingham Invitational Indoor Tennis Tournament.



JEFF TURNER of Marion Harding has the ball but charges into Garry Clark (22) of Ross in first half action.

No foul was called on the play. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

Beaty replaces Musselman as Virginia Squire coach

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — As the third official coach this season of the team with the worst record in pro basketball, Zelmo Beaty has no dreams of immediate success for the Virginia Squires of the American Basketball Association.

"My primary concern is to build a winning attitude to carry us over until next year," the 35-year-old veteran of 11 seasons as a pro player said Friday after he was named to replace Bill Musselman, who resigned Tuesday night.

In his first coaching venture, Beaty inherits a team that has won only six of 41 starts under Al Bianchi, fired after going 1-6 in the first seven games, and Musselman, who was 4-18 for his stint.

and Utah in the defunct category, Beaty said he wasn't concerned.

"I'm very impressed with the attitude of the owners and their desire to have a winning team and a permanent franchise," said the Prairie View graduate who has been out of basketball since last year.

In seven years with the St. Louis and Atlanta Hawks and Los Angeles Lakers of the NBA, Beaty averaged 18.1 points a game and shot 50 per cent from the floor. He averaged 19.1 points a game and shot 54 per cent at Utah.

Beaty sat out the 1969-70 season, his option year when he couldn't reach an agreement with Atlanta, then played in 1974-75 with Los Angeles when he didn't get the coaching job at Utah, for which

'New season' opener won by Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross started its "season within a season" with a convincing win and at the same time proved that, yes, there may be a home court advantage.

The Little Giants won game number five in 12 contests by completing a sweep of Marion Harding 51-40 Friday night at the lair of the Little Giants. Ross's win upped its Buckeye Conference mark to 2-7 while the Prexies slip to 3-4 in the ISC and 3-4 overall.

"We told ourselves tonight that this was going to be the start of a new season," Ross Coach Ken Miller smiled. "We can't do anything about those past games so we just work on the ones we have left."

Breaking away from a 21-19 halftime lead, Ross confounded the Prexies with switching zone defenses interspersed with a tight man-to-man to win game one of the new season.

Pat Belch, Garry Clark, and Dave Fahrbach scored all 15 of Ross's points in the third stanza to give the Little Giants a 36-31 cushion at the end of three and the final period was just a matter of going through the motions.

The home court win reversed a pattern that Ross and Harding had established over the past two seasons: winning on each other's home court. In the first game this season at Marion, Ross racked up a 48-44 win.

For Miller, the game provided a luxury his team has experienced few times this season. With three minutes to go in the game and Ross up by nine, the Ross coach ordered his team into a slowdown offense.

The effect was to make Harding chase the ball but to say the least, Ross had its problems accomplishing that item.

"We usually are the ones chasing the ball," Miller laughed when questioned about the offense. "We haven't been in that situation since the last time we played Marion."

"All we really wanted to do was slow the tempo of the game down . . . we would only take the good shot or a layup," Miller pointed out.

But defense is what sparked for Ross.

"Anytime you hold a team to 40 points, you have to be happy," Miller said. "I felt our defense kept them off balance—they weren't sure of what we were doing."

The only defensive aspect that Miller did not like was the press. "We just did not react in it," he said. "Of course we only used it three times."

Larry Williams, Ross's 6-5 sophomore, drew praise from his coach for his defensive play. "At times he may have been doing a little better than David (Fahrbach)."

The Williams-Fahrbach combo jammed up the middle enough to limit Harding's big man, 6-5 Clyde Lutsch, to four second half points. He had eight in the first half.

For Harding coach Doug Riley, the game was a study in frustration.

"I just don't know," he began, "I don't think we had three guys out there tonight who played with any hustle or intensity."

"We were making mistakes that we were making in the first of the season," he muttered.

Ross was led in scoring by Fahrbach with 16 followed by Clark with 11. Belch had 10, all in the second half. Lutsch's 12 and Jeff Kirkpatrick's 10 led the Prexies.

The Little Giants hit only 18 of 52 shots but Harding was anemic 17 of 61 from the field. Ross committed only 18 turnovers, with only three being converted into baskets. The Little Giants, meanwhile, converted 19 Harding turnovers into 19 points.

Harding led in rebounds 36-29 with 18 coming on the offensive board.

"That's something we are going to have to change at Tiffin. (Columbian will host Ross tonight)," Miller said.

Harding's JV's won its fourth game of the season by hanging on for a 50-45 win. The loss dropped Ross to 6-4 for the season.

VARSITY GAME		SCORE BY QUARTERS			
Harding	Ross	12	7	13	9-40
		12	9	15	15-51

SCORING	
HARDING: Jones 2-6, Kirkpatrick 5-10, Lutsch 6-12, Floyd 1-4, Turner 1-3, Williams 2-0-4, Middleton 0-1-1, totals 17-4-40	
ROSS: Smith 5-14, Kiser 2-4, Fahrbach 5-16, Belch 2-6-10, Reid 4-6, Hammer 2-0-6, Williams 2-0-4, totals 18-15-51	

JV GAME		SCORE BY QUARTERS			
Harding	Ross	17	10	16	7-50
		4	7	18	14-40

SCORING	
HARDING: Craig 3-14, Miller 6-14, Rutelich 9-14, Haines 4-9, Russell 2-5, Garver 2-0-4, totals 20-10-50	
ROSS: Pryor 4-10, Brown 3-4, Belch 5-7-7, Jones 1-2-4, Daniels 2-3-7, Hammer 2-0-6, totals 18-15-45	

Season records: Ross 5-7 (2-7); Harding 3-4 (3-4)

Ernie D's return sparks Braves

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Statistically, Bob McDoo, Randy Smith and Jim McMillan were Buffalo's offensive leaders in the Braves' sixth straight victory, a 119-104 decision over the Atlanta Hawks.

But perhaps more important to Buffalo than the contributions of those three in Friday night's game was the re-emergence of Ernie DiGregorio as the team's playmaker and floor leader.

The diminutive DiGregorio, the National Basketball Association's Rookie of the Year and assist leader in 1973-74 but a benchwarmer for the past several weeks, played 28 minutes against the Hawks. He hit four of five field goal attempts and all four free throw shots for a total of 12 points, while handing out six assists.

But DiGregorio's accomplishments against Atlanta were overshadowed in the box score by McDoo's 25 points, 20 rebounds, nine blocked shots and five assists, Smith's 30 points and McMillan's 22 points.

Elsewhere in the NBA, Bob Dandridge's career-high 40 points helped the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Kansas City Kings 113-97, the Boston Celtics downed the Detroit Pistons 108-91, the New York Knicks rallied for a 104-92 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers, the Phoenix Suns lopped the Houston Rockets 124-115, and the Portland Trail Blazers whipped the Los Angeles Lakers 119-96.

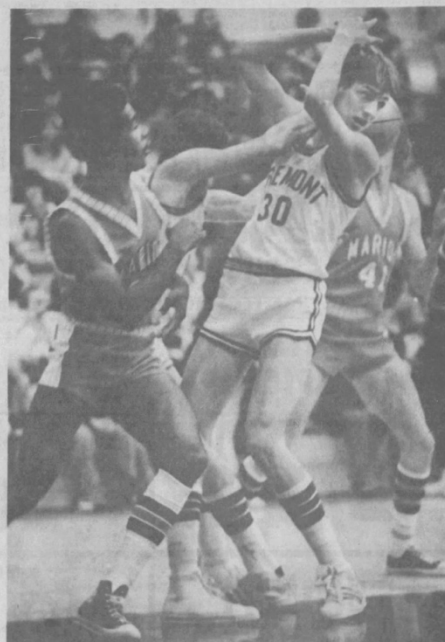
BUCKS 113, KINGS 97
Dandridge scored 14 of his points in the third period, including 11 in the last six minutes, as Milwaukee pulled away from a 64-64 tie and opened an 87-75 lead.

Brian Winters added 24 points for the Bucks, who broke a three-game losing streak and took a one-game lead over Detroit in the Midwest Division.

CELTICS 108, PISTONS 91
The victory by Boston, the Atlantic Division leader, assured Tom Heinsohn of the honor of coaching the East team in the Feb. 3 All-Star game at Philadelphia. It will be Heinsohn's fourth All-Star assignment in the past five years.

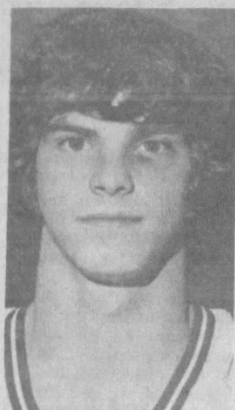
KNICKS 104, 76ERS 92
Earl Monroe's 28 points and Spencer Haywood's 25 helped the Knicks overcome a 19-point second-period deficit and gain their fifth straight victory, their 15th in the last 19 games and their ninth in a row at home.

SUNS 124, ROCKETS 115
Paul Westphal scored 28 points and rookie Alvan Adams added 23 as the Suns rode a 71-point first half, including a season-high 42 points in the second period, to their victory over Houston. Calvin Murphy and Rudy Tomjanovich each scored 26 points for the Rockets.



