

1948 Class A Tournament

LITTLE GIANTS TOP NORWALK IN INAUGURAL

Fremonters To Face Tough Ashland Five Saturday

Despite a lineup riddled by injuries and illness, a scrapping band of Little Giants from Fremont Ross upset the early dope bucket by knocking off Norwalk, 42-39, in the first round of the Northwestern Ohio District Class A basketball tourney at Sandusky Wednesday night.

While the Rossmen were eliminating Grant Walls' crew, a highly regarded Ashland quintet, defending champions, bumped into a tartar in George Burkett's Tf-

Tickets for the Fremont Ross-Ashland game, scheduled for 7 p. m. Saturday at Sandusky's junior high gym, went on sale at Principal Clarence R. Cooper's office today. Only a limited supply of ducats are available and they will be withdrawn from local sale Friday night.

fin Columbian outfit and were forced to come from behind in the final minute of play for an unimpressive 31-29 victory.

The A's, tutored by Cloyce Taylor, will meet Ross in the quarter-finals Saturday at 6 p. m. with the winner engaging the Bellevue-Tiffin Calvert victor March 9 in the semi-finals.

Sans their first-string forward, Ralph Grubs, who is sidelined with a broken foot, and with three other members playing under the handicap of an eye infection or other recent illness, the Fremonts battled into an early lead, stalled off a Norwalk threat late in the first period, and then opened a long 14-point advantage during the third period only to see the Raiders bounce right back with another threat that at one time came within a single point of deadlocking the issue.

The outcome was a personal triumph for Al Ziemie, Ross coach, who had groomed his entire crew for this game during the last 10 days. Add to that the offensive success of Dick Baron, despite an attack of "pink eye," Bob Beck and Bob Beeker and the general defensive mastery of the entire outfit.

of the entire Rough Contest

The game was rough at times and marred by 44 personal fouls which sent Sam Sims, Ross center, to the sidelines shortly before the end of the first half, along with Bill Shew and Jim Chandler, of Norwalk mainstays, late in the tilt.

Baron, Beck and Sims connected in the opening stanza to give the Fremonters a 14-19 advantage while Beck's eight-point third period spurt, and a six-point effort by Beeker in the final canto wrapped up most of the Rossman's offensive work.

After trailing 35-21 at the end of the third period, Walls' quintet rebounded with a determined spurt that carried them to a 40-39 deficit with 33 seconds remaining before Becker slipped through for the "clincher." Five Norwalk fouls in the final seconds while Ross was attempting to stall locked up the outcome.

In the opener, Ashland trailed throughout the tilt as Columbian slowed the Taylor-Tots fast break to a gentle walk and handcuffed their offensive efforts with a tight man-to-man defense. Dick Messner hit on a long shot with 75 seconds left for the winning margin.

Tonight's pairings pit Sandusky against Mansfield Madison at 7 p. m. with Shelby and Willard colliding 90 minutes later.

Norwalk (39)	G. F. M. P. Pts.
Chandler, f.	5 0 1 5 10
Moore, f.	0 1 3 4 11
Meagrow, f.	0 2 0 2 2
Westor, c.	0 0 1 3 3
Shane, g.	0 1 1 0 2
Wilde, g.	0 1 1 1 1
McKinley, g.	2 3 1 2 7
VanDeffe, g.	1 0 0 0 0
Borgia, f.	1 0 1 0 2
Totals	13 13 10 22 39
Score by quarters:	
First	14 20 35 42
Second	9 17 21 39
Officials: Bill Owrig (Toledo); Lars Wagner (Baldwin-Wallace).	

Rossmen Meet Tough Ashland Quint Tonight

Hoping to succeed where 19 others have failed—and a distinct underdog in the bargain—Al Ziemke's Little Giant basketballers collide with a highly touted Ashland quintet in the quarter-finals of the northwestern Ohio district Class A tournament at Sandusky's junior high school tonight at 7 o'clock.

The Rossmen will enter the fray weakened by injuries and illness, but nevertheless inspired by Tiffin Columbian's near-defeat of Cloyce Taylor's offensive-minded Taylor Tots in a first round tussle Wednesday in which the A's gained a last-minute, 31-29 decision after being outplayed throughout.

Dick Baron, still plagued with an eye infection, and Bob Beeker, will team at the forwards with the latter replacing Ralph Grubs as a broken foot continues to keep the rangy football tackle on the sidelines. Occupying the pivot post, as usual, will be Sam Sims, with Bob Beck, who turned in a 15-point scoring performance as the Rossmen eliminated Norwalk's Raiders in the first round, and Walter Weinhardt at the guards.

An all-veteran crew will take to the floor against this combination with All-Ohio Dick Messner and Dave Burns in the front court; Dick Johnson at center, and Dick Cooper and Cliff Hurst at the guards.

