

Ross preview

The fourth Fremont Ross Boys Basketball Preview is Friday in the Ross High School gym.

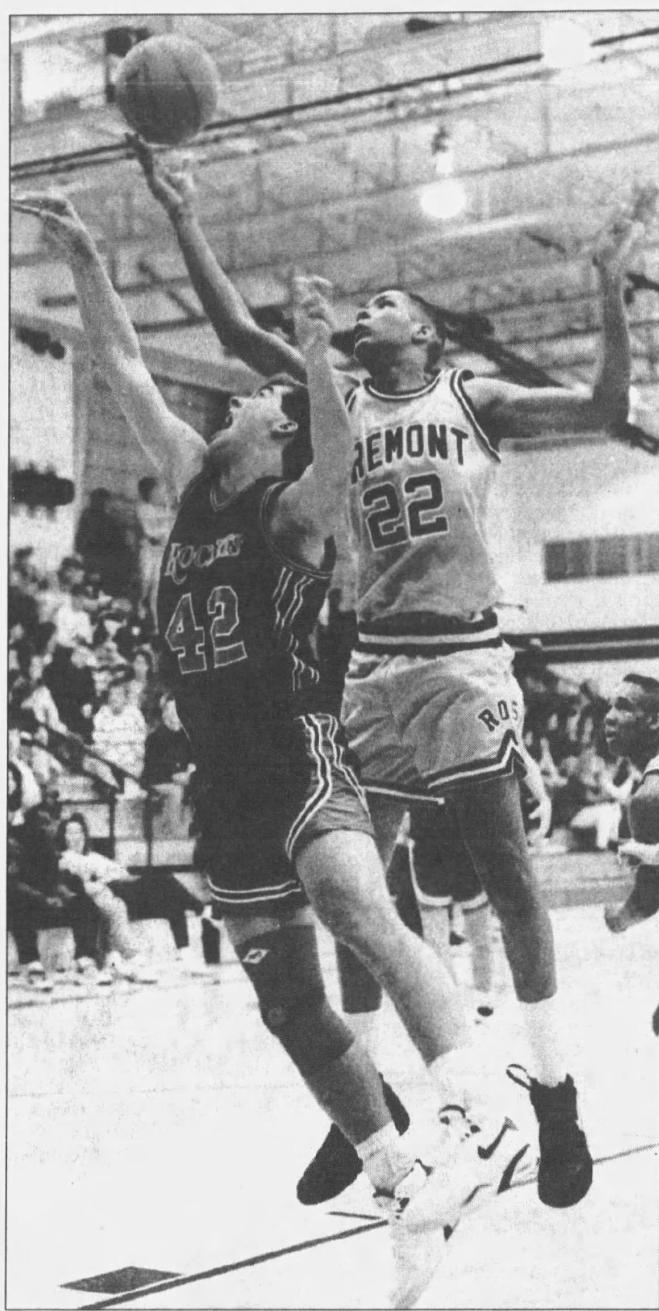
Along with host Ross, varsity and junior varsity teams from Port Clinton, Oak Harbor and Eastwood will be participating.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the jayvee teams from Port Clinton and Eastwood will play a pair of seven-minute quarters. The Ross and Oak Harbor reserves will play the second "game."

The first varsity game of two eight-minute quarters, will have Eastwood and Port Clinton playing, while Oak Harbor and Ross play in the finale.

There will be a 15-minute warmup session between each game.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. All tickets will be sold at the door.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

OAK HARBOR'S Clay Hock (42) and Bobby Carter of Fremont Ross go for the basketball during Friday night's Boys Basketball Preview at Ross High School.

Gibbs, Carter lead Ross

News-Messenger reports

Dave Gibbs and Bobby Carter scored seven points each and Charles Woodson added six for host Fremont Ross Friday night in the Little Giants' 41-25 preseason "win" over Oak Harbor at the fourth Fremont Ross Boys Basketball Preview.

Tom Hallett led Oak Harbor with six points.

In the first varsity game, Port Clinton outscored Eastwood 25-22 behind six points apiece by Jamie Green and Scott Rickel.

Andy Opfer led Eastwood with eight points.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON (20) of Fremont Ross goes up for a shot from in close against Bowling Green Friday night at Ross High School. Bowling

Green defenders are Mike Saneholtz (33), Chris Toland (45) and Aaron Kale (41). Woodson scored 25 points in the loss to the Bobcats.

Ball bounces Bobcats' way against Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Most basketball teams have a hard time surviving 25 turnovers, but Bowling Green was a survivor Friday night in the Fremont Ross Purple Pit.

The Bobcats shrugged off the giveaways with 28-of-44 shooting — a torrid 64 percent — to defeat the Little Giants 72-64 in the season opener for both teams.

Ross scored only nine points off the Bobcat giveaways, helping spoil a 25-point night by Ross sophomore Charles Woodson and a 22-point performance by senior point guard Mike Patterson.

Bowling Green countered with a balanced attack as Shawn McMahon scored 19 points, Chris Toland (a 6-foot-6 junior) 16 and Ryan Schneider and Mike Saneholtz 14 apiece.

Ross had only nine turnovers, but the Little Giants were a cold-shooting 25-of-72 (35 percent).

Despite the Bobcats' hot hands, it was a pair of late first-half Bowling Green baskets that put the skids under the Little Giants.

Matt Carek came off the Bobcats' bench to score his lone points in the final minute of the second quarter. With Ross trailing 29-28, Carek grabbed a rebound off the offensive board and hit from the left side. He followed with a layup at the buzzer after grabbing a long rebound off a Patterson miss.

"I thought for the first 14½ minutes we played pretty well," Bowling Green coach Mike Vannett said. "But in that last minute and a half, Fremont Ross really turned up the pressure on us at both ends of the floor, creating some offensive rebounding opportunities and we were like a half-step slow."

"Then, out of the blue, we get

that offensive rebound. Then we get a defensive rebound that we tip out to the kid and he gets a layup at the buzzer. That got us back going again."

Ross coach Frank Gioffre agreed.

"We had the opportunity to convert an easy layup," Gioffre said, "and get into the locker-room with some momentum but the ball bounced the wrong way."

Bowling Green, while dominating the rebounding game, built as must as an 11-point lead in the third period as McMahon scored eight points. Ross trailed 47-36 going into the final quarter and could get no closer than three (59-56) with 2:30 to play in the game.

The Bobcats hauled down 17 rebounds in the period, 10 more than Ross, and held a 46-30 advantage in the game.

"That was the key to the game," Gioffre said. "They continued to outrebound us. They got numerous second and third shots while we were limited to one shot and that was it."

"...we just did a very bad job of boxing out. For us to be successful, we are going to have to do a better job of rebounding."

"We kept clawing back in the fourth quarter, but you can not live on the 15-foot jump shot. We have to have some inside production to open up our outside. Tonight, we did not get anything inside."

Ross had 14 points from its inside players.

Bowling Green led 16-13 after the first quarter and held a 20-15 lead when Woodson erupted.

Woodson scored eight of the next 11 Little Giants points as Ross took a 26-23 lead. It was the last Ross lead of the game.

B. Green 72, Ross 64

Bowling Green	13	33	14	25	— 72
Ross	13	15	8	28	— 64

BOWLING GREEN — Chris Toland 5-6-16, Ryan Schneider 7-0-14, Mike Saneholtz 6-2-14, Shawn McMahon 6-7-19, Mark Carek 2-0-5, Matt Carek 2-0-4, totals 28-15-72.

ROSS — Tyrone Price 1-2-4, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Mike Patterson 8-4-22, Bryan Myers 0-1-1, Charles Woodson 11-3-25, DeMond Cheeks 1-0-2, Billy Carter 1-2-4, David Gibbs 1-0-2, totals 25-12-64.

3-point goals: Mark Carek, Patterson 2.

Records: Bowling Green 1-0, Ross 0-1.

B. Green JV 51, Ross 50

Bowling Green	7	13	11	20	— 51
Ross	9	9	15	17	— 50

BOWLING GREEN — Shane Murphy 2-0-4, Brian Trent 2-0-4, Brian Cass 4-0-9, Doug Frisbie 2-1-5, Adam Nagel 1-1-3, Steve Drake 4-0-8, Pete Maieknecht 7-2-18, totals 22-4-51.

ROSS — Chad Root 6-0-14, Ryan Shively 3-1-8, Shane Moran 5-0-10, Jon Minich 4-4-12, Aaron Smith 1-0-2, totals 21-5-50.

3-point goals: Cass, Maieknecht 2, Root 2, Shively.

Records: Bowling Green 1-0, Ross 0-1.

Ross misfires against Waite

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross has fallen into a rut and it's getting deeper.

"You cannot continue to miss 4- and 5-footers all night long and expect to win basketball games," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said Tuesday night after the Little Giants' 67-53 high school boys basketball loss to Toledo Waite.

Ross missed the close ones and held true to Gioffre's appraisal in front of a sparse crowd at spacious Waite Field House.

While Ross struggled, Waite sizzled — hitting 23 of 39 shots (59 percent).

Ross, 0-2, was 9-of-34 in the first half and finished 24-of-68 for 35 percent.

The Little Giants kept it close for 3 1/2

Ross, was 9-of-34 in the first half and finished 24-of-68 for 35 percent.

quarters before Waite pulled away on a parade to the free throw line, sinking 12 of 20 foul shots in the final six minutes.

The Indians, behind sophomore Damion Washington and senior Eric Winters, pulled Waite from a 37-36 edge five minutes into the second half to a comfortable 45-38 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Winters' 3-point basket from 22 feet hit

nothing but net at the third quarter buzzer. Winters finished with 22 points and Washington, who pumped in 15 in the second half, had 19.

Ross trailed 29-24 at the half but pulled close with the press.

"We did everything we wanted to do," Gioffre said about the third quarter defense. "We created some turnovers and got some easy opportunities."

But the 4- to 5-footers kept missing.

"We had opportunities after opportunities to make something happen," Gioffre said, "but the ball just wouldn't go. We're just not getting it done right now."

Mike Patterson had 15 points and Charles Woodson 12 for the Little Giants.

Bobby Carter came off the bench to score

10 points, six in the second period.

Ross outrebounded the Indians 35-32 with 19 rebounds off the offensive board.

Despite the loss, Gioffre said he could see improvement from last Friday's 72-64 loss to Bowling Green.

"I think our defense picked up tremendously tonight," he said. "We started doing some little things. We got some rebounds; we took care of the glass at certain times."

"Now it is time for us to start finishing something."

Gioffre and the Little Giants won't have much time to polish the finishing touches. Whitmer, one of the Great Lakes League preseason favorites, comes to Fremont Friday.

Basketball

High School Boys

Waite 67, Ross 53

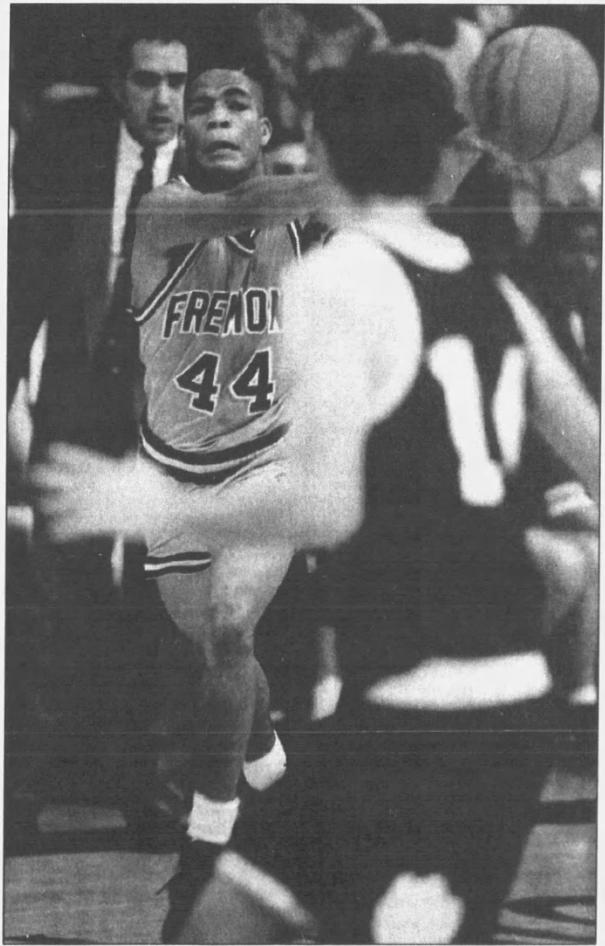
Ross	9	15	14	15	— 53
Waite	14	15	16	22	— 67

ROSS — Mike Patterson 7-0-15, Charles Woodson 6-0-12, David Gibbs 1-0-3, Jason Matney 0-0-0, Bryan Myers 0-0-0, DeMond Cheeks 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, Tyrone Price 2-3-7, Bobby Carter 5-0-10, Mike Lather 1-0-2, totals 24-3-53.

WAITE — Damion Washington 6-7-19, Mike LaCourse 0-3-3, Anthony Ashford 4-1-9, Tony Gilmer 3-2-8, Eric Winters 9-3-22, Keith Stanley 1-2-4, Kevin Stanley 0-2-2, totals 23-20-67.

3-point goals: Patterson, Gibbs, Winters.

Records: Ross 0-2, Waite 1-1.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

TYRONE PRICE of Fremont Ross throws a pass against Toledo Whitmer Friday night as Ross coach Frank Gioffre looks on.

Whitmer surpasses 100 against Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Whitmer switched into a new dimension in the third quarter and left Fremont Ross on the outside looking in Friday night.

The Panthers blistered the Little Giants 109-75, outscoring Ross 64-40 in the second half.

"Not much we can do now but go back to the drawing board," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said quietly after his team's third loss in as many games and the Panthers' third straight win.

