

2000 Division I Sectional Tournament

Boys basketball

Ross looks to rebound tonight

By MICHAEL MOHR

Staff writer

For the Fremont Ross boys basketball team, it is time to move on.

As the Little Giants prepare for tonight's sectional final against Ashland at Willard High School, the biggest thing Ross (16-4) is battling may not be the Arrows, but bouncing back from the 79-71 Great Lakes League loss to Sandusky last Friday night, a game that cost Ross its first GLL title since 1954.

"It's a tough situation," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "When you lose a championship game like that, because it's something you work for all year, but you also work all year to get in tournament time as well that's one of the things we talked about as soon as we got in the locker room there, that we still are going to be playing for a championship we have a chance to be cutting down the net on Friday and we have to be focused on what we need to do in order to be successful."

The Arrows advanced with a 75-62 win over Mansfield Madison Tuesday night.

Ashland will try to use its inside game with 6-foot-7 Matt Schlingman, a junior post player, and 6-6 Jason Hess, a senior post player. Hess averages 15 points and 10 rebounds per game and can handle the ball.

At guard, the Arrows have second-team all-district player Jerome Anderson, a 5-8 junior who is their best 3-point threat, shooting about 35 percent from behind the arc.

"They execute very well," Gedeon said. "It's because they pass the ball so well together and they are willing to make that extra pass to get that good shot, you will rarely see them force a shot."

"We need to come out and be the more aggressive team. Tempo is going to be key. With our aggressiveness, hopefully we can create some turnovers and limit the easy baskets. They want to make sure they run their open post and get the ball high-low and make the point blank shots, if we can take those things away and get out and run our transition game we think we can get some easy baskets, we have to do a great job on the boards."

Boys basketball: sectional finals

Ross slips past Arrows to advance

Tygers next for Little Giants

By MICHAEL MOHR
Staff writer

WILLARD — When Reggie Jones won the tip for the Fremont Ross boys basketball team and T.J. Hammer found Steve Dagg along the left baseline and Dagg cruised in for an easy layup, it looked like the Little Giants might be on their way to another easy vic-

tory.

But as it turned out, Ashland was there to play.

The Little Giants held off a tough Ashland team and posted a 64-61 win in a Division I sectional final game at Willard High School Friday night.

The Little Giants did not commit a turnover in the fourth quarter.

"That's an impressive stat," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "Our kids executed very well. We were able to

start posting up Juan (Vela) and Steve and that really got us a little bit of a run there. We're a very good shooting basketball team, when we get shots as opposed to throwing it away, you've got that much of a chance to score."

"That just shows a lot about the execution and heart of our kids tonight."

Ross advanced to a district semifinal against No. 4 Mansfield Senior at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Tygers, who whipped Sandusky 94-62 on

Friday

Ross	64
Ashland	61

Wednesday

Ross vs. Mansfield	7:30 p.m.
district semifinal at Willard	

ed dunk by Jones after Bryan Root rebounded a Hammer shot and fed Jones.

But the play proved costly for the Little Giants, as Hammer suffered a right ankle injury on the play.

"Right away Doc (Ross Athlete Trainer Joe Hershey) confirmed my worst fears," Gedeon said. "It was a major injury in terms of a possible break, he definitely wasn't returning to the game. He's getting x-rays right after the game."

"You can't lose your leaders on the floor, but we battled after we lost Kelly and now we have to battle again losing T.J. Now we need someone else to step up for us."

Without Hammer, Ross turned to two sophomores and a freshman, as Bo Martin, Mike Price and Terrence Jones filled the void.

"I can't say enough about the efforts of our younger kids stepping up," Gedeon said.

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Ross wins sectional title over Ashland

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"Bo Martin comes in and gives us great defense, great passing and great leadership from a sophomore really in his first extended time on varsity, and he just refused to lose.

"Mike Price goes out in the second quarter when it starts looking like they are going to pull away and hits a big jumper for us. Terrence Jones comes up with 11 points, plays a ton of minutes. That's probably the most minutes he's played on varsity in his career. We got the great effort we needed from everybody. We showed a lot of heart and character tonight."

Said Vela, "Coach (Gedeon) has been telling them all week, if they come in for a minute or whatever that they have to give us something. Tonight, they were ready.

They came in and gave us a lot of positives and we owe this game to them because they did a great job."

The Arrows were able to control the tempo and took a 35-32 lead at halftime.

"We wanted to try to control the tempo," said Dagg, "but we got down a little bit. We tried to pick it up, had a couple runs, had a couple let-downs. The main thing is that we won."

In the first half, Ashland pretty much dictated how every part of the game was played with its two post players, 6-foot-7 Matt Schlingman and 6-6 Jason Hess, drawing fouls inside on Reggie Jones and Dagg and getting Ross into situations where it had to sit those two for extended periods of time.

"We got them in some foul trouble," said Ashland coach Chris Stokes. "I think we got up eight or so then we made

"We showed a lot of heart and character tonight."

— **Mark Gedeon,**
Ross coach

some quick turnovers that gave them six points off of easy baskets. That allowed them to get confidence and get back in the game. We should have pushed the lead out a little bit further, we just didn't do that. They were in a lot of foul trouble.

"Second half was the same thing. We had a big lead, then we made a couple easy passes. Reggie Jones intercepted one of them and got a three-point play off of it. We made bad mistakes at bad times."

TICKETS: Tickets for Wednesday's game will go on sale at 7:30 a.m. Monday in the Ross athletic office.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 64, Ashland 61

Division I sectional final

at Willard

ROSS—Juan Vela 7-2-18, T.J. Hammer 0-1-1, Steve Dagg 6-6-18, Reggie Jones 5-1-11, Alfonzo Vann 0-1-1, Terrence Jones 5-0-11, Chris Beard 1-0-2, Mike Price 1-0-2, totals 25-11-64.

ASHLAND—Jerome Anderson 6-3-17, Matt Hess 5-0-12, Casey Cooke 0-2-2, Matt Schlingman 1-0-2, Jason Hess 7-8-22, Dan Krispinsky 0-2-2, Mark Hess 1-2-4, totals 20-17-61.

Ross	15	17	18	14	—	64
Ashland	20	15	14	12	—	61

3-point goals: Ross 3 (Vela 2, T. Jones), Ashland 4 (Anderson 2, Matt Hess 2). Rebounds: Ross 22 (Dagg 5, T. Jones 5), Ashland 18 (Matt Hess 4, Jason Hess 4). Turnovers: Ross 12, Ashland 14.

Records: Ross 17-4, Ashland 16-5