

1986 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Ross upset bid falls short

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

M.T. CORY — Findlay
"jittered" but did not dance the
night away.

"We only jittered for three-
and-a-half quarters," Findlay
Coach Bill Lobb muttered after
watching his team shake
tournament jitters just in time
Tuesday at Cory-Rawson High
School.

That was a half-quarter too
little for Fremont Ross as the
struggling Trojans edged the
Little Giants 46-41 in the first
round of the Class AAA girls
sectional tournament.

"We did not shoot well," Ross
Coach Sue Wolf said quietly after
watching her team bow out of
the season with a 6-15 record.

What Ross did well, though,
nearly led to Findlay's demise.

"We did what we wanted to
defensively," Wolf described,
"and we handled the press."

Wolf's defensive game plan
was to "pack" the Little Giants'
2-3 zone in tight around Findlay's
version of the twin towers, 6-0
Sarah Edelbrock and 5-9 Heather
Creel. Wolf coupled that with a
trapping, full-court press.

"I thought we would be able to
press them," Lobb said. "Then
they packed it on us and our
kids were reluctant to take the
outside shot; they were trying to
force it inside."

"It's tough to play any team
three times," Lobb continued.
"We beat them relatively easy
the first two times."

In those games, Ross
committed 34 and 29 turnovers,
and in this one, 21, but most of
them were not caused by the
Findlay press.

Ross's undoing was its
inability to hit free throws and
the short shots.

The Little Giants finished with
nine of 19 from the line while
Findlay dropped 10 of 17.
Findlay made seven of 10 in the
first half to help it take a 29-19
lead at the half.

Ross finished with 16 of 49
from the floor and Findlay 18 of
58 with a seven-of-13
performance in the final quarter.

The Trojans seemed ready to
break the game open at the half,
but the Ross press and the tight
zone played havoc with the
Trojans in the third quarter.

"It was the type of press we
see all the time," Lobb said,



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AIMEE LEJEUNE of Ross gets off a pass around
Findlay defender Kai Miller (15) during a first-half

Little Giants' fastbreak. Jeanine Gralak (5) and
Sarah Edelbrock (43) of Findlay trail the play.

"and" we usually either run
around it or stand around, and
tonight we stood around."

Findlay scored only two points
in the quarter, but while the
Ross defense was clicking, the
offense, even while outscoring
Findlay 7-2, was misfiring and
Ross trailed 31-26 heading into
the final eight minutes.

Paced by Aimee LeJeune,
Brenda Kline and Shelly Leggett,
the Little Giants forged into a 32-
32 deadlock with 5:15 remaining
in the game.

Buckets by Leggett, LeJeune
and Julie Young got the tie.

The Trojans, with Kristi Erner
scoring five points, outscored
Ross 8-1 in the next three
minutes for a 40-33 lead.

Once again, Ross charged
back, cutting the Findlay lead to
40-37 on a pair of free throws by
Kline and LeJeune's basket.

That was as close as Ross was
to get as Edelbrock got her only
basket of the second half and
Amy Pirscheil scored on a
driving layup for a 44-39 lead

with a minute to play.

Kline cut the margin to 44-41
with 10 seconds to play, but Kai
Miller's two free throws with
four seconds remaining iced the
game for Findlay.

Kline led Ross scoring with 13
points. LeJeune had eight,
Leggett seven and Amy
Schepflin five.

Erner had 14 for the Trojans,
now 14-7, while Elderbrook
finished with 13.

The taller Trojans held a 28-21
lead in rebounding.