Gioffre's drawing pen had been active before the Great Lakes League game. He brought up sophomore guard Chad Root from the junior varsity and penciled him into the starting lineup. Root responded with two points and a solid floor game, according to Gioffre.

"Chad did a nice job," he said. "He did not make mistakes and played within his limits; he's going to be a good player for us."

By game's end, Gioffre had drawn a picture of the Little Giants' future with four sophomores on the floor.

Ross never led but was never out of contact in the first half, trailing 45-35 after falling behind 45-31. Bobby Carter came off the bench to grab 10 first-half rebounds and score all of his 14 points.

"Bobby Carter had great game for us," Gioffre said.

Whitmer, though, had lost a dimension in the first half, and the

6-foot-5 Carter took advantage of it on the inside.

"What happened in the second half," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said, "was we got (Sean) Marsh back. We got a rule that if you get two fouls in the first half, you sit and Ross got a lot of stuff inside in the second quarter which we can take away with Marsh in the game.

"He gave us an extra dimension offensively and defensively because he's a heckuva player. That's one of the big reasons we were able to pull away."

Marsh, a 6-5 senior, scored 11 points in the breakaway third quarter, a period in which Ross started on the wrong foot.

"We came out and made four or five mental mistakes in the first couple minutes of the third quarter," Gioffre said, "and that was the game."

In the first five minutes of the second half, Whitmer pulled out to 65-45 lead and the floodgates were opening.

A pair of Kevin McIlhargey's free throws gave Whitmer a 73-51 lead at the end of the third quarter and Ross was to get no closer than 18.

The Panthers ran off 18 straight points in the final quarter, reaching the century mark on a dunk by Jack Davis with 3:10 to play. It was 100-60 before Ross scored seven straight points.

Despite the lopsided victory,

See ROSS, B2

ROSS

Continued From B1

Smith praised Ross.

"We think we have pretty good athletes," Smith said, "and we knew we were playing great athletes tonight, too, because Fremont has them. But it's like Frank said before the game, they are a little young.

"We had hoped through four quarters of pressure they would eventually crack, but I have to give them a great deal of credit because they played a heck of a lot better than we had anticipated.

"They were well-prepared; I

think we just wore them down in the second half."

Denard Mays led the Panthers with 27 points and McIlhargey added 24. Marsh finished with 19 and Justin Keller had 11. Whitmer made 41 of 71 shots (58 percent).

Charles Woodson led Ross with 21 points while Carter added 14 and Mike Patterson 13.

Ross made 31 of 59 shots for 52 percent, the first time it has topped the 50 percent mark this young season.

Ross returns to action Tuesday, traveling to Fostoria for a GLL clash. The Redmen defeated Northview ^N 67-65 Friday night.

N

Fostoria topples Ross

By JOE HOFFMANN

Staff correspondent

FOSTORIA — For Fremont Ross it was close ... but not quite!

The Fostoria Redmen used a 20-point fourth quarter to overcome a pesky Ross defense and defeat the Little Giants 54-47 in a Great Lakes League boys basketball game Tuesday.

With the loss the Little Giants remained winless at Boys roundup, B3 0-4, including a 0-2 mark in the GLL. Fostoria improved to 3-0 and 2-0 in the GLL.

After leading 37-34 at the end of three quarters, Ross fell victim to turnovers and missed opportunities in the fourth period. Fostoria, which led much of the contest, regained the lead with 5:32 left in the game when Todd Lucius nailed a 3-point shot to put the Redmen up 39-38.

"Just when we started to pick up some momentum, there was always some type of error or turnover. That (the errors) cost us the game," Ross head coach Frank Gioffre said.

"This is the fourth game of the year and we're still not doing a good job of running our offense."

With 2:18 left, Ross sophomore guard Chad Root hit a 3-point shot that tied the game at 45. However, on the Redmen's ensuing possession, Jason Miller answered with a 3-pointer of his own that broke the Little Giants' back and put Fostoria up for good.

"I thought the turning point of the game was when Lucius and Miller hit those 3-pointers," Gioffre said.

After trailing 17-11 at the end of the first quarter and behind 25-22 at halftime, Ross used a 15-point third quarter to gain the lead. With 2:57 left in the third, Jason Zilles converted a three-point play to put the Little Giants up 31-30. Root then connected on two consecutive 3-point shots to give Ross the lead at the end of the third, 37-34.

"(Ross) was very aggressive with pressure on the wing," Fostoria head coach Jim Rutter

See ROSS, B2

ROSS

Continued From B1

said. "That gave us problems eventually because we were shooting the ball so poorly."

The Little Giants shot 46 percent (22 of 48), while Fostoria shot 45 percent (22 of 49). Ross outrebounded the Redmen 34-23, with Bobby Carter grabbing 15 boards for the Little Giants.

Root connected on four 3-pointers to lead Ross with 12 points. Russell Robinson lead the Redmen with 16 points, while Lucius added 11.

Gioffre said containing Robinson was Ross' objective going into the game. The coach seemed pleased with his team's defensive effort.

"I thought Toddy Price did a great job on (Robinson) defensively," Gioffre said.

Ross hosts Sylvania Northview on Friday.

Fostoria 54, Ross 47

Ross	11	11	15	10	— 47
Fostoria	17	8	9	20	— 54

ROSS — Mike Patterson 3-0-6, Charles Woodson 1-0-2, Tyrone Price 2-2-6, DeMond Cheeks 3-0-6, Chad Root 4-0-12, Bryan Myers 1-2-4, Bobby Carter 4-0-8, Jason Zilles 1-1-3, totals 19-5-47.

FOSTORIA — Damon Moore 2-2-6, Jason Miller 1-0-3, Todd Lucius 5-0-11, Russell Robinson 6-2-16, Ryan Myers 1-0-2, Jason Gerlach 1-2-4, Heath Norton 4-0-8, Dan Dixie 2-0-4, totals 22-6-54.

3-point goals: Root 4, Miller, Lucius, Robinson 2.

Records: Ross 0-4 (0-2), Fostoria 3-0 (2-0).

Ross JV 52, Fostoria 35

Ross	9	18	13	12	— 52
Fostoria	2	7	18	8	— 35

ROSS — Jon Minich 5-6-16, Mike Lather 0-4-4, Mick Warner 0-1-1, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Tim Leeth 2-0-4, Gary Rakes 1-3-5, Chad Hoffman 4-0-8, Hayward Jones 6-0-12, totals 19-14-52.

FOSTORIA — Dessasure 3-0-7, Rietzke 5-1-14, Kirby 4-0-8, Reidling 2-0-4, Wade 1-0-2, totals 15-1-35.

3-point goals: Dessasure, Rietzke 3.

Records: Ross 2-2.

Little Giants gain first win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross did what Sylvania Northview could not Friday night.

In a high school boys basketball game between teams searching for their first wins, Ross prevailed 63-60 on clutch rebounding and free throw shooting by a pair of sophomores.

Northview, with one victory in the past three seasons, fell behind by eight points in both halves but led 42-41 late in the third quarter after trailing 41-33.

The Wildcats made more shots — 24-23 — than Ross but were

their own worst enemies at the foul line, missing 10 of 18.

"It's the best shot in the game and there is more games determined by that," Northview coach Tim Smith said.

"I'd rather lose because we are making all of our (foul) shots and one of his kids throws (a game-winner) in on us."

Charles Woodson picked off a couple of key rebounds and Chad Root knocked in 5 of 6 free throws in the final quarter to keep the Wildcats winless in five games and 0-2 in the Great Lakes League.

"It's a good victory for us," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, "now I can sleep tonight."

Woodson, who grabbed 11 rebounds, finished with 22 points and Root 11. Mike Patterson made it a trio of Little Giants in double figures with 10.



WOODSON

Ross, 1-4 and 1-1 in the GLL, played in spurts and just when the Little Giants appeared to be widening its lead, turnovers spoiled things.

"When you haven't won in four games," Gioffre said, "you just don't have a lot of confidence down the stretch."

But Ross had just enough.

"Charles Woodson played a fantastic game," Gioffre said. "Every second shot we needed after a miss, Charles always seemed to be around."

"Chad Root had ice in his veins to bury some free throws when we needed some; they were sophomores stepping up."

"I thought Mike Patterson played a fantastic first half. He got us the lead early, but then him and Charles picked up two fouls apiece."

Ross was up 30-22 when Patter-

son and Woodson went to the bench. Northview responded by running off the final eight points of the half.

"We decided to take them out to keep them from getting the third foul," Gioffre said, "and we sort of self-destructed the final 2½ minutes of the half."

The Little Giants, though, never fully depressed the self-destruct button.

"We did a nice job of picking it up again in the second half," Gioffre said, "and we were fortunate. Northview played a fantastic game."

A pair of 3-pointers by Joe Rakes pulled Northview into the short-lived third quarter lead. His second long-distance bomb with 55 seconds remaining in the period gave the Wildcats the one-point edge.

Woodson put Ross back up for

good again, grabbing and offensive rebound and laying it in with 30 seconds remaining.

The Little Giants opened the final quarter with seven straight points as Tyrone Price hit a pair of free throws, Patterson canned a short jumper and Root hit 1 of 2 at the foul line.

Northview came back, closing to 59-56 with 1:13 to play. But Root poured in four straight free throws in the final minute and the Little Giants's offense played keepaway long enough to keep Northview searching for a way to win.

Ryan Drewes led Northview with 14 points, Rakes had 12 and Garrett Schupp came off the bench to score 11.

Ross returns to action Tuesday, hosting Tiffin Columbian. Wednesday, Ross travels to Sandusky.

High School Boys

Ross 63, Northview 60

Northview	13	15	14	18	— 60
Ross	10	20	13	20	— 63

NORTHVIEW — Ryan Drewes 6-0-14, Todd Korb 1-2-4, Colin Chiles 2-0-4, Doug Crowley 1-0-2, Joe Raker 4-2-12, ryan Jones 2-1-5, GFGarrett Schupp 5-1-11, Chris Robinson 3-2-8, totals 24-8-60.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 7-8-22, Mike Patterson 4-2-10, Bobby Carter 3-0-6, Tyrone Price 2-2-6, Chad Root 3-5-11, Jason Matney 2-0-4, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, totals 23-17-63.

3-point goals: Drewes 2, Raker 2.

Records: Northview 0-5 (0-2), Ross 1-4 (1-1).

Ross JV 51, Northview 49

Northview	9	11	10	19	— 49
Ross	12	13	8	18	— 51

NORTHVIEW — Brian Anderson 0-1-1, Jamie Westfall 2-2-6, Zak Morris 1-1-4, Todd DeBruin 2-0-4, Tony Gonzales 3-2-8, Chad Collins 5-0-11, Doug cook 4-1-9, John Ellwnwood 3-0-6, totals 20-7-49.

ROSS — Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Shane Moran 2-0-6, Jon Minich 6-8-20, Gary Rakes 3-0-7, Aaron Smith 2-3-7, Tim Leeth 2-0-5, Mike Lather 2-0-4, totals 18-11-51.

3-point goals: Morris, Collins, Moran 2, Rakes, Leeth.

Records: Northview 3-2, Ross 3-2.

Bedford 3-pointers stop fourth-quarter rally by Ross boys

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — Bedford used a pair of long balls to KO Fremont Ross 80-68 Tuesday night in a Great Lakes League boys basketball game.

Trailing 55-39 going into the fourth quarter, the Little Giants closed to 66-61 behind sophomores Charles Woodson and Chad Root.

"Then they (Bedford) hit a pair of big threes," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said.

□ Boys Roundup, B3

Chad Fornwald and Shane Hearn canned the long shots, putting Ross down 72-61, and the Little Giants' comeback hopes evaporated.

Ross fell to 1-5 and 1-2 in the GLL race while Bedford won for the first time in five games. The Mules are 1-2 in the league.

"Bedford came out ready to play," Gioffre said, "and I think we were looking for vacation

time. Except for that last quarter."

The Little Giants racked up 29 fourth-quarter points but Bedford did not cool, hitting 25 to keep Ross at bay.

The Ross comeback, said Gioffre, began with Root being installed at point guard; Woodson at one wing with Shane Moran and Ryan Smith alternating at the other wing. Bobby Carter was in the middle.

"We made a run at them with

that lineup," Gioffre said. "I think we got a little glimpse of the future here tonight."

Moran did not score but rebounded well while playing about four minutes, Gioffre said.

Woodson led Ross with 19 points and Root added 18. Junior David Gibbs had 11 and Carter, a senior, contributed nine.

Mark Schlachter paced a quartet of Mules in double figures with 22. Hearn had 19, Fornwald 14 and Jim Daniel 13.

High School Boys

Bedford 80, Ross 68

Ross	10	16	13	29	—	68
Bedford	21	14	20	25	—	80

ROSS — Charles Woodson 7-4-19, Mike Patterson 2-1-5, Chad Root 8-0-18, David Gibbs 4-2-11, Bryan Myers 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 4-1-9, DeMond Cheeks 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, totals 28-68.

BEDFORD — Brandon Roberts 1-0-2, Chad Fornwald 3-8-15, Shaen Hearn 6-6-19, Jim Daniel 6-1-13, Mark Schlachter 8-6-22, Scott Parachek 4-1-9, totals 29-22-80.

3-point goals: Woodson, Root 2, Gibbs, Fornwald, Hearn.

Records: Ross 1-5 (1-3) Bedford 1-4 (1-2).

JV game: Ross 65-56.

Little Giants can't slow Blue Streaks

Jones, Pace lead Streaks

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — Dashay Jones and Orlando Pace tossed a lump of coal in Fremont Ross's Christmas stocking Tuesday.

The pair led Sandusky to a 92-57 boys basketball victory over the Little Giants.

Jones scored 30 points and the 6-foot-8, 280-plus pounds Pace muscled in 21. Jones had 23 in the first half and Pace scored 13 in the first quarter as the Blue Streaks charged to a 25-14 lead.

