

1973-1974 Season Review



THE 1973-74 ROSS Little Giant basketball team is shown above. Left to right: Mark Celek, Neal Oberholtzer, Mike Reardon, Randy Smith, Brent Borden, Jack Wetzel, Jim Flower, Terry Shearon, Roger Berger, Gary Clark, Jim Thomas, Kevin Smith, Mike Patterson, Bob Ford, Dave

Fahrbach, Paul Fahrbach. Standing behind the team are the Ross coaches: (left to right) junior varsity coach Don Burgess, head coach Ken Miller, Mark Diels, and Dave "Doc" Shon. (N-M photo by Bruce Crippen)

Little Giants open Saturday

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ken Miller will be starting his second year as head coach of the Ross Little Giant basketball team Saturday when Fostoria visits the home of the Purple and White. For Miller the season should be a tremendous improvement over last season's 3-16 club.

Miller sat relaxing in his office before Tuesday's practice and talked candidly about his Little Giants.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Ross will be a better team this season," Miller said as he reviewed the Buckeye Conference schedule ahead. "I know Elyria, Admiral King, Findlay, and Mansfield will be very strong with Sandusky, Marion, and Lorain showing improvement and I definitely feel Ross will be better."

Part of that improvement will ride on the shoulders of five returning lettermen and one sophomore who could break into the starting lineup anytime during the season.

Miller will be sending Mike Reardon, a 6-2 senior, and 6-5 junior Neal Oberholtzer at the forward spots while 6-4 senior Paul Fahrbach, who did not letter last year, will handle the pivot spot. Those three are fairly definite for the opener against Fostoria.

The guard slots could go to any one of three players. Lettermen Jim Flower and Jim Thomas have the best shots at the positions right now. Flower is a junior while Thomas is a senior. Giving this duo a stiff test for the starting slots will be junior letterman Bob Ford and promising sophomore Gary Clark.

Miller has used a number of scrimmages to boil his team down to this nucleus but the veteran mentor feels he learned something about everyone on the varsity squad during those scrimmages.

"We took the scrimmages as a learning situation," Miller concedes. "We tried to learn as much as we could about the players . . . we played a lot of people and evaluated a lot of people."

It was during the scrimmages that Miller spotted his most glaring problem with the new edition Little Giants but it could rest upon the fact of the frequent changes in the scrimmage lineups.

"We'd have a good quarter and look very good, but then we would come back and make a lot of mistakes in the next quarter. They were not consistent.

"That is one problem that the boys know they have to whip . . . we have the potential to do it and I believe the boys know they can."

The inconsistency that Miller pointed out has affected the Little Giants at both ends of the court in the scrimmages but once a set lineup is arrived at, the situation should improve.

Miller gave an insight about what to look for this season from Ross.

"We worked a lot on our 'quickness' this summer. Last year we were very slow but this year our quickness has improved and we will be able to fastbreak more when the opportunity presents itself."

The defense will also be affected by the new found speed.

"We are not going to set back as much this year . . . we are going to go into a more aggressive defense . . . we will come out after the other team."

Miller continued with his evaluation.

"Our rebounding strength will be better this season. With Reardon and Oberholtzer we have two good aggressive rebounders Fahrbach (Paul) rebounds well at times and at other times needs improvement . . . he will get better as the season goes on.

"Celek (Mark, 6-7 junior center) is improving each day on practice. He will help Fahrbach at center.

"The only question that we have is in the consistency of our play. If we whip that problem, then we're going to have a much better season than last year's."

Miller took a look at Fostoria.

"They have three lettermen back and overall they should be one of the most 'physical' team that we face this season."

Fostoria defeated Ross last season 42-41 on a last second tip-in. Ross had led most of the game by at least six points.

Mike Reinhart, 6-5, Larry Williamson, and Scott LeForge are the lettermen returning for Fostoria. Williamson and Reinhart are especially effective off the offensive boards. That is when their aggressiveness shows.

Joining the three lettermen for Fostoria will be Gary DeBose and Kevin Chapman, both up from the reserve team.

Miller gets 199th win

Ross wins season debut!

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Fremont Ross gave an indication of what to expect last night in future basketball wars. The Little Giants under second year head coach Ken Miller pulled off a 64-51 win over Fostoria.



MIKE REARDON
... 29 in first game

The win was the 199th of Miller's career but only for fourth as the head mentor of the Little Giants. Miller came to the Ross system after spending several years at Sidney in Shelby County.

"We wanted to set the tempo early in the game," Miller smiled after the game. The veteran coach sat relaxing and reflected back upon the 32 minutes of action.

"We accomplished what we set out to do at the start of the game but we did slip into some deliberated play at the end."

The tempo that Miller wanted at the start of the contest resulted in a 30-9 lead at one point midway through the second period. The tempo he did not want resulted from the "deliberate act" in the third quarter.

Leading by a 31-20 count entering the second half as the result of a three minute scoreless streak in the second period, the once big Ross lead was narrowed to 41-33 with 1:21 to play in the third period. Miller had his team call time out at this point.

"We just couldn't seem to put them away," Miller pointed out. "We had gotten a bit deliberate unintentionally in that quarter and we had to get it straightened out."

"It seemed that whenever Fostoria would make a run at us, our kids would hitch up their belts and come right back."

That comeback from the deliberateness was let by hot-shooting Mike Reardon and high-jumping Neal Oberholtzer. In the last few seconds of play, Reardon and Oberholtzer both dumped in a pair of buckets to give Ross a 47-33 lead going into the final eight minutes of action.

The lead never dropped below 10 points after that final Redmen run.

Miller started sophomore guard Gary Clark and the touted youngster did just what he was supposed to do: bring the ball down the floor against the press. Despite a few first game jitters Clark helped to set up the Ross offense and he did handle the ball when Fostoria did go to the press in the last quarter.

Clark also had the singular honor of scoring the first points

of the season when he banked in a left-hander from the side at the 7:20 mark of the first period. Ironically it was the only points he was to score all night.

Reardon was simply too much for the Redmen. The 6-3 senior destroyed Fostoria's zone by canning 13 of 24 shots and hitting a game high 29. Most of Reardon's buckets came on shots from the 18 to 22 foot area.

Oberholtzer scored 10 points but his main assignment for the night was controlling Fostoria's highly touted Mike Reinhart. The Little Giant junior held the Fostoria flash to nine points and kept the 6-4 forward away from the offensive boards.

Paul Fahrback, Miller's starting center, got into early foul trouble and had to take to the bench. Junior Mark Celek, a 6-7 junior, filled in and pulled off several key offensive rebounds and chipped in with six points.

"Celek didn't make too many free throws (zero for five) but he did a heck of a job," Miller smiled.

"I imagine fans remember back to what Celek was like last year ... well he turned himself into a better player this year by sheer dedication and hard work."

Miller also credited his tight man-to-man defense with the major share of causing the Redmen trouble.

"The guys did a good job of cutting off the middle. They took away the shuffle cut and did not let anyone get into the color (free throw lane)."

"We may be a little spotty in some areas but this win can't help but build our confidence ... it was a real team effort."

Statistically, Ross hit 28 of 67 from the field and controlled the boards with 36 grabs to Fostoria's 20. Ross was guilty of 12 turnovers while the Redmen had only 11.

Jim Thomas of Ross joined Reardon and Oberholtzer in the double figure column with 10 points. Scott LeForge had 20 for Fostoria, including eight straight points in the last quarter.

Score by quarters

Fostoria	7	13	13	18-51
Ross	20	11	16	17-64

Individual scoring

FOSTORIA — LeForeg 6-8-20, Combs 3-1-7, McGee 1-0-2, DeBose 3-0-6, Williamson 2-3-7, Reinhart 3-3-9; Totals 18-15-51.

ROSS — Thomas 4-2-10, Clark 1-0-2, Reardon 13-3-29, Oberholtzer 4-2-10, Flower 1-1-3, Fahrback 2-0-4, Celek 3-0-6; Totals 28-8-64.

Reserve game: Ross 54, Fostoria 33.

Season records: Ross 1-0, Fostoria 0-1.
Officials: Bill Beemer and Bob Shubert.

Broncos on top of AFC West; Rams maintain one game lead

By HAL BOCK
Associated Press Sports Writer

That is not a mistake in the National Football League standings. The Denver Broncos really are in first place.

The Broncos, accustomed to less glamorous surroundings, climbed to the top of the American Football Conference West Division Sunday by beating Kansas City 14-10. Denver turned the trick on a pair of touchdown passes 81 seconds apart from Charley Johnson to Haven Moses.

That moved the Broncos one-half game ahead of both Kansas City and Oakland, who are tied for second place. The Raiders moved into that deadlock with a 31-3 romp over San Diego.

In other games, Los Angeles defeated New Orleans 24-13, staying one game ahead of the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC West. The Falcons whipped the New York Jets 28-20. Minnesota belted Chicago 31-13. Buffalo downed Baltimore 24-17. New England shut out Houston 32-0, and Philadelphia topped the New York Giants 20-16.

In last Thursday's holiday games, Washington shut out Detroit 20-0 and Miami beat Dallas 14-7.

Green Bay's nationally televised game at San Francisco tonight completes the NFL's 11th week of action.

Broncos 14, Chiefs 10

Even losing Coach Hank Stram couldn't

and their fans have been so loyal over all these losing seasons."

Stram's Chiefs blanked the Broncos for most of the game. But Johnson's scoring pitches of 18 and 40 yards to Moses in the final two minutes of the first half proved decisive.

Vikings 31, Bears 13

Minnesota's NFC Central Division champions mauled Chicago 31-13 in a game they dedicated to longtime Viking defensive back Karl Kassulke, who was paralyzed in a preseason motorcycle accident.

Kassulke, confined to a wheelchair, made his first public appearance since the accident, shaking hands with the players during halftime ceremonies.

Raiders 31, Chargers 3

George Atkinson returned an early recovered fumble 59 yards for a touchdown and Ken Stabler passed for two more Oakland scores in the Raiders' 31-3 romp over San Diego.

Rams 24, Saints 13

Los Angeles maintained its one-game in the NFC West by coming from behind to overtake New Orleans. John Hadl threw two TD passes for the Rams, the second one putting LA in front to stay late in the third period.

Falcons 28, Jets 20

Bob Lee passed for two touchdowns and Eddie Ray ran for two more, giving Atlanta its 28-20 victory over the Jets and keeping the

Mansfield next for Ross

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

Ross opens the Buckeye Conference schedule this Friday by hosting the Mansfield Tygers. The Little Giants opened the season last Saturday night with a 64-51 win over the Fostoria Redmen, while Mansfield defeated Galion 48-41 in its initial outing.

The Tygers under head coach Vic Pfizenmayer cruised to a 17-4 overall record last season and an 11-3 Conference mark. The Tygers led the Buckeye Conference up till the last week of the season but were upset by Sandusky. The loss dropped them to a second place tie.

Three lettermen, two of them starters from last season's squad, bolster the title hopes of the Tygers. All three lettermen started last week's game against Galion.

The leading rebounder from last year's team, Geron Tate returns along with Gary Feagin, the club's assist leader, and Stan Tillman. Tate is 6-4 while Tillman is 6-3, and Feagin, 5-10. Tillman is only a junior.

Feagin will start at a guard slot while Tate is in the pivot with Tillman at one forward. Andy Fisher, a 6-3 senior, will join Tillman at the other forward position while Jim Them, a 5-10 senior, joins Feagin in the back court.

Ross head coach Ken Miller talked about the Mansfield team.

"Galion played a deliberate game against them," Miller pointed out as possibly the reason for the low point total.

"Rebounding is probably the strong point of Mansfield," Miller continued. "The three guys up front may stand only 6-4 or so but they can play like they are 6-8. Tate is especially tough off the boards."

One person that Miller and the Little Giants will not have to worry about is Jerry Brooks. The graduated Brooks was only 5-9 but his long shot barrage killed any hopes of winning for many teams last season. Brooks led the Conference in scoring from his guard slot.

Also gone from Mansfield this season is 6-5 Dillett Montgomery

Seaman fired at Wichita St.

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Wichita State University has fired its football coach, Bob Seaman, by unanimous vote of the athletic board.

Seaman's three-year contract expires Dec. 31 and it will not be renewed, said Athletic Director Ted Bredenhof Wednesday. He said a committee will

and 6-3 Tyron Butler, both terrors on the boards.

While Mansfield is the eminent problem right now, Miller reflected a little on last Friday's win.

"There are areas that need improvement," Miller admitted. "The points came easy at first last week and that sometimes causes teams to lose its concentration and I think that is what happened a little to us."

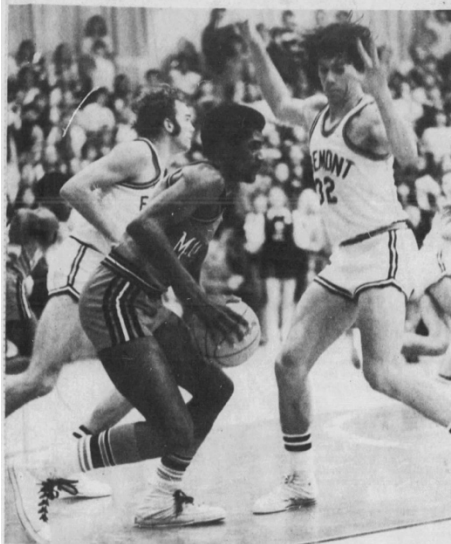
Fostoria came from 21 points down to trail by only eight at one time in the game.

"We could have lost concentration when they changed defenses on us . . . those are just some of the intangibles that sometimes you have no answer for . . . it's simple though, one game does not make a season.

"All we ask a player to do is play as hard as he can and we had that happen last week. The boys played as hard as they could."

Eighth grade 'Red' team wins

BELLEVUE—The "Red" team of the Fremont eighth grade lost 32-30 to the Bellevue eighth graders last night. The Red was held scoreless in the second period while Bellevue scored only two but those points



TYGERS' GERON TATE HAS NOWHERE TO GO
... Ross' Mike Reardon blocks path; Paul Fahrbach in background

Ken Miller gets 200th coaching win

Ross uses line to stop Mansfield

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross Little Giant basketball coach Ken Miller stood silently watching the Mansfield junior varsity build up a big lead over the Ross JV's. He winced once or twice when one of the Ross JV's missed a free throw.

"That's what we keep doing," Miller said as the free throw rolled off the rim. "By golly if we don't make them tonight, we're not going to work on them at all next week."

Miller was referring to the amount of time his team worked on free throws this week in practice. The Little Giants had made only eight of 18 in the win over Postoria and it irked Miller.

But Miller won't have to cut out the free throw practice this week.

All the Little Giants did last night was hit on 28 of 37 charity tosses including 20 of 26 in the last period as Miller's charges rolled to an upset 66-63 win over the Mansfield Tygers. All the work had paid off at last.

The win for Miller was the 200th in his high school coaching career and he did not want anything said about that magic plateau.

"It's not the 200 wins that are

important," Miller smiled as he related after the game. "The only important thing is that the boys got what they deserved tonight and that was winning this game."

But the start of the game looked like the start of a long night for the Little Giants. With only a little over a minute clicked off the clock, the Little Giants trailed 6-0 and Miller signaled for time.

"I didn't call the time-out so much as to settle us down but to cool them off."

The "cooling time-out" worked with a bucket by Mike Reardon and a three point play by sophomore guard Gary Clark cutting the Tyger lead to 6-5 and Ross was on its way.

Neal Oberholzer gave Ross its first lead of the night, 11-10, with a jumper from the left of the key. That lead change was the first of several in the game.

Mansfield led at the first quarter stop as high-jumping Stan Tillman hit a hot streak with two quick buckets to make it 14-13 at the first stop. Ross hit the first four points in the second quarter to grab its biggest lead of the first half, 17-14. Clark hit all four points in the run.

The Tygers came back to take

the lead at the half on a bucket by Geron Tate, 28-36.

The Little Giants fell behind 34-30 shortly into the second half before catching fire. Reardon's bucket started the spurt with Clark tying the game on a driving layup. Jim Thomas got the go-ahead with another drive.

Paul Fahrbach's free throw and a charity toss by Oberholzer made it 38-34. Ross. The Little Giants led by four at the quarter's end when Thomas unleashed a 50 foot shot that ripped the nets. The shot nearly brought the house down for Ross.

The final quarter was just a matter of shots. Freeman's free throws and how many buckets the Tygers would make out of the numerous desperation shots they took.

By statistics, Ross should have lost from the floor in the final eight minutes. The Little Giants had only six shots at the bucket thanks to the zealous man-to-man defense of the Tygers. Mansfield, meanwhile, was

flinging 29 shots goalward ... only nine went in.

The last quarter barrage raised the Tyger shot attempts to 76 for the night while Ross had only 43 but Miller was not disturbed by that statistic.

"I feel that we took the good shots out there tonight," Miller pointed out, "while they took many shots that weren't too good a percentage shot."

Ross made three of the shots in the last eight minutes but won the game with the hot free throw shooting performance. Clark hit five of seven in that last quarter but four straight hits from the stripe by Thomas helped ice the cake after Clark had fouled out of the game.

