

FREMONT ROSS BOYS BASKETBALL

Little Giants won't be so little

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT — When asked recently by college coaches why he only scored 7.2 points per game as a junior, Ross' Jack Gedeon always responded by telling them that his team's game plan was to go out and win — thus he didn't take more than nine shots a game.

His unselfish attitude was shared by a majority of his Little Giant teammates a year ago, as Ross displayed what team basketball was all about. Playing without a proven star player — Gedeon returned as the leading scorer at 2.7 points per game — the Little Giants pieced together a lineup made up of role players, put together a game plan that played to those players' strengths and turned them into one cohesive unit that took many teams and onlookers by surprise en route to a 14-9 campaign and 7-7 record in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"We had 10 players that averaged 10 minutes or more a game last year," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon, now in his 19th season. "Our players buy into the system. They knew if they worked hard and executed the game plan that they were going to get rewarded with playing time."

"These guys are looking forward to being underdogs again. They want to surprise people and they take pride in that."

Coach Gedeon, arguably, displayed one of his finest coaching jobs in the 2012-13 season. And this winter, he'll be applying the same philosophies, as once again, the Little Giants' roster will feature



Port Clinton's Drew Fodor and Fremont Ross' Drew Solander battle for position under the basket while looking for a rebound during the first half of a basketball game Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013. JONATHAN BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

players who would hold secondary roles on most teams in their conference.

"It's been my philosophy since I started coaching 28 years ago that when you have five players on the floor, each and every player has responsibility to our offense, as well as our defense," coach Gedeon said. "If we get people in the right place at the right time, they can contribute in multiple ways, whether it's scoring, rebounding, assists or defense."

"This group will be the same way, too. I'm very fortunate to coach a group of guys again that are very unselfish and who believe in the team goals." Jack Gedeon at 6-foot-4-inches is Ross' top returner in points (7.2), assists (3.1), rebounds (6.7), steals (1.4), and blocked shots (1.9).

"It's sort of weird to think Jack was a post player last year because he led us in assists," coach Gedeon said. "Even though he led us in re-

bounds, blocked shots and was second in scoring, he will definitely have a lot of the primary ball-handling duties."

"But what's nice is I think we got some juniors that are ready to take over some of those guard duties as well."

Junior James Wright is one of those guys.

"I think (Wright) is someone we'll see some quality minutes from who will hopefully allow our team to thrive in the open court," coach Gedeon said.

Inside is where Ross' strength will lie. Seniors Jarvis Jones (6-5), Dylan Jagodzinski (6-4) and Drew Solander (6-3) are all back, and all, have plenty of varsity experience. Jones averaged six points and three rebounds a game as a junior, Jagodzinski poured in 5.7 points and grabbed 3.4 boards a contest, while Solander had 4.0 and 2.0 respectively.

"Jarvis is one of the players who had a great

FREMONT ROSS BOYS BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Mark Gedeon, 19th.

Last Year: 14-9 (7-7 TRAC).

Who's Back: Seniors Jack Gedeon, Dylan Jagodzinski and Jarvis Jones; juniors Drew Solander and Grant McConnell.

Who's Gone: Alex Metcalf, Tyler Wolf, Drew Starks, Dylan Starks and Jared Ballenger.

Who's New: Juniors Chris Liggins, James Wright, Tanner Albert and Jalen Slick.

Outlook: Graduation took a big chunk of the Little Giants team speed and defensive pressure. However, Ross will counter with some experience in the post with Jones, Jagodzinski and Solander along with the all-around play of Jack Gedeon. The younger Gedeon will again play any position on the floor and is the top returner in points, assists, rebounds, steals, and blocked shots. The success of the team could depend on how quickly the juniors will adapt to the varsity competition and their roles on the team.

off-season for us," coach Gedeon said. "He's a very active post player. He's a very good athlete and he continues to get better and better every time he's on the floor."

"Drew (Solander) and Dylan (Jagodzinski) are very experienced, very coachable and very intelligent players. There will actually be times when we can put them, Jarvis and Jack on the floor at the same time and with all at 6-3 or taller, that's considered tall for us Little Giants."

Grant McConnell, a 6-2 wing player, will add a good shooting touch from the outside.

"He's a very intelligent player and a joy to coach with his positive team attitude," said coach Gedeon of McConnell.

Jalen Slick and Chris Liggins will be other full-time varsity newcomers. Each played JV a majority of the year as sophomores, but also filled in at the varsity level. Tanner Albert, who didn't play basketball his sophomore year, is back and made the varsity team in tryouts.

As for the TRAC, coach Gedeon considers Findlay and Toledo Central Catholic to be the favorites.

"Findlay has the most experience coming back and they got a good mix of

2013-14 SCHEDULE

11/29 Sandusky
12/6 at Central Catholic
12/7 Toledo Start
12/10 Findlay
12/13 Lima Senior
12/20 at Whitmer
12/21 at Tiffin Columbian
12/27 at Sandusky
1/3 Clay
1/4 Waite
1/10 St. Francis DeSales
1/11 at Port Clinton
1/17 at St. John's Jesuit
1/21 Central Catholic
1/24 at Findlay
1/25 Fostoria
1/31 at Lima Senior
2/4 Whitmer
2/7 at Clay
2/14 at St. Francis DeSales
2/18 at Marion Harding
2/21 St. John's Jesuit

young talent they can mix in this year where they could be much deeper than in the past few years," coach Gedeon said. "Then you look at Central with (DeShone) Kizer at point guard for the fourth year, they got the horses to make life difficult for anybody from a defensive standpoint."

Ross opens its season on Nov. 29 when it hosts arch-rival Sandusky.

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all the
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a winning
season!!

ROSS 55, SANDUSKY 49

Big men fuel the Little Giants

Jagodzinski, Jones, Solander carry team

By Josh Morgret

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — While many schools find it hard to find one or two big men to play the post position, Fremont Ross had three stand out in their season opener.

Dylan Jagodzinski, Jarvis Jones and Drew Solander combined for 31 points and 16 rebounds as the Little Giants topped Sandusky, 55-49 in non-league action in front of a capacity crowd at the Purple Pit on Friday.

