

2016-2017 Season Review

FREMONT ROSS BASKETBALL

LITTLE GIANTS FIELD YOUTHFUL SQUAD



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSANGER

Taylor Druckenmiller returns with starting experience for Fremont Ross.

Only Druckenmiller, Trolio have varsity experience

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon has more players who can shoot from the perimeter and more who can handle the basketball than he did last season.

The Little Giants, however, will be much smaller as a group. Gedeon told his players the best rebounder will be on the court.

Sophomore varsity newcomer Bryce McKinstry, who with two others is the tallest at 6-foot-4, looks like the team's top rebounder. Senior point guard Taylor Druckenmiller is the only returning starter.

Senior wing Brandon Trolio started about 10 games last season.

"There's not much carry-over," Gedeon said. "We have two of 11 letter winners back and they'll be in different

roles. They know the speed of the game and the preparation and they'll try to share that with their teammates, but they're adjusting to roles as leaders."

Junior guard Tre Campbell will start with junior wings Keyon Sewell and Roger Burling among those competing for the final spot. Sewell returns to Ross along with junior guard Maliek Johnson, who was at St. Joseph Central Catholic the last two years.

"You like the youthful energy they have," Gedeon said. "They know they have things to learn and they're willing to be coached."

Senior forward Alec Snodgrass is the remaining senior. Junior point guard Davion Anderson and junior forward Jovan Lewis are also in the mix.

Only Druckenmiller and Trolio have varsity experience from a team that won eight games last season, including two in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference.

"Taylor is a hard-nosed ball-handler who can shoot and get to the rim," Gedeon said. "Brandon is a good outside shooter and passer. He can play multiple positions. Campbell scores and rebounds well for a guard. He plays with energy and he encourages his teammates."

"It's nice to see a player without varsity experience finding his niche. Freshman wing Jaedyn McKinstry, sophomore wing Bryce Root and sophomore guard Jabyris Heidelberg will compete for varsity minutes."

"We've had some players step up," Gedeon said. "(Bryce McKinstry has) earned time. He's scratching his potential."

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"You like the youthful energy they have. They know they have things to learn and they're willing to be coached."

MARK GEDEON
FREMONT ROSS COACH

FREMONT ROSS 65, CLYDE 44

DRUCKENMILLER PACES ROSS IN WIN OVER CLYDE

Made five three-pointers for game-high 19 points

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

CLYDE - Tre Campbell scored 12 of his 16 points in the first half Saturday as Fremont Ross topped Clyde 65-44 in a non-conference matchup.

"He shot the ball better," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "He admitted to nerves last night in his first varsity game. He can score in different ways. We're going to need balance and for players to step up. These kids love the game."

Campbell canned a three-pointer for a 17-11 advantage after one quarter. He scored in transition off his own steal and dropped in another three for a 12-point lead early in the second quarter.

Ross (1-1) lost its opener Friday against Toledo Woodward.

"You have to give Ross credit," Clyde coach Ryan Fretz said. "They played a game away last night. They were ready. They got in the passing lanes and ran the floor."

Taylor Druckenmiller made at least one three in every quarter and five overall for Ross.

"We focused on not turning it over, rebounding and getting out in transition," he said. "Our goal was to keep them under 10 in each quarter - we didn't quite do that - but 21 in the first half is pretty good."

Druckenmiller finished with a game-high 19 points.

"As a head high school coach, it's always great to have a senior point guard who understands the game," Gedeon said. "He's a competitor and he showed the different facets of his game. He demonstrated his growth."

"Clyde tried to get momentum and he seized an opportunity and took control."

Bryce McKinstry had an early impact with four rebounds and a block for the Little Giants.

"He's a defensive player and rebounder as a sophomore," Gedeon said. "You can see he's competitive. His foul trouble limited his time. We had some good energy in the second quarter. When we got the lead to double digits the kids relaxed and we challenged them to value the basketball."

Ross committed 28 turnovers Friday compared to eight Saturday. Brandon Trollo had 12 points and Davion Anderson helped Druckenmiller with the ball-handling.

Clyde had its best stretch as it scored the first eight points in the second half before a Druckenmiller three.

"We executed," Fretz said. "We were having an awful shooting night from outside. Fremont made 10 of 20. We took it to the hole in the third quarter."

Conner Long had 16 points for Clyde and Derick Harrah added 14.

"Conner is a winner," Fretz said. "He loves to win. He loves to play the game. You can't take the fight out of him and he stepped up."

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PHOTOS BY MATTHEW HORN/
NEWS-MESSANGER

Taylor Druckenmiller, above, scored a game-high 19 points Saturday for Fremont Ross in a win against Clyde.



Clyde's Conner Long, left, scored a team-high 16 points Saturday.

Woodward 79, Fremont Ross 65

Fremont Ross dropped their opening game of the year on the road Friday evening against Woodward.

Taylor Druckenmiller had a team-high 21 points for the Giants and Brandon Trolio chipped in 13 more.

The game was tied at 30 at the half, but Woodward took a 7-point advantage at the end of the third and extended it in the final quarter.

Stat Book: Fremont Ross: 25 FG, 9-17 FT, 6 3pt. (Trolio 3, Burling, Root, Campbell). Scoring: Sewell 5, Burling 6, Druckenmiller 21, Root 5, McKinstry 4, Trolio 13, Campbell 9, Snodgrass 2. Woodward: 31 FG, 10-18 FT, 7 3pt. (Caraway 6, Robinson). Scoring: Caraway 26, Hunt 14, Jones 8, Pontha 4, Robinson 6, Robinson 21

St. John's 72, Fremont Ross 35

Fremont Ross lost to Three Rivers Athletic Conference foe St. John's 72-35 on Friday night.

The Little Giant offense was led by Taylor Druckenmiller with eight points and Tre Campbell with six points.

STAT BOOK

Fremont Ross: 4-14-6-11 - 35

St. John's: 18-24-17-13 - 72

Fremont Ross: 13 FG, 7-9 FT, 2 3pt. (Johnson 1, Trolio 1). Scoring: Johnson 5, Lewis 4, Trolio 3, Anderson 2, Root 2, McKinstry 2, Snodgrass 2, Sewell 1.

