

1972 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Giants Oppose Mansfield Sr.

Ross has drawn Mansfield Senior, a fellow school from the Buckeye Conference, as its first sectional basketball tournament opponent.

The Little Giants and Tygers will kick off the Ashland College Class AAA tourney Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. It marks the second consecutive year that the Little Giants have drawn a Tuesday game to open the Ashland Tourney. Last winter, Ross opened tourney competition with Shelby. That game was switched from Ashland to Norwalk, however.

Pairings for the Ashland sectional were made during a meeting at the tournament site yesterday. Ross was represented by head coach Alex Clark and his assistant, Jim Hamman.

Other teams involved in the sectional are Ashland, Mansfield, Malabar, Galion, Bellevue, Shelby, Sandusky and Mansfield Madison.

Ashland earned the top seed position with a 12-2 record against AAA schools. The Arrows are 14-3 overall. The second seed went to Malabar (9-7, 7-3).

There are two games scheduled for Feb. 25 and 26. Bellevue (9-8, 5-3) will play Sandusky (9-7, 8-7) in the first game Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. with Shelby (2-14, 1-6) going against Ashland in the second contest at 9 p.m.

The survivor of the Ross-Mansfield Senior clash comes back Feb. 26 to play Galion (13-3, 5-0) at 7 p.m. Malabar and Madison (5-13, 2-9) will collide in the nitecap.

The Feb. 25 winners return to Ashland March 3 to play for the sectional championship. Victors of the Feb. 26 contests will play for the sectional title March 4. Sectional champions advance to the Bowling Green State University district tournament March 9, 10 and 11. The Ashland winners will meet winners from the Lima Senior and Lima Bath sectional tournaments.

Ross and Mansfield have met twice already this season. The Little Giants won a 59-54 decision at Ross in December while Mansfield took a 90-52 verdict on its floor in January.

"I would have rather played a team out of the Buckeye Conference in the first game," Clark said, "but it should be an interesting game. I feel we can beat them if we put things together and play a good game. Senior played its best game of the season to beat us."

Tournament officials have decided that there will be no split sessions in the opening round. Thus, fans who watch the first game on Feb. 26 and 27 will also be allowed to stay and see the second game. The Ashland College gymnasium seats 3,500.

Ross officials will release ticket information later this week.

Ross, Mansfield Open Ashland Tourney Play

Two teams known for their inconsistency throughout the regular season will collide Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the opening game of the Ashland College AAA Sectional Tournament.

Fremont Ross finished the regular campaign with a 5-13 overall mark while Mansfield Senior was 6-12. Neither club played to its full potential throughout the year, however.

"I think our seasons have been very similar," Mansfield coach Vic Pfizenmayer said. "Both of us have been inconsistent."

Mansfield is a defending sectional champion and will be out to win its second straight trip to the Bowling Green State University District Tournament. Ross had a 1-1 tournament log last season and hasn't been a district entry since the 1964-65 season when it lost 46-45 to Maumee in the district championship game.

Ross and Mansfield have met twice already in Buckeye Conference competition this season. Ross won on its floor by a 59-54 tally in December while Mansfield took the January meeting by a 90-52 count.

"I certainly don't expect a game like we played down here," Pfizenmayer said. "I think it will be like any other Fremont game — tough. Fremont is a much better team. They seem to be improving and

are a much better ball club now that Bob Brudzinski and Chuck Celek, the two big fellows, are healthy."

Pfizenmayer, who's in his second season at the Tyger helm, is undecided about a starting lineup. He will probably have Dave Hurley at center and Barry Kidwell at a forward slot. If he's healthy, Terone Butler will be the second forward. The guard slots will go to either Jerry Brookins, Joel Weber or Max Fishbach.

Ross head coach Alex Clark has geared the Little Giant defense to stop Mansfield's dangerous fast break.

"We need to cut down their quick shot at the end of the break and also disrupt their pattern offense," Clark said. "I believe we'll be in a much better position to win the game if we can get them played one-on-one basketball."

Mansfield's board strength is also of great concern to the Little Giant pilot, who has a 1-2 tournament record in his three years as head coach.

