

1969 Class AA Sectional Tournament



FREMONT ROSS LITTLE GIANTS — The Ross high school basketball team, which won three of 18 regular season games, opens its sectional tournament action Tuesday at Sandusky against Norwalk. Members of the Little Giants are: Kneeling — Tom Brough, Rick Dudley, Dennis O'Brien, Jim Werling, Jon Schwartz, John Lewis, Doug Kridler. Standing

— assistant coach Alex Clark, Kevin Hahn, John Fahrbach, Tom Weisz, Kerry Pitts, Keith Chapin, Phil Garry, Rusty Zimmerman, Daryl Knipp and head coach Don Purvis. The three-color photo, first to be used on the sports pages of the News-Messenger, is the work of Photographer Larry Sollazzo.

In Sectional Basketball Opener

Norwalk Shooters Test Ross

"Beware of the Shooters" well could be the sign that hangs over the locker room of Norwalk high school basketball team. The Truckers are a team which has proved it can score and boasts shooters.

The Fremont Ross Little Giants will test the shooting ability of the Truckers Tuesday night at Sandusky high school in the opening game of the Class AA Sectional tournament. Coach Don Purvis' Little Giants will hope that their domination of Northern Ohio League teams will continue. Ross this year has met two NOL teams and beaten them both—Tiffin Columbian and Bucyrus.

Norwalk this season finished in a tie for second place in the NOL behind champion Bellevue. The Truckers tied with Shelby and Tiffin Columbian in league standings.

The roster looks like the Truckers could be tall but actually size has been their problem. The roster lists a boy 6-9, Tom Doubledee, and one 6-5, Mike Grose. Grose does start but actually is the only one of the Norwalk front-liners over 6-0 in height.

The Truckers start Grose with two boys who stand 6-0 even, one 5-10 and one 5-11. The scoring gun of the team is Tom Diringer, the leading scorer in the NOL. Diringer is a shooter who likes to fire the ball on the run with a special liking for the corner. He has averaged 26 points a game in hitting 46 per cent from the field and 82 per cent

at the foul line. Because of his elusiveness he draws numerous fouls. Diringer has averaged at least 10 points a game from the foul line.

Grose is the second top scorer on the team with a 17 a game average. Grose has averaged 14 rebounds a game. In the last two weeks the 6-5 pivot has come to the top as a performer. In that four-game period he has averaged 22 points and 16 rebounds a game.

Rounding out the starting five are Tom Edwards, 5-11, junior, 10 point a game average; Doug Ott, 5-10, senior, seven a game average, and Don Smith, 6-0, senior. Smith moved into the lineup in the last two games because of his rebounding ability. In the two games he has started Smith has had 21 rebounds.

The sixth man who started until recently is Jack Buckingham, 5-9, senior, who averaged seven points a game.

Norwalk offensively has averaged 72 points a game for Coach Len Hardman. Defensively they have held foes to a 64-point a game average on the way to a 13-5 record. Shooting is the team strength with a 44 per cent accuracy mark from the field. Norwalk has Diringer and Grose in the top 10 among NOL scorers. Five Truckers are in the top 10 foul shooters of that league.

Game time Tuesday at Sandusky high school gymnasium is 7 p.m. The winner will play Friday against Port Clinton.

Woodmore Topples Gibsonburg

GIBSONBURG — Control of the boards and superior shooting added up to a 76-60 Woodmore victory over Gibsonburg Saturday night. Big Rex Durdel had 17 rebounds in leading Woodmore to a total of 54. This was 16 more than Gibsonburg could pull off the boards.

In the scoring department Mike Rospert tallied 20 to lead a trio of double-figure scorers for Woodmore. The Wildcats made 31 of 65 field goal tries, 48 per cent, and 14 of 21 at the foul line, 67 per cent. Gibsonburg was accurate with 23 of 57 goals, 40 per cent, and 14 of 22 free throws, 64 per cent.

In the reserve game Gibsonburg took a 51-35 decision.

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WOODMORE — Durdel 3-3-9, Heinemann 5-3-13, Raines 5-2-12, Henricks 2-1-5, Rospert 9-2-20 Johns 3-3-9, Loutzenhiser 2-0-4, Miller 1-0-2, Fegley 1-0-2. TOTALS 31-14-76

GIBSONBURG — Henline 2-2-6, Shaffer 3-2-8, Ernsthausen 4-2-10, Stout 2-4-8, Fires 10-4-24, Rusdecker 1-0-2, Willacker 1-0-2. TOTALS 23-14-60.