THE BALL goes behind Ross's Dave Fahrbach (30) after being knocked out of his hands by an unidentified teammate, Mickey Williams of

Harding seems to be getting ready to throw a right cross in action under the bucket.



PAT BELCH
...Season high 15

Celtics rip Buffalo

By ALEX SACHARE
AP Sports Writer

Red Auerbach, president and general manager of the Boston Celtics, has taped some basketball lessons which are being aired at halftime of National Basketball Association telecasts this season, and perhaps the Buffalo Braves should have been watching.

Then again, Auerbach's players conducted a clinic

Shower room helps Ross clean Columbian 52-49

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
TIFFIN — It took some shower room hijinks for Fremont Ross to tiptoe past Columbian Saturday night. The Little Giants trailed only at the very beginning of the game while recording their second win in as many days 52-49.

"We worked everything out in the shower room before we went out on the floor," Ken Miller chuckled. The remark had more than a few of the well wishers in the Ross locker room mystified.

To explain the wet room procedure, Ross assistant coach Don Burgess took over for head man Miller. "We thought they would play a zone," Burgess began, "so we did a little pregame work here in the shower room where we walked through how we were going to attack the zone."

"It was just a hunch," Miller confessed about the zone defense, "but we guessed right."

With Pat Belch hitting a season high 15 points and Garry Clark riddling the Tornadoes' 1-3-1 zone from the outside, Ross built up as much as a 10-point lead in the first half after trailing 2-0 and 4-2.

With Pat Belch hitting a season high 15 points and Garry Clark riddling the Tornadoes' 1-3-1 zone from the outside, Ross built up as much as a 10-point lead in the first half after trailing 2-0 and 4-2.

The Little Giants planted nine of their first 16 shots from the field to bolt to an 18-8 lead early in the

second period before the shocked Tornadoes recovered enough to close to within four at 18-14.

Ross led 22-14 at the half purely on outside shooting.

In the third period, 6-6 senior Dave Fahrback slipped inside for four buckets and Belch added four more to keep Ross on top at 36-32.

The Little Giants had manufactured a 34-26 lead with two and one-half minutes to play in the period but five straight turnovers produced six unanswered Columbian points, cutting Ross's lead to 34-32. Ross, however, scored the final points of the period and jumped to a 41-33 lead a minute and one-half into the final frame.

Ross's multiple defenses format turned in its second straight sterling night. On Friday, the Little Giants had held Marion Harding to only 40 points but to get the Ross coaches to saying that the defense has looked the best it has all season is another question.

"I'd say it's (defense) progressing," Burgess grinned while Miller casually put it, "Our defense is doing the job."

Merritt Yackey was the thorn in the side of Ross in the second half. The 6-2 guard pumped in 16 points, all in the second half for the Tornadoes. Whitey Florence had 11 points and was the only other Tornado in double figures.

Besides the two-point differential in the third period, the final score was as close as Columbian got in the second half. A Belch to Denny

Smith pass gave the Little Giants a 49-41 lead with 1:25 showing on the clock and seconds later, Fahrback's loping stride downcourt and subsequent layup off a fastbreak produced the eventual winning bucket while upping Ross's lead to 51-45.

"It was a little tester," Miller smiled while walking around the shower room, "but it's about time we got a little something in return for those close ones we lost. One thing is for sure, the kids definitely earned it."

Belch's 15 led Ross with Fahrback and Clark hitting 14 and 12, respectively. The Little Giants hit 23 of 53 shots, with Columbian 18 of 57. Ross was outrebounded 34-24.

The Ross JVs did not handle the Columbian zone as well as the varsity and dropped game number seven in 13 outings, 48-35. Tim Belch, Pat's brother, led the Ross JVs with 10 points.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	14	8	14	16-52
Columbian	9	6	18	17-49

SCORING

ROSS: Smith 3-1-7, Kiser 2-0-4, Fahrback 6-2-14, Belch 6-3-15, Clark 6-0-12, Stout 0-0-0, Williams 0-0-0, Hammer 0-0-0; totals 23-6-52
COLUMBIAN: Florence 5-1-11, Yackey 6-4-16, Behm 3-2-8, Coppus 3-2-8, Felton 0-0-0, Shaffer 1-2-4, Stacy 0-2-2; totals 18-13-49

Season records: Ross 6-7; Columbian 7-6

JV GAME

ROSS: Brown 3-2-8, Belch 4-2-10, Frey 2-0-4, Jones 0-0-0, Zimmerman 0-1-1, Price 2-0-4, Miller 1-0-2, Daniels 1-0-2, Hammer 2-0-4; totals 15-5-35

COLUMBIAN: Stacy 6-2-14, Mathias 0-3-3, Zeiter 2-0-4, Hartell 3-2-8, Kuhn 1-0-2, Schaefer 3-0-6, Reinbolt 4-3-11; totals 19-10-48

Season record: Ross 6-7

Ross wins third straight as Fahrback hits 26

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

LORAIN—Ross, with a second half boost from Lorain, donned the masks of comedy and tragedy before pulling out a 61-56 Buckeye Conference victory Friday.

The third straight Ross win upped the Little Giants mark to an even 7-7 mark and put them into a tie with the Steelmen for sixth spot in the conference race.

Dave Fahrback tossed in 26 points and grabbed 17 rebounds and Garry Clark collected 19 points as the two Ross co-captains exemplified the hustling play turned in by Ken Miller's squad.

"Since we have been here at Ross," Miller recalled, "we have never had a team play with much enthusiasm in Lorain."

"Before the game tonight, we asked these players to play with a little bit of enthusiasm," the Ross coach said and then quickly added, "and they did a heck of a job. They were diving after balls and making saves on balls that were going out-of-bounds. That first half far overshadowed some of the shoddy play that we had in the second half."

The Little Giants gave the appearance of champions in the first 16 minutes. With Fahrback tossing in 12 first quarter points, the Little Giants staged the first act of a two-act comedy

and raced to a 20-6 lead. Ross clicked on 10 of 15 shots for the big early lead.

The comedy continued into act two with more of the same shot shooting by Ross. Hitting five of nine shots, Ross outscored the Steelmen 16-11 and stretched the comedy into a 36-19 lead at the intermission. Clark fired in eight points in the second act.

Enter stage left—the Ross tragedy.

Bernard George and scrappy Adrian Jones began to rewrite Ross's line in the third period and by the time the second act of the four-part comedy turned tragedy rolled around, the Little Giants were looking over their shoulders at the fast closing Steelmen.

The Steelmen forced 11 Ross turnovers in the third stanza and closed to 44-33, setting the stage for the second act of the near Ross tragedy.

George connected from the outside and the inside for 12 final period points and Jones added six more to close Ross's once seemingly insurmountable lead to 58-36 with 16 seconds to play. Jones' 30-footer from beyond the foul circle had brought the Steelmen to their closest deficit since the opening tap.

"Lorain did a good job of getting the ball inside in that fourth quarter," Miller said. "When they did (George was usually the man who went inside for Lorain) he was a little quicker than David (Fahrback)."

With the score down to the two-point margin, Miller called for time and when play resumed, George immediately fouled Clark and the Ross senior hit both ends of the one and one. After Virgil Williams missed from 15 feet, Doug Zientarski fouled Fahrback who hit the front end of the one and one to ice the game.

Fahrback may have been having problems late in the game with George but the 6-6 Ross center had a big hand in holding Byron McCall of Lorain to only a single field goal. McCall had entered the game as the leading scorer in the conference and had been grabbing over 16 rebounds a game. He was far below that mark Friday night as Ross's inside men on the zone. Fahrback and Denny Smith, had the 6-4 leaper boxed out most of the game.

McCall eventually fouled out with over four minutes to play.

Offensively, Fahrback was devastating, especially in the first eight minutes.

"He had his man rolled behind him," Ross assistant Coach Don Burgess said. "When he got the ball inside, there was no way they were going to stop him especially when his hook was going."

Part of Ross's trouble in the second half was a switch to a tight man-to-man by Lorain. "We just couldn't get the ball up the floor," Miller grimaced. "They were on us so tight that when we moved, they would hug us and the officials

would call a foul on us. But I don't want to talk about the officials. I want to talk about the way the kids 'guttied' it out."

Ross' 'gut role' included surviving 31 turnovers with 21 of 39 shooting and leading in rebounds 37-30. Lorain hit 25 of 63 and committed 17 giveaways.

George led the Steelmen with 24 points and Jones finished with 14.

Ross is idle until Tuesday when Findlay pulls into town for a BC battle. The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ross gym. Tickets are on sale at Tremper's tonight through Tuesday.

