

1994-1995 Season Review

Ross girls top Huron in opener

By BOB MARKER
Sports editor

Fremont Ross warmed up for its Great Lakes League opener Thursday night, taking advantage of a big first quarter lead to defeat Huron 64-60 in a high school girls basketball opener for both teams Saturday night in the Purple Pit.

Ross, co-champion along with Whitmer last season in the GLL race, travels to Sylvania Northview before taking a week off and then visiting Napoleon for another GLL contest.

Saturday, Ross rolled to a 25-11 first-quarter lead but could never push the Tigers out of the picture.

"We find a way to make things interesting," Ross coach Sue Wolf said to no one particular as she walked off the floor.

Three players were in double figures as eight players scored for the Little Giants. Dawn Zerman led the group with 18, Cari Ritzman added 15 and Holly Pelfrey 11.

Zerman scored seven and Pelfrey six in the first-quarter Ross attack.

"We fell too far behind," Huron coach Richard Wennes said. "We made up some, but that was a big mountain to climb."

Ross led by 17 (25-8) late in the first quarter and early (30-13) in the second quarter.

Huron, with Sara and Marcy Schaub carrying the scoring load, cut the Ross lead to four (38-34) midway through the third quarter, but Zerman scored on a jumper and 3-point bucket and fed Pelfrey and Erin Radeloff for two more baskets in a nine-point run for a 47-34 Ross lead.

"When it gets to crunch time," Wolf said, "we want the ball in her (Zerman) hands."

Huron cut the Ross lead back to 62-58 with 25 second to play but could get no closer.

Sara Schaub had 29 points and Marcy Schaub 11.

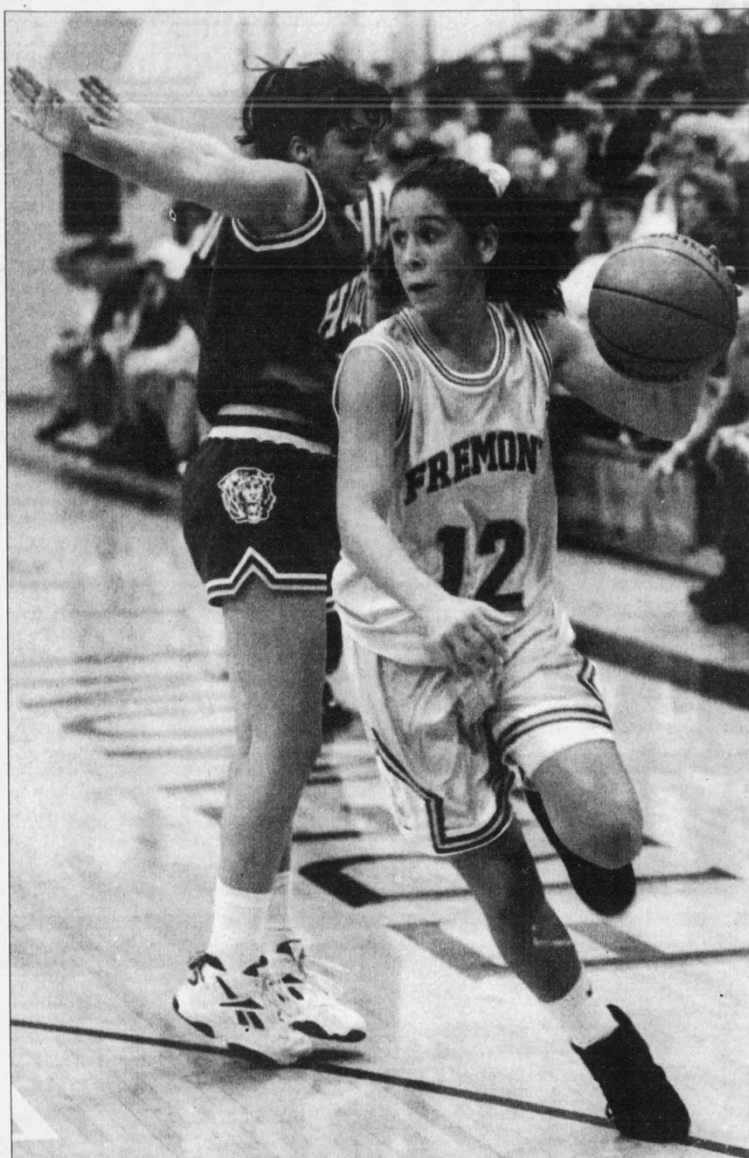
"I don't know what we shot from the foul line," Wennes said, "but we missed a heck of a lot of them and I think that's the story right there."

The Tigers missed 12 of 21 free throws while holding a 25-23 edge in field goals. Ross made 17 of 30 free throws.

"We had to work hard and we got a lot of people into the game," Wolf said, "and once we finally made an adjustment to get back on defense, it made a big difference for us. They were beating us down the floor because we were getting sucked up too much on our press."

Wolf added she felt her team "could have done much better at the foul line (17 of 30)."

The first quarter made up for that.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

DAWN ZERMAN (12) of Ross drives around Marcy Caporini of Huron during second half play Saturday night at Ross High School. Zerman scored 18 points in the Little Giants' 64-60 victory.

Watson captures Skins Game

Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Tom Watson, while breaking his personal non-winning streak, could only slow Fred Couples' romp through golf's unofficial events.

Watson won the Skins Game with a 20-foot playoff putt Sunday, but Couples continued to cash in at golf's special events.

Some touring pros call it the "second season." Some dub it the "off-season," some the "silly season."

For Couples, it's Prime Time.

Watson's extra-hole putt was worth \$160,000 — giving him a winning \$210,000 total — in the 4-man, 2-day, 18-hole event that was the first of the special, made-for-television tournaments

that make up the postseason portion of the PGA Tour schedule.

These tournaments make up an important part of the laid-back, easy-going Couples' schedule.

In regular-season events "I'm pretty hard on myself," Couples said. In the offseason, "I'm more relaxed. If I hit bad shot, I just keep on playing, go get it and hit it again."

Following that philosophy since November of 1990, he has won \$4.2 million in the November-December portion of the schedule.

That compares with the \$8-plus million Tom Kite has collected as the PGA Tour's career official money-winning leader in a 22-year career.

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Ross girls top Northview, 61-51

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross' girls basketball team used strong bench play and free throw shooting to hold off Northview 61-51 Wednesday.

The road win pushed the Little Giants' record to 2-0 overall, 1-0 in the Great Lakes League.

"We really came through at the end," coach Sue Wolf said.

The Wildcats cut Ross' lead to one point late in the game, but Wolfe said steady free throw shooting from leading scorer Dawn Zerman kept her team in the lead.

"Dawn Zerman hit nine straight free throws," Wolf said. Zerman finished with 21 points, including 13 free throws.

Cari Ritzman added 18 points for Ross. Northview's Morgan Ramsdell and Nancy Belkofer scored 17 and 13 respectively for the Wildcats.

Wolf praised the play of her bench, particularly the four-point performances of Tirzah Hale and Michele Smith.

Streaks dropped to 1-2. Jamie Reiter canned a trio of 3-pointers for nine points to lead St. Joe.

"We couldn't handle the press very well the first three quarters" coach Gary Geller said.

Woodmore.....57

Gibsonburg.....38

Rupa Narra led the Woodmore Wildcats to their third victory overall and first Suburban Lakes League win against no losses by scoring 23 points along with five steals.

Angie Fegley stole six, scored 14 — including two 3-pointers — and collected 11 rebounds for the winners while Nicole Camper had four blocks.

Gibsonburg's Sara Liskai scored 13 as the Golden Bears dropped to 0-3.

Old Fort.....46

Mohawk.....42

Old Fort won a close contest versus Mohawk as Jenny Magers scored 14 points for the Stock-

over Bellevue (0-1).

Wendy Kutz scored 13 and Andrienne Santoro 12 for the Redmen.

Margaretta held off a 16-2 run by Bellevue for the win. "The comeback showed our girls what it is to be competitive and never quit," coach Tim Tucker said.

MVCD.....4

Bettsville.....1

Bettsville's inexperience was apparent in their loss to Maumee Valley City Day Thursday.

