

## 1970-1971 Season Review

*Little Giant Opponent*

# Mansfield Dumped Ross Twice In '69

Fremont Ross will have plenty of incentive when it opens the Buckeye Conference basketball grind at Mansfield Friday.

The Little Giants, who bowed to Fostoria, 66-54, in the opener last Saturday have only bad memories concerning last year's two encounters with Mansfield.

In the first game at Mansfield, Ross dropped a 57-52 verdict. Ross led in the contest entering the final period but was out-scored 15-4 in the final eight minutes.

The Little Giants also had the lead in the second game before dropping a 55-53 decision. Ross held a 42-37 advantage after three quarters.

Those two victories helped the Tygers gain a share of the Buckeye Conference championship with Elyria.

First-year coach Vic Pfizenmayer relies on a lineup that features an All-Buckeye Conference selection from 1969-70, Jim Barnett. Barnett is the leading offensive threat for the Tygers. He bucketed 16 points for the Tygers in their lopsided opening night victory, 60-45, at Clear Fork last Saturday.

Joining Barnett in the starting five are Rob Arnett, Henry Harris, Ned Cameron and Keith Shulko.

"Mansfield has good overall size," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Wednesday. "Every one of their starters is 6-0 or better. Their center (Shulko) is only 6-3 but he weighs 230."

Barnett is 6-0 and the other three starters are 6-1.

"Mansfield will run the same type of offense as last season," Clark said. "Their fellows like to take the 20-foot jump shot if they are open. Next to Barnett, Harris is the leading shooter. Last year Barnett played forward, but he's at guard this year. He's also their best ball handler. He was the only under classman named to the Buckeye Conference team last season."

For reserve help the Tygers rely on Bob Myers and Dave Burley. Myers lettered last season.

"This will be a big game for our boys," Clark said. "It's the start of the Buckeye and our kids remember what happened last year. They also want to prove they are a better club than they showed last week against Fostoria.

"We have to eliminate the errors we had last week. We haven't put in anything new in practice this week. All of the time has been devoted to working on our mistakes.

"I'm hoping that many of the mistakes against Fostoria were just first-game jitters."

Clark intends to start the same lineup that opened against Fostoria. Junior Chuck Celek will be at the center post, John Lewis and Denny Shearon at forward and Dave Kridler and Steve Smith at guard.

The head coach has been pleased with the improvement shown by second stringers in practice this week.

"The kids who were out for football and didn't start practice until late are coming around," Clark said. "Each night our bench gets stronger and stronger. Tom Liggins and Bob Brudzinski did a good job at Fostoria and Mike Feasel has shown a tremendous amount of improvement in practice."

# Ross High Cagers Fall In Buckeye Conference Opener

## Two Red Hot Tygers Spoil Little Giant Effort

MANSFIELD — A pair of hot-shooting Mansfield Tygers corralled with a cool Ross high hand at the foul line to sink the Little Giants in their Buckeye Conference opener at Mansfield Friday night.

Jim Barnett and Harry Harris were red hot from the foul line and the foul line. The Ross high Little Giants were nearly ice cold at the foul line as Mansfield posted a 67-60 victory in the Buckeye Conference inaugural for both teams.

Barnett and Harris combined to hit on 19 of 33 field goal attempts and 11 of 11 free throw tries to complete a 14-0 performance by the Mansfield cause.

Barnett, a 6' senior guard, who was second team All-Buckeye Conference in 1969-70, connected on 16 field goal attempts and dumped in six of six free throw tries.

Harris, a 6'1" senior forward, made good on ten of 17 field goal tries and five of five free throw attempts.

Bob Harris and Barnett hit from beyond the range, as Barnett did not take a shot inside the three-second lane and Harris sank only two shots that area.

"I thought we were doing a good job of covering him," Ross high head coach Alex Clark said of Barnett, "but he was really hitting them."

"Our foul shooting was the big thing though," Clark said.

The Little Giants converted on only 16 of 29 free throw attempts, missing the first try in several foul and one-situations. "We had been shooting 70 percent plus in foul shots in pre-season games and even last week this was surprising," said Clark.

Even with the hot shooting of Barnett and Harris and their own cold shooting at the foul line, the Little Giants, led by John Lewis stayed with the host Tygers all the way.

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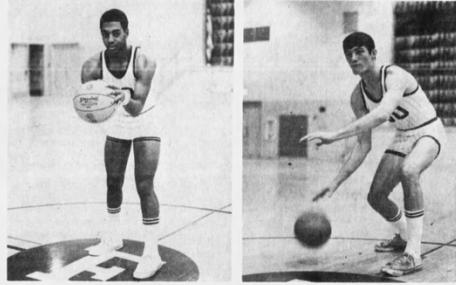
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Ross battled back to within five points of the lead on a number of occasions, but never could cut the margin any further.

Lewis was the big man for the Little Giants. He pumped in nine field goals and five free throws for a total of 23 points. Dave Kridler scored 14 points on four field goals and six free throws and Denny Shearon added ten points on four field goals and two free throws. Shearon also was the game's leading rebounder with ten.

The Little Giants, now 0-2 for the season, host Marion in a Buckeye Conference battle next Friday and host Toledo Rogers in an independent clash Saturday.

Ross high's reserve squad gave the locals a split for the evening. The Little Giant reserves held Mansfield to just one point in the first quarter and posted a 35 to 30 victory. The stingy reserves led 20-9 at the half and 28-15 at the end of three periods.



JOHN LEWIS  
High Ross Scorer

DENNIS SHEARON  
Game's Top Rebounder

## Ross Cage Boss Sees Progress

MANSFIELD — Ross high head basketball coach Alex Clark was disappointed after his Little Giant cagers dropped their second straight of the season at Mansfield Friday night but he was pleased with the progress that was shown by the Ross performance.

"I felt we could beat them tonight," Clark said after the contest, but he had mixed feelings experienced by Harry Harris and Jim Barnett of the Tygers. "I sure didn't expect that."

"Overall our defense was much better than last week's," the Ross cage coach said, adding that at times the Little Giants were "Not reacting to the situation quick enough."

"The scoring defense was good," Clark said, pointing out that Jim Lewis, Steve Kridler and Denny Shearon all were in double figures. "And Steve Smith had a couple of key buckets for us in the second quarter."

"I think all the kids played a pretty fair game. John (Lewis) started scoring, then maybe a tag down the court. Steve did a good job on the boards. John did a good job on the boards and scoring. Dave (Kridler) did a good job directing the offense and trying to hold Barnett. He came up to me on the court and asked what he could have done to stop him (Barnett) and I had to tell him I didn't know. (Bob Brudzinski did a good job as a replacement for Chuck Cekel.) Cekel got in foul trouble early in the contest."

"Overall rebounding was considerably improved," Clark added. The Little Giants reduced their turnover total from 28 to 24 against Fostoria last Friday to eight this week.

In other games around the Buckeye Conference Friday night, Elyria, Sandusky and Findlay all posted victories. Findlay beat Marion 62-55. Steve Werner poured in 35 points. Sandusky dumped Marion 62-51, with Scott May pumping in 27 points, and Elyria ripped Admiral King 64-44, with Ron Becket hitting for 20 counteters.

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Ross FG FT BB PF TTL  
Lewis 9-21 37 4 1 32  
Kridler 4-8 69 1 5 14  
Shearon 4-10 65 1 5 16  
Smith 3-7 13 4 2 17  
Brudzinski 2-4 23 3 0 28  
Cekel 0-1 1 0 0 1  
Liggins 0-6 6 0 0 6  
Fey 0-1 1 0 0 1  
Totals 22-50 92-25 14 60  
Mansfield FG FT BB PF TTL  
Harris 9-16 64 7 3 25  
Barnett 10-17 55 7 3 25  
Arvin 2-4 12 1 0 15  
Cameron 3-8 34 3 4 20  
Sisko 2-5 12 0 3 10  
Kidwell 0-0 12 0 3 1  
Harris 1-1 1 0 0 2  
Totals 26-52 15-29 21-67

Ross 13 12 21-60  
Mansfield 13 17 20-67

## Defense Paces St. Joe To Victory Over Bears

In the modern day world of high scoring basketball the word defense is often forgotten. But the St. Joe Crimson Streaks demonstrated the value of that aspect of the game as they started the new season in the right direction with a 52-44 nonconference win over visiting Gibsonburg Friday night.

"I believe it takes a year to learn and some of the things we worked on last year are beginning to take effect," head coach John Kahle said of his victorious Streaks Friday night.

"That defense. They've got a tough defense."

"They're right out there on you, really hawking," Gibsonburg mentor Carl Assehheimer commented after his Golden Bears' late charge had fallen short of making up the difference provided by the Streaks defense.

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# Ross Cagers Need Defensive Effort In Initial Home Engagement Friday

Fremont Ross basketball coach Alex Clark hopes the defense comes through this weekend when the Little Giants (0-2) entertain Marion in a Buckeye Conference clash Friday and Toledo Rogers in a non-league tilt Saturday.

"The defense must do a better job of keep the score down," Clark said Wednesday. "If we can get a good defensive effort I think the fans are going to see two fine teams."

Prior to the opening of the season Clark stated he wanted the Little Giants to limit their opponents to less than 50 points a game. That hasn't happened in the first two contests. Fostoria registered a 66-54 victory and Mansfield dumped the Little

Giants by a 67-60 count last Friday.

Both games were played on the road.

"We're anxious to play a game in our own gym," Clark said. "It's bound to make a difference. I know that in pre-season scrimmages we played a lot better on our home floor. The home crowd has to help us."

Marion enters the clash with a 2-2 record, but 0-1 in Buckeye Conference play. Sandusky belted the Prexies, 62-51, last Friday. Marion bounced back, however, the following night with a 71-66 victory over a highly touted Marion Franklin squad from Columbus.

The Presidents use a starting lineup that consists of Preston

Owens and either Neil Shaffer or Jon Sissler at guard, Frank Gifford and Mike Roades at forward and Lee Gipson at center. Gipson stands 6-5, Roades and Gifford are 6-3 and 6-2, respectively. Owens stands 6-0 and Shaffer and Sissler are 5-10.

"They have fine height," Clark said. "Of the clubs we've faced so far this season, Marion has the best overall height. Offensively, they have fellows who can score from the outside and inside. We can't allow them to stand and shoot."

Owens hits well from 20 feet. He's their most consistent scorer. Gifford can connect on the 15-foot jumper if he's left alone. Roades is a good shooter and has scored 21 in one game already this

season. Gipson has been inconsistent for them. One night he scored 25 and the next he got one."

Clark is planning to use the same lineup that has started the first two games. John Lewis, the leading scorer through two games with 36 points, will be joined by Denny Shearon at the forward slot. Chuck Celek jumps center and Dave Kridler and Steve Smith share the duty at guard.

Kridler is second to Lewis in scoring with 33 points through two games. Shearon has bucketed 19 points, Smith and Celek have nine and seven, respectively.

"Bob Brudzinski will probably see plenty of action, too," Clark

said. "He did a good job for us in the Mansfield game."

Tom Liggins and Mike Feasel have also been called off the bench in the first two games.

The Little Giants will play three of their next four games at home. After this weekend's two games, Ross journeys to Lorain Senior Friday, December 18. The following evening the Little Giants host Findlay, the pre-season favorite to snare all the laurels in the Buckeye Conference.

Other Buckeye games this week find Lorain at Sandusky, Mansfield at Admiral King and Elyria traveling to Findlay.

Gates for this weekend's games will open at 6:30 p.m. Tipoff time for the reserve game is 6:45 p.m.

# Little Giants Nail Second Straight Win

By MARK CARLSON

New-Messenger Sports Editor

It has been a long time coming—nearly five years—but Fremont Ross has finally put together back-to-back victories on the basketball court.

The Little Giants, who squeaked by Marion Harding, 59-58, Friday, rallied for a 56-56 victory over Toledo Rogers Saturday. The two-time Ross look alike consecutive victories was back in the 1965-66 campaign when it put together three straight victories at the close of the season.

"I'm real pleased with the effort our kids gave out on that floor tonight," head coach Alex Clark said, "as he accepted congratulations in the middle of the Ross locker room." After the way our kids played last night (Friday) I thought they did a great job.

"Our fellows were tired. Friday's game took a lot out of them. Our defense wasn't as aggressive tonight but I think that's because the kids were tired."

"Our philosophy on defense was to get position on Rogers, not to get the steal. It worked out pretty well. We did have a lapse in the second quarter and another near the end of the game."

Denny Shearon sparked the Little Giants offensively, scoring 17 points in the first three quarters. He added two more in the fourth period to finish as Ross' leading scorer.

"The game was really Denny's best game in his school," Clark said. "I've coached him for three years and he has never looked better."

Ross held a 20-22 halftime lead thanks mostly to the work of Shearon who put the Little Giants in front. He connected on six of eight field goal attempts in the first half while the rest of the squad combined to score on only five of 22 free throws.

After the break, Shearon, a 6-2 junior, continued on his six-six run. Ross held a 10-point advantage at the first rest stop. Shearon heaped nearly half of the Ross total in the first period.

The Little Giants never trailed in the first 16 minutes. Their biggest lead was 29-22 with 3:38 remaining.

At the intermission, Rogers came from behind to tie 41 in the first three minutes to move into a 29-27 lead. Ross responded to trail when Shearon hopped in a sit-down with 1:41 left in the quarter to make it 34. John Lewis drove the lane 25 seconds later to put Ross up by three points.

Scott Wolff hit a charity toss to narrow the gap, but Shearon gave Ross a four-point lead with 3:26 left in the period.

Ross led by four, 45-41, after Wolff and Dave Kridler traded two pointers in the closing 25 seconds.

Rogers out-scored Ross, 19-18, in the final period. But, the Rams never held the lead. The score was deadlocked at 43 and 47 before Ross took the jump lead in front for good.

Kris Kridler, a Ross senior, started out in a 12-second stretch. He drove the lane with 2:26 remaining to give Ross a two-point advantage. Five seconds later he connected on a technical foul and then the senior center cashed in on both ends of a one-and-one to make it 54-52.

Ross narrowed the gap to one on Joe Carroll's field goal and a Rod Dryden free throw. Lewis, however, gave Ross a four-point lead with 1:37 left from the foul line.

With 1:11 showing on the clock, Rogers again sliced the margin to two (54-52) on a 18-foot jumper by Bob Riley. But, Kridler again came through when he connected from short range with 1:54 remaining.

After Kridler's second goal, Rogers turned the ball over. Ross led. Bradzinski was up, but he missed the first shot of a one-and-one. Wolf got the rebound and drove the length of the court to a layup and drag Rogers within two with 1:17 showing on the clock.

Kridler was fouled as a Rogers players tried to get the ball. The 5-9 guard sank both ends of the one-and-one to give Ross a four-point lead with 1:07 left.

But Wolff wasn't ready to give up. He connected from 15-feet with 50 seconds remaining and Rogers was again within two.

Ross called time with 43 seconds remaining to plan its final strategy. The game was about to happen, Kridler added, however, when the Little Giants turned the ball over and Rogers had one last chance to even out the victory.

Wolf shot from the side of the basket with 15 seconds remaining and it bounced off the rim. Bradzinski grabbed the most important rebound of the night for the Little Giants.

As Ross ran out the clock, sophomore guard Steve Smith was able to get the ball into the corner for a final situation with two seconds remaining to clinch the victory.

In that hectic fourth quarter, Kridler and Lewis combined for 15 of the 19 Little Giant markers. Kridler had nine of the points—two field goals and five free throws.

"All of the fellows kept plugging away in there," Clark said. "Denny (Shearon) came in the game and he helped them out. And, like in the Marion game the fellows I used as substitutes did a good job. I'm real pleased with the job Bradzinski, Mike Pease and Tom Liggin did."

Chuck Celer also came around. He had three field goals and they were all important buckets. He seems to be getting off his feet again," Clark said. "After all three of his field goals came on offensive rebounds."

From the field, Ross made 22 of 56 attempts. The Little Giants shot a sizzling 78 percent from the charity line, making 15 of 19.

"Offensively I was pleased," Clark said. "We were pretty consistent out there."

The Ross reserves out-scored Rogers, 12-2, in the fourth quarter to pull out a 57-56 victory.