VARSITY GAME

Ross	20	16	8	17-61
Lorain	6	11	16	23-56

ROSS: Smith 2-0-4, Kiser 3-1-1, Fahrback 9-8-26, Belch 2-2-4, Clark 7-5-19, Stout 0-0-0, Williams 0-0-0, Hammer 1-0-2; totals 21-24-61
LORAIN: Williams 2-0-4, Zientarski 2-1-5, McCall 1-0-2, Rush 2-3-7, George 12-0-24, Jones 2-2-14; totals 29-4-56

JV GAME

Ross	10	8	14	22-34
Lorain	14	14	25	53-61

ROSS: Price 4-2-10, Brown 4-2-10, Belch 1-2-4, Jones 2-4-4, Bachs 3-1-7, Miller 0-0-0, Zimmerman 1-0-2, Daniels 2-4-4, Hammer 1-1-3, Frey 2-0-4; totals 21-24-61
LORAIN: Ryan 4-1-8, Williams 7-5-16, Jewells 1-1-2, Poirge 4-1-9, Rivera 1-0-2, Henderson 0-2-2, Rusto 2-2-6, Rodriguez 1-0-2, Adams 1-0-2; totals 29-41



DAVE FAHRBACK hit a season high 26 points to lead Ross's win Friday night over Lorain. He also grabbed 17 rebounds to lead in that department.

Findlay in town tonight

Findlay cruises into Fremont tonight to take on the revitalized Fremont Ross Little Giants basketball team.

The Trojans are bouncing off a 58-55 setback at the hands of the Sandusky Blue Streaks Friday night while Ross is currently riding the wave of three straight wins. Findlay is in third place in the Buckeye Conference race with a 6-4 mark, one-half game ahead of Sandusky. The Trojans are 9-5 overall.

Ross, with its winning streak, has run its record to the break even mark, 7-7, after dropping Lorain 61-56 Friday night. The Little Giants are now in a tie with Lorain for sixth spot in the conference race with a 3-7 record.

Both squads are expected to be at full strength for the BC clash.

In the first clash between the teams, Findlay overcame a 48-39 Ross lead in the fourth quarter to win by four, 59-55. The Trojans went to the line 14 times in that final period with one free toss, a technical foul on Ross.

The Little Giants will start the same five that has started the previous 14 games. Dave Fahrbach will be at center with Denny Smith and John Kiser at forwards; Pat Belch and Garry Clark will be at the guards.

The JV game will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ross gym.

Defense survives in 42-35 Findlay win over Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor
One thing was proved in the Findlay-Ross basketball game Tuesday night at Ross High School: a porous defense can survive against an inept offense.

Findlay broke Ross's three-game win streak 42-35 but was fortunate to come out of the Ross gym with their shirts and their pride.

"Anytime I can win a game like this, I'm pleased," Findlay Coach John Stozich chuckled but for Ross Coach Ken Miller, fundamentals were a thing of the past for his team.

"Our biggest was shooting the basketball," was Miller's answer to the question about his team's breakdown fundamentally.

Findlay, using man-to-

man and multiple zone defenses, did not really confuse the Little Giants. Ross continually got the percentage shot, 62 shots unofficially, but few fell. There were some close ones but closeness only counts in horseshoes in sports.

The Little Giants hit only 13 from the floor while Findlay struggled to a 19 of 54 effort. Oddly enough, Ross's defense was forcing the Trojans to work for their shots; only twice did the Little Giants "D"

break down but the breakdowns came at crucial points.

Trailing 32-27 after three periods, Ross scored six points in the first four and one-half minutes of the final stanza to take a 33-32 lead. Dave Fahrbach's bucket and two charity tosses made it 33-31 and Pat Belch's jumper from the left of foul line put Ross in front for the first time since the opening period with 4:13 to play.

That lead lasted 37 seconds before Mike Brickman tossed in a 10-footer from the right side. It was the first score of the period for Findlay and the Ross defense had a big hand in the scoreless skein.

Stozich, whose teams have been characterized by a fast break offense during most of the season said that he wanted to change the tempo of his team's play for Ross. "We did not want to run," he said, "because we have been having too many turnovers. We just wanted to walk the ball down the floor and be deliberate until we had the good shots."

Leading 36-35 after two Brickman free throws and two charity tosses by Fahrbach, Wilson sneaked down low and hit a turn

around jumper from the left base line for a 38-35 Trojan lead. A little over a minute later, Wilson picked off a rebound off Steve Brooks' miss, twisted underneath for the layup and a 40-35 Findlay lead with 1:15 to play. Those two buckets were the game for Ross. The final seven-point lead was the largest of the game for the Trojans.

Ross had dominated the boards, especially the offensive bank board in the early going, but could not capitalize on the recoveries. Denny Smith and Fahrbach both grabbed 10 rebounds as the Little Giants out rebounded Findlay 38-34.

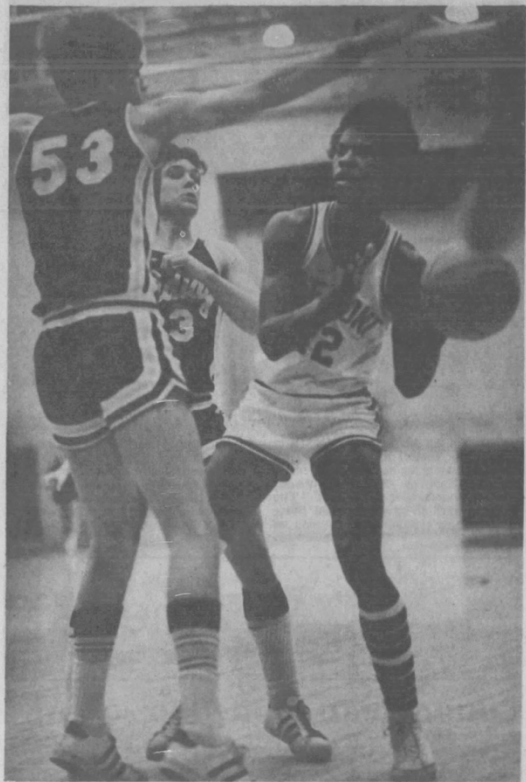
Rebounding was one of only two good things for Ross in this Buckeye Conference tilt. The second was an uncontested layup by Fahrbach in the third period when the whole Findlay squad had a mental lapse and went to their offensive bucket when Ross was inbounding the ball.

But that was it for the good things as Ross's record dipped to 3-8 in the BC race and Findlay grabbed a firm hold on third with a 7-4 mark. The Trojans are 10-5 overall and Ross, 7-8.

Brickman led all scorers with 14 points and Wilson had 12. Fahrbach, held to two points in the first half, led Ross with 13 markers. Belch finished with 10. Garry Clark, Ross's second leading scorer for the season, was hampered by a twisted ankle suffered last Friday against Lorain. He played briefly in the first half but did not play in the second half. Kim Stout started in Clark's spot and dropped in six points.

Varsity game
Score by quarters
Findlay 12 8 12 10-42
Ross 10 8 9 8-35
Scoring
FINDLAY - Brickman 6-2-14, Brooks 3-1-7, Van Guntun 0-0-0, Wilson 6-0-12, Hall 2-0-4, Bosse 2-1-5; totals 19-44
ROSS: Smith 1-0-2, Kiser 1-0-2, Fahrbach 3-7-13, Belch 5-0-10, Stout 2-3-4, Hammer 1-0-2; totals 13-9-35
Season records: Findlay 10-5 (7-4); Ross 7-8 (3-4)

JV game
Score by quarters
Findlay 23 13 13 39-69
Ross 12 9 21 14-56
Scoring
FINDLAY: Mahoney 8-6-22, Brooks 10-5-22, Bell 3-2-6, Dean 2-1-5, Kahle 1-0-2, Jeffries 2-0-4, Gase 2-0-4, Snow 1-0-2; totals 29-11-69
ROSS: Price 4-0-11, Brown 0-0-0, Miller 2-0-4, Jones 4-2-10, Sachs 3-0-6, Belch 1-0-2, Zimmerman 1-0-2, Daniels 1-0-2, Hammer 3-1-7, Whisler 1-0-2; totals 24-9-56



DENNY SMITH of Ross is looking for someone to throw to as he is being guarded closely by Brad Bosse (53) of Findlay and another Trojan player. (News-Messenger photo by Bruce Crippen)

Police, soldiers provide security for Olympics

INNSBRUCK (AP) — The Simple Games are here. Nestled beneath beautiful Tyrolean Alps, the people of Innsbruck and Austria succeeded today in staging an Olympics without spending a billion dollars, without failing to complete their facilities and without major internal hassle.

The spectre of un-

precedented security — 5,000 police and soldiers — was a reminder of the threat of terrorist attack. Otherwise, this citadel of winter sport was picturesque and calm as it began a 12-day festival of international competition on snow and ice.

The XII Winter Games, expected to be dominated by Russia and East Germany and Austria's seasoned skiers, open today with the centuries-old tradition of the Olympic flame being carried into a colorful, snow-covered stadium.

The ceremony at the base of the 90-meter ski-jump slope on towering Bergisel Mountain marked

the opening of competition among 1,040 athletes representing the hopes of 37 nations.

American hopes for medals were limited to a few events, with speed skaters Sheila Young and Leah Poulos and figure skater Dorothy Hamill appearing to have the best opportunities. Each of them could win the treasured gold that will mostly elude the United States here.

Raider girls win

GENOA — The Lakota girls basketball team

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4-ply polyester cord **DELUXE CHAMPION** AS LOW AS **\$18.95** 478-13 Blackwall. Plus 1.74 F.E.T. and old tire.

