

1995-1996 Season Review

Bowling Green beats Ross

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

BOWLING GREEN — Experience and execution made the difference in Bowling Green's 80-65 non-league win over Fremont Ross here Friday night.

It was the season opener for both teams.

For the Little Giants it looked like a season opener.

Bowling Green played more like a team in midseason form as the Bobcats outscored Ross 24-9 in the third quarter to lead 61-44 going into the final eight minutes.

The Bobcats led 37-35 at halftime.

"The difference was they were a little more experienced and we lacked execution," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We got out of our game both offensively and

defensively.

"But they are also a very good team. They weren't picked to finish second in their league (Northern Lakes League) for nothing."

In the decisive third quarter, the Little Giants netted just two field goals, the first coming on a putback by Doug Hershey at the 2:30 mark in the period.

"Our kids played well in the third quarter," Bowling Green coach Mike Vannett said. "They came out hard and did all the little things. They rebounded and made good decisions and ran the floor well and didn't turn it over."

The Bobcats outrebounded Ross 11-8 in the quarter after having been beaten on the boards by the Little Giants 14-11 in the first half.

Bowling Green had just two turnovers in the period and 13 for the game.

"Our goal is to be under 15 (turnovers)," Vannett said. "When we meet that goal, we expect to win."

Bowling Green led 18-15 at the end of the first quarter as 6-foot-6 senior wingman Pete Maienknecht netted 11 points. Maienknecht finished with 23.

The Bobcats began the second quarter with an 8-0 run that included three consecutive putbacks, the first two by Kyle Marten and the last by Maienknecht, as Bowling Green stretched its lead to 26-15 with 6:46 to play in the first half.

The Little Giants responded with a run of their own that included consecutive putbacks by Shaun Root, Doug Hershey, and Derrick Hershey as Ross fought back to

within three points, 29-26, midway through the second quarter.

A three-point play by Derrick Hershey tied it at 33 and two free throws by brother Doug tied it again at 35 with 20 seconds to play in the first half, but a Maienknecht basket at the horn gave the Bobcats a lead they would never relinquish.

"They were catching the ball where they wanted to catch it," Gedeon said. "Our shot chart tells us that they shot only once in the area between the key and the three point line."

"We need to make our opponent catch the ball where we want them to catch it."

The Bobcats were 26-of-46 in the key for 56 percent and 5-of-11 from 3-point range.

Doug Hershey led the Little Giants with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

Basketball

High School Boys

Bowling Green 80, Ross 65

Ross 15 20 9 21 — 65

Bowling Green 18 19 24 19 — 80

ROSS—Sam Root 4-0-9, Jason Harper 2-3-7, Rob Stotz 1-0-3, Kurt Snyder 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 6-10-22, Shaun Root 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 4-7-15, Kevin Mosser 1-1-3, totals 21-21-65.

BOWLING GREEN—Tony Szymczak 1-0-2, Matt Saneholtz 3-3-9, D. J. Eidson 4-1-10, Doug Whitmire 4-0-10, Matt Frakes 1-1-3, Marc Campisi 1-4-7, Pete Maienknecht 10-2-23, Marcus Taylor 4-1-9, Kyle Marten 3-1-7, totals 31-13-80.

3-point goals: Whitmire 2, Eidson, Campisi, Maienknecht, Stota 1.

Record: 0-1, Bowling Green 1-0.

B. Green JV 60, Ross 57

Ross 12 14 14 17 — 57

Bowling Green 11 10 19 20 — 60

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 8-0-17, Mike Hickey 3-1-8, Demetris Simms 5-0-10, Rashad Brown 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 4-0-8, Mike Weaver 0-2-2, Bryson Sewell 5-0-10, totals 26-3-57.

BOWLING GREEN—Shaun Briggs 2-0-4, Andy Spitler 1-3-5, Brian Maienknecht 4-0-9, Chris Campisi 8-7-23, Ben Huffman 1-2-4, Matt Taylor 6-3-15, totals 22-15-60.

3-point totals: Heidelberg, Hickey, Maienknecht 1.

Record: Ross 0-1, B. Green 1-0.

Ross, Gideon pick up first victories

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Mark Gideon's first victory as a varsity coach was wire-to-wire. Gideon's Fremont Ross boys basketball team never trailed in an 82-60 romp over Toledo Waite at the Purple Pit Tuesday.

Gideon coached the Ross junior varsity for five seasons before stepping up to the varsity job.

"It was nice to get it at home," Gideon, who had coached the Ross junior varsity the five previous seasons, said. "Now we have to look forward to Bedford Friday in our league opener."

That Great Lakes League

opener is slated for a 6:15 JV start Friday in the Purple Pit. Ross is 1-1 while Waite is 0-2.

But while thinking of getting a second win, the first was secure.

Derrick Hershey scored 21 points as 10 Little Giants scored. John Overberg came off the bench for 10 and Doug Hershey,



**DERRICK
HERSHEY**

Derrick's brother, added 10. Ryan Shively had 10 rebounds as Ross held a 51-34 edge on the boards.

The 82 points did not surprise Gideon.

"It was the type of game that could give us 82 points," he said. "We want to look to run with a purpose; they were pressuring us and giving us some wide open lanes to give us good scoring opportunities. We just took advantage of it."

Especially in the third quarter.

Leading 41-32 at the half, Ross outscored the Indians 25-9, increasing the lead to 25 points,

66-41. The lead never slipped below 19 in the final quarter.

"The key was breaking down their pressure," Gideon said. "They picked us up full court and our kids ended up getting some 3-on-1 situations that we converted for layups."

Waite coach Kevin Horn said, "Our kids got a little disorganized. We talked at halftime and our plan was to come out and create some chaos. We wanted to trap the ball but our kids were not trapping. As a result, Fremont was taking the ball off the backboards and we got lost."

The Little Giants outrebounded

the Indians 15-5 in the quarter.

Doug Hershey scored on a layup off a Waite turnover to start the third quarter. Derrick Hershey sandwiched a pair of baskets around one by Harry Liggins and the Ross lead had grown to 49-32. Waite got no closer than 13 — 53-40 — after that.

Aaron Peacock led Waite with 19 points. Mike Evans added 11.

The Little Giants made 35 of 69 shots and Waite 24-of-65.

Ross had 29 turnovers with 11 of those in the final quarter when there was no doubt of the game's outcome. Waite had 26 turnovers with only two in the final period.

High School Boys

Ross 82, Waite 60

Waite	12	20	9	19	—	60
Ross	20	21	25	16	—	82

WAITE—James Walker 3-2-9, Spencer Yates 1-0-2, Mike Evans 5-1-11, Scott Swan 3-1-7, Aaron Peacock 7-4-19, Tony Scruggs 3-0-7, James Moore 1-0-3, Allen Thomas 1-0-2, 24-8-60.

ROSS—Sam Root 4-1-9, Jason Harper 2-0-4, John Overberg 3-3-10, Harry Liggins 4-0-8, Kurt Snyder 0-2-2, Ryan Shively 3-0-6, Doug Hershey 4-2-10, Shaun Root 2-0-4, Derrick Hershey 9-3-21, Kevin Mosser 4-0-8, totals 35-11-82.

3-point goals: Walker, Peacock, Scruggs, Overberg

Records: Ross 1-1, Waite 0-2.

Waite JV 65, Ross 58

Waite	19	13	16	17	—	65
Ross	16	20	8	14	—	58

WAITE—J.R. Carswell 5-1-15, Bubba Gilmer 7-1-15, Mark Eckenrode 6-4-16, Kris Hampton-Bey 3-2-8, Brandon Fulkert 1-0-2, David Burkey 3-0-6, Crom 1-0-3, totals 26-8-65.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 2-0-5, Justin Cummings 1-0-2, Mike Hickey 4-0-10, Demetris Simms 2-1-5, Brett Hufford 3-0-6, Jared Fisher 1-1-3, Rashad Brown 3-0-6, Rob Liggins 6-1-13, Mike Weaver 1-0-2, Bryson Sewell 3-0-6, totals 26-3-58.

3-point goals: Carswell 4, Croom, Heidelberg, Hickey 2

Records: Waite 1-1, Ross 0-2.

Ross wins GLL opener

Little Giants overtake Mules in final 10 minutes

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Mark Gedeon knows how the Fremont Ross Little Giants defeated Bedford 80-67 on Friday night in the Purple Pit. Bedford coach Mike German knew how the Mules lost.

"We did it with energy and focus," Gedeon said. "We took time out there in the third quarter and we told our kids to get focused again — think about what we had to do — and we began executing very, very well."

In the other lockerroom, German shouldered the blame for the Mules' second-half breakdown.

"I think Fremont was better prepared for the game than we were," German said. "I don't think I did a very good job of getting us ready to play."

"I think in the fourth quarter especially, they executed better than we did and that is my fault."

Ross, 2-1, climbed above the .500 mark for the first time since Feb. 11, 1992. Ironically, an 81-74 win over the Mules at Bedford that date gave Ross a 9-8 record.

The Little Giants trailed 36-33 at halftime of the Great Lakes League opener and still trailed 50-48 when Gedeon called time out with 2:46 remaining in the third quarter.

Jason Kehoe's free throw made it 51-48, but Bedford's lead quickly evaporated.

John Overberg's third 3-point goal tied it for Ross, and Kevin Mosser's two free throws put the Little Giants ahead 53-51.

Christian Schlachter's basket tied it for Bedford before Mosser's short jumper put Ross up 55-53.

The Little Giants never trailed again and took a 55-54 lead into the final quarter.

Ross ran off seven points to open the fourth quarter. Sam Root's basket off a turnover was followed by Overberg's fourth 3-pointer. Mosser's basket made it 62-54.

Blake Flessner broke the Ross run, but Mosser's basket was followed by a pair of Overberg free throws for 66-56 Ross lead. Derrick Hershey followed with two straight baskets off Bedford turnovers for a 70-56 lead with 4:30 remaining.

Bedford, 1-1, cut the lead to 74-65 with 1:20 to play but the Little Giants converted 6-of-8 free throws down the stretch.

"One of the keys tonight was everyone stepped up," Gedeon said. "There was not one single player who did not give us something positive on the floor tonight. It takes a team to win and we proved that tonight."

Overberg and Mosser came off the bench to score 16 points apiece. The Hershey brothers, Doug and Derrick, scored 14 and 13, respectively, and Sam Root gave Ross five players in double figures with 13.

Schlachter led Bedford with 24.

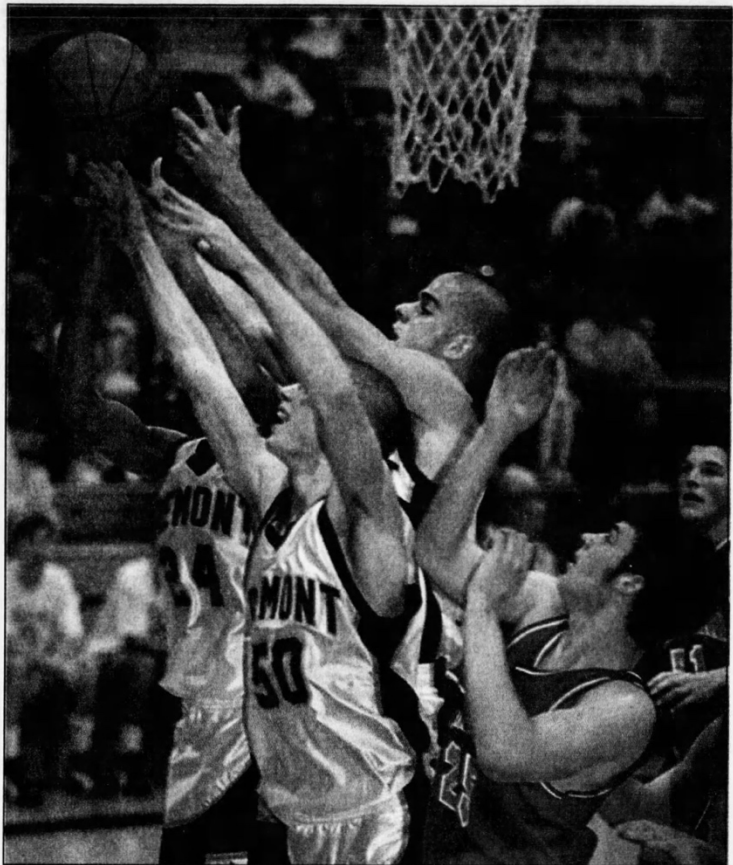
The game statistics were slightly deceiving as Bedford outrebounded Ross 44-22, including 19-13 on the offensive end.

"They got a lot of rebounds, but we got some key ones," Gedeon said.

The Mules also shot 53 percent to the Little Giants' 49. After three quarters, Bedford had made 24 of 39 shots but made only 6-of-18 in the final period.

Ross missed 13 of 30 free throws, but the Little Giants scored 16 points off 25 Bedford turnovers. The Mules made only two off nine Ross turnovers.

The Little Giants host Napoleon Tuesday in another GLL game.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DOUG HERSHEY (center) of Fremont Ross along with teammates Harry Liggins (24) and Derrick Hershey (50)

battle for a rebound during the first quarter Friday night after getting inside position on Bedford's Matt Sherman.