Ross led by as much as eight points in the fourth period but could get no farther ahead. Mansfield cut the lead to four at 59-55 before Oberholzer hit two free throws and Thomas hit the first of two of his four straight to put the game out of reach with only 31 seconds to play.

Reardon led the Little Giants in

scoring with 19 points but Miller was happy with the rest of the scoring. Ross had three other players in double figures and another with eight points. Clark had 17, Oberholzer 13, and Thomas with 10. Fahrbach scored five of his eight points in the last period.

"That scoring balance proved that we have other guys that can score," Miller pointed out. "The other teams cannot just play one man."

Tate and Tillman finished with 17 for Mansfield while Peagin took top honors with 18. Ross lost the battle of the board, 33-26, and had 19 turnovers to Mansfield's 18.

Score by quarters:

Mansfield	11	18	22	43
Ross	13	13	18	26

Individual scoring:

MANSFIELD	Tate 4-5-17	Peagin 8-2-18	Tillman 6-1-17	Thom 1-0-2	Fuhr 2-0-4	Stevens 1-2-4	Williams 0-1-1	Totals 29-43
ROSS	Reardon 7-5-13	Thomas 3-4-10	Fuhrbach 2-4-4	Oberholzer 5-3-13	Clark 3-11-17	Stevens 0-1-1	Totals 20-38	

Reserve game: Mansfield 63, Ross 33

Season records: Ross 2-0 (Conference 1-0); Mansfield 1-1 (Con. 0-1)

Officials: Dick Bernhard and Roger Smith



THIS REBOUND BELONGS TO MANSFIELD'S STAN TILLMAN
... Oberholzer misses grab for ball (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

Australia leads Davis Cup after Necombe, Laver win

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Stan Smith and Erik van Dillen hold the key that will keep the door open for the United States in the 72nd Davis Cup tennis world finals.

Smith and van Dillen face a yet to be named Australian doubles team today in the third match of tennis' supreme test in Cleveland's 56-year-old, high-

"I'm worn out now," the 29-year-old mustachioed Australian said. "I sure don't feel like I just got out of bed, but I feel like I'll be ready Saturday."

Newcombe said he played the best set of tennis in his career in his opening set victory over Smith.

"There weren't too many points during the entire match

one-set lead over Laver, but he tired and couldn't keep pace with the only man in tennis history to win two grand slams.

"I was rushing my play in the early sets," Laver said. "I have a tendency to do that against a younger player. But after the 15-minute break between the third and the final two sets I slowed down."

News
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Bob Marker, editor

Admiral King begins title defense with win over Elyria Pioneers

Sandusky, Findlay, and Admiral King rolled to Buckeye Conference wins in the first round of Conference competition last night. Sandusky rolled by Marion 67-52. Admiral King started off its defense of last year's Buckeye crown with a 59-

32 triumph over Elyria, and Findlay got by Lorain senior Tony Handelman and Walt Farris teamed up for 37 points to lead Sandusky. The Blue Streaks cannot 23 of 27 free throw chances to help rout the

Prexies. Randy Gipson was the only player in double figures with 18 points.

Admiral King trailed by one at the half before outscoring Elyria 28-20 in the last 16 minutes of action. Terry Kish and Rick Atkins with 15 and 13 points, respectively, led the Admirals. Jerry Gilbert had 18 for Elyria.

Lorain threw a minor scare into Findlay by taking a two-point lead at the half, 24-22. Findlay grabbed a one-point lead at the end of three stanzas and then rolled to the win by pumping in 20 points in the final eight minutes.

Scott Hamlin had 14 points while Roger Edlebrock had 12 and Jim Wilson, 10, for Findlay. Larry Vageloff had 22 for Lorain.

Admiral King 59, Elyria 52	Score by quarters
Elyria	13 19 10 10-52
Admiral King	17 14 13 9-59
Individual scoring	
ELYRIA	Gilbert 6-4-18, Booley 5-4-10, Stevenson 6-4-14, Jones 2-1-7, Mason 4-1-9, Baker 2-0-4, Totals 29-52
ADMIRAL KING	Nelson 3-3-9, Wicks 4-0-8, Kish 4-4-15, Harris 2-0-4, Atkins 6-1-13, Spencer 2-0-4, Totals 29-59
Reserve score	Elyria 56, Admiral King 44

Findlay 56, Lorain 41	Score by quarters
Findlay	12 11 11 12-47
Lorain	8 14 14 20-56
Individual scoring	
Findlay	Lorain-Vageloff 8-4-22, Stephenson 2-2-4, Williams 0-2-2, Worthy 4-2-10, George 0-1-1, Mura 0-1-1, Smith 0-2-3, Totals 15-47
Findlay's	Longberry 3-2-4, Dyringer 4-4-8, Hamlin 6-2-14, Edlebrock 5-2-12, Wil-



ROSS' NEAL OBERHOLZER IS FOULED
... Jim Thom of Mansfield goes for ball

Bill Andreas pleasant surprise in opening Buckeye conquest

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Fred Taylor wasn't even sure Bill Andreas would play, let alone score a game-high 20 points in Ohio State's opening 90-62 basketball victory over Texas-Arlington Friday night.

"Billy hurt his ankle in a half-court scrimmage earlier this week. He had it taped last (Thursday) night, made a couple of moves and had to quit," said Taylor, beginning his 16th coaching season.

"He's really grateful for a big kid," added Taylor.

Andreas, a 6-foot-7 junior, didn't enter the nonconference opener until less than 12 minutes were left in the first half. He replaced Craig Taylor in the post.

The Ohio State coach said Andreas had earned himself a start when national power Notre Dame visits Monday night.

Otherwise, it will be the same starters against the Irish after the four reached double figures against the young Mavericks.

Wardell Jackson had 15 points, Jack Wolfe 14, Dan Gerhard 12 and Gary Repella 10, the same as substitute freshman Larry Bolden. Best of the Texans was Jerry Johnson with 12 points.

"I was pleased to a point," Taylor said of his veteran team's performance. "We had a good passing attack and made a good effort at going after the basketball."

Ohio State reeled off 13 straight points starting the second half

Marion cools Ross in hot 2nd quarter

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

MARION — Marion Harding roared to life in the dim surroundings of the Harding High School gym last night to bring a halt to Ross' modest two-game winning streak, 55-47. The loss leveled both school's record to 1-1 in the Buckeye Conference.

Ross has not won at Marion since 1958.

Both teams started off as if the basket was an invisible object in the dimly lit gym. Ross missed the first 10 shots from the floor . . . the first field goal of the night did not come until the first period was 4:10 old.

The Little Giants managed only three of 15 from the field in the first eight minutes while the Prexies had only a two of 15 performance. But the candle power increased for the hosts in the second quarter while the light flickered high for Ross only a brief few times.

Leading 10-7 after the first stop, the Little Giants jumped to a quick 16-9 advantage, the biggest of the night for Ross. That lead evaporated quickly as the Prexies hit for the first of seven straight shots from the field. Two straight buckets by Randy Gipson and a fielder by Tom Owens and Dan Wigton put Ross on the short end of a 19-18 score with 3:35 to play in the first half.

From that time on it was pretty much the way Marion wanted it.

"They forced us to play their game," a quiet Ken Miller, coach of Ross, said after the game. "They played their game and we played it with them . . . we did not play ours."

Marion's game was essentially slow, especially after the Prexies took the lead. Using an effective weave out front, the Marion lead reached as much as 15 points late in the game.

But for Ross the game started wrong.

Expecting the Prexies to come at them with a man-to-man defense, Marion coach Jerry Fries had his team in a 1-3-1 defense and it did what Fries wanted it to accomplish.

"We wanted to try to confuse them," Fries said afterwards. "We knew that they relied a lot on Reardon (Mike) and the zone was supposed to work on him . . . I think it did; he only had six at the half."

"That zone cut our tempo down," Miller admitted. "It just forced us out of our game."

The zone disappeared into a man-to-man at times in the second half but the first sight of the defensive weapon had accomplished the job.

While Ross was having problems seeing the bucket in the second period, the Prexies, with the seven straight shot skein, burned off the nets with an 11 of 16 shooting performance to take a 29-22 lead at the half. Smallish, Tom Owens hit four of six in the quarter while Gipson was perfect, four of four.

Ross, meanwhile, was six of nine, but tossed the ball away six times in the quarter to make things a bit easier for Marion.

"I don't know whether they were hot in that second quarter," Miller pointed out, "or rather we were that poor on defense. It may have been a combination of both."

Ross commanded a huge 33-17 margin in rebounds over the Prexies but they could not contain the outside shooting of Owens, only 5-7, or the inside game of Gipson. Owens finished the night with 20 points while Gipson hit eight of 14 for 16 points. Mike Reardon had 11 for Ross while Jim Thomas had 10.

Ross had only a 19 of 54 shooting night while Marion was 24 of 56, 22 of 41 after the first quarter.

Important weekend for Ross

Lorain first, then Findlay

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

"This is one of the most important weekends of the season," Kenny Miller, coach of the Ross Little Giants basketball team said yesterday. "Not only because we have two Conference games back to back, but we have to prove that the first two games of the season were no fluke."

Ross won those first two games over Fostoria and Mansfield before falling last week to Marion in the first road test of the year. In that game, the Little Giants showed a very small facsimile to the team that had entered the game with a 2-0 mark.

The loss came in the second Buckeye Conference game and strangely enough kept the Little Giants in a tie for first place in the Conference . . . along with seven other teams.

Oddity upon oddity, all eight teams have identical 1-1 Conference marks. All eight teams have lost on the road; all eight teams have won on their home court. If that pattern follows true to course, Ross will win Friday night when Lorain Senior visits the home of the Little Giants. On Saturday the Little Giants travel to Findlay. Should the Little Giants get by the Steelmen, the Saturday night tilt would be the character builder for Ross.

But Friday comes before Saturday . . . Miller has probably pointed out to his team. And Miller has also pointed out, although he has said it in past weeks, one game does not

make a season. Last Friday's loss did not make Ross' season and it did not make Marion's season.

"We have to go out Friday night and prove that all our hard work has not gone down the drain. This game could show how much character we have after losing last week," Miller said.

"We played a passive type of ball game. When one part of your game is down, you have to make up for that particular letdown and pick it up elsewhere.

"We thought we had picked it up on the offensive boards but soon that fell off."

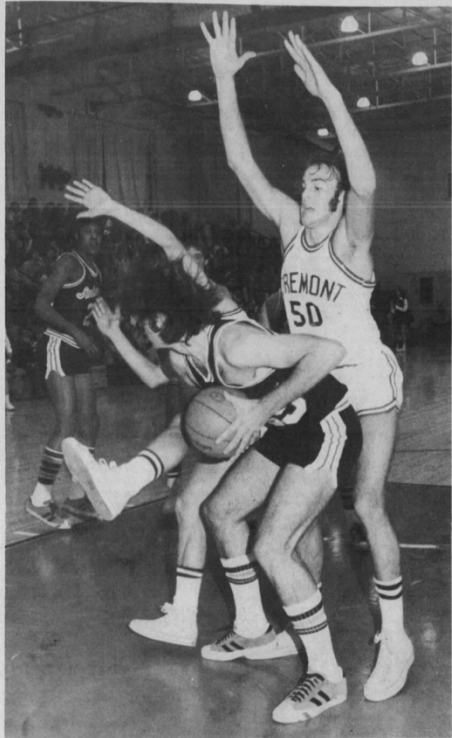
Lorain will offer a team that is similar to Marion. The Steelmen like to play a control game.

"They run the control offense; they'll work for the good shot and set the tempo of the game like that if you let them," Miller said as he leaned back in his office chair.

"Defensively, Lorain favors a man to man but it wouldn't surprise me if they used a zone on us."

Leading Lorain is 6-1 senior Larry Vangeloff. In two Conference games, Vangeloff has hit 17.5 points per game. Along with Vangeloff will be 5-10 Jim Stephenson, 5-9 Bo Worthy, 6-3 Sherm Williams, and 6-2, Joe Smith.

Ross is expected to start the same five that have filled the lineup in the first two games. Gary Clark and Jim Thomas at the guards; Mike Reardon and Neal Oberholtzer at the forwards; and Paul Fahrbach at center.



LORAIN'S BOB MIGRA GETS A LITTLE MORE ROOM
... Ross' Paul Fahrback (50) is "backed" away

Ross survives last minute Lorain scare

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross nearly cruised to an easy win last night. Nearly was only 47 seconds from the end of the game.

With that small amount of time showing on the clock, the Little Giants held a seemingly commanding 64-53 lead over the Lorain Senior Steelmen. But that big lead evaporated until with two seconds remaining, the Little Giant lead was only 64-62.

Ross managed to hang on in those last seconds, however, to win its third game of the season over Lorain, 64-62. The win raised the Little Giant record to 3-1 and 2-1 in the Buckeye Conference.

The Little Giants travel to Findlay tonight to meet the Trojans in another Buckeye Conference game.

Ross coach Kenny Miller was sullen after the win, the 201st of his coaching career. He was still wondering how his team nearly lost a game that appeared so easily wrapped up going into the last minute of play.

"You know I wasn't too happy in that dressing room," Miller said after the game. "But one of the players summed it up pretty well."

"He said, 'Coach, last year this time we were losing these close games; at least we didn't lose this one.'"

The Little Giants started off as cold as the air was outside the Ross High School gym. Before the Little Giants had time to work up a good sweat, they found themselves trailing 6-0. A timeout seemed to settle the Ross offensive problems and with only two seconds left in the first quarter, Gary Clark's bucket from the top of the key tied the game at 12-12 at the end of the first period.

The second period belonged to Ross. The Little Giants exploded from a 15-all tie to outscore the Steelmen 9-0 in the first two and one-half minutes of the second quarter to take a 24-15 lead. The Ross margin eventually reached 35-17 for the biggest lead of the night.

Ross cooled off a bit after that and led at the half, 34-23.

The Little Giants got a big lift from Bob Ford in the second period. With Neal Oberholzer and Mike Reardon saddled with three fouls, Ford came in and drilled his first three shots of the game as he led Ross to the 15-point margin. Reardon tossed in eight points in the quarter before having to take it easy when he picked up his third infraction.

Lorain, led by Joe Smith and Bob Migra, led a 12-5 spurt for the Steelmen to cut the Ross margin to 40-35 early in the third period. A bucket by Smith on a pass from Bo Worthy cut the lead to three before Ross took charge again.

The Little Giants did not get rolling right away, though. Early in the fourth period, Ross pulled from a 49-45 lead to a 53-45 margin on two quick buckets by Paul Fahrback and a Jim Thomas drive after taking an in-bounds pass from Reardon.

Ross slowly built up the margin to the 64-53 count as Gary Clark hit two buckets and two free throws for the last six Little Giant points.

With 24 seconds to go, Ross led 64-56 but two free throws by Bernard George, a basket by Worthy, and two charity tosses by Larry Vangeloff, the last points coming with two seconds to play gave Ross a scare.

The Little Giants hit a fairly hot 27 of 36 from the floor while the Steelmen had 23 of 61. Reardon led all scorers with 23 points on nine of 14 from the field. The senior Little Giant hit all five of his shots in the final half. Ross as a team was 13 of 22 in the last 16 minutes.

Thomas had 11 points while Fahrback, five of six from the field, and Clark ended up with 10 points each. Jim Stephenson led Lorain Senior with 15 points while Vangeloff had 12. Vangeloff entered the game with a 17.5 average in the Conference but was held to just three points in the first half by Reardon and Ford.

Ross was outbounded in the game, 31-24.



MIKE REARDON STARTS DRIVE TO BASKET
... Steelman Larry Vangeloff defends (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

High school basketball

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	Washington CH 69, Madison	55, Cuyahoga Valley 56
Friday Night	Plains 14	Brainerdville 64, Lake Ridge
Miller City 87, Wapakoneta	Vinton County 62, Federal	55
St. Joseph 75	Hocking	S. Amherst 79, Keystone 59
Yellow Springs 80, Bethel 45	Nelsonville York 88, Warren	Manchester 71, Green 33
Columbus Marion-Franklin	Local 75	Troyer 76, Brunswick 30
74, Columbus Brookhaven 72	Meigs Eastern 68, North Gal-	Akron Kenmore 65, Akron
(overtime)	la 60	Rockfield 49
Mifflin 67, Columbus North 65	Hannan Trace 66, Meigs	Canton McKinley 54, Sharon
Worthington 52, Gahanna 43	Southern 58	(Pa.) 52
Columbus Wadsworth 65, Co-	Symmes Valley 77, Kyger	Marion Local 62, Mendon Un-
lumbus St. Charles 59	Creek 70	ion 55
London 59, Hilliard 52	Zanesville 68, Lancaster 58	Clearview 64, N. Ridgeville 57
Grove City 47, Groveport 45	West Mansington 73, Crooks-	Oberlin 96, Vermilion 62
Grandview 41, Olentangy 37	ville 49	Lorain Catholic 73, Cleveland
Dublin 66, Hamilton Twp. 55	Tri-Valley 68, New Concord	Central Catholic 71
Academy 73, Lucas 61	Glenn 50	Salem 51, Chagrin Falls 49
Centerburg 62, Danville 48	Morgan 80, Mayeville 57	Kendon 46, Chardon 38
South Point 88, Ironton St.	New Lexington 54, Sheridan	Toledo DeVilbiss 73, Toledo
Joe 45	Bl overtime)	Central 64
Springfield Shawnee 63, Clark	Calderwell 55, Skyvue 44	Toledo Bowsher 55, Toledo St.
Northwestern 46	Frontier 61, Shenandoah 44	John's 52
Lexington 45, Loudonville 44	Licking Valley 50, Licking	Toledo St. Francis 61, Toledo
Mechanicsburg 87, Jonathan	Heights 53	Rogers 58
Allen 44	High 55, 68, Mechanicsburg	Toledo Mendenhall 71, Toledo

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Another 'battle of the century' slated today for St. Louis

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Quick now, who was the last team to beat UCLA in basketball?

when that streak was nipped by the Fighting Irish.
Only one of the nation's ranked teams

Findlay first half blitz quiets Little Giant machine

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FINDLAY—Findlay hit a torrid 13 of 20 shots from the floor in the first quarter Saturday night to take a 27-12 lead over Ross, a deficit from which the Little Giants never recovered. The Trojans moved from an early 4-4 tie, to outscore Ross 15-0 in the space of two and one-half minutes and the game became an early runaway.

