

2008-2009 Season Review

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Stierwalt part of Ross basketball tradition

By **JEFF ARENZ**
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Billy Stierwalt never played a second of varsity basketball at Fremont Ross High School.

But his impact on the Little Giants' boys hoops program is still being felt now and will be felt for many years to come.

On Saturday, The Purple Pit will host the fourth-annual Billy Stierwalt Scholarship Alumni Basketball Game at 6 p.m.

"He was a huge supporter of our school and he loved basketball," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "I wanted to honor him by asking him to be our team manager."

Stierwalt, who had been diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, was a sophomore at Ross in 2004. After accepting Gedeon's offer, Stierwalt took on the role of stop-watch operator during Little Giants' practices.

But he was more than just Ross's team manager.

"He inspired us to go out and do our best," Gedeon said. "We have timed drills during practice because it keeps us on task with what we're trying to accomplish."

Because of his wheel chair, Stierwalt sat in the corner for every Ross home game.

"It was beautiful," Gedeon said. "When our players were introduced before games, every one of them would run over to him in the corner. He did a fantastic job of getting them pumped up and ready to play."

Stierwalt died in February 2006 after suffering a seizure. Proceeds from the game are used for scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 for senior Little Giants who will be attending college.

In remembrance of Stierwalt, a plaque of him hangs in the corner of The Purple Pit.

More than \$7,000 has been raised during the first three years of the game. Eleven scholarships have been awarded. The contest has featured 50 Little Giants' alumni and about 600 fans.

This year, Gedeon said he expects players from each of the last six decades to participate.

"This is like a family reunion," Gedeon said. "We're going to have Cory Clayton, Kurt Munson, Antoine Spencer, Paul Her-

shey coming back. There's even a father-son tandem that is going play — Russ and Ryan Zimmerman. Tom Brough, who played for Ross in the 1950s, has signed up."

Two games of basketball will be played. At 6 p.m., the non-competitive half-court Slow-Break contest will take place. At 7:15 p.m., the competitive Fast-Break game will begin.

In addition, there will be concessions, quilt raffles, a 50/50 drawing and fans will have the opportunity to sign up for a chance at making a halfcourt shot.

Gedeon believes Stierwalt has already become part of the Ross basketball tradition.

"During the summer in my Little Giants camp, I noticed some kids during an open gym session," Gedeon said. "They were pretending to be future Little Giants. As one of them played the role of an announcer, I saw them running over to Billy's plaque because they knew that's what Ross basketball players do."

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News-Messenger file photo

ROSS'S FRED SHEARON hugs William H. Stierwalt, far left, during introductions during the postseason in 2005. Stierwalt is the father of Billy Stierwalt, who died of Muscular Dystrophy.

2008-09 Fremont Ross Boys Basketball

Little Giants trying to compensate for losses

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — The Little Giants are buying into the team concept at the start of the 2008-2009 boys basketball season.

After losing Ryan Croudup-Levario to graduation and Dontaviyon Fleming to a transfer, boys basketball coach Mark Gedeon, now in his 14th season at the Ross helm, is looking for a new batch of players for scoring and rebounding.

"We need to have all of our players come through for us and contribute in every single game," said Gedeon, who guided the Little Giants to a 4-17 overall record and 2-8 mark in the Greater Buckeye Conference last season. "It's one of the things that we have taken pride in our program."

"We don't have a player who can go out and dominate a game by himself," Gedeon added. "We're going to need five players on the floor who are interacting as one — offensively and defensively. We're going to need players who can come off the bench and give us a spark as soon as they step on the floor. For us to have a successful season, we have to play together."

Croudup-Levario, the leading scorer (18.8 points) and rebounder (5.2 caroms) for Ross, was a first team pick in the GBC

and District 6. Fleming, who the Little Giants' second-leading scorer (9.1 points) and leading 3-point shooter, has transferred to Toledo Start to be closer to family members.

Four players at the top of Gedeon's rotation are seniors Jordan Jones (5-foot-9, point guard/shooting guard), Stephen Carnicom (6-6, wing) and Andrew House (6-5, post) and sophomore Shunnar Gamble (6-2, wing).

"We're going to have to play a more up-tempo than what we have done the last couple years," Gedeon said. "It may be going back to the way we played in the late 1990s, early 2000s, when we pushed the ball up the floor. We would like to see if we can score a lot of points. But, we also want to use pressure defenses in a variety of ways. If we can keep things moving (at an up-tempo pace), we can get more players in the game and use our depth to our advantage."

Jones averaged 4.8 points last season, but returns as the Little Giants' top assist man.

"We want to spread out the court and try to create mismatches with our big man," said Jones, who had 91 assists in 2007-2008. "(By drawing opposing defenses out), our guards should be able to use their speed to go right by them for layups."

With increased playing time, House should improve upon his averages in scoring (3.7 points) and rebounding (2.9 caroms).

"Whenever the point guards can see my hands and chest, I'm getting the ball inside," House said. "That's been the philosophy this year. But, we're definitely going to have a lot of outside work because of our speed, quickness and shooting ability."

House, who made 54 percent (35-of-65) of his shots last season, returns as the most accurate shooter. From long-range, Carnicom shot 43 percent (17-of-40) from 3-point land. Jones hit 64 percent (32-of-50) of his free throws. The Little Giants shot 43 percent (434-of-1,000) from the field and 61 percent (226-of-373) from the foul line in 2007-2008.

"We have had a lot of intensity (in our scrimmages), but we need more," House said. "Offensively, we've had no problems scoring. We definitely need to improve our defense by keeping down the opponents scoring and rebounding has to come up too."

Ross was outscored 61.8-55.2 and outrebounded 28.8-25.2 last season. The Little Giants lost nine games in 2007-2008 by six points or less.

"We competed and that is definitely one of the goals (again for us), Gedeon said. "Sometimes, the win-loss record doesn't tell an accurate story. If we were just one or two possessions better, maybe we're talking about a 13-win season instead of four."

Carnicom, who was second to Croudup-Levario in rebounding, averaged 4.9 boards one year ago.

2008-09 Schedule

Dec. 5	at Oregon Clay
Dec. 6	at Waite
Dec. 13	Bowling Green
Dec. 19	Marion Harding
Dec. 20	at Toledo Start
Dec. 23	Whitmer
Dec. 30	at Lima Sr.
Jan. 9	at Sandusky
Jan. 10	at Maumee
Jan. 16	Napoleon
Jan. 23	Findlay
Jan. 30	at Marion Harding
Jan. 31	Willard
Feb. 3	Rogers
Feb. 5	Lima Sr.
Feb. 13	Sandusky
Feb. 19	at Napoleon
Feb. 21	Tiffin Columbian
Feb. 24	at Northview
Feb. 27	at Findlay

"We've worked a lot on footwork," Carnicom said. Footwork is essential for gaining inside position in scoring and rebounding.

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GEDEON



3 Darien Spann

Position: Wing
Year: Junior



5 Terrance Hill

Position: Guard
Year: Sophomore



15 Jordan Jones

Position: Point Guard
Year: Junior



21 Shunnar Gamble

Position: Wing
Year: Sophomore



23 Kenny Penn

Position: Point Guard
Year: Junior



25 Marcus Dayringer

Position: Wing
Year: Junior



31 Jake Hiestand

Position: Wing
Year: Sophomore



33 Allen Lewis

Position: Post
Year: Sophomore



35 Stephen Carnicom

Position: Wing
Year: Senior



43 Marc Bolen

Position: Wing/Post
Year: Senior



45 Andrew House

Position: Point Guard
Year: Senior

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Ross comes up short against Clay

By MASON LOWRY
News-Messenger correspondent

OREGON — Ross boys basketball coach Mark Gedeon's team had Oregon Clay on the ropes in the second half of their opener.

"It was just a matter of getting one more stop or one more finish," Gedeon said. "We had them worried."

It was a commendable effort on the part of the shorthanded Little Giants, who came up on the losing end of the 67-57 decision against the Eagles. Four Fremont Ross players were suspended earlier in the week for violating team rules, and will also miss tonight's contest against Toledo Waite.

"The players that we had available tonight played their hearts out," Gedeon said. "It shows the character of those guys that they played as hard as they did and followed the very adjusted game plan."

The game itself was a track meet early on, with the Eagles pushing the tempo and shooting the lights out to the tune of 24 first quarter points. But the Little Giants kept themselves in it in the second quarter. A pair of free throws from Stephen Carnicom and six straight points from senior point guard Jordan Jones cut the Clay lead to 32-29, and they went into the half trailing 36-30.

Jones finished with a team-high 20 points and added five assists.

"He's had a growing-up experience in the offseason," Gedeon said of his point guard, "and he's matured into the role of senior leader. He controlled our tempo on offense and defense tonight."

Ross started to pick it up offensively in the third, with a put-back slam by Carnicom igniting a 10-3 run that saw the Little Giants take the lead on a Carnicom jumper in the lane. A bucket by Drew Kuns at the other end put Ross down one, and junior Darien Spann hit a floater to regain the lead. After that, however, the Eagles mounted a 15-3 charge to



Lee Welch/News-Messenger correspondent

See ROSS, B2

ROSS'S JORDAN JONES drives to the hoop during a game Friday against Clay at Oregon.

Ross

Continued From B1

grab a commanding lead that they would not relinquish, and for the rest of the game, Fremont Ross got no closer than eight points.

Carnicom scored 16, and also chipped in with eight boards and four blocks. The 6-foot-6 senior may well be the Little Giants' most versatile player, an athlete that can play inside but is also the team's leading three-point shooter from a year ago.

"He's very talented," Gedeon said. "He'll be a focal point again for us. He

just loves to play the game."

The Little Giants also got an unexpected lift from Spann, a 5-foot-7 junior who finished with 13 points and also knocked down the Giants' only two triples on the night, which is surprising considering that as a JV player last year he managed to hit only 3 percent - 1 of 34 - from beyond the arc.

"He has worked so hard in the offseason to become a complete player," Gedeon said. "It's great to see a kid that has worked so hard see that kind of success."

Terrelle Huggins led the Eagles with 20 points, while Kuns added 15, Matt Swain 12, and Terence Huggins 10. Jeremy Jago led all players with 10 boards to go with his seven points.

High School Boys

Oregon Clay 67, Ross 57

Ross	16	14	16	11	—	57
Clay	24	12	13	18	—	67

Ross - Jordan Jones 8-4-20, Stephen Carnicom 7-2-14, Darien Spann 5-1-13, Andrew House 2-0-4, Jake Hiestand 1-0-2, Allen Lewis 0-1-1.

Clay - Terrelle Huggins 7-5-20, Drew Kuns 5-4-15, Matt Swain 4-3-12, Terence Huggins 5-0-10, Jeremy Jago 3-1-7, Garrett Reese 1-0-3.