Defense carries St. Joe

News-Messenger reports

BASCOM — Brandon Durnwald scored 25 points Friday night, but it was defense that sparked Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic to a 67-50 Midland Athletic League victory over Hopewell-Loudon.

"We did a lot of helping defensively," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said. "We were very intense on the defensive end. That's what I expect out of this group."

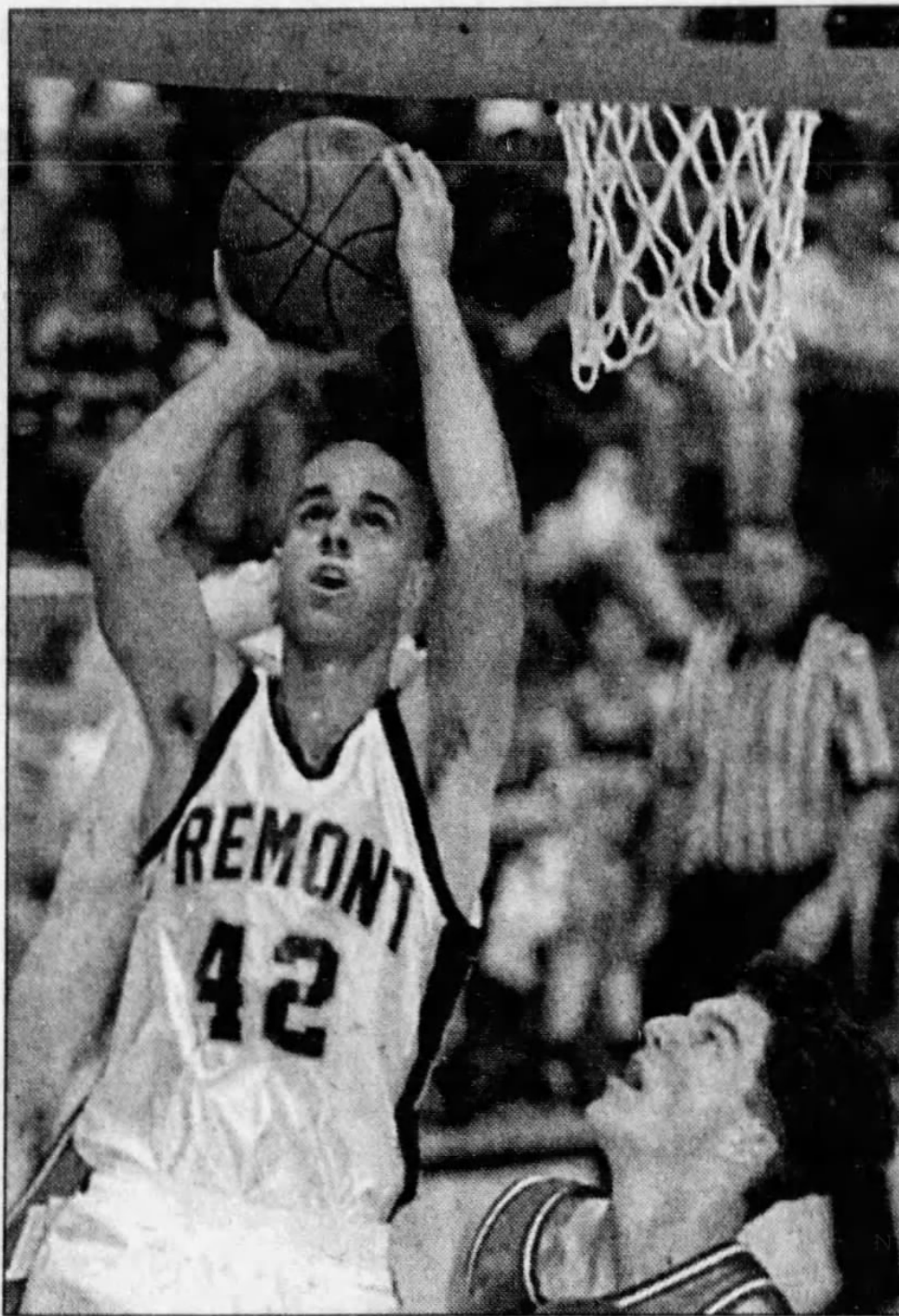
St. Joe, 2-0 and 1-0, led 43-29 at halftime. The Crimson Streaks won despite scoring just 24 points in the second half.

"We didn't handle the ball real well (in the second half), and we forced some shots," Gabel said. "Even at halftime we didn't feel we were playing real well offensively."

Durnwald made three of his six 3-point baskets to start the game, and St. Joe led 9-0 with the game three minutes old.

Jason Englund, who led the Streaks to a 38-20 rebounding edge with 10 rebounds, backed Durnwald with 16 points.

Both teams shot 35 percent, but the Chieftains did not make a 3-point basket.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Going up for two!

Doug Hershey of Fremont Ross is concentrating on the basket as he goes up over Christian Schlachter of Bedford Friday at the Purple Pit. Ross won the Great Lakes League game 80-67.

High School Boys

Ross 80, Bedford 67

Bedford 15 21 18 13 — 67

Ross 15 18 22 25 — 80

BEDFORD—Joe Albring 1-0-2, Blake Flessner 5-0-12, Chad Henman 5-1-11, Jason Kehoe 0-1-1, Keith Mieczkowski 1-1-3, Christian Schlachter 12-0-24, Matt Sherman 2-0-4, Dan Williams 4-2-10, totals 30-5-67.

ROSS—Sam Root 4-4-13, John Overberg 5-2-16, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 4-6-14, Shaun Root 2-0-4, Derrick Hershey 5-3-13, Kevin Mosser 7-2-16, totals 29-17-80.

3-point goals: Flessner 2, Root, Overberg 4

Records: Ross 2-1 (1-0), Bedford 1-1 (0-1)

Ross JV 56, Bedford 38

Bedford 6 10 6 16 — 38

Ross 12 11 14 19 — 56

BEDFORD—Scott Feldman 2-1-5, Nick Francis 3-2-8, Greg Hubbard 3-0-6, Jacob Lake 2-0-34, Thomas Nowak 2-1-5, Mike Shrader 2-0-4, Matthew Tippin 2-0-4, Greg Williams 3-0-6, totals 17-4-38.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 5-1-12, Justin Cummings 4-0-10, Mike Hickey 1-2-4, Dave Watruba 2-0-4, Brett Hufford 1-0-2, Jared Fisher 1-2-4, Rashad Brown 3-0-6, Rob Liggins 4-1-9, Mike Weaver 1-1-3, Bryson Sewell 1-0-2, totals 23-7-56.

3-point goals: Heidelberg, Cummings 2

Records: Ross 1-2, Bedford 1-1

Napoleon in zone against Ross

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The 2-3 zone is a simple defense that when played well is very effective.

Napoleon went to it on the first Fremont Ross possession Tuesday in boys basketball and stayed in it. And the game fell in the Wildcats' favor 55-50 because of it.

"In the second quarter, it finally started to wear on us and we started to play to Napoleon's tempo," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "I'm sure they were concerned that we had scored more than 80 points in the last two games.

"We had a pretty good idea that they were going to play zone. Unfortunately, we only had two days to prepare for it. Our kids got tentative."

Ross, 2-2 and 1-1 in the Great Lakes

League, led most of the first half and never trailed by more than five points in the second.

Napoleon, 3-1 and 2-0, trailed by as many as seven in the first half before Louis Green gave the Wildcats a lift.

Green, a 6-foot-4, 192-pound junior forward, scored 12 of his 18 points and grabbed five of his 17 rebounds in the second quarter. His 3-point basket with 17 seconds left in the half gave the Wildcats their first lead, 24-23, and he blocked a pair of shots as the half ended.

"Louis is very capable," Napoleon coach Walt Behrman said. "He can play at times and at times he seems to get lost. We've got to keep Louis focused. When Louis is focused and he's playing hard, Louis is a great asset to us."

In the early going, the Little Giants found the interior of the Napoleon zone soft. It wasn't so soft after halftime.

"We challenged the kids to quicken up their feet," Behrman said. "We just played with greater intensity in the second half ... moved a lot better."

The lead changed hands six times in the third quarter, with the Wildcats holding a 39-35 lead at the end of the period.

"We kept our post players in the paint and told them to start demanding the basketball," Gedeon said. "We told our wings to create some good passing angles so that if they collapsed on us we could at least kick out for some threes.

"We ran four different offenses trying to create some motion and finding where the gaps were in the defense."

A steal and layup by Sam Root gave Ross a 40-39 lead with 6:49 left to play. A minute later, a 3-pointer by Green gave Napoleon a 44-42 lead.

Two free throws by Ross Durham made it 46-42, but Shaun Root made consecutive jump shots to tie the score at 46-all. Root finished with 10 points.

Jason Gerken, who scored 13 points and collected 12 rebounds, made a 3-pointer to give Napoleon the lead for good.

When Gedeon brought 3-point shooters John Overberg and Kurt Snyder in the game with 1:29 to go, the Wildcats countered by spreading the zone.

Overberg led Ross with 14 points. His third 3-pointer with a minute left cut the Ross deficit to 52-50, but the Little Giants ran out of chances.

High School Boys

Napoleon 55, Ross 50

Napoleon 8 16 15 16 — 55

Ross 13 10 12 15 — 50

NAPOLEON—Mike Limbird 1-3-6, Jason Tassler 1-0-2, Ross Durham 7-2-16, Louis Green 7-2-18, Jason Gerken 6-0-13, totals 22-7-55.

ROSS—Sam Root 1-0-2, Harry Liggins 1-0-2, Doug Hershey 1-0-2, Shaun Root 5-0-10, Derrick Hershey 3-3-9, John Overberg 5-1-14, Kurt Snyder 0-4-4, Kevin Mosser 3-1-7, Ryan Shively 0-0-0, Rob Stotz 0-0-0, totals 19-9-50.

3-point goals: Limbird, Green 2, Gerken.

Records: Napoleon 3-1 (2-0), Ross 2-2 (1-1).

Ross JV 56, Napoleon 55

Napoleon 9 8 16 22 — 55

Ross 10 17 14 15 — 56

NAPOLEON—Kyle Lacy 1-0-2, Scott Austermiller 1-0-2, Curt Musshel 1-0-2, Ben Snyder 3-0-7, Brian Bostleman 2-0-4, Jared Rathge 4-5-13, Jared Van Ausdale 4-1-9, Nick Badenhop 2-2-6, Ron Witte 3-4-10, totals 21-12-55.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 4-0-8, Justin Cummings 1-2-4, Mike Hickey 2-2-6, Demetris Simms 2-0-4, Brett Hufford 1-0-2, Jared Fisher 1-0-3, Rashad Brown 4-0-8, Rob Liggins 1-1-3, Mike Weaver 4-0-8, Bryson Sewell 4-2-10, totals 24-7-56.

3-point goals: Snyder, Fisher.

Records: Napoleon 1-3, Ross 2-2.

Hot-shooting Clay holds off Ross

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

OREGON — Fremont Ross dug itself an early hole that it could never climb out of Friday night, and Oregon Clay went on to an 86-77 Great Lakes League victory.

"They scored on 11 of their first 15 possessions and went up 24-9 (late in the first quarter)," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said, "but our kids showed a lot of character and teamwork and desire."

"They never quit. If we could have played another quarter, we would have battled right back again."

Clay used 53 percent shooting (33-for-62) to improve to 3-1 and 2-1. The Little Giants fell to 2-3 and 1-2 after making 23 of 58

shots.

Three Ross turnovers on its first three possessions got the hole started as the Eagles' full court pressure turned each one into two points.

The Little Giants committed five more turnovers in the opening quarter as Clay jumped to a 28-19 lead.

While the early turnovers helped dig the hole, the shooting of Clay's Eric Brinkman made it deeper.

Brinkman scored 17 points in the first half to lead Clay to a 42-33 advantage.

Key baskets by Brinkman in the second half pushed Ross back into its hole every time the Little Giants appeared to be ready to climb out.

Ryan Shively's free throw cut the Eagles' lead to 50-48 with 2:51 to play in the third quarter, but Brinkman responded with a short jumper on the right baseline.

With 3:43 to play in the fourth quarter, Sam Root sank two free throws to pull the Little Giants to within one at 70-69, but Brinkman's putback on the Eagles' next possession sent Ross back down a little further.

"Four times we closed it to one possession (in the second half), and all four times they scored on their next possession," Gedeon said.

"This is part of the learning process for us. We're disappointed, but not frustrat-

ed."

Brinkman, along with Tom Clay and Eric Stager, netted two free throws apiece in the last half-minute of the game to secure the win.

"He (Brinkman) provides a lot of leadership for us," Clay coach Joe Guerrero said. "He's the type of kid you want to have as a leader on your team."

"He has a calming influence."

Brinkman finished with 27 points to lead Clay. Stager and Clay came off the bench to score 12 points for the Eagles.

Doug Hershey led the Little Giants with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Derrick Hershey added 14 points. Sam Root had 13 and Kevin Mosser finished with 12.

High School

Clay 86, Ross 77

Ross	19	14	20	24	—	77
Clay	28	14	17	27	—	86

ROSS—Sam Root 5-2-13, John Overberg 2-0-6, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 2-1-7, Ryan Shively 0-1-1, Doug Hershey 7-4-18, Shaun Root 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 5-4-14, Kevin Mosser 4-4-12, totals 28-16-77.

