

## Division I Sectional Tournament

# Little Giants edge Streaks in OT

BY JEFF ARENZ  
Sports writer

**WILLARD** — The Fremont Ross boys basketball team received a scare, and then got a huge lift Tuesday night during a Division I sectional tournament semifinal game against Sandusky.

Starting swingman Stephen Carnicom twisted his ankle and had to be helped off the court before sophomore Shunnar Gamble erupted for 17 points and 11 rebounds during the Little Giants' 64-58 win over the Blue Streaks in overtime.

"I like giving a spark to the team because it gets everybody going," said Gamble, who relishes his role as the Little Giants' sixth man. "When I come into the game, I've got fresh legs and I'm pretty fast. I can take it to a lot of other post players."

The extent of Carnicom's injury is unknown, but he did not return in Tuesday's game.

Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon enjoyed Gamble's effort, which picked up a lot of slack for the Little Giants.

"Give Shunnar a lot of credit for going back-and-forth between starting and having an off-the-bench role," Gedeon said. "When we sat down, he said, 'Coach, I like coming off the bench. I can give us a lot of versatility this way because I can play multiple positions and use my length.' And he's been outstanding in that role."

With the contest tied at 51 after 32 minutes, Ross senior post player Andrew House aggressively attacked the Sandusky defense inside the lane, where he scored 6 of his 14 points during overtime. Along with Gamble, House's 11 rebounds gave the Little Giants a pair of double-double contributions.

Jones, who had 12 points, handed Ross a 54-51 lead with 3:44 left in overtime after converting a 3-point play after driving to the basket for a layup.

But it was the Ross defense that held the Blue Streaks in check. Sandusky failed to score during the first 1:58 of the extra session, when the Little Giants went on a



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

Fremont Ross' Shunnar Gamble protects the ball as he looks for a teammate during a game against Sandusky on Tuesday. Gamble scored 17 points and collected 11 rebounds for the Little Giants.

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"It definitely went both ways in terms of momentum," Gedeon said. "But when we outscore another team 28-14 in crunch time when they had a double digit lead, it says a lot about our defensive pressure."

Blue Streaks' center Kiewann Collins had 17 points and 14 rebounds, but was limited to only one fourth-quarter layup and one overtime basket. And with Ross leading 56-51 with less than 3 minutes in extra time, Collins missed a pair of free throws that could have cut into the Little Giants' lead.

Ross overcame a 37-26 deficit after Sandusky began the second half on 12-2 run. Gamble scored with a pair of driving layups and House hit a jumper inside the lane before Kenny Penn, who ended up with 13 points, buried a pair of free throws with 17 seconds left in the third quarter to cut the Little Giants' deficit to eight (44-36).

In the fourth quarter, Ross went on a 13-2 run that was capped by 3-point shots from Gamble and Darien Spann 3 minutes into the period. Gamble's second bucket from behind the arc allowed Ross to grab its first lead of the game at 46-45 with 5:50 left in regulation time.

Despite not scoring a field goal in the last 5 minutes before overtime, the Little Giants withstood the Blue Streaks' 6-2 run to close the fourth quarter. Donald Williams, who had 10 points for Sandusky, sent the game into an extra session after hitting a turnaround jumper from inside the paint.

"I was really please with how our kids fought and battled," Sandusky coach Steve Keller said. "We've overcome adversity all year. We were able to get enough stops and get a score at the end to put it into overtime. But were not able to make a enough plays and we struggled to score at the finish."

Cordney Strickland added 12 points for the Blue Streaks, who build a 13-4 lead after 8 minutes, but were outscored 20-12 in the second quarter.

# High School Boys

## Division I Sectional Tournament Semifinal Round At Willard

### Fremont Ross 64, Sandusky 58, OT

Fremont Ross 4 20 12 15 13 — 64

Sandusky 13 12 19 7 7 — 58

SANDUSKY (4-17) — Rayshawn Daniels 1-2-4; Isiah Johnson 3-0-7; Dominique Stovall 3-1-7; Kiewann Collins 6-5-17; Cordney Strickland 5-2-12; Jarrod Williams 0-0-0; Willie Irby 0-1-1; Donald Williams 4-2-10. Totals — 22-13-58.

FREMONT ROSS (11-10) — Darien Spann 2-0-5; Jordan Jones 5-2-12; Shunnar Gamble 7-1-17; Kenny Penn 3-4-13; Jake Hiestand 1-0-3; Skylar Reffner 0-0-0; Stephen Carnicom 0-0-0; Marc Bolen 0-0-0; Andrew House 7-0-14. Totals — 25-7-64.

3-point goals — Sandusky 1 (Johnson); Fremont Ross 7 (Penn 3, Gamble 2, Hiestand, Spann). Rebounds — Sandusky 34 (Collins 14, Daniels 7); Fremont Ross 38 (Gamble 11, House 10). Total fouls — Sandusky 19 (D. Williams); Fremont Ross 20 (none). Technical fouls — None. Steals — Sandusky 12 (Daniels 5); Fremont Ross 7 (Gamble 2, Penn 2). Blocked shots — Sandusky 1 (D. Williams); Fremont Ross 1 (Carnicom). Turnovers — Sandusky 19; Fremont Ross 21.



