

## 1983-1984 Season Review



ROSS GIRLS basketball team members are, front row, left to right, Shelly Leggett, Denise Wilkins, Michele Blue, Stephanie Saam, Lisa Smith, student manager Beth Yingling; back

row, Coach Sue Wolf, Sue Gahn, Diane Harms, Tina Michael, Katie Marritt, Lisa Luman, Kim Schutt and manager Kathy Shetzer.

## Ross girls at Bellevue Saturday

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Sue Wolf has the luxury of having the tallest Ross High School girls basketball team she will have coached but may other elements must fall into order to produce a good season.

"Some," Wolf began, "may think this is a rebuilding year for us with only three seniors, but it's not."

With that declaration, Wolf, the motivator in the Lady Giants' 13-8 record of last season, pointed out a few of her team's strong points and tempered those with some of the weaker.

Wolf's squad will open the season with a 1:30 p.m., Saturday game at Bellevue.

"We have four letter winners back—Katie Marritt, Tina Michael, Sue Gahn and Lisa Luman," the Ross coach began, "and defensively, we are good and aggressive. Hopefully we are strong inside with Tina and Diana Harms."

Michael and Harms are 5-foot-11 and six-foot, respectively. Added to that duo, Wolf can look at a 5-9, a pair of 5-8s and two 5-7 players.

Michael and Harms are the starting low post persons while Marritt will run the offense from the point with Gahn and Luman on the wings.

"Tina has been playing strong," Wolf said while recalling practices and scrimmages. "She goes to the basket much better this year. She would look first before she took off last year."

"Diane (Harms) has shown a lot of improvement in that she does not stand around and has been going for the inside position."

Michael and Harms must get the inside work done says Wolf but Marritt has to run the offense. "Katie ran the offense last year and we are really looking forward to her doing that again," Wolf said.

Wolf paused before talking about Gahn, a player she feels borders on stardom.

"Sue Gahn," she began, "if she plays with intensity and stays aggressive could be great. She has the potential to be."

Gahn was a starter as a sophomore last season and was the team's leading scorer, averaging a shade over 10 points per game.

The big problem facing Wolf is bench strength.

"The people coming off the bench are not good shooters," Wolf described. "When they come in, they will have to realize that their job is to take time off the clock by controlling the ball."

Backing up the starting five—Wolf feels she can go seven-deep right now with a possibility of eight as the season goes on—will be Michele Blue, a 5-11 junior and 5-5 junior Kim Schutt. Shelly Leggett, a 5-8 sophomore, could be the eighth player Wolf said, adding that she has shown promise.

A trio of juniors pushing the threesome are 5-8 Stephanie Saam, Denise Wilkins and Lisa Smith, both 5-7.

# **Bellevue edges Ross 56-51 in season opener**

BELLEVUE—Ross matched Bellevue point for point in the final three quarters Saturday of the opening girls high school basketball game but the Lady Redmen held a 13-8 advantage after the initial quarter to take a 56-51 victory.

Karen Lepley exploded for 14 of her 16 points in the second half to pace Bellevue to the win. She knocked in 11 points in the final eight minutes including five of seven free throws while the Lady Giants were playing catch-up.

"We came back a few times," Ross Coach Sue Wolf pointed out, "but Katie (Marritt) got into foul trouble and I had to set her down for a couple of minutes in the second quarter and we had three turnovers in that time."

Marritt scored 17 points and directed Ross's floor game before being saddled with her third foul midway through the second quarter.

"She did a very good job of running our offense," Wolf said about Marritt, a two-year letter winner.

Wendy Vogel added 13 points for Bellevue and Kim Ward added eight. Tina Michael also scored 17 point for Ross but only four Lady Giants got into the scoring column. Sue Gahn added 11.

Ross, after falling behind by the five-point margin at the end of the first quarter break, trailed 25-20 at the half and 43-38 heading into the final eight minutes.

"I played seven players," Wolf pointed out, "but lack of maturity hurt us. Still, I was happy with the performance. As the season goes along and we pick up maturity and experience, we should be okay."

Ross hit 20 of 58 shots from the floor (34 per cent) while Bellevue had 21 of 51 (41 per cent). Ross was 11 of 18 at the line and Bellevue 14 of 19.

Bellevue outrebounding the Lady Giants 31-30 but had 21 turnovers, three more than Ross.

In the junior varsity game, Bellevue shook off a 6-5 first quarter deficit for a 35-16 win. Jane Ruffing had 10 points to lead Bellevue and Olga Colon's six paced Ross.

# *Ross lady cagers end Huron streak*

HURON — For 73 regular season games in a row, the Huron girls basketball team wiped out everyone in its path.

But Tuesday night, it was the Ross Lady Little Giants clearing things out.

The Lady Giants, behind the scoring triumvirate of Tina Michael, Katie Marritt and Sue Gahn, ended Huron's 3½-year winning streak with a 55-44 triumph in a non-conference battle for both teams.

"It's about time someone ended that streak," kidded Ross Coach Sue Wolf. "It's kinda nice to be the ones to do it. But, at first, it didn't look like we were going to do it. We started out playing pretty sloppy."

Huron jumped out to a 15-7 lead after one quarter before Ross

began chipping away. The Lady Giants closed the gap to 25-22 at half-time before finally taking the lead 39-35 after three periods.

In the final quarter, Ross "made the big free throws when we needed them," according to Wolf, and hung on to beat the 1982 Class AA state champions.

Michael, Marritt and Gahn finished with 24, 14 and 11 points, respectively, to pace Ross. Michael scored 17 of her points in the second half while Marritt added 10 in the last two quarters. All three players combined to make six of six free throws in the fourth period.

Both clubs are now 1-1 on the season. Ross will play its home opener Thursday night against Toledo Whitney.