Jones, a 6-2 senior point guard, knocked in 14 points in the second quarter as the Blue Streaks started stuffing the stocking with a 46-27 halftime lead.

Still, Sandusky coach John Schlessman said, Sandusky was not playing Streakball.

"We were sloppy the first half," Schlessman said. "In terms of Fremont, I thought they hung in there; they kept playing hard. We just have better personnel."

"I thought Dashay Jones and Orlando were the difference in most of the ball game."

With Pace taking up most of the space in the middle, Ross was unable to rebound with the Blue Streaks. Sandusky, 4-1, had 11 offensive rebounds in the first quarter and outrebounded the Little Giants 54-23 for the night.

"That's not a good team," Ross coach Frank Giffre said. "It's a great team. They have two outstanding players in Dashay and Orlando."

"Orlando was just a man against us; we could not stop him. He did exactly what he wanted to and so did Dashay."

"Dashay Jones is not a Division I (college) prospect for nothing — he can flat out play."

Jones signed an early letter of intent with Akron in November.

Schlessman had his team in a full-court pressure defense and it took its toll on the Little Giants.

Next for Ross

Home, Findlay
Dec. 29, JV game
begins at 6:15 p.m.

Ross committed 13 first-half turnovers with the Blue Streaks scoring 15 points off the miscues.

Sandusky was not taking care of the basketball that well either, committing 14 first-half turnovers. But unlike the Blue Streaks, the Little Giants scored only seven points off the Sandusky giveaways.

Charles Woodson, Bobby Carter and Mike Patterson kept Ross within 10-12 points much of the first half. Woodson scored nine of his 11 points in the first half but was saddled with his fourth foul midway through the third period and did not play again.

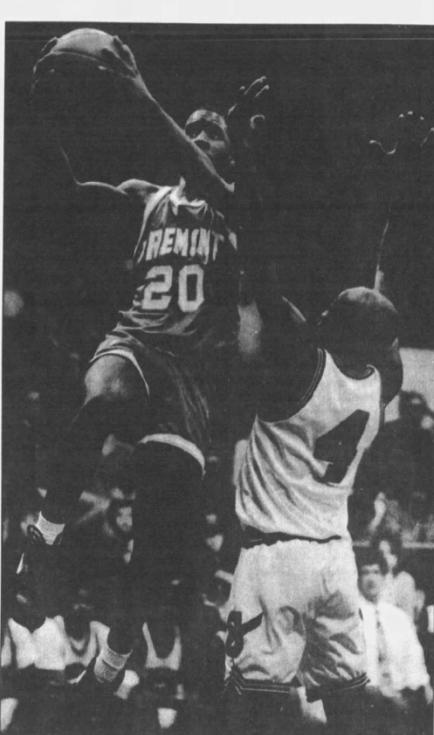
Patterson tossed in nine points in the first half and Carter had six.

Patterson's basket with 3:20 remaining in the first half pulled Ross to a 10-point deficit, 33-23, but the Blue Streaks, with Jones scoring six points, outscored the Little Giants 13-4 the remainder of the quarter.

Two minutes into the second half, Sandusky stretched the lead to 53-30 and the closest Ross was to get the rest of the game was 64-45 late in the third quarter.

The Jones-Pace duo led a dozen Blue Streaks who dented the scoring column. Patterson's 13 topped the Little Giants. Woodson had 11 with Carter and Chad Root adding 10 apiece.

Ross made 19 of 55 shots, and Sandusky 39 of 76. Ross was hot from the foul line with 17 of 21; Sandusky was 12-of-21.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross drives to the basket past Demar Moore of Sandusky during the Blue Streaks' 92-57 victory.

St. Joe routs Western Reserve

By SCOTT KIRSCH
Staff correspondent

Western Reserve coach Ed Dolinar said it seemed like the Roughriders weren't meant to gallop into Fremont Wednesday night for a boys basketball game with St. Joseph Central Catholic.

"This wasn't meant to be," Dolinar said after St. Joe's 80-38 victory. "We had a flat tire on the way over coming through Clyde."

The Clyde superintendent (Stan Mounts) saw that we were in distress so he offered one of their buses as a mechanic fixed our tire. That was the bright spot of the night."

Destine delivered the Crimson Streaks a much brighter reward — their fourth win in as many games. Western Reserve is 0-4. "This was by far our best ballgame," St. Joe coach Mike Gaber said. "We played an excellent ballgame at both ends of the floor and by all ten players."

Ben Hall led St. Joe with 14 points, and Shawn Smith and Matt Denman followed with 12 each. Chris Denman and Brad

Next for St. Joe

Home, Genoa
Dec. 29, JV game
begins at 6 p.m.

Darr both chipped in with 10 apiece. All ten players received ample playing time and contributed to the scoring.

St. Joe jumped to a 19-4 first quarter lead and Western Reserve never challenged after that. Darr's basket with 3:16 to play gave the Streaks their biggest advantage, 76-26.

"That's a very good team we played tonight," Dolinar said. "We had a hard time adjusting to their muscle inside. They were a lot stronger and quicker than our kids. They had better athletes."

"It was our experience against their inexperience, but at the same time we played within ourselves and did things we were able to do instead of getting

Hornets end Pistons' winning

Gannett News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — This time, a season and league-high 27 rebounds by Dennis Rodman and another sensational performance by Isiah Thomas were simply not enough.

The young and strong Charlotte Hornets broke open a close game behind the power scoring of rookie center Alonzo Mourning to defeat the Detroit Pistons 107-95 Wednesday night before a sell-out crowd of 23,698 fans at the Charlotte Coliseum.

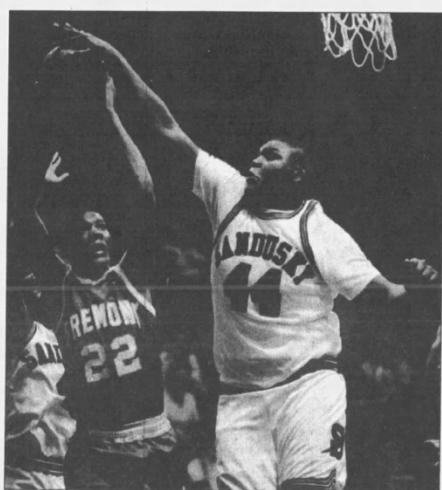
Thomas, who learned shortly before the game that his father-in-law had died, scored 25 points and had eight assists.

The loss snapped Detroit's win-

ning streak at five games. The Hornets have won three straight and eight of their last 11 to almost match the Pistons' 10 of 12 streak.

"We didn't have it tonight," said Detroit coach Ron Rothstein. "A lot of that has to do with them (the Hornets). You can't take anything away from them. They played really well and did what they had to do."

Before Mourning and Bill Laimbeer got into a brief fight, the big Hornet center scored eight of his game-high 27 points down the stretch to give the Hornets a commanding 101-88 lead with 4:09 remaining in the game. Both players were ejected at



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ORLANDO PACE of Sandusky blocks a Bobby Carter shot Wednesday night during the Blue Streaks' victory over Fremont Ross.

Sandusky 92, Ross 57

Ross	14	13	20	10	—	57
Sandusky	25	21	22	24	—	92

ROSS — Charles Woodson 4-3-11, Ryan Smith 1-1-3, Bobby Carter 4-2-10, Chad Root 2-5-10, David Gibbs 0-0-0, Mike Patterson 5-2-13, Tyrone Price 2-0-4, DeMond Cheeks 0-2-2, Shane Moran 0-2-2, Jon Minnich 1-0-2, totals 19-17-57.

SANDUSKY — Dashay Jones 12-6-30, Tron Lofton 1-0-2, Orlando Pace 10-1-21, Mark Castile 3-0-6, Demar Moore 1-2-5, Tony Esposito 3-0-6, Roger Smith 1-2-4, Anthony Aaron 2-0-4, Torrez Rollison 2-0-4, Vern Miller 0-1-1, Tavarous Turner 1-0-3, Paul Brown 3-0-6, totals 39-12-92.

3-point goals: Root, Patterson, Moore, Turner.

Records: Ross 1-6, Sandusky 4-1.

Sandusky JV 68, Ross 44

Ross	10	11	10	13	—	44
Sandusky	15	21	21	11	—	68

ROSS — Hayward Jones 5-2-12, Mick Warner 2-0-4, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Shane Moran 2-0-6, Jon Minich 3-5-11, Gary Rakes 1-0-2, Aaron Smith 2-0-4, Mike Lather 0-1-1, Tim Leeth 1-0-2, totals 17-8-44.

SANDUSKY — Derrick Dickey 4-1-9, Torrez Rollison 2-2-6, Carl Taylor 1-0-2, Ricardo McClellen 4-0-8, Travis Cooper 2-0-4, Derek Bonner 6-0-12, Paul Brown 6-0-13, Marlon Grant 3-1-7, Edward Ellis 3-1-7, totals 31-5-68.

3-point goals: Moran 2, Brown.

Records: Ross 4-3, Sandusky 3-2.

Losses mount for Ross boys

Findlay wins by 30 points

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross boys basketball coach Frank Gioffre is beginning a search for answers.

Ross suffered through 18-of-62 shooting — cold streaks matched by Findlay hot streaks, in a 78-48 loss to the Trojans in the Purple Pit Tuesday night.

"We are going to have to make some decisions," Gioffre said after his team's seventh loss in eight games. "I think we need to get ready not only for the remainder of this year but for the next couple of years."

"We are going to give some kids on the JV team a look. We may have to take our lumps this year as it is; we just have to continue to work and improve."

"We want to find some kids who can play."

Findlay coach Jerry Snodgrass had little searching to do for the reasons the Trojans won for the fifth time in seven games.

"I thought it was very important for us to get out in both halves and establish ourselves," Snodgrass said.

The Trojans did emphatically.

With Javon Conley doing as he pleased in the middle of the Trojan offense, Findlay ran to a 13-2 lead in the first six minutes of the game. By the end of the first quarter, Findlay led 16-7 and the Little Giants were scrambling.

Conley, despite missing his first seven shots — none from farther out than 4 feet — finished with 25 points. He punctuated his

night with an NBA-length 3-point basket before exiting in the third quarter.

Ross closed a 35-22 deficit to 38-28 two minutes into the second half, but the Trojans were poised to carry out Snodgrass's game plan of a fast start to the second half.

"We answered their run," Snodgrass understated.

The Trojans outscored the Little Giants 18-8 the remainder of the third quarter, putting Ross in a 56-36 hole.

The Little Giants fell deeper into the hole, missing 17 of 20 shots in the fourth quarter.

With leading scorer Charles Woodson in street clothes nursing a "turf toe" on his left foot, the Little Giants had little punch.

At one point, Findlay held a 67-36 lead after scoring the first 11 points of the fourth period.

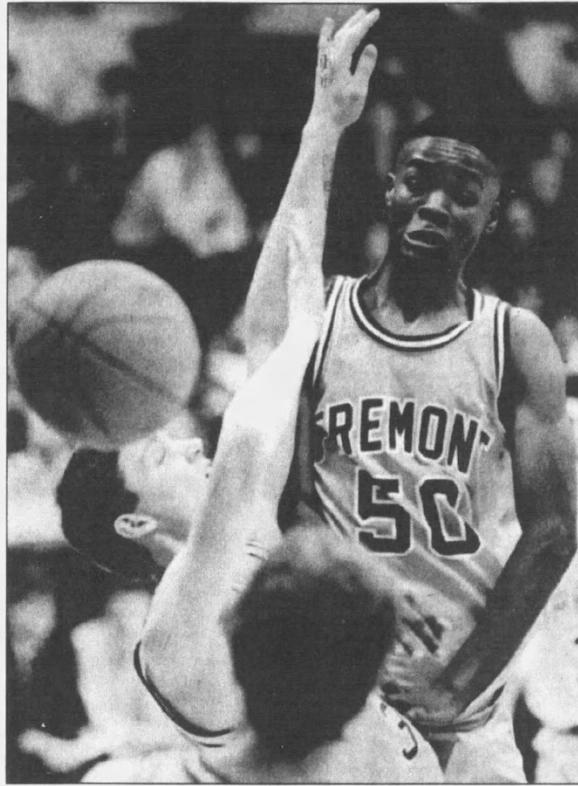
It got worse.

The biggest Findlay lead was 35 points on two occasions.

"We tried to dig ourselves out of a hole, but we did not have anything left," Gioffre said. "That's too big of a deficit, especially against a team like Findlay."

"I don't know if they are 30 point better than us. I thought our kids played hard, but we still make way too many mistakes."

Darrell Ramsey backed up Conley with 16 points, and Marcus Paris came off the bench to hit all seven of his shots and finish with 15 points.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MIKE PATTERSON of Fremont Ross watches as his shot is blocked by Findlay's Scott Hermon Tuesday night.

Sophomore Chad Root topped Ross with 15 points, and Mike Patterson added 13.

"We are going to get better," Gioffre said. "But with who? I don't know."

Basketball

High School Boys

Findlay 78, Ross 48

Findlay	16	19	21	22	— 78
Ross	7	15	14	12	— 48

FINDLAY — Craig Bova 2-0-4, Brian Sallot 0-5-5, Darrell Ramsey 6-4-16, Javon Conley 8-8-25, Blair Lane 2-1-6, Marcus Paris 7-1-15, Thom Romer 2-1-5, Scott Crates 1-0-2, totals 28-20-78.

ROSS — Mike Patterson 5-3-13, Jason Matney 0-2-2, Jason Zilles 0-0-0, Bryan Myers 1-2-4, Chad Root 6-2-15, Bobby Carter 1-0-2, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 2-0-4, David Gibbs 1-2-4, DeMond Cheeks 1-0-2, totals 18-11-48.

3-point goals: Conley, Lane, Root.

Records: Findlay 5-2, Ross 1-7.