"Our goal was to get the ball inside," Jagodzinski said. "I don't think they could stop us and when we did get it down low, it was easy for us to finish because we have three big post players."

The Streaks got within four points at 40-36 in the fourth quarter, but a 3-pointer from the corner by Grant McConnell allowed Ross some momentum. Jagodzinski made a free throw and after one of Sandusky's 18 turnovers on the night, Jagodzinski made a bucket for a 46-36 lead. The lead was 12 points when Michael Delk made back-to-back 3-pointers sandwiched around a free throw again from Jagodzinski.

After a Ross turnover, Delk scored again to cut it to 54-49, prompting a timeout from Ross head coach Mark Gedeon. Sandusky, however would turn the ball over three times in the final 90 seconds and wouldn't score again, allowing Fremont Ross the victory.

"It's always nice to get that first victory," Gedeon said. "We know we're capable of playing better. We know our level of intensity has to go up so we play to the best of our ability."

After an early 2-2 tie, the

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Giants

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Little Giants went to work. McConnell hit the first of three 3-pointers on the night and buckets by Jones and Jack Gedeon quickly made it 9-2. The Blue Streaks (0-1) scored on a jumper by sophomore Davion Fisher, but a layup by Jones, a short hook by Jagodzinski and a deep 3-pointer by James Wright off the bench gave Ross a commanding 16-4 lead after a quarter.

"It would be nice to get that first quarter back," Sandusky coach Dustin Sharp said. "We just want our kids to keep getting better. We faced adversity early on and a lot of kids would have packed it in, but our kids didn't tonight."

Sandusky battled back and cut the lead to four after two free throws by Fisher. The run including a rim-rattling break-away dunk by Fisher to bring the Sandusky half of the jump to its feet. However, the Little Giants re-grouped for a 25-19 halftime lead. Ross out-rebounded Sandusky in the first half, 15-8.

"When you go against a team like Sandusky, their tra-

dition is to get a lot of offensive rebounds," coach Gedeon said. "So when it comes to that, you have to maximize your possessions and get as many rebounds as you can."

The Little Giants boosted the lead to eight points on four separate occasions in the third quarter, but a late 3-pointer by Fisher gave Sandusky life heading into the fourth quarter.

Fisher led Sandusky with 21 points while Delk scored 12 points.

"We really wanted to compete tonight and we really did," Sharp said. "Ross is an experienced squad but we had a lot of positives. We have a lot of young players and they did not quit. I'm proud of them."

Jagodzinski topped Ross with 12 points and seven rebounds while Jones had 11 points and seven rebounds. Solander added eight points and four rebounds while Gideon finished with seven points and a game-high eight rebounds.

"At times, the big guys did play well for us," coach Gideon said.

"Jarvis Jones really stepped in the first half but then Dylan Jagodzinski had a huge second half. They all played well."

	Fremont Ross 55, Sandusky 49					
Sandusky	4	15	11	19	—	49
Fremont Ross	16	9	11	19	—	55

Sandusky

Michael Delk 5 12, Chance Ehrnsberger 3 6, Davion Fisher 9 2 21, Demond Hopkins 2 1 5, Deontre Palma 1 1, Bryan Williams 2 4.

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 3 1 7, Jarren Hampton 1 2, Dylan Jagodzinski 4 4 12, Jarvis Jones 5 1 11, Grant McConnell 4 11, Drew Solander 3 2 8, James Wright 1 1 4. Totals 21 9 55.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 4 (Grant McConnell 3, James Wright 1), **Rebounds** - Fremont Ross 30 (Jack Gedeon 8).

Next: Sandusky vs. Shelby, Friday; Ross at Toledo CC, Friday.

Boys Basketball: Ross 58, Toledo Start 36

FREMONT — Drew Solander poured in a game-high 15 points and Jack Gedeon chipped in 13 as the Little Giants outscored the Spartans, 29-15 in the second half en route to a non-league victory on Saturday at the Purple Pit.

Gedeon led the team with eight rebounds, while also contributing three assists and two steals.

“We played solidly throughout,” Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. “We moved the ball well, communicated well and played solid defensively. Anytime you have 13 assists to only 11 turnovers, that’s going to make any coaching staff happy. And we shot 55 percent from the floor and held Start to only 30 percent.”

Grant McConnell and Jalen Slick added a two steals each. Slick added 10 points for Ross (2-0), which led 29-21 at halftime.

“Our guys kept staying with the game plan,” coach Gedeon said. “Jack had a dunk to start the fourth quarter, that I think broke Start’s back and gave us the momentum to finish it off.”

The Little Giants will host arch rival Findlay on Tuesday in Three Rivers Athletic Conference play.



Ross' Jack Gedeon is fouled on the drive by Findlay's Grant Niswander. DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Findlay tops Ross

Perimeter shooting floors Little Giants

FREMONT — Although Findlay was picked to win the Three Rivers Athletic Conference by the league coaches, it was Fremont Ross looking to make a statement Tuesday.

However, the Trojans nailed eight 3-pointers as they seemingly squeaked out a 56-44 win over the Little Giants.

"We were worried about their inside guys," Findlay coach Jim Rucki said. "That hurts us and to be honest, we

haven't shot well lately. We did (Tuesday), but it was a tough struggle all game."

Fremont Ross (2-1, 0-1) jumped out to an early 8-6 lead before the Trojans' defense settled in. Grant Niswander's 3-pointer put Findlay up for good.

Adam Twining swished a pair of free

throws and Grant McKinniss' jumper made it 13-8 before Twining, who checks in at 6-foot-3, threw down his first of three dunks on the night to end the quarter.

"It's so difficult to play from behind against a Findlay team," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said.

Neither team made much progress in the second quarter, each scoring six

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By Josh Morgret

News-Messenger correspondent

Ross

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points.

The third quarter saw more offense. The Little Giants cut the lead to four at 22-18 on a layup from center Drew Solander.

A jumper from Twining and 3s from Niswander and Braden Miller opened Findlay's lead to 30-21. Ross cut the lead to 34-29 on its final offensive possession, but a deep corner 3-pointer by Twining was crucial.

