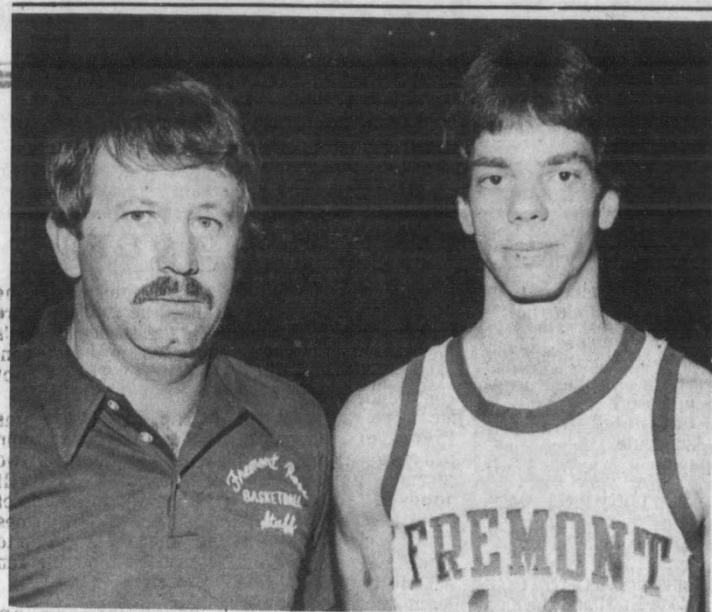


1982-1983 Season Review



ROSS COACH JOHN SAWYER AND CAPTAIN DAVE ASCHENBACH

Sawyer is optimistic on Ross cage plight

Maybe John Sawyer sees a light at the end of the tunnel as he watches his Ross basketball team prepare for the season.

At least he is beginning to see hope for a team that won only three of 21 games in his first season.

"I think the program is coming up," Sawyer offered. "There seems to be more interest in the junior high. We have a good turnout there."

"We hope that we can get more kids interested out here (high school)," he continued. "For a high school this size, there should be more than 30 kids out for the team."

Sawyer will carry four seniors on his second edition of the Little Giants but there is a possibility that three sophomores will be in the starting lineup.

"I have not decided on a lineup yet," Sawyer said, "it could be made up of any eight kids right now."

The Little Giants host Class AA power Oak Harbor Tuesday in the home opener. Oak Harbor was 22-3 a season ago.

Sawyer spoke of the positive points of his second year.

"The kids worked hard last summer," he said, "and it has shown. We are starting to see small gains in the program. The only thing I am disappointed in was that most of the kids did not work on their strength."

The Ross coach pointed out that his team's attitude has improved.

"They are playing better team basketball; no one seems to be selfish out there," Sawyer explained.

Along with the four seniors and three sophomores, Sawyer has four juniors on the varsity squad. Two of

the latter, Jeff Nossaman and Terry Manahan, will be honing their skills on the junior varsity for parts of the season.

Captain Dave Aschenbach and senior William Johnson are the team's only returning letterman. Dan Brudzinski, 6-4 junior, started Ross's last seven games as a sophomore but did not have enough quarters to letter.

The three sophomores are coming off an unbeaten freshmen team. Greg Bender, 6-3, and Chris Simmons, 6-2, are the best bets to start Tuesday. The third, Mark Miesle, 6-2, could work his way into the lineup with good performances in scrimmage games this weekend.

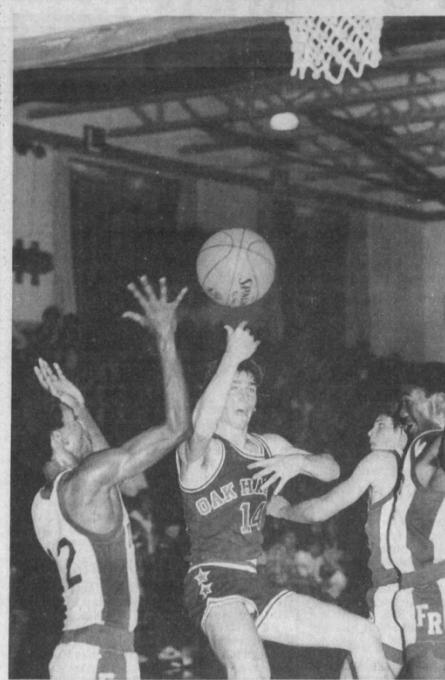
Aschenbach, the Little Giants leading scorer last season, will start at a forward spot while Bender and Johnson could be the forwards. Simmons is a center with junior Ryan Smith, 5-11, Miesle and Jim Hufford, 6-1 junior, battling for the guard slots.

Brudzinski had problems shaking off his football instincts but looked good, Sawyer said, in the last scrimmage. He is a possible starter at a forward spot. Tom Polk, 6-3 and 6-4 Jerry Snodgrass will see spot action early at the center or forward positions.

"I have a lot of combinations," Sawyer said. "We have eight guys this year who are capable of pushing each other."

Shooting, says Sawyer, is one of his team's biggest improvements but quickness has eluded the Little Giants this season.

"For us to keep in games this year," he said, "we are going to have to control the tempo of the game."



DAN CHRISTIE (14) of Oak Harbor loses control of the ball while under the Ross basket. William

Johnson (12) is the defender. Chris Simmons, foreground and Jim Huford of Ross close in on Christie.

(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

Rockets' 2nd half fells Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
Ross's careful approach was its undoing Tuesday in an opening 56-51 high school basketball loss to Oak Harbor at the Ross High School gym.

The Little Giants spurred to a 37-26 halftime lead only to run into a cold second half and lose the cushion.

"I think the kids got a little tentative in the third quarter," Ross Coach John Sawyer explained. "We were up by 11 and they may have thought 'let's be careful'."

The Little Giants, with a starting crew of two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore combined with a sprinkling of underclassmen coming off the bench, free wheeled its way to the first half lead.

Running through the Rockets' pressing defense, senior Dave Aschenbach and sophomore Greg Bentz scored 10 points apiece in the first 16 minutes. Ross hit 15 of 30 shots in the initial half.

After an 18-18 deadlock in the first period, Ross pulled away from Oak Harbor with an 11-0 scoring spurt in the final four minutes of the half. The run broke a 26-26 deadlock.

Oak Harbor, with the heralded Christie brothers — Dan and Don —

committed 10 first-half turnovers and Ross scored on seven of them. Dan Christie, bound for the University of Dayton next fall, had 12 first-half points and junior brother Don had four.

The elder Christie finished with 21 and the younger, 13.

"We felt that if we held them to 35 points," Sawyer said, "We would win the game."

Oak Harbor got a lift from Dennis Schieltz and a big blocked shot from Larry Fizer plus a stronger effort out of its press to wipe out Ross's first half lead.

"We were up 24-20 and Weirich had to sub to get the boys a rest," Rockets Coach Dave Christie said, "and we lost everything. In the second half, I did not score."

Aschenbach, who had Ross's high of 19 points, scored the only Ross points, three, in the third period. The first Little Giants field goal in the third period did not come until the 2:07 mark.

"We were trying to double-team Aschenbach everytime he came downcourt," Christie said about his team's defense on Ross's leading scorer of last season.

With Oak Harbor leading 42-40 early in the final period, Schieltz grabbed three key rebounds and sank two free throws following a bucket by Dan Weirich to give the Rockets a 46-40 lead. After

Aschenbach scored at the 5:10 mark, Oak Harbor got a bucket from Dan Christie and two more baskets from Don Christie to open up a 52-42 lead with two and one-half minutes to play. Fizer blocked a layup by Ross's William Johnson on a fast break to set up one of the Oak Harbor baskets.

"We kind of wore ourselves down in the first half," Sawyer said. "The kids got a little tired and in the second half were not looking for the shots."

Ross was 0 of 11 in the third period and 5 of 12 in the final eight minutes.

"The only thing I am unhappy with is the loss," Sawyer said. "We found out a lot of things and we know what work we have to do but I was happy with the way the kids played."

Ross finished with 21 of 51 from the floor and nine of 15 from the line. Oak Harbor, with Weirich the third player in double figures with 10 points, hit 21 of 42 shots and 14 of 22 free throws. Ross outrebounded the Rockets 30-25.

Saturday, Ross will be at Fostoria while Oak Harbor will entertain Cardinal Stritch on Friday.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won 48-42. Jeff Nessman had 15 and Jerry Manahan 13 for Ross. Dave Weirich had 13 for Oak Harbor.

Raiders lose; Oak Harbor girls set point marks

Hopewell-Loudon turned loose its big men and the Oak Harbor Lady Rockets had a record night in high school basketball Tuesday.

Lakota lost to Hopewell-Loudon 80-54 as 6-6 Mike Egbert and 6-5 Steve Hoover had 39 points between them. The Oak Harbor girls rolled over Northwood 89-18 as the school team and individual game scoring records fell. In another game, the Bellevue girls bounced Clyde 62-21.

Egbert tossed in 22 and Hoover 17 for the Chieftains. Hopewell outscored

"In the third quarter, it was a matter of us having people out of position and not adjusting to Miller's absence," Lakota Coach Paul Gnepper said.

Dan Baker of Lakota led all scorers with 25 points.

Hopewell hit 34 of 66 shots and Lakota 21 of 56. The Chieftains outrebounded Lakota 41-27 with Egbert grabbing 11. Baker had 11 rebounds for the Raiders.

OAK HARBOR 89, NORTHWOOD 18
Kelly Kretz scored 35 points as the

The 89 points beat the 67 record set in the 1978-79 season.

"I think it was a record for field goals in a game as well as number of team steals and individual steals," Coach Tom Quinn said, "but I have not looked them up yet."

Oak Harbor will host Fremont St. Joe at 6 p.m., Monday.

BELLEVUE 62, CLYDE 21
Bellevue ran to an 11-4 first quarter lead and easily added to that lead to top

Boys

Oak Harbor 56 Ross 51

Score by quarters

Oak Harbor	18	8	14	16	—56
Ross	18	19	3	11	—51

Scoring

OAK HARBOR: Dan Christie 7-7-21, Don Christie 6-1-13, Wasserman 1-0-2, Weirich 5-0-10, Fizer 1-4-6, Shiets 1-2-4, totals 21-14-56.

ROSS: Aschenbach 8-3-19, Bender 4-2-10, Johnson 3-0-6, Brudzinski 0-3-3, Hufford 1-0-2, Smith 1-0-2, Simmons 3-1-7, Miesle 1-0-2, totals 21-9-51.

Season records: Oak Harbor 1-0, Ross 0-1.

Ross JV's 48

Oak Harbor 42

Score by quarters

Oak Harbor	9	9	7	17	—42
Ross	12	10	8	18	—48

Scoring

OAK HARBOR: Weirich 2-9-

13, Pfaff 4-3-11, Connell 1-0-2, Beck 1-0-2, Detzel 2-1-5, Skinner 4-1-9, totals 14-14-42.

ROSS: Manahan 6-1-13, Nossaman 6-3-15, Welty 2-4-8, Crawford 2-0-4, Starks 2-0-4, Snodgrass 2-0-4, totals 20-8-48.

Season records: Ross 1-0, Oak Harbor 0-1.

Hopewell 80 Lakota 54

Score by quarters

Hopewell	15	17	23	25	—80
Lakota		8	15	9	22—54

Scoring

HOPEWELL: Egbert 10-2-22, Hoover 7-3-17, Speessen 3-2-8, Hoessler 2-0-4, Arbogast 4-0-8, Craft 0-4-4, Beeson 6-0-12, Clouse 2-0-4, Pachlhofer 0-1-1, totals 34-12-80.

LAKOTA: Miller 2-5-9, T. Chalfin 1-0-2, Baker 10-5-25, Bickley 2-0-4, Tiell 3-2-8, Swaisgood 1-0-2, Rosser 2-0-4, totals 21-12-54.

Season record: Hopewell 1-0, Lakota 0-1.

JV game: Lakota 39-33.

Defense, free throw shooting give boys first win

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FOSTORIA — Ross clamped on a tight "2-3" zone defense and held a hot hand at the free throw line to dump the Fostoria Redmen 59-39 in a boys high school basketball game Saturday night.

The Little Giants defense, turning in its second straight strong performance, limited the Redmen to 12 of 48 from the field.

"We got a win and that's nice," Ross Coach John Sawyer said while savoring only his fourth

win in two seasons as the Little Giants' head coach. "We played well defensively and did a good job underneath. I thought we did a good job on defense against Oak Harbor (Ross lost 56-51 Tuesday after leading 37-26 at the half). We just have to work our butts off on our half-court defense."

The Little Giants had only 37 shots from the field, hitting 17 of them, but the purple and white paraded to the foul line 35 times and missed only 10. In the final quarter, Ross hit four of

eight from the field and 13 of 17 free throws.

Both teams started sluggishly with Ross taking a 12-5 lead after the first eight minutes. That grew to 23-6 as Ross outscored the Redmen 11-1 from the 2:17 mark of the first quarter till three minutes were left in the first half.

Dave Aschenbach, seven of seven at the line, led Ross with 17 points, 13 coming in the second half. Dan Brudzinski, after hitting his first field goal of the season in the third

period, finished with a dozen points. Brudzinski, a junior who started the final seven games of the season as a sophomore and averaged in double figures, had missed his first 10 shots of the season.

Ross's biggest lead was 58-35.

While Sawyer praised his team's defensive play, he was not happy with the offense but he partially shouldered the blame for that in the loosely played game.

"We got out of our offense more than I

like," he said. "I tried some different combinations (of players) just before the half and they did not do it."

Sawyer had good performances from two sophomores — Mark Miesle and Chris Simmons. Miesle came off the bench to score nine points.

"Simmons did a good job, especially defensively," said Sawyer.

The Ross coach played all 10 of the players and eight scored.

In the junior varsity game, the Little Giants

ran their record to 2-0 with a 47-42 win. Jeff Nossaman had 15 points with Jerry Manahan and Scott Welty dropping in 10 apiece.

... and
Moeller

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) — Flaherty, a rival foot may have paid Moeller in Cincinnati the ultimate compliment.

"It is like God coming

Flaherty said after

mashed his Lakewood

Basketball

High school

Boys

Ross 59

Fostoria 39

Varsity game

Score by quarters

Ross	12	11	15	21—59
Fostoria	5	9	11	14—39

Scoring

ROSS: Aschenbach 7-7-17,
Johnson 3-2-8, Bender 0-4-4,
Hufford 3-2-8, Brudzinski 3-6-
12, Miesle 3-3-9, Snodgrass 0-1-
1, totals 17-25-59.

FOSTORIA: Hoover 1-0-2,
Glenn 2-5-9, Smith 0-1-1,
Cousins 3-4-10, Hampton 2-3-7,
Garner 1-0-2, Crawford 1-0-2,
Norman 2-2-6, totals 12-15-39.

Season records: Ross 1-1,
Fostoria 0-1.

Ross 47

Fostoria 42

JV game

Score by quarters

Ross	10	16	8	13—47
Fostoria	7	12	4	19—42

Scoring

ROSS: Welty 4-2-10, Starks 3-
0-6, Nossaman 6-3-15, Manahan
4-2-10, Crawford 1-2-4,
Snodgrass 0-2-2, totals 18-11-47.

FOSTORIA: Latham 8-2-18,
Sierra 3-2-8, Coburn 0-1-1, Clay
0-3-3, Blake 1-2-4, Mitchell 2-2-6,
Cantu 1-0-2, totals 15-12-42.

Season record: Ross 2-0,
Fostoria 0-1.

Titans enter Ross 'zone'

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Toledo St. John's will bring a 1-1 record into Fremont Friday to face the Ross Little Giants in high school basketball.

Don Mewhort, 6-5, helped the Titans bury a future Little Giants opponent, Tiffin Columbian, 68-45 last Friday. They lost Tuesday 68-58 to Rogers.

"They like to get the ball inside to him," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "and they do a pretty good job of it."

Mewhort scored 27 points against Columbian and 23 against Rogers.

Ross is coming off a 59-39 win over Fostoria. The victory leveled the Little Giants record at 1-1 and the defensive show dropped Ross's yield to under 48 points per game.

"The kids are beginning to get a little pride in the defense," Sawyer said, "and if they play up to their capabilities Friday, they can shut St. John's down."

Sawyer says his team has to cut off Mewhort's inside game but said that junior Jeff Florian, 6-1, is the key to that. Florian is rated as a good outside shooter and if he is hot, would pull Ross out of its "2-3" zone.

The Ross coach said that is the defense he will use

Friday.

"We'll stay in that until someone shoots us out of it," he insisted.

"I think defensively," he continued, "we are doing a good job. Both teams we have played have had trouble getting the ball inside on us."

Sawyer said that St. John did not make many mistakes against Columbian and he feels that the Titans will not make many against his club.

"What we have to do, though, is contain that inside game."