"We have to control the boards to beat them," Clark said. "Mansfield had real good size. They out-rebounded Sandusky by a wide margin Friday and had four starters who were 6-4 or taller."

Much of the Ross rebounding ability will depend on the

physical status of 6-4 junior center Bob Brudzinski. He injured his foot recently and was ordered to take it easy by the Little Giant trainer last weekend.

The season has been a frustrating one for the Little Giants, but Clark is hopeful of a strong tournament showing which would erase some of the bad memories.

"So far we have had nothing to boast about," Clark said. "But the number one team in the state (Celina) is in our district and we would have the opportunity to play them if we can win the sectional. That's what players are shooting for. The kids seem real excited about that opportunity."

Clark will probably start Brudzinski at center with Mike Miller and Chuck Celek at forward and Steve Smith and Mike Feasel at guard.

Ross followers going to Ashland should take Route 20 to Norwalk and then pick up 250 south to Ashland. Route 250 goes right through town and when you come to the main street drive up a long hill to the second traffic light. Make a 90 degree left turn there and the fieldhouse is on the right. Driving time is approximately an hour and 15 minutes.

Advance In Sectional Play

Giants Hit 'High' Note

By MARK CARLSON

News-Messenger Sports Editor
ASHLAND—If Ross High basketball coach Alex Clark could compose a musical from last night's sectional tournament opener with Mansfield Senior, all the flat notes would come in the first half.

Then would come the high notes.

The Little Giants, after trailing by four points at half-time and seven after three quarters, battled back to a 45-48 tie at the end of regulation and then cruised in a three-minute overtime for a 57-52 victory over the Tygers at Ashland College Physical Education Center.

Federal Judge Orders Hearing

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP)—The Big Ten Conference, in the face of a deadline set by a federal court judge, will hold a hearing Thursday in Minneapolis for two suspended University of Minnesota basketball players.

Commissioner Wayne Duke's announcement of the hearing involving the conference's athletes is directly related to an order ruling Tuesday by U.S. District Court Judge Earl Larson that unless the conference held a hearing and upheld the suspension by 6 p.m. Friday, Corky Taylor and Ron Behagen would be reinstated on the team.

their witnesses could be heard. "We appreciate what the Big Ten did," said attorney Ron Si-

Duke's statement said the conference will follow guidelines set in Judge Larson's ruling, including notice of the hearing to "involved principals."

In these days when players in colleges are able to suspend their formal educational training in exchange for multi-million dollar contract to turn professional, this court takes judicial notice of the fact that, to many, the chance to display their athletic prowess in college

"The kids were fantastic, what can you say?" the beaming Clark said after the Purple and White earned the right to play Galion here Saturday at 7 p.m.

Ross was 'flat' in the first half and also part of the third quarter, but the Little Giant game plan began falling into place late in the fourth quarter.

Clark's club was still down by seven, 44-37, after the Tygers' Joe Weber set the first half of a one-and-one with 4:15 remaining.

But rebound buckets by Mike Miller and Bob Brudzinski ignited the Ross comeback.

"These baskets narrowed the gap," said the Tygers' coach.

Then the Tygers received a free throw and basket from Terence Butler, a 6-3 junior jumping jack, who hiked the Tyger advance to 47-44.

But Brudzinski pulled his team back with a reverse layup and then the Little Giants were only four with one when junior guard Steve Smith cashed in a three-point shot.

The Tygers club turned turnovers in the next 23 seconds before Mansfield got a two-point cushion with a free throw from Jerry Brookins. He made the first shot of a one-and-one, and then Tom Liggins hit a fielder with only 55 seconds left which

with the Little Giants scoring six straight points to jump ahead 48-46. Miller gave Ross the lead for the first time since the 5:15 mark when he downed a rebound shot with 2:47 left. Smith bagged both free throws 49 seconds later and then Tom Liggins hit a fielder with only 55 seconds left which

the win.

The Tygers finally got on the scoreboard with 33 seconds left with a bucket by Butler, but Fesel make a free throw to make it 55-50 with less than 30 seconds left. In the closing 19 seconds, the Tygers received a shot from good son Tom Liggins, leading scorer, Dave Hurley, and finally a basket by Steve Smith.