Ross JV 60, Findlay 48

FINDLAY — Jon Minich 1-1-3, Scott Crates 7-1-17, Todd Guear 2-0-4, Chett Wohlgamuth 7-0-14, Chris Beltz 3-1-7, Mike Fox 1-1-3, totals 21-4-48.

ROSS — Mike Lather 1-0-2, Hayward Jones 10-7-27, Ryan Shively 2-0-4, Shane Moran 1-0-3, Jon Minich 1-2-4, Gary Rakes 1-4-6, Aaron Smith 2-0-6, Tim Leeth 3-0-8, totals 21-13-60.

3-point goals: Crates 2, Moran, Smith 2, Leeth 2.

Records: Findlay 3-4, Ross 5-3.

Second-half start leads to Ross loss

News-Messenger reports

NAPOLEON — One coaching theory was reality for the Fremont Ross boys basketball team Friday night.

"The first few minutes of the second half," Ross coach Frank Gioffre repeated a theory expressed by many basketball coaches, "are the most important of the game."

It was to Napoleon as the Wildcats outscored the Little Giants 15-4 in the third period, using the run to pull away in a 59-43 Great Lakes League win.

Napoleon led 31-23 at half-time.

"We came out," Gioffre said, "and took terrible shots. We did not execute our offense and that was the game."

Curt Schlade led three Wildcats in double figures with 14 points. Jason Gubernath added 12 and Chris Badenhop 11 as Napoleon climbed to 6-3 and remained in a tie with Whitmer for first place in the GLL at 4-0.

Charles Woodson, still nursing a "turf toe," paced Ross, 1-8 and 1-4 in the league, with 18 points. Bobby Carter came off the bench to score 10.

Ross was anemic shooting, making 18 of 66 shots for 27 percent. Napoleon was 26 of 65 for 43 percent.

Ross returns to action Tuesday, hosting Clay in the Purple Pit. The Eagles lost to undefeated Whitmer Friday, 53-52. Clay is 5-4.

Napoleon 59, Ross 43

Ross	11	12	4	16	— 43
Napoleon	15	16	15	13	— 59

ROSS — Mike Patterson 2-0-4, Charles Woodson 8-2-18, Chad Root 0-0-0, Jon Minnich 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 4-2-10, David Gibbs 2-0-4, Demond Cheeks 0-2-2, Tryone Price 1-1-3, totals 18-7-43.

NAPOLEON — Todd Wesche 3-0-6, Jeremy Rohrs 1-0-3, Jason Gubernath 5-2-12, Craig Good 2-0-4, Curt Schlade 6-2-14, Chris Badenhop 5-1-11, Mike Germann 4-1-9, totals 26-6-59.

3-point goals: Rohrs.

Records: Napoleon 6-3 (4-0), Ross 1-8 (1-4).

JV game: Napoleon 72-57.

Little Giants net second win

Ross ends four-game loss streak

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It's nearly a worn out cliche, but Fremont Ross coach Frank Gioffre insisted on using it.

"Total team effort," he said outside a noisy Little Giants' lockerroom following a 56-51 upset victory over Oregon Clay Tuesday night in the Purple Pit.

The Ross "Bench Bunch" got the Little Giants a lead, and Charles (Woodson) was in charge at crunch time. Woodson's 23 points, the effort from the reserves and a strong defensive effort gave Ross its second win in 10 games.

The Little Giants, 24 in the Great Lakes League, ended a four-game losing streak. They are idle until traveling to Toledo Saturday to take on St. Francis.

Ross trailed by as many as 10 points early in the second quarter but the "Bench Bunch" turned that into a 37-30 lead.

"Defensively, Toddie (Tyrone) Price is unbelievable," Gioffre said of the 6-foot-1 senior. "It's the second game in a row where he just went out there with that intensity and picked up everyone else."

Price was the main reason Clay point guard Ross Revenaugh managed six points, all in the first half.

"Revenaugh is probably one of the better point guards in the league," Gioffre said. "He does everything. We knew we had to stop his penetration because he makes everybody better. But Toddie was there all night for us and he shut his penetration down. That kind of stymied their offense a little bit."

In addition to his scoring, Woodson added a couple of big

See ROSS, B2

St. Joe knocks off Eastwood

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont St. Joseph Central High School boys basketball team remained undefeated in eight games Tuesday night with a 70-55 non-league victory over Eastwood.

St. Joe led 33-29 at halftime and outscored the Eagles 23-15 in the third quarter.

"They are a patient team, and we didn't get the ball a whole lot in the first half," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said. "We walked it up the floor so there weren't many possessions. In the second half, we had to push it up the floor to make things happen for us."

In one other non-league game, Maumee Valley Country Day beat Bettsville 60-53.

The Crimson Streaks got 19 points from Shawn Smith, who made three 3-point field goals. Ben Hall scored 16, and Kevin Huntley added 11. Hall and Huntley each had eight rebounds.

St. Joe made 28 of 58 shots, while Eastwood was 21-of-63.

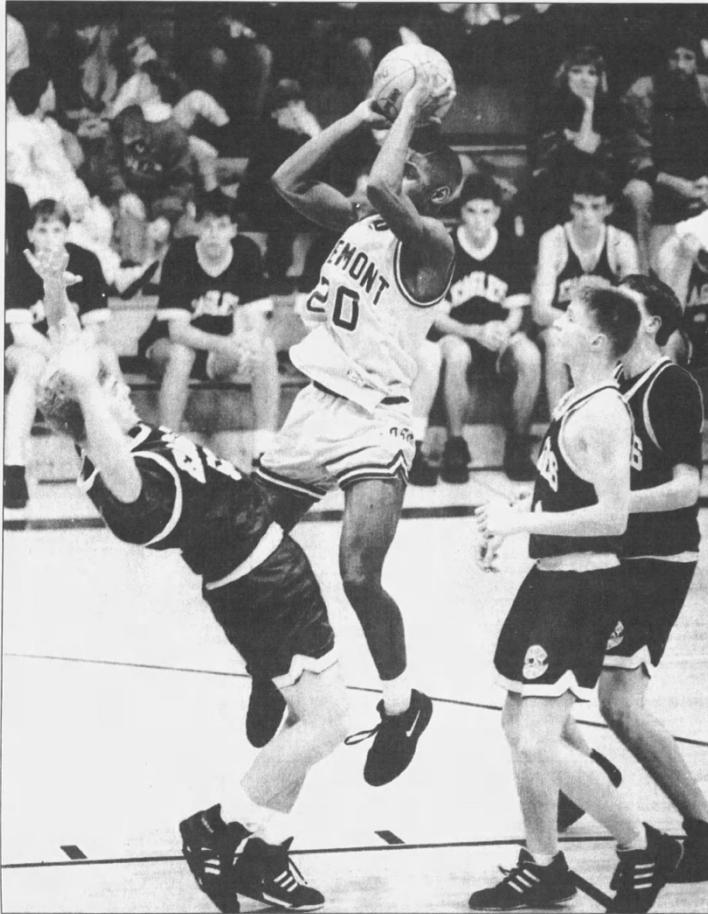
Curt Lemmerbrock led the Eagles with 19 points.

MVCD60
Bettsville53

The winners used a 20-12 run in the third quarter to improve to 2-6 and hand Bettsville its eighth loss in nine games.

Jon Moorman scored 28 points for MVCD, and J.J. Henry added all 12 of his points at the foul line.

Bill Craun and Chad Benner scored 18 and 11 points, respectively, for the Bobcats.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Ross goes up for a second-quarter shot while surrounded by Oregon

Clay players. Woodson scored on the play and finished with a game-high 23 points.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JON MINNICH (30) of Fremont Ross tries to shoot over Oregon Clay's Scott Fisher Tuesday night in the Purple Pit.

Ross

Continued From B1

assists in the second half with Bobby Carter scoring off both passes. The first Carter bucket gave Ross its first lead, 31-30, and the second brought Ross even at 49-49 with 2:20 remaining in the game.

Carter followed with another bucket, putting Ross ahead at 51-49 before Dan Tobias scored the final points of the game for Clay with 1:18 left.

Woodson took over at that points, turning in a 3-point play for a 54-51 Ross lead and capping of the upset with a steal and layin with 20 seconds left.

"They just played harder than we did," Clay coach Doug Dipman said. "They played straight up man-to-man better than we did and they took the ball to the hole; they were just a better basketball team."

Gioffre sang the praises of the "Bench Bunch."

"Bobby Carter came off the bench," he said, "and did a fantastic job."

"Jason Matney and Chad Root came off the bench and gave us fantastic games."

Matney, a junior, scored on back-to-back tip-ins to cap off a 10-0 run that gave the Little Giants their 37-30 lead.

Root, another sophomore, guided the Ross offense from the point in the second half.

"Chad was a little nervous at first," Gioffre said, "but he came in and decided he was going to take control of the game and he did."

At one point in the second half, Gioffre had three sophomores —

starter Jon Minnich was the third — and two seniors on the floor.

Root led the "Bench Bunch" with 13 points, Carter added six, Matney four and David Gibbs three.

Still, when Ross needed a basket, Gioffre said, "Charles was always there."

The Ross offense was deliberate and the defense was skin-tight. Clay managed only 31 shots, with 14 of them finding the mark. The Eagles kept themselves in the game with 21-of-28 free throw shooting.

Clay had 24 turnovers, 10 more than Ross and the tight Ross defense figured in many of the Clay miscues.

"I thought when we came back from seven points down (25-19 at the half)," Gioffre said, "we picked it up a little bit. We got a couple of nice breaks and we got the game in our hands and we were able to control the tempo.

"But, it's easier to control the game when you score a little bit and we were able to put the ball in the basket a little bit tonight."

Ross made 22 of 47 shots, including 17 of 25 in the second half. The Little Giants, after taking a 37-35 lead into the final quarter, made 9 of 12 shots in the final period, with Woodson going 5-for-5.

Clay led by four, 47-43, with 4:20 to play before Woodson scored twice and hit Carter with the assist to tie it at 49.

"We did not panic when they came back and went ahead," Gioffre said, "and that was a key for us. We kept our composure and fought back."

And landed a knockout punch on Clay.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 56, Clay 51

Clay	9	16	10	16	— 51
Ross	6	14	18	19	— 56

CLAY — Dan Tobias 8-2-19, Jeff Finch 0-9-9, Mike Donnelly 1-3-5, Brian Schroeder 1-0-2, Ross Revenaugh 2-2-6, Matt Heintschel 2-1-6, Scot Fisher 0-2-2, Kevin Machinski 0-2-2, totals 14-21-51.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 9-5-23, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 0-0-0, Bryan Myers 1-0-2, Jon Minnich 0-3-3, Chad Root 5-2-13, Jon Matney 2-0-4, David Gibbs 1-0-3, Bobby Carter 3-0-6, totals 22-10-56.

3-point goals: Tobias, Heintschel, Root, Gibbs.

Records: Clay 5-5 (2-3), Ross 2-8 (2-4).

Clay JV 64, Ross 60

Clay	10	13	21	20	— 64
Ross	17	13	18	12	— 60

CLAY — Steve Cherry 2-0-4, Greg Schroeder 1-0-2, Brian Tobias 0-5-5, Luke Meinke 10-4-24, Jack Buehrer 1-0-2, Sean Granger 7-1-16, totals 26-11-64.

ROSS — Hayward Jones 9-3-21, Ryan Shively 2-1-5, Shane Moran 3-1-8, Gary Rakes 2-0-4, Chad Hoffman 1-2-4, Aaron Smith 2-0-5, Tim Leeth 4-2-10, Mike Lather 1-1-3, totals 24-10-60.

3-point goals: Granger, Moran, Smith.

Records: Clay 6-4, Ross 5-4.

Little Giants trying for turnaround

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

A 2-8 start to the 1992-93 season, capped by a 56-51 victory over Oregon Clay Tuesday night, is behind the Fremont Ross High School boys basketball team.

The second half begins Saturday night with a non-league game at Toledo St. Francis, a much taller team than Ross. The Knights are 6-3.

"Our biggest concern right now is their size," Ross coach

More boys basketball, B3

Frank Gioffre said. "We have to do a good job taking care of the basketball and running our offense. And with their size, we have to work on boxing out."

The Little Giants' victory over Clay snapped a four-game losing streak.

"We're modifying some things, and I think the kids are finally starting to play harder," Gioffre said. "I think (the poor start)

was a matter of work ethic. Beating Oregon Clay was a big confidence builder. Hopefully it continues, but we have a tough road ahead of us."

Ross travels to Toledo Whitmer next Friday then hosts Port Clinton the following night.

"The younger kids are definitely going to make mistakes, that's part of the growing process," Gioffre said. "I just want to see our kids compete and not back down."

Leading the youthful Little Gi-

ants are sophomores Charles Woodson, Jon Minnich and Chad Root.

"They are definitely the nucleus of our team for the next couple of years," Gioffre said.

Gioffre said the Little Giants are gradually grasping the offense and defense. They have taken well to pressuring the ball more defensively and are handling the ball better offensively, he said.

"We're forcing the baseline (on defense) this year because

we're not very big, and I think that's an adjustment for our kids," he said. "They're finally starting to get the hang of it. And they're starting to run the offense better."

Ross is the lone GLL team not playing tonight. In league games, Clay (5-5, 2-3) travels to Michigan to take on Bedford (1-7, 1-4), Fostoria (6-2, 3-2) visits Napoleon (6-4, 4-1) and Toledo Whitmer (9-0, 5-0) plays Northview (1-7, 1-4) in Sylvania.

Little Giants suffer through 82-38 loss at St. Francis

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross played well for a half, according to coach Frank Gioffre, but then his team had to play the second half.

St. Francis de Sales scored 41 points from the foul line on the way to an 82-38 win in high school boys basketball Saturday night.

It was a game where the sound of referees' whistles seemed longer than the time played.