—1—



KEY VICTORY—Senior Ross high forward Denny Shearon (30) keyed the second consecutive Little Giant victory with a 15-point outburst against Toledo Rogers Saturday. Shearon was six-for-eight from the field in the first half.



JUMP SHOT—John Lewis (10) lets ball over the out-stretched hand of Toledo Rogers center Kevin Wolff. Lewis hit three field goals in the fourth quarter Saturday as Ross pulled out a 56-56 victory. (News-Messenger Photo)

## Crimson Streaks Stay Unbeaten

"We are improving—that I don't think Old Fort is used to playing against a man-to-man," Kahl said. "That helped us."

That was the comment of Fremont St. Joseph basketball coach John Kahl after the 80-74 win over Toledo Rogers Saturday.

"Several of our fellows got in early foul trouble. But, the Stockers started to get a good going coming off the bench," Kahl said. "We have to have a lot of room for improvement. The kids need to cut down on their number of silly mistakes."

"This Friday's game at Huron is going to be a very important one for us. We have to all play to play our best game to date. We will need a good effort from everyone on the club."

The Crimson Streaks found players in double figures in rebounding. Dan Halm and Bill Halm had 10 each. Dan Fey was the game's high scorer with 22 points. Bill Halm added 18, Mike Chudzinski contributed 13 and Greg Miele finished with 10.

St. Joe regained its scoring advantage in the third period and out-scored the Stockers 30-11. The scoring was evenly distributed among the five starters. Chudzinski had six points, Halm and Fey each scored five times. Shetzer hit two field goals and Miele added a free throw.

The Streaks maintained their advantage until late in the quarter. But, Old Fort scored five straight points to go into the dressing room at halftime trailing 32-32.

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### Box Score

	FG	FT	TR	PF	FTL
Murray	5-12	8-9	3	1	20
Berlecamp	5-10	4-5	2	2	20
Terry	5-11	9-10	2	4	9
Wolff	5-11	9-10	2	4	9
Fey	10-18	4-5	3	4	22
J. Banks	5-5	3-5	0	1	0
Davis	5-5	2-2	0	1	0
Whiteman	1-2	0-2	1	0	2
Halm	12-17	4-5	3	1	23
Burkhardt	2-2	0-0	1	0	4
Totals	50-74	30-31	34	25	64
ST. JOE (80)					
Chudzinski	10-18	4-5	3	4	24
Fey	10-18	4-5	3	4	22
Miele	5-15	6-6	2	3	19
Halm	5-5	2-2	0	1	0
Shetzer	3-7	0-1	3	5	6
White	5-5	2-2	0	1	2
Wasserman	1-2	1-2	0	1	0
Totals	35-65	18-21	33	21	80

Score by quarters

ROSS (56)	FG	FT	TR	PF	FTL
Kridler	5-12	4	2	13	2
Smith	5-10	23	2	13	2
Lewis	8-11	33	2	13	2
Shearon	10-11	33	2	13	2
Carroll	5-10	1	1	13	2
Burkhardt	1-7	33	3	4	10
White	0-2	0	0	0	0
Fey	0-1	0	0	0	0
Wolff	0-2	0	0	0	0
Terry	0-2	0	0	0	0
Total	22-56	15-39	14-2	56	56
Rogers	8-11	14	2	36	36
Total	30-50	15-39	29	56	56

DAN FEY

Score by quarters

Score

# Little Giant Cagers Have Busy Weekend

Ross' basketball team has two consecutive victories — the first time that has happened since the 1965-66 season — and the Little Giants will try to extend that string this weekend with victories over Lorain Senior and Findlay.

Friday head coach Alex Clark takes his squad to Lorain for a meeting with the Steelmen, who are still looking for their first Buckeye Conference victory.

The Little Giants return home Saturday to host Findlay, the team considered as the front-runner in the Buckeye Conference this season. The Trojans are currently 4-0.

"It's going to be a typical Buckeye Conference weekend — tough," Clark said Wednesday. "Lorain will be very hard to beat on their floor. Findlay is the best club I've seen in the Buckeye Conference in the last five years.

"But, we won't be looking ahead to the Findlay game. We are going to take them one at a time. We won't save anything Friday for Saturday. First we'll worry about Lorain. After that game we'll concentrate on Findlay."

Clark reports that last weekend's victories over Marion and Toledo Rogers have been a

big boost to the Little Giant cage program.

"It has provided an improved mental attitude," Clark says. "The fellows now know they can win. Several members of the team told me Saturday they wished they could play those first two games of the season over."

The second-year coach is contemplating one lineup change — inserting sophomore Bob Brudzinski in the place of another sophomore, Steve Smith.

"If we do put Bob in the lineup it will give us more height," Clark said. "But Steve will see plenty of playing time this weekend."

Brudzinski has tallied eight points in the first four games.

Leading the Ross scoring attack is senior forward John Lewis, who has scored 73 points, an 18.2 average. The rest of the starting five consists of Dave Kridler, Denny Shearon and Chuck Celek.

Kridler is second in scoring with 68 points. Shearon (50), Smith (16) and Celek (15) round out the top five scorers.

Shearon's the leading rebounder with 35. Lewis has pulled down 24 caroms. Celek and Brudzinski have each been credited with 23 rebounds.

*Findlay Here Saturday*

# Foul Shooting Rockets Lorain Past Ross Cagers

LORAIN — Fremont Ross had two more field goals than Lorain Senior but couldn't match the Steelmen at the foul line as the hosts pulled out a 67-59 Buckeye Conference basketball victory Friday.

The loss snapped a Ross winning skein at two games and dropped the Little Giants' season log to 2-3. Lorain gained its first Buckeye Conference win and boosted its overall record to 4-2.

Ross will be seeking to return to the winning path Saturday when its hosts Findlay. The Trojans, considered by many as the team to beat in the Buckeye Conference this season, routed Sandusky, 69-50, Friday.

"Foul shooting was the big difference," Ross head coach Alex Clark said as he reviewed the loss to Lorain. "Lorain was 27-35 from the foul line. We made 15 of 27 shots.

"In the last quarter, we made four of 10 free throws. We missed the first shot in three one-and-one situations. Each time the game was tied. That really hurt us."

After three quarters, the Little Giants trailed by only one point, 44-43. Lorain took a two-point lead at the start of the final quarter on a free throw by Jack Stephenson, but Ross' John Lewis came back moments later with a field goal to knot the contest.

The game was then tied at 47, 49, 51, 53, 57 and 59 before Lorain went ahead for good.

A bucket by Lewis with 1:00 remaining tied the game at 59, but Lorain went ahead 61-59 on Jim Stringfellow's field goal. Brad Frank, who shared game scoring honors with Lewis, added two more points to the Lorain total with 34 seconds remaining when he canned two free throws.

Two more free throws by Phil Craig with 20 seconds remaining boosted the Lorain margin to six points. Craig then got the final two points on a field goal with two seconds remaining in the contest.

In those final eight minutes, Ross had six field goals compared to Lorain's five. But, the Steelmen made good on 13 of 13 free throws. Franks connected for 10 of that total, all in bonus situations.

"We hurt ourselves," Clark lamented. "A couple of those fouls we committed were silly. Several times we fouled Franks after he had taken a rebound."

Ross led at the quarter, 15-14, as Lewis hit for seven points. But Lorain opened the second quarter with eight straight markers to take a 23-15 lead. The Steelmen maintained that margin the rest of the period and went to the dressing room at intermission with a 34-26 advantage.

"Our defense in the second quarter was terrible," Clark commented. "We weren't hustling at all. We picked up seven fouls in that quarter and nearly every one of them was because we weren't hustling."

"In the second half our defense was good in general. But three or four times we didn't hustle and they got a cheap basket on us."

Lewis finished the night as the leading Ross scorer with 30 points. Clark, however, was displeased with the offensive performance of the rest of the squad.

"We got out of character," Clark said. "John was hot and the other fellows kept feeding them. That isn't the way our offense is supposed to work. If one man does all the shooting the rest of the fellows tend to stand around. We were depending too much on John tonight. Most of John's shots were good ones, however.

"I was real pleased with our floor game. We had only seven turnovers compared to 12 for Lorain. That's the best we've done all year."

Clark singled out junior center Chuck Celek for his performance in the losing effort.

"Celek played a real good game," Clark said. "In overall performance I was pleased more with Chuck than anybody else. He's moving around a little better under the boards and getting some key rebounds. He played the best game of anyone on our team."

Tom Liggins and Steve Smith also did a good job coming off the bench for Denny Shearon.

Shearon, the leading rebounder for the Little Giants and third leading scorer, was in foul trouble most of the night. In fact, he picked up his fourth of the game with 31 seconds remaining in the second quarter. Shearon, after sitting out most of the third quarter, fouled out with 6:16 left in the game.

Lorain won the reserve game, 50-42.

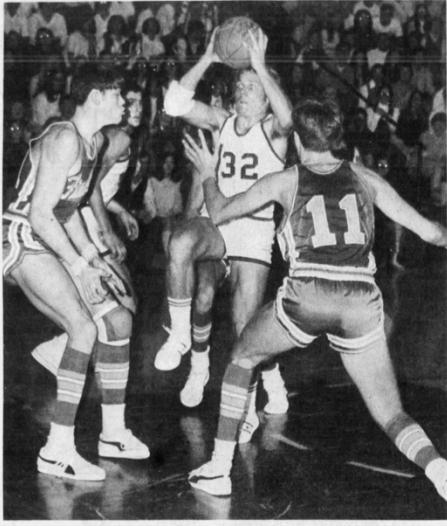
Saturday's game with Findlay is slated to get underway at approximately 8 p.m. following a reserve game that starts at 6:45 p.m.

## Box Score

LORAIN (67)						ROSS (59)					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Tu	Lewis	11-30	8-10	9	3	30
Frank	7-12	14-16	12	2	30	Celek	1-5	0-0	5	5	2
Lane	4-10	2-4	3	5	10	Kridler	3-10	3-7	10	4	9
Druodelich	2-5	0-1	8	3	2	Brudzinski	2-9	4-7	1	3	8
Craig	3-6	3-4	2	4	9	Smith	3-6	0-1	7	4	6
Stephenson	4-14	4-6	2	2	12	Liggins	1-4	0-1	2	2	2
Cunningham	0-1	0-0	2	2	0	Totals	1-2	0-1	4	0	2
Stringfellow	0-0	2-2	1	2	2		22-66	15-27	38	21	59
Totals	20-48	27-35	30	20	67	Score By Quarters					
						Ross	15	11	17	16	59
						Lorain	14	20	10	23	67

# Little Giants Scare Trojans Before Bowing

## Brooks' 25 Sparks Findlay



**TROUBLE AHEAD**—Dave Kridler (32) seems to sense trouble ahead as he drives the lane against Findlay's Steve Wenne (31) and John Arnold (11) in first half of Saturday's Buck-

eye Conference game. Kridler scored 15 points, but the Little Giants lost a 61-54 verdict. Ross (24) plays at Sandusky Tuesday. (News-Messenger Photo)

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ken Brooks didn't get a chance to play in Ross High's gym as a sophomore last season. But, Findlay's 6-1 guard more than made up for his absence when the two teams squared off Saturday. Brooks swished the nets for 25 points including 14 in the last eight minutes as Findlay remained unbeaten with a 61-54 Buckeye Conference victory.

It wasn't easy for the Trojans, however. Findlay never trailed but its biggest lead was only 11 points. Most of the night the hosts Little Giants were within arm's distance for pulling off the first major upset in the Buckeye.

"We didn't play well tonight," Findlay's personal head coach John Stozich said after the game. "Their (Fremont's) kids set the tempo of the game and our fellas followed."

In their own game last night (Friday) with Sandusky had a lot to do with our play tonight. That game was really physical. Every time a whistle blew and sometimes when we didn't there were bodies on the floor."

Ross head coach Alex Clark agreed that his Little Giants had come out of the gate strong.

"I think we played the better game," Clark said later. "I thought our pressure defense bothered them. But give Findlay credit. They had a bad night and still won on the road. That is the difference between a superior and good ball team."

Steve Wenne, who had been hampered by a knee injury, Brooks, who broke his arm against Ross at Findlay last season, took over the offensive chores for the Trojans. Ross trailed by only three markers (39-36) entering the last quarter. But that is when the 6-1 redhead caught fire.

He hit a three-point shot and a layup at the start of the period to put Findlay in front 45-36. Wenne added two free throws before Ross dented the column on a field goal by Steve Smith and two charity tosses by John Lewis, who was the leading Ross scorer with 17.

After Brooks connected for two free throws, Ross moved within five points on buckets by Denry Shear and Dave Kridler. Brooks connected from 20 feet before Shear hit from the corner to make it 51-46 with 1:14 remaining.

Brooks scored again at the 1:42 mark but Lewis put Ross back to its five-point deficit with two free throws.

Both John Arnold's two free throws and a three-point play by Terry Moore with 1:05 remaining iced the victory.

"That Brooks is tough," Clark said. "He really came alive in the last quarter. We couldn't stop him."

In the eight-minute span, Brooks hit on five of six field goal attempts. He added four free throws to that total. For the night, he was nine of 15 from the field and 10 of 12 from the charity stripe.

Chuck Rogers also contributed heavily to the Trojan cause. A 6-3, 210-pound junior Rogers bucketed 15 points, hitting six of 10 shots from the field and three of three at the charity line.

Wenne, who had been averaging in the neighborhood of 15 points per game, was held to six points. He hit one of seven shots from the field and four of five at the charity stripe.

"Steve was hurting," Stozich said. "His knee hit the floor in the Sandusky game and it's slightly bruised. He's a fine ball player. He broke Dave Sorenson's rebounding record against Sandusky. That's doing something when you consider he was battling with Scott May."

"Brooks is the best shooter we have. Outside of the Toledo Scott game, however, this is the roughest game we've been in so far. Ross was ready for us. It has been like this every time we've played Ross. Also, we've been in the lead every time."

"Lewis and Kridler are real tough. Those two fellows have unorthodox shots but put the ball in the hoop."

Baskets by Jeff Hochstetler and Brooks gave the

visitors in the period was seven points (14-7) following consecutive buckets by Rogers and Arnold.

Ross, however, narrowed the gap on a layup by Kridler, foul shot by Lewis, two more free throws by Shear and Brudzinski's charity toss. A basket by Brooks with 27 seconds remaining gave Findlay its 16-13 first quarter advantage.

It was Ross' turn to hold the scoring edge in the third quarter. The Little Giants out-scored Findlay, 14-8, as Kridler led the way with eight points. Shear, John Arnold and Chuck Rogers finished in the spree.

"Findlay is a very fine ball club," Clark said. "Brooks and Rogers held you from the outside and Wenne does an excellent job for them inside."

"I was real pleased with our effort. The only thing wrong is that we came out on the short end of the score. We did a real good job on defense. A few times in the second quarter we gave up cheap baskets, but it wasn't often."

"I think we got a couple of key scores when they scored from our weak side, that is because our fellow wasn't in position to cover. We work on that a lot, but it's something that needs to come naturally."

"In the fourth quarter when we had trouble scoring we were taking too long to set up offense."

Kridler and Shear (allowing Lewis in the scoring contest with 17) and 11 points, respectively. The Little Giants earned 21 of 54 field goal attempts and were 12-19 at the foul line.

Findlay came within one shot of a perfect night at the charity stripe. The Trojans made 17 of 18 attempts. From the field, the Trojans made 22 of 46 shots.

The Trojans also took the reserve contest, 48-33.

# Can Little Giants Snap Road Jinx?

Fremont Ross, which has had no success on the road in basketball tilts so far this season, will try again Wednesday.

The Little Giants are slated to play at Sandusky in a Buckeye Conference matchup. Ross is currently 2-4. Sandusky has a 4-1 mark. In Buckeye play, Ross is 1-3. Sandusky has posted a 3-1 mark in loop action.

Ross has played three road tilts, losing to Fostoria, Mansfield and Lorain Senior. The other loss came at home against Findlay. The Little Giants' two victories also came at home. Marion and Toledo Rogers bowed in the North Street gymnasium.

Sandusky has beaten Marion Harding, Willard, Lorain and Elyria. Findlay is the only team that has beaten the Blue Streaks.