The Little Giants didn't go away, as back-to-back layups by Solander and Jarvis Jones cut Findlay's lead to five points. But as they did all night, the Trojans (4-0, 2-0) came up with big 3-pointers.

First it was Twining, and after a Ross turnover, Miller connected and in a matter of 30 seconds, the lead had blossomed to 11 points. The Little

Giants couldn't get close after that.

Rucki noted before the season that rebounding was going to be a challenge, but he wasn't concerned with that Tuesday.

"I thought we did O.K. rebounding," he said. "The easy buckets we gave up is what hurt us. We didn't communicate too well and that almost hurt us a lot."

Twining topped Findlay with 17 points, while center Austin Gutting was held to a quiet 13.

"With Gutting inside — he's a horse," Gedeon said. "He's so skilled and then when you surround him with three or four good 3-point shooters, that's so tough to defend."

While Fremont Ross was successful at times on offense, Findlay did just a little bit more.

"We needed to make a play and then Findlay would make a play," Gedeon said.

"I'm proud of how my kids played."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans roll past Ross

By Josh Morgret

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — After Ross controlled the opening tip, there wasn't much else it controlled during the game's next 32 minutes.

Lima Senior forced the Little Giants into 18 first-half turnovers and cruised in the second half to a 71-44 Three Rivers Athletic Conference victory Friday night at the Purple Pit.

"We really went to the de-

Lima Senior controls TRAC game, cruises past Little Giants 71-44

fensive glass, and got some rebounds," Lima Senior coach Shawn Allen. "Our defense created offense. I couldn't be happier with our squad."

The Spartans (2-3 overall, 1-1 TRAC) led 10-6 early on before Rico Stafford broke away for a thundering dunk. Momentum stayed on Lima Senior's side as they forged ahead for a 17-8

lead after one quarter. The Spartans' defense led the way, forcing 11 Ross turnovers in the quarter.

Another seven turnovers by the Little Giants (2-2, 0-2) allowed Lima Senior to breeze to a 36-16 halftime lead. Brady Allen made three 3-pointers in the first half to pace Lima Senior.

"We needed to execute of-

fensively and defensively and we didn't," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We needed to get pressure and hit the glass. Lima Senior was the more aggressive and better team tonight. They played with hunger and a high level of intensity."

Aggressive play by the Spartans also forced them into foul trouble and free throw opportunities for the Little Giants. However, they made just 6-of-16 free throw attempts in the

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Ross

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first half.

"With that many missed free throws and so many turnovers, it's so hard to have that many empty possessions," Gedeon said. "We knew they would be aggressive and allow us to get free throw opportunities but we didn't capitalize."

The Little Giants were unable to get any offense strung together in the second half. The Spartans pushed ahead by as many as 30 points, which was also the margin (57-27) after three quarters. Lima Senior snapping a three-game losing streak with the win.

Ross finished with 29 turnovers and made 16-of-30 free throws. Lima Senior outrebounded Fremont Ross by five, something coach Allen

noted as a problem in the three-game losing streak.

"We've been outrebounded badly lately," he said. "We didn't really go to the glass in our last three games but we made a concentrated effort on that tonight."

Allen led the Spartans with 18 points while Jay Thomas scored 17 points.

Jack Gedeon topped the Little Giants with 11 points and nine rebounds while Dylan Jagodzinski added 10 points. Ross now turns its thoughts towards a road trip to Toledo Whitmer next Friday night.

"We have to get a heck of a lot better," coach Gedeon said. "We have to have our players accept responsibility. We need all five players doing the same thing. We're not good enough for four players, or three players to be doing the same thing. We need to get back to Fremont Ross basketball."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lima 71, Fremont Ross 44

Lima	17	19	21	14	—	71
Fremont Ross	8	8	11	17	—	44

Lima

BRADY ALLEN 5 3 17, MALIK BINGMON 1 2, DAMARIANTE' DILLINGHAM 2 6 10, JUSTICE GRAHAM 1 1 3, TREYVONTAY GUNN 3 6, DERRICK IRONS, TREY JACKSON 2 4, DEMONTAY LILES, MARQUIS MILLER, RICO STAFFORD 4 3 11, JAYLIN THOMAS 7 4 18, ILIAS WRIGHT. Totals 25 17 71.

Fremont Ross

Brody Chudzinski 2 5, Jack Gedeon 1 9 11, Jarren Hampton 1 2 4, Dylan Jagodzinski 4 2 10, Jarvis Jones 2 2 6, Chris Liggins, Grant McConnell 1 1, Tavarious Simms, Jalen Slick 2 5, Drew Solander 1 2. Totals 13 16 44.

Rebounds - Lima 29 (TREYVONTAY GUNN 7), Fremont Ross 24 (Jack Gedeon 9).

Next: Lima Sr. at Findlay, Friday; Ross at Whitmer, Friday.

ROUNDUP

Boys Basketball: Gedeon steals win for Ross

Ross' Jack Gedeon made two of the biggest plays in the final five seconds of Friday night's Three Rivers Athletic Conference tilt at Whitmer.

With the Little Giants trailing by two points with 17 seconds left, Gedeon pulled down the defensive rebound on the second of two missed Whitmer foul shots. The senior then drove the ball the length of the floor, before spotting up and sinking a 12-foot jump shot to tie the game with five seconds on the clock.

But instead of getting overly excited and running to the other end of the floor to play defense, Gedeon instead stole the Panthers' inbound pass and made a lay-up with 2.6 seconds left to seal a 52-50 Ross win.

"He showed his basketball IQ and experience on that play," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "He has a great IQ, which makes him the great player he is for us."

Jack led Ross (3-2, 1-2) with 15 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Jarvis Jones added 11 points and seven boards, while Dylan Jagodzinski had 10 points and six rebounds.

"I'm very pleased with the way we bounced back after the Lima game," coach Gedeon said. "Going into the week I told the guys our focus is on the now, It was a great team win. Everyone out there gave us something positive tonight."

"Hopefully it will carry over to (tonight's) game against a big and physical Tiffin Columbian team."

John Ash had 16 points to lead the Panthers (1-4, 1-3).