The Trojans eventually coasted to a 67-51 win to raise Findlay's Buckeye Conference mark to 3-1 while dropping Ross to a 2-2 BC mark. Findlay is now 3-2 for the season and Ross, also 3-2.

Findlay coach John Stozich turned his big men loose in the first quarter and added a touch of the "small guys" to completely overrun the Little Giants. Roger Edelbrock and Jim Wilson, both 6-6, hit four baskets each in the first eight minutes.

The two Trojans used aggressive play around the offensive board to hammer in the 16 points. Neither one of the big men took a shot outside the eight foot range.

The Trojans, using a "pick and roll" offense, had numerous wide open shots in the first period. Guards Jeff Dysinger and Scott Hamlin, both 5-9, continually cut down the lane off picks by the big men that left them open for the "bunny" under the bucket. Findlay pulled that particular play four times in the first period before Ross cut it off.

The only bright spot of the night came in the last half for Ross. Trailing 42-20 at the start of the second half, the Little Giants whittled away at the Findlay lead until with 4:12 to play in the game, Findlay led by only a 56-45 margin. Ross had at one time late in the third period trailed by as much as 24 points.

"I suppose when you get a big lead as early as we did tonight," Stozich reflected in a post game interview, "that you can become a bit nonchalant and that's what happened to us."

"Then again in that first half we cut off Reardon (Mike, Ross's leading scorer) with only two baskets but he got away from us in that last half and you see what happened. He is the key to their (Ross) game."

Stozich continued to praise Reardon, a 6-3 Little Giant forward.

"That Reardon is one fine ball player. We scouted them twice before this game and we were impressed with him both times. . . . I told my team that we could very well be facing the best player in the Buckeye Conference tonight and I think that

second half proved it," Stozich said.

The veteran coach who has over 200 victories to this coaching credit then added, "I don't mind telling you that there toward the end of the game I was telling people I sure would like to have Reardon on my team. He's a heck of a ball player."

The Little Giants rallied for 31 points in the second half with Reardon canning 17 of them. The majority of Reardon's scoring was in under the buckets where the play was hard and rough. Ross also received a big boost from substitute guard Bob Ford who tossed in six points in the half and cut off some of the action out front from the speedy Findlay guards.

Ken Miller, Ross head coach, could only smile about the second half play of Ross. There was very little that

could be said about the Little Giants' play in the first 16 minutes.

"We could have very well folded up and went home in that first half," Miller said. "But we didn't and I think we scared them. I'm happy to see that the kids could come back like they did."

When Ross got close in the fourth period, the Trojans' other big man, 6-5 captain Brad Longberry, took up the slack of scoring that had vacated the other four Trojan players. Longberry tossed in 12 second half points, including six in the last quarter when Ross threatened to cut the margin to under 10 points.

Longberry ended the night with 21 points on a 10 of 17 performance from the floor. Edelbrock ended up with 16 while Wilson, who fouled out midway through the third

period, had 10. Dysinger had 11, nine in the first half.

Reardon was the only Little Giants player in double figures with 25 points. Neal Oberholtzer had eight for second high honors for Ross.

Findlay hit 32 of 70 from the floor while Ross was 19 of 53. The Trojans also out-rebounded Ross, 38-24. Ross had 19 turnovers to Findlay's 14, 10 coming in the second half.

Score by quarters

Ross	12	8	13	18—51
Findlay	27	15	12	13—67

Individual scoring

ROSS—Reardon 9-25; Oberholtzer 3-2-8; Fahrback 2-0-4; Thomas 2-0-4; Clark 0-2-2; Ford 2-2-6; Shearon 1-0-2; Totals 19-13-51.

FINDLAY—Arnold 1-0-2; Dysinger 5-1-11; Edelbrock 8-0-16; Hamlin 3-1-7; Longberry 10-1-21; Wilson 5-0-10; Totals 32-5-67.

Reserve game: Findlay 68, Ross 52. Season records: Findlay 3-2 (3-1, Conference); Ross 3-2 (2-2, Conference).

'Nitschke act' leads Ross to second swimming victory

Ross stretched its dual meet record to 2-0 with a 54-41 swimming win over visiting Lima Saturday afternoon. The Little Giants swept two events in picking up the win in the junior high natatorium.

The Ross "brother act" was responsible for sweeping one event, the 200-yard individual medley. Terry Nitschke led brother Kevin across the line for a Ross

sweep. Terry, the elder of the two brothers, was clocked in 2:19.2 while Kevin was six seconds behind.

The Little Giants were swimming without the services of co-captain John Cramer and were also missing backup diver Scott Heschel. Both were out with injuries.

The meet featured the diving of Lima's Barb Blodgett, the first girl athlete

to meet a Ross team in varsity competition. Miss Blodgett took part in the diving event but could only place third in the competition with Ross' Rob Serwin capturing the event. The diving win was the second straight for Serwin.

Chris Barr of Lima won two events, the 220-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly, thus joining Terry Nitschke as the only two event winner. Nitschke, besides the 200 I.M., won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:09.2.

Ross' other sweep came in the 100-yard backstroke. Phil Havens recorded a 1:06.5 to take the event while teammate Jeff Adams was second in 1:11.5.

Ross started the meet with a win in the 200-yard medley relay when the Lima team was disqualified. From that point the Little Giants moved to a 27-16 lead through the first five events and were never threatened after that.

The other first for Ross was Dave Jones in the 100-yard freestyle. The veteran Ross swimmer moved ahead with a fast pace in the first 50 yards and then outlasted Lima's Bob White, out-touching White by a half-second in a time of 55 seconds flat.

Ross will next see action when the team travels to Lima Shawnee for a meet at 2:30. The Indians will probably be the strongest test that the Little Giant tankers have encountered to date.

Results

200-yard medley relay: Ross (Havens, Gregg Jess, Mark Schieffer,

Rams turn Cleveland fumbles into 30-17 win for new record

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Rams turned their attention to the playoffs, and the Cleveland Browns went home with a 7-5-2 record after losing to the Rams 30-17 in their final game of the National Football League season Sunday.

For Los Angeles, the win meant a record 12 victories against two losses for the season. No previous Rams club has won more than 11.

It was the Rams first season under coach Chuck Knox. They had been figured third in the NFL West before the season started.

The Rams jumped to a 13-0 lead as the Browns fumbled three times in the first quarter.

As the gun sounded ending the first stanza, Cleveland quarterback Mike Phipps ran 25 yards for a touchdown.

The second Cleveland touchdown came when Phipps passed 14 yards to Frank Pitts late in the final quarter.

Rams Place Kicker David Ray battered his own team scoring record of 121 points during Sunday's game with field goals of 48, 27 and 15 yards, plus three conversions, for a season total of 130 points.

Ray's final field goal was his 30th of the year and also a team record.

Rams quarterback John Hald threw two touchdown passes during the game, one of 23 yards to Bob Klein and another of eight to Harold Jackson.

Hald, like Knox is in his first year with the club. Both were previously at San Diego.

Hald termed the Rams' record "a tribute to Chuck



FREMONT'S JIM THOMAS STARTS TO DRIVE Sandusky's Randy Richmond blocks (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Buckeye Conference race in 5-way tie for top spot

Admiral King, Marion, and Mansfield joined Ross with wins in Buckeye Conference basketball games. After last night's Conference slate, there is a five-way tie for first in the B.C. All five teams, Ross, Findlay, Admiral King, Mansfield and Elyria now have 3-2 Conference records.

Marion upset Elyria 61-37 by hitting 20 of 29 from the floor on the Prexies' home court. Dan VanSickle tossed in 20 points to lead the upset effort. Randy Gipson tossed in 19 points.

The Prexies, despite the hot shooting from the field, won the game at the foul line, hitting 21 of 27 charity tosses. The Prexies outscored the Pioneers 36-25 in the last half to pull out the win.

Craig Schumacher had 16 points to lead Elyria while Jerry Gilbert, who went into the game with a 19.5 average in the Conference, was held to only nine points.

Admiral King got back on the winning trail by ambushing the Findlay Trojans, 75-63. The Admirals won despite the Trojans hitting 65.1 per cent from the field on 28 of 43. Admiral King had 34 of 61 in the win.

Terry Kish banged home 24 points to lead the Admirals while Monty Wicks added 12 and Jeff Solomon, 10. Brad Longberry hit 10 of 13 shots and garnered 11 points to lead Findlay. Jeff Dyringer had 19 while Scott Hamlin added 10 for the Trojans.

Jim Them hit a bucket with 43 seconds remaining in the game that proved to be the game winner for Mansfield as the Tiger edged Lorain Senior, 58-57. The Tigers overcame an eight-point first half deficit to win.

Ed Feagin, the BC's leading scorer hit 14 points to lead Mansfield while Geron Tate had 13. Larry Vangeloss had 23 for Lorain.

Early present for Al McGuire

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Sports Writer

Al McGuire got an early Christmas present from his Marquette basketball team—a big package of victories.

"I never thought we'd be 7-and-0 before Christmas," said McGuire after his all-conquering Warriors defeated Xavier of Cincinnati 66-55 Friday night.

McGuire hasn't caught the holiday spirit, despite his team's high ranking in the polls. The Warriors are No. 6 in the nation, but mightily low on McGuire's personal totem pole.

"I was disappointed in our play tonight," said an unabashed McGuire. "I don't

want to take anything away from Xavier, but it seems we just can't get good timing.

"About this time of year we always seem to have problems. My players probably haven't been working hard, but that's not their fault, it's mine."

Elsewhere in college basketball Friday night, top-ranked UCLA trounced Ohio U. 110-63. No. 2 Maryland smashed San Francisco 79-60. St. John's upset 10th-ranked Alabama 72-67. San Diego State stunned 13th-ranked Kansas State 88-75 and 16th-ranked Southern California topped Houston 92-78.

Behind the shooting of Earl Tatum, the Warriors opened the game with a 29-5 run during an eight-minute span in the first half. That broke a 10-10 tie at the seven-minute mark and moved the Bruins to a 38-15 lead.

The sick Bruins put the game away with a 29-5 run during an eight-minute span in the first half. That broke a 10-10 tie at the seven-minute mark and moved the Bruins to a 38-15 lead.

UCLA improved the best college basketball winning streak in history to 80 by beating Ohio. Bill Walton scored 25 points, hitting on all 11 field goal tries, and had 15 rebounds.

The sick Bruins put the game away with a 29-5 run during an eight-minute span in the first half. That broke a 10-10 tie at the seven-minute mark and moved the Bruins to a 38-15 lead.

Behind the shooting of Earl Tatum, the Warriors opened the game with a 29-5 run during an eight-minute span in the first half. That broke a 10-10 tie at the seven-minute mark and moved the Bruins to a 38-15 lead.

NOTICE
We Will Be Closed Monday
Dec. 24 — Open Wed. Dec. 26

"SCRATCHES"
To
"SMASHES"

Ross pulls away in last quarter

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Kenny Miller smiled as he walked into his office and said, "We're not the fastest starting team in the world!"

All the time while making that statement Miller had a broad smile on his face. It was true his team, the Ross Little Giants, started a little slow as has been the case in five previous games this season, but when Ross got going, there was very little the Sandusky Blue Streaks could do as Ross ran to a 76-39 Buckeye Conference win.

The Little Giants had trouble getting its scoring machine moving smoothly in the first three quarters but the last eight minute segment of the game was a different story. Ross blitzed the nets with 10 of 16 shooting while outscoring Sandusky 26-11.

Three of Ross' starters hit 53 of the 76 points with Mike Reardon's 24 leading the parade. Paul Fahrback had 17 while Jim Thomas had 12.

It was Fahrback who had his finest night as a varsity player. The 6-1 senior canned 10 points in the first half as Ross edged to a 30-20 lead, but it was Fahrback's defense that was one of the high points of the game.

The Little Giants pivotman grabbed 11 rebounds, one-third of the Ross total for the night, while blocking six shots. To top it off, Fahrback was seven of 11 from the field.

Fahrback and Reardon paced Ross in the first eight minutes.

True to form the Little Giants were slow getting out of the gate and found themselves trailing the Blue Streaks 8-4 in the first four minutes of action. It reached 9-4 after Sandusky's Walt Farrar hit a free throw before the Little Giants started to roll.

Reardon hit on a long shot from the right of the bucket to start a six point Ross run. Fahrback's tip off a Reardon miss cut the Blue Streak margin to one and Reardon's two free throws gave the Little Giants the first lead of the night, 10-9.

After that the game was either tied or the lead changed hands six times before Ross took the lead for good at the half. Ross had built up a 24-10 lead at one point in the second period before Sandusky tied the game at 28-28. Reardon's basket at the buzzer put Ross ahead for good.

Jim Thomas opened the last period with four straight free throws and Ross was ahead 34-48. After that Ross could do nothing wrong as Bob Ford led a spur that put Ross on top 62-50 and the game was out of reach of Sandusky.

The biggest lead of the night was the final score for the Little Giants.

Miller smiled when asked why Ross had taken over in the last period. "Well, our defense kept them off balance. We know they can run and shoot real well so we had to keep them from doing that. We pressed them a little in the first three quarters with a man to man then we went to a zone that really started the game toward us."

Farris had come into the game as the fourth leading scorer in the Conference. In the first half with first Gary Clark and then Thomas on the flashy junior guard, Farris hit only two of nine shots from the field. Farris did wind up with 20 points but the first half shut-out trick Sandusky from taking a lead.

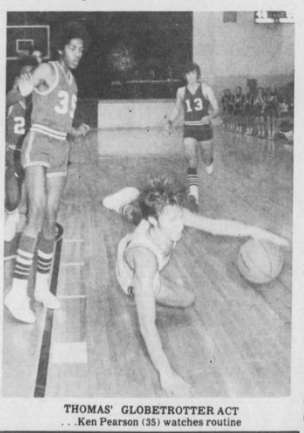
Miller was more than pleased with the performance of Fahrback.

"We're happy for him and happy with him," Miller began. "What he did tonight obviously has to help his confidence. "Did you notice that he was going all the way to the peak of his jump before releasing that fade-away jumper. I'll tell you when he is doing that, it's hard to stop."

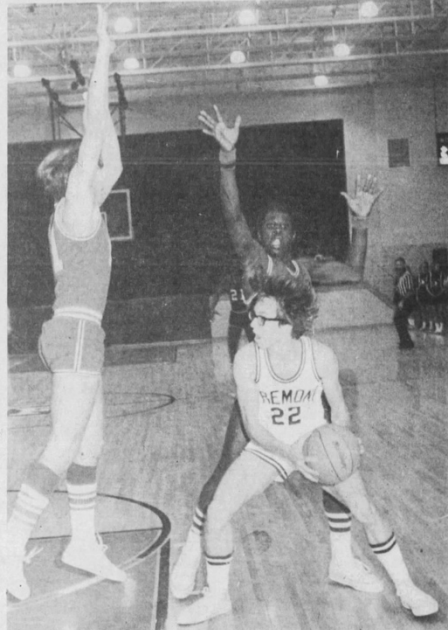
Miller then thought about the job turned in by Sandusky coach Gary Reynolds. "I can't help but be concerned with the Sandusky coach (Gary Reynolds). I know he is working hard to build up the system over there just like we are doing over here. It's got to be disheartening to lose like this just before Christmas."

But Miller made his own Christmas a bit merrier with the win. It was the fourth of the season and that total in the victory column is one more than Ross won last season.

"Is that right?" Miller said knowingly. "I really hadn't even thought about it."