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Firestone quality at really low prices! This strong smooth-riding tire has a wide, aggressive sive tread for the traction you want.

Size	Blackwall price	F.E.T. (each)
B78-13	19.95	1.84
C78-14	20.95	2.04
D78-14	21.95	2.12
E78-14	22.95	2.25
F78-14	24.95	2.39
G78-14	25.95	2.55
H78-14	27.95	2.75
I78-15	28.95	2.58
L78-15	30.95	2.80

All prices plus tax and old tire. Add 12 for whitewall. Sizes F78-15, 278-15 and L78-15 available in whitewall only at comparable low prices.

Judge upholds award

KANSAS CITY (AP) — A federal judge today upheld an arbitrator's award which made pitchers Andy Messersmith and Dave McNally free agents after they had gone through the 1975 baseball season without contracts.

The ruling by Judge John W. Oliver in the U.S. District Court for Western Missouri was almost certain to be appealed because it strikes at the heart of the vital reserve system in major league baseball.

Ross plays Sandusky

Admiral King will invade Findlay in the key Buckeye Conference basketball game Friday night. The game highlights a four-game conference slate.

In other games, Ross will be at Sandusky, Elyria entertains Marion Harding, and Mansfield travels to Lorain.

The Admirals are riding at the top of the wave in the conference with a 9-2 mark while Findlay, after a 42-35 win over Ross Tuesday night, is in third spot in the topsy-turvy race with a 7-4 mark.

Admiral King will have to counter Findlay's Mike Brickman, the BC's second leading scorer and the inside game of Mark Van Gunten to take another step closer to the conference title. The Admirals' Rennie Harris is ranked fifth in the scoring race with a 16.2 mark.

Ross had a three-game win streak broken Tuesday

when they managed to hit only 13 of 62 shots from the floor. In Sandusky, the Little Giants will face a team that handed them a 60-57 defeat earlier this season.

Dave Fahrback, Ross's 6-6 senior center, will lead the Little Giants. He is currently fourth in scoring, 16.3, and second in rebounding with a 10.9 average per game. Garry Clark, who saw spot duty for Ross Tuesday because of a sprained ankle, is 12th in the BC scoring race with a 12.6 mark.

Sandusky is led by Jesse Jackson, 10th in the BC with a 13.5 mark.

Ross is 3-8 in the BC and Sandusky is 6-4. The Little Giants are 7-8 overall while the Blue Streaks are 9-5.

Elyria is in second spot in the title race with an 8-3 BC slate and should improve that mark Friday at the expense of 3-8 (3-11) Marion Harding. The Pioneers' Richard Montague took over the scoring lead in the conference this week with a 17.8 ppg.

In the final conference tilt, Mansfield, 5-6 and 6-7, is favored over Lorain, 3-8 and 5-10. The Tygers are led by Bernard Ford, sixth in the BC with a 14.5 ppg. Lorain counters with Byron McCall, the conference's leading rebounder with a 15.5 mark and third leading scorer with a 16.3 mark.



Ross's 'big three' sacks Streaks 55-49

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
SANDUSKY—Fremont Ross resorted to a "big three" and a tough zone defense to leap out of the Tuesday night doldrums and sack Sandusky 55-49 in a Buckeye Conference tilt Friday night.

Smarting from their lowest point of the season, a 42-35 losing debacle to Findlay on Tuesday, the Little Giants resorted to what Head Coach Ken Miller calls his "big lineup" to counter the Blue Streaks rebounding.

Midway through the second stanza, Miller inserted 6-5 sophomore Larry Williams into the lineup to team up with 6-6 Dave Fahrbach and 6-2 Denny Smith. The three are the tallest players on the Little Giants' squad.

"We had to make an adjustment," Miller admitted when he teamed his "big three" with guards Pat Belch and Garry Clark. "We had to switch some players around into positions that they were not all that familiar with."

Miller switched Fahrbach out to a forward or a wing spot and put Williams into the center. "David has more experience and could adjust a little better than Larry," Miller explained that move. Smith handled the other wing.

With that lineup working into gear and the "big three" headed for the boards, the Little Giants took control. Fahrbach ended up with 19 rebounds to go with a game high 21 points and Smith grabbed nine rebounds while pouring in a career high 17 points. Williams did not score but pulled off eight rebounds as Ross held a 44-32 advantage.

Clark, hobbled by a sprained ankle, scored 12 points from the outside, all in the first half. His outside shooting helped loosen up the inside for Fahrbach and Smith.

Ross led most of the game, at time by as much as six points, but

28 turnovers refused to let the Little Giants put the game away.

"Don't even mention those turnovers," Miller, who was ill on Wednesday and Friday, shuddered.

Sandusky overcame a 47-41 lead by Ross to take a 49-47 lead with 2:02 to play on a bucket by Paul Biddle. The lead lasted exactly 15 seconds or just long enough to give Fahrbach a layup on the inside. The Ross senior was fouled by Biddle on the play and converted the free throw for a 50-49 lead.

Each team exchanged turnovers but Smith was fouled with 48 seconds to go. Smith calmly hit both ends of the one and one for the insurance the Little Giants needed. A bucket on a pinpoint pass underneath from Clark to Fahrbach and one charity toss by the 6-6 Little Giant cushioned the Ross lead.

"We didn't expect that type of a game from Smith," Sandusky coach Gary Reynolds said quietly while staring into space after the game. "What did he get against Findlay—two points maybe. This had to be his best game."

Another thing that haunted the Blue Streaks' coach was the failure of his pressing defense.

"It (the press) really did not work that well. I thought we could have forced more turnovers."

When told that Ross had been forced into 28 giveaways, Reynolds replied, "Well, I mean we did not score off of many of those turnovers."

Miller was munching on a hamburger when he pointed to varsity assistant coach Don Burgess. "That's the guy who deserves most of the credit for getting the team ready. I haven't been at practice the last two days. . . all I did was talk to him on the phone to see what was going on."

What Burgess was doing was sending Ross through some shooting drills with the express purpose of improving on the Little Giants' 13 of 62 performance of Tuesday.

"We really did not want to do anything too strenuous," Burgess pointed out, "so we worked on our shooting and went through what we expected to see from Sandusky."

While the Ross coaches figured out what they expected from Sandusky, it was what Ross did with the zone defenses that bothered Reynolds.

"That zone forced us outside too much and as a result, we tried to win the game from the perimeter."

The Blue Streaks hit only 19 of 69 shots from the floor while Ross improved to 21 of 51.

The win upped Ross's conference mark to 4-8 and 8-8 overall. Sandusky's BC slate slipped to 6-6 and 8-6 overall.

Ross's next game is Friday at Elyria, a team that jumped into a tie with Admiral King for first in the BC race Friday night. The Pioneers downed Marion Harding 67-49 while Findlay was dumping the Admirals 74-54. Both teams are 9-3 in the conference.

In the night's final BC game, Lorain defeated Mansfield 81-69.

VARSITY GAME

Ross	13	18	11	13	55
Sandusky	11	17	11	10	49

SCORING

ROSS: Smith 6-5-17, Kiser 0-2-2, Fahrbach 9-3-21, Clark 5-2-12, Belch 1-1-3, Williams 0-0-0; totals 21-13-55

SANDUSKY: Pearson 1-2-4, Clark 4-4-12, Biddle 6-4-16, Jackson 5-1-19, Ehrhardt 2-1-5, Grant 1-0-2; totals 19-11-49

Season records: Ross 8-8 (4-8); Sandusky 8-6 (6-6)

JV GAME

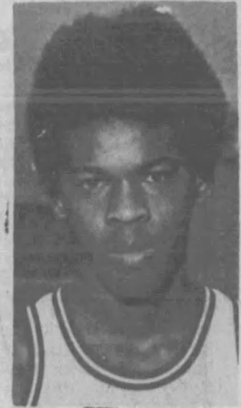
SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	9	6	6	1	22
Sandusky	14	10	8	16	48

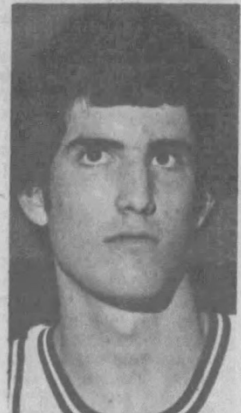
SCORING

ROSS: Price 2-0-4, Belch 3-2-8, Brown 2-0-4, Miller 1-0-2, Zimmerman 1-0-2, Hammer 1-0-2; totals 10-2-22

SANDUSKY: Cage 3-0-6, Graves 1-1-3, Seares 1-1-3, Koonce 3-1-7, Clark 5-1-11, Hathorn 3-0-6, Green 4-0-8, Wooten 2-0-4; totals 22-4-48



DENNY SMITH



LARRY WILLIAMS



DAVE FAHRBACH

Ross can be BC 'spoilers'

Ross can be the "spoilers of the year" in the Buckeye Conference basketball race. On Friday, the Little Giants travel to Elyria and close out the season on Friday, Feb. 21, by hosting Admiral King.