Coach Bob Beachy starts a quintet that includes Jerome Augustus (5-8), Ben Chapman (5-10), Mark Deming (6-1), Barry

Glass (6-2) and Scott May (6-5).

"This is a typical Sandusky team," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Tuesday. "They are very strong. They like to run the fast break any time they have the chance.

"We will need to control the tempo of the game if we expect to win. Also, our fellows must box out on the boards.

"May is a real good ball player. We must stop him from controlling the boards. He's also their leading scorer and will shoot from anywhere on the floor. He drives to the basket and has real good control.

"Deming is a good rebounder. He's a very strong boy and boxes out well. Augustus is very quick and a fine defensive player. He can take pressure.

"Chapman has been very aggressive on defense. He's left-handed and a good outside shooter. He can go left or right for a good shot.

What will be the keys to a Little Giant victory?

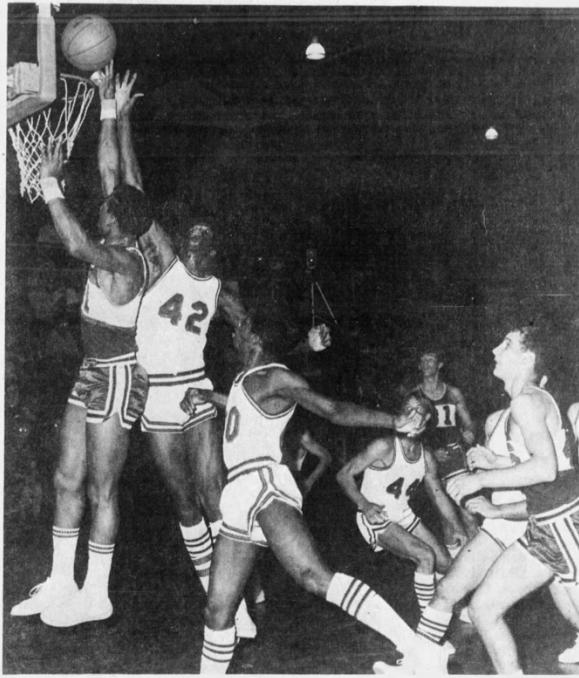
"Dedication and defense," Clark answers. "If we hustle on defense the offense will take care of itself."

Clark is expected to start Dave Kridler and John Lewis at guard, Chuck Celek at center and Denny Shearon and Bob Brudzinski at forward.

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# Blue Streaks Rip Little Giants

## Lewis Leads Ross Scorers



**WHETHER** Ross high's John Lewis made this shot or whether he didn't isn't indicated, but it's a sure thing he's being covered closely by Sandusky's brilliant 6 foot 5 Scott May. The picture was taken last night when the

Blue Streaks whipped the Little Giants. Others in the picture include Tim Kelley and Barry Glass of Sandusky. Fremonters shown are Denny Shearon in the background and Chuck Celek at right.

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor  
SANDUSKY — Scott May did his thing for Sandusky.

That didn't worry Ross high basketball coach Alex Clark. He expected the powerful Blue Streak junior was going to get his points one way or another.

Thus, the objective for Ross last night was to stop the rest of the Sandusky cagers. The Little Giants didn't accomplish their mission and were crunched 73-52 as the Blue Streaks rolled to their fifth victory in six outings.

Ross led 14-12 at the close of the first eight minutes. But, it was all downhill for the Little Giants after that. Sandusky ripped the nets for 21 points in the second quarter to take a 33-24 lead to the dressing room at halftime.

The hosts put the contest out of reach in the third period when they held a 22-10 bulge. Both squads tallied 18 points in the final frame.

"After the first quarter we didn't do anything right," Clark said. "Everything went wrong. You name it and we didn't do it."

"On defense we were supposed to guard May. We did that but that's where our defense stopped. We weren't getting back on the fast break and they beat us a number of times in the second quarter."

"Then we let Mark Deming drive to the basket four times in the same quarter. Twice he got baskets and the other two times he drew fouls. Our kids knew he was a good driver."

"Their pressure bothered us on offense, but I don't know why. Marion put more pressure on us than Sandusky did. When we did get the offense set up we would

get into position and then stop. "We just didn't play ball tonight. This is the worst we've looked all year. I don't want to take anything away from Sandusky, however. They had a good night."

Deming and Jackson had real good nights. Those are the fellows that beat us."

Deming, a senior forward, and Jackson, a junior guard who didn't start, shared high point honors for the Blue Streaks with 15 apiece. May kicked in with 15 and Ben Chapman added 10.

In the first quarter, Ross fell behind early. But the Little Giants pulled even with the Blue Streaks midway through the quarter and held a four-point lead until the closing seconds.

John Lewis had exactly half of the Ross markers in the opening quarter. Denny Shearon added four points, Bob Brudzinski chipped in with a pair of free throws and Dave Kridler hit a charity toss.

May got a free throw and Deming drove the lane in the first 29 seconds of the second stanza to knot the score. Chapman scored on a fast break to make it 17-15.

Before Ross scored, Sandusky had constructed a 25-14 lead on three more field goals by May and one by Chapman on a fast break.

The Little Giants missed their first four shots in the period before Lewis connected from

knot the score. Chapman scored on a fast break to make it 17-15.

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Before Ross scored, Sandusky had constructed a 25-14 lead on three more field goals by May and one by Chapman on a fast break.

The Little Giants missed their first four shots in the period before Lewis connected from

eight feet with 3:00 remaining. Another short jumper by Lewis cut the Sandusky gap to 25-18.

Two charity tosses by Deming with 2:33 showing gave Sandusky a 27-18 lead but Kridler drove the lane to bring Ross within seven.

Sandusky went up by 11 on back-to-back field goals by Barry Glass and Mark Deming, however.

With 17 seconds still left in the half, Lewis hit from inside the lane. After Jackson connected from eight feet, Kridler connected twice from the charity line to close the first half scoring.

Jackson and Chapman did most of the damage for the Blue Streaks in the third quarter. Jackson connected for eight points — three field goals and two free throws — and Chapman added three field goals.

With less than three minutes gone in the quarter, Ross was behind by 11. But Jackson hit four straight field goals to put the Blue Streaks up by a 46-38 count.

Lewis finally broke Jackson's spree when he connected with 2:56 remaining. Chapman and Lewis then traded buckets before the Blue Streaks scored on Gary Clayton's charity effort and Chapman's 18-footer.

Mike Feasel scored for Ross with 52 seconds remaining, making it 51-34. But two straight buckets by Glass moved Sandusky into a 21-point advantage, 55-34.

The Blue Streaks increased their lead to as many as 27 points (67-40 and 71-44) in the final eight minutes.

Ross' reserves held Sandusky to five points in the first half and then coasted to a 47-37 victory. Sandusky scored only two points in the first period.



**DAVE KRIDLER**, a fiery Ross high court star, is looking for a place to go in this action shot taken at Sandusky. The unidentified Blue Streak with his hands in the air looks like he is afraid of a foul being called. Chuck Celek

at the left is looking on, while Sandusky's Scott May is in the background. The Little Giants scored only 52 against 73 in the losing cause. (News-Messenger Photos)

Mike Miller, Tom Pitts and Ed Fitzgerald each scored 10 points for coach Mark Froning. The reserves now display a 3-3 record.

**REMARKS:** Sandusky only made five of 15 field goal attempts in the first quarter... But in the next 24 minutes the hosts connected on 23 of 41 shots...

Ross was 17-34 from the field and 18-24 at the line... The Little Giants were 12-14 from the charity stripe in the final quarter... Sandusky was 17-25 at the line... Each team was tagged with 17 fouls... Ross has now lost three straight and will journey to Elyria Tuesday with a 2-5 overall log and 1-4 mark in Buckeye Conference play...



**Blessings at Christmas**

May the hope, the peace and the love that is Christmas...

## Kern Drills Despite Flu

### Hayes, Ralston Trade Barbs On Bowl Plans

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Woody Hayes and John Ralston fired a few shots Wednesday in their Rose Bowl war of nerves.

"We'll pass quite a lot," Hayes told writers after what

he termed the best West Coast practice for his Ohio State squad for its Jan. 1 meeting with Stanford.

"We have got to prove to somebody that we have a passing attack," Hayes said.

The passing reference by Hayes amused Ralston, who guided Stanford to an 8-3 season with the brilliant passing of Heisman Trophy winner Jim Plunkett.

"If he said he had a good passing day," Ralston said, "tell him we were working out of a straight 'T' attack and had good fullback running."

That style belongs to Ohio State and helped carry the Buckeyes to a 9-0 season and the Big Ten crown.

Quarterback Rex Kern, both

Ohio State will treat its players to a Christmas party after a single practice today. Hayes will give his squad Christmas off before another party sponsored by the Tournament of Roses.

"We had a good practice," Ralston said. "It was teaching tempo in the morning. We worked on our goal line offense and defense in the afternoon." Plunkett was sharp in the practice at Long Beach State.

### Huron Wrestlers Receive Thumping

Huron high school's wrestling team, considered a very good team in this area, went out of its class Tuesday night, meeting Maple Heights, and losing 50 to

# Little Giants Face Pioneers

Elyria, which boasts the tallest team in the Buckeye Conference, is next on the agenda for Fremont Ross.

The Little Giants, who have lost three in a row, will invade Elyria Tuesday. Reserve game starts at 6:45 p.m. with the varsity clash slated to get underway about 8 p.m.

"We have to stop them from bringing the ball up court," Ross head coach Alex Clark said. "Once they get in position they have a decided advantage because of their height."

Tallest starter for the Pioneers is 6-7 Sam Vickers, who gets the call at center. Dale Griffin (6-6) flanks Vickers at one forward. The other forward will be either Ira Perkins (6-3) or Ron Beckett (6-5).

Perkins is a sophomore. Vickers, Griffin and Beckett are juniors.

Three seniors vie for the starting guard slots. The group includes Rick Nelson (5-8), Bill Haney (5-11) and Ric Pietch (6-2).

Griffin is the leading scorer with 95 points in six outings.

"From 16 feet on in he's dangerous," Clark said. "on the offensive board he must be checked out. Against Sandusky he had four easy tip-ins."

"Defensively they rely on Perkins. He is very strong and quick. Fundamentally he's their best defensive player. On offense

he gets good rebounding position."

Haney will be making his first start of the season.

The Pioneers employ a 2-1-2 defense. They have a 3-3 overall record and are 3-2 in Buckeye play. The conference losses have been to Sandusky and Findlay.

Ross is expected to start John Lewis and David Kridler at guard, Chuck Celek at center and Bob Brudzinski and Denny Shearon at forward. Lewis and Kridler continue to lead the Ross offense. Lewis is averaging 22 points a game and Kridler is hitting for about 13 ppg.

For help from the bench, Clark can call on Tom Liggins, Mike Feasel and Steve Smith.

Smith, a sophomore, will also play in the reserve game against Elyria.

"We have to start Bob (Brudzinski) because of his height," Clark explained, "so Steve would probably play only about two quarters of varsity ball. By playing with the reserves and starting he can get more experience. It's going to help Steve and our program in the long run."

Ross' next outing following the Elyria battle isn't until January 8 when it hosts Lorain Admiral King. The Little Giants have six games slated for January with four games scheduled to be played at home.



## *Friday At Ross Gym*

# Little Giants Tangle With Admirals

Fremont Ross, after a nine-day layoff, returns to the Buckeye Conference basketball war when the Little Giants entertain Lorain Admiral King Friday.

Ross has a 3-5 overall mark and is 2-4 in the conference. In their last outing, the Little Giants stopped Elyria on the Pioneers' court, 73-52.

Admiral King is also 2-4 in conference play. The Admirals are 3-4 overall.

"Their record doesn't show much," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Wednesday. "Next to Findlay and Mansfield, Admiral King probably has the best overall talent in the league."

"A lot has been said about Gary Deidrick — their main offensive threat, but Doug Taylor, Barry Prosak and Tim Kish can also be damaging."

Deidrick, the leading scorer in the Buckeye Conference, has a 29.6 average. Against Sandusky in a 94-90 Admiral King win, the 6-4 senior forward ripped the cords for 48 points. He tallied 35 against Lorain.

"He's an excellent outsider shooter — dangerous from 30 feet in," Clark said. "He's very fast and gets his shot off quickly. For his size he handles the ball well and can drive."

Taylor is the second leading scorer for coach Elmer Myers. The 6-1 senior guard is averaging slightly more than 14 points a contest.

Prosak (6-4) mans the center slot. He had eight offensive rebounds against Sandusky and put four of them back in the basket.

Kish broke his ankle in the first game of the season. Myers said that Kish will see some action against Ross. Last

season as a junior Kish (6-3) led King in scoring with 365 points, a 17.4 average.

Doug Adams (6-0) and Jeff Hilko (5-10) are the starting guards. Adams has a 7.6 scoring average. Hilko is hitting for only 2.6 points a game. Both of the guards are juniors.

"We must have the same type of effort against Admiral King that we had against Elyria," Clark said. "They remind me a lot of Sandusky — when they get the opportunity they like to run. Admiral King plays best when it can run and shoot."

"We need to set up offensively. Admiral King doesn't like to play defense. If we run our offense it will bother them."

"If we continue to play like we did against Elyria it should be a good ball game. The key to our success must be how aggressive we are on offense and defense."

Clark intends to go with a starting lineup that includes Bob Brudzinski and Denny Shearon at forward, Chuck Celek at center and Dave Kridler and John Lewis at guard.

Lewis is the club's leading scorer with a 21 point per game average. Next in line are Kridler (14) and Shearon (11). Brudzinski and Celek each sport a four-point a game average. Shearon is the leading rebounder through the first eight games with 75. Brudzinski has pulled off 56 caroms.

For bench strength Clark can call on Tom Liggins, Mike Feasel and Steve Smith.

"I'm pleased with the job our bench has done so far," Clark said. "With those fellows in there we lose a little in height but don't lack for hustle and aggressiveness."

The visit of Admiral King marks the start of a three-game home stand for Ross. Mansfield visits on Friday, January 15, and Tiffin Columbian invades the following evening. The Little Giants play six times in January and four of the contests are slated for the home floor.

## Full Schedule Of SBC Contests

Four Sandusky Bay Conference basketball games are on Friday's basketball card.

In the highlight game, Sandusky St. Mary's head coach Ray Miller will be looking for his 100th victory at that school when the Panthers entertain Oak Harbor.

The other contests find Huron at Fostoria St. Wendelin, Lakota at Margaretta and Fremont St. Joseph playing at Clyde.

Gibsonburg has a non-league encounter scheduled at Old Fort.

Miller, who piloted St. Mary's to the district finals last season, started the 1970-71 campaign with 97 victories. His squad has beaten Margaretta and Gibsonburg and lost to Huron, Seneca East, St. Wendelin and Akron Springfield.

Oak Harbor, which hasn't beaten St. Mary's in its last nine attempts, has a 3-3 log. Coach Bob Brinkman's Rockets have disposed of Danbury-Lakeside, Clyde and St. Wendelin. Eastwood, Genoa and Gibsonburg

have trimmed the Ottawa County five.

Margaretta will be after its fifth consecutive win. The Panthers have a 6-1 mark and are 1-0 in the SBC, the only team besides St. Joe that has an unblemished report card.

Lakota is 3-3 under interim coach Myron Cline. The Raiders haven't played since December 26 when they lost a heart-breaking 58-57 verdict to

Fremont St. Joseph. The Raiders are 0-1 in conference play.

Huron will be after its first victory in SBC play. The Tigers have only one conference game to their credit, a 70-62 loss to St. Joseph.

St. Wendelin, under the tutelage of rookie coach Gary Vaughn, has won two of its three games in SBC action. The Mohawks are 2-2 overall.

League victories have come against St. Mary's and Clyde. Oak Harbor beat the Mohawks

# Little Giants Bow To King

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross didn't do the little things that are vital ingredients for winning basketball games and dropped a 64-60 Buckeye Conference verdict to Lorain Admiral King Friday.

"We made a lot of little mistakes that were the difference between winning and losing. In the first half we had their press beaten three times and threw the ball away. Then in the fourth quarter we missed a couple of layups and foul shots that hurt,"

The Little Giants trailed by only a 48-46 count entering the final eight minutes.