"We have eight freshmen and two injured starters and that proved to be the difference," Bettsville coach Steve Ward said.

Christina Stump and Rach Riley each scored four points for Bettsville 0-1.

MVCD won their first game of the season.

Lakota.....6

Otsego.....4

Lakota jumped to a 33-19 halftime lead and held on to defeat

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Little Giants win 2nd GLL road game

News-Messenger reports

Dawn Zerman scored 18 points, despite a box-and-one defense by Napoleon, and Fremont Ross defeated the Wildcats 48-38 Thursday night.

The Little Giants, 3-0 and 2-0 in the Great Lakes League, made 19 of 42 shots.

"Our girls need to take more shots and stop looking for Dawn," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Cari Ritzman added 14 points for Ross, but only three other Little Giants scored and none had more than six points.

Amy Aschemeier led Napoleon, 0-4 and 0-2, with 12 points.

The Little Giants, who collected 33 rebounds to 20 for Napoleon, led 14-13 after one quarter but opened up a 27-20 halftime lead.

ures with 19 points.

Jenny Magers scored 16 points, and Katie Dumond collected eight rebounds for Old Fort, 3-2 and 1-1.

The Blue Jackets made 34 of 70 shots, while the Stockaders were 11-of-49 from the floor.

Genoa66

Gibsonburg40

Amy Hairabedian scored 16 points, including four 3-point field goals, to lead Genoa to the Suburban Lakes League victory.

Sara Liskai scored 17 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Golden Bears, 0-5 and 0-2.

Genoa, 3-1 and 2-0, outscored Gibsonburg 19-5 in the fourth quarter.

Woodmore37

Northwood21

Winning streak ends for Ross girls

News-Messenger reports

A poor first half helped end Fremont Ross's three-game high school girls basketball winning streak.

Findlay rolled to a 38-20 halftime lead and then held on for a 60-52 victory in the Trojans' home Saturday afternoon.

After taking a 16-10 first-quarter lead, the Trojans, behind Ashley Marsman and Julie Niekamp, outscored the Little Giants 22-10 in the second quarter. Marsman sank a pair of three-points shots while scoring eight points and Niekamp had seven points in the Findlay pullaway.

Dawn Zerman paced Ross, 3-1, with 15 points, scoring seven in the first quarter and the rest in the second half.

Niekamp finished with 17 for Findlay.

lead in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Sarah Hamilton led Margaretta with 20 points and Gaby Highlander added 15.

Clyde.....4

Edison3

Kim Lawrence tossed in 17 points as Clyde evened its record at 2-2 with the victory in the SE opener.

Clyde broke a 12-12 deadlock after one quarter take a 24-18 halftime lead. The Fliers led 32-23 after three quarters.

Bellevue.....4

Shelby.....3

Christie Borgia Bellevue with 15 points while

Late spurt lifts Ross

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross outscored Oregon Clay 15-4 in the fourth quarter and pulled out a 60-45 Great Lakes League victory Thursday night in the Purple Pit.

"You can't score four points in the last quarter and win a ball," Clay coach Mike Csehi said.

Ross coach Sue Wolf modified her full-court press with the Little Giants leading 45-41 after three quarters.

"We backed it off a little bit," Wolf said. "I think that scared them because they were used to us being right there. When we backed it off, we looked for the interception off the person with the ball. Then we would drop back into our trap."

The Little Giants forced the Eagles into six turnovers in the fourth quarter, scoring eight points off the giveaways. Leading 48-43, Ross scored off three turnovers for a 54-43 lead. Clay got no closer than nine after that.

"We lost our patience," Csehi said. "We worked on packing the ball inside so we could run our offense — no one will beat us with a set offense — but our girls lost their cool when Ross went into a half-court trap. Our girls would just throw the ball away."

"Ross did most of its scoring off our offense."

Dawn Zerman plagued Csehi's

troops all night, scoring 27 points. Zerman had 15 points in the second half.

Clay outrebounded Ross 22-13 in the first half, with 13 of those retrieves coming off the offensive board. Still, Ross led 28-25 at halftime.

"We finally started boxing out in the second half," Wolf said, "but in the first half, we refused to do that."

The Little Giants outrebounded the Eagles 20-13 in the second half, including 11-6 in the fourth quarter.

Junior DeShawna Bulger, pulled up from the junior varsity after opening the season on that unit, hauled in six rebounds.

"She had some nice rebounds for us and she runs the floor well," Wolf said. "We had a few problems at the beginning of the season where she had to earn her spot, and she has done that."

Bulger had all five of her points in the first quarter — both baskets coming on putbacks.

Ross, 4-1 and 3-0 in the GLL race, also got 11 points from Dena Schefflin. Kelli Fisher finished with 11 points for Clay, 2-3 and 1-2.

The Little Giants are off until next Thursday when undefeated Toledo St. Ursula visits Fremont.

"They are big," Wolf said. "It will be a test for us, but I am looking forward to it."



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

DENA SCHEFFLIN of Fremont Ross pulls down an offensive rebound after getting inside position on Oregon

Clay's Jodi Jesion during the Little Giants' 60-45 Great Lakes League victory over the Eagles Thursday night.

St. Joe nips Seneca East

News-Messenger reports

Seneca East has never defeated Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic in girls basketball.

"I thought for awhile we were going to lose that string," St. Joe coach Gary Geller said Thursday night following St. Joe's 49-46 Midland Athletic League victory at Seneca East.

Kelly Lotycz and Shelly Kiser each made two free throws in the final 41 seconds to help the Crimson Streaks overcome a 46-45 deficit and improve to 4-3 after their first MAL win in three league games.

Bonnie Morelock, who led SJCC with 16 points, tied a school record for rebounds in a game with 22. "I thought Bonnie Morelock had an excellent game inside," Geller said. "She came out of her shell tonight."

JoAnn Reardon collected 22 rebounds in a game twice at St. Joe, in 1984 against Port Clinton and in 1985 against Clyde.

Neither team led by more than six points in the game.

"They've got some quick kids, but we got up and down the floor pretty well with them," Geller said. "We needed to get back and stop the fast break."

"Offensively, we had a little trouble against the press," St. Joe committed 31 turnovers, but the Tigers fell to 2-5 and 0-3.

Lotycz scored the last of her 14 points at the foul line to give St. Joe a 47-46 lead, and Kiser made a steal and followed that with two foul shots with 15 seconds

Roundup

remaining.

Kiser, who scored her other two points in the first quarter at the line, was 0-for-3 in the fourth quarter before sinking two to give the Streaks their final points.

Seneca East, which got 12 points from Jackie Kreim and 11 from Bridget Bogner, had two other chances to tie the game.

But another steal by Kiser following her final free throws ended one threat. Following a St. Joe turnover, the Tigers final shot was missed and rebounded by Morelock.

In other games:

Woodmore.....57
Eastwood.....46

The Wildcats won a battle of Suburban Lakes League unbeaten as Angie Fegley and Rupa Narra scored 22 and 21 points, respectively.

"Both girls played super inside," Woodmore coach Mike DeStazio said. "(Abby) Aspacher ran the offense very well and (Rachel) Hathaway held (Kerri) Wohltman to eight points."

Eastwood's Wohltman entered the game averaging 26 points a game. Hathaway limited her to two field goals, and Wohltman added four free throws.

Fegley and Narra, meanwhile, combined for 25 rebounds — 13 by Fegley and 12 by Narra.

Woodmore, 6-0 and 3-0 in the SLL, outrebounded Eastwood 47-

23 as the Eagles lost for the first time in five games and fell to 2-1 in the league.

Stephanie Dunmyer led the Eagles with 22 points.

The Wildcats outscored Eastwood 40-23 in the second and third quarters combined.

Lakota.....77
Gibsonburg.....52

Lakota kept pace with Woodmore in the SLL standings by outscoring Gibsonburg 45-24 in the second half and winning for the third time in five games overall.

"We took the ball to the basket and it paid off at the foul line," Lakota coach Dick Heller said.

The Raiders made 30 of 40 free throws, while Gibsonburg was 8-of-16 at the foul line.

