2006 Division I Sectional Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL: MARION HARDING 53, ROSS 30

Offense falters for Little Giants

By BOB PUTMAN
Gannett News Service

WILLARD — Harding girls basketball coach Bill Sycks anticpated Fremont Ross coach Sue Ross would try to slow down the tempo of their Division I Northwest District tournament opener.

It worked for a little while, but turnovers and cold shooting plagued the Little Giants as they dropped a 53-30 decision at Willard.

Ross was limited to just 13 points through the first three quarters and committed 19 of its 26 turnovers during that time.

Harding won two earlier games this season between the two teams, 53-27 and 42-21, and Sycks warned his team Fremont Ross was probably going to slow down the game.

"Their only chance was to keep the score in the 20s," Sycks said. "I told the girls we may have to play defense 30 to 45 seconds at time. We kept our focus on what we needed to do."

Fremont (2-19) had an early 5-4 lead on a three-point play by Brittney Miller with 4:12 left in the opening stanza. But three straight turnovers helped Harding (15-6) to an 8-0 run and a 12-5 lead at the end of the quarter.

The Lady Little Giants were still close early in the second quarter, trailing 16-9 following another Miller basket at the 5:04 mark, but they did not score another point in the quarter and were down 26-9 at the half.

Harding took its largest lead of the game at 41-15 early in the fourth quarter on a 3-point field goal by Jessica Jenkins.

Ross finally got its offense going, cutting the lead to 43-26 with 3:14 left on a Miller jumper from the lane.

Miller scored 11 of Fremont Ross' 17 fourth-quarter points and totaled 19 points for the game. Victoria Logan pulled down eight rebounds for the Lady Little Giants.

Jenkins paced Harding with 16 points while Sarita Feliciano added 14.