Ross wins physical battle

Little Giants beat Tornadoes 53-40

By Jeffrey D. Norwalk

News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — The first official day of winter greeted northwest Ohio with a miserable embrace of flooding, lashing winds and nearly non-stop cold, enveloping rain Saturday.

But that didn't stop the Tiffin Columbian faithful from showing up at their home gym decked out in all manners of ugly Christmas sweaters, ribbons, bows and wrapping paper — and even a full Santa Claus suit — as the Tornadoes welcomed the Little Giants for a little pre-holiday hoops brouha between friendly rivals.

Still, instead of "The Carol of the Bells" to accompany, and somewhat define the whole festive tableau, a cacophony of whistles rang out and was more often than not followed by a chorus of boos which rained down on the referees from the crowd after every stoppage of play during the physical, foul-riddled non-conference tilt.

In all, the evening's officiating crew called a not-so-grand total of 39 fouls, 22 against Columbian and 17 against Ross, with 23 whistles alone coming in the first half. But the road-tested Little Giants, fresh off an emotional 52-50 buzzer-beater victory at

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Physical

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Whitmer the night before, overcame every holding, illegal use of hand and lane violation call imaginable — along with a gritty outing by the Tornadoes — to stay hot and energetic enough to head back up SR 53 as 53-40 winners.

“Definitely, after playing last night and winning at the buzzer at Whitmer, to come in here tonight and show the energy to start off this game 9-0, I was very, very pleased,” said Ross coach Mark Gedeon, of the fast, tone-setting lead his team churned out.

“I think we had good position defensively, which helped execute the game plan, and that allowed us to stay in a comfort zone for the whole game,” he said. “It was another good team win, but it was also sort of another grind-it-out victory, which is something I think is going to be a characteristic of this team.”

“We’re much different from the last couple of years where we had people who could go out and press, and trap, and run the floor,” he added. “This team, I think, is going to rely on things like execution and half-court defense, and hopefully our ability to compete on the boards to stay in basketball games.”

Jack Gedeon, definitely helped out in that latter capacity, ripping down seven of the Little Giants’ 17 rebounds on the evening, to go along with a solid nine points that he was rewarded with for perhaps being the most active Ross (4-2) player at both ends of the floor.

Jarren Hampton knocked down two big ones from downtown to finish with 10 points. Post Drew Solander added four points off power lay-ins via a pair of savvy in-bound plays by Gedeon, while fellow senior “big,” Jarvis Jones, muscled in four more.

It was versatile 6-foot-4

senior forward Dylan Jagodzinski who emerged as the biggest offensive story of the night, via his game-high 14 points, which came courtesy of his ability to use his body to out-duel the Tornadoes’ big guys down low.

On the TC side of the floor, the Tornadoes’ “bigs” battled in the trenches, too, with 6-6 junior Derek Dryfuse pouring in 11, and fellow 6-6 junior Cody Daniel and imposing 6-5 senior Isaih Moore chipping in four and six, respectively.

Yet, when the final tally was in, it was 5-11 senior playmaker Josh Flint who was the high man for the Tornadoes (2-1), as the wiry guard pretty much slashed, scooped, stopped, popped and dished his way to 13 points at will.

“Josh had an all-around nice game for us tonight,” TC head coach Bill Beaston said. “The biggest thing I liked, was he did it out of an offense. He didn’t just say, ‘OK, I’m going to take this one-on-one.’ The ball got entered, it got swung, it came in the framework of an offense and things opened up. Josh saw that and he took advantage of it.”

“It’s always nice going against Coach Gedeon and Fremont,” he added. “I spent three years there before I came here, and it’s always really nice to see those people.”

“There were times I thought maybe we should be wearing shoulder pads and helmets, instead of being on a basketball court.”

After coming out for the second half, the two teams seemed to settle down a little, with the Tornadoes committing 10 fouls down the stretch, and the Little Giants only six. However, it was the latter that broke the game open in a big third quarter, when it doubled up TC by scoring 14 to the Tornadoes’ seven, to make it 44-30 going into the final quarter.

On the night, Ross shot 15-of-29 from the free throw line, while TC went 11-of-18.

BOYS BASKETBALL



Fremont Ross' Dylan Jagodzinski fights for position near the basket during a basketball game against Sandusky on Friday, Dec 27, 2013 JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Jack of all trades

Ross' Jack Gedeon records triple-double in 72-58 win over Sandusky

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

SANDUSKY — Jack Gedeon has only attempted 10 or more shots in a game once in his Little Giants' career.

He only needed eight to tally a new career-high 16 points on Friday, recording a triple-double — adding 13 rebounds and 13 assists — as Ross defeated arch rival Sandusky, 72-58 in a non-league contest for its third win in as many games.

"My dad (Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon) has been yelling at me to shoot more," the younger Gedeon said. "I've always been more of a facilitator. But if people are going to play back on



Fremont Ross' Jack Gedeon drives to the hoop between the Sandusky defense on Friday, Dec 27, 2013 JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

me, that's when the scoring opportunities are going to ap-

pear."

Jack Gedeon only had four

points after the first half, however, his impact was more than felt on the floor. The senior had 10 assists and eight boards in the first 16 minutes as Ross (5-2) scored the game's first 10 points and built a lead as big as 22 points (33-11) in taking a 41-27 advantage to the halftime locker room.

"My dad (coach Gedeon) gave us a great game plan for the defense (Sandusky) was running in the first quarter, and it really paid off," Jack Gedeon said. "I saw a lot of open looks and thank God my guys finished them."

Most of the Little Giants'

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Ross

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first-half scoring came from Grant McConnell on the outside and Jarvis Jones in the paint. Jones finished with 15 points, 10 of which came in the opening half. McConnell had 14 points and nine in the opening 16 minutes. McConnell's corner 3-pointer with 5 minutes, 55 seconds to go in the first quarter, off a pass from Jack Gedeon, gave the Little Giants a 10-0 lead.

Ross led 23-9 after one quarter.

"We worked hard all week on our spacing and moving the basketball knowing that we got a little bit of a physical size

advantage inside, and that I got three posts that finish pretty well around the rim," coach Gedeon said. "Combine that with a couple of 3-pointers right out of the gate, I couldn't ask for a better start."

