

1977-1978 Coaching Change



LAST GAME AS ROSS COACH FOR KEN MILLER

Miller resigns!

Ken Miller announced his resignation from the head basketball coaching job at Fremont Ross Thursday night. The resignation ended his five-year stint as the head man at Ross.

Miller, however did not resign his teaching post as head of the Ross physical education department.

A disappointing 0-19 season, the first time a Ross team has not won at least one game during the season, prompted Miller's move but concern for his program not moving forward was one of the major factors.

"Really," Miller said calmly, "what it boils down to is that I have worked awfully hard at this job. When you work hard, you lose hard — you fall hard.

"There is no job worth losing your health over so I feel it is time to step aside and give someone else a chance."

The outgoing coach said, "I feel very good now except that I am emotionally and physically drained."

Miller, 42, spoke briefly of his first five years at Ross after a successful six years at Sidney High School.

"When I first came here, the number one objective was to put a team on the floor that was interesting and competitive. We were able to do that the previous three years to this.

"We did not win them all," he explained, "but when we lost, that opponent knew that he had been in a heck of a ball game."

Miller paused before going on but then registered his disappointment at the failure to move forward after accomplishing his first objective.

"After accomplishing that objective, you want to move forward and strive to get to the top," he said

and then spoke of his season's team.

"I knew that this year's team was not equipped to get to the top — and I knew that it was going to be a long, tough year but I thought that we would be more competitive. From that standpoint, we have slid backward this year — that's no direction to go."

Miller, the father of six, said that he had not been pressured into resigning, but instead had complete cooperation from Ross Principal Richard Butdorf and Athletic Director Dick Sherman.

"They have been wonderful to work for and with," he said.

Does he rule out the possibility of coaching again at another school.

"As it stands right now, I will be back next year to teach but to say that I will never coach again, well, never is a long time.

"Coaching is just like gambling — it gets in your blood."

Continuing, Miller said, "I do not want to quit now but I am disappointed that there was not more accomplished. It is a matter of trying to determine what is best for my family, and myself.

"I know that I have worked hard — I don't know what else I could have done. Maybe someone else could have done better."

While at Ross, Miller's teams posted a combined record of 34-63. Included in that record was a sectional championship. Miller also coached Mike Reardon who was player of the year in Northwestern Ohio in 1974 and a first team All-Ohio selection that same year.

The coaching veteran of 19 years has a career record of 229-157.

Paeth officially hired as Ross boss

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
 Norman "Biz" Paeth was officially hired as Ross High School's varsity basketball coach Monday night during the Fremont Board of Education meeting.

The pending appointment of Paeth was announced in last Thursday's News-Messenger.

Paeth, 30, replaces Kenny Miller who resigned following this past season after five years at the helm of the Little Giants. Paeth, a native of Fremont and a graduate of Fremont St. Joe in 1964, spent the last four basketball seasons at Sandusky St. Mary's.

Prior to coaching at St. Mary's, Paeth had spent three years as head coach at Tuscarawas Central Catholic. He went to TCC after a year at Fremont St. Joe as the junior varsity coach.

No stranger to the Fremont school system and Ross, Paeth's first job after graduating from the University of Tampa in '68 was in the Fremont Junior High coaching an eighth grade basketball team.

"I guess you could say that I was Hank

Miesle's (long time Fremont teacher and coach) assistant back then," Paeth chuckled.

About the Ross job, Paeth said, "This is the biggest challenge that I will have faced as a coach. It's a big step up the ladder for me."

St. Mary's is a Class A school and making the jump to triple-A Ross brought mixed emotions to the new Little Giants coach.

"I really wasn't looking for another job," Paeth contended, "Ross was the only place that I applied. At St. Mary's I felt that I accomplished what I had started."

Paeth piloted the Panthers to a 56-27 record including two Sandusky Bay Conference championships, two sectional crowns, and a district runnerup.

The new Ross coach offered a brief glimpse into his plans for Ross.

"Next year we will really work the kids hard but it will not be punishment — I don't work that way," he said. "I want to have fun and I want the kids to have fun on Tuesday and Friday nights (most of Ross's games will be played on those nights)."

Paeth also discounted the crowded practice situation at Ross by saying it was nothing compared to St. Mary's.

"We had to schedule grades 7-12 in that gym for both boys and girls teams and that type of situation has taught me to be 'economical' with my practice time," he said while describing that he feels he makes the most of his practices.

The new coach also said that he favors a "running" type of offense but not a free lance system. On defense, he is strictly one-sided.

"I hope that we can play man-to-man 99.9 per cent of the time," Paeth disclosed but then tempered that statement by saying that he is familiar with zone defenses and he used primarily a zone at Tuscarawas Central Catholic.

"I am going to sell defense to the players," Paeth continued, "that is the most important part of the game and of course, to play a good zone — you have to play a good man-to-man."

Paeth admits that he faces a big problem in rebuilding Ross's hardwood sport but relishes the challenge. He does have his ideas how to accomplish it and

is calling on the football players to help out.

"Ross has a football tradition," he began, "and I have to get the football players to realize that I want them to contribute to the basketball program. It makes no difference to me if an athlete plays football — we just need athletes out for basketball."

"I do not believe athletes have to be that much of a specialist in high school that they cannot play more than one sport."

As for his first year, Paeth wants to have a measure of success. He did not speak in terms of wins but said that any success, and hopefully it would be victories, would have a "snowballing" effect at Ross.

"Ross plays in one of the best leagues in Ohio and there is no reason why Ross cannot be competitive," he pointed out.

He announced that he will meet with prospective players on June 1 and 2. At 3 p.m. on June 1 he will talk with the freshmen at the junior high while at the same time on June 2, Paeth will be at the high school to talk to upperclassmen.



NORMAN "BIZ" PAETH
 New Ross basketball coach

Lakota stops Eastwood winning streak at 19

PEMBERVILLE — Lakota bombed Eastwood for eight runs in the first

sophomore pitcher Tim Ray pitched a "nice ball game" despite giving up

Sports in Brief

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
HOCKEY

HARTFORD, Conn. — The World Hockey Association's New England Whalers signed the three hockey playing

scoring a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Martin Robinson of Britain in the opening round of the French Open tennis championships.

GENERAL

Houses — Gordie and his sons. Mark and