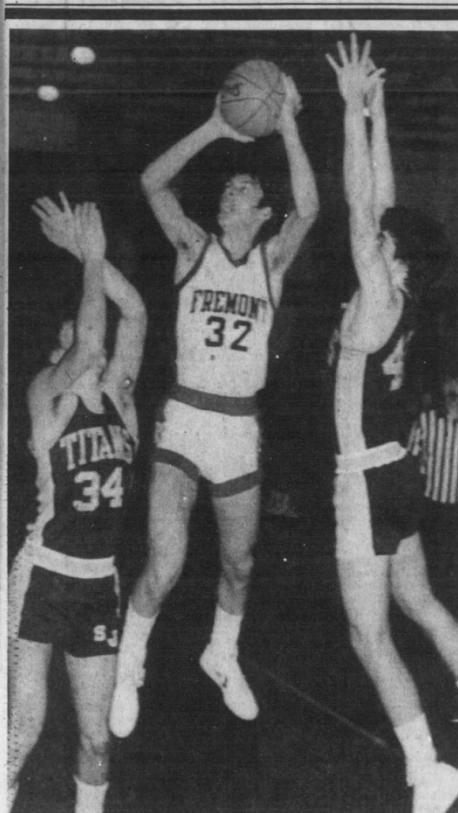
While defensively, Ross is performing well, against Fostoria, the Little Giants had problems offensively. They never quite got in the flow.

"We seemed to get into the offense better during practice this week," Sawyer said, "and I am going to stick with the same starting five."

That means Dave Aschenbach and William Johnson, both seniors, will be joined by juniors Dan Brudzinski and Jim Hufford and sophomore Greg Bender.

Besides Mewhort and Florian, St. John's will start junior Joe Hills, 6-0, Rick Mitchell, 6-3, senior, and 6-5 junior Tim Mueller.

The junior varsity tipoff is 6:30 p.m. Ross's JV team is 2-0.



GREG BENDER of Ross goes up for a jump shot in the third period of Friday's game. Jeff Florian, right, and Alan Nowakowski (34) are the St. John's defenders.

Ross trips Titans for second win

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

John Sawyer could not contain it; the words rolled over his lips.

"Hey, Ross is on a roll!" said the Ross High School basketball Coach moments after his team rolled over Toledo St. John's 61-49.

The win raised the Little Giants' record to 2-1 and marked the first time Ross has won two games in a row in Sawyer's two-year reign. St. John's slipped to 1-2.

The Little Giants clamped its tight match-up zone defense on the Titans, limiting St. John's to 44 shots and 20 second half points.

"They left some skin on the floor tonight," Sawyer praised the fired up play of his team. "They were hustling and diving for loose balls."

"I think the half-court trap that we used and some key blocked shots for us turned it around for us."

One of the blocked shots, by William Johnson, seemed to set the Little Giants. It came at the end of the third period when Ross was playing for one shot. With 11 seconds remaining however, the Little Giants turned the ball over to St. John's.

Ross had a 40-35 lead. Johnson got his hands on a driving layup attempt by Jeff Florian to kill St. John's hope of cutting the margin to three.

"That blocked shot seemed to fire the kids up," Sawyer said. "but I think the biggest play came when Hufford got the ball and went down for the layup."

Greg Jim Hufford got out on the front end of a fast break off a turnover forced by the trapping defense with six minutes to play in the game and Ross leading by a slim 42-41 margin. His basket started the Little Giants on a six-point run and put the skids under the Titans.

Ross trailed 29-23 seconds before the half when a bizarre play took place. The Titans' 6-5 Tim Mueller was called for a flagrant foul as St. John's was working for the final shot.

The foul got Mueller tossed from the game and allowed Dave Aschenbach to hit one of two free throws.

In the third period, Ross caught fire after Don Mewhort's two buckets had matched those of Ross's Johnson and sophomore Greg Bender. Down 33-28, the Little Giants scored the next nine points to grab a 37-33 lead. Ross never trailed again.

Down the stretch, Aschenbach had six points and dished out three key assists to give support to Ross's defense. Aschenbach had 11 points to back Aschenbach's 16.

Johnson and Dan Brudzinski, who kept Ross in the game during the early going, helped control the boards during the key stretch drive. Brudzinski finished with 14 points.

At one time in the third period, Sawyer had three sophomores — Bender, Mark Miesle and Chris Simmons — teamed with Brudzinski, a junior, and Aschenbach, a senior.

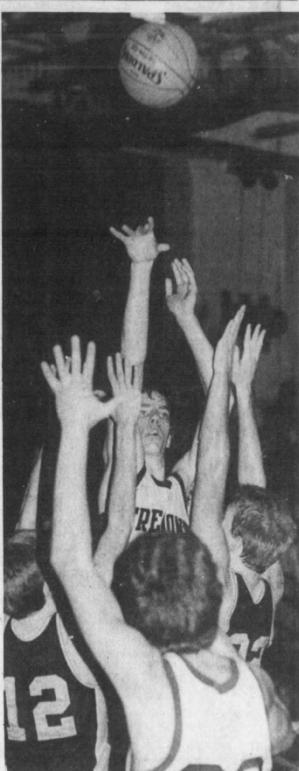
Mewhort, the Titans' 6-5 scoring leader, hit 22 points but the Little Giants' defense controlled his teammates. The next highest Titan scorer was Florian with eight.

Ross hit 24 of 56 shots and held the Titans to 21 of 44 from the floor. The Little Giants held a slim 30-29 advantage on the boards.

St. John's was guilty of 25 turnovers, 11 more than Ross. The Little Giants turned seven of the Titan turnovers into baskets.

Ross's junior varsity team won its third game against no losses, winning in overtime 48-46. Charles Stark's basket with seven seconds to play sent the game into overtime for the Little Giants.

Jerry Manahan scored three points,



ROSS SENIOR Dave Aschenbach gets off a shot over a pair of St. John's defenders. Little Giant Jim Hufford (22) watches Aschenbach's shot in the second quarter.

Basketball

High school

Ross 61

St. John's 49

Score by quarters

St. John's	15	14	6	14	—49
Ross	14	10	16	21	—61

Scoring

ST. JOHN'S: Don Mewhort 11-1-23, Jeff Florian 2-4-8, Rich Mitchell 1-0-2, Joe Hills 2-0-4, Tim Mueller 3-0-6, Alan Nowakowski 2-2-6, totals 21-7-49.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 4-8-16, Williams Johnson 5-1-11, Greg Bender 4-0-8, Jim Hufford 3-0-6, Dan Brudzinski 5-4-14, Mark Miesle 3-0-6, totals 24-13-61.

Season records: Ross 2-1, St. John's 1-2.

Ross JV's 48 (OT)

St. John's 46

JV game (OT)

Score by quarters

St. John's	3	17	11	9	6	—46
Ross	5	10	7	18	8	—48

Scoring

ST. JOHN'S: Matt Grothaus 5-4-14, Mike Mowicki 3-0-6, Phil Pease 0-1-1, Tim McQuillen 3-0-6, John Kreuz 2-4-8, Mark Halrast 4-1-9, Andy Orzechowski 0-2-2, totals 17-12-46.

ROSS: Scott Welty 4-0-8, Charles Starks 4-0-8, Kris Smith 1-3-5, John Snodgrass 1-0-2, Jerry Manahan 3-3-9, Jeff Nossaman 7-2-16, totals 20-8-48.

Season records: Ross 3-0, St. John's 0-3.

Little Giants 'riding high'

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross and basketball coach John Sawyer are experiencing an oddity in the history of the Little Giants: a winning streak.

A modest two games it is, but for Ross, it's a reversal of the past two seasons when the Little Giants won a total of five games.

"We just are riding high," Sawyer smiled Tuesday before a practice day. "We're just waiting for Friday night to see what happens."

Part of the happening will be the opening of the Buckeye Conference season for Ross when Marion Harding, also 2-1 like Ross, visits Fremont.

The Presidents are coming off a 60-44 thrashing by the Sandusky Blue Streaks. Sandusky forced the Presidents into numerous turnovers and capitalized on them for easy layups in hitting 56 percent from the floor.

"Marion did not play well against Sandusky," Sawyer described. "Sandusky may have been too quick for them. It seems if Marion plays someone not too quick, it does okay."

How does Ross match up in quickness against the

Presidents?

"They are not going to be a lot quicker than us," the Ross coach said.

Harding has good size inside with 6-foot-6 Todd Hecker and 6-foot-5, 220-pound Marc West.

"Marion is pretty deliberate," Sawyer explained. "They like to set up and work for the inside shot."

"Defensively, they are not too bad. "Sandusky had the highest score against them. They play all man-to-man."

"The key to the game for us is how well our guards handle the ball out front and how we do on the boards," Sawyer said. "If our guards control the ball and let us get into our offense, we will do alright."

Sawyer said that practice has reflected Ross's modest winning streak.

"Practice seems to be a lot better. The kids are playing with more confidence."

Sawyer will start the same lineup as he has in the first three games: Dave Aschenbach, Ross's leading scorer with a 17-plus average and William Johnson, both seniors, juniors Dan Brudzinski and Jim Hufford and sophomore Greg Bender.

High school

Harding 54

Ross 49

Varsity game

Score by quarters

Harding	19	11	10	16	—53
Ross	8	11	10	16	—49

Scoring

HARDING: Todd Hecker 2-2-6, Marc West 1-4-8, James Floyd 5-6-16, Kris Mayes 5-1-11, Dave Sprague 4-2-10, John Sims 1-2-4, totals 18-17-53.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 5-2-12, Williams Johnson 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Greg Bender 9-5-23, Jim Hufford 3-0-6, totals 21-7-49.

Season records: Ross 2-2 (0-1), Harding 3-1 (1-1).

Harding 47

Ross JVs 33

JV game

Score by quarters

Harding	0	13	18	16	—47
Ross	7	6	9	11	—33

Scoring

HARDING: Ron Maugans 3-1-7, Doug Smith 1-2-4, Fritz Wink 2-2-6, Mario Castenada 3-1-7, Kevin Jones 1-6-8, Rod Collins 4-0-8, Joel Castenada 0-1-1, Dave Jones 3-0-6, totals 17-13-47.

ROSS: Jerry Manahan 1-0-2, Jeff Nossaman 5-2-12, Ryan Smith 2-0-4, Scott Welty 3-1-7, Jack Donrad 1-0-2, Chuck Mamula 0-2-2, Charles Starks 1-0-2, Kris Smith 1-0-2, totals 14-5-33.

Season record: Ross 3-1, Harding 2-2.

Foul line breakdown stings Ross

By ROB BOUKISSEN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

The Ross Little Giants learned the importance of free-throw shooting Tuesday night — the hard way.

The Little Giants, who had a six-point lead with three minutes to go, missed the front ends of four one-and-ones in the final 2½ minutes and eventually lost 64-61 to the Port Clinton Redskins at Ross.

"We lost because we missed our free throws at the end," said Ross Coach John Sawyer. "Whether you're a senior or a sophomore, you should be able to make at least 70 percent of your free throws. And we didn't."

Ross's inaccurate foul shooting put a damper on what would have been an otherwise gallant comeback.

The Giants trailed 49-43 early in the fourth quarter and were playing not only without senior leader Dave Aschenbach, who was ill, but also without sophomore Greg Bender, who fouled out with 7:15 left with a team-high 16 points.

Despite all that, the Giants scored eight unanswered points to surge ahead 51-49 with 5:52 left.

Port Clinton came back to grab a 53-51 lead before the Giants scored eight more unanswered points to go up 59-53 with 3:04 remaining.

The leader of Ross's comeback effort was senior William Johnson. He

scored only two points during the two spurts, but his defense (two blocked shots and two steals) led directly to four buckets.

"He made some big defensive plays down the stretch," Sawyer said of Johnson. "He played a good game all-around."

But Johnson's effort went to waste.

The Redskins cut their deficit to 59-56 with 2:40 left before Ross sophomore Mark Miesle missed the front ends of two one-and-ones.

With 1:45 left, PC's Paul Colston hit a layup to cut it to 59-58.

The Redskins then fouled Miesle again, but this time he hit both free throws to give Ross a 61-58 cushion with 1:22 left.

At that point, it seemed the Giants might hang on, especially after Colston missed the front end of a one-and-one with 59 seconds left.

But Ross senior Tom Polk, after grabbing two big rebounds in the final minute, followed by missing two more front-end free throws to give PC new life.

The Redskins' Jeff Robinson, who led everybody with 22 points, responded with a breakaway layup off a jump ball with 27 seconds left to cut it to 61-60.

The Little Giants never got the ball upcourt on their next possession. PC's Duane Norman stole the ball and fed

it to Eric Papcun, who took it to the hoop, scored and was fouled.

The senior guard, who has been in a slump recently, broke out of it by converting the three-point play to give the Redskins a 63-61 lead with 14 seconds remaining.

Ross, after calling timeout, brought the ball upcourt for a shot at tying it. But with :08 left, PC's Greg Gresh tiped up Jeff Nossaman for a jump ball. Gresh won the tip and Papcun got the ball. He was fouled with :06 left and made one free throw for the final margin.

"We were lucky to win tonight," said PC Coach Tom Bodager, whose team now is 4-1. "The free throw line was a big factor."

PC made 22 of 30 free throws to Ross's 9 of 15. In addition to Bender, Ross's Jim Hufford and Johnson also fouled out.

Bodager also cited his club's full-court pressure defense, which forced 24 Ross turnovers, as another factor.

"We didn't want to let them come

down and set up," said Bodager. "They're very good shooters."

Sawyer felt the press affected his club, but not as much as the Little Giants' own "lack of intensity."

He said, "I don't think we played well tonight. We didn't start playing until the end, when it was too late."

"Nobody was diving for loose balls or anything like that. We played terrible defense in the second and third quarters. The kids mentally didn't play a good ball game."

Ross did spurt out to a big lead (16-5) early before PC came back. In fact, the whole game was a bunch of spurts by both clubs. There were 10 ties and nine lead changes.

Ross outshot PC from the field, 50 percent (26 of 52) to 45 percent (21 of 47), and also outrebounded the Redskins 35-26.

Miesle and Brudzinski had 12 points each and Jim Hufford added 10 for Ross, now 2-3. Colston had 16 for PC.

The Little Giants travel to Lorain Senior Friday while the Redskins host Clyde.

Streaks rip Mohawk

SYCAMORE — Spurred on by what their coach termed a "disappointing" fifth-place finish at the Port Clinton tournament Saturday, the St. Joe Streaks came back with vengeance to defeat Mohawk 46-24 here Tuesday night.

"That was more like St. Joe wrestling," said Coach Gary Logsdon. "Mohawk had some real strong kids, but I think our kids were kind of embarrassed from this past weekend.

"We were really aggressive. We had a lot of takedowns and we went for the pins."

Five Streak wrestlers flattened their opponents.

Victor Flores pinned Mike Leeth in 3:53 at 119, Tom Weickert pinned John Fleming in 3:10 at 126, Mike Weickert

pinned Kyle Leeth in 2:45 at 145, Steve Guyer pinned Kevin Preston in 3:00 at 155 and Mark Coleman pinned Jim Riedel in 1:35 at 185.

But it wasn't those five who pleased Logsdon the most.

Instead, it was sophomores John Rimelspach and Steve Chamberlain and senior Pat Eberly.

Rimelspach decisioned Eric Burger 12-3 at 132, Chamberlain rallied to defeat Mike McKinney 13-9 at 138 and Eberly beat Gary Sours 9-4 at 167.

"I am very impressed with John Rimelspach and Steve Chamberlain," said Logsdon. "And Pat Eberly is really filling in well at 167."

The Streaks will be in action again Saturday at their own Holiday Tournament in the high school gym.

Orangemen's lofty status is fatal for Ohio State

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Sports Writer

The Syracuse basketball team appeared in the Top Twenty for the first time in two years this week, and the Orangemen are making a point that they belong there.

After a big victory over Houston over the weekend, the 16th-ranked Orangemen stopped Ohio State 91-85 Tuesday night for their seventh victory without a defeat this season.

"We needed a little luck tonight," said Syracuse's Eric Santifer, who had a hand in eight of his team's last 10 points. "You can't go out every night and blow everybody away. We needed the free throws at the end and they were there."

Santifer, Leo Rautins, Tony Bruin and Gene Waldron scored 19 points apiece for the winners, whose experience again showed in the pressure-packed final moments.

Ohio State was paced by Tony Campbell's 23 points, while Troy Taylor and Joe Concheck contributed 20 and 16, respectively. It was the second straight tough loss for the Buckeyes, who lost to West Virginia in double overtime on Saturday.