St. John's: 24 FG, 16-23 FT, 8 3pt. (Williams, B. 4, Williams, V. 2, Riggs 2). Scoring: Williams, V. 23, Williams, B. 15, Riggs 12, Anderson 9, King 5, Beier 5, Fretti 1, Jarrett 1, Moyer 1.

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN 60, FREMONT ROSS 56

Fremont Ross falls to Tiffin Columbian

BY JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - It seemed like for most of the night that Tiffin Columbian senior Ro Durham was going to single-handedly do everything he could to defeat Fremont Ross.

"He was getting the ball in the low-block and we know he likes to spin. He's a good finisher over either shoulder," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "He's able to put the ball on the floor and create some dribble-drive opportunities. I thought Bryce (McKinstry) limited his touches and if he did get the ball, it wasn't in his scoring zone."

The Little Giants were able to slow down Durham long enough in the last half of the third quarter and first half of the fourth quarter to get their own 3-

point shooting going.

Ross made 5-of-9 3s in the third quarter, made another early in the fourth quarter and held off a late Tornadoes rally for a 60-56 non-league win on Saturday night.

"The play off of our bench with Bryce and Davion (Anderson) and others was key," said Gedeon. "They started getting us back in the game. In the second half, I thought we got the outside shots to go. We hit a couple 3s and the kids relaxed. We told them in the locker room that we needed to make some plays and that the team that was more aggressive and made plays was the team that was gonna come out with a victory."

With the game tied at 24-all at half-time, Taylor Druckenmiller nailed a 3-pointer to open the third quarter for the Little Giants (2-2). Columbian followed

that up with six straight points before Tre Campbell connected from 3. Later, Druckenmiller again hit a 3-pointer before McKinstry hit two free throws. Brandon Trolio made a 3-pointer as the third quarter ended to put Ross up, 44-37. "Give Fremont a lot of credit. Their kids played incredibly hard," said Columbian coach Travis Kinn. "They really hurt us on the glass and got a lot of second chance opportunities. I think that was the difference."

Roger Burling joined the 3-point party when his make just over a minute into the fourth quarter and a McKinstry score made it 51-41.

A bucket by Todd Simonds seemed to re-ignite the Tornadoes (3-1) offense, especially Durham, who scored twice more to cut the lead to 51-47, prompting a timeout from Gedeon. The teams ex-

changed buckets over the next few minutes before a score from Anderson and a free throw by Trolio kept the Ross lead at 58-51.

Simonds scored as Kinn called time-out with 25 seconds left. Ross committed one of its 14 turnovers on the ensuing in-bounds as Durham scored and was fouled. The free throw make cut the lead to 58-56, and Campbell was fouled. He missed the front end of the 1-and-1 but Trolio grabbed the offensive rebound. Druckenmiller was fouled and made both free throws with 10.8 seconds left to seal the win.

"They were open looks," said Gedeon of the second-half makes. "We have to be able to hit open shots. We don't have that go-to inside player that we can just feed

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off of. We have to do ours with movement, passing, and cutting in order to get some open shots."

Durham paced the Tornadoes with 27 points and 13 rebounds while Simonds scored 17 points. Ross out-rebounded Columbian, 36-27.

"They did a good job of hitting shots," said Kinn. "I think they ran some good plays to get guys open shots. They hit shots and got a lead but our guys bounced

back and kept playing hard."

Trolio topped the Little Giants with 15 points and 12 rebounds. McKinstry had nine points and eight rebounds. Ross made 7-of-11 shots in the fourth quarter.

"With this young bunch, we know we have to do a lot of teaching," Gedeon said. "We seen the mental mistakes but I also thought we saw some baby steps in terms of growth."

Saturday was Ross' only home game in the month of December. After three road games to start the season and the win over Columbian, the Little Giants hit the road for four games before returning home Jan. 6 vs. Toledo Whitmer.

Start 47, Fremont Ross 44

The Little Giants fell on the road Tuesday to Start.

Taylor Drunkenmiller led Ross with a game-high 14 points while Keyon Sewell added 12 points.

Start was led by Myers with a team-high 11 points alongside Fair adding 10 points.

STAT BOOK

Fremont Ross 4-8-15-17 - 44

Start 12-9-13-13 - 47

Fremont Ross: 12 FG, 8-15 FT, 4 3pt. (Drunkenmiller 2, Trelio 2). Scoring: Relio 8, McKinsey 6, Campbell 2, Burling 2.

Start: 13 FG, 9-17 FT, 4 3pt. (Fair 2, Myers 1, Williams 1). Scoring: Reed 7, Allen 6, Williams 5, Perry 4, Barbine 2, White 2.

(Findlay loss not reported)

BOYS BASKETBALL

Springfield 60, Fremont Ross 57

Visiting Ross led 47-42 after three quarters but couldn't hold on for the non-conference victory Wednesday.

The Little Giants led 36-30 at the half as Brandon Trolio scored eight of his game-high 17 points in the first quarter and Bryce Root added seven of his 11 in the second quarter.

Davion Anderson also had 11 points for Ross.

Stat book: Ross (Roger Burling 5, Taylor Druckenmiller 2, Bryce McKinstry 8).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lima Sr. 77, Fremont Ross 46

The Little Giants stayed with Lima Senior in the first half, but a run to start the second half ruined their chances on Tuesday evening.

Lima led after the first quarter by a 18-14 count and by a 35-30 score at the half. However the Spartans outscored the Little Giants 26-9 in the third quarter to blow open the close game.

Maliek Johnson led the way for Ross with 12 points while Taylor Druckenmiller added 7 and Bryce Root chipped in 6 more.

Stat Book:

Fremont Ross 14 16 9 7-46

Lima Sr. 18 17 26 16-77

Fremont Ross: Maliek Johnson 12, Davion Anderson 4, Keyon Sewell 3, Taylor Druckenmiller 7, Bryce Root, 6, Bryce McKinstry 2, Brandon Trollo 4, Tre Campbell 2, Alec Snodgrass 2, Jovan Lewis 4. Totals 9 13-14 46, 5 3pt. (Johnson 2, Sewell, Druckenmiller, Root).

Lima Sr.: Ward 23, Long 7, King 7, Clair 7, Williams 6, Fox 2, COleman 21, Chutsz 4. Totals 24 20-30 77, 3 3pt. (Ward 2, Coleman).