Reunion?

It will be a reunion of sorts for Ziemke and Taylor, the two tutors, for the Ross boss served as an underling to the Findlay college graduate last year as their Taylor Tots zoomed to the district championship before being sidetracked by Findlay's powerful Trojans in the regionals.

ZIEMKE'S LADS ALMOST UPSET FAVORED FIVE

Pressing Defense Keeps
Winners In Hot Water;
Final Score 50 To 37

After holding their own against a heavily favored Ashland quintet until the final three minutes of the third quarter, the Little Giants of Fremont Ross closed out the 1947-48 basketball season on Saturday night by dropping a 50-37 decision to Cloyce Taylor's defending champions in the northwestern Ohio district Class A tournament at Sandusky.

But there was no surge in the ranks. For, despite a riddled lineup, the pretenses of Ziemke presented such instant threats to the "Taylor Tots" that the A's not once took a chance on weakening the starting lineup with a substitution. It was the simple "curse the teacher" Ziemke, a former underling of Taylor's at the Ashland county citadel, came up with a pressuring five-man defense that at times had the orange-shirts champs, who were beaten only once in 20 previous starts, definitely "in the air."

The loss, witnessed by a near-capacity crowd of some 2,500 souls, dropped the Rossmen from the conflict and moved the 1947 titlists into the third-place where they engage Kenny Sampson's "in-and-out" Bellevue crew.

Honors to Four

Individual honors would have to be shared by four youths with Bob Beck and Walter Weinhardt, topping the Rossmen while Dick Lerch and Dick Messner paced the A's.

The latter, a All-Ohio selection last year, was held to a solitary basket from out on the floor by Beck, but he added four others on rebound to trim Lerch and Weinhardt for the scoring honors by a two-point margin.

Lerch was a last-minute substitution for the normal No. 1 guard, Carl Turner. Taylor played a hunch and decided to move the football fullback, a notoriously weak offensive player, in favor of Lerch, son of Ashland's most noted athlete. His eight points, respectable dividends as Lerch tied Weinhardt for the point-making honors with 13 and played a generally "brilliant" game.

On the other hand, despite the effective defensive play of Beck, Dick Baron, Sam Sims and Bob Becker, it was only Weinhardt's effort with a three-point foul shot from the outer confines of the foul ring that really kept the Little Giants within striking distance.

After falling far short of pace during the first period, Ziemke's white-clad Ross crew battled back to within three points of the Taylor Tots before again drawing nine points to the rear at the intermission.

The first five minutes of the third stanza was all in favor of the Fremonters, who had all but two Ashland scoring threats while connecting for 11 quick points to again edge within three points of the A's. At that juncture the A's took time out and effectively squelched the rally.

Despite heavy pre-game odds with favored Ashland as much as 20 points, it was only an undependable Taylor's quintet to pull this game from the fire. Against this, the Little Giants uncorked one of the most effective defensive stands from the foul line that the tourney has seen. On 15 charity tosses, the Fremonters managed to mesh the cords on 13.

Start in Lead

Weinhardt sent Ross to the fore in the first minute with a two-point shot from out on the floor, only to see Messner retaliate to deadlock the issue. Sims then dropped in a free throw after which Dick Johnson converted a brace of charity tosses to put the A's in front to stay. Weinhardt was the lone Rossman able to hit from the floor in the first period and then added two more to trim the Little Giants' eight points in the second stanza.

Trailing 25-16 at the start of the third period, Baron finally took the lead in mid-court and Beck hit the hoops from the ring and Beck hit a free throw. After Messner's foul shot made the count 26-21, Becker found the boards on a lay-up. Despite Lerch's two successive long shots sent the A's back into a seven-point lead but Baron hit from the side court and Beck added two foul shots to cut the deficit to three points. That was the final Ross threat, but it was enough to force Taylor to retain his original lineup throughout the bout.

The lineups:

Team	G	F	M	P	T
Fremont Ross (37)	5	1	1	1	1
Barber, f	1	3	0	4	5
Frey, f	1	2	1	1	4
Shim, f	0	2	0	2	2
Weinhardt, g	6	4	1	2	13
Turner, g	0	0	0	0	0
Lerch, g	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	11	4	15	57
Ashland (50)	5	1	2	1	13
Messner, f	5	1	2	1	10
Burnson, f	2	2	1	1	6
Johnson, f	2	5	5	2	14
Cooper, g	4	0	0	0	4
Lerch, g	1	1	1	1	4
Total	19	12	9	12	50
Ref.	8	16	28	27	9
Fremont	8	16	28	27	9
Ashland	5	1	2	1	13
Officials: Wagner (Baldwin-Wallace); Bill Orwig (Toledo).					