Four consecutive free throws by Dave Kridler put the Little Giants in the lead, 50-48. A Doug Taylor tap-in knotted the contest and the Admirals went in front when Gary Deidrick swished the net from 18 feet.

Bob Brudzinski got the Little Giants even when he put in a rebound with 6:10 remaining. Two free throws by John Lewis pushed Ross in front for the last time with 5:58 on the clock.

Taylor tied the contest when he drove the lane. A pair of charity tosses, a Don Adams' field goal and another free throw gave Admiral King a 59-58 bulge.

Lewis broke the Admiral King scoring string when he connected from 12 feet with 3:10 showing on the clock. But those were the last points Ross scored until Lewis bucketed a field goal with 16 seconds remaining.

In between, Deidrick hit for four free throws and Kish tossed in one as Admiral King hiked its lead to 64-56.

"Deidrick is a fine offensive basketball player," Clark said. "In the fourth quarter we held him to just one field goal but he hurt us with his foul shooting. Mike Feasel did a good job of guarding Deidrick in the last period."

The two teams battled to a 12-12 deadlock in the first quarter but Admiral King moved ahead 33-28 before the halftime break.

"We couldn't get going in the first half," Admiral King head coach Elmer Meyers said. "We like to run but Fremont wasn't allowing us to do it. In fact, Fremont was getting two and three shots at the basket when they came down the floor.

"Fremont has a nice club. They had a couple of shots that should have gone in that didn't. That made the difference. Those fellows (Fremont) are always hustling on the floor. They gave us trouble when we played here last year.

"The addition of Tim Kish helped us. But he wasn't up to snuff."

Kish, who broke an ankle in the first game of the season, returned to the lineup for the first time and scored 10 points. Deidrick paced the Admiral scoring attack with 33 markers.

Lewis set the pace for the Little Giants with 22. Also in double figures were Denny Shearon (13) and Bob Brudzinski (10).

All of Shearon's points came in the first half. He buckled 10 in the second quarter to keep Ross within striking distance. He also led the rebounding corps with 15 caroms. Brudzinski picked off 10.

"Shearon did a good job of defensively and defensively," Clark said. "While he was in there he kept us moving. Brudzinski also played a good game. I was pleased to see Bob do some

scoring. If he can continue to score like he did tonight he'll take some of the pressure off Lewis, Shearon and Kridler."

Kridler, who is averaging 14 points a game, was limited to 10 by Admiral King's loose zone defense. He had only one field goal and hit on seven of nine free throw attempts.

The Ross reserves scored only five points in the second half in losing a 59-56 verdict.

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Lewis	8-13	6-9	6	3	22
Kridler	1-13	0-3	3	9	9
Shearon	6-8	1-1	15	4	13
Celek	3-6	0-2	4	3	6
Brudzinski	5-6	0-2	4	3	6
Liggins	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Feasel	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Totals	23-59	14-26	35	20	60

ADMIRAL KING (60)

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Adams	1-6	0-0	3	3	2
Taylor	5-9	2-5	6	3	12
Hilko	0-2	1-1	1	2	1
Shear	2-3	0-5	1	0	6
Deidrick	12-28	9-12	7	4	33
Kish	3-5	4-5	4	2	10
Brudzinski	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pagas	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Clarmons	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals	23-53	18-19	28	19	64

Score By Quarter

Admiral King 12 21 15 16-64

Ross 12 16 18 14-60

## Findlay Registers Victory

Findlay kept its unblemished record intact with a 70-54 victory over Marion Harding in Buckeye Conference play Friday.

Elsewhere, Mansfield cut down Sandusky, 71-67, Lorain throttled Elyria, 84-63, and Lorain Admiral King edged Fremont Ross, 64-60.

The four games completed the first round of conference play.

Findlay, which now has a 7-0 league mark and is 9-0 overall, were held to a 12-12 deadlock in the first quarter by Harding. The Trojans went ahead for good in the second quarter when they held a 19-13 scoring bulge.

Findlay added to its margin in the third stanza when it outscored Marion, 19-16. The Trojans completed the rout with a 20-13 outburst in the final eight minutes.

Ken Brooks of Findlay tallied 21 points to lead all scorers. Steve Wenner and Chuck Rogers hit for 19 and 17, respectively. Frank Gifford (14) and Preston Owens (11) paced Marion Harding.

Mansfield took over undisputed possession of second place in the conference standings with its victory. The Tygers and Sandusky entered the game with identical 4-2 league marks.

Three Mansfield players—Ned Cameron, Jim Barnett and Keith Shulko—hit for 20 points or more. Cameron led the assault with 23. Barnett and Shulko bagged 20 apiece.

Mansfield trailed early in the fourth quarter by a 61-58 count. The Tygers then hit for eight consecutive points to take the lead for good.

The Tygers, who finished the night with a 48 per cent shooting average, connected on 29 floor attempts in the final 16 minutes. Sandusky made 15 of 31 second half floor shots.

Lorain Senior placed five players in double figures as it rolled to victory on its home floor. The Steelmen used a full court press throughout the game that forced Elyria into 31 turnovers.

No league games are slated for Saturday. Mansfield will host Ashland and Elyria entertains Toledo DeVilbiss in non-conference play, however.

# Will Ross Break Hex?

Mansfield, a team that seems to hold some sort of hex over Fremont Ross in basketball, will invade the Little Giant gym Friday for a Buckeye Conference clash.

Mansfield will be after its 10th straight cage victory over Ross. The last time the hosts were on the winning side of the ledger was the 1965-66 season.

Several of the games have been close. In fact, in the last three meetings Mansfield has won by only a combined total of 14 points.

The Tygers took a 67-60 victory when the squads met in December. Last season the Tygers won 57-52 on their floor and took a 55-53 verdict at Ross.

"We've been ahead of them in all three games," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Wednesday. "Then something happens to us in the fourth quarter.

"Mansfield is that type of club. They just stay with you for three quarters then try and throw everything they've got at you in the fourth."

Mansfield has a 5-2 record in Buckeye Conference plays and is 7-3 overall. The Tygers' latest victory came last Saturday when previously unbeaten Ashland fell, 68-61.

"Mansfield has improved since we played them earlier," Clark said. "They are getting more scoring balance. Keith Shulko, the center, had 20 points against Sandusky."

In the Tygers' previous victory this season, Henry Harris and Jim Barnett combined for 49 of the 67 points. Harris bagged 25 and Barnett hit for 24.

Ross has a 3-6 record but the Little Giants are still hoping to finish the regular season above the .500 mark.

"This is a very important game if we want to break even," Clark said. "Last week's contest was important but because we lost this one means even more. I know it's going to be tough beating Admiral King and Findlay on their floor but I think we have better than a 50 per cent chance in the rest of our games.

"The team hasn't given up on the idea of being above .500 and neither has the coaching staff."

Clark will continue to use a starting lineup that features John Lewis and Dave Kridler at guard, Chuck Celek at center and Denny Shearon and Bob Brudzinski at forward.

Lewis and Kridler lead the team in scoring. Lewis, a 6-0 senior, is averaging 21 points a game. Kridler is hitting at a 14 ppg. clip.

Shearon is the leading rebounder with 90 in the first nine contests. Brudzinski is averaging better than seven rebounds a contest.

Ross returns to action Saturday when it hosts Tiffin Columbian in a non-conference clash. It will be the third of four non-league games for Ross.

The Little Giants currently are 1-1 against foreign opposition. Fostoria beat Ross in the opening game of the year, but Ross took the measure of Toledo Rogers in mid-December.

The reserve game each day begins at 6:45 p.m. The varsity game is slated to get underway about 8:15 p.m.

# Columbian Falls In Overtime Little Giants Win Fourth

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

It won't go down as the greatest victory in Fremont Ross history but the way things have been going this season the Little Giant cagers will take victories any way they can get them.

Ross needed a three-minute overtime period to stop Tiffin Columbian, 54-52, in a non-conference game on the Little Giant hardwood Saturday.

The victory was the fourth of the campaign for head coach Alex Clark and his troubled crew.

Thus, the Little Giants are assured of their best record since the 1967-68 squad checked in at 4-16.

"We missed a few easy shots and didn't move the ball as well on offense as I would like," Clark said. "But it's a victory and I'll take them any way they come.

"I thought our defense did a pretty good job. We slowed them down and they (Columbian) didn't take as many shots as they normally do.

"Our scoring balance also pleased me. That has to make a

difference. We had four fellows do most of the scoring and they couldn't concentrate on just one or two players."

John Lewis, who tallied only six points in Friday's 55-52 loss to Mansfield, returned to normal with a 22-point effort. Dave Kridler pitched in 13 and Denny Shearon collected 11. Bob Brudzinski finished with six points.

The two squads finished regulation time in a 50-50 deadlock.

Eight seconds into the overtime

Lewis gave the Little Giants the lead. He stole a Tornado pass at half court and took it in for a layup.

Columbian's John Florence evened the score with a short jumper at the 2:12 mark.

Ross then worked for the good shot and finally got Lewis open on the side. He swished the cords from 16 feet and the Little Giants were in front with 1:12 remaining.

A Columbian turnover gave Ross the ball back with 58 seconds remaining. Mike Feasel took a shot with 33 seconds remaining but it was blocked. Ross still had the ball but eventually lost it on a turnover.

With 33 seconds left, Steve King was fouled. He stepped to the charity line with a one-and-one situation in effect. But he missed the first shot and Chuck Celek pulled down the rebound.

Ross attempted to play out the clock. Kridler was called for an offensive foul with six seconds remaining, however. Columbian got the ball down court but never got the shot away.

Neither team ever mounted a big lead. Ross' biggest advantage was six points (10-4 and 38-32). Columbian was never in front by more than four points (28-24 and 30-26).

Ross returns to action Friday when it travels to Marion Harding for a Buckeye Conference contest. The Little Giants, who now are 4-9 on the season, are off Saturday.

Ross reserves lost a 36-34 decision to Columbian Saturday. Steve Smith and Ed Fitzgerald scored 10 and eight points, respectively, for the losers.

## News-Messenger SPORTS

*Miami, Marietta, Bluffton Bow*

### Unbeaten List Dwindles

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The ole treacherous road caught up with previously-unbeaten league leaders in Ohio college basketball Saturday night.

Down went Miami of the Mid-American, Marietta of the Ohio Conference and Bluffton of the Mid-Ohio with first setbacks, all suffered away from home.

Meantime, Ohio State enjoyed the comforts of home to remain a solid contender in the Big Ten scramble. The Buckeyes jumped their conference mark to 2-0 with an 83-79 verdict over Wisconsin, 0-3.

"That business of playing everybody close is out the window now. We had our poorest game of the year," said Wisconsin Coach John Powless.

The Buckeyes spun into a 28-17 lead in the first 13 minutes, let Wisconsin go ahead 49-48 before hitting a run of 10 points in the last three minutes to salt away the verdict.

"We let them off the hook, but that's the way we've been playing," said Ohio State Coach Fred Taylor after the Buckeyes had whipped the Badgers a 13th straight time at home going back to 1954.

24 for Wisconsin, but 19 were in the first half.

Bowling Green's 59 per cent floor shooting melted Miami 78-68 and left the Redskins with a 3-1 league record to 2-1 for defending champion Ohio University, a 62-53 victor at Toledo.

The Mid-Ohio also was left without an unbeaten contender when Defiance's foul shooting (29 of 32) stunned Bluffton 105-98. Bluffton is 3-1 to 4-2 for Wilmington and 2-1 for Findlay in the conference.

Marietta, dropping to a 4-1 record in the Ohio Conference, couldn't cope with the combined 47-point outburst by Ohio Wesleyan's Ray Schmitt and Jackie Brown in an 86-72 loss.

That left Capital (5-0), Wooster (4-0) and Otterbein (3-0) atop the Ohio Conference. Capital and Wooster did not play in the league, but Otterbein jolted Kenyon 92-51.

Ruben Vance threw in 30 points, yet Kent State took an 87-78 shiner at Western Michigan. Earl Jenkins' 25 points and 19 rebounds were the big noise for the Broncos.

In other Ohio Conference contests, balanced Mount Union

tenberg's 75-63 lesson on Hiram and Denison bounced Oberlin 70-60.

John Kiehl counted 24 points and Steve Gregg 21 in Wilmington's 78-75 Mid-Ohio decision over Malone.

Outside shooting by Tom Crosswhite, who netted 23 points, helped Dayton down DePaul 76-71.

Xavier missed three shots, two of them tips, in the last nine seconds in a 78-74 loss to Detroit, Central State scared the No. 1 small college power, Kentucky State, before falling 66-62 and Ashland overcame a poor start to out-defense Fredonia 58-35.

Elsewhere, Akron won its fifth in a row 89-62 over Central Connecticut, Mike Gault's 43 points went for naught as Marion, Ind., fell to Urbana 122-103 and Muskingum nursed a slight lead all the way over West Jefferson 84-78.

Wooster, with the best Ohio college record of 13-1, beat Walsh 69-54, Findlay defeated Heidelberg 96-80, Capital nailed Ohio Northern 91-75, Ohio Dominican sped by Rio Grande 114-97, Cedarville cuffed Wright State 82-71 and Youngstown took Westminster 76-61.

### Box Score

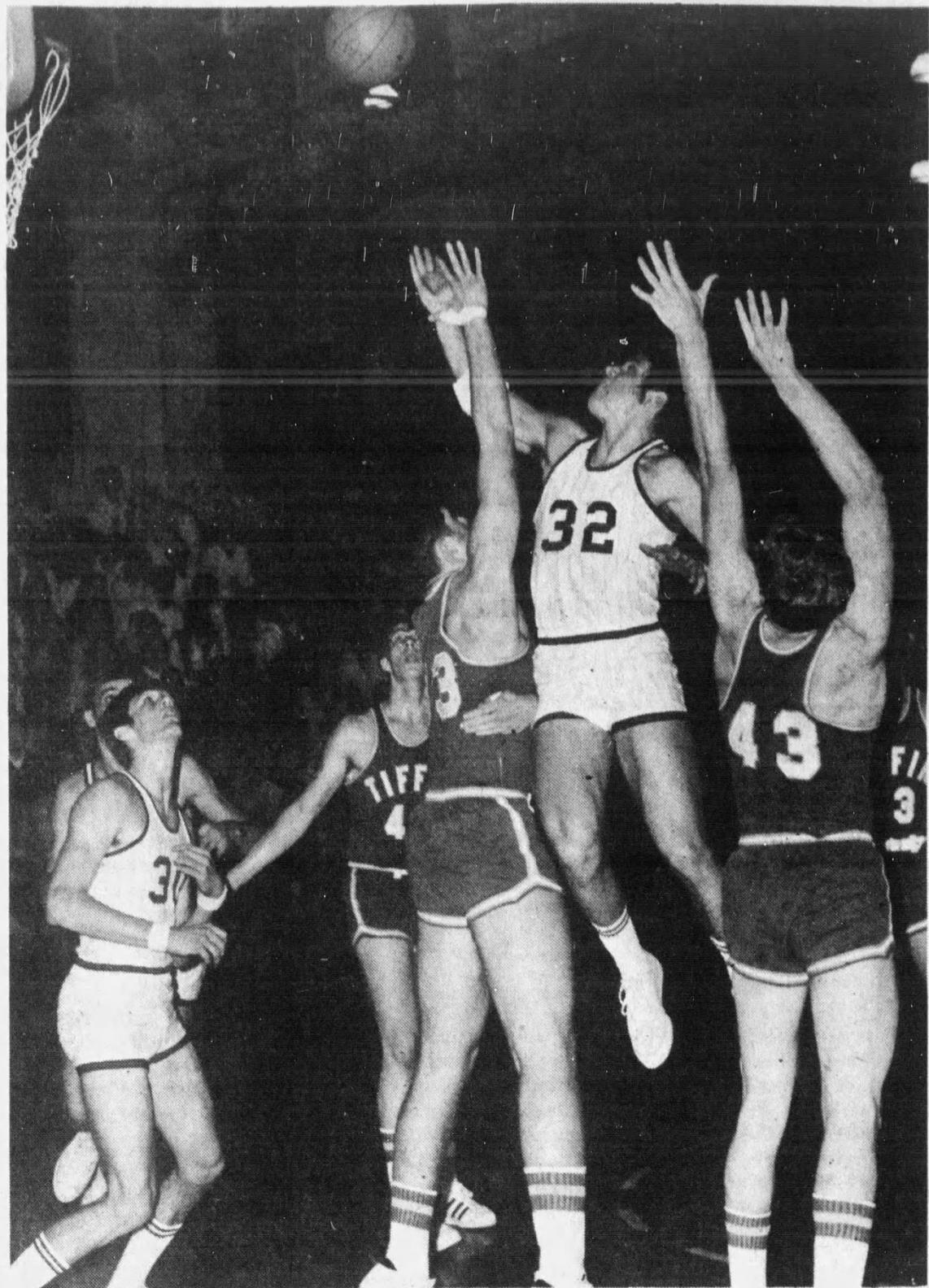
ROSS (54)					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl
Lewis	9-14	4-4	1	0	22
Kridler	3-11	7-7	1	4	13
Shearon	4-7	3-5	8	5	11
Brudzinski	3-8	0-0	7	3	6
Celek	0-1	0-0	8	3	0
Parkinson	1-2	0-1	0	1	2
Feasel	0-1	0-0	1	3	0
Liggins	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	20-44	14-17	26	19	54