Catherine Scherger led Lakota with 21 points, Kristen Zoeller had 20, Sarah Breau added 14 and Erin Howe chipped in 11.

Sarah Liskai scored 15 points for the Golden Bears, 0-6 and 0-3.

Old Fort.....56
N. Baltimore.....36

Bridget Seigley led three Old Fort players in double figures with 13 points, and Clara Caudill grabbed 10 rebounds for the Stockaders.

Megan Finley added 12 points and Jenny Magers 11 for Old Fort, which made 22 of 55 shots. The Stockaders missed 17 of 29 free throws, but North Baltimore went to the foul line just 11 times.

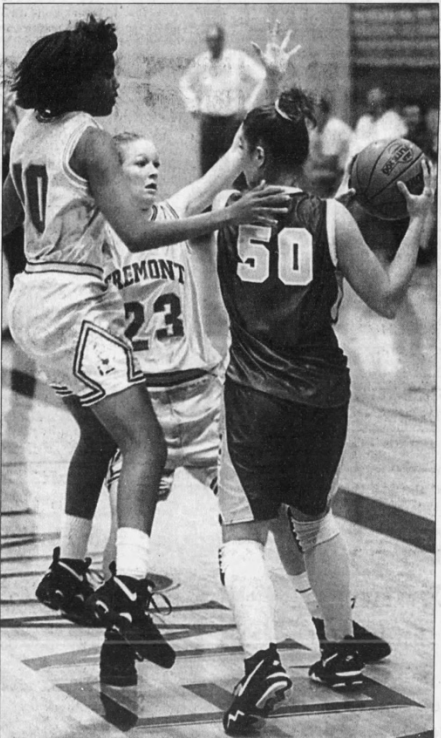
Old Fort, 4-3 and 2-1 in the MAL, outscored the Tigers 33-19 in the second half.

North Baltimore is 1-5 and 1-2.

Calvert.....72
Bettsville.....15

Calvert outscored Bettsville 28-0 in the first quarter and won its first game after three losses. The Bobcats are winless in four games.

Sarah Englehart led the Senecas, 1-1 in the MAL, with 19 points. Bettsville, 0-2 in league play, got 11 points from Christina Stump.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

DESHAWNA BULGER (left) and Emily Dowell (23) of Fremont Ross trap Oregon Clay's Nichole Leathers Thursday night at the Purple Pit during the Little Giants' 60-45 Great Lakes League victory over the Eagles.

Little Giants misfire as Arrows hit mark

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The 3-point shooting of Toledo St. Ursula's Becky Watkins was Michael Jordan-like in the first quarter Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

It gave St. Ursula a cushion over Fremont Ross, and it allowed the Arrows to take the game to the inside and secure a 64-55 non-league victory.

Watkins made six straight 3-pointers in the first quarter as the Arrows took a 20-10 lead and went on to their sixth win without a loss.

"We were much bigger inside," St. Ursula coach Ken Koperski said. "We knew that if we took the ball inside to the post a couple of times that they would collapse on it."

"(Watkins) has been struggling lately. We told her, when you get the ball, shoot."

"She needed a game like that."

Said Ross coach Sue Wolf: "The closest person should have picked her up."

After Watkins did her damage from the outside, center Jackie Adlington kept the Arrows in front with 13 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots.

"That was our game plan," Koperski said. "Once we started shooting, we knew it would open up inside."

Ross, which got 18 points from Dawn Zerman and 10 from Holly Pelfrey but fell to 4-2, trailed by 15 points twice in the first half and 30-19 at halftime.

The Little Giants made it 32-25 midway through the third quarter before St. Ursula pushed its lead back to 13.

Three straight baskets by Ross, one by Tirzah Hale and two by Zerman following Arrow turnovers, closed the third quarter and the Little Giants trailed 44-37.

The Arrows' rebounding edge (34-22) helped keep Ross behind.

"We don't rebound strong enough," Wolf said. "We let gravity bring the ball to us instead of grabbing it."

"It comes down to our physical play. We're not gigantic, but we have to play bigger."

Ross matched St. Ursula's 23 field goals, including two 3-pointers. But Ross had 13 more attempts, 62 to St. Ursula's 49.

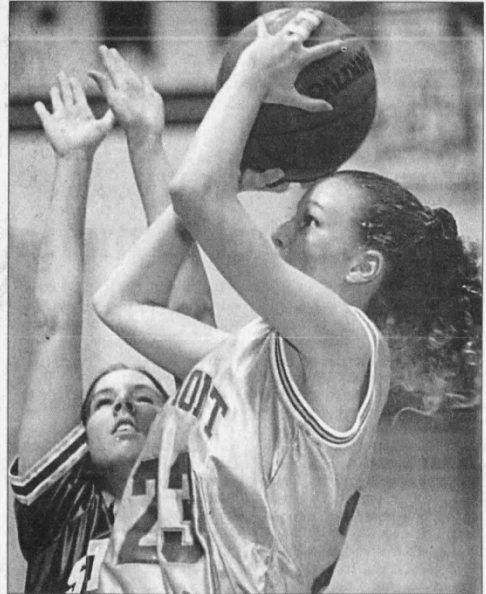
"We just really shot the ball poorly, from the floor and the foul line," Wolf said.

The Arrows made 12 of 13 foul shots; Ross was 7-of-17.

"You have to make a few more of those, especially when you're down," Wolf said. "The clock is stopped, and you have to score."

All of St. Ursula's free throws came in the fourth quarter.

Girls roundup, B2



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

EMILY DOWELL of Fremont Ross puts up a shot as Emily Hollenbeck of Toledo St. Ursula defends Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

Ross pulls away from Streaks

By BOB MARKER
Sports editor

Fremont Ross shook off first-half sluggishness and ran past Sandusky 62-28 Thursday night in a high school girls basketball game in the Purple Pit.

"We did not shoot the ball very well in the first half," Ross coach Sue Wolf, her voice raspy from laryngitis, said.

Ross led 22-13 at the break after making missing 24-of-34 shots. In the second half, the Little Giants made 19-of-31 shots including 9 of 11 in the final quarter.

"We'll take that," Wolf said about the final quarter shooting.

"When we don't shoot the ball well, we cannot get into our press," Wolf said. "We play a lot better when we get into our press."

Sandusky grabbed a 6-2 lead as Quiana Harris hit the first of her 4 3-point baskets and Hope Prophet tossed in a basket. After spotting that lead, Ross ran off the next 16 points for an 18-8 lead. The Blue Streaks could get no closer than eight points the remainder of the game.

Dawn Zerman, after scoring six points in the first half, led Ross with 20. Dena Schepflin added 12 and Emily Dowel 10 for the Little Giants, 5-2.