CLAY—Eric Brinkman 12-2-27, Mike Pirwitz 4-1-9, Ryan Hugueley 2-0-5, Marc Berryman 3-1-7, Chris Bohland 1-0-2, Tom Clay 5-2-12, Eric Stager 4-2-12, Neil Punsalan 3-2-8, Tim LaPlante 2-0-4, totals 36-11-86.

3-point goals: Overberg 2, Snyder 2, Sam Root, Brinkman, Hugueley, Stager.

Records: Ross 2-3 (1-2), Clay 3-1 (2-1).

Clay JV 58, Ross 49

Ross	15	7	17	10	—	49
Clay	6	10	16	26	—	58

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 1-0-2, Justin Cummings 1-2-4, Mike Hickey 2-2-10, Demetris Simms 1-0-2, Brett Hufford 1-1-3, Jared Fisher 1-1-3, Edmund Peters 1-0-2, Rashad Brown 3-1-7, Rob Liggins 5-0-10, Bryson Sewell 2-2-6, totals 20-7-49.

CLAY—Kris Bell 3-5-11, Ron Henneman 6-1-14, Dave Brown 0-1-1, Chris Bohland 6-2-14, Adam Pfeiffer 2-3-7, Ben Tobias 4-3-11, totals 21-15-58.

3-point goals: Hickey 2, Henneman.

Record: Ross 2-3.

Ross goes inside to beat Findlay

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

FINDLAY — Coach Jerry Snodgrass knew what Findlay's boys basketball team had to do to beat Fremont Ross Friday.

The problem was his players couldn't get it done as the Little Giants beat the Trojans 57-49 in a Great Lakes League contest.

"You look at their shot charts over the last three games, and we knew where they get their points (inside)," Snodgrass said. "We just didn't get it done (defensively)."

Thirty-nine of the Little Giants' 57 points were scored by the inside quintet of Doug and Derrick Hershey, Kevin Mosser, Ryan

Shively and Shaun Root.

Ross, 3-3 and 2-2 in the GLL, outscored Findlay 19-8 in the second quarter to overcome a 14-9 first-quarter deficit.

All 19 points were scored inside the key. Mosser and Derrick Hershey came off the bench to net seven and six points, respectively, to lead Ross to a 28-22 halftime lead. Doug Hershey added four in the come-back quarter and Shively two.

"We had four players come off the bench and give us a big lift," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "Derrick Hershey (who did not start because of a concussion suffered in practice earlier in the week), Kevin Mosser, Ryan Shively and Kurt Snyder

played well.

"We go very, very deep."

Just as they had the previous Friday night in a loss to Oregon Clay, the Little Giants dug themselves an early hole with turnovers as the Trojans jumped out to an 8-0 lead. Against Clay, it was 24-9.

"This time we got over the hump," Gedeon said. "We called the timeout and got our focus again."

The Little Giants tied it at 14 on a put-back by Derrick Hershey with 6:40 to play in the first half and took an 18-16 lead on a short jumper by Mosser at the 5:35 mark.

Ross stretched its lead to 41-34 at the end of three quarters, but Findlay cut it to

46-44 with 5:30 left in the game.

But that's all the closer Findlay would get as the Little Giants went on an 8-0 run over the next five minutes to lead 54-44 with 39 seconds to play.

"We got a little more hard-nosed on defense," Gedeon said. "Harry Liggins did an especially nice job along with good team defense that did not allow anything to open up."

Derrick Hershey led Ross with 14 points and 11 rebounds. John Overberg added 11 points, including three 3-point baskets. Doug Hershey netted 10 points.

The Little Giants outrebounded the Trojans 48-29.

Ross 57, Findlay 49

Ross	9	19	13	16	—	57
Findlay	14	8	12	15	—	49

ROSS—Sam Root 2-1-5, John Overberg 4-0-11, Harry Liggins 1-0-2, Ryan Shively 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 3-4-10, Shaun Root 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 7-0-14, Kevin Mosser 3-3-9, totals 23-8-57.

FINDLAY—Jason Lane 4-6-15, John Disher 3-0-6, P.J. Martinez 3-0-6, Darrell Parker 10-0-20, Nate Springer 1-0-2, totals 21-6-49.

3-point goals: Overberg 3, Lane.

Records: Ross 3-3 (2-2), Findlay 1-4 (1-2).

Findlay JV 52, Ross 40

Ross	11	9	10	10	—	40
Findlay	11	10	11	20	—	52

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 6-2-14, Justin Cummings 1-0-2, Mike Hickey 2-0-5, Rashad Brown 0-1-1, Rob Liggins 0-4-4, Mike Weaver 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 3-4-10, totals 14-11-40.

FINDLAY—Nick Patterson 5-2-12, Kurt Lindamood 5-2-12, Tony Ritzler 4-1-9, Adam Cavallero 1-0-2, Benji Ballmer 3-5-11, Shaun Ball 2-0-4, Ryan Dillon 0-2-2, totals 20-12-52.

3-point goals: Hickey.

Records: Ross 2-4 (2-2), Findlay 3-2.

Ross thrives on Hersheys in 77-72 win over Sandusky

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Think of "Hershey" and what pops up: sweetness.

Saturday night, the Hershey brothers — Derrick and Doug — may have been better than that. The two combined for 48 points to lead Fremont Ross to a 77-72 victory over Sandusky in a high school boys basketball game in the Ross Purple Pit.

The win gave first-year coach Mark Gedeon a quick start of a good Christmas. The win came on the heels of the Little Giants' 57-49 win over Findlay Friday. Ross is 4-3 while Sandusky slipped to 2-3.

Derrick Hershey, the junior brother of senior Doug, scored 29 points, highlighting the night with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that gave Ross a 23-18 lead after the opening quarter. Both 6-foot-2, Doug grabbed six rebounds as Ross held a 33-29 rebounding edge.

The Hershey were the kings of the paint, scoring most of their points from inside the paint. Outside of Derrick's 3-pointer, his 10-footer from the baseline in the second quarter was as far as the Hersheys ventured from the paint.

"Fremont knew our Achilles heel was maybe inside," Sandusky coach John Schlessman said, "and they just killed us inside the first half ... they got a lot of easy shots."

While the Hersheys functioned smoothly in their zone, coach Mark Gedeon had his team in a 1-2-2 zone from beginning to end.

"We were going to live by it and die by it as well," Gedeon said. "At the end, they hit five threes in the second half, we almost died by it."

Sandusky coach John Schlessman said, "The three-pointer has not been good to us this year but tonight it was."

But not nice enough.

The Hershey's and the ability to beat the Sandusky pressure defense most of the time, kept the Blue Streaks at arm's length.

"They were missing a key cog in that pressure defense," Gedeon pointed out.

Sophomore point guard Jamar-

cus Hampton suffered a leg injury in the first minute of play and was sidelined for the evening. He entered the game as the Blue Streaks' assist leader, second leading scorer and leader in steals.

"He would have been the quickest player that we have faced," Gedeon said.

Ross led 44-35 at halftime and stretched the lead to 50-37 — the biggest lead of the game — two minutes into the second half. Sandusky, with Demario Jones sandwiching a pair of threes around one by Sam Root of Ross, cut the Little Giants' lead to 62-58

heading into the last quarter.

Kevin Mosser's basket and a pair of buckets by Kurt Snyder quickly raised the Ross lead by to 10, 68-58 a minute into the final quarter but Sandusky outscored Ross 8-2 in the next three minutes and trailed 70-66.

Derrick Hershey's putback made it 72-66 but Keithrian Pickens hit a three, cutting the Ross lead to 72-69. Doug Hershey sank a pair of three throws with 1:19 remaining for a 74-69 edge but Crabb hit a three-pointer with 52 seconds to play, pulling Sandusky to within two, 74-72.

After a Ross timeout, Derrick Hershey sank a pair of free throws and Doug hit the front end of a pair with 11 seconds to play to seal the game for Ross.

Crabb led Sandusky with 24 points. Jones added 17 and Pickens tossed in 12. Shaun Root and Mosser had eight points apiece for Ross.

Second-half Fostoria blitz stops Clyde 57-44

News-Messenger reports

CLYDE — Richard Newsome scored 24 second-half points to lead Fostoria to a 57-44 win over Clyde Saturday night at The Hanger.

The loss dropped Clyde to 1-2 while the Redmen climbed to 2-3.

Clyde led 9-2 after one quarter but the game was tied 19-19 at halftime.

Fostoria outscored the Fliers 15-12 in the third quarter and 23-13 in the final eight minutes.

Ryan Carter and Ryan Webb had 16 points apiece to lead Clyde. Bo Robinson added 16 for Fostoria.

High School Boys

Ross 77, Sandusky 72

Sandusky	18	17	23	14	—	72
Ross	23	21	18	15	—	77

SANDUSKY—Gregg Peugeot 3-2-8, Ben Ohlemacher 1-0-2, Demario Jones 7-0-17, Bobby Crabb 10-2-24, Jason Jones 4-0-8, Keithrian Pickens 4-3-12, Marcel Gowdy 0-1-1, 29-8-72.

ROSS—Sam Root 1-0-3, Rob Stotz 1-0-2, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 5-9-19, Shaun Root 4-0-8, Derrick Hershey 9-10-29, Kevin Mosser 4-0-8, totals 28-19-77.

3-point goals: D. Jones 3, Crabb 2, Pickens, Sa. Root, De. Hershey.

Records: Ross 4-3, Sandusky 2-3.

Ross JV 60, Sandusky 49

Sandusky	12	8	14	15	—	49
Ross	4	13	17	26	—	60

SANDUSKY—Deondre Moore 1-0-2, Jovan Johnson 3-2-8, James Mason 1-0-2, Desmond Philon 3-0-7, Jason Zess 4-0-9, George Brown 4-1-9, Bobby Manuel 6-0-12, totals 22-3-49.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 6-1-14, Mike Hickey 0-2-2, Demetris Simms 3-0-6, Jared Fisher 1-1-3, Edmund Peters 5-6-16, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, Mike Weaver 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 3-2-8, Scott White 1-1-3, totals 23-13-60.

3-point goals: Philon, Zess, Heidelberg.

Records: Ross 2-4, Sandusky 2-5.

St. Francis pulls away from Ross

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

Unbeaten Toledo St. Francis used timely offensive rebounds and unceasing defensive pressure to post a 79-63 non-league victory over Fremont Ross Friday night at the Purple Pit.

Ross is now 4-4.

The Knights, 5-0, grabbed four offensive rebounds in the decisive third quarter and turned them all into points to break open a game that was 32-31 in favor of St. Francis at halftime.

Robierre Cullar's putback midway through third quarter began a 7-0 St. Francis run that put the Knights up 51-42 with 2:01 left in the period.

"Between 4:04 of the third quarter and 6:45 of the fourth we had 13 possessions, but only scored on one of them," Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "They scored on seven of their 13 possessions and all came on offensive rebounds."

The Knights outrebounded the Little Giants 10-3 in the third period and finished with a 33-23 advantage.

St. Francis used its superior size and defensive quickness to jump out to an 11-4 lead at the midpoint of the opening quarter.

Six-foot-6 Rick Fox, 6-4 Zach McClellan and the 6-3 Cullars all netted early baskets, while guards Tim Wagner and Mark Taylor

forced four consecutive turnovers to force a Ross timeout at 4:03 in the first period.

A defensive change from a man-to-man to a 1-2-2 zone along with taking better care of the ball the rest of the quarter got the Little Giants back in it. Ross cut the Knights lead to 15-12 as the period ended.

"I still think we're a good man-to-man team," Gedeon said, "but when you're getting beat by two to three inches at every position...you have to do something."

The Knights' full-court man-to-man pressure forced turnovers on the Little Giants' first four possessions of the second quarter, and they pushed their lead to 19-12.

Ross's scoring in the second period began and ended with 3-point baskets.

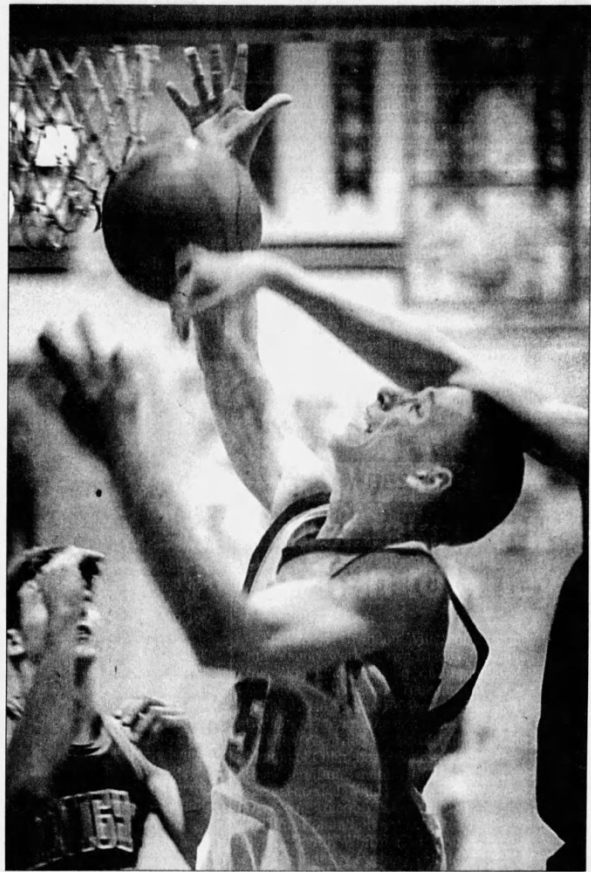
Derrick Hershey's trey from the left corner drew the Little Giants to within 19-15 and Harry Liggins' 3-pointer at the horn brought Ross within one at halftime, 32-31.

