

1981-1982 Season Review

Sawyer came from state tournament to Fremont

John Sawyer took Kinsman Badger into the Class A state basketball tournament last season and then decided to come to Ross High School, a place that is, well, not known for its basketball prowess.

Why?

"I think every high school coach wants to eventually get into a triple-A school," he said while shrugging off the Ross notoriety for winning on the football field but rolling over and doing little on the hardwood.

"Ross is one of the two schools that I applied for (a basketball coaching job) he said. "The other was Canton-McKinley. I know the principal there and he would have taken me but he said I needed triple-A experience."

So, Ross wound up with a coach that has big credentials and a feeling that he knows what's wrong at Ross.

"It's a pretty depressing state," said while referring to the Ross hardwood tradition for losing and the fact that the failure of the recent levy may cause the suspension of the Ross athletic

program in the 1982 school year.

"The tradition has been bad," he said, "but I still think it can be turned around. Basketball players here don't know how to win."

"A couple of years ago

Ross had a winning season

but all those guys graduated. The underclassmen did not get any experience and did not benefit from it (winning season, a 14-9 mark under former Coach Bill Paeth.)"

Last year Ross was 2-19.

Paeth's last before

resigning to teach and

raise some time with

family. Sawyer has

inherited three letterman

from last year's squad:

Tony Gant, Craig Daniels

and Dave Miller. Gant

started all 21 games;

Daniels was a spot starter

and Miller came off the

bench.

Sawyer says that this

season, especially at

practice, will be fun for

the Little Giants.

"We have to work hard

in practice," he said,

"because the only way we

want to have fun is win-

ning; there is no fun in

losing."

Hard work is Sawyer's key to letting his team become a fun loving crowd.

The new coach admits that building up his squad's confidence (this by winning) and getting them thoroughly drilled in fundamentals are his biggest problems.

Sawyer lists 12 players on the varsity but two of the dozen are also listed as junior varsity players. That's part of what he pointed out as "role players" as some of his Ross Little Giants team.

"Some of them are going to be basically practice players," he said. "We have eight seniors and normally, that is more than I keep."

Sawyer will be using a 1-

2-2 defensive setup and will

try to run. Defensively, he

would like to press but

feels that he may not have

enough speed for that

defense.

Ross will open against

Devillbiss Wednesday

and Sawyer has his starting

team set with Gant, Miller,

Matt Collins, Dave

Aschenbach and Daniels in

the lineup. Gant is 6-1,

Miller 6-4, Collins 6-3 and

Daniels 5-11.

Coming off the bench a football injury but the varsity roster. Polk, a 6-2 junior, will be playing 1, and Charles Benson, 5-9, somewhere into the season, mostly junior varsity ball.

Along with John Sachs, 6-3, he could become a starter. Sawyer feels that junior, is recovering from and Tom Polk round out confidence in the roundball

program is winning. He has set what many could consider a modest goal for this season.

"Eight wins," he said. "That's the goal that I

have set. Eight wins plus one in the tournament plus Devillbiss will be first for Ross with Fostoria coming into Fremont three days later.



ROSS LITTLE GIANTS 1981-82 basketball team. Front row, left to right: William Johnson, Charles Benson, John Sachs, Matt

Collins, Eric Bates, Craig Daniels, assistant Coach Dennis Holmes; back row: Willie Martin, Dave Aschenbach, Tom Polk, Brian

Farr, Dave Miller, Tony Gant and head Coach John Sawyer.

Ross loses 58-51

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

DeVilbiss threatened to blow Ross out of its own gym Wednesday in the season opening basketball game for both schools but the Little Giants pulled down the sails and made a game of it before dropping a 58-51 decision.

The loss spoiled the Ross debut of Coach John Sawyer.

Ross trailed 36-21 at the half but with Craig Daniels canning four of four from the field to go with a field goal, the Little Giants outscored the Tigers 15-6 in the third period to cut the DeVilbiss lead to 42-36.

The Little Giants could get no closer than a half dozen in the final period but trailed by that margin with less than a minute to play.

Daniels ended up with a Ross high of 17 while Tony Gant knocked in 13. The Tigers were paced by Michael Richards with 19, Jerry Moore's 13 and 10 by Rory Calhoun. Moore's last two points, a stuff, ended the scoring for DeVilbiss.

"I did not think we played that badly in the first half," said Sawyer. "We gave them a couple of breaks when we did not check out. They hit from the outside and that was the place we wanted them to shoot from."

Sawyer grimaced at Ross's sub-par free throw shooting. The Little Giants canned only nine of 21.

"We had a string there where we missed three or four one and ones," the new Ross leader said. "I told the kids that they had to have those free throws."

But Sawyer saw a plus sticking its head from behind the loss.

"If they play with the intensity that they played with tonight, they are going to win some games. This was the best that we looked this year; it was the first time they all played together."

Ross was outrebounded 45-36. The Little Giants hit 21 of 54 while the Tigers had a 27 of 64 night. DeVilbiss was as cold as Ross from the line, hitting only four of 15.

Saturday, Ross will host Fostoria.

Basketball

Varsity

DeVilbiss 58, Ross 51

Score by quarter

DeVilbiss	16	20	6	16—58
Ross	6	15	15	15—51

Scoring

DEVILBISS: Buckingham 1-0-2, Calhoun 5-0-10, Moore 6-1-13, Richards 8-3-19, Stills 4-2-8, Sargent 1-0-2, Duncan 1-0-2, Mays 1-0-2, totals 27-4-58.

ROSS: Gant 4-5-13, Collins 2-0-4, Miller 2-1-5, Aschenbach 4-1-9, Daniels 8-1-17, Johnson 1-1-3, totals 21-9-51.

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

JV game

DeVilbiss 52, Ross 43

Score by quarter

DeVilbiss	12	10	7	23—52
Ross	7	9	12	15—43

Scoring

DEVILBISS: Mitchell 4-0-8, Bernard 1-1-3, Coker 5-0-10, Klem 0-1-1, Shedd 4-2-10, Vaughn 6-0-12, B. Williams 3-0-6, E. Williams 1-0-2, Totals 24-4-52.

ROSS: Reed 1-2-4, Hufford 0-1-1, Nossaman 2-0-4, Martin 5-2-12, Manahan 3-2-8, Polk 3-3-9, Brudzinski 2-1-5, totals 16-11-43.

No. 1 for Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

John Sawyer was smiling like a kid with his first sucker and if he had his druthers, Sawyer would like that sweet item to turn into a season long lollipop.

Sawyer secured his first basketball victory as a Ross coach a few minutes past 9:30 p.m. Saturday, a 65-40 waltz past an outgunned Fostoria Redmen team.

"That's one," Sawyer said, "yeh, that's really nice; it doesn't matter who it was against, all people look at is the wins and losses."

The Little Giants, three days off opening with a loss to DeVilbiss, ran to a 31-14 halftime lead and held a commanding 46-20 lead after three periods. In the fourth period, the Little Giants tossed a tidbit at the Redmen, letting them creep back to a 44-30 margin before snatching back the nugget.

Tony Gant tossed in 20 points, Dave Aschenbach and Matt Collins 10 apiece for the Little Giants and Ross hit 22 of 42 shots from the floor. And, in a direct reversal of form from a nine of 21 free show shooting performance in the season opener, the Little Giants hit 21 of 24 charity tosses.

Gant was eight of eight from the stripe and Collins drilled home six of seven.

In the second half, Ross took only 14 shots, hitting eight of them. Fostoria, when it had crept back to within 14, had used a 1-2-1-1 press in the final

period and that defense helped force the Little Giants into eight turnovers.

"We had guys in there," Sawyers explained, "who had not worked against the press and we were trying to take it easy. Then they came out with that press and we have not worked that much on the press this year."

Sawyer, who had said in the preseason that he wanted to play a man-to-man defense, opened with a zone and finished with a zone. At intervals in between, he got a look at the man-to-man.

"Some of it was all right," he said about his favorite defense, "and some guys did okay and some did not do too well. But I think the zone is going to be our best defense."

Fostoria hit only 16 of 52 shots and for a portion of the second half, the Redmen appeared to have only one player capable of putting the ball in the hole. Mike McDonald hit all six Fostoria points in the third period and canned the first six Redmen points in the final period before the string ended on a bucket by Kent Loomis.

Loomis ended up with 15 points and McDonald one point less.

Ross's biggest lead was 26 at the end of the third period.

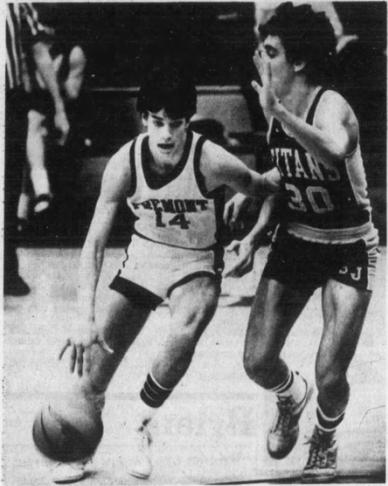
Both teams had 30 rebounds with Fostoria holding an 18-13 margin in that department in the final 16 minutes.

The Little Giants will be in action next Friday when Toledo St. John's visits Fremont.

Sports

Bob Marker, editor

Troop recall stops Ross



BRIAN MILLER of St. John's guards Dave Aschenbach of Ross in Third

period play. Aschenbach had 19 points in the Ross loss.

UA sinks Aqua Giants 110-62

UPPER ARLINGTON — Ross won only three events but swim Coach Art Bucol could smile despite absorbing a 110-62 loss in the season opening swim meet for the Aqua Little Giants.

"I'm very pleased that Ross has some very pleased kids and coming through; we had some good swims and I am very pleased with the times this early in the year."

Eric Penrod, senior who lettered as a swimmer but did not participate in the Ross program as a junior, won two events and sophomore Chris Black the other for the Aqua Little Giants. No Ross swimmer won for Ross were near the school records. Penrod won the individual medley.

and the butterfly. He missed school records by seven-tenths of a second in both. In the IM, Penrod posted a 2:08.4 and in the butterfly, 56.8.

Black was 1.2 seconds off the Ross relay record in the 200 medley relay, splashing to the finish line in five minutes, two and nine-tenths seconds.

Mark Lowther finished second in the butterfly and junior Ovvermyer was second in the 100 freestyle for Ross' other top finishers.

In the 400-yard freestyle relay, Ross was second with the team of Penrod, Steve Roddy, Ovvermyer and Black. Ross' relay posted a 3:38.3.

Ross will be in action today in the Upper Arlington Invitational.

Ross ended up with 32 turnovers, six coming in the frantic eighth minutes. St. John's, while giving the ball back to Ross 15 times in the first half, ended up with 33 giveaways, 11 coming in the last period.

Dave Aschenbach and Brian Miller was on the scoreboard first three periods, led the Little Giants fourth quarter drive. Aschenbach, dropped in 11 points and Bates cannot his first points as a Ross artist, hitting eight. Ross had 28, its biggest quarter production of the young season.

Aschenbach ended up with 19 points, Tony Gant and Clark Dennis a dozen apiece.

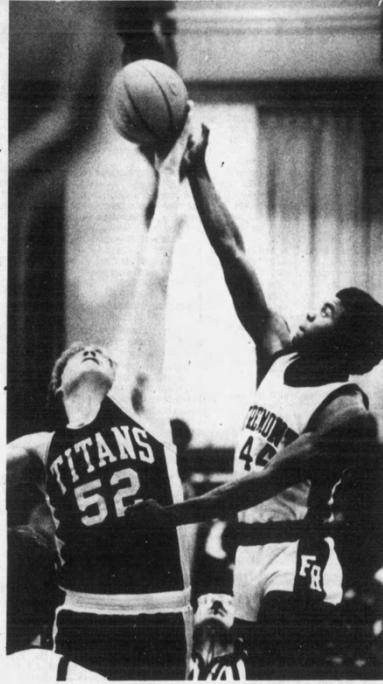
Bettsville coach St. John's had plenty of firepower to be tapped. The Titan's tossed in a torrid 30 of 45 shots, 67 percent, for the night. The Little Giants were 22 of 51.

Ross fell behind 56-36 at the beginning before Sawyer got his team out to temporarily cool off the Titans.

It didn't. St. John's rolled out to an 18-5 lead and held the first period lead at 20-9.

In the second quarter, both teams, combined, had only six points in the first five minutes but the Titans outscored Ross 15-5 the rest of the period to double the score at the half.

St. John's won the battle of the boards, holding a 27-25 lead.



DON MEWHORT (52) of St. John's gets his hand on the ball first on the opening tip of the second half. Ross' Tony Gant loses the contest against the 4-5 Mewhort.

Fourth quarter sends Old Fort past Bettsville

By DAN HOFFMAN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

BETTSVILLE — When Old Fort and Bettsville get together on the hardwood you can expect an action packed game. Friday night was no exception as the visiting Stockade peeled off the first eight points of the third quarter en route to a 35-31 win over the Bobcats.

Leading 30-26 at the end of the third period, Old Fort's Dan Miller came out of the bench and added three more all scores with 24, hit three buckets within the first two minutes of the quarter to help his team go up 35-31.

Bettsville charged back with Jim Miller's three and two free throws combined with a Tony Lanning jumper, cut the deficit to six. But Miller took over again. He quickly hit a jumper and a 30-second layup to put the Stockade up by 10. The Bobcats could never come closer than eight points the rest of the game as Old Fort had its way in the young season.

"The kids played with a lot of intensity," Old Fort head coach Steve Williamson said. "We played hard and I think we deserved to win."

Old Fort was stymied in the game by Bettsville's full court zone press. But Williamson was pleased with the way his team handled the press.

"We threw the ball away too much last week in our loss to Buckeye Central," Williamson continued. "I think we did a better job tonight with their press. Let's just say at times, though, we beat but didn't crack."

Both teams got involved in a running game early on with Old Fort getting better shots off the transition.

The Stockade lead 20-18 at the end of the first quarter and upped the score to 27-18.

Bettsville came back, however, in the third period and got as close as 50-48 with 15 seconds remaining. Old Fort's Doug Tracy hit a 30-foot jumper to give his team more than just a four-point lead.

"No question Tracy's shot there at the end of the quarter lifted our team," Williamson said. "It was for us and we started to get things going in the fourth quarter."

"Old Fort played a good game," Bettsville coach Dennis Mock said. "They were patient when they had to be and we were patient."

"We wanted to come out and apply pressure from the first half and the first part we were able to do that. When we do the things we are capable of doing we can be a good ball club."

Chris Harrison lead the Bobcats with 19 points even though he spent some time on the bench in the second and third quarters.

"He's a good player," said Williamson.

"Old Fort was 33 of 60 while Bettsville was 23 of 61. ... Dan Williamson had 19 points with Ray Dayringier and Stacy Chippin in 14 and 12 respectively. ... Jim Miller had 15 points and Todd Tiel 14 for the Bobcats. ... Old Fort entertain Clyde tonight while Bettsville travels to Hopewell-Louisa next Friday to take on the Northern Christians. ... In the game Old Fort escaped with a narrow 45-42 victory."

Browns forgot one big detail

CLEVELAND (AP) — The kind of "I-take-Kids" finish staged by the Cleveland Browns against the Houston Oilers resembled that championship season of a year ago, except for one thing: The Browns lost.

Cleveland proved again Thursday night that no matter how many statistical categories you dominate, only one matters. How did I have it? The Browns had 11 first downs and the Browns had seven first downs. But the Browns scored 17 points to the Browns 13.

Even a 500 record will elude Cleveland now. The best the Browns can do is finish 7-9 with victories over the

New York Jets and Seattle Seahawks in their final two games.

It's quite a comedown from last year's 11-5 record and AFC Central Division championship.

"We had numerous opportunities in the first half to take the melodrama out of the game," Rutigliano said in the locker-room after the Browns third consecutive loss and the six-game slide.

"We dominated the first half and should have come away with 21 points.

But we only got six (on two field goals by Matt Bahr). It's a shame we couldn't capitalize on such a total team effort," he said. "As we got closer to the goal line, it got tougher."



WILLIAM JOHNSON of Ross outreaches teammate Dave Aschenbach (14) in a first quarter battle for a rebound against Toledo St. John's. (News-Messenger photo by Bill Kennedy)

New Cavalier boss

CLEVELAND (AP) — Philadelphia Cavaliers and coach Chuck Daly ofifcially will be named head coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers today, Cavaliers owner Ted Stevens said.

Stevens confirmed the appointment after first-year 76ers owner Harold Katz mentioned Daly's departure during a telecast of the Association game in Boston.

"I called Chuck Daly and I said I wouldn't put out a release on it until Saturday, because they had this big game tonight," Stevens said.

Daly, 51, is in his fifth year as an assistant under Billy Cunningham in Philadelphia. He replaces Don Delaney,

a longtime friend of Stevens who took over as Cavaliers head coach last March.

Delaney, who formerly coached at Dyke College in Cleveland, will remain general manager of the Cavaliers, who have lost seven straight games and are in the middle of the Central Division of the NBA's Eastern Conference with a 4-11 record.

Cleveland assistant coach Bob Kloppenburg will be at the helm of the club during a game against the Washington Bullets in Landover, Md., on Saturday, Stevens said.

Daly was expected to sign a three-year contract in Cleveland on Saturday and will take over the team on Sunday, Stevens said.

MAC faces major status loss

COLUMBUS (AP) — Officials of the Mid-American Conference are trying to determine the impact of Friday's action tightening requirements for major college football.

At a special conference in St. Louis, members of Division I-A voted to delete a 12-sport option that enabled the MAC and some other conferences to qualify for I-A status.

With the 12-sport option deleted, the basic I-A requirement for a 30,000-seat stadium and acreage paid home attendance of 17,000 over the past four years.

Schools that don't meet those standards can still qualify if they belong to a conference in which at least six members sponsor football and more than half of them do meet the requirements, or if they average 10,000 in attendance, home and away, over the past four years.

The Mid-American Conference has 10 members — Western Michigan, Ohio State, Ohio University, Miami, Ohio, Toledo, Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, Northern Illinois, Kent State and Central Michigan.

Harry Paldas, the MAC information director, said the conference dealt with estimated attendance, rather than the paid attendance figures required by the NCAA.

"There can be quite a difference," he said. "Usually the paids are higher than the estimates because of no-shows and the weather."

Paldas said three schools — Central

Varsity

St. John's 76. Ross 61

Score by quarters

St. John's	20	16	19	21	—76
Ross	9	9	15	28	—61

Scoring

ST. JOHN'S: Borcherdt 9-3-21, Miller 9-6-24, Savage 1-0-2, Floria 2-0-4, Mewhort 5-3-13, Glase 1-1-3, Streb 1-2-4, Bell 1-0-2, Kenkman 1-1-3, totals 30-16-76.

ROSS: Gant 3-6-12, Daniels 6-0-12, Aschenbach 7-5-19, Miller 2-0-4, Collins 1-1-3, Johnson 1-1-3, Bates 2-4-8, totals 22-17-61.

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

JV game

Ross 51, St. John's 48

Score by quarters

St. John's	10	11	13	14	—48
Ross	8	8	17	18	—51

Scoring

ST. JOHN'S: Patton 1-0-2, Savage 4-3-11, Hills 4-0-8, Nowakowski 2-2-6, Dixon 2-3-7, Womack 2-2-6, Bruns 0-2-2, Mathews 1-2-4, Ryan 1-0-2, totals 17-14-48.

ROSS: Martin 2-1-5, Polk 5-0-10, Redd 3-7-13, Nossaman 1-0-2, Manahan 1-6-8, Brudzinski 5-3-13, totals 17-17-51.

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

Harding spurs derails Ross 56-43

MARION — Harding scored the first 10 points of the game and came back for an encore featuring the same act at the beginning of the third period during a 56-43 victory over Ross Friday.

Ross scored the final six points — all on free throws — to take a 22-21 halftime lead. The final two freebies were by Eric Bates. Harding's third period start wiped out that shakey Ross lead.

The Presidents, 2-2, scored the first eight points of the second half and the Little Giants never got their heads above water after that spurt.

"It was just a bad, horrible game," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "It was about the worst basketball I had seen for a long time.

"They (Harding) played a good ball game," Sawyer

said, "but we beat ourselves. I don't think the kids were into the game mentally."

Harding took a 10-0 lead before Tony Gant, who finished with 20 points, canned Ross's first points with 3:12 to play in the first period.

The Little Giants climbed on top on four straight free throws by Dave Aschenbach and Bates, the latter two with just three seconds remaining in the first half.

James Floyd pumped in 20 points to pace the Presidents. He was the only Harding player in double figures. Aschenbach had a dozen for Ross.

Ross had only 37 shots from the floor hitting 15

Tonight, the Little Giants will host Toledo Woodward. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30.

Varsity game

Harding 56, Ross 43

Score by quarters

Ross	7	15	7	14—43
Harding	12	9	13	22—56

Scoring

ROSS: Aschenbach 3-6-12, Daniels 0-0-0, Gant 8-4-20, Johnson 1-1-3, Sachs 1-0-2, Bates 0-2-2, Polk 2-0-4, totals 15-13-43.

HARDING: Floyd 9-2-20, West 2-1-5, Hecker 3-0-6, Steven 3-3-9, Krassow 3-1-7, Sims 1-0-2, Wilson 2-3-7, totals 23-10-56.

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

JV game

Harding 45, Ross 33

Score by quarters

Ross	4	16	2	11—33
Harding	5	13	12	15—45

Scoring

ROSS: Martin 1-1-3, Polk 2-1-5, Reed 1-1-3, Brudzinski 1-0-2, Hufford 1-2-4, Manahan 0-2-2, Nossaman 4-4-12, Smith 1-0-2, totals 11-11-33.

HARDING: Emmons 1-2-4, Hill 1-0-2, Jones 1-0-2, Sipe 0-1-1, Collins 3-0-6, Short 3-4-10, Lehner 4-2-10, Mayes 4-2-10, totals 17-11-45.

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

Box scores

High school

Varsity boys

Ross 62, Port Clinton 56

Score by quarters

Ross	9	16	18	19—62
Port Clinton	19	15	10	12—56

Scoring

ROSS: Tony Gant 7-4-18, Craig Daniels 9-3-21, Matt Collins 1-0-2, Dave Aschenbach 4-3-11, Dave Miller 0-0-0, John Sachs 1-0-2, William Johnson 2-2-6, Eric Bates 0-2-2, totals 24-14-62.

PORT CLINTON: Tim Colston 5-7-17, Dave Rhode 8-1-17, Ron Horne 3-0-6, Chris Vidoli 1-2-4, Eric Papcun 2-2-6, Greg Gresh 3-0-6, totals 22-12-56.

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

JV game

Ross 36, Port Clinton 34

Score by quarters

Ross	4	12	12	8—36
Port Clinton	10	6	7	11—34

Scoring

ROSS: Tom Polk 2-4-8, Ted Reed 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, Jerry Manahan 0-2-2, Jeff Nossaman 10-0-20, totals 15-6-36.

PORT CLINTON: Mike Aremendarez 2-0-4, Doug Gels 1-0-2, Brian Stinson 3-0-6, Dwayne Norman 3-0-6, Paul Colston 6-4-16, totals 15-4-34.

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

Final step a bit too long for Little Giants



By ROB BOUKISSEN

News-Messenger Sports Writer
The Ross Little Giants were on the threshold of an early-season upset in the Buckeye Conference Friday night, but on their final step towards that goal, they tripped over their own feet.

The Giants, 2-5 overall, 0-2 in the BC, dropped a heart-breaking 51-49 decision to BC leader Lorain Senior 4-3, 4-4 in front of a boisterous crowd at the Ross Gymnasium.

With two minutes and four seconds left in the game, Ross' Tony Gant connected on both ends of a one-and-one situation to put his team on top 49-48.

A tenacious Ross man-to-man defense then forced an awkward shot by Lorain's Kevin Mastin, and the Giants' Matt Collins was there to grab the rebound.

On the following trip down the floor, the Giants had an excellent opportunity to increase their lead to three when William Johnson stepped to the line for two free throws.

But the 6-1 junior, whom Coach John Sawyer cited as having played "a darn good ball game," missed both charity tosses and Lorain got the rebound.

The Steelmen's star player, Riley Taylor then threw up one of his rare misses, but teammate Chris Hartman was there to nab the carom only to have Lorain's Craig Daniels steal it out from behind.

Daniels held onto the ball as the rest of the players on the court raced down to the other end — that is, all the players except for Mastin.

The 5-10 Mastin picked up Daniels as he raced towards midcourt and with one quick swipe of his hand, Mastin plucked the ball away from Daniels and dropped in an uncontested layup to give Lorain a 50-49 edge with 40 seconds showing on the clock.

After Ross' Dave Aschenbach threw the ball away on the Giants' next offensive adventure, Alfie Gilchrist was fouled and made the front end of a one-and-one with eight seconds left to make it 51-49 Lorain.

Gant rebounded Gilchrist's next attempt and released it to Aschenbach, who called timeout with :03 showing on the clock.

However, Sawyer's last-second diagram to get the ball to Aschenbach in the corner never materialized as Daniels' inbound pass was stolen by Lorain's John Mullins.

Sawyer was admittedly disappointed with the outcome, but said, "We can't cry over it. It was the best game we've played all year. If we play like that all the time, we are gonna win some ball games."

Statistically, the Giants did not have a superb game as they hit on a mere 38 percent of their field goals and converted only 16 free throws.

But, as Sawyer said, "The kids played with a lot of intensity tonight. Their heads were in the ball game. They did a great job on the boards. There were just a couple key things at the end that hurt us."

"But things happened throughout the whole game that hurt us, too."

One of those "things" that Sawyer himself admitted might have hurt his team was the technical foul he received in the second quarter.

The score was tied at 22 at that point when Lorain's Scott Zientarski hit both free throws and then followed it up with a field goal for a four-point play.

Perhaps the biggest thing to hurt the Little Giants, however, was the Lorain inside duo of Taylor (6-2) and Zientarski (6-2), who both were deadly in canning 19 points apiece.

Sawyer commented, "Zientarski was tough, but Taylor killed us. He (Taylor) got the big buckets."

Those two big men were also efficient in holding Gant below his 16-point average. Gant scored 11 points, three of which came in the first half when he hardly saw the ball.

ROSS REPORT: John Sachs was the only other Little Giant to see action last night. . . . He played the final two minutes of the first half. . . . There was a dispute in the second quarter over how many fouls Zientarski had. . . . The Ross scorer, who is supposed to be the official scorer since he represented the home team, had Zientarski marked down for four personals while the Lorain scorer had him for three. . . . After some discussion among the referees and others, it was changed to three. . . . Zientarski later fouled out in the fourth quarter. . . . Ross travels to Findlay for another BC clash tonight.



Sparkless St. Joe falls to faltering Pirates 56-51

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

Just when Denny Faber appeared to have earned the nickname of "Mr. Goodwrench," a Southern spark plug failed to turn on and Perkins was able to motor to a 56-51 Sandusky Bay Conference basketball victory in the home garage of the Crimson Streaks.

"We needed a spark," the St. Joe chief mechanic said quietly. "We have to work to find that spark is what I told the team after

outscored the Streaks 12-3 in the quarter and limped off with a 28-18 intermission lead.

"We usually hit 70 percent from the free throw line, but 49 percent from the field," Perkins' Coach John Schlessman said, "but the ball just did not drop tonight."

"I think Denny had his kids very well prepared for us. I think he used about every defense ever used in basketball," Schlessman said as he clicked off a half dozen or more defenses he

hurt us. Our lack of offense really hurt."

St. Joe, who stepped to the foul line 19 times before Perkins was able to toe the line, canned only four of 14 charity tosses in the first half. In the second period, a free throw by Tim Barbour at the 4:10 mark and a bucket by Eric Kuns with a minute to play in the half were the only points St. Joe was able to put on the board.

Perkins, however, was not burning the nets, hitting six of 16 shots and

guards, Benji Garcia. This is his first season of starting and that changing defenses was confusing him."

The Pirates, with four players scoring in double figures, hit 23 of 54 shots. The key marksman for the otherwise anemic Pirates' shooting machine, was Chris Groover who bounced off the splintered floor seven of nine from the floor and finish with 16 points.

"This was the first time that he (Groover) has not

been the starting point guard," said Schlessman. "He's been the starting point guard for 16 years."

But, as Sawyer said, "The kids played with a lot of intensity tonight. Their heads were in the ball game. They did a great job on the boards. There were just a couple key things at the end that hurt us."

"But things happened throughout the whole game that hurt us, too."

One of those "things" that Sawyer himself admitted might have hurt his team was the technical foul he received in the second quarter.

The score was tied at 22 at that point when Lorain's Scott Zientarski hit both free throws and then followed it up with a field goal for a four-point play.

Perhaps the biggest thing to hurt the Little Giants, however, was the Lorain inside duo of Taylor (6-2) and Zientarski (6-2), who both were deadly in canning 19 points apiece.

Poor start,

Box scores

Varsity game

Lorain 51, Ross 49

Score by quarters

Lorain	14	12	15	10—51
Ross	10	16	10	13—49

Scoring

LORAIN: John Mullins 0-0-0, Kevin Mastin 3-0-6, Chris Hartman 0-2-2, Scott Zientarski 6-7-19, Riley Taylor 9-1-19, Alfie Gilchrist 2-1-5, totals 20-11-51.

ROSS: William Johnson 5-1-11, Dave Aschenbach 4-0-8, Craig Daniels 3-2-8, Matt Collins 4-2-10, Tony Gant 4-3-11, John Sachs 0-1-1, totals 20-9-49.

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

JV game

Lorain 27, Ross 26

Score by quarters

Lorain	2	7	8	10—27
Ross	8	6	4	8—26

Scoring

LORAIN: Chris Wilson 3-0-6, Mike Adams 2-1-5, Kevin Curry 0-2-2, Sam Hollins 2-4-8, James Moore 2-0-4, Eric Ward 1-0-2, totals 10-7-27.

ROSS: Ted Reed 2-0-4, Jim Hufford 1-2-4, Jeff Nossaman 1-2-4, Willie Martin 0-1-1, Jerry Manahan 2-2-6, Tom Polk 3-1-7, totals 9-8-26.

Season records: Lorain 1-6, (1-3), Ross 2-5 (0-2).

Ross 'passes out' in loss to Findlay

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Ross played giveaway a few too many times Saturday evening and Findlay was the willing receiver in a 57-49 Buckeye Conference basketball victory for the Trojans.

"We had a lot of bad passes tonight," Ross Coach John Sawyer said after his team's fifth game in the past eight days. "We just beat ourselves with bad passes."

The Trojans, outgoaled 22-18 but recipients of 27 charity tosses for 21 points, converted three straight Ross turnovers midway through the fourth quarter into six points to salt the game away. Ross, with Craig Daniels leading the assault, had trailed 49-45 before the game of giveaway thwarted the Little Giants' chances.

With the first six charged to Ross's errant passes, Findlay added two more for an eight-point run and a 57-45 lead with less than a minute to play.

Daniels was Ross's bright spark, canning eight of 12 shots and finishing with 18 points to go along with several steals. His 10 first half points helped the Little Giants take a 28-27 halftime lead after the Trojans had held a 19-14 first period advantage.

"We got a little tired tonight," Sawyer admitted. "I really only used five guys last night (Friday during a 51-49 loss to Lorain) and in the second half, you could see it."

Sawyer was less than pleased with the officiating during the contest. There were four glaring calls that had the partisan Findlay crowd chuckling with surprise and Sawyer grumbling from frustration.

The Trojans had 19 more free throws, 27-8, and outscored the Little Giants 21-5 from the charity stripe.

With that charitable advantage, the Trojans also got a big night from Scott Mains, a lanky 6-4, senior middle man. Mains hit from inside and out for 11 first half points (nine in the first quarter) and 17 for the game.

"That 32 (Mains) hurt us," Sawyer admitted. "According to the scouting reports, he was not supposed to be that much of a threat."

Mains was and the normally smooth functioning Trojans used him as a crutch to their third victory in six games. It was Findlay's first conference win in four tests. Ross fell to 2-6 and is still searching for its first BC victory.

The Little Giants, despite seemingly bad pass after bad pass, had, unofficially, only 17 turnovers while Findlay committed 12, but only three in the last 16 minutes of the game.

Ross outrebounded the taller Trojans 26-21 but a 10-3 board advantage for Findlay in the first period helped the Trojans to the early lead.

Shannon Clark, with eight in the second half, finished with 12 for Findlay and Jamie Houdeshell had 11. Daniels was Ross's only player in double figures. Tony Gant had nine.

Tuesday the Little Giants will travel to Sandusky to look for its first BC win. It will mark the sixth game in 11 days for the Little Giants.

Box scores

High school

Varsity boys

Findlay 57, Ross 49

Score by quarters

Ross	14	14	9	12	—49
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Findlay	19	8	16	14	—57
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Scoring

ROSS: Gant 4-1-9, Aschenbach 4-0-8, Daniels 8-2-18, Johnson 1-0-2, Collins 2-2-6, Bates 1-0-2, Sachs 2-0-4, totals 22-5-49.

FINDLAY: Clark 4-4-12, Houdeshell 4-3-11, Porter 1-3-5, Mains 8-1-17, Fry 0-4-4, Bame 1-2-4, Umbs 1-0-2, Sterling 0-2-2, totals 18-21-57.

Season records: Findlay 3-3 (1-3), Ross 2-6 (0-3).

Streaks' speed past Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Faster than a speeding bullet?

No, but those guys did have an "S" on their chests. And whether bullets would bounce off their chests and whether they were able to see through everything that was not lead it still a mystery.

But Sandusky was quicker than Ross and instead of seeing through Ross, the Blue Streaks slipped through the Ross defense, which was not lead, slick as quic' silver for a lopsided 88-62 Buckeye Conference basketball victory Tuesday.

While the rain pelted down outside the Blue Streaks' gym, Sandusky's shots poured through the nets while the Little Giants' offers were rejected or fell off the rim.

"They just blew us out," John Sawyer, Ross coach, said about his team's seventh loss in nine games. "Their quickness paid off in the second half; they just outquicked us.

"They took us out of our offense the whole game," he said. "We did not help ourselves though. We

missed all those foul shots and the layups."

The Little Giants got into foul trouble quickly with Dave Aschenbach picking up three whistles in the first period. William Johnson, who canned 10 first period points picked up two as did Tony Gant, all in the first eight minutes. Most of them were two-shot variety.

But Sandusky was having its problems with the foul route, too, only the Blue Streaks were taking advantage of Ross's infractions.

Sandusky hit 15 of 19 first period shots from the stripe and Ross just seven of 16. The Blue Streaks ended up with 24 of 32 from the line, Ross 10 of 22.

"We were still in the game at the half," Sawyer said, "but then that second half."

Ross, after pulling to within three at 34-31 with less than three minutes left in the opening half, began to see streaks of blue go past them at that point. Mike Pole, who had 12 points in the second period, canned a pair of buckets which were sandwiched around another pair by Randy Maschari and the Blue Streaks climbed

quickly to a 42-31 lead. At the half it was 43-33.

The closest Ross could get in the second half was seven — 51-44 — midway through the third period but a bucket by Pole turned the momentum back toward the Blue Streaks. In the span of two minutes, Sandusky had salted the game away with a nine-point run.

Maschari, with 19 in the first half, finished with 21 points, one of four Blue Streaks in double figures. Pole had 14 with Eric Delk and Irv Owens knocking in 13 points apiece.

Sandusky's speed did not force Ross into that many turnovers, 22, but as Sawyer said, "they were getting to the loose ball quicker than we were."

Johnson, who had the misfortune of missing at least five layups, finished with 19 to top Ross. Tony Gant had 14 and Craig Daniels 11. Both Gant and Aschenbach fouled out in the final period.

Sandusky canned 32 of 71 shots with 21 turnovers. Ross was 26 of 75 including 13 of 45 in the second half. In rebounding, Sandusky held a 51-43 advantage.

JV game

Sandusky 73, Ross 45

Score by quarters

Ross	8	18	8	11—45
Sandusky	19	27	16	21—73

Scoring

ROSS: Martin 3-6-12, Reed 1-4-6, Snodgrass 1-0-2, Brudzinski 3-0-6, Hufford 2-0-4, Manahan 2-0-4, Smith 1-2-4, Welty 2-3-7, 15-15-45.

SANDUSKY: Hollingshed 3-0-6, Keys 5-3-13, Wilkins 5-0-10, Canterbury 1-2-4, Robinson 1-2-4, McGee 2-0-4, Newell 6-1-13, Hunter 3-1-7, Pritt 4-0-8, Brandt 1-2-4, totals 30-13-73.

Sandusky 88, Ross 62

Score by quarters

Ross	15	18	11	18—62
Sandusky	19	24	15	30—88

Scoring

ROSS: Gant 7-0-14, Daniels 43-11, Aschenbach 2-3-7, Johnson 9-1-19, Bates 0-0-0, Collins 2-3-7, Sachs 1-0-2, Martin 1-0-2, totals 26-10-62.

SANDUSKY: Delk 5-3-13, Pole 6-2-14, Maschari 7-7-21, Owens 5-3-13, Clark 3-0-6, Ames 1-2-4, Lofties 0-2-2, Hardin 2-1-5, Blissit 1-0-2, Hearn 1-2-4, Roldon 1-0-2, McDonald 0-2-2, totals 32-24-88.

Season records: Sandusky 4-4 (3-2), Ross 2-7 (0-4).

Pioneers shoot down Ross 81-60

By ROB BOUKISSEN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

Elyria Coach John Dickerson fired all his weapons at Ross Tuesday night. But when he found out that they weren't quite enough to shoot down a feisty Little Giant team, he brought out the heavy artillery.

The Pioneers' not-so-secret-weapon came in the form of 6-6 junior Terry Wearsch who scored 16 points in the final quarter to help hold off a Ross last-ditch rally and lead his club to an impressive 81-60 thumping of the Little Giants in the Ross gym.

Wearsch finished the night with a career-high 30 points, which is 17 points above his season average. Many of his buckets came off offensive rebounds over the much-smaller Little Giants. He grabbed 18 caroms all together.

Not only was Wearsch a force on the offensive end, but his presence was felt on the defensive end by Ross as he blocked nine shots.

"He is a nice ballplayer," Ross Coach John Sawyer said of Wearsch. "I didn't think he would hurt us that much. But they have a nice team, too. They have some very good shooters."

Ross found out early just how good Elyria was from the field as the Pioneers canned 11 of 18 shots in the first quarter to spark them to a 24-9 lead.

"I think our kids were intimidated before the game," Sawyer explained. "If we could get off to a decent start one of these games, we will be able to hang in there. They just took us out of our offense. We missed a lot of shots (two of nine), didn't get any rebounds and we let them run their break."

The Pioneers continued their onslaught in the second period and halfway into the third period to go up by 25 points, 56-31.

But that is when Tony Gant and company began to fire back.

Ross' 6-1 jumping jack hit on a "Danish-pastry" banker from the left side, a sky hook over Wearsch from the right side and then a modest layup to bring the Giants to within 19, 56-37.

John Sachs rattled home a short jumper and Craig Daniels turned a pair of Elyria turnovers into fastbreak layups to cut it to 56-43 at the end of the period.

Ross fell behind by 18 early in the final stanza before scoring six unanswered points to slice it to 12, 66-54, with 3:32 remaining.

Then came Mr. Wearsch. The tall blonde scored 10 of the Pioneers' final 15 points to help seal the victory and increase his team's overall record to 5-3 and their Buckeye Conference mark to 4-1, which is good for second place behind unbeaten Lorain Senior.

While Wearsch proved to be the main force in sending the Giants to their eighth defeat in 10 games, he was not the only one.

Guards Mike Lotko and Jay Bender both had active hands in determining the final outcome.

Lotko scored in every quarter on his way to a 14-point night while Bender, the Pioneers' 6-2 guard, dished out 10 assists and grabbed 10 rebounds. Bruce Halliburton also hurt Ross with 14 points, many from long range.

Those efforts offset a 27-point performance by Gant, whom Dickerson described as "a truly fine all-around athlete. For a kid 6-1 to be able to score that many points inside, it's really an accomplishment. He has a nice touch inside."

Also scoring in double figures for the Giants, now 0-5 in the BC, was Dave Aschenbach with 12 and Daniels with 10.

CAGE CLIPS: Elyria finished the night shooting 51 percent from the field (36 of 71) while Ross hit on 43 percent of its shots (26 of 61) ... The taller Pioneers also outrebounded Ross 38-30 but committed one more turnover 17-16.

High School

Varsity game

Elyria 81, Ross 60

Score by quarters

Elyria	24	20	12	25	81
Ross	9	18	16	17	60

Scoring

ELYRIA: Mike Lotko 7-0-14, Bruce Halliburton 6-2-14, Terry Wearsch 13-4-30, Chuck Fields 3-0-6, Jay Bender 2-1-5, James Wingard 3-0-6, Bryan Henry 1-2-4, Jeff Thomas 1-0-2, totals 36-9-81.

ROSS: William Johnson 0-0-0, Dave Aschenbach 4-4-12, Tony Gant 13-1-27, Craig Daniels 5-0-10, Eric Bates 0-2-2, Dave Miller 0-1-1, Matt Collins 2-0-4, John Sachs 2-0-4, totals 26-8-60.

Season records: Elyria 5-3 (4-1), Ross 2-8 (0-5).

JV game

Elyria 58, Ross 53

Score by quarters

Elyria	11	21	12	14	58
Ross	10	15	12	16	53

ELYRIA: Jeff Thomas 5-1-11, Mark Runser 3-2-8, Leron Bush 1-0-2, Brian France 5-0-10, Hylan Herod 2-0-4, Chris Fields 5-0-10, David Harriel 4-5-13, totals 25-8-58.

ROSS: Ted Reed 2-0-4, Jim Hufford 2-0-4, Jeff Nossaman 7-0-14, Willie Martin 3-1-7, Jerry Manahan 5-1-11, Tom Polk 2-0-4, Dan Brudzinski 2-5-9, totals 23-7-53.

Season records: Elyria 8-0 (5-0), Ross 2-8 (0-5).

Ross slowdown works briefly

LORAIN — Ross stayed with highly touted Admiral King for one quarter but 12 unanswered points at the beginning of the second period took away the Little Giants' chances in a 50-33 Buckeye Conference loss.

Ross Coach John Sawyer had his team in a slow-down offense that rattled but did not shake the Admirals, now 9-1 and 5-1 in conference play.

"The press (King's defense) did not bother us," Sawyer said, "and we held it up but the kids were not patient enough to stay in the offense."

The lack of patience led to many of the Little Giants' 26 turnovers.

"Still," Sawyer said, "we had some good points. We rebounded with them."

Ross trailed 13-12 after one quarter. The Little Giants hit all five shots in the opening period and finished with 12 of 28 shooting. Tony Gant's two free throws at the 6:53 mark of the initial stanza gave Ross its only lead of the game 2-0.

In the disastrous second quarter, Ross did not get off a shot until 2:38 remained in the quarter. It was not until 45 seconds remained in the half that Gant's three-point play moved the scoreboard ahead for Ross. It was the only points of the frame for the Little Giants.

Admiral King put the game away with a 14-7 scoring advantage in the third period.

The Admirals held a 35-26 rebounding advantage but Sawyer felt it was closer than that.

Mike Walton, who had five points in the Admirals' 12-point second period run, led all scorers with 15. Ed Suggs added 12 for King. Gant was high for Ross with nine. Dave Aschenbach added eight and John Sachs, making his first start for the Little Giants, had six.

Admiral King will be at Elyria next Friday while The Little Giants will host Toledo Whitmer in a non-conference clash.

Admiral King 50, Ross 33

Score by quarters

Ross	12	3	7	11	—33
AK	13	13	14	10	—50

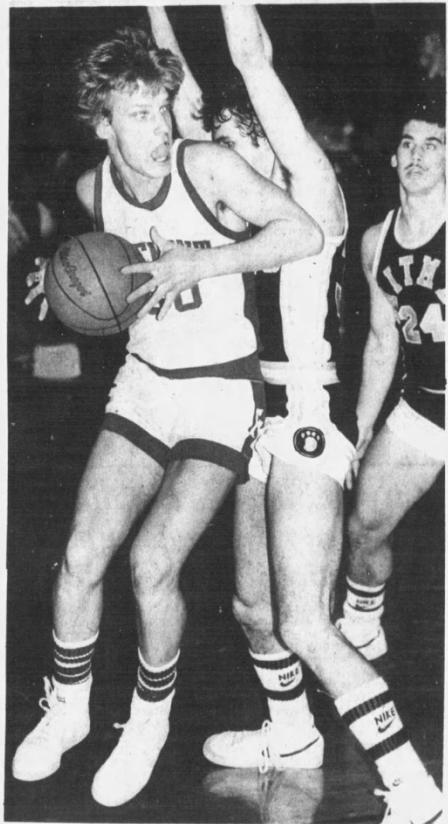
Scoring

ROSS: Eric Bates 0-2-2, Matt Collins 0-1-1, Craig Daniels 2-0-4, Tony Gant 3-3-9, John Sachs 3-0-6, Dave Aschenbach 3-2-8, William Johnson 1-1-3, totals 12-9-33.

ADMIRAL KING: Roger Smith 4-1-9, Mike Walton 6-3-15, Mike Jackson 0-1-1, Ed Suggs 6-0-12, Bill Heider 1-1-3, Steve Davis 1-0-2, Myron Wicks 3-0-6, Demetrius Lovett 1-0-2, totals 22-6-50.

Season records: Admiral King 9-1 (5-1), Ross 2-9 (0-6).

JV game: Admiral King 78-48.



MATT COLLINS of Ross looks surprised but he got off a shot for a bucket during third period action

(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

Ross its own enemy in loss

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross did not survive a game of two on one Friday night in the Ross gym.

Toledo Whitmer used Ross' early miscues and a 29-point performance by Ron Rightnowar to skip past Ross 76-59 in midweek school basketball game.

The Little Giants, now 2-10, tried to slow the game down immediately after the opening tip. That was the game plan but the Little Giants were bitten quickly by the turnover bug and Whitmer rode the bug to a quick early lead.

"No," Whitmer Coach Rick Kafas insisted, "I did not expect the slowdown."

He also did not feel his team forced Ross out of the deliberate play.

"It was not so much what we did," Kafas admitted. "It was mainly they had a couple of turnovers and we got a couple of buckets and that forced them to play."

It was 6-0 before Ross loosened up with Craig Daniels' jumper from the line with 2:45 to play in the first stanza. It was 14-6 after the first eight minutes.

Bryan Craun came off the Whitmer bench to drop in eight points and Rightnowar popped in six as Ross doubled the score on the Little Giants 36-18 at the half.

"We got outhustled in the first half," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "we played like we did not want it."

Sawyer managed a wry smile when he was informed that Ross had outscored the Panthers 41-40 in the second half.

"Really," he said and that was it.

The first half was sticking in his craw.

"We were outhustled; we did not go after loose balls and played tentively," he said. "It's just like the kids are so afraid of getting beat."

"In the second half, though, we played with it."

By that time, it was over.

The Panthers clawed their way to a 21-point lead before cooling off a bit. Ross crept back to trail 54-44 a minute and a half into the final quarter. That was as close as the Little Giants were to get to the Panthers.

Rightnowar dropped in nine points

down the stretch in the final period to help pad the Panthers' seventh win against three losses.

Daniels paced Ross with 13 points while Dave Achenbach and Tony Gant finished with 10 apiece. Craun had 12 and Dan Williams 11 for the Panthers.

Rightnowar popped in 11 of 19 shots from the field and seven of eight at the line. As a team, Whitmer hit 27 of 53 including an 11 of 16 performance in the breakaway second period.

The Panthers played a near perfect floor game, committing only eight turnovers, six less than Ross.

The Little Giants held a slight edge in rebounding 30-25 but canned only 21 of 52 shots.

The biggest lead in the contest was 21 points (39-18) 17 seconds into the third period.

Tonight, weather permitting, Ross is to travel to Tiffin to play Columbian. The Tornadoes lost to Upper Sandusky 54-51 Friday and will carry a 6-4 record against Ross.

Streeter, Miracle sting St. Joe

By ROB BOUKISSEN

N-M Sports Writer

CLYDE — Marc Streeter and Terry Miracle turned Denny Faber's nightmares into reality Friday night.

The slick-shooting Clyde boys duo combined for 49 points to lead the Flyers to a 59-64 victory over Faber's St. Joseph Central Catholic Crimson Streaks. Streeter had 28 and Miracle 21.

The victory was the Flyers' first in the SBC basement with an 0-7 mark. It also ended a six-game Clyde losing streak.

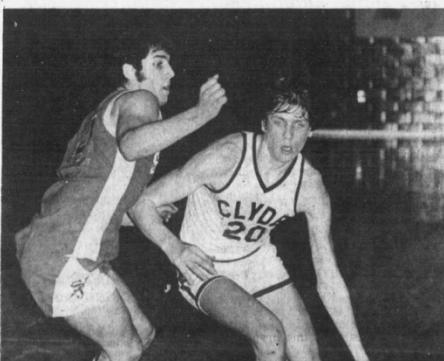
The loss for St. Joe kept it in the SBC basement with an 0-7 mark. It also extended the Streaks' losing

quarter, Clyde's lead was down to two, 43-41.

Streeter and St. Joe's Jeff Decker, who had 22 points for the game, exchanged buckets before Miracle nailed back-to-back jumpers to open his team's lead to 49-43.

The Streaks managed to chip it to 56-51 after three quarters and to 56-53 at the start of the final period before Miracle and Streeter finished a 6-1 Clyde spurt with a pair of two-pointers to give the Flyers a 62-54 lead with 6:28 remaining.

The next three minutes, however, belonged to the Streaks, but, as Faber sadly admitted, they only took partial advantage of them.



Varsity

Whitmer 76, Ross 59

Score by quarters

Whitmer	14	22	16	24	—76
Ross	6	12	20	21	—59

Scoring

WHITMER: Acker 4-1-9, Knauss 3-0-6, Falminio 0-2-2 Rightnowar 11-7-29, Williams 3-5-11, Craun 4-4-12, Lewis 1-0-2, Walczak 1-3-5, totals 27, 22-76.

ROSS: Gant 5-0-10, Johnson 1-2-4, Daniels 5-3-13, Sachs 0-7-7, Aschenbach 5-0-10, Polk 2-0-4, Collins 1-4-6, Bates 1-0-2, Martin 0-1-1, Miller 1-0-2, totals 21-17-59.

Season records: Whitmer 8-3, Ross 2-10.

JV game

Ross 45, Whitmer 40

Score by quarters

Whitmer	7	13	11	9	—40
Ross	8	8	14	15	—45

Scoring

WHITMER: Brighton 1-0-2, Craig 1-1-3, Knauss 3-1-7, Passon 2-26, Pointinger 0-3-3, Whitcomb 2-3-7, Wilson 5-0-10, totals 16-8-40.

ROSS: Hufford 1-2-4, Nossaman 3-2-8, Smith 4-2-10, Manahan 0-3-3, Welty 1-0-2, Brudzinski 8-2-18, totals 17-11-45.

Lorain downs Ross 70-53

LORAIN — Buckeye Conference leader Lorain Senior led all the way Friday night while disposing of Fremont Ross 70-53 in a battle of the top and bottom part of the conference.

The Steelmen, 8-1, are a game ahead of crosstown rival Admiral King, 6-1, in the conference. The win over the Little Giants' topped Lorain's season mark to 10-4 while Ross sank to 2-11 and 0-7 in the BC battles.

Lorain canned 26 of 49 shots and led by as many as 25 points early in the final period.

Riley Taylor tossed in 18 points and four other Steelmen hit 11 points apiece.

Ross Coach John Sawyer got an early week wish, partially, but that was it. He wanted his team to get a quicker start which it did, marginally, but a third period letdown and the Steelmen's switching defense rained havoc on the Little Giants.

"The start was not as bad as usual," Sawyer said, "but in the third quarter, we just did not score well."

Lorain held only a 12-10 margin in the third period but Ross fell victim to the turnover bug when it had an opportunity to narrow Lorain's lead.

"They took us out of our offense," the Ross coach admitted. "They switched defenses and used a half-court trap and our kids did not recognize the defenses."

Lorain muscled its way inside numerous times and it showed at the foul line. The Steelmen had 34 charity tosses and could have buried the Little Giants deeper in the hole with the opportunities but Lorain hit only 18 charity tosses.

"They kept going inside and we kept fouling them," Sawyer said. "They were too strong for us inside."

Willie Johnson paced Ross with 17 points, 11 in the final period during Lorain's mop-up exercise. Dave Aschenbach added 15.

Lorain outrebounded Ross 32-24 with Chris Hartman grabbing seven to go with his 11 points. Tony Gant had nine rebounds for Ross.

The Little Giants hit 23 of 57 shots and seven of 12 at the line. The Little Giants committed 17 turnovers, four more than Lorain.

Ross will return to action Friday when Sandusky visits Fremont.

Lorain 70, Ross 53 Score by quarters

Ross	9	15	10	19—53
Lorain	15	20	12	23—70

Scoring

ROSS: Willie Johnson 8-1-17, Dave Aschenbach 6-3-15, Willie Martin 1-0-2, Craig Daniels 2-0-4, Matt Collins 2-0-4, Eric Bates 1-0-2, Tony Gant 3-3-9, totals 23-7-53.

LORAIN: Alfie Gilchrist 2-4-8, Chris Hartman 4-3-11, Darrell Johnson 4-3-11, Kevin Mastin 5-1-11, John Mullins 3-5-11, Riley Taylor 8-2-18, totals 26-18-70.

Season records: Lorain 11-4 (8-1), Ross 2-11 (0-7).

JV game: Lorain 52-39.

Sports

Bob Marker, editor

Transfusion fails for Little Giants

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

John Sawyer performed the transfusion but Sandusky was the doctor Friday in a 73-66 Ross loss in a Buckeye Conference basketball clash at Ross High School.

Sawyer pumped new blood into Ross's sagging season with a lineup that featured four juniors and a sophomore, but the Little Giants blacked out just after Sawyer inserted the needle.

"We fell behind," Sawyer, the Ross coach, said in a surprisingly noisy locker room. "It doesn't matter who we play, we always start like that. I think they might as well put nine or 10 points on the board as they did start."

I think we outscored them after that."

Sandusky grabbed an 11-0 lead and raced to a 23-14 first period lead before the new blood, with the aid of a few old band-aids, patched up Ross erratic offense. Ross committed nine turnovers in the first eight minutes.

Dan Brudzinski, a portion of the new blood and the sophomore, along with junior Tom Polk began to bring Ross back. With another newcomer, Willie Martin, the Little Giants with veteran Dave Aschenbach and William Johnson began to help Sandusky perform a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde act.

Polk canned six first period points and Brudzinski tossed in four more as Ross narrowed the Sandusky lead to 35-28 at the half.

With each canning three buckets, Brudzinski two, and the "turnover bug" being shaken off, Ross pulled as close as three to the Blue Streaks twice in the third period. The last time 41-38 with five minutes to play.

The Blue Streaks, utilizing a pair of trapping full court presses, managed to hold off Ross each time. Randy Maschari canned the bucket that moved Sandusky ahead 43-38 and ignited a 10-6 burst that gave Sandusky a 53-44 lead heading into the final period.

Oh, that final period, Sandusky Coach Jerry Ernst would just as soon rip it out of the records. He was fuming at his team.

"They (Ross) should have won," he boled. If he

could have gotten a scalpel, he may have become Jack the Ripper as the words rolled from his mouth describing the final three minutes his team played. "I have never been so upset," he said. "I have been happier in losing. I have never had a team rebel like this. They did not do a thing I told them in the last three minutes of the game. It was garbage."

"If this was like it was the last 12 years (a reference to past happenings of the Sandusky basketball team), well, I will not put up with it."

With Ross mounting a hot streak in the final period after falling behind 63-47, it took an eight-point run by Maschari to shake Sandusky's cage. The Little Giants had crept back to trail 67-57 when Maschari went out of tears.

"That's what did that hurt us," Sawyer said. "He had to go on the boards, everywhere."

Only a bucket by Brudzinski slowed Maschari's onslaught as the Blue Streaks climbed to a 73-59 margin. The last two points coming on Streak sophomore Irv Owens' shot.

While Maschari was saving his team, the Streaks were transforming into Dr. Jekyll before Ernst's eyes. But the change was not enough to let Sawyer's transfusion heal the Little Giants.

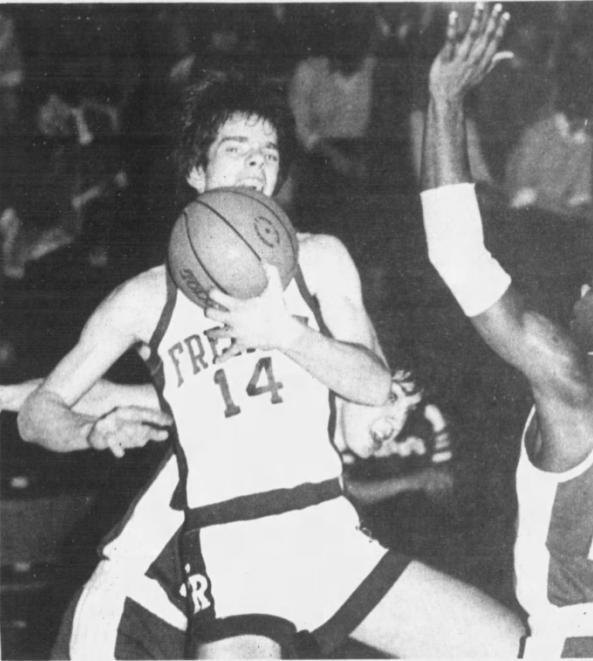
Mike Pole led Sandusky with 18 with Maschari finishing with 16 and Erik Delk 15. Brudzinski hit seven of 16 shots for 14 points to lead Ross in his first varsity start. Aschenbach had 11 and Craig Daniels came off the bench to score 10. Pole had 10 points.

ROSS RAMBLINGS: Sandusky hit 31 of 57 shots but was outrebounded by Ross 33-22. The Little Giants hit 30 of 66 and committed 24 turnovers, four more than Sandusky.

Sandusky is now 6-9 and Ross 2-2.

Tony Gant was not in the Ross lineup because he was in Columbus accepting the Columbus Touchdown Club's "Governor's Award" as the top Ohio high school football player.

Ross will host Marion Harding Tuesday in a game postponed from Jan. 22. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m., one-half hour ahead of the usual starts.



(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

A PIECE OF THE ACTION? Dave Aschenbach of Ross gets a good grip and a little bite on the ball while hauling in a Little Giants' rebound

against Sandusky. Ross lost the Buckeye Conference game to the Blue Streaks.



SOPHOMORE Dan Brudzinski goes up for a rebound against Sandusky Friday at Ross High School. In his first varsity start, Brudzinski scored 14 points.

Streaks fall to Gioffre barrage

By ROB

BOUKISSEN

N-M Sports Writer

Frank Gioffre gave a blistering performance Friday night as to how an athlete, in the heat of competition, can overcome outside problems with a brilliant performance.

Gioffre, a 6-1 senior whose father died Thursday, scored 32 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, handed out eight assists, made seven steals and blocked two shots to lead the Huron Tigers past the St. Joseph Central Catholic Crimson Streaks 78-64 at the SJCC gym.

"Frank had a sensational game," Huron Coach Bob Bowers said. "He definitely was doing it for his dad. It was amazing that he could even show up for the game."

St. Joe Coach Denny Faber agreed with Bowers. Faber said: "It was a tremendous personal performance by Gioffre, especially knowing what he must have been going through."

Gioffre's inspired play helped to lift the Tigers into a first-place Sandusky Bay Conference tie with Perkins, both 9-2. Perkins was defeated by Huron 63-61 by St. Mary's.

Despite Gioffre's efforts, Huron was never assured of victory until late in the final quarter of what Faber accurately termed a "roller coaster" game.

The first quarter was the epitome of sloppiness as both teams combined to miss their first 11 shots while turning the ball over four times.

Huron had a 15-point lead (29-14) midway through the second quarter before the Streaks chipped it to five, 42-37, at halftime.

The roller coaster ride continued to swing in St. Joe's direction at the start of the third quarter as the Streaks scored the first 11 points to go up by six, 48-42.

But at that point the Streaks' joy ride came to a screeching halt,

The Tigers managed to come out of that mess with a 17-10 lead as Gioffre and forward James Jenkins, who finished with 18 points, combined to score all of their team's first-period points.

The second stanza seemed to bring with it two different teams.

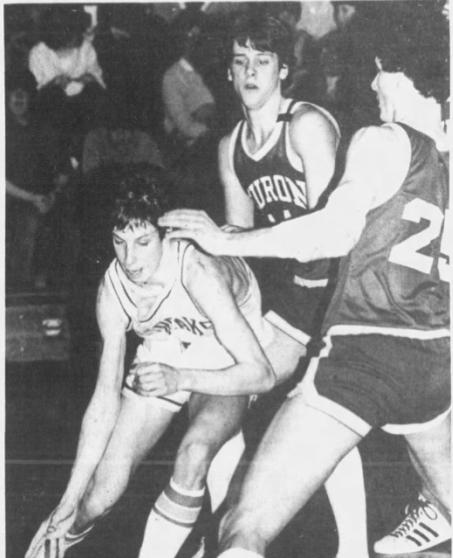
The Streaks, behind Jeff Perkins' 10 points and North House's nine, scored 27 points by making 10 of 16 field goal attempts and all seven free throw attempts.

The Tigers nearly matched their hosts' performance with 25 points. They made 10 of 15 fielders and five of six foul shots while turning the ball over four times.

Huron had a 15-point lead (29-14) midway through the second quarter before the Streaks chipped it to five, 42-37, at halftime.

The roller coaster ride continued to swing in St. Joe's direction at the start of the third quarter as the Streaks scored the first 11 points to go up by six, 48-42.

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Sandusky 73 Ross 66

Score by quarters

Sandusky	23	12	18	20	73
Ross		14	14	16	22-66

Scoring

S A N D U S K Y : Randy Maschari 6-4-16, Mike Pole 9-0-18, Erik Delk 6-3-15, Willie Clark 2-1-5, Irv Owens 6-0-12, Randy Moore 2-3-7, totals 31-11-73.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 5-1-11, William Johnson 4-0-8, Dan Brudzinski 7-0-14, Tom Polk 4-0-8, Willie Martin 0-0-0, Matt Collins 2-2-6, Craig Daniels 4-2-10, Eric Bates 3-0-6, Dave Miller 1-1-3, totals 30-6-66.

Season records: Sandusky 7-9 (5-6), Ross 2-12 (0-8).

Ross JV's 55 Sandusky 50

Score by quarters

Sandusky	10	13	9	18	50
Ross		9	18	7	21-55

Scoring

S A N D U S K Y : Bill Hollingshed 1-1-3, James Keys 4-0-8, Todd Wilkins 1-0-2, Robbie Robinson 1-0-2, Rick McGee 4-3-11, Dernard Newell 2-1-5, Robert Hunter 3-2-8, Milt Pritt 2-0-4, Cooper 2-3-7, totals 20-10-50.

ROSS: Jim Hufford 4-12-20, Jeff Nossaman 4-2-10, Ryan Smith 3-1-7, Jerry Manahan 3-6-12, Scott Welty 1-0-2, totals 15-25-55.

Ross cagers to keep 'new' look

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross will keep the "new" look that basketball Coach John Sawyer unveiled last Friday against Sandusky.

In the Buckeye Conference contest, Sawyer started a lineup of four juniors and a sophomore. The move did not prevent Ross from absorbing its 11th loss in 13 games, but it showed promise.

"I think they did a good job," Sawyer said about his new crew.

Dave Aschenbach, Willie Martin, Tom Polk and William Johnson are the juniors and Dan Brudzinski is the sophomore who will face Elyria Friday in the home of the Pioneers. Brudzinski made his first varsity appearance against Sandusky and led the Little Giants in scoring with 14 points.

It will be the first of two weekend games for

the Little Giants. Saturday, Ross will host Toledo Waite.

Sawyer stressed that he will not try to change much drastically with the new look but he did say that he may use half-court pressure on the Pioneers.

"The first time we played them," Sawyer recalled about Elyria's 81-60 win, "they got off to a 13-0 start and led 24-4 one time, so I'd just like to get off to a better start."

The slow start has plagued Ross this season. Against Sandusky, Ross fell behind 11-0 before clicking into gear. The Blue Streaks defense bent the rest of the game but not enough for Ross in a 73-66 loss.

Saturday's opponent is a mystery for Sawyer.

"I can't tell you a thing about 'em," Sawyer offered about Waite. "I do know they have a good big man and a good outside guy."

LITTLE GI-ANTICS: Ross's postponed game with Marion Harding Tuesday will be made up Feb. 27. It was the second time that the game has been postponed this year.

Tony Gant, although not starting Friday for Ross, is fifth in BC scoring at 15.9 and is third in rebounding, grabbing 10.9 per game.

Craig Daniels is second in assists, passing out an average of 4.3 per game. Daniels also ranks 13th in scoring at 10.1.

Aschenbach is 15th in scoring at 9.9.

Elyria is 9-7 and 6-4 while standing third in the BC. Elyria averages 67.5 points per game while allowing 54. That is second and sixth, respectively, in the conference. Terry Wearsch and Mike Lotko are sixth and seventh in the BC scoring race at 15.4 and 14.8, respectively.

Elyria rolls by Ross 88-53

ELYRIA — Elyria unleashed a powerful offense that complemented its defense Friday in handing Ross an 88-53 Buckeye Conference basketball defeat.

The loss was Ross's 13th in 15 games while Elyria won for the 11th time in 18 contests.

Ten Pioneers scored with Terry Wearsch's 14 topping the group. Mike Lotko added 13 and Jeff Thomas 12 for Elyria.

Wearsch also led the Pioneers on defense. The 6-6 junior was credited with 10 of Elyria's 15 blocked shots. Ross, counting the rejections, hit only 21 of 94 from the field.

"It's the worst game we played all year," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "We could not shoot, dribble, rebound or shoot free throws . . . those are just a few things that we did wrong; other than that, we played a good game."

"They really intimidated our young kids. The only thing I can say is the kids hustled after everything."

William Johnson scored 11 points to lead Ross. Willie Martin and Craig Daniels had nine apiece.

Ross trailed 23-13 after one period and 48-24 at the half.

Elyria outrebounded the Little Giants 58-47.

Tonight, the Little Giants will host Toledo Waite. The junior varsity game begins at 6:15.

Elyria 88 **Ross 53**

Score by quarters

Ross	13	11	8	21-53
Elyria	23	25	18	22-88

Scoring

ROSS: William Johnson 4-3-11, Willie Martin 4-1-9, Craig Daniels 4-1-9, Dan Brudzinski 3-0-6, Matt Collins 3-0-6, Dave Aschenbach 2-1-5, Eric Bates 0-5-5, Tom Polk 1-0-2, totals 21-11-53.

ELYRIA: Terry Wearsch 6-2-14, Mike Lotko 6-1-13, Jeff Thomas 6-0-12, James Wingard 4-0-8, Kevin Newton 3-2-8, Jay Bender 2-3-7, Brian France 3-1-7, Bruce Halliburton 4-0-8, Chuck Fields 2-2-6, Bryan Henry 1-3-5, totals 37-14-88.

Season records: Elyria 10-7 (7-4), Ross 2-13 (0-9).

JV game: Elyria 58-41.

Waite defeats Ross boys

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Waite rode the sharpshooting of Clyde Kynard to a 31-point fourth quarter to pull away from Ross and win a 77-63 boys high school basketball game Saturday at the Ross gym.

Kynard, a six-foot senior, scored 12 of his game high 24 points in the period as the Indians pulled away from the Little Giants to win their 11th game against seven losses.

"We got into foul trouble and that kind of messed us up," Ross Coach John Sawyer said after his team's 14th loss in 16 games. "Then we made some dumb mistakes that hurt."

Waite had problems shaking the Little Giants despite never trailing the the game. There was never more than seven points separating the two in the first

three quarters of the contest. In the final quarter, the Indians opened up a 16-point lead, 70-54, with less than two minutes remaining.

Waite broke the game open in the first four and one-half minutes of the closing period, outscoring the Little Giants 13-8.

The Little Giants, despite being at a height disadvantage of approximately two inches per man, outrebounded the Indians in the first three quarters 28-18. In the last quarter, however, Waite controlled the boards 13-7 and used that to roll to the victory.

Ross had three players — Dave Aschenbach, William Johnson and Craig Daniels — foul out in the contest. Johnson had four fouls in the first half before fouling out with 4:34 to play in the game.

Aschenbach went to the bench at the 2:45 mark of the fourth after scoring 10 points and Daniels took a seat with 25 seconds remaining in the game.

Daniels led Ross scorers with 22 points, hitting 10 of 16 shots from the floor.

Sophomore Dan Brudzinski, getting his third straight starting assignment, finished with 10 points. He scored six in the first period but picked up his third foul midway through the second period and went to the bench.

After trailing 28-24 at the half, Ross came back to trail 36-33 on a pair of free throws by Aschenbach halfway through the third period. That was as close as Ross was to come.

Kynard, with help from Tony Tate who came off the Waite bench to score 14 points, took over at that point to salt away the Indian's win.

Boys

Waite 77

Ross 63

Score by quarters

Waite	17	11	18	31-77
Ross	12	12	15	24-63

Scoring

WAITE: Luke Murphy 4-0-8, Pat Walker 2-1-5, Vince Greer 5-4-14, Clyde Kynard 10-4-24, Chuck Young 1-0-2, Tony Tate 6-2-14, Carl Orr 2-0-4, Bob Lockett 0-2-2, Ellis Green 0-2-2, totals 31-15-77.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 4-2-10, William Johnson 1-0-2, Dan Brudzinski 5-0-10, Craig Daniels 10-2-22, Tom Polk 3-1-7, Matt Collins 2-2-6, Eric Bates 2-0-4, Willie Martin 1-0-2, totals 28-7-63.

Season records: Ross 2-14, Waite 11-7.

Ross JV's 60

Waite 51

Score by quarters

Waite	12	9	12	18-51
Ross	5	15	18	22-60

Scoring

WAITE: Jaso 0-1-1, Jeff Joldrichsen 0-4-4, Denis Foster 2-0-4, Bob Lockett 4-3-11, Bill Mills 0-2-2, Mike Hyndman 0-2-2, David Brown 1-0-2, Ellis Green 7-2-16, Dennis Staerker 1-2-4, Rodney Leach 1-0-2, Ron Witt 0-1-1, John Duren 1-0-2, totals 17-17-51.

ROSS: Ted Reed 5-5-15, Jim Hufford 1-0-2, Jeff Nossaman 2-8-12, Ryan Smith 5-3-13, Jerry Manahan 1-7-9, Scott Welty 1-0-2, Jerry Snodgrass 2-3-7, totals 17-26-60.

Season record: Ross 5-11.

Sports

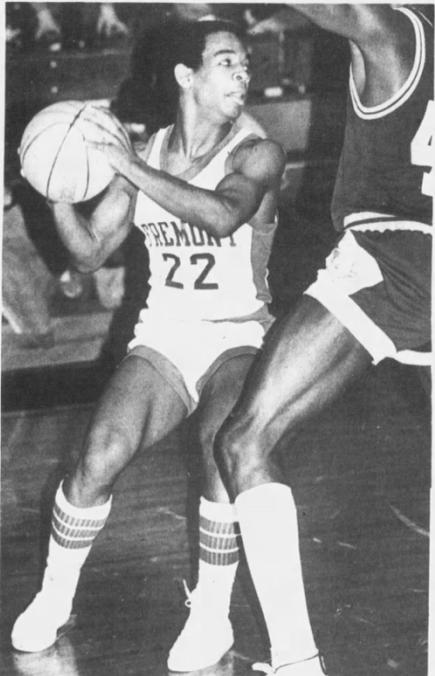
Bob Marker, editor



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

JERRY MANAHAN OF ROSS, LEFT, AND ED SUGGS OF ADMIRAL KING CANNOT REACH A FOURTH QUARTER REBOUND

King wins BC title at Ross's expense



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

CRAIG DANIELS of Ross looks for an opening while being confronted by Steve Davis of Admiral King. Daniels got into foul trouble early

in the game and was held to two points after entering the game with a 10-point average.

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Writer
Seven was not Ross's lucky number Friday night or Admiral King Friday night. The Buckeye Conference basketball title clinching 68-42 victory

Friday at Ross. "It took them just seven seconds to take us out of our game plan," Ross Coach John Sawyer said after watching his team drop its 11th straight game. The Admirals held only a 2-1 lead at that point on Ed Suggs' bucket, but it was enough to prevent Ross's deliberate play plan.

Two turnovers and two Mike Walters baskets for Ross were forced to run with the state's third ranked (by the Associated Press) Class AAA team. Just two minutes and 15 seconds into the game, Admiral King had dictated the final results with an 8-0 lead.

It was 19-11 after one quarter and the Admirals had a clear sailing to their 18th victory in 19 games. The Admirals finished the conference season at 11-1, a game ahead of crosstown rival Lorain Senior.

"That was the number three team in the conference and we are 2-15," Sawyer pointed out, "and that was the way it was going to go."

"They are just a much, much better ball team than us," he said. Walton, with a game high 22, had 10 in the first period and 12 at the half. He scored eight in the third period and got a standing ovation from

the large Admiral following after he scored his final two points in the last quarter.

The Little Giants committed 15 first half turnovers and 12 of them were turned into Admiral King baskets. The Admirals also dominated their offensive board, hauling down 11 rebounds for second shot advantage 31-17 at the half. Admiral King wiped out any flickering Ross hopes of an upset by scoring four unanswered buckets to take 39-17 lead. Suggs hit the first two with Bill Hieder and Walton following up.

Sawyer, searching for

positive aspects of the game, was pleased with the play from

sophomores in the latter

moments of the game.

The Ross coach said that when the Admirals and the Little Giants met earlier in the season, his team may have caught AK by surprise with a deliberate offense in a 50-33 loss.

"It took them a little time to adjust to it but they were ready for it here," he said. "The first time, too, we had better ball handling than them."

Dave Aschenbach scored 15 for Ross and William Johnson added 10. Dan Brudzinski scored nine. Ross was 19 of 49 from the field and ended up with 29 rebounds and 24 turnovers.

Admiral King got 13 points from Roger Smith and 10 from the bench.

Suggs. The Admirals hit 27 of 62 shots while grabbing 36 rebounds, 17 off the offensive board. AK had 11 turn-

overs.

Ross will travel to

Tiffin Tuesday for a makeup game against Marion Harding Saturday.

(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)
ROSS COACH John Sawyer makes a point while talking to his team during a first half timeout Friday

Johnson scores 25 in Otsego's 71-49 victory over Lakota

By DAN HOFFMAN
News-Messenger Sports Writer
KANSAS — Midway through the fourth quarter, Otsego's 6-1 forward Chad Johnson stole a Lakota

were unwatched by the Knights in the third quarter.

The visitors from Tontogany hit seven of 10 shots and a pair of free throws to up the lead to 51-26 at the

end of 30 minutes of play.

Admiral King 68 Ross 42

Score by quarters

A. King	19	12	20	17	68
Ross	6	11	7	18	42

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING: Roger Smith 4-5-13, Mike Walton 9-2-20, Ed Suggs 5-0-10, Steve Davis 3-0-6, Bill Hieder 3-0-6, Wicks 1-0-2, Calamari 0-4-4, Goshen 1-1-3, Lovett 0-2-2, totals 27-14-68.

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 6-3-15, Williams Johnson 5-0-10, Craig Daniels 1-0-2, Tom Polk 1-0-2, Dan Brudzinski 4-1-9, Eric Bates 1-0-2, Jim Hufford 1-0-2, totals 19-4-42.

Season records: Admiral King 18-1 (11-1), Ross 2-15 (0-10).

Admiral King 67 Ross JV's 47

Score by quarters

A. King	17	14	17	19	67
Ross	10	15	15	7	47

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING: Ken Simmons 7-0-14, Paul Gensler 4-0-8, Scott Zimmerman 3-4-10, Terry Simmons 0-2-2, Ronnie Williams 6-3-15, Dave Urbanek 2-3-7, Bob Calamari 2-2-6, Gary Patton 1-1-3, Mario Wicks 1-0-2, totals 26-15-67.

Ross: Ted Reed 3-4-10, Jim Hufford 1-1-3, Jeff Nossaman 4-8-16, Ryan Smith 2-4-8, Jerry Manahan 1-1-3, Scott Welty 1-0-2, Jerry Snodgrass 1-3-5, totals 13-21-47.

Second quarter disaster sinks Little Giants

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

TIFFIN — An old saying: four cards do not make a straight.

A new saying: one quarter does not make a basketball game.

Ross played a quarter; Columbian played three and rested on its free throw shooting in the other to ice the Little Giants 80-62 in a high school battle of teams fighting losing streaks.

Ross's continued to 12 while the Tornadoes, ended their skid at six.

"There's no words that can describe that," Ross Coach John Sawyer said moments after the game. "We shot well the first quarter; but, what can you say?"

"They tried," he answered himself, shrugged and like the Little Giants shooting in the second quarter, became quiet.

The second quarter was Ross's undoing; the third and fourth were studies in futility. After hitting nine of 15 first quarter shots but trailing 21-19, Ross made four of 22 second quarter shots, Columbian seven of 13, and trailed at the intermission 45-28.

Greg White and Dave Shook led the Tornadoes second quarter assault. White hit on four straight shots and Shook put in six of eight free throws. White did not miss a thing all night; he sank all seven shots from the field and was three of three from the foul line.

In the third quarter, Columbian outpointed the Little Giants 19-11, hitting on eight of 15 while the Little Giants were five of 13.

The Little Giants, paced by Dave Aschenbach's hot shooting, could never get closer than 15 in the second half. Aschenbach, one of three Little Giants to foul out in the last period, was nine of 15 from the field for his 18 points but Ross, as a team, took 76 shots and hit only 28.

Columbian was 25 of 49 but went to the foul line 39 times, 31 more than Ross. The Tornadoes, with Shook hitting nine of 12 of the free throws, hit 30 of them including 12 of 15 in the final eight minutes.

In the fatal second quarter for Ross, the Little Giants were outscored 12 to 2 in the first four minutes to trail 33-21. At that point, Aschenbach sank a long range jumper and Dan Brudzinski put in two free throws to get Ross back to a 33-26 disadvantage.

On the next two Columbian trips downcourt, Shook hit the front end of the one and one free throw situation and on each miss of the second shot, White rebounded and put it back in to put the Tornadoes up 39-26 and that took the wind out of the Little Giants.

Columbian had five players in double figures with 5-4 junior Gary Hall's 18 pacing the quintet. Shook and White had 17 with Dave Cunningham and Dave Assenheimer finishing with 10 apiece.

Tony Gant, after missing the last four games, had 17 to go with Aschenbach's 18. Craig Daniels added 10 for the Little Giants.

After holding a 23-19 advantage on the boards in the first half, Columbian ended up hauling in 41 to Ross's 40 for the game.

Friday, Ross will host Findlay and on Saturday, Marion Harding will help Ross bring down the curtains on the regular season by visiting the Little Giants' home.

Columbian 80 Ross 62

Boys Varsity

Score by quarters

Ross	19	9	12	22	—62
Columbian	21	24	19	16	—80

Scoring

ROSS: Tony Gant 7-3-17, Craig Daniels 5-0-10, Dave Aschenbach 9-0-18, William Johnson 1-0-2, Dan Brudzinski 4-1-9, Eric Bates 1-0-2, Willie Martin 1-2-4, totals 28-6-62.

COLUMBIAN: Gary Hall 6-6-18, Dave Shook 4-9-17, Dave Cunningham 3-4-10, Dave Assenheimer 5-0-10, Greg White 7-3-17, Troy Bogner 0-1-1, Bill Dotson 0-5-5, Mark Reinholt 0-1-1, Chris Belville 0-1-1, totals 25-30-80.

Season records: Ross 2-16, Columbian 8-11.

Columbian 62 Ross JV's 48

Boys

Score by quarters

Ross	15	7	15	11	—48
Columbian	15	17	11	19	—62

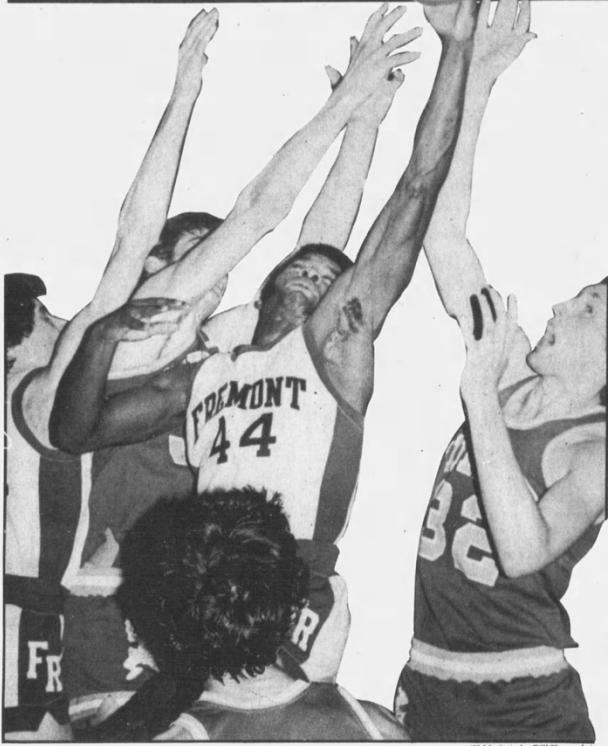
Scoring

ROSS: Ted Reed 4-2-10, Jerry Snodgrass 2-2-6, Jerry Manahan 5-4-14, Jeff Nossaman 5-0-10, Ryan Smith 4-0-8, totals 20-8-48.

COLUMBIAN: Charlie Laveglia 0-2-2, Kevin Leahy 1-0-2, Al Hostetler 3-2-8, Bill Myers 2-8-12, Rod Agerter 0-2-2, Steve Smith 6-2-14, Greg Lonsway 5-1-11, Mark Hoar 0-2-2, Linc Davis 2-0-4, totals 21-20-62.

Sports

Bob Marker, editor



TONY GANT (44) of Ross is surrounded by Findlay players as he leaps for a rebound during the third quarter of the game at Ross High

(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

School Friday. Gant scored 19 points for the Little Giants.

Findlay tops Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
Findlay beat back the best of Ross's best effort this season, Friday, for a 57-50 Buckeye Conference basketball victory.

The Trojans, suffering through their first losing season (9-11) since 1968, trailed briefly as Ross bolted to a quick 4-0 lead. An 11-2 spurt for the Trojans put Ross down 11-6 and the Little Giants never got any closer than three after that.

"I thought we played a pretty good game," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "They hurt us on the boards; they were getting as many shots as they needed."

Findlay, with Ken Bame and Mark Fry leading the rebounding, held a 26-18 first half lead in that category. Both Trojans had 12 points apiece in the half. Bame ended up with 18 and Fry 17.

Findlay Coach Roger Renz was gratified by the Little Giants' play.

"For a team that has won only two games, they played very

well," he said. "I don't know whether they play like that just against us but I thought they played a pretty good ball game."

Good, however, was not enough for Ross.

Tony Gant, battling the taller Trojans on the boards, scored all 19 of his points in the first three periods but Ross trailed 53-38.

In the final quarter, Dave Aschenbach tossed in 14 of his 18 points for the Little Giants as Ross made an aborted run at the Trojans.

The Little Giants sneaked to within nine, 56-47 and 61-52, but could get closer only on Aschenbach's last second bucket that produced the final score.

"We didn't get any breaks either," Sawyer said. "They would kick the ball to us and we would kick it right back to them."

"Then, they were switching from the man-to-man to the zone and back, and that hurt us, but," he managed to smile while thinking about his team's 17th

loss in 19 games. "We played very well for the first time in a long time."

The Little Giants took the early lead on Aschenbach's jumper and Dan Brudzinski shot off the glass. Fry scored Findlay's first points at the 5:45 mark to spur a five-point run.

Craig Daniels' basket gave Ross a 6-5 lead but the Trojans ran off six unanswered points and the Little Giants had to attempt to play catch-up the rest of the way.

Ross hit 24 of 48 shots and 12 of 16 from the foul line. Findlay was 27 of 59 and 13 of 20 at the line. The Trojans held a 37.9% advantage on the boards. Findlay committed only eight turnovers while Ross had 11.

Tonight the Little Giants will host Marion Harding in the final regular season game. Tuesday, Ross will travel to Ashland to play Mansfield in the Class AAA Sectional Tournament. Both tonight and Tuesday's action will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Unexpected shots put Stadler in lead

MIAMI (AP) — Craig Stadler birdied two of his last three holes with "shots I didn't expect to make," for a 69 Friday that expanded his lead to two strokes after two rounds of the \$300,000 Doral Eastern Open Golf Tournament.

Stadler, a winner at Tucson and bidding to become the first two-time champion of the young season, reached the tournament's halfway point with a 135 total. He was nine shots under par for two trips over the Blue Monster course at the Doral Country Club.

"It was a pretty solid round," said Stadler, the chunky guy

there. I was patient, got those couple of birdies at the end and came out of it with a pretty good score."

Andy Bean, who missed most of last season with a hand injury, hit his first drive of the day into the water, but recovered for a 69 that left him at 137.

"I'm learning to get over that sort of thing," said Bean, once possessed of a flaming temper that prompted him to bite golf balls.

"I just said to myself, 'Well, we've got 17 holes to get it back.' I think it made me play a little more aggressively."

shot for an eagle-2 on the fifth hole, but could do no better than a 71 that left him at 138, three shots back.

"It was a more difficult day to play golf," Nicklaus said of the gusty winds that raked the 7,065-yard course. "I'm not unhappy with the way I played. It's a reasonable score today; not a great score but a reasonable score and I'm still in reasonable position."

He was tied at 6-under par with Mike Niccolte, who one-putted 12 times on the way to a 70.

Scott Hoch and Eric Batten

followed at 70. Frank had a 70.

Findlay 67

Ross 60

Score by quarters

Findlay	18	15	20	14-67
Ross	11	15	12	22-60

Scoring

FINDLAY: Shannon Clark 7-0-14, Mark Fry 6-5-17, Duane Mains 3-1-7, Ken Bame 6-6-18, Joe Umbs 1-0-2, Scott Fryer 2-1-5, Joe Plott 2-0-4, totals 27-13-67.

