

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 halftime and seven after three stanzas, battled back to a 48-48 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 athletic directors followed an earlier 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, Cerk Taylor and Ron Behagen would be reinstated on the team.

"The kids were fantastic, what else can you say?" a beaming Clark said after the Purple and White earned the right to play Galien 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' Joel Weber sank 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.

Those baskets narrowed the Mansfield lead to 44-41.

Then the Tygers received a free throw and basket from Terone Butler, a 6-3 junior jumping jack, who hiked the Tyger advantage to 47-41.

Brudzinski pulled Ross within four with a reverse layup and then the Little Giants were only behind by one when junior guard Steve Smith cashed in a three-point play.

The clubs traded turnovers in the next 23 seconds before Mansfield got a two-point cushion with a free throw from Jerry Brooks. He made the first shot of a one-and-one, but couldn't cash the second.

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

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 pull out the win, however. Their coach Vic Pflanzmayer ordered his club to play for one shot. Ross' Mike Fassel managed to tie up Butler with 29 seconds left, but Butler got the jump.

One of the Tygers managed to get a shot off with approximately five seconds left but the ball bounced 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 scoring six straight points to jump ahead 54-48. 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 of a one-and-one situation 45 seconds later and then Tom Liggins hit a fielder with only 35 seconds left which iced the win.

The Tygers finally got on the scoreboard with 33 seconds left with a bucket by Butler but Fassel make a free throw to make it 55-50 with less than 30 seconds left. In the closing 19 seconds, the Tygers received a field goal from the game's leading scorer, Dave Hurley, while Smith banked two more free throws.

"Our kids started to do things the way they know how in the fourth quarter," Clark said above the noise in a happy locker room.

"The offense 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 number 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 was just fantastic. I can't single any 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

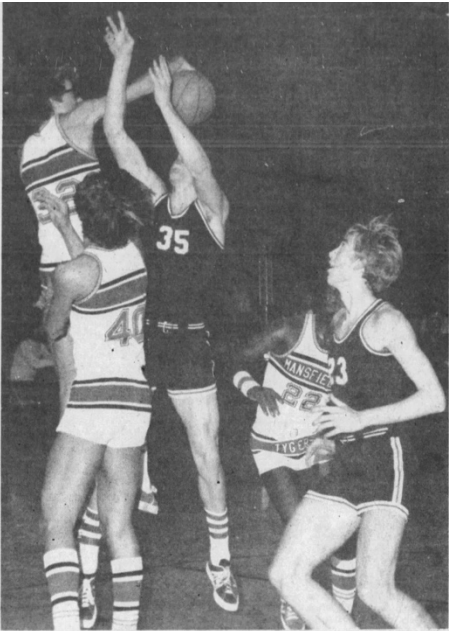
10 points in each of the first two quarters and were shooting just 33 per cent (six of 18) at intermission. The Giants went to the foul line 13 times, however, and converted eight tries to stay with the Tygers, who were also beset with shooting problems.

Mansfield, which had split with Ross during the regular Buckeye Conference campaign, hit nine of 36 floor shots and six of eight at the foul line.

Ross had leads of 3-0 and 5-3 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 quarter.

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

ROSS (37)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	TH	
Brudzinski	4-10	3-7	10	5	11	
Miller	3-11	5-5	19	4	11	
Colek	2-7	0-0	3	4	4	
Fassel	3-5	3-4	2	2	9	
Lindsey	2-6	1-1	2	3	5	
Smith	3-7	5-6	2	1	11	
Liggins	2-7	2-3	2	1	6	
Team			3			
TOTALS	19-53	19-26	43	22	57	
MANSFIELD (52)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	TH	
Butler	5-18	1-2	15	2	11	
Kubicki	0-1	0-2	3	5	0	
Hurley	9-17	6-5	8	1	22	
Weber	1-3	0-7	1	5	7	
Brooks	3-7	1-2	3	6	7	
Blakely	0-3	0-0	3	3	0	
Montgomery	2-6	1-2	6	0	0	
Falshaw	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	
Team			2			
TOTALS	20-56	12-21	41	17	52	
SCORE BY QUARTERS						
Ross						9-57
Mansfield						11-44
Officials:	Whaley	Hefner	and Ralph			
Rathbough.						