Elyria and Admiral King are tied for the conference top spot with identical 9-3 slates.

The Little Giants, winners of four of the last five games and 8-8 for the season, will take on the Pioneers in its first effort at "spoiling." Elyria tripped Ross 52-47 in the first meeting of the teams.

Whipping the Pioneers on their home floor will be a tall order for Ken Miller's squad. Standing in Ross's way of a possible upset is the conference's leading scorer, 6-9 Richard Montague of the Pioneers.

The high jumping Elyria junior is scoring at 17.8 rate and is also third in the BC in rebounding with a 9.9 average.

Rick Hoskin of Elyria is eighth in scoring with a 13.6 ppg and has been pulling down 9.2 rebounds to give Elyria a potent scoring and rebounding punch.

Add to those two standouts the face that Elyria is allowing only 49.5 points per game, and it remains to be said that Ross will have to play flawless basketball to pull off what could be the

top upset of the year. Elyria is scoring at a 59.5 pace which is fourth in the BC.

Ross ranks second in defense at 54.2 but is seventh in scoring with a 53.2 effort.

Dave Fahrback is the top Little Giants threat from in under the boards. The 6-6 senior is averaging 16.3, fourth in the conference, and is second in rebounding with a 10.9 pace. Garry Clark of Ross is 12th in scoring 12.3.

In the other Buckeye Conference games, Admiral King will host Sandusky, Findlay travels to Mansfield, and Lorain travels to Marion Harding.

DIRECTIONS to Elyria High School: take the Ohio Turnpike east to the Elyria-Lorain exit; go south into Elyria and turn left at the deadend. Turn right on West Avenue — the high school is located on West Avenue.

U.S. beats Poland

INNSBRUCK (AP) — Steve Jensen and Bob Dobek scored two goals each today and the United States crushed Poland 7-2 for its second straight victory in the American drive for a medal at the Olympic ice hockey tournament.

The Americans, who must beat West Germany Saturday to earn the bronze medal, overwhelmed the Poles with fast skating and pinpoint combination passing.

Pioneers humiliate stone cold Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

ELYRIA—"What can you say?" shrugged Ken Miller and added, "The best way to put it is we were outclassed, outhustled, or just out-everything!"

Miller could have added quite a few other remarks but it would have been like rubbing salt into his own open wound.

For the first time in his 18-plus years of coaching, Miller sat painfully through a scoreless first quarter. Elyria ran off the first 24 points of the game while humiliating the Little Giants 65-30 in the 13th Buckeye Conference game of the season for both teams.

"I can't remember of ever having not had a team score at least two points in a quarter," Miller said evenly.

For Assistant Coach Don Burgess, the explanation was an echo of Miller. "It's just like Ken said—'You stay around this game long enough and you see everything.'"

Burgess praised the Pioneers by pointing out, "They had a super offense and a super defense . . . there is not team in the Buckeye Conference who could have beaten them tonight—maybe not any team in the state!"

The game was a runaway from the beginning. While the Pioneers throwing a match-up zone defense that took away both the inside and outside shooting game of Ross, Elyria's offensive machine was running roughshod over Ross. Four and one-half minutes into the game, Elyria led 10-0.

With nearly two minutes of the second quarter elapsed, the Pioneers had the 24-0 lead. Dave Fahrbach of Ross forced in a layup from the right side at the 6:24 mark of the second stanza and the sparse Elyria crowd gave the Little Giants a standing ovation.

Elyria Coach Mike Riley did not offer any apologies for the slaughter but did admit that he felt that Ross is a much better team than they showed.

"Our kids were putting the ball in the basket early and they weren't," was Riley's pointed explanation. "We have had some good defensive efforts and this was a great one for us."

Riley, whose team is seeded number one in the sectional basketball tournament, pointed out "We are starting to

peak for the tournament and I think the kids want to show they deserve that top seeding."

Riley added about the early getaway by his team, "When things start to snowball like that, it sometimes is a helpless situation."

The Little Giants hit only 11 of 41 shots from the floor . . . Elyria a blistering 32 of 57. Big Richard Montague, Elyria's 6-9 junior center, tore the middle of the Ross defense to pieces in the first and third quarters as he hit a game high 17 points.

Montague led a quartet of Pioneers who hit double figures. Scrappy guard Mark Haddox dropped in 14 points with Hubert Oliver and Steve Lindquist firing in 10 apiece.

Fahrbach dropped in six of 12 shots from the field and added four charity tosses to lead Ross with 16 points. Denny Smith with six, was next in line.

The closest Ross came to the Pioneers after the 24-0 start was 38-19 with two minutes to play in the third quarter.

After missing all eight shots in the first stanza, Ross ended the game with only one of 11 in the final eight minutes.

Elyria's win kept them knotted for the top spot in the BC race with Admiral King, a 69-55 winner over Sandusky. Both teams are 10-3 in the conference. Ross will close out the regular season by hosting the Admirals next Friday night.

In the junior varsity game, Elyria broke away from a 33-30 deficit at the end of the three quarters to down Ross 51-42. Derrill Daniels led Ross with 15 points. The JV Little Giants are now 6-11.

Varsity Game Score by Quarters

Ross	0	9	14	7-30
Elyria	18	12	14	21-65

Scoring

ROSS: Smith 2-2-6, Kiser 1-0-2, Fahrbach 6-4-16, Clark 2-1-5, Stout 0-0-0, Williams 0-1-1, Hammer 0-0-0, Dammaon 0-0-0; totals 11-8-30

ELYRIA: Hoskin 4-0-8, Trice 3-0-6, Montague 8-1-17, Haddos 7-0-14, Oliver 5-0-10, Lindquist 5-0-10; totals 32-1-65

Season records: Elyria 13-3 (10-3); Ross 8-9 (4-9)

JV Game Score by Quarters

Ross	15	9	9	9-42
Elyria	12	14	4	21-51

Scoring

ROSS: Brown 3-0-6, Miller 1-0-2, Daniels 6-3-15, Jones 4-2-10, Zimmerman 0-3-3, Belch 0-1-1, Hammer 1-3-5; totals 15-12-42

ELYRIA: Balser 6-7-19, Underman 5-1-11, Hoskins 4-2-10, Gilbert 1-3-5, Paige 1-0-2, Bruce 0-2-2, Billings 1-0-2; totals 18-15-51

Ross hosts Admiral King

The end of the regular season awaits the Ross Little Giants basketball team Friday night but it will be no cooling off period before sectional tournament play begins.

Lorain Admiral King, co-leader of the rough and tumble Buckeye Conference race with Elyria, will help Ross close out its season at Ross High School. The Admirals are 10-3 in BC play but are only 11-6 overall. Ross will be aimed at leveling its regular season at 9-9. The Little Giants are in seventh place in the race with a 4-9 mark but do have an outside possibility of finishing in a tie for fifth spot.

Admiral King just managed to get by Ross 58-57 in the first clash in the Admirals' home port. The Little Giants had stayed close the entire contest against the super quick Admirals.

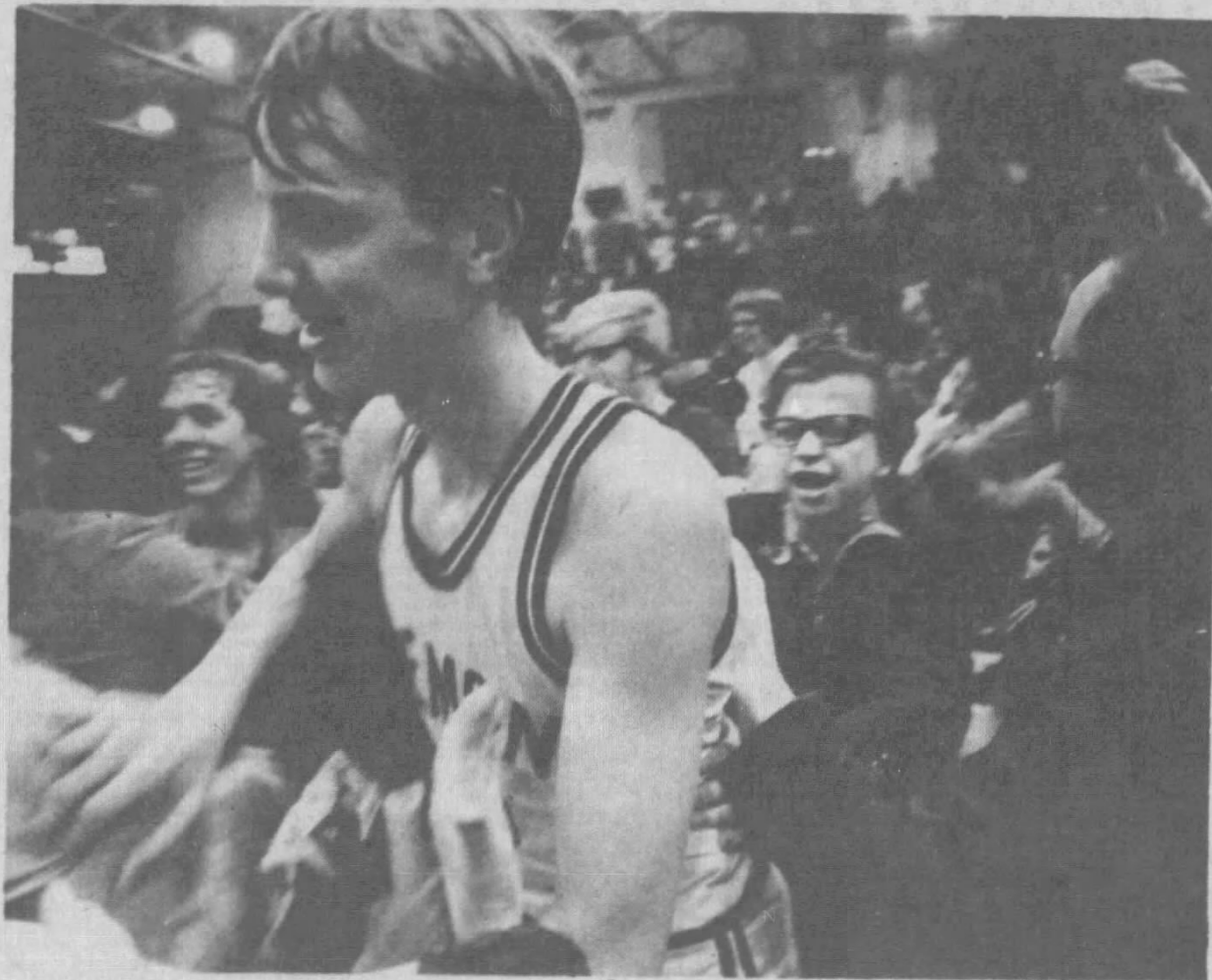
The Admirals are led by Rennie Harris, John Brown, Mike Cook, and Eddie Smith, all four scored in double figures against Ross in the first game.

