

Ross wins on Moran 3-pointer

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

WILLARD — Shane Moran didn't score a point until points counted most Tuesday night.

His 3-point baskets in the final 24 seconds wiped out a five-point deficit and gave Fremont Ross a 68-67 victory over Ashland in the first round of a Division I boys sectional basketball tournament.

"That's a nice win for our kids," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "They could have packed it in when we were down 67-62."

Ross (6-15) will pack instead for a return trip to Willard High School to take on Sandusky (16-4) for the sectional title at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

In a 1993 sectional final, Ashland defeated Ross 45-44 on a last-second tip-in.



MORAN



LATHER

This time, Moran's 3-pointer from the right of the foul circle swished through with nine seconds remaining.

"Our kids never quit," Gioffre said. "Shane Moran hit those big threes, David Gibbs came in and hit another and Mike Lather really picked us up. We needed a

spark and he gave it to us. He took charge of the game."

Lather scored 12 points, including a trio of three-point baskets, the first of the season for him.

The Little Giants made 9 of 26 3-points attempts, offsetting Ashland's 23-of-28 free throw performance. The Arrows made 15 of 16 foul shots in the fourth quarter — as Ross swapped foul shots for field goals — before missing their last two.

"Ross hit some big-time shots," Ashland coach Jody Peters said. "I don't think we did a good job of stepping out and challenging their 3-point shooters, but they hit the shots they needed to coming down the stretch."

Charles Woodson, the leading scorer for Ross, was ejected with 4:24 to play for punching Ash-

land's Mark Timmons after being knocked to the floor following a tip-in.

"I think when our kids saw Charles go out...they did not want to lose," Gioffre said.

Ross trailed 32-26 at halftime but took a 40-39 lead midway through the third quarter. The lead changed hands or was tied nine times after that.

The Little Giants led 47-41 lead after three quarters, but the Arrows caught Ross at 49 and 51 on baskets by Timmons. Woodson put Ross up 53-51, tipping in Chad Root's miss for the last of his 23 points before leaving.

Baskets by Root and Gary Rakes gave Ross a 57-54 advantage with 2:45 remaining, but Karl Singleton's 3-pointer pulled Ashland even and the Arrows

surrounded Root's two free throws with eight straight foul shots for a 65-59 lead with 53 seconds to play.

After Gibbs' 3-pointer from the deep right corner and a timeout, Jeff Gierhart's two foul shots with 42 seconds to go gave Ashland its final points.

Gierhart missed the front end of a one-and-one 10 seconds later, setting the stage for Moran's heroics. His first 3-pointer cut it to 67-65, and his second followed another Gierhart miss at the line.

Ashland, after a timeout with six seconds left, got off a shot by Singleton but the ball bounced off the back of the rim.

"That ball looked like it was going in," Gioffre said. "Thank goodness it bounded out."

High School Boys

Ross 68, Ashland 67

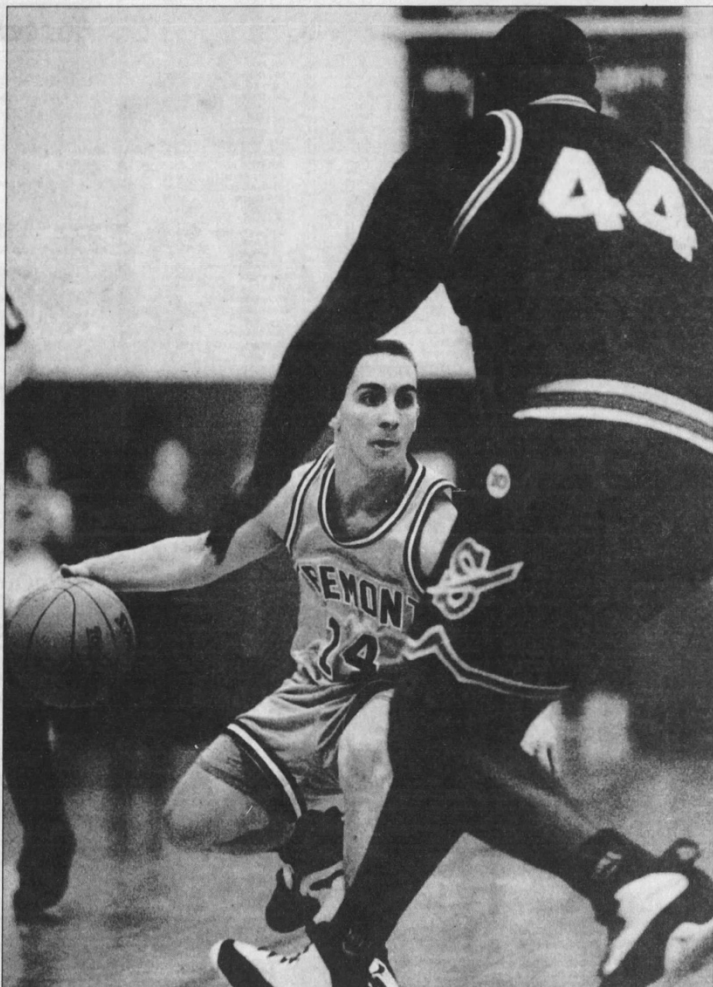
Ross	9	17	21	21	—	68
Ashland	18	14	9	26	—	67