For example:

□ The Knights, 7-4, stepped to the foul line 55 times (Ross made nine trips and never got into the one-and-one).

□ The Little Giants were assessed with 31 personal fouls and five technical fouls (St. Francis was charged with 10 fouls).

□ Three Ross players fouled out and another was ejected.

□ Gioffre was ejected early in the final quarter.

□ Ross girls win in OT, B3

Despite all that, Gioffre, while seated in a dark hallway, could see a little light for his team.

"St. Francis is a very good basketball team," he said. "I thought our kids did a good job the first half. We competed, we played hard, but we would have had to play our best game all year to beat those guys."

"That's a far superior basketball team, but I thought for a half, we played pretty well."

Still, Ross trailed 37-18 at halftime, and the second half had to be played.

In the third quarter, the Knights scored 34 points, 26 on free throws, and Ross found itself in a 71-25 hole.

Three Little Giants — Jon Minich, Jason Matney and Bobby Carter — fouled out in the period. Another, Ryan Smith, after being charged with a foul, was assessed with a technical and tossed from the game

when he became involved in a shoving match.

Along the way, Gioffre picked up a pair of technicals protesting a blocking foul on Minich when he felt that Minich had taken a charge from 6-foot-8 Dan Pierce of St. Francis.

"The game was out of control at that time," Gioffre said. "We were 25 points down and I thought Jon Minich took a charge on the baseline. We were not going to get many calls all night, and I am going to stick up for our kids."

Pierce went to the line, sank six consecutive free throws and started a run of 11 Knight points from the free throw line.

Pierce finished with 22 points, including 14 of 17 at the foul line. Josh Murphy had 17 and Jeff McClellan 11 for the Knights.

Early in the final quarter, Gioffre was ejected when Ross trainer Joe Hershey was hit with a technical foul for protesting a foul called on Mike Patterson. That was the third bench technical. A third bench

technical calls for the ejection of the head coach.

By that time, all that remained were the whistle sounds and the Knights' parade to the foul line.

Charles Woodson scored 21 of the Little Giants' points, making 10 of 16 shots, and surviving a nasty fall in the final quarter when he landed flat on his back. Patterson was the next highest scorer with four.

St. Francis was 19-of-48 shooting and Ross 17-of-41, but Ross made only three free throws.

The biggest St. Francis lead was 48 points, 81-33.

Gioffre was remorseful after his team's ninth loss in 11 games.

"I am just sorry to see it get out of hand like it was," he said. "The technicals and things like that do not belong in high school basketball. I'm sorry it happened but when I have to stick up for my kids, I'm going to stick up for my kids."

Ross returns to action Friday, traveling to Toledo to play undefeated Whitmer.

St. Francis 82, Ross 38

Ross	12	6	7	13	—	38
St. Francis	22	15	34	11	—	82

ROSS — Charles Woodson 10-1-21, Jon Minnich 1-0-2, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Bryan Myers 1-0-3, Tyrone Price 0-2-2, Bobby Carter 1-0-2, Mike Patterson 2-0-4, Gary Rakes 1-0-2, totals 17-3-38.

ST. FRANCIS — Todd Kuchinski 1-2-5, Damián Ogrodowski 3-0-6, Dan Pierce 4-14-22, Mike Reinhart 1-2-5, Josh Murphy 6-4-17, Jeff McClellan 2-7-11, Matt McClellan 0-4-4, Craig Teamer 1-1-3, Ryan Wizo 1-2-4, James Willis 0-3-3, Jim David 0-2-2, totals 19-41-82.

3-point goals: Myers, Kucinski, Reinhart, Murphy.

Records: Ross 2-9, St. Francis 7-4.

St. Francis JV 58, Ross 28

Ross	5	6	8	9	—	28
St. Francis	15	19	15	9	—	58

ROSS — Mick Warner 1-0-2, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Shane Moran 3-0-7, Chad Hoffman 1-7-9, Aaron Smith 0-4-4, Tim Leeth 1-1-4, totals 7-12-28.

ST. FRANCIS — Greg Rawski 1-0-2, Eric Floyd 3-0-6, Jay Barnett 1-0-2, Jared Johnson 2-2-7, Kevin Ellis 3-1-9, Rick Pinardo 1-0-2, James Doane 5-0-10, Ryan Gorman 1-4-6, Kevin Beeler 0-2-2, O.B. Murray 2-3-7, Aaron Wright 1-0-2, Brandon Valentine 1-1-3, totals 21-13-58.

3-point goals: Moran, Leeth, Johnson, Ellis 2.

Records: Ross 5-6, St. Francis 8-4.

Swimming

High School Boys

Oak Harbor double-dual

200 medley relay: 1-Oak Harbor (James Oakley, Jason Wood, Joe Tack and Aaron Hemminger) 1:47.37, 2-Ross 1:49.95.
200 freestyle: 1-Ben Wood (OH) 1:53.30, 2-Ryan Wing (R) 2:00.30.
200 individual medley: 1-Tack (OH) 2:03.17, 2-Ron Lajti (OH) 2:19.78.
500 free: 1-Chris Schaaf (R) 23.06, 2-Brian Pointer (OH) 23.61.
Diving: 1-Brian Thatcher (R) 163.50, 2-Tony Whitman (OH) 139.05.
100 butterfly: 1-Tack (OH) 52.87, 2-Francisco Rosito (R) 1:00.21.
100 free: 1-Pointer (OH) 53.87, 2-Hemminger (OH) 54.42.
500 free: 1-B. Wood (OH) 5:13.58, 2-Wing (R) 5:18.67.
200 free relay: 1-Ross (Tilko Mueller, David Zinkand, Rosito and Schaaf) 1:36.36, 2-Oak Harbor 1:37.69.
100 backstroke: 1-Oakley (OH) 1:03.72, 2-Zinkand (R) 1:06.11.
100 breaststroke: 1-Schaaf (R) 1:06.28, 2-Lajti (OH) 1:08.24.
400 free relay: 1-Oak Harbor (Hemminger, Pointer, B. Wood and Tack) 3:27.32, 2-Ross 3:56.71.
Team scores: Oak Harbor 56, Ross 37; Oak Harbor 78, St. Mary's 12; Ross 81, St. Mary's 10.
Records: Ross 10-4, Oak Harbor 12-1.

High School Girls

Oak Harbor double-dual

200 medley relay: 1-Oak Harbor (Monica Tabbert, Betsy Verb, Melanie Hamann and Andrea Lange) 2:03.31, 2-Ross 2:11.99.
200 freestyle: 1-Tracie Baker (R) 2:05.39, 2-Azure Weis (OH) 2:06.18.
200 individual medley: 1-Verb (OH) 2:25.55, 2-Tabbert (OH) 2:26.22.
50 free: 1-Lange (OH) 27.04, 2-Kristy Hamann (OH) 27.60.
Diving: 1-Leslie Hasselbach (R) 219.50, 2-Calli Bodnar (OH) 199.50.
100 butterfly: 1-M. Hamann (OH) 1:05.25, 2-Ronelle Mahr (R) 1:08.20.
100 free: 1-Lange (OH) 59.00, 2-Angie Springer (R) 1:01.52.
500 free: 1-T. Baker (R) 5:32.52, 2-Tabbert (OH) 5:53.83.
200 free relay: 1-Oak Harbor (Verb, K. Hamann, Camille Heintz and Weis) 1:49.16, 2-Ross 1:52.39.
100 backstroke: 1-Weis (OH) 1:08.36, 2-M. Hamann (OH) 1:10.83.
100 breaststroke: 1-Verb (OH) 1:16.15, 2-Megan Kohli (OH) 1:19.49.
400 free relay: 1-Oak Harbor (Lange, Weis, Heintz and M. Hamann) 4:00.84, 2-Ross 4:08.22.
Team scores: Oak Harbor 58, Ross 35; Oak Harbor 78, St. Mary's 11; Ross 79, St. Mary's 10.
Records: Ross 9-5, Oak Harbor 10-3.

Unbeaten Whitmer tops Ross

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Whitmer used a fourth-quarter spurt to pull away from Fremont Ross and remain undefeated with a 75-59 high school boys basketball victory Friday night.

"We wanted to come out and execute our offense in the first three of four minutes of the third quarter," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, "but we forced a couple of shots and we did not execute. After that, we had to play catch-up."

The Panthers, 11-0 and 7-0 in the Great Lakes League, led 38-30 at halftime and outscored the Little Giants 16-11 in the third quarter.

"They killed us on the boards, too," Gioffre said.

Whitmer outrebounded Ross 40-27.

Justin Keller scored 10 of this 22 points in the opening period as the Panthers grabbed a 19-12 lead. Denard Mays, who entered the game as the GLL's leading scorer, followed with 17, but lost the scoring lead to sophomore Charles Woodson who led Ross with 22 points.

Bobby Carter came off the bench to add 14 as nine Little Giants scored.

The Little Giants fell to 2-10 and 2-5 in the GLL race.

Basketball

High School Boys

Whitmer 75, Ross 59

Ross	12	18	11	18	— 59
Whitmer	19	19	16	21	— 75

ROSS — Charles Woodson 8-5-22, Chad Root 1-0-3, Jon Minnich 2-1-5, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 7-0-14, Mike Patterson 1-1-3, Jason Zilles 3-0-6, Gary Rakes 1-0-2, David Gibbs 1-0-2, totals 25-7-59.

WHITMER — Nate Mefferd 1-0-2, Kevin McIlhagey 2-2-6, Brad Roberts 3-0-7, Justin Keller 11-0-22, Denard Mays 8-0-17, Trevor Toney 2-1-5, Jack Davis 1-3-5, Sean Marsh 4-1-9, Boyd 1-0-2, totals 33-7-75.

3-point goals: Woodson, Root, Roberts, Mays.

Records: Whitmer 11-0 (7-0), Ross 2-10 (2-5).

JV game: Whitmer 44-35.

Ross boys searching for building blocks

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross High School boys basketball coach Frank Gioffre admits he's playing for "next" season, but he hasn't given up on this season.

The Little Giants are struggling with a 2-10 record (2-5 in the Great Lakes League).

The season has been marked by lineup shuffling, lopsided losses, streaks of good play and streaks of lackluster play. Still, Gioffre is optimistic.

His "next" season does not begin next winter, but rather in early March.

"That's tournament time," Gioffre said, "and everyone begins that with a clean slate."

But he wants something to build on.

"Basically, what we are trying to do the rest of the year is keep improving from week to week and get some Ws (wins) under our belt," he said. "Hopefully, for the tournament."

"We have eight regular-season

Tough weekend

The Little Giants start their confidence building with two tough games in the Purple Pit.

Great Lakes League rival Fostoria (7-6, 4-3) visits Friday night, and Port Clinton (11-1) comes to Fremont Saturday.

The junior varsity games begin at 6:15 p.m.

Ohio."

Whitmer is ranked third in Division I by The Associated Press.

Gioffre said concentration has been a problem with his team.

"Whether it be for one minute, eight or the whole game, or even just for a defensive stop, I don't think the concentration has been where it should be," he said. "I think that comes with the inexperience we have."

In the past few games, Gioffre has been playing three sophomores regularly: Charles Woodson, who leads the GLL in scoring with an 18.1 average, Chad Root and Jon Minnich. He has used juniors Jason Matney and David Gibbs, both non-lettermen, as starters at various times.

Senior Mike Patterson, the letterman with the most experience, has been coming off the Ross bench the past few games.

The lineup the rest of the season, Gioffre says, depends on the opponent and the work done in practice.

Little Giants upset PC in OT

By SCOTT KIRSCH
Staff correspondent

Good things come to those who wait.

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team discovered that Saturday night in its 50-47 upset victory in overtime over Port Clinton.

"We had to slow the basketball down and be very patient offensively," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said after the Little Giants' third win against 11 losses. "We didn't want to get into an up-tempo basketball game with them because we couldn't compete with them like that; they have too much talent."

Mike Patterson's jump shot from the top of the key with 2.2

Next for Ross:
At Northview, Feb. 5

seconds to play in overtime broke a 47-all tie. A Port Clinton turnover and a free throw by Jason Matney completed the stunning victory.

"Obviously, they wanted to keep it close and try to win it in the end," Port Clinton coach Tom Bodager said following the Redskins' second loss in 14 games, which also ended a 10-game winning streak. "That's exactly what happened. They milked the clock down almost every time, and they ended up usually getting good shots.

"We've been seeing that more and more. I guess that means

teams are respecting us."

Two foul shots by Patterson with 27 seconds left in regulation, and one by Charles Woodson following a PC turnover gave Ross a 48-41 lead. However, two free throws by Kreulen with 13.2 seconds left tied it again.

Fred Enteman, however, missed the front end of a one-and-one at the foul line with 5.5 seconds left — costing the Redskins a chance to win in regulation.

Ross jumped to the lead at the outset of the overtime on a Woodson layup and a Patterson jump shot, but a basket by Scott Rickel and one by Kreulen for PC tied it.

Patterson and Woodson led the Little Giants with 17 points apiece, while PC's Jason Kreulen scored 28.

"We scouted Port Clinton twice this year and their games were in the 80s and 90s, and we couldn't come out and run with a team like that," Gioffre said.

The game was tied 9-9 after one quarter, and Ross led 21-20 at halftime.

The lead changed hands twice in the third quarter. Tyson Bodager's 3-point basket from the top of the key with 6:07 to play in the quarter made it 25-23 PC, and a layup by Patterson with 4:51 left gave Ross a 27-25 lead.

Entering the fourth quarter, the score was 30-all.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 50, P.C 47 (OT)

Ross	9	12	10	13	7	— 50
Port Clinton	9	11	9	13	4	— 47

PORT CLINTON — Tyson Bodager 1-0-3, Jamie Green 1-0-2, Scott Rickel 2-0-4, Scott Postma 2-0-4, Fred Entenman 3-0-6, Jason Kreulen 11-4-28, totals 20-4-47.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 7-3-17, Bobby Carter 6-0-12, Jason Matney 0-1-1, Jason Zilles 1-0-3, Mike Patterson 6-4-17, totals 20-8-50.