# Ross rolls to 2nd win

By BOB MARKER  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

It took four minutes to decide the issue Thursday in the Ross High School gym. By that time, Ross had rolled up a 15-0 lead and was shifting into overdrive while cruising to a 71-28 over Toledo Macomber in high school girls basketball win.

Before the first quarter ended, Ross, 2-1, had rolled up 21 straight unanswered points and held a 21-2 lead heading into the second eight minutes. The first points registered by the Mac-women was Anissa Barnett's lay-in seven minutes and 15 seconds into the contest.

"Well, everyone scored," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said as she searched for words to describe the Ross romp. "I like to get those other kids in there because I believe the bench makes the team and they work hard in practice and it's nice to get them in there."

Ross controlled the boards and any facet of the game it seemed to want in racing to the big early lead. Point guard Katie Marritt tossed in eight first quarter points, Sue Gahn added five and Tina Michael chipped in four.

By the time halftime rolled around, the Lady Giants held a 33-9 advantage and the only question remaining was how big the final a margin would be.

Wolf, after the game, however, pointed out that Macomber had overtaken Ross in last year's game and won with a shot at the buzzer. In that game, the Lady Giants led 36-18 lead with three minutes remaining in the third quarter only to turn stone cold and lose 46-45.

With three minutes remaining in the third period this year, Ross had a 42-13 lead and there was no doubt left.

The biggest lead of the game was the final 43-point margin.

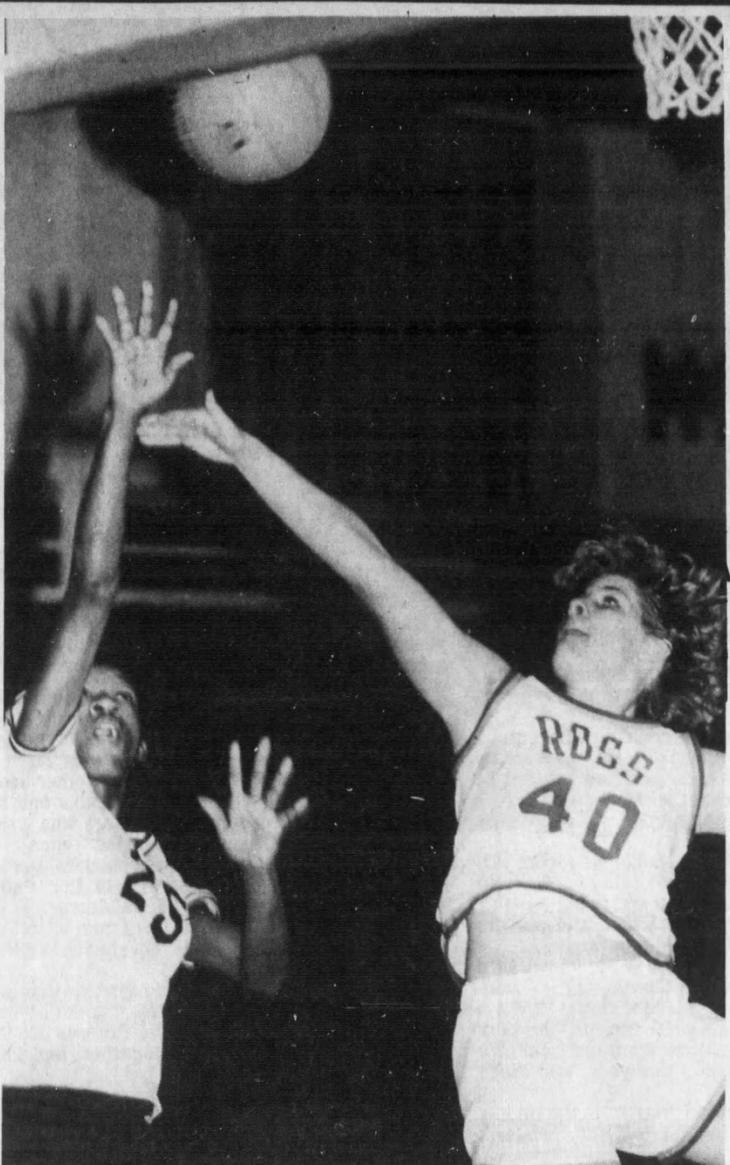
Marritt ended up with 14 points to lead 11 Ross scorers. Gahn added 13, Michael 10 and substitute Lisa Smith had eight.

Wolf was pleased with the way the "second team" produced.

"They had some good passes and they did a good job of looking for the open player," she explained. "There was no one being selfish."

Statistically, Ross hauled in 61 rebounds to Macomber's 35. The Lady Giants hit 31 of 65 shots and the Mac-women 12 of 58. Ross had 19 turnovers and Macomber 21.

The next outing for the Lady Giants is Dec. 6 when Perkins visits Fremont.



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

TINA MICHAEL (40) of Ross gets a hand in the face of Macomber's Yolanda Jordon during second-quarter action at Ross Thursday night.

Michael's effort proved to be successful, as Jordon missed this short jumper.

# Big finish lifts Ross to win over Perkins

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross started slowly but finished on a dead run while racking up win number three in four outings with a 60-44 demolition of Perkins in girls high school basketball at Ross Tuesday evening.

"We were standing around," Ross Coach Sue Wolf pointed out, "and in the lockerroom at halftime, I was not too nice."

The Lady Giants held a 17-6 lead at the end of the first eight minutes but Perkins, with Jill Grathwal tossing in a pair of buckets charged back to trail by a 26-21 count at the intermission.

"At halftime," Wolf disclosed, "I just told them they were not moving, they were not patient and they were not boxing out on the boards.

