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Ross faces Wapakoneta

Fremont Ross will square off against Wapakoneta in the Girls Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament at Van Buren High School Wednesday.

The Lady Little Giants, 10-9, will play 7-10 Lady Redskins at 6:30 p.m.

Wapakoneta defeated Lima Senior 47-42 in the opening round of the tournament Monday evening. Ross drew a first round bye.

"They are comparable to us," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said. "They play a good 1-2-2 zone and size-wise, they are a little bigger than us. They start 5-10, 5-9, 5-9 on the inside."

Wolf's gang will have to face the

Lady Redskins minus starting guard Tammy Haas, a key player breaking presses for the Lady Little Giants. The Ross senior reinjured her left knee Thursday in a win over Tiffin Columbian.

"She gets to try to cut on it Wednesday," Wolf said. "If it does not swell, she may be back for the second game of the tourney if we win Wednesday."

"Mitch" Miller and Angie Elliott, two-thirds of Wapakoneta's inside trio, combined for 24 points Monday. Alicia Bush, a guard, popped in 11 from the outside.

"They did not try to run that much," Wolf said after watching the Lady Redskins Monday. "They

look like they could, though."

"I feel," Wolf continued, "if we box out on the boards, we should be okay."

Wolf will start Joan Osmon in Haas' position with Diane Borys at the other guard. Rhea Paulson, 5-9, and Cindy Gilson, 5-7, are Ross's forwards while 5-9 Laurie Smith will be at center.

DIRECTIONS: To get to Van Buren High School, take route 6 to I-75; south on I-75 to route 613 to the Van Buren exit. Go left on 613 approximately one mile to the stop sign on Main St. Go right and the school will be on the left side less than a mile from the stop sign.

Little Giants whip Wapakoneta 49-31

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

VAN BUREN — Ross dominated the boards and turned a first half hot streak into a 49-31 victory over Wapakoneta in the Class AAA Girls Sectional Basketball Tournament here Wednesday.

The Lady Little Giants will play Buckeye Conference champion Findlay Saturday at 6:30 p.m. for the sectional title.

Rhea Paulson came up with six offensive rebounds in the second period and converted five into buckets as Ross began to shake off the cold shooting Western Buckeye League School.

Ross sank four of 10 first period shots to lead 9-5 but a nine for 18 performance in the second eight minutes, including an 14-6 advantage on the boards, turned the game toward the Purple and White. Ross outscored Wapakoneta 8-0 in the first five minutes of the period.

"We did what we wanted," coach Sue Wolf said after her team picked up its 11th victory in 20 games. "We saw (in Monday night's game against Lima Shawnee) that they did not box out well so we worked hard on that this week. I really expected us to take the boards."

Ross "took" the boards by a 41-26 margin which helped offset 31 Lady Little Giants turnover. Wapakoneta committed 17 giveaways. The majority of the Ross turnovers came in the second 16 minutes.

"We weren't making good passes," Wolf said. "I think we were telegraphing them to much."

Wapak, however, did not receive the Ross messages. After closing the once 20-point Ross lead (37-17) to 42-29 with three minutes to play that was it. Ross cut Wapakoneta off with buckets on four of five turnovers and the fire left the Lady Redskins.

Ross canned 23 of 48 shots, one of its better shooting nights of the season, while

Wapakoneta hit only 13 to 58.

The Lady Little Giants used a combination of zones and a "man-to-man" defense to throttle Wapakoneta. The Lady Redskin's tight 2-1-2 zone had Ross baffled for a portion of the first period.

"We switched offenses," Wolf explained. "We brought out a point guard to split'em. It worked because we began to get better shots."

Paulson was the only Lady Little Giant in double figures. She hit nine of 12 from the field. Laurie Smith had eight while Della Hall came off the bench to chip in six.

Alicia Bush scored 10 for the Lady Redskins despite missing her first 10 shots. She had eight in the third period.

Ross played for the second game in a row without the services of Tammy Haas. Wolf said that the senior guard will return Saturday. She went to the bench when she reinjured her left knee against Tiffin Columbian a week ago.

| Score by quarter | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|-------|
| Wapakoneta | 5 | 4 | 12 | 10—31 |
| Ross | 9 | 18 | 10 | 11—49 |
| Scoring | | | | |
| WAPAKONETA: Meyer 3-2-8, Bush 5-0-10, Luebrecht 0-1-1, Miller 3-0-6, Elliott 2-2-6; totals 13-5-31. | | | | |
| ROSS: Paulson 9-1-19, Smith 4-0-8, Borys 2-0-4, Gilson 1-1-3, Osmon 0-0-0, Long 2-0-4, Hall 3-0-6, Lindstrom 2-0-4, Ritchart 0-1-1; totals 23-3-49. | | | | |
| Season records: Ross 11-9, Wapakoneta 8-13. | | | | |

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SANDY LONG of Ross cut through a hole in Findlay's defense during third quarter play Saturday in the Class AAA sectional finals at Van Buren High School. Kim Frederick (34) of Findlay is the defender. (N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

Woodmore girls trip Lake to win 'A' crown

PERRYSBURG — The Woodmore girls basketball team advanced to the district tournament with its 44-41 triumph over Lake in the Class A sectional finals at Perrysburg High School Saturday night.