BARRY KIDWELL (32) of Mansfield Senior blocks shot of Ross' Bob Brudzinski. Dave Hurley (40) and Terone 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)

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.

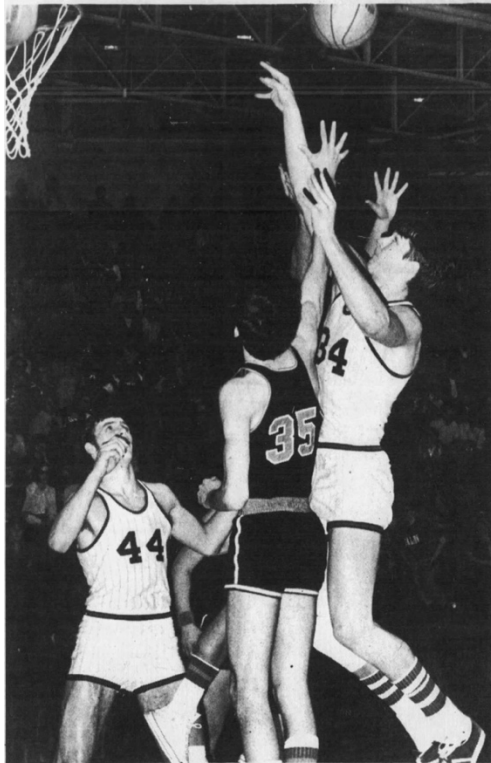
Decision Due

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.



s, Little Giants Eliminated



ROSS' Bob Brudzinski (34) goes against Dave Jones (35) and another Galion player who's hidden behind Jones for a rebound during the fourth quarter of Saturday's Class AAA sectional contest at Ashland College. Chuck

Celek (44) is out of position for the carom and can only watch play develop. Galion closed the Ross season by dealing the Little Giants a 68-63 defeat.

Ross Concludes With 6-14 Mark

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor
ASHLAND — Ross' up-and-down basketball team went down—for the count—against Galion.

The Little Giants stumbled for the last time this season, bowing to Galion, 68-63, in a Class AAA sectional examination played at the Ashland College Physical Education Center Saturday.

It was the 14th loss against six victories for the Little Giants, who never won two straight games during the frustrating campaign.

The latest setback was just another chapter in the bewildering series of losses. The Giants fell behind 17-7 at the quarter and could never head off the determined Tigers, who throttled the Ross offense with a series of sticky zone defenses.

"Our kids were ready," Little Giant head coach Alex Clark said. "Maybe they were too high for the game. Before we went onto the floor I thought we had a better attitude for this game than we had for our game Tuesday against Mansfield and the previous Friday against Lorain Admiral King.

"But like I've said before I could never predict at any time this year what this team was going to do when it got onto the floor."

One thing Clark could never have predicted, or expected, was the first quarter performance against Galion, a team which entered tournament play with credits that included a Northern Ohio League championship and 14-4 overall mark this season.

Ross, which shot a lowly 36.5 per cent as a team for the season, fell far below that figure in the first quarter, making only two of 18 floor attempts while Galion opened up its 10-point cushion.

"They weren't bad shots either," Clark said in reviewing the missed attempts. "They were good shots that wouldn't fall through the net. If we could have made a couple of those baskets I think it would have given us the momentum we needed for the rest of the game."

The Giants never had the lead. They fell behind 3-0 before Mike Pessel got the first field goal for the Sandusky Countians with 2:57 gone in the game. Galion then reeled off 10 straight before senior forward Mike Miller came up with five consecutive markers to pull Ross within three, 10-7, with 2:11 remaining in the quarter.

