

Pressure 'D' helps Ross turn back Bellevue

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross used a torrid second quarter and a pressure defense to turn back Bellevue 57-37 in a high school girls basketball game Saturday afternoon.

Ross, 1-0, dropped in 9-of-13 shots in the second quarter, erasing a 12-9 deficit and taking a 30-16 halftime lead. The Redmen, 1-1, never got any closer.

Cortney Cominski pumped in 21 points for coach Sue Wolf's Little Giants, including 16 in the first half. No other Ross player was in double figures but 10 scored.

"We started out a little shaky," Wolf admitted. "You could tell Bellevue had one game under their belts."

Bellevue defeated Clyde 48-40

Friday night.

The Redmen jumped to a 4-0 lead on buckets by Jamie Lilli and Crystal Moore before baskets by Cominsky and Kasey Mangette pulled Ross even. Ross led 9-8 on Mangette's two free throws before Angela Haffey and Lilly hit back-to-back two-pointers for a 12-9 first quarter lead.

In the second quarter, Cominsky ripped in 11 points as the Little Giants made nine of their first 11 shots. Ross ran off five points to open the quarter before Christie Borgia stopped the run for Bellevue three minutes into the period.

The Little Giants countered with a 10-point run and ended the first half by scoring the final six points after Borgia's rebound

shot cut the Ross lead to 24-16.

The Ross second-quarter surge made a prophet of its coach.

"I knew we would settle down at the start of the second quarter," Wolf said, "and they did what I thought they would do."

While the Ross offense hesitantly shifted into gear, the defense functioned smoothly, generating 29 Bellevue turnovers and forcing 15-of-41 shooting (37 percent).

"We got a lot of pressure on them," the Ross coach said. "It took them out of their offense and that is what we were looking to do."

Entering the season, Wolf was apprehensive about her bench strength.

"I was happy with the kids that came off the bench," she

said. "I thought their heads were in the game and they were ready to play when they were on the floor."

Mangette finished with nine points for Ross, with Kim Crawford adding six. Dawn Zerman, Natalie Robbins and Tamie Reinbolt had four apiece. Emili Kreilick, who missed most of last season because of illness according to Wolf, scored three including a key steal and a layup in the breakaway second quarter.

Ross committed 19 turnovers and made 20 of 52 shots (38 percent). The Little Giants held a slim 35-34 edge in rebounding with 20 of the Ross rebounds off the offensive boards.

Ross hosts Huron Tuesday. The JV game begins at 6 p.m.

Last-second shot fells Ross

Little Giants stumble after leading by 16

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Jamie Caporini's 18-foot shot at the final buzzer completed a Huron comeback and a Ross collapse Tuesday night at Ross High School.

Huron, after trailing by as many as 16 points in the first half of the high school girls basketball game, slipped past Ross on Caporini's shot 44-42.

Huron had the ball out-of-bounds with 3.9 seconds remaining.

"She (Kari Fisher) was going to pass it in and break to the base line for the return pass," Huron coach Dick Wennes explained, "but we had too many passes and I did not think we were going to get a shot."

"But Jamie got the shot off and I am thinking, 'Oh my gosh, here we go into overtime,'" Wennes said. "The further that ball went, the more I could see it was going to come down perfect and go right through the thing."

Ross coach Sue Wolf admitted she was thinking overtime, too, but Caporini erased those thoughts.

"She got a good look at the basket; you have to be on her more than that," Wolf said.

Caporini's wing and a prayer shot erased Wennes' thoughts of the first half, a half in which his team committed 20 turnovers.

"You don't survive doing that," he said.

But the Tigers were survivalists as Ross scored only two points off the first-half Huron giveaways.

"We did not capitalize on them" Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "When you cause that many turnovers and you don't capitalize on them, you are kill-



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CORTNEY COMINSKY (20) of Fremont Ross prepares to shoot over Huron's Jamie Caporini during the second quarter of Huron's 44-42 victory over the Little Giants Tuesday night at Ross.

ing yourself."

Huron opened the game with a man-to-man and the Little Giants tore it apart.

"I think they were just too quick for us," Wennes said. "We got in all sorts of foul trouble. They got into the one-and-one—I think the made nine points at the foul line—and then we went to the 1-3-1 zone in the second half. That slowed them down."

Fisher led Huron with 13 points. Amy Allendorf added nine and Caporini seven. Cominsky led Ross with 13 and Zerman had eight.

Ross led 31-18 at the half but seven minutes into the second

half, Huron trailed 34-32. Cortney Cominsky's basket gave Ross a 36-32 lead after three quarters before Huron ran off the first six points of the final eight minutes.

Fisher's three-points basket gave the Tigers a 37-36 lead, their first the opening bucket of the game.

Dawn Zerman pulled Ross at 38 with a layup, but two free throws each by Julie Warren and Fisher put Huron up 42-38 with 4:17 remaining.

Cominsky and Zerman countered with two free throws each, with Zerman tying the game at the 3:15 mark.

In the final 20 seconds, Cominsky missed a layup after a Ross steal and after a scramble, Huron came up with ball. The Ross defense seemingly had the Tigers boxed up until less than four seconds remained.

Caporini took it from there.

"We missed key shots inside and there is no way you are going to win missing the shots we missed inside tonight," Wolf said.

"In the pressure situation, no one wanted the ball. I don't know why."

Caporini did and Ross paid for it.

Whitmer tops Ross

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf left Toledo Whitmer Thursday night convinced that the Panthers are the team to beat in the 1992-93 Great Lakes League basketball race.

Whitmer remained undefeated in three games with a 61-52 victory over the Little Giants. The Panthers outscored Ross 21-7 in the third quarter of the GLL opener.

"They are a good team, and they can put the ball in the basket," Wolf said.

While Ross was making 19 of 43 shots, Whitmer made 26 of 54. The Little Giants also missed 12 of 26 free throws.

Although there wasn't an abundance of missed shots, most of the caroms went to the Panthers.

"We were undersized, and we got killed on the boards," Wolf said.

The Panthers held a 35-12 rebound advantage as Ross lost for the second time in three games.

Courtney Cominsky led all scorers with 24 points for Ross, while Lisa Lippincott had 16 for Whitmer.

In other games, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic beat Carey 56-28, Northwood nipped Woodmore 37-36, Elmwood edged Lakota 62-59, Cardinal Stritch topped Oak Harbor 37-30, Fostoria St. Wendelin defeated Bettsville 65-32 and New Riegel routed Old Fort 70-32.

St. Joe56

Carey28

The Crimson Streaks have a practice drill where five players box out, and none of the five goes for a rebound.

Thursday night, there were several instances where that happened against the Blue Devils and a rebound fell to the floor. St. Joe coach Gary Geller says that's OK.

"I think we're finally realizing that if we get good position, that

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the rebounds are going to come," Geller said.

St. Joe, undefeated in three games after winning the Mid-Atlantic league opener, outscored Carey 43-22. Mic Montagno led the way with 14 rebounds.

Leading 31-14 after three quarters, the Streaks outscored Carey 25-12 in the fourth quarter.

Patti Hossler led SJCC with 18 points, and Kris Gonya had 15. Tiffany Coppler had nine points for Carey.

Northwood.....

Woodmore.....

After falling behind by 10 points in the third quarter, the Wildcats made the game close by shooting better than they had in the first half and playing tight man-to-man defense.

Second-half surge sends Ross past Findlay

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross outscored Findlay 26-19 in the second half, handing the Trojans a 49-40 high school girls basketball loss Saturday afternoon.

In other games, Lakota edged Gibsonburg 48-46, Eastwood beat Woodmore 55-28 and Oak Harbor lost to Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic 43-41.

The victory was the second in four games for Ross while Findlay is also 2-2.

"We weren't too great there, but we won it at the foul line," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The Little Giants made 17 of 28 free throws, including 7 of 12 in the final quarter.

"We kept going to the basket and they kept putting us there (foul line)," Wolf said.

After a 7-7 deadlock at the end of the first quarter, Ross got a lift from its bench.

Cortney Cominsky, who led Ross with 19 points, picked up a pair of quick fouls and sat on the bench for the better part of the second quarter.

Tami Reinbolt took Cominsky's place and tossed in six points.

"The girls played well while Cortney was on the bench," Wolf said. "I kept her out so she would not pick up another foul. Tami played very well while she was in there."

In the second half, Cominsky scored 13 points and Natalie Robbins added all eight of her points in the final quarter.

Reinbolt finished with eight points and Kim Crawford added seven for Ross.

"This was a big win for us," Wolf said.

Ross hosts Napoleon Thursday night in a Great Lakes League game. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

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abandon its press in the second quarter because of foul trouble, and the Golden Bears, 2-3 and 0-2, took advantage by scoring 20 points.

Lakota coach Dick Heller said a return to a pressing defense made a difference in the third quarter.

"We take two quarters to get rolling," he said. "We seem to play with a little more intensity in the second half."

Mary Bush made two free throws with a minute remaining to give the Raiders a 48-44 lead — the largest of the fourth quar-

ter. Bush supported Lori Brown's 18 points with 14.

The Raiders played without Jenny Geyman, who reinjured a rehabilitated knee last Thursday against Old Fort.

Geyman, who was averaging 15 points a game before the injury against the Stockaders, missed 13 games last season.