THOMAS' GLOBETROTTER ACT
Ken Pearson (35) watches routine



GARY CLARK (22) IS SURROUNDED BY ENEMY
Walt Farris is behind Clark while Steve Bauerle is at left

Area high school basketball

Ross 76, Sandusky 39

Score by quarters

Sandusky 12 18 20 11-39

Ross 12 18 20 26-76

Individual scoring

SANDUSKY — Bauerle 4-11;

Farris 2-2; Reardon 3-12;

Pearson 1-2; Richmond 5-14;

Jedding 1-2; McRenna 0-1;

Johnson 1-2; Totals 24-11

ROSS — Reardon 10-24; Thomas 6-12;

Fahrback 7-17; Oberholzer 2-6;

Clark 1-5; Farris 1-2; Cook 2-6;

Ford 4-4; Totals 32-12

Reserve score: Ross 45, Sandusky 32

Conference 3-2; Sandusky 2-5

Conference 1-1

Conference 0-3

Conference 0-3

Conference 0-3

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Conference 0-3

Individual scoring

CLYDE — Coats 3-11; Hagan 8-20;

Kinner 2-4; Crockett 1-2;

Miller 2-4; Newsum 3-11; Slater 9-21;

Farris 3-9; Caudill 2-12;

Totals 31-53

SANDARETTA — Hoffman 4-10;

Keller 2-14; Kennedy 2-4; Boyd 1-11;

Hanson 4-16; McPhee 2-14;

Phillips 3-6; Puchalski 2-4; Totals

32-71

Reserve score: Margaretta 37,

Clyde 29

Season records: Margaretta 41

(Conference 3-1), Clyde 1-5

(Conference 0-3)

Conference 0-3

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Score by quarters

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Score by quarters

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Lakota 13 19 18-46

Scores from around Ohio

Friday's Results

Marquette 62, Zanesville 37

Upper Arlington 14, Chillicothe 67

'Old friends' battle at Ross Friday night

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ken Miller and Mike Riley are not strangers. They've been friends off-court and on . . . friendlier off-court . . . since the two coaches started competition against each other seven years ago.

Miller heads the Ross Little Giants while Riley coaches the Elyria Pioneers. Both have accomplished coaching milestones this past season when both chalked up his 200th wins.

Riley and Miller first squared off from opposite benches in the now defunct Miami Valley League in southwestern Ohio. Miller was head mentor of the Sidney Yellow Jackets while Riley handled the reins of the Bellefontaine Chieftains. Both men were highly successful but both have moved on to their present teams from those past head assignments.

Miller recorded victory number 200 in the second game of the season when Ross dealt a 68-63 upset to Mansfield. The Little Giant coach has now rolled up a 202-107 in his 14 years of being a head basketball coach. Riley now sports a 203-71 mark after gaining victory number 200 against Findlay, 72-49, back on Dec. 7. Riley has been in the business since 1960.

"Yeah, we're good buddies off court," Miller admits, "we're close friends but it's a lot closer when we are not playing against each other."

Riley guided the Pioneers to the semi-finals of the state basketball championships before losing last year. The Pioneers finished second in the Buckeye Conference with a 11-3 record and a 21-4 mark over the season.

Returning to this year's team off that state title contender are Jerry Gilbert, 6-1 senior forward; Bob Bosley, 6-2 senior forward; Gary Stevenson, 5-10 senior; and Eclister James, 5-9 junior. Both of the latter are the starting guards for this season. Gilbert is the only returning starter.

Gilbert carries the better credentials of any of the five Elyria starters. The 6-1 leaper, who Miller says "plays like a taller man because of his jumping ability," was on the all-tournament team

in Columbus last spring. Currently Gilbert is the BC's third leading scorer.

"He's a good outside shot," Miller said as he described Gilbert," but this season he has improved on his driving and this makes him more dangerous.

"Overall," Miller continued about the Elyria personnel, "they are smaller than last year but they are extremely quick. They use the fast break well but they do try to control the tempo of the game although Mike will have them shoot a little freer than his teams in the past have done."

At Bellefontaine, Riley had used a conservative style of offense but has picked up the tempo of his style of play since the switch to Elyria.

"One of their big offensive weapons," Miller pointed out, "is the pressing game that they use. They can force mistakes with the press and capitalize on them."

Besides Gilbert at one forward, the Pioneer lineup will consist of Bosley at the other forwards, Stevenson and James at the guards, and 6-2 senior, Don Mason at the center spot. Bosley, Mason, and Stevenson were substitutes most of last season with James starting up till tournament time, that is when Stevenson took over a starting slot.

Top subs for Riley this season are Clint Harris, a 6-3 junior in the center spot; Craig Schumacher, 6-2 junior on the front line; and 6-0 junior guard, Fred Balser.

Elyria will be coming off a 61-57 loss at Marion last Friday night while Ross polished off Sandusky, 76-59. The two teams are two of the five that are currently tied for the top spot in the Conference with 3-2 conference slates.

Miller does not intend to change the Ross lineup. At forwards will be Mike Reardon, averaging 21.8 points per contest this season, and Neal Oberholtzer (7.5). At center will be a rapidly improving Paul Fahrbach (7.5) who had his best night of the season against Sandusky with 17 points and 11 rebounds. At the guards will be Jim Thomas (9.5) and Gary Clark (7.0).

In other conference games, Mansfield travels to Findlay; Admiral King is at Sandusky; and Lorain Senior hosts Marion Harding.

Mason, Bosley turn tables on Ross in second half

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Elyria came from behind in the second half to defeat the Ross Little Giants, 68-54, in a Buckeye Conference game at Ross High School last night. The Little Giants had built as much as an eight-point lead in the first half and had led by three at the halfway point.

Don Mason led a third quarter Elyria spurt that left Ross on the short end of the stick. The hustling Mason, only 6-1, hit on five straight shots in the quarter to pace the Pioneers to a 52-43 third period lead.

After the Pioneers had taken a temporary 38-37 lead on Jerry Gilbert's jumper, Mason canned 10 of the next 13 Elyria points to nearly break the Little Giants apart. Mason finished the night with 15 points, 11 in the final 16 minutes.

The Little Giants took control of the game early at both ends of the floor. Using "2-3" and "1-3-1" zone defenses, the Little Giants kept the Pioneers off-stride. Ross managed to move out to a 5-0 lead before Elyria could manage its first two pointer of the evening.

That initial score came at the four minute mark on a drive down the lane by Gary Stevenson. The Ross zones managed to keep the Pioneers from going inside and forced many outside shots.

"The zones really didn't surprise us," Elyria coach Mike Riley commented after the game. "I told my boys all week that this was what might happen."

"You know I expected the zones because it takes a lot of people to handle a guy like Gilbert."

Gilbert was averaging 17.4 points per game going into the game and the Little Giants' zones were doing the job on the 6-1 leader.

Ross led by one, 9-8, at the end of the first quarter. The quarter was a battle of the defenses with the Pioneers' sticky full court press and man-to-man forcing the Little Giants to take many poor shots. Ross meanwhile, also did not allow Elyria to have the good clear shot.

Ross managed only three of 16 in the first period while Elyria had four of 12.

Ross broke out to its biggest lead of the night midway through the second quarter. With Mike Reardon and holding the hot hand, Ross forged to a 24-16 lead after breaking away from a 16-16 tie.

Reardon canned eight straight points for the lead after having a cold first quarter. Reardon, the Buckeye Conference's leading scorer at 28 points per game, hit only one of six in the first period but had four of five in the second.

Bob Ford came off the bench to hit three straight buckets but Bob Bosley and Gilbert helped Elyria narrow the lead to 31-30. Neal

Oberholzer's last second jumper gave Ross the three-point lead at the half.

Paul Fahrback hit the first points of the second half for Ross to jack the lead back up to five but after that, little went right for the Little Giants. The Elyria press started to take its toll and once Ross did get the ball downcourt, the tight defense did not allow a good open shot.

After Gilbert and Mason put Elyria ahead in the third eight minutes, Bosley took over in the fourth period but not before Ross had blown several chances to close the gap.

Oberholzer's two-pointer and a pair of free throws by Reardon made it 52-47, Elyria, with 6:35 to play. From that point on, Ross could not take advantage of a Pioneer cold spell.

Kenny Miller, Ross coach, glanced painfully back on those few moments.

"You know when you get behind you have to go into a 'gambling' type of defense... you have to take some chances," Miller said. "I think it worked, too, because we had six chances to score during that time but we just didn't do it."

That 52-47 score held up for Elyria until the 3:29 mark when Bosley hit on a base line drive and drew a foul to boot. Bosley's three-point play took the wind out of Ross. Before Ross could recover, the Pioneers led 59-47 with only 2:34 to play. There was no catching up from that point as the lead reached 66-50 for the biggest margin of the night for Elyria.

Riley was happy with his team's second half performance but not with the first half.

"We just didn't do too much in the first half. We weren't working right on the press and we weren't getting any movement on offense."

"The second half, though, I felt we played a good game at both ends of the floor," Riley commented.

"We knew this was going to be a tough game," Riley continued. "Ross has a good team... Kenny (Miller) has done a good job here, but we just played well in the second half."

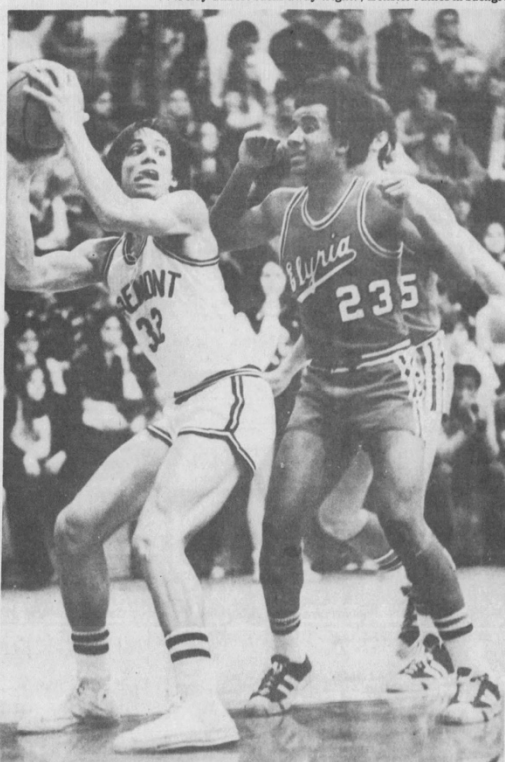
Reardon led all scorers with 26 points, the only Ross player in double figures. Bosley finished the night with 21, nine in the last stanza, while Gilbert had 18, and Stevenson 10, along with Mason's 15.

In the reserve game, Ross edged Elyria 37-35 to end the Pioneer JV's seven-game win streak. Jack Wetzel's jumper from the left side tied the game 33-33 for Ross with about one minute to play. Two free throws by Kevin Smith and a tip-in by Brent Borden put Ross up by four with 15 seconds to play. Walt Williams hit a 25-foot jumper to end the scoring for Elyria with 10 seconds to play.



ELYRIA'S DON MASON (45) READY TO ATTACK BALL

... Jerry Gilbert backs away (right); Eclister James in background



MIKE REARDON'S TONGUE-IN-CHEEK METHOD

... Ross star prepares for shot; Gilbert (23) watches (Photo by Crippen)

Georgia wins Peach Bowl

ATLANTA (AP) — Maryland picked up a reputation as a bigplay football team this year, but Georgia made nearly all the big plays Friday night.

The Bulldogs came up with one stopper after another on defense and survived some lastminute Maryland fireworks to edge the 18th-ranked Terrapins 17-16 in the sixth annual Peach Bowl before a crowd of 38,107.

Georgia stopped Maryland once on fourth and one at the goal line, recovered a Terrapin fumble at the three and stopped another drive at the eight where Maryland had to settle for one of Steve Mike-Mayer's three field goals.

It was a crucial holding penalty however on a third-down pass play with less than three minutes left that broke the Terrapins' back. With Georgia clinging to its one-point lead, Bob Avellini, third quarterback used by Maryland in the game, hit wingback Kim Hoover for a first down at the Georgia 35. This would have been well within Mike-Mayer's field goal range.

The Terrapins were called for holding and set back to their 24.

Both Coaches Vince Dooley of Georgia and Jerry Claiborne of Maryland agreed the penalty was the key play of the game.

The game was highlighted by two touchdown bombs within 23 seconds. Georgia opened the scoring in the second period with a screen pass from quarterback Andy Johnson to fullback Timmer

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Bob Marker, editor

Superstar battle next for Rose

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP)—Cincinnati Reds' outfielder Pete Rose is working on his swing already—but not at a baseball.

The National League's Most Valuable Player of 1973 is warming up for next month's Superstars competition.

Like his baseball, he's taking it seriously.

"You've got to believe the guy in the best shape will win," said the 32-year-old star.

"With all that money at stake it's surely worth getting in shape for," he said.

Right now it's tennis.

"Tennis is all I'm doing. You run so much that it puts everything in shape. Starting

about Jan. 21 I'll work on other things," he said.

On Jan. 28-29 in Rotunda Beach, Fla., Rose will be competing with 24 other athletic greats, including football star O. J. Simpson, skier Jean Claude Killy, rodeo champ Larry Mahan and American League Most Valuable Player Reggie Jackson.

Only six will advance to the finals.

Each will enter seven of 10 events—tennis, 100-yard dash, half mile run, 100-meter swim, obstacle run, bowling, the mile bicycle race, golf, baseball and weight-lifting.

Rose can't enter the baseball hitting contest and will bypass weight-lifting and golf.

"Where am I gonna get any golf practice in up here," he said, referring to Cincinnati's rainy winter.

A former halfback in high school, he's looking forward to the 100-yard dash.

"I ran a 10.2 in full football equipment in high school and I think I'm faster now. I know I'm stronger than I was then."

And the half-mile?

"In the Army I ran the fastest mile so I think I have a shot," he said confidently.

He has doubts about the 12-foot obstacle climb, but not because lack of practice.

"Going over walls like that brings me back to my childhood." He didn't elaborate.

STATE FARM





ROSS COACH KENNY MILLER PONDER'S PROBLEM
... Miller takes cagers to Admiral King Friday (Photo by Crippen)

Ross faces defending champs

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

Ross will travel to the home of the Admiral King Admirals Friday night to complete the first half of the Buckeye Conference basketball season. During the first half, Ross has met with moderate success in compiling a 3-3 record.

The Admirals, last year's Conference champs with a 12-2 record, are currently riding a 4-2 BC record and a 5-2 overall mark. The Admirals are fresh off a 71-64 win over Sandusky that put them in a three-way tie with Elyria and Findlay for the top spot in the Conference standings.

Led by Terry Kish, second in the BC with a 19.5 scoring average, the Admirals are sitting on top of the Conference in scoring with a 64.5 average. Kish, who Ross coach Kenny Miller describes as a "pure shooter," is joined at the other guard spot by 5-11 Jeff Solomon. These two seniors provide the Admirals with one of the best outside shooting combinations in the BC.

Starting at forward for coach Mitch Gillam will be 6-1 senior Monty Wicks and 6-1 senior Rick Akins. At the center spot will be Al Harris, 6-3 junior, or 6-5 junior Arthur Cook.

The Admirals have been employing a "1-3-1" offensive lineup with Solomon at the point or out front, and Kish and Wicks at the wings. Akins is under the bucket while Harris or Cook will be in the center.

"Defensively," Miller said, "Admiral King will play a press similar to Elyria's. They will press us all the way."

The Admirals have been working that particular defense and then reverting to a "run and jump" defense when the opponent is in the forecourt. The run and jump usually ends up in a double team on the man with the ball.

"They will run right up to the guy with the ball and jump at him," Miller said as he described the defense. "The man running at you will leave his man . . . so the key to breaking it is to look right away for that open man."

The Admirals are fairly quick but not as quick as Elyria, conqueror of Ross last Friday night. Kish and Solomon are probably the two quickest Admirals.

Harris and Cook are rugged rebounders along with Wicks.

"Most of Harris' and Cook's scoring will come from missed shots," Miller said.

"They are very 'physical' when rebounding."

Miller is a bit undecided about his lineup for the Admirals.

"There could be some changes," Miller said but did not elaborate on what changes would be made.

Last week the Little Giants had problems with Elyria's tight full court press so Miller could be looking for better ball handlers in the lineup.

One person sure to start though, is the Conference's leading scorer, Mike Reardon. The 6-3 forward is currently hitting 21.3 in the Conference with 128 total points. Reardon has canned 48 of 96 from the field for 50 per cent and 32 of 40 from the foul line. Unfortunately, Reardon is the only Little Giant player averaging in double figures.

28 WAYS YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY!

6. Let the sunshine in. Open drapes and blinds on sunny days to help heat your home. Otherwise, keep them closed to reduce heat loss.

7. Don't let dollars go up the fireplace chimney. Keep the fireplace damper closed.

King comeback whips Ross

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

LORAIN — "It was too bad that we had to walk off the floor on the short end of the score," Ross coach Ken Miller said sadly, "especially after playing as well as we did."

Miller had just watched the Ross Little Giants lose to Admiral King, 59-54, after leading by five points late in the third period and three at the start of the final eight minutes.

The Admiral King win raised the Admirals' record to 5-2 in Buckeye Conference play and 6-2 overall. Ross' record dropped to 4-4 and 3-4 in the conference. Three of the four Ross losses have come on the road.

The game was one of "layup-itis" for the Little Giants. The Ross cagers missed at least a dozen shots that could be classified as layups. At one point in the second period, the Little Giants missed four straight tips or layups on one trip downcourt.

"How many did we miss?" Miller asked referring to the layups.