# Ross falls to Madison

BY JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

WILLARD — Two factors caused the downfall of the Fremont Ross Little Giants in a Division I boys basketball sectional final Friday at Willard.

Mansfield Madison (19-2) outscored Ross 27-9 from 3-point territory and held a 21-15 edge in second-chance points en route to an 80-56 victory.

"We knew that Madison was the more physical team with great team play at both ends of the floor," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "For them to come out and shoot the basketball the way they did, it took our soul away."

The Rams, who were 9-of-19 (47 percent) from beyond the arc, drained the first nine long-range bombs of the game. Jordan Mottayaw knocked down four of his six 3-pointers in the first quarter, when Madison raced to a 24-10 lead.

The Little Giants were 3-of-19 from 3-point land, including an 0-of-11 effort in the first 16 minutes.

Mottayaw ended up with a game-high 23 points for the Rams, who will play Mansfield Senior in a district final March 12. Jacob Burghard added 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Joey Wareham chipped in 14 points and 6 rebounds.

"He's their best offensive player," Gedeon said of Mottayaw. "He was the top senior in terms of all-district votes. He's just a very well-rounded player."

The Little Giants, who trailed 51-18 at the half, allowed the Rams to take a 15-0 edge in second-chance points. Madison had the upper hand in first half rebounds 29-11, including caroms at the offensive end 11-2.

"Our No. 1 concern was, 'Could we win the battle in the paint,'" Gedeon said. "For us to have a chance, we had to keep them outside (of the paint) in the 16-to-19 foot range. But they totally dominated."

Madison coach Dave Rickert used rebounding as motivation for the Rams.

"It was our plan to go to the boards hard," Rickert said. "And after we crashed them hard in the first half, and that gave us a huge edge."

Madison collected a 46-40 advantage in rebounding in the



Madison's Delvonta Cheatham drives in between Kenny Penn and Andrew House of Fremont Ross Friday night in the division I sectional finals at Willard High School.

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game. Stephen Carnicom grabbed 7 rebounds to top the Little Giants. Carnicom, starting swingman for Ross, played against Madison two days after twisting his ankle in a Division I sectional semifinal game against Sandusky on Tuesday at Willard.

Mottayaw and Burghard each drained a pair of second-quarter 3-pointers during Madison's 17-2 run to begin the period that led to the Rams' 44-14 edge.

"We wanted to come out and attack early, but those 3-pointers could have gone either way," Rickert said. "Fortunately for us, they fell in."

Kenny Penn led Ross (11-11) with 21 points, 13 of which came during the final 16 minutes. Jordan Jones, who made the Little Giants' first 3-pointer with 1:10 left in the third quarter, ended up with 9 points.

With 5:50 left in the third quarter, the Rams took their biggest lead (60-20) until Andrew House scored consecutive baskets for Ross.

House finished with 8 points and 5 rebounds for the Little Giants.

Ross was at a slight disadvantage in shooting, finishing 21-of-57 (36 percent) from the field. Madison was 28-of-64 (44 percent) in comparison.

# High School Boys

## Mansfield Madison 80, Ross 56

**Fremont Ross 10 8 21 17 — 56**

**Mans. Madison 24 27 21 8 — 80**

FREMONT ROSS (11-11) — Darien Spann 1-0-2; Allen Lewis 1-0-2; Matt Price 0-1-1; Jordan Jones 2-4-9; Shunnar Gamble 1-2-4; Kenny Penn 8-4-21; Jake Hiestand 0-0-0; Skylar Reffner 0-1-1; Stephen Carnicom 2-0-4; Marc Bolen 1-0-2; Andrew House 4-0-8; Max Sanchez 0-0-0; Josh Ballinger 0-0-0. TOTALS — 21-11-56.

MANSFIELD MADISON (19-2) — Mike Siwek 0-1-1; Joey Wareham 6-2-14; Casey Bond 0-0-0; Brad Robinson 0-0-0; Travontae Wilson 3-1-7; Aaron Davis 4-3-12; David Osbun 0-0-0; Vincent Aijan 0-0-0; Nicholas Klupp 0-0-0; Jordan Mottayaw 7-3-23; Delvonta Cheatem 2-3-7; Jacob Burghard 5-2-14; Laronta Hall 1-0-2. TOTALS — 28-15-80.

3-point field goals — Fremont Ross 3 (Price, Penn, Jones); Madison 9 (Mottayaw 6, Burghard 2, Davis).

Rebounds — Fremont Ross 40 (Carnicom 7, Gamble 5, House 5); Madison 46 (Burghard 10, Mottayaw 8, Wilson 8, Wareham 6). Team fouls (Fouled out) — Fremont Ross 20 (House); Madison 23 (Wilson). Technical fouls — Fremont Ross (Gamble). Assists — Fremont Ross 6 (Jones 2); Madison 14 (Siwek 4, Mottayaw 4). Steals — Fremont Ross 6 (Penn 3); Madison 9 (Siwek 2, Cheatem 2). Blocked Shots — Fremont Ross 4 (Carnicom 2); Madison 2 (Wareham, Cheatem). Turnovers — Fremont Ross 16; Madison 11.