3-point goals: Bodager, Kreulen 2, Zilles, Patterson.

Records: Port Clinton 12-2, Ross 3-11.

P.C. JV 53, Ross 43

Port Clinton	12	18	5	18	— 53
Ross	15	9	8	11	— 43

PORT CLINTON — Scott Solem 3-3-12, Todd Burkett 2-0-4, Bernie Peroni 2-1-5, Ian Milefchik 1-4-7, Rick Cassel 3-2-8, Eric Heise 6-5-17, totals 17-15-53.

ROSS — Hayward Jones 8-2-18, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Shane Moran 4-0-10, Gary Rakes 1-1-3, David Gibbs 1-0-2, Tim Leeth 1-2-4, Mike Lather 2-0-4, totals 18-5-43.

3-point goals: Solem 3, Milefchik, Moran 2.

Records: Port Clinton 11-3, Ross 6-8.

Redmen 'paint' Ross

Fostoria wins with inside game

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fostoria went to the paint and sent Fremont Ross to a 62-49 high school boys basketball loss Friday night.

"We got the ball inside, and did some good things with that," Fostoria coach Jim Rutter said. "We got good production in the paint (foul line to baseline between the three-second lines) which we had not been getting for awhile."

Burly 6-foot-7 Heath Norton muscled his way to 14 points for Fostoria (8-6, 5-3 in the GLL) as the Little Giants were, in fact, too little to stop him.

"We allowed Heath Norton to do anything he wanted down low," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said after his team lost for the 11th time in 13 games and slipped to 2-6 in the league race. "We allowed him to 'flash' right to the basketball, turn, square up, push us all the way under the basket and score."

Russell Robinson came off the bench to match Norton's total. Robinson keyed a first-half Fostoria rally, scoring five second-quarter points, that gave the Redmen a 24-24 half-time tie after Ross had led by as many as seven points.

Jason Miller's shot from the corner tied it with five seconds to go in the half.

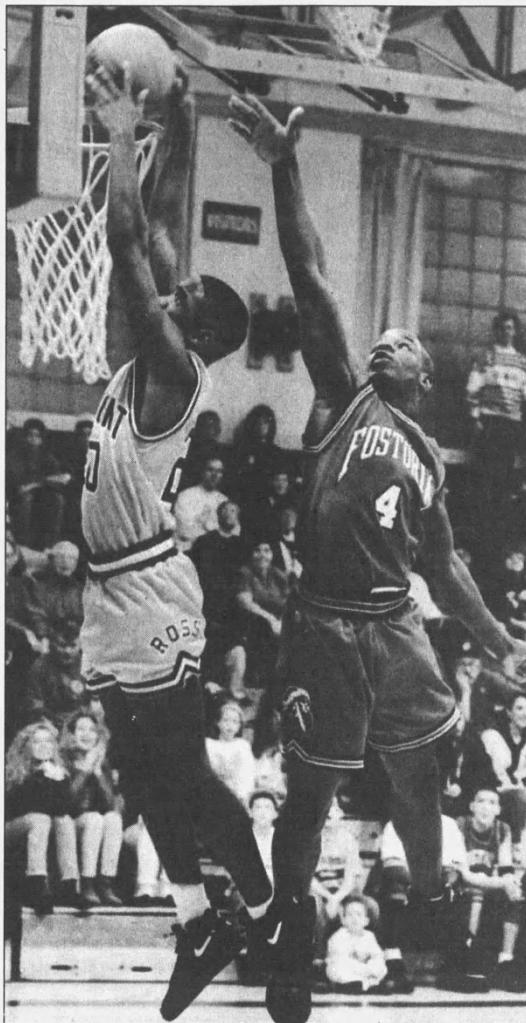
"The first five minutes of the game we allowed them one shot, we ran our transition and got a couple of easy baskets for a nice lead," Gioffre said, "and then, all of a sudden, we quit doing the things that got us that lead."

Charles Woodson gave Ross a 26-24 lead at the start of the second half, but Fostoria ran off six points on a pair of buckets by Damon Moore and Norton's short jumper. Ross pulled even at 30 on Mike Patterson's layup but Robinson hit a pair of free throws and Norton scored on a putback. Ross never led again.

The Little Giants fell behind 40-31 late in the third quarter but baskets from Patterson and Woodson plus a free throw from Tyrone Pice cut the Fostoria lead to 40-37 after three quarters.

Ross missed 12 of 17 shots in the third period and kept up that cold pace in the final eight minutes, missing 8 of 12. Fostoria's man-to-man, spiced momentarily with a makeshift 3-2 zone, took its toll.

"We went zone a few minutes in the second half and that gave us a little spark," Rutter said. "It was a type of zone that we have never played as long I have been here. Matter



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross misses a slam dunk attempt as Fostoria's Damon Moore defends Friday night. Woodson scored 19 points, but the Little Giants lost to the Redmen 62-49 in the Great Lakes League game.

High-flying Redskins visit Fremont tonight

One of the top Division II teams in Northwest Ohio, Port Clinton, will take on the Fremont Ross boys basketball team tonight in the Purple Pit.

The Redskins, 12-1, are riding a 10-game winning streak and are ranked 13th in the latest Associated Press poll.

The Redskins beat Edison 61-46 Friday night.

of fact, we threw it together for the week before and never used it. We just tried it tonight."

After Jason Gerlach's layup off Todd Lucius' pass opened the final quarter, putting Ross down by five, the Little Giants never got closer than four.

"Late in the game, when we needed some key rebounds, they were able to get second and third shots," Gioffre said,

"and they made the free throws when they had to and we didn't."

Fostoria was 15-of-19 at the

line and Ross 7-of-16.

Leading 52-48 with 1:37 to play, the Redmen ran off seven straight points — all on free throws — and led 59-48 with 1:04 left.

"We did a good job of boxing out and hit some big free throws down at the end which widened the gap," Rutter said.

Woodson's last point — he finished with 19 — was the only Ross point in the final 1:40. Patterson finished with 14 points for Ross.

Baseketball

High School Boys

Fostoria 62, Ross 49

Fostoria	9	15	16	22	— 62
Ross	10	14	13	12	— 49

FOSTORIA — Bryan Myers 1-3-5, Todd Lucci 1-0-2, Heath Norton 6-2-14, Jason Miller 2-5-9, Damon Moore 5-2-12, Russell Robinson 5-3-14, Jason Gerlach 2-0-4, Ryan Griffin 1-0-2, totals 23-15-62.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 7-5-19, Jason Matney 2-0-4, Bryan Myers 0-0-0, Mike Patterson 6-0-14, Tyrone Price 0-2-2, Bobby Carter 5-0-10, totals 20-7-49.

3-point goals: Robinson, Patterson 2.

Records: Fostoria 8-6 (5-3), Ross 2-11 (2-6).

Ross JV 52, Fostoria 37

Fostoria	10	14	6	7	— 37
Ross	13	8	12	19	— 52

FOSTORIA — Mike Rietzke 5-0-13, Jerry Desausure 0-1-1, Jahmane Morant 2-0-4, Takis Robinson 4-3-11, Chris Twining 1-0-2, Jerred Reidling 3-0-6, totals 15-4-37.

ROSS — Tim Leeth 2-1-6, Hayward Jones 4-1-9, Shane Moran 2-0-4, Gary Rakes 4-11-20, Chad Hoffman 0-2-2, Aaron Smith 1-0-2, Dan Gibbs 1-0-2, Mike Lather 3-1-7, totals 17-16-52.

3-point goals: Rietzke 3, Leeth, Rakes.

Record: Ross 6-7.

Little Giants upset PC in OT

By SCOTT KIRSCH
Staff correspondent

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"We had to slow the basketball down and be very patient offensively," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said after the Little Giants' third win against 11 losses. "We didn't want to get into an up-tempo basketball game with them because we couldn't compete with them like that; they have too much talent."

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Next for Ross:
At Northview, Feb. 5

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Basketball

High School Boys

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3-point goals: Solem 3, Milefchik, Moran 2.

Records: Port Clinton 11-3, Ross 6-8.

A modest Ross win streak

Woodson scores career-high 32

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross will take Charles Woodson over actor Scott Baio.

Woodson is the Little Giants' version of "Charles in Charge." Baio starred in the TV sitcom; Woodson starred in a Ross production Friday night.

Woodson's 32 points led Ross to its second straight win, 64-61 over Northview in a Great Lakes League high school boys basketball game.

Ross is 4-11 and 3-6. Northview is 1-14 and 1-8.

"Charles Woodson," Ross coach Frank Gioffre quietly proclaimed after the game, "is the best player in the GLL, and he's only a sophomore."

Woodson had his supporting cast, but he was definitely the star this episode. He scored from in close, medium range, and ducked outside one time for a 3-point basket. When it came to a needed steal or rebound, Wood-

Next for Ross:
Home, Bedford, Feb. 9

son was there. For good measure, he added a pair of key assists down the stretch when the Wildcats refused to be clawed.

The Wildcats tired to use gimmicks to thwart Woodson, opening with a "box-and-one" defense. It worked briefly — Woodson had four points in the opening quarter, but no Northview defense could stop the high-flying sophomore after that.

Woodson scored 11 points in the second quarter — at one stretch hitting nine in a row, pulling Ross from a 23-17 deficit into a 27-25 lead.

Mike Patterson stepped into a supporting role after the Woodson deluge, hitting a 3-pointer to close out the half for a 31-25 Ross lead.

"That gave us momentum going in," Gioffre said.

But two turnovers a minute

into the second half, put momentum up for grabs. Northview closed to 33-32 but it was "Charles in Charge" from there. He passed to Jason Matney for a bucket and converted on an acrobatic three-point play for a 38-33 Ross lead.

Bryan Myers' steal and layup was followed by Woodson's pass to Carter for a bucket as the Ross lead grew to 44-37 after three quarters.

The Wildcats threatened repeatedly in the final eight minutes but never got closer than three. Each time that happened, Woodson stepped up, hit the key basket, grabbed the big rebound or came up with a theft.

Woodson scored 11 of the final 15 Ross points and passed for a basket to Patterson, putting Ross up 58-53 with 90 seconds to play.

Two free throws by Patterson gave Ross a 64-58 lead with 39 seconds left, allowing Ross to survive Ryan Drewes fourth 3-point bucket of the night.

Carter finished with 13 points,

Little Giants not in dark after 2nd straight victory

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — The lights went out early for Northview Friday night, and Charles Woodson's 32 points kept them in the dark in a 64-61 loss to Fremont Ross.

As part of Northview's introduction of the starting lineup, the gymnasium lights were turned off, but with mercury vapor lights, a cooling off period is needed before they begin coming back up to brightness.

It was the first time that type of introduction had been tried at Northview.

"The kids are getting ready to play and all of a sudden, we have a 10-minute delay," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said while smiling about the situation.

"It was not my idea," Northview coach Tim Smith joked to Gioffre during the delay.

Both teams kept warm with layup drills in the semi-dark gym which was faintly illuminated by some widely spread out fluorescent lights.

When the mercury vapors got back to full strength, Woodson took over and turned the lights out again on the Wildcats.

Patterson seven and sophomore Chad Root six on a pair of 3-pointers. Drewes topped Northview with 22 while Joe Raker had 16.

"We came out a little flat," Gioffre said. "We struggled offensively and defensively. Eventually, we started to pick up a little bit thanks to Charles Woodson."

And no thanks to Scott Baio.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 64, Northview 61

Ross	11	20	13	20	— 64
Northview	13	12	12	24	— 61

ROSS — Charles Woodson 11-9-32, Bobby Carter 6-1-13, Jason Matney 2-0-4, Bryan Myers 1-0-2, Jon Minnich 0-0-0, Mike Patterson 2-2-7, Chad Root 2-0-6, Jason Zilles 0-0-0, totals 24-12-64.

NORTHVIEW — Ryan Jones 2-0-5, Joe Raker 7-2-16, Colin Chiles 3-2-9, Ryan Drewes 7-4-22, Steve Ferguson 1-0-2, Chris Robinson 2-1-5, Doug Crowley 1-0-2, totals 23-9-61.

3-point goals: Woodson, Root 2, Patterson, Jones, Chiles, Drewes 4.

Records: Ross 4-11 (3-6), North. 1-14 (1-8).

Ross JV 57, Northview 52

Ross	9	23	13	12	— 57
Northview	10	11	12	19	— 52

ROSS — Tim Leeth 0-2-2, Hayward Jones 5-2-12, Ryan Shively 3-0-6, Shane Moran 5-0-12, Gary Rakes 2-0-4, Chad Hoffman 1-0-2, David Gibbs 3-1-9, Mike Lather 2-2-6, totals 23-7-57.

NORTHVIEW — Jamie Westfall 1-0-2, Zak Morris 5-0-10, Chad Collins 7-5-22, Doug Cook 1-1-3, Zaire 2-5-9, Maz Ostermyer 0-2-2, Nate Porter 2-0-4, totals 18-12-52.

3-point goals: Moran 2, Gibbs 2, Collins 3.

Records: Ross 7-8, Northview 6-9.

Ross wins third straight

Carter, Patterson lead Little Giants past Mules

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Bobby Carter came off the bench and Mike Patterson from the sick bed to lead Fremont Ross to its third straight victory Tuesday night.

The Carter-Patterson duo combined for 35 points as eight Little Giants scored in a 70-56 boys high school basketball victory over Bedford (Mich.) in the Purple Pit.

Along with Charles Woodson, Carter and Patterson sparked a Ross pullaway in the fourth quarter.

Woodson scored 10 points, Patterson seven and Carter six as Ross had its most productive quarter — 29 points — in the final period.