Then thinking a little, Miller said, "We made mistakes out there such as those missed layups but you can't single out those and say that was why we lost the game . . . really no single mistake cost us the game."

The Admirals and Ross swapped the lead or were tied for it seven different times in the first half with a last second shot by Neal Oberholtzer and Paul Fahrbach had kept the Little Giants in the running in the first half.

Oberholtzer hit six of seven shots and helped Fahrbach control the boards for Ross. Fahrbach also had six in the opening stanza, a quarter in which Ross led 16-13 at one point.

The Little Giants took away a part of the Admiral King game that the Admirals had previously excelled at, rebounding. The Little Giants were going up and over the Admirals, especially on the offensive boards.

"That was by far Oberholtzer's best game," Miller pointed out. "But really I thought some of the kids played better than I have ever seen them play tonight."

At the beginning of the final half, Admiral King, with Jeff Soloman canning two buckets, 37-31 lead before Ross came to life. With Mike Reardon, who had been held to only six in the first half, leading the charge, Ross roared into a run of 11 points to grab the lead,

42-37, with 2:19 to play. The final three points of the run came on a three-point play by Reardon.

Four quick Admiral King points on fielders by Rick Akins and George Spencer cut the margin to one. Bob Ford's basket at the buzzer gave Ross a three-point lead going into the final stanza.

Leading 46-43 with 6:20 to play, Ross missed two straight layups that opened the door for buckets by Soloman and high jumping Al Harris. The latter's tip-in gave the Admirals the lead at 47-46. Fahrbach's two-pointer got the lead back for Ross but Terry Kish hit on a drive across the lane to give the Admirals the lead for good at 49-48.

Before Ross could score again, Admiral King led by three at 51-48. Oberholtzer's bucket cut the margin to one but buckets by Akins and Harris made it 55-50 and Ross could not catch up with 1:45 to play.

Kish hit a 22-footer, a shot that Admiral King coach Mitch Gillam did not want to be taken, at the 50 second mark to ice the game at 57-52.

Gillam praised Ross after the game.

"They put five guys out there that really play well together," Gillam said, "and that one is definitely all-Buckeye material."

Gillam referred to Reardon who entered the game as the top scorer in the conference.

"I don't know what I can say about us . . . we rolled the ball, **dropped** the ball, and kicked it all over the floor. At times with this team I wonder if one of the fundamentals of the game is telling them to go out and catch up with the other guys."

"I wasn't pleased with the shots we took and I told them to take the percentage shot out there with 1:39 to play. I didn't want that long of a shot. I was sure glad to see it go in."

Gillam referred to the shot Kish took with 50 seconds to play.

The win for the Admirals kept them in the three-way-tie with Findlay and Elyria for the Buckeye Conference lead. All three have 5-2 conference records after the first half of the BC season is over.

Reardon was high point man in the game with 19 while Oberholtzer had 16. Kish had 15 to lead Admiral King while Soloman and Akins finished with 12.

Ross teams in action

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross' athletic teams face a full slate Friday and Saturday. On Friday the Little Giants' basketball team travels to Mansfield Senior while on Saturday the wrestling team will visit Admiral King and the swim team will travel to North Robinson for a triangular meet with Lima Senior and Colonel Crawford.

The basketball team of Ken Miller's will be starting the second half of the Buckeye Conference season. The Little Giants, currently 3-4 in the BC and 4-4 overall, defeated the Tygers, 68-63, in the first meeting. The win was the 200th coaching win for Miller.

"In that game, the Tygers stayed primarily with a man-to-man defense but that has changed.

"They have been playing more zone lately," Miller said. "When they do go to the zone, it is usually a 2-3."

"The Tygers have also made a change in the starting lineup. Scott Stevens has moved in to replace Andy Fisher at one of the forward spots. Stevens is a 6-0 junior who popped in 19 points to lead the Tygers 74-46 win over Sandusky.

Mansfield exploded on its home court in the Sandusky game by outscoring the Blue Streaks, 38-18 in the last half. The win raised the Tygers' BC record to 4-3 and the overall record to 6-4.

Starting alongside Stevens will be Stan Tillman, 13.0 in the 56-4 jumping jack, and owner of a 13.0 average in the BC.

At the guards will be Gary Feagin and Jim Them. Feagin led the Conference in scoring at the beginning of the season but has dropped off a little to the fifth spot. Still, the 5-10 senior, is hitting 16.7 in Conference play. Them is not an offensive threat but is a steady defensive performer.

Ross will be led into the Tiger den by the Conference's leading point producer, Mike Reardon. The 6-3 forward is averaging 21.0 per game in the Conference.

Other Ross starters will be Paul Fahrbach at center and Neal Oberholtzer at the other forward. Oberholtzer had his best night of the season, 16 points, in the 59-54 loss to Admiral King last Friday night. At the guards will be either Jim Thomas, Gary Clark, or Bob Ford. Against King, Thomas and Ford started.

At Admiral King on Saturday afternoon, Al Vogenthaler will put his wrestling team into action. The Little Giants are 3-1 in dual meets with the only loss coming to Lorain, 36-15.

The wrestling team has finished fourth in the Elyria Tournament in their only other action.

Jay Olsen and his swim team will visit the home of Colonel Crawford for its first triangular meet of the season. The tankers are currently 2-1 in dual meets with the only loss coming against Lima Shanwee, 51-37.

The swimmers finished fourth out of nine teams in the Bowling Green Relays last weekend.

Stevens leads Tyger win; Ross loses 5th game, 66-61

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

MANSFIELD — Scott Stevens came off the bench to spur the Mansfield Tygers to a 66-61 Buckeye Conference win over the Ross Little Giants in a game witnessed by approximately 300 fans. Stevens tossed in 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the contest.

Geron Tate, the Tyger's 6-4 captain, came up with his best night of the year as he scored from both inside and out for 20 markers and managed to corral 18 caroms. The Stevens-Tate duo was aided by Stan Tillman's 11 points.

Ross dropped below the .500 mark for the first time this season with its fifth loss in nine outings. The Little Giants also dropped to 3-5 in the Buckeye Conference while the Tygers are now in contention for the title with a solid 5-3 mark.

Ross jumped off to its biggest lead of the night in the very first minute of play as Paul Fahrbach hit a shot from the left of the bucket and Mike Reardon converted on a three-point play. The Little Giants had the five point lead again at 9-4 but that is when Stevens came off the bench.

The 6-0 forward hit his first two shots, one a sweeping underhand layup that gave the Tygers their first lead of the night, 14-13. Tillman's two-pointer gave Mansfield a 16-13 lead at the first stop.

Stevens hit on a three-pointer for the Tygers at the beginning of the second stanza as the lead reached six. The Little Giants came to life as Jim Flower, who entered the game midway through the first period, and Neal Oberholtzer ignited a rally that put the Little Giants back into the lead at 23-21.

The lead then changed hands three time before Mansfield took the lead for good.

Stevens racked up 13 points in the first half while Tate had 10.

"He's (Stevens) really been coming on strong the last four games," Tyger coach Vic Pfizenmayer said. "The whole team has been playing exceptionally well in the last few games. Even in our two-point loss to Findlay we looked good."

"Tate was tremendous and Tillman has been doing a fine job."

For Ross coach Kenny Miller the turning point in the game was very evident.

"Stevens was the turning point . . . when he came in they took off. It was a complete flip-flop," Miller said as he made a circling motion in the air with hands. "At times though our defense was napping and they took advantage of it."

But where Stevens was having the great night, the Ross defense proved to be a bit porous. At times the Little Giants appeared as though in a daze and it came glaringly to the front in the later stages of the game.

In that third period, the Tygers twice built up nine-point leads only to have Ross come back strong behind the hot hand of Reardon.

Stevens tossed in two key buckets in the period before leaving with fourth personal midway through the period. One of Stevens' baskets came on a pass that traveled the length of the court from under the Ross bucket. The Little Giants were in a press but Stevens was left by himself.

Trailing 47-39, Ross watched the Mansfield lead jump to 10 and then 12 early in the final stanza. The biggest Tyger lead was 55-43 with 6:28 to play. Gary Feagin, averaging 16.5 per game going into the contest, drove down the middle of the lane uncontested for his fifth and sixth points of the night and the 12-point lead.

The Little Giants battled back on the backs of Reardon, Fahrbach, and Jim Thomas but the closest that they came was 59-55 with two minutes to play. Mansfield went into a stall at that stage and forced Ross to foul to get possession. Rodd did get back to 61-57 with :58 showing on the clock on Thomas' bucket but two free throws by Jim Them 10 seconds later put the game away for Mansfield.

"It's not that we played a bad game," Miller said, "it's just that we are not an opportunistic team. We must have missed five chances to score late in the game when we could have made it very close."

Trailing 51-43, the Little Giants either did not get a shot or missed on the five trips downcourt. Mansfield was having the same problems at their end of the court during this time.

Reardon led Ross again with 26 points, high in the game. Oberholtzer had 12 and Fahrbach had 11. The Little Giants hit 25 of 56 from the field while Mansfield had 28 of 65. The Tygers led in rebound with a 37-31 margin. Ross had 13 turnovers while Mansfield had 10 in the relatively error-free game.

Mallory quits Miami; takes Redskin staff to Boulder, Colorado

OXFORD, Ohio (AP) — Miami has had a nationally ranked defensive team for four straight years under Crum's direction. Mallory played under both Pont and Parseghian at Miami in the 1950s and has coached at Ohio University and under Woody Hayes at

Double duty week for Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross faces a double weekend as the Little Giants kick off the second half of the basketball season. The Ken Miller crew came through the first half with a somewhat less than awe inspiring 4-5 record but nevertheless, an improvement over last season.

Things could be better in the remainder of the 18-game schedule.

Ross' first opponent is fellow Buckeye Conference rival, Marion Harding. The Prexies survived a hot first quarter from the Little Giants in the dark confines of their antiquated gym to hand Ross its first loss of the season, 55-47. That took place back on Dec. 7. The loss came in the second Conference encounter.

Since that time Ross has won three and dropped five games in the BC chase while the Prexies are also sporting a 3-5 BC mark but are 5-6 overall. The biggest win for Marion was the stunning 61-57 upset of last year's state semi-finalist Elyria, one of three Pioneer losses for the season.

Leading the Prexies will be Dan Van Sickle, currently on a hot streak that has raised his offensive average to 14.7

per game in the Conference. Randy Gipson is next in line with a 12.7 clip, dropping off from an early season clip that had him near the 19-point level. Tom Owens, smallish 5-6 guard for the Prexies, is hitting a shade over 11 points per game but did not start for Marion in the last game, a 73-54 win over Columbus Northland.

The Prexies are currently on a two-game win streak, downing Sandusky last Friday night, 60-51, and taking care of Northland, co-leaders in the Columbus City League with a 9-2 record.

For the Little Giants, the last three weeks have been disappointing. At one time Ross was riding a 4-2 record but then along came Elyria, Admiral King and Mansfield. All three were losses but in all three Ross played respectable if not good basic basketball.

"Yeah, I'll admit the last

three weeks have been disappointing for us," Miller said as he relaxed in his office Wednesday afternoon. "Losing was, naturally, a disappointment, but it is doubly disappointing when we know that we played good basketball.

"Yes, we did have mental lapses that hurt us, but we still played well."

On Saturday night Ross will take the short trip to the home of the Tiffin Columbian Tornadoes. Currently, the Tornadoes, are 6-5 for the season while holding down a 4-4 record in the Northern Ohio League. Friday night, the Tornadoes will take on the Galion Tigers.

Leading Columbian is Marty Thallman with an 11.6

average and the assist leader in the NOL with 54 for the season. Chuck Riser, 6-3, is next with a 9.4 average while 6-2 Mike Felton, leads the NOL with a 12.0 rebounds per game average.

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE NOTES ... Ross' Mike Reardon continues to dominate the Conference scoring race with 21.6 average for the eight Conference games. Reardon has scored 173 points while hitting 63 of 129 shots and 47 free throws, tops for the BC, out of 57 attempts. Reardon is also low man on the totem pole in personal fouls, picking up only 15 in the eight games.

Gipson is the BC's top marksman with a 59 per cent showing on 36 of 61 from the field.

Geron Tate of Mansfield is the leading rebounder with 119 and a 14.9 average per game.

Elyria is the top team in defense, allowing only 56.9 points per contest. The Pioneers are scoring at a rate of 63.8. Ross is scoring 59.4 per contest while allowing 62.8.

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Bob Marker, editor

Hank gets first shot at Babe's record in

Clark's rebound shot is game winner Last second win for Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Gary Clark hit a short five-foot jumper from the left of the basket with two seconds remaining for the game winner as Ross defeated the Marion Harding Prexies, 66-65. The win evened the Little Giants' overall record at 5-5 and made the Buckeye Conference mark, 4-5.

The Little Giants had the fans roaring in the stands as they came from two points down with 18 seconds remaining in the game to pull out the win. Ross had led by as many as eight points late in the third period but had fallen behind, 65-63, when Prexie guard Dan VanSickle drove the lane and hit a driving layup.

The win broke a three-game losing streak by the Little Giants and set up tonight's game with Tiffin Columbian. Tipoff time for that game is 7 p.m. for the junior varsity and approximately 8:30 for the varsity at the Tiffin school.

"You have to believe in yourselves," a tired but happy Ken Miller reflected

afterwards, "when you are two points down with 20 seconds to go and then win by three, you have to believe in yourself."

That belief may have been shaken a little in the third period when the Little Giants led 47-39, thanks to hot streaks by Mike Reardon and Paul Fahrbach. The 6-4 Fahrbach hit on all five shots in the third period drive while Reardon connected for nine.

But the situation took a complete reversal after a Marion timeout with 1:38 to go in the quarter.

The Prexie coach, Jerry Fries, sent his team into a full court press that caused three Ross turnovers and resulted in the eight-point margin shrinking to two, 47-45.

"We spent that entire timeout talking about putting a team away that you have on the ropes . . . instead they came out in that press and it was us that got put on the ropes," Miller said.

The Marion press and the hot hand of VanSickle eventually caught Ross with 1:30 to play. Pete Dettra sneaked underneath for a tip-in on a miss by Jim Conkle to knot the score at 63.

A missed Ross shot and a Marion turnover set the stage for a Clark steal that resulted in a Marion foul. The sophomore missed the charity toss, however, and Marion grabbed the rebound with one minute left to play.

Working for the good shot, the Prexies worked the ball on the outside until VanSickle found a hole in the 1-3-1 zone of Ross and hit on a driving layup to give Marion the 65-63 lead.

That set the stage for Reardon and Clark. Ross brought the ball down court quickly and Jim Thomas let fly with a 15-footer that hit the rim and bounced straight up. Reardon came down with the ball and immediately put it back up but was fouled by Conkle.

Reardon went to the line for two with all the pressure in the world seemingly on his shoulders. The Ross senior's first shot hit the front of the rim, bounced to the back and then fell through. The next shot whizzed cleanly through the net to tie the score. Marion called time after the last free toss with only eight seconds remaining.

When time was back in, Fries had the Prexies in a four-man "stack" under the Ross bucket while Ross came out in a full court press. With Ross putting pressure on the inbounds pass, Reardon intercepted, took one dribble and let go with a 12-footer but the ball bounced off to the left. Clark was in the right spot at the right time and his left hander ripped the net for the go-ahead.

Marion immediately called timeout but the Prexies had used all of its timeouts and were charged with a technical. Reardon sank the technical to give the Little Giants the three-point cushion.

Both teams were hot from the floor with Ross hitting 27 of 34 but Marion an even hotter, 30 of 32. The difference came at the foul line where Ross connected on 14, 11 by Reardon, of 18, while Marion was only five of seven.

"I can't say anything about the fouls," a dejected Fries muttered after the game. "They (Ross) just set back in that zone and didn't foul."

"I'll tell you," Fries continued, "it's a heck of a thing to come up here and beat ourselves . . . I'm not taking a thing away from Ross but we just didn't do a good job tonight. I don't know what it is but we just can't play on the road."

Miller praised Clark for his play. "He came through for us . . . not because he hit the



MARION 'LITTLE' AND ROSS 'BIG'

... 5-7 Tom Owens; 6-4 Paul Fahrbach (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

Tygers rip Admiral King; Trojans on top of BC race

Findlay is the sole possessor of the lead in the mixed up Buckeye Conference basketball race. The Trojans edged Elyria, 54-53, while Mansfield was shipping Admiral King for the second time this season, 65-55, to knock the Admirals out of the first place tie. Both teams had entered last night's game with identical 6-2 Conference slates.

In the night's other BC contest, Sandusky bounced back to life and humiliated the Lorain Senior Steelmen, 71-48.

Scott Hamlin hit a pair of free throws with 11 seconds remaining in the game to put Findlay up, 54-53. Elyria scored with six seconds to play and stole the ball on the inbounds pass, but the buzzer sounded before the Pioneers could get off a shot and the Trojans escaped with the one-point win.

Findlay outscored the Pioneers 14-6 in the second quarter to lead at the half 24-21.

Hamlin ended the night with 14 points but Brad Longberry's 16 topped the Trojans. Craig Schmacher had 18 for

Elyria with Jerry Gilbert getting 14 and Don Mason, 15. Findlay is now 9-3 for the season and 7-2 in the Buckeye Conference.