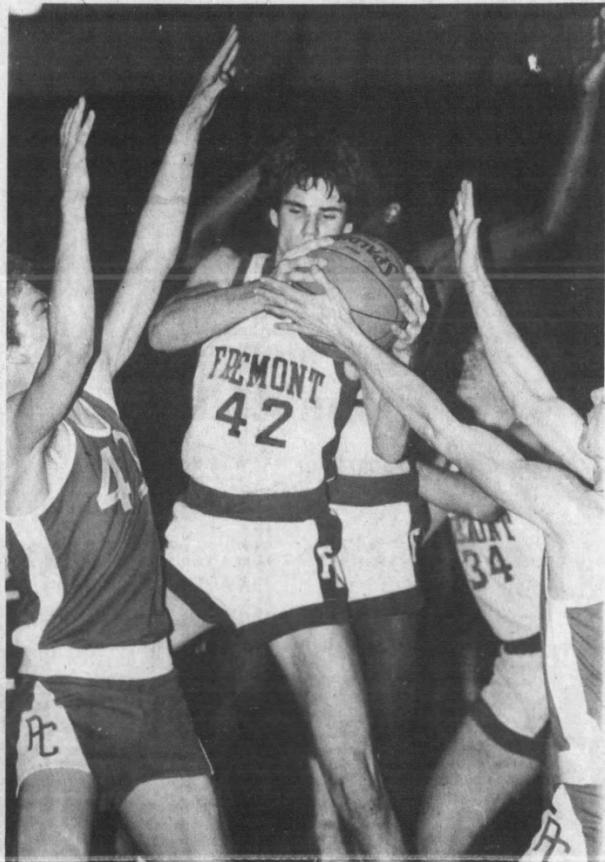
Both teams appeared sluggish in

the first half, possibly trying to shake off the effects of strong efforts three days earlier. The lead changed hands 13 times before intermission, but the Orangemen never trailed again after Rautins sank two baskets in a 19-second span to give Syracuse a 34-31 advantage.

In the only other game involving a Top Twenty team Tuesday night, No. 20 West Virginia routed Ohio Wesleyan 98-50 as Lester Rowe scored 19 points and Tim Kearney added 16.

In other games, Greg Grant scored 19 points as Utah State rolled past Brigham Young 80-68; Bill Jackman hit a baseline jumper with 20 seconds left to propel Duke to a 63-60 victory over Davidson and Harold Keeling and Scott Lamson scored career highs of 25 and 23 points, respectively, as Santa Clara University raced past Oklahoma City 88-68.

Also, Bowling Green forward Colin Irish had 23 points as the Falcons outscored St. Bonaventure 86-72; Adrian Branch scored 25 points to lead Maryland to a 66-56 victory over Towson State; Perry Bromwell's jumper with two seconds remaining gave Manhattan College a 59-57 victory over St. Francis (N.Y.).



(Port Clinton News Herald Photo)

DAN BRUDZINSKI (42) of Ross grabs a rebound away from Port Clinton's Paul Colston. The action

was during the first half of the game at Ross High School Tuesday.

High school

Port Clinton 64

Ross 61

Score by quarters

PC	7	18	21	18	—64
Ross	16	12	14	19	—61

Scoring

PORT CLINTON: Eric Papcun 3-3-9, Jeff Robinson 9-4-22, Paul Colston 4-8-16, Dave Colston 2-5-9, Greg Gresh 1-0-2, Duane Norman 2-2-6, totals 21-22-64.

ROSS: William Johnson 3-1-7, Dan Brudzinski 6-0-12, Jim Hufford 4-2-10, Greg Bender 8-0-16, Mark Miesle 4-4-12, Tom Polk 1-2-4, totals 26-9-61.

Season records: Port Clinton 4-1, Ross 2-3.

Port Clinton 55

Ross 53

JV game

Score by quarters

PC	10	18	14	13	—55
Ross	11	10	16	16	—53

Scoring

PORT CLINTON: Lorensen 9-2-20, Friemark 5-4-14, Walters 3-5-11, Larson 2-0-4, Rakosky 1-4-6, totals 20-15-55.

ROSS: Welty 2-2-6, Starks 6-0-12, R. Smith 6-1-13, Manahan 5-0-10, K. Smith 4-2-10, Bury 1-0-2, totals 24-5-53.

Season record: Ross 3-2.

Lorain Steelmen hand Ross third straight loss 73-42

LORAIN — Lorain Senior sank 12 of 17 shots and outscored Fremont Ross 25-5 in the first quarter to pave the way to a 73-42 waltz to a Buckeye Conference basketball win Friday.

"We hit a buzz saw," Ross Coach John Sawyer said.

"We could not hit anything," he con-

tinued. "We would get the ball downcourt and not make a shot and they could not miss.

"In the first quarter, we could not stop their fast break."

The Little Giants (2-4) dropped their third straight game and second against no wins in the conference while Lorain is 4-2 overall and

2-2 in the BC.

Steve Sanker and Eddie Wright scored six points apiece to lead Lorain's first quarter pullaway. Sanker finished with 18 and Wright 17. Wardell Wright had 12 and Eric Ward scored 10 and grabbed 12 rebounds, also for Lorain.

Ross, after cooling off the Lorain fast break in the second quarter, closed the Steelmen's lead to 34-20 at the half but a 19-9 Lorain scoring assault in the third period put the skids under the Little Giants.

Greg Bender had 15 points for Ross.

Ross hit only 19 of 62 shots while Lorain had a 33 of 67 shooting performance.

Tonight, Ross will host Findlay in another conference game. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30.

Streaks flattened by Pirates 75-45

SANDUSKY — The St. Joe Streaks traveled to the land of the giants Friday night and got stomped on, 74-45 by the much-taller Perkins Pirates.

Featuring a starting lineup with nobody smaller than 6-3, the Pirates scooted out to a 24-10 lead after one

There was nothing you could do. They're a very good team."

Mark Speer led a balanced attack with 15 points for the Pirates, who are now 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Denny Furlong had 10 for the Streaks.

Lorain 73

Ross 42

Score by quarters

Ross	5	15	9	13—42
Lorain	25	9	19	20—73

Scoring

ROSS: Aschenbach 1-0-2,
Johnson 3-1-7, Polk 3-0-6,
Hufford 0-1-1, Nossaman 0-1-1,
Bender 7-1-15, Miesle 3-0-6,
Simmons 2-0-4, totals 19-4-42.

LORAIN: J. Moore 2-0-4,
Sanker 9-0-18, W. Wright 6-0-12,
E. Wright 8-1-17, Ward 3-4-10,
T. Moore 3-0-6, Ceol 1-0-2,
Curry 1-2-4, totals 33-7-73.

Season records: Ross 2-4 (0-2), Lorain Sr, 5-2 (2-2).

JV game: Lorain 45-39.

High school

Boys

Ross 67

Findlay 49

Varsity game

Score by quarters

Findlay	8	9	12	20	—49
Ross	10	17	14	26	—67

Scoring

FINDLAY: Denny Blunk 4-0-8, Ryan Curlis 0-2-2, Chad McClellan 6-4-16, Rich Baerwaldt 1-0-2, Jim Arnold 1-0-2, Scott Fryer 1-1-3, Joe Plott 5-2-12, Brent Ice 0-2-2, Jon Irish 0-2-2, totals 18-13-49.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 4-6-14, William Johnson 7-2-16, Greg Bender 7-3-17, Jim Hufford 2-4-8, Chris Simmons 2-2-6, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Mark Miesle 1-0-2, Jeff Nossaman 1-0-2, totals 25-17-67.

Season records: Findlay 1-5 (0-4), Ross 3-4 (1-2).

Ross JV's 47

Findlay 43

JV game

Score by quarters

Findlay	10	12	12	9	—43
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Ross JV's 11 13 8 15—47
Scoring

FINDLAY: Baerwaldt 1-2-4, Weaver 5-1-11, Parries 1-0-2, DeGennaro 1-0-2, Fleck 6-4-16, Earlie 4-0-8, totals 18-7-43.

ROSS: Welty 3-3-9, Starks 4-0-8, Nossaman 3-5-11, Manahan 3-4-10, K. Smith 1-3-5, R. Smith 2-0-4, totals 16-15-47.

Season record: Ross 4-3 (1-2); Findlay 1-5 (0-4).

Carey 58

Old Fort 48

Score by quarters

OF	14	15	5	14	—48
Carey	17	13	12	16	—58

Scoring

OLD FORT: Dan Phillimore 6-6-18, Dan Miller 5-2-12, Jeff Ahle 2-0-4, Ed Quickle 4-0-8, Kevin Joseph 2-0-4, Tim Omlor 1-0-2, totals 20-8-48.

CAREY: Carl Stephan 2-0-4, Tim Draper 3-3-9, Jim Hoept 3-2-8, John Rymer 2-1-5, Merced Hernandez 1-0-2, Chuck Tong 14-2-30, totals 25-8-58.

Season records: Old Fort 4-2, Carey 2-4.

JV game: Carey 42-31.

Ross stuffs Trojans

By ROB BOUKISSEN

News-Messenger Sports Writer

The Ross Little Giants broke a couple bad habits Saturday night in soundly whipping the Findlay Trojans 67-49 at the Ross gym.

First, the Giants broke their habit of blowing a lead down the stretch by making 14 of 14 free throws in the fourth quarter.

And second, they ended Findlay's eight-year reign over them. The win for the Giants was their first over a Trojan cage team since the 1974-75 season.

"It was a great win for us," said Ross Coach John Sawyer. "It came in the nick of time. We were starting to get down a little bit."

The victory stopped a three-game losing skid for the Giants. They are now 3-4 overall and 1-2 in the Buckeye Conference. The youthful Trojans slipped to 1-5 and 0-4.

The Giants were impressive throughout the entire game, displaying an accurate shooting touch (57 percent), good board work (27-22) and a better-than-average floor game (13 turnovers).

And they were in control the whole way.

Findlay led only three times during the game, all coming in the first period. When Ross's Jim Hufford hit a bucket to end the quarter to put his team up 10-8, the Little Giants never trailed again.

A key individual who helped the Giants pull away in the second quarter was William Johnson.

The wily 6-1 senior wriggled his way underneath for three straight baskets and then tossed in a pair of foul shots to give Ross a 23-15 lead late in the first half.

After Findlay's Joe Plott scored, Ross's Dave Aschenbach and Mark Miesle hit back-to-back jumpers to send the Giants into the dressing room with a 27-17 edge.

That 10-point deficit for the Trojans was the closest they could get the remainder of the game. Whenever the Trojans appeared to be gaining momentum, either Aschenbach, Johnson or Greg Bender was there to knock in a key hoop for the Giants.

Ross's biggest lead in the third period was 35-19 with 5:48 left. By the end of the quarter, Findlay got it back to 41-29.

But in the final stanza, the Little Giants put on their free-throw shooting clinic. ("We could have used some of those Tuesday night," Sawyer said, referring to his club's three-point loss to Port Clinton when they missed the front ends of four one-and-ones in the final 2½ minutes.)

Aschenbach was six-of-six, Hufford four-of-four, Bender three-of-three and Chris Simmons one-of-one in the fourth quarter.

While the free-throw shooting was important for Ross to seal the win, it was something else that put the final nail in the coffin.

With just over two minutes remaining in the game and Ross leading 60-45, Aschenbach stole a Findlay pass near mid-court.

Breaking down the right side was Bender, whom Aschenbach hit with a perfect pass at the top of the key.

Bender, the 6-3 sophomore, took two dribbles and then took off skyward. The result was a rousing one-handed slam dunk that brought everybody in the place to their feet, including Sawyer.

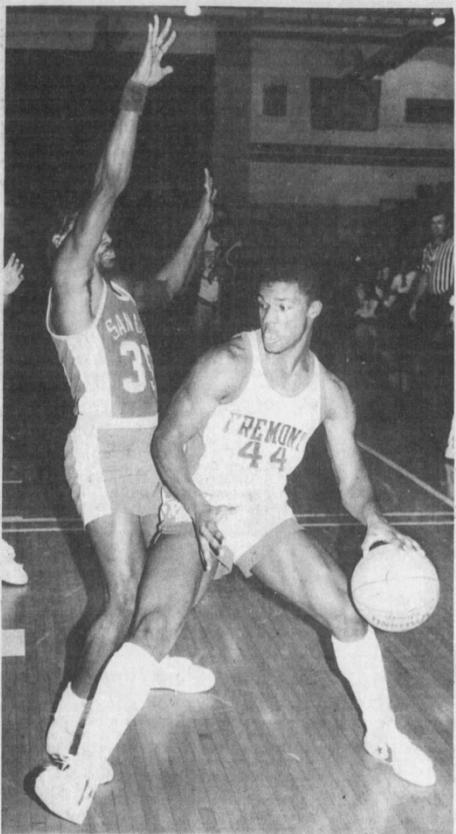
"That was really nice, and what made it nicer is that he was fouled and he made the free throw," said Sawyer. "He had one last (Friday) night, but this one was better. We were getting beat by 30 when he did it last night."

Bender finished with a game-high 17 points. Johnson finished with 16 (he was seven of eight from the field) while Aschenbach added 14.

"Everybody that played did a nice job," said Sawyer, who started Simmons in place of Dan Brudzinski. "We really played well as a team. Everybody was trying to hit the open man."

"The kids were patient. They were running the offense well. Plus, we shot well. It was a good game for us and it came at the right time."

The Trojans, who started two sophomores, two juniors and a senior, were led by sophomore Chad McClellan's 16 points.



CHRIS SIMMONS (44) of Ross looks for an opening on the base line during the third quarter Tuesday at Ross. Simmons scored four

(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

points and helped the Little Giants control the boards in the upset win over Sandusky. Willie Clark is the Sandusky defender.

Stockaders' drama leads to 50-35 win over Lakota

By ROB BOUKISSEN

News-Messenger Sports Writer
OLD FORT — Old Fort basketball coach Steve Willman is getting used to the scenario — start out good, have the lead at halftime, go to sleep in the third quarter, then come back in the fourth.

The Stockaders gave their coach another replay of that formula Tuesday night when they overcame the third-quarter doozy to defeat Lakota 50-35 in a non-league tilt here.

"I don't know what it is about the third quarter," said Willman. "It's not really the offense that hurts us. It seems like on defense we stand around and don't do much. We've been doing it all year."

After an uninspiring first half in which Old Fort took a 25-15 lead, the Raiders staged their third-period comeback.

They outscored the Stockaders 12-4 to pull within two, 29-27, heading into

But Phillipmore returned in the final quarter and so did Old Fort's offense. Ed Quickle and Kevin Joseph hit back-to-back hoops for the Stockaders to make it 33-27. Lakota cut it to four on two more occasions before the Stockaders ran away for good.

Quickle started a 13-point run for the hosts with a 15-footer and ended it with two free throws. But the main force in the Stockaders' spurt was Joseph, who hit four buckets in the quarter.

"Kevin did a nice job," said Willman. "When we made that run, he made some nice baskets."

Joseph and Quickle each finished with 10 points, but the Stockaders were led by sharpshooting Dan Miller, who fired in 16 points, many from long range.

Old Fort shot 46 percent (20 of 43) from the field to Lakota's 32 percent (13 of 40). The Stockaders also outrebounded the Raiders 31-22 and

Ross hands Streaks 1st loss

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
Ross gave itself an early Christmas gift Tuesday, neatly wrapping up previously undefeated Sandusky 60-46 in a Buckeye Conference basketball game at the Ross High School gym.

The impressive win followed Saturday's 67-49 wipeout of Findlay for the Little Giants. Now Ross Coach Jim Sawyer's record is 4-1. Sandusky is 4-1 overall and in the conference.

"The kids proved something to themselves out there tonight," Sawyer said as a huge grin enveloped his face. "Tonight they really paid attention; they listened to us."

Senior Dave Aschenbach and William Johnson led the Little Giants to a 26-16 lead at the half and then bolstered the Little Giants as Sandusky chipped that lead to 30-28 midway through the third period.

Ross had jumped ahead 28-16 on Greg Bender's basket to open the third period to Sandusky's a pair of baskets by Paul Moore and single baskets from Bernard Newell and Willie Clark made it 28-24. Aschenbach's shot from the right of the key gave Ross a six-point lead but Newell hit back-to-back baskets to make it 30-28.

Sawyer called time out at that point.

"I told them to keep doing what they were," he said. "I told them to stay in the same defense because Sandusky was shooting 80 percent at that point but that they could not keep that up."

"They were scoring from where we wanted them to shoot ... from long range," Sawyer said.

The Blue Streaks did cool off. A bucket from the left base line by Ross guard Jim Hufford was matched by Newell but

Aschenbach and Johnson scored to open up a 36-30 lead. Sandusky was to get no closer than that the rest of the game.

Down the stretch, Aschenbach fired passes beneath the basket for layups from Bender and Johnson to stretch Ross's lead to 48-38 with 2:42 to play in the final quarter.

"I think the key to the game, though," Sawyer pointed out, "was that third quarter."

The Little Giants' defense kept the Blue Streaks at bay during the game.

Both teams had trouble in the zone and Sandusky was unable to get inside to its leading scorer Randy Maschari. The 6-5 Blue Streak scored only two points in the contest. He had been averaging 14.5.

Sandusky Coach Dave Wilbur commented that his team had played against a zone in each of its four wins.

"We did not play well against this one," he pointed out.

"Ross had a good game plan," Wilbur said. "They controlled the ball when they got the lead in the first half."