The Little Giants took their only lead, 37-36, on a basket by Liggins at the 6:04 mark of the third quarter.

Sam Root's jump shot in the key tied it at 41, but Fox's 3-pointer at 4:40 started the Knights' game-deciding run.

Fox and Taylor led St. Francis with 18 points each.

Doug Hershey scored 18 for Ross to go with 11 rebounds. Liggins added 11 points.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DERRICK HERSHEY (50) of Fremont Ross is fouled by Rick Fox (40) of Toledo St. Francis during the second quarter at the Purple Pit Friday night.

St. Francis 79, Ross 63

St. Francis	15	17	23	24	—	79
Ross	12	19	13	19	—	63

ST. FRANCIS—Kris Rios 2-4-9, Dale Pelz 1-0-2, Tim Wagner 5-0-10, Cory Thompson 1-1-3, Mark Taylor 4-9-18, Rick Fox 8-1-18, Zach McClellan 3-1-7, Richard Jackson 0-1-1, Robierre Cullars 5-0-11, totals 29-17-79.

ROSS—Sam Root 2-0-4, John Overberg 3-0-9, Rob Stotz 1-0-3, Harry Liggins 5-0-11, Ryan Shively 3-0-6, Doug Hershey 5-8-18, Derrick Hershey 2-4-9, Kevin Mosser 1-1-3, totals 22-13-63.

3-point goals: Overberg 3, Stotz, Liggins, Derrick Hershey, Rios, Taylor, Fox, Cullars.

Records: St. Francis 5-0, Ross 4-4

St. Francis JV 71, Ross 54

St. Francis	17	15	17	22	—	71
Ross	8	9	13	24	—	54

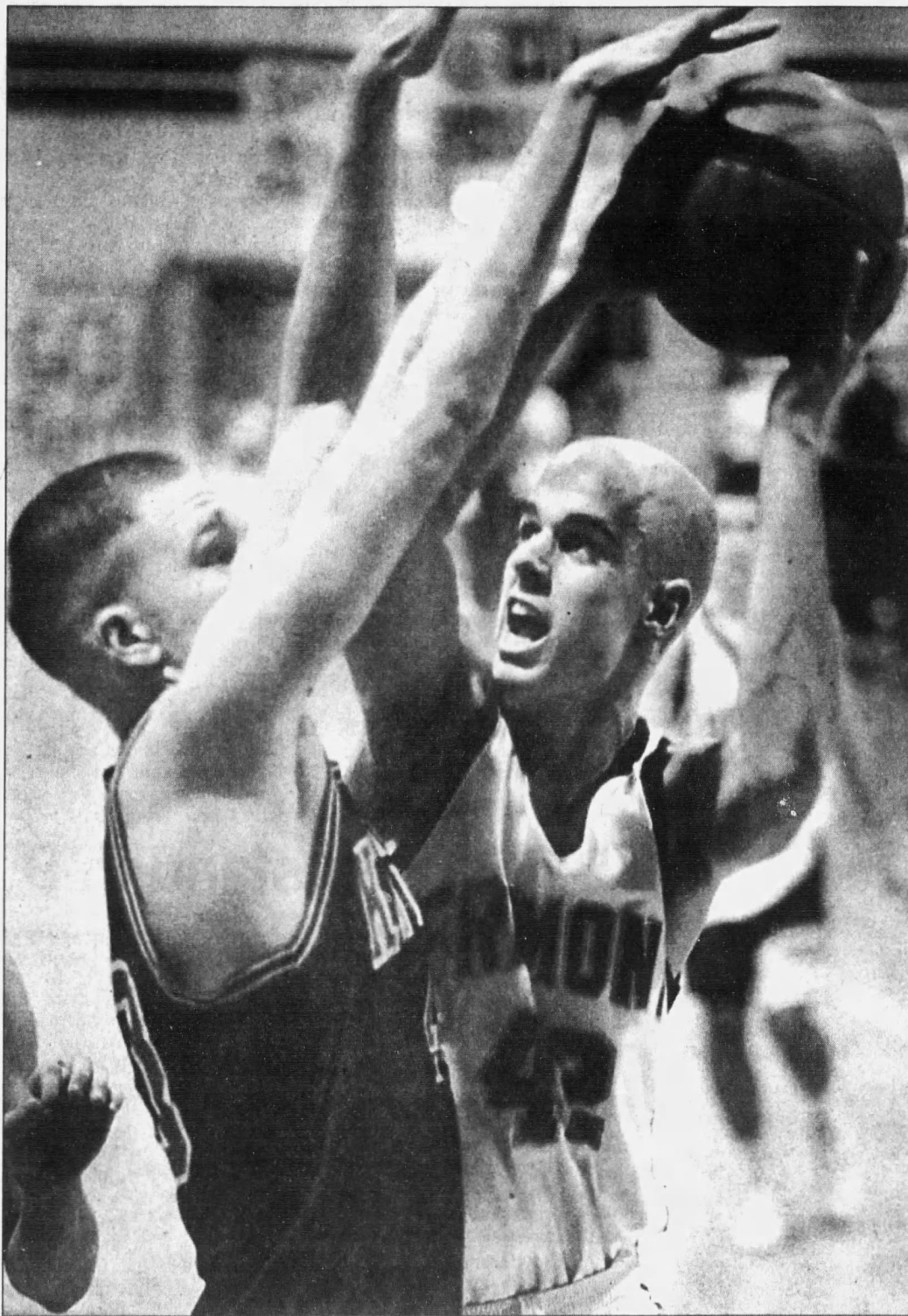
ST. FRANCIS—Nick Scalzo 3-0-7, Brian Cromwell 1-0-3, JePaul Baskin 0-6-6, Ed Price 5-0-12, Joe Deeb 3-0-6, D. J. LaVoy 2-0-5, Bill Hawkins 4-3-11, David Ryan 6-1-13, Chris Sadowski 3-2-8, totals 27-12-71.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 2-0-4, Mike Hickey 6-2-17, Demetris Simms 1-0-2, Brett Hufford 2-0-4, Jared Fisher 2-0-5, Edmund Peters 2-0-4, Rashad Brown 2-0-4, Rob Liggins 1-0-2, Bryson Sewell 4-2-10, Scott White 1-0-2, totals 23-4-54.

3-point goals: Hickey 3, Price 2, LaVoy, Cromwell, Scalzo, Fisher.

Records: St. Francis 4-1, Ross 3-5.

Ross returns to GLL action Friday



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Doug Hershey (42) of Fremont Ross, here being fouled by Rick Fox of Toledo St. Francis last week, and the Little Giants host Toledo Whitmer's Panthers

at the Purple Pit Friday night. Ross enters the Great Lakes League game 4-4 and 2-2. Whitmer, 7-2, is undefeated in four league contests.

Whitmer routs Ross

Little Giants drop under .500 mark

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

It's not wise to wake a sleeping giant.

The Fremont Ross Little Giants found out Friday night that it isn't wise to wake sleeping panthers either as the Whitmer Panthers came to life after a slow start and defeated Ross 80-59 in a Great Lakes League game at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants, 4-5 and 2-3 in the GLL, scored on their first five possessions and led 10-7 as Derrick Hershey made three lay ups and brother Doug netted two more.

"It was like we were a red carpet and they were a bull," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said in describing Ross's aggressive start inside the paint.

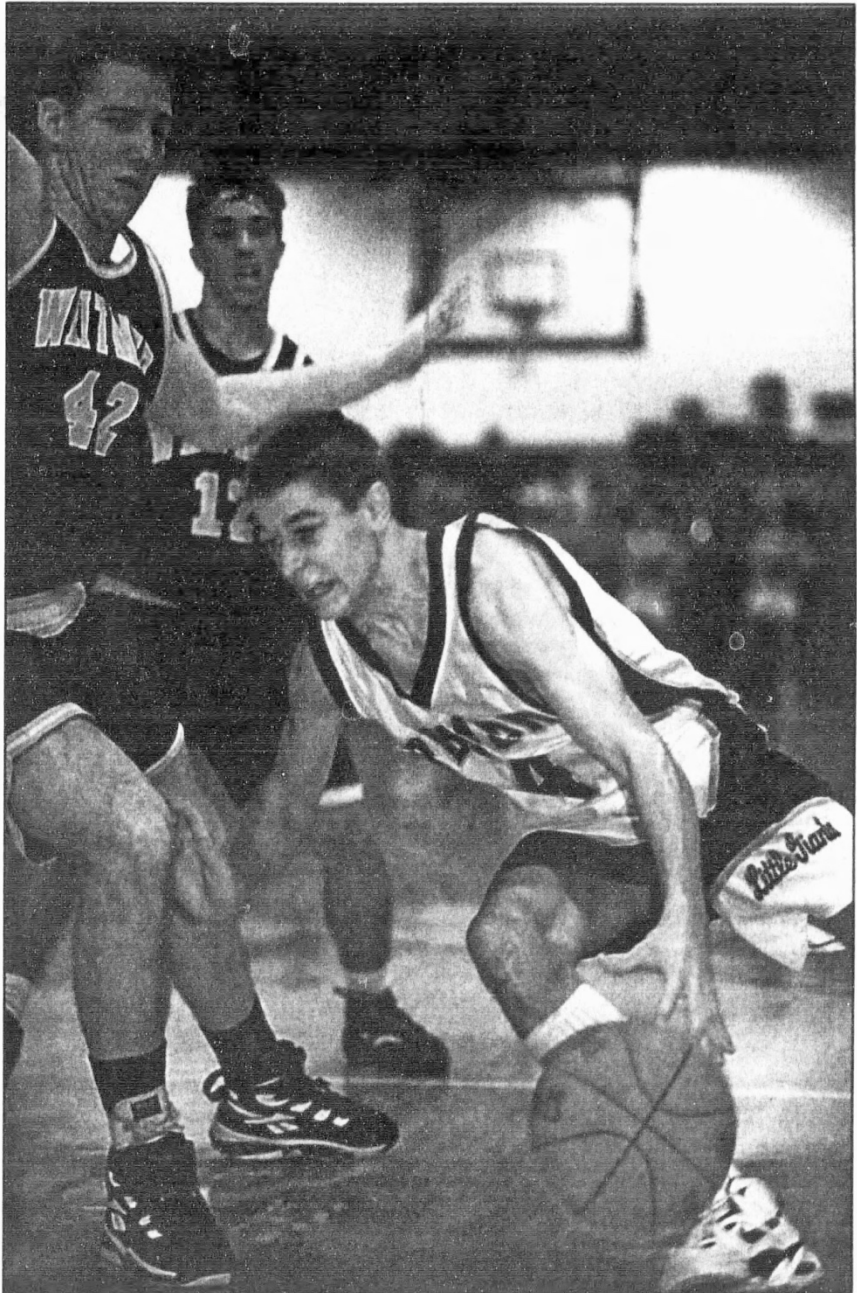
"We underestimated their quickness (inside). Derrick Hershey is deceptively quick for as big as he is.

"Once we got respect for their quickness, we were OK."

Whitmer, 8-2 and 5-0, was more than "OK" the rest of the way as the Panthers limited Derrick Hershey to three more baskets and did not allow Doug to score another point.

Whitmer's defensive success inside was a result of better defensive pressure outside.

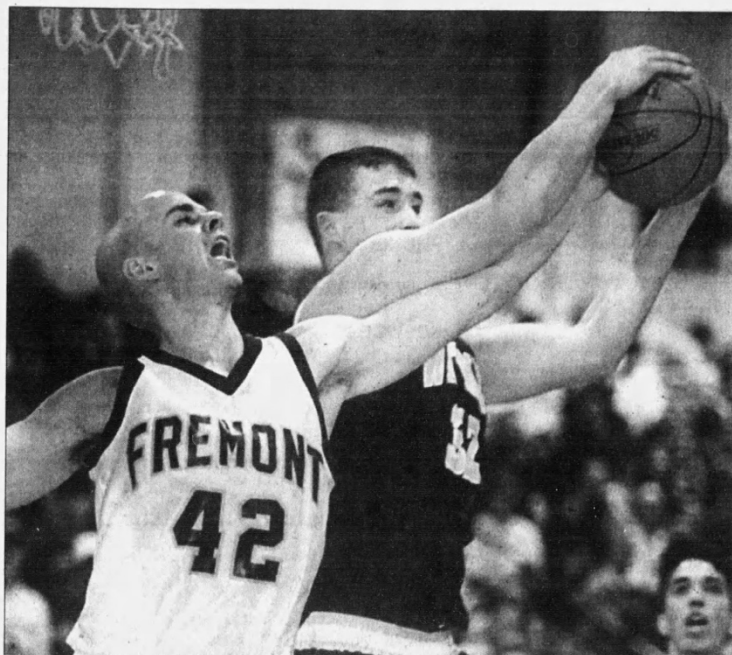
"We wanted to stretch their offense," Smith said. "Our perimeter people stepped up their pressure."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

See ROSS, B3

SAM ROOT of Fremont Ross drives to the basket against Toledo Whitmer Friday night.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DOUG HERSHEY (42) of Fremont Ross tries to knock the ball away from a Toledo Whitmer player during the

fourth quarter of the Panthers' 80-59 Great Lakes League victory over the Little Giants Friday night.

