

Ross falls to Ashland

William Kosileski

Ashland Times-Gazette

FOSTORIA - Adversity is something that certainly has not been a stranger to the Ashland High boys basketball team this season. The Arrows have dealt with injuries throughout much of the season and nine of their losses have come by single digits. Once again faced with adversity on Saturday afternoon against Fremont Ross in a Division I Toledo 2 Sectional final at Fostoria High School — Ashland's most important game of the season to date — the Arrows responded in a big way.

After trailing 13th-seeded Fremont Ross at the end of each of the opening three quarters — and playing without injured starters Luke Denbow and Grayson Steury — Ashland outscored

the Little Giants 20-13 in the fourth quarter to pull out a 69-65 victory and win the sectional title.

Ashland cut down the net to celebrate after the victory, marking its first trip to districts since the 2014-15 season, which was the last time the Arrows won a tournament game.

"The adversity that we've gone through as far as close games, they all prepared us for this one," AHS coach Jason Hess said. "It's very easy now to forget some of the tough losses we had earlier in the year. But now you get to see your guys climb the ladder and cut the nets down, and I'm just so happy for those guys that they get the opportunity to do this."

"This is something they'll remember for the rest of their lives, that's for sure."

The Arrows were led by senior Mitchell Heilman and junior Eli White, as the duo played the entirety of the game and combined for 52 of Ashland's 69 points in the tournament victory.