TOLEDO WHITMER 65, FREMONT ROSS 60

ROSS CAN'T FIND MAGIC IN OT

After big rally to force overtime Little Giants come up short

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross trailed by as many as nine points in the fourth quarter Friday.

The Little Giants finished the quarter on a 11-2 run to force overtime, but once in the extra session, Ross seemingly could not find the offense spark it needed.

The Little Giants made just 1-of-7 shots and committed two turnovers in the final four minutes as Toledo Whitmer escaped the Purple Pit with a 65-60 win in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"I think our team took a lot of positive steps tonight, in terms of what it takes to compete at the level against top competition," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "I think tonight was the best team effort we have had all year. Everybody contributed and everybody supported each other. I am proud of my boys. It is a shame we were on the wrong side of the scoreboard."

The Panthers (6-3 overall, 3-2 TRAC) were led by Derrick Rayford's 22 points, while Nick Witcher scored 20 points. The two combined for the last 18 points by Whitmer over the final 11 minutes.

"We got the shots we take. When it gets to overtime, it is about who makes more plays," Gedeon said. "Whitmer's physicality really dictated what happened in the second half. Witcher is a very talented athlete. Everybody knows that when you talk about Whitmer basketball, Witcher and Rayford are the two you talk about. They established themselves like the veterans they are. They are their go-to guys."

Witcher started overtime off with four consecutive makes from the free throw line. Brandon Trolio made a pair of free throws for the Little Giants (2-7, 0-4) but Witcher scored inside off of an assist from Rayford on the other end.

Ross committed one of its 12 turnovers on the ensuing play, which led to Rayford being fouled. He made one free throw before Tre Campbell drilled a deep 3-pointer to get Ross within 61-59 with 42 seconds left.

Rayford was fouled and made one free throw to allow the Little Giants to stay within one possession. The Panthers called timeout and Ross eventually dumped the ball down low to Trolio,



Ross' Tre Campbell drives to the basket against Whitmer's Noah Roscoe.

who was called for an offensive foul before attempting a short jumper.

"We had a play with several options and to be honest, that was not options one, two, or three," Gedeon said. "But, we went through our progressions and it is a tribute to our kids to find that open spot there. Brandon had a nice look, but the call did not go our way."

Witcher made two free throws on the other end to seal the victory.

A 3-pointer by Rayford opened a 52-

43 lead for Whitmer with 6:24 remaining in the fourth quarter, but Taylor Druckemiller and Campbell hit consecutive 3s to draw Ross to within 52-49. Campbell split a pair of free throws and Keyon Sewell (13 points) scored to tie the game.

Rayford drove on the other end, was fouled, and made both free throws for the lead with 1:28 left. The Little Giants nearly turned the ball over on the next

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possession, but fell on a loose ball that eventually was ruled a jump ball, in favor of Ross. Campbell took the inbounds pass, scored, and was fouled. He missed the free throw to leave the game knotted at 54-all.

Each team missed the front end of a 1-and-1 before Ross called timeout with 21.7 seconds left. The Little Giants put the ball in the hands of Druckenmiller, who drove and missed a lay-up in the waning seconds of regulation.

"That is what we wanted. We wanted Taylor going to the basket in that situation," Gedeon said. "Taylor had a great look and that is something that if we get in that situation again, we would put Taylor in that position again."

Ross jumped out to an 8-2 lead before Whitmer responded with an 11-0 run. In the second quarter, Campbell scored five straight points and Trolio added a 3-ball for a 27-22 lead. Later, two free throws by Trolio gave Ross a 29-25 lead at halftime.

Davion Anderson scored for the Little Giants out of halftime, but the Panthers used another 11-0 run to take a 36-31 lead. Whitmer led, 45-39, after three quarters and a score by Leon Hughes extended the lead to eight points early in the fourth quarter.

"I am proud of my boys. It is a tough loss, there is no question," Gedeon said.

Stat Book

Whitmer 13-12-20-9-11 - 65

Ross 11-18-10-15-6 - 60

Whitmer (6-3, 3-2): 23-45 FG, 13-19 FT, 6-13 3pt (Rayford 3, Franklin 2, Keller), 28 rebounds (Witcher 8), 13 turnovers. Scoring: Derrick Rayford 7 5-8 22, Avion Franklin 2 0-0 6, Leon Hughes 3 0-0 6, Trey Syraka 1 0-0 2, Nick Witcher 6 8-9 20, Riley Keller 2 0-0 5, Areon Evans 2 0-2 4, Jasean Rader 0 0-0 0, Noah Roscoe 0 0-0 0.

Ross (2-7, 0-4): 18-50 FG, 15-24 FT, 9-24 3pt (Sewell 3, Druckenmiller 2, Trolio 2, Campbell 2), 30 rebounds (Trolio 8), 12 turnovers. Scoring: Davion Anderson 1 2-2 4, Taylor Druckenmiller 3 1-2 8, Bryce Root 1 0-0 2, Bryce McKinstry 0 1-2 1, Brandon Trolio 2 9-12 15, Maliek Johnson 0 0-0 0, Roger Burling 1 0-1 2, Keyon Sewell 5 0-0 13, Alec Snodgrass 0 0-0 0, Tre Campbell 5 2-5 14.

"It is a tough loss and it hurts. We are all very competitive and we want to win. When you see the growth of young men and the growth we took tonight, boy, if we could keep building off of this, good things are going to happen."

Trolio led Ross with 15 points, while Campbell scored 14 points off of the bench.

"It was good for Tre," Gedeon said. "He has been struggling shooting the ball the last four games now. He probably had the best pre-season of any of our players. To see him struggle so much but come back with a night like tonight will boost his confidence. We need his spark there."

Ross can't contain Williams, Sandusky

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon has enjoyed watching Jayrese Williams for the past four seasons.

Coaching against the Sandusky senior is a different story.

Williams, already the all-time leading scorer in Sandusky High School history, added 38 points, leading the Blue Streaks (8-3) to a 74-54 non-league victory over Ross (2-8) on Saturday.

"Jayrese is tough to defend, no matter what gameplan you come up with," Gedeon said. "We did not want to give him any free runs to the basket. His ability to not only drive to the hole and draw contact, but his step-backs, make him a very special player. There is a reason he is all-Ohio."

Williams asserted himself early and often. He scored 15 of his team's 23 points in the first quarter, but it was the third quarter where he took over.