But before Ross scored again, Galion raced for nine points to construct a 19-7 lead. Miller finally ended the dry spell with a short field goal after 1:20 had passed in the second quarter.

Galion kept a 10-point cushion until the 1:36 mark when Ross guard Steve Smith dumped in a pair of free throws to make it 30-21. But Galion then notched four straight to take a 36-21 margin to the dressing room at intermission.

"We didn't execute our game plan," Clark said in explaining the first half. "We knew we had to stop Galion's fast break and we didn't."

"And, we didn't have any movement on defense or offense. The kids were just standing around and we were getting beat."

Ross shot a miserable 26 per cent (six of 26) in the first half while Galion was hitting an even 50 per cent (13 of 26). Things weren't much better at the charity stripe, either, where Ross couldn't connect on its first five tries and ended up making nine of 16 for 56 per cent. Galion meshed eight of 13.

Galion started to falter in the third quarter and by the midway point of the final stanza, the Giants were back in contention. A field goal by Smith, who finished with 13 points, pulled Ross within four with 4:46 remaining.

Then Galion's Scott McDavid, the game's leading scorer with 19 points, hit a three-point play and Dave Repp converted a Ross turnover into an 18-foot jumper that sent Galion's lead back to nine, 62-53.

"When we got within four, I thought we had a pretty good chance of getting them," Clark said. "We had the momentum but lost it on a questionable call (McDavid's three point play) and the turnover. Those points gave Galion the momentum it had lost."

Miller got a field goal before Galion got another three points to take a 10-point advantage, 65-55. Field goals by Tom Liggins and Kirt Stout cut the deficit to 65-59 with 1:35 remaining, but three straight free throws in a 16-second span iced the win for the Tigers.

The Little Giants were hampered by their inability to get the ball inside to the three 'big' men—Miller, Chuck Celek and Bob Brudzinski. Miller and Celek finished as the leading Ross scorers with 13 apiece, but eight of Celek's markers came on free throws and Miller picked up five charity tosses.

"They (Galion) found our weakness," Clark said. "They shut us off inside and forced us to shoot from the outside where we had very little success all season."

But even though Galion employed a strong defense Clark was still convinced the Little Giants could have left here with a victory.

"We missed enough foul shots to win the game," the Buffton College graduate lamented. "In the last three or four games we were shooting between 75 and 80 per cent from the foul line. Again, there's no rhyme or reason why we couldn't shoot fouls... If we would have made those first five of the game instead of missed them, I think it would have given us a big lift to play the rest of the game."

"We had the opportunities but didn't take advantage."

Box Score

	Ross (62)						Galion (68)					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td.		FG	FT	RB	PF	Td.	
Brudzinski	4-11	0-3	13	4	8	Durtuch	5-7	7-14	2	4	17	
Miller	4-8	5-8	5	12		McDavid	5-10	9-12	1	1	19	
Celek	3-3	8-12	8	3	13	Repp	4-8	4-5	6	4	12	
Fennel	1-0	0-0	0	5	2	Evans	2-4	1-1	8	5	5	
Lindley	3-10	2-4	1	5	8	Jones	3-7	3-9	12	2	11	
Smith	3-4	6-7	0	2	12	Kent	1-1	0-1	4	3	2	
Liggins	2-4	0-0	2	3	4	Paffenbarger	1-0	0-1	1	2		
Stout	2-2	0-0	0	0	4	Team						
Team			8			Totals	21-45	26-43	47	20	68	
Totals	21-54	21-34	40	29	63							

SCORE BY QUARTERS		
Galion	17 17 17-68	
Ross	7 14 22-43	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Galion	17	17	17	17	68
Ross	7	14	22	20	63

Something Old, New Send Lakota Against Fostoria

Lakota's Raiders turned to a subtle dose of something old and something new Saturday night and the result was an 80-74 Class A sectional tournament basketball victory over the Clyde lers.