Three-point shooting - Ross 2 (Spann 2), Clay 4 (Swain, Kuns, Reese, Terrelle Huggins 1)

Rebounding - Ross 20 (Carnicom 8), Clay 27 (Jago 7)

Waite lowers boom on Ross

Egbert scores career-high 32 points for G'burg

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — An undermanned Fremont Ross boys basketball team fell prey to Toledo Waite on Saturday.

The Indians received 24 points from Antonio Allen, with 22 of them coming after the first 8 minutes, during an 82-49 thrashing of the Little Giants.

"The players we had on the court were very green," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "But when any members of our basketball program don't live up to their responsibilities, there will be consequences."

Four Ross players were suspended last week for violating team rules.

Waite took a 15-8 lead after the first quarter and held a 34-19 edge at halftime. Ross rallied in the third quarter, but still trailed 52-34. The Indians capped the game by using a 30-15 fourth-quarter run against the Little Giants.

Darien Spann scored 11 points on 5 field goals to lead Ross (0-2 overall). Jordan Jones added 8 points in part to draining six free throws. Marc Bolen and Andrew House each had 6 points for the Little Giants.

Allen led four Waite players in double figures.

Darius Glover scored 13 points, while Ke-Sean Harris had 12 and Luke Murphy added 11.

**Gibsonburg 56,
Danbury 48**

LAKE SIDE — Gibsonburg's Tony Egbert had a career game against Danbury on Saturday.

Egbert scored a career-high 32 points and added 19 rebounds as the Golden Bears got past the Lakers during a non-conference battle.

Gibsonburg overcame a 25-23 deficit at halftime by outscoring Danbury 33-23 in the second half.

T.J. Bowen contributed 14 points and Zach Smith pulled down 13 rebounds for the Golden Bears.

Michael Hammann produced a double-double for Danbury with 17 points and 15 rebounds.

Lakota 64, Arcadia 53

ARCADIA — Jacob Smith had 21 points to lead Lakota to a non-conference victory against Arcadia on Saturday.

Jake Wiseman drained a trio of 3-pointers en route to scoring 14 points for the Raiders (1-0). Ronnie Park and Scott Hoffman each contributed 9 points for Lakota.

Clay Baker had 16 points to pace Arcadia, which also received 10 points from Jake Aurand.

Editor's note: For complete results, turn to The Scoreboard on Page B2..

High School Boys

Toledo Waite 82, Ross 49

Fremont Ross 8 11 15 15 — 49

Toledo Waite 15 19 18 30 — 82

FREMONT ROSS (0-2) — Darien Spann 5-0-11; Justin Howell 1-2-4; Jordan Jones 1-6-8; Jake Hiestand 2-0-6; Allen Lewis 1-0-2; Stephen Carnicon 1-0-2; Max Sanchez 1-0-2; Marc Bolen 2-1-6; Andrew House 2-2-6. Totals 16-13-49.

TOLEDO WAITE — David Butte 2-0-4; Ke-Sean Harris 4-3-12; Evan Bauer 1-2-5; Dishon Harris 4-0-8; Antonio Allen 12-0-24; Darius Glover 6-1-13; Anthony Perrin 0-2-2; Luke Murphy 5-1-11; Dominique Roundtree 1-0-3. Totals 35-9-82.

3-point goals — Fremont Ross 4 (Hiestand 2, Spann, Bolen); Toledo Waite 3 (K. Harris, Bauer, Roundtree).

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Ross wins first

Gamble seals game with breakaway

By JOSH ROMANOTTO
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross Little Giants had a nine-point erased before picking up their first victory of the boys basketball season in the final seconds Saturday night.

Sophomore Shunnar Gamble took a pass from Stephen Carnicom and scored on a breakaway with less than 5 seconds remaining as Ross defeated Bowling Green 49-47 at The Purple Pit.

The victory was nothing but uplifting for the Little Giants (1-2 overall), who are coming off a 4-17 season during which they lost nine games by 6 points or less. Coach Mark Gedeon could not have been more proud of the effort his team put forth on Saturday.

"This is a very rewarding win for us, we were able to find a way to win," Gedeon said. "We have been through a rough past few seasons, but we were able to find a way to win tonight. We played well defensively, and even though we did not shoot as well as we would have liked, we were able to make plays."

The Bobcats, who were in the bonus with 5:54 left to play, trailed 39-38. But Bowling Green took its first lead since the first quarter (at 40-39) about a minute later, and build it to 45-43 with 2 minutes left.

The Little Giants fought back to tie the game at 45 with 55 seconds left. Gamble went to the foul line with an opportunity to give Ross a two-point lead, but was only able to make one free throw.

Senior Deonshayne Taylor, who went to the foul line for the Bobcats with 23.6 seconds left, could have put Bowling Green ahead, but after making his first free



Greg Burr/Submitted photo

FREMONT POST ANDREW HOUSE eyes the basket before attempting a field goal during the Little Giants' 49-47 non-conference victory against Bowling Green on Saturday night at the Purple Pit.

See ROSS, B2

Ross

Continued from B1

throw to force a 47-all tie, he missed his second attempt.

Ross senior post Stephen Carnicom came down with the rebound and found Gamble, who sprinted downcourt and put the ball in with just two seconds left.

On the ensuing inbound, Bowling Green advanced the ball to the right wing, but could not get a shot away.

The game was a defensive battle from the start. In the first quarter, both teams were pressuring, stopping each other from reaching the paint. After 8 minutes, the Little Giants led the Bobcats 9-6.

Things picked up in the second quarter, when the Bobcats went to sophomore Xavier Brown, who scored four quick points at the foul line as Bowling Green was in the bonus with 7:03 left in the first half.

The Little Giants went on a run of their own, led by senior Andrew House, who scored 8 points in the quarter, as Ross took a 23-14 lead, its biggest margin of the

game. House ended up with 10 points in the game.

But the Bobcats' defense clamped down as Bowling Green answered with a 9-4 run in the final 2 minutes of the half to cut its deficit to 27-23 at halftime.

"We knew we had to focus on Brown," Gedeon said. "We went into the locker room and made some adjustments as to what we could do to slow him down."

The adjustments Ross made in the locker room were effective, but they were not limited to Brown. The Little Giants were able to hold Brown to just 6 points in the second half, after he scored 8 first-half points and finished with a game-high 14. The Bobcats had 24 points during the final 16 minutes.

Defensive pressure picked up again on both sides in the third quarter as neither team was able to make a basket, only scoring a combined 16 points as Bowling Green had a 9-7 advantage. A 4 1/2-minute dry spell by both teams would keep the Bobcats in this game as they would pull within two points (34-32) heading into the fourth quarter.

Patrick Graham added 13 points for Bowling Green (1-3 overall).

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Ross's shaky start helps Start prevail

Little Giants hit 3-pointers, but fall to Spartans

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Despite hitting seven 3-point field goals, the Fremont Ross Little Giants dropped a non-conference basketball game at Toledo Start 78-67 on Saturday.

Start build a 21-17 lead after 8 minutes, while Ross stayed close in the second quarter, but trailed 36-29 at halftime. The Spartans outscored the Little Giants 18-13 in the third quarter to take a 54-42 advantage before Ross won the fourth quarter 25-24.

"It was an unfortunate start for us," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "Start scored on 10 of its first 13 possessions. We just failed to follow our defensive game plan."

Shunnar Gamble knocked down three 3-point shots en route to

scoring 17 points for the Little Giants. Stephen Carnicom led all Ross scorers with 20 points. Marc Bolen drained two shots from beyond the 3-point arc and finished with 10 points. Kenny Penn added 8 points in part to marking 6 free throws in the game.

Copeland had a game-high 23 points for Start, which received 20 more from Henderson.

Ross, which is 1-3 overall this season, hosts Toledo Whitmer on Tuesday.

Margaretta 66, Clyde 58

CASTALIA — A 17-9 first-quarter scoring run helped Margaretta upend Clyde during a Sandusky Bay Conference game Saturday.

The Polar Bears led by eight after 8 minutes and took a 10-point (32-22) edge at halftime. The Fliers won the third and fourth quarters 14-13 and 22-21, respectively, but could get no closer.

See **ROUNDUP, B2**

High School Boys

Toledo Start 78, Ross 67

FREMONT ROSS (1-3) — Spann 1-1-3, Hill 0-1-1, Gamble 5-4-17, Penn 1-6-8, Hiestand 1-0-3, Carnicom 6-7-20, Bolen 4-0-10, House 2-1-5. Totals — 20-20-67.

TOLEDO START — Christ 2-2-8, Crate 0-2-2, Gains 6-0-12, Henderson 8-4-20, Copeland 1-5-7, Russell 10-3-23, Garrett 0-2-2, Oswald 1-2-4. Totals — 28-20-78.

Ross **17 12 13 25 — 67**

Toledo Start **21 15 18 24 — 78**

3-point goals — Fremont Ross 7 (Gamble 3, Bolen 2, Hiestand, Carnicom); Toledo Start 2 (Christ 2).

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Little Giants beat Panthers

By MASON LOWRY
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross Little Giants have had their battles so far in this young season.

Tuesday night wasn't one of them. They won every quarter and never trailed in a 70-51 non-league win over Toledo Whitmer.

"We did some very good things tonight," Little Giant coach Mark Gedeon said. "We got off to a really good start."

They certainly did. Ross (2-3) raced its way to a 9-0 lead in the game's first four minutes, with four different players scoring baskets. The Panthers, meanwhile, couldn't find the bottom of the net. It took more than five minutes before the Panthers got on the board, when Zak Teel converted a three-point play at the 2:33 mark of the first quarter. A three at the other end courtesy of Marc Bolen pushed the Little Giant lead to 12-3, but the inside presence of burly 6-foot-5 senior Kenneth Hayes kept the Panthers in it. He accounted for six points and seven boards in the first half, and finished with a game-high 20 points and ten points.

"He's a beast," Gedeon said of Hayes. "A very talented player. He's got a variety of moves. He's a tough matchup for anybody."

A pair of coast-to-coast driving layups by athletic guard Dareon Jones cut the Whitmer deficit to 18-14, but the Little Giants responded with a 15-4 run to close out the half. Kenny Penn scored six of their final eight points before the end of the half on a pullup three from the wing, a free throw and a fine runner in the lane. The Little Giants took a 33-18 lead by the end of the half, a half in which the Panthers shot 0-of-12 from beyond the arc.

Penn finished with 16 points off the bench to lead the Little Giants.

"That was his best game so far," Gedeon said. "He did the things we expected him to do. He can shoot, he can penetrate, he has very good instincts."

The Panthers never got closer than 14 in the second half as Ross pulled away. Their largest lead of the night came after a fourth-quarter three by Shunnar Gamble pushed the advantage to 62-39.

