



Brooklyn Baptista, left, started as a freshman last season for Fremont Ross. FILE

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Baptistas back as starters for Ross

Matthew Horn

Special to Fremont-News Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Baptistas are back for Fremont Ross.

Senior guard Olivia Baptista made seven 3-pointers in one game last season and guard Brooklyn Baptista demonstrated rare versatility for a freshman. Senior forward Marissa Overmyer has starting experience.

"We have eight seniors and one sophomore," Little Giants coach Juan Vela said. "And the sophomore is a starter. We'll have to rely on our experience. A lot of these girls have been playing for a long time and their basketball IQs will help.

"This team has skill shooting and passing to help us compete."

The Baptistas averaged around 10

points apiece. Jasannah Sabiers and Rachel Gore are varsity returners.

"Every year, every week, every month we're trying to take steps and strides," Vela said. "We want to keep taking big steps forward. I'm excited because they're good kids to be around who want to learn and compete.

"That's why I'm excited as a coach. It's fun to have girls on the same page."

Kennedy Bohannon, Jonai Crawford and Molly Miese are varsity newcomers

Ross finished 15-10 last season. It took its first sectional crown since 2012-2013.

"The team concept last year," Vela said. "They played together all year and worked together. The excitement when things are done right, hopefully

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Ross girls

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the girls can carry that into this season."

Vela earned coach of the year honors in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. The Baptistas were honorable mention all-league, and graduated Jazmin Bulger was first-team.

"That says a lot about what type of players they are," Vela said. "They can shoot the heck out of the ball and their basketball IQ is pretty high. They'll lead the team and they do it in such an unselfish way, they bring everybody together."

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Central Catholic pulls away from Ross

Little Giants struggle to score in second half

Josh Morgret
Special to Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sometimes, the shots just don't fall. Fremont Ross coach Juan Vela didn't care for the shot selection in the second half Monday as the Little Giants made

"A lot of the shots we took were rushed or we were not set. Some of the shots the girls shot were not their shot. It was almost like they thought they had a shot and just took it versus doing what we do."

Juan Vela
Fremont Ross coach

only three in a 48-34 setback to Toledo Central Catholic in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Ross missed its remaining 14 shots in the second half after a 23-23 tie at the half. "I didn't like the shots at all," Vela said. "A lot of the shots we took were rushed or we were not set. Some of the shots the girls shot were not their shot. It was almost like they thought they had a shot and just took it versus doing what we do."

The Little Giants (2-1, 0-1) committed 28 turnovers.

"Central has always been that kind of a team that will play full-court man-to-man and will not stop all game long," Vela said. "You have to be disciplined and we have to be aware of what is going on in every possession. With that kind of defense, it does wear on you after a while if you are not used to it."



Brooklyn Baptista



Rachel Gore

Brooklyn Baptista's 3-pointer to open scoring in the second half established Ross' only lead. Central Catholic (1-1, 1-0) led 35-29 after three quarters.

"In the third quarter, we picked it up defensively and we had a lot of stops," Vela said. "We couldn't find a rhythm offensively all night. If we find that balance with our defense, it would have been a closer game."

Ross, however, was scoreless for 7:49 before a bucket from Rachel Gore.

"We wanted to fix some of the defensive mistakes we had in the first half," Central Catholic coach Corri Stanley said. "We adjusted and did a good job of that."

Central Catholic made nine free throws in the final 2:45.

Ross trailed 15-10 after one quarter.

"We were looking to put some pressure on and make the tempo of the game pretty quick," Stanley said. "We wanted to convert if we could get them to turn the ball over."

Baptista canned consecutive shots in the second quarter, including a 3-pointer.

"We were excited," Vela said. "For us to be tied at halftime against a very good Central Catholic team, we were confident. We made some adjustments and had to figure out how to get the lead."

Baptista scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Olivia Baptista added nine points and Marissa Overmyer six rebounds.

"The big question was could we handle a team's pressure," Vela said. "The next time around when we see them, it could be a different story."

Kate Ellis scored 15 points for Central Catholic.



Fremont Ross guard Olivia Baptista scored 22 points against Findlay. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Olivia Baptista leads Ross over Findlay

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Olivia Baptista scored 22 points Thursday as Fremont Ross topped visiting Findlay 53-46 in the Three Rivers Ath-

letic Conference.

The Little Giants (3-1, 1-1) led by three at the half and 37-24 after three quarters.

Brooklyn Baptista added 12 points for Ross.

Katie Thomas scored 17 points for Findlay.