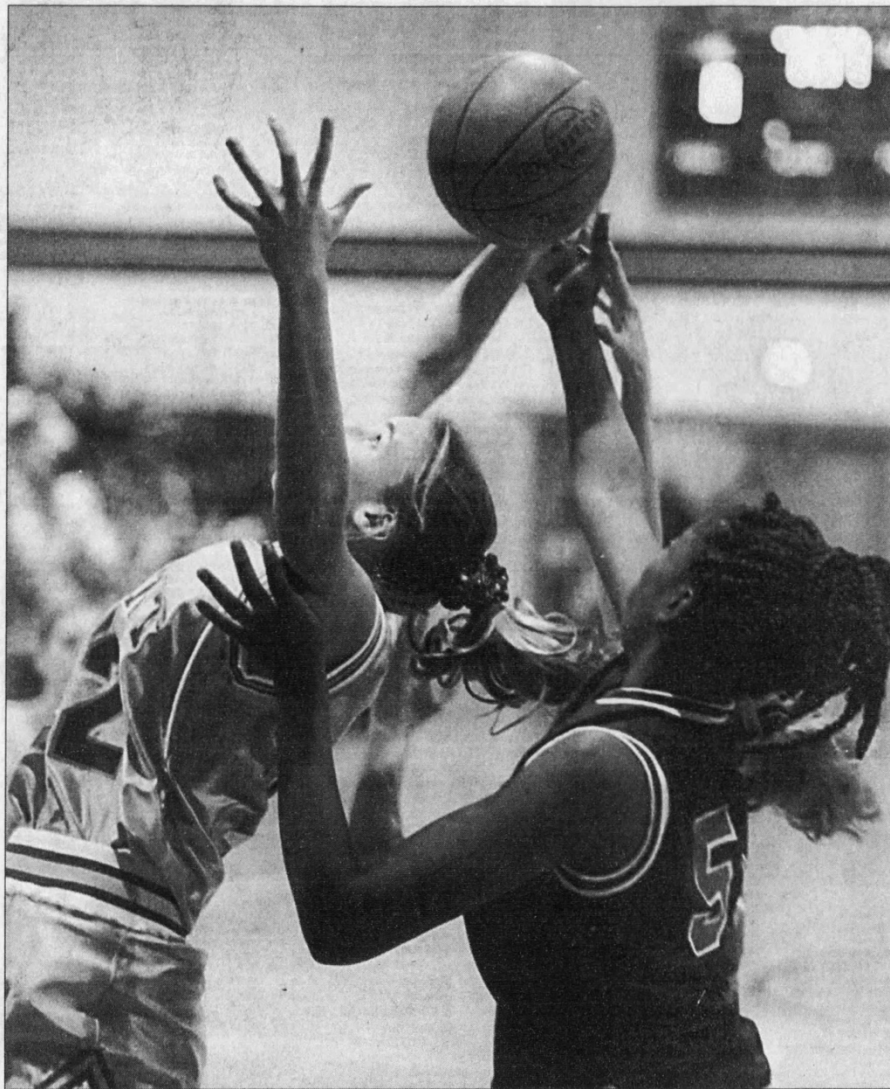
Sandusky, 3-4, made only 10 of 41 shots.

"We get good looking shots," Sandusky coach Tom Kowaleski said, "we just can not put the ball into the hole."

In the second half, Sandusky shifted from a zone to a man-to-man defense and it cost the Blue Streaks.

"There was no way that we could have gone man all the way," Kowaleski said. "That was evident in the fourth quarter when we did briefly...they ate us up."

"We only had four field goals at the half but, hey, that was a great first half for us," Kowaleski said. "We were extremely happy with the way we played the first half but we are extremely young and cannot keep that intensity up for four quarters."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DENA SCHEPFLIN, left, of Fremont Ross grabs a rebound from Hope Prophet of Sandusky during first-half play at Ross High School Thursday. Schepflin scored 12 points as the Little Giants won 62-28.

Harris led Sandusky with 13 points.

The biggest Ross lead was 60-25.

The Little Giants' hot shooting

in the second half gave them 29 of 65 for the game. Ross outrebounded the Blue Streaks 40-31 and forced 25 turnovers while committing 12.

Ross returns to action Tuesday, hosting Bellevue. On Jan. 5, the Little Giants play at Fostoria in a Great Lakes League game.

Bellevue defeats Ross with strong 3rd quarter

By **BOB MARKER**

Sports Editor

Bellevue used a 14-4 third-quarter scoring run to pull away for a 57-44 victory over Fremont Ross in the Purple Pit Tuesday night.

The Redmen, 8-2, fell behind 30-29 with 5:25 to go in the third quarter. But behind Christie Borgia and Wendy Kutz, Bellevue charged to a 43-34 lead over the cold-shooting Little Giants at then end of the quarter.

The Bellevue lead climbed to as high as 15, 54-39, and never slipped below nine after the third-quarter surge.

Bellevue's 1-3-1 zone defense and a decided height advantage forced the Ross offense outside while putting extreme pressure on Ross leading scorer Dawn Zerman.

"We did not make an attempt to do so," Bellevue coach John Rich said about the pressure on Zerman. "It's just the way we play the defense.

"We just wanted our girls to be aware of where she was at."

Ross, 5-3, made 16 of 59 shots

(27 percent). The Little Giants were 3-of-19 in the fourth quarter.

"It was not the zone defense," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I thought we got great shots; we just did not put the ball in the basket. You don't miss the shots we got in the first half and compete with a good team, and they are a good team."

Bellevue led 27-24 at halftime, but it might have been worse.

"We felt we had to control the inside game," Rich said. "We did not do that in the first half."

Borgia, a 5-foot-10 senior, scored eight points in the third quarter and finished with 16 after being held to four in the first half. Kutz, a shade over 5-10, added 11 points. Borgia and Kutz helped the Redmen outrebound the Little Giants 45-35, including 9-4 in the third quarter.

Zerman scored 16 points for Ross before fouling out with two minutes to play. Cari Ritzman added nine points for Ross.

"We just did not play a good game," Wolf said.

Ross whips Fostoria; St. J

News-Messenger reports

The numbers tell the story of an 80-51 Fremont Ross victory over Fostoria in a Great Lakes League game.

The Little Giants, struggling with their shooting in recent games, made 33 of 66 shots against the Redmen.

Ross, 6-3 and 4-0, also outrebounded Fostoria 41-21.

Dawn Zerman led five Ross players in double figures with 14 points, including three 3-point baskets. Dena Schepflin added 13, and Cari Ritzman had 11. Lisa Oprie and Holly Pelfrey each chipped in 10.

Erica Hare led all scorers with 19 points, including three 3-pointers, but Fostoria fell to 2-6 and 1-3.

Girls Roundup

Ross led 18-5 after one quarter and 36-15 at halftime. The Little Giants outscored the Redmen 31-19 in the third quarter.

In other games:

St. Joe68
Bettsville10

Kelly Lotycz scored 17 points, Jamie Reiter had 13 and Ann Foos collected seven rebounds as St. Joe improved to 8-3 and evened its Midland Athletic League record at 3-3.

The Crimson Streaks led 18-7 after one quarter. Bettsville, 0-7 and 0-4, did not score in the third quarter.

Ross falls into tie with Whitmer

BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

TOLEDO — Whitmer outscored Fremont Ross 10-4 in the final five minutes to defeat the Little Giants 60-54 Wednesday night.

The Panthers' win and Ross loss tossed the Great Lakes League girls basketball race into a tie. Both teams are 4-1 in the league race.

Ross, which trailed by as many as seven points during the game, closed to 50-49 on Erica Radeloff's basket with 5:25 to play in the final quarter. But Kelly Jakubowski's bank shot and Theresa Downing's driving layup down the middle took momentum away from the Little Giants.

"I felt our guards, particularly Theresa Downing, had the quickness to do that," Whit-

Girls Basketball

mer coach John Mohn said.

Said Ross coach Sue Wolf, "We were not playing good 'D'. We are better than what we showed.

"We did not shoot well in the first half...we keep taking ourselves out of ball games."

Dawn Zerman stopped the Whitmer run with a basket but Teri Girrell's putback was followed by Jackubowski's short bank shot and Elizabeth Edinger's jumper put Ross down 58-51 with a minute to play. Downing's free throws off the front end of a pair of one-and-one foul shots, the last with 11 seconds remaining, iced the game.

Ross, after controlling the boards for most

of the first three quarters, lost control in the final eight minutes. The Panthers held only a 14-13 edge in that span but seven of the rebounds were on the offensive end.

"When we needed the boards, we did not do it," Wolf said.

Whitmer, 9-3, was led by Downing's 18 points and Jakubowski's 17. Downing scored 12 in the second half.

Zerman had 21 points, Radeloff 12 and Dena Schepflin 10 for Ross, 6-4.

Whitmer, after sprinting a 7-0 lead, trailed three times but never by more than two. The last Ross lead was 24-23 midway through the second quarter.

Whitmer led 32-28 at halftime and 44-43 after three quarters.

Zerman leads Ross to non-league victory

News-Messenger reports

Dawn Zerman scored 22 points in a 56-32 Fremont Ross victory over Sandusky Perkins Saturday.

Ross, 7-4, led 18-10 after one quarter and outscored Perkins 17-2 in the second quarter.

High School Boys

Eight other Little Giants scored in the game, including Emily Dowell with nine points and Cari Ritzman with eight.

Ross upsets Columbian

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross used offensive patience and tenacious pressing defense to hand Tiffin Columbian and its Sears "tower" its first loss, 47-36, Tuesday night in the Purple Pit.