Stephen Carnicom notched a double-double. He finished with 13 points, 11 boards and three blocks. Andrew House added 12



Mike Masella/News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT'S ANDREW HOUSE shoots over Whitmer's Zak Teel during a game Tuesday at the Purple Pit.

points, while senior guard Jordan Jones added eight points and also dished out seven assists.

"We're very, very pleased with

Jordan," Gedeon said. "He provides us with stability out on the floor, and he knows our expectations better than probably anyone

else on the team.

See GIANTS, B2

Giants earn second victory

Continued from B1

“He can direct people to the right spots on the floor, and good things can happen when people are in the right spots,” Gedeon continued.

With the game well in hand, Gedeon was able to empty his bench. Junior wing Max Sanchez scored the game’s final bucket, and Jake Hiestand scored an excellent up-and-under at the third-quarter buzzer. Through five games so

far this season, Gedeon has used 15 different players.

“When opportunities present themselves, we have to come through,” Gedeon said of his bench. “It makes our practices very competitive. We’re going to depend on every player throughout the course of the year.”

The Little Giants will get two days off for the Christmas holiday before taking the hardwood again in preparation for a Tuesday night Greater Buckeye Conference tilt on the road at Lima Senior.

High School Boys

Ross 70, Toledo Whitmer 51

Whitmer 6 12 17 16 — 51

Ross 12 21 18 19 — 70

Ross — Darien Spann 1-2-4, Jordan Jones 3-2-8, Shunnar Gamble 3-0-7, Kenny Penn 5-4-16, Marcus Dayringer 1-0-2, Jake Hiestand 1-0-2, Stephen Carnicom 5-1-13, Marc Bolen 1-1-4, Andrew House 4-4-12, Max Sanchez 1-0-2.

Whitmer — Mike Szymanski 1-2-5, Dareon Jones 3-1-7, Andrew Kroll 2-4-8, Chris Baker 2-0-4, Mitchell Kosier 0-2-2, Zak Teel 2-1-5, Hayes 8-4-20.

Three-point shots - Fremont Ross 6 (Carnicom 2, Penn 2, Bolen, Gamble), Toledo Whitmer 1 (Szymanski)

Rebounds - Fremont Ross 31 (Carnicom 11), Toledo Whitmer 27 (Hayes 10).

High School Boys

Lima Senior 71, Ross 50

Ross 10 18 10 12 — 50

Lima Senior 14 16 21 20 — 71

Ross — Jordan Jones 1-2-5; Shunnar Gamble 2-4; Kenny Penn 3-9-16; Stephen Carnicom 3-1-9; Mark Bolen 2-6; Andrew House 5-10. Totals: 16-12-50.

Lima Senior — A. Hutchins 7-2-17; Nickels 2-4; Healey 2-5; Thompson 0-1-1; Edwards 1-2; Walton 3-1-9; Pughsley 1-2-4; M. Hutchins 2-3-7; Wiggins 1-2; Perry 7-4-18; Bates 1-2. Totals: 27-13-71. [N](#)

Three-point goals: Ross — Jones, Penn, Carnicom 2; Bolen 2; Lima — A. Hutchins, Healey, Walton 2

Rebounds: Ross 24; Lima Senior 35

Turnovers: Ross 20; Lima Senior 7

Records: Lima 6-0 (2-0 GBC); Ross 2-4 (0-1 GBC)

Gedeon

First half, we played very well with our game plan. We did a real nice job with our matchups, trying to keep them outside and out of the paint. We were at a pretty big disadvantage with size.

Second half, their offensive rebounding just took over. Whatever they missed, they went out and got and converted into second-chance points.

Ross tops Harding inside



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS GUARD JORDAN JONES (15) passes the ball to post player **Andrew House** (45) during a Greater Buckeye Conference basketball game against Marion Harding on Tuesday at The Purple Pit. House scored 21 points to lead the Little Giants to a 78-63 win over the Presidents.

House, Carnicom lift Little Giants past Presidents

By **JEFF ARENZ**
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Giving up about four inches inside, Marion Harding was at a clear disadvantage during its 78-63 Greater Buckeye Conference boys basketball loss to Fremont Ross on Tuesday night at The Purple Pit.

Little Giants post **Andrew House** (6-foot-5) and wing **Stephen Carnicom** (6-foot-6) made life miserable for the Presidents, who allowed the duo to combine for 39 points and 18 rebounds.

"The big kids hurt us inside and they ran the floor pretty well," Harding coach **Roger Jury** said. "Our guards had a couple of fouls early, basically from helping (to stop) penetration. We're concentrating a lot on the big kids, especially after Fremont made a nice run."

House scored 21 points, mostly by establishing good position underneath the basket. He was 9-of-11 from the field and gave Ross the lead for good when he broke a 22-all tie by converting a 3-point play with 7:07 left before halftime.

Carnicom scored only two first-half buckets, including a layup that handed the Little Giants a 29-24 lead about 90 seconds later. He finished with 18 points and captured a game-high 12 rebounds.

"Offensively, they were the focal point for us because we knew we had a little bit of a height advantage over Harding," Ross coach **Mark Gedeon** said of House and Carnicom. "Andrew has been working very hard at getting position in the paint. I think he played a great game, especially because he was able to finish around the basket. Stephen, who is very long, athletic and active, used his length to very efficient inside."

In the first quarter, Harding point guard **Shawn Dyer** and swingmen **Shaquille Smith** and **Marvin Owens** drove the lane effectively to keep the Presidents close. Owens and Smith scored consecutive baskets to hand Harding a 13-10 lead at the 3:11 mark before



**Fremont
Ross 78,
Marion
Harding 63**

Dyer used a drive to tie the contest at 15 a little more than a minute later.

After Owens drained a 3-pointer from the left corner and Smith hit a jumper inside the arc, Harding had its biggest lead (20-15) before Ross scored the final 5 points of the period on a 3-pointer from **Marcus Dayringer** and a pair of free throws from Carnicom in the final minute.

"I think our guard did a great job getting to the rim, but sometimes our quickness hurts us," Jury said. "Our kids are so quick that sometimes we think we're there, instead of jumping up on that final one to make sure that we see the contact."

With Ross ahead 29-26 midway through the second quarter, **Darien Spann** hit the first of his two 3-point shots to ignite the Little Giants, who finished the first half on a 15-4 run. House connected twice, once on a layup and again on a baseline jumper.

In the final 2 minutes of the first half, Ross attacked Harding, which had no choice but to

See **ROSS, B2**

Ross

Continued from B1

foul. The Little Giants, who made eight straight free throws, were 11-of-13 at the foul line in the first half, when the Presidents' only charity attempt was an air ball from Owens.

Kenny Penn, who scored 16 points for the Little Giants, missed his first two free throw attempts, but went on to make his next eight foul shots. Ross was 15-of-20 at the charity stripe, while the Presidents were 7-of-16.

At halftime, Owens and Keivus Prude were saddled with three fouls apiece,

while Dyer and Jake White had two fouls each. All four players are Harding starters.

The Presidents made a 9-0 third-quarter run to trim their deficit to 53-45, but could get no closer. Spann ended Harding's scoring spree with another 3-point to extend the Ross lead to 11.

Owens scored a game-high 22 points for the Presidents (3-6, 0-2) on 10-of-14 shooting from the field. Smith had 11, Dyer and Prude each chipped in 10. Owens, Dyer, Jake White and Cory White all collected 3 rebounds for Harding.

Darien Spann finished with 8 points for Ross (3-4, 1-1), which is 3-0 at home and 0-4 on the road this season.

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High School Boys

Fremont Ross 78,

Marion Harding 63

Harding 20 10 19 14 — 63

Ross 20 24 14 20 — 78

MARION HARDING (3-6, 0-2) — Jake White 1-6 1-2 3; Shaquille Smith 5-10 1-2 11; Garrett Braddy 0-0 0-0 0; Cory White 1-7 0-0 3; Steve Manning-Rogers 1-2 1-1 3; Shawn Dyer 5-14 0-0 10; Marvin Owens 9-13 2-6 22; Johnquez Myles 0-0 0-0 0; Keivus Prude 4-8 2-3 10; Dennis Butler 0-0 1-2 1; Marc Yost 0-0 0-0 0-0. Totals — 26-60 (43%) 7-16 (44%) 63.

FREMONT ROSS (3-4, 1-1) — Darien Spann 3-6 0-0 8; Terrance Hill 1-1 0-0 2; Jordan Jones 1-1 0-2 2; Shunnar Gamble 2-5 0-0 5; Kenny Penn 4-6 8-10 16; Marcus Dayringer 1-2 0-0 3; Jake Hiestand 1-2 0-1 3; Stephen Carnicom 7-10 4-4 18; Marc Bolen 0-0 0-0 0; Andrew House 9-11 3-3 21; Josh Ballenger 0-0 0-0 0; Max Sanchez 0-0 0-0 0. Totals — 29-44 (66%) 15-20 (75%) 78.

3-point goals — Marion Harding 3-14 (Owens 2-2, C. White 1-6, Dyer 0-2, J. White 0-4); Fremont Ross 5-9 (Spann 2-2, Gamble 1-2, Hiestand 1-2, Dayringer 1-1, Penn 0-1, Carnicom 0-1). Rebounds — Marion Harding 19 (J. White 3, C. White 3, Dyer 3, Prude 3); Fremont Ross 28 (Carnicom 12, House 6, Gamble 3). Total fouls (Fouled out) — Marion Harding 19 (none); Fremont Ross 18 (none). Technical fouls — None. Blocked shots — Marion Harding 0; Fremont Ross 1 (Carnicom). Steals — Marion Harding 6 (Prude 3, Dyer 3); Fremont Ross 4 (Gamble 3). Turnovers — Marion Harding 12; Fremont Ross 15.

JV score — Fremont Ross 55, Marion Harding 46. Fremont Ross is 3-4 overall.

Little Giants win again at home

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — There seems to be a purple haze brewing this season when the Fremont Ross boys basketball team plays at home.

The Little Giants (4-4 overall, 2-2 Greater Buckeye Conference) improved to 4-0 at home Friday night after defeating Division II No. 20-ranked Napoleon 52-48 at the Purple Pit.

The Wildcats dropped to 6-2 (2-2 GBC).

"You have to give Fremont credit for running their offense and defense better than we did," Napoleon coach Tim Badenhop said. "They made adjustments at halftime to our press and played with more emotion in the second half than we did."

The Little Giants, who shot 51 percent (21-of-41) from the field, were led by Shunnar Gamble, who scored 9 of his game-high 14 points in the fourth quarter after the Wildcats built a 38-36 lead with 8 minutes left.

"Shunnar did a great job rebounding in the first quarter," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "But I felt like he was playing a little soft in the second half. I told him that he needs to be strong inside in the paint."