Score By Quarters

WOODMORE	14	20	19	23-76
GIBSONBURG	11	14	14	21-60

Dobie's

Defense Must Be Ross Tourney Start Salvation

The name of the game tonight may have to be defense if Fremont Ross is to survive its first tournament test. The Little Giants, showing a 3-15 record, have found the generation of points a problem this season. Norwalk, a team with a 13-5 record, has little trouble producing points but neither has been a particularly stingy team.

Norwalk is bragged as a team of shooters with a 72-point a game average, compared with

a defensive average of 64 points a game. Ross has been touched for 1,266 points by 18 opponents, a defensive average of 66.9 points per game.

Offensively, Ross has a pair of guards who score with relative consistency, but still have averaged only 32.6 with 947 points in 18 games.

Part of the Ross problem has been the caliber of competition in the tough Buckeye Conference. The Little Giants have

stepped outside the conference only four times, winning two. The two the Little Giants won were over Northern Ohio League foes. Norwalk is a NOL member.

Those wins over NOL teams have been against Bucyrus, 61-51, and Tiffin Columbian, 70-58. In these battles the Little Giants were both above their season offensive averages and stronger than average on defense. In comparison Norwalk has beaten

Bucyrus twice, 65-42, and 69-59, while splitting with Tiffin Columbian. Norwalk first defeated Tiffin, 83-71, and then lost to the Tornadoes, 72-62.

It is anticipated the Little

Giants will need strong defense to cut down the scoring chances for Norwalk. They will have a particular problem in 60-second forward Tom Diringer. Diringer last Friday ended the regular season by setting two Norwalk records. His 40 points in

an 87-55 win over Willard set a new one-game high and season total high of 467 points. He broke the record of John Schroeder, who went on after high school to captain Ohio university and play with Akron Goodyears.

Regular season totals show that guards Kevin Hahn and Jon Schwartz have been leadership twins for Ross. Hahn has 209 points and Schwartz 208 in 18 games, each an average of

approximately 16 a game. They are the only scorers in double figures for the season.

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ROSS SCORING					
Player	G	PG	FT	Pts	Ave.
Kevin Hahn	18	79	51	209	11.6
Jon Schwartz	18	42	206	208	11.6
Phil Garry	18	58	48	84	4.7
John Fahrbach	18	33	62	128	7.1
Tom Weis	18	44	14	102	5.7
Mike Grose	3	8	14	14	4.7
Dennis O'Brien	5	13	13	13	2.6
Doug Kradler	4	3	11	11	2.8
John Lewis	3	5	11	11	3.7
John Brough	2	0	4	4	2.0
Rick Dudley	0	3	1	1	0.5



BY B. JERRY CAMPBELL
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Beware of the shooter was the pre-game warning given the Fremont Ross Little Giants. They took heed and limited the shots of Norwalk's Truckers but they could not do anything about the percentages. Norwalk's team was limited to 47 shots in the game but rippled the nets with 49 per cent of them on the way to a 65-50 victory in the Sandusky Class AA sectional tournament.

Defeat ended the Ross season at three wins, 16 losses. Norwalk now looks forward to a Friday night battle with Port Clinton. The victor here will play the winner of another Friday night game between Clyde and Bellevue for the right to advance to the super sectional at Toledo University.

"All right, get a shower and get dressed." The voice of Coach Don Purvis broke the heavy-hanging silence in the Ross locker room after the game. It was a silence that spilled over from the offensive performance of the Little Giants on the floor. Defensively they had managed

to stuff the number one scorer in the area, to hold Norwalk seven points below its season average. On offense there was that stone silence that comes with freezing temperatures. The arctic air was oozing from the cold shooting hands of the Little Giants.

While Norwalk was scoring on 23 of 47 shots from the field, Ross was getting 69 shots, but making only 20-29 per cent. It was at the foul line that Norwalk gained the great portion of its advantage. The Truckers made 19 of 24 free throws, 79 per cent, and Ross connected on 10 of 16, 63 per cent.

The Ross defense and particularly the play of Kevin Hahn provided one of the few bright spots. Hahn handled the highly touted Tom Diringer, highest scorer in Norwalk history, to 12 points below his season average. Diringer who set the Truckers season record of 467 and scored 40 points last Saturday was held to 14 points by Hahn. Hahn's man-for-man coverage shut off the shooter with only four field goals. His season average prior to Tuesday

night had been nearly 26 points a game.

Diringer was shut off but not Doug Ott, smallest Trucker at 5-9, who led all scorers with 22 points. With one minute and 31 seconds to play in the first half Ott had not scored a point and Ross trailed by only three points, 25-22. The rest of the way Ott was in control and he scored his 22 points in 17 minutes and 31 seconds of basketball.

Most of Ott's shots, like all

of those by Norwalk were jumpers or one-handed sets from 15 feet or further. Penetration of the Ross defense was seldom with Mike Grose, the 6-5 pivot, doing only occasional damage inside. Grose had five field goals and 16 points, but most of the Norwalk points went over the top of the defense.