"We knew Ross was capable of playing excellent ball and also capable of playing crappy ball. They played excellent tonight."

Ross was able to keep Sandusky out of its running game by continually beating the Blue Streaks in the transition game.

"I figured that we could beat them if we kept them in a half court game," Sawyer said. "If we had gotten beat in the transition game, it would have been like Lorain." Ross lost to Lorain last Friday 73-42.

The Little Giants used a 20 of 47 shooting performance and a second straight sizzling performance at the free

throw line, hitting 20 of 26. Ross ran its consecutive free throws team streak to 24 by hitting its first 10 from the line against the Blue Streaks. The Little Giants finished the Findlay game with 14 of 14 in the last eight minutes. Johnson, a 30 percent foul shooter entering the game, hit six in a row in the first period.

"William is playing up to his potential," Sawyer said. "If he continues to play hard, he is capable of still playing better."

Johnson finished with 17 points while Bender had 18 and Aschenbach 16. Newell and Moore had 14 apiece for Sandusky.

Sandusky hit only 19 of 57 from the floor. Ross out-rebounded the taller Streaks 41-31. That helped offset a 25-15 disadvantage in turnovers for the Little Giants.

The Little Giants are off until Tuesday when they travel to Elyria for another Buckeye Conference game.

Miesle collapses

Mark Miesle, sophomore guard for the Ross High School basketball team, collapsed in school Tuesday.

Miesle, the varsity team's first sub at his position was not suited up for the Little Giants' victory over Sandusky.

He underwent blood tests late Tuesday afternoon and will be going through a series of tests Thursday at Memorial Hospital. He is at home.

A diagnosis of Miesle's condition will not be made until after Thursday.

Wrestling loophole

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
There are some things about everything and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) gave the Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association (OHSWCA) a mandate regarding that subject.

In essence, it went like this: Present a proposal that would help limit the number of matches of a high school wrestler.

That request started the undeclared battle of the acronyms ... the OHSAA vs. the OHSWCA. And this season is the first skirmish.

Al Voggenthaler, the president of the OHSWCA, came up with a proposal. Voggenthaler is the Ross High School wrestling coach.

"I proposed a 20 'point' limit," he said while discussing the move toward limiting wrestlers to approximately 25 regular season matches. The points would be assessed toward the team, not the individual wrestler.

"The point system would be assessed as one for a dual meet and anything more than a dual, two points," Voggenthaler said as he described his proposal.

"The kids have been getting in 50 to 60 matches," he continued, "and the OHSAA thought that was too many and we (OHSWCA) more or less agreed."

Voggenthaler's proposal, after input and reviews by the coaches association's executive board, the association's district representatives, many principals and athletic directors, league commissioners and at least one member of the OHSAA, passed with flying colors.

But the OHSAA went one step further and put a snag in the original proposal while okaying the "20-point" limit.

"The state added," the Ross coach said, "that triangulars and quadrangulars would count as two and anything over that would count as three. 'With that, I think they created problems,'



JIM HUFFORD (22) of Ross went up for a layup on this fast break but missed the shot. Randy Moore of

Sandusky tipped the ball slightly on the play.

Ross 60 Sandusky 46

Score by quarters

Sandusky	8	8	14	16	—46
Ross	16	10	10	24	—60

Scoring

SANDUSKY: Randy Maschari 1-0-2, Willie Clark 2-0-4, Randy Moore 3-0-6, Dernard Newell 6-2-14, Paul Moore 6-2-14, Mark Hearn 0-2-2, Mike Pole 1-2-4, totals 19-8-46.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 4-8-16, William Johnson 5-7-17, Greg Bender 7-4-18, Chris Simmons 2-0-4, Jim Hufford 1-0-2, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Jeff Nossaman 0-1-1, totals 20-20-60.

Season records: Ross 4-4 (2-2), Sandusky 4-1 (4-1).

Sandusky 53 Ross JVs 38

Score by quarters

Sandusky	4	20	12	17	—53
Ross	13	12	3	10	—38

Scoring

SANDUSKY: Carr 1-0-2, Belle 1-0-2, Groom 3-2-8, Watson 6-0-12, Hunter 4-5-13, Harrington 4-0-8, Hollingshead 1-0-2, Newell 1-0-2, totals 22-9-53.

ROSS: Welty 2-6-10, Starks 4-0-8, Manahan 3-6-12, Smith 1-4-6, Bury 0-2-2, totals 10-18-38.

Season records: Ross 4-4 (1-3), Sandusky 5-0 (5-0).

Little Giants upset Elyria

ELYRIA — Fremont Ross pulled off its second consecutive Buckeye Conference basketball shocker, nipping Elyria 54-53 on Chris Simmons' layup with three seconds to play.

Simmons, a sophomore, was alone under the bucket when Dave Aschenbach hit him with a perfect pass for the layup that trickled up over the rim to give the Little Giants of John Sawyer their third straight win and fifth in nine games. Ross climbed to 3-2 in the conference while sinking the Pioneers to 2-3 in BC play and 5-4 overall.

The win came on the heels of a 60-46 Ross win over previously unbeaten Sandusky a week ago.

It was the third home loss for Elyria this season. "They really played well as a team," Sawyer praised his squad. "I brought some kids off the bench in the third quarter — Tom Polk, Dan Brudzinski and Bubba (Ryan) Smith — and they did a very good job for us. Polk got four key rebounds for us."

Ross started slowly, trailing 13-8 after the first eight minutes and 15-8 seconds after the beginning of the second quarter, before catching fire.

Jim Hufford, who had a prior season high of 10 points sparked Ross to a 24-point second quarter, with 10 of his Ross high 14 for the game.

The Little Giants made five baskets in a row to grab a 24-19 lead in the period. The key play came when Ross

sophomore Greg Bender, 6-foot-3, blocked the shot of six-foot-7 Elyria center Terry Wearsch to set up a fast break. Hufford was on the shooting end of the break and was credited with a bucket when Elyria's Chuck Fields was called for goal tending.

That made it 20-19 and the Little Giants stayed ahead until nine seconds remained in the game.

Ross moved out to a 32-24 halftime lead with a 12 of 17 shooting performance for the quarter.

Elyria cut the lead to 32-28 early in the third period but suffered through a one for 21 shooting effort the rest of the period as the Little Giants moved out to a 44-31 lead.

The Pioneers scored the first 12 points of the final period to cut Ross's lead to 44-43. The last two Elyria points came on a technical foul assessed against Sawyer.

The Ross coach was upset with the last period officiating and was slapped with the "T" when he protested too vigorously.

Bruce Halliburton eventually tied the game at 47-47 for Elyria with a bucket at the 3:29 mark. Ross's William Johnson missed a one-and-one free throw chance moments later with Elyria getting the rebound. The Little Giant stole the ball back and Hufford's bucket, the first of the period for Ross, gave the Little Giants a 49-47 lead with 1:44 to play.

Jeff Thomas, who finished with 22 points, tied the game again with a pair of free throws with 1:07 to play. Bender put Ross on top again with a minute to play on a layup against Elyria's press. Thomas hit from the outside 15 seconds later and the game was deadlocked 51-51.

On the Elyria toss-in, Halliburton was called for a foul but Aschenbach, one of the top free throw shooters in the conference, missed the second of the one-and-one, but Ross led 52-51 with 39 seconds to play. Simmons got the rebound on the miss, was fouled but missed the free throw and Elyria got the rebound.

On the trip down court, the Pioneers had four shots before Thomas hit from the baseline to give his team a 53-52 lead with nine seconds to play.

"We called timeout to set up a play," Sawyer explained his move after the Elyria bucket, "but they surprised me by putting a press on us. I thought they would fall back."

Aschenbach took advantage of the Pioneer press by dribbling around Wearsch, getting downcourt and finding Simmons for the winning bucket.

Johnson turned in another strong board show for Ross with 10 points. Aschenbach had a dozen and Bender nine. Simmons finished with seven.

Ross is idle till Jan. 7, when state power Admiral-King is in Fremont.

Basketball

Boys

Ross 54

Elyria 53

Score by quarters

Ross	8	24	12	10	—54
Elyria	13	11	7	22	—53

Scoring

ROSS: Aschenbach 3-6-12, Bender 4-1-9, Johnson 5-0-10, Simmons 3-1-7, Hufford 6-2-14, Brudzinski 1-0-2, totals 22-10-54.

ELYRIA: C. Fields 7-0-14, Halliburton 4-0-8, Wearsch 3-3-9, Thomas 9-4-22, J. Bender 0-0-0, totals 23-7-53.

Season records: Elyria 5-4 (2-3), Ross 5-4 (3-2).

Elyria JV's 57

Ross 32

Score by quarters

Ross	8	13	7	4	—32
Elyria	16	14	13	14	—57

Scoring

ROSS: Welty 3-1-7, Starks 3-0-6, Nossaman 3-0-6, Manahan 2-1-5, K. Smith 1-0-2, R. Smith 2-0-4, Mamula 1-0-2, totals 15-2-32.

ELYRIA: C. Wearsch 3-0-6, Martin 3-2-8, Wilbanks 3-0-6, Brubaker 4-1-9, Green 5-3-13, Glynn 2-0-4, Spurlock 2-0-4, Mlincek 1-0-2, Smith 1-2-4, S. Harriell 0-1-1, totals 24-9-57.

Season records: Elyria 6-3, Ross 4-5.

Ross hosts No. 1; Rockets 3rd in AA

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross will host top-ranked Lorain Admiral King Friday while Oak Harbor, ranked third in the state, will have to shoulder the responsibility of that position when boys high school basketball resumes Friday.

Little Giants Coach John Sawyer got his wish that Admiral King, 8-0, would be ranked first in the Associated Press Class AAA poll. He recalls when his Kinsman Badger team got that distinction three seasons ago.

Admiral King, a third place finisher a year ago in the AP poll, was voted number one today in the first statewide poll this season. The rankings are based on the voting of sports writers and broadcasters.

"I remember that the TV cameras were all around after we got that ranking," Sawyer said, "and we played lousy. Against a team we had buried before, we just barely beat them after we were voted first."

"I'd like to see Admiral King come in here ranked No. 1," the Ross coach said.

The Admirals are definitely a state power, Sawyer agreed but he feels his team, which is riding a three-game winning streak, can give the Admirals a game if the Little Giants play the same as they have in the streaks.

"We have to be able to stay in the '2-3' zone and make them take the outside shot," he said. "Then we have to get them to play a half-court game; we cannot run with them."

"I think we can rebound with them," the Ross coach claimed.

Admiral King has three of five starters back from its 24-2 team of last season. Four of the Admirals' first five lettered.

Steve Davis, 6-5, and Bob Calamari, 6-2, are juniors. Davis was a starter in 1981-82 while Calamari was a spot

player. Roger Smith, a three-year starter, is the key to the Admirals.

"We have to keep Smith from driving inside," Sawyer said. If he gets inside where he is able to shoot or pass off, he could get us into foul trouble. We want him to shoot from outside."

Smith, 5-10, is joined by 5-11 letterman Myron Wicks at the other guard slot. Ken Simmons, 6-2, is a non-letterman senior who will team up with Calamari at the forward slots.

In Oak Harbor, Coach Dave Christie's 10-0 team, fresh off a win in the Northwest Ohio Cage Classic, will travel to Genoa Friday. The Rockets were voted number three behind Willard and Coldwater in the Class AA voting.

The veteran Oak Harbor coach is taking the rating with a grain of salt, seeing good things in it and knowing the problems the rankings could cause.

"My guys are floating on cloud nine," Christie said. "I guess I will have to go into practice tonight and jump on them."

"They might be scratching their heads from three yards away," he said tongue-in-cheek.

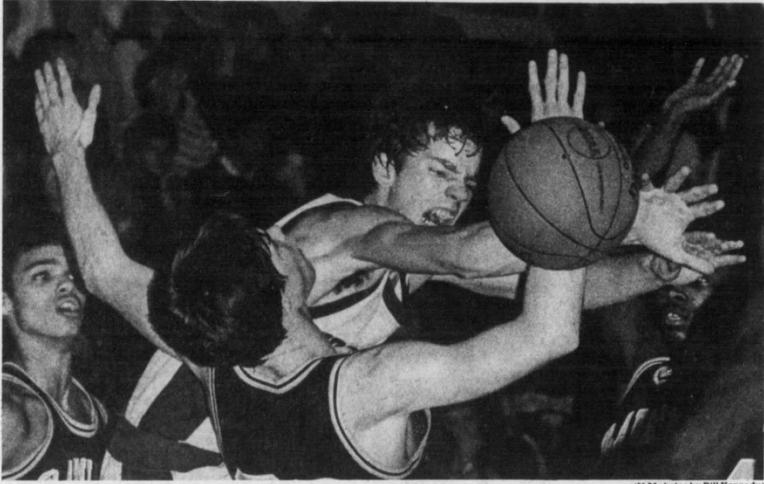
"I really don't think it will cause many problems," he said, "because we have to be realistic; it's just a luxury about which I have to convince the kids. Really, I think it will give us momentum."

Christie called the ranking a recognition of his school's successful program.

"Last year we had a good ball club, too," he recalled about the team that finished 21-3 but was not ranked in the top 10. "This year though, the ranking makes everyone feel good; all that good stuff is nice."

"I'll say one thing, though," Christie laughed, "if it (ranking) will give us 10 points in the scorebook, it's really worth it."

Admirals survive Ross charge 64-52



DAVE ASCHENBACH of Ross gets off a pass through the hands of Bob Calamari of Admiral King during

second half action. Calamari was called for a foul on the play. At the left

is Ken Simmons while at the right is Steve Davis of Admiral King.

(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
Ross answered a question in defeat Friday.

"I think they can play with anyone now," Ross Basketball Coach John Sawyer said about his Little Giants despite a 64-52 setback at the hands of the Associated Press top-ranked Class AAA team Lorain Admiral King.

The Little Giants, 5-5 and 3-3 in Buckeye Conference action, played the Admirals (10-0, 6-0) evenly except for a few moments that Sawyer would like to have back.

In the last three minutes of the first half and the first three of the second, Ross fell from a 23-22 deficit to trail 37-26.

Paul Gensler, a 6-foot-2 junior, came off the Admiral King bench to score three straight shots in the first half turnaround to give the Admirals a 30-22 lead at the half. The last bucket for Gensler came with two seconds remaining on a rebound off a Roger Smith miss.

Offensive rebounds were a pain in the side all night for the Little Giants. The Admirals grabbed, unofficially, 16 in the first half and converted 17 for easy layups.

"We did not shoot well or rebound well in the first half," Sawyer said. "We gave them a number of baskets off offensive rebounds."

Admiral King held a 43-30 lead after three quarters and that lead mushroomed to 55-37 before Ross caught fire midway through the final period.

With Dave Aschenbach, William Johnson and Jim Hufford keying the drive, Ross pulled within 59-50 with 45 seconds remaining.

"We still stayed with them," Sawyer said, "even though Johnson did not play in the second quarter."

Smith, who was not in the mix in Sawyer's game plan, led the Admirals with 18 points but despite that output, the Little Giants' zone defenses did not allow him to penetrate effectively.

"But we put him on the foul line too many times," Sawyer said about Smith.

The 5-foot-10 Admiral King senior hit four of seven from the line in the final period but the charity tosses came in key situations.

Bob Calamari had 13 for the Admirals.

Ross won the rebounding war in the second half, 18-15, but still ended up with a 37-26 disadvantage on the boards. The Little Giants hit 22 of 33 shots and eight of 12 at the line while committing 17 turnovers.

Admiral King was 27 of 51 and 10 of 20 with 19 give-aways.

Torrid Panthers burn Streaks

By ROB BOUKISSEN
N-M Sports Writer

Biz Paeth shrugged his shoulders and sighed, "What can you say?"

His St. Joe Streaks had turned in one of their better performances of the season

but came up on the short end of an 88-86 decision against the Sandusky St. Mary's Panthers at St. Joe Friday nights.

The main reason for the Streaks' defeat and Paeth's display of frustration was the torrid 55-percent shooting of St. Mary's

and especially that of guard Jim Cairelli.

Cairelli made 15 of 18 shots on his way to a 31-point night. He scored 23 of those points in the first half when the Panthers shot 65 percent on 19 of 29.

"He's capable of that," Panthers' Coach

Mike Smith said of Cairelli, whose scoring average was 14.7 pp. "He had his spurt, but he had a helluva game."

Paeth concurred. "He was tough. He made everything. We usually don't expect someone to shoot 100 percent. We seem to bring the best out of everybody."

Led by Cairelli's first-half barrage, the Panthers moved out to a 47-31 lead. The Streaks had to contend with a torokey first-quarter effort by the Streaks to gain that halftime advantage.

In the first eight minutes, the Streaks matched the Panthers shot-for-shot, hitting 10 of 14 fielders to 10 of St. Mary's nine of 14. The score was tied 21-21 after one period.