Gamble responded by leading the Little Giants' 9-3 run early in the period with a layup, a left-wing 3-pointer and a layup in transition as Ross extended its lead to 45-42 with 4:10 remaining.

He added 9 rebounds for the Little Giants who claimed a 32-21 edge on the boards. Stephen Carnicom led all rebounders with 11 for Ross, while teammate Andrew House supplied 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting and pulled down 5 cars.

And with the Little Giants rebounding the ball, the Wildcats didn't have time to set up their 1-2-2 fullcourt press.

"With a decisive advantage in rebounding, Gamble, Carnicom and House really helped us control Napoleon's press, which really gave us only a few transition layups," Gedeon said.

Jordan Kruse hit a pair of free throws with 3:04 left and Thomas Conry's putback of Napoleon miss gave the Wildcats a 46-45 lead with 2:35 remaining. Matching Gamble, Kruse had a game-high 14 points on 6-of-12 shooting for Napoleon.



Doug Hise/News-Messenger correspondent

See ROSS, B2

FREMONT ROSS'S SHUNNAR Gamble puts up a shot against Nick Rettig of Napoleon during Friday's game.

Ross

Continued From B1

The rest of the Wildcats, who combined for a 12-of-36 (33 percent) effort from the field, shot 38 percent in the game. Even more frigid, Napoleon was 2-of-17 (12 percent) from the 3-point arc. In comparison, Ross was 7-of-16 (44 percent) from 3-point land.

"It's hard to makeup points when we're missing shots, especially 3-pointers," Badenhop said. "We knew, at some point, we would have a (shooting) night like this."

With 91 seconds left, Jordan Jones gave the Little Giants the lead for good after draining a left-wing 3-pointer. He finished with 9 points on 3-of-4 shooting from 3-point territory.

"Fremont hung loose and capitalized on situations when they could extend the lead," Badenhop said. "We just didn't take advantage of that."

The Little Giants had a 15-12 lead after 8 minutes on a pair of 3-pointers from Gamble and another from Darien

Spann. Napoleon countered with Lee Hunter, who scored 8 first-quarter points and ended up with 12.

The Wildcats, who used a 13-2 run to close the second quarter, were led by 6 points from Kruse during that span to grab a 23-22 edge at halftime. Joel Hunter had 5 of his 8 points and Nick Retie scored 5 of his 7 points during the third quarter, when Napoleon outscored Ross 15-14 to take a 38-36 lead.

"We told our kids to stay focused on every possession," Gedeon said. "We've been in a lot of close games during the last two years. We lost nine times last season by six points or less. I think some of that experience is carrying over into this season."

Ross reached the .500-mark in its eighth game this season after going only 4-17 during the 2007-2008 campaign.

"This is a win that creates an identity for us, which is something we have been searching for," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "I have great respect for Napoleon. And to beat a quality team like this might mean that we're finally turning the corner."

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High School Boys

Fremont Ross 52, Napoleon 48

Napoleon	12	11	15	10	—	48
Ross	15	7	14	16	—	52

NAPOLEON (6-2, 2-2) — Jordan Kruse 6-12 2-2 14; Joel Hunter 3-12 1-2 8; Lee Hunter 4-9 3-4 12; Spencer Plassman 0-3 0-0 0; Nick Rettig 3-4 1-1 7; Kyle Niermann 0-4 3-4 3; Andrew Keller 1-3 0-0 2; Thomas Conry 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS — 18-48 (38%) 10-13 (77%) 48.

FREMONT ROSS (4-4, 2-2) — Darien Spann 1-4 0-0 3; Jordan Jones 3-7 0-1 9; Shunnar Gamble 6-10 1-2 14; Kenny Penn 2-7 2-2 7; Marcus Dayringer 0-0 0-0 0; Jake Hiestand 1-2 0-0 3; Stephen Carnicom 2-3 0-0 4; Marc Bolen 0-0 0-0 0; Andrew House 6-8 0-0 12. TOTALS — 21-41 (51%) 3-5 (60%) 52.

3-point field goals — Napoleon 2-17 (J. Hunter 1-5, L. Hunter 1-3, Keller 0-1, Plassman 0-2, Niermann 0-2, Kruse 0-4); Fremont Ross 7-16 (Jones 3-4, Spann 1-2, Hiestand 1-2, Gamble 1-3, Penn 1-4, Carnicom 0-1). Rebounds — Napoleon 21 (Niermann 5, Keller 5); Fremont Ross 32 (Carnicom 11, Gamble 9, House 5). Team fouls (Fouled out) — Napoleon 13 (none); Fremont Ross 14 (none). Technical fouls — None. Steals — Napoleon 13 (Kruse 4, L. Hunter 4); Fremont Ross 4 (Gamble 2). Blocked Shots — Napoleon 0; Fremont Ross 3 (Carnicom 2). Turnovers — Napoleon 13; Fremont Ross 18.

Defense lifts Little Giants to road victory

By **JEFF ARENZ**
Sports Writer

SANDUSKY — The Fremont Ross defense clamped down on Sandusky during the second half of a Greater Buckeye Conference boys basketball game Saturday night.

Allowing the Blue Streaks to score only 14 points in the final 16 minutes, the Little Giants broke a 17-game regular-season road losing streak with a 63-49 GBC victory at Sandusky.

"This is another confidence boost for our players," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "It means they are buying into what we, as coaches, are preaching to them."

The Little Giants' last regular-season road win came almost two

years ago to the day when Ross posted a 47-39 victory at Toledo Bowsher on Jan. 16, 2007.

The road losing skid spanned the final three away games of the 2006-2007 season, all 10 road games in the 2007-2008 campaign and the first four away contests this season — a stretch of exactly two years and one day.

After beginning this season with two wins in their first six games, the Little Giants have won three straight contests — all against league rivals Marion Harding, Napoleon and Sandusky — to climb over the .500-mark at 5-4 overall and 3-1 in the GBC. The last time Ross had a record better than .500 was at the end of the 2005-2006 season, when the Little

Giants finished with a 16-6 mark and a GBC title.

Ross built a 38-35 lead at half-time before outscoring Sandusky 25-14 in the second half.

Stephen Carnicom scored 8 points, but his defensive effort loomed large for Ross. Carnicom, a 6-foot-6 senior swingman who added 5 rebounds, 5 blocked shots and 3 steals, used his enormous wing-span to clog the passing lanes and alter the field goal attempts of Sandusky center Kiewann Collins.

Collins, a 6-foot-6 senior who had 11 points for the Blue Streaks, was limited to 5 points on four shots in the second half.

"If there could be a shutdown corner (back) in basketball like

there is in football, that's what Stephen gave us tonight," Gedeon said. "For him to stand 6-6 and be able to defend like that against another player who is also 6-6, it's a huge credit to our team."

Sophomore guard Cordney Strickland led Sandusky (2-6, 0-2) with 19 points, but was held scoreless in the third quarter and made only two fourth-quarter field goals. He added a 1-of-4 effort at the foul line during the final 8 minutes.

"The difference was the second half," Blue Streaks coach Steve Keller said. "We scored only 14 points and didn't play well. Our offense didn't move the ball and Fremont didn't allow us to get many baskets in transition."

Ross held Sandusky to 40 percent (21-of-52) shooting overall and to 29 percent (4-of-14) from behind the 3-point arc. The Little Giants shot 44 percent (22-of-50) from the field and connected 35 percent (6-of-17) of the time from 3-point land.

Post player Andrew House established himself inside the paint, where he scored 6 of his 9 points for Ross in the first quarter. His transition layup cut Sandusky's lead to 9-8 at the 3:20 mark.

Strickland, who knocked down the first of his four 3-point shots to give the Blue Streaks their ninth point, gave Sandusky its biggest lead of the game (11-8) on

See **ROSS, B4**

Ross

Continued from B1

a drive to the basket 29 seconds later.

But the Little Giants closed out the first quarter with a trio of 3-point shots from Jake Hiestand, Darien Spann and Marc Bolen to grab a 17-15 advantage after 8 minutes.

Junior guard Kenny Penn scored a game-high 20 points for Ross by producing a 10-point second-quarter and a 10-point second half. Penn broke a 19-all tie with a transition layup during a 9-1 run that helped the Little Giants extend their lead to 26-20.

Carnicom added a pair of baskets in the Ross run and Penn converted a 3-point play after scoring another transition layup with 4:10 left in the first half.

"It seemed like it was easy to go to the hole," Penn said. "And my teammates were following what I was doing. We like having consistency. If we miss a shot, the coaches tell us to keep on shooting. We need to forget about the last play and make the next one."

Strickland stopped the Little Giants' scoring spree by draining a right-wing 3-pointer 15 seconds later and put the Blue Streaks ahead 30-28 with a left-wing 3-pointer with 2:50 remaining in the first half.

Penn tied the game at 30 after scoring on a baseline drive and teammate Jordan Jones gave Ross the lead for good after dropping in a 3-pointer from the left corner 47 seconds later.

After the Little Giants took a 38-35 edge into the break, Ross expanded its lead by hitting 10-of-12 free throws in the second half, including one that came when House converted a 3-point play to help the Little Giants grab a 49-40 advantage at the 3:05 mark of the third quarter.

Averaging 70 percent from the foul line this season, Ross made 87 percent (13-of-15) of its free throw attempts against Sandusky, which went 3-of-10 at the charity stripe for 30 percent.

Jones and Shunnar Gamble each ended up with 7 points and a team-high 6 rebounds for Ross, which won the battle of the boards 29-24.

Collins completed a double-double for Sandusky with 11 points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

High School Boys

Ross 63, Sandusky 49

Ross	17	21	11	14	—	63
Sandusky	15	20	7	7	—	49

FREMONT ROSS (5-4, 3-1) — Darien Spann 1-4 1-2 4; Jordan Jones 2-8 2-2 7; Shunnar Gamble 3-7 0-1 7; Kenny Penn 6-10 7-7 20; Marcus Dayringer 0-1 0-0 0; Jake Hiestand 1-1 0-0 3; Stephen Carnicom 3-9 2-2 8; Marc Bolen 2-2 0-0 5; Andrew House 4-8 1-1 9. Totals — 22-50 (44%) 13-15 (87%) 63.

SANDUSKY (2-6, 0-2) — Dominique Stovall 1-6 0-0 2; Taj Dickerson 2-7 0-2 4; Kiewann Collins 5-9 1-2 11; Cordney Strickland 7-11 1-4 19; Jay Page 3-10 0-0 6; Josh Harvey 1-3 0-0 2; Jarrod Williams 2-6 1-2 5. Totals — 21-52 (40%) 3-10 (30%) 49.