ROSS—Charles Woodson 10-2-23, Chad Root 2-2-6, Jason Matney 2-0-4, Gary Rakes 4-0-10, Jon Minnich 2-0-4, Mike Lather 4-1-12, David Gibbs 1-0-3, Shane Moran 2-0-6, totals 27-5-68.

ASHLAND—Jeff Honaker 5-4-14, Craig Starkey 2-2-6, Tim Norris 6-4-16, Karl Singleton 3-5-13, Ben Johnson 1-2-5, Jeff Gierhart 1-5-8, Shawn Kelly 0-1-1, Matt Timmons 2-0-4, totals 20-23-67.

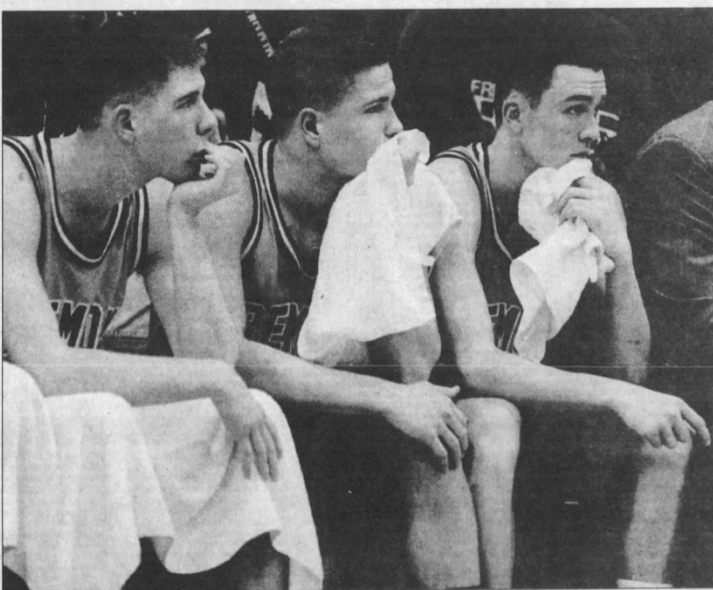
3-point goals: Woodson, Rakes 2, Lather 3, Gibbs, Moran 2, Singleton 2, Johnson, Gierhart.

Records: Ross 6-15, Ashland 7-14.



GARY RAKES, 5-foot-7, of Fremont Ross tries to go around Sandusky's Orlando Pace, 6-foot-8, during a sectional championship game at Willard High School Friday night.

Below from left, Jon Minnich, Chad Root and Geoff Berger watch the final moments of Sandusky's 85-28 win from the Ross bench.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Sandusky routs Ross

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

WILLARD — Sandusky had all the cards and played them well, trumping everything Fremont Ross tried to do in an 85-28 Division I sectional championship game victory Friday night.

"Fremont wasn't playing with a full deck," Sandusky coach John Schlessman pointed out.

Sandusky was the dealer in this one-sided game and the Blue Streaks' aces weren't up their sleeves. Lightning-quick point guard DeMar Moore and hulking Orlando Pace were in plain view.

The Little Giants played without Charles Woodson and substitute Mike Lather. Woodson and his 20-points per game average were serving a one-game suspension; Lather forgot his uniform and shoes.