The Raiders, avenging an earlier defeat at the hands of the lers, led throughout most of the ball game, but had to beat repeated challenges by the lers.

The Raiders' combinations of a and old were a senior and a homore, a once-discarded lenitive strategy and the year's it shooting percentage.

Id only in terms of high school athletic experience, senior Dan Shultz joined hustling homore Larry Lentz in one of e key old and new mbinations for the Raiders.

Repeating an old story, Shultz, o often has played a key role Lakota athletic fortunes, mped in 20 points. But it was ntz, also new in the fact that still has two more years of h school competition ahead of n, who set the scoring pace h a new high individual formance for the Raiders for s year. Lentz canned ten field als and nine free throws to d all scorers with 29 points f top the season's previous it individual total of 26 by jltz.

Meanwhile, the Raiders as a m supplied the other old and v combination, returning to d offensive strategy to nge Clyde's offensive tempo

and canning 40 per cent from the field for the first time this season.

"They moved exceptionally well against our man-to-man the last time we played, so we went back to our shifting defense this time," Lakota head coach Wally Grimm said after the game.

"We worked the shifting defense the first three games of the year, but then we went to one set defense for the rest of the year."

In the shifting defense, the Raiders use a man-for-man some of the time and variations of the zone some of the time. "Shultz called out whatever defense we are going to use, except that we automatically went to a one-two-two zone when they came down fast and we didn't have much time to get set up," Grimm explained.

"We went exclusively to the zone in the second half, because they beat our man-to-man a few times in the first half."

	FG	FT	TU		FG	FT	TU
Clyde	6	9	12		10	15	24
Nofz	0	3	3		1	1	3
Burroughs	2	2	4		2	1	3
Obee	2	2	4		2	1	3
Polins	7	2	17		2	1	3
Patton	12	4	28		2	1	3
Caudill	1	1	3		2	1	3
Meyer	2	1	3		2	1	3
Totals	30	14	74		20	14	74
Lakota	FG	FT	TU		FG	FT	TU
Shultz	9	2	20		9	2	20
Wasserman	1	0	2		1	0	2
L. Lentz	10	10	29		10	10	29
Wise	1	1	3		1	1	3
Pine	4	2	11		4	2	11
Gumertfelder	0	2	2		0	2	2
Totals	25	14	77		25	14	77
SCORE BY QUARTERS							
Clyde	19	15	15	15	64		
Lakota	18	26	16	20	80		

The Raiders' head coach felt the shifting defense threw off the tempo of Clyde's offense.

While the Fliers had ripped the nets at a better than 50 per cent pace the last time the two teams met, this time it was Lakota that shot better than usual.

"That's the first time we've shot 40 per cent all year," Grimm said after the Raiders had hit that field goal shooting percentage figure right on the nose.

The two teams battled for the lead in a tight first period, with Lakota's attempt to work for a last shot and possible three-point lead.

Patton, a pair of juniors who played fine games for the Fliers, combined to spoil the Raiders' efforts. Leading 18-17, Lakota took a shot, but Nofz grabbed the rebound with just three seconds left, whirled down court and fired a long pass to the already fastbreaking Patton.

Patton, who led the Clyde scorers with 28 points, fired in a long jump shot just as the buzzer sounded, giving the Fliers a 19-18 lead at the first break.

It was the last time the Fliers were to lead, however. Lakota, hitting the boards hard, working on defense and moving well, pulled ahead of the Fliers in the second quarter.

Then, in the second half, the Raiders beat back repeated challenges by the Fliers, who often threatened, but never quite caught up.

Led by Patton, Nofz and scrappy John Collins the Fliers repeatedly looked like they might catch the Raiders, but it seemed as if every time Clyde drew close Lentz came up with a

nal Title Tilt

I Mike Hartzel, who was on the eiving end of a number of

Their press, which had been very effective all night and