

1974 Class AAA District Tournament

Findlay's John Stozich didn't want to play Ross a third time

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

John Stozich is a man who believes in doing one thing at a time. He especially believes that during the state high school basketball tournament. It is that theory that has guided his Findlay Trojans into the district semi-final game against Fremont Ross.

However, Stozich is the first to admit that that theory

got him into the spot that he readily pronounced in a Monday afternoon phone interview.

"I didn't want to play them a third time," Stozich exclaimed about the upcoming game with Ross. "We barely got by them the last time we played them. If that kid would have hit that free throw there would have been no overtime for us to win it in."

Findlay fought their way into the district contest by edging Defiance, 55-52, thanks to the last minute heroics of Brad Longberry, and mauling Napoleon, 82-44.

"We have to play one game at a time," Stozich said. "We are only looking toward Thursday's game because if we take a look ahead to Saturday, there won't be a Saturday for us."

Anderson Arena on the

Bowling Green State University campus is the site of the 7:30 p.m. contest Thursday night. It will mark the third time that the fellow Buckeye Conference rivals will have met this year. Findlay has won both of them, the first convincingly, 67-51, and the second on the Ross court, 68-65, in overtime.

"I'll tell you, Kenny (Miller, Ross head coach) has done a great job up there.

He's got them playing real well. They nearly overpowered us up there that second game and I considered us lucky to get out."

The Trojans are no strangers to district tourney play. Just last year Findlay was beaten in the regional tournament (one step beyond district play) 44-42 by Newark. Three of the five starters from that regional team are back this season.

Guards Scott Dysinger and Scott Hamlin along with All-Northwestern District selection Brad Longberry form the nucleus of this year's 16-4 team. These three are teamed with Roger Edelbrock and Jim Wilson, both 6-6. Longberry is 6-5 while Dysinger and Hamlin are both 5-9, but lightning quick.

A third of the way into the season the Trojans were 3-3 and ready to face Ross for the first time. That is when Stozich made a key switch in his lineup and he credits it with success of the team.

"That was the first game that Wilson started," Stozich recalled. "Before that time we hadn't been too consistent but when we made that switch, the boys started to work together real well.

"Right now," Stozich continued, "I have five kids capable of having the big scoring night. We have had four different boys score over 20 points at one time or the other this season."

Stozich reflected on the problem of going against Ross. He admitted that one problem that he faces is figuring out a way to stop Ross's leading scorer Mike Reardon. At the same time Stozich voiced a worried thought about the rest of the Ross lineup.

"I said it before and after the first game that we played them. Reardon is the best single player that we have faced this year. He's the best all-around player in the area. He's been scoring and rebounding so well against teams even when they have their defenses geared toward him that you know he will be a big problem."

Does Stozich intend to let Reardon get his points and try to hold other Ross players?

"No," he flatly claims. "I don't believe in letting anyone have his points. I know we can't do that now against Ross. In the first game we could but not now. They are too well rounded."

"Those guards that start against Ashland (Jim Thomas and Jim Flower) really did the job for Kenny. If we drop back off them they'll hurt us from outside. We can't let that happen."

So Ross' third meeting with Findlay has caused some worry in the Findlay camp. As for Ross, the Little Giants are preparing for that third meeting against a team that has bounced them twice this season. One item is evident, both teams realize there is no tomorrow for the loser of the game. For both squads it is one game at a time but for Ross, maybe the third time is the charm.

Northrup is 17-3 in first year

Gibsonburg goes against Van Buren in district play

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

It's nice to be successful at a new job. Especially if it's a high school basketball coaching job.

Van Buren High School coach Bill Northrup fits into that success story picture. Northrup has guided his club to a 17-3 record and into the district semi-final game against Gibsonburg Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Findlay High School gym.

Northrup inherited a team that finished with a so-so 10-10 mark and turned it into an ultra-successful outfit that thrives on defense. That defense is aided immensely by one of the bigger class "A" teams in the area.

Four of the starting five for Van Buren are 6-4 or better. Five of the top seven players currently are in double figures but defense is what Northrup credits for the big season.

"We thrive on it," Northrup contends. "We gave up 58 points a game that led our league (Blanchard Valley League). We like to play it tight."

If defense is the strongest point of his Van Buren team then offense has to rank a close second. Van Buren features five of its top seven averaging between 10 and 13.5 points per contest. Four of the double figure scorers are starters.