Eastwood.....55

Woodmore.....28

Eastwood remained undefeated in four games after its second SLL victory, while Woodmore slipped to 1-4 and 0-2.

The Eagles took an 18-3 lead in

the first quarter and led 35-16 at halftime.

Kate Hinrichs led the Wildcats with seven points.

St. Mary's.....43

Oak Harbor.....41

The visiting Panthers outscored Oak Harbor 19-14 in the final eight minutes to pull out the Sandusky Bay Conference victory.

The Rockets fell to 0-5 and 0-1 with the loss, while St. Mary's is 3-1 and 2-0 in the conference.

Tera Bodnar and Amy Hesselbart scored 17 points apiece to lead Oak Harbor.

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Ross girls top Napoleon

Little Giants net first GLL win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf will accept the win, but she would have liked it to be more of a learning session.

The Little Giants defeated Napoleon 48-37 in a Great Lakes League game Thursday night in the Purple Pit in a game that deteriorated as it wore on.

"We played out of control the whole second half," Wolf said. "I thought we were looking for the cheap basket. We did not run our offense and work on things we need to work on."

In the first half, the Little Giants were in the classroom — running to a 29-16 halftime lead.

Cortney Cominsky scored eight of her 22 points in the first quarter as Ross led 16-10. The 5-foot-9 senior added six more in the second quarter.

Tami Reinbolt scored eight of her 11 points in the first half for Ross.

In the third quarter, Napoleon cut the Ross lead to 10 at 31-21 but got no closer.

"I pulled them out of the press," Wolf said of her team's defense that had the Wildcats caged. "I did not think it was going to do us any good. We could have pressed them and maybe beat them worse, but I wanted to work on some things and then we did not go out and do it."

Cominsky scored eight more points in the third period as the Ross lead grew to 43-27.

In the fourth quarter, Ross produced the only point — Cominsky's final one — in the first 4½ minutes.

"Whatever game we play," Wolf said, "we want to learn and to get better. I don't think we took advantage in the second half to learn and to get better."

"I am happy for the win, but I know we can play better basketball."

The win was the third in five games for Ross and raised its GLL mark to 1-1.

Napoleon, 0-4, is 0-2 in league play.

Renee Miller paced Napoleon with 16 points.

Ross made 16 of 45 shots and Napoleon 12 of 42. The Little Giants committed 19 turnovers, one less than the Wildcats. Napoleon held a 23-22 rebounding edge.

The Little Giants travel to Sylvania to play Northview at 6 p.m. Saturday. The game was postponed from Dec. 10.

Ross girls give coach team-win for Christmas

News-Messenger reports

A gutsy bunch of Little Giants gift wrapped a 53-34 high school girls basketball victory over Sylvia Northview for coach Sue Wolf Saturday.



COMINSKY coaching basketball for 23 years, and that was probably the best team effort I've seen," she said.

With starting center Kasey Manette out with a sprained ankle, Wolf looked to Tami Reinbolt and Emili Kreilick for help in the middle.

Reinbolt and Kreilick, however, got into foul trouble along with Kim Crawford.

And since Christy Holland was not at full strength because of the flu, Wolf had a lineup on the floor in the third quarter that included freshman Andrea Wolfe at center and Brandi Johns at forward.

Wolf told the patchwork lineup to "play to their ability."

"And we ran our offense," Wolf said. "They moved to meet the passes; they were listening and responding. We definitely

Wolf was a boastful Sunday night as she discussed the Ross victory, which lifted the Little Giants to 4-2 and 2-1 in the Great Lakes League.

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wanted to shorten the game by running our offense."

It helps to have a player of Cortney Cominsky's caliber when that's the case, Wolf said.

Cominsky scored a career-high 29 points, including 16 in the third quarter when Ross outscored Northview 20-7. Cominsky also grabbed 13 rebounds as the Little Giants held a 34-16 rebound advantage.

In other games, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic defeated Bettsville 38-22, Seneca East topped Old Fort 38-31, Oak Harbor edged Sandusky Perkins 39-35, Margaretta routed Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic 90-24, Arcadia stopped Lakota 50-36 and Bellevue edged Tiffin Columbian 36-32.

St. Joe38

Bettsville22

St. Joe shares first place in the Midland Athletic League standings today after remaining undefeated in nine games and improving to 4-0 in league play.

The Crimson Streaks, who matched the 9-0 starts of SJCC's 1984-85 and 1990-91 teams, share the top spot in the league with Fostoria St. Wendelin and North Baltimore.

North Baltimore picked up its fourth league win Saturday,

knocking off Tiffin Calvert 42-39. St. Wendelin is 4-0 in the MAL after defeating New Riegel 52-47.

Patti Hossler led St. Joe with 12 points against winless Bettsville, and Michelle Heilman scored nine for the Bobcats.

Seneca East38

Old Fort31

Despite 14 points by Melissa DeRan and 17 rebounds by Bianca Kline, Old Fort fell to 2-6 and 0-4 in the MAL.

Seneca East outscored the Stockaders 25-15 in the second half.

Oak Harbor39

Perkins35

Oak Harbor overcame a 23-12 halftime deficit by outscoring Perkins 27-12 in the second half, and the Rockets earned their first win of the season.

The Rockets, 1-6 and 1-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference, made their final 10 free throws of the game and got 11 points from Amy Hesselbart.

Margaretta90

St. Mary's24

Andrea Lindsley's 28 points led nine Polar Bears in the scoring column as Margaretta remained undefeated in five games.

Margaretta, unbeaten in three

SBC games, scored at least 20 points in each quarter.

Arcadia50

Lakota36

The Raiders scored nine points in each quarter and trailed 32-27 before a 17-9 Arcadia run in the fourth quarter.

Lakota, 4-2 after committing 26 turnovers, got 13 points from Suzette Conrad and 11 from Lori Brown.

Bellevue36

Columbian32

Freshman Heather Fulton scored the go-ahead basket with a minute left to play as the Redmen handed Columbian its sixth loss in as many games.

Crystal Moore scored 14 points and Wendy Kutz added 10 as Bellevue won its second straight game despite being outbounded 38-29.

Transactions

BASEBALL

American League

SEATTLE MARINERS—Announced that Henry Cotto, outfielder, accepted salary arbitration.

TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with Manuel Lee, infielder, on a two-year contract and Doug Dascenzo, outfielder, on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

Global Basketball Association

GBA—Announced they have ceased operations.

Ross girls overcome scoring drought in 40-22 victory over winless Columbian

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Fremont Ross held Tiffin Columbian scoreless in the first quarter, but it may have gone to the Little Giants heads.

"It seemed like when they (Tiffin Columbian) scored," Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf said, "we just went ..."

She shrugged her shoulder at that point, saying "It seemed like we had a mental letdown ... almost."

To anyone just stepping into the Ross High School Purple Pit, listening and looking at Wolf may have been interpreted as a Ross loss. But the mental letdown did not hurt. Instead, the

Girls Roundup, B3

Little Giants easily disposed of the Tornadoes 40-22.

The Ross first-quarter defensive high was tempered by a struggling offense that was 0-for-13 shooting in the third quarter.

Despite the opportunity, Columbian did not take advantage of the Ross famine, falling for the seventh time in as many games.

"I cannot say that the shots they took were not good shots," Wolf said. "They just did not go into the basket. I told them going into the fourth quarter, all we had to do was put the ball into the basket."

After a 24-8 halftime lead, Ross took a 27-14 lead into the final quarter. Cortney Cominsky hit the first Ross field goal of the half, canning a layup 41 seconds into the final quarter. The Little Giants went on to make 4 of 7 shots and added 5 of 6 from the free throw line.

Ross, 5-2, led 12-0 after one quarter as Dawn Zerman, Cominsky and Tami Reinbolt tossed in two baskets apiece.

Anjee Beard scored Columbian's first two points, cutting the Ross lead to 12-2 at the 6:18 mark of the second quarter. The Tornadoes never got the deficit into single figures.

"It's good to survive when you don't shoot the ball well," Wolf

said while looking at the shooting charts.

Ross was 14-of-46 while Columbian was 11-of-31.

"One thing about Tiffin," Wolf said, "is they hustle all over the floor. They are a young team and they never quit."

Wolf, despite the tough shooting time, was happy with her team's ball handling.

"We did not turn the ball over — 12 turnovers — you cannot complain about that," she said. "Anytime, we have only 12 turnovers, I am happy with that."

Cominsky led Ross with 12 points, while Reinbolt scored 10 coming off the bench.

Melanie Sears had six points for Columbian.

Ross girls move past Sandusky

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross fell a step behind but not far enough for Sandusky Tuesday in a high school girls basketball game in the Purple Pit.

The Ross defense forced 17 first-half turnovers, creating a cushion the Little Giants never lost in a 50-29 victory.

The win was the sixth against two losses for Ross, while Sandusky is 2-4.

"The defense played well in the first half," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "but in the second half, it was like we were one step behind."

But offensively, Ross played well enough to keep well ahead. The biggest Little Giants' lead was 46-24 after a basket by Cortney Cominsky.

"You are not going to win to many games, when you score 29 points," Sandusky coach Tom Kowaleski said. "I can't fault their effort; they hustle as well as anybody. But we struggle with our shooting (12 of 41). We missed some easy shots early and it got discouraging."