The Tornadoes had won 10 straight games behind 6-foot-3 senior Melanie Sears before running into the Little Giants, 8-4.

"As long as we had the ball, they could not score," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Columbian entered the game averaging 54 points per game.

Dawn Zerman scored seven of her 23 points in the first quarter, and Ross made its last six shots of the quarter for a 15-12 lead.

"Fremont played better than us tonight," Columbian coach Larry Kisabeth said. "Dawn Zerman did a whale of a job. When they needed a basket, they went to her and she got the job done."

Clicking off the names of Michele Smith and Lisa Oprie — both came off the bench and each came up with two steals — Wolf said anyone she put in "did what we wanted them to do."

"When you are getting that from your bench, you should do well," she said.

Holly Pelfrey backed up Zerman with 10 points, but this was a night for defense. The Little Giants turned the pressure up in the second quarter.

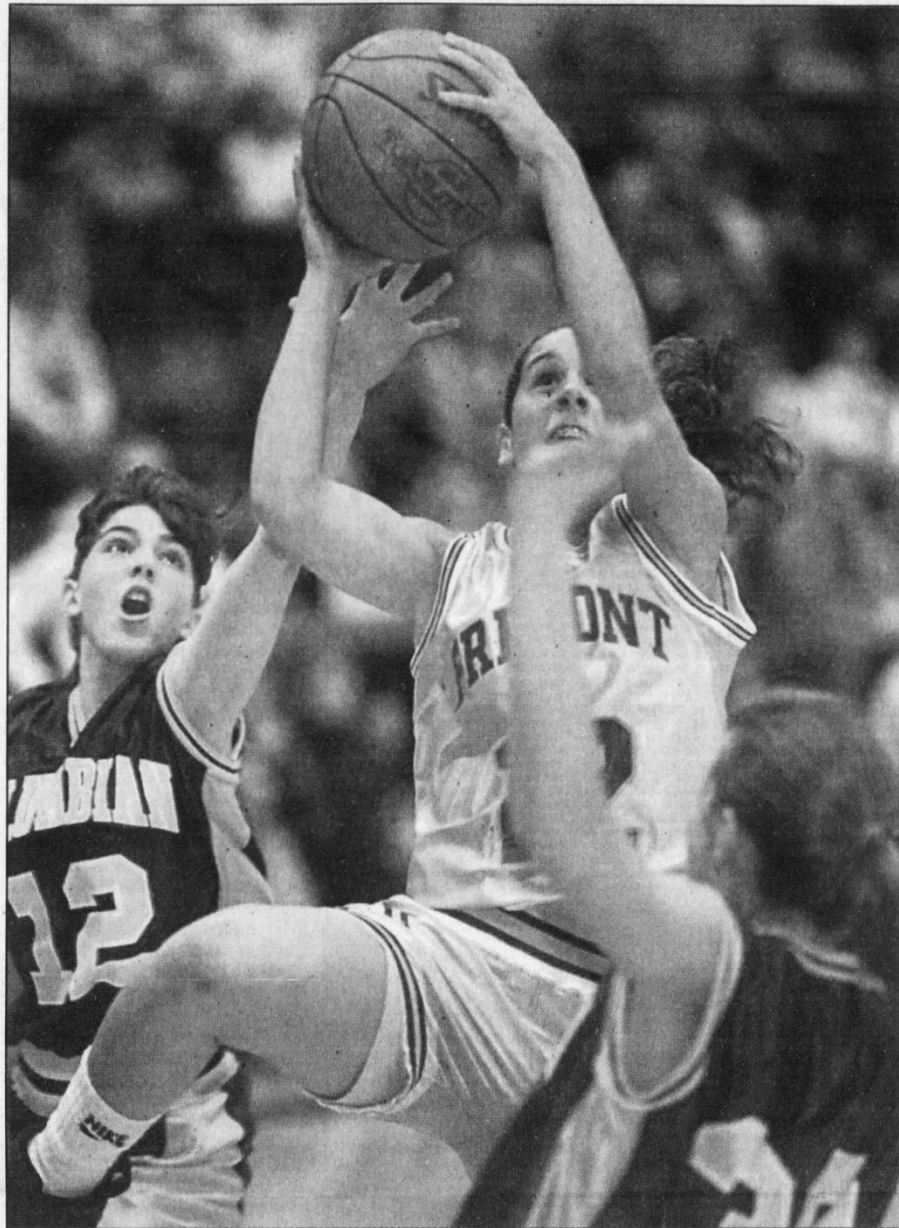
Leading 19-15, Ross scored eight points off Columbian turnovers and opened up a 26-17 halftime lead.

"The key was that four-minute span in the second quarter," Kisabeth said. "They put it to us. It was a two to four-point game and the next thing you know, it's double figures."

"Sue did a nice job with her press adjusting it, alternating it up and back; it kept us a step off stride."

The same formula allowed the Little Giants to maintain their halftime margin in the second half. The Tornadoes never got the lead below eight points, 40-32 with three minutes and 50 seconds remaining.

The biggest Ross lead was 40-27 three minutes into the fourth quarter.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN of Fremont Ross splits Tiffin Columbian defenders Leslie Koehl (12) and Lindsay Cook (right) and goes to the basket in the second quarter Tuesday night during girls basketball action at the Ross High School Purple Pit. The Little Giants handed the Tornadoes their first loss of the season, 47-36.

Ross was taking as much as 90 seconds off the clock setting up its shots throughout much of the second half. After making 11 of 20 first-half shots, Ross hit 8 of 17 in the second half.

Sears used her height on the offensive backboard to score on seven putbacks while scoring 18 points. Eight of Sears' points came in the first quarter. A collapsing zone defense bothered

Sears in the second half.

"We don't use a zone that much," Wolf said. "But they were so much bigger than us, there was no way to match them man-to-man."

Ross knocks off Northview

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross quickly soothed Sue Wolf's nerves.

Ross handed Tiffin Columbian its first loss Tuesday in a game Wolf felt was the Little Giants' best of the season.

"I thought we might be flat," the Ross coach said after a 57-37 victory over Sylvania Northview Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

"And we were at the beginning."

Only at the beginning.

Ross quickly fixed the flat and steadily pulled away from the Wildcats as the second half of the Great Lakes League season

Little Giants tied for first

Fremont Ross remains in a tie with Toledo Whitmer for first place in the Great Lakes League. Both teams have five wins in six league games.

Whitmer, 11-3, defeated Ross 60-54 in Toledo on Jan. 11.

The Panthers and Little Giants each have four GLL games remaining, including a date at the Purple Pit on Feb. 16 the final game of the regular season.

Whitmer, which defeated Napoleon 71-53 Thursday night, suffered its lone loss — 66-66 in overtime — on Dec. 15 at Sylvania Northview.

began.

The Little Giants, 9-4, are 5-1 in the GLL. Northview slipped to 8-5 and 3-3.

The Ross defense held off an inside attack as the Wildcats

seemed unable to hit from 6 feet and shorter.

"We couldn't make a layup," Northview coach Jerry Sigler said. "That's the bottom line. I just had the kids tell me they

counted 26 we missed inside...that's 52 points."

Ross spotted the Wildcats a 2-0 lead but made 8 of 14 first-quarter shots and grabbed a 16-10 lead. Dawn Zerman, on her way to a 24-point night, scored eight points and passed off for two more baskets in the period.

After faltering briefly in the second quarter, Ross sank its last four shots and took a 29-20 half-time lead. Northview kept within reach of the Little Giants at the free throw line, making 10 of 10 in the first half.

"We did not show as much patience offensively in the first half as we did against

Columbian," Wolf said. "In the second half, we played good basketball."

"Really, I think the thing that turned this game toward us was our overall hustle."

Northview closed the gap to 31-24 early in the second half before the Little Giants outscored the Wildcats 11-4 for a 42-28 lead.

It was no contest in the final eight minutes as Ross made 6 of 10 shots and ran its lead to 52-31 before flooding the floor with substitutes.

Emily Dowell backed up Zerman with 10 points. Nancy Belkofer topped Northview with 10 points.