Mike Warren, 6-5, 13.5, leads the pack with Ed Huffman, a 6-4 forward at 13.0. At the other forward is 6-5 Bob Thomas, currently hitting 12.0 per contest. At one guard is 6-4 Curt Thomas (12.0) while Bob Waggoner, 5-10, is at the other guard. Waggoner is hitting only eight points a game but is averaging seven assists.

Sitting on the bench and the top replacement at forward is another 6-4 lad, Tom Damon. The chief sub is hitting 10 a game.

As a team Van Buren is averaging 64 a game, and the disciplined play makes it hard for any team to zero in on any one player.

"We got enough balance on our team to make it tough for the other team," Northrup said. "This is what I like about the team, the complete unselfishness. The guys seem to get a kick out of hitting the open man."

As for Gibsonburg, Northrup has seen them play twice.

"I was impressed with their defense. They seem to be very aggressive. As for the offense, and the defense for that matter, it looked as though they had just started to come together in the tournament."

Gibsonburg's Mike Pratt agreed with the latter assumption of Northrup's about his Golden Bear squad coming on strong. The Golden Bears were on a three-game losing streak when they defeated Oak Harbor in the last game of the season.

"That was a 'must' game for us," Pratt pointed out. "We had lost those three games in a row and we had to get something going for us."

What the Golden Bears got going for them has carried over in the tournament to a fairly easy 83-66 win over Arcadia and then edging Elmwood 63-62 (the major highlight of the season according to Pratt) in the sectional championship game.

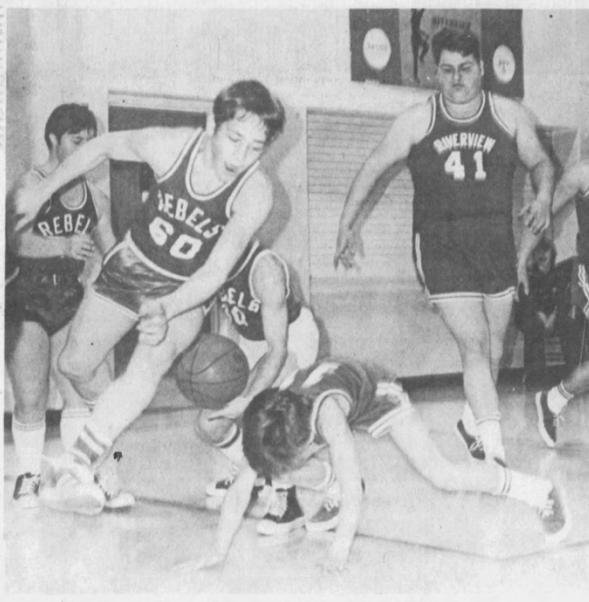
Now it is Van Buren and the big men for Pratt and his crew.

"I think the key to the game is how well our big men play their big men. We are going to have to have fundamentally near perfect defensive games from Steve Shull, Steve Shreffler, and Jon Sage. If we can keep them off the boards and hold them below their average in scoring then I think we can do okay."

What type of a game does Pratt expect.

"A bruising one I'm afraid," Pratt said. "Those big men of Van Buren aren't exactly stringbeans. They are strong and use their weight but I think our big men are strong, too."

The winner of the game will advance to the district finals against the winner of the Riverdale-Fostoria St. Wendelin game that will be played tonight.