Ross got six points from Cominsky and four from Natalie Robbins while rolling to a 14-4 first quarter lead. The Little Giants survived a 3-of-23 shooting drought in the second quarter and led 22-13 at halftime.

"We were passing the ball around a lot but not penetrating," Wolf said. "Maybe it was because we have not played since last Tuesday and we had a couple of days off for vacation."

In the third quarter, Ross outscored the Blue Streaks 14-7. The game was never in doubt in the fourth quarter.

Cominsky, The News-Messenger area's leading scorer, had 22 points. Robbins was the only other Little Giant in double figures with 10, and Amy Bonner led Sandusky with seven points.

Ross returns to action Jan. 5 in a Great Lakes League game at Fostoria.

Balanced scoring key to Little Giants' victory

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross High School girls basketball coach Sue Wolf knows Tuesday night's game against Fostoria was one the Little Giants were supposed to win. They did, routing the Redmen 76-39.

Wolf also knows that all things go in cycles, and Fostoria will have its turn on top.

"I think we're playing really well," Wolf said. "I like what we're doing right now."

"Fostoria is very young and is the team of the future."

Ross improved to 7-2 and 3-1 in the Great Lakes League, and Fostoria dropped to 2-6 and 1-3.

In other games, Eastwood routed Gibsonburg 58-25, Genoa defeated Lakota 56-47, Otsego edged Woodmore 33-31, Marga-

Girls Basketball

retta beat Huron 71-44 and Willard topped Bellevue 51-24.

Cortney Cominsky led Ross with 18 points, but the Little Giants' top scorer was joined in double figures by Kim Crawford with 14, Natalie Robbins with 12 and Dawn Zerman with 10.

"It's nice to have more people scoring other than Cortney," Wolf said. "It's nice to have a few more in double figures."

The Little Giants, who made 31 of 58 shots and 16 of 22 free throws while forcing 33 turnovers, outrebounded the Redmen 33-23.

Ross led 22-10 after one quarter, 37-21 at halftime and 60-31 after three quarters.

"We played better in the second half than we did in the first half," Wolf said.

Sonya Fairley led Fostoria with 19 points, including three 3-point field goals.

Eastwood.....58

Gibsonburg.....25

Eastwood's man-to-man defense was the difference in the Suburban Lakes League game, according to Gibsonburg coach Kathleen Thompson.

"When they take you out of your offense, you're not going to get much going," she said.

Gibsonburg, 2-6 and winless in five league games, shot 17 percent (8 of 47). Becky Arquette led the Golden Bears with eight points and six rebounds.

The Eagles, 7-1 and 4-1, got 17 points from Sarah Rapelje and 16 from Ann Schuerman.

Genoa.....56

Lakota.....47

Genoa remained the lone team undefeated in league play as center Connie Scharer scored 24 points.

Lakota, 5-3 and 3-2, trailed 31-21 at halftime but took a 41-40 lead with one quarter left.

The Comets, 7-2 and 5-0, outscored the Raiders 16-6 in the fourth quarter.

Jenny Geyman and Lori Brown led Lakota with 15 and 14 points, respectively, and Suzette Conrad added 11 to go along with 16 rebounds.

Otsego.....

Woodmore.....

Twelve points apiece by Ar Fegley and Amy Aspac weren't enough to keep Woodmore, 1-7, from remaining winless in five SLL games.

Otsego, 3-3 and 3-1, got points from Sarah Scott.

Margaretta

Huron

Andrea Lindsley and Jenn Castle led four Margaretta players in double figures with points each as the Polar Bears remained undefeated in eight games, including five Sandusky Conference contests.

Huron, 3-5 and 0-5, trailed 31-16 at halftime but Margaretta

Ross defeats GLL foe Clay

Late 2nd
quarter run
the difference

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross defeated Oregon Clay 51-37 Thursday night in a Great Lakes League girls basketball game, but Ross coach Sue Wolf could not figure out how her team did it.

"Who played well for us?" Wolf asked and then answered herself. "Not one person. I can't say one person really played well for us."

"I told them 'I don't think you know how good you are.' We won the game by what — 15 points? And not one person played well."

The Little Giants, though, played well enough for the 14-point win, raising their record to 8-2 and 4-1 in the GLL. Clay fell to 5-5 and 1-3.

Cortney Cominsky scored 14 points, Natalie Robbins 12 and Dawn Zerman 10 in a balanced Ross attack. Despite that, Ross missed 33 of 51 shots.

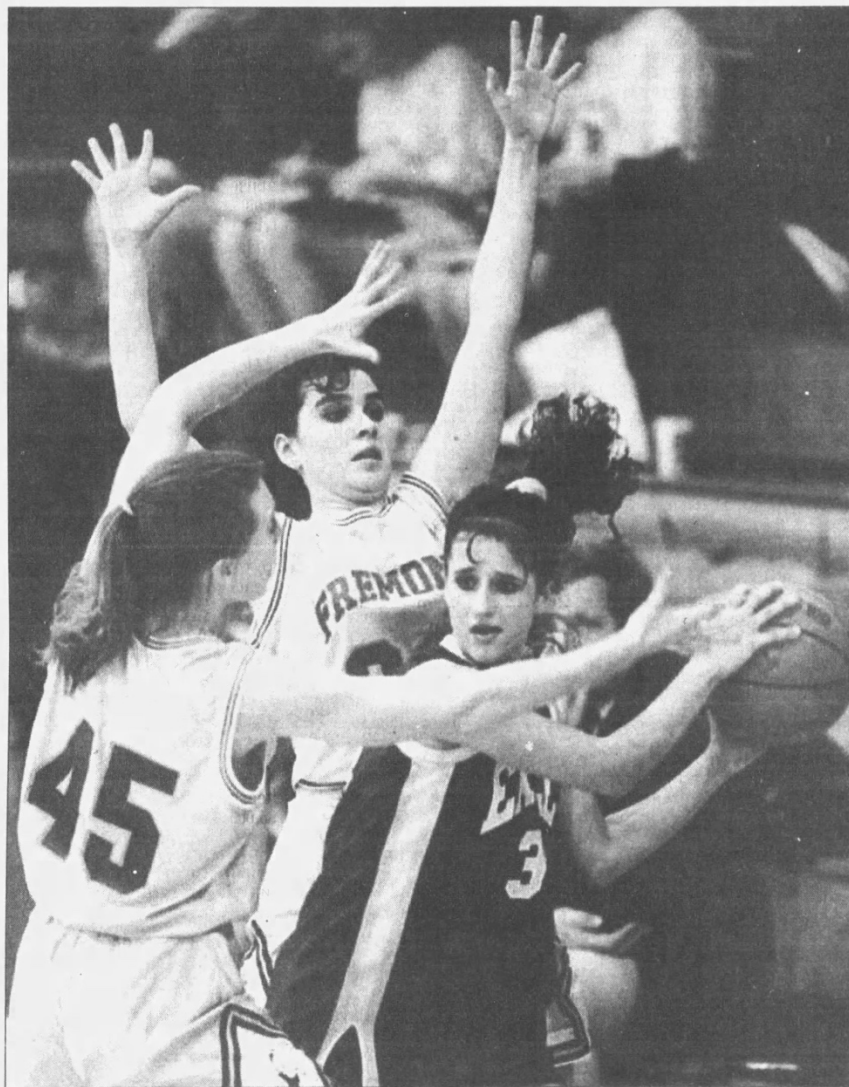
After leading 10-9 at the end of one quarter, Ross fell behind 15-13 midway through the second quarter when Clay's Jill Naugle hit from in close. That was the last lead for the Eagles as the Little Giants came to life, running off the final 11 points of the half for a 24-15 advantage.

Robbins' two free throws tied the game at 15-all and Emili Kreilick's rebound shot put Ross ahead for good. Zerman followed with a layup, Cominsky added a bucket and 1 of 2 free throws before Christy Holland's two free throws topped off the 11-point run.

"That was the turning point," Wolf said. "We got a couple of steals out of the press that really made a big difference."

In the second half, the Ross lead climbed to as many as 18 twice after slipping to nine, 33-24, late in the third quarter.

The Little Giants had trouble



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

KASEY MANGETTE (45) of Fremont Ross and teammate Cortney Cominsky trap Oregon Clay's

Mandy Crain Thursday night during the Little Giants' 51-37 victory.

handling the ball, Wolf pointed out.

"We had 29 turnovers," she said, "and we were averaging 17 or 18 a game."

While Ross shot an anemic 18 of 51, Clay was worse, canning 14 of 51 shots.

Chris Hymore led Clay with eight points and Naugle added seven.

"I thought we took pretty good shots," Wolf said. "We just didn't put the ball in the basket. I don't know if we were uptight or what."

"I just don't know why we did not play well. I don't have an answer, but I know we won and I'll take it."

Ross faces a nine-day layoff after the victory, returning to action at 1 p.m. Jan. 16 at Sandusky Perkins.

Ross comeback nets overtime victory

News-Messenger reports

An eight-day layoff between games almost cost the Fremont Ross High School girls basketball team Saturday, coach Sue Wolf said Sunday.

The Little Giants, who last played on Jan. 7, overcame a 23-12 halftime deficit for a 44-41 overtime victory over Sandusky Perkins.

"I didn't think we would lose (even when we were down), and the kids said the same thing," Wolf said. "(Winning) gives you a lot of confidence."