Greg Streaker, with eight points, and Eric Kuntz, with seven, were the big guns for the Streaks early while Cairelli heated up with 13 points for the Panthers in the opening stanza.

"We played as good and as hard as we can in the first quarter," said Paeth, "and we still only tied them."

In the second quarter, St. Joe faded off, making only three of 11 shots, while St. Mary's kept going, canning 10 of 15.

The Panthers continued their onslaught in the third period, going up by as many as 21 points, 62-41, with 2:34

left in the third period.

"I didn't think we played that bad," said Paeth. "We didn't play bad defense or get outrebounded. They (St. Mary's) were just making all of their shots. They played awfully well, almost a perfect game."

"When you give it all you got and still come up short, what can you say?"

The Streaks will be in action again tonight at Tiffin Calvert. The

Streaks host Tiffin Calvert.



WILLIAM JOHNSON dribbles around Bob Calamari of Admiral

King. Johnson scored on the third period play.

Admiral King 64 Ross 52

Score by quarter

Adm. King	14	16	12	21	—64
Ross	14	8	8	22	—52

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING: Roger Smith 6-6-18, Steve Davis 2-3-7, Bob Calamari 6-1-13, Ken Simmons 4-0-8, Myron Wicks 2-0-4, Dave Urbanek 1-0-2, Scott Zimmerman 2-0-4, Paul Gensler 4-0-8, totals 27-10-64.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 6-3-15, Williams 4-1-9, Greg Bender 3-4-10, Jim Hufford 3-0-6, Chris Simmons 3-0-6, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Tom Polk 1-0-2, Jeff Nossaman 1-0-2, Totals 22-8-52.

Season records: Admiral King 10-0 (6-0), Ross 5-5 (3-3).

Admiral King 58 Ross JV's 32

Score by quarters N

Adm. King	4	13	20	19	—58
Ross	8	8	11	5	—32

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING: Bansek 4-0-8, Cook 8-0-16, Gillam 3-1-7, Gerek 4-2-10, Harris 2-0-4, Wicks 2-0-4, Patton 2-2-6, Jones 1-0-2, McCall 0-1-1, totals 26-6-58.

ROSS: Welty 2-4-8, Manahan 3-2-8, Smith 0-1-1, Starks 1-0-2, Nossaman 1-3-5, Smith 2-1-5, Mamula 0-1-1, Konrad 0-2-2, totals 9-14-32.

Season records: Admiral King 10-0 (6-0), Ross 4-6 (1-5).

Little Giants take a BC break

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross will take a breather from the Buckeye Conference boys basketball race but the girls will be taking step two today in Lorain.

The Lady Little Giants had their six-game winning streak snapped Monday 48-44 at the hands of state-ranked Sylvania Northview. In the fourth quarter of the loss, Ross outscored Northview 20-11.

"It was the middle two quarters that cost us," Coach Sue Wolf said, "but the girls played very well in the fourth."

Against Lorain, the Lady Little Giants will face a young team that has won four times in 10 games. The Steelwomen are 1-2 in conference play and Ross 1-0.

"They are very quick and good on the boards," Wolf pointed out, "but they are young and like to run and gun. They don't seem to have a patterned offense and they don't shoot too well from outside."

Andrea Jewells and Linda Mattish, both 5-9, are rated as Lorain's top players.

The boys will face the first of three "double duty" weekends in the next month by playing at Whitmer Friday and hosting Tiffin Columbian Saturday.

Whitmer is 7-2 with decent size and the Panthers will start five seniors. Ross Coach John Sawyer rates 6-6 Kevin Walczak, 6-1 Bryan Craun and 6-4 Tom Durczynski as Whitmer's top players.

"Walczak does a good job inside," the Ross coach said, "but he seems to like to shoot from the foul line and that is what we want him to do."

"Craun is a good shooter. He is like Aschenbach (Dave, Ross captain) in that he leads their attack.

"Durczynski," Sawyer continued, "I think, is one of their better players. He is good inside and does not make many mistakes."

Sawyer was impressed with Whitmer's steady play and the ability not to become rattled.

"I think that is because of experience," he said.

As for his team, he says that 10 games into a season has taken away the inexperienced tag his team once wore.

Experience is not the problem for Ross this weekend, but a pair of injuries are.

Both Ashenbach and Greg Bender are nursing sprained left wrists.

"Bender had his taped for practice," the Ross coach said, "I don't know how it will affect him."

The Little Giants were the surprise of the Buckeye after the first round. Normally, Ross has served as the doormat but a 3-3 promises to give Ross its best conference season since 1979-80.

Ross, 5-5, lost to Admiral King 64-52 last Friday but Sawyer says the loss to the state's top ranked Class AAA team has shown no visible affects.

"They (Ross team) are waiting for this weekend," he explained. "Most of the kids felt that we could have beaten King if we had not had the lapse at the end of the half and at the beginning of the third quarter.

"We felt that we did not play one of our better games. We didn't play poorly but it was not one of our better ones. Against Sandusky and Elyria, which I feel is a very good club, we put our whole game together."

Little Giants trip Whitmer 59-49

TOLEDO — Ross got 35 points from Dave Aschenbach and Greg Bender while relying on clutch rebounding from William Johnson and the floor play of Jim Hufford to trip Whitmer 59-49 Friday in high school basketball.

The win raised the Little Giants to 6-5 for the season while the Panthers dropped to 7-3.

Aschenbach had 18 and Bender 17 to go with a dozen rebounds. Johnson hit a pair of key buckets according to Coach John Sawyer while grabbing eight caroms, four on the offensive boards.

“Hufford had only four points,” Sawyer pointed out, “but he ran the offense very well. He played really smart ball.”

Hufford dished out eight assists while directing the Little Giants attack.

Ross held an 18-12 lead after one quarter and led by 10 to 12 points several times in the first half but the taller Panthers kept coming back. The Little Giants held only a 30-29 lead at the half.

A Ross lead two minutes into the final period gave Sawyer a chance to look at his “delay” game.

“We were up by four,” he recalled, “and we were in a little foul trouble so I had the kids fall back to draw Whitmer out of the zone. We did a good job with it; we had only one turnover and we got some foul shots off it.”

Ross utilized its zone defense for much of the game, showing a man-to-man sparingly in the final moments of the third period.

The Little Giants were 23 of 41 from the floor and 13 of 20 at the line. Whitmer was 18 of 50 and 13 of 21 at the line. Ross outrebounded the Panthers 33-22 and committed only 11 turnovers.

Tonight, Ross will host Tiffin Columbian. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30.

Ross 59

Whitmer 49

Score by quarters

Ross	18	12	15	12	—59
Whitmer	12	17	12	8	—49

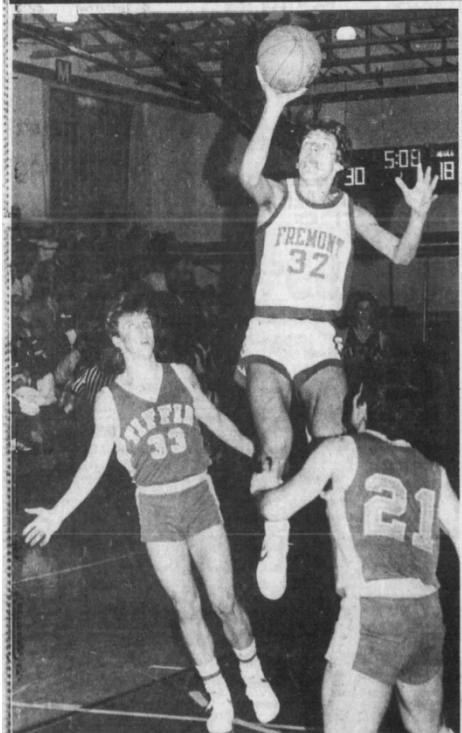
Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 8-2-18, William Johnson 4-0-8, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Greg Bender 7-3-17, Jim Hufford 1-2-4, Chris Simmons 2-6-10, totals 23-13-59.

WHITMER: Brian Craun 7-4-18, Phil Norton 1-1-3, Tom Durczynski 6-3-15, Kevin Walczak 3-4-10, Jeff Fortney 0-1-1, Greg Knauss 1-0-2, totals 18-13-49.

Season record: Ross 6-5, Whitmer 7-3.

JV game: Whitmer 68-36.



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

GREG BENDER of Fremont Ross soars above Tiffin Columbian action Saturday at Ross High School. Bender scored on the play.

Little Giants record 7th win

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Fremont Ross completed a weekend double Saturday, easing to a 63-50 high school boys basketball victory over Tiffin Columbian.

The win raised the Little Giants to 7-5 and came on the heels of a 59-49 victory over Toledo Whitmer Friday. Saturday's win was methodical as Coach John Sawyer was able to get playing time for each member of the Little Giants plus was able to look at a new offense and defense.

"It was a new offense," Sawyer said about his new setup that had Dave Aschenbach operating from the high post. Aschenbach is normally a guard. "We have been working on it for three days and we decided to give it a try."

The offense led to a slow start by the Little Giants which was matched by the equally slow start of the Tornadoes, now 3-6 this season.

"We started off with good intensity," the Ross coach offered. "It was a slow start but we wanted to work on that offense and we did not want to rush it."

Ross wins 1, drops 2 in quad meet

OAK HARBOR — Fremont won one, dropped two in a quadrangular high school wrestling meet Saturday at Oak Harbor High School.

Sandusky St. Mary's won all three of the dual meets that the teams staged. Oak Harbor was 2-1 and Otsego was blanked.

The Little Giants handed Otsego a 44-24 setback but dropped a 33-25 match to the host Rockets and fell 36-27 to St. Mary's. Oak Harbor lost to St. Mary's 32-27 and beat Otsego 54-12. Sandusky downed Otsego 47-11.

Three Little Giants won all three matches while another was 2-0-1. Mike Mamer had three decisions, stopping Steve Patterson of St. Mary's 12-4, rolling over Heath Hennen of Oak Harbor 17-2 and burying Otsego's Roger Huffman 18-2 in the 105-pound division.

Schmidt, 119, pinned Fred Artiaga of Oak Harbor in 2:42 and posted a 15-2 walkaway win over Willie Gagnon of St.

The game was deadlocked at 8-8 after one period but Ross opened up in the second quarter, outscoring the Tornadoes 20-8. Four players had a pair of baskets apiece for Ross in the surge.

It was another slow start in the second half for both teams but Ross's 11-8 second advantage put Sawyer's team comfortably ahead 39-24 heading into the final eight minutes.

Greg Bender led the Little Giants on offense with 17 points. The 6-3 sophomore was one of four Ross players reaching double figures. Two of the quartet, Dan Brudzinski and Tom Polk, came off the bench. Aschenbach was back from the bench. Aschenbach was back from the bench.

In the third period, Ross survived a three-point 18-second shooting performance by allowing Columbian only nine shots as the Little Giants used more pressure on the fourth player, making 11 of 12 free throws in scoring 15 points.

In the first half, Sawyer got a look at a half-court pressure defense.

"Yeah, we had a chance to experiment," he said. "We got to play all the kids."

"It was a good game for us especially coming off a tough game the night before," he continued. "Aschenbach, Hufford, Bender and Johnson all played 30 minutes the night before."

Sawyer played 10 but only six scored. Oddly, White, Polk, Bender and Chris Simmons, both starters did not score but Sawyer said that defensively, the two played a good game. Johnson, officially, grabbed eight of Ross's 37 rebounds.

For the night, Ross outrebounded the Tornadoes by five. The Little Giants hit 23 of 59 shots while Columbian was 22 of 48. The Tornadoes were stone cold from the free throw line, making six of 17. The Little Giants had 14 turnovers, and Columbian 19.

Doug White scored 22 for the Tornadoes. He was the only player in double figures.

"He surprised us," Sawyer admitted.

"I figured that he might get 12 or so for the game but he had that by halftime."

Ross is idle until traveling to Marion to play Harding Friday in a Buckeye Conference game.

Ishmael of Oak Harbor, third in Class AAA state meet at 165 last year, in his other matches, the Ross 185-pounder got a forfeit from Otsego and pinned Mike Salmon of St. Mary's in 5:40.

"I thought Wendt, by tying Ishmael, turned in a good job," Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler said. "I think his Rogers (Invitational) problems are behind him now."

The Ross coach was referring to Ross's first tournament of the season in which Wendt was top seeded in a 16-team tourney but failed to place in the top four.

Rob Huston, Oak Harbor's two-time state champ, led the Rockets to their two wins with three pins. The 112-pounder flattened Ross's Mel Clark in 1:52, St. Mary's Don DeAngelo in 3:17 and Otsego's Jim Jones in 3:47.

Allen Avery also won three times for Oak Harbor at 175.

High school

Ross 63

Columbian 50

Score by quarters

Columbian	8	8	6	26	—	50
Ross	8	20	11	24	—	63

Scoring

COLUMBIAN: Gary Hall 4-0-8, Chris Belville 3-1-7, Mark Cunningham 1-0-2, Greg White 10-2-22, Troy Bogner 1-0-2, Bill Myers 1-0-2, Bill Dotson 0-3-3, Scott Anspach 1-0-2, Greg Lonsway 1-0-2, totals 22-6-50.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 2-11-15, William Johnson 0-0-0, Greg Bender 8-1-17, Jim Hufford 3-0-6, Chris Simmons 0-0-0, Dan Brudzinski 5-0-10, Tom Polk 3-4-10, Mark Miesle 2-1-5, totals 23-17-63.

Season records: Ross 7-5, Columbian 3-8.

Columbian 60

Ross JVs 47

Score by quarters

Columbian	15	14	19	12	—	60
Ross JVs	3	10	14	20	—	47

Scoring

COLUMBIAN: Bryan Kessler 1-3-5, Clay Lewis 4-3-11, Mark Schwiebert 1-0-2, Rick Fisher 3-4-10, Ric Snyder 2-0-4, Robbie Paul 7-3-17, Jim Moffett 2-1-5, Don Nielson 2-2-6, totals 22-16-60.

ROSS: Scott Welty 1-4-6, Charles Starks 8-1-17, Jeff Nossaman 5-3-13, Kris Smith 1-0-2, Karl Bury 2-0-4, Chuck Mamula 1-0-2, totals 19-9-47.

Season record: Ross 4-8.

Rejuvenated Ross cagers set new goals

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross's boys basketball is progressing quicker than expected but it has not turned the corner toward being a winning program year in and year out.

Coach John Sawyer, halfway through his second season, made that observation Tuesday.

The Little Giants are 7-5 this season and that is more games won than Sawyer thought a successful second season would produce. That record has caused him and his team to change the season goals.

"All we set as goals this year," he disclosed, "was to gain respect and self-confidence. I think we have done that so now the team has set a goal of 12 wins and getting to the district finals. That is achievable."

And that would be a vast improvement over Sawyer's first team. Last year's group of Little Giants limped to a 3-18 record.

"I felt I was beating my head against a wall last year," Sawyer said. "I know the kids were willing last year but we just did not have the talent to win and if you don't have talent, you're not going to win."

"Really, I'm trying to forget all I can about last season," Sawyer smiled.

This season started with a loss to

state ranked Oak Harbor after the Little Giants led by 11 at the half. That loss was followed by three straight wins with three consecutive losses following that string. The last of the losses was 73-42 to Lorain Senior. That loss seemed to bring Ross back to life.

The following night, Sawyer's team blew out Findlay and followed with a 60-46 win over previously unbeaten Sandusky. Sporting a 5-4 record, Ross suffered through a six-minute drought in the second and third periods before losing to the Associated Press Class AAA top ranked team, Admiral King 64-52.

Ross bounced back with wins over Toledo Whitmer and Tiffin Columbian. Whitmer was 7-2 before Ross's win.

Ross's play has been characterized by a strong defense and more than adequate play from the Little Giants' bench. Youth tempered by two experienced seniors have been Sawyer's key weapons.

"We had decided last spring that we were going to keep two seniors," Sawyer said.

Sawyer's seniors were starters William Johnson and Dave Aschenbach, both starters from last season. He has blended in a pair of juniors and three sophomores along with a surprise senior that stuck it out after he had been told by Sawyer that he would

see little action.

Sawyer's lineup at the start of the season had juniors Dan Brudzinski and Jim Hufford along with sophomore Greg Bender and the two seniors. He also had sophomores Chris Simmons and Mark Miesle in the wings.

"I could not see the sophomores playing JV ball; I wanted them playing on the varsity. Maybe they would be losing but they would have a year of experience," Sawyer said. "I was going to sink or swim with younger players."

Simmons has taken over for Brudzinski in the starting lineup but the former starter has been turning in good performances off the bench. So has Tom Polk, the senior Sawyer told his playing time, if any, would be little.

"I told Polk that he could stay but he would only be a practice player. He might get some time but not much," Sawyer recalled, "but he has pushed kids in practice, he hustles and he has contributed in every game he has been in. I am confident when I put him in now."

Sawyer, while acknowledging the quickly gained confidence of his team, attributes his assistant coaches with helping with the current success. He sees his junior high coaches as being keys to the future.