### TIFFIN (52)

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl
Mast	0-5	1-3	2	3	1
Bland	9-14	1-3	3	1	19
King	4-7	1-5	8	4	9
Cook	2-9	0-1	9	2	4
Florence	6-14	7-11	3	3	19
Nobil	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals	21-49	10-23	25	14	52

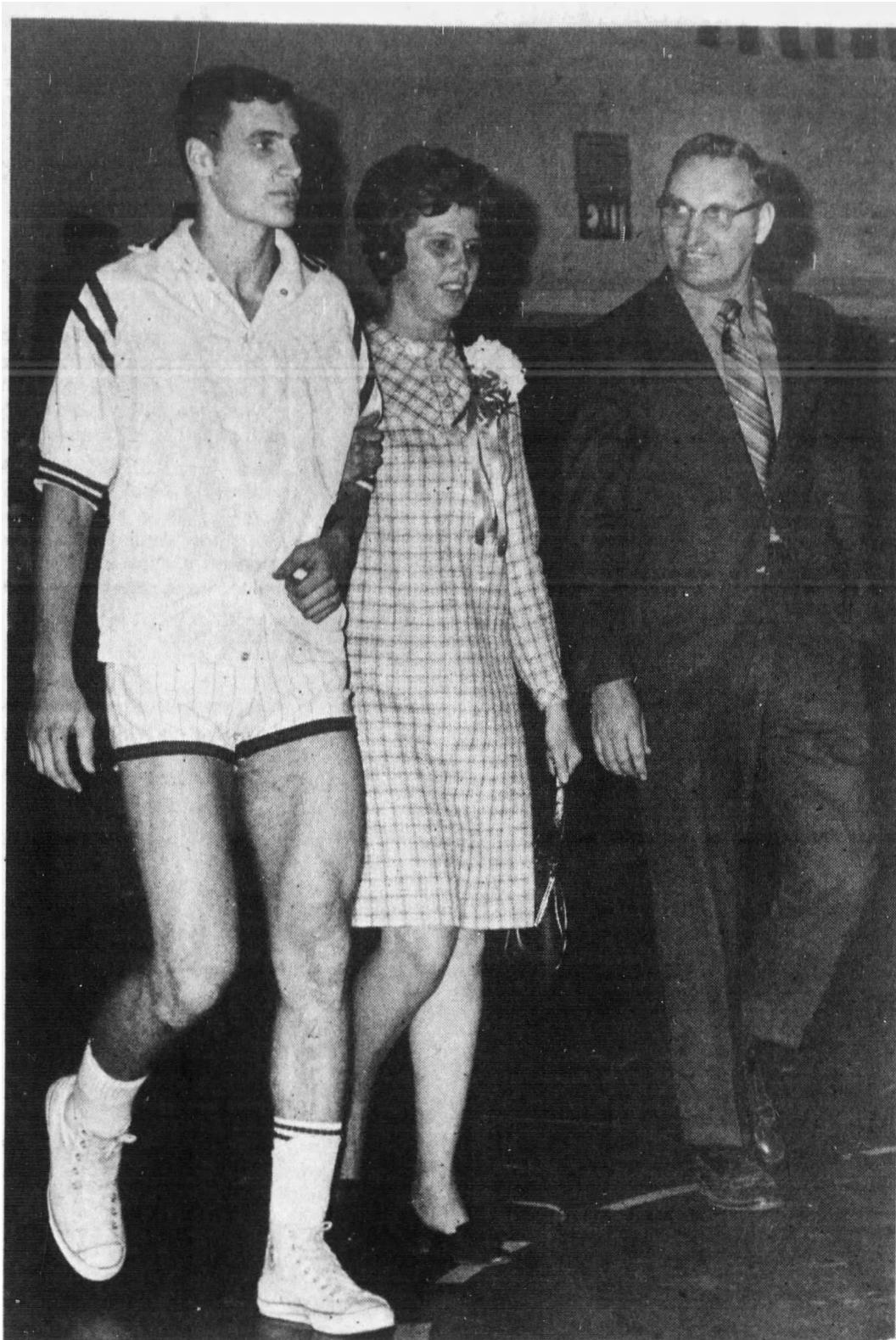
### Score By Quarters

Tiffin	11	15	11	13	2-52
Fremont	14	10	14	12	4-54



**SHOOTING IN CROWD**—Dave Kridler (32) of Ross gets layup shot off despite defensive efforts of Tiffin Columbian's Steve King

(33) and Bill Cook (43). Kridler scored 13 points in Ross' 54-52 overtime victory.



**PARENTS' NIGHT**—Chuck Celek, Ross high school starting center, accompanies his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Celek, to center court during pre-game ceremonies before

Ross-Tiffin Columbian game Saturday. Parents of all varsity and reserve players were introduced prior to the non-conference contest. (News-Messenger Photo)

# Ross Bids For Second Road Win

Fremont Ross will be gunning for its second road victory of the season at Marion Friday.

The Little Giants, who currently show a 1-4 mark for road activity, won't have an easy time with the Presidents, who are 3-5 in Buckeye Conference play and 5-6 overall.

"Marion has come a long way since we beat them in overtime," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Wednesday. "I understand they had a very fine effort against Sandusky last week.

"It's going to be a real problem trying to beat them on their floor. I believe Marion and Findlay have the biggest home court advantage of any of the schools in the Buckeye Conference. Their fans really make it rough on the visiting team."

Besides the fans, the Little Giants also must be concerned with an improving group of basketball players.

"They have five fellows who score well," Clark said. "We won't be able to concentrate on just one or two individuals.

"We must get plenty of movement on defense, Marion has an offense that creates movement. We also want to force them to take more shots than they did against us last time. They shot only 48 times and hit 57 per cent.

"Offensively we also must have more movement than we've had in the last two games. To try and get that movement we'll probably do some fast-breaking. We didn't have one fast break in the second half against Mansfield last Friday."

The Little Giants will continue to field a lineup that consists of Dave Kridler and John Lewis at guard. Denny Shearon and Bob Brudzinski at forward and Chuck Celek at center.

Through the first 11 games Lewis is the leading scorer with 218 points. Kridler has pushed 154 through the nets. Shearon (118), Brudzinski (59) and Celek (49) follow.

Shearon has pulled off 95 rebounds. Brudzinski (76) and Celek (62) complete the top three rebounders.

# Technicals Hurt Marion Nips Ross

**MARION** — Would you believe Fremont Ross trailed Marion Harding 2-0 before a second had passed in last night's Buckeye Conference basketball game?

It happened.

And, those two points Harding garnered on technical fouls meant the difference in a 51-49 Buckeye Conference loss for the Little Giants.

Ross was assessed two technicals when Bob Brudzinski and Denny Shearon appeared on the floor wearing different uniform numbers than appeared in the scorebook.

According to the book, Shearon was supposed to be wearing 35 and Brudzinski 31. Instead, Shearon was wearing 31 and Brudzinski had 35.

"It was my fault," Ross head coach Alex Clark said. "I put the numbers and players' names in the scorebook. I know Shearon wears 31. For some reason I just put it down wrong."

Ross wasn't without its chances for victory. Trailing 51-49 in the final seconds, the Little Giants had one shot at the basket and also tipped three rebounds toward the hoop but none of them fell through the net.

"We couldn't get the foul call under the bucket in the last series," Clark said. "I'm sure they fouled Chuck Celek when he put one of the rebounds up — Harding players were hanging all over him."

"I thought we had good efforts offensively and defensively tonight. We were running our pattern offense and getting the open shot. Our fast break was also working well."

"Our defense was fairly consistent all night. Honestly, I felt we played better in this game than when we beat them earlier in the season at our place."

After the two technicals, Harding stretched its lead to 6-0 before Ross got on the scoreboard. Fremont cut the deficit to 12-10 and the quarter ended with Harding in front 16-13.

## Box Scores

ROSS (49)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl	
Shearon	8-11	6-7	5	2	22	
Brudzinski	2-4	2-3	9	3	6	
Celek	2-5	0-1	9	3	4	
Lewis	4-11	5-6	6	1	13	
Kridler	1-5	2-2	0	3	4	
Feasel	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Totals	17-36	15-19	29	11	49	

MARION (51)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl	
Owens	6-12	2-2	3	3	14	
Sisler	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	
Shaffer	1-4	3-3	3	2	5	
Gipson	6-9	1-4	12	4	13	
Gifford	4-8	1-2	7	4	9	
Roads	1-8	4-4	5	1	6	
Spaulding	1-2	0-0	1	1	2	
Totals	20-44	11-15	31	14	51	

Score By Quarters						
Ross	13	16	15	5	49	
Marion	16	15	11	9	51	

Ross was able to tie the contest with 3:09 remaining in the second quarter on a John Lewis bucket. The game was then tied at 27 and 29 before John Sisler sank a 25-footer at the buzzer to put Harding in front, 31-29.

A long jumper by the Little Giants' Denny Shearon knotted the contest at 35 early in the third quarter.

Ross took the lead for the first time with 5:05 remaining in the period on another jumper by Shearon, who finished the night with 22 points, to lead all scorers. A free throw by Lewis made it 38-35.

The Little Giants managed to increase their cushion to 44-38 late in the period. But back-to-back field goals by Larry Gipson and Rick Spaulding narrowed the lead to two, 44-42, when the quarter ended.

Preston Owens and Neil Shaffer each connected for two free throws apiece to put Harding in front, 46-44, early in the last quarter.

The score was then tied at 46 and 48 before Owens hit on a baseline drive to put the Presidents ahead for good.

Shaffer's free throw with 2:59 showing on the clock made it 51-48. Shearon got the final Ross point with 2:11 still to be played.

Harding then went into a stall. The Presidents didn't give up the ball until an offensive foul was called on Frank Gifford with 48 seconds left.

Fremont then missed a shot and Harding got the rebound. Ross got the ball right back, called on Frank Gifford with 48 seconds left.

Marion then went into a stall.

The Presidents didn't give up the ball until an offensive foul was called on Frank Gifford with 48 seconds left.

Fremont then missed a shot and Harding got the rebound.

Ross got the ball right back,

however, with a Harding turn over. Less than 10 seconds remained when Lewis tried to connect from the side. After the Little Giants missed the three rebounds, Shaffer grabbed the loose ball and held it until time ran out.

Ross was held to five points in the final eight minutes. Shearon had three of the markers and Celek tallied the other two. The Little Giants connected on two of nine shots in the period. Harding made two of three attempts.

Overall, Ross was 17-36 from the field and 15-19 at the free throw stripe. Harding connected on 20 of 44 action shots and made 11 of 15 charity tosses. The victors held a 31-29 rebounding advantage.

Owens and Gipson paced the Presidents with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

"Denny (Shearon) and Bob (Brudzinski) had especially good nights for us," Clark said. "Denny hit on eight of 11 shots from the floor and Bob picked off nine rebounds. Celek also did a fine job on the boards."

"In general I thought it was a real good team effort. No one was selfish out there. They were always looking for the open man with a better shot."

Marion skipped past the Ross reserve squad, 45-40. Steve Smith's 15 points paced the Little Giants.

Ross, which now has a 2-7 mark in the conference and is 4-8 overall, returns to action Friday with a home engagement against Lorain Senior. The Little Giants travel to Findlay next Saturday.

## State-Ranked Trojans Score 12th Victory

Findlay, ranked third in Ohio High School circles by Associated Press, ripped Elyria, 20-8, in the third quarter and went on to capture a 67-61 Buckeye Conference victory Friday.

In other Buckeye games, Sandusky downed Lorain, 72-65, Mansfield tripped Lorain Admiral King, 89-83, and Marion edged Fremont Ross, 51-49.

Findlay held only a one-point lead at halftime. The Trojans, who recorded their 12th straight victory, placed four players — Steve Wenner (18), Jeff Hochstetler (14), Ken Brooks (12) and John Arnold (10) — in double figures.

Rick Pietch (24), Dale Griffin (13) and Jay Enderman (11) paced the Pioneers.

The Mansfield-Admiral King game was a free throw shooting battle. The winning Tygers connected on 25 of 42 attempts and King made 21 of 35. Ned Cameron (23) and Jim Barnett (22) combined for nearly half of Mansfield's points.

Game scoring honors went to Admiral King's Gary Deidrick, who connected for 29. Tim Kish reeled off 18.

Sandusky out-scored Lorain Senior, 25-13, in the final quarter to pull out its seventh victory in 11 outings. Scott May hit for 27 points and Bob Jackson scored 16 for the Blue Streaks.

Chad Saladin (17), Chuck Lane (16) and Jack Stephenson (11) paced Lorain.

No conference games are slated for Saturday. Admiral King entertains Canton Lincoln, Mansfield journeys to Mansfield Malabar and Lorain Senior plays at Lorain Southview.

# *Little Giants Concentrate On Steelmen*

Fremont Ross has an important engagement with Findlay, Ohio's third-ranked AAA cage squad Saturday.

But, by the tone of the Ross practice sessions this week you wouldn't know it.

"We haven't even talked about Findlay," Ross head coach Alex Clark said Wednesday. "Our main concern is to beat Lorain Senior. We'll worry about Findlay after the Lorain game."

The Little Giants entertain Lorain Friday and travel to Findlay Saturday. Both games count in the Buckeye Conference standings.

"It's going to be another tough two games," Clark said. "From here on they are all tough. We're going to try and win as many games as we can and get ready for the post-season tournament."

In the first meeting with Lorain and Findlay Ross dropped both contests. Lorain pulled out a 67-59 verdict with an eight-point spree in the final minute. Findlay took a 61-54 decision. The games were played back-to-back on the same weekend.

"We were looking ahead to Findlay and not worrying about Lorain," Clark said. "It cost us the Lorain game."

"The fellows realize they can't do that this time. If we do look ahead it will mean the same result against Lorain."

An added incentive for the Little Giants against Lorain will be the position in the league standings. Both teams are deadlocked for the cellar with 2-7 records. The winning team will vacate that position. The two teams are 2-7 in loop play.

Lorain, however, has a better overall mark. The Steelmen are 5-8 on the season compared to Ross' 4-8 log.

Top scorer for Lorain is Brad Frank, who's averaging better than 15 points a game. He's getting help from Charlie Lane, Jack Stephenson and Chet Saladin. Saladin, a 5-8 sophomore, was on the reserve squad the last time the two teams tangled.

Clark intends to use the same starting five he has been employing since mid-December — John Lewis and Dave Kridler at guard, Chuck Celek at center and Bob Brudzinski and Denny Shearon at forward.

"Basically I've been pleased with the job they are doing," Clark said. "Our main problem is to get Chuck (Celek) and Bob (Brudzinski) to go to the basket more. We aren't getting much scoring on the inside. I am happy with the job those two boys have been doing on the boards and on defense."

"We need to have a game like Tiffin Columbian had against Bellevue last Saturday. Columbian finally put it all together and they blew Bellevue off the court."

"We still haven't put it all together. If we could have Lewis, Shearon and Kridler all scoring on the same night we will cause somebody problems. That has been one of our main problems. One individual or two has been carrying us."

# Steelmen Nip Little Giants

By MARK CARLSON

News-Messenger Sports Editor  
Ross basketball coach Alex Clark was looking for balanced scoring — and got it.