Woodmore will play Swanton at 8:30 Thursday night in the district tournament at Sylvania High

the Rockets 27-19. Jan Harvey paced Oak Harbor with 20 points and Lori Lambert had 10.

WOODMORE: Bloomfield 62-14, Mercer 2-4, Siebenaler 3-0, Haar 5-2-12, Kruse 1-2-4; totals 17-10-44.

LAKE: Haubohl 3-0-6, Hicks 3-2-

Class AAA

Findlay rolls past Ross

VAN BUREN — Ten points into the game Sue Wolf saw the handwriting on the wall.

"That's when it was over," Wolf said moments after her Ross girls basketball team had dropped a 60-34 contest in the Class AAA Girls Sectional Basketball Tournament Saturday.

Findlay, hitting 25 of 56 from the field, and with its big twosome of Cindy Stubbins and Julie Plott combining for 26 points, took the game completely away from Ross in the first four minutes of the second half.

Trailing 28-15, Ross went scoreless for half the third period while the Lady Trojans dropped in 10. Pam Cozette's shot shortly after the mid-point of the period ended the Lady Little Giants' drought.

Wolf, saddened by the season ending loss, bluntly pointed out two reasons for the Ross loss.

"One, thing," she began, "is that they are better than us."

"And another, we were not putting the ball in the basket. People were not shooting when they had the shot."

Ross did fire up 60 shots but only 16 found the mark.

The Lady Little Giants had no inside game with the 5-11 Stubbins and 5-10 Plott blocking out that avenue.

Ross was forced into a catch-up situation after the first few minutes of play and the quicker Lady Trojans were able to take advantage of the situation.

Stubbins dropped in 16 points, Plott 10, and Cheryl Stacy burned Ross for 14 from the outside and inside on fast breaks.

"I feel bad that we played so poorly," Wolf said. "I feel sorry for the kids because this group was sorta special."

Ross held an edge in rebounding, 27-26, and committed 19 turnovers, two more than Findlay.

Bellevue is AA sectional champ

SANDUSKY — Bellevue jumped into the Class AA Girls District Basketball Tournament Saturday with a convincing 59-40 win over Margareta in the sectional finals at Sandusky High School.

Clamping a tight defense on Margareta's top two scorers and rebounders, Lisa Jenkins and Lisa Miller, Bellevue ran to a 10-4 first period lead and increased that to 28-14 at the intermission.

Lori LaFollette tossed in 27 points for the Lady Redmen, now 13-8 for the season. Kim Godfrey added 13 for the winners.

Jenkins finished with 13 points for Margareta.

Bellevue will play Upper Sandusky, 18-2, in the first round of the districts.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|-------|
| Bellevue | 10 | 18 | 15 | 16—59 |
| Margareta | 4 | 10 | 14 | 12—40 |

SCORING

BELLEVUE: LaFollette 10-27, Godfrey 5-3-13, Jarrett 2-0-4, Lilly 3-0-4, Windsor 2-0-9; totals 22-15-59.

MARGARETA: Miller 3-0-6, Jenkins 7-0-14, Dauch 2-0-4, Johnson 3-2-8, Wilber 1-0-2, Lamberos 2-0-4, Hoffman 1-0-2; totals 19-2-40.

Sophomore Sandy Long led Ross with nine points and Laurie Smith added seven.

Ross finished the season with an 11-10 mark.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

| | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|-------|
| Ross | 7 | 8 | 8 | 11—34 |
| Findlay | 14 | 14 | 16 | 14—60 |

SCORING

ROSS: Ritchart 1-0-2, Haas 2-0-4, Long 4-1-9, Hall 2-0-4, Borys 2-0-4, Smith 3-1-7, Cozette 2-0-4; totals 16-5-34.

FINDLAY: Gokey 8-1-1, Plott 5-0-10, Unshapher 0-2-2, Petry 1-2-4, Stacy 1-4-14, Frederick 4-1-9, Stubbins 6-0-16, Homer 1-0-2, Trice 1-0-2; totals 25-10-60.

Season records: Ross 11-10.



THE CHASE: Cheryl Stacy, left, and Cindy Stubbins (40) of Findlay catch Ross's Tammy Haas in a squeeze play while chasing the ball. Stubbins ended up with the object of the chase.

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Sports news