The Little Giants' biggest lead was 20 at 70-50.

Ross, 5-11, is 4-6 in the Great Lakes League. Bedford is 2-13 and 1-8.

"Mike (Patterson) has been sick all week," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, "but he didn't play like it tonight."

Patterson shook off the flu to score 16 points. Carter tossed in a season-high 19.

Carter (6-foot-5) and Jason Matney (6-4) drew the task of guarding 6-9 Bedford center James Daniel. Daniel scored 24 points, including nine in the first quarter and nine in the fourth.

"Daniel had the hot hand," Gioffre said, "even though Carter and Matney had their hands in his face, he kept them in the game."

But in the second quarter, Daniel was held scoreless.

"Our pressure did a nice job

Next for Ross:
Home, Napoleon, Feb. 12

of wearing them down," Gioffre said.

Ross used Daniel's scoring famine to race to a 34-24 half-time edge.

Leading 23-22 midway through the second quarter, Ross scored nine unanswered points off six Bedford turnovers. The Kicking Mulks committed 10 turnovers in the quarter.

But after trailing by as many as 10 in the third quarter, Bedford cut its deficit to 41-34 after three quarters.

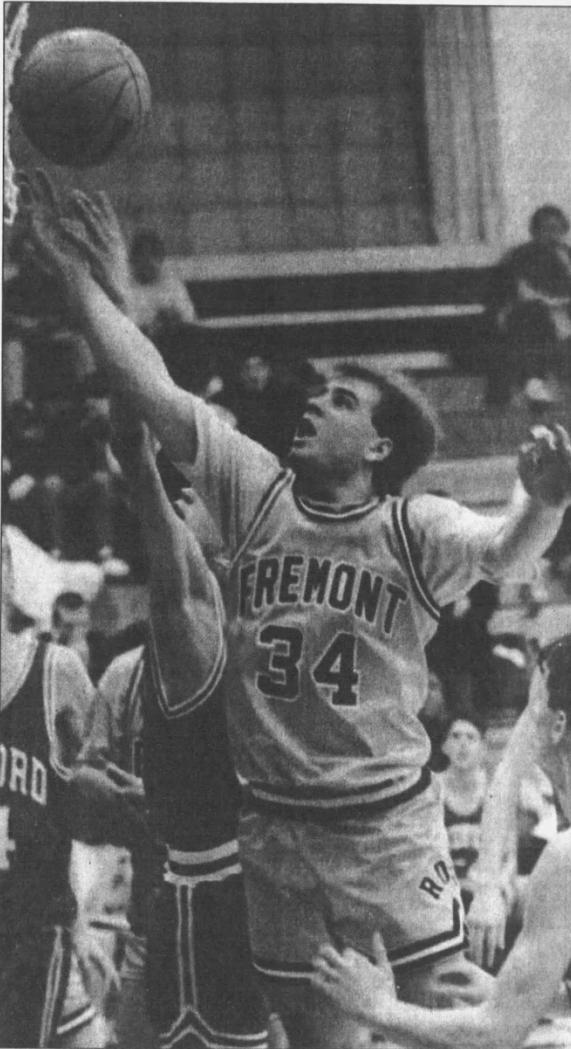
"They made a little run at us," Gioffre said, "but we responded back. Charles had a nice three-point play."

The Ross lead was 10 after Woodson opened the final quarter with the three-point play. Bryan "Mo" Myers followed with a three-point basket, but Daniels and Shane Heams hit for Bedford — cutting the Ross lead to 47-39.

Patterson found Carter for a layup and Woodson scored twice. Patterson hit two free throws and Myers hit the front end of the bonus as the Ross lead expanded to 57-42 with four minutes remaining.

A final Ross surge put the game away. Daniel's bucket made it 57-44 but Carter and Patterson scored, Jason Zilles and Patterson sandwiched baskets around a Daniel basket and Ross led 65-46.

"We are playing good basketball right now," Gioffre said, "and I hope it continues."



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

BRYAN MYERS (34) of Fremont Ross battles for a rebound Tuesday night during the Little Giants' victory over Bedford (Mich.).

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 70, Bedford 56

Bedford	15	9	10	22	—	56
Ross	13	21	7	29	—	70

BEDFORD — Marc Schlachter 2-0-4, James Daniel 9-6-24, Shane Hearns 5-1-11, Chad Fornwald 2-0-4, Grantley LaMunyon 1-0-2, Scott Paracheck 2-0-4, Brandon Roberts 0-1-1, Aaron Rutter 2-0-4, Matthew Moran 1-0-2, totals 23-10-56.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 5-2-12, Jon Minnich 0-2-2, Jason Matney 1-1-3, Bryan Myers 3-1-8, Jason Zilles 3-0-7, Bobby Carter 9-1-19, Mike Patterson 7-2-16, Chad Root 1-0-3, totals 29-9-70.

3-point goals: Myers, Zilles, Root.

Records: Bedford 2-13 (1-8), Ross 5-11 (4-6).

Ross JV 61, Bedford 57

Bedford	12	10	11	24	—	57
Ross	17	16	11	17	—	61

BEDFORD — Jamie Emerson 1-2-4, Matthew Campbell 5-1-11, Robert Homan 5-0-11, James Stewart 3-1-8, Andy Dobrzonski 2-2-6, Chad Stock 6-4-16, Charles Yeager 0-1-1, totals 22-11-57.

ROSS — Mike Lather 2-1-5, Hayward Jones 2-1-5, Shane Moran 8-3-19, Gary Rakes 1-7-9, Chad Hoffman 2-2-6, Aaron Smith 1-0-3, Tim Leeth 3-0-8, David Gibbs 2-1-6, totals 21-15-61.

3-point goals: Homan, Stewart, Smith, Leeth 2.

Records: Bedford 2-13, Ross 8-8.

Top players

Cortney Cominsky of Fremont Ross was named the Division I player of the year and coach Sue Wolf was named coach of the year by District 6 Coaches Association Sunday.

In Division III, Jennifer Castle of Margaretta was a first team pick while coach Tim Tucker was named co-coach of the year. In Division IV, Kris Gonya of Fremont St. Joe was a first-team honoree.

Mike Gabel of St. Joe was named the coach of the year in the boys Division IV and Ben Hall was named to the first team.

Also, Ross sophomore Charles Woodson won second-team honors in Division I. Josh Manlet of Bellevue was a first-team pick in Division II.

Complete teams will be listed Tuesday.

Basketball

High School Boys

District 6 All-Stars

All-Star teams selected by the District 6 Coaches Association:

DIVISION I

First team

Dashay Jones, Sandusky, 6-2, sr., 26.0; Bryan Murvine, Ashland, 6-6, sr., 20.0; Rob Whitfield, Madison, 5-11, sr., 16.8; Orlando Pace, Sandusky, 6-8, jr., 16.2; Sean Tucker, Mansfield Sr., 6-6, soph., 17.0.

Second team

Charles Woodson, Fremont Ross, soph., 6-1, 18.0; Tony Eisenhard, Tiffin Columbian, soph., 6-7, 16.0; Ben Kitzler, Mansfield Sr., 6-3, sr., 10.0; Randy Harding, Ashland, 6-1, sr., 10.0; Brad Burns, Tiffin Columbian, 6-4, sr., 15.0.

Player of the year: Dashay Jones, Sandusky

Coach of the year: John Schlessman, Sandusky

Area honorable mention: Mike Patterson, Fremont Ross.

Clay defeats Ross

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Fremont Ross defeated Oregon Clay earlier this season, but the Eagles soared Friday night with a 76-58 victory in a boys high school basketball rematch.

"We had a lot of confidence going in because we were fortunate to beat them at our place (56-51 on Jan. 12)," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "But they're a different team at home."

Clay improved to 11-8 and 6-5 in the Great Lakes League, while Ross fell to 5-12 and 4-7.

"We were down four at half, and they probably played one of their best halves all year," Gioffre said. "We were hanging in, but they shot the basketball very well."

The Eagles made 31 of 62 shots and 12 of 14 foul shots.

"We didn't stop them at all," Gioffre said. "We tried to go man, and they did a nice job setting screens and hitting the open shot. We went to the zone, and they did a nice job moving the basketball and breaking us down."

The Little Giants missed the front end at the foul line in four bonus situations and also missed two layups in the second quarter, according to Gioffre.

Clay led 19-12 after one quarter and 31-27 at halftime. Ross tied the score 41-all in the third quarter, but Clay's Matt Heintschel sparked a 7-0 run with a 3-point basket.

The Eagles led 51-43 with one quarter left.

"We couldn't get over that hump in the fourth quarter, and they made their free throws," Gioffre said.

Bobby Carter led Ross with 18 points, Mike Patterson had 13 and Charles Woodson 12.

Clay's Jeff Finch led all scorers with 20 points.

Next for Ross:

Home, Napoleon, 6:30 tonight

Clay 76, Ross 59

Ross	12	15	16	16	— 59
Clay	19	12	20	25	— 76

ROSS — Charles Woodson 5-1-12, Mike Patterson 5-2-13, Jason Matney 3-0-6, Chad Root 3-1-8, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 9-0-18, totals 26-4-59.

OREGON CLAY — Ross Revenaugh 5-2-13, Todd Fisher 7-3-17, Matt Heintschel 2-0-5, Steve Burger 1-2-4, Dan Tobias 5-1-11, Jeff Finch 9-2-20, Mike Donnelly 2-2-6, totals 31-12-76.

3-point goals: Woodson, Patterson, Root, Revenaugh, Heintschel.

Records: Ross 5-12 (4-7), Clay 11-8 (6-5).

Clay JV 48, Ross 46

Ross	6	16	12	12	— 46
Clay	8	8	13	19	— 48

ROSS — Mike Lather 1-0-2, Gary Rakes 4-7-15, Shane Moran 2-0-5, Ryan Shively 3-0-6, David Gibbs 2-0-4, Hayward Jones 0-2-2, Aaron Smith 4-0-12, totals 16-9-46.

OREGON CLAY — Cherry 1-0-2, Tobias 0-1-1, Buehrer 4-2-10, Grabger 4-1-9, Murray 6-9-21, Schroeder 2-1-5, totals 17-14-48.

3-point goals: Moran, Smith 4.

Records: Ross 8-9.

Napoleon downs Ross 68-60 in OT

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Napoleon outscored Fremont Ross 10-2 in overtime Saturday and posted a 68-60 boys basketball victory.

For Ross, it was a case of "If it was not for bad luck, the Little Giants would have no luck at all."

"We had a chance to win the basketball game," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, "but it was unfortunate that the ball slipped out of Mikey's (Mike Patterson) hands."

After Charles Woodson tied the game 58-58 with two free throws with 25 seconds to play, Napoleon's Kurt Schlade got off a

foul-line jumper that bounced off the back of the rim with Patterson coming up with the long rebound with six seconds to play.

On a frantic dash downcourt, Patterson went up for a shot just inside the foul line but the ball slipped out of his hands and out-of-bounds as the buzzer went off.

The Wildcats spotted Ross a two-point lead in the extra three minutes on Charles Woodson's basket, his 28th point of the night, before running off 10 in a row.

Mike Germann's short jumper tied it for Napoleon and Schlade's two free throws with 1:28 remaining put the Wildcats

ahead for good.

Napoleon led 18-13 after one quarter and 26-21 at the half and held a 34-29 lead after three quarters.

"We just could not get in the flow," Napoleon coach Walt Behrman said. "We had some opportunities early to put some distance between ourselves and Ross but we did not capitalize.

"Then Patterson and Woodson began finding the range and then when we did score, they were keeping right up with us."

The Wildcats' biggest lead was 30-21 three minutes into the second half.

The Little Giants outscored the

Wildcats 29-24 in the final quarter as Woodson and Patterson handled the bulk of the scoring for Ross.

Patterson hit a pair of three-point baskets on 5 of 6 shooting, scoring 15 of his 17 points. Ten of Woodson's dozen points were on 10 of 10 at the foul line. Ryan Smith had the other Ross points.

"Our kids played well," Gioffre said quietly in his office. "We were down a few times by seven or eight points and they kept fighting back; they did not give up."

"We were just not fortunate enough to capitalize when we had the opportunity."

Napoleon 68, Ross 60 (OT)

Napoleon	18	8	8	24	10	—	68
Ross		13	8	8	29	2	— 60

NAPOLEON — Kurt Schlade 4-6-14, Mike Germann 5-2-12, Craig Good 4-1-10, Todd Wesche 4-4-15, Jason Gubernath 4-2-11, Jeremy Rohrs 1-2-4, Matt Manter 1-0-2, totals 24-17-68.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 9-10-28, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 0-2-2, Bryan Myers 0-0-0, Mike Patterson 6-3-17, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, Chad Root 1-2-4, Jon Minnich 1-1-3, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, totals 20-17-60

3-point goals: Good, Wesche 3, Gubernath, Patterson 2, Root.

Records: Ross 5-13 (4-8), Napoleon 12-6 (9-2).

Napoleon JV 59, Ross 58

Napoleon	19	12	9	19	—	59
Ross		17	15	13	13	— 58

NAPOLEON — Joe Good 4-2-10, Doug Brown 1-0-2, Josh VanAusdale 5-0-10, Jeff Ressler 4-6-12, Ryan Hines 5-0-13, Shawn Thompson 1-0-2, Nick Hoover 1-0-2, Jason Aschemeier 2-4-8, totals 23-8-59.

ROSS — David Gibbs 5-1-11, Mike Lather 1-2-4, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Shane Moran 5-1-12, Gary Rakes 7-1-16, Chad Hoffman 0-2-2, Aaron Smith 4-0-9, Tim Leeth 0-2-2, totals 23-9-58.

3-point goals: Good 2, Hines 3, Moran, Rakes, Smith.

Records: Napoleon 11-7, Ross 8-10.