The means didn't bring about the desired end, however. Lorain Senior gave the Little Giants sole possession of the cellar in the Buckeye Conference in a nail-biting 58-57 victory for the Steelmen on the Ross floor last night.

The Little Giants, who have lost more games by five points than Clark would like to think of, had a three-point lead (57-54) with 1:21 remaining before collapsing.

Senior forward Denny Shearon gave the Little Giants their three-point cushion when he drove the lane with a layup. Corey Cunningham brought Lorain within one 20 seconds later when he cashed in with a rebound.

Ross maneuvered the ball across the 10 second line and called time with 43 seconds showing on the clock. A missed shot with approximately 20 seconds remaining gave Lorain its opportunity to go ahead.

The Steelmen got the ball in scoring position and Charlie Lane got free on a pick. He connected from the side of the bucket with 12 seconds showing to boost the Steelmen into the lead.

The Little Giants still had a chance for victory. After a time out, Kridler brought the ball upcourt. He tried a jumper from the foul line that bounced off the iron. Chuck Celek snagged the rebound but wasn't able to get a shot off before the buzzer.

Before the final minute of action, Ross fans were smelling a stunning comeback victory after the Little Giants fell behind 21-9 at the end of eight minutes.

The score was tied at two, four and five before the Steelers scored six straight to go in front 11-5. With Brad Frank and Mike Pivodelich doing the bulk of the scoring the Steelers kept adding to their margin.

Frank and Pivodelich, who's a 6-6 sophomore, each netted six points in the first quarter. Lane connected for four, Phil Craig and Chad Saladin each had two and Stephenson hit a free throw.

Celek accounted for a third of the Ross total.

The Little Giants began the long road back in the second quarter. A steal by Mike Feasel and two free throws by Celek cut the margin to 21-13 before the Steelers hit a free throw.

Ross put together eight straight points to cut the deficit to one (22-21) with 3:44 remaining in the half. Celek, who had his best scoring night of the campaign, scored the first four points on short jumpers. Shearon and Kridler followed.

Stephenson and Kridler traded field goals to make it 24-23 with 3:44 remaining.

Feasel was then fouled under the Little Giant bucket with 2:14 remaining in the half. When Frank displayed disgust at the call by kicking the ball, a technical foul was added.

Instead of Feasel stepping to the line, however, Lewis went to the charity stripe. He hit three straight and gave Ross a 26-24 lead. That's what their fans thought.

Lorain head coach Dale Reichert protested. The referees brought out the rule books and for 10 minutes there was a discussion in front of the scoring table.

Eventually, one of Lewis' free throws counted — the technical. The scoreboard, which had shown a 26-24 Ross lead, reversed to 24-24. The other two were erased and Feasel was sent to the line. He made one of his two charities to crack a 24-24 deadlock.

The halftime score was 27-26, Ross, after Lewis and Stephenson traded field goals.

Early in the third quarter, the game was tied at 27, 28 and 31 before Saladin hit from the side to put the Steelmen ahead, 33-31.

Five straight points by Lewis gave Ross the advantage with 4:14 remaining. Lorain never led the rest of the quarter but the Steelers were always within striking distance.

The contest was tied at 38 and 40 before Celek gave the Little Giants a two-point advantage (42-40). Lorain countered with a free throw, but a Lewis two-pointer put Ross up by three at the quarter.

Ross lead blossomed to seven points (48-41) following two Kridler free throws and a Lewis steal in the early moments of the fourth period. After Saladin canned two charity tosses, Lewis gave the Little Giants a 50-43 bulge.

Lorain then scored seven straight to knot the contest at 50. Ross went in front by three (53-50) on a three point play by Shearon. A field goal by Craig and another by Stephenson gave the lead to Lorain.

The Little Giants took the lead for the final time with 2:02 remaining on foul shots by Bob Brudzinski and Kridler.

Then 'Lady Luck' which has managed to leave Ross on so many other occasions this season headed in the other direction.

Steve Smith's 20-point effort led the Little Giant reserves to a 64-47 victory over the Lorain cubs. The point total was the highest for Ross this season. Coach Mark Froning's team now shows a 4-0 report card.

## Box Score

LORAIN (58)

	PG	FT	RB	PF	Td	Lewis	Kridler	Brudzinski	Shearon	Feasel	Smith	Totals	ROSS (57)
Saladin	3-7	5-3	1	3	9	7	2-11	9-10	5	4	12	21-9	2-11
Frank	5-9	2-4	9	4	12	7	6-7	3-3	3	1	11	2-12	6-7
Stephenson	5-7	2-2	7	3	12	7	1-2	1-2	3	4	12	2-12	1-2
Pivodelich	5-7	2-2	7	3	12	7	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-12	0-1
Lane	5-13	1-3	6	0	11	7	19-50	19-30	27	17	57	21-9	19-50
Cunningham	2-6	1-1	1	1	5	7	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-12	0-1
Craig	2-3	1-5	1	3	5	7	9-18	17	13	13-57	17-58	21-9	9-18
Totals	24-49	10-21	28	18	58	7	Lorain Sr	21	5	15	17-58	21-9	21-9

SCORE BY QUARTERS

*Findlay Keeps Rolling*

## Little Giants Falter In Second 16 Minutes

**FINDLAY** — The final score doesn't indicate it but Fremont Ross came up with one of its better efforts of the season in dropping a 74-57 decision to high-flying Findlay Saturday.

"I just wish we could have played this type of game some other time this season," Little Giant head coach Alex Clark said. "I'm sure if we would have played like this against any other team on our schedule we would have won."

Ross trailed the third-ranked Trojans by a mere five points (29-24) at intermission before running into problems early in the third quarter.

"We were able to get our fast break moving," Findlay head coach John Stozich said. "In the first half Ross controlled the game. Their playmaker (Dave Kridler) set the tempo.

"Then early in the third quarter they made a couple of mistakes. We took advantage of them. We got a big enough lead that Ross had to start playing our type of game. I thought that was the difference."

Clark agreed with Stozich to some extent, but not entirely.

"Findlay was able to get the ball moving but we were getting hurt under our own boards," Clark said. "Three times one of our men went up for a shot. It appeared that he was obviously fouled but the officials didn't call anything."

"Findlay definitely seemed to get a break in foul calls. Before the last minute of the game there were 13 called against us and six against them. Findlay is a very physical team. We were getting roughed up. Chuck Celek (Little Giant center) is a pretty timid player. But he was even getting disturbed that nothing was being called.

"Nothing should be taken away from Findlay, however. They have a very fine team and I hope John (Stozich) can take them the whole way. It would mean a lot of basketball in the Buckeye Conference."

After intermission, Findlay widened its lead to 39-28 in the first two minutes. Steve Wenner and Ken Brooks got back-to-back buckets to put the Trojans in front, 33-24.

Bob Brudzinski got Ross' first field goal of the half, but Chuck Rogers and Wenner countered with two-pointers of their own. Denny Shearon got the third and fourth points of the period for the

Little Giants. Wenner, who finished the night with 31 points, gave Findlay its 11-point lead.

Three times in the next three minutes Ross was able to cut the gap to eight (39-31, 41-33 and 43-35). The Trojans' lead went to 12 points following a three-point play by Wenner and Ken Brooks' free throw.

Findlay maintained the lead throughout the rest of the quarter and was in front by 11, 52-41, when the period ended.

Ross couldn't buy a bucket in the first 2:55 of the final frame while Findlay ripped off six straight points—field goals by Rogers and Jeff Hochstetter and a pair of foul shots by Brooks—to take a commanding 58-41 lead.

Lewis finally altered the Ross totals when he connected from the lane with 5:05 remaining. Field goals by John Arnold and Wenner followed and Findlay was in front by 19 (62-43) with 4:18 remaining.

It wasn't the biggest lead for the Trojans, however. Their cushion was 21 points (69-48) with 2:38 remaining in the game.

Celek and Wenner accounted for most of the scoring in the first half. Celek, who had his best performance of the season, 15 points, picked up 12 of those markers in the first half. Wenner scored 16 of Findlay's 29 points in the opening 16 minutes.

"We did something we haven't done consistently all season — got the ball to our men in the middle," Clark said. "Findlay was letting Celek wide open and we were taking advantage of it in the first half.

"Bob Brudzinski was also open in the middle and we were getting the ball to him. Both boys (Celek and Brudzinski) had good offensive nights. I hope it continues.

"I was real pleased with the job Dave Kridler did on Ken Brooks out front. Brooks really hurt us in our first game this season but had

just 15 points this time — nine of those came at the line."

"John Lewis had a good defensive effort against Jeff Hochstetter. Denny Shearon did an exceptional job for us on the boards."

Four of the Ross starters completed the evening in double figures and Kridler missed that mark by just a single point. Celek's 15 led the way. Shearon chipped in 12 and Brudzinski and Lewis each scored 10.

The Ross reserves dropped a 63-52 decision to the little Trojans. Mike Miller (14) and Steve Smith (12) headed the Little Giant offensive effort.

Ross, which has now lost three straight, will concentrate on regrouping this week and prepare for the invasion of its arch-rival, Sandusky, Friday. The Little Giants travel to Toledo Whitmer Saturday and have the opportunity to test the state's leading scorer, John Kantner.

### Box Score

ROSS (57)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl	
Lewis	5-12	0-0	4	3	10	
Kridler	3-9	3-5	0	4	9	
Celek	7-11	1-1	2	4	15	
Brudzinski	5-9	2-4	4	3	12	
Shearon	4-10	2-4	10	2	10	
Feasel	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	
Liggins	0-2	0-1	0	0	0	
Smith	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	
Parkinson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Totals	24-53	9-17	29	19	57	

FINDLAY (74)						
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl	
Brooks	3-11	9-12	2	3	15	
Hochstetter	2-5	2-5	5	2	6	f
Wenner	14-21	3-6	14	2	31	p
Arnold	3-5	2-3	5	4	8	
Rogers	7-11	0-2	6	2	14	
D. Wirtz	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1
Moore	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Stevens	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	
Schellin	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
K. Wirtz	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	
Team					8	
Totals	29-54	16-28	43	13	74	

Score By Quarters  
Ross 11 13 17 16-57  
Findlay 17 12 23 22-74

Officials: Don Mack and Charles Paige

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# Big Blue Next For Little Giants

Despite the 4-10 record, Fremont Ross basketball coach Alex Clark feels his squad has played poorly in only one game this season.

The Little Giants will have the opportunity to make amends for that poor showing when they entertain Sandusky Friday in a Buckeye Conference clash.

"Really, we've only played one bad ball game," Clark says, "we just aren't getting the breaks. In the first Sandusky game we did very few things right.

"Our game plan was to let Scott May get his share of points. He's a fine ball player and will get his average no matter what happens.

We were supposed to con-

centrate on the rest of the team. We didn't. Chapman (Ben) and Jackson (Bob) ran wild.

"Friday's game will be the same way. We'll let May have his points and concentrate on the rest of the team. We can't let them get their fast break going. If they do, they can destroy a team quickly. That's what happened last time. They got the fast break started and we never stopped it."

Denny Shearon, senior forward, will again be charged with stopping May. He allowed the burly 6-5 junior center only 15 markers in the last engagement.

The rest of the Little Giant lineup will feature John Lewis and Dave Kridler at guard,

Chuck Celek at center and sophomore Bob Brudzinski at the second forward slot.

The Big Blue will counter with May at center, Chapman and Jackson at guard, and Mark Deming and Barry Glass at forward.

Besides stopping the Sandusky fast break one of Clark's main concerns for Friday's outing could be preparing the Little Giants mentally for the contest.

"I'm really not quite sure what to say to them," Clark says. "It's a lot tougher to talk to the team this season than it was last year.

"These kids, especially the seniors, began to have a strange feeling about this season last

spring when Rick Dudley, who would have started for us this year, moved to Connecticut.

"Our seniors started to fear the worst. Unfortunately, those fears have materialized.

"It's tough to send a team out on the floor that has been losing like we have. I can't expect to send them out on the floor in a close game and have them act like a team that has been constantly winning.

"The fellows and I have talked about this a lot, even more this week after losing the close game to Lorain Senior and playing one of our better games at Findlay and losing last weekend.

"We just aren't sure what it takes to win any more. We discuss eliminating the mental and physical mistakes, go out and have a minimal number of turnovers and still lose.

"Now we're just going to try and develop a winning attitude in the final four games. We'll play the best we can and win as many as we can. We'll have to prove ourselves in the post-season tournament."

Ross has a non-conference game scheduled for Saturday. The Little Giants will travel to Toledo Whitmer for a meeting with the state's leading scorer, John Kantner.



**JUMP SHOT** — Bob Brudzinski, Fremont Ross sophomore forward, has direct shot at the basket in first quarter of last night's Buckeye Conference contest with Sandusky.

The Little Giants fell behind by 15 points in the third quarter and couldn't make up the deficit in losing, 66-62. (News-Messenger Photo)

## News-Messenger SPORTS

### Little Giant Comeback Falls Four Points Shy

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Again, the Ross comeback bid fell short. The Little Giants, trailing by 15 points with seven minutes remaining, woke up and gave Sandusky a genuine scare before the Blue Streaks pulled off a 66-62 Buckeye Conference victory Friday.

Ross, which was blown out of the gym in an earlier game this season with the Blue Streaks, seemed to be out of it again. Sandusky was in front by 15 points (54-39) at the end of the quarter.

Then the Little Giants took command and moved within three on three occasions late in the game before seeing time run out.

—Sandusky made a lot of mistakes in the fourth quarter and we were taking advantage of them, Ross mentor Alex Clark said. They also had a lot of bad luck early in the game but we were converting those points.

Our shooting in the first quarter and play in the third were the big differences. We just couldn't get the ball to go in early in the game. Then we just played terrible ball in the third quarter. We did very little right in that period.

Ross hit on only five of 17 field goal attempts in the initial eight minutes and still trailed by only two (14-11). Sandusky connected on six of its 11 attempts in the first frame.

Dave Kridler got the first Ross points with 5:44 remaining. He hit from outside to cut Sandusky's lead to 3-2. A foul shot by John Lewis and Mike Feszel's field goal gave Ross a short-lived 3-3 lead with 4:44 remaining in the period.

Ross then had a basket called back at the 2:07 mark when Kridler was called for carrying the ball.

That was a key point in the ball game. Clark explained, If he scores we trail by only three and the next basket by Shearon would have brought us within one. I can't complain about the call, however, it was right.

Shearon scored with 4:44 remaining to make it 50-50. May iced the Blue Streak lead back to five with 1:06 remaining with a baseline layup.

Brudzinski scored with 52 seconds remaining but it was offset by a Jackson field goal. Shearon and Jackson traded a pair of free throws in a seven-second span and Sandusky a 10-second layup.

Both teams had a spate of shooting

night from the field. Ross came off 24 of 50 action shots. Sandusky mustered 20 of 68.

From the foul line Ross made 14 of 20. Sandusky hit on 10 of 13 charters. Sandusky had a 36-26 rebound edge.

Ross, which now has a 4-11 record on the season and is 2-10 in conference play, returns to action tonight. The Little Giants will travel to Toledo to play the Blue Streaks in a conference duel.

Baskets by Lewis and Brudzinski sliced the lead back to 52-52, with 2:51 still remaining in the half.

Sandusky then took over for the rest of the period. Deming connected twice from the foul line and May and Alexander had field goals to put the Blue Streaks in front 57-52.

After a Brudzinski field goal, May hit consecutive field goals in a 20-second span to push the lead to 53-54. The scoreboard showed the Blue Streaks in front 33-26 at intermission following a Liggins two-pointer.

In the third quarter, Sandusky opened the

scoring with baskets from Glass and Jackson. Ross changed its tally on a Kridler free throw at the 6:56 mark. The first field goal for the Little Giants didn't come until 1:56 later when Shearon swished from the corner to cut the deficit to 43-42.

Sandusky then mounted its biggest lead of the evening (47-30) on a May field goal and two more by Denning. For the rest of the quarter, Sandusky's lead never was less than 13 points.

The Little Giants seemed to have the game in the bag with seven minutes remaining. They were in front 56-41 and head coach Bob Sheary was even using some of his second stringers.

Ross then caught fire. In a two-minute span the Little Giants ran off 10 straight points while Sandusky was having problems even getting the ball past midcourt.