Jayrese Williams poured in a game-high 19 points for Sandusky (1-6), including a three that cut the Blue Streaks' deficit to 45-39 with 4:05 left in the third quarter. But two baskets inside by Drew Solander, combined with a three from Jack Gedeon, got the Little Giants' advantage back up to 54-39 entering the final period.

"We got lucky there because I thought initially that our rebounding at the defensive end was very poor, and Sandusky came out and was very aggressive

offensively and on the offensive glass in the third quarter," coach Gedeon said. "That's how (the Blue Streaks) were able to chip it down to six points. Thank goodness, I think we showed a little bit of composure there and were able to get it back to double digits towards the end of the quarter."

"I thought that was a critical part of the game where we could have really folded to the pressure and instead we just got back to the game plan and showed our experience."

Sandusky never got any closer than a 56-49 deficit that came after a three-point play from Williams to end an 8-2 run to start the fourth quarter. The run ended on an in-

side basket from Jones, who added three assists and two blocks. One of his blocks on the baseline helped the Little Giants push their lead to four possessions late in the contest.

"He's just a joy to coach," said coach Gedeon of the 6-foot-5 Jones. "He's a hard worker and an athletic big man with a huge heart. For him to come up with 15 points tonight is a nice reward for him."

Coach Gedeon also liked what he saw from the 6-2 McConnell.

"I thought he had an outstanding fourth quarter," he said. "I thought he was a little shaky at times in the middle quarters. But in the end, he hit 7-of-8 free throws, and he got a

couple key rebounds, too."

Solander finished with 10 points for Ross, while Dylan Jagodzinski contributed seven boards.

"My dad always preaches team basketball," Jack Gedeon said. "This year, we've really taken that to heart."

Jack doesn't care that he's not racking up the points. Even when his dad wants him to shoot at times, he sees another play to be made by a teammate.

"Sometimes I feel like there's shots I could take,

but in the flow of the game, it isn't the right shot to take," he said.

His coach can't complain.

"I don't think there's any question that he was the best player on the floor tonight," said coach Gedeon of Jack. "When you get to coach those types of players, obviously, it makes the coaches' job easier."

"It's even more special when you know he's your own son, too."

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Fremont Ross 72, Sandusky 58

Fremont Ross	23	18	13	18	—	72
Sandusky	9	18	12	19	—	58

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 6 2 16, Dylan Jagodzinski 2 1 5, Jarvis Jones 7 1 15, Chris Liggins 2 5, Grant McConnell 3 7 14, Jalen Slick 2 2 7, Drew Solander 5 10. Totals 27 13 72.

Sandusky

George Brown 3 8, Jaleele Brown 3 3, Michael Delk 2 4, Davion Fisher 6 1 16, Deontre Palma 3 2 8, Jayrese Williams 5 5 19. Totals 19 11 58.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 5 (Jack Gedeon 2, Chris Liggins 1, Grant McConnell 1, Jalen Slick 1), Sandusky 6 (George Brown 2, Davion Fisher 1, Jayrese Williams 3), **Rebounds** - Fremont Ross 38 (Jack Gedeon 13), Sandusky 28 (George Brown 8).

Next: Ross vs. Clay, Friday.

Ross slugs past Clay, streak grows to 4

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT — Drew Solander isn't your prototypical basketball player in terms of athleticism.

Even Ross coach Mark Gedeon won't shy away from acknowledging that the 6-foot-3 senior post is the slowest kid on his team. But what Solander lacks in athletic ability, he

more than makes up for in his ability to catch and finish around the basket.

Solander's inside presence provided a much needed shot in the arm for the Little Giants' offense on Friday in a 46-41 Three Rivers Athletic Conference victory over Clay inside the Purple Pit.

"I thought he was just outstanding tonight," said Gedeon, whose squad only attempted 36

total shots, shooting 16-of-36. "We gave him some great post feeds and he finished well.

"He was definitely the spark we needed in this one."

With Ross (6-2, 2-2) leading, 42-39 with 20 seconds remaining, Solander got positioning down low where Jack Gedeon found him with a great feed pass from the right wing for a lay-up and a key two-possession advantage. The Little Gi-

ants had built a lead as big as 41-31 with 2:16 left, before Clay's defensive pressure in the final two minutes made things interesting.

"Jack is our leader and he's the one we look to when we're in a slump to get us out of those kinds of situations, and he came through for us like he always does," Solander said.

See ROSS, Page 2B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

Gedeon finished with only two points, but contributed eight rebounds, seven assists, four blocks and two steals.

"We can definitely win without Jack scoring, just because he does so many other things for us," coach Gedeon said. "With this game, we wanted to go inside to Drew as much as we could because we knew we had the size edge."

Solander had eight points in the final eight minutes alone, helping Ross extend its five-point lead (31-26) entering the final quarter. The Little Giants led 18-16 at halftime, attempting only 17 first-half shots.

"Our intensity was definitely a lot less than it normally is," Solander said. "I think the day off of practice yesterday really hurt us. We came out flat and I think that was the difference in the game. It allowed Clay to hang around all night and make things as close as they were."

The Eagles (1-8, 0-5) weren't big on shooting either, attempting 39 shot attempts. Clay finished 14-of-39 from the floor. Pat Booth led all scorers with 18 points, including nine points in the second quarter where the two squads traded the lead six times.

Solander had six of Ross' 11 second-quarter points — each basket coming off a catch and move under the basket.

"I, personally, expected this to be a much slower paced game since Clay's scores normally weren't above 50," So-

lander said. "Coach (Gedeon) didn't talk about it too much. But I knew they'd play us tough, which they did."

Solander is enjoying the role of being a senior leader. He's played on the Little Giants varsity squad the past three seasons.

"I love it," he said. "I try not to be a bully or anything like that, because I didn't like that stuff when I was a freshman. So I try to be a likeable guy and lead these guys by example."

There's no doubt in his coaches' mind that he's been a key player and leader for this Little Giants' team that continues to impress with their ability to win, despite not having a prototypical star player.