3-point goals — Fremont Ross 6-17 (Bolen 1-1, Hiestand 1-1, Gamble 1-1, Penn 1-3, Spann 1-3, Jones 1-5, Dayringer 0-1, Carnicom 0-2); Sandusky 4-14 (Strickland 4-6, Dickerson 0-1, Harvey 0-1, Stovall 0-1, Page 0-2, Williams 0-3). Rebounds — Fremont Ross 29 (Gamble 6, Jones 6, Carnicom 5); Sandusky 24 (Collins 12). Total fouls (Fouled out) — Fremont Ross 13 (none); Sandusky 14 (none). Technical fouls — Sandusky 1 (Coach Steve Keller). Steals — Fremont Ross 10 (Carnicom 3, Jones 3); Sandusky 6 (Collins 2, Stovall 2). Blocks — Fremont Ross 5 (Carnicom 5); Sandusky 2 (Collins, Harvey). Turnovers — Fremont Ross 16; Sandusky 15.

Junior Varsity — Fremont Ross defeated Sandusky. Fremont Ross is 5-4 overall.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Kraus leads Findlay over Ross

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Guard Luke Kraus emerged as the dominant player during the second half of Findlay's 48-44 Greater Buckeye Conference basketball victory against Fremont Ross on Friday at The Purple Pit.

Kraus, who had 16 points during the final 16 minutes, scored a game-high 21 points for the Trojans, who overcame 39 percent (15-of-38) shooting from the field.

"We feel that when we play, Luke is going to be the best player on the floor and, hopefully, he can take over," Findlay coach Jim Rucki said. "We certainly were struggling, offensively, in the first half. We couldn't make a shot or get any second opportunities. Luke made some plays for us (in the second half) that allowed us to stretch the lead out."

The Ross defense limited Kraus to 5 points in the first half on 2-of-10 shooting from the field. The Little Giants led 6-4 after 8 minutes and were ahead 13-5 after 11 minutes had expired.

"I thought early in the game we accomplished a lot of our goals with some of our defensive rotations that limited some of Findlay's opportunities," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

Stephen Carnicom, who led Ross (5-5, 3-2) with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 3 steals, buried a left-corner 3-pointer in the first 20 seconds of the second quarter to start a 7-1 Little Giants run. Kenny Penn scored on a drive with 6:12 left in the first half before Carnicom put back a missed shot about a minute later as Ross took its biggest lead of the game.

With everything going right for the Little Giants, Findlay charged back. With 5 minutes left before halftime, the Trojans went on a 13-5 run to force an 18-all tie at the break.

"We stood around a little bit, and that was because of Fremont's defense," Rucki said. "They confused us a little, but we shot really poorly. We were not missing shots, we were bricking them."

Clay Paul and Brock Ammons came off the Findlay bench to lead the scoring spree. Ammons' layup cut the Little Giants' lead to 13-9 at the 3:20 mark before Paul hit 2-of-3 free throws and knocked down a left-wing 3-pointer about 2 minutes later. Ammons finished with 10 points and Paul had 5 more as the Trojans edged Ross 15-9 in bench scoring.

"My biggest fear in coming here is to get behind early," Rucki said. "It seemed like we were



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

FREMONT'S SHUNNAR GAMBLE is pressured by Findlay's Kevin Krucki during Friday's Greater Buckeye Conference game in Fremont.

in quick sand. The more we tried to get out of it, the deeper we sank. But the last few minutes of the first half were huge."

Findlay came out firing in the second half, when Ammons and Kraus each drained a pair of wide-open 3-pointers. Ammons right-corner 3-point at the 4:12 mark gave the Trojans their first lead of the game (25-24). It began a 14-3 Findlay run that was only matched by the Little Giants' Andrew House, who converted a layup into

a 3-point play at the 1:02 mark.

"In the second quarter, and then in the third, we started to have some bad defensive rotations," Gedeon said. "Findlay hit four 3-pointers in the third quarter because most of the were (defensive) mistakes on our part. You have to tip your hat to them for making the shots, but we had to play the basketball there."

House finished with 11 points and 7 rebounds for Ross, which trailed 36-27 with 8 minutes left.

Kraus tallied 8 of Findlay's 12 points in the fourth quarter, when the Trojans extended their lead to as many as 11 points (43-32).

The Little Giants were 9-of-15 at the foul line, but made only 4-of-9 free throws in the final 8 minutes and 6-of-12 charity shots in the second half. Ross shot 39 percent (16-of-41) from the field and won the rebounding battle 30-26.

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High School Boys

Findlay 48, Fremont Ross 44

Findlay 4 14 18 12 — 48

Ross 6 12 9 17 — 44

FINDLAY (7-4, 2-2) — Luke Kraus 7-20 5-7 21; Zach Bundy 2-3 1-2 5; Clay Paul 1-1 2-3 5; Kevin Krucki 2-5 3-5 7; Matt Strzempka 0-0 0-0 0; Brock Ammons 3-9 2-2 10; Jeff Cole 0-0 0-0 0. Totals — 15-38 (39%) 13-19 (68%) 48.

FREMONT ROSS (5-5, 3-2) — Darien Spann 0-1 0-0 0; Terrance Hill 0-0 0-0 0; Jordan Jones 3-8 0-0 7; Shunnar Gamble 1-1 0-0 2; Kenny Penn 1-6 2-2 4; Marcus Dayringer 1-3 0-0 2; Jake Hiestand 1-2 0-1 3; Stephen Carnicom 5-12 4-8 15; Marc Bolen 0-1 0-0 0 Andrew House 4-7 3-4 11. Totals — 16-41 (39%) 9-15 (60%) 44.

3-point goals — Findlay 5-12 (Paul 1-1, Ammons 2-4, Kraus 2-5, Krucki 0-2); Fremont Ross 3-10 (Carnicom 1-2, Hiestand 1-2, Jones 1-2, Bolen 0-1, Dayringer 0-1, Penn 0-1, Spann 0-1). Rebounds — Findlay 26 (Kraus 7, Ammons 5); Fremont Ross 30 (Carnicom 11, House 7). Total fouls (Fouled out) — Findlay 18 (Cole); Fremont Ross 20 (Carnicom). Steals — Findlay 5 (Kraus 3); Fremont Ross 7 (Carnicom 3). Blocks — Findlay 0; Fremont Ross 1 (Carnicom). Turnovers — Findlay 11; Fremont Ross 16.

JV: Findlay 38, Ross 32.

Carnicom leads Ross over Maumee

By MASON LOWRY
News-Messenger correspondent

MAUMEE — Many of Stephen Carnicom's shots in the lane fell as softly as the snow that was coming down outside.

Many of them were the same shots that didn't drop last week against Findlay.

Carnicom finished with 20 points and nine boards to lead the Little Giants to a 61-55 win at Maumee in a non-league matchup.

"He has the ability to control the game, and you saw it tonight," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said of his senior forward. "Did we play our 'A' game?"



CARNICOM

No. Did we get tested? Without question."

Ross (6-5) had a hard time adjusting to the Panthers' slow tempo at the outset. A pullup jumper by Jay Hall tied the

game at six with two minutes left in the first quarter before a pair of Carnicom free throws and a triple in the corner from Kenny Penn pushed the Little Giant lead to 11-6. Both teams played the second quarter at an almost even clip, with Ross never leading by

more than three. Late in the quarter, the Panthers (1-12) rattled off five straight points on a Jay Hall driving layup and a bucket and free throw by Anthony Barnum, and Maumee took a 24-23 lead into the break.

"Give them credit, they dictated the tempo in the first half," Gedeon said. "We wanted to wear them down inside."

And wear them down they did. The Little Giants kept pumping the ball inside to Carnicom and Andrew House, who accounted for a dozen of the team's 18 third quarter points. The Panthers continued to hang around, and when Steven Boyd

poured in five straight points towards the end of the period, it put his team back on top 36-35. But Ross then reeled off an 8-0 run that extended into the fourth quarter, putting the game out of reach.

"That spurt was the difference," Gedeon said.

Maumee twice cut the lead to seven but could draw no closer. The Little Giants were able to hit free throws down the stretch, knocking down 17 of 24 attempts from the charity stripe.

"It's a nice weapon to have," Gedeon said.

See CARNICOM, B2

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 61, Maumee 55

Ross	11	12	18	20	—	61
Maumee	10	14	12	19	—	55

Ross— Darien Spann, 2-2-7; Jordan Jones, 1-1-3; Shunnar Gamble, 1-3-5; Kenny Penn, 2-7-12; Jake Hiestand, 1-0-2; Stephen Carnicom, 8-4-20; Marc Bolen, 2-0-4; Andrew House, 4-0-8.

3 point goals— Penn, 1; Spann, 1.

Rebounds— Ross 24 (Carnicom 9).

Maumee— Jon Hall, 1-2-5; Jay Hall, 6-2-14; Josh Eckert, 1-0-3; Steven Boyd, 3-4-10; Brian Rahman, 1-1-3; Anthony Barnum, 8-4-20.

3 point goals— Jon Hall, 1; Eckert, 1.

Rebounds— Maumee 18 (Barnum 8).

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Giants edged by Presidents

News-Messenger reports

Stephen Carnicom had 16 points but Fremont Ross's boys basketball was edged by Marion Harding 54-52 in the Greater Buckeye Conference on Friday.

The Little Giants (6-6, 3-3) led 42-36 entering the fourth quarter. Marion Harding had a 22-4 scoring run in the fourth before Ross tied the game with 30 seconds left to play.

The Presidents hit a shot with 4.6 seconds to go for the victory.

"I'm pretty disappointed in the last 10 minutes of the ballgame," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We got off to a good start with Carnicom getting 10 points in the first quarter.

"We were up 42-28 in the third and then we started playing pretty selfish basketball.

Jordan Jones and Kenny Penn each added 13 points for Ross.

boys basketball team fell to Otsego 64-50 in the Suburban Lakes League.

Dillon Winke added 10 points for the Raiders.

Bowling

Streaks swept

Kayla Hill had games of 133 and 151 (284) but St. Joseph Central Catholic's girls bowling team lost to Port Clinton 2,276-1,698.

The boys fell 2,884-2,227.

Wrestling

Hilty in quarterfinals

SJCC's Austin Hilty (112 pounds) earned a second-round championship after a first-round bye at the Lima Cen-

High School Boys

Marion Harding 54, Ross 52

Ross	17	11	14	10	—	52
Harding	12	11	13	18	—	54

Ross — Darien Spann 1-0-2; Jordan Jones 5-13; Shunnar Gamble 1-1-3; Kenny Penn 2-9-13; Marcus Dayringer 1-3; Stephen Carnicom 7-2-16; Andrew House 1-2. Totals: 18-12-52

Harding — Jake White 3-7; Smith 3-1-7; Cory White 3-7; Riedlinger 2-4; Dyer 6-2-16; Owens 3-2-11; Prude 1-2. Totals: 21-5-54

Three-point goals: Ross — Jones 3, Dayringer; Harding — J. White, C. White, Dyer 2, Owens 3

Turnovers: Ross 18, Harding 15

Records: Ross 6-6 (3-3 GBC); Harding 5-9 (1-4 GBC).