"The kids were trying to force the ball inside to Tina (Michael). They seemed to think that they could make one pass to the wing and then into her but it does not work like that, sometimes you have to come back out and reverse it. They were just not patient enough."

Michael, a 5-11 senior, pumped in 18 points, six in the final period.

Katie Marritt and Sue Gahn sank

three baskets apiece as Ross out-scored the Lady Panthers 16-10 in the third quarter. In the final quarter, Michel got help from Sue Gahn and Michel Blue, both tossing in a pair of buckets as the Lady Giants put the game away.

The biggest Ross lead was 22 points on two occasions in the final quarter.

The Lady Giants canned 26 of 50 shots from the floor and dominated the boards against the small Lady Pirates. Ross had 35 rebounds, 16 off the offensive boards, to Perkins' 18. Ross also dominated the turnover department with 23 to perkins' 15.

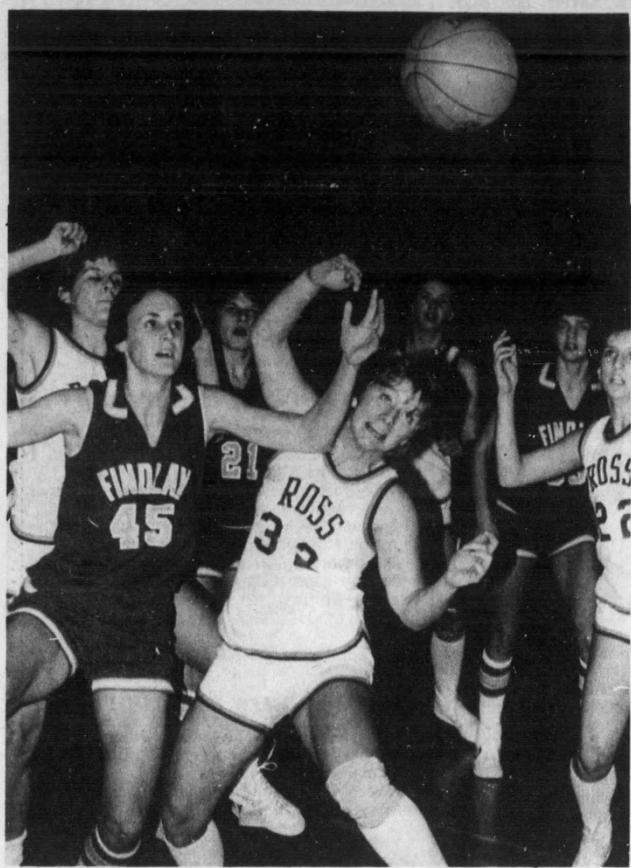
The game was a tuneup for the Buckeye Conference opener against Findlay Thursday at Ross.

"Findlay was scouting tonight," Wolf said and added, "I hope we scared them a little."

Perkins used a defensive ploy that Wolf said she expects from Findlay.

"They (Perkins) used a 1-3-1 most of the time but would slide into a 2-3; that's what we expect Findlay to do," the Ross coach said.

Gahn scored 14 and Marritt 12 to back up Michael's scoring against Perkins. Jill Grathwal had 15 and Val Pruitt a dozen for the Lady Pirates.



SUE GAHN (32) of Ross takes an elbow in the neck from Findlay's Julie Yingling while going for a rebound.

during first half action Thursday at Ross High School. The ball went out-of-bounds.

## Findlay topples Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor  
The only thing Ross girls basketball Coach Sue Wolf could be thankful Thursday night was that a 65-55 loss by her team to Findlay was not a Buckeye Conference game.

"It was nice because of that," Wolf said after her team had dropped to 3-2 for the season and watched the Lady Trojans climb to 4-1.

Ross never led in the contest and threatened only mildly late in the fourth quarter before submitting.

Sophomore Sarah Edelbrook, a six-footer, hit from in close 10 seconds into the contest and Findlay was ahead for the rest of the way. The inside scoring punch game, a facet that Wolf had hoped her team would use to knock off the Lady Trojans, instead hurt Ross the whole game.

"Defensively, we did not play well," she pointed out. "We stood around and when they got the ball inside, we did not collapse on them."

On the other hand, Wolf's Lady Giants did not go inside and that irked the Ross Coach.

"I even introduced Tina (Michael, Ross's 5-11 center) to them at one point," she admitted. "I told them this is Tina...she's the blond that plays on your team."

Continuing, Wolf explained, "I felt

that we could get their whole starting lineup in foul trouble if we went inside to Tina. When we did, she either got a shot or was fouled. I wanted to go inside to loosen up the outside because they would collapse on Tina on the inside. As it was, we threw up too many long shots instead of setting up to get them from in closer."

Michael dropped in 18 points to top Ross but Susan Deeds scoring from within the eight-foot range numerous times led Findlay with 20. Gina Strahm, a 5-6 guard, had 13 and Cindy Yeager added 11 for the Lady Trojans.

Trailing 61-51 with 1:15 to play, Ross made a mild charge, cutting the Findlay lead to 61-55 with 36 seconds remaining on a bucket by Sue Gahn and another by Michael on a rebound. That was it. Edelbrook hit a short shot and Strahm put Findlay's lead back to 10 with less than 20 seconds to play.

Findlay hit a torrid 26 of 49 from the field while Ross was 20 of 50. The Lady Giants had 26 rebounds, two more than Findlay.

Gahn ended up with 16 and Katie Marratt added 14 for Ross.

Ross will host Toledo Woodward, the team that defeated Findlay, Monday. The junior varsity team begins at 6 p.m.

# Ross

## wins

### No. 4

Fremont Ross survived a rough and tumble contest to win its fourth game in six outings, downing Toledo Woodward 58-42 Monday in girls basketball.

"It was a very physical game," Ross Coach Sue Wolf agreed.