Mansfield made it 2-0 against Admiral King on the Admirals' home court. The Tygers outgunned the Admirals 25-18 in the final period to break away from a 39-37 lead. Mansfield's sticky defense held the Admirals to only three points in the second stanza.

Geron Tate tossed in 21 points for Mansfield as the Tygers bounced into a tie with the Admirals for second in the BC with a 6-3 record. Stan Tillman added 16 to the Tyger total. Jeff Solomon and Terry Kish had 16 points apiece for the Admirals.

Tony Randleman popped in 25 points and Randy Richmond, 14, as the Blue Streaks broke a seven-game losing streak. The Blue Streaks led 32-25 at the half and then widened the lead to nine at the end of three before exploding for 25 points in the final eight minutes.

Sandusky hit 32 of 51 from the floor while Lorain had 20 of 46.

Shern Williams led the Steelmen with 14 while Dan Horvath had 10.

Miller takes four-stroke lead

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Johnny Miller's leading by four strokes—and he's a little upset about it.

"Well, it's okay. It's still not that bad," the young man muttered Friday as if he was trying to console himself.

He'd just taken a 71, one under-par and good enough to retain comfortable control of the top spot after two rounds of the \$150,000 Dean Martin Tucson Open Golf Tournament.

Two things were bothering

the skinny blond who has yet under-par and good enough to retain comfortable control of the top spot after two rounds of the \$150,000 Dean Martin Tucson Open Golf Tournament.

Two things were bothering

the young fellows on the team.

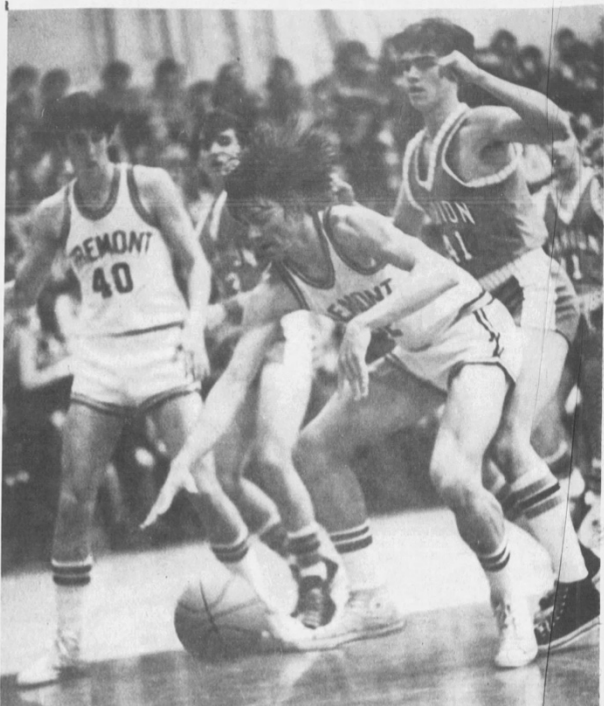
'Rock' Anderson, former

'Trotter star is dead at 71

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — Lawrence "Rock" Anderson was only six feet tall, but that was giant size when promoter Alvin Karpman was trotting

the young fellows on the team.

"You know, a guy six-foot was a giant playing in the ring," Brockwell said.



KEY TO SUCCESS: KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL

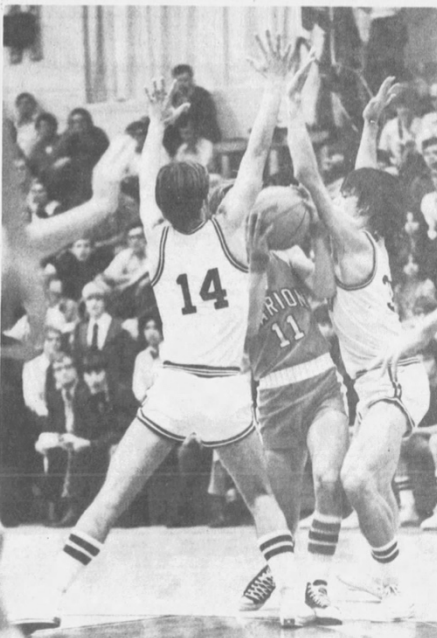
... And everyone is as Reardon reaches; Oberholzer (40) watches and Gipson (41) tries to see the ball

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DID YOU EVER GET THAT 'BOXED UP' FEELING?

... VanSickle (11) caught between Thomas (14) and Reardon on drive across middle

Ross' 64-59 victory over Columbian gets 'technical'

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

TIFFIN — Mike Reardon turned in a three-point play with 1:14 showing on the clock to break a 57-57 tie against Tiffin Columbian and lead the Ross Little Giants to a 64-59 road game victory. The win was the first victory on the road for Ross this year and the first "away" game win since Ken Miller took over the head job for Ross at the beginning of the 1972-73 season.

The game took on a bizarre ending with three technicals being called on the Columbian bench or players. In all, there were four "T's" during the course of the 32 minutes of hard fought action.

The first technical against the Tornados came with 25 seconds to play and Ross up, 60-57. The Tornados had the ball after taking over on a tip in the Ross forecourt. On the trip downcourt, sophomore Jim Shaffer was whistled for an offensive foul, his fifth. Shaffer did not leave the game right away when the referees informed him of his disqualifying foul with the result being a technical foul that triggered the other two.

Reardon sank the free throw on the technical for a four-point lead.

Ross had the ball out-of-bounds and when Paul Fahrbach Jobbed a pass over a Tornado defender to Reardon who took it in for an easy layup, Ross had a six-point lead.

That basket brought Miller off the bench because not one second had ticked off the clock.

"Hey, I live and die with those seconds in a ball game," Miller said afterwards. "I count them in my head and when I saw that no time had gone off the clock I got a little upset."

But the upset ones were the Tornado players.

With 12 seconds yet to play, Mike Thallman was whistled for his fifth foul and vented his thoughts about the call on the ears of the officials. Another technical resulted. Reardon missed the one and one free toss but hit the technical shot for a 64-59 lead. Thallman had hit on a jumper just before his foul for Tiffin.

Seconds later another "T" was whistled on Columbian's Chuck Riser and although Reardon missed the free toss, the issue was no longer in doubt.

Earlier in the game, Ross had been given a technical for having a wrong number in the official score book.

First year Columbian coach Doug McDonald was at a loss for words about the number of fouls and type of fouls called in

the game against his club.

"I never saw that many off-the-ball fouls in one game in my life," McDonald said in a calm voice. "I'm kinda curious to see how they (fouls) came about. You know it's hard to understand how you play 13 games and see only maybe three or four fouls like this in a game but then have eight or 10 called in one game . . . it's a little weird."

Oddly enough, McDonald had his team playing a defense that was supposed to help keep his team out of foul trouble.

"It didn't work, did it?" McDonald asked sarcastically.

The Tornados lost three players via the foul route while playing a "1-2-2" zone.

As for Ross, it was Reardon once again coming up with the key plays and the key baskets. The Ross ace hit 27 points for the night, while Fahrbach and Jim Flower tossed in 19 apiece. But it was Reardon down the stretch that made Ross a winner for the sixth time this season.

Miller pointed out one of three turning points he considered in the game and right at the middle of it was Reardon.

"When Reardon hit that three-point play with the score tied, it finally gave us a little breathing room."

"Another point that helped turn it for us was when Yackey (Brett) went out and we went into the full court press. Then

we changed our defense for the fourth quarter."

Ross dropped back into a zone for the final period that allowed the Ross defenders to trap the Tornado ball handlers.

Miller talked a little about the first road win.

"You know we have played as well on the road as at home . . . only we haven't won any on the road till now."

Then Miller reflected about the Little Giants' double weekend win. Friday night Ross had edged Marion 68-65 in the last two seconds.

"This double win gave us a double shot of confidence and then again it was a close game that we won. That's the mark of a good team, one that wins the close, hard fought ones. You have to win a few of these to get the confidence to know that you can keep on doing it and we did it this weekend."

For the game Ross bagged 26 of 50 shots, unofficially, while taking the rebounding battle, 26-19. In turnovers Ross had 17 while Columbian had 21. The Tornados shot a very respectable 24 of 50 from the field with Mike Felton getting 15 and Thallman 12 and John Coppus, another soph, 10.

Next week Ross travels to Lorain on Friday night for a Buckeye Conference game. Ross defeated the Steelmen 64-62 in the first meeting of the two schools.

Ross 'flatness' helps inflate Lorain win

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

LORAIN — The Steelmen of Lorain were half flat while Ross was all the way flat. The result was a sloppily played 44-38 win for the Steelmen. The loss evened the Little Giants' record at 6-6 and 4-6 in the Buckeye Conference. Lorain is now 6-7 and 4-6.

"I don't think I'll ever be able to figure it out," Ross coach Ken Miller moaned painfully after watching the shoddily played game. "How do you keep a team from going flat . . . I'll probably go to my grave trying to figure it out."

Both teams combined for 45 turnovers in the contest. Ross led that race with 24, 16 coming in the first half as the Little Giants survived that game of give-away and salvaged a 20-20 tie.

The Little Giants had rolled up as much as a seven-point lead two different times in the first 16 minutes with the last coming at 16-9. From that time on it was Lorain all the way.

The Little Giants stayed with Lorain because Dale Reichert, Steelmen coach, did not have his defense doing what he wanted it to do. Things changed in the second half.

"All the week we had been working on keeping the ball away from Reardon (Mike). If he did get it, then we wanted a big man on him in a hurry."

That strategy did not work in the first half as Reardon tossed in 12 points. The second half Reardon, who entered the game carrying a 22-point average for Buckeye Conference games, was held to only one field goal and two free throws.

"We noticed that the rest of the Ross team always look for Reardon, especially the guards. Because of this, we put pressure on their guards, especially on the weak side, to keep them from getting the ball to Reardon. Then it seemed when the guards did get the chance for a clear shot they would

not take it — they did that quite a few times."

Ross was in the game up till the fourth quarter. The Little Giants cut the margin to 35-30 in the first few seconds of the quarter but then Bob Migra took over for Lorain with what Reichert termed "his best game in the last five" to do the damage to Ross.

Migra, a 6-3 forward, hit all three shots he took from the field including six of the last eight points that the Steelmen put on the boards. It was two close-in shots and a tip-in on a missed layup by Larry Vangeloff that killed the Little Giants. The tip-in gave Lorain a 10-point lead with 3:40 to play.

"You know we played good defense tonight — maybe the best that we have played all year. The defense got the ball for us time after time in the last period but the offense would turn it right back over to them," Miller lamented.

Neither team was a bundle of sharpshooters. In the early going it looked like both teams were playing "rimmers" (basketballs spinning erratically off the rim of the basket with no place to go). For the game, Ross, surprisingly, out-shot the Steelmen percentage-wise with a 15 of 44 effort. Lorain was 17 of 48. Ross also won the rebounding battle, 30-23, but that was small consolation to the turnover factor.

Reardon was held to a season low 16 points for the game while Lorain's Larry Vangeloff also had his season low with seven markers. Next in line for Ross was Neal Oberholtzer with eight while Migra topped all scorers with 14. Jim Stephenson had 11 and Sherm Williams had 10, eight in the third period, for Lorain.

Tonight Ross hosts the Buckeye Conference leader, Findlay, 65-38 conquerors of Sandusky last night. The varsity tipoff is slated for approximately 8:30.

Findlay nudges Ross in overtime

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross came within a bat of an eye of pulling off the Buckeye Conference basketball upset of the year Saturday night, losing to Findlay, 68-65, in overtime. The Little Giants had taken as much as a four-point lead in the game with less than two minutes to play after trailing for the first 29 minutes.

The Little Giants had a chance to win the game in regulation time with no time showing on the clock. Ross guard Jim Thomas had a free throw with only the buzzer remaining to go off to end the game. Thomas shot and watched as the ball hit the rim and rolled off, sending the game into the three-minute extra session.

The score had been tied at 62-62 when Ron Linhart hit a

15-foot jumper from the left side with 10 seconds left in regulation time. The Trojans had battled back from a 62-58 deficit with 1:52 to play.

The Little Giants, who trailed by nine, 23-14, in the second period, caught the Trojans with 4:21 to play when Neal Oberholtzer threw in two of his 14 points. It was 52-51 and the two teams traded buckets until Ross took the lead 60-58 on baskets

by Bob Ford and Oberholtzer, the later coming on a rebound shot from a deep angle at the right of the basket.

Findlay cut the margin to two on a pair of free tosses by Scott Hamlin, a thorn in Ross' side all night, but the Little Giants upped the lead to four again when Mike Reardon clicked on the first of four straight free throws that extended into the overtime.

Hamlin started the Findlay comeback with a long bomb to make it 62-60 and the score remained that way until the Linhart shot that set up Thomas' free throw and the overtime.

Ross had trailed 30-25 at the half but with Paul Fahrback taking control of the Ross offensive board, the Little Giant closed the Findlay lead to 47-45 at the end of the third period. Fahrback connected for 10 of Ross' 20 points in the quarter, including four of five from the line.

Fahrback and Reardon, along with Oberholtzer brought Ross into the lead in the final period. Findlay, heavily troubled by fouls all evening, lost three players via the foul route in the period — all three of them big men. Roger Edelbrock, 6-6, was the first to go with 5:22 to play. Then came Jim Wilson, 6-6, at the 3:59 mark, and finally, Brad Longberry, 6-5, on the Thomas foul with no time showing on the clock.

In the overtime, Ross drew first blood when Reardon hit two free throws. Jeff Dysinger hit his only two

points of the night for Findlay to tie the game again at 64. Ross once again took the lead when Fahrback hit the front end of a one and one for a one-point lead. That was the end of the Ross scoring for the night.

Hamlin hit the game winner at the 55 second mark in the overtime with a looping left-handed shot from the top of the circle and a 66-65 lead. When Reardon's shot was off to the side on Ross' trip downcourt, Dysinger grabbed the ball and immediately called timeout with 29 seconds left to play. Ross still had a chance though.

Playing deliberate ball, the Trojans worked the ball down to the eight-second mark before Hamlin was fouled by Gary Clark. The spunky junior guard missed his free throw, however, and Oberholtzer grabbed the rebound but was called for traveling on the outlet pass and Ross' fortunes sunk. Findlay's Dave Arnold hit the insurance bucket with only a second left on the clock.

Hamlin led the Trojans with 19 points while Longberry had 17 before fouling out. Wilson had 10. Reardon had 20 for Ross while Fahrback had 16 with 15 coming in the second half. Oberholtzer had 14.

Ross hit 21 of 45 from the field with Findlay outgunning them by nine. The Little Giants connected on 23 of 36 free throws while Findlay made only eight of 20 from the charity stripe.





PAUL FAIRBACH (51) BITES LIP AS HE DRIBBLES.
Fairbach scored on this move in lane (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

Admirals gain tie for BC lead

Admiral King drew even with Findlay in the Buckeye Conference title race with a 68-62 win on the Trojan's home court last night in the BC's top attraction. The Admirals and the Trojans are now 9-3 for the BC season.

In the other two Conference games, Mansfield set themselves up for its rematch with Findlay next week by walloping Loran Senior, 68-56, and Elyria kept pace with Mansfield for the second spot with a 73-44 romp over Marion Harding.

Monty Wicks and Terry Rish scored 37 points between them to lead Admiral King to

the win. The teams were tied at the half, 33-33, but the Admirals pulled away in the third period, outscoring Findlay 18-11. Admiral King hit 28 of 54 from the field to burn the Trojans.

Brad Longberry tossed in 20 points and Jim Wilson 12 to lead the Trojans.

Mansfield and Elyria kept pressure on Admiral King and Findlay with their wins. Geron Tate controlled the boards and the scoring for Mansfield with 26 points. Mansfield rolled to a 32-22 lead at the half and were

never seriously pressed throughout the second half. Gary Feagin with 12 and Scott Stevens with 14 aided Tate.

Larry Vangeloff had 18 for Loran.

Elyria scored easily and often in the second period to bury Marion. The Pioneers dropped in 21 points while holding the Precies to only four in the second eight minutes.

Craig Schumacher with 20 and Jerry Gilbert with 15 led Elyria. Dan VanSickle was the only Marion player in double figures with 10.

Golden Bears shade Oak Harbor Rockets

OAK HARBOR — The Gibsonburg Golden Bears, led by Steve Shull's 28 points, outscored host Oak Harbor 87-81 Friday night in a Suburban Lakes League game.

The Golden Bears had four men score in double figures, with Jon Sage adding 18 points. Steve Shreffler adding

16, and Denny Williamson, 13. Gibsonburg raised their season record to 7-4 and are now 2-3 in the SLL. The hapless Rockets dropped to 2-12 on the year and 0-5 in the SLL.

Oak Harbor also had four men score in double figures in the high scoring game. Dick Wood paced the losers with 24 points. Ron Nietz scored 22 and Chuck Crim added 17.

Oak Harbor hit on 34 of 72 shots from the field for 48 per cent, while Gibsonburg hit 34 of 83 for 40 per cent. The free throw line proved to be the difference in the closely contested game. Gibsonburg had 19 of 26 for 73 per cent, while Oak Harbor connected on 13 of 22 for 59 per cent.