Girls basketball

Lima Senior 63, Fremont Ross 48

Olivia Baptista scored 13 points Thursday in Ross' setback in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Jasannah Sabiers had 12 points and Marissa Overmyer eight for the Little Giants (3-2, 1-2).

Ross trailed 36-23 at the half.

Ross earns nonconference win over Port Clinton

Josh Morgret

Special to Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

The first quarter Thursday belonged to Brooklyn Baptista.

The second quarter belonged to her older sister, Olivia Baptista. The two combined for 21 points in the first half, leading Fremont Ross to a 52-17 non-league victory.

"The goal right after the holiday was just to be ready to play," Ross coach Juan Vela said. "Our girls were ready in practice and they were ready to play right from the get go.

"We played tough defense and our shots went in. We kind of just took control of the game."

Brooklyn Baptista scored 10 points in the first quarter as the Little Giants (6-2) established a 16-0 advantage.

"She means a lot to our team, and she meant a lot to us last year," Vela said of sophomore Brooklyn. "She has been in a bit of a shooting slump and she got out of it last game.

"She had a bit more confidence this game. When she was in control of the game, she shot good shots and made good decisions offensively."

The Redskins (1-9) missed nine shots and turned it over seven times in the first quarter.

"We got behind a lot and missed some shots," Redskins coach Toby Bickel said. "They are talented. They are a good basketball team. We did not play very well."

Olivia Baptista scored her 11 points for the game in succession in the second quarter, including three consecutive 3-pointers. The Little Giants led 31-2 at the half.

Port Clinton's Carli Laurel canned a 3 and scored twice while drawing fouls to score all her points in the third quarter. Ross led 44-9 entering the fourth.

The Redskins committed 17 turnovers, 12 in the first half.

"They are unforced errors where we just play at their mercy, instead of being aggressive offensively," Bickel said. "The kids competed in the second half. You can't dig yourself that big of a hole and expect to get anything done. We have to move forward."

Rachel Gore also had 11 points and Brooklyn Baptista added 10. Jasannah Sabiers had 11 rebounds and Marissa Overmyer and Molly Mies added eight apiece.



Ross guard Olivia Baptista looks to score against Marion Harding. PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Ross girls topple Marion Harding

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Girls basketball

Fremont Ross 46, Marion Harding 42

Brooklyn Baptista scored 15 points Monday in Ross' nonconference victory.

Olivia Baptista added 14 points for the Little Giants (8-3).

Ross trailed by one after one quarter and led 32-25 at the half. It led 38-36 after three quarters.



Ross guard Brooklyn Baptista tries to deliver a pass against Marion Harding.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Comeback falls short for Ross girls

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Girls basketball

Genoa 54, Toledo Woodward 8

Genoa earned a nonconference victory Monday at home.

Tiffin Columbian 73, Fremont Ross 68

Brooklyn Baptista scored 20 points in Ross' nonconference setback.

Rachel Gore added 19 points for the Little Giants (8-5).

Ross trailed 24-15 after one quarter and 43-21 at the half. It cut the margin to 56-45 after three quarters.

Kaia Woods had 31 points for Columbian.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP



Ross' Mikeaya McLaurin looks to turn the corner. PHOTOS BY DOUG HISE/SPECIAL TO NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross 58, Sandusky 55

Brooklyn Baptista scored 16 points Monday in Ross' nonconference victory over a rival.

Rachel Gore scored her 12 points in the second half and Mikeaya McLaurin added 10 points for the Little Giants.

Ross led 16-13 after one quarter and trailed 27-26 at the half. It led 43-36 after three quarters.

Marissa Esposito scored 27 points for Sandusky.

Toledo Bowsher 43, Clyde 39

Madison Bannister scored nine points in Clyde's nonconference setback.

The Fliers (7-10) trailed 10-8 after one quarter, 17-14 at the half and 29-27 after three quarters.

Bowsher is 10-4.



Ross' Brooklyn Baptista looks to pass.



Coach Juan Vela heads toward the bench as Ross celebrates a victory over Clay. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Roundup: Ross girls beat Clay in TRAC

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GIRLS BASKETBALL
Fremont Ross 39, Oregon Clay 36
Olivia Baptista scored 11 points Monday in Ross' Three Rivers Athletic Conference victory.

Brooklyn Baptista added 10 points for the Little Giants. Ross trailed 11-6 after one quarter and led 21-18 at the half. It trailed 28-27 after three quarters.
Rossford 39, Port Clinton 29
Carli Laurel scored 15 points, including eight in the fourth quarter in Port Clinton's nonconference victory.
The Redskins trailed 14-11 at the half and 25-21 after three quarters.



Ross' Rachel Gore looks to score against Clay. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT