

Little Giants net 103 in victory

By BOB MARKER

Sports Editor

HOLLAND — Sue Wolf was exasperated.

Devoutly against teams running up scores to embarrass opponents, the Fremont Ross coach

watched the Little Giants top 100 points

for the first time ever in a 103-25 rout over Toledo Libbey Thursday night at Springfield Local High School.

The Division I sectional tournament victory put the Little Giants, 20-1, into Saturday's 8:15 p.m. sectional final against Maumee, 12-9. Maumee defeated Toledo Waite 52-29 in the first game Thursday.

The 103 points came almost effortlessly. The Little Giants' starters were on the floor together about 12 minutes. Dawn Zerman scored 31 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and had seven assists in about 16 minutes.

"I can remember we scored 98 when I was in high school," Wolf said. "You know, I cannot put my

other kids in and ask them not to score."

All 12 Little Giants, with Zerman at the top, were in the scoring column. Cari Ritzman and Michele Smith had 10 apiece with Marcy Reinbolt and Lisa Oprie chipping in with nine each.

Wolf played 10 Little Giants in the first quarter and all 12 were in the game by the midway point of the second quarter.

The only suspense, besides the opening tipoff, was who would put Ross over the century mark.

Oprie made one of two free throws for the Little Giants' 99th point with a minute, 12 seconds to play. After two Ross shots rolled off the rim, Oprie's short jumper with 28 seconds to play gave Ross 101. Oprie added the final basket.

"We had to use this as a practice," Wolf said. "We used every offense we have and tried all our defenses."

Everything worked against Libbey, which was playing without three suspended starters. A scuffle in the Cowboys' final regular season game against Toledo

GIRLS TOURNAMENT BASKETBALL

Woodmore, Gibsonburg advance

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — Woodmore scored inside and outside and advanced to a Division IV sectional championship game at Bowling Green High School.

The top-seeded Wildcats beat Emmanuel Baptist 83-39 and will meet Cardinal Stritch at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

In the lower bracket of the sectional, Gibsonburg defeated Patrick Henry 62-59.

Nicole Camper and Rupa

Narra combined for 29 points on the inside for Woodmore, with Camper tossing in 16.

Amy Perkins, meanwhile, made five 3-point baskets and scored 17 points.

Narra, Dawn Karchner and Jaci DiMasso all grabbed six rebounds as Woodmore outrebounded Emmanuel Baptist 33-23. The Warriors, 4-17, had 30 turnovers to Woodmore's 15.

Allison Aspacher added 11 points for the Wildcats, who made 38 of 70 shots.

Gibsonburg.....62
Patrick Henry.....59

The Golden Bears outscored Patrick Henry 17-11 in the fourth quarter, and their fifth win earned them a spot in the sectional final against second-seeded Ottawa Hills in the second game Saturday.

Nikki Reno led four Gibsonburg players in double figures with 15 points, Samantha Radel scored 13, Amanda Cottrell added 12 and Carrie Hoy chipped in 11.

Rogers put the Libbey starters on the sidelines.

Ross led 30-2 after one quarter, 55-7 at halftime and 77-18 after three quarters. It was 42-2 before Libbey scored its second basket

of the game at the 4:30 mark of the second quarter.