There were only 35 fouls, 21 on Woodward, called in the game but Wolf hinted that there could have been more.

"You know," Wolf said, "I would almost have to say that their press hurt us but if the fouls had been called, I don't think it would have."

The Lady Giants led at every quarter stop and survived a mild surge by Woodward midway through the third quarter.

Trailing 33-21, Woodward rallied on the strength of Lisa Lambert's play to draw within a 33-27 deficit. But Ross, with Katie Marritt and Sue Gahn leading, rolled to a 39-28 lead at the end of the quarter.

"That 35 (Lambert) is a heck of a player," Wolf praised but added, "Sue Gahn played an excellent game for us. She powered the ball toward the basket and rebounded very well.

Gahn ended up with 17 points and nine rebounds for Ross.

The Lady Giants put the game away midway through the final quarter, bolting to a 49-34 lead. The final bucket in that run came when Marritt broke the Woodward press and fired a pass to teammate Lisa Luman on the left baseline. Luman shot a bounce pass to Tina Michael for a layup and the wind blew out of Woodward's sails.

Michael ended up with 14 points and nine rebounds while Marritt had 15 points.

Ross will travel to Port Clinton Thursday to play the Lady Redskins. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

The Ross Lady Little Giants held Port Clinton to just four points in the second half on their way to an easy 47-21 rout of the Lady Redskins in a non-conference breather at Port Clinton Thursday night.

In other area action last night, St. Joe was nipped by St. Mary's 40-39, Bellevue beat Clyde 60-54, Oak Harbor downed Woodmore 55-46, Gibsonburg defeated Genoa 44-38, Lakota topped Elmwood 41-30 and Tiffin Calvert drilled Old Fort 39-18.

At Port Clinton, Ross led 26-17 at half-time and then made sure Port Clinton wouldn't come back by blanking the Lady Redskins 12-0 in the third period and outscoring them 9-4 in the final stanza.

Ross's stingy defense forced PC to make just nine of 60 shots for a dismal 15-percent effort.

On the offensive end, Sue Gahn led the way for the winners with 22 points while Katie Marritt added 10. The Lady Giants played without injured center Tina Michael, who may not be ready for Saturday's 6 p.m. game at Tiffin Columbian but is expected to go Wednesday at Toledo Central Catholic.

Ross is now 5-2 while PC slipped to 1-4.

# ***Marritt, Gahn lift lady cagers past Columbian***

TIFFIN—Katie Marritt scored 28 points and Sue Gahn 20 as Ross defeated Tiffin Columbian 55-46 Saturday in a girls high school basketball game.

"Katie played super," Ross Coach Sue Wolf exclaimed, "she kept us in the game in the first half and then Sue came back strong in the second half; actually, I felt everyone played well in the second half."

The Lady Giants trailed 23-22 at the end of the first 16 minutes. Marritt, from her point guard spot, scored six in the first quarter and nine in the second.

Gahn, a junior, warmed up in the third quarter, scoring 10 points as the Lady Giants out-scored the Tornadoes 14-9 to take a 36-32 lead into the final quarter.

Gahn dropped in five in the last period and Marritt scored nine more.

"We got good performances from Stephanie Saam and Denise Wilkins," Wolf pointed out. "They came in and played well when we got into a little foul trouble."

The only facet of the game that did not please the Ross coach was rebounding as her team lost that statistic 28-24.

Ross has been playing without the services of 5-11 Tina Michael who led the team in rebounding in the first five games of the season. In practice last Tuesday, she came down with an ankle injury. She is to have an examination today to determine the extent of the injury.

Ross hit 21 of 49 shots against Columbian. The Lady Giants, 6-2, sank 13 of 25 free throws. Columbian was 20 of 51 but only six of 19 from the charity stripe.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won its second game in seven tries, defeating Columbian 31-27. Nine Ross players scored with Chris Yeager and Lisa Smith leading the group with seven points apiece.

# Lady Giants bombed by TCC

TOLEDO—Sue Wolf minced no words when talking about Toledo Central Catholic.

"They killed us on the boards," the Ross girls basketball coach said after her team was drilled by the Lady Irish 56-23.

Central, 7-2, outscored the Lady Giants, 6-3, 40-16 in the second half after holding a 16-7 halftime edge.

"We just did not get many shots off either," Wolf pointed out, "but it was their offensive rebounds, especially in the third quarter, that killed us."

Ross sank just nine of 29 shots and only three Lady Giants scored. Katie Marritt, who had 28 points in Ross's 55-46 win over Columbian Saturday, did not get a point.

Sue Gahn had 13 and Tina Michael, after missing two games because of an ankle injury, dropped in nine.

In the third period, Central, with Martha Kondalski scoring six, Mary Sullivan and Gretchen Kraus four each, outscored Ross 22-8.

"Their pressure defense," Wolf

explained, "took us out of our offense. We would beat the press but never get into our offense when we got downcourt."

Peggy Holmes paced Central to the runaway win with 14 points while Kraus ended up with 11.

Central hit 21 of 54 shots and outrebounded Ross 30-19. Ross had 27 turnovers, three more than Central. The Lady Irish canned 14 of 17 free throws and Ross, five of 15.

The next outing for Wolf's team is Dec. 29 when Clyde visits Fremont.



SUE GAHN (32) of Ross gets set to pass off while watching Cristy Mossholder of Clyde soar above her during second quarter action Thursday at Ross High School.

## Ross rocks Clyde 67-31 for 7th victory

Nine of 11 Fremont Ross players scored as the Lady Giants dominated Clyde for a 67-31 high school girls basketball win Thursday at Ross High School.

Sue Gahn scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace Ross. Tina Michael added 16 points and hauled down six rebounds as the Lady Giants held a 40-26 edge in rebounding.