Ross picked off the rebound and began working for the percentage shot. Miller tried to fire a jumper with 48 seconds left but was foiled and converted both penalty shots.

That tied the game for the first time since the end of the first quarter when the scoreboard read: Ross 10-Mansfield 10.

The Tygers still had an opportunity to put the game away, however. Their coach Vic Pfaffenmaier ordered his club to play for one shot. Ross' Mike Fesel managed to tie up Butler with 29 seconds left, but Butler got the last shot.

Most of the Tygers managed to get a shot off but the ball bounded away. It headed to the rim a second time on a rebound shot but wouldn't fall through that time either.

It was all Ross in the overtime with the Little Giants bagging only 10 points in each of the first two quarters and were shooting just 33 per cent (six of 18) at intermission. The Giants went to the foul line 13 times, however, and made eight tries to stay with the Tygers, who also faced shooting problems.

Mansfield, which had split with Ross during the regular Buckeye Conference campaign, hit nine of 20 floor shots and six of eight at the foul line.

Ross had leads of 3-0 and 5-2

before Mansfield got five straight for an 8-5 lead. The Little Giants never trailed by more than five, however, in either the first or second half.

The Tygers did build their lead to eight points early in the fourth quarter, however. Then the Little Giants began to forget about the 'flat' and skied for the 'high' notes.

"Our kids started to do things the way they know how in the fourth quarter," Pfaffenmaier said. "We could have noise in a laundry beaker room."

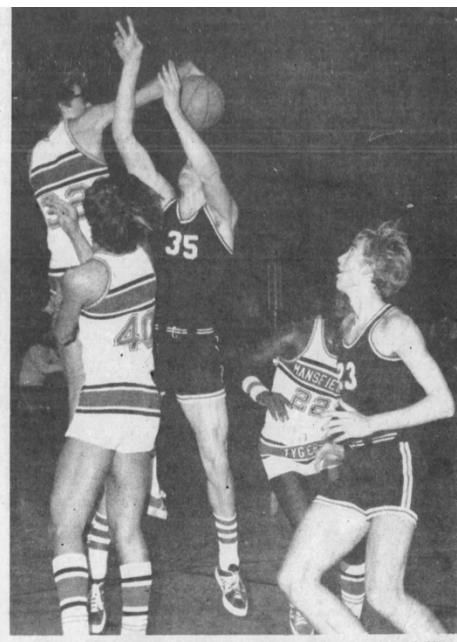
"The defense was flat in the first three quarters. We couldn't seem to get anything going. And on defense the kids weren't going out to get Mansfield. We gave them a bunch of easy buckets in the first half."

"The fellows began to hustle in the fourth quarter and things started to go our way. What the kids did in the last eight or just got the ball to the rim and one of them out—it was a team effort."

"I really can't tell you why we were flat in the first half, but there is no doubt that we were."

It might have been the quick trip down here and then having to play right after we got here."

The Little Giants bagged only



BARRY KIDWELL (22) of Mansfield Senior blocks shot of Ross' Bob Brudzinski. Dave Hurley (40) and Terence Butler (22) also

attempt to get into the action while Mike Miller (23) can only watch. Ross won in overtime, 57-52. (News-Messenger Photo)

ROSS 57					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td.
Brudzinski	4-9	3-7	10	5	11
Miller	3-11	5-5	19	4	11
Butler	3-7	1-2	15	2	11
Fesel	3-5	3-4	2	2	9
Lindsey	2-6	0-1	1	0	5
Smith	5-6	2	1	11	
Liggins	2-7	2-3	2	1	6
Team					37
TOTALS	19-53	19-26	63	22	37

MANSFIELD 52					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td.
Butler	5-18	1-2	15	2	11
Kidwell	4-11	0-1	1	0	5
Hurley	3-7	4-5	8	1	22
Miller	3-9	1-2	1	0	7
Brookins	3-7	1-2	3	0	7
Blakely	0-3	0-0	3	0	0
Sherry	2-4	0-1	1	0	5
Fishbach	0-1	0-0	0	1	0
Team					37
TOTALS	20-56	13-21	41	17	32

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Ross	10	14	13	11	9-37
Mansfield	10	14	13	11	4-32
Officials:	Whitey Hesler and Ralph Radbaugh				

Little Giants Seeking Back-To-Back Victories

If Ross can beat Galion in the Ashland Class AAA sectional Saturday, the Little Giants will have a double for the first time this season.