Fremont Ross rolled to a 22-6 first-quarter lead and went on to defeat Toledo Waite 50-31. Ross, 10-4, had nine players score with Dawn Zerman's 16 pacing the contingent.

Dena Schepflin added nine for the Little Giants and Cari Ritzman had eight. Angel Gladieux had 15 points for Waite.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ross stymies Clyde

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

CLYDE — Holly Pelfrey let her defense talk.

The Fremont Ross senior tossed a blanket over Clyde leading scorer Kim Lawrence and helped bring the Little Giants back from a 10-point deficit to a 56-49 high school girls basketball victory at The Hangar Tuesday night.

The game pitted two of the area's top scorers: Dawn Zerman (19.4) and Lawrence (16.9) but Zerman sat out the last 10 minutes of the first half after picking up her second foul and Lawrence could not shake Pelfrey.

"Pelfrey played great ball on Kim Lawrence," Ross coach Sue Wolf said after Ross raised its record to 11-4. "We wanted to stop Lawrence and Holly just worked her rear end off."

Clyde coach Ralph Hohenstein said, "I would say that, but look at what we shot."

Clyde, 9-6, made 16 of 46 shots. The Fliers were 1-of-8 in the pivotal second quarter when they failed to take advantage of Zerman's absence.

"My rule is," Wolf said, "if you get two fouls in the first half, you sit. I would have put her back in if the game was getting away."

Instead, Ross began reeling the Fliers back in range.

When Zerman went to the bench with 2:10 remaining in the first quarter, Ross trailed 17-9. The Fliers spurted briefly, taking a 23-13 on Tara Wilson's two free throws a half-minute into the second quarter.

"When she (Zerman) was in the game, we played great," Hohenstein said, "but when she went out, we just sort of quit."

Lisa Opre took over for Zerman and the Ross duo of Dena Schepflin and Michele Smith took over inside. Opre tossed in eight points in the period and the Schepflin-Smith combo shut down Lisa Keegan, Clyde's 5-foot-10 center.

Keegan scored seven first-quarter points as Clyde led 21-13.

"When one would get tired, we'd put the other in," Wolf said. "That is really a nice thing we can do right now because Michele's game has come up and Dena's game has been up. Lisa Opre just got us going."

Ross went ahead 25-24 on Carri Ritzman's basket with 2:51 remaining in the first half. Clyde retook the lead on free throws by Mary Jo Hoffman before Opre's basket gave Ross a 27-26 with 18 second left in the half. Hoffman scored on a short jumper — the only Flier basket of the period — for a 28-27 Clyde halftime lead.

Pelfrey's basket gave Ross a 31-30 lead early in the third quarter and Ross never trailed again.

Zerman followed with a basket for a three-point lead. After Hoffman scored, Pelfrey fed Ritzman for a basket and Ritzman passed to Schepflin for another. Schepflin's putback put Ross up 39-32 before Ross settled for a 39-36 lead at the end of the quarter.

Ross opened up a 51-43 lead on Schepflin's basket off a Zerman pass with 3:02 to play before Clyde cut the lead to 53-49 with 40 seconds to play, but three free throws by Zerman iced the game.

Schepflin and Zerman finished with 14 points apiece and Ritzman, along with Opre, finished with 10. Lawrence had 12 points, Hoffman 11 and Keegan nine for Clyde.

Little Giants win close one

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Gregg Merrill shook his head in disbelief.

"We did everything we had to do to win the game," the Napoleon girls basketball coach said. "We didn't lose the game, they won the game."

Using a last minute burst, Fremont Ross nipped the Wildcats 49-45 in a Great Lakes League game.

"Our defense the entire night was follow them around," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We were not getting into the passing lanes; we were not playing defense. We were not causing anything to happen."

"Offensively, they were giving us the outside shot but we were not hitting them."

Napoleon, 3-12 and 1-6, led Ross, 12-4 and 6-1, by as many as six points most of the second half. But with five minutes remaining in the game and trailing 39-33, Ross started chipping away at Napoleon's lead.

Cari Ritzman's 3-point play cut the lead in half and Dena Schepflin's free throw made it 39-37 with 3:53 left. Katherine Updegraff's free throw made it 40-37 but Dawn Zerman's two free throws for Ross cut the lead to one.

Amy Aschmeier's basket put Napoleon ahead 42-39 but Michele Smith's two foul shots trimmed the Napoleon again to one.

Following a missed free throw by Napoleon's Taya Tassler, Holly Pelfrey made the first of two key baskets down the stretch.

Her jumper from the right side gave Ross a 43-42 lead but Upde-

graff's two free throws put Napoleon back on top with 2:24 to play. Ritzman hit the front end of a one-and-one to tie it at 44 with 1:27 remaining. After a Napoleon turnover, Zerman sank one of two foul shots for a 45-44 Ross lead with 41 seconds to go.

After trading turnovers, Pelfrey stole the ball at midcourt and scored on the breakaway layup for a 47-44 lead with 24 seconds left.

"That steal did it for us," Wolf said.

Ross was not completely on safe footing.

Napoleon's Bethan Manter was fouled on a rebound after Ritzman missed a free throw with 10 seconds to play. Manter made the first free throw and when she intentionally hit the front of the rim with the second shot, the long rebound was hauled in by Zerman who drove the length of the floor for the clinching basket.

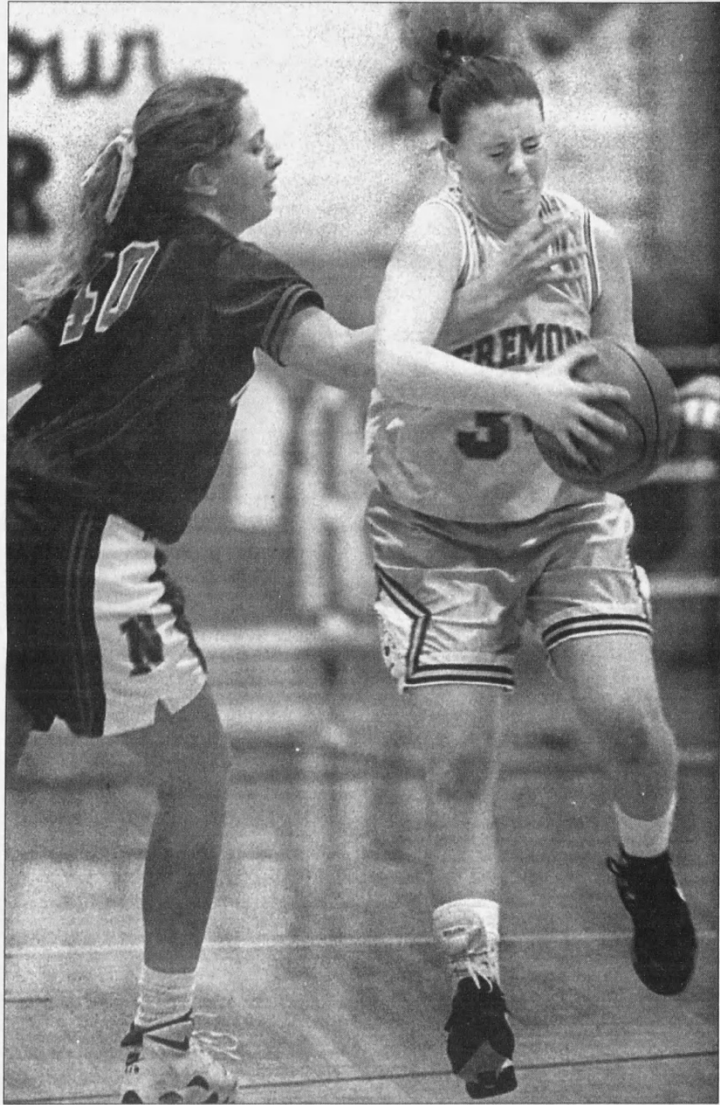
"From a coaching standpoint, the kids did everything that we wanted them to do," Merrill said. "Ross made the big plays and that's being a good basketball team."

"Good teams win games like this," Merrill said. "I thought in the fourth quarter, Ross was frustrated...they had no tempo, yet they dug down and found a way to win."