The Rockets led in rebounds 37-36, but committed 21 turnovers to only 19 for Gibsonburg.

Ross breaks road jinx in overtime win

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Bob Ford of Ross sank two free throws with no time on the clock to tie the game at 67-67 and launched Ross to a 72-70 overtime win over Sandusky in a Buckeye Conference tilt.

The win for Ross was the first Buckeye Conference win on the road since Dec. 29, 1970 at Elyria. Ross had lost 22 straight BC road games before last night.

Ross is now 1-1 for the season in overtime wins, losing last Saturday night to Findlay, 68-65, in an extra session. Getting into this overtime situation was not so easy for the Little Giants.

The Ross team was on the short end of a 67-61 score with 29 seconds left to play in the regulation time. Sandusky, who led from the middle of the first period until the 4:04 mark of the final canto, outscored Ross 9-2 in the spurt to take the six-point lead.

Ken Miller, head mentor of Ross, had his team call time with 29 seconds to play and to regroup after Larry Redding's tip for Sandusky fell through. When time was back in, Jim Thomas clicked for two free throws to cut the lead to four.

Nine seconds later Sandusky's Ken Pearson missed a free throw and Mike Reardon of Ross was fouled. Reardon clicked on both ends of the one and one. At the 11 second mark, the Ross pressing defense forced a jump ball at the center circle and Ross came up with the tip.

That's when the fun and tension began. Thomas dribbled across the top of the circle, stopped on the left side and let fly by a jumper after the tip. The shot came off to the side where Ford gathered it in and put up a shot. That shot rolled off and Ford grabbed the rebound again and put it back but that shot rolled off also as the buzzer went off.

Amid all the celebrating that Sandusky was doing an official appeared giving the signal for a foul that put Ford on the line. With just Ford and the officials on the floor and the sounds of approximately 500 wildly yelling Sandusky fans, Ford coolly hit both free throws to tie the game.

Was Ford nervous while at the line?

"Then you know," Miller smiled, "Fairbach (Paul), after he fouled out, sat next to me on the bench during the overtime and kept telling me 'coach, we didn't quit.'"

Ross had fallen behind by as much as 10 points in that disastrous third eight-minute segment.

Miller then added, "You can't pull together and win games like this unless you believe you can do it."

Reardon led Ross with 22 points, 12 coming in the last quarter and overtime while Oberholzer had 14. Fairbach had nine, including two free throws that gave Ross a 72-70 lead in the final period. Ford was eight of nine from the charity line for all eight of his points. Randleman led Sandusky with 23 while Richmond had 20.

Tonight Ross will host Toledo Whitmer at the Ross High School gym.

"Well, yes, but I don't want to admit it," the junior guard laughed.

In the overtime, Sandusky's Randy Richmond drew first blood by hitting the front end of a one and one. The second shot bounced off but after the ball was baited around a few times, Richmond came up with the loose ball and put it through to give the Blue Streaks a 70-67 lead with 2:05 to go.

Neal Oberholzer brought Ross back to within one with a short jumper off a rebound at the 1:50 mark and Ross took the lead at 71-70 when Reardon missed his way to a two-pointer from under the bucket. On Sandusky's trip back downcourt, Stan Johnson missed a short five footer, and Oberholzer came up with the rebound with 49 seconds to play.

The Little Giants, however, turned the ball over for the 26th time and the Blue Streaks still had a chance to take the lead.

Richmond had the first crack at it but missed. Steve Haurle got the carom and shot but missed and Tony Korman grabbed the ball and missed that shot. Finally Oberholzer came down with the rebound with only 19 seconds to play. Thomas was fouled again with three seconds to play and added an insurance point.

For Miller the game was like a repeat nightmare but with a different ending. Miller's season was at a low point last week when the Little Giants seemingly had the game won but lost the overtime thriller to Findlay. This time it was different but Miller felt a bit sad for his adversary. Sandusky coach Gary Reynolds.

"My heart cries for him," Miller admitted in the dressing room while referring to Reynolds. "I know how he feels—only last week I felt just like it."

"But no matter how I feel for Reynolds, winning a game like this is like taking another step forward to the type of basketball we want and are looking for."

Actually the game had a low point for both Ross and Miller and the veteran coach told his team about it at the end of the third quarter.

"I asked them if they were going to be like Fremont teams of the past and quit on the floor. That was our decision in the fourth quarter."

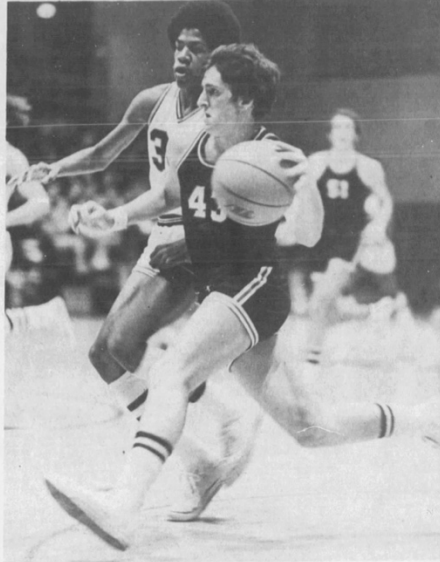
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ROSS' JIM FLOWER GOES LEFT PAST KEN PEARSON.
Little Giant guard was bringing the ball downcourt against a press

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor

Bobcats win, clinch at least tie in SCL

By JERRY ROSEN
N-M Staff Writer

NEW RIEGEL — Tears still traced along his cheeks, New Riegel Blue Jacket coach Bud Snyder looked up and said, "You don't stop until you win."

Ward, a 6-0 Bettsville sophomore, hobbled by an early third quarter ankle injury and hindered by foul problems, had a tough 85-81 win over Snyder's club.

The game matched the cream of the Seneca County League in what probably will decide the league championship. Both clubs had 51 league slates entering the game, and in Ward and Blue Jackets' 6-3 Bill Gnepper, both sported one of the top two scorers in the SCL.

The win clinched Bettsville at least a tie for the league crown. Both clubs have only one game remaining in league competition while Seneca East, with a 2-2 league record has two games left.

The meeting of the two titans actually was determined on the foul line. When Ward fouled out, Bettsville packed in its offense and went into a slowdown that wasn't supposed to be a slowdown.

"I told them to look for the good shot," said Bennice, "but with the excitement and everything, it turned into a stall."

The Bobcats took only two shots from the floor after Ward's departure, but both shots sent them to the foul

line. During the crucial final 2½ minutes, Bettsville hit nine points, all from the line.

The run of foul points started a 2:21 when Kirk Steffani stepped to the line after Gnepper closed what had been as much as a 12-point Bobcat lead to two, 75-73. Steffani hit both ends of the one-and-one. At 1:47, Jeff West converted both ends of a similar predicament for a 79-73 lead.

After Gnepper hit two from the line, Steve Poe, in for Ward, probably iced the win with both ends of a one-and-one. With little over a minute left, Kevin Lee came up with an important contribution—a key defensive rebound, one of 14 he had for the night.

That started West toward the hoop. He drew a foul and hit one of the shots, but Lee outjumped the inside New Riegel man and got West's rebound, and was fouled as he attempted a shot with under a minute left. Lee connected on both shots and Bettsville had the game.

The Blue Jackets came out in the first quarter shooting like fiends. Bombing from the outside, the Jacks quickly pulled into a six-point lead, but then Bettsville turned things around.

"Their press hurt us in the beginning," said Snyder.

Ward, who had been missing early, started to warm up later in the first quarter and pulled the Cats

lead changed hands four times as the Bobcats edged to a 42-41 halftime lead.

Ward got ten in the third quarter, all after he hurt his ankle on a play at midcourt. Bennice took him out briefly, but less than a minute later, he was back. He limped onto the court, but as soon as the action started, his limp seemed to vanish. Ward twisted, jumped, spun and otherwise hypnotized the Jacket defense as he poured in points. Twice he hit fallaway shots at a 45-degree angle to the floor and once earlier he hit a driving jump hook shot that he threw up in desperation.

On the other side of the court, Gnepper contributed 25 points and blocked a number of shots to intimidate the Bobcats momentarily. But Bettsville refused to be kept out. Paul Kline hit 22 for the Jackets.

Snyder was hesitant about saying it, but finally conceded he thought the Bobcats were "afraid" to play basketball after Ward fouled out.

"We had better balanced scoring than they did," he said. "When Virgil was out, they were afraid to play ball. Actually, though, they played it smart."

"We told them to take the good shot," Bennice said of the slowdown. "They might have overreacted in the excitement."

"Toward the end, they

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Ross rips Bellevue

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross assured itself of at least a .500 mark in the regular season by putting on its biggest offensive show of the season in dumping visiting Bellevue, 81-67, Saturday night. The Little Giants, in winning their third straight game, ran their season mark to 9-7 with Elyria and Admiral King left to play.

The Little Giants turned loose a five-pronged attack for the first time this season. All five players, led by Mike Reardon's 26, topped the double figure mark. Reardon and Bob Ford put on a two-man show in the first half with Reardon canning nine of 13 shots for 18 points as Ross jumped out to a 40-33 lead. Ford had 10.

With Reardon pretty much shut off by Bellevue's "box and one" defense in the second half, Little Giant coach Ken Miller made a slight offensive change that set up the Little Giant's 41-point second half.

"They (Bellevue) were playing a type of defense that you don't usually practice against," Miller explained. "We made a change offensively that we knew would not get the ball to Mike (Reardon) very much but it would get the ball to the other guys who are capable of scoring."

The change made the difference. Reardon scored eight in the second half but it was Paul Fahrbach, Neal Oberholtzer, and substitute guard Jim Thomas that picked up the slack. Fahrbach canned nine of his 15 points for the game in the last half, including six in the third stanza when Bellevue cut Ross' 11-point lead down to three.

Oberholtzer turned hot in the last quarter, hitting four of six from the field. The 6-5 junior finished the night with 12 markers.

Bellevue kept within seven points of Ross throughout the 14½ minutes of play but then Ross took off and built up a 38-27 margin as Reardon hit four straight hoops and Fahrbach added pair of free throws.

Norm Provonsil of Bellevue, who had scored 36 points in one game this season, gave all the appearance of turning in another big night point-wise. The junior forward canned 12 of the first 23 points Bellevue scored but along the way Provonsil had picked up three fouls with all three coming while guarding Reardon. Provonsil eventually fouled out of the game with 6:49 to play, scoring only those 12 points.

"That hurt us when he (Provonsil) got into foul trouble," Bellevue coach Duane Warns sighed after the game. "He was averaging 16 points per game going into this game and he usually makes things happen for us."

Don Kegerreis, another junior forward for the Redmen, was held to only six points in the first half.

Kegerreis canned the first four points of the quarter for Bellevue with Don Fritz and Dave Garman adding a basket and two free throws. Ross had only a bucket by Reardon to show in the 8-2 Redman surge. After the score edged ahead to 44-41, Ross, the Little Giants turned on a 8-1 spurt to take a 52-42 lead.

Thomas and Ford both had a pair of baskets in the run while Fahrbach had one. Fahrbach hit two more buckets, one on a sweeping right hand hook, and Reardon added a free throw to give the Little Giants a 57-51 lead at the end of the third period.

Six points was as close as the Redmen were to come to Ross the rest of the contest as Oberholtzer took charge of the scoring on the Ross end of the court. Thomas chipped in with six fourth period points while Reardon added five.

The biggest Ross lead was 79-63 with 1:30 to play.

Ross came up with possibly its best rebounding job as they dominated the Redmen 42-20, grabbing 15 of them in the last eight minutes of action.

Kegerreis, whom Miller termed "a very fine ball player," led Bellevue with 21 points, nine coming from the foul line. Garman came off the bench to score a dozen, matching Provonsil's total. Fritz, a gangly 6-6 senior, showing a knack for hitting some unorthodox shots, finally ended the night with 17 points, hitting eight of 16 from the field.

Ford had his biggest point night of his Ross varsity career, hitting 16 points.

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Ross-Elyria Saturday

The Ross-Elyria Buckeye Conference basketball game has been rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16. The only problem is that it is not known whether the game will be at Elyria High School, where it was originally scheduled to be played last Friday night, or at a neutral site, or at Ross High School. A decision on that will be made tomorrow.

The game had been rescheduled for last night due to the teacher's strike in the Elyria school system but was postponed till tonight contingent on the strike. As of today the strike is still on at Elyria, thus forcing the rescheduling of the game for the third time.

An announcement will be made tomorrow on the site of the game.

Ross closes basketball slate with Admiral King, Elyria

Fremont Ross will close out the season this weekend with unexpected "double duty." Both games are Buckeye Conference games with Admiral King on Friday night at the Ross gym and the delayed game with Elyria on Saturday.

As of press time, the Saturday game with Elyria is still in doubt as to where the game will be played. Because of the teacher's strike in the Elyria school system, the game was postponed originally from last Friday night. It was rescheduled for Tuesday of this week but the strike once again caused a postponement until yesterday when a decision was made by

the Buckeye Conference, Ross and Elyria officials, to set the game up for Saturday night.

The game will be played either at Elyria, Ross, or at a neutral site. If the strike is over at Elyria, the game will be played there. A definite decision will be made sometime around noon today.

The Admiral King Admirals are Ross' first concern now. Admiral King is currently in a first place tie with Findlay for the Conference lead. This leaves Ross in the role of "would-be spoilers."

Findlay will be hosting Marion Harding while Elyria plays at Lorain Senior and

Mansfield travels to Sandusky in the other Conference games.

Both Findlay and Admiral King have 10-3 BC records. A Ross win over Admiral King would naturally shake up the final standings. Findlay is a big favorite over Marion and with a home court advantage, it is doubtful that the Trojans will be beaten.


The Admirals are at a disadvantage. The Little Giants are currently playing the best basketball of the season with their three-game win streak. Currently 9-7 on the season, the Little Giants have played four of their best games of the season in the last four outings.

The double weekend does not particularly bother Ross coach Kenny Miller.

"I don't really like it but then we seem to play well in the second game of the weekend. The last two double weekends we have played extremely well at times."

The Little Giants need a win in at least one of the games this weekend to assure themselves of a plus-.500 season.

Friday night's game will also mark the last home game appearance of seniors Mike Reardon, Paul Fahrbach and Jim Thomas.



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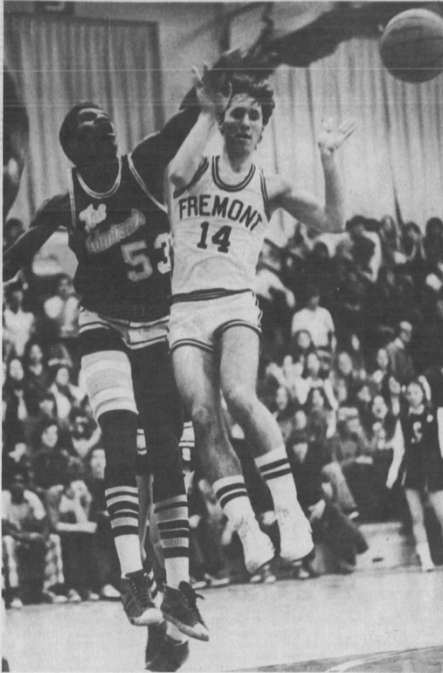
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Admiral King gets away from Ross in second half



JIM THOMAS OF ROSS GETS OFF PASS
... Arthur Cook (53) of the Admirals is the defender

Offensive board power key to Admirals' win

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Lorain Admiral King wrapped up a share of the Buckeye Conference basketball crown by downing stubborn Fremont Ross, 69-45. The Admirals broke away from Ross with a third quarter spurt that carried over into the fourth that the Little Giants could not recover from.

Findlay, co-leaders of the conference with the Admirals going into the night's game, defeated Marion Harding, 71-51, to finish the conference race with an 11-3 mark, the same as the Admirals.

The Admirals turned in a great performance in what they have become known for around the halls of the BC schools: notoriously hard rebounding on the offensive boards. The Admirals behind the high jumping trio of Arthur Cook, Al Harris, and Monty Wicks continually were getting tip shots over the wildly thrashing arms of the Little Giant defenders.

Harris actually kept the Admirals in the game with the Little Giants in the first period, scoring eight of his 11 points as Ross raced to a 20-10 lead. Four of the Ross starting five had four points in that first eight minutes while Neal Oberholzer's five paced the Little Giants.

The second quarter turned out to be a game of "alley-oop" and it was one-sided as the Admirals scored on tip-in after tip-in. Cook, a 6-5 jumping-jack junior dropped in four fielders and Wicks chipped in four more. However, the Admirals took the halftime lead, 38-35, only on successive buckets by Cook and Jeff Solomon, the latter's coming from 30 feet out with one second left in the half.

There are very few teams that can stand up to them on the boards," Ross coach Kenny Miller said as he stood in the hallway outside the Ross dressing room. "We stayed with them for awhile but they just started to beat us to death."

Mitch Gilliam, the veteran coach of the Admirals, was not pleased with his team's efforts but did share in the blame for what he considered erratic play.