Coach Alex Clark and his Little Giants have six victories in 19 outings, including a thrilling come-from-behind 57-52 win over Mansfield Senior in the tournament opener Tuesday, but have not put victories back-to-back yet this season.

And, the Little Giants don't expect to have an easy time trying to accomplish that task against the Tigers, who are 14-4 for the season and won the Northern Ohio League championship.

"Our kids have been told that Galion is a strong ball club," Clark said Thursday. "Their biggest threat is the quick game. They like to get the ball off the boards and run when they get the opportunity."

Galion head coach Jim Kirk is expected to start Chip Durtschi (5-9) and Scott McDavid (5-10) at the guards, John Evans (6-4) will jump center and Dave Repp (6-0) and Dave Jones (6-1) are slated to play at forward.

"All three of their big men seem to move fairly well, but it's the two guards who keep them moving," said Clark, who scouted Galion when it lost a 67-61 verdict to Ontario last Saturday.

McDavid, a first team selection for the District Six AAA coaches all-star team this week, is the leading scorer for the Tigers with an 18.0 average. But the other four starters are also in twin figures — Repp (12.0), Evans (11.0) and Jones and Durtschi (10.0).

"They seem to be strong shooters," Clark said. "Each one of the starters is shooting

better than 44 per cent from the field and they have four fellows shooting better than 63 per cent from the foul line.

"They're very capable of scoring a lot of points. They like to move quickly down the floor after getting the rebound and then try for the easy basket at the end of the fast break."

Clark believes rebounding and the Little Giants' defensive play will be determining factors in the contest.

"We have to control the boards and force them to set up on offense and work for their shots," the third year pilot who has a 2-2 tournament record said.

Besides the pride of both teams the prestige of both conferences is also on the line of the contest.

"The Buckeye had a rough time in tournament play last year," Clark said. "I think our kids would like to prove the Buckeye is the better conference."

Kirk thinks Ross' affiliation with the Buckeye will be one of the big factors his team will have to overcome.

"Ross is very physical," Kirk said after viewing the Ross-Mansfield clash. "We've run into big teams before this season but none of them were as physical as Ross."

"How they play might be determined by how the game's officiated. We play a brand of ball that is more comparable to AA than AAA. We must keep doing the same things we've been doing all year."

Clark will probably go with the same lineup that received the call against Mansfield. That will put Bob Brudzinski in the center circle with Mike Miller and Chuck Celek at forward and Chuck Lindsey and Mike Feasel at guard. The only other possibility would have Steve Smith going in at a guard slot.

The Little Giant pilot was still happy with the win over Mansfield when he sent the squad through a rugged practice session Thursday.

"The kids really came back in the fourth quarter," Clark said. "I'm real proud of them, but we still realize there's a lot more we can do this season."

"It hasn't been a very good year but a couple of tournament wins would make the kids forget about how poorly we played in those losses to Tiffin Columbian and Toledo Rogers."

Tipoff for the Ross-Galion battle is 7 p.m. A game between Mansfield Madison and Mansfield Malabar will follow at 9 p.m. Fans who attend the first game will also be able to see the second contest since competing schools in the Ashland sectional voted against split sessions.

Winners of the Ross-Galion and Madison-Malabar tests return to Ashland College Physical Education Center March 4 at 12:30 p.m. to play for the sectional championship.

Ross is in the upper bracket of the sectional. Two games will also be played tonight. Sandusky will face Bellevue at 7 p.m. while Ashland and Shelby square off two hours later. The winners of those games play for the sectional title March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Decision Due

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus Dispatch reported today that Big Ten athletic directors will uphold suspension of two University of Minnesota basketball players because of a fight in the Jan. 25 Ohio State-Minnesota game.

The athletic directors were meeting at Minneapolis today for the second day to review Commissioner Wayne Duke's suspension of the players.