"Without question," coach Gedeon said. "He's a leader by example for us and he's very responsible and intelligent. He understands his role well and he's probably one of our best players in terms of boxing out and getting position. We always know he's going to be in the right spot on the floor, whether its offensively or defensively."

"He gives us his heart and soul each time out."

Senior Jarvis Jones added 13 points inside for the Little Giants and pulled down seven boards.

Ross will look to keep its four-game winning streak alive tonight when it hosts Waite in a non-league contest.

"We'll have a similar game plan to what we had tonight," coach Gedeon said. "Hopefully we can keep things rolling."

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Fremont Ross 46, Clay -Oregon 41

Clay	5	11	10	15	—	41
Fremont Ross	7	11	13	15	—	46

Clay

Patrick Booth 7 2 18, Andrew McCrory 3 4 11, Anthony Ramirez 4 2 10, Carlos Saenz 1 2. Totals 15 7 41.

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 2 2, Jarren Hampton 1 3, Dylan Jagodzinski 2 4, Jarvis Jones 4 5 13, Chris Liggins 3 3, Grant McConnell 1 3, Jalen Slick 1 2, Drew Solander 7 2 16. Totals 16 12 46.

3-Point Goals - Clay 3 (Patrick Booth 2, Andrew McCrory 1), Fremont Ross 2 (Jarren Hampton 1, Grant McConnell 1, Drew Solander 2), **Rebounds** - Clay 22, Fremont Ross 28 (Jack Gedeon 8).

Next: Ross vs. Toledo Waite, today.

AREA ROUNDUP

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ross 79, Toledo Waite 38

FREMONT — The Little Giants' inside duo of Drew Solander and Dylan Jagodzinski combined for 33 points Saturday in a non-league win against the Indians.

Jagodzinski, who struggled to finish around the basket in Ross' win against Clay on Friday, also contributed 15 rebounds in Saturday's winning effort.

"Dylan didn't have his best game the night before, and me and him talked about it afterwards," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "So it was really rewarding to see him come out and have the game he had. He played great.

"Our goal was to have the same kind of gameplan as the night before, getting the ball inside. Dylan and Drew set the tone early for us. We jumped out to a 10-0 lead and came out with so much more energy than we did on Friday."

Waite (4-5) didn't score until its 14th possession of the game.

Jarren Hampton added 12 points for Ross (7-2), which also got 11 from Chris Liggins.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Fremont Ross 79, Waite 38

Waite	8	11	9	10	—	38
Fremont Ross	22	21	10	26	—	79

Waite

Amdriez 1 2, Darrington 7 4 19, Downer 1 2, Heslet 2 5, Mason 2 4, Neal 2 4, Pressley 1 2. Totals 16 4 38.

Fremont Ross

Chudzinski 1 3, Gedeon 3 6, Hampton 4 3 12, Homler 1 2, Jagodzinski 5 5 15, Jones 1 2, Liggins 3 4 11, McConnell 1 2, Simms 1 2, Slick 2 1 6, Solander 6 6 18. Totals 28 19 79.

3-Point Goals - Waite 2 (Darrington 1, Heslet 1), Fremont Ross 4 (Chudzinski 1, Hampton 1, Liggins 1, Slick 1).

BOYS BASKETBALL



Ross' Jack Gedeon drives to the basket against St. Francis' CJ Fagan. Ross won 49-43 in overtime. DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Little Giants win OT thriller

By Josh Morgret
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — If it wasn't for Jarvis Jones' play in the first three quarters, there would have not been any need for late heroics.

Grant McConnell's layup with three seconds left tied the ball game and a well-played overtime period carried Ross to a 49-43 victory over Toledo St. Francis de Sales in Three

Rivers Athletic League play on Friday inside the Purple Pit.

"This was a huge win," said Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon, whose teams has won six straight. "We knew we were playing someone at even competition. St. Francis played hard. We had our back against the wall."

Gedeon was referencing the fact that his squad hadn't practiced since January 1st.

The Little Giants (8-2, 3-2) trailed 37-29 with a little over three minutes to play. Dylan Jagodzinski scored but Ross still trailed by six with 0:51 left when they called timeout.

McConnell scored out of the timeout but Ross was called for an intentional foul on the ensuing St. Francis possession. Nick Lankard missed both free throws for the Knights (2-7, 1-5) and a turnover gave the Little Giants

hope. Jack Gedeon was fouled and nailed both free throws. Jarren Hampton committed the quick, necessary foul to extend the game. A lane violation was called on CJ Fagan's free throw attempt, giving Ross the ball back.

After a timeout and a drawn-up play, McConnell drove and tied the game. A three-quarters court heave by

See GIANTS, Page 2B

Giants

Continued from Page 1B

St. Francis was just a tad off, bouncing off the backboard and rim.

"It was a triple option out of the timeout," Gedeon said. "We ran the zone option, which was the third option but the kids stayed with the play."

With the game tied, 41-41 with 1:24 left, Jones scored for the first time since early in the fourth quarter. After the Knights' shot to tie was off, Ross looked to take time off the clock. However, quick ball movement and a screen left Hampton wide open in the left corner. His shot swished through the bottom of the net. Hampton, Jones, and Gedeon each made a free throw to seal the win down the stretch.

"This is our second loss in three games in the same scenario," St. Francis coach Travis Lewis said. "If we make some free throws, we get out with a

win. We're so close to being a 5-4 squad."

Jones finished with a game-high 20 points and eight rebounds.

"Jarvis scored in a couple different ways," Gedeon said. "Jarvis was truly our offensive threat tonight. If he didn't play that way in the first three quarters, we're not in that position late in the game to win."

The Little Giants led 10-7 after one quarter. St. Francis opened the second quarter on a 8-0 run for a 15-10 lead. The Knights led 20-17 at halftime. Jones had 10 points at intermission.

St. Francis opened a five-point lead on back-to-back buckets by Kevin Metzger. The Knights maintained the same margin (30-25) after three quarters.

Gedeon's first points, two free throws cut the St. Francis lead to 32-29 with 4:35 left in the fourth quarter. Metzger drained a 3-pointer and after one of Ross's 27 turnovers,

scored again for the 37-29 lead with 3:17 left.

