

Bucyrus coach picked for Ross basketball job

By BOB MARKER
Sports editor

Bruce Brown will be the new boys basketball coach at Fremont Ross.

Brown was introduced to the area media during a Monday conference at the Fremont Board of Education office. His appointment is pending formal approval of the board of education, scheduled to meet July 1.

"We had 49 applicants for the position," Ross Athletic Director Pat McGhee said. "Bruce was selected because of his positive qualities and his experience at the Division I and II levels."

Brown succeeds Frank Gioffre who resigned after four years earlier this year.

The new Little Giants leader has 20 years of coaching experience, serving as head coach at Defiance, Grove City, Middletown, Massillon Jackson and Maumee. From 1981-84, he served as an assistant coach under John Weinert at Bowling Green State University.

For the past three years, Brown was the basketball coach and athletic director at Bucyrus

Ross coach at a glance

Name: Bruce Brown

Age: 44

Marital: Divorced

Children: Blaire, a junior at Defiance High School and Megan, an eighth grader at Defiance

Hometown: Columbus

College: Bowling Green State University, 1972



High School, a Division II team which plays in the Northern Ohio League. Brown's teams compiled 4-17, 8-14 and 3-18 records.

Brown said there were several reasons he was drawn to Ross. One was the school's overall athletic tradition.

"There also seems to be that every year or so there seems to be a player (out of Ross) who is capable of playing Division III (college) level or above," Brown said while rattling off the names of former Ross stars Greg Binder, Chris Wolfe and Mike McGee. "That's a positive level of talent that exists here in Fremont."

"But I would be remiss if I did not say a lot had to do with how much I know about this gentleman at my left," Brown said while gesturing toward McGhee. "Pat and I go back probably more years than I want to admit...I have a lot of respect for him as a coach and also someone who is very organized."

"I also know several people familiar with the school system and they spoke very highly of the system...those are just some of the reasons," Brown said.

When asked about his style of basketball, Brown was brief but stressed that pressure was a key word for him.

"In a nutshell, we like to extend the floor as much as we can," Brown said, "but a lot of that comes down to what our guard play is, especially at the defensive end. We like to press as quickly and as far out on the floor as possible."

"Pressure is a word we will use throughout our schemes."

"Offensively, we like to run, attack the basket...it's organized pressure, not a random get it out and go but rather a somewhat disciplined approach to running," Brown said.

Brown said his first item of business will be selecting a staff, adding that it would likely come from within the system.

Brown will be teaching junior high science. His salary will be \$40,453 including his coaching increment.

Brown added that he will be looking for a place to live in Fremont and will be attempting to meet as many players, parents and the public as possible while he is adapting to his new home and job.

Meet the coach

Prospective players, their parents and the general public may meet new Ross boys basketball coach Bruce Brown at 7 p.m., Wednesday.

The "meet the coach" night will be in the Ross High School library.

Basketball school

The Fremont Ross Little Giant Basketball School is in July.

July 11-15 will be for boys entering grades 7-9 and July 18-22 for boys entering grades 4-6. Both sessions will be 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The fee is \$40 with a discount of \$5 for participants from the same immediate family.

Applications are available at Ross High School, Fremont Athletic Supply, and J & K Sports in Fremont. Questions should be directed to 332-6462.