"We were a bit too conservative — we played too cautiously and we did not settle down and it hurt us for awhile," Gilliam said. "I tell you when you miss a layup and free throws like we did, it causes you to change a few things quickly."

Those hastily made changes ended up chasing Ross right out of a possible upset in the third quarter.

Ross grabbed its last lead of the night, 44-42 on a hook shot by Paul Fahrback when the change started to take shape. Gilliam shouted a few instructions in from the bench and the Admirals spurred to four straight points for a 46-44 lead. Terry Kish hit on a long shot from the corner and Wicks clicked on a tip-in for the four points.

Ross took a time out at that point and Gilliam took advantage of it to put his team back into a press. Two quick buckets, off two turnovers by Ross, by Kish and Wicks again raised the Admiral lead to 50-45 before free throws by Fahrback and Oberholzer and a two-pointer by Fahrback cut the King lead to 50-48. That was as close as Ross was to come again.

Two costly turnovers led to two straight free throws and a basket by Rick Akins had it 54-48 at the end of three periods.

After 25 seconds of the final period the Admirals broke the game open with two quick buckets by Akins and Wicks, the last one off a steal by Harris.

Admiral King built up a 68-57 lead with 2:07 remaining and then played keep-away good enough the rest of the game to keep Ross at bay.

The final score was cut to four on a basket at the buzzer by Mike Reardon.

"That Reardon caused us problems," Gilliam admitted. "He's a good ball player and we geared our defense toward him. That's why the rest of the guys got the points."

Reardon did manage 17 points but most of the night he had the hulking form of Harris or Wicks literally glued to him. Fahrback had 15 with Oberholzer getting 12 and Bob Ford 14.

"The kids played a heck of a ball game tonight," Miller said as he praised his own team. "Sure we had trouble with our press at first but we got it going good until we let Solomon penetrate too much."

"This team we played tonight is possibly the best one that we have played all season. The boys stayed with them pretty good."

Cook led the Admirals with 18 while Wicks had 16 and Harris, 11. The Admirals grabbed 44 rebounds while Ross had 29. The Little Giants were 24 of 48 while King was 32 of 78.

Trojans belt Marion to tie Admirals for Buckeye b-ball crown

Findlay won a piece of the Buckeye Conference basketball crown by rolling over Marion Harding, 71-51, on the Findlay home court.

The Trojans thus tied Admiral King for the title with an identical 11-3 conference mark.

The other Buckeye Conference games went to Mansfield, 67-50, over Sandusky, and Elyria, 71-59, over Lorain Senior.

Findlay started hot and ended hot in the title tying performance. The Trojans raced to a 16-6 lead in the first quarter and then tacked on 20 markers in both of the last

quarters to win going away. Brad Longberry tossed in 17 points for the Trojans while Scott Hamlin registered 16. Jim Conkle had 12 and Dan Vansickle, 11, for the Prexies.

Findlay burned the nets on 32 of 58 shots while holding Marion to only 16 of 55. Mansfield led all the way in downing Sandusky. Leading 20-10 at the end of one period, the Tygers rolled up 18 points in the second stanza to take a 38-23 lead.

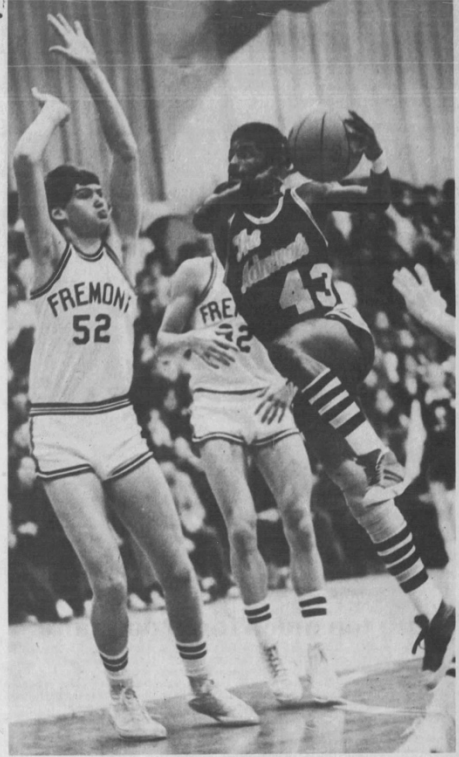
Geron Tate poured through 23 points to lead the Tygers while Tony Randelman had 16 to lead the Blue Streaks who lost for the 14th time in 17 games this season.

Elyria got away from the strike in the Elyria schools and dumped the Lorain Senior Steelmen at Lorain in handy fashion. Jerry Gilbert hit a game high 22 points, 13 via the free throw route, to pace the Pioneers. Larry Vangeloff and Bo Worthing had 21 for the Steelmen.

Elyria game canceled

Ross ended its season last night with the loss to Admiral King. Tentatively, the Little Giants were to play Elyria tonight in a game originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 1.

Because of the teacher strike in the Elyria school system, the game had been



ADMIRAL KING'S RICK AKINS STARTS UP WITH BALL
... Mark Celek (52) of Ross (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

St. Joseph rips Huron in final SBC contest

HURON — Breaking a habit is always hard to do and it took St. Joe all season to smash its come-from-behind style of basketball.

The Crimson Streaks took the first eight minutes to warm up and then unloaded on the Huron Tigers in the middle two quarters to pick up their seventh Sandusky Bay Conference victory Friday night.

St. Joe avenged an earlier nine point loss to Huron with its 71-48 victory.

Taking a one-point advantage into the locker room at half time the Streaks returned to the floor and never fell behind. St. Joe scored 23 points in both the second and third quarters then preserved its 23 point lead in the fourth quarter despite losing three starters in the final three minutes of play.

"We weren't sharp all the time but we played with a lot of poise. We were pressing a little in the second half and managed to control the game. It wasn't quite as close as the score would indicate," said coach Pete Guerrero.

Shooting an amazing 57 per cent from the field, St. Joe's highest to date, the Crimson Streaks found the inside lane to the bucket well paved on the Tigers' court.

"They were playing in a lot of unconventional defenses to try to stop Smith, a triangle and two and a box-and-one along with their man-to-man. That opened up all sorts of avenues for us and our inside men took it to the basket."

Mark Strausbaugh connected for 17 points and Dave Saller chipped in 15 for the Crimson Streaks. Mike Smith led both teams in

scoring with 19 points followed by Huron's talented Gary Majestic who scored 18 points.

St. Joe's good thing was slightly endangered as the fourth frame dwindled until the Streaks finally had to look to its bench, Mike Opre, John Fey and Greg Kuns, for protection.

"At the end of the game we were going with our sophomores and they showed a lot of poise. But overall, we were really strong on the boards."

Strausbaugh nabbed seven rebounds, Tom Kowalewski grabbed eight and Dave Saller had his best all-around

outing with nine caroms to lead the invading Streaks. St. Joe outrebounded Huron 34-22.

The Streaks complete their season tonight against a powerful Mansfield St. Pete's, ranked first in Class A basketball.

"I think they might have been thinking about tomorrow night a little bit. All that talk about St. Pete's and how good they are. I think this win will get them primed," Guerrero said.

The game will complete the St. Joe slate this season and they head into "AA" sectional basketball next weekend against St. Wendelin.

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News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor



Ross reserves lose to Admiral King

The Ross Little Giant JV's lost to the Admiral King Admirals, 50-35, in the preliminary game last night. The Admirals' Mike Schlittgen is trapped between a pair of Little Giant JV

defenders. Ross' Ken Berlekamp (left) is about to swoop down on the unsuspecting Admiral King player in last quarter action.

Because of the teacher strike in the Elyria school system, the game had been

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MIKE REARDON
... Top player

Fahrbach on 3rd team Reardon tops dream teams

Ross' Mike Reardon led the Buckeye Conference "All-Conference" selections by being named as the 1973-74 "player of the year." Reardon was one of two Little Giant players making the top three teams.

Reardon, a 6-3 senior forward, was joined by 6-4 senior teammate Paul Fahrbach on the coaches' "dream teams." Fahrbach was tabbed for the third team.

Reardon attempted 196 field goals and hit 95 for a 48.5 percentage mark. He sank 83 of 102 from the line for 81.4 per cent for his 273 points on the season while averaging 21.0 points per game. Reardon also grabbed 117 rebounds, an average of nine a game, had only 28 personal fouls charged against him and was guilty of only 54 turnovers for the season. All stats are strictly for Buckeye Conference games.

Elyria led the eight schools in the balloting with three players in the top 15. Admiral King and Findlay, co-champs of the Conference, along with Ross, had two on the teams. Mansfield and Marion also had two players selected while Lorain Senior and Sandusky had one player each.

Brad Longsberry of Findlay, Geron Tate of Mansfield, Jerry Gilbert of Elyria, and Terry Kish of Elyria joined Reardon on the first team. Gilbert's 17.7 was next in line to Reardon's 21.0 with the top five averaging a combined 87.5 points per contest.

Only two juniors made the top 15. Scott Hamlin, Findlay's scrappy 5-9 guard, and Tom Owens, the shortest member of the team at 5-7, were the underclassmen. Hamlin is hitting 14.2 points per contest for second team honors, while Owens produces points at a 10.7 clip and was selected to the third team.

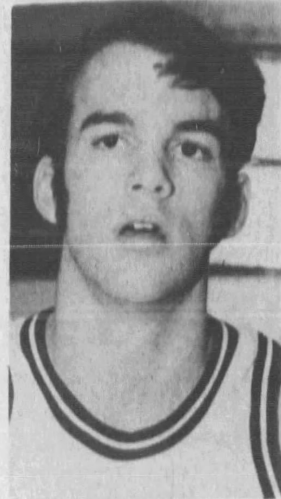
Only two players did not average in double figures this past season. One of those was Fahrbach with his 9.6 and the other was Gary Stephenson of Elyria at 9.2.

Larry Vangeloff of Lorain Senior led the second team with 14.7. Joining him on the team were Tony Randleman of Sandusky, Monty Wicks of Admiral King, Hamlin, and Dan VanSickle of Marion.

On the third team, Elyria's Don Mason topped the squad. He was joined by Stephenson and Fahrbach, along with Gary Feagin of Mansfield and Owens.

1973-74 BUCKEYE CONFERENCE ALL-CONFERENCE BASKETBALL TEAMS

FIRST TEAM		Gr.	Ht.	W.	Pos.	Pt. Av.
Mike Reardon	Fremont Ross	12	6-3	180	F	21.0
Brad Longsberry	Findlay	12	6-5	200	F	15.6
Geron Tate	Mansfield	12	6-4	180	C	16.4
Jerry Gilbert	Elyria	12	6-1	170	G	17.7
Terry Kish	Admiral King	12	6-0	175	G	16.8
SECOND TEAM		Gr.	Ht.	W.	Pos.	Pt. Av.
Larry Vangeloff	Lorain Senior	12	6-1	165	F	14.7
Tony Randleman	Sandusky	12	6-0	160	F	12.9
Monty Wicks	Admiral King	12	6-1	195	C	11.2
Scott Hamlin	Findlay	11	5-9	150	G	14.2
Dan VanSickle	Marion	12	5-11	145	G	13.5
THIRD TEAM		Gr.	Ht.	W.	Pos.	Pt. Av.
Don Mason	Elyria	12	6-2	180	F	11.2
Gary Stephenson	Elyria	12	5-10	165	F	9.2
Paul Fahrbach	Fremont Ross	12	6-4	181	C	9.6
Gary Feagin	Mansfield	12	5-10	160	G	12.6
Tom Owens	Marion	11	5-7	140	G	10.7



PAUL FAHRBACH
... On third team

Al Dark is new A's leader

OAKLAND (AP) — Alvin Dark, who left a last-place baseball team in turmoil seven years ago, is coming back to take over the Oakland Athletics with a massive payroll and other problems.

Controversial owner Charles O. Finley told a news conference Wednesday that Dark, 52, was returning to the two-time American League and World Series titlists as a replacement for exiled Dick Williams. Finley left no doubts he hadn't changed much when he said:

"Yes, he has been manager of this club before. Yes, he was fired. Yes, he is coming back to manage this club. Yes, he expects to be fired again some day, but he said he hopes it'll be a hell of a lot longer stay than the last time."

Dark, who brought the San Francisco Giants to a National League pennant in 1962, was Finley's manager for the Kansas City A's in 1966 and part of 1967 before Finley

Hudson takes lead in PBA event

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Tommy Hudson of Akron, Ohio, 26-year-old righthander who was pro bowling's rookie of the year in 1973, had been bowling so poorly recently that he withdrew from last week's seventh tour stop, in New York City.

The 6-foot 1, 190-pounder had won only \$825 in six events this season.

But he has come back, and has grabbed the lead after the first 12 games of the \$100,000 Winston-Salem Classic.

Hudson, trying for his first title in Professional Bowlers Association Play, toppled 2632 pins Wednesday for an average of 219.

He had games of 223, 155, 247, 280, 223 and 192 in the first six, in which he was eighth in the 160-man field. Then he shot 212, 227, 234, 223, 224 and 192.

He leads by nine pins over Sam Flanagan, a veteran from Parkersburg, W.Va., who also is trying for his first victory on the tour.



SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS at the Ross winter sports program last night were: Front row (left to right) John Cramer, Paul Fahrbach, Mike Reardon, Larry Parks, Rob Serwin; Back row: Tony Munoz, Eugene Reyes,

Brett McKittrick, Mark Cooley, Phil Havens, Don Wensinger, and Steve Reiter. Not in the picture but special winners were Neal Oberholtzer, Mark Celek, and Marty Mason.

News-Messenger

Sports news

Reardon, Parks, Serwin top Ross winter awards

It was "awards" night at Ross High School last night. Athletes from the swimming, wrestling, and basketball squads were honored with numerals, letters, and trophies by the various varsity and junior varsity coaches. Eighty-eight athletes in all three sports along with 10 cheerleaders were mentioned in the ceremonies.

Mike Reardon, Larry Parks, and Rob Serwin gained the top honors in basketball, wrestling, and swimming, respectively. Reardon walked off with four basketball trophies while Parks garnered four in the wrestling portion of the program. Serwin was tabbed as the swimming team's "most valuable."

Parks was awarded the "most takedowns" trophy by wrestling coach Al Voggenthaler along with the "most pins" which was shared with Tony Munoz, "outstanding wrestler," and captain's trophy.

Steve Reiter shared the outstanding wrestler award with Parks, who won the sectional crown at 167 pounds. Reiter also received a captain's trophy along with Parks, Mark Cooley, and Don Wensinger, all seniors. Reiter and Parks were Buckeye Conference champions in their respective weight divisions.

The "most improved wrestler" award went to junior Eugene Reyes, a 112-pounder, who won only two matches last season but was in double figures range in wins this year.

Munoz, only a sophomore, was given a "most pins" trophy along with Parks, Munoz, a 98-pounder, and Parks, both had eight pins this season.

Serwin won the district crown and was sixth in the

state meet in Columbus to win the most valuable award in swimming for coach Jay Olsen's team. Serwin is a senior who did not lose in dual meet competition this season.

The "most coachable" award went to Phil Havens, a senior on the 8-3 team. Brett McKittrick was given the "most improved" trophy and co-captains Marty Mason and John Cramer were given trophies for that particular distinction.

The swimming team completed one of the most successful years this season with the 8-3 dual mark. The high point of the season, however, was winning the Buckeye Conference swim crown over arch-rivals Sandusky and Findlay.

The team also finished fourth in the Bowling Green Invitational meet. Last year the Little Giant tankers were 9th in that same event.

In basketball, Reardon walked off with the MVP award, offensive efficiency, free throw, and captain's trophies to dominate that

sport. Reardon was named on the AP district basketball team where he was named co-player of the year, and the AP all-state first team. The 6-3 senior was also tabbed at the coaches' district player of the year.

Reardon also set a new single season Ross scoring mark while being named the Buckeye Conference player of the year.

The defensive efficiency award of coach Kenny Miller's squad went to 6-5 junior Neal Oberholtzer. The most improved player went to another junior, Mark Celek.

Paul Fahrbach was given a trophy for sharing the captaincy with Reardon during the season.

Celek was given a special award by his teammates. An award that lacks a name but could be called a "good guy" award. The players called Celek the guy "who never stopped smiling" and credited him with keeping the team "loose" during the season.

sors his with 64

his old high-game of 57 and the Warrior forward became only the third player in the history of pro basketball to score as many as 64 points.

Pistons 109, Hawks 108
Bob Lanier and Don Adams each connected on a pair of free throws in the final 30 seconds and Detroit squeezed by Atlanta. It was the 52nd victory for the Pistons, setting a club record.

Huron defeats St. Joe girls

HURON — The Huron girls' volleyball team handed St. Joe's girls their third straight Sandusky Bay Conference defeat. The Huron team won the first and third games for the three-game set to drop St. Joe's SBC mark to 2-3.

Kathy Root scored five points while Pam House and Mary Rimelspach had four each in the 15-4 second game win for St. Joe. Huron, however, took 15-8 and 15-4 wins in the other games to win the match.

The St. Joe reserves also lost, 15-9, 9-15, and 15-12 to the Huron reserves.

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