"Mark (Wilch, his JV coach) and Chuck (Lindsey, varsity assistant)," Sawyer described, "have really helped out. Chuck is a freshman coach but has volunteered to be the varsity assistant. He is not getting paid for it. He is valuable to the program and if Ross lost him, his shoes would be hard to fill."

Russ Hagerty and Roger Allen are the junior high coaches. "They're two good ones," the varsity coach says.

"I'll tell you the truth, though, I will know," Sawyer explained, "if the program is beginning to turn around this summer. If the number of kids who come to workouts is the same as last year, it will be discouraging. I don't want them to work on just basketball, but to get on the weights."

"Another thing," he said, "I'd like to see all the kids play football. It would help them."

Concluding, Sawyer said that this season is adding up to a bonus.

"But we have to year after year continue to progress. When that happens, the younger kids (junior high and elementary) will see that and want to be a part of a successful program."

"We are ahead of schedule this year, but that's nice."

Ross will get a chance to continue that progression Friday, traveling to Marion to face Harding.

Ross falls to Harding

Special to The N-M

MARION — Ross ran into a red hot Marion Harding crew and was burned 61-43 in a Buckeye Conference basketball game here Friday.

The Presidents canned 26 of 44 from the floor (59 percent) including 18 of 26 (69 percent) in the first half.

"They played good and we played bad," Ross assistant Coach Mark Wilch said. "Marion had a lot of layups off a lot of steals."

"We just were not getting back."

Harding rolled out to a 15-8 lead after one quarter and outscored the Little Giants 23-10 in the second to take a commanding 38-18 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, the Little Giants scored 12 straight points after Harding's Kris Mayse had scored twice to make it 42-18. Four baskets by Greg Bender and one each by Dave Aschenbach and Jim Hufford cut Harding's lead to 42-30 but the Little Giants faced a 44-30 deficit heading into the final eight minutes.

The Presidents took the wind out of Ross in the final quarter, scoring the first 11 points, including a seven-point play.

Mayse started the run with a bucket and John Sims followed with a three-point play. On the foul, Ross Coach John Sawyer was whistled for a technical and Harding's James Floyd sank both free throws. On the inbounds, Todd Hecker scored to give Harding the sixth and seventh points and a 53-30 lead. Floyd topped off the run with both ends of the one and bonus.

It was formality from that point with Harding playing mop-up. Nine Presidents scored with three of them reaching double figures in the balanced attack. Mayse and Dave Sprague, who was six of eight for the game, had 12 apiece and Floyd finished with 11.

Aschenbach and Bender paced Ross, now 7-6 overall and 3-4 in the conference, with 16 and 15 points, respectively.

The Little Giants hit only 14 of 53 shots from the floor and 15 of 20 at the line.

Harding is 6-7 and 3-5 in the BC race.

Harding 61 Ross 43

Score by quarter

Ross	8	10	12	13—43
Harding	15	23	6	17—61

Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 6-4-16, William Johnson 0-2-2, Dan Brudzinski 0-1-1, Greg Bender 6-3-15, Jim Hufford 1-0-2, Chris Simmons 0-1-1, Mark Miesle 1-2-4, Jerry Snodgrass 0-2-2, totals 14-15—43.

HARDING: Todd Hecker 2-0-4, Kris Mayse 6-0-12, Marc West 2-0-4, James Floyd 3-5-11, Dave Sprague 6-0-12, John Sims 3-2-8, Jamie Steven 1-1-3, Zorba Ross 2-0-4, Matt Short 1-1-3, Totals 25-9—61.

Season record: Harding 6-7 (3-5), Ross 7-6 (3-4).

JV game: Harding 53-38.

Little Giant cagers attempt to rebound

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross's girls team will attempt to break a two-game losing streak while the boys basketball team will be trying to rebound from an 18-point loss to Marion Harding in Buckeye Conference play this evening and Friday.

Coach Sue Wolf's Lady Little Giants will host Sandusky in today's encounter. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30.

The Lady Blue Streaks are 8-3 overall and hold a 4-0 conference mark. Ross is 9-6 after dropping games to Findlay and Oregon Clay the last week. Wolf's team is 2-1 in the BC.

"Sandusky is very small but very quick," Wolf said, "and they are aggressive. The main part of their game is the full court press in which they hustle all over the court."

Carla Young, 5-7 senior forward, is rated as Sandusky's best player, according to Wolf.

"She is an excellent rebounder and ball handler and a good shooter," she said. "We are going to have to stop her."

"But," the Ross coach continued, "if we can beat their press, we can win the game."

In Tuesday's loss to Clay, Sharon Karlovetz and Sandy Long suffered minor injuries and both are expected to be ready for the Sandusky game. Tina Michael, Ross's 5-11 junior center, is not at full strength. She is suffering from a respiratory and sinus infection.

Michael will play but Wolf said she will have to rest her frequently.

The Little Giant boys will attempt to bounce back against a team that drubbed them a month ago 73-42. The Steelmen are 12-2 and 6-2 in the BC. Ross is 7-6 and 3-4 in the conference.

Ross Coach John Sawyer does not feel his team will be manhandled this time around.

"I'm looking for a good ball game," he said and then added, "if we shoot well."

That's what the Little Giants did not do against Harding. Ross canned 30 percent of their shots — Harding 65 percent — and the Little Giants lost 61-43.

"If we had shot decently, it would have been a good ball game," Sawyer said. "The time we played Lorain, we shot only 32 percent."

"The kids understand, though, that we have to shoot well and if we don't we could get blown off the floor."

The Ross coach said that his team was not inflated last week before the loss to Harding.

"We thought we could win the ball game," he explained, "even though they beat us up here. I got the impression from the kids that if they played well, they could beat them. As it was, we shot poorly and they shot very well."

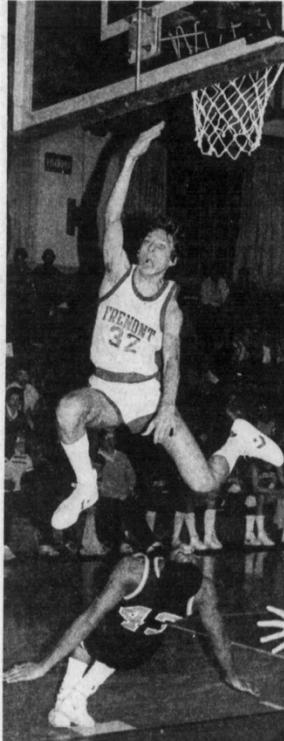
Harding also beat Ross in the transition game which was caused by the poor shooting. That cost them in the lopsided loss to Lorain in December.

"When we have to send four guys to the boards for a rebound, we have to get it. At Lorain and at Marion, we were missing, not getting the rebound and they were grabbing it, kicking it out and were off and running down the floor."

In Buckeye Conference stats as of Tuesday, the Steelmen had four players in the top 11 scorers. Ed Wright was the top man with a 16.2 average. The Lorain team leads the BC in offense, averaging nearly 70 points a game while ranking second in defense, yielding 53 per game.

Sports

Ross Little Giants shock Lorain 57-54



(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)
GREG BENDER does the splits while going over the top of Tim Moore (43) of Lorain. Bender missed the layup during the first quarter action.

No forecasts from Super Bowl coaches

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
Ross' iron man act gave the Little Giants the last laugh Friday in a 57-54 Buckeye Conference basketball win over Lorain Senior.

The Little Giants had all the jokes and laughs tossed at them back on Dec. 17 when the Steelmen won 73-42.

"This is probably one of the biggest games we have won," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "When a coach boosts you by 31, it's tough to come back."

The Ross dropped the 15th ranked Steelmen to 12-3 and 6-3 in the conference. Ross is 8-6 and 4-4 in BC play.

The comeback effort netted Ross' best all around game of the season. The Little Giants had three players — Dave Aschenbach, William Johnson and Chris Simmons — grab eight rebounds apiece while getting strong defensive play from all five in stopping the Steelmen's high scoring tandem. Lorain averaged 70 points.

With that threesome and Jim Hufford grabbing seven rebounds and Greg Bender five, Ross controlled the

boards 36-31.

"The boards were the key," Sawyer said. "In the first game, we were trying to rebound under the basket; we weren't boxing out. Tonight we did."

Sawyer did not use a substitute in the game and the pace the Little Giants set helped the starting five go the entire 32 minutes.

"Yeah, the Ross coach agreed, "we had them playing our game. We started with a couple of turnovers and I thought it was going to be a bad night but we adjusted."

Ross' transition game slowed Lorain's fast paced game to a walk. Only occasionally were the Steelmen able to get the ball out and run.

Lorain's biggest lead was 10-6 when Ross was playing ragged in the first quarter. Sawyer settled his team and Ross deadlocked the game at 12-12 on Aschenbach's shot with three seconds left in the quarter.

Lorain held the lead only once more at 16-14 but Ross went on a 12-4 spree to grab a 26-20 halftime lead.

Aschenbach and Hufford, with two baskets apiece, spurred Ross to the lead.

At the end of three periods Ross held a 40-33 advantage. Johnson dropped in five points and Aschenbach four in the quarter.

Lorain charged at the beginning of the final period. After taking off its full court press in the third period, the Steelmen went back to it at the beginning of the final eight minutes. Four Ross free throws closed the six points and cut Ross's lead to 40-39.

The Little Giants, with Aschenbach hitting a pair of free throws and Johnson canning two buckets forged back to a 48-43 lead with five minutes to play. A 6-2 spurt gave Ross its biggest lead of the game, 54-45 with 3:50 remaining.

The Steelmen bounced back and with 1:40 to go, trailed 54-52 after Eric Ward's two free throws.

Ross' 10th trip downcourt, melted one minute and 13 seconds off the clock before Aschenbach was fouled by James Moore. The Ross senior hit 3:50 remaining.

both free throws to give the Little Giants a four-point cushion. Twelve seconds later, Johnson hit one free toss to ice the game.

Aschenbach finished with 20 points and Johnson 16. Hufford had nine, Bender eight and Simmons four. Wardell Wright finished with 16 and Ward 12 to go with Ed Wright's 18.

Ross hit 21 of 46 shots and 15 of 22 free throws. Lorain was 24 of 58 and shot 50 percent.

The big win had Sawyer worried afterwards as he switched his planning toward this evening's clash with Toledo Woodward at the Ross gym.

"The bench had better be ready to play," he warned. "We are going to have to watch out for a letdown. Woodward has won only two games but after a win like this, it will be a tough game for us."

In the junior varsity game, Ross won 59-50. In the varsity game, Ross, Jeff Nossaman scored on a three-point play to give Ross a 54-52 lead. He added four more free throws to round out the scoring.

Deliberate St. Joe drops 12th

Special to The News-Messenger

Fremont St. Joe took away the Redskins' fast break but could not overcome an 11-point deficit in the second half as Port Clinton ended a four-game slide with a 50-42 win Friday.

The Streaks, winless in the Sandusky Bay Conference, battled back to within six points midway through the fourth quarter. Denny Furlong scored from under the basket to cut the deficit to 38-44 before the Redskins' called a timeout with 2:42 remaining.

"We talked about running an offense, period; setting up and getting something going," said Port Clinton coach Tom Bodager. "I don't know what it was. It seemed like we were behind a half step all night."

The Redskins worked the ball to Paul Colston, who led all scorers with 15 points. When the sophomore forward was fouled he responded by making both free throws.

Steve Spieldenner scored his fourth basket of the game with 2:06 left, but the Streaks could come no closer.

Eric Papuan picked up his 10th assist of the night by passing Greg Gresh inside for a 48-40 Port Clinton lead with 1:35 left.

Gresh and Duane Norman both tossed in eight points apiece for the Redskins in their first win since Dec. 21.



WILLIAM JOHNSON of Ross looks up at the basket after grabbing a second half rebound. Steve Sanker of Lorain reaches in after the ball.

Lewis leaps 28 feet

NEW YORK (AP) — Remarkable Carl Lewis uncorked the third and four best indoor long jumps in history, winning the event with a leap of 28 feet, one-quarter inch Friday night in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

The 24-year-old Lewis, named the outstanding track and field athlete in the world for 1982 by Track and Field News, holds the world indoor best of 28-1, set last year.

In the 76th Millrose Games, he had five fair jumps, all under 27 feet — in six attempts. On his one foul, he barely went over the line.

Lewis opened with a 27-11 1/2, then leaped 27-0 1/2, fouled, 27-2, 28-0 1/4 and 27-5 1/4.

Lewis, the 1981 Sullivan Award winner as the nation's outstanding amateur athlete, also has a human

Basketball

High school

Ross 57

Lorain 54

Score by quarters

Lorain	12	8	13	21	—54
Ross	12	14	14	17	—57

Scoring

LORAIN: Ed Wright 8-2-18, James Moore 1-2-4, Eric Ward 5-2-12, Wardell Wright 8-0-16, Steve Sanker 2-0-4, totals 24-6-54.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 7-6-20, Greg Bender 2-4-8, William Johnson 6-4-16, Jim Hufford 4-1-9, Chris Simmons 2-0-4, totals 21-15-57.

Season records: Ross 8-6 (4-4), Lorain 12-3 (6-3).

Ross JVs 58

Lorain JVs 52

Score by quarters

Lorain JVs	5	16	11	20	—52
Ross JVs	13	9	17	19	—58

Scoring

LORAIN: Joel Hartman 3-1-7, Rob Hendershot 3-2-8, Tony Kruman 6-1-13, Ken Balmert 4-2-10, Cleave Johnson 6-2-14, totals 22-8-52.

ROSS: Scott Welty 6-2-14, Charles Starks 3-0-6, Kris Smith 0-6-6, Jeff Jnossaman 4-6-14, Ryan Smith 7-2-16, John Snodgrass 1-0-2, totals 21-16-58.

Season record: Ross 5-9 (2-6), Lorain 9-6 (5-5).

Woodward downs Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross fell from the heights of Friday to the depths of a Saturday night letdown as Toledo Woodward handed the Little Giants a 48-46 loss in high school basketball.

The loss came 24 hours after the Little Giants had upset Lorain Senior 57-54 in a Buckeye Conference game.

"That's the only good thing about it," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "it was not a conference game."

Putting it bluntly, Sawyer said, "We stunk. Even if we had pulled it out, we would not have deserved it."

Ross charged in the last 69 seconds and had the ball and a two-point deficit (48-46) with 24 seconds to play. William Johnson's layup and Dave Aschenbach's tip with 32 seconds remaining had closed the gap.

Woodward had taken a 48-42 lead with 1:09 to play on Tyrone Hampton's bucket. Hampton missed a free throw when he was fouled by Greg Bender on the play.

Johnson hit with 55 seconds left and after a Woodward turnover, Aschenbach followed with his basket.

Myron Broughton of Woodward was fouled by Aschenbach with 24 seconds left, but the 6-3 junior missed and Johnson grabbed the rebound.

On the trip downcourt, Aschenbach shot from 20-feet out on the right but missed with eight seconds remaining. After a battle, the ball went out of bounds off Hampton and Ross had the ball with two seconds to play.

Sawyer called for a timeout but on the in-bounds play, Ross sophomore Mark Miesle missed an 18-footer from the right corner. Time ran out on the shot.

"I thought mentally before the game, we were ready," Sawyer said, "but we missed a lot of close shots. I don't know whether playing the whole game Friday had any effect."

Sawyer's starting five of Aschenbach, Bender, Johnson, Jim Hufford and Chris Simmons had gone the route Friday and Sawyer was concerned about that after the Friday game. He was also worried about a letdown.

"A win like last night," the Ross coach said, "when you work your butts off and then come back like this . . . it makes you feel sick."

Sawyer praised the game plan of Woodward Coach Kim McCualsky.

"We did not penetrate," Sawyer said. "They did a nice job on us; they kept us from getting set."

Woodward used a 2-1-2 zone at the beginning but switched to a 3-2 which caused Ross problems.

"We were not getting enough pressure on Bender and Aschenbach on the wings while we were in the 2-1-2," McCualsky said. "In the 3-2, it spread them out and it shut them down."

Ross led 16-11 in the second quarter for its biggest lead while the Woodward had a 45-38 lead for its biggest margin.

Aschenbach had 21 points to lead all scorers and Johnson finished with 13. Victor Truss and Hampton had 12 apiece and John Munch 11 for Woodward.

Both teams shot poorly Ross was 18 of 49 and Woodward 19 of 44. Woodward could have taken any doubt about the outcome but kept it close by missing 11 of 21 free throws. Ross was 10 of 15.

Woodward outrebounded the Little Giants 35-32.

Ross will be at Sandusky Friday.

Basketball

Woodward 48
Ross 46

Score by quarters

Woodward	11	12	12	13	—48
Ross	14	8	12	12	—46

Scoring

WOODWARD: Dennis Garwych 1-2-4, Myron Broughton 4-0-8, Victor Truss 6-0-12, Tyrone Hampton 5-2-12, John Munch 3-5-11, Rubin Conley 0-1-1, totals 19-10-48.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 8-5-21, Greg Bender 2-0-4, William Johnson 6-1-13, Jim Hufford 0-0-0, Chris Simmons 1-4-6, Mark Miesle 1-0-2, totals 18-10-46.