Ross, 7-3, pressed the majority of the game but Clyde Coach Doug Ottney said defense was not the main problem for his Lady Flyers, 3-3.

"The press was not so bad," Ottney contended, "but it was the 3-2 zone after we got downcourt. We could not get the ball inside."

Michael, 5-11, was the point player on the Ross zone and her size forced the shorter Clyde players to pass off to the wings. Clyde, unable to hit from the outside, could not go inside because Ross was able to sag and clog up the middle.

"That is our normal alignment in that zone," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said.

The Lady Giants scored the first six points of the game and rolled out to a 17-6 first quarter lead. Michael scored seven and Gahn four in the first quarter pullaway.

By halftime, Ross had a 32-14 lead. An 18-8 third quarter put the game on ice for Ross.

"Gahn played a good game," Wolf

pointed out, "and the whole bench played well for us."

Michele Blue and Shelly Leggett were Wolf's first two subs with Blue helping point guard Katie Marritt direct the Ross attack. The duo accounted for 11 points while Leggett, a sophomore, tossed in six.

Denise Wilkens, came in the second quarter for starter Diane Harms and scored four points for the Lady Giants. In the final period, Harms was forced out of the game with a possible broken finger.

Gahn, after scoring eight in the first half, got four more in the third quarter and topped the evening off with nine final quarter points.

Clyde was led by Sam Berlekamp's eight and seven by Lois Collins.

In the junior varsity game, Chris Yeager's basket with 15 seconds remaining tied the game at 21-21 for Ross and sent it into overtime where the Lady Giants outscored Clyde 5-3 for a 26-24 win. The Ross JV's are now 4-6.

Oiga Colon scored three points with Lora Almaguer and Stephanie Saam adding free throws in the extra session for Ross. Brenda Kline led Ross with seven points while Kim Schutt and Yeager added four apiece. The next outing for Ross will be Jan. 5 when Buckeye Conference power Admiral King visits Fremont.



IT'S MINE! Cristy Mossholder of Clyde attempts to pull the ball away from Denise Wilkens of Ross. Shelly Leggett (44) of Ross attempts to help while Tina Michael (40) watches.



KATIE MARRITT of Ross gets off a jump shot while in the middle of three Admiral King players Thursday at Ross High School. The Admiral King players are Melanie Collins (34), Cheryl Pearce (10) and Jackie Lewis. Marritt scored on the play in the fourth quarter.

(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

## Buckeye Conference opener

# King holds off Ross 61-52 for ninth win

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Admiral King picked up its ninth win without a defeat, struggling past Fremont Ross 61-52 in the Buckeye Conference girls basketball opener for both teams Thursday in the Ross High School gym.

The Lady Giants, 7-4, fell behind by a 6-2 count but rallied by commanding the boards and the scoring of Sue Gahn and Tina Michael to take a 9-8 lead with 1:50 remaining in the first quarter. The Gahn-Michael duo accounted for 14 points as Ross took a 16-10 lead at the end of the period.

"We were spreading our offense out pretty good in the first half," Ross Coach Sue Wolf explained, "but we missed some easy shots."

Wolf had to agree that her team came out of the first half in good shape despite being down 31-27. Ross survived 10 first quarter turnovers and 13 more in the second eight minutes.

Wolf, however, pointed out another glaring statistic—Ross made only 12 of 26 free throws in the game.

"That," she said, "and we made too many mental errors at times when it was important."

The Lady Giants, despite turning the ball over several times against the Admiral King press,

played well in spurts but the spurts came after the Lady Admirals, with Jackie Lewis scoring 20 points and Melanie Collins 12, had built up leads in excess of 10 points.

In the third quarter, King ran out to a 39-27 lead, the biggest lead of the game, before Ross closed it to 42-36 with three minutes remaining in the third period. By the quarter's end, King led 50-38 as Collins scored nine points, six after Ross had made it 44-38.

Another Ross spurt closed its deficit to eight, 55-47, with three minutes remaining in the game but a basket by Lewis, two free throws by Cheryl Bansuk and Collins' rebound bucket put the game out of reach for Ross.

"I don't think the press hurt us that much," Wolf contended, "we just had those mental errors."

"King lives and dies by the press....they are a good ball club."

Ghan led Ross with 17 points, two more than Michael.

The Lady Giants had a 39-37 advantage in rebounding after holding a 23-15 edge at the half. King hit 25 of 62 shots and Ross 20 of 49. The Lady Admirals were 11 of 22 at the line.

Ross had 33 turnovers to King's 25.

## Missed free throws cost Ross 39-36

The Ross girls basketball team missed the front ends seven one-and-one situations in the final quarter in falling 39-36 at Marion Harding Thursday evening.

In other area girls basketball action last night, St. Joe topped Port Clinton 62-50, Perkins handled Clyde 44-35, Eastwood romped past Gibsonburg 69-43, Otsego slipped past Woodmore 56-52, Lakota erased Genoa 70-31, Elmwood downed Oak Harbor 53-35 and Vanlue crunched Old Fort 56-31.

At Marion, Ross took a 19-16 lead into the third quarter before it's cold spell began. The Lady Little Giants scored just three points in the third period to fall behind 24-22 and then they came up with their dismal free-throw shooting display in the final period to stay behind.

The Lady Giants ended up making just 12 of 38 field goals (32 percent) and 12 of 25 free throws (48 percent). Tina Michael was the lone Ross player to hit double figures with 11 points.

Ross dipped 7-5 overall and 0-2 in the Buckeye Conference while Marion moved to 6-5, 1-1.

respectively. Reardon also pulled down 19 rebounds and blocked four shots for the winners.

Amy Drummer paced PC with 19 points.