Bowling

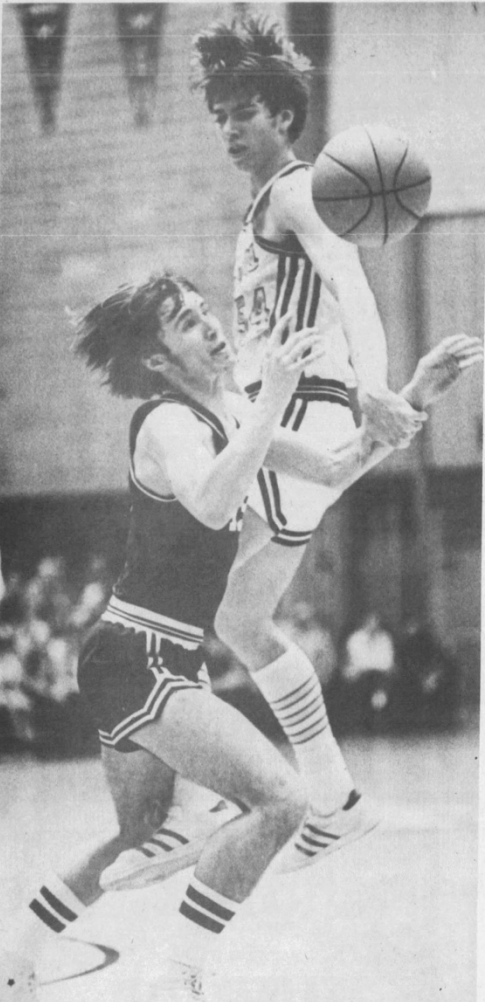
| MOOSE | | W | L |
|------------------------------------|--|----|----|
| Superior Body Shop | | 21 | 7 |
| Winters Market | | 19 | 9 |
| Ohio Outdoor | | 19 | 9 |
| Fremont Speedway | | 18 | 10 |
| Croghan Colonial Bank | | 17 | 11 |
| Mazzocco Realty | | 14 | 10 |
| Johnston Supply | | 12 | 16 |
| Garvin Tool & Die | | 12 | 16 |
| Sleek Bros. Band | | 12 | 16 |
| Wonder Bread | | 11 | 17 |
| Leitz Wines | | 8 | 20 |
| Bonnie & Cy's | | 5 | 23 |
| High individual series — Bob Johns | | | |
| 157-185-248-387 | | | |

| WHIRLPOOL TUES. NITE | | W | L |
|-----------------------------------|--|------|------|
| Tigers | | 191½ | 108½ |
| Plant I | | 181 | 119 |
| Toppers | | 180½ | 119½ |
| Welding | | 178 | 122½ |
| Quality Control | | 169½ | 120½ |
| Service | | 158 | 142 |
| Production | | 156½ | 143½ |
| Line I | | 154 | 146 |
| Mark | | 151 | 149 |
| Maintenance | | 144½ | 155½ |
| Paint | | 144 | 156 |
| Five + Four | | 131½ | 168½ |
| Tool & Die | | 120½ | 169½ |
| Credit Union | | 112 | 188 |
| New Leaf | | 111 | 189 |
| Dippers | | 106½ | 193½ |
| High actual team series — Toppers | | | |
| 925-970-438-2733 | | | |
| High team handicap series — | | | |
| Toppers 1106-1151-1019-3276 | | | |
| High individual series — R. Smith | | | |
| 184-206-223-612 | | | |

| INTER-SERVICE | | W | L |
|------------------|--|-----|-----|
| Pfisterer's | | 30 | 10 |
| Legion #1 | | 27 | 13 |
| Lions | | 26½ | 13½ |
| J & B | | 25 | 15 |
| Rotary #2 | | 21 | 19 |
| Legion #2 | | 20 | 20 |
| Croghan Colonial | | 18 | 22 |
| Donnerstag | | 16 | 24 |

Findlay rips Ross, 72-56

Board control key to victory



By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor
BOWLING GREEN — Brad Longberry connected on 10 of 12 shots in the second half and the Findlay Trojans ransacked the Ross Little Giants, 72-56 in the Northwestern Ohio "AAA" district semi-final contest. The Trojans won the game on the boards by hauling down 51 caroms to only 24 for Ross.

The victory was the 300th in a 24-year coaching career for Findlay coach John Stozich. It did not come easily however. The Little Giants came within eight points with 2:41 to play on a run of six straight points in less than 20 seconds. The score was 62-54 at that point. Ross had trailed by as much as 16 points in the final period but usually were within 10-11 points.

As for Stozich, rebounding he pointed out was a major concern of his before the game. "I knew it was going to be a big factor, so we changed a few things on our offensive patterns that let our big kids get to the board quicker."

It worked all too well for Ross. Kenny Miller, head coach of Ross confirmed that point.

"If they didn't put it in on the first shot, they would keep trying till they got it in."

Miller was subdued in defeat but did praise Findlay for taking a little of the "sting" out of the loss.

"I guess if you do have to lose, it's better to lose to a good team."

Findlay began taking the sting out of Ross with a 10-1 point run in the second quarter. The Little Giants were within two, 20-18 at that point when the run began.

Findlay, with 64 Roger Edelbrock, Longberry and 6-6 Jim Wilson controlling the boards, pulled out to a commanding 11-point lead. Jeff Dyingier started the run with a basket from the right of the key. Edelbrock was next with a layup after taking a beautiful behind-the-back pass from Scott Hamlin.