A 3-pointer by Taylor Druckenmiller cut the Blue Streaks' lead to 37-34, but Williams and Sandusky owned the rest of the quarter. Williams scored and added consecutive 3-pointers to prompt a timeout from Gedeon.

Williams added a 3-point play and Brent Hanson scored before Williams

Stat Book

Sandusky 23-12-20-19 - 74

Ross 16-15-5-18 - 54

Sandusky (8-3): 29-48 FG, 11-18 FT, 5-8 3pt (J. Williams 4, K. Williams), 35 rebounds (Hanson 12), 12 turnovers. Scoring: Keith Williams 2 1-2 6, Cavon Croom 4 1-1 9, Jayrese Williams 13 8-11 38, Brent Hanson 2 1-1 5, Jamonte Alexander 3 0-0 6, Ja'Vez Alexander 1 0-0 2, Keijan Newell 0 0-0 0, Ra'Landes Johnson 3 0-3 6, Denaryon Swain 1 0-0 2, Elijah Woods 0 0-0 0, Briyon Slaughter 0 0-0 0, Bo Roldan 0 0-0 0.

Ross (2-8): 19-56 FG, 6-8 FT, 10-27 3pt (Trolio 5, Sewell 2, Druckenmiller, Root, Heidelberg), 20 rebounds (Trolio 7), 12 turnovers. Scoring: Davion Anderson 0 0-0 0, Taylor Druckenmiller 3 1-1 8, Bryce Root 1 0-0 3, Bryce McKinstry 1 0-0 2, Brandon Trolio 8 3-4 24, Maliek Johnson 0 0-0 0, Keyon Sewell 2 0-0 6, Alec Snodgrass 0 1-2 1, Tre Campbell 1 0-0 2, Jovan Lewis 2 1-1 5, Jabrys Heidelberg 1 0-0 3, Jaedyn McKinstry 0 0-0 0.

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stepped in front of a Ross pass and scored on a lay-up for a 52-34 lead.

"He is our leader," said Sandusky coach Colin Irish of Williams. "Most of the stuff we run goes through Jay-

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Ross

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rese. He is a difficult matchup for a lot of teams... Jayrese gets a lot of open shots, but our guys are setting him up."

Ra'Landes Johnson scored and Williams split two free throws to finish off an 18-0 run for the Blue Streaks. Druckenmiller got a lay-up as the quarter ended. Ross made just 2-of-15 shots in the quarter.

"We went 12 possessions in a row that we came up empty," Gedeon said of the third quarter. "We missed a couple of good looks early in the quarter. I thought we had some good opportunities to get some baskets there. As the quarter went on, I think we resorted back to some bad habits."

Johnson added two

buckets and Keith Williams scored to open a 61-36 lead with 6:11 left in the game — a game that had only a four-point margin at halftime.

"We didn't panic, which was nice to see. We were tested because Ross came out and played extremely hard," Irish said. "We hit some big shots, but the biggest thing was our defensive effort was incredible tonight. Our defensive communication was one of the better we've had out on the court. We picked it up another notch. We have our eyes set on a lot of things and this was another step."

Williams scored eight of Sandusky's first 10 points. Keyon Sewell and Brandon Trolio each hit a 3 to get Ross within 14-9, but Williams countered with one of his four 3-pointers.

In the second quarter, a

3 by Williams coupled with a score from Jamonte Alexander pushed the Sandusky lead to 30-18. After a Ross timeout, Trolio completed the rare 4-point play and added another score to get the Little Giants within six points. A 3-ball by Sewell cut the Sandusky lead to 35-31 at halftime.

"When we take bad shots, it leads to misses, and leads to run-outs for Sandusky," Gedeon said. "They get up and down the

floor as good as anybody in Northwest Ohio. We allowed one mistake to turn into three mistakes."

Trolio had 17 points at halftime, but was held scoreless in the third quarter. He finished with a team-high 24 points.

"I think Sandusky was aware of him at halftime," Gedeon said of Trolio. "We tried to run some sets and get him some shots like we do. A couple of times he got some good looks."

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Oregon Clay and Toledo Central Catholic not reported.

TOLEDO ST. FRANCIS 83, FREMONT ROSS 38

LITTLE GIANTS HAVE NO ANSWER



Ross' Tre Campbell looks for the shot against Toledo St. Francis' Alex Casza.

DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Knights dictate tempo, never look back after fast start

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross won the opening tip Friday.

After that, things went downhill, and went quickly.

Division I, fifth-ranked Toledo St. Francis ran away from the Little Giants in the first quarter and never looked back in a 89-38 win in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"I liked our defensive intensity in the first half, especially in the first quarter," said St. Francis coach Travis Lewis. "I think we attacked well off of missed shots and in transition. We took care of the ball in transition."

Jakiel Wells scored the first two buckets of the game for the Knights (12-1 overall, 6-1 TRAC), but Keyon Sewell scored for the Little Giants (3-10, 1-6). Later, Sewell hit

a 3-pointer, but that's when St. Francis took over.

Jackson Harris scored inside before Kenny Coleman hit two consecutive shots. After John Burnham scored, Drew Swerlein nailed a 3-pointer and added three free throws for a 21-5 lead.

Brandon Trolio scored to stop the run, but, it was only momentary. Burnham hit a 3, Harris made two free throws and Marcus Lang connected on a 3-ball to put the Knights up, 29-7, after one quarter.

"I think in the first quarter, we had a game plan to try to execute a few things with our zone and it did not work," said Mike Wilson, who was coaching Ross in place of a sick Mark Gedeon. "They were able to dictate the tempo and pace and get what they wanted."

Alec Snodgrass scored for Ross to open the second

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quarter, but Coleman responded with a 3-point play on the other end for St. Francis. Later, two free throws by Trolio drew the Little Giants to within 37-33, but the Knights used a 12-3 run to increase the margin.

St. Francis made its first 12 free throws during the first half and opened a 53-18 margin when Tayler McNeal split two free throws.

"Offensively, we are still a young team in terms of experience," Wilson said. "We just need to learn what good shots are and what bad shots are. Sometimes, teams pressure us so hard and our guards have trouble getting into an offense and moving the ball. Then, we start shooting up the first available 3-pointer and right now, we are not knocking them down."