Two free throws by Lewis ignited the surge. Followers by Kridler, Lewis, Shearon and Brudzinski put the Little Giants more than four

minutes remaining, the Little Giants were back in business, trailing 56-51.

Sandusky finally broke Ross' string on free throws by Jerome Augustus and Glass. A foul line jumper by Lewis cut Sandusky's lead back to eight.

Ross then had a basket called back at the 2:07 mark when Kridler was called for carrying the ball.

That was a key point in the ball game. Clark explained, If he scores we trail by only three and the next basket by Shearon would have brought us within one. I can't complain about the call, however, it was right.

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### Streaks

While the news from Lorain Catholic's state-of-the-art gymnasium was good, the Spartans brought an end to any hopes Fremont St. Joe might have held for an unbeaten season with a 75-63 nonconference cage victory Friday.

The powerful Spartans raised

their record to 14-1 for the campaign, while handing St. Joe its first loss in 14 outings. The Little Giants, who also ended the St. Joe reserves' winning streak with a 40-37 victory.

Blistering field goal shooting, a

scrambling defense, a strong

### Shooter

The Little Giants fell behind by 15 points in the third quarter and couldn't make up the deficit in losing, 66-62. (News-Messenger Photo)

Word spread in St. Joe land

seen on many facets, but while the champion, he still is point

Gibsonburg to make the chan

just now.

We want to win that one

Kahle said. Eighth and 8, that's

The championship is the first

67 season.



### Box Scores

#### ST. JOE (41)

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Foster	11-17	3-5	2	3	11
Medie	3-11	5-8	3	11	11
Shaeffer	1-9	1-1	1	1	1
Chodzinski	1-3	0-1	3	4	2
Denning	3-12	0-1	1	1	10
Mosser	3-4	0-1	4	2	6
Shearon	2-10	0-0	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>31-82</b>	<b>7-14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>

#### LORAIN CATHOLIC (76)

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Mitch	13-21	0-0	2	3	8
Elwell	4-7	0-0	2	3	6
Sandusky	3-7	2-2	4	3	8
Bilancini	2-2	0-0	1	1	2
Stark	6-10	2-2	9	2	14
Seahl	3-5	3-2	4	1	9
Tobbs	4-4	1-1	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>31-54</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>76</b>

Score by Quarters

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Lewis	12-24	0-0	2	2	12
Deming	4-10	2-3	2	3	10
Gill	1-11	0-0	1	1	1
Jackson	1-13	2-2	3	3	10
Augustus	0-3	1-1	1	1	3
Brudzinski	1-4	0-0	1	1	2
Harris	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Clayton	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20-54</b>	<b>2-6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>46</b>

Score by Quarters

	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td
Ross	11	15	13	23	42

### Buckeye Conference

#### Tournament At Ross

Competitors will be determined in 13 weight classes when the

Buckeye Conference

Tournament finals get underway

at Ross high school Saturday at

7:30 p.m.

Wrestlers from Ross, San-

ford, Lorain Admiral King,

Lorain Senior, Elyria, Mansfield,

Findlay and Marion began

competition at noon.

A team champion will also be crowned at

the close of competition.

# Whitmer Clobbers Ross Cagers

TOLEDO—"It was our worst performance of the season."

That was the analysis given by Fremont Ross basketball coach Alex Clark after Toledo Whitmer ripped the Little Giants, 87-62, in non-conference play Saturday.

Ross was never in the ball game. Whitmer sprinted to a 32-15 lead in the first quarter and then toyed with their guests until the final buzzer.

Whitmer burned the nets in the opening eight minutes. It made 12 of 16 field goal attempts and was eight for nine from the foul line.

John Kantner, the state's leading scorer, led the surge. He was four-for-four from the field and had the same totals at the foul line in the opening eight minutes.

Doug Good had 10 points and Bob Huebner six in the same period.

"Whitmer didn't play last night (Friday) so they were fresh," Clark said. "We were a little tired from the Sandusky game. But, that is no excuse. We just didn't play ball."

"We didn't do anything right until the last quarter. Whitmer was hot in the first quarter but we weren't playing defense either.

They would bring the ball down court and take any type of shot they wanted. We didn't even try to stop them."

Both teams scored 14 points in the second quarter and Whitmer went to the dressing room at intermission with a 46-29 advantage.

Whitmer's shooting percentage dropped off in the second quarter. But the Panthers still shot better than 50 per cent from the field in the opening 16 minutes. They made 18 of their 31 attempts. Ross shot 20 per cent from the field at the same time.

The Little Giants' shooting woes continued in the third quarter. Whitmer outscored Ross 16-5 in the period. Ross got two field goals from John Lewis and a Denny Shearon free throw to account for its scoring.

Lewis' two field goals were his first points of the night. The high-scoring senior guard picked up three personal fouls early in the first quarter and spent most of the half on the bench. He finished the game with 14 points, adding three field goals and four free throws in the fourth quarter.

Ross found its scoring machine in the fourth quarter. It outscored

the Panthers, 28-25. Lewis' 10 points led the way. Denny Shearon tallied six, Dave Kridler five, Tom Liggins four and Bob Brudzinski three.

Shearon finished with 19. He had 16 of those in the first and fourth quarters. Lewis, Brudzinski (11) and Liggins (11) completed the Little Giant delegation in double figures.

Kantner finished with 37. He swished 11 of 15 floor shots and was 15-17 at the charity stripe. Good, with 16, was the only other Panther in double figures.

Ross connected on just 21 of 64 floor shots. The Panthers finished at the 50 per cent level, making 29 of 58. The Little Giants were 20-30 from the free throw line. Whitmer cashed in on 29 of 36 bonus tosses.

The rebounding derby also went to Whitmer, 44-35. Good and Shearon each shared rebound honors with 12.

The loss was the second in as many days for Ross and left Clark asking himself many questions to which he has trouble locating answers.

"It's hard to figure how a team could look so good in pre-season scrimmages and then fall apart

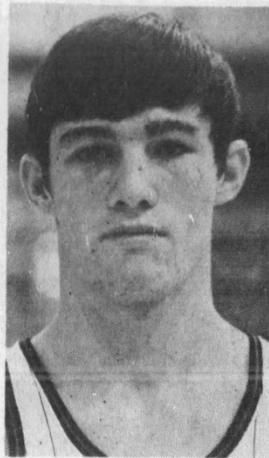
like we have," the second-year tutor said. "We have been going downhill since the year started. Tonight we hit bottom."

The Ross reserves bowed to Whitmer, 61-56. Steve Smith (17) and Ed Fitzgerald (10) paced the Little Giant cubs.

ROSS (62)					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl
Shearon	6-15	7-10	12	5	19
Feasel	1-4	0-0	0	5	2
Parkinson	0-3	0-1	0	3	0
Brudzinski	4-10	3-6	9	4	11
Lewis	5-14	4-4	4	4	14
Kridler	2-9	1-2	1	3	5
Liggins	3-9	5-7	7	1	11
Totals	21-64	20-30	33	25	62

WHITMER (87)					
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Ttl
Good	5-12	6-7	12	3	16
Feaster	2-4	0-0	7	5	4
Huebner	4-6	1-1	4	1	9
Sares	0-1	0-1	0	0	0
Honas	2-7	2-2	5	5	6
G. Lewis	3-4	3-5	2	1	9
Capato	0-1	0-0	1	1	0
Kantner	11-15	15-17	7	3	37
Dubendorfer	1-4	2-3	3	1	4
Inman	1-3	0-0	3	1	2
Levine	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Freeis	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	29-58	29-36	44	22	87
Score By Quarters					
Ross	15	14	5	28	62
Whitmer	32	14	16	25	87

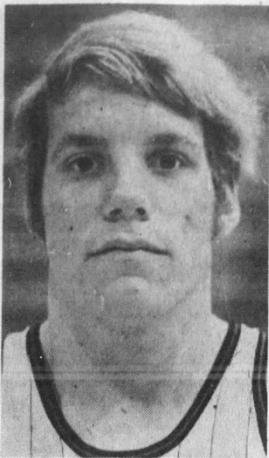




DENNY SHEARON



JOHN LEWIS



DAVE KRIDLER



JEFF PARKINSON

Ross Seniors In Final Home Appearance

### *Elyria Has 10 Losses*

# Troubled Cage Squads Collide Friday At Ross

Ross last met Elyria back on December 29.

The Little Giants ripped the Pioneers, 79-56, that night. It was the last time the Ross cage corps won a game in the Buckeye Conference. Six consecutive losses have followed.

Since that night in Elyria, victories have been hard to come by for the Little Giants. In fact, there has been only one win in eight games. That came against Tiffin Columbian on January 16.

So, it would only be natural if the Little Giants are looking forward to the invasion of Elyria Friday night.

But, Ross head coach Alex Clark has already cautioned his club—the Pioneers can't be taken lightly.

"Elyria has improved since we played them," Clark said. "Rick Pietch has been a big difference. He has given them a good outside threat to go with the three big men."

"If our kids think Elyria is going to be a pushover we'll get beat. I think that's what happened at Whitmer last Saturday. We had beaten almost the same Whitmer team last season. Our kids weren't mentally ready to play and we were soundly beaten."

Elyria has only five victories in 15 games, but the Pioneers have never been completely out of the games they've lost. The 10 losses represent the most defeats in regular season for an Elyria club since 1955-56.

Statistics tell a major story to the Elyria woes.

The Pioneers have four straight losses—Findlay (67-61), Mansfield (75-64), Sandusky (80-74) and Marion (72-67). But in those four defeats, the Pioneer opponents have attempted 138 free throws and made 100 for a sizzling 72 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers have scored on 61 per cent of 95 charity tosses.

In the four games, Elyria has scored seven more field goals than the combined totals of Findlay, Mansfield, Sandusky and Marion.

Mansfield was the only team able to outscore the Pioneers from the field and that was only by one basket which came in the closing seconds.

Elyria lines up with Dale Griffin (6-6) and Ira Perkins (6-2)

at forward, Jay Underman (6-5) at center and Rick Pietch (6-2) and Rick Nelson (5-9) at guard.

And, for students of the law of averages, here's another fact to consider. Elyria has yet to win a game on the road this season.

So, Ross can't afford a mental disposition like it had last Saturday.

Clark's game plan for the Pioneers will be the same he used last time.

"We'll try to run against them," the head coach explained. "We can't give them time to set up in that zone. If they do, it's almost impossible to control the boards against their height."

"We'll also press. The weakest part of their game the last time we played was the floor game. The teams who have had success against Elyria have pressed."

The availability of Chuck Celek, 6-4 junior center, for the Friday contest is uncertain. Celek missed last weekend's games. He was confined to Memorial hospital with an arm infection and wasn't released until Tuesday.

"The doctors didn't tell us Chuck couldn't play," Clark said, "but I doubt that he'll start. We'll just have to wait and see how he reacts in practice."

The starting lineup will probably feature John Lewis, Bob Brudzinski, Denny Shearon, Dave Kridler and either Tom Liggins or Mike Feasel.

Lewis continues to lead the scoring race. He has 293 points in 16 games. Shearon has taken over the number two spot with 198. Kridler has dropped to number three, only two markers behind Shearon.

The contest marks the final home game of the season for the Little Giants. Making their final appearance on the home floor are four seniors—Kridler, Lewis, Shearon and Jeff Parkinson.

Ross concludes its regular season next Friday, February 19, at Lorain Admiral King.

The sectional tournament draw for the Little Giants will be held at Ashland College Tuesday.



# Lewis, Liggins Score Career Highs In Loss

LORAIN — John Lewis and Tom Liggins each set personal career scoring marks but it wasn't enough to lift Ross to a basketball victory over Lorain Admiral King last night. The Admirals won a 99-83 decision.

Lewis, who twice had scored 30 in his career, ripped off 33, including 27 in the second half. Liggins, a junior whose previous high was 11, bagged 17, 15 in the third and fourth periods.

"Lewis and Liggins were about our only bright spots," Ross head coach Alex Clark said.

The Little Giants, who finished the regular season with a 5-13 mark, stayed with the running Admirals in the early moments of the first quarter. In fact, King had only a 10-9 lead with 4:14 remaining in the first quarter.

Then Ross went into a scoring slump. The Little Giants didn't score again until 5:48 remained in the second quarter. By that time, King had mounted a 33-9 lead.

"That was the difference in the game," Clark said. "We just weren't playing good ball. We started well and were moving the ball in the first four minutes. Then, for some reason, we stopped."

"I think part of our problems has to be the attitude of the boys. After last week's victory over Elyria I think they thought things were going to begin coming our way. We need to learn that a team wins its own games and doesn't depend on the other team to make a mistake."

"Consciously, I don't think we were looking ahead to the tournament game on Tuesday with Shelby. But, subconsciously I think the fellows might have been thinking about it."

Admiral King led 23-9 after the first quarter. The Admirals had eight field goals and seven free throws in the period. High point men were Tim Kish and Gary Deidrick, who scored seven and six, respectively.

Chuck Celek scored four and Lewis three for Ross in the same period.

In the second quarter, Admiral King outscored Ross, 20-16. Deidrick and Doug Taylor combined for 14 of King's points. Deidrick scored eight and Taylor six. Dave Kridler scored 10 of Ross' 16.

"We were getting the open shots for Bob Brudzinski and Celek in the first half but they weren't taking them," Clark said. "And, we had a number of turnovers that didn't help. It seemed that every time we had a turnover Admiral King would make a basket out of it."

"Another thing that didn't help was that our kids got in early foul trouble. Denny Shearon was sitting on the bench with four personals in the first quarter and Chuck Celek fouled out with 3:07 remaining in the first half."

"I'm not saying the officiating was the difference. It wasn't. Our kids didn't play good ball. The officials didn't help matters, however. It seemed they were calling things one way on one end of the floor and another way on the other."

Ross managed to begin to piece its offense together in the second half. The Little Giants outscored the Admirals, 58-56, in the final two periods.

While Lewis and Liggins were doing most of the Ross scoring in the third and fourth quarters, Deidrick was handing those chores for Admiral King. He racked up 29 points over the final two quarters. He had 20 in the final eight minutes.

"He's tough when he gets open," Clark said. "We had one man with him all the time and when they got Deidrick the ball our other fellows weren't helping out. Thus, the player guarding Deidrick had one of two choices — let him shoot or foul him."

In the final quarter, Deidrick was letter perfect from the field, making eight of eight shots. He canned four of six free throws.

Overall, Deidrick, who finished the season as the Buckeye Conference scoring leader, made 16 of 28 field goal attempts. He was 11-13 at the line.

Lewis connected on 12 of 29 action tries. He was nine- for- 13 at the foul line. Lewis made eight of 13 field goal attempts and one of three foul shots.

Admiral King made 38 of 87 field goal tries compared to Ross' 34 of 75. At the line King was good on 23 of 34 attempts. Ross made 15 of 31. The Admirals held a 52-34 rebounding bulge. Kish pulled down 15. Shearon had 10 for Ross. In the personal foul department, Ross was charged with 27 compared to Admiral King's 15.

The Ross reserves lost a 70-47 decision. Steve Smith scored 13 in the losing effort.

Ross fans are reminded that tickets for Tuesday's tournament game at Norwalk Junior High School will be sold at Tremper's and the Senior High School until Monday at 1 p.m.

## Box Score

ROSS (83)							ADMIRAL KING (99)										
	FG	FT	RB	PF	Td		FG	FT	RB	PF	Td						
Lewis	12-29	9-13	7	5	33	Taylor	3-8	8-10	9	2	14	Deidrick	16-28	11-13	4	1	43
Shearon	4-7	0-2	10	5	8	Adams	3-5	0-0	3	0	6	Pagan	1-3	0-1	1	0	2
Brudzinski	1-5	0-1	7	4	2	Luketic	1-2	0-0	2	1	2		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Levitt	2-4	0-1	2	5	4	Arthrel	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kridler	5-11	2-6	5	4	12	Parkinson	3-5	1-0	8	0	6		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Liggins	8-13	1-3	5	4	17	Lessner	0-0	0-1	2	0	0		0-1	0-0	1	0	0
Parkinson	0-1	2-4	1	0	2	Smith	1-1	2-3	1	1	4		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	Socha	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		1-1	2-3	1	1	4
Penzel	2-4	1-2	1	5	5	Poznak	3-10	0-0	8	0	7		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	34-75	15-31	34	27	88	Totals	38-87	23-34	52	15	99		Score By Quarters				
							38-26	11-13	4	15	43						
Kish	7-26	1-2	15	4	15	Admiral King	23	20	24	32	89						

# Ross' Lewis Named All-Buckeye Conference

## Kridler Selected For Third Unit

John Lewis is a member of the elite in the Buckeye Conference.