The win evened St. Joe's overall record at 5-5 and moved its SBC mark to 2-3, with both victories coming over this same Lady Redskin unit. PC is now 2-7, 1-4.

Perkins ..... 44

Clyde ..... 35

Clyde, smarting from an upset loss to Port Clinton two nights before, hung tough with SBC-leader Perkins before falling at home.

The Lady Fliers trailed by just eight, 23-15, at halftime, but never could mount a charge to get back into the game.

Only four players scored for the Lady Pirates, but three were in double figures — Val Pruitt with 17, Tracy Demore with 12 and Jill Grathwol with 10.

Lois Collins was the only Clyde player to hit double numbers with 13 points.

Perkins moved to 7-3 overall and 4-0

the way for the Lady Eagles with 22 points and Jodi Juergens added 17. Eastwood is now 8-0 overall and 6-0 in the Suburban Lakes League.

For Gibsonburg, now 4-4, 3-3, Jonnie Phillips had 14 points and Corinne Schaeffer 11. Phillips also grabbed 13 rebounds as did Traci Binsack.

Otsego ..... 56

Woodmore ..... 52

The Woodmore Lady Wildcats flat out blew their game with Otsego at the foul line, missing a whopping 17 chances in the final period alone at Woodmore.

With 3:40 left in the game, the Lady 'Cats were up by six points, but their errant foul shooting cost them their eighth loss in 11 games overall and sixth in seven SLL contests.

For the game, Woodmore made just six of 27 charity tosses.

Meanwhile, Otsego made 16 of 25 free throws to pick up its third win in 11 games and second in seven league encounters.

Dawn DuBois and Renee Leck led the winners with 21 and 20 points, respectively, while Lori Kuhlman and

Genoa.

The Lady Raiders, now 9-1 overall and 5-1 in the SLL, had leads of 13-3 after one quarter, 34-13 after two quarters and 55-23 after three quarters.

Amy Gabel scored 20 points and Rhonda Slick added 14 for Lakota.

Genoa, which had nobody in double figures, fell to 1-11, 0-7.

Elmwood ..... 53

Oak Harbor ..... 35

A dismal 22-percent (16 of 72) effort from the field didn't help the Lady Rockets' cause against Elmwood in another SLL battle in Oak Harbor.

The hosts' poor shooting caused them to drop to 5-5 overall and 3-3 in the SLL while Elmwood moved to 5-4, 4-2.

Angel Alligire led Elmwood with 14 points while Kelly Kretz and Jill Noble each had 10 for OH.

Vanlue ..... 56

Old Fort ..... 31

Vanlue's one-girl scoring show, Kathy Lee, pumped in 36 points to pace the Lady Wildcats past Old Fort

# Ross learns lesson, then bombs Lorain

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Sue Wolf taught her Fremont Ross girls basketball team a "foul" lesson Friday after her team had absorbed a 39-36 loss at Marion and she reaped the fruits of that task Thursday at Ross High School.

The Lady Giants, 8-5, bowled over Lorain 71-35 in a Buckeye Conference game, canning 21 of 30 free throws. At Marion seven days earlier, Ross made just 12 of 25, missing the front ends of seven one-and-one situations in the final quarter.

"We had a one-and-one drill after the Marion game," Wolf explained, "and it was run a lap or more if they missed in certain situations. We had a lot of people running laps out here."

Against Lorain, the Lady Giants were afforded the comfort of not having to make the free throws, instead outgoaling the Lorain squad 25-12. Ross made 25 of 55 shots while Lorain had 12 of 50.

Wolf, while happy over the improvement with the free throw accuracy, called the victory a "return to basics" for her team.

"We have not been playing well lately," she began. "We have been getting too fancy. Before the game, I told them we were going back to fundamentals so I guess you would have to call this game a return to basics."

Ross's big three—Katie Marritt, Tina Michael and Sue Gahn—led Ross in what Wolf termed as the trio's best game together. Michael tossed in 18 points with Marritt added 16 and Gahn 14. Ross also picked up eight points from Shelly Leggett and Michele Blue came off the bench to add six.

Ross jumped out to a 23-10 first quarter lead and never looked back. By halftime, the lead had mounted to 35-17. An 18-9 Ross scoring edge in the third period iced the contest.

Kim Flores paced Lorain with eight points.

# Ross blows lead, loses to Findlay

FINDLAY—Findlay took the inside route to wipe out a six-point deficit in the second half and hand Ross a 63-57 defeat in a Buckeye Conference girls basketball game Thursday.

The Lady Giants held a 33-27 halftime lead before the Lady Trojans used the scoring punch of six-foot sophomore Sarah Edelbrock and Susan Deeds to pull ahead. Deeds ended up with 24 points while Edelbrock had 20. The two combined for 23 of Findlay's 36 second half points.

"They began to get the ball inside to Edelbrock," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said, "that's when their height hurt us. Then, in the final quarter, our foul shooting cost us; we were missing them and they were making them."

Findlay also put a "box and one" defense on Ross point guard Katie Marritt in the second half. Marritt scored eight points in a balanced first half scoring attack for the Lady Giants and also controlled the Ross offense.

Tina Michael and Sue Gahn scored

nine and eight points, respectively, in the first half, but had their problems in the second half. Michael added four more and Gahn hit seven, all in the final period.

Marritt added 13 in the second half despite the special defense on her.

"We did not have anyone else pick up the scoring slack," Wolf said.

Ross held an 18-15 lead at the end of the first quarter. At the beginning of the final eight minutes, it was deadlocked at 43.

Marritt ended up with 21 points to top Ross.

The Lady Giants were 20 of 54 from the floor and 17 of 27 at the line. In the final period, Ross was 10 of 16 at the line but missed the front end of four "one-and-one" situations.

Findlay hit 24 of 52 shots and 15 of 30 free throws.