Coleman opened the second half with a steal and lay-up. Swerlein scored and Burnham hit a 3-point-

Stat Book

St. Francis 29-24-19-17 - 89

Fremont Ross 7-13-7-11 - 38

St. Francis (12-1, 6-1 TRAC): 32-51 FG, 15-19 FT, 10-22 3pt (Burnham 3, Lang 2, Swerlein, Cousino, Zepp, Gallagher, Ansara), 34 rebounds (Burnham 5), 10 turnovers.

Scoring: Jakiel Wells 2 0-0 4, Drew Swerlein 3 5-5 12, Kenny Coleman 6 5-6 17, John Burnham 6 0-0 15, Jackson Harris 1 2-2 4, Marcus Lang 2 0-0 6, Alex Kasza 1 0-0 2, Tayler McNeal 1 3-5 5, Jacob Cousino 3 0-1 7, Scott Zepp 2 0-0 5, Nick Best 1 0-0 2, Grant Sonnenberg 1 0-0 2, Sean Gallagher 2 0-0 5, Nolan Ansara 1 0-0 3.

Fremont Ross (3-10, TRAC): 11-45 FG, 12-17 FT, 2-19 3pt (Sewell, Heidelberg), 20 rebounds (B. McKinstry 6), 20 turnovers. Scoring: Maliek Johnson 0 0-0 0, Keyon Sewell 2 3-4 8, Taylor Druckenmiller 0 0-1 0, Bryce McKinstry 0 0-2 0, Brandon Trolio 2 2-2 6, Bryce Root 1 0-0 2, Tre Campbell 3 0-0 6, Davion Anderson 1 4-4 6, Alec Snodgrass 1 0-0 2, Roger Burling 1 0-0 2, Jabryis Heidelberg 1 0-0 3, Jovan Lewis 0 1-2 1, Jaedyn McKinstry 0 2-2 2.

er for a 60-20 lead. A bucket by Alex Kasza and 3-ball from Scott Zepp extended the lead to 70-22, with 2:01 left in the third quarter.

Ross committed 20 turnovers on the night and made just 2-of-19 (10.5 percent) 3-pointers. The Little Giants were out-rebounded, 34-20.

"I think we need to play better in order to compete with a team at that level," said Wilson. "We have to handle pressure and identify

what we need to take away from them."

St. Francis made 32-of-51 (62.8 percent) shots, including 22-of-29 (75.9 percent) from 2-point range.

"I give St. Francis all of the credit in the world," said Wilson. "Travis has done an excellent job with the program. They have completely turned it around in the last five years. His players played their rear-ends off and executed what they needed to."

ST. JOHN'S 59, FREMONT ROSS 38



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENDER

Ross' Keyon Sewell, right, makes a shot past St. John's Joey Fretti.

ROSS FALLS TO ST. JOHN'S IN TRAC

NEWS-MESSENDER REPORT

Taylor Druckenmiller paced Fremont Ross with eight points Friday in a 59-38 setback to visiting Toledo St. John's in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

The Little Giants (3-11, 1-7) trailed 35-19 at the half. Vincent Williams had 23 points for St. John's (12-2, 7-1).

Stat Book

Ross (Alec Snodgrass 2, Maliek Johnson 3, Davion Anderson 3, Keyon Sewell 3, Bryce Root 2, Jaedyn McKinstry 3, Bryce McKinstry 2, Brandon Trolio 4, Tre Campbell 4, Jovan Lewis 4).

FREMONT ROSS 64, BOWLING GREEN 49

ROSS ROLLS PAST BOWLING GREEN

Racks up 30 points in second quarter

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

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"Coach (Mark Gedeon) said to play hard off the bench," Campbell said. "I was feeling (good). Square up and shoot with confidence or take it to the hole. Move the ball. Come in and lock down on both sides of the court. Get back on D and know where all five guys are.

"Defense is the key. Sit down and everybody has to get back. We have to work as a team and stay a family."

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"Getting out in transition," Gedeon said. "We've stressed to have fun and relax. He got to the line. We need that type of contribution."

Keyon Sewell banged in two 3s early in the third quarter for a 49-19 advantage.

"He's a young player," Gedeon said. "It's his first year (on the varsity team). We've seen growth passing the ball and handling the ball. As a staff, that's what you want from all your players – progress in the journey.

"We've seen improvement from all our players."

Campbell said the focus was fundamentals as Ross earned its fourth win in 15 games. "We're making progress. We had a slow start with some tough losses in games we should have won. We came back and regrouped. We stayed together."

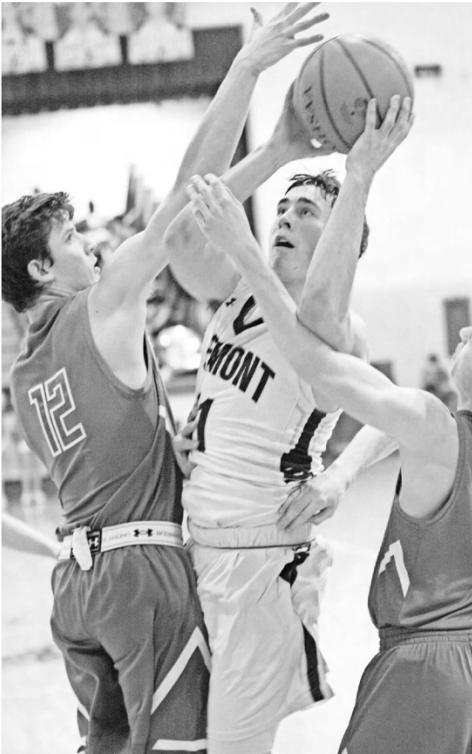
Ross responded following setbacks to Toledo St. Francis and Toledo St. John's.

"We went back-to-back against the fourth-ranked team and the ninth-ranked team," Gedeon said. "To stay focused on the now and look forward to improving says a lot about them. We hope to improve at Central Catholic."

Maliek Johnson scored a team-high 11 points for Ross, including six in the first quarter.

"He came back to Fremont Ross coming off major knee surgery in March," Gedeon said. "It's getting him healthy and acclimated with the offense and defense. He's enjoyable to coach and Maliek got some opportunities. He's getting closer and closer to where he knows he's capable of being athletically."

