

2011 Division I Sectional Tournament

Marion ousts Ross girls in sectionals

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

BUCYRUS — Christy Meggitt's Fremont Ross basketball playing days didn't last long.

Just one season to be exact.

But while it was short, the senior gave Little Giants coach Juan Vela a little bit of everything.

At 5-foot-6, Meggitt was a prime scorer from the outside. However, she could also find ways to penetrate the lane and be just as physical down low as a post. She scrapped for rebounds and dived on the floor for loose balls. And it wasn't uncommon to see her constantly talking to her teammates.

In game No. 21 of her Ross basketball tenure Saturday, she did all of that and more, leading the Little Giants with 19 points. But Ross fell to Marion Harding 59-38 in the Division I sectional finals.

See ROSS, page 7

ROSS FROM 6

"She was working hard right from the start for us," Vela said. "It was nice to see her end her career on a good night. It's too bad we only got her for one year."

Meggitt is no stranger to wearing the purple and white as she competed each season in volleyball and softball. Last season she was part of a state qualifying 200-yard freestyle relay squad in swimming.

"We knew coming in that she could shoot it," Presidents coach Greg Noftz said. "And tonight she really hurt us."

Meggitt followed Sam Michael's opening second-chance basket with a jumper just outside the lane to give the Little Giants (2-19) an early 4-3 edge just two minutes in. She then fed Michael inside to grow the lead to three as Ross came out strong early.

Then Brenae Harris happened. Harding's 5-foot-10 senior

point guard, who has signed to play college basketball at Michigan, turned up the press and earned four straight steals and baskets as a result. Her final of the four steals and baskets gave the Presidents (11-11) a 13-6 advantage nearing the end of the first quarter.

Harris finished with a game-high 29 points, picking up a double-double with her 12 steals. She was responsible for 22 points alone off turnovers.

"She hurts us everytime we play her," Vela said. "We played some good half-court offense, but we didn't take care of the basketball. And we kept telling the girls they had to know where Brenae was."

Harding led 13-7 after one and stretched the edge to 17-9 on a Harris drive to the basket with 6:42 left until the half. But Meggitt got Ross right back within five the next trip down the floor, converting an and-one after gathering up a loose rebound.

Her 3-pointer a possession

later got the Little Giants within 19-15. It was as close as Ross would get the rest of the way. The Presidents closed the half on an 11-5 run to lead 30-20 heading into the dressing room. They grew the lead to 45-28 after three quarters on a 3-pointer by Kortni Backensto.

"(Ross) played really well early on," Noftz said. "Playing a team for the third time is never easy, and they're getting better."

Meggitt added seven rebounds, three steals and a pair of assists to her point total.

Michael, just a sophomore, chipped in nine points and had a team-high 10 boards for the Little Giants. Junior Bria Simms had nine rebounds.

Vela loses only Meggitt, Alex Ferguson and Tera McDonald to graduation as he'll bring back plenty of young talent. The Ross junior varsity team went 10-10 this winter.

"We're definitely seeing signs to come," Vela said.

E-mail Kevin Shields at
kshields@gannett.com.