Ross high's leading scorer, has been voted a first team berth on the All-Buckeye Conference basketball team announced today by the eight league coaches.

Coaches selected three teams and the Little Giants' Dave Kridler polled enough votes for a third team berth.

"This is a tribute to the type of season John and Dave had for us," Little Giant head coach Alex Clark said after making the announcement. "Both boys deserve the recognition they are receiving."

Findlay, which ran away from the rest of the league in the team race, placed just one player — 6-6 senior center Steve Wenner — on the first team. The rest of the "dream team" is composed of Jim Barnett from Mansfield Senior, Garriepick of Lorain Admiral King and Scott May of Sandusky.

Deidrick carried a 28.2 scoring average to lead all members of the first team in that vital department. May checks in with a 25.1 log and Wenner averaged 23.9 in 14 league contests. Lewis carried a 20.1 league average through the league games while Barnett checked in at 17.9.

Barnett, Wenner and Deidrick were unanimous choices.

"I wouldn't mind coaching this team for a few games," Clark said. "I think if it (the team) were put against other all-league teams from around the state it would do more than hold its own."

Lewis, a 6-0 senior guard, becomes the first Ross player to win a spot on the first unit since Tim Thomas accomplished the feat in the 1965-66 season. Lewis was a second team selection in 1970.

"I'm proud to say that a school could have a first team selection on a regular team when it finished last in the league," Clark said. "We could tell that by the way they played against him."

Two Findlay players — 6-1 junior guard Ken Brooks and 6-5 junior forward Chuck Rogers — head the second unit. Also named were Brad Frank of Lorain Senior, Tim Kish of Lorain Admiral King and Mansfield Senior's Henry Harris.

Frank is a junior. Kish and Harris have played their final high school games. Joining Kridler on the third unit are Elyria's Dale

Griffin and Rick Pietch, Marion's Frank Gifford, Sandusky's Mark Deming and Lorain Admiral King's Doug Taylor.

Kridler is the smallest player on the entire squad.

"That doesn't mean much," Clark said. "Dave was really the one who made us move. He guided our ball club on the floor. His selection is a reflection of his ability."

Dave was the one we asked to defend the other team's top guard every week. He did a fine job. I think his defensive work earned him the berth more than anything else."

Clark also had praise for a Little Giant who failed to earn a berth on the first three units — Denny Shearon, a 6-2 senior forward.

"I went to the meeting hoping to get all three of our seniors on the squad," Clark said. "I think if we would have won a few more ball games this season Denny would have been the one to get it."

Findlay's John Sturich was named "coach of the year" by his colleagues. Vic Pfizemayer of Mansfield Senior and Clark received honorable mention.

Although the son was selected by the coaches, no coach was permitted to vote for his own players. The voting was done Monday evening at a meeting at Sewin's Restaurant. At that time, Findlay was presented the league trophy for this season.



JOHN LEWIS  
First Team

DAVE KRIDLER  
Third Team

## BC All-Stars

### FIRST TEAM

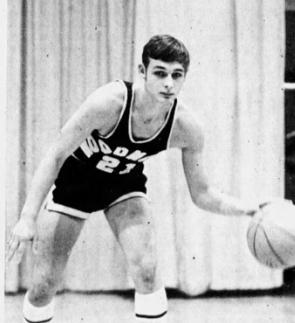
Name	School	Grade	Height
Jim Barnett	Mansfield Sr.	12	6-0
Steve Wenner	Findlay	12	6-6
Carl Deidrick	Admiral King	12	6-4
John Lewis	Fremont Ross	12	6-0
Scott May	Sandusky	11	6-5

### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Grade	Height
Brad Frank	Lorain Sr.	11	6-3
Ken Brooks	Findlay	11	6-1
Chuck Rogers	Findlay	11	6-5
Tim Kish	Admiral King	12	6-3
Henry Harris	Mansfield Sr.	12	6-1

### THIRD TEAM

Name	School	Grade	Height
Dale Griffin	Elyria	11	6-6
Rick Pietch	Elyria	12	6-2
Frank Gifford	Marion	12	6-2
Dave Kridler	Fremont	12	5-9
Mark Deming	Sandusky	12	6-1
Doug Taylor	Admiral King	11	6-1



## Texas Christian Bags Championship

By HERSCHEL NISSENSON  
Associated Press Sports Writer

The NCAA and NIT are the folks issuing the college basketball invitations these days but Texas Christian, Ohio State, St. John's, Rutgers and Duke decided to do some bidding of their own Tuesday night while Southern Methodist's Gene Phillips won his hand in Texas.

After the NCAA picked its 10 at-large teams for its postseason extravaganza and the NIT named three, TCU went its way into the former with a 76-63 fight-carrared victory over Texas A&M. It clinched the Southwest Conference title for the Horned Frogs.

Ohio State, the Big Ten leader, moved closer to nailing down a berth by trimming

the fracas and Kennedy and Steve Niles also exchanged punches. TCU Coach Johnny Swain went to the mike after the fight and asked the crowd to stop throwing objects on the floor. No players were ejected.

The Horned Frogs will face Notre Dame in a first-round game in Indianapolis March 13.

Seven-for-Lake Waco's 29 points and 20 rebounds helped Ohio State top Minnesota.

The Buckeyes have a 11-1 conference mark with two games left while Indiana and Michigan both are 8-2 with four games remaining.

A balanced attack featured the St. John's triumph over Holy Cross with Mel Davis carrying 20 points, Bill Phillips 16 and Billy Schaeffer and Mike Keily 15 apiece. The

# Shetzer Named All-District First Team

TIM SHETZER  
First TeamDAN FEY  
Third TeamCARL BALSIZER  
Honorable MentionDAVE BAILEY  
Third TeamDAN SHULTZ  
Third Team

Sandusky Bay Conference Cagers Named To Northwest District AA Squad

## News-Messenger SPORTS

### Dee Speaker For St. Joe Athletes

John Dee, Notre Dame University's head basketball coach, will be the guest speaker at the annual Fremont St. John High School All-Sports meet.

It is year's dinner, honoring the Crimson Streak athletes, will be held April 25 at the Old Zim's auditorium. Dee, who is in his seventh year as coach for the Fighting Irish, will take his team to Indiana, this week for the West Regionals.

He will face Drake today. A win would pit the (20-7) against the winner of

Houston-Kansas game today.

He has compiled a 116-78 record during his Notre Dame coaching career. His teams have won five post-season titles.

And, he's only the only coach in Notre Dame history to produce four straight seasons in the post-season.

The Irish appeared in three NCAA's and the NIT in the last

years. But he has had time for other pursuits: inside and

outside the classroom.

For the last two years he has taught law, run an executive program, tried out for Baltimore Colts, run for the state of Colorado, served as chairman of the board of directors of the Denver Bar Association.

He is a member of the law firm of Calvert, Hart and Dee and has been admitted to practice before the state Supreme Court.

basketball realms, Dee does not seem to make his

presence felt. Besides

the shoes and socks cagers wear, he is also involved with initiating the hand-indicators used by officials.

He was the first to indicate the foul score's position at the foul's table by use of a red banner.

He's pro-Notre Dame this season, but he did not do so well in his first four seasons as head coach at the University of Alabama. He won the eastern Conference title in 1953. He was the football field coach on the 1953 and 1954 Cotton Bowl teams.

He captured a title and second place finishes in seasons as coach of the Birmingham Trappers in the National

a year at the helm of the Kansas City Chiefs of the now defunct American Football League in 1944.

Transferring to Loyola of Chicago for his senior year, Dee graduated in 1947 with a Ph.D. in history and philosophy.

The four years following his graduation were spent coaching at Chicago High Schools in 1947-48 and at Notre Dame Law school in the summer months.

He received his Doctor of Law degree from Notre Dame in June of 1962. During this same time he also served as an assistant coach. He then started his collegiate career at Loyola.

Dee has also taken amateur basketball teams to five different countries for clinics and games.

He and his wife, Katherine, have three children.

Mike Schoen, Bellevue; Randy Felhaber, Clay; Denny Zeiter, Shelby; John Florence, Tiffin Columbian, and Steve Gwin, Bowling Green.

Though his college education was interrupted by a stint with the Coast Guard in World War II, he attended Notre Dame from 1944 to 1946, earning a spot on the Irish varsity as a forward.

He was the only player to start

all 41 games through two seasons. He also had a unique distinction as the first football and basketball player to receive an athletic award.

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## *What Of Ross Cage Year?*

# Clark Views It!

Does a record always indicate the story of a team's season?

Fremont Ross basketball coach Alex Clark doesn't think so.

"Sure, we finished with a 5-15 record and that is probably the most disappointing aspect of our season," Clark said recently, "but I don't think the record is a true reflection of how we played through the season.

"Granted, there were times we didn't play the ball we're capable of. Overall, however, I feel my club on the whole gave a better all-around effort than any team we faced this season.

"Our greatest asset was the hustle and desire we had to win. The other schools in our league have more talent and a greater number of boys to chose from. That makes it tough to compete."

On the floor, the Little Giants were led by a trio of seniors — John Lewis, a first team Buckeye Conference selection, Dave Kridler, a peppery guard, and Denny Shearon, a consistent forward.

"In many respects this season was a big disappointment to the three seniors," Clark said. "They had hopes of finishing the season with a much better record.

"But each of them made valuable contributions to any success we had. Lewis was very valuable. He did a good job on both ends of the floor. His best effort came in the first tournament game against Shelby. John's effort that night is the type we want our younger kids to emulate.

"Kridler was our offensive and defensive leader. When we were on offense Dave was the quarterback, charged with making it run properly, and, defensively, we always asked Dave to guard the other team's leading outside scorer.

"Shearon provided us with a consistent effort throughout the season. His rebounding efforts were especially pleasing. In the last four games of the season he was averaging between 14 and 15. Denny was always hustling on the floor no matter what the score."

The Little Giant victories came against Elyria (2), Marion, Tiffin Columbian and Shelby.

"I guess you would have to classify the win over Shelby as the highlight of the season," Clark said. "We showed that night that we did have a fine ball club despite the record.

"The Buckeye Conference wins over Elyria and Marion were also important. Beating Elyria two times in any season is quite an accomplishment. We beat Marion on our floor but lost to them in the final seconds at their place. I thought we could have won that one, too.

"Both those teams finished

higher than us in the standings. Yet I wouldn't trade clubs with either of those coaches. I think we had the better team despite the final standings.

"I know this — the clubs in the Buckeye Conference have respect for Fremont Ross. They knew when they played us they were going to have a tough ball game. Twice we gave Mansfield Senior a real scare and in both games with Findlay we always had them looking over their shoulder."

Findlay finished first in the conference and Mansfield was second.

Clark completed his second season as head coach.

"Just by the improvement in the record I think our program is advancing," Clark said. "Things are looking better. However, I can never see Fremont Ross competing year in and year out for the Buckeye Conference championship.

"We just don't have the talent to compete with other schools in the conference. In the last two years we have been getting a greater number of boys out for the sport but it's still nothing compared to what some other league schools get out."

Although three starters will be missing, several players return who recorded a great deal of playing time this season.

That group includes guards Steve Smith and Mike Feasel and forwards Bob Brudzinski, Chuck Celek and Tom Liggins. Brudzinski and Celek started in practically every game this season.

"Those boys should give us a good nucleus to start out with," Clark said. "Next year we should have more balance. Six or seven players should do the scoring, not like this season when we relied so much on Lewis."

Some help is also coming from the reserve squad. Clark has high hopes for guards Jon Smith, Rob Lytle and Chuck Lindsey and forwards Mike Miller, Ed Fitzgerald and Tom Pitts.

"All those fellows have the tools to become good basketball players but they will have to work at it," Clark said. "If they do come around like I think they can they will push the varsity returnees for a starting spot."

Ross' tallest starter this season was Brudzinski who stands 6-4.

"The lack of having one big man hurts us," Clark said. "Brudzinski grew about an inch and a half during the season. If he keeps growing it might solve part of the problem. Yet, we still will lack the big forwards that are needed to compete with other Buckeye Conference teams."

What type of prediction does Clark have for the 1971-72 Little Giants?

"I won't give a definite prediction," Clark said. "Let's just say I'm optimistic about our chances."



BASKETBALL trophy winners at last night's presentations are shown from left—Dave Kridler, Denny Shearon and John Lewis.



SWIMMING awards went to Andy Christensen (left), Pat Aten and Randy Hottinger.



PHIL REITTER (left), Eric Wolfe and Chuck Wickert were recipients of wrestling awards.

Wednesday, March 31, 1971 Fremont News-Messenger 13

## Ross Cites Athletes Lewis, Wickert, Aten Declared Most Valuable

By DON FOGLESON  
N-M Staff Writer

Nearly 150 persons gathered last night to attend the annual Winter Sports Award Night held at the Ross High cafeteria to honor Fremont Ross High School athletes who participated in basketball, swimming or wrestling the past season. Cheerleaders were also honored.

Senior John Lewis took home the most hardware in the basketball awards, as presented by Head Coach Alex Clark. Lewis was presented with the Most Valuable Player Award, which was chosen by his fellow teammates, and the Free Throw Award, for the best percentage at the foul line.

Honorary Captain Award went to Senior Dave Kridler and the final award for the leading rebounder and field goal percentage shooter was given to Denny Shearon. The three were also letter winners.

Other letter winners in basketball were senior Jeff Parkinson, juniors Chuck Celek, Mike Feasel, Tom Liggins, and Sophomores Bob Brudzinski and Steve Smith.

Pat Aten was presented with the Most Valuable Player Award on the swimming team and was also honored with the All Events Award. Randy Hottinger took home the second place All Events Award, and the Most Improved Swimmer Award went to Dan Potter.

Presented an award for being the easiest swimmer to coach was Andy Christensen, and the first annual Goldbrick Award was given to the versatile Cyrus Connors. Christensen is a junior while the rest of the award winners are seniors and all received letters.

Swimmers who also took home letters were seniors Pat Collins, William Shoup and Charles Vandergrift, and juniors Eric Bristley, Toby Peck and Steve Willer. Coach Ron Zwierlein made the presentations.

Head wrestling coach Mal Mackey awarded 16 letters to his wrestlers, six of whom were juniors and five of whom were sophomores.

Most Valuable Player on the wrestling squad was senior Chuck Wickert and the award for the most improved wrestler went to junior Phil Reitter. Outstanding sophomore was Eric Wolfe.

Seniors who received letters were Jim Eberly, Chuck Miller, Howard Stierwalt, Wickert, and Phil Wojdyla.

Others who were honored with letters were juniors Dave Alejandro, Jim Billow, Terry Fiber, Reitter, Dale Shoemaker, David Skergan, sophomores Paul Branco, Ed Farson, Ron Kanan, Dave Mierke and Wolfe.

## NCAA Checks Porter On Early ABA Signing

VILLANOVA, Pa. (AP) — The National Collegiate Athletic Association says it is investigating reports that Villanova University's basketball star Howard Porter jumped the eligibility gun.

Warren Brown, executive director of the NCAA's rules enforcement program, said Tuesday his group is following the latest allegations that Porter has been under professional contract since late last year.

If the NCAA confirms reports that Porter signed with the Pittsburgh Condors of the American Basketball Association, the verdict could strike Villanova's recent successful season from official memory.

Fans would have to forget that the Wildcats, led by the 6-foot-8 Porter, came close to denying UCLA its fifth straight NCAA title.

Villanova lost to the Bruins 68-62 in the NCAA final last Saturday.

On Monday the Condors announced they had acquired a contract on Porter from the ABA, but they would not say

oath that he had not entered into any agreement with a professional organization or agent.

If, as reported, Porter committed himself on Dec. 16, 1970, and continued competing as a collegian, the deed would invalidate his and Villanova's 1970-71 season.

Porter said he hasn't signed anything with anybody.



