

1995 Division I Sectional Tournament

# Little Giants topple BG

By BOB MARKER  
Sports editor

HOLLAND — Dawn Zerman provided the offense and Holly Pelfrey the key defensive play as Fremont Ross rallied to defeat Bowling Green 53-41 Tuesday night in the first round of the Division I girls sectional basketball tournament at Springfield High School.

Ross, 16-5, will play Toledo Start for the sectional title at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the same site.

Bowling Green, 8-13, held a 32-29 lead with three minutes remaining in the third quarter but Zerman hit a 3-pointer to tie the game and then pumped in two more baskets as Ross took a 36-33 lead.

After Zerman's third straight basket, the Bobcats had the ball out of bounds under the Ross basket. With the five-second count clicking down, Pelfrey stole the inbounds pass for a layup, putting Ross up 38-33 as time ran out.

"That was a big steal and basket," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

"We had a mixup in who was supposed to take the ball out-of-bounds," Bowling Green coach Dick Fox said. "We were disorganized at that point ... that was a big point in the game."

Zerman scored 12 of her 21 points in the third quarter.

In the final quarter, the Little Giants outscored Bowling Green 9-2 to open up a 47-35 lead. Dena Schepflin rebounded her own miss and scored another basket off a Zerman pass to key the run.

Zerman added another assist and two free throws down the stretch as the Bobcats were unable to get any closer than 10 points after the early fourth-quarter Ross pullaway.

"In the fourth quarter, I told the kids, 'No one gets ahead us,'" Wolf said about her pressure defense that kept the Bobcats off stride. "I said, 'We just want to take time off the clock.'"

Her team followed her instructions.

After Schepflin put Ross up 43-35, the Little Giants ran off 55 seconds following a Bobcats turnover. Ritzman scored on Zerman's assist at the end of that patient offensive display and the tone had been set for the Little Giants offense down the stretch.

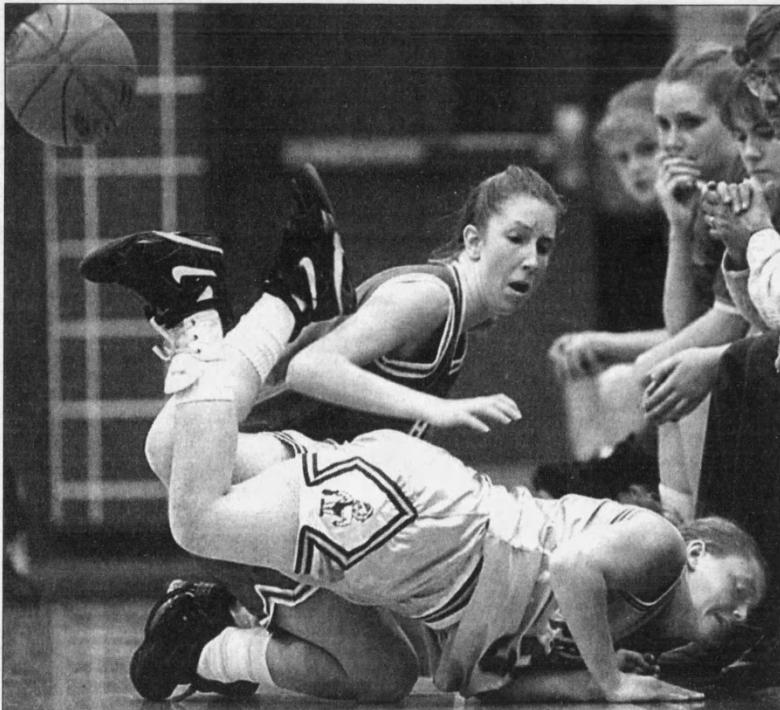
"We were moving well and making good cuts," Wolf said.

Ritzman finished with 11 points, Emily Dowell nine and Schepflin seven. Tricia Wulff had 11 points and Mary Edwards 10 for Bowling Green.

## What's next:

Ross plays Toledo Start for sectional title, 6:30 p.m., Saturday

Photo by Andrew Morrison



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

HOLLY PELFREY, foreground, saves the ball from going out-of-bounds during a third-quarter scramble Tuesday night at Springfield High School. Tricia Wulff of Bowling Green, back, and her teammates watch.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN of Ross is fouled by Courtney Tracy of Bowling Green.

## Stritch ends Gibsonburg's season

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — Oregon Cardinal Stritch jumped out to a 21-9 first-quarter lead and went

on to a 51-34 win over Gibsonburg in a Division IV girls sectional basketball tournament game at Bowling Green High School.

"We didn't read their defense well at all," Gibsonburg coach Don Williamson said. "We weren't the same team as we were the last two nights in practice."

Maureen Liller led nine Stritch players who scored with 10 points. Stacey Poskarbiewicz added eight with Holly Volmar and Jennifer Schuetz adding seven points apiece.

Carrie Hoy topped Gibsonburg with 10 points. Samantha Radel added seven for the Golden Bears.

Gibsonburg finished the season 4-17.

# Little Giants need fast start

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

HOLLAND — Among the things Fremont Ross can do as it tries to continue on in the tournament is bottle and save its first-quarter performance in Saturday night's 77-38 sectional championship game victory over Toledo Start.

The Little Giants, 17-5, scored 27 points in the first quarter on 48 percent shooting at Springfield High School.

And Ross advances to Division I district tournament play after collecting 12 rebounds to Start's five in the first quarter, including eight rebounds on the offensive end.

Toledo Central Catholic, which is 19-2 and defeated Oregon Clay 74-53 in a sectional final last week, is the Little Giants' next foe here Thursday. The game begins at 6:30 p.m.

"It's going to be tough," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Wolf said the Little Giants have to avoid the kind of timid starts she has become accustomed to prior to Saturday.

"I really like them as nice kids," Wolf said. "I want them to change on the court not off it."

Cari Ritzman led four Little Giants in double figures with 19 points against Start, 6-15. Dawn Zerman added 16 to go with seven assists, Lisa Oprie had 11 points and Dena Schepflin 10.

With Zerman penetrating from on top and Ritzman from the wings, most of the Ross scoring came inside 12 feet. Erica Radloff, who had eight rebounds, Schepflin, Emily Dowell and Michele Smith operated smoothly on the interior.

"We've been working on them getting their feet under them," Wolf said. "When they catch it, getting their feet under them before they shoot."

Ross maintained its 48 percent shooting all game, finishing 32-for-66 from the floor.

"We wanted to play zone against them and slow them down," Start coach Charlie Shumaker said. "The first four minutes we stayed with them. Then they upped the tempo."

## Defense in the right place

HOLLAND — Toledo Start coach Charlie Shumaker said he looked at the scoreboard Saturday night and Fremont Ross led 14-11.

He said he looked at it again a short time later and it was 27-11. That was the beginning of the end for the Spartans as Ross rolled to a 77-38 Division I sectional championship game victory at Springfield High School.

Hot shooting, crisp passing and solid rebounding sparked the Little Giants.

But the Ross defense had as much as anything to do with the victory.

"Everybody was picking up whoever was open," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "That's getting better here towards the end of the season."

The Little Giants helped hold Start to 31 percent shooting (15-for-49) and also forced 21 turnovers.

"We were getting in the passing lanes," Wolf said.

Ross committed just 10 turnovers — two below Wolf's goal before the game.

— TIM HARMON

Crystal Lewis led Start with 18 points.

All that marred the game for Ross was 10-of-20 shooting at the foul line, including 5-of-12 in

the first half.

"I don't understand that," Wolf said. "We make them in practice. Against Central, we have to make them."

■ **Tournament roundup, B3**