Ross finds going tough against Whitmer defense

Continued From B1

"It's much tougher to make a pass into the post from 24 feet than it is from 15.

"We knew we had to limit Doug Hershey's touches."

Said Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon: "We had only 13 post feeds for the whole game, but we are averaging almost 20.

"Doug didn't score a point in the second half, so they were very successful (defensively)."

Whitmer's perimeter pressure forced four Ross turnovers in its last 11 possessions of the first quarter as the Panthers took a 24-18 lead.

The Panthers converted every Little Giant first quarter turnover into baskets and for the game scored 29 points off 22 Ross giveaways.

A streak of turnovers in the last six minutes of the second quarter was especially damaging to the Little Giants as Whitmer

built a 39-29 halftime lead.

After Ross fought back to tie it at 26 on a John Overberg 3-point basket with 6:10 left in the first half, the Little Giants committed six turnovers in their final 12 possessions of the half and trailed by 10 at the half.

A short jumper by Kevin Mosser and a free throw by Derrick Hershey accounted for Ross's only points during the mistake-filled stretch.

Whitmer converted two more Little Giant turnovers into baskets to begin the second half, and the Panthers were wide awake and off to a 61-39 advantage at the end of three quarters.

Floyd Campbell, who did not start because of a recent illness, came off the bench to lead the Panthers with 23 points.

Andy Boyd added 17 and Jake Lyons 14.

Derrick Hershey took scoring honors for the Little Giants with 16 and John Overberg added 15, including four 3-pointers.

Whitmer 80, Ross 59

Whitmer	24	15	22	19	—	80
Ross	18	11	10	20	—	59

WHITMER—Floyd Campbell 8-4-23, Jake Lyons 6-2-14, Andy Boyd 7-3-17, Chad Baxter 1-0-3, Charles Moses 1-0-2, Theron Toney 0-2-2, Chad Lorton 5-0-10, Dave Shanteau 2-1-5, Todd Calcamuggio 0-2-2, Jason Zielinski 1-0-2, totals 31-14-80.

ROSS—Sam Root 2-0-4, John Overberg 5-1-15, Rob Stotz 2-0-5, Kurt Snyder 1-0-3, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Doug Hershey 2-0-4, Derrick Hershey 6-4-16, Kevin Mosser 3-2-8, Joell Heidelberg 1-0-2, totals 23-7-59.

3-point goals: Overberg 4, Campbell 3, Stotz, Snyder, Baxter.

Records: Whitmer 8-2 (5-0), Ross 4-5 (2-3).

Whitmer JV 53, Ross 41

Whitmer	12	12	15	14	—	53
Ross	11	10	11	9	—	41

WHITMER—Steve Mefferd 7-2-18, Kris Barnswell 1-0-2, Rusty Calmes 2-1-5, Dann Shanteau 3-2-8, Ken Myrice 1-2-4, Ross Rubino 1-0-2, Charles Moses 5-4-14, totals 20-11-53.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 6-0-12, Justin Cummings 1-1-4, Mike Hickey 2-0-4, Jared Fisher 2-0-4, Edmund Peters 0-2-2, Rob Liggins 3-0-6, Bryson Sewell 4-0-8, Rashad Brown 0-1-1, totals 18-4-41.

3-point goals: Mefferd 2, Cummings.

Records: Whitmer 6-3 (5-0), Ross 3-6 (2-3).

Little Giants win in overtime

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

FOSTORIA — Fremont Ross overcame early turnovers and poor foul shooting for a 66-65 come-from-behind overtime win over Great Lakes League Ross Tuesday night.

Actually, it may be more correct to say the Little Giants did more "Overberging" than overcoming.

Ross junior John Overberg scored 18 of his 24 points from behind the 3-point arc to fuel the Little Giants' comeback victory.

Overberg was 6-of-11 on 3-pointers for 46 percent.

Meanwhile, Ross shot 45 percent from the free throw line. The Little Giants made 14 of 31 attempts, including 5-of-11 in overtime.

"Thank goodness we made just enough," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

The Little Giants, 5-5 and 3-3, committed three turnovers in their first five possessions and the Redmen raced to a 10-1 lead.

But Overberg's three 3-pointers ignited a Ross surge that cut the Little Giants' deficit to 15-12 after a quarter.

"There were several times in the game

when the kids could have packed it in," Gedeon said. "Then Overberg lights it up."

"Our kids never lost their focus ... they never dropped their heads ... they never thought they would lose the game."

Doug Hershey backed Overberg with 16 points, and Derrick Hershey had 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

The Redmen, 3-6 and 1-5, led 26-25 at halftime and 42-38 after three quarters as they held Overberg to one 3-pointer in the middle quarters.

But Overberg's 3-pointer with 6:12 to go in the fourth quarter gave the Little Giants their first lead, 45-44.

Overberg's final 3-pointer gave Ross a

50-44 lead with 5:05 to play, but trouble at the free throw line allowed Fostoria to stay in the game. The Redmen forced the overtime on Eli Haughout's 3-pointer with six seconds left.

Ross missed 5 of 8 free throws in the last 2:25 of regulation.

Ironically, a free throw would be the difference in the overtime as Kurt Snyder made the second of two tries with 15 seconds left to put the Little Giants up 66-63.

Haughout could not repeat his heroics in the overtime. His 3-point try with five seconds remaining fell short, and Fostoria settled for Malcom Robinson's putback that left the Redmen a point short.

Next Ross Game
Friday at Northview, JV 6:15

Ross 66, Fostoria 65

Ross	12	13	13	19	9	—	66
Fostoria	15	11	16	15	8	—	65

ROSS—Sam Root 3-1-7, John Overberg 8-2-24, Harry Liggins 1-1-3, Kurt Snyder 0-1-1, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Doug Hershey 5-6-16, Derrick Hershey 4-3-11, Kevin Mosser 1-0-2, totals 23-14-66.

FOSTORIA—Leo Frierson 1-0-2, Jerry Dessausure 1-2-4, Richard Newsome 5-2-12, Brent Fisher 1-0-3, Brandon Canterbury 1-0-2, Seth Brandeberry 3-4-10, Malcolm Robinson 7-1-15, Eli Haughwout 2-1-6, Jeremy Young 4-3-11, totals 25-13-65.

3-point goals: Overberg 6, Fisher, Haughwout.

Records: Ross 5-5 (3-3), Fostoria 3-6 (1-5).

Ross JV 55, Fostoria 46

Ross	6	16	12	21	—	55
Fostoria	8	10	8	20	—	46

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 3-5-11, Mike Hickey 0-2-2, Demetris Simms 4-0-8, Jared Fisher 1-3-5, Rashad Brown 1-2-4, Rob Liggins 5-3-13, Mike Weaver 3-1-7, Bryson Sewell 0-5-5, totals 17-21-55.

FOSTORIA—Jason Kaminsky 1-0-2, Matt Shaw 1-0-3, Dustin Miller 0-1-1, Brooke McBeth 1-1-3, Chuck Hutchen 4-4-12, Lerone Martin 0-1-1, Robert Scott 3-0-6, Shaun Ponn 2-0-4, Malcolm Robinson 5-4-14, totals 17-11-46.

3-point goals: Shaw.

Records: Ross 4-6 (3-3).

Little Giants nip Northview

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross assistant coach Brent Swartzmiller was quick to explain the difference in the Little Giants' 51-50 Great Lakes League win over Sylvania Northview Friday night.

"It was (head coach) Mark Gedeon's coaching," Swartzmiller said.

He speaks the truth about the man whose Little Giants move to 6-5 and 4-3.

Two key defensive adjustments made by Gedeon at halftime limited the Wildcats to just 17 second-half points. Northview, 5-5 and 3-4, scored 33 in the first half, including 20 in the second quarter.

Gedeon's first adjustment — to stop Northview point guard Jamie Westfall's

dribble penetration, which keyed the Wildcats' big second quarter and gave them a 33-28 halftime lead.

Westfall scored six points in the second quarter and set up nearly every other basket with passing off his drives.

"Westfall was really the key to their offense," Gedeon said. "When he did get the penetration, he was either scoring or getting it out to the open person."

"To limit his penetration, we told our wings not to deny as hard on the outside and to be ready to help. We told our post players to stay at home more and help also."

Gedeon's scheme worked as Westfall was held to just two points in the second half and only one assist.

Gedeon's second adjustment came late in the game.

After Doug Hershey's driving layup gave Ross a 50-48 lead with 1:51 left in the fourth quarter, Gedeon switched his defense from a 1-2-2 to a 2-3 zone.

"They were starting to send Westfall into the corner to try and get him shots from there," Gedeon said. "But the 2-3 allowed us to match up on him and (6-foot-8 Tim) Joyce inside. It frustrated them."

Especially in the final 42 seconds. Joyce's two free throws tied it at 50 with 56 seconds to play, but Derrick Hershey gave the Little Giants a 51-50 lead by making the second of two foul shots with 49 seconds left.

Northview called a timeout with 42 sec-

onds left to set up a potential game-winning shot. The Wildcats stubbornly tried to get Westfall free in the corner, but the Little Giants' smothered every opportunity.

The Wildcats were forced to call their last timeout with 5.1 seconds to play.

Westfall was denied the ball again and Kyle Hilliard's desperation 18-footer from the right corner fell short, with Derrick Hershey snatching the rebound as time expired.

It wasn't all defense for the Little Giants.

Doug Hershey and Derrick Hershey scored 15 and 13 points, respectively. Shaun Root grabbed 14 rebounds as Ross outrebounded Northview 59-35.

Ross 51, Northview 50

Ross	18	10	11	12	—	51
Northview	13	20	7	10	—	50

ROSS—Sam Root 0-1-1, John Overberg 2-2-8, Harry Liggins 0-1-1, Kurt Snyder 2-3-7, Doug Hershey 6-3-15, Shaun Root 1-4-6, Derrick Hershey 5-3-13, totals 16-17-51.

NORTHVIEW—Jaime Westfall 4-0-8, Kyle Hilliard 3-0-6, Ryan Porter 5-0-11, Scott Abella 2-0-5, Shaun Morris 1-1-3, Tim Joyce 5-2-12, Curt McKee 2-1-5, totals 22-4-50.

3-point goals: Overberg 2, Porter, Abella.

Records: Ross 6-5 (4-3), Northview 5-5 (3-4).

Northview JV 76, Ross 60

Ross	9	18	17	16	—	60
Northview	19	24	9	24	—	76

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 5-1-14, Mike Hickey 3-1-7, Jared Fisher 1-1-3, Rashad Brown 1-1-3, Rob Liggins 5-6-16, Mike Weaver 6-0-12, Bryson Sewell 2-1-5, totals 23-11-60.

NORTHVIEW—Eric Zare 6-1-15, Brent Harrison 1-0-2, Nick Miller 0-3-3, Chad Borczyk 2-0-4, Nate Zechman 4-5-13, Mike Ray 3-6-12, Matt Vierk 1-5-7, Rick Kelm 2-0-4, totals 26-22-76.

3-point goals: Heidelberg 3, Zare 2.

Records: Ross 4-7 (3-4), Northview 6-4 (4-3).

Patient Bedford tops Ross

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

BEDFORD, Mich. — Bedford coach Mike German attributed his team's 80-69 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross Friday night to what he called a "quirk".

"It's a quirk of the game," German said. "The more patient you are the more the points seem to add up. When you start hunting for points, you don't seem to get them."

German's quirk worked as Bedford, 4-6 and 3-5, used a deliberate offense to score on eight of its first nine possessions. The Mules led 20-11 at the end of the first quarter.

"(Patience) has been a problem for us this season," German said, "but it wasn't a problem tonight."

Bedford stayed patient and efficient in the second quarter, scoring on 10 of 13 possessions to take a 43-28 half-time lead.

"That's the Bedford team I expected at the beginning of the year," Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "They got high-percentage shots and executed very well."

"That's the team I picked in the pre-season to finish second. Their record is very deceiving."

The Mules made 17 of 28 shots in the first half for 60 percent.

"It was very difficult for us to get back in the game when they were shooting that well," Gedeon said.

Bedford cooled off some in the third quarter as the Little Giants, 6-6 and 4-4, outscored the Mules 21-13 to cut their deficit to 56-49.

But Bedford began the fourth quarter better than it did the first, scoring on its first six possessions to build a comfortable 68-54 lead with 5:00 to play.

The Mules made 30 of 50 shots from the floor and were 17-of-22 from the foul line.

All five Bedford starters finished in double figures. Chad Henman led the Mules with 16 points and Christian Schlachter added 15 to go along with seven rebounds. Scott Dukate and Blake Flessner each scored 12, and Matt Sherman added 11.

"Unfortunately, we've seen this game before," Gedeon said. "We need to come out (at the start) with better focus and better intensity. We need to come out playing good, sound basketball."