Monday, Ross will host Sylvania Northview in a game postponed from Jan. 9. Also, The Oregon Clay at Ross game slated for Jan. 24 but canceled because of bad weather has been rescheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4.

## ***Ross fells Sandusky***

**SANDUSKY**—Sue Gahn scored 18 points in the first half as Ross rolled up a 35-14 lead while coasting to a 53-38 girls high school basketball win over Sandusky Thursday.

Gahn finished with 20 points with her only second half points coming in the final quarter.

“The score looks nice,” Ross Coach Sue Wolf said but pointed out, “we really did not play a good game.”

Gahn, a 5-9 junior, was the only Ross player in double figures. Now 9-6, the Lady Giants hit 19 of 42 shots and survived 20 turnovers.

“Shelly Leggett and Michele Blue played good games coming off the bench,” Wolf praised. Leggett, a sophomore, had nine points and Blue, a junior, five.

In the junior varsity game, Sandusky won 31-22.

Saturday, Ross will host Oregon Clay at 1 p.m.

# Ross breaks Clay girls 59-29

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Fremont Ross cruised to a 59-29 high school girls basketball victory over Clay Saturday at Ross High School.

The win, the 10th in 16 games for Coach Sue Wolf's team, was lopsided but not all that smooth according to the coach.

"I am still not satisfied with our execution," she explained after the game. "I get picked on for yelling at my kids when we are ahead but I want them to execute even though we have a big lead."

"It's coming down to tournament time and they are going to have to be executing their plays well consistently."

Wolf was not happy with the way her team played in the third quarter, feeling that her Lady Giants could have stretched an 18-point lead further than the 26-point margin they had at the end of the quarter.

"I don't think there is any killer in-

stinct there," she said "and that is because we were not executing."

Ross may not have been executing up to its coach's demands but it was Clay that was thoroughly executed during this rare afternoon game. The contest had been postponed from Jan. 24 because of bad weather.

Sue Gahn and Tina Michael led Ross to a 22-6 lead after one quarter and that was about it for the Lady Eagles. Clay did make a mild charge in the third quarter, closing to within 32-20 but the effort died when Katie Marritt and Gahn opened fire.

Gahn, who finished with 15, had nine and Michael, still not moving as well as she did earlier in the season according to Wolf, had all eight of her points in the first period to give Ross a big cushion.

By halftime, Ross had a comfortable 32-14 advantage. At the end of three quarters, it was 51-25. Marritt had eight and Gahn five in the third quarter.

Wolf explained that she used the game as an experiment with her bench.

"At Sandusky (A 52-38 Ross win Thursday), I would put kids in and they did not know what was going on; they would not be in the flow of the game. Today, when I put in a sub, they knew what was happening."

Marritt finished with 22 points to lead Ross. Kelly Flanagan and Beth Dayton had 10 points apiece for Clay, 8-8.

Gahn had 11 rebounds and Michael 10 as Ross held a 41-30 lead in that department. In shooting, Ross was 21 of 49 and Clay 9 of 35.

Clay turned the ball over 31 times, 13 more than Ross.

The Lady Giants will travel to Fostoria Tuesday.

In the junior varsity game, Ross lost 21-20 when Chris Mohon sank a free throw with not time left on the clock. Chris Yeager led Ross with nine points including two free throws with under 20 seconds to play to tie the contest at 20.

# Lady Giants manage to win despite 'bad' performance

FOSTORIA — The Ross Lady Little Giants "played as bad as we have all season," according to their coach, but were still able to pull out a 41-39 decision over the Fostoria Lady Redmen here Tuesday night.

Coach Sue Wolf said, "We played terrible, but we still won. I hope we got our bad game out of the way now that the tournament is coming up."

Fostoria, which has won just four of 16 games this season, was able to stay with Ross, now 11-6, for the first half. The Lady Redmen trailed by

just two points, 20-18, at that point.

Ross opened things up a bit in the third period, taking a 32-24 lead, before holding off Fostoria's last-quarter upset bid.

Sue Gahn led the way for the winners with 18 points and seven rebounds. Tina Michael added 10 points and six rebounds.

Francine Kimble paced Fostoria with 14 points.

Ross will play again Thursday at home against Buckeye Conference foe Elyria.

# Elyria nips Ross by 1

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

There was no mystery for Sue Wolf about why Elyria edged her Ross High School girls basketball team 57-56 Thursday in a Buckeye Conference game.

"The game was there for whoever wanted it," Wolf said tersely, "and they (Elyria) wanted it more."

The victory for Elyria, 12-7, nailed down third in the conference with a 3-2 mark. The Lady Pioneers have Findlay remaining to close out the season and conference slate. Ross dropped to 11-7 with the loss ending a three-game winning streak and finalized the Lady Giants conference schedule at 2-4.

The lead changed hands more than 20 times throughout the game with Elyria's 47-42 lead late in the third quarter 53-48, with 5:14 remaining in the game the largest for either team. After Elyria had opened up its second five-point spread, the Lady Pioneers fell behind 54-53 when Ross's Michele Blue and Sue Gahn hit a free throw apiece, Gahn canned a rebound shot and Katie Marritt scored from the top of the circle with 1:44 to play.

Elyria took the lead again on a pair of free throws by Tina Lawrence, the last one on a substitute toss after a Lady Giant had jumped into the lane prematurely. That free throw turned out to be the margin of victory.

Lawrence followed with a basket after a Ross turnover to give the Lady Pioneers their final points and a 57-54 lead with 21 seconds remaining. Sophomore Shelly Leggett's layup with 10 seconds left narrowed it to one but that was the game. Marritt's shot from halfcourt was off the backboard and a fraction of second after the final buzzer.