Doug Hise/News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT ROSS FORWARD SHUNNAR GAMBLE attempts to score over Willard defender Justin Lake during a non-conference basketball game Saturday at The Purple Pit.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Ross crushes Crimson Flashes

Defensive pressure, scoring from 3-point land highlight Little Giants' rout of Willard

By JOSH ROMANOTTO
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — A heavy mix of defensive pressure and ball control propelled the Fremont Ross Little Giants to a dominating 66-36 non-conference win over Willard on Saturday at The Purple Pit.

Right from the start, the Little Giants took it to the Crimson Flashes by finishing the first quarter with a 16-9 lead. More of the same happened in the second quarter, when Ross outscored Willard 13-7, holding the Crimson Flashes to just 16 points in 16 minutes. The Little Giants walked into the locker room with a 13-point lead (29-16).

"We came into the game, leading the league from downtown and we take pride in our ability to shoot the 3-ball," Ross

coach Mark Gedeon said. Ross drained eight 3-point shots in the game, including a trio of shots from behind the arc in the first half.

The Little Giants, who had four players in double digits, were led by Shunnar Gamble with 15 points, Kenny Penn with 14, Darien Spann with 12 and Stephen Carnicom with 10. Curtis Baker led Willard with 7 points and 5 rebounds.

Ross's defensive pressure stayed strong in the third quarter and the scoring picked up. The Little Giants held the Crimson Flashes to 13 third-quarter points while scoring 18 themselves to grab a 47-29 advantage heading to the final 8 minutes.

"We have been striving for defensive energy, and we really showed that energy here," Gedeon said.

It was more of the same in the

fourthquarter, when Willard went through a 3-minute scoring drought. The Little Giants' mix of defensive pressure and the Crimson Flashes' lack of finding the bottom of the net allowed Ross to produce a 14-0 run.

Both teams encountered the problem of foul trouble. The Little Giants racked up 20 fouls, while the Flashes had 23.

"We came out and competed tonight, but the one thing we need to work on is getting out of foul troubles," Gedeon said.

Gedeon was pleased the Little Giants (8-6) bounced back from a tough Greater Buckeye Conference loss (54-52) at Marion Harding on Friday.

"After dropping a close one in the last five seconds last night, it was nice to come out and give consistent energy tonight, both offensively and defensively," Gedeon said. "But when all five of the guys come together and play like we did tonight, it's something to strive for."



Ross 66, Willard 36

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Jennifer Young-Bower/News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT'S KENNY PENN is chased by Lima Senior's Danyel Walton during the match-up at Ross on Thursday night.

Spartans hammer Little Giants

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Trailing by as many as 37 points, Fremont Ross was blown out of a Greater Buckeye Conference boys basketball game by Division I No. 7-ranked Lima Senior 74-48 on Thursday night at The Purple Pit.

The Little Giants, who were down 23-5 after 8 minutes and 41-13 at halftime, didn't show any sign of life after allowing the Spartans to score 16 of the first 18 points.

Ross coach Mark Gedeon was displeased with his team's effort.

"Each one of our players has to look at himself in the mirror and decide what commitment they want to make," Gedeon said. "If they want to continue to let the outside influences to keep coming in, then we're going to continue to have this happen. If they want to focus on what it means to be Fremont Ross basketball, then they'll realize they will all have to step up and do what is asked of them."

Lima Senior guard Anton Hutchins, who finished with game-highs in points (20), rebounds (5) and steals (3),

outscored the Little Giants by himself in the first half. He scored 16 points in the first 16 minutes, including 12 points and all 5 of his rebounds in the first quarter.

"We wanted to get off to a good start after losing a league game last week at Napoleon," said Lima Senior coach Shawn Allen. "Being a school night, a Thursday night, we're a little bit out of rhythm. We feed on a lot of energy, and our crowd wasn't here. But we played a lot of zone, they missed some shots and we took advantage of rebounding and get-

ting an outlet pass to the other end."

The Spartans, who shot 52 percent (30-of-58) from the field, held the Little Giants to 40 percent shooting (14-of-35) and employed a 2-2-1 trapping defense that yielded a 12-4 advantage in steals.

Ross went the first 2 minutes of the game without scoring, until Stephen Carnicom hit a turnaround jumper that cut Lima Senior's lead to 5-2. But Hutchins followed with a steal that led to a his own put back before Robert

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Ross

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Thompson scored after driving the baseline.

When Gedeon asked for a time out at the 5:03 mark, the Little Giants, who were trailing 9-2, had taken only four shots and committed three turnovers.

After play resumed, Hutchins continued Lima Senior's onslaught with a layup before hitting a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Thompson's steal turned into a transition layup at the 3:01 mark before Ross burned another time out.

"Lima Senior is an outstanding ball-club," Gedeon said. "When you're 13-1, one of the top 10 teams in the state and many people are picking them to go far in the tournament, we know that we had some obstacles to overcome.

"At the same time, if you're a competitor, you will try to compete against those types of situations. They didn't do anything that we didn't prepare for. Li-

ma Senior played extremely well offensively and defensively. Unfortunately, our kids didn't do what we asked them to do."

Carnicom finished with a team-high 12 points, mostly from his 7-of-8 effort at the foul line. He added 4 rebounds.

After a 12-0 run gave the Spartans a 31-5 lead with 5 minutes left in the first half, Little Giants post player Andrew House, scored Ross's next 5 points on a pair of field goals and a free throw. He ended up with 11 points and 4 rebounds.

Even though Ross (7-8 overall, 3-4 GBC) nearly matched the Spartans point-for-point (43-38) over the final 20 minutes, the game had clearly been decided in the first 12 minutes.

"We're a man-to-man (defensive) team, but the 2-2-1 zone is something that we had success with the first time against Ross," Allen said. "As coaches, we kind of go with our gut feeling. After we tried it again, we started having some success, and it kind of snowballed from there."

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High School Boys

Lima Senior 74

Fremont Ross 48

Lima Senior 23 18 11 22 — 74

Fremont Ross 5 8 11 24 — 48

LIMA SENIOR (13-1, 6-1) — Anton Hutchins 9-14 1-3 20; Jonathon Washington 0-3 0-0 0; Zach Rumbaugh 0-0 0-0 0; Adrian Nichols 3-4 1-2 7; Da'Shon Bates 1-1 2-2 4; Jermonte Healey 2-8 2-4 6; Robert Thompson 3-7 0-0 6; Danyel Walton 3-3 0-0 8; Jarrod Pughsley 2-2 0-0 4; Marlon Hutchins 2-6 1-1 5; Kendall Jackson 0-0 0-0 0; Angelo Wiggins 3-5 0-2 6; Tyrone Perry 2-5 4-6 8. Totals — 30-58 (52%) 11-20 (55%) 74.

FREMONT ROSS (7-8, 3-4) — Darien Spann 1-2 0-0 2; Matt Price 1-2 1-2 3; Jordan Jones 0-1 0-1 0; Shunnar Gamble 0-4 2-2 2; Kenny Penn 2-5 2-2 6; Marcus Dayringer 2-2 0-0 5; Jake Hiestand 2-6 0-2 6; Allen Lewis 0-0 1-2 1; Stephen Carnicom 2-5 7-8 12; Max Sanchez 0-1 0-0 0; Marc Bolen 0-0 0-1 0; Andrew House 4-7 3-6 11. Totals — 14-35 (40%) 16-26 (62%) 48.

3-point goals — Lima Senior 3-9 (Walton 2-2, A. Hutchins 1-1, M. Hutchins 0-1, Thompson 0-1, Washington 0-1, Healey 0-3); Fremont Ross 4-14 (Hiestand 2-6, Dayringer 1-1, Carnicom 1-2, Penn 0-1, Price 0-1, Spann 0-1, Gamble 0-2). Rebounds — Lima Senior 29 (A. Hutchins 5, M. Hutchins 5, Perry 4); Fremont Ross 26 (Carnicom 4, House 4). Total fouls (Fouled out) — Lima Senior 25 (none); Fremont Ross 14 (none). Technical fouls — None. Steals — Lima Senior 12 (A. Hutchins 3, Walton 3); Fremont Ross 4 (Penn 2). Blocked shots — Lima Senior 2 (Perry 2); Fremont Ross 2 (Carnicom 2). Turnovers — Lima Senior 16; Fremont Ross 25.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ■ ROSS 62, SANDUSKY 48

Little Giants use balance in victory

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Eight minutes into a Greater Buckeye Conference boys basketball game at the Purple Pit on Friday night, Fremont Ross had received contributions from eight different players.

The balanced effort paid huge dividends for the Little Giants, who evened their overall record at 8-8 and their GBC mark at 4-4 after a 62-48 victory over arch-rival Sandusky.

"We've been saying a lot this year that it doesn't have to be one player," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "If we can emphasize our team play, and take whatever opportunities we get, it shouldn't matter who scores because it's our points and our shots. Tonight, I think our kids bought into that."

Stephen Carnicom scored all 6 of his points by hitting three of his first four shots. He brought Ross fans to their feet when turned the rebound of a missed shot into a dunk for the Little Giants' first 2 points of the game.

But then help came.

And it came from everywhere.

With Ross leading 11-9 with 3 1/2 minutes left in the first quarter, Marc Bolen came off the Little Giants' bench to make consecutive shots. He hit a jumper from the baseline before knocking down a 3-pointer from the left corner that began a 9-2 run that Ross used



BOLEN

to finish the quarter.

Bolen finished with 10 points, half of which came in the first quarter. Darien Spann chipped in all 5 of his points on a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws. Andrew House scored the first of his four field goals en route, while Kenny Penn, Jordan Jones and Jake Hiestand each added steals.

Shunnar Gamble had the final two baskets of the period — a putback and a layup — as Ross built a 22-13 lead that it never relinquished.

"We were trying to make it an up-tempo game, and at times, we did that," said Sandusky coach Steve Keller Jr. "But the one thing that hurt us more than anything was, at critical points, we couldn't get the (defensive) stops we needed."

That was because Ross crashed the boards for a 31-25 edge in rebounding, including a heavy dose of caroms coming on the offensive end. House (10 points, 6 rebounds) and Gamble (12 points, 5 rebounds) each had putbacks to begin the second quarter.

"They're offensive rebounding hurt us," Keller said. "You can't give them a second- and a third-attempt. We also got hung up in screens off the dribble. But, our last three quarters, we held them to 40 points, which was much better."

After having a scoreless first quarter, Penn ripped off a game-high 13 points for Ross the rest of the way. He scored seven straight points — the final four of

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the first half and a right-wing 3-pointer to open the second half — as the Little Giants grabbed a 39-21 lead.