Doug Hershey led the Little Giants with 19 points, Derrick Hershey followed with 17 and John Overberg added 11.

The Little Giants made 26 of 54 shots and were 8-of-16 at the foul line. The Mules outrebounded Ross 30-19.

Basketball

High School Boys

Bedford 80, Ross 69

Ross	11	17	21	20	—	69
Bedford	20	23	13	24	—	80

ROSS—Sam Root 3-1-9, John Overberg 4-0-11, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 3-0-9, Doug Hershey 7-5-19, Derrick Hershey 7-2-17, totals 26-8-69.

BEDFORD—Blake Flessner 5-0-12, Matt Banks 1-0-2, Joe Albring 1-0-2, Chad Henman 6-3-16, Matt Sherman 4-3-11, Scott Dukate 5-2-12, Dan Williams 1-1-3, Christian Schlachter 5-5-15, Jason Kehoe 2-4-7, totals 30-17-80.

3-point goals: Overberg, Snyder 3, Flessner, Root 2, Derrick Hershey, Henman.

Records: Ross 6-6 (4-4), Bedford 4-6 (3-5).

Ross JV 44, Bedford 43

Ross	7	11	13	13	—	44
Bedford	8	12	9	14	—	43

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 2-0-4, Justin Cummings 3-0-7, Mike Hickey 2-0-6, Demetris Simms 3-1-7, Jared Fisher 0-2-2, Rashad Brown 0-2-2, Rob Liggins 3-0-6, Mike Weaver 4-0-8, Bryson Sewell 1-0-2, totals 18-5-44.

BEDFORD—Nick Francis 7-2-16, Jacob Lake 2-1-5, Thomas Nowak 0-1-1, Greg Williams 4-0-8, Kevin Stock 1-0-2, Chad Clay 4-1-9, Nick Weaver 1-0-2, totals 19-5-43.

3-point goals: Hickey 2, Cummings.

Records: Ross 5-7 (4-4)

Napoleon eases past Little Giants

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

NAPOLEON — The unexpected and the expected both played major roles in Napoleon's 76-51 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross Friday night.

In the first meeting between the Wildcats and the Little Giants on December 12, Napoleon played a 2-3 zone defense the entire game and came away with a 55-50 win.

Napoleon, 6-8 and 4-5, played man-to-man throughout this second meeting — catching the Little Giants off guard.

"We knew in their last game they played man-to-man," Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "But we worked a lot this week against the 2-3 zone. I would be lying if I said we weren't expecting to see the 2-3."

"They got us out of sync a little bit."

The Little Giants' first basket, a foul line jump shot by Shaun Root, came with 4:34 to play in the first quarter.

Ross, 6-7 and 4-5, never got in sync. The Wildcats led 17-6 after one quarter and 47-20 at halftime.

"We've been working on our man-to-man in the last month," Napoleon coach Walt Behrman said. "Our 2-3 has not been as aggressive as we would like, so we decided to go man-to-man to pick up our intensity level."

"We had success with it early so we just stayed with it."

Offensively, Napoleon did the expected — getting the ball into the hands of 6-foot-4 junior Louis Green and 6-5 sophomore Ross Durham. Green and Durham scored 18 and 16 points, respectively, in the first meeting.

Friday they combined for 21 of the Wildcats' 47 first-half points. Green finished with 19 and Durham 13.

"It was a very similar situation as back at our place," Gedeon said. "They outnuscled us and got position on us and cashed in...especially in the first half."

The Wildcats grabbed 23 rebounds in the first half to the Little Giants' 13, as Green snagged six and Durham five.

Napoleon's strong inside game was complemented by hot shooting from behind the 3-point arc in the first half, when the Wildcats made 6 of 9 attempts.

Ross made 18 of 60 shots (30 percent) from the floor in the game, including 3-of-16 from 3-point range.

Doug Hershey led the Little Giants with 11 points, and Sam Root added 10.

Napoleon 76, Ross 51

Ross	6	14	19	12	—	51
Napoleon	17	30	12	17	—	76

ROSS—Sam Root 3-2-10, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Doug Hershey 4-3-11, Shaun Root 2-0-4, Derrick Hershey 2-5-9, Kevin Mosser 3-2-8, totals 18-12-51.

NAPOLEON—Mike Limbird 2-0-4, Brad Stevens 1-0-2, Joel Hammon 3-0-7, Jason Tassler 2-3-8, Todd Kruse 1-0-2, Kevin Good 3-0-9, C. J. Schlosser 1-1-4, Ron White 1-0-2, Ross Durham 6-1-13, Louis Green 8-2-19, Jason Gerken 2-2-6, totals 30-9-76.

3-point goals: Good 3, Sam Root 2, Snyder, Hammon, Schlosser, Green.

Records: Ross 6-7 (4-5), Napoleon 6-8 (4-5).

Napoleon JV 56, Ross 51

Ross	11	19	14	7	—	51
Napoleon	13	21	12	10	—	56

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 1-0-2, Justin Cummings 2-1-5, Mike Hickey 2-0-4, Demetris 1-1-3, Brett Hufford 2-0-4, Jared Fisher 1-0-2, Rashad Brown 2-1-5, Rob Liggins 6-1-13, Mike Weaver 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 4-1-9, totals 23-5-51.

NAPOLEON—Kyle Lacy 2-0-4, Curt Musschel 0-3-3, Ben Snyder 0-1-1, Brian Bostelamn 4-3-11, Jared Rathge 1-2-4, Jared Van Ausdale 5-4-15, Nick Badenhop 2-0-4, Jason Rickenberg 1-0-2, Ron Witte 5-2-12, totals 20-15-56.

Columbian beats Ross with outside shooting

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

TIFFIN — There are times when a coach would rather be wrong than right.

"I told our players before the game that this would probably be the best 3-point shooting team we'll see all year," Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon said Saturday night after Tiffin Columbian made nine 3-

point baskets in an 89-73 non-league win.

"The second quarter really proved that."

Columbian's David Porter's four consecutive 3-pointers in the first two minutes of the second quarter broke open a close contest as the Tornadoes went on to their 11th win in 12 games.

Though Ross, 6-8, made five more 2-point baskets and two less foul shots (8-of-

10 to 10-of-15) than the Tornadoes, Columbian made 9 of 20 attempts from behind the arc. Ross was 1-of-10 in 3-point attempts.

"Their 3-pointers...changed the game," Gedeon said.

Columbian led 25-20 at the end of the first quarter as both teams were successful in pushing the ball inside for high-per-

centage shots. Kory Winkler scored 14 of his 33 points in the opening quarter for the Tornadoes, most of them on layups.

Ross countered with its inside quartet of the Doug Hershey, Derrick Hershey, Kevin Mosser and Shaun Root, who combined for 18 of the Little Giants' 20 first-quarter points.

See ROSS, B3

High School Boys

Columbian 89, Ross 73

Ross	20	18	15	20	—	73
Columbian	25	26	13	25	—	89

ROSS—Sam Root 3-0-6, John Overberg 1-2-5, Harry Liggins 3-0-6, Doug Hershey 9-1-19, Shaun Root 4-0-8, Derrick Hershey 8-5-21, Kevin Mosser 2-0-4, totals 32-8-73.

COLUMBIAN—Tim Hoffman 1-0-2, Dave Losey 0-1-1, David Porter 8-0-21, Chris Hill 4-4-12, Matt Ross 1-0-2, Kory Winkler 15-3-33, Eric Slosser 6-2-18, totals 35-10-89.

3-point goals: Overberg, Porter 5, Slosser 4

Records: Ross 6-8, Columbian 11-1

Ross JV 50, Columbian 47

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 2-1-5, Justin Cummings 2-1-5, Mike Hicke 2-2-8, Demetris Simms 2-0-4, Brett Hufford 2-0-4, Rashad Brown 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 1-5-7, Mike Wever 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 5-1-11, totals 19-10-50.

COLUMBIAN—Seth Watson 1-0-2, Mike McClung 1-1-3, Todd Moyer 1-1-4, Rob Price 5-1-12, Ryan Fretz 5-0-10, Nick Ames 1-0-2, Brian Foos 0-2-2, Beau Carmon 4-2-10, Steve Doneyson 1-0-2, totals 19-7-47.

3-point goals: Hickey 2, Moyer, Price
Records: Ross 6-8

Little Giants play at home Friday

Ross hopes to end losing streak

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Welcome home is an appropriate banner to hang in the Purple Pit Friday night when Fremont Ross hosts Oregon Clay.

The Little Giants have played five straight games away from Fremont, last getting to wear the home uniforms on Jan. 5 against Toledo Whitmer.

"Our kids really need to have the positive reinforcement that their efforts are being appreciated by the great fans that we do have here," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

Ross won a pair of one-point games to open its "road trip" then lost three straight.

"We didn't play as well as we are capable of playing and I think we fell into the psychological trap of playing on road," Gedeon said. "Playing away from home, you want to take the crowd out of the game. At Bedford, Napoleon and Tiffin we weren't able to do that."

Ross, 6-8 and 4-5, lost at Clay 86-77 earlier this season. The Eagles are 10-4 and 7-2.

"Clay can score points in bunches," Gedeon said.

"They execute offensively very well, and they have several players who can shoot the basketball."

Guard Eric Brinkman, who leads Clay at 19 points per game, scored 27 against the Little Giants in the first meeting.

"You don't see him force many things," Gedeon said.

The Eagles start Eric Stagler, the GLL's leading rebounder at 10.8 a game, and Mark Berryman at forward. Neil Punsalan (6-foot-3) is the center and Mike Pirwitz (5-9) plays point guard.

The Little Giants enter the game allowing a league high 70.6 points per game.

"What we're stressing this week is playing defense starting on the inside and working to the outside," Gedeon said, "taking care of things in the paint first."

"We want to start playing defense earlier. We want to react as the pass is being made and anticipate where the next pass is going to."

Sam Root and Harry Liggins will start at guard Friday for Ross, with Derrick Hershey and Shaun Root at forward and Doug Hershey at center.

St. Joe works on shooting

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The gang that doesn't always shoot straight will just keep shooting.

Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic, 6-7 and 3-4 in the Midland Athletic League, heads on the road for games at Mohawk Friday and Marion Catholic Saturday after it had varying degrees of success shooting the basketball last weekend.

"We still feel that's our strong suit," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said.

Fifth-two percent shooting from the floor last Friday night supports the coach's feeling. Thirty-six percent Saturday night doesn't.

"We've been working so

hard on our shooting," Gabel said. "We've spent more time on it in the last week and a half...shooting jump shots."

"I think I've worn them out; we seem short on everything."

St. Joe, shooting 39.9 percent for the season, matches up well against the shorter Warriors and Fighting Irish.

"We're really going to try hard to get the ball inside," Gabel said.

Chris Wilt leads Mohawk, 5-10 and 1-5 in the MAL. He averages nearly 15 points and more than seven rebounds a game.

Marion Catholic takes a 3-11 record into a game Friday night against Columbus Liberty Christian. Dan McAndrews is the leading scorer for the Fighting Irish.

Game report missing from system.

Whitmer routs Little Giants

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

TOLEDO — Whitmer's Panthers took what Fremont Ross gave them Friday night, and the Great Lakes League's leader defeated the Little Giants 76-54.

"You can't take away everything against a team like Whitmer," Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "That's why they're a very good basketball team. They all know their roles and they execute very well."

Ross, 6-10 and 4-7, began the game in a 2-3 zone because of the inside strength of Jason Zielinski and Chad Lorton, who both stand 6-foot-5.

"We were concerned about them on the baseline, so we were trying to match up with them in our 2-3 (zone)," Gedeon said.

Whitmer, 15-2 and 12-0, responded by striking from the outside, making four 3-point bas-

kets on five attempts and the Panthers led 18-15 at the end of the first quarter.

Point guard Jake Lyons, who tallied 13 first-half points, nailed the Panthers' first 3-pointer and added two more in the second quarter to pace Whitmer to a 38-31 halftime advantage.

Ironically, Whitmer coach Bruce Smith was very concerned with his team's play.

"My concern at halftime was that we were shooting from 20 feet and they were shooting from two," Smith said. "Their size inside was very difficult to defend early.

"It wasn't so much the first shots that were hurting us, but the second ones."

Twenty-five of the Little Giants' 31 first-half points came inside the key or at the foul line.

See ROSS, B2

Ross drops league game at Whitmer

Continued From B1

Ross outrebounded the Panthers 14-12, with seven coming at the offensive end.

"We had to take away their inside stuff (in the second half) and create some of our own," Smith said.

Lyons, who finished with 18 points, netted Whitmer's seventh and final 3-pointer to put the Panthers up 45-35 with 2:45 left in the third quarter.

"We gave more responsibility to our guards to take away the perimeter," Gedeon said.

That's when the Panthers began to create on their own as every Whitmer

basket from that point on came from inside 12 feet.

Layups by Lorton, Zielinski, and Floyd Campbell — who led the Panthers with 19 points — closed the third quarter as Whitmer built a 51-39 lead.

The Panthers pulled away for good by scoring on their first five possessions of the fourth quarter to make it 61-39 with 6:02 to play.

Doug Hershey led the Little Giants with 11 points and seven rebounds. Derrick Hershey and Shaun Root added 10 points each.

Ross is at home tonight, hosting Findlay at approximately 8:30 p.m. The game follows the varsity girls game against Findlay.