Ross, 9-2, outscored the Pirates 24-13 in the second half, including 16-8 in the third quarter, and 8-5 in the overtime.

"I think the layoff may have hurt us but it also helped us," Wolf said. "We were a little tentative, and I'd like to take part of the blame because the kids may have been looking past Perkins because we play Whitmer Wednesday."

"But we worked on situations, and we needed that at the end."

In other games, Seneca East beat Bettsville 62-17, Huron topped Oak Harbor 69-52, Margaretta edged Toledo Notre Dame 56-52 and Bellevue got by Norwalk 53-49.

Cortney Cominsky scored eight of her 23 points in the third quarter, and Ross made 8 of 11 free throws in the fourth quarter and the extra period.

Christine Ash, who led Perkins with 12 points, made two free throws after an intentional foul, which made it 36-34 in regulation. Natalie Robbins then stole the inbounds pass for Ross on

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the ensuing possession with nine seconds to go, and Ross called a timeout.

"We set up a play, and they let us get Cortney going to the basket," Wolf said.

Cominsky missed a shot, collected the rebound and was fouled on the putback attempt. She sank both foul shots for a tie with seven seconds to go.

Dawn Zerman then stole the inbounds pass and scored, but the basket was waved off because of a foul on the floor before the shot.

Zerman missed the foul shot with four seconds left, and Kim Crawford rebounded but could not get a shot off before time expired in regulation.

Cominsky scored to open the overtime and Perkins answered before Kasey Mangette's turnaround jumper gave Ross the lead for good.

Ross, 4-1 in the Great Lakes League, will meet Toledo Whitmer in the Purple Pit on Wednesday for the outright league lead.

"In the first game against Whitmer (a 61-52 loss), we weren't ready to play a team of that caliber," Wolf said. "I think now we've gotten it together. This game on Wednesday is the biggest game these girls have played."

Whitmer is 10-2 and 3-1.

Seneca East.....61

Bettsville.....17

Seneca East led 13-4 after one

quarter and 25-7 at halftime before outscoring the winless Bobcats 24-3 in the third quarter of the Midland Athletic League game.

Cindy Lucius led the Tigers with 27 points, while Michelle Heilman had six for Bettsville.

Huron.....69

Oak Harbor.....52

Amey Allendorf scored 25 points and Huron broke open a close game with a 19-7 scoring advantage in the third quarter of the Sandusky Bay Conference game.

Tiffany Knoop's 12 points led Oak Harbor, which has lost five straight games.

Margaretta.....56

Notre Dame.....52

Playing without point guard and leading scorer Jennifer Castle, who is out indefinitely with a knee injury, Margaretta remained undefeated in 11 games.

The Polar Bears were led by Danielle Longnecker, who scored 22 points.

Bellevue.....53

Norwalk.....49

Angela Haffey scored 15 points

**Becker bounced
at Australian Open**

Associated Press

as Bellevue ended a two-game Northern Ohio League losing streak.

The Redmen trailed 13-11 after one quarter, the score was 23-12 at halftime and Bellevue led 33 after three quarters.



DOMES

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Ross pulls ahead in GLL



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

KIM CRAWFORD celebrates a 46-36 Fremont Ross girls basketball victory over Toledo Whitmer Wednesday night.

Little Giants defeat Whitmer

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross rolled out the bleachers in the Purple Pit and rolled over Toledo Whitmer Wednesday night.

The Little Giants' 46-36 girls basketball victory gave them

first-place breathing room in the Great Lakes League.

Ross, 10-2 and 5-1 after its ninth straight win, is a game and a half in front of Whitmer, 10-3 and 3-2 in the GLL race. The Panthers have lost two straight league games, and the Ross win

avenged a 61-52 loss to Whitmer in the third game of the season.

In front of what is believed to be the largest crowd to see a girls game at Ross, the Little Giants fell behind 4-0, came back

See **ROSS, B3**



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS coach Sue Wolf shouts instructions to her team Wednesday night during the

fourth quarter of the Little Giants' Great Lakes League victory in the Purple Pit.

If you open them, they will come

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Sue Wolf got her wish Wednesday night. Both sets of bleachers in the Fremont Ross High School gymnasium were pulled out, and fans filled them.

Earlier this week, the Ross girls basketball coach said a team goal this season was to get both sets of bleachers pulled out for a game. Normally, one set of bleachers is used for a girls game.

Both were needed Wednesday

night as, unofficially, the largest crowd ever to see a Ross girls game in the Purple Pit, gave the Little Giants a true home-court advantage.

The partisan Ross crowd was rewarded, watching the Little Giants pull off a 46-36 victory over Whitmer. The win gave Ross outright first place in the Great Lakes League.

"Principals, the ADs (athletic directors), the newspaper have been promoting it (the game)," Wolf said, "and we have never had a crowd like that. I want to

thank them all because it was great with that crowd."

Despite a low-scoring first half, 36 points for both teams combined, Wolf said the large crowd did not make her team nervous because they had prepared for it.

"We have been telling them 'You are prepared,'" she said. "The girls literally worked their rear ends off. Our saying for our team is 'We busted our's to kick your's.' Well, they did it."

In front of a big crowd, too.

Ross

Continued From B1

to lead 6-4 and broke a 6-6 tie on Natalie Robbins basket with six seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Whitmer never came back, falling behind 20-16 at halftime and 30-18 after three quarters.

"We have never had a crowd like that," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It made a big difference."

A tenacious defense and an aggressive offense helped, too.

Reo Doom, Whitmer's leading scorer, was held to six points, by Robbins.

"Natalie and Reo are good friends," Wolf said. "They played on the same AAU team last summer and Natalie told me she wanted to guard her."

"She did a heckuva job on her."

The third quarter was pivotal. Courtney Cominsky scored six of her 18 points in the period, while Whitmer suffered through 1-of-12 shooting.

"You ever see a team shoot as badly as we did?" Whitmer coach Jack Mattimore asked. "We have played two weeks in a row where we cannot put the ball in the basket from a foot and a half away."

"In that first game (win over Ross), we just shot better. I'm not taking anything away from Ross, they have a nice team. They had a nice team the first time, but we put the ball in the basket the first time."

Whitmer made 17 of 43 shots, but eight of the field goals were in the fourth quarter. In the same eight minutes, Ross made 10 of 15 free throws.

Thirty seconds into the final quarter, Ross had its biggest lead, 33-18, when Cominsky scored on a layup and was fouled, sinking the free throw with 7:08 remaining.

The Panthers charged back quickly. Over the next 3½ minutes, Whitmer outscored Ross 9-1, cutting its deficit to 34-29 before the Little Giants regained their composure and returned to the game plan.

Dawn Zerman fed Kim Crawford for a layup and Zerman hit the front end of a one-and-one for a 37-29 lead. Holly Sebring's bucket brought Whitmer back to within six but Zerman knocked in a pair of free throws and fed Robbins for another basket, putting Ross up 41-31 with 2:40 to play.

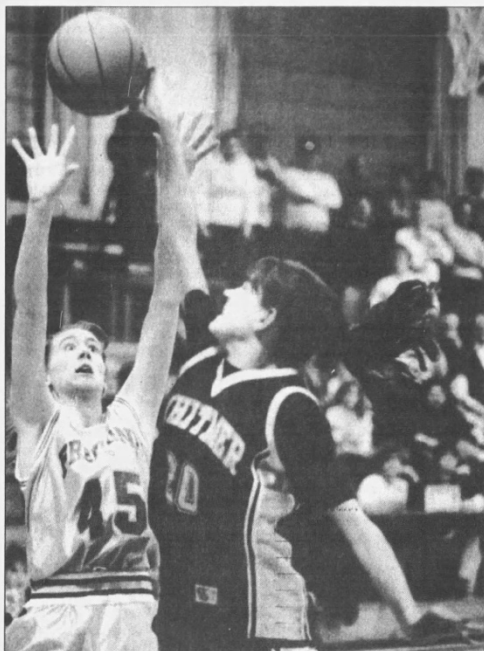
Whitmer got back to 42-35 on Lisa Lippincott's hoop with two minutes left, but Cominsky hit two foul shots and Robbins one as the Ross lead climbed back to 10 with 50 seconds on the clock, and there no longer was any doubt of the outcome.

"We had that little point where they started to come back on us, where we started to back away from the basket," Wolf said. "Needless to say, when we took a timeout, they heard 'You take the ball to the basket; that's what got us here. If they beat us and we are going that way, then we deserve to get beat.'"

Robbins backed Cominsky with 11 points and Crawford added eight. Lippincott topped Whitmer with 12.

"We have to play some other good teams in the GLL. We cannot think that this did it, because it didn't," Wolf said.

It likely helped make the challenge of a league title chase easier, however.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

KASEY MANGETTE (45) of Fremont Ross reacts as Whitmer's Lisa Lippincott blocks her shot during the first quarter.

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Little Giants pick up 11th victory, 57-30

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross rolled over Toledo Waite 57-30 Saturday for its 11th high school girls basketball victory.

The Little Giants, 11-2, held a 16-14 lead after the first eight minutes but with Cortney Cominsky, Kim Crawford and Natalie Robbins pacing the offense, Ross outscored the Indians 15-5 in the second quarter and steadily pulled away in the second half.