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PHOTOS BY DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross's Taylor Druckenmiller looks for an opening Saturday between two Bowling Green defenders.



Ross's Keyon Sewell lets a 3-pointer fly Saturday against Bowling Green.

STAT BOOK

Ross: Keyon Sewell 9, Davion Anderson 3, Taylor Druckenmiller 3, Jaedyn McKinstry 2, Bryce McKinstry 2, Brandon Trolio 3, Alec Snodgrass 4, Jovan Lewis 4

Bowling Green: Blaine Brown 2, Christian Peek 2, Bryce Hoehner 6, Kaiden Robinson 2, Isaac Elsasser 10, Kaleb Fair 2, Jacob Konecny 2, Preston Morman 21, Spencer Rader 2

Central Catholic 50, Fremont Ross 46

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Taylor Druckenmiller scored 12 to lead the Little Giants while Brandon Trilio added another 11.

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Fremont Ross 13 9 9 15-46

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Fremont Ross: Maliek Johnson 4, Keyon Sewell 4, Taylor Druckenmiller 12, Bryce Root 8, Bryce McKinstry 4, Brandon Trolio 11, Tre Campbell 3. Totals 11 9-10 46, 5 3pt. (Druckenmiller 2, Root 2, Trolio).

Central Catholic: Grombacker 2, Fields 7, Harris 8, Copeland 5, Salaich 2, Galloway 4, Triplett 16, Cole 6. Totals 16 9-10 50, 3 3pt. (Triplett 2, Copeland).

TOLEDO ST. FRANCIS 83, FREMONT ROSS 38

LITTLE GIANTS HAVE NO ANSWER



Ross' Tre Campbell looks for the shot against Toledo St. Francis' Alex Casza.

DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Knights dictate tempo, never look back after fast start

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross won the opening tip Friday.

After that, things went downhill, and went quickly.

Division I, fifth-ranked Toledo St. Francis ran away from the Little Giants in the first quarter and never looked back in a 89-38 win in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"I liked our defensive intensity in the first half, especially in the first quarter," said St. Francis coach Travis Lewis. "I think we attacked well off of missed shots and in transition. We took care of the ball in transition."

Jakiel Wells scored the first two buckets of the game for the Knights (12-1 overall, 6-1 TRAC), but Keyon Sewell scored for the Little Giants (3-10, 1-6). Later, Sewell hit

a 3-pointer, but that's when St. Francis took over.

Jackson Harris scored inside before Kenny Coleman hit two consecutive shots. After John Burnham scored, Drew Swerlein nailed a 3-pointer and added three free throws for a 21-5 lead.

Brandon Trolio scored to stop the run, but, it was only momentary. Burnham hit a 3, Harris made two free throws and Marcus Lang connected on a 3-ball to put the Knights up, 29-7, after one quarter.

"I think in the first quarter, we had a game plan to try to execute a few things with our zone and it did not work," said Mike Wilson, who was coaching Ross in place of a sick Mark Gedeon. "They were able to dictate the tempo and pace and get what they wanted."

Alec Snodgrass scored for Ross to open the second

See ROSS, Page 2B

ROSS

Continued from Page 1B

quarter, but Coleman responded with a 3-point play on the other end for St. Francis. Later, two free throws by Trolio drew the Little Giants to within 37-33, but the Knights used a 12-3 run to increase the margin.

St. Francis made its first 12 free throws during the first half and opened a 53-18 margin when Tayler McNeal split two free throws.

"Offensively, we are still a young team in terms of experience," Wilson said. "We just need to learn what good shots are and what bad shots are. Sometimes, teams pressure us so hard and our guards have trouble getting into an offense and moving the ball. Then, we start shooting up the first available 3-pointer and right now, we are not knocking them down."

Coleman opened the second half with a steal and lay-up. Swerlein scored and Burnham hit a 3-point-

Stat Book

St. Francis 29-24-19-17 - 89

Fremont Ross 7-13-7-11 - 38

St. Francis (12-1, 6-1 TRAC): 32-51 FG, 15-19 FT, 10-22 3pt (Burnham 3, Lang 2, Swerlein, Cousino, Zepp, Gallagher, Ansara), 34 rebounds (Burnham 5), 10 turnovers.

Scoring: Jakiel Wells 2 0-0 4, Drew Swerlein 3 5-5 12, Kenny Coleman 6 5-6 17, John Burnham 6 0-0 15, Jackson Harris 1 2-2 4, Marcus Lang 2 0-0 6, Alex Kasza 1 0-0 2, Tayler McNeal 1 3-5 5, Jacob Cousino 3 0-1 7, Scott Zepp 2 0-0 5, Nick Best 1 0-0 2, Grant Sonnenberg 1 0-0 2, Sean Gallagher 2 0-0 5, Nolan Ansara 1 0-0 3.

Fremont Ross (3-10, TRAC): 11-45 FG, 12-17 FT, 2-19 3pt (Sewell, Heidelberg), 20 rebounds (B. McKinstry 6), 20 turnovers. Scoring: Maliek Johnson 0 0-0 0, Keyon Sewell 2 3-4 8, Taylor Druckenmiller 0 0-1 0, Bryce McKinstry 0 0-2 0, Brandon Trolio 2 2-2 6, Bryce Root 1 0-0 2, Tre Campbell 3 0-0 6, Davion Anderson 1 4-4 6, Alec Snodgrass 1 0-0 2, Roger Burling 1 0-0 2, Jabryis Heidelberg 1 0-0 3, Jovan Lewis 0 1-2 1, Jaedyn McKinstry 0 2-2 2.

er for a 60-20 lead. A bucket by Alex Kasza and 3-ball from Scott Zepp extended the lead to 70-22, with 2:01 left in the third quarter.

Ross committed 20 turnovers on the night and made just 2-of-19 (10.5 percent) 3-pointers. The Little Giants were out-rebounded, 34-20.

"I think we need to play better in order to compete with a team at that level," said Wilson. "We have to handle pressure and identify

what we need to take away from them."

St. Francis made 32-of-51 (62.8 percent) shots, including 22-of-29 (75.9 percent) from 2-point range.

"I give St. Francis all of the credit in the world," said Wilson. "Travis has done an excellent job with the program. They have completely turned it around in the last five years. His players played their rear-ends off and executed what they needed to."