What about that behind-the-back pass Stozich was asked. Hamlin pulled off that feat four times in the game with three going for easy Findlay scores.

"It's alright if the situation calls for it," Stozich said. "I wouldn't like it if it was just for show but tonight they were there and they were right on the money."

After the Edelbrock bucket, Longberry tipped one in from under the bucket. Mike Reardon answered that bucket with the only point in the run for Ross by sinking a technical that had been called on Findlay for slapping the ball after a basket.

Another rebounded shot by Longberry and a driving layup by Edelbrock rounded out the Findlay string. Reardon hit on an 18-footer for the last score of the half but the damage had been done and Ross trailed 30-21.

The second half was all Longberry and the Findlay dominance of the boards. The 6-5 senior hit five of six in the third period and matched that again in the final period. The only shots he missed were on tip attempts after another Trojan had missed.

Was it his best game? "Well last year," Stozich recalled, "he had 28 points and 27 rebounds in the district finals but this was a good game for him. He seems to

come up with the big game whenever we have to have it."

The Findlay defense also took its toll on Ross by holding leading scorer Reardon to 16 points, six below his average. Reardon did not score until the 7:15 mark of the second period.

If there was a hero for Ross in the aborted effort to catch the Trojans in the second half, it had to be Bob Ford. The junior guard came off the bench late in the second stanza but did not score. In the second 16 minutes, he connected on seven of 11 shots and finished with 16 points. Neal Oberholzer was the only other Little Giant in double figures with 10.

In summing up the game as well as the season, Miller praised his club that has finished with an 11-9 mark. "This ball club showed the same character tonight that they showed all season. They looked down and out for awhile but they came back to within eight and forced them to call timeout... they didn't quit."

Findlay will now meet Celina for the district crown Saturday at 7:30 at Anderson Arena in Bowling Green.

| Score by quarters | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Ross | 12 | 9 | 14 | 21-56 |
| Findlay | 12 | 18 | 16 | 26-72 |
| Individual scoring | | | | |
| ROSS — | Fahrbach | 3-9-6; | Oberholzer | 4-10-8; |
| | Reardon | 7-16-16; | Flower | 1-2-2; |
| | Thomas | 1-2-4; | Ford | 7-7-16; |
| | Clark | 0-2-2; | Totals | 23-10-56 |
| FINLAY — | Edelbrock | 10-20-20; | Wilson | 4-12-12; |
| | Longberry | 14-20-20; | Longberry | 14-20-20; |
| | Hamlin | 4-8-8; | Totals | 34-47-72 |
| Season records: Findlay 17-4; Ross 11-9 | | | | |



GENO... Rossford players s

Foul p... eases l

By JON DONNAN
N-M Staff Writer

TOLEDO — The Genoa juggernaut rolled on in class "AA" tournament basketball Thursday night — this time engulfing a powerful Rossford team, 61-56.

The victory moves Genoa's Cornets into a sectional championship clash with Tiffin Calvert Saturday night and was the first time Genoa has whipped Rossford in at least 13 years.

But the sweetness of that milestone was tempered by a

Reardon, Hammye lead coaches' picks

Mike Reardon of Fremont and Ron Hammye of Genoa added another "player of the year" selection to their list of growing honors. This time it was the District Six chapter of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches that accorded them the honors in its annual all-star selections.

Earlier in the week, Reardon and Hammye had been tabbed as the Associated Press (AP) players of the year for "AAA" and "AA" classes, respectively. Reardon was tied with Terry Crosby of Toledo DeVilbiss for the AP honor.

The "A" player of the year as chosen by the coaches was Tom Kramb of South Central.

Joining Reardon on the first team of the "AAA" all-stars were Geron Tate of Mansfield, Don Kegerreis of Bellevue, Chuck Roser of Galion, and Tony Randelman of Sandusky. Ross' Paul Fahrbach was selected to the second team. Roser and Kegerreis are juniors.

The coach of the year was Mansfield Senior's Vic Fitzemayer.

Jeff Shaneck, Hammye's teammate at Genoa, was also accorded first team honors in the "AA" voting. The Comet duo was joined by Tim Steinhiber of Bucyrus Wynford, Scott Schilling of Norwalk, and Steve Long of Upper Sandusky. Steinhiber is the only junior to make the first team with the rest being seniors.

Jack Smith of Lakota was tabbed for second team honors.