Whitmer 76, Ross 54

Ross	15	16	8	15	—	54
Whitmer	18	20	13	25	—	76

ROSS—Sam Root 3-2-9, John Overberg 1-0-3, Harry Liggins 1-1-3, Doug Hershey 5-1-11, Shaun Root 4-2-10, Derrick Hershey 4-2-10, Kevin Mosser 2-2-6, Joell Heidelberg 1-0-2, totals 21-10-54.

WHITMER—Floyd Campbell 9-0-19, Jake Lyons 7-0-19, Andy Boyd 5-0-12, Chad Baxter 0-2-2, Adam Leal 0-5-5, Chad Lorton 6-0-12, Jason Marsh 1-0-2, Jason Zielinski 2-2-6, totals 30-9-76.

3-point goals: Lyons 4, Boyd 2, Campbell, Root, Overberg.

Records: Ross 6-10 (4-7), Whitmer 15-2 (12-0).

Whitmer JV 58, Ross 33

Ross	8	8	13	4	—	33
Whitmer	14	13	16	15	—	58

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 2-0-4, Justin Cummings 1-0-2, Mike Hickey 3-0-7, Demetris Simms 1-0-2, Robb Liggins 1-0-2, Mike Weaver 3-0-6, Bryson Sewell 4-2-10, totals 15-2-33.

WHITMER—Steve Mefferd 5-1-12, Chuck Isom 2-0-4, Kevin Freeman 3-4-10, Rusty Calmes 1-1-3, David Rodriguez 8-2-18, Dann Shanteau 2-0-4, Ross Rubino 1-0-3, Travis Galloway 1-0-2, Ben Sheriff 1-0-2, totals 24-8-58.

3-point goals: Hickey, Mefferd, Rubino.

Records: Ross 6-10 (4-7).

Trojans' guard trio too much for Little Giants

By CRAIG SNYDER

Staff correspondent

There were no surprises in Findlay's 67-63 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross at the Purple Pit Saturday night.

Ross coach Mark Gedeon knew it would come down to the Little Giants' inside game against the Trojans' guard tandem of Jason Lane and Darnell Parker.

Lane and Parker combined for 35 of Findlay's 49 points in the first meeting between the teams — an eight-point Ross victory.

"Our inside game was as good as it was in the first game," Gedeon said after Findlay improved to 10-8 and 6-6 and Ross fell to 6-11 and 4-8.

But Lane and Parker were better and got help from David Buck. The Trojan guards made eight 3-point baskets and combined for 56 points.

Saturday

Findlay67

Ross63

Friday

Fostoria at Ross, 6 p.m.

See LITTLE GIANTS, B2

Little Giants to Findlay boys 67-63

Continued From B1

"Actually, I was against the 3-point shot when they put it in," Findlay coach Jerry Snodgrass said.

Findlay's guard trio scored all 29 of the 'Trojans' points in the first half, while Ross scored all but two of its points from inside the key or at the foul line.

"They do a great job of getting the ball inside," Snodgrass said.

The problem for the Little Giants was that Findlay was doing an even better job getting the ball inside the basket from outside the 3-point arc.

Parker, who led the Trojans with 22 points, made his third 3-pointer 10 seconds into the second half to give Findlay a 32-24 lead.

A layup by Derrick Hershey and two baskets by Shaun Root for Ross made it 32-30, but Findlay answered with consecutive 3-pointers by Buck and Parker.

"The beginning of the third quarter was the key," Snodgrass said.

Said Gedeon: "It wasn't a good

trade-off — giving up three and getting two."

When Ross adjusted to Findlay's outside onslaught, the Trojans went inside.

Nate Springer, a 6-foot-6 center, netted his lone basket to up the lead to 45-34 with 2:15 left in the third quarter. Springer's basket accounted for the first points in the game by a player that wasn't a guard.

Ross bounced back with a 3-point play by Kevin Mosser and a putback by Hershey, but Parker's driving layup with three seconds left in the third period gave the Trojans an eight-point lead.

John Overberg's 3-pointer with 51 seconds remaining made it 64-60, and the Little Giants got the ball back when Root rebounded Parker's missed free throw four seconds later.

Parker was fouled again after Hershey missed a layup, and he made two foul shots with 26 seconds to go. Hershey led Ross with 16 points, and Doug Hershey added 14 to go with eight rebounds. Root chipped in 12 points.

Basketball

High School Boys

Findlay 67, Ross 63

Findlay	14	15	18	20	—	67
Ross	13	11	15	24	—	63

FINDLAY—Darnell Parker 8-2-22, Jason Lane 5-9-20, John Disher 2-1-5, P.J. Martinez 1-0-2, David Buck 4-3-14, Nate Springer 1-0-2, Nick Patterson 1-0-2, totals 22-15-67.

ROSS—Sam Root 3-0-6, John Overberg 1-0-3, Rob Stotz 2-0-5, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 5-4-14, Shaun Root 5-2-12, Derrick Hershey 5-6-16, Kevin Mosser 1-1-3, totals 24-13-63.

3-point goals: Parker 4, Lane, Buck 3, Overberg, Stotz

Records: Findlay 10-8 (6-6), Ross 6-11 (4-8)

Findlay JV 46, Ross 35

Findlay	10	11	8	17	—	46
Ross	8	7	7	11	—	35

FINDLAY—Kurt Dotson 0-2-2, Nick Evans 2-2-7, Kurt Lindamood 1-1-3, Tony Ritzler 1-0-2, Adam Cavallero 2-0-4, Benji Ballmer 1-2-4, Mark Wilson 5-3-13, Ryan Dillon 2-0-4, totals 17-11-46.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 3-0-7, Justin Cummings 1-0-2, Mike Hickey 0-2-2, Demetris Simms 1-0-2, Brett Hufford 1-0-2, Rashad Brown 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 2-3-7, Bryson Sewell 5-1-11, totals 14-6-35.

3-point goals: Evans, Heidelberg

Records: Findlay 12-6, Ross 6-11

District 6 All-Star teams

Division I

First Team^N

(Name, school, height, average)

Dan Norris, Mansfield Madison, 6-foot-3, 15.6 ppg.; Kory Winkler, Tiffin Columbian, 6-3, 18.5; Jeff Gierhart, Ashland, 6-4, 17.5; George Palmer, Mansfield, 5-9, 12.9; Keithrian Pickens, Sandusky, 6-0, 15.5.

Second Team

Doug Hershey, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 13.8; Rod Wilson, Mansfield, 6-5, 12.1; Justin Larrick, Mansfield Madison, 6-2, 11.4; Brian Seidner, Ashland, 6-1, 11.0; Tim Hoffman, Tiffin Columbian, 6-1, 11.5.

Honorable Mention

Matt Williams, Madison, Chris Hill, Columbian, Bobby Crabb, Sandusky, Dubrey Black, Mansfield, Jake Soliday, Mansfield, **Derrick Hershey, Ross.**

Player of the Year: Dan Norris.

Coach of the Year: Bob Nocton (Tiffin Columbian).

Little Giants end 6-game skid

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross outscored Fostoria 27-13 in the final quarter en route to a 70-56 win that ended a six-game losing streak.

Ross, 7-11 and 5-8 after the Great Lakes League win, and the Redmen, 4-14 and 2-11, were deadlocked at 43 after three quarters in the sweltering Purple Pit.

The Little Giants made their first eight shots in the final quarter — 8-of-9 for the quarter — and outscored the Redmen 17-8 in the final four minutes. Fostoria made 4 of 16 shots and was limited

to few second attempts as the Little Giants dominated the rebounding game.

"The first half," Ross coach Mark Gedeon paused and then said, "was ugly. The second half we actually did the game plan that we were trying to do and that was limit their middle penetration."

"I think in the second half in their first 16 possessions, Fostoria only had 14 points and that was because we took away the middle."

"Offensively, we looked to get the ball inside and go to the foul line. When you get to the foul line

38 times, you got to be doing something right offensively."

The Ross inside trio of Derrick and Doug Hershey and Kevin Mosser combined for 44 points. Derrick Hershey had 17 points, Doug Hershey 14 and Mosser 13. Mosser also grabbed 12 rebounds, leading the Little Giants to a 37-25 board advantage.

Ross made 22 of the 38 free throws — 11-of-16 in the final quarter.

"We hit a bunch (of free throws) there in the fourth quarter that gave us a cushion," Gedeon pointed out, "and when

we got that cushion, the kids relaxed and enjoyed playing basketball."

Fostoria led 35-30 at the half after making 14 of 19 shots but the lead disappeared into the humidity in the third quarter. Harry Liggins passed off to Shaun Root and Doug Hershey to open the second half, cutting the Fostoria lead to 35-34.

"They packed the zone in a lot more in the second half and made it harder to penetrate through the gap," Fostoria coach Jim Rutter said. "We were able to get the ball into good spots in the first half, and in the second

half, we only got one shot most of the time."

Kurt Snyder's pass to Doug Hershey for a layup tied it at 41-41 with 50 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Mosser's putback 15 seconds later made it 43-41, but Jeremy Young's layup at the buzzer for the Redmen made the first three quarters null and void.

Richard Newsome led Fostoria with 24 points. He scored 15 in the first half, mainly on drives through the slow-shifting Ross zone.

Ross plays at Sandusky Bay Conference champion Port Clinton tonight. The JVs begin at 6:30 p.m.

Ross 70, Fostoria 56

Fostoria	17	18	8	13	—	56
Ross	17	13	13	27	—	70

FOSTORIA—Leo Frierson 0-1-1, Jerry Dessausure 2-0-4, Richard Newsome 9-6-24, Brent Fisher 1-0-2, Brandon Canterbury 1-1-3, Seth Brandenberry 1-0-2, Malcom Robinson 5-2-12, Eli Haughawout 2-1-6, Jeremy Young 1-0-2, totals 22-11-56.

ROSS—Sam Root 2-3-7, John Overberg 2-3-7, Rob Stotz 1-1-3, Harry Liggins 2-1-5, Doug Hershey 5-4-14, Shaun Root 2-0-4, Derrick Hershey 6-5-17, Kevin Mosser 4-5-13, totals 24-22-70.

3-point goals: Haughawout.

Records: Ross 7-11 (5-8), Fostoria 4-14 (2-11).

Ross JV 48, Fostoria 41

Fostoria	6	7	15	13	—	41
Ross	6	13	13	16	—	48

FOSTORIA—Jermand McBeth 1-0-2, Matt Shaw 2-0-5, Dustin Miller 3-0-7, Josh Schiebel 1-2-4, Robert Scott 7-3-17, Lerone Martin 2-2-6, totals 16-7-41.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 1-1-3, Justin Cummings 1-1-4, Mike Hickey 4-2-13, Dave Watruba 4-0-9, Jared Fisher 1-0-2, Rashad Brown 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 1-3-5, Mike Weaver 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 3-0-6, totals 18-7-48.

3-point goals: Shaw, Miller, Cummings, Hickey 3, Watruba.

Record: Ross 7-11

Little Giants win in overtime at Port Clinton

By MARK GRIFFIN
Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross and Port Clinton have had many exciting matchups during their long-time rivalry, and Saturday night's 62-54 overtime victory by the Little Giants was no different.

Port Clinton had the lead with 10.9 seconds left in regulation following a pair of Pat Gwinn free throws.

Ross guard Sam Root, however, took the inbounds pass, drove the length of the floor and knifed through the middle of the Redskins' defense for an uncontested layup to send the game into the

extra period tied at 49.

"In the timeout, we took to try to freeze Gwinn at the foul line, we wanted to see what they would do in defensive transition and let Sam go coast-to-coast," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

The Little Giants got seven points from Derrick Hershey and outscored PC 13-5 in overtime. Ross improved to 8-11, handing the Redskins their first home loss this season.

Port Clinton led by three in OT following a basket by Gwinn and a free throw by Earl Rahm, but it was all Ross from there.

Derrick Hershey hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 52, Shaun Root put in

an offensive rebound and Doug Hershey followed with a layup off an assist from Sam Root for a 56-52 Ross lead.

Gwinn scored to make it 56-54, but Derrick Hershey hit four free throws and Shaun Root added two foul shots to end the scoring.

"This is obviously a very nice win for us," Gedeon said. "Seven of our 11 losses have come against teams that, when they went to the tournament draw, had 12 or more wins."

It was the second loss in two nights for Port Clinton, 14-5.

"That's two nights in a row now, kind of a lackluster performance," Port Clinton coach Tom

Bodager said. "It's not like our season's over. We had this game won tonight and let it get away from us."

Derrick Hershey led Ross with 23 points, and Sam Root added 10. Gwinn scored 24 points to lead PC, and Brian Rickel added 10 points.

The Little Giants hit eight of their first 12 shots of the first quarter to take an 18-7 lead before Port Clinton settled down and Ross cooled off.

The Redskins responded by going on an 18-5 run to take a 25-23 halftime lead.

Port Clinton led 37-35 after three quarters and scored the

first seven points of the fourth quarter.

John Overberg ended PC's run with a 3-point basket, and Ross began to turn up the defensive intensity, forcing the Redskins into turnovers with its full-court and half-court trapping defense.

"Defensively, we turned it up a notch and they got a little passive as well," Gedeon said.