"We wanted to make sure, with what Sandusky does, that we we're trying to stay with certain cuts," Gedeon said. "We couldn't let their 3-point shooters get going and we didn't want (Donald) Williams to get some good looks inside."

The Blue Streaks, playing without Kiewann Collins (sick), Jay Page (injured), Josh Harvey (injured) and Isiah Johnson (injured), received a team-high 12 points from Jarrod Williams, 10 more from Dominique Stovall and 9 points apiece from Cordey Strickland and Donald Williams.

The Little Giants led by as many as 20 points (43-23) in the third quarter and were ahead 49-30 with 8 minutes left.

But Gedeon was impressed with Donald Williams, the Blue Streaks'

young post player.

"He's already a very nice player right now," Gedeon said of Donald Williams. "And the fact that he's only a sophomore is pretty scary because he has a lot more potential. If you take (Kiewann) Collins out of the mix, he's a huge part of what they do. They next time we see them, when he comes back, they're going to be a better team."

Collins, a 6-foot-5 post player, averages about 14 points and 10 rebounds a game. Page, Harvey and Johnson are also key role players for Sandusky (2-13, 0-6).

"Our goal at halftime was the get (Fremont Ross's lead) down to single digits by the beginning of the fourth quarter," Keller said. "I thought we did some good things in the third quarter, but we just didn't get the timely stops in a few situations."

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High School Boys

Fremont Ross 62, Sandusky 48

Sandusky 13 9 16 11 — 48

Fremont Ross 22 14 16 10 — 62

SANDUSKY (2-13, 0-6) — Zak Esposito 1-2 1-2 3; Dominique Stovall 4-8 2-2 10; Taj Dickerson 1-3 0-0 2; Cordney Strickland 4-11 0-0 9; Jarrod Williams 5-12 0-0 11; Willie Irby 1-4 0-0 2; Jordan Jones 1-3 0-0 2; Donald Williams 2-5 5-6 9. Totals — 19-48 (40%) 8-10 (80%) 48.

FREMONT ROSS (8-8, 4-4) — Darien Spann 1-4 2-2 5; Jordan Jones 0-4 4-4 4; Shunnar Gamble 6-13 0-0 12; Kenny Penn 5-9 2-2 13; Marcus Dayringer 1-1 0-0 2; Jake Hiestand 0-2 0-0 0; Skylar Reffner 0-1 0-0 0; Stephen Carnicom 3-4 0-0 6; Marc Bolen 4-7 0-0 10; Andrew House 4-11 2-2 10. Totals — 24-56 (43%) 10-10 (100%) 62.

3-point field goals — Sandusky 2-14 (J. Williams 1-5, Strickland 1-6, Irby 0-1, Stovall 0-2); Fremont Ross 4-13 (Bolen 2-3, Spann 1-1, Penn 1-4, Reffner 0-1, Gamble 0-2, Hiestand 0-2). Rebounds — Sandusky 25 (Dickerson 5, D. Williams 5, Esposito 4); Fremont Ross 31 (House 6, Jones 5, Gamble 5, Penn 4). Total fouls (Fouled out) — Sandusky 12 (none); Fremont Ross 15 (Carnicom). Technical fouls — None. Steals — Sandusky 9 (Stovall 4, J. Williams 3); Fremont Ross 15 (Penn 5, Jones 3, Gamble 3). Blocked shots — Sandusky 1 (D. Williams); Fremont Ross 0. Turnovers — Sandusky 24; Fremont Ross 18.

Three Ross players get District 6 recognition

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Three Fremont Ross boys basketball players have earned All-District 6 recognition in Division I.

On Tuesday, swingman Stephen Carnicom was named as a first team selection, while guard Kenny Penn garnered a second team nod and post player Andrew House received honorable mention.



CARNICOM
FREMONT ROSS

"I think its nice when our players are recognized by other schools," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "I feel they are all deserving of this honor because of the time and the effort they put in during the offseason."

Carnicom is averaging 12 points and 8 rebounds this season. Penn is contributing 11.6 points a game, while House chips in 8.9 points and 4.3 rebounds.

The Little Giants are 8-8 overall this campaign after going 4-17 last year.

In Division II, Bellevue had three players picked and Clyde came in with two.

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D6 BOYS FROM B1

Cody Ruhlman landed on the first team for the Redmen (11-5), who also had Curt Watson on the second team and Jeff Roth earn honorable mention.

Alex Gillett, who rebounded from an early-season knee injury, was a first team pick for the Fliers. Foreign exchange student Juho Hietenen gained honorable mention for Clyde (11-7).

In Division III, Evan Kurt and Kyle Galindo were named to the all-district team from Margaretta (10-6). Kurt was a first team selection and Galindo re-

ceived honorable mention.

Port Clinton's Ryan Hicks, Josh Francis and Derek Colston have been picked to the all-district team. Hicks made the first team, Francis landed on the second team and Colston garnered honorable mention for the Redskins (9-8).

In Division IV, Bettsville (6-10) received a pair of all-district players. Andrew Hartsel was a first team nod and Troy Blausey earned honorable mention for the Bobcats.

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**HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS BASKETBALL ■**

NAPOLEON 55, FREMONT ROSS 46

Little Giants lose lead, game versus Napoleon

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

News-Messenger correspondent

NAPOLEON — The Fremont Ross boys let wasted possessions and turnovers cost it a chance at a big Greater Buckeye Conference road win on Thursday night at Napoleon.

The Little Giants turned the ball over 22 times to just 11 times for the Wildcats, including 12 times in the second half alone. The turnovers helped Napoleon outscore Ross 30-20 in the final 16 minutes en route to a 55-46 win, as Ross squandered an early nine-point second quarter lead.

Kyle Nierman led all scorers with 17 points for the Wildcats (14-4, 6-3). Lee Hunter added 15 points, while Andrew Keller totaled eight and a game-high nine rebounds.

"Coming off a double-loss (losses to Findlay and Ottawa-Glandorff) this kind of win is huge," said Napoleon coach Tim Badenhop. "We came out with a vengeance tonight and had fun, we'd lost that and, tonight, the guys understood what that was again."

Ross (8-9, 4-5) tried to steal the Wildcats fun though early, taking an 11-9 lead after the first quarter. The Little Giants then when on a 9-2 run to start the second quarter to earn their biggest lead of the game at 20-11 with 4 minutes to go until half-time.

That would be where things would change though.

Even with Napoleon's star, Joel Hunter, on the bench with early fouls, Nierman scored 10 of the Wildcats' final 14 points in the half to cut the Ross lead to 26-25 at the break.

"The last three minutes of the second quarter were very crucial," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "Not only did they get back in the game then, but (Nierman) comes up with 10 points in a six-possession span there and most of that was from us not making the proper adjustments defensively."

Badenhop also acknowledged how big of a momentum boost it was for his team to go on a 14-6 run to

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close the half.

"It's a credit to our players to continue to battle without Joel (Hunter) on the floor," said Badenhop. "He's our leader and the one who has taken this team on his back most of the year, so it was big for others to step up and score like they did."

Part of the reason Ross couldn't keep it's lead was turnovers. The Little Giants had 10 giveaways in the first half to just five for the Wildcats.

But the turnovers were yet to fully cost Ross.

Napoleon would out-score the Little Giants, 14-12, in the third quarter to take a 39-38 lead to final 8 minutes.

However, wasted possessions and the missed front end of two one-on-ones in the fourth would be the real the difference in the end.

Napoleon went on an 8-2 run to pull out to 47-40 lead with under four minutes left, as turnover after turnover took away a chance for the Little Giants to get back in the game.

Two fouls shots from Ross' Stephen Carnicorn and a layup by Andrew House made it 47-44 with 2:11 left. A missed front end though from Kenny Penn and another by Carnicorn with 1:44 left took away any chance though at tying the game up.

"You can't give away nine possessions in the fourth quarter and expect to win a GBC game on the road," said Gedeon. "We knew turnovers would be a big part in the game tonight and we thought we could get a bigger rebounding advantage than what we did."

"Give Napoleon credit though, they were the more aggressive team in the second half and they were more composed and deserve the victory."

Lee Hunter went 6-of-6 from the line to finish, as the Wildcats were 10-of-15 from the line on the night. Ross was 4-of-8.

Penn led the Little Giants on the night with 12 points, while also chipping in four rebounds. Shunnar Gamble tallied nine points for Ross and a team-best five boards. Ross won the rebound game 28-26.

Ross would have to play a majority of the second half without Carnicorn and House on the floor both in foul trouble.

"Turnovers were just huge tonight," said Gedeon. "A lot of those were unforced too and just bad decisions on our part. The foul trouble hurt too, it allowed them to get dribble penetration on us late with Andrew and Stephen on the bench and the more aggressive team won tonight — simple as that."

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High School Boys

Napolean 55, Ross 46

Ross 11 15 12 8 — 46

Napolean 9 16 14 16 — 55

FREMONT ROSS (8-9, 4-5) — Darien Spann 1-0-3, Jordan Jones 2-0-4, Kenny Penn 5-1-12, Stephen Carnicorn 3-2-8, Andrew House 2-0-4, Shunnar Gamble 4-1-9, Marcus Dayringer 2-0-4, Jake Hiestand 0-0-0, Marc Bolen 1-0-2. Totals — 20-4-46.

NAPOLEON (14-4, 6-3) — Jordan Kruse 1-1-3, Joel Hunter 4-0-8, Lee Hunter 3-8-15, Nick Rettig 2-0-4, Andrew Keller 3-0-8, Spencer Plassman 0-0-0, Brad Weddelman 0-0-0, Kyle Niermann 7-1-17, Thomas Conry 0-0-0. Totals — 20-10-55.

3-point goals — Ross 2 (Penn, Spann); Napolean 5 (Keller 2, Nierman 2, L. Hunter).

Jones sends Ross past Columbian with crucial FTs

BY MATT MILLS

News-Messenger correspondent

Jordan Jones made two free throws to cap the scoring as Fremont Ross's boys basketball team topped Tiffin Columbian 65-63 in overtime in a non-conference matchup Saturday.

"This was an exciting game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "It had the feeling of one of those games that whoever had the ball last was going to win. Fortunately for us, that didn't happen."

Kenny Penn scored a game-high 24 points for the Little Giants (9-9). Penn scored the first

points in overtime with a layup before Derek Kneeskern answered with a three-pointer for the Tornados (12-6).

Jones, who finished with 13 points, then connected on a three for a 63-61 Ross advantage.

"Jordan Jones' three-pointer from the top of the key was the play of the game for us," Gedeon said. "That put us on top by two and from there we never had to worry about trailing."

Columbian junior Cole Williams hit two free throws to knot things up at 63-63 before Jones sealed the victory.

Williams scored eight points

This was an exciting game. It had the feeling of one of those games that whoever had the ball last was going to win. Fortunately for us, that didn't happen."

