

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."

Anderson Arena on the

Findlay fought their way into the district contest by edging Defiance, 55-52, thanks to the last minute heroics of Brad Longberry, and ousting 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 tournament 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 8-10 record 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 on 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 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	12	10
Mazzocco Realty	14	10
Johnston Supply	12	16
Garden Tool & Die	12	16
Sheet Metal Band	12	16
Wonders Bread	11	17
Long Wines	8	20
Bonnie & Cy's	5	23
High individual series — Bob Johns		
157-162-248-387.		

WHIRLPOOL TUES. NITE

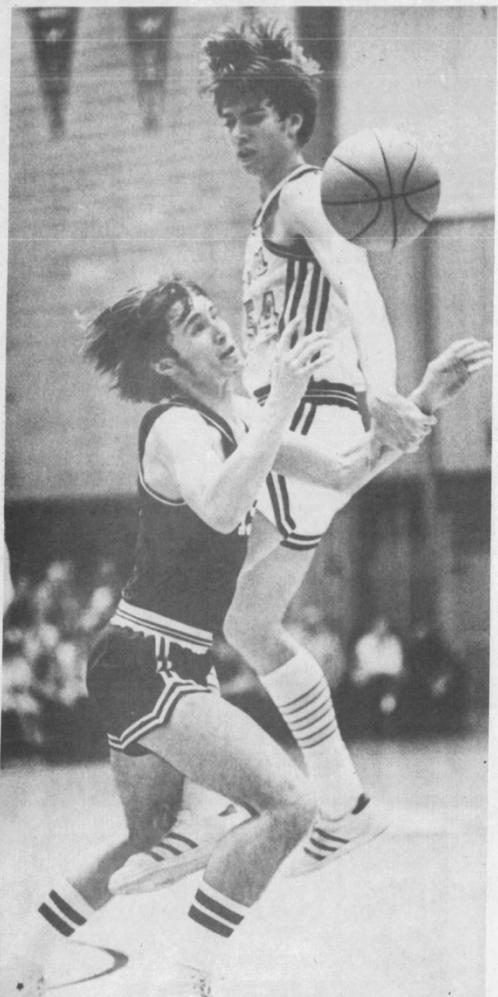
	W	L
Tigers	19 1/2	10 1/2
Plant I	181	119
Plant II	180 1/2	119 1/2
Worling	178	122 1/2
Quality Control	169 1/2	130 1/2
Service	158	142
Production	156 1/2	143 1/2
Mark	154	140
Maintenance	151	149
Paint	144 1/2	155 1/2
Flame Four	144	156
Tool & Die	120 1/2	169 1/2
Credit Union	112	188
New Leaf	111	189
Dippers	106 1/2	193 1/2
High actual team series — Toppers		
925-970-838-2733.		
High team handicap series —		
Toppers 1106-1151-1019-3276.		
High individual series — R. Smith		
164-205-223-612.		

INTER-SERVICE

	W	L
Pfisterer's	30	10
Legion #1	27	13
Lions	26 1/2	13 1/2
J & B	25	13
Rotary #2	21	19
Legion #2	20	20
Croghan Colonial	18	22



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 rambled to 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 21 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 10 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 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 6-6 Roger Edelbrock, 6-6 Mike Kramb and 6-6 Jim Wahlers controlling the boards, pulled out to a commanding 11-point lead.

Jeff Dyring started the run with a bucket from the right of the key. Edelbrock was next with a layup after taking a beautiful behind-the-back pass from Scott Hammye.

What about that behind-the-back pass? Stozich was asked. Hammye 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."

At the start of the Edelbrock basket, Longberry tipped one in from under the basket. 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 39-21.

The second half was all Longberry and the Findlay dominance of the boards.

The 6-5 senior had five of six in the third period and four of five again in the final period.

Those six 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 final 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 his season, Stozich praised his club that had 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 when 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 17 9 14 21 = 56

Findlay 12 13 16 17 = 56

Individual scoring

ROSS — Fahrbach 31-6;

Reardon 16-2; Thomas 1-4; Ford 7-3;

Edelbrock 7-2; Dyring 6-2; Wilson 4-12; Longberry 14-0; Dyring 5-0; Hamlin 4-8; Total 32-19.

Season records: Findlay 17-4; Ross 11-9.



Foul p eases h

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, 60-48.

The victory moves Genoa's Comets 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 "A" first team. With Kramb leading the team, Hal Wahlers of Danbury Lakeside, Greg Givens of Massfield 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 of 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

Player	School	Grade
Mike Reardon*	Fremont	Sr.
Don Kegereis	Massfield	Sr.
Mike Wahlers	Richland	Jr.
Chuck Roser	Galion	Jr.
Tom Givens	Genoa	Sr.
Player of the Year		
2nd Team		
Marty Thallman	Tiffin Col.	Jr.
Kevin Voss	Port Clinton	Jr.
Mike Wahlers	Richland	Sr.
Paul Fahrbach	Fremont	Sr.
Coach of the Year: Vic Pfizenmayer		
Mansfield Senior		

District 5 All-Star Teams

Player	School	Grade
Ron Hammye*	"AA"	Sr.
Steve Longmyre	U. Sand.	Sr.
Mike Wahlers	Bucyrus	Jr.
Scott Shilling	Northwalk	Sr.
Jeff Schuhm	Genoa	Sr.
Player of the Year		
2nd Team		
John Frye	Willard	Sr.
Terry Bogard	Tiffin	Sr.
Jack Smith	Lakota	Sr.
Rick Compton	Lexington	Sr.
Mike Buzunar	Willard	Sr.
Coach of the Year: Dave Hitchen		
Genoa		

District 4 All-Star Teams

Player	School	Grade
Tom Kramb*	S. Central	Sr.
Hal Wahlers	Del. Lake	Sr.
Greg Givens	Massfield	Sr.
Bill Gnepper	New Riegel	Jr.
Coach of the Year: Don Bennice	Bettsville	Soph.
Bettsville		

District 3 All-Star Teams

Player	School	Grade
Mark Fortney	St. Joe East	Sr.
Mike Smith	Fre. St. Joe	Sr.
Terry Bogard	Sy. Mohawk	Sr.
David Givens	St. Peter's	Sr.
Jeff Dewitt	Man. St. Peter's	Sr.
Coach of the Year: Don Bennice	Bettsville	Soph.
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.

Rifle Club loses to Tiffin

The Tiffin Rifle Club defeated the Fremont Rifle Club, 145-1434. The loss was the fourth of the season for Fremont.

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

The Fremont Rifle Club

Pr. Kn. St. Tl.

R. Schmitz 100 95 230

M. Frase 100 98 200

D. Wofford 100 99 229

J. Engler 100 99 228

R. Oxley 100 96 228

R. Wolfe 98 92 228

Total 100 98 1434

Tiffin Rifle Club

Pr. Kn. St. Tl.

R. Schmitz 100 95 230

M. Frase 100 98 200

D. Wofford 100 99 229

J. Engler 100 99 228

R. Oxley 100 96 228

R. Wolfe 98 92 228

Total 100 98 1445

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