Ross, for only the second time this season, started a lineup that did not include Dave Fahrbach at center, Denny Smith and John Kiser at forwards, and Pat Belch and Garry Clark at guards against Elyria last week. With Belch on the bench because of sprained ankle, and Kiser taken out of the lineup to get a taller lineup against Elyria, Ross Head Coach Ken Miller started Kim Stout at one guard and sophomore Larry Williams (6-5) on the front line.

Elyria, coming off a lopsided 65-30 win over Ross last Friday and one-point squeaker over Ashland Saturday, is the team tied with Admiral King for the loop lead.

Lorain is one of the teams, along with Mansfield, that Ross could tie for fifth spot with an upset win over AK. The Steelmen are 7-10 overall and 5-8 in the BC.

In other conference clashes, Mansfield is at Sandusky, and Findlay hosts struggling Marion Harding.



Happy after big upset

Dave Fahrbach of Fremont Ross is all smiles as he fights his way through a jumble of well-wishers after his team had upset Admiral King 58-54 in overtime Friday night. The win enabled Ross to end the regular season at 9-9 and kept the Admirals

from sharing the Buckeye Conference basketball championship. The win marked the first time Ross has beaten Admiral King since Jan. 3, 1969. Details on sports pages, (News-Messenger photo by Bruce Crippen)

Little Giants sink Admirals' title dreams



DENNY SMITH of Ross bowls over John Brown of Admiral King in fourth quarter action. Smith was called for an offensive foul on the baseline drive. (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

Ross's win ends 14-game famine against King

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross unveiled a strange formula to pull off one of the biggest basketball upsets in the school's history. A bad practice week equal a great Friday night game.

"This had to be the worst week of practice that we have had," Head Coach Ken Miller chuckled, "but this had to be our best game of the season."

The Little Giants became the "giant killers" and punched a hole in Lorain Admiral King's title bound ship 56-54 in overtime to knock the Admirals out of a tie for the Buckeye Conference crown.

Because of Ross, the Elyria Pioneers inherited the title Friday night. Both the Admirals and the Pioneers had been tied for the loop lead with 10-3 marks but the AK loss coupled with Elyria's 66-49 win over Lorain Senior gave the crown to the Pioneers.

It was the first time that Ross had beaten Admiral King since Jan. 3, 1969 (61-60 at Ross) and the first time in 10 games that the Little Giants have beaten a Mitch Gilliam coached Admirals team.

Ross trailed by as many as 10 points, 18-8, but led by as many as six, 58-52, in what Don Burgess, Ross varsity assistant, termed as the "sweetest victory in the four years that Ken (Miller) and I have been here."

The Little Giants took the lead for the first time in the final period 50-48 on Garry Clark (left) and layup with 3:58 to play. The Admirals' Rennie Harris tied the game with a followup shot at the 2:55 mark but two charity tosses by Dave Fahrback put Ross back on top 53-50 with 2:42 to play.

Harris knotted the game again a half minute after Fahrback's foul shot.

Greg Ballish missed from the side with 1:24 to go to give Ross the ball but Harris came up with a steal of a Ross pass to set up the hectic final minute of regulation play.

Gilliam had his team run the clock down to 16 seconds before calling time. When time was back in, another 11 seconds melted off the clock before Harris cast a shot up that rolled off the rim, sending the game into overtime.

In the overtime, Ross gave the Admirals a pair of chances on turnovers but shots by Ballish, Mike Cook, and John Brown rolled off each time. After three Ross misses, John Kiser, who has hit only 30 per cent of his field goal attempts this season, drilled the ball in from 15 feet out on the right side to give Ross a 54-52 lead with 1:05 to play.

"I turned around and there was no one in front of me," the Ross senior recalled,

"it wasn't the best looking shot but it went in, didn't it."

A timeout by Gilliam and a miss by Cook set up a picture perfect pass from Pat Belch to Denny Smith with 10 seconds to play to put Ross up 56-52. On the play, Smith admitted that he was about to call timeout.

Clark wrapped up the game with two free throws and Brown hit a jumper from 45 feet with two seconds to play for the Admirals only bucket of the overtime.

For Gilliam, the loss was a bitter disappointment. "We beat all the guys at the top," he muttered, "but we lost to everyone on the bottom."

He was referring to the conference standings.

The Admirals beat Elyria in both games but of the four losses, three have come at the hands of Ross, Marion Harding, and Mansfield, all teams in the second division on the B.C.

"We were playing sick," Gilliam insisted. "Brown had the flu and we could not get up and down the floor as quick as we can."

"But Ross made us shoot from the perimeter and kept us off the offensive boards," the Admirals' coach said.

"They may have been sick," Miller came back with, "but we were playing on bad wheels."

The Ross coach pointed out the bad ankles of Clark and Belch but the duo scored 14 and eight points, respectively. Brown had 18 for the Admirals.

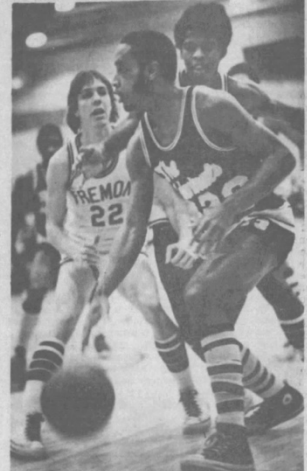
Ironically, the team Ross helped win the title, Elyria, could possibly have killed any chances for Ross before the upset.

"It was hard trying to get the kids back psychologically after that game at Elyria last week. (Ross lost 65-30 and were outscored 24-0 at the start of the game.) That was the first game that we had been blown off the floor and getting the kids ready this week was a big concern for us," Miller admitted.

VARSITY GAME		SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Admiral King	Ross	1	2	3	4	Total
12	16	8	16	6	18	54-56

SCORING	
ADMIRAL KING: Harris 7-0-14, Brown 8-5-18, Cook 3-0-10, Smith 2-0-4, Macove 3-0-6; totals 26-2-54	
ROSS: Smith 5-0-10, Kiser 4-0-8, Fahrback 6-6-18, Belch 4-0-8, Clark 3-4-14; totals 24-10-58	
Season records: Admiral 11-7 (19-41); Ross 9-9 (13-9)	

JV GAME	
ADMIRAL KING: Turley 2-0-4, Pagan 4-2-10, Hillard 3-5-11, Wilson 1-1-2, Brown 8-5-21, Kart-macher 0-1-1, Jeter 1-0-2, Price 5-0-10, Bauecke 0-2-2; totals 24-18-60	
ROSS: Hammer 1-0-3, Miller 3-0-4, Daniels 4-0-4, Jones 3-0-4, Sachs 3-3-9, Zimmerman 3-1-5, Belch 0-1-1, Brown 3-0-4, Roedeker 1-0-2, Frey 1-0-2; totals 21-8-67	



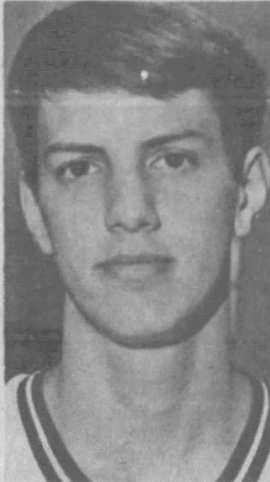
GARRY CLARK (22) and Denny Smith of Ross (top photo) converge on Admiral King's Eddie Smith. The tight defense was typical of the Little Giants' play in the 56-54 upset win. In the bottom photo, Clark gets a good grip on the wrist of Rennie Harris of Admiral King in an added defensive maneuver.