Dave Hitchen of Genoa was selected as the "AA" coach of the year by his peers.

Bettsville's Virgil Ward, a sophomore, joined two seniors and two juniors on the

"A" first team. With Kramb leading the team, Hal Wahlers of Danbury Lakeside, Greg Givens of Masfield St. Peter's, and Bill Gnepper of New Riegel, the latter two juniors, completed the team.

Fremont St. Joe's Mike Smith was tabbed for second team honors. Don Bennice of Bettsville was the coach of the year for the "A" schools.

The following are the all-star teams from District 6 of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches. District 6 is composed of the eight counties (Crawford, Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot) in North Central Ohio and the cities of Ashland and Marion.

| District 6 All-Star Teams "AAA" | | |
|--|--------------|-------|
| Player | School | Grade |
| Mike Reardon | Fremont | Sr. |
| Geron Tate | Mans. Senior | Sr. |
| Don Kegerreis | Bellevue | Jr. |
| Chuck Roser | Galion | Jr. |
| Tony Randelman | Sandusky | Sr. |
| Player of the Year | | |
| 2nd Team | | |
| Gary Peangin | Mans. Senior | Sr. |
| Marty Thallman | Tiffin Col. | Jr. |
| Kevin Voss | Port Clinton | Jr. |
| Dan Vansickle | Marion | Sr. |
| Paul Fahrbach | Fremont | Sr. |
| Coach of the Year: Vic Fitzemayer - Mansfield Senior | | |

| "AA" | | |
|---|----------------|-------|
| Player | School | Grade |
| Ron Hammye | Genoa | Sr. |
| Steve Long | U. Sand. | Jr. |
| Tim Steinhiber | Bucyrus | Jr. |
| Scott Shilling | Norwalk | Jr. |
| Jeff Schanack | Genoa | Sr. |
| Player of the Year | | |
| 2nd Team | | |
| John Frye | Willard | Sr. |
| Jeff Hanks | Tiffin Calvert | Sr. |
| Jack Smith | Lakota | Sr. |
| Rick Compton | Lexington | Sr. |
| Dave Buurma | Willard | Sr. |
| Coach of the Year: Dave Hitchen - Genoa | | |

| "A" | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------|
| Player | School | Grade |
| Tom Kramb | S. Central | Sr. |
| Hal Wahlers | Dan. Lake | Sr. |
| Greg Givens | Man. St. Peter's | Jr. |
| Bill Gnepper | New Riegel | Jr. |
| Virgil Ward | Bettsville | Soph. |

| Player of the Year | | |
|---|------------------|-----|
| 2nd Team | | |
| Mark Fortney | Sen. East | Sr. |
| Mike Smith | Fre. St. Joe | Sr. |
| Terry Bogard | Sy. Mohawk | Sr. |
| Dave Fisher | St. Mary's | Sr. |
| Jeff Dowsett | Man. St. Peter's | Sr. |
| Coach of the Year: Don Bennice - Bettsville | | |

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ROGER EDELBROCK of Findlay finds one way to keep Ross' Jim Thomas (dark uniform) from getting a hand on the ball, he simply grabs it. News-Messenger photographer Bruce Crippen was quick enough with the camera to catch the foul but the referee missed this one. Findlay won the district semi-final game, 72-56.

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FREMONT, O.

Rifle Club loses to Tiffin

The Tiffin Rifle Club defeated the Fremont Rifle Club, 1445-1434. The loss was the fourth of the season for Fremont.

There were 26 shooters present for the meet. Ed Foght of Fremont was the top individual shooter with 296, four less than perfect.

| Fremont Rifle Club | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----|-----|------|
| Pr | Kn | St | Ttl | |
| E. Fought | 100 | 99 | 96 | 295 |
| D. Woffenier | 100 | 99 | 91 | 290 |
| J. Engler | 100 | 99 | 86 | 285 |
| H. Oakley | 100 | 96 | 88 | 284 |
| E. Wolfe | 99 | 92 | 88 | 279 |
| Total | | | | 1434 |

| Tiffin Rifle Club | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Pr | Kn | St | Ttl | |
| R. Schmitz | 100 | 96 | 95 | 291 |
| M. Frasse | 100 | 96 | 92 | 288 |
| F. Leisengrad | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|----|----|------|
| N. Kim | 100 | 95 | 92 | 287 |
| R. Witt | 99 | 96 | 91 | 286 |
| Total | | | | 1445 |

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