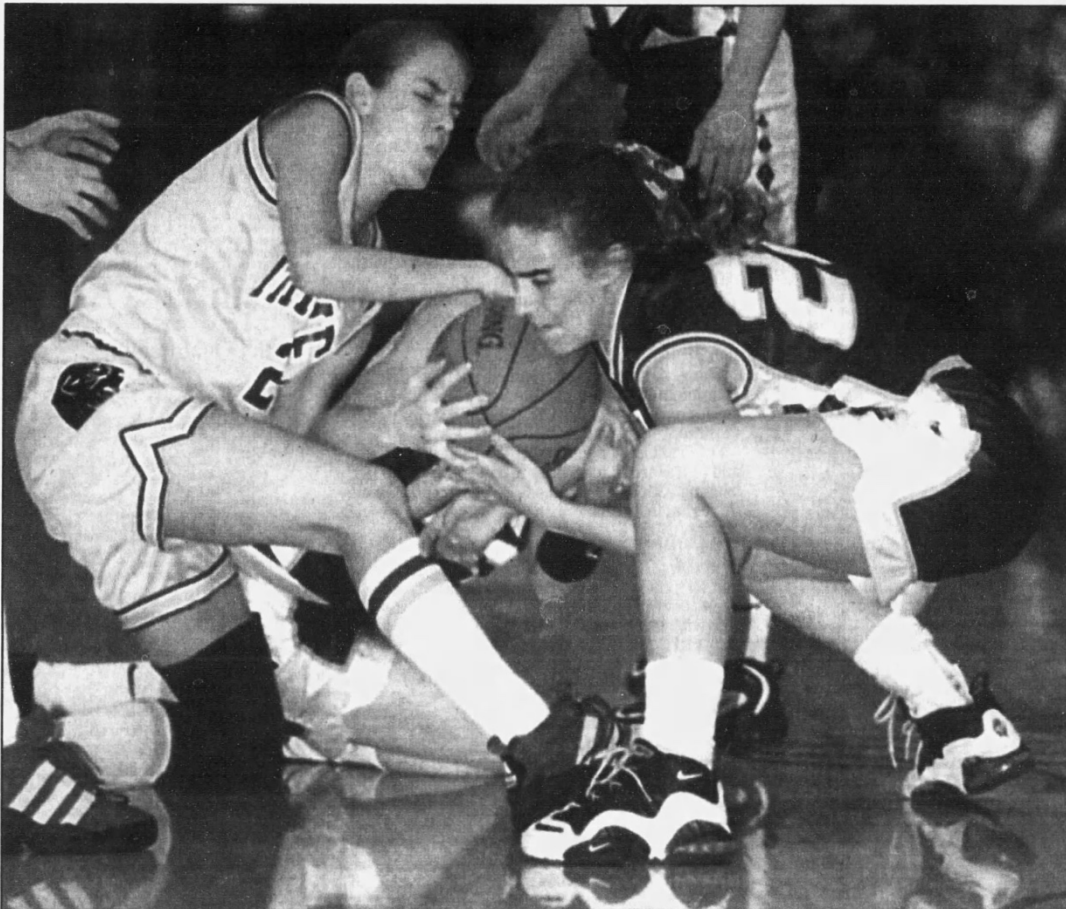
Ross made 44 of 72 shots, while Libbey missed 34 of 45 shots. The Little Giants outrebounded Libbey 42-28. The Cowboys had 38

turnovers, 24 more than the Little Giants, and Libbey's turnovers produced 40 points.

Nicole Mallett led the Cowboys with 10 points.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TOURNAMENT

Ross struggles, but wins



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

CARI RITZMAN, right, of Ross grabs the ball from Joanie Sisco of Maumee during first-half action Saturday at Springfield High School.

Little Giants take on Toledo Central Catholic in district semifinals

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

HOLLAND — Fremont Ross struggled Saturday before disposing of Maumee 51-30 in the Division I girls sectional basketball tournament finals at Springfield High School.

Ross, 21-1, will square off against Toledo Central Catholic, 20-2, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Northwood High School in the district semifinals. The Irish defeated Perrysburg 53-32 in the first game Saturday.

Maumee may have caught the Little Giants looking ahead while basking in the glow of defeating Libbey 103-25 in Thursday's sectional finals.

"It's very possible we were looking ahead," Ross coach Sue Wolf admitted. "The game (last) Thursday night ... I told them before we came out on the floor 'Everyone take hold of their heads and squeeze,' because with the 103 points, you begin to think you are pretty good."

"You have to be ready because these kids (Maumee) are well coached. We had to be ready ... they weren't going to lay down and die just because we scored 103 points."

Maumee, with Liz Bock scoring six points and Erin O'Shea five, led 11-9 after one quarter before the Ross defense took over.

"I don't think we were ever really in sync tonight," Wolf said. "I think it was probably one of Dawn's (Zerman) worst games but the mark of a good team is people come in off the bench and pick up

for someone not playing as well. Marcy Reinbolt came in and played a great game."

Reinbolt provided that spark that keyed a Ross pressing defense that stunned the Panthers in the second quarter. The Little Giants scored 10 points off seven Panther turnovers in the first four minutes to take a 21-11 lead. The Ross defense held Maumee to three second-quarter shots.

"We started out giving them the middle of the floor," Wolf said, "but we started getting in the passing lanes and took the middle away."

"We always rely on our defense to get us going and it did tonight."

So smothering was the Ross defense that Maumee had only 21 shots, a figure that made Wolf catch her breath.

"One of our goals was no easy shots and they definitely met that goal," she said.

Ross led 23-13 at the half and with Zerman scoring eight points took a 35-24 lead after three quarters. Maumee trailed 33-18 at one point but outscored Ross 6-2 in the last minute of the quarter.

In the final quarter, Cari Ritzman scored five points and five other Little Giants got into the scoring column as Ross steadily pulled away.

Zerman was off a little but still led the Ross scoring with 15 points and four assists. Ritzman had nine points. Bock had 12 for Maumee, which ended the season 12-10.