News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Huron leaps to 77-62 win over St. Joe



DAVE FAHRBACH
... First team

Woodmore girls keep pace

WOODVILLE — The Woodmore girls basketball team defeated Oak Harbor 45-35 Tuesday to stay in a tie with Eastwood and Gibsonburg for the Suburban Lakes League lead.

The Wildcat girls shot a good 43 per cent from the field, canning 21 of 48. Oak Harbor only shot 21 per cent to account for the difference in the game.

Score by quarters				
Oak Harbor	4	10	9	12-35
Woodmore	14	9	13	9-45

Scoring
OAK HARBOR: Kline 4-0-8, Pfeiffer 3-1-7, Westinghausen 1-0-2, Ashley 5-8-18; totals 13-9-35

WOODMORE: Busdiecker 3-0-6, M. Perkins 1-0-2, Foss 9-0-18, Lohr 4-2-10, D. Perkins 1-0-2, Hernandez 2-0-4, Meyer 1-0-2, Burner 0-1-1; totals 21-3-45

JV game: Woodmore 21, Oak Harbor 11

YMCA results

Basketball
Hi-Y 58, Grace Lutheran 22
First Presbyterian 47, Faith Lutheran 26

Standings
Hi-Y, 8-0; St. John's Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Faith Lutheran, 4-4; Grace Lutheran, 0-8.

Volleyball
Baldur's 15-15, Buckeyes 10-10
Depot 15-15, Jaycees 10-9
Tribe 15-15, Shiels Motors 8-10

Standings
Baldur's, 10-1; Tribe, 9-2; Buckeyes 8-3; Depot, 6-5; Jaycees 3-8; Shiels Motors, 3-9; Financial Computer Services, 0-11.

Fahrback, Clark selected to All-BC teams

The "youngsters" surfaced in the voting for the All-Buckeye Conference basketball team. Two of the top five and five of the top 16 selections by the eight coaches in the BC were underclassmen.

One junior, Elyria's towering 6-9 center, Richard Montague, was named the loop's "player of the year." The strapping Pioneer has been a regular for the past two seasons but was not mentioned on the three squads last year.

Montague's coach, Mike Riley, was tabbed as the conference's "coach of the year" for the second year in a row. Riley guided the Pioneers to the BC title and a 15-3 mark overall. The Pioneers posted a 11-3 mark in conference play and captured the title when Fremont Ross upset runnerup Admiral King in the last game of the season.

Dave Fahrback, Ross's 6-6 center, was a first team selection. A year ago, the stringbean Little Giant was a third team pick making him the only player to repeat on the top three squads.

The Ross senior averaged over nearly 16½ points per game for the Little Giants in BC play and averaged 15.8 overall. Fahrback was also the second leading rebounder in the conference with a 12.5 average.

Rounding out the first team selections were Findlay junior Mike Brickman, Rennie Harris of Admiral King, Bernard George of Elyria, and Bernard Ford of Mansfield. The latter three are all seniors.

On the second team, junior Bob Gooding of Marion Harding and Mike Cook of Admiral King drew the coaches' votes. Joining that underclassmen duo were seniors Byron McCall of Lorain, Rick Hoskins of Elyria, and John Brown of Admiral King.

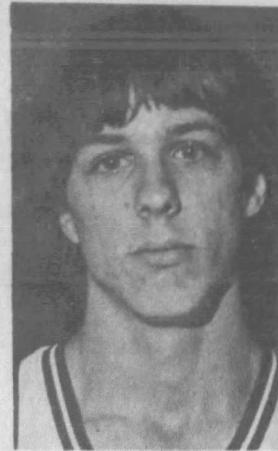
Garry Clark, senior, of Ross was tabbed for third team honors along with 6-7 Mark VanGuntlen of Findlay, Jessie Jackson of Sandusky, Dave Wilson of Findlay, all seniors, and junior Cliff Belmer of Mansfield.

Montague led the conference in scoring with an 18.1 average and was third in rebounding to gain honor as the BC's top player.

The All-Buckeye Conference teams are listed below:

ALL-BUCKEYE CONFERENCE

First teams			
Player, school	Gr.	Ht.	Avg.
Richard Montague, Elyria	11	6-9	18.1
Dave Fahrback, Ross	12	6-6	16.5
Mike Brickman, Findlay	11	6-0	16.3
Bernard George, Lorain	12	6-0	15.3
Rennie Harris, Admiral King	12	6-0	15.7
Bernard Ford, Mansfield	12	6-0	17.8
Second team			
Bob Gooding, Harding	11	6-1	10.1
Byron McCall, Lorain	12	6-3	15.8
Rick Hoskins, Elyria	12	6-0	12.9
John Brown, Admiral King	12	6-1	12.4
Mike Cook, Admiral King	11	6-3	14.2
Third team			
Mark VanGuntlen, Findlay	12	6-7	12.2
Garry Clark, Ross	12	5-11	11.6
Jessie Jackson, Sandusky	12	5-11	11.6
Dave Wilson, Findlay	12	5-11	12.7
Cliff Belmer, Mansfield	11	6-2	10.9
Player of the Year: Montague			
Coach of the Year: Mike Riley, Elyria			



GARRY CLARK
... Third team

Gibsonburg wallops Genoa 41-15

GENOA — The Gibsonburg girls basketball team remained in a three-way tie with Woodmore and Eastwood for the Suburban Lakes League lead with an easy 41-15 victory over host Genoa Tuesday.

Score by quarters				
Gibsonburg	8	7	10	16-41
Genoa	6	0	3	6-15

Scoring
GIBSONBURG: Walby 5-0-10, Reinbold 3-2-8, Turnow 1-0-2, Diekmann 3-2-8, Michael 5-3-13; totals 17-7-41

GENOA: Briggie 3-1-7, Giles 1-0-2, Wegman 1-1-3, Salinan 0-1-1, Dean 1-0-2; totals 6-3-15

JV game: Genoa 25, Gibsonburg 11

Old Fort bows 52-49

OLD FORT — Old Fort took a 16-10 lead at the end of the first quarter but New Riegel chipped away at the lead and pulled out a 52-49 win over the Stockaders in a Seneca County League girls basketball game Tuesday.

Score by quarters				
New Riegel	10	14	14	14-52
Old Fort	16	11	12	10-49

Scoring
NEW RIEGEL: Elkert 6-3-15, Reinhart 1-0-2, D. Clouse 4-12-20, Dark 1-5-7, Reinbolt 3-0-6, K. Clouse 1-0-2; totals 16-20-52

OLD FORT: Perry 11-0-22, Swickard 2-0-4, Gillmor 6-1-13, Molyet 2-0-4, Ortis 1-0-2, Ackerman 2-0-4; totals 24-1-49

Five area players on coaches' all-stars

Five Fremont area high school basketball players were selected to the District Six Coaches' All-Star teams. Four of the five were named to the first teams in all three Ohio high school classifications.

Dave Fahrbach of Ross and Pat Smith of Bellevue were selected to the first team at Class AAA. Bernard Ford of Mansfield Senior was named the district's "player of the year" in the big school voting.

Fahrbach and Smith had averages of 16.5 and 17.6 respectively, this season. The duo was joined by Bellevue's Kent Eisenhauer, a second team selection.

Bellevue's Sam Schubert was named the "coach of the year." In his second season as the head coach at Bellevue, Schubert guided the Redmen to a 14-4 mark.

In Class AA voting, Lonnie Shiffert of Genoa and Dan Keegan of Margaretta were named to the

first team while Port Clinton's Lee Horne gained second team honors. Shiffert averaged 16 points a game while leading Genoa to 13-5 mark this season. Keegan, the second leading scorer in The News-Messenger area, sports an 18.9 average. Bob Haas of Willard was the "coach of the year."

Horne topped all scorers for all classifications with a 27.0 mark to make the second squad. Rod Cok of Willard was the AA "player of the year."

Jude Meyers of Sandusky St. Mary's was the Class A "player of the year" and his coach, Norm "Biz" Paeth, was named the top coach of the small schools. Meyers popped in an average of 20.1 points per game this season.

Following are the coaches' teams:

CLASS AAA

(Player, school, grade, height, and average.)

FIRST TEAM

Bernard Ford, Mansfield Sr., 12, 6-0, 18.0;

Scott Reynolds, Gallon, 12, 6-7, 17.4; Brad Gutschall, Mansfield Madison, 12, 6-7, 15.5; Dave Fahrbach, Ross, 12, 6-6, 16.5; Pat Smith, Bellevue, 12, 6-0, 17.6;

SECOND TEAM

John Coppus, Columbian, 12, 6-0, 17.6; Bart Thomas, Lexington, 12, 6-2, 19.0; Dan Jackson, Mansfield Malabar, 12, 6-1, 15.0; Ken Eisenhauer, Bellevue, 12, 6-1, 15.5; Paul Biddle, Sandusky, 11, 6-4, 14.0.