Season records: Ross 8-7, Woodward 5-9.

Woodward JVs 47
Ross JVs 44

Score by quarters

Woodward JVs	13	10	14	10	—47
Ross JVs	12	14	13	5	—44

Scoring

WOODWARD: Tom Barnes 8-0-16, Lamont Whitlock 4-4-12, Terry Woodard 2-0-4, Kevin Rushing 1-1-3, Joe Bais 0-2-2, Scott Russell 3-3-9, Joe Fields 0-1-1, totals 18-11-47.

ROSS: Scott Welty 3-2-8, Charles Starks 0-0-0, Kris Smith 6-2-14, Jeff Nossaman 5-4-14, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, John Snodgrass 1-0-2, Karl Bury 2-0-4, totals 18-8-44.

Season records: Ross 5-10.

Ross visits Sandusky

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross has no advantage over Sandusky this time around when the Little Giants travel to the home of the Blue Streaks Friday for a Buckeye Conference basketball game.

In the first meeting of the teams, Ross caught Sandusky thinking ahead to another date and walked away with a 60-46 win. Four days later, Sandusky lost to Admiral King.

Sandusky was undefeated (4-0) when the Little Giants defeated them to start a three-game winning streak. Friday, Ross will put its 8-7 record up against the Blue Streaks' 9-5. Both are in a battle for third in the conference.

Currently, Sandusky is 5-5 in the BC and Ross is 4-4 but the Blue Streaks are on a three-game losing skid.

"They are going to definitely be ready for us," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "They are going to be ready to handle the zone defense which gave them trouble the first time we played them. They have also played against zones the last two games (Findlay and Elyria)."

Sawyer calls the contest a "make or break" game for the Blue Streaks.

"I think a loss Friday could collapse that club," he said.

"It's a key game for us, too," he continued, "because it is for third in the conference. We are going to have to play an exceptional game."

Ross, the best free throw shooting

team in the BC, will be putting that skill up against the team that commits the most fouls per game.

"We are going to have to be ready to hit them," Sawyer said about the possible foul shots.

The Ross coach says he expects Sandusky to play a pressure defense with mostly man-to-man but he passed along a recommendation.

"If they scouted us," he said, "they should go to a zone and make us shoot from the outside."

"Really, though, I don't look for many changes. Sandusky is going to hope they shoot a better percentage than they did against us the first time," Sawyer explained.

"I know they will be fired up, but so will we."

BC STATS: Ross ranks second defensively (53.2) and fifth offensively (54.9). At the line, Ross is hitting 66.4 percent for the top spot but ranks fifth in field goal shooting (43.6).

Individually, Dave Aschenbach ranks fifth in scoring with a 15.35 and is second in free throw percentage, hitting 88.7 on 71 of 80. Mark Miesle, a sophomore from Ross, is the leading field goal shooter, hitting 20 of 32 for 62.5 percent. Willie Johnson ranks seventh with 56 of 110 for 50.9 percent.

Greg Bender, a sophomore, ranks sixth in free throw (71.7) and is 10th in rebounding, averaging 6.4 per game. Johnson is seventh in rebounding at 6.8.

Should 20-game limit be expanded?

CINCINNATI (AP) — High school basketball coaches disagree on whether the state's 20-game regular season limit should be expanded.

Some coaches say the season is long enough, with post-season play adding as many as eight games. But others think the schools could benefit if the Ohio High School Athletic Association allowed a few more regular-season contests before the playoffs.

"I think we could spruce up the season with a few more games," said Hep Cronin, coach at Oak

Hills. "Some people don't realize what it could mean financially."

"I also think the kids tend to get bored with the same routine. Sometimes we play just one game a week, and I can see their attention span wander. Basketball is a long season anyway."

However, OHSAA Commissioner Richard Armstrong is inclined to leave the 20-game limit in place.

"Everyone seems happy with 20," Armstrong said. "Basketball is a revenue sport for most schools, and the current system seems to work well."

Little Giants get 9th win

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross's slow-down in the final six minutes blistered Sandusky causing the Blue Streaks to lose their composure as well as a Buckeye Conference basketball game.

The Little Giants pulled away in those final moments, outscoring Sandusky 18-9 in the span to record their ninth win in 16 games while raising the BC record to 5-4. Ross is now in sole possession of third while Sandusky (9-6 and 5-6) dropped to fifth behind Elyria.

Ross Coach John Sawyer sent his team into a four-corner offense at the 5:50 mark of the final period and with it caused Blue Streaks' tempers to flare. Two Blue Streaks — Randy Moore and Willie Clark — were booted from the game in the final 62 seconds as the Streaks fell apart.

The ejections led to six free throws and raised Ross's lead from 56-47 to first 57-49 and then to 61-49 with 32 seconds to play. Moore, in the final period, was called for two technicals.

Greg Bender, who had 16 points and hit on six of six charity tosses in the final period, along with Jim Hufford and Dave Aschenbach paced the pullaway. That trio followed the William Johnson-Chris Simmons Act which had kept Ross rolling in the early going.

Hufford was five of six and Aschenbach four of five from the line as the Little Giants hit 15 of 17 final period charity tosses.

"This was a make or break game for them," Sawyer said.

And his Little Giants got the breaking started early. Sawyer had his team depart from its regular zone by opening in a man-to-man.

"We wanted to break their concentration," the Ross coach explained. "We wanted to use that for a couple of minutes but we wanted it to be a good man-to-man and it wasn't. We had to go back to our bread and butter."

That meant a combination of "2-3" and "1-3-1" zones. Still, Sawyer agreed, the surprise opening did its job of getting Sandusky off balance.

The game was deadlocked 26-26 at the half and 42-42 after three quarters. Both Johnson, who finished with 12, and Simmons had picked up their fourth fouls in the third quarter. That forced Sawyer to alternate Dan Brudzinski and Tom Polk via a shuttle system.

Brudzinski had two second quarter buckets and Polk hit a key two-pointer in the third to make Sawyer's shuttle system effective.

Offensively, Sawyer's charges never did get in gear.

"The offense stuttered the whole game," he said. "The four-corners worked pretty good but we went to that because we had three guys in foul trouble but offensively, we never really got untracked."

Aschenbach, the Little Giants' season leading scorer, picked up his fourth foul with six minutes to play. Ten seconds later, Sawyer sent his team into the mini-deep freeze.

Ross finished with 21 of 26 at the line and 21 of 42 from the floor. Sandusky was 20 of 57 and hit just 11 of 23 free throws. Ross had a 36-29 edge on the boards with Simmons grabbing nine, Johnson eight and Bender seven.

Ross will be idle until Friday when Elyria comes to Fremont. In the first meeting, Ross won 54-53.

In the junior varsity game, Scott Welty scored 30 points for Ross but Sandusky posted a 63-51 win.

Ross 63 Sandusky 51

Score by quarters

Ross	13	13	16	21	—63
Sandusky	14	12	16	9	—51

Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 4-7, 15, William Johnson 6-0-12, Greg Bender 4-8-16, Jim Hufford 0-5-5, Chris Simmons 3-1-7, Dan Brudzinski 3-0-6, Tom Polk 1-0-2, totals 21-21-63.

SANDUSKY: Randy Maschari 2-0-4, Willie Clark 3-2-8, Dernard Newell 0-0-0, Ervin Owens 2-0-4, Randy Moore 3-1-7, Paul Moore 5-5-15, Mike Pole 4-3-11, totals 20-11-51.

Season records: Ross 9-7 (5-4), Sandusky 9-6 (5-6).

Elyria is in Ross's way

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross will host Elyria Friday in another skirmish in the Little Giants' quest for second place in the Buckeye Conference boys basketball race.

Ross is 5-4 in the conference, one-half game behind Lorain Senior's 6-4. Admiral King has already clinched the conference title with a 10-0 mark.

Elyria is 5-5 in the BC and a half-game behind Ross in fourth place. The Pioneers are 10-7 overall and Ross 9-7.

In the first meeting of the teams, Ross built up a 12-point lead heading into the final period before winning 54-53 on a basket by sophomore Chris Simmons with three seconds left in the game.

"Elyria is vastly improved since that time," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "if not physically but more so mentally. They are playing with confidence and they are not turning the ball over much anymore.

"Their transition game, Sawyer said about the Pioneers, "has been excellent the last few games."

The Little Giants did not let the Pioneers get into the vaunted transition game in the first clash, making the Pioneers play a half-court game, Ross's strength this season.

"We handled their pressure, too," Sawyer said. "It will be interesting to see if they press us this time."

Terry Wearsch, 6-7 senior center, and Jeff Thomas lead the Pioneers. Thomas is the conference's leading scorer at 16.88 and Wearsch ranks second with a 16.05. Elyria also gets good scoring punch from Bruce Halliburton whose 12.4 average is seventh in the BC.

Wearsch is also the top rebounder in the conference, averaging more than 14 per contest.

"The key to the game will be the boards," the Ross coach said. "I think they average 47 a game (actually nearly 48). In the first game, they beat us on the boards 47-32."

"Sometimes," Sawyer admitted, "I wonder how we won that game."

Sawyer says he is anticipating a zone from the Pioneers.

"They have been using a '1-3-1' lately," he said, "and I think they will use it on us."

The Ross coach pointed out another intangible that he hopes will help his Little Giants.

"I hope we get a good crowd," he said. "I hope we get the students out. The students are an important part especially to a team that plays a lot of close games like we do."

"We really need that 'sixth man,'" Sawyer concluded.

Saturday, Ross will travel to Toledo Waite. The junior varsity game Saturday will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Sports

Hagler stops Sibson to retain boxing title

Page A-10

Hot shooting Pioneers tame Ross 76-62

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Writer

Elyria had five players in double figures while hitting 32 of 53 shots from the floor in a 76-62 win over Fremont Ross in a Buckeye Conference basketball game Friday.

"That offensive balance was the key to the game," Elyria Coach John Wearsch said.

After that a 39-26 advantage on the boards and 11 blocked shots by the Pioneers' tandem of 6-foot-7 Terry Wearsch and high-jumping Chuck Fields had Ross at a disadvantage all night.

"I thought they played a good game," Ross Coach John Sawyer said.

Wearsch blocked seven shots and scored 18 points. Fields was nine of 10 from the floor for 19 points. Bruce Halliburton had 13 points and shadowed Ross' season leading scorer Dave Aschenbach the whole game.

"Bruce played a good game," Dickerson pointed out. "He worked on Aschenbach all night and even though he scored 19, his shooting percentage was down."

Ross led only once, 10-9, on sophomore Greg Bender's shot five minutes into the game. The next 17 points went to Elyria.

The Little Giants were held scoreless from the three-minute mark of the first quarter until the five-minute mark of the second. The Pioneers' biggest lead in game was 16 twice in the period.

Elyria with Fields' hot hand pacing the attack, hit 16 of 26 first half shots while Ross struggled with nine of 27. The Pioneers held a 35-23 halftime advantage.

Ross outscored Elyria 8-2 in the first four minutes of the second half to cut Elyria's lead to 37-31, the first of two times that the Little Giants were able to get back to within six. Bender, who finished with 21 points, had a bucket and two free throws to lead Ross' charge.

Wearsch countered with three buckets and Elyria led 49-37 at the end of three quarters.

"We have played better offensively," Sawyer commented. "The offense was spotty; we never could sustain anything."

"We would get a couple of steals and make the

basket and then give up a couple," the Little Giants leader explained. "We'd force a couple of turnovers and then commit a couple of our own."

In the final quarter, Ross trimmed Elyria's lead to 53-46, as Chris Simmons, Aschenbach and Bender keyed a six-point run. Simmons grabbed two key rebounds and Aschenbach hit a bucket and two free throws to give Ross Bender's 21.

Elyria's Jeff Thomas, the conference's leading scoring but experiencing a bad night against Ross, hit back-to-back buckets and Elyria had a 57-46 lead. Simmons' tip made it 57-48 and Ross never got the deficit to less than 10 after that.

Sawyer admitted that he had expected Elyria to play a zone defense against his team but instead, Dickerson had his team almost exclusively in a man-to-man.

"We have used both defenses the last few games," the Elyria coach said. "What we wanted to do was come out and set the tempo of the game."

"We did not do that in the first game."

Ross won that one 54-53 after having a 12-point lead going into the final quarter.

Dickerson's plan worked as Ross never settled into the game.

"What hurt us was we did not take out time on offense," Sawyer said. "We did not take the time to get the 15 to 16-foot shot which is a better shot for us rather than going inside against Wearsch."

Sawyer said that he did not feel his team was inspired by the win over the Pioneers.

"No, the kids kept going inside," he said, "so I don't think he was intimidating us."

"What I liked was we kept coming back at them but we just could not sustain anything."

Thomas and Jay Bender ended up with 11 points apiece for Elyria. Greg Bender's 21, followed by Aschenbach's 19 and 10 from Simmons paced Ross.

The Little Giants were 24 of 64 from the field and 14 of 16 at the line.

In the junior varsity game, Elyria scored 38 points in the final quarter to break a 41-41 deadlock and win going away 79-58. Scott Welty had 19 and Ryan Smith 14 for the Ross JVs.

Tonight, Ross will travel to Toledo to play Waite High School. The junior varsity tilt begins at 6:15.



JOHN SAWYER, coach of Ross, holds his head while contemplating the action during Friday's game against Elyria. Sawyer's team dropped to 9-8 for the season.

(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

Sandusky upsets King 45-44!

SANDUSKY — Randy Maschari's tip-in with no time showing on the clock gave Sandusky a 45-44 win over the state's top-ranked Class AAA team, Lorain Admiral King, Friday night.

Maschari was all alone to rebound a shot from the top of the key by Randy Moore of Sandusky. The Admirals, rated number one in both the United Press International and Associated Press polls, had a 44-41 lead after Paul Gensler hit two free throws with 32 seconds remaining.

Ervin Owens' tip-in with 20 seconds left cut King's lead to 44-43.

After a Sandusky timeout, Willie Clark of the Blue Streaks stole the ball from King's Roger Smith with 15 seconds remaining.

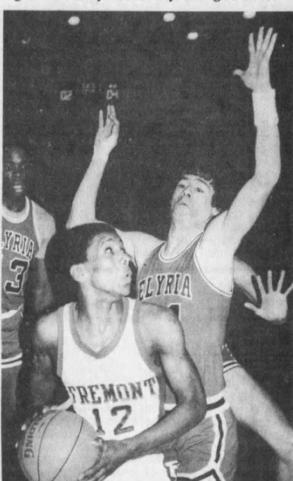
Moore brought the ball downcourt, spotted Maschari under the basket and the 6-4 Maschari hit the layup. That bucket did not count as King was charged with a foul with five seconds left.

Sandusky's Randy Moore, a 6-4 senior, shot from the top of the key. The shot fell off but Maschari was alone under the basket as the King defense had come out to meet Moore.

The win ended a four-game losing streak for Sandusky and dropped Admiral King to 17-1.

Owens had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Sandusky. The Blue Streaks allowed King only six second half rebounds.

Smith with 14 and Ken Simmons with 10 paced the Admirals.



WILLIAM JOHNSON of Ross takes a look at the basket as Jay Bender of Elyria defends early in the game.

Panthers claw Streaks 78-48

SANDUSKY — The St. Joe Streaks ran into a buzzsaw in the form of the St. Mary's Panthers here Friday night.

St. Mary's hit 10 of its first 11 shots and 32 of 49 for the game to slice up the Streaks 78-48 in a Sandusky Bay Conference encounter at the Panthers' Den.

"I can't believe it," said Streak Coach Buz Paeth. "Their (St. Mary's) shooting was unbelievable."

Behind their torrid start, the Panthers jumped out to a 20-4 first-quarter lead. St. Joe trimmed it to nine points, 30-21, before St. Mary's scored the last six points of the first half to go up 36-20. The Streaks never recovered.

Four players scored in double figures for the winners. Jim Calirelli led the attack with 14 points, followed by Joe Roth with 13 and Dan Hullock and Rob Seeholzer with 11 each. A total of 10 Panthers dented the scoring column.

Eric Kuns was the lone Streak player in double figures with 12 points.

While St. Mary's ended up hitting 65 percent of its field goals, St. Joe managed to make only 37 percent of its shots (17 of 46).

From the foul line, St. Mary's was 14 of 18 and St. Joe was 14 of 23.

The Panthers also outrebounded the Streaks 32-18.

St. Joe remains winless in the SBC with a 0-12 record. The Streaks are 1-15 overall. St. Mary's is now 7-5 in the conference and 9-8 overall.



DAVE ASCHENBACH (14) of Ross scored on this layup to tie the game at 4-4. Chuck Fields (43) of Elyria is the defender.