Metzger topped the Knights with 14 points while Evan Wheeler scored eight points. Dontay Ellison added five points and seven rebounds.

"Fremont hasn't practiced all week due to the weather but they showed how much heart they have tonight," Lewis said. "You can only respect a team like that. All credit to them for fighting through the fatigue."

McConnell had nine points while Gedeon finished with eight points and added five rebounds. Hampton also scored eight points.

The Little Giants quickly turn their focus to a road trip to the "Supreme Court" tonight at Port Clinton.

"We'll let the kids sleep in tomorrow and relax," coach Gedeon said. "We'll meet for a shoot before the bus leaves and get a game plan for Port Clinton then. We want them to come in with the type of energy like they did tonight against St. Francis."

Fremont Ross 49, St. Francis De Sales 43

St. Francis De Sales	7	13	10	7	6	—	43
Fremont Ross	10	7	8	12	12	—	49

St. Francis De Sales

Alex Calmes, Lamar Carswell 1 2, Dontay Ellison 2 1 5, CJ Fagan, Jon Frankhauser 2 4, Joshua Kruzel 3 7, Jacob Lang 1 1 3, Kevin Metzger 6 14, Evan Wheeler 4 8. Totals 19 2 43.

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 1 6 8, Jarren Hampton 2 3 8, Dylan Jagodzinski 2 4, Jarvis Jones 9 2 20, Chris Liggins, Grant McConnell 4 9, Jalen Slick. Totals 18 11 49.

3-Point Goals - St. Francis De Sales 3 (Joshua Kruzel 1, Kevin Metzger 2), Fremont Ross 2 (Jarren Hampton 1, Grant McConnell 1), **Rebounds** - St. Francis De Sales 23 (Dontay Ellison 7), Fremont Ross 18.

Next: Fremont Ross at Port Clinton, today; St. Francis vs. Anthony Wayne, today.

McConnell's shooting not enough for Little Giants

By **Matthew Horn**
Sports writer

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross had an inside-man in the paint in the third quarter Saturday, but couldn't complete the job in a 75-59 non-conference loss to Port Clinton.

The Little Giants' Jarvis Jones scored four buckets near the basket as Ross shaved what had been a 21-point lead to 48-37 when Drew Solander capped the third-quarter scoring.

"Jarvis was much more assertive in the second half," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "We got excited to get it to 11. If you can get three stops and convert, it becomes a two- or three-possession game and the

complexion changes.

"We couldn't get over the hump. We dug a hole. Port Clinton was the better team."

Nathan Stubblefield scored the first five points in the fourth for the Redskins (4-7). Jarren Hampton made two free throws after an offensive rebound from Jones for a 53-45 deficit with 6:03 left to play but Ross (8-3) got no closer.

Grant McConnell canned five 3-pointers in the second half for the Little Giants. He encouraged teammates to remain focused on a comeback effort throughout.

Stubblefield established a single-game Port Clinton program record with 40 points, including six 3-pointers in the

first half.

"If I wasn't coaching against him, it would have been fun to watch," Gedeon said. "The biggest thing was their outside shooting. We gave them good looks and good shooters hit shots.

"It will be good to get back to practice. We haven't practiced since Jan. 1. We have a lot of challenges coming up. We had a character test (in a victory Friday over Toledo St. Francis decided late).

"Hopefully (Saturday is) a good lesson."

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Ross' Jack Gedeon drives against Port Clinton's Carter Rumball on Saturday. DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Little Giants searching for answers

Ross struggles in 63-41 loss to Titans

By Kevin Shields

Sports writer

TOLEDO — Ross coach Mark Gedeon asked his bench several times on Friday, “how many times this week did I tell you we have to play team basketball?”

“At least they were honest with me and told me, ‘a lot coach,’” Gedeon said.

For the first 10 games of the season, his team — made up of

role-type players — was as good as any group when it came to executing as a cohesive group. The results proved it as Ross started the campaign 8-2.

But after a surprise loss at Port Clinton last Saturday and Friday’s 63-41 Three Rivers Athletic Conference loss to Toledo St. John’s Jesuit, the long-time bench boss of the Little Giants is dumbfounded by what he’s seeing from his team.

After having a lot of early success pounding the ball inside to posts Dylan Jagodzinski, Jarvis Jones and Drew Solander,

Ross (8-4, 3-3) got away from its game plan. The Titans — winners of 11 straight — outscored the Little Giants 21-9 in the third quarter and blew the game open after Ross had its deficit at five points midway thru the second quarter.

The key factor: too much individual play and not enough team basketball. Instead of running plays, players were freelancing, driving to the basket with multiple defenders on them, not helping on defense or forcing bad shots.

“Those are definitely some

uncharacteristic things, and we’re doing them now,” Gedeon said. “Early in the year when we did things we wanted to do, good things happened. When we do things that individuals want to do, there you go, you get those type of results offensively and defensively. The plan worked for awhile tonight, but we can’t have people playing four versus five or three versus five. It doesn’t work.

“This isn’t a team that can play as individuals.”

St. John’s guard Gabe Ky-nard scored seven of his game-

high 14 points in the third quarter. He shot 4-of-7 from the field in the second and third quarters as the Titans (11-2, 7-0) shot 13-of-26 in the middle periods as a collective group.

“I told my guys that they needed to come in and respect this team,” said St. John’s coach Ed Heintschel, whose team is currently ranked 15th in Division I. “(Ross) was coming in here with a nice record, we had to be ready to go. This was an important TRAC game.

See ROSS, Page 2B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

"I thought we were a little tight early. The officials let us play and there were a few plays under the basket where we got banged around a little bit. Right now, we're just looking to get better and try to play that perfect game, which we never will. But we'll take positives from this."

Ross opened the game's scoring with two buckets in the paint from Jagodzinski. Second-chance points were also a key for the Little Giants in the opening quarter as Solander registered two baskets off of offensive rebounds. Jack Gedeon dished out a majority of his six assists in the opening two quarters. But was largely silent in the second half as St. John's made adjustments.