Gwinn hit two free throws with 33 seconds left in regulation, giving PC a 47-44 lead. But Rob Stotz nailed a 3-pointer from the left wing to tie it at 47 with 24 seconds left.

■ St. Joe falls, 83

Ross 62, P. Clinton 54 (OT)

Ross	20	3	12	14	13	—	62
Port Clinton	12	13	12	12	5	—	54

ROSS—Sam Root 4-2-10, John Overberg 2-0-6, Rob Stotz 1-0-3, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 1-0-2, Doug Hershey 2-2-6, Shaun Root 3-2-8, Derrick Hershey 6-8-23, totals 21-14-62.

PORT CLINTON—R.J. Basil 1-0-3, Ryan Dubsky 0-1-1, Jack Gibson 4-1-9, Pat Gwinn 8-4-24, Matt Millikin 2-0-6, Earl Rahm 0-1-1, Brian Rickel 5-0-10, totals 20-7-54.

3-point goals: Overberg 2, Stotz, , De. Hershey 3, Basil, Gwinn 4, Millikin 2.

Records: Ross 8-11, PC 14-5.

P. Clinton JV 60, Ross 59

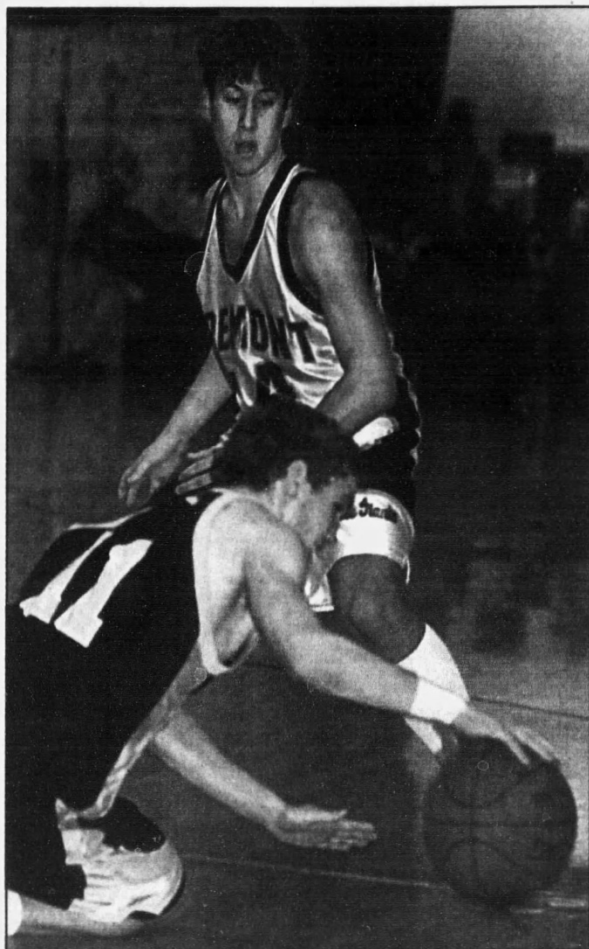
Ross	11	19	13	16	—	59
Port Clinton	11	19	18	12	—	60

ROSS—Joel Heidelberg 1-0-2, Justin Cummings 2-0-4, Mike Hickey 5-0-16, Brett Hufford 1-0-2, Jared Fisher 4-3-12, Rob Liggins 4-2-10, Mike Weaver 3-0-6, Bryson Sewell 3-1-7, totals 24-6-59.

PORT CLINTON—Cort Kaufman 4-2-10, Rick Ward 3-0-6, Adam Ferrari 2-3-7, Justin Whiting 6-1-13, Dan Goode 6-0-12, Collin Kaufman 4-0-10, Brandon Krupp 1-0-2, totals 26-6-60.

3-point goals: Hickey 4, Fisher, Col. Kaufman 2.

Records: Ross 7-12, PC 8-11



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS guard John Overberg helps force Sylvania Northview guard Jamie Westfall into traveling during the fourth quarter Friday night.

Ross beats Northview

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

An aggressive zone defense and timely 3-point shooting lifted Fremont Ross to a 58-48 Great Lakes League victory over Sylvania Northview Friday night at the Purple Pit.

The win in the regular-season finale moves Ross to 9-11 and 6-8, while the Wildcats drop to 6-14 and 4-10.

"We played our 1-2-2 (zone)," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "I don't think they hit a 3-pointer all night. We forced them to do things from the perimeter."

"It was very successful for us." Said Northview coach Dennis Shoemaker, "They know we are not a very good team from the perimeter. We prepared for their zone in practice, but in practice you're never able to do it quite like (the team you're preparing for). They did a nice job in their zone."

Northview's man-to-man defense was nearly as effective

in the first half, as the Wildcats trailed 9-5 at the end of the first quarter and 24-22 at halftime.

The Little Giants made 8 of 31 shots in the first half, including 3-of-13 from behind the arc.

"We were not very patient in the first half," Gedeon said. "We were taking the first shot available instead of what the defense was giving us."

"We are still stressing that more patience leads to more points."

Tim Joyce, the Wildcats' leading scorer and rebounder, netted seven points and grabbed three rebounds in the second quarter to keep Northview close.

But Joyce was held scoreless the rest of the way, as the 6-foot-8 post player went to the bench with his third foul with 3:37 to play in the third quarter and Ross leading 30-26.

With Joyce's absence, the Little Giants went inside for baskets by Derrick Hershey, John Overberg, Sam Root, and Kevin Moss-er to go along with two Doug Hershey foul shots, and Ross led 40-30 at the end of three quarters.



STOTZ

See **ROSS**, B3

Ross wins at home

Continued From B1^N

"Tim's our leading scorer and big rebounder," Shoemaker said. "That really hurt to lose him."

Northview scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to cut their deficit to 40-34 with 5:12 to play on free throws by Ryan Porter and a short jumper by Mike Pierce.

Kurt Snyder answered with a 3-pointer to start the Little Giants' scoring in the final quarter to make it 43-36 with 4:48 left in the game.

Jamie Westfall answered for the Wildcats from the left wing on the Wildcats' next possession,

but a driving layup and consecutive 3-pointers by Rob Stotz pushed the Ross lead to 51-38 with 1:50 to play.

Stotz, who led Rosswith 14 points, made four 3-pointers.

"We know that Rob can shoot the basketball," Gedeon said, "We were stagnant at the start of the fourth quarter, but he hit some bigs shots and gave us our momentum back."

The Little Giants travel to Willard High School Tuesday night to play a first-round sectional tournament game against Mansfield Madison. Game time will be approximately 8:15.

High School Boys

Ross 58, Northview 48

Northview	5	17	8	18	—	48
Ross	9	15	16	18	—	58

NORTHVIEW—Jamie Westfall 4-0-8, Ryan Hojnacki 1-0-2, Ryan Porter 6-6-18, Scott Abella 2-0-4, Mike Pierce 2-0-4, Shaun Morris 1-0-2, Craig Koperski 0-1-1, Tim Joyce 3-1-7, Curt McKee 1-0-2, totals 20-8-48.

ROSS—Sam Root 2-1-5, John Overberg 2-0-5, Rob Stotz 5-0-14, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 1-0-3, Doug Hershey 1-6-8, Shaun Root 2-2-6, Derrick Hershey 2-1-5, Kevin Mosser 3-1-7, Joell Heidelberg 0-1-1, totals 20-12-58.

3-point goals: Stotz 4, Overberg, Snyder.

Records: Northview 6-14 (4-10), Ross 9-11 (6-8).

Ross JV 60, Northview 46

Northview	2	15	11	18	—	46
Ross	19	10	18	13	—	60

NORTHVIEW—Eric Zare 3-0-6, Brent Harrison 2-0-5, Nick Miller 3-0-8, Chad Gorczyca 2-1-5, Nate Zechman 4-0-8, Matt Vierk 1-0-2, Rick Kelm 3-2-8, Ryan Hojnacki 2-0-4, totals 20-3-46.

ROSS—Joell Heidelberg 6-0-12, Justin Cummings 1-2-4, Mike Hickey 2-0-6, Demetris Simms 2-3-7, Dave Watruba 1-0-2, Jared Fisher 2-0-6, Rashad Brown 2-3-7, Rob Liggins 4-0-8, Mike Weaver 2-0-4, Bryson Sewell 2-0-4, totals 24-8-60.

3-point goals: Miller, Hickey, Fisher 2, Harrison.

Records: Northview 11-9 (9-5), Ross 8-12 (6-8).

Basketball

High School Boys

Associated Press Northwest Ohio All-District Teams

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1995-96 Northwest All-District boys basketball team, as selected by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from the district:

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Kory Winkler, Tiffin Columbian, 6-foot-3, Senior, 18.5 points per game; Robierre Cullars, Tol. St. Francis, 6-4, Jr., 16.3; Mark Taylor, Tol. St. Francis, 6-0, Sr., 17.5; Marcus Baucom, Tol. Rogers, 6-1, Sr. 15.0; Dan Norris, Mansfield Madison, 6-3, Sr., 16.8.

SECOND TEAM: Larry Fisher, Lima Senior, 6-3, Sr., 17.6; Keithrian Pickens, Sandusky, 16.5; Todd Sedlar, Tol. Cent. Cath., 6-2, Sr., 18.7; Floyd Campbell, Tol. Whitmer, 6-4, Soph., 21.2; Jason Lane, Findlay, 5-10, Sr., 16.5

THIRD TEAM: Jake Sutter, Celina, 6-4, Sr., 15.1; Jon Walker, Tol. St. John's, 6-5, Sr., 12.5; Tommy Walker, Tol. Start, 6-3, Jr., 16.1; Justin Fisher, Tol. Bowsher, 5-10, Jr., 18.2; Pete Maienjnecht, Bowling Green, 6-5, Sr., 18.4; George Palmer, Mansfield Senior, 5-10, Sr., 12.4.

Players of the year: Dan Norris, Mansfield Madison; Robierre Cullars, Tol. St. Francis

Coach of the year: Bob Nocton, Tiffin Columbian

Honorable Mention

Rashard Carson, Toledo Rogers; Jim Harding, Maumee; Marcus Taylor, Bowling Green; Eddie Ziemke, Tol. St. John's; Rick Fox, Tol. St. Francis; Jeff Gierhart, Ashland; Darnell Prker, Findlay; **Doug Hershey, Fremont Ross**; Tim Hoffmann, Tiffin Columbian; Rod Wilson, Mansfield Senior; Justin Larrick, Mansfield Madison; Jason Hughes, Tol. Start; Pete Paule, Perrysburg; Bryan Overton, Tol. Woodward; Michael Byrd, Tol. Woodward; Jake Lyons, Tol. Whitmer; Chad Dodds, Tol. Scott; Bobby Gillard, Tol. Scott; Brian Chapman, Maumee; Matt Doyle, Holland Springfield; Chandler Harris, Tol. Libbey; Eric Floyd, Tol. St. John's.

High School Boys

ALL-GLL Teams

The All-Great Lakes League teams selected by the coaches.

FIRST TEAM

Player, school	Gr	Ht	Ppg
Eric Brinkman, Clay	12	6-1	17.1
Eric Stager, Clay	12	6-2	14.9
Jason Lane, Findlay	12	5-8	15.8
Louis Green, Napoleon	11	6-4	17.2
Jake Lyons, Whitmer	11	5-11	13.1

SECOND TEAM

Dan Williams, Bedford	12	6-0	12.1
Mike Pirwitz, Clay	12	5-9	11.1
Darnell Parker, Findlay	12	5-10	15.7
Richard Newsome, Fostoria	11	6-0	14.7
Doug Hershey, Ross	12	6-2	12.0

Co-Players of the Year: Floyd Campbell, Whitmer and Christian Schlachter, Bedford.

Coach of the Year: Bruce Smith, Whitmer.

Honorable Mention

Ross: Sam Root and Derrick Hershey.

Bedford: Chad Henman, Matt Sherman and Blake Flessner.

Clay: Tom Clay.

Findlay: David Buck.

Fostoria: Malcolm Robinson.

Napoleon: Mike Limbird and Ross Durham.

Northview: Jamie Westfall, Tim Joyce and Ryan Porter.

Whitmer: Jason Zielinski.

Hershey, Zerman Ross MVPs

News-Messenger reports

Dawn Zerman and Doug Hershey won most valuable player awards Tuesday night during the Fremont Ross High School Basketball Awards Program.

Zerman, the all-time leading scorer for both boys and girls at Ross with 1,403 points in four years, capped off her four Ross years with her second girls MVP award.



ZERMAN



HERSHEY

The Associated Press first-team All-Ohio selection also took home awards for the best foul shooter, most assists and a co-captain's award.

Other special awards handed out by Coach Sue Wolf went to Marcy Reinbolt as the team's best defensive and the most improved player. Michele Smith won the rebounding award and Cari Ritzman received a co-captain's award.

Lisa Oprie, Dena Schepflin and Ritzman won third letter awards and Zerman her fourth.

Hershey won the top honor for Coach Mark Gedeon's boys team. The senior also won the most rebounds trophy and was presented with the captain's award.

Other special honors handed out by Gedeon went to Shaun Root as the most improved player, most assists award to Sam Root; best defensive player award to Harry Liggins; and the coaches award to Sam Root and Derrick Hershey.