Ross boys drop second straight in OT

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Tony Eisenhard muscled in seven points in overtime, leading Tiffin Columbian to a 57-53 win over Fremont Ross Tuesday night in the Ross High School Purple Pit.

It was the second successive overtime loss for the Little Giants, and it was devastating for Ross coach Frank Gioffre.

"This was the most disappointing loss in my three years at Ross," Gioffre said. "There is just no possible way that that team was better than us tonight; we should have won that basketball game."

The Little Giants, 5-14, had their opportunities — taking a 40-34 lead into the fourth quarter and leading 44-39 midway through the period before Eisenhard took over.

A 6-foot-7 sophomore, Eisen-

Next for Ross:
At Findlay, 6:30 p.m., Friday

hard rebounded teammate Jon Cartwright's missed free throw to tie the game at 44 with 1:14 remaining in regulation. He pulled off the same trick, rebounding Cartwright's missed free throw with 29 seconds left, to give the Tornadoes a 46-44 lead.

Jason Zilles returned the favor, rebounding Mike Patterson's missed jumper with 10 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the game for Ross.

"Late in the ballgame," Columbian coach Bob Nocton said, "we went to our 1-3-1 half-court trap and that seemed to create some problems."

The defense helped force eight Ross turnovers in the fourth

quarter as Columbian outscored the Little Giants 12-6. Columbian, 11-8, scored seven points off the Ross turnovers.

In the overtime, it was all Columbian after Chad Root and Patterson had hit 3-pointers to keep Ross even. Patterson's long bomb tied it at 53-53 with 1:12 to play.

Eisenhard's layup put Columbian up 55-53 with 45 seconds left and Brad Burns' two free throws iced it with 28 ticks left.

Eisenhard finished with 25 points, despite not scoring in the third quarter. Burns complemented Eisenhard with 22 points in the two-pronged Columbian attack.

Charles Woodson and Root paced Ross with 13 points apiece, and Patterson added nine.

Ross was hurt in the opening seconds when starting center Bobby Carter, a 6-5 senior,

twisted his ankle on the opening jump and sat out the rest of the game. That was not the key to the Ross downfall, according to Gioffre, even though he admitted Carter may have been able to help out on Eisenhard.

"It's been the same thing all year," Gioffre said. "Missed box-out assignments. We had five guys in the free throw lane, but we are still not putting bodies on anybody."

"Unforced turnovers; trying to do too much. Two-on-one breaks, we are not giving it up and getting it back, we want to take it all the way. There was just a lot of mental mistakes tonight and that's pretty bad because three weeks ago, I thought we were really improving and starting to do things together as a group."

"Tonight, we went back to our old ways."

High School Boys

Colbian 57, Ross 53 (OT)

Columbian	17	9	8	12	11	—	57
Ross	15	13	12	6	7	—	53

COLUMBIAN — Eric Bryant 2-0-4, Kevin Alt 1-3-5, Nathan McClung 0-0-0, Brad Burns 7-4-22, Tony Eisenhard 11-3-25, Jon Cartwright 0-1-1, totals 21-11-57.

ROSS — Charles Woodson 4-3-13, Jason Zilles 3-0-6, Bryan 1-0-2, Mike Patterson 4-0-9, Tyrone Price 2-1-5, Chad Root 4-2-13, Jon Minnich 2-0-4, Ryan Smith 0-1-1, totals 20-7-53.

3-point goals: Burns 4, Woodson 2, Patterson, Root 3.

Records: Columbian 11-8, Ross 5-14.

Columbian JV 61, Ross 42

Columbian	17	8	18	18	—	61
Ross	9	14	11	8	—	42

COLUMBIAN — Donny Perna 1-0-2, Chris Murphy 0-2-2, Kory Winkler 6-7-19, Cory King 3-1-8, Dennis Green 4-3-12, Matt Caseman 1-5-7, Kyle Blust 2-0-5, Scott Turner 2-1-6, totals 19-19-61.

ROSS — David Gibbs 4-0-9, Doug Jibilian 1-1-3, Mick Warner 1-2-4, Shane Moran 5-0-11, Chad Hoffman 1-9-11, Tim Leeth 1-0-3, Mike Lather 1-0-3, totals 14-10-42.

3-point goals: King, Green, Blus, Turner, Gibbs, Moran, Leeth, Lather.

Records: Columbian 10-9, Ross 8-11.

Ross boys travel to Findlay tonight

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team closes the regular season tonight when it travels to Findlay.

It's the second meeting of the two high schools this season. On Dec. 29, the Trojans defeated the Little Giants 78-48, but Ross leading scorer Charles Woodson missed that game because of "turf toe."

Going into tonight's game, Findlay is 10-9 while Ross is 5-14 and on a three-game losing streak. Two of the losses have been in overtime.

Woodson, a sophomore, averages 18.3 points for Ross while senior Mike Patterson is at 10.6.

After tonight's game, the Little Giants will play Mansfield Madison at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the Division I sectional tournament at Willard High School.

Tickets for the tournament game are on sale in the Ross athletic department office, Fremont Athletic Supply and Dumminger's Photography. Adult tickets are \$3 and student tickets are \$2. All tickets are \$3 at the door.

Also, for fans traveling to Findlay, a chicken dinner is available in the cafeteria adjacent to the gym. Findlay Glenwood Middle School is sponsoring the meal. The meals are \$5 for a half chicken. Serving begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs to 7:30 p.m.

Woodson, Ross rally against Findlay

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross came back Friday night. Did it ever come back!

The Little Giants overcame a pair of 17-point deficits, including one in the fourth quarter, and edged Findlay 74-73 in a high school boys basketball game.

Mike Patterson's two free throws with .7 seconds left in the game capped the stunning comeback win, which saw Ross also recover from a 72-65 deficit with 1:20 remaining.

The win snapped a three-game Ross losing streak and improved the Little Giants to a season closing 6-14 mark. Findlay closed out at 10-10.

"That's a big win for us," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "We could have packed it in but all of



Charles Woodson scored 39 points night in the Ross win. The effort capped a big comeback. The 39 points were four shy of John Level's school-record 43.

sudden, momentum swung our way."

With Ross forcing the tempo to quicken with a full-court press, the Trojans fell short at the foul line — missing 11 of 22 in the final quarter, including the front end of six one-and-one attempts. Four of those misses were in the final minute.

Ross trailed 60-43 after Findlay's Darrell Ramsey's layup at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but sophomore Chad Root started hitting from long range and sophomore Charles Woodson canned some clutch free throws.

Woodson led Ross with a career-high 39 points. Root finished with 12 points, and Patterson had

10. David Gibbs — after scoring eight points in the junior varsity game — scored eight in the varsity contest.

The Little Giants cut the gap to 73-70 with 17.5 seconds remaining.

Woodson went to the line at that point but missed the free throw. After a scramble for the ball, Gibbs sank a 6-foot shot with his back nearly to the basket and was fouled.

"That was an incredible shot," Gioffre said. "just incredible."

Gibbs, a 6-foot-3 junior, missed the foul shot, but Findlay's Javan Conley was fouled on the rebound.

Conley missed the free throw with 7.3 seconds left, and Patterson came up with the rebound. The Ross guard brought the ball

down court, got off a turnaround jumper from 12 feet away and was fouled by Blair Lane.

"Findlay called a timeout to try to ice him," Gioffre said.

But Patterson responded, coolly sinking the shots for the win.

"We took care of the ball and our transition game was on line tonight," Gioffre said. "Every kid stepped up at the end of game."

Root, after missing all four three-point attempts he took in the third quarter, was 3-of-4 in the final quarter as Ross outscored the Trojans 31-15.

The Little Giants sank 26 of 43 two-point attempts but missed 14 of 17 3-pointers until Root caught fire. In the final quarter, the Little Giants made 8 of 14 two-pointers and 3 of 7 3-pointers.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 74, Findlay 73

Ross	12	16	15	31	—	74
Findlay	19	22	17	15	—	73

ROSS — Charles Woodson 17-7-39, Mike Patterson 4-2-10, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, Chad Root 4-1-12, Bryan Myers 0-1-1, David Gibbs 3-2-8, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, totals 29-13-74.

FINDLAY — Craig Bova 0-4-4, Brian Sallot 5-0-10, Darrell Ramsey 5-3-14, Javan Conley 8-3-19, Blair Lane 2-6-12, Marcus Paris 3-5-11, Scott Hermon 0-1-1, Brian Beall 1-0-2, totals 24-22-41.

3-point goals: Root 3, Ramsey, Lane 2.

Records: Ross 6-14, Findlay 10-10.

Findlay JV 67, Ross 47

Ross	11	6	19	11	—	47
Findlay	19	9	12	27	—	67

ROSS — Hayward Jones 4-0-10, Ryan Shively 0-2-2, Shane Moran 3-0-9, Gary Rakes 2-0-5, Chad Hoffman 2-0-4, Aaron Smith 2-0-4, Tim Leeth 3-0-7, David Gibbs 4-0-8, totals 19-4-47.

FINDLAY — Dopker 1-0-3, Devore 1-0-3, Crates 11-5-28, Guear 3-3-10, Wohlgamuth 2-2-7, Dennis 2-2-6, Fox 1-0-2, Zann 3-0-6, Montgomery 1-0-2, totals 25-12-67.

3-point goals: Jones 2, Moran 3, Rakes, Leeth, Dopker, Devore, Crates, Guear, Wohlgamuth.

Record: Ross 8-12.

All-District Team

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1993 Associated Press All-Northwest District boys team, as selected by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from the district:

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Demond Lyles, Lima Senior, 5-foot-11, Sr., 26.6 points per game; Javan Conley, Findlay, 6-5, Sr., 23.2; Dashay Jones, Sandusky, 6-2, Sr., 25.8; Jay Larranaga, Toledo St. John's, 6-5, Sr., 18.5; Nakia Witcher, Toledo Scott, 6-5, Sr., 21.0; Denard Mays, Toledo Whitmer, 6-3, Sr., 18.8.

SECOND TEAM: Sean Tucker, Mansfield Senior, 6-6, Soph., 17.6; Tim Harnen, Celina, 6-0, Jr., 15.5; Andy Smith, Defiance, 6-5, Sr., 16.0; Kris Matuszewski, Toledo Central Catholic, 6-4, Sr., 16.3; Darrick Newsome, Toledo Woodward, 6-2, Sr., 19.5.

THIRD TEAM: Bryan Murvine, Ashland, 6-6, Sr., 20.6; Quincey Simpson, Lima Senior, 6-1, Sr. 17.4; Orlando Pace, Sandusky, 6-8, Jr., 16.1; **CHARLES WOODSON**, Fremont Ross, 6-1, Soph., 18.2; Kurt Pottkotter, Celina, 6-4, Sr. 16.2.

Player of the year: Dashay Jones, Sandusky.

Coach of the year: Steve Penhorwood, Celina.

HONORABLE MENTION

Tony Eisenhard, Brad Burns, Tiffin Columbian; Rob Whitfield, Mansfield Madison; Denny Amrhein, Neshawn Coleman, Toledo St. John's; Eric Winters, Damion Washington, Toledo Waite; Rashod Johnson, Toledo Rogers; Lesean Howard, Lonacy Utley, Toledo Scott; Mark Carek, Shawn McMahon, Bowling Green; Dan Tobias, Ross Revenaugh, Oregon Clay; Al Peake, Chris Swilling, Toledo Start, Pat Paule, Perrysburg; Darrell Ramsey, Findlay; Randy Harding, Ashland Senior; Ben Kitzler, Effie James, Mansfield Senior; Shawn Murlin, Celina; Sean Marsh, Toledo Whitmer; Anthony Amison, Toledo Bowsher; Jamie Cunningham, Holland Springfield; Josh Murphy, Toledo St. Francis; John Graves, Toledo Woodward; Jerome Tate, Toledo Central Catholic.

Ross names MVPs

Cortney Cominsky and Charles Woodson won most valuable player awards for the Fremont Ross High School boys and girls basketball teams Tuesday night during an awards program in the high school cafeteria.

Cominsky, a senior, also won awards for having the highest free throw percentage and most rebounds and also received a co-captains trophy along with senior Kim Crawford.

Other special awards handed out by coach Sue Wolf were the most improved award to junior Tami Reinholt; best defensive player award to junior Natalie Robbins; and most assists award to freshman Dawn Zerman.

Woodson, a sophomore, topped the list of boys awards handed out by coach Frank Gioffre.

Senior Bobby Carter won two honors, for being the most improved player and the top rebounder. Mike Patterson, a senior, took home the most assists trophy as well as the top free throw shooter award.

The top defensive player honor went to senior Tyrone Price, while Brian Myers and Patterson received co-captain trophies.



COMINSKY



WOODSON

High School Boys

All-GLL Team

First team

Denard Mays, Whitmer, Sr., 6-foot-3, 17.9 points per game; Todd Wesche, Napoleon, Sr., 5-8, 14.6; Sean Marsh, Whitmer, Sr., 6-5, 11.2; Charles Woodson, Ross, Soph., 6-1, 19.2; Jim Daniel, Bedford, Sr., 6-7, 16.8.

Second team

Mike Germann, Napoleon, Jr., 6-4, 9.8; Dan Tobias, Clay, Sr., 6-5, 13.4; Ross Revenaugh, Clay, Sr., 6-0, 12.3; Russell Robinson, Fostoria, Sr., 5-10, 17.1; Justin Keller, Whitmer, Sr., 6-4, 12.4.

Honorable mention

Marc Schlachter and Chad Fornwald, Bedford; Mike Donelly and Jeff Finch, Clay; Damon Moore and Ryan Myers, Fostoria; Bobby Carter and Mike Patterson, Ross; Jason Gubernath and Kurt Schlade, Napoleon; Ryan Drewes and Joe Raker, Northview; Kevin McIlhargey and Brad Roberts, Whitmer.