In other games Saturday, Gibsonburg edged Lakota 38-37 and Woodmore lost to Eastwood 50-29 in a pair of Suburban Lakes League games; Sandusky St. Mary's defeated Oak Harbor 64-58 while Margaretta rolled over Perkins 67-50 in Sandusky Bay

Girls Basketball

Conference play; Seneca East buried Old Fort 71-27 in a non-league; Bellevue lost to Galion 56-44 in a Northern Ohio League game; and Clyde dropped New London 48-47 in a non-conference game.

Cominsky, who sprained her knee in the fourth quarter, finished with 19 points for Ross, while Dawn Zerman finished with 11 and Natalie Robbins added 10.

"Cortney could be out about a week," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We'll definitely miss her. It was a great win. The kids coming off the bench played

well. It was a good team effort all the way around."

Ross made 21 of 52 shots (40 percent), held a 41-20 rebound advantage and committed 25 turnovers.

Waite, 4-10, shot 34 percent (12 of 35) and had 36 turnovers.

Ross travels to Clyde Tuesday and hosts Great Lakes League foe Sylvania Northview Thursday. Both junior varsity games begin at 6 p.m.

Gibsonburg.....38

Lakota.....37

The Golden Bears took advantage of a missed Lakota shot with 12 seconds to go to hand the Raiders their second consecutive

SLL loss.

Gibsonburg's Jodi Jones bounded the missed shot and went coast-to-coast with the ball before finally laying it in at the buzzer. It was the third win for Gibsonburg and broke a 10-game losing streak.

The Golden Bears, 3-10, are in league play while Lakota is 1-10 and 4-5. Becky Arquette led Gibsonburg with 22 points.

Jenny Geyman and Lori Brown had 13 apiece for Lakota.

St. Mary's.....6

Oak Harbor.....5

Not even a 25-14 scoring edge in the final eight minutes could

See ROUNDPUP, 1

Little Giants ground Fliers

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross played without leading scorer Cortney Cominsky Tuesday night, and the Little Giants earned a 56-30 girls basketball victory over Clyde, which played without second leading scorer Kim Lawrence.

The win at The Hangar was the Little Giants' 11th straight. Ross is now 12-2. Clyde is 5-8.

Cominsky and Lawrence missed the game because of knee injuries. Cominsky is out at least this week while Lawrence is out indefinitely.

Ross got 14 points from Natalie Robbins, 11 from Dawn Zerman and 10 from Tami Reinbolt.

Girls Basketball

Charity Newsom led the Fliers with seven points.

The Little Giants had 11 turnovers compared to 29 for Clyde and shot 46 percent (25-for-55).

Ross led 10-4 after one quarter, 21-13 at halftime and 35-23 after three quarters.

In one other game, Huron defeated Bellevue 54-48.

Huron, 7-7, made 7 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter including 6 of 6 in the final two minutes.

Bellevue, 6-10, got 16 points from Wendy Kutz. Huron's Amy Allendorf scored 22.

Ross girls tested with Cominsky out

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

The Fremont Ross High School girls basketball team hosts Sylvania Northview tonight in a Great Lakes League game.

Ross is without the services of leading scorer Cortney Cominsky. The senior injured her right knee in Saturday's win over Toledo Waite and is out at least this week, according Ross coach Sue Wolf. Cominsky leads The News-Messenger area in scoring at 19.5 points per game.

"The other girls want to win with Cortney out," Wolf said, "because they respect her. This is a team like I never have had before. It's a team in the full sense of the word."

With Cominsky out, though, the "team" has to pick its play up a notch, and Wolf said the Little Giants did that Tuesday in a 56-30 win over Clyde.

"Everyone I put in seemed to play a little better," Wolf said. "They are going to have to do the same against Northview."

Junior Tami Reinbolt replaces Cominsky in the Ross lineup. Reinbolt, normally the first player off the bench for Wolf, scored 10 points against Clyde.

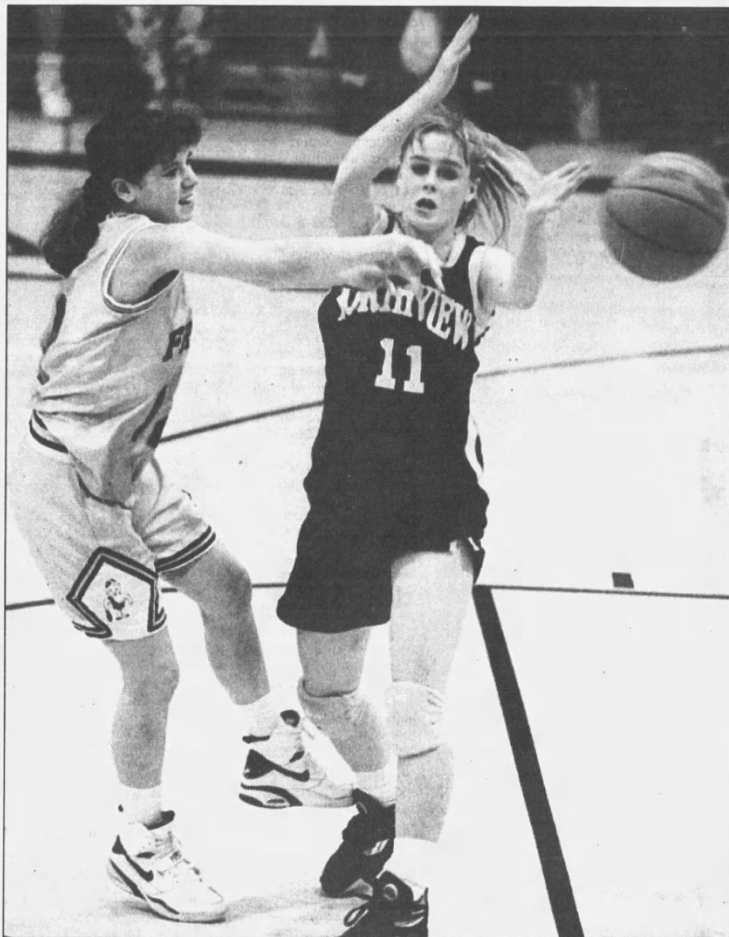
Wolf said the players coming off the bench against Clyde played very well.

Ross point guard Dawn Zerman and off-guard Natalie Robbins handled the Clyde press, and Wolf said the duo will have to do the same against the pressure of the Northview defense.

Kim Crawford and Kasey Manette, both 5-foot-10 seniors, round out the Ross lineup. "Kim and Kasey are hitting the boards better each game," Wolf said.

The facts

- ☐ Ross, 12-2, leads the Great Lakes League at 5-1.
- ☐ Northview is 7-6 and 3-3 in league play.
- ☐ The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN, who made 11 of 12 free throws in the game for Fremont Ross, whips a pass to a teammate as Sylvania Northview's Heidi Belkofer

tries to defend Thursday night during the Little Giants' 49-41 Great Lakes League victory over the Wildcats. Ross has won 13 straight games.

Little Giants still winning

Victory streak hits 12

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross shook off Northview with a late rally and earned a 49-41 high school girls basketball victory Wednesday in the Purple Pit.

Ross, 13-2, raised its Great Lakes League-leading record to 6-1 with its 12th straight victory. Northview is 7-7 and 3-4.

"This," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "was a long game ... and it was a big win for us."

Ross, playing without leading scorer Cortney Cominsky, who is sidelined with a knee injury, survived with a balanced attack and a steady effort from its bench.

Freshman Dawn Zerman led Ross with 13 points, 11 on free throws. She made the last 10 foul shots she attempted. Kim Crawford added 11 points, including seven in the fourth quarter. Tami Reinbolt tossed in eight points and Natalie Robbins six for Ross.

The Little Giants overcame a 5-of-20 shooting slump in the first half with a 12-of-21 effort in the second half. Ross was 9-of-11 at the foul line in the final quarter and made 15 of 22 at the line in the game.

"We were lucky enough to be in the ballgame," Wolf said. "We were shooting the ball horribly."

Ross led 9-7 after one quarter but made only 1 of 10 shots in the second period and fell behind 20-16 at halftime.

But with members of the Ross bench brigade hitting clutch baskets, Ross broke a 22-22 deadlock midway through the third quarter and never trailed again.

Up next for Ross:
At Napoleon, Feb. 4

"We just don't have any depth and we have two starters out," Northview coach Jerry Sigler said. "Of course, they have Cominsky out, but she kept bringing kids in, and, we just don't have the depth."

Emili Kreilick got the first key bucket for the brigade, rebounding Reinbolt's miss for a 24-22 Ross lead. A few seconds later, Kreilick took a pass from Robbins for a layup and a four-point Little Giant lead.

Northview closed to 32-30 at the beginning of the fourth quarter but the brigade's Brandi Johns canned a shot from the foul line to get Ross rolling.

"That was a big basket," Wolf said.

Shortly afterwards, Ross ran off eight straight points for a 44-34 edge. Zerman's pass to Crawford a layup started the run. Crawford scored from the top of the key, Robbins followed with a layup and Kasey Mangette's rebound shot put Ross up by 10 with less than three minutes to play.

Reinbolt (Cominsky's replacement) came through again," Wolf said. "The guards (Zerman and Robbins) were a little scared in the first half. They must have remembered the game up there (Ross won 53-34) where the Northview guards were in their faces, but in the second half, they were ready to handle the pressure."