The Blue Streaks (17-4) will face Celina, which defeated Defiance 60-52 for a sectional title, in the district tournament Thursday at Bowling Green State University. Ross finishes the season 6-16.

Pace, a 6-foot-8, 300-pounder bound for the football wars at Ohio State, muscled in 14 of his 16 points in the first half as Sandusky walked off with a 42-14 halftime lead.

Moore, after a mild first half, scored 12 of his 20 points in the third quarter as Sandusky expanded its lead to 68-19.

"That team right there," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said of Sandusky, "in my opinion, is probably one of the better teams in the state of Ohio."

Gioffre wanted his team to play patiently, but Sandusky ruined that plan quickly by scoring the first eight points.

It was 20-9 after one quarter, with all of the Ross points on 3-point baskets — two by Gary Rakes and the other by Shane Moran.

"We did miss some early opportunities to get momentum...we had some wide-open threes and we could not hit them," Gioffre said.

"They are such a great team in transition, and Orlando does such a great job of rebounding and outletting the ball, that we fell behind early and by halftime, that was the game."

The game was out of reach of Ross, but the second-half card

Woodson out because of suspension

News-Messenger reports

WILLARD — Charles Woodson and Mike Lather did not suit up for Fremont in the Division I sectional finals against Sandusky Friday night.

Woodson, the Little Giants leading scorer at more than 20 points per game, was suspended by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for one game this week following an incident in a 68-67 Ross victory over Ashland in the first game of the sectional tournament.

"The game site manager reports the incident to the OHSA," Ross Athletic Director Pat McGhee explained, "and then the commissioner (Claire Muscaro) investigates it. He gets input from the game officials and the teams involved, and then makes the ruling."

Woodson, after tipping in a Ross shot against Ashland, was knocked to the floor by the Arrows Mark Timmons. While on the floor, Woodson punched Timmons and was ejected immediately.

"The suspension is for one game," McGhee said. "There will be no carryover to next season."

Lather missed the game because he forgot to pack his equipment, leaving his shoes and uniform in Fremont

shuffling of Blue Streak players had to be played.

"Our game plan was not to do anything fancy," Schlessman said, "and I thought our kids shared the ball well all night long, and that is all you can do in a game like this."

Roger Smith added 12 for Sandusky and Keithrian Pickens came off the bench to score a dozen for the Streaks.

Rakes topped Ross with six points, while Moran and David Gibbs had five apiece.

Tigers beat Indians in preseason opener

Associated Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — Rookie Danny Bautista looked like he belonged in the Detroit lineup as the Tigers defeated the Cleveland Indians 12-5 in the exhibition opener for both teams.

But there was good news Friday for the Indians, too, as Charles Nagy appeared completely recovered from shoulder surgery.

Nagy (0-1) retired the first five batters, striking out Juan Samuel, Travis Fryman and Cecil Fielder. Then the powerful Detroit offense caught up with him.

The Tigers, with two outs in the second, exploded for four runs. Chad Kreuter had a two-run triple and Bautista hit an RBI single in the rally.

The Tigers got homers from Alan Trammell and Junior Felix in the five-run fifth, both off Mark Clark. Trammell hit a three-run homer to left and Felix homered to right.

Mike Moore (1-0), Bill Gullickson, Krueger and Mike Christopher each pitched two innings for Detroit.

The Tigers had 15 hits off five Cleveland pitchers.

Sandusky 85, Ross 28

Sandusky	20	22	26	17	—	85
Ross	9	5	5	9	—	28

SANDUSKY—DeMar Moore 9-2-20, Paul Brown 1-4-6, Orlando Pace 6-4-16, Roger Smith 5-2-12, Anthony Aaron 3-0-6, Derek Bonner 2-2-7, Keithrian Pickens 4-4-12, Edwin Minniefield 1-2-4, Shannon Pickens 1-0-2, totals 32-20-85.

ROSS—Chad Root 0-0-0, Shane Moran 2-0-5, Jon Minnich 1-0-2, Jason Matney 1-0-3, Gary Rakes 2-0-6, David Gibbs 1-2-5, Doug Hershey 1-2-4, Darren Cheal 1-0-2, Tim Leeth 1-0-2, totals 10-3-28.

3-point goals: Bonner, Moran, Matney, Rakes 2, Gibbs.

Records: Sandusky 17-4, Ross 6-16.