ST. JOHN'S 59, FREMONT ROSS 38



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENDER

Ross' Keyon Sewell, right, makes a shot past St. John's Joey Fretti.

ROSS FALLS TO ST. JOHN'S IN TRAC

NEWS-MESSENDER REPORT

Taylor Druckenmiller paced Fremont Ross with eight points Friday in a 59-38 setback to visiting Toledo St. John's in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

The Little Giants (3-11, 1-7) trailed 35-19 at the half. Vincent Williams had 23 points for St. John's (12-2, 7-1).

Stat Book

Ross (Alec Snodgrass 2, Maliek Johnson 3, Davion Anderson 3, Keyon Sewell 3, Bryce Root 2, Jaedyn McKinstry 3, Bryce McKinstry 2, Brandon Trolio 4, Tre Campbell 4, Jovan Lewis 4).

FREMONT ROSS 64, BOWLING GREEN 49

ROSS ROLLS PAST BOWLING GREEN

Racks up 30 points in second quarter

MATTHEW HORN
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Findlay's loss is not reported.

FREMONT ROSS 55, PORT CLINTON 47



PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENDER

Fremont's Jovan Lewis, left, grabs a rebound before Port Clinton's Alex Koskela could reach the ball.

Ross topples Redskins with big fourth quarter

JOSH MORGRET
NEWS-MESSENDER CORRESPONDENT

Fremont Ross didn't play well for the final five minutes of the third quarter.

The Little Giants, however, got exactly the start they wanted to the fourth quarter Tuesday in a 55-47 nonleague victory over visiting Port Clinton. Ross scored the first nine points in the fourth.

"Our defensive effort was the best it had been all night in the fourth quarter," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We made shots. We struggled to start the game and in the third quarter, in terms of making shots. This game is about making shots. You have to outscore your opponent."

Buckets by Bryce Root and Tre Campbell got the Little Giants (5-13) within 40-38 before Port Clinton coach Von Graffin called time-out. Brandon Trolio then drilled a 3-pointer for Ross and Campbell scored for a 43-40 lead before the Redskins called another time-out.

Joey Brenner scored off of an offensive rebound for the Redskins (3-15), but Campbell hit a 3-ball and scored after one of Port Clinton's 19 turnovers for a 48-42 edge.

"The 9-0 run to start the fourth quarter was big," Gedeon said. "It allowed us to control the tempo a little bit. When you make shots, you can get into your press. At the same time, offensively, you do not panic or press the issue. We got some quality shots. It makes it easier. Port Clinton did a very good job controlling tempo. When they got opportunities, they scored, especially



Port Clinton's Matt Paeth, left, stops Fremont's Brandon Trolio.

See BASKETBALL, Page 7A

Basketball

Continued from Page 6A

early.

“Our kids have to continue to learn how to play varsity basketball. The good thing about (Tuesday) is they learned how to win, as opposed to having another single-digit defeat here.”

Dean Colston helped Port Clinton establish an 11-2 lead, but Ross trailed only 14-12 after one quarter. Colston finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

“Dean had a great start to the game,” Graffin said. “Dean has done some great things for us. He got us going and really energized us. That is one of Dean’s best games.”

Taylor Druckenmiller drained a 3-pointer to put Ross up 26-23 at half-time.

Stat book

Port Clinton 14-9-17-7 -- 47

Fremont Ross 12-14-8-21 -- 55

Port Clinton (Kaleb Mizener 2, Max Rumbarger 16, Darius Daniels 3, Dean Colston 11, Joey Brenner 13, Matt Paeth 2).

Ross (Maliek Johnson 5, Taylor Druckenmiller 11, Bryce McKinstry 2, Brandon Trolio 13, Bryce Root 3, Tre Campbell 14, Davion Anderson 3, Alec Snodgrass 2, Jovan Lewis 2).

Druckenmiller added two 3s in the third, but the Little Giants didn’t score again in the quarter after the second with 5:32 left.

Brenner and Max Rumbarger canned 3s for a 38-34 advantage and Port Clinton led by six entering the fourth. Rumbarger had 16 points and Rumbarger 13.

Campbell led Ross with 16 points while Trolio added 13 points and six rebounds.

N

Lima Senior 66, Fremont Ross 39

FREMONT — Lima Senior's Larius Ward scored a game-high 29 points and Keaton Upshaw added 16 points.

The Spartans improve to 8-4 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference and 13-6 overall.

Whitmer 52, Fremont Ross 43

The Little Giants fell short in a Three Rivers Athletic Conference game on Tuesday. 

The two teams fought in the first quarter which ended with the score knotted at eight. The Panthers took control in the second quarter and led 16-10 at the half.

Brandan Trolio scored nine of his team-high 13 points in the final quarter, but the Giants failed on a comeback attempt. Malick Johnson also contributed 11 points for Fremont Ross.

Stat Book:

Fremont Ross 8 2 16 17-43

Whitmer 8 8 19 17-52

Fremont Ross: Malick Johnson 11, Roger Burling 6, Taylor

At Oregon Clay, not reported.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Brandon Trolio of Fremont Ross has matured as a senior.

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSANGER

TROLIO MATURES AS STUDENT-ATHLETE

Senior emerges as leader on young Fremont Ross squad

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

Often, Fremont Ross senior Brandon Trolio would drift to open space and wait for a jump shot that might not present itself.

Things have changed this season as Trolio leads the Little Giants with 10 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. He's canned 30 3-pointers while more aggressively seeking shots.

"I'm more of a leader and a passer," Trolio said. "It's not just shooting in the corner. It's boards and passing. I can handle it when I need to – get a rebound and go. Last year, I'd be scared of losing it or messing up."

"I'm more confident."

Trolio's basketball instincts have been more evident and he's improved seeing the whole floor for Ross (6-15).

"Brandon had an outstanding summer," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "He developed leadership skills and became more confident and consistent. He realized he's not just a shooter."

Trolio and Taylor Druckenmiller are the only returning letter-winners as nine seniors graduated.

"Taylor and I had to come up and fill spots and show the younger guys how to get it done," Trolio said. "Coach expects more because we have varsity experience. It was difficult all at once."

"I'm embracing those opportunities as a senior – the last shot or bringing the ball up or doing what I have to do to create a play."

Gedeon knew Trolio would be important on both ends of the floor.