"We stood around and watched the game go by," Wolf said while finding very little good to say about her team's play. "The only person hustling out there was Leggett. She hustled the whole night."

"It's a very disappointing loss because we stood around and got outhuslited," the Ross coach continued. "Rebounding, we waited for the ball to come to us and they slid in ahead of us."

Elyria pulled down 20 offensive rebounds out of total of 36. Ross had 43 rebounds including 16 off the offensive boards. Ross was 24 of 56 from the floor and Elyria 21 of 57. Ross had 25 turnovers and Elyria 21.

Wolf was unhappy with the officiating but added, "We still should have won the game."

Becky Rorrer, a six-foot senior, burned Ross for 22 points including several off offensive rebounds. Lawrence added 12 and Ann Gilbert had 11. Marritt and Tina Michael had 16 apiece and Gahn 13 for Ross. Leggett finished with eight.

Ross closes out the regular season Tuesday, hosting Sandusky.

# Ross roars past Sandusky in regular-season finale

By BOB MARKER  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross sank 22 of 39 shots while methodically defeating Sandusky 50-26 in a girls high school basketball game at Ross High School Tuesday.

The win topped off the Lady Giants regular season at 12-7. Sandusky finished 8-12.

"It was a good game to get ready for the tournament," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said after watching her three seniors—Katie Marritt, Tina Michael and Lisa Luman—perform for the final time on the home court. "Sandusky puts a lot of pressure on the ball and that may be what we face in the tournament."

The Lady Giants will play Ashland at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 20, at Ontario High School.

The Ross coach said that a decision would be made Thursday whether 6-foot junior Diane Harms would be able to play. She has missed the last six weeks because of a broken finger.

Tuesday, both Ross and Sandusky started slowly...very slowly. The Lady Giants, with all six points coming from Marritt, held a 6-3 lead after the first eight minutes.

"We were disguising our offense," Wolf laughed. "We did not want the people scouting us to see how we ran our offense; we wanted to fake them out."

Instead, the Ross disguise nearly lulled everyone to sleep, especially the Sandusky offense which slumbered the whole game. Ross woke up in time to post the biggest lead of the game, 49-19, late in the final period.

In the second quarter, Ross hit six of nine shots while Sandusky missed 17 of 22, to take a 23-11 lead into the halftime break. The third quarter, according to Wolf was the key.

"We came out in the third quarter and played like we wanted to win the ball game," she said. "We played better overall in the second half."

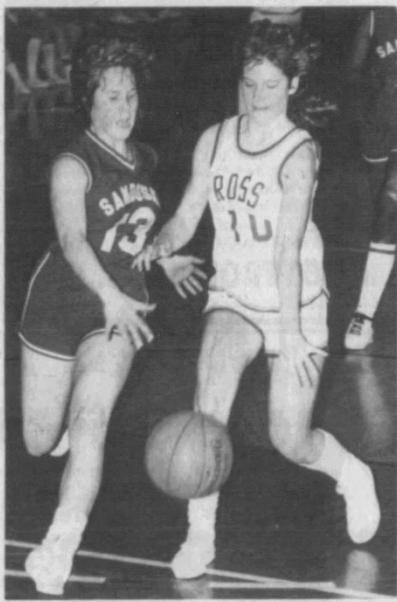
Wolf used the final regular season game to bring up several players off her junior varsity team. She pointed out that she liked what she saw in the play of Lori Smith and Jody Schling. "I also thought Denise Wilkens did a nice job off the bench," Wolf said about her 5-7 junior who has started a couple of games this season.

Marritt finished with 18 points while Michael had nine. Luman got a pass from Marritt on a fourth quarter fast break to record her only points in her final home game.

Sue Gahn had 10 points, also for Ross. Anita Smoot had 11 for Sandusky.

The Lady Giants controlled the boards, outrebounding Sandusky 38-29 with Shelley Leggett getting nine and Michael eight. The Sandusky press helped force Ross into 26 turnovers, 13 more than the Lady Blue Streaks.

Sandusky made only 10 of 73 shots.



(N-M photo by Bob Marker)  
MICHELE BLUE (10) of Ross goes after a loose ball with Sandusky's Mary Sue Anglin during Tuesday night's game at Ross High School.

## ***3 Ross girls All-BC***

Katie Marritt made the second team and Tina Michael and Sue Gahn the third team to represent Ross on the All-Buckeye Conference girls basketball team for 1983-84.

Regular-season champion Admiral King and runnerup Findlay led the first unit with two players each. Admiral King had senior Jackie Lewis and junior Melanie Collins on the top team while Findlay had seniors Julie Yingling and Susan Deeds. The final first-teamer was Elyria senior Becky Rorrer.

Yingling was tabbed as player of the year while Admiral King Coach Paul Biber earned coach of the year honors.

Marritt, a senior, was joined on the second unit by King junior Altheda Suggs, Lorain senior Linda Mattish, Sandusky junior Monica Pearson and Marion senior Angel Miller.

Meanwhile, on the third unit along with Michael, a senior, and Gahn, a junior, was Findlay sophomore Sarah Edelbrook, Marion senior Shelly Rife and Sandusky senior Anita Smoot.

Sophomore Shelly Leggett of Ross earned honorable mention.

Marritt won the MVP trophy for the girls team. Coach Sue Wolf also presented Marritt, a three-year starter, with the best defensive player and captain trophies. The MVP for the junior varsity went to Chris Yeager, a sophomore.

Tina Michael, senior, took home two girls awards, winning the best foul shooter (70 per cent) and rebounding leader trophies to go along with a captain's trophy. The most improved honor went to sophomore Shelly Leggett.



**GIRLS SPECIAL** award winners were, front row, left to right, Katie Marritt and Tina Michael and back row, Shelly Leggett and Chris Yeager.