Seniors John Fahrbach and Jon Schwartz and sophomore John Lewis provided what scoring punch there was for Ross. This trio tallied 42 of Ross' 50

points. Fahrbach had 16, Lewis 14 and Schwartz 12.

In the early stages Ross had led and Norwalk was never on top until Grose sank a basket under with 22 seconds to play in the first quarter. Once ahead Norwalk never again trailed.

NORWALK—Diringer 4-14, Edwards 7-15, Grose 5-3-13, Smith 0-0-0, Ott 7-8-22, Doubledee 0-1-1, TOTALS 23-19-45
ROSS—Garry 1-2, Fahrbach 5-6-16, Hahn 3-6-4, Schwartz 5-2-12, Lewis 6-2-14, TOTALS 20-15-50

Score By Quarters

NORWALK 11 21 14 19-65
ROSS 10 13 7 20-50

Tournament Trail Sandusky Romps

Sandusky waltzed, Vermilion walked a tight rope and Norwalk tripped down the final steps of the lane Friday in advancing to the second round of the Class AA sectional tournament at Sandusky. Norwalk and Bellevue sites. Sandusky smashed Milan Edison, 83-40, at Norwalk; at Bellevue Vermilion nipped Fostoria, 62-61, in overtime, and at Sandusky Norwalk used a strong second half to trim Fremont Ross, 65-50.

Sandusky now will play Margaretta Friday, Norwalk meets

MILAN—Vanderpool 3-1-7, Kernel 1-7-9, Caplicki 2-2-6, Schlessman 3-5-11, Welle 1-4-6, Reipp 0-0-0, Kerney 0-0-0, Power 0-1-1, TOTALS 18-20-40.

SANDUSKY—Foster 9-2-0, Harris 8-18, Hoefeld 2-1-5, Sampson 2-2-6, Halleck 3-3-8, Hart 0-1-1, Kastor 0-1-1, May 2-2-6, Roberts 3-0-4, Deming 3-1-7, Chapman 2-1-5, TOTALS 34-15-83.

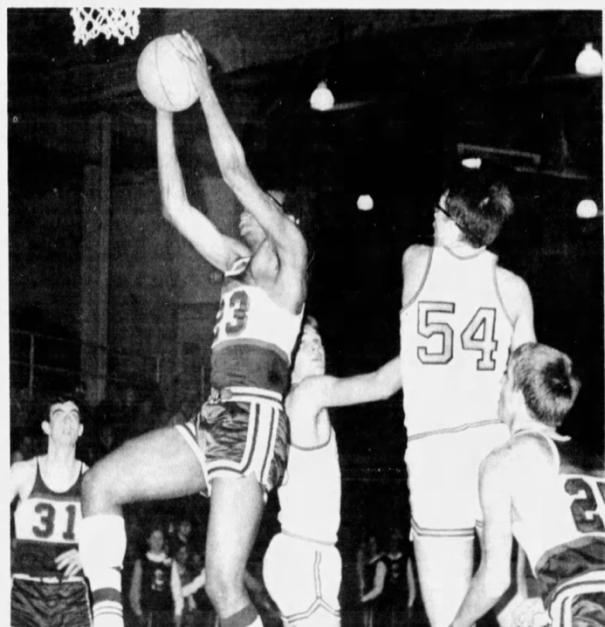
Score By Quarters

FOSTORIA—Browning 3-2-8, Filialier 12-5-29, Ward 4-2-6, Flack 1-4-2, Graves 3-2-8, Hause 1-1-0, Kastor 1-1-0, TOTALS 24-13-61.

VERMILION—Leyebacker 5-0-10, Moe 9-2-8, Angier 3-12-18, Pretter 3-1-7, Printer 3-1-7, TOTALS 23-16-62.

FOSTORIA 16 13 13 15 4-61

VERMILION 8 15 16 18 5-62



ROSS REBOUND — Phil Garry grabs a rebound for Ross in game against Norwalk Tuesday. Other Ross players are Kevin Hahn,

31, and John Fahrbach, 25. Mike Grose, 54, goes up for Norwalk. (News-Messenger Photo)

END OF THE LINE — John Fahrbach shows the feeling of the entire Ross team as he leaves the court after a loss to Norwalk Tuesday.

High School Tournament Box Scores

MARION—Fry 1-3-5, Gibson 4-2-10, Merchant 13-20-46, Hardman 1-1-3, Carpenter 4-1-9, Reach 0-1-1, Hatfield 0-3-3, TOTALS 23-31-77.

SHELBY—Devito 1-1-3, Dietz 6-3-15, Pifer 1-1-3, Gurney 2-1-5, Devier 0-0-0.