Ross win streak ends at 12

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

NAPOLEON — Fremont Ross had its 12-game winning streak snapped Thursday night and fell into a virtual tie for first in the Great Lakes League girls basketball race.

Napoleon held the Little Giants to a season-low offensive output in a 40-34 victory.

Ross, 13-3, is 6-2 in the GLL race. Whitmer, a 60-29 winner over Fostoria Thursday, trails Ross by a half game in the league race with a 5-2 record.

"We gave it away," Ross

See **ROUNDUP**, B3

coach Sue Wolf said. "I think Napoleon hustled; I take nothing away from them because they hustle constantly. We knew that coming in here and we did not adjust to it."

Ross committed 25 turnovers, including 10 in the first quarter and 15 in the first half.

Napoleon (8-8, 4-3) used two spurts — early and late — to put the Little Giants in the hole and keep them there.

Tami Reinbolt's bucket gave Ross its only lead, 2-0. Napoleon,

with long-range shooter Renee Miller leading the way, ran off the next 10 points and Ross never got closer than five points the rest of the game.

Cortney Cominsky, the Little Giants leading scorer (19.5) this season, did not play in the first half, but scored five points in the second half. The 5-foot-8 senior is nursing an injured right knee.

"It hurts them not having Cortney Cominsky," Napoleon coach Rod Hersha. "We couldn't lose 20, 22 points a game out of our lineup and not have us hurt."

Miller scored nine first-quarter points as Napoleon rolled to a 14-

5 lead. Miller hit a pair of 3-point buckets in the second quarter as Ross fell behind by as many as 13 points before closing to 26-19 at the half.

In the second half, Ross charged early, cutting the Wildcat lead to 28-23. But Napoleon scored the final five points of the period as Miller scored on a put-back of her own missed shot, and Shannon Boulton added a three-point play.

Ross got back to 34-28 three minutes into the final period before Napoleon ran off six unanswered points for a 40-28 lead with 3:07 left.

"After that," Hersha said, "we made a lot of mistakes but fortunately we had a big enough lead to hang on."

Miller finished with 21 points and Taya Tassler had eight for the Wildcats. Dawn Zerman, Kim Crawford and Reinbolt topped Ross with eight apiece.

"I think it was a very simple basketball game," Hersha said. "It ended up being a defensive struggle ... it was kind of one of those games where you just hang on to your seat because it's a defensive struggle and any little spurt can mean the difference in the game."



KASEY MANGETTE (44) of Fremont Ross slaps at the ball as Port Clinton's Lindsay Mann and Dawn Zerman (front)

News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

of Ross collide Monday night. The Redskins routed the Little Giants in the non-league game at PC High School.

Newsome to help Browns' offense

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Cleveland Browns still won't have an offensive coordinator in 1993, but they'll give bigger roles to Bernie Kosar and an old teammate as they try to make it back to the NFL playoffs.

The Browns on Monday promoted Ozzie Newsome, the NFL's all-time leading tight end, to the new position of assistant to the head coach—offense-pro personnel. Newsome, a scout, coach and front-office employee with the Browns since he retired from playing two years ago, will help with the formulation of game plans and will continue coaching

on the sidelines during games.

"It's a real good opportunity for me," Newsome said. "My first step will be to fully understand what our strengths and weaknesses are on offense. I'll analyze completely what the various strengths and weaknesses are of our opponents' defenses. I'll then be able to advise Bill and his assistants on the matchups for the game."

Newsome said he likes the idea of having the quarterback call his own plays.

"That puts more on them to be in tune with what we're doing," Newsome said.

Redskins win big

Little Giants drop second straight

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — Lindsay Mann broke the Port Clinton High School girls scoring record, leading the Redskins to a 75-47 romp over Fremont Ross Monday night.

Mann scored 30 points, twin sister Laurie added 16 and Krissy Surovjak 10 for Port Clinton.

The win was the 14th against three losses for coach Doug Armstrong's team, while Ross lost its second game in a row and slipped to 13-4.

The game Armstrong expected lasted for a half.

"Playing the competition (Ross) plays, we expected a tough game," he said. "They are tough but the key to the game was our 2-3 zone that shut them down."

"That surprised me because we have not used it much. I have to credit the kids with hustling it for making it work."

The Redskins led 16-15 after one quarter and ran the lead to 30-18 late in the second quarter as Ross committed 10 of its 31 turnovers in the period.

Ross closed the gap to 32-28 on baskets by Christy Holland and Natalie Robbins, two by Casey Mangette and one by Tami Reinbolt. The Redskins' Erika Hernandez scored on a layup to stop the Ross run, and Lindsay Mann drove the lane for two and a 36-28 halftime lead for Port Clinton.

"At halftime," Armstrong said, "we just talked about keeping the pressure on and not letting them get back in. We changed presses at half and it made a big difference."

Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "We had a lot of kids not playing to their potential. If they were playing to their potential and looking, they would've seen a lot of things."

"We killed ourselves with our turnovers, though. Sure, we miss Cortney (Cominsky), but there is no excuse for the way we played tonight; at least I don't have one."

Cominsky, who leads Ross with nearly 19 points per game, sat out with a knee injury.

Three straight turnovers led to a bucket by Laurie Mann and two by Lindsay Mann, putting Port Clinton up 42-28 two minutes into the second half. With 2:27 remaining in the third quarter, Port Clinton was in command with a 55-34 edge.

Dawn Zerman and Emili Kreilick led Ross with eight points apiece and Mangette added seven.

Mann sets scoring record

News-Messenger reports

PORT CLINTON — Lindsay Mann is the new career scoring leader for girls at Port Clinton High School.

She set the record Monday night from long distance.

Mann's 3-point basket with 5:26 remaining in a 75-47 win over Fremont Ross moved her past Jacque Mattox (1987-89) with 1,304 points — one more than Mattox.

Next for Ross:
At Oregon Clay, Feb. 11

Ross slips from first place

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

ORGEON — Fremont Ross may have seen its hope for a girls high school basketball championship fly out the door on the wings of Eagles.

Clay overcame a nine-point deficit in the third period, shocking the Little Giants 47-41 in a key Great Lakes League game Thursday night in the Eagle aerie.

It was the third straight loss for Ross (13-5) and second straight in the GLL, dropping its league mark to 6-3 — a half-

Next for Ross:
Home, Fostoria, Feb. 18

game behind Toledo Whitmer, which defeated Northview 36-35 Thursday.

Whitmer is 6-2 in the league race with games at Napoleon Saturday and with Clay at home on Feb. 18. Clay (10-8) is 4-5 in the league.

Clay coach Mike Csehi and his team kept its game goal simple.

"We wanted to win this one," Csehi said.

The game plan was just as

simple as it was different in Clay's first clash with the Little Giants, a 51-37 loss on Jan. 7.

"We were patient this time," Csehi said. "The last time, we were not as patient. We tried to force things then ... but this time, we just tried to work it in on our offense and defensively, their outside shooting."

Ross made 17 of 44 shots as the Eagles' match-up zone defense kept the Little Giants from penetrating inside consistently, and Ross missed 10 of 17 free throws.

"We sat out there and tried to throw around it," Ross coach

Sue Wolf said. "This is very disappointing."

Clay was 21-of-44 from the floor and 5-of-14 at the line.

Ross led 29-20 three minutes into the second half before Clay clawed back, outscoring the Little Giants 14-3 the remainder of the quarter for a 34-32 lead.

The Little Giants never regained the lead but closed it to 42-41 on Natalie Robbins' basket with 1:03 remaining.

Jill Naugle hit the front end of the one-and-bonus with 48 seconds remaining. Her miss on the second toss gave Ross a chance

to tie, but the Little Giants' 28th turnover erased that hope.

Kellie Fisher capitalized on the Ross giveaway with a short jumper from the side, putting Clay up 45-41 with less than 23 seconds on the clock.

Dawn Brinkman scored 12 points and Kri Hymore 11, leading eight Eagles in the scoring column.

Natalie Robbins had 14 for Ross and Kasey Mangette eight. Dawn Zerman finished with seven and Cortney Cominsky, playing with a big brace on her injured right knee, added six.

Top players

Cortney Cominsky of Fremont Ross was named the Division I player of the year and coach Sue Wolf was named coach of the year by District 6 Coaches Association Sunday.

Ross routs Fostoria

4 players score at least 10

By BOB MARKER
Staff Writer

The statistic startled Sue Wolf. Fremont Ross made its first 11 shots of the fourth quarter, using them to bury Fostoria 69-36 in a Great Lakes League high school girls basketball game in the Purple Pit.

"No, I did not realize that," laughed Wolf, the Ross coach, "but that helps, doesn't it?"

Cortney Cominsky, moving a little better in a brace that encompasses her right knee, led a balanced Ross attack with 20 points. Natalie Robbins added 16, Kim Crawford 13 and Dawn Zerman 12.

"That is the most balance we have had in quite awhile," Wolf said. "If we can keep it like that, where we don't rely on one person, I think we are much more of a threat."

The Little Giants are 14-5 after breaking a three-game losing streak and finish the GLL season with a 7-3 record. Fostoria closes the season at 2-18 and 1-9.

Toledo Whitmer clinched the league championship at 8-2 with a 42-40 victory over Oregon Clay Thursday.