CLASS AA

FIRST TEAM

Rod Cok, Willard, 12, 6-3, 13.4; Lonnie Shiffert, Genoa, 12, 6-3, 16.0; Chuck Gloffre, Huron, 12, 6-2, 18.0; Dan Keegan, Margaretta, 12, 6-0, 18.9; Steve Micheli, Upper Sandusky, 12, 6-5, 12.0;

SECOND TEAM

Dave Shelz, Norwalk, 12, 5-9, 12.0; Larry Winch, Colonel Crawford, 12, 6-0, 13.0; Lee Horne, Port Clinton, 11, 6-2, 17.0; Curt Cok, Willard, 12, 5-11, 9.0; Kevin Babcock, Mohawk, 12, 5-11, 15.0.

CLASS A

FIRST TEAM

Jude Myers, St. Mary, 12, 6-3, 20.1; Duane Trares, Norwalk St. Paul, 12, 6-2, 24.2; Paul Roeder, Monroeville, 12, 6-5, 22.6; Chuck Rohrbach, Calvert, 12, 6-3, 16.2; Buri Nesbitt, Monroeville, 12, 6-8, 21.9;

SECOND TEAM

Randy Shifley, Wynford, 12, 6-0, 15.0; Mike Lange, St. Peter's, 12, 6-0, 15.4; Don Lucius, New Riegel, 11, 6-0, 21.4; Dick Zurback, Seneca East, 12, 6-0, 18.3; Scott Clevenger, South Central, 12, 6-1, 17.8.

Perry, Horne named to AP district second team

Two area high school basketball players were named to the second team of the Northwest Ohio Associated Press district basketball team announced today.

In Class A, Jim Perry of Old Fort was named to the second team and Lee Horne of Port Clinton was named to the second team in Class AA. Perry, a 6-0 senior guard, averaged 18.4 points a game in leading the Stockaders to a 16-6 season. Horne is the lone junior on the Class AA second team and averaged 28 points a game.

Receiving special mention from the Fremont area were Dave Fahrback of Ross and Pat Smith of Bellevue in Class AAA, and Dan Keegan of Margaretta in Class AA.

Those receiving honorable mention included Kent Eisenhauer of Bellevue in Class AAA; Brad Farrar of Clyde; Greg Haubert of Lakota; Lonnie Shiffert of Genoa in Class AA; Pat Swickard of Old Fort, Dave Smith of Old Fort, Steve Shull of Gibsonburg, Randy Bramel of Bettsville and Dave Frederick of Woodmore in Class A.

Steve Hartins of Marion Local and Joe Faine of Cory-Rawson were named co-players of the year in Class A, while Jerry Inbody of Cory-Rawson was named coach of the year.

In Class AA, Jim Arnzen of Delphos St. John's was named player of the year and

Bob Arnzen of St. John's and Charlie Reynolds of Elmwood were named co-coaches of the year.

Kelvin Ransey of Toledo Macomber was named Class AAA player of the year and Ben Williams of Toledo Scott was coach of the year.

CLASS A

Steve Hartings, Marion Local, 6-7, 12, 16.7; Tim Selgo, Pettisville, 6-2, 12, 19.7; Brad Spitnale, Continental, 6-2, 12, 28.9; Jude Meyers, St. Mary's, 12, 6-3, 22.6; Joe Faine, Cory-Rawson, 6-2, 11, 28.1

Co-Players of the year: Hartings and Faine

SECOND TEAM

Duane Trares, St. Paul, 6-2, 12, 24.2; Paul Roeder, Monroeville, 6-5, 12, 24.2; Jim Perry, Old Fort, 12, 6-0, 18.4; Tim Hoops, Patrick Henry, 6-5, 11, 21.6; Chuck Rohrbach, Tiffin Calvert, 12, 6-3, 16.4

Coach of the year: Jerry Inbody, Cory-Rawson, 16-2

CLASS AA

Scott Spencer, Rossford, 6-6, 12, 24.1; Jeff Lambert, Swanton, 12, 6-2, 28.1; Jim Arnzen, St. John's, 12, 6-0, 15.7; Rod Cok, Willard, 12, 6-3, 15.8; Tom Barringer, Elmwood, 11, 6-5, 20.1

Player of the year: Arnzen

SECOND TEAM

Mike Hubner, Paulding, 12, 6-10, 26.4; Jim Polhman, St. John's, 12, 6-8, 16.3; Mike Agoston, Cardinal Stritch, 12, 6-4, 22.6; Lee Horne, Port Clinton, 11, 6-3, 28.0; Chris Stallard, Clearfork, 12, 6-1, 18.9

Co-Coaches: Bob Arnzen, St. John's, and Charlie Reynolds, Elmwood

CLASS AAA

Brad Gutchall, Mansfield Madison, 12, 6-7, 15.6; Mark Hetz, Defiance, 12, 6-8, 19.8; Kelvin Ransey, Macomber, 12, 6-1, 19.8; Donald Collins, Scott, 6-7, 12, 18.9; Kim Leonard, Rogers, 12, 6-2, 18.0

Player of the year: Ransey, Macomber

SECOND TEAM

Steve E. Howard, Lima Senior, 12, 6-1, 21.4; Bart Thomas, Lexington, 6-2, 12, 18.9; Bernard Ford, Mansfield Sr., 12, 6-0, 17.2; John Smith, Ashland, 12, 6-2, 14.2; Dave Osby, Libbey, 12, 6-6, 18.0

Coach of the year: Ben Williams, Scott, 17-0



WINNERS of special athletic awards for Ross High School's winter sports teams are shown above. Left to right in front: Jesse Heidelberg, Julie Otermat, Roxie Price, Sue Buehler, Mara Tolhurst, Karyl Solze,

Garry Clark, Tony Munoz, John Lipstraw; back row: Dave Fahrbach, Pete Werling, Jim Smith, Hal Hawk, Denny Smith, Brett McKittrick, and Brian Koenig.

Ross awards

Members of four Ross winter sports teams were honored Monday.

Dave Fahrbach, Mara Tolhurst and Sue Buehler, Hal Hawk, and Pete Werling won "most valuable" awards during the evening. Fahrbach was the MVP in boys basketball while Tolhurst and Buehler shared the honor in girls basketball. Hawk was the most valuable in swimming and Werling won the honor in wrestling.

Fahrbach won four special awards in basketball. Head Coach Ken Miller presented him with the foul shooting, rebounding, and captain's trophy along with his MVP award. Garry Clark won the roundball trophy as the best defensive player and was also presented with a captain's trophy. Denny Smith was named as the team's "most improved".

Coach Sue Wolfe awarded Tolhurst and Buehler the MVP awards in girls basketball. The same girls also received captain's trophies and Buehler won the "best free throw shooter" trophy. Karyl Solze and Julie Otermat shared the most improved award and Tolhurst was the best rebounder for the team. Roxie Price was awarded the "best defensive player" award.

In swimming, Brett McKittrick and Hawk were given captain's trophies by Head Coach Art Bucci. The "outstanding sophomore" award went to Brian Koenig.

Al Voggenthaler, varsity wrestling coach, awarded Werling the Jaycee sponsored Mal Mackey MVP award. Tony Munoz and Jim Smith won trophies for the "most pins" during the season with 13 apiece. It was the third year in a row that Munoz has either led or tied for the top spot.

Munoz also won the trophy for most takedowns. Junior Jesse Heidelberg was awarded the team's most improved wrestler for the second year in a row and Werling was given the captain's trophy. John Lipstraw won the "coaches award."

Cavs could drop magic number to one

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers polished off the Houston Rockets five weeks ago in their last meeting here, but guard Mike Newlin wasn't

convinced the Cavs were for real.

After the 107-103 defeat which plunged the Rockets six games behind then-division-leading

Cleveland, Newlin said, "I'm just not a believer in the Cavaliers. I think we'll catch them."

Just like the rest of the doubters throughout the National Basketball Association, though, Newlin may soon have to accept Cleveland as a real contender.

Since that meeting on February 22, the Cavaliers have slipped from 1½ games ahead of Washington in the Central Division to 1½ games behind the Bullets. But they continue to lead the Rockets by six games in the chase for second place and an automatic playoff berth.

The two teams meet here again tonight and a victory by the Cavaliers would lower their "magic number" for their first ever postseason spot to one.

Going into the contest

with the Rockets, any combination of three Cleveland victories or Houston losses totalling three will clinch at least second place in the division.

The Rockets, owners of a 4-1 edge over the Cavaliers this season, come into the contest with a 38-37 overall mark, compared to 43-30 for the Cavaliers.

"This is a real big game for us," said Cleveland forward Bingo Smith. "We need to eliminate Houston first."

The only original Cavalier still with the expansion-born club added, "We've had a good series (with Houston). The games have been close, but I think they've been getting the right play or break at the right time."

"They have a young club like we do and it seems we always have good games," he added.

The Cavaliers, who finished a stretch of seven games in 10 days just last Saturday, now play five games in six days with only Friday an off day this week.

They play at New Orleans Wednesday night and back here against Boston Thursday night.

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