"He had some nice games last year and others where he looked like a first-year varsity player," he said. "He loves basketball and playing for Fremont Ross. He's team-first. His shot selection has improved and his defense has gotten better."

Trolio's versatility allows him to defend any position on the floor if Ge-



Brandon Trolio of Fremont Ross tries to maintain possession against Port Clinton.

See TROLIO, Page 6A

Trolio

Continued from Page 5A

deon wants.

“Brandon has the ability to effect a game in a lot of different ways,” Gedeon said. “He can guard the ball-handler or the post or the wing.”

Trolio has learned to handle adversity and tries to take younger players under his wing, including freshman Jaedyn McKinstry.

“They’ve been responsive,” Trolio said. “They want to learn. Some practices you have to treat it like a game. Even if we’re up 20, it’s the Fremont Way. Be sound and play our basketball.”

Coaches have also recognized Trolio’s progression off the court.

“He’s matured in the classroom,” Little Giants assistant Mike Wilson said. “We sometimes focus on the athlete. Athletics has helped a young man become a better student and more goal-oriented.”

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St. Francis 79, Fremont Ross 44

The Little Giants fell on the road Friday night to St. Francis.

Malick Johnson led Fremont Ross with a team-high 13 points alongside Tre Campbell with 10 points.

St. Francis was led by Coleman with a game-high 22 points while Lang had 12 points followed by Harris and Burnham with 10 points apiece.

STAT BOOK

Fremont Ross 9-12-17-6 - 44

St. Francis 19-19-19-22 - 79

Fremont Ross: 10 FG, 9-17 FT, 5 3pt. (Campbell 3, Johnson 2). Scoring: Drunkenmiller 6, Trolio 5, Lewis 2, McKinstry 2, Rout 2, Sewell 2, Anderson 2.

St. Francis: 18 FG, 10-18 FT, 11 3pt. (Lang 3, Burnham 2, Best 2, Coleman 1, Swerlein 1, Cousino 1). Scoring: Best 8, Swerlein 6, Cousino 5, McNeal 3, Wells 2, Kasza 1.

**Team Awards
Voted by the Players**

Varsity

Most Valuable Player: **Taylor Druckenmiller**

Most Improved Player: **Maliek Johnson**

Best Defensive Player: **Bryce McKinstry**

Billy Stierwalt Award: **Jovan Lewis**

Captain's Award – **Taylor Druckenmiller, Brandon Trolio**

Junior Varsity

Most Valuable Player: **Jabryis Heidelberg**

Most Improved Player: **Raleigh Weaver**

Best Defensive Player: **Dylan Brady**

Billy Stierwalt Award: **Ben Mosser**

Captain's Award – **Hayden Lehmann**

Freshmen

Most Valuable Player: **Ben Gedeon**

Most Improved Player: **Dontrez Brown**

Best Defensive Player: **Jerrick Gamble**

Billy Stierwalt Award: **Jason Burling**

Captain's Award – **Ben Gedeon**

AP Honors

All Northwest Ohio: Honorable Mention: Taylor Druckenmiller
Brandon Trolio

Toledo Blade: Honorable Mention: None

Fostoria East-West All-Stars: Taylor Druckenmiller, Brandon Trolio

Season Leaders

Most Points: Brandon Trolio, 233

Most Rebounds: Brandon Trolio, 144

Most Assists: Taylor Druckenmiller, 84

Most Steals: Maliek Johnson, 32

Most Blocked Shots: Bryce McKinstry, 24

Most Charges Taken: Brandon Trolio, 13

Most Offensive Rebounds: Bryce McKinstry, 43

Most Minutes: Taylor Druckenmiller, 607

Most 2 point attempts: Bryce McKinstry, 115

Most 2 point makes: Bryce McKinstry - 48

Best 2 point percentage (minimum 35 shots): Bryce Root, 66.7% (26/39)

Most 3 point attempts: Brandon Trolio 118

Most 3 point makes: Brandon Trolio 31

Best 3 point percentage (minimum 20 attempts): Taylor Druckenmiller 37.7% (26/69)

Most Free Throws attempts: Taylor Druckenmiller, 76

Most Free Throws made: Taylor Druckenmiller, 55

Best Free Throw percentage (minimum 20 attempts): Maliek Johnson, 74.4% (32/43)

TRAC BASKETBALL 2016/2017 PLAYER of the YEAR
CO-PLAYERS of the YEAR

Vincent Williams Jr.-(JR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Jarius Ward-(SR)-Lima Senior HS

TRAC BASKETBALL 2016/2017 1st Team All-Conference

Vincent Williams Jr.-(JR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Jarius Ward-(SR)-Lima Senior HS
Kyle Nunn-(SR)-Findlay HS
Kenny Coleman-(SR)-Graham-St. Francis HS
Harrison Riggs-(SR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Derrick Rayford Jr.-(SR)-Whitmer HS

TRAC BASKETBALL 2016/2017 2nd Team All-Conference

John Burnham-(SR)-St. Francis HS
DJ Triplett-(SR)-Central Catholic HS
Drew Hapner-(SR)-Findlay HS
Nick Witcher-(SR)-Whitmer HS
Houston King-(JR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Jaleel King-(SO)-Lima Senior HS
Jackie Harris-(SO)-St. Francis HS

TRAC BASKETBALL 2016/2017 Honorable Mention All-Conference

Dallas Fields-(SR)-Central Catholic HS
James Harris 111-(SR)-Central Catholic HS
Josh Kiss-(SR)-Clay HS
Keshawn Clark-(SR)-Clay HS
Ryan Nunn-(SO)-Findlay HS
Ryan Roth-(SO)-Findlay HS
Brandon Trolio-(SR)-Fremont Ross HS
Taylor Druckenmiller-(SR)-Fremont Ross HS
BJ Miller-(JR)-Lima Senior HS
Marquis Coleman-(SR)-Lima Senior HS
Drew Swerlien-(JR)-St. Francis HS
Jakiel Wells-(SO)-St. Francis HS
Joe Fretti-(SR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Tycen Anderson-(SR)-St. John's Jesuit HS
Avion Franklin-(SR)-Whitmer HS
Trey Syroka-(SO)-Whitmer HS

TRAC BASKETBALL 2016/2017 Basketball Coach of the Year

Ed Heintschel-St. John's Jesuit HS