Ross had trouble shaking the Redmen, leading 12-9 after one quarter and using a late spurt to take a 31-22 halftime lead. The Little Giants extended the lead to 44-32 at the end of third quarter and with the torrid shooting streak at the beginning of the final period, Ross turned the game into somewhat of a practice session.

Weather had hampered practice time and Wolf felt it showed in her team.

"It looked like we were a little bit out of shape," she said.

The Little Giants got back in shape quickly.

"We were working on a couple of different things that we have been working on that we would like to use in the tournament," Wolf said, pointing out some offensive and defensive schemes. "We got it working a little bit."

It worked over Fostoria.

Cominsky dropped in 10 fourth-quarter points, Robbins seven and Zerman four. Kim Crawford and Kasey Mangette added the other Ross baskets as the Ross starters did not miss a shot. The Little Giants were 11 of 13 in the period.

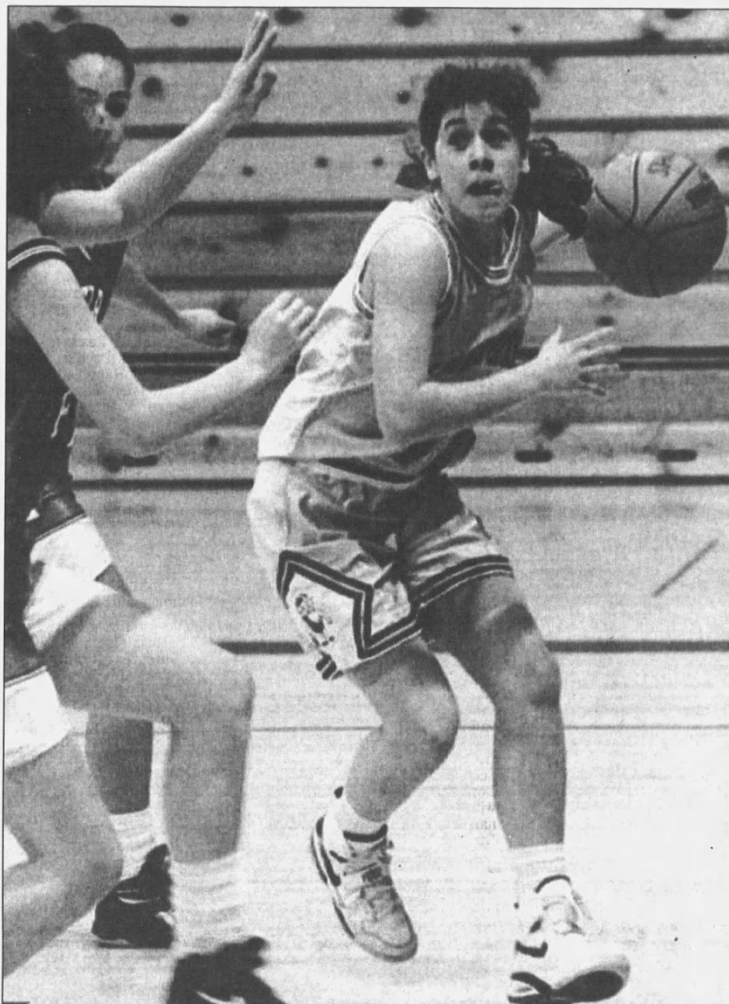
Erica Hare was the only Redmen in double figures with 14.

Regular season ends

The Fremont Ross girls basketball team concludes the regular season Saturday when it hosts Findlay in the Purple Pit.

The junior varsity game begins at 1 p.m.

In the Division I sectional tournament at Willard High School, the Little Giants will meet the winner of a Tuesday, Feb. 23, game between Mansfield Senior and Tiffin Columbian. That sectional championship game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27.



DAWN ZERMAN of Fremont Ross drives to the basket Thursday night against Fostoria. Zerman

scored 12 points in the Little Giants' 69-36 Great Lakes League victory over the Redmen.

News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

Divers must wait for stat

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — A pair of Fremont Ross girls and one from Oak Harbor finished in the top five at the Northwest Ohio District Diving Championships Thursday at Samuel Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus.

Leslie Hasselbach and Jennifer Newman of Ross were third and fifth, respectively, and Calli Bodnar of Oak Harbor finished fourth in the 32-diver field.

Now the waiting begins for the trio. The top two finishers — Kelly Price of Springfield Local and Corey Peterman of Toledo St. Ursula — earned spots in the state diving championships next week in Canton.

For the others, a state berth must come via an at-large berth. "It went good," Ross diving coach Gil Root said. "I wish we could have had an automatic

Lakota's Zimmermann out

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — Emily Zimmermann represented Lakota High School in the Northwestern Ohio District Diving Championships Thursday at Samuel Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus.

Lakota does not have a swimming or diving team, but high schools may enter individuals in events with a paid entry form.

Zimmermann, a sophomore, competed for the first time intescholastically in the sectional meet at Oak Harbor a week ago, finishing eighth with 225.25 points. The finish was good enough for an at-large berth in the district meet.

Zimmermann, however, did not make the cut when the 32-diver field was pared to the top 16 after the first five dives in the 11-dive format.

Hasselbach missed an inward 1½ tuck on her third dive. "It got away from her, and she came back from it," Root said. "She had to come back from that all day."

"I could have dove more consistently," Hasselbach said. "I

"Jennifer had an excellent day," Root said. "She pumped everything strong. Her total award was anywhere from a point to two points higher accumulative for each dive all day long."

Bodnar had her eyes set on at

Reinbolt sparks Ross

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Tami Reinbolt came off the bench to score 14 second-half points as Fremont Ross defeated Findlay 50-47 Saturday afternoon in a girls basketball game in the Ross Purple Pit.

The Little Giants closed the regular season 15-5, a school record for regular season victories. Findlay finished 13-7.

"Tami Reinbolt came in and did a very nice job for us," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "She hit some key baskets, then she got a key rebound right toward the end of the game."

Reinbolt was one of three Little Giants in double figures. Natalie Robbins had 13 and Courtney Cominsky 11.

"When she comes off the bench and gets 14," Findlay coach Bill Lobb said about Reinbolt, "that kind of hurts you. You have to think that after making a few, we would say, 'Hey, this girl is hitting today, guard her or get close to her.' We really weren't too close."

Ross survived a 19-point second half by Findlay's Amy Jauert. She finished with 21.

Ross led 9-8 after one quarter and 18-16 at the half on Cominsky's 3-point basket at the buzzer.

"I think in the first half," Lobb said, "I unofficially counted 14 missed inside shots for us. You make those and the other team kind of gets discouraged and doesn't play so well."

The Little Giants took a 31-28 lead into the final quarter after Findlay led 24-20 five minutes into the third quarter.

Reinbolt scored on her first shot and Robbins took a pass from Dawn Zerman to knot the game. Amber Fry's two free throws gave Findlay the lead again but Reinbolt's 3-point basket gave Ross a 27-26 edge.

Jauert hit from the right baseline for a 28-27 Findlay lead but Reinbolt countered with another three-pointer putting Ross ahead for good.

The Little Giants lead grew to five twice in the final quarter but the Trojans cut the Ross lead to 49-47 with less than eight seconds remaining. A Ross turnover gave Findlay the ball with six seconds left.

After a Findlay timeout, Ross was waiting for Jauert.

"We were putting a safety back at the basket," Wolf said about her final-seconds defense. "I told the other four to scramble for the ball."

Jauert never got the ball and Becky Earlie's shot was long. Zerman got the rebound, was fouled and made one free throw with 1.2 seconds to play to ice the game.

Ross plays at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in the Division I sectional tournament at Willard High School against Tuesday's Mansfield-Columbian winner.

Cominsky is hooked on hoops

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Cortney Cominsky admits she is an addict and she gets high frequently — on basketball.

"I'm a big junkie," the Ross High School senior said with a laugh. "I love the sport."

Last summer, she played in leagues five days a week in Toledo and Fostoria. Add Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) games on weekends, and Cominsky was high all summer.

This winter, Cominsky has helped Ross to a 15-5 record while leading The News-Messenger area in scoring at 17.4 points per game. Last week, she was named the District 6 Coaches Association Division I player of the year.

Not bad for a kid who was the butt of a private joke about her basketball talent not too long ago.

"I remember at a camp at (Fremont) St. Joe," said Cominsky as a smile emerged, "and Mr. Geller (St. Joe coach Gary) and coach Wolf (Ross coach Sue) were both there. They tell me this now, but at the time, they said they saw me and Mr. Geller goes, 'That one's yours,' and coach Wolf said, 'Gee, thanks.'"

The gag seemed true when at Sacred Heart grade school, Cominsky rode the bench during her seventh grade year.

"I thought I was good but no

Little Giants playing for sectional title

News-Messenger report

Fremont Ross, 15-5, will play Mansfield Senior, 7-14, in a Division I sectional tournament championship game at Willard High School at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Little Giants coach Sue Wolf is expected to start 5-foot-8 Cortney Cominsky (17.4 points per game); Kim Crawford (5.4) and Kasey Mangette (4.5), both 5-10; Natalie Robbins (9.0), a 5-6 junior; and 5-4 freshman Dawn Zerman (7.7). Tami Reinbolt, a 5-6 junior, and usually off the bench for Ross, carries a 5.2 average.