ROSS: Tony Gant 9-1-19, Dave Aschenbach 7-4-18, Craig Daniels 3-0-6, Dan Brudzinski 3-1-7, William Johnson 0-2-2, Matt Collins 1-2-4, Dave Miller 1-2-4, totals 24-12-60.

Season records: Findlay 9-11 (5-7), Ross 2-17 (0-11).

Findlay 59

Ross JVs 49

Score by quarters

Findlay	16	21	15	7-59
Ross	8	4	22	15-49

Scoring

FINDLAY: Will Burke 1-0-2, Jim Arnold 3-0-6, Doug Boes 1-0-2, Chris Hughes 0-2-2, Mike Dillon 2-3-7, Dave Haas 1-0-2, Joe Plott 8-6-22, Pat Dillon 7-2-16, totals 23-13-59.

ROSS: Ted Reed 4-2-10, Jim Hufford 2-0-4, Jeff Nossaman 8-0-16, Ryan Smith 4-0-8, Mark Zura 0-1-1, Jerry Manahan 3-0-6, Scott Welty 1-0-2, Jerry Snodgrass 0-2-2, totals 22-5-49.

Season record: Ross 5-14 (10-10).

Ross breaks 13-game losing skid

By ROB BOUKISSEN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

The Ross Little Giants may be saving their best for last.

In their final regular season game and with the tournament just around the corner, the Little Giants looked impressive in easily disposing of Marion Harding 51-41 in front of a sparse Parents' Night crowd at the Ross gym Saturday.

The victory ended a 13-game losing skid for the Giants and gave them their first win in the Buckeye Conference. However, Ross still finished in the BC basement with a 1-11 record (3-17 overall), one game behind Harding, which finished at 5-15 overall and 2-10 in the conference.

Ross Coach John Sawyer wasn't thinking about that when evaluating the play of his team.

Sawyer said, "Our guys played together well tonight. We haven't had that all season. It took us 20 games to get there, but we finally got there. Everyone contributed to the win."

For the most part, only six players saw action for Ross. (Eric Bates got some action late in the game when the verdict was clear.) And those six players — Tony Gant, Craig Daniels, Dave Aschenbach, William Johnson, Dan Brudzinski and Matt Collins — all did their part at different times.

In the first quarter, Marion's 6-5 center Marc West scored eight points to give the Presidents a 12-9 lead. Brudzinski hit his first two shots to help keep Ross close, as the Giants only made four of 14 field goal attempts in the period.

Ross began to heat up in the second quarter and a 2-3 zone defense held Harding to a one-of-12 shooting display and only three points.

"Definitely, we did a heckuva job in the first half," Sawyer said. "Heck, we held them to 15 points. We were playing some man-to-man early, but we switched to the zone."

Offensively, the Giants could do little wrong.

Brudzinski hit three more shots in a row, all from the 10-15 foot range. Out of Ross's seven field goals in the second quarter, six were from that range.

Aschenbach hit two, Daniels the other, and Gant made two free throws at the end of the half to give Ross a 25-15 halftime lead.

The lone short-range hoop for Ross during the second period was a driving layup by Collins, only seconds after entering the game as the Giants' sixth man.

There were two spurts in the third quarter — one by each team.

Ross had the early one as Aschenbach nailed a jumper, Johnson put a missed shot back in and Gant hit a double-pump layup and a 15-footer to give the Little Giants their biggest lead of the night, 33-15, at the 3:56 mark.

Up to that time Marion had missed its first five shots and had committed five turnovers. But behind the play of the conference's leading scorer, Don Brown, the Prexies came back with a 10-2 spurt to make it 35-25 Ross at the end of the third period.

Any hopes Harding had of coming back in the final period were squelched thanks to Aschenbach and more torrid Ross shooting.

Aschenbach made a running one-hander and a 15-footer to start the quarter for Ross. He stole a Harding pass and fed it to Daniels for an easy layup. Collins hit a short fall-away jumper and Brudzinski canned a baseline shot to conclude a five-basket run for Ross.

That spurt put the Giants up 45-30 with six minutes remaining. Harding made one last run, and with 35 seconds left had a chance to cut its deficit to six points, but a Brown shot missed its mark, and the Ross celebration began.

Aschenbach, a 6-3 junior, made two more points in the period to close out a 15-point night, which led Ross. He also grabbed five rebounds, had four assists and two steals.

Brudzinski, a 6-2 sophomore, finished with 14 points and six rebounds.

Nobody else was in double figures in scoring for Ross, but their contributions were felt in other departments.

Daniels had nine assists and three steals, Gant had seven rebounds and two steals and Johnson, in two quarters of action, grabbed a team-leading nine rebounds.

"Finally, all of them contributed," Sawyer said. "Aschenbach made some big shots and Brudzinski shot really well. Gant did a good job rebounding and so did Johnson. Daniels ran the offense well and Collins off the bench was really tough."

Ross made 24 of 47 shots (51 percent) to Harding's 16 of 55 (29 percent). The Prexies edged Ross 32-31 in the rebounding department and had two less turnovers than the Giants (21-19).

Ross will be at Ashland College Tuesday evening to take on Mansfield Senior in the First round of the AAA sectional. Mansfield beat Harding 64-58 this past Tuesday and is 5-15. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Ross 51 Marion 41

Boys

Score by quarters

Marion	12	3	10	16	—41
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Ross	9	16	10	16	—51
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Scoring

MARION: Jamie Stven 0-0-0, James Floyd 3-0-6, Marc West 7-0-14, Todd Hecker 1-4-6, Jim Krassow 1-0-2, John Sims 1-0-2, Don Brown 3-5-11, totals 16-9-41.

ROSS: Craig Daniels 3-0-6, Dave Aschenbach 7-1-15, Tony Gant 3-2-8, William Johnson 1-0-2, Dan Brudzinski 7-0-14, Matt Collins 3-0-6, totals 24-3-51.

Two Ross players named to All-BC teams

Two Fremont Ross High School basketball players were named to the All-Buckeye Conference teams by the conference's seven coaches.

Tony Gant, 6-1 senior, was named to the second team while 6-3 junior Dave Aschenbach made the third unit.

Mike Walton of conference champ Lorain Admiral King was named the "player of the year." The 6-1 senior averaged 13.4 points per game while making nearly 51 percent of his field goal attempts. He had a rebounding average of 7.4 and passed out four assists per game.

Walton's coach, Mitch Gillam who took the Admirals to the regional finals this year, was named the "coach of the year." Gillam's team finished 23-2 this year while being 19-1 in the regular season and ranked third (AP) in Ohio in Class AAA schools. His record in 10 years at Admiral King is 183-62 and his career coaching mark is 246-115.

Joining Walton on the first team was teammate Roger Smith, one of two juniors on the first unit. Terry Wearsch of Elyria, 6-6, was the other junior. Eric Delk, 5-10 senior, of Sandusky and Riley Taylor, 6-1 senior, of conference runnerup Lorain Senior, rounded out the first team.

Along with Gant on the second teams were 6-foot senior Carl Hartman of Lorain, Mike Lotko, 6-2 senior of Elyria, 6-5 junior Randy Maschari of Sandusky, and 6-2 junior Mark Fry of Findlay.

On the third team with Aschenbach were Findlay's 6-foot senior Jamie Houdeshell and 6-4 senior Duane Mains, Ed Suggs, 6-foot Admiral King senior and Don Brown, 6-foot junior from Marion Harding.

Receiving honorable mention from Ross was Craig Daniels, a senior.

Sports

5 win Ross winter sports MVP awards

Five Ross High School athletes were named "most valuable" in three sports Monday evening during the winter sports awards program.

Sharon Karlovetz and Tina Michael shared the top award in girls basketball. Michael is a sophomore and Karlovetz is a junior.

Tony Gant won the main award for the boys basketball team and Anthony Gardner hauled down that hardware in wrestling. Randy Penrod was the swim team's "most valuable." All three are seniors.

Girls basketball

Coach Sue Wolf presented Lisa Luman with the "most valuable sophomore" trophy with the team's "most improved" going to Michael Karlovetz. Karlovetz took home the best foul shooter honor and another sophomore, Katie Marritt, was named the team's best defensive player.

Michael capped off the night with her third honor, the top rebounding award. Karlovetz and Sandy Long, a junior, were presented with captain's trophies.

Dan Brudzinski, who spent the latter part of the season as a starter on the varsity team,

won the "most valuable junior varsity" trophy for the boys team. He is a 6-3 sophomore. He also picked up the "most improved" award from Coach John Sawyer.

Craig Daniels, a senior, was named the team's "best defensive" player and junior Dave Aschenbach was the team's best free throw shooter. Gant also won the team's top rebounder trophy.

Gardner, who was a three-year letterman for the wrestling team, also received a captain's trophy from Coach Al Voggentier plus the award for having the most pins

during the season.

Mitch Cirliss, a senior, won the trophy for the most takedowns. Long also received went to sophomore Reggie Parks with the "coaches' award" going to another junior, Mark Schmidt.

Corey Beard, senior, also received a captain's trophy.

Penrod, a two-year letterman, topped the awards passed out by Coach Art Bucci. He is a two-year letterman.

David Hetrick won the "most improved" honor with captain's trophies going to Brian Overmyer and Randy Randolph. The coaches'

award went to Chris Black and Jill Isaac.

The following are the letter winners:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

First year: Lisa Arndt, Carol Falquette, Sharon Karlovetz, Melissa Marquart, Katie Marritt, Tina Michael, Ronna Paulson and Celinea Simmons.

Second year: Sandy Long and Julie Ritchart.

BOYS BASKETBALL

First year: Dave Aschenbach, Eric Bates, Matt Collins and William Johnson.

Second year: Craig Daniels, Tony Gant and Dave Miller.

WRESTLING

First year: Melvin Chin, Reggie Parks, Kevin Shaffer, Jeff Weickert, Doug Zink and Mike Stull, manager.

Second year: Mitch Cirliss, Rick Heidelberg, Blaine Hines, Mark Schmidt, Craig Trick, Michael Wendt and Mike Adams, manager.

Third year: Corey Beard and Anthony Gardner.

SWIMMING

First year: Dan Aickerman, John Albrecht, Chris Black, Jim Ferguson, Dave Hetrick, Jill Isaac, Amy Koenig, Mark Lowther, Burke Mitchell, Troy Overmyer, Larry Rodriguez, Brian Wensinger.

Third year: Ty Heslet, Randy Pendro, Randy Randolph, Steve Rodd and Tad Winning.

Third year: Brian Overmyer.



MOST VALUABLE and most improved athletes for Ross winter sports are, seated, left to right, Sharon Karlovetz, Tina Michael and Lisa Luman; standing; Reggie Parks, Anthony Gardner, Randy Penrod, Tony Gant, Dan Brudzinski and Dave Hetrick.



SPECIAL AWARD winners for Ross winter sports were, seated, left to right, Mitch Cirliss, Jill Isaac, Katie Marritt and Sandy Long; standing; Chris Black, Randy Randolph, Corey Beard, Dave Aschenbach, Brian Overmyer and Mark Schmidt.

Giomi named 'AAA' player of year

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Newark Coach Gary Walters says the presence of Mike Giomi, The Associated Press' Class AAA Ohio Player of the Year, is a prime reason for the Wildcats' success in boys basketball games.

"We've won 63 and lost 12 over the last three years with Giomi," Walters said Monday. "He's a great leader."

The 6-foot-9 senior center, headed for Indiana

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Sports Fans!**



**STATE BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENTS LIVE FROM
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University, broke seven Newark school records and ranks as the Wildcats' all-time scoring leader with 1,316 points. He shot 61 percent from the field in the last three seasons, earning first-team All-Ohio honors in the last two years.

Art Signore of Columbus Northland, the state's No.1 ranked power during the season, was named as the AP's Class AAA State Coach of the Year in the boys sport. Signore led the Vikings to a 17-1 regular-season record.

Giomi was the lone player to earn first-team berths on the all-state squad for two years in a row. He edged another big man, 6-9 Keith Wesson of Niles McKinley, for the No.1 player's award. Wesson, a senior, averaged 20.6 points. They lead an eight-player first team.

Other first-team players were 6-5 Clinton Smith of Cleveland John Adams, 6-1 Rob Barkett of Mansfield Malabar, 6-1 Pepper Bego of Springfield South, 6-4 Steve Cluxton of Wilmington and 6-2 Demetrius Henderson of Cleveland St. Joseph.

All are high-scoring seniors, topped by Cluxton's 27.6 average and a 27.3 mark by Bego.