Calvert and Company nip Clyde and Streeter

By ROB BOUKISSEN

News-Messenger Sports Writer

CLYDE — Sandusky Bay Conference basketball will never be mistaken for the NBA, but Friday night at Clyde High School it came close.

On the other side, Marc Streeter, Clyde's main man all year, hit 16 of 29 shots on his way to a 34-point night in a losing effort.

While the Fliers made five more field goals than Calvert

quarter. The quarter ended in a 56-56 tie.

Clyde kept it close for most of the final period — in fact, the Fliers twice had one-point leads — before Company single-handedly broke it open.

Calvert and Company, led by Jim Calirelli, hit 10 of 12 shots in the fourth quarter to end the game 78-75.

Calvert and Company are 1-15 overall. Clyde is 7-5 in the conference and 9-8 overall.

Basketball

Elyria 76
Ross 62

Score by quarters

Elyria	18	17	14	27-76
Ross	10	13	14	25-62

Scoring

ELYRIA: Terry Wearsch 7-4-18, Jeff Thomas 5-1-11, Bruce Halliburton 5-3-13, Jay Bender 5-1-11, Chuck Fields 9-1-19, Mark Runser 1-2-4, totals 32-12-76.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 7-5-19, William Johnson 2-0-4, Greg Bender 7-7-21, Jim Hufford 4-0-8, Chris Simmons 4-2-10, totals 24-14-62.

Season records: Elyria 11-7 (6-5) Ross 9-8 (5-5).

. . . and the good thing was Ross won No. 10

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

TOLEDO — John Sawyer had a confused look on his face. He was attempting to sort out the good things about a Ross basketball win.

Ordinarily, that is not hard but after the Little Giants' 60-47 win over Waite, the Ross coach was searching.

"Well," he began as a smile spread across his face, "I'm glad the 'Winds of War' was not on tonight (Saturday) because I would have hated to miss it for a game like this."

Ross, now 10-8 and assured of a break-even regular season (that was a good thing Sawyer said) led by as many as 28 points late in the third period before settling for the win. The loss dropped the Waite Indians to 0-16.

"It was sloppy," Sawyer pointed out, "but everybody played and that is good and we won."

"It was a fun game for everyone (except Waite) and it was a good game to come back with after the Elyria game," the Ross coach said.

Elyria defeated the Little Giants 76-62 Friday.

"Actually," Sawyer admitted, "we played better Friday night and lost. Now, we have to get our minds geared for Admiral King next Friday."

The Little Giants will play at Lorain against the Buckeye Conference kings. Admiral King was upset by Sandusky 45-44 Friday night and are 16-1 with a game Tuesday.

The Little Giants made only four of 16 first quarter shots but struggled to

a 16-7 lead. The Little Giants were shooting the "one and one" two and one-half minutes into the game but Ross, normally a hot shooting free throw team, made only eight of 16 free throws in the quarter.

For the game, Ross hit only 14 of 29 charity tosses.

Ross was seven of 15 from the floor in the second quarter and held a 30-14 lead at the half.

Waite's Rodney Leach hit the first bucket of the second half but Ross ran off 14 unanswered points for a 44-16 lead with two minutes left in the third quarter.

Waite, despite being clearly outmanned, did not quit Sawyer pointed out. With Ross leading 52-32, the Indians ran off eight straight points and

eventually cut Ross's once sizeable lead to nine (56-47) but only a half minute remained in the game.

Sawyer played 10 players with nine scoring. Sophomore Greg Bender led Ross with 13 and senior William Johnson had 11. Ellis Green had 16 points, 13 in the second half, to lead Waite.

The Little Giants held a commanding 56-28 advantage in rebounding. In turnovers, Ross committed 25 which was 17 more than it had Friday against Elyria. Waite had 19 turnovers, none in the final quarter.

The Little Giants were 23 of 57 shooting from the floor while Waite was 19 of 60 and only nine of 20 from the foul line.

High school

Ross 60

Waite 47

Score by quarters

Ross	16	14	16	14	—60
Waite	7	7	10	23	—47

Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 2-2-6, William Johnson 4-3-11, Greg Bender 5-3-13, Jim Hufford 2-5-9, Chris Simmons 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 4-0-8, Tom Polk 2-1-5, Jerry Snodgrass 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 0-0-0, Jeff Nossaman 1-0-2, totals 23-14-60.

WAITE: Jeff Joldrichsen 3-0-6, Myron Frazier 4-0-8, Terry Dotson 3-0-6, Ellis Green 5-6-16, Ron Witt 3-0-6, Jesse Smith 0-1-1, Ken Paszko 0-1-1, Rodney Leach 1-1-3, totals 19-9-47.

Season records: Ross 10-8, Waite 0-16.

Ross JVs 54

Waite JVs 33

Score by quarters

Ross	5	17	11	21	—54
Waite	8	8	9	8	—33

Scoring

ROSS: Scott Welty 6-6-18, Charles Starks 7-1-15, Jeff Nossaman 3-4-10, Ryan Smith 2-0-4, Kris Smith 0-2-2, Chuck Mamula 2-1-5, totals 20-14-54.

WAITE: Mike Vargyas 1-1-3, Rubin Peales 4-4-12, Bill Sambers 1-0-2, Brian Luchett 2-0-4, Jose Mondragon 3-0-6, Ken Klaege 1-0-2, Pat Mooney 1-2-4, totals 13-7-33.

Season records: Ross 6-12, Waite 0-16.

Ross visits Admiral King

BY BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

John Sawyer is hoping that one game will make a big difference when Ross travels to Lorain Admiral King Friday.

The Admirals, ranked number one in the state in Class AAA all season until this week, suffered their first loss in 17 games Friday, 45-44 at the hands of Sandusky. Tuesday, the fourth-ranked Admirals bounced back with a 68-34 decision over Amherst Steele.

"They have had a game to take out their frustrations," Sawyer, coach of Fremont Ross said wistfully.

The Little Giants, 10-8 and 5-5 in the Buckeye Conference, battled the Admirals evenly for most of the first game between the teams. A six-minute drought in the second and third periods cost Ross in a 64-52 defeat.

"It's their last game," Sawyer pointed out, "and it would be a tuneup for the tournaments. Our kids realize (after the

Giants' AAA pairing set

ASHLAND — Ross will meet the winner of the Galion (5-13) vs. Shelby (6-12) game in the first round of the Class AAA sectional basketball tournament at Ashland College here.

Galion and Shelby will play Monday night, Feb. 28 at 9 p.m. Ross will play the winner Wednesday night, March 2 at 9.

If the Little Giants (10-8) win, they will play the winner of the Malabar (13-4)-Ashland (6-11) game on Friday, March 4 for the sectional title. Malabar and Ashland meet Tuesday, March 1 at 9 p.m.

Sandusky win) that they 60-47 win over Toledo can be beaten and the Waite last Saturday, team that beat them is assured itself of a a team that we have break-even season.

Against the Admirals at Lorain a season ago, Ross played slow-down but lost 50-33.

"I have to think that it will be a good ball game Friday," Sawyer said. "We played them pretty well the first time and I feel it was not one of our better games."

BUCKEYE STATS: Dave Aschenbach of Ross took over the top spot in free throw accuracy, making 85 of 97 for 87.6 percent. Sophomore Greg Bender is fourth with 51 of 66 and 77.2 percent.

Sawyer's team, with a

Mark Miesle remains first in field goal accuracy on 20 of 32 for 62.5 percent. Miesle, out the past two games because of illness, will be playing in the junior varsity game the remaining two weeks of the season. Sawyer pointed out that his sophomore guard has not had much work in past games and the JV play will help get him ready for tournament action. Miesle is the varsity's third guard.

William Johnson ranks eighth in field goal shooting, hitting 49.6 percent on 68 of 137 from the floor.

In scoring, Aschenbach ranks fifth and Bender sixth with averages of 15 and 13.16, respectively. Aschenbach is also eighth in assists, averaging 3.7 per game.

Johnson is eighth and Bender ninth in rebounding.

In team stats, Ross is fifth with a 56-point average and defensively, the Little Giants are second, yielding 54 per game.

Admirals sail past Little Giants 78-48

LORAIN — Admiral King held Fremont Ross without a field goal for nearly 13 minutes while running to a 78-48 Buckeye Conference basketball win here Friday.

The Admirals, 19-1, put the defensive clamps on the Little Giants from the 4:40 mark of the second period until the 5:48 mark of the final quarter. By that time, there was no doubt about the outcome.

"King was awesome tonight," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "They shot the ball, passed it, rebounded it, ran — they did just about whatever they wanted."

Ross trailed 16-14 after one quarter but Sawyer admitted that his team never got into its game plan.

"Their defense forced us," he began. "It did not allow us to get into our offense."

"We did not play with the tempo that I wanted. We were just to impatient on offense."

Roger Smith and Steve Davis had 17 and 10 points, respectively, for Admiral King. The Admirals hit 33 of 59 from the floor and controlled the boards 50-30.

During the field goal famine, Ross managed to connect on 13 free throws while ending the game with 24 of 36 from the line. From the floor, Ross made just 12 of 49.

Greg Bender has 12 points and Chris Simmons 11 for Ross.

Ross, 10-9 and 5-6 in the conference, will close out the regular season Friday at Findlay.

Basketball

Admiral King 78 Ross 48

Score by quarters

Ross	14	8	7	19	—48
Admiral King	16	20	20	22	—78

Scoring

ROSS: Aschenbach 2-4-8,
Johnson 1-1-3, Simmons 1-9-11,
Bender 5-2-12, Hufford 0-2-2,
Polk 1-0-2, Brudzinski 0-5-5,
Smith 0-1-1, Nossaman 2-0-4,
totals 12-24-48.

ADMIRAL KING: Davis 5-0-
10, Smith 7-3-17, Simmons 3-0-6,
Wicks 3-2-8, Calamari 4-1-9,
Gensler 4-0-8, Zimmerman 4-0-
8, Williams 2-2-6, Urbanek 1-2-
4, Nelson 1-0-2, totals 33-12-78.

Season records: Admiral 19-1
(11-1), Ross 10-9 (5-6).

JV game Admiral 75-47.

Basketball

AP All-Northwest Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Associated Press' 1983 Ohio Northwestern District high school boys basketball all-star selections, made by a district panel of sports writers and broadcasters:

CLASS AAA

FIRST TEAM — Dennis Hopson, Toledo Bowsher, 6-foot-5 Sr., 22.3 points per game; Shawn Reid, Toledo St. Francis, 6-foot Sr., 8.1; Steve Martenet, Mansfield Malabar, 6-6 Jr., 10.1; Eric Newsome, Toledo Rogers, 5-9 Sr., 26.5; Karl Schrapp, Defiance, 6-5 Sr., 18.0.

SECOND TEAM — Anthony Thompson, Lima Senior; Rick Greenberg, Sylvania Northview; Bobby Taylor, Mansfield Senior; Clinton Ransey, Toledo Macomber; **DAVE ASCHENBACH, FREMONT ROSS.**

THIRD TEAM — Todd Mitchell, Toledo St. Francis; Greg White, Tiffin Columbian; Mark Doran, Mansfield Madison; Derrick Hopkins, Toledo Central Catholic; Randy Maschari, Sandusky.

PLAYER OF YEAR — Dennis Hopson, Toledo Bowsher.

COACH OF YEAR — Ron Barbo, Mansfield Madison.

AREA SPECIAL MENTION

Greg Bender, Ross.

B-ball, wrestling teams in action this weekend

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

John Sawyer is smarting from a 78-48 thrashing at the hands of Buckeye Conference basketball champ Admiral King last Friday. He is hoping his Ross Little Giants team feels the same way.

"I feel that in the last few games," Sawyer, Ross coach, said, "that we have been a little complacent. I hope that will not be the case Friday. We have a lot riding on that game."

The Little Giants will be in Findlay for the final game of the regular season. At the same time, Coach Al Voggenthaler will be putting his team through its paces in the Class AAA Sectional Wrestling Tournament at the Findlay Junior High School.

Sawyer pointed out that a win at Findlay would give his team a tie for third in the conference with a 6-6 record. It would also give the Little Giants an 11-9 regular season mark, and it would give the Little Giants

momentum going into the Class AAA Sectional Tournament at Ashland College Wednesday.

"We have to bounce back from the loss to Admiral King and forget how we did against Findlay the first time we played them," Sawyer said.

In that game, Ross rolled over the 2-17 Trojans 67-49. That win came on the heels of a 73-42 thrashing the night before by Lorain.

In Class AAA sectional wrestling at Findlay Junior High, the first round will begin at 5 p.m., Friday, and the semifinal round will start at 12:30 p.m., Saturday. Finals are slated to begin at 7 p.m., Saturday.

Other teams besides Ross in the sectional will be Bowling Green, Defiance, Elida, Findlay, Lima Senior, Lima Shawnee, Tiffin Columbian and Wapakoneta.

Four wrestlers in each weight classification will qualify to the district next week at Toledo Rogers.

Ross flattens Findlay

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Ross scored on its first eight shots of the game but had to struggle before defeating Findlay 69-50 Friday night.

The win gave Ross a tie for third in the Buckeye Conference with Sandusky at 6-6 and gave Ross its second winning regular season in the last eight years with an 11-9 mark. It was the second time this season that the Little Giants have beaten the Trojans.

"Over .500 . . . that a tribute to the kids," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "I said at the beginning of the year that we were slow, small and not so strong. We are still slow, small and not so strong but the kids listened and did what they had to do to win."

"This win tonight gives us momentum going into the tournament and it's up to the kids how far they want to go," Sawyer said.

Friday night, it appeared that Ross was going to show Findlay where to go very early. The Little Giants charged to a 16-2 lead after the first eight minutes. Chad McClellan, one of three sophomores starting the game for Find-

lay, put his team up 2-0 just 10 seconds into the game but the Trojans did not score again until 37 seconds into the second quarter.

The Trojans' frustrations were symbolized by several members of the Findlay student body who put paper bags over their heads.

While Ross had its string of eight shots falling, the Little Giants were forming a parade that allowed the Trojans to march back into the game.

"We did not want them to get to the foul line," Sawyer pointed out, "because that is where they have been scoring from."

Ross had a 28-7 lead with four minutes remaining in the first half when the Findlay parade began. Mark Fry hit seven of eight free throws as the Trojans hit 11 of 14 charity tosses in the second period to trim the Little Giants' lead to 28-21 at the half.

"We were fortunate that we had that big lead," Sawyer said. "We brought guys off the bench and they lacked intensity. I think they saw the big lead and relaxed on defense and then they could not get the offense going."

"I expect these kids to be hungry," Sawyer said, "but maybe I subbed too

quick. Anyway, I told them about it at the half and they came back to play well in the second half."

Jim Hufford, who had a career high 22 points for the Little Giants, and Dave Aschenbach built a small fire under the Little Giants in the second half. Findlay never got the Ross lead below seven points and Ross, despite putting the Trojans back on the line repeatedly, steadily pulled away.

Ross's defense allowed only five field goals each half but Findlay hit 30 of 38 free throws.

The Little Giants' biggest lead was 67-42 with 90 seconds remaining in the game.

Aschenbach dropped in 17 points and Greg Bender added 10 to go with Hufford's production. Tom Polk came off the bench to hit eight for the Little Giants. Mark Fry's 15 topped Findlay.

Ross hit 27 of 51 shots and Findlay 10 of 47. The Little Giants were 15 of 21 at the line. The Little Giants had a 40-33 edge in rebounding.

Ross will be in action at the Ashland AAA Sectional at 9 p.m., Wednesday against the winner of Monday's Galion-Shelby contest.

Basketball

Ross 69

Findlay 50

Score by quarters

Ross	16	12	21	20	—69
Findlay		2	19	13	16—50

Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 5-7-17, William Johnson 1-0-2, Greg Bender 5-0-10, Jim Hufford 7-8-22, Chris Simmons 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 3-0-6, Tom Polk 4-0-8, totals 27-15-69.

FINDLAY: Chad McClellan 2-0-4, Rick Baerwaldt 0-2-2, Jim Arnold 2-2-6, Mark Fry 2-11-15, Jon Irish 1-2-4, Ryan Curlis 1-0-2, Denny Blunk 1-8-10, Scott Fryer 1-0-2, Brent Ice 0-5-5, totals 10-30-50.

Season records: 11-9 (6-6), Findlay 2-18 (1-11).

Findlay JVs 44

Ross JVs 38

Score by quarters

Ross	6	10	10	12	—38
Findlay		16	8	8	12—44

Scoring

ROSS: Miesle 5-0-10, Nossaman 2-0-4, Smith 3-2-8, Snodgrass 1-0-2, Welty 1-0-2, Starks 5-0-10, Bury 1-0-2, totals 18-2-38.

FINDLAY: Parries 6-0-12, Weaver 4-2-10, DeGennaro 3-2-8, Earlie 3-0-6, Biffin 1-2-4, Hites 1-0-2, Porter 1-0-2, totals 19-6-44.

Season records: Findlay 4-16 (1-11), Ross 6-14 (2-10).