Ritzman led Ross with 12 points, Zerman had 11 and Pelfrey eight. Aschmeier had 13 and Updegraff 12 for Napoleon.

"It's nice to win a game like this," Wolf said, "but next week if we play like this against Clay..."

The Little Giants travel to Oregon to play Clay on Feb. 2.



Associated Press

HOLLY PELFREY (right) of Fremont Ross is fouled by Napoleon's Brenda Huddle during the first half of a Great

Lakes League game at the Purple Pit Thursday night. The Little Giants won the game 49-45.

Fegley scores 34 in Woodmore rout

By **MARK GRIFFIN**

nice job getting the ball into

Ross flies past Eagles

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

OREGON — Ross started slowly but pulled away gradually from Oregon Clay for a 45-32 Great Lakes League victory Thursday.

The Little Giants, 13-4 and 7-1, missed 11 of 14 shots in the first quarter

trailed only 10-8 thanks to 10 Clay turnovers in the period.

Cari Ritzman, on her way to an 11-point night, scored all of the Ross points in the opening eight minutes.

"We had good looks at the basket," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We just did not put them in, and we missed a lot of layups."

Ross outscored Clay 10-2 in the first three minutes of the second quarter, taking a 19-12 lead.

Still first

The Little Giants remain tied with Toledo Whitmer for the top spot in the GLL standings.

Whitmer beat Northview 60-38 Thursday.

Each team has a GLL game left before meeting on Feb. 16 at Ross.

■ Key to the game

Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf was pleased with her team's rebounding against a taller Clay team.

The Eagles held a 12-4 first-quarter rebounding edge, but all of the Eagle rebounds were off the defensive board.

Ross cut the rebounding edge to 30-29 at the end of the game with nine of the Little Giants rebounds off the offensive board to the Eagles' six offensive rebounds.

Tied at 12-12, Emily Dowell's layup off a Holly Pelfrey pass gave Ross the lead for good.

Ross made 6 of 12 shots and scored eight points off six Clay turnovers in the second quarter.

The Little Giants led 23-17 at halftime and opened up a 31-22 lead as Zerman scored a bucket, passed to Dena Schepflin for another and Pelfrey handed off two more assists to Dowell, a freshman who finished with 10 points.

Clay, 7-10 and 3-5, played into the Little Giants' hands in the fourth quarter.

With coach Mike Csehi begging his team to come out and put pressure on the ball, the Eagles did the opposite, allowing Ross to work 30 to 40 seconds off the clock between shots.

"We were working hard, making hard cuts and moving up the floor a little," Wolf said. "The kids did a nice job at that."

When the Eagles obeyed their coach, it was too late. Ross had a 41-30 lead with 1:45 to play.

"We played pretty good up until the fourth quarter," Csehi said, "but all of a sudden we were not listening very well."

"We tried to stop the ball and play a little pressure defense but we laid back and let Fremont run us.. our girls sat back, and watched the game go by."

Zerman finished with 15 points and six assists. Kelly Fisher led the Eagles with 16 points to go with a pair of assists and three blocked shots.

Ross wins 8th straight game

News-Messenger reports

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross won its eighth straight game, defeating Port Clinton 57-24 Monday night.

The Little Giants took a 19-12

lead
in

Girls Basketball

the first quarter and outscored the Redskins 13-4 in the second quarter.

"We worked on some things that we may want to use later on," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "Plus, they played a box-and-one (defense) on Dawn (Zerman) so she got to work against that."

Zerman finished with 14 points.

"We were able to hold her down a little bit but to no avail," Port Clinton coach Doug Armstrong said.

Carrie Ritzman led Ross, 14-4, with 15 points. Eight other Little Giants scored at least two points.

Michelle Lacey scored 12 points for the Redskins, with 10 points coming in the first quarter.

Ross made 22 of 59 shots, and PC was 11-of-45 from the floor.

The Little Giants outscored the Redskins 13-2 at the foul line.

Ross ready for Whitmer

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Sue Wolf does not want history to repeat itself.

"Whitmer was the last team to beat us," Wolf said after Fremont Ross routed Fostoria 79-49 Thursday night in the Purple Pit. "And we do not want them to be the next team to beat us."

Ross, 15-4, and Whitmer, 15-4, will play for the undisputed Great Lakes League championship next Thursday at Ross.

Both teams are 8-1 in the GLL. Whitmer slipped past Oregon Clay 61-60 Thursday.

The Panthers and Little Giants tied for the league title a year ago. Whitmer defeated Ross 60-54 in the first game this season on Jan. 11.

"In that game, our defense had a lot of defensive breakdowns," Wolf said. "But I think our defense is back playing pretty well right now."

Against Fostoria, the Little Giants' play did not surprise Wolf.

"We had some great practices this week, and I told the kids it was time to turn it up a notch," Wolf said. "And I think they've

done that."

Shortly after Fostoria took a 9-8 lead, Cari Ritzman sank a pair of free throws to start an eight-point run for Ross. The Little Giants led 16-11 after one quarter.

Dawn Zerman scored 23 points and Ritzman 17 as 11 of 13 Little Giants scored. Sonya Fairley led Fostoria with 17 points.

Ross made 11 of 18 shots in the second quarter for a 38-23 half-time lead. Dena Schepflin scored six points to lead seven Ross players in the scoring column during the period.

In the third quarter, Zerman tossed in 11 points as the Ross lead expanded to 61-32.

"We played a very good ball game," Wolf said, "I thought that everyone that came in off the bench and everyone that started went out with the idea they were going to play a good ball game."

With that attitude, Wolf was able to work on a variety of things in game situations.

"We worked on a triangle-and-two, a 3-2, a man press, our zone press...and about three different offenses," Wolf said. "It was a good game for us."

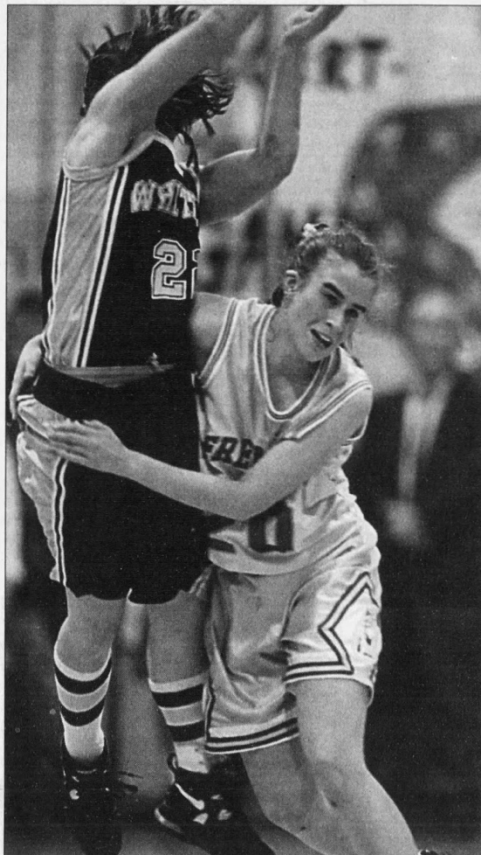
Whitmer takes GLL from Ross

KEY TO THE GAME

Little Giants lose 10-point lead

Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf shouldered the responsibility for the Little Giants losing a 10-point lead in Toledo Whitmer's 51-47 Great Lakes league championship victory Thursday night.

"I made the wrong substitutions ... poor coaching choices," Wolf said. It was Whitmer's second comeback win in a week. Last Thursday, the Panthers trailed Oregon Clay by nine points before winning 61-60.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CARI RITZMAN (right) of Fremont Ross fouls Toledo Whitmer's Theresa Downing during the fourth quarter Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Toledo Whitmer rallied from 10 points down to defeat Fremont Ross 51-47 and win the Great Lakes League girls basketball championship Thursday night.

Whitmer, 16-4, finished the GLL season 9-1. Ross, 15-5, finished 8-2 in the league.

Playing in front of a near capacity crowd at the Purple Pit, Whitmer trailed 39-29 with two minutes to play in the third quarter. Using a tight man-to-man defense, the Panthers closed the gap to a 43-38 at the end of the quarter.