MARK GEDEON

Fremont Ross boys basketball coach

but the Little Giants led 15-12 after one quarter.

"Our goal is to always get the ball inside first, which we were doing in the first quarter," Columbian coach Bill Beaston said. "Fremont took that away the rest of the game. Credit them

for making the adjustment."

Things stayed extremely close throughout the second quarter and Ross led 29-27 at the half.

Ethan Kagy, however, outscored the Little Giants 8-0 on his own to start the third quarter. Ross responded with a

6-0 run after a timeout to tie the game at 35-35.

Jones beat the third quarter buzzer with a layup for a 44-43 lead. Shunnar Gamble then capped an 8-0 Little Giants spurt to open the fourth quarter with a steal and bucket.

Kneeskern, however, knotted the score at 58-58 later in the fourth.

Ross failed to get a shot off its final possession during regulation and Kagy missed a desperation three.

Stephen Carnicom added 10 points for Ross.

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 65, Tiffin Columbian 63, OT

Ross 15 14 15 14 7 — 65
Columbian 12 15 16 15 5 — 63

FREMONT ROSS (9-9) — Jordan Jones 5-0-13; Shunnar Gamble 2-0-5; Kenny Penn 8-6-24; Stephen Carnicom 4-2-10; Andrew House 4-0-8; Marc Bolen 0-2-2; Jake Hiestand 1-0-3. Totals — 24-10-65.

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN (12-6) — Ethan Kagy 4-3-14; Jesse Hernandez 1-0-2; Tyler Ward 1-0-2; Derek Kneeskern 8-0-19; Jared Kuhlman 0-2-2; Nick Lucious 1-0-2; Cole Williams 4-6-14; Hank Rosen 4-0-8. Totals — 23-11-63.

3-point field goals — Fremont Ross 7 (Jones 3, Penn 2, Gamble, Hiestand); Tiffin Columbian 6 (Kagy 3, Kneeskern 3). Rebounds — Fremont Ross 17; Tiffin Columbian 25. Turnovers — Fremont Ross 18; Tiffin Columbian 22.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ■ FREMONT ROSS 71, SYLVANIA NORTHVIEW 68, 20T

Penn leads Little Giants to 20T win

BY MASON LOWRY

News-Messenger correspondent

SYLVANIA — Every time Sylvania Northview hit a big bucket down the stretch, Fremont Ross was able to answer the bell.

Kenny Penn went for a game-high 24 points and Jordan Jones hit four big free throws in the game's last forty seconds and the Little Giants held on to win a 71-68 double overtime thriller.

"That was an exciting game," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

It certainly was. The two teams were tied at 42 going into the fourth quarter before the Wildcats rattled off an 8-2 run that was capped by Jarred Bowers' steal and layup with five minutes to play. They pushed the lead to 53-47 with just over three minutes to go before the Little Giants (10-9, 4-5 GBC) mounted

a furious charge.

Penn hit a huge three to pull Ross back to within three. After getting a defensive stop at the other end, they went inside to Shunnar Gamble, who scored and was fouled, but could not hit the ensuing free throw.

Northview senior Tripper Northrup hit a pair of free throws at the other end, before Gamble went inside again and this time converted the old-fashioned three-point play to send the game into an extra period.

Northview opened up a 62-60 lead late in the first overtime period, but Ross senior Stephen Carnicom hit a turnaround jumper with three seconds



PENN

to play to send the game into a second overtime.

Trailing by two with two minutes to go in the second extra period, Penn hit another huge stepback trey to put the Little Giants in a lead that they would not relinquish. The next time up the floor, Jones found Carnicom on a perfectly-executed backdoor play that the 6-foot-6 center was able to convert on a nifty up-and-under move.

"We've practiced that play for four months," Gedeon said. "And that was the first time we've been done it right. Jordan executed, and Steve was able to convert. That was so big because it forced them into a three at the other end."

Northview never had an answer in the game's final minute. Jones hit four huge free throws in the last 39.9 seconds, and Devin Simon's off-balance

three at the buzzer came up well short, allowing Ross to escape with the win.

"The whole time he was at the line, I was telling myself that he was a senior who has worked very hard on this part of his game who wanted the ball in his hands in this situation," Gedeon said of his senior point guard, who finished with 16 points and five dimes. "I'm very proud that he was able to deliver for us."

Both offenses opened up in the second half, after Ross was held to just 19 points before intermission, while committing 10 turnovers. Northview led 23-19 at the half.

"We weren't hitting on all cylinders in the first half," Gedeon said. "We forced things and took some poor shots. But give Northview credit; they played

SEE ROSS | B2

ROSS FROM B1

very hard and took advantage of our mistakes. We were lucky to only be down four at the half."

Gamble added 13 points and six

boards for Ross, while Carnicom added 10. Northrup, who gave the Little Giants fits with his ability to drive to the hole and also hit the midrange jumper, poured in 20 for the Wildcats, while Bowers and Jake Zureich chipped in with 12.

High School Boys

Fremont Ross 71,

Sylvania Northview 68, 2OT

Ross 10 9 23 13 7 9 — 71

Northview 5 18 19 12 7 6 — 68

FREMONT ROSS (10-9) — Kenny Penn 7-8-24, Jordan Jones 4-5-16, Shunnar Gamble 6-1-13, Stephen Carnicom 5-0-10, Darien Spann 3-0-6, Andrew House 1-0-2. Totals — 26-14-71.

SYLVANIA NORTHVIEW — Tripper Northrup 7-6-20, Jake Zureich 3-5-12, Jarred Bowers 4-3-12, Stephan Vizina 4-2-10, Jacob Sturt 3-1-7, Devin Simon 1-4-6, Dave Ellett 0-1-1. Totals — 22-22-68.

3-point goals — Fremont Ross 5 (Jones 3, Penn 2); Sylvania Northview 2 (Zureich, Bowers).

JV score — Northview 49, Ross 43.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ■ FINDLAY 65, ROSS 50

Trojans beat Little Giants, win GBC crown

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

News-Messenger correspondent

FINDLAY — Early deficits and playing from behind against a good team is never an easy task.

For the Ross boys Friday night at Findlay, it was a task that was put in front of them many times, as they would play from behind all night. Despite making a few runs to get close, including one in the second quarter to get within two points, it wouldn't be enough.

The Trojans always had an answer for each Little Giant run, grabbing a 65-50 Greater Buckeye Conference win to clinch the school's third straight league title.

Luke Kraus led Findlay (15-4, 8-2) with a game-high 23 points and tied for a team-high with six rebounds. Zach Bundy and Brock Ammons added 11 points each for the Trojans, who led 14-6 after the first quarter, thanks to a 10-2 run to start the game.

"The early lead was huge for us tonight," said Findlay coach Jim Rucki. "But even when we'd get leads, it just seemed like we didn't play with intensity, but I don't think (Ross) did either." The game featured many stops for



PENN

fouls, as a total of 43 foul shots were attempted.

"It just seemed like both teams were taken out of the flow of the game from the whistles," said Rucki. "There just wasn't that fierce intensity you're used to seeing in this rivalry."

Findlay upped the lead to 20-11 near the halfway point of the second quarter, but the Little Giants would counter. Ross went on a 7-0 run that cut the Trojan lead to two with 2:41 left till halftime.

Shunna Gamble, Darien Spann and Kenny Penn all making big plays off of the Trojan's turnovers would key the Ross run.

"If we could've just focused at that point and go into halftime down just

two or four, we could've re-grouped and done some nice things," said Ross Mark Gedeon. "But we allowed (Findlay) to finish the half with a nice run and it really put us at a disadvantage instead."

Findlay finished the first 16 minutes with a 9-2 run with Kraus scoring seven of the nine points, giving it a 29-20 lead at halftime.

"When you're constantly having to make up ground — you can't play fundamental basketball, which I like to do," said Gedeon. "You can't be patient and work for the good shot, instead you have to be a little more aggressive and

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ROSS FROM B1

take more chances."

Taking more risks led to 14 Little Giant turnovers in the second half, as Findlay started to take control.

Findlay increased its' lead to 46-32 entering the fourth quarter, thanks in large part to an 11-5 run in the final four and a half minutes of the quarter.

"Instead of being the puncher, we became the counter-puncher," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "If we were going to be successful, we couldn't allow (Findlay) to have easy baskets or easy opportunities at the free throw line.

"We also couldn't give them a chance to create turnovers that allow easy baskets and that's what they did

to us."

The Trojans only committed seven turnovers in the final half and would go 10-for-13 at the foul line and 17-for-21 (81 percent) for the game. Ross was 17-for-22.

Leading the Little Giants on the night was Penn, who finished with 14 points and tied for a team-best with five boards. Stephen Carnicom tallied 11 points and also had five rebounds, while Spann had 10 points. Ross was out-rebounded, 26-19.

"Just wasn't enough runs for us tonight," said Gedeon. "A big part of making runs starts defensively and tonight we weren't executing what we wanted to do at times offensively and defensively and it gave them the edge."

High School Boys

Findlay 65, Ross 50

Ross 6 14 12 18 — 50

Findlay 14 15 17 19 — 65

Ross - Darien Spann 2-5-10, Jordan Jones 0-0-0, Kenny Penn 4-5-14, Stephen Carnicorn 4-3-11, Andrew House 1-0-2, Shunnar Gamble 3-2-8, Marcus Dayringer 0-0-0, Jake Hiestand 1-0-3, Marc Bolen 0-0-0, Matt Price 0-2-2. Totals 15-17-50.

3-point goals - Jake Hiestand 1, Kenny Penn 1, Darien Spann 1.

Findlay - Luke Kraus 7-9-23, Zach Bundy 4-3-11, Kevin Krucki 1-0-2, Brock Ammons 5-1-11, Jeff Cole 5-0-10, Clay Paul 1-2-4, Justin Richter 0-2-2, Jared Harris 0-0-0, Matt Strzempke 1-0-2. Totals 24-17-65.

Records: Ross 10-10 (4-6), Findlay 15-4 (8-2).

All-GBC

Player of the Year: Luke Kraus, Findlay

First Team

Anton Hutchins, Lima Sr.
Shawn Dyer, Marion
Joel Hunter, Napoleon
Stephen Carnicom, Fremont
Kiewann Collins, Sandusky

Second Team

Kevin Krucki, Findlay
Marvin Owens, Marion
Lee Hunter, Napoleon
Marlon Hutchins, Lima Sr.
Kenny Penn, Fremont

Honorable Mention

Findlay: Zach Bundy, Cole
Fremont Ross: Andrew House, Jordan Jones
Lima Sr.: Robert Thompson, Danyel Walton
Marion: Jake White, Cory White
Napoleon: Andrew Keller, Jordan Kruse
Sandusky: Cordney Strickland, Jarrod Williams

Coach of the Year: Jim Rucki, Findlay