Directions to Willard High School, according to information provided by the Ross Athletic Department:

Take U.S. 20 east to State Route 4, go south to U.S. 224 and east into Willard. Make a left at first traffic light and then right into the junior high parking lot. The high school is behind the junior high.

You may also go to the second light in Willard, turn left and then turn left into the high school parking lot.

Driving time is approximately one hour.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

CORTNEY COMINSKY of Fremont Ross is known more for her scoring than her defense. Here, the

Little Giants' senior defends a shooter during a game against Fostoria earlier this season.

See B3

A star was born after slow start to career

Continued From B1

one else did," said Cominsky, a 4.0 student who ranks seventh in a class of 396. "I wasn't very fundamental ... I weighed about 30 pounds more than I do now and I was pretty short, five-four, and I wasn't too fast, but I wanted to play."

Long hours of practice paid off when a couple of junior high coaches took an interest.

"In my eighth grade year (at Fremont Junior High School), Mr. (Russ) Hagerty was our coach," she said. "I had him for a gym teacher and he saw that I had some potential. He worked with me and that year, I started and got to play a lot more and I got some confidence."

Still, she was on the heavy side. Enter Cheryl Coressel.

"My freshman year, she worked our butts off and I ended

up losing a lot of weight; that's when I starting doing better," Cominsky said, "and I was determined to make myself better."

When her sophomore year rolled around, Wolf was not joking anymore and Cominsky became an instant starter. In her first game against Oregon Clay, she scored 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

She had started every game in her three years at Ross until this year when on Jan. 23 at Toledo Waite High School, Cominsky's high school career and her future plans to play in college, nearly came crashing down.

While going up for a layup, her right knee popped. Cartilage had been torn. Panic gripped her immediately.

"I came down hard and then I could not get up. My first thought was 'I was done, forever,'" Cominsky said. "It

crushed me."

She came back after missing three games and part of another. Still, she can't fully extend the leg and is completing the season on a gimpy wing and prayer. Surgery awaits soon after the season.

"It was so hard for me to sit on the sidelines and watch," Cominsky said. "I wanted to play so bad; it tore me apart. I

hate to sit on the sidelines."

In the past two games, while playing through pain, she has scored 20 and 11 points.

Some could have quit because of the pain, but that is minor for Cominsky. The thought of withdrawal from the game would have been worse.

"I love this game; I'm a junkie," she repeated simply her reason for continuing.



Cominsky, Castle receive honors

Staff, wire reports

COLUMBUS — Two area girls basketball players, Cortney Cominsky of Fremont Ross and Jennifer Castle of Margareta, are first-team selections for their respective divisions on the 1993 Associated Press Northwest All-District team announced today.

Cominsky was named to the first team in Division I, while Castle is a member of the Division III team. Both players overcame knee injuries during the season.

The teams are based on balloting by a media panel from the district.

Cominsky, a 5-foot-8 senior, averaged 17.4 points per game and led the Little Giants with 6.3 rebounds a game. She shot 45 percent from the field and 74 percent from the foul line while averaging 2.5 assists and 2.3 steals a game.

Castle, who has helped lead the Polar Bears into the regional tournament, is one of four Margareta players averaging at least 13 points a game. The 5-5 junior added 6.7 assists per game to her 14.8 points a game,



COMINSKY



CASTLE

made 4.6 steals a contest and shot 91 percent from the line and 44 percent from the floor.

In Division II, Clyde's Kim Lawrence made the third team.

Kris Gonya of Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic and Old Fort's Melissa DeRan were third-team picks in Division IV.

Castle's teammate, Sarah Hamilton, was a second-team pick in Division III.

Coldwater's Jenny Rauh and Charlie Maier swept the top honors in Division III.

Rauh, a 5-9 senior who helped Coldwater to a state championship last year, aver-

aged 27.4 points a game and was picked as the player of the year Maier, who has led the Cavalier to state titles in two of the last three years, was chosen coach of the year for a 19-1 regular-season record this season.

Shaunda Roberts of Toledo Ursula was voted player of the year in Division I for averaging 26 points and 10.1 rebounds a game.

In Division II, St. Marys Memorial swept the special award with Nikki Miars chosen player of the year and Tod Scarpella selected coach of the year. Miars, a 5-8 sophomore, averaged 21 points, 8.9 rebounds, 7.8 assists and 5.8 steals a game while shooting 57.8 percent from the field and 77.7 percent at the line. St. Marys finished seventh in the final regular-season poll with 17-1 record.

In Division IV, Fostoria's Wendelin's Lori Reinhard, a 5-senior who averaged 23.3 points, 4.9 steals and 2.3 assists a game, walked away with player of the year honors. The coach of the year was North Baltimore's Kathi Rensch.

Division I All-Ohio

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1992-93 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio girls basketball team, selected on the recommendations of a state panel of sports writers and broadcasters:

FIRST TEAM: Marcie Alberts, Wooster, 5-foot-5, Senior, 20.8 points per game; Gwyneth Ballard, Pickerington, 6-1, Sr., 18.7; Shaunda Roberts, Tol. St. Ursula, 5-10, Jr., 26.0; Melissa Cooper, Logan, 5-11, Jr., 16.3; Jenny Wenclewicz, Vandalia Butler, 5-7, Sr., 21.0; Na'Sheema Hillman, Garfield Hts. Trinity, 6-2, Jr., 17.5.

SECOND TEAM: Kate Mooney, Rocky River Magnificat, 6-0, Soph., 13.0; Amy Jauert, Findlay, 5-9, Jr., 19.8; Nickie Sparks, Milford, 5-10, Sr., 16.6; Charlotta Jones, Columbus Independence, 5-10, Sr., 23.2; Liz Hauger, Youngstown Boardman, 5-10, Sr., 18.2; Renee Robare, Pickerington, 5-7, Sr., 13.0; Lori Blanchard, Wooster, 5-8, Sr., 15.0.

THIRD TEAM: Tomika Patterson, Columbus South, 5-8, Jr., 18.4; Jackie McCoy, Springfield South, 5-9, Jr., 21.1; Annie Kubek, Garfield Hts. Trinity, 5-9, Sr., 13.0; Traci Parsons, Defiance, 6-0, Sr., 20.0; Connie Ralston, Cuyahoga Falls, 5-9, Sr., 17.3; Tez Kraft, Logan, 5-10, Jr., 18.0.

Player of the year: Marcie Alberts, Wooster.

Coach of the year: Mike Gallagher, Wooster.

SPECIAL MENTION

Jennifer Van Sickle, East Liverpool; Britt Beutel, Eastlake North; Teresa Habat, Eastlake North; Holly Mastrodonato, Lakewood; April Mixon, Cleve. John Marshall; Caroline McCombs, Medina; Tammi Scott, Lancaster; Shawna Daugherty, Marietta; Tami Hampshire, Logan; Julie Coleman, Chillicothe; Lynne Karwisch, Cin. McAuley; Annette McCall, Cin. Withrow; Jill Silvernagel, Fairborn; Courtney Cominsky, Fremont Ross; Kelly Penhorwood, Celina; Kim Lewis, Ashland; Amy Zak, Mount Vernon; Natal Rosko, Youngstown Austintown Fitch; Daisha Patterson, Akron Central-Hower; Netta Smith, Massillon Washington; Kwame Clark, Zanesville; Susan Johnson, New Philadelphia; Allison Truman, East Liverpool; Jill Best, New Philadelphia.

All-GLL Team

First team

Renee Miller, Napoleon, senior, 5-5, 22.7 points per game; Reo Doom, Whitmer, junior, 5-10, 14.8; Cortney Cominsky, Ross, senior, 5-8, 19.4; Pam Kreuz, Northview, senior, 5-7, 11.9; Lisa Lippincott, Whitmer, senior, 6-0, 8.6.

Second team

Heidi Belkofer, Northview, senior, 5-6, 8.9; Kris Hymore, Clay, junior, 5-10, 6.9; Cara Brubaker, Napoleon, senior, 5-7, 7.2; Natalie Robbins, Ross, junior, 5-5, 8.4; Kim Wieland, Whitmer, senior, 5-11, 7.4.

Honorable mention

Jennifer Brown, Dawn Brinkman, Clay; Erica Hare, Desiree Spencer, Fostoria; Dawn Zerman, Kasey Mangette, Ross; Jennifer Neuenschwander, Kim Kruse, Napoleon; Holly Sebring, Jackie Adlington, Whitmer.

Ross names MVPs

Cortney Cominsky and Charles Woodson won most valuable player awards for the Fremont Ross High School boys and girls basketball teams Tuesday night during an awards program in the high school cafeteria.

Cominsky, a senior, also won awards for having the highest free throw percentage and most rebounds and also received a co-captains trophy along with senior Kim Crawford.



COMINSKY

Other special awards handed out by coach Sue Wolf were the most improved award to junior Tami Reinbolt; best defensive player award to junior Natalie Robbins; and most assists award to freshman Dawn Zerman.



WOODSON

Woodson, a sophomore, topped the list of boys awards handed out by coach Frank Gioffre.

Senior Bobby Carter won two honors, for being the most improved player and the top rebounder. Mike Patterson, a senior, took home the most assists trophy as well as the top free throw shooter award.

The top defensive player honor went to senior Tyrone Price, while Brian Myers and Patterson received co-captain trophies.