The Little Giants made 8 of 13 shots in the third quarter but missed 6 of 8 in the final period. Whitmer, after going 3-for-12 in the third quarter, made 4 of 7 in the fourth.

"We knew we had to be conscious of where (Dawn) Zerman was all the time," Whitmer coach John Mohn said. "I thought we played better defense in the fourth quarter."

Zerman scored nine points in a 15-2 run that put Ross up by 10. She was held scoreless in the final quarter.

After forcing three Ross turnovers, Whitmer caught the Little Giants at 45-all on Jessica Viertelboeck's 3-point basket from the top of the foul circle with 3:35 remaining. Kellie Jakubowski put the Panthers on top a minute later with two free throws.

Ross ran a patient offense in the final quarter, at one time taking a minute off the clock before shooting.

"We wanted to run our offense and make hard cuts," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "but we took the wrong shots and it cost us. They were shots we were not capable of making."

Ross survived two more turnovers and three missed free throws by the Panthers before tying the game at 47 on Cari Ritzman's putback with 20 seconds left.

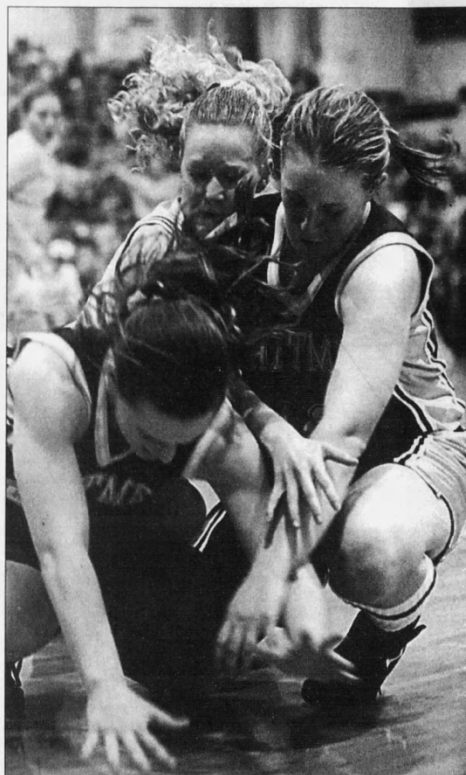
Theresa Downing put the Panthers up by two four seconds later on a driving layup.

"I think I would have rather had a little more time off the clock," Mohn said. "But it went in."

After Zerman missed a driving

"The crowd was great. We had all the support we could have asked for tonight. We got the crowd we wanted but not the result."

Sue Wolf, Ross coach



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

EMILY DOWELL (back) scrambles for a loose ball with Toledo Whitmer's Theresa Downing (left) and Jessica Viertelboeck during the second half of the Great Lakes League championship game Thursday night.

layup with eight seconds left, Whitmer's Teri Girrell made 2 of 4 free throws. Girrell made 1 of 2 then did it again after Jakubowski rebounded her first miss.

"The kids gave all they had to give," Wolf said, "but they may

have gotten tired."

Ross has been hit hard by the flu and colds this week.

Girrell finished with 13 points, Jakubowski 11 and Viertelboeck 10 for Whitmer. Ritzman had 17 and Zerman 16 for Ross.

All-GLL teams

Following is the All-Great Lakes League team released today. Teams were selected by a vote of the coaches.

FIRST TEAM

Player, school	Gr	Ht	PPG
Dawn Zerman, Ross	11	5-6	18.3
Kellie Jakubowski, Whit.	12	5-11	14.7
Kelli Fisher, Clay	12	6-1	13.2
Cari Ritzman, Ross.....	11	5-7	10.7
Teri Girrell, Whitmer.....	12	5-8	8.9

SECOND TEAM

Nancy Belkofer, N'view.....	11	5-7	10.1
Theresa Downing, Whit.	11	5-3	12.3
Erica Hare, Fostoria.....	12	5-9	11.4
Nicole Leathers, Clay.....	12	5-10	6.5
Morgan Ramsdell, N'view..	10	5-9	8.3

Player of the year: Zerman

Coach of the year: John Mohn, Whitmer

Honorable Mention

Clay: Gina Bollman, Carleigh Page, Jodi Jesion.

Fostoria: Sonya Fairley, Tina Barfield, Nicki Smith

Ross: Holly Pelfrey, Dena Schepflin, Emily Dowell

Napoleon: Katherine Updegraff, Amy Aschemeier, Taya Tassler

Northview: Lindsey Squire, Lindsay Sautter, Gwen Grachek

Whitmer: Elizabeth Edinger, Jessica Viertelboeck.

All-Northwest Ohio

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1995 Associated Press Northwest All-District girls high school basketball teams, as selected by a media panel from the district:

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Kari Barcus, Sylvania Northview, 6-foot-0, Senior, 18.2 points per game; Meghan Hinds, Toledo Notre Dame, 5-10, Jr., 18.2; Sunny Litteral, Mansfield Madison, 5-9, Sr., 15.8; Medinah Slaise, Lima Senior, 5-8, Jr., 17.9; **Dawn Zerman, Fremont Ross, 5-6, Jr., 18.3;** Melanie Sears, Tiffin Columbian, 6-3, Sr., 16.0.

SECOND TEAM: Jackie Adlington, Toledo St. Ursula, 6-1, Jr., 13.0; Jenn Wenner, Findlay, 5-10, Jr., 14.7; Mahogany Green, Toledo Bowsher, 5-7, Soph., 18.5; Shala Crawford, Mansfield Senior, 6-3, Soph. 16.0; Jill Laughlin, Celina, 5-7, Sr., 10.6.

THIRD TEAM: Mandy Crain, Perrysburg, 5-7, Jr., 12.6; Birdie Rayford, Toledo Bowsher, 5-9, Jr., 14.3; Julie Niekamp, Findlay, 6-1, Jr., 14.1; Anjee Beard, Tiffin Columbian, 5-11, Jr., 14.1; Jodi Rafferty, Celina, 5-10, Sr., 12.1.

Player of the year: Meghan Hinds, Toledo Notre Dame.

Coach of the year: Larry Kisabeth, Tiffin Columbian.

AREA HONORABLE MENTION

Cari Ritzman, Fremont Ross; Marce Collier, Sandusky.

Zerman on All-Ohio list

Dawn Zerman of Fremont Ross earned honorable mention on the Associated Press Division I All-Ohio girls basketball team announced today.

Zerman, a 5-foot-6 junior point guard, led the Little Giants to a school record 18 wins in 24 games and into the district finals this past season.

She averaged nearly 19 points per game to go with nearly seven assists per contest. **See list on B2.**



ZERMAN

Awards

Zerman, Root Ross basketball MVPs

News-Messenger reports

Dawn Zerman and Chad Root were presented with most valuable player awards during the Fremont Ross High School Basketball Awards Program Tuesday evening in the high school cafeteria.

Zerman, a junior, helped lead Ross to the Division I district finals as coach Sue Wolf's Little Giants won a record 18 out of 24 games.

Zerman, a three-year letter winner, also received a captain's trophy, best free throw shooter and most assists awards. Holly Pelfrey and Cari Ritzman also received captain's trophies.

Ritzman and Zerman shared the top rebounder award with 155 each and Pelfrey was named the top defensive player.

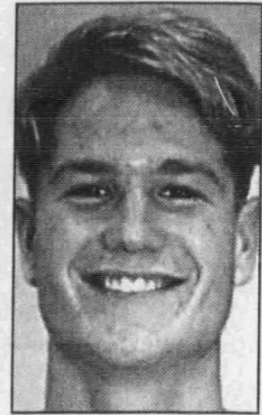
Sophomore Michele Smith was named the team's most improved.

Root won the award for coach Bruce Brown's boys team. Root, a senior, also received his third letter. as did Jon Minich.

Junior Geoff Berger won three awards:



ZERMAN



ROOT

highest free throw percentage, most assists and best defensive player.

Senior Chad Hoffman was named the team's most improved player while juniors Doug Hershey and Shaun Root won the top rebounder award with 98 each.

Brown announced that Berger and Hershey had been elected co-captains for the 1995-96 season.