"We wanted to speed the game up and we felt that the match-up we had on Jack Gedeon wasn't putting enough pressure on him, so we switched more people on him and tried to make him play faster," Heintschel said. "(Ross') inside game is very

good. We wanted to push them out and away from the basket a little bit to prevent them from using their size."

James Wright led the Little Giants with 11 points, seven of which came in the second quarter. Jagodzinski and Jones each had eight points.

Wright's 3-pointer from the wing with seven minutes remaining in the opening half, closed Ross' deficit to 15-14.

The Titans finished the half outscoring the Little Giants 18-7 to take a 33-21 halftime lead. They outscored Ross 16-4 in the six minutes of the third quarter for a 54-30 advantage entering the final quarter.

"We're definitely capable of being a lot better," coach Gedeon said. "I hope our players believe we're capable of a lot better. One of the things we've always preached is learn from your mistakes and your successes, too. We got to make a commitment to doing that."

"Hopefully this will get some of our players focused on what we need to do together."

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St. John's Jesuit 63, Fremont Ross 41

Fremont Ross	9	12	9	11	—	41
St. John's Jesuit	13	20	21	9	—	63

Fremont Ross

Brody Chudzinski 1 3, Jack Gedeon 2 2, Dylan Jagodzinski 4 8, Jarvis Jones 4 8, Chris Liggins 1 3, Grant McConnell 1 2, Drew Solander 1 2 4, James Wright 4 2 11. Totals 16 6 41.

St. John's Jesuit

Delonte Brown 1 2, Myles Copeland 3 3 9, Parker Erns-
thausen 4 3 11, Anthony Glover 4 4 13, Gabe Kynard 6 4
14, Austin Moore 2 1 7, Matt Sasala 1 2, Kaleb Vaughn 1
3, Trevor Walsh 1 2. Totals 23 12 63.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 3 (Brody Chudzinski 1,
Chris Liggins 1, James Wright 1), St. John's Jesuit 5 (An-
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Next: Ross vs. Toledo CC, Tuesday.

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See ROSS, Page 2B

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Continued from Page 1B

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6, Jarvis Jones 6), St. John's Jesuit 38.

Next: Ross vs. Toledo CC, Tuesday.

Ross' losing skid continues with loss to TCC

By Josh Morgret
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Although the Toledo Central Catholic team banner is listed under the "F" section of seating at the Purple Pit, the Fighting Irish brought their "A" game to Ross on Tuesday night, and then some.

Three Fighting Irish players scored in double digits as they beat the Little Giants 60-35 in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"The kids played hard to-
night," Central Catholic coach
Jim Welling said. "It was a Tues-
day night in these weather con-
ditions and that's hard. We're
back in school but the kid are
just kind of blah. It was low fan
enthusiasm so we tried to create

energy."

While leading just 8-6 after a
Dylan Jagodzinski lay-up, the
Irish (11-2, 6-1) went on a 7-0 run
Later, a Jack Gedeon bucket cut
the lead to 17-10. But on the en-
suing possession, Central
Catholic looked to be in a bit of
trouble as DeShone Kizer, who
is committed to Notre Dame for
football, was called for his sec-
ond foul of the game. He was
sent to the bench with 50 sec-
onds left in the first quarter.

The Little Giants (8-5, 3-4)
took slight advantage, getting
into the bonus at the 7:27 mark
of the second quarter. James
Wright made both free throws
to cut the deficit to 17-12. How-
ever, the Irish responded with
an 8-0 run, capped by a 3-point
play by Jeremiah Braswell.

Central Catholic led 31-17 at
halftime, forcing Ross into 14
first-half turnovers.

"When you have so many
first half turnovers, it hurts,"
Little Giants coach Mark Gede-
on said. "We had to have a lot of
things happen tonight to beat
such tough competition."

The Irish maintained a 14-
point lead at 35-21 a little more
than two minutes into the third
quarter before a stretch that
would put the game away. A 16-0
run over the rest of the quarter
and 13 turnovers in the quarter
by Ross gave TCC a 51-21 advan-
tage entering the final quarter.

Ross outscored the Fighting
Irish 14-9 in the final quarter but
it was no match for Central
Catholic on this night.

"I thought our 1-3-1 zone real-

ly bothered them," Welling said.
"It's hard to simulate that in the
practice. Our kids played hard.
We're at the mid-point of the
season and you have to keep moti-
vating them. Sometimes you
have to put them on the bench
and let them figure it out. Some-
times they do and sometimes
they don't."

While in the midst of a three-
game losing streak and with a
game at league favorite Findlay
looming on the horizon, Gedeon
knows his squad is simply in a
tough stretch of opponents.

"Port Clinton was a tough
loss but everyone in the state of
Ohio knew we'd be underdogs to
St. John's last week, Central
Catholic tonight, and again Fri-
day at Findlay," he said. "Just
because you're underdogs

doesn't mean you have to lose.
We have such a small margin of
error though."

With two scouts from De-
fiance College looking on, Na-
thaniel Harris topped TCC with
13 points and six rebounds while
Braswell and Marcus Winters
each scored 11 points.

Jagodzinski topped Ross
with 11 points while Gedeon
nabbed seven rebounds.

"We've played everyone
once and to be 3-4 in league play
is a good place for us," coach
Gedeon said. "We were picked
sixth in the preseason poll and
we are above that. We really
have to get healthy first. It's bad
when everyone comes to me in
the first quarter and wants to
come out because they're sick
and tired."

Ross no match for Findlay's defense

Trojan's Niswander shines with steals

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FINDLAY — Anticipation wasn't making Findlay's Grant Niswander late Friday.

His waiting made it easy for the ball to be with him as he stole the ball away from Ross defenders eight times in the Trojans' 58-36 win over the

Little Giants in Three Rivers Athletic Conference play.

As a unit, Findlay's defense limited Ross (8-6, 3-5) to a total of 35 field goal attempts, sealing inside passing lanes and utilizing its speed to trap the Little Giants' ball-handlers on multiple occasions.

"I've always thought Findlay was a great defensive team," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "This team's intensity level, I think, is a notch up from where they were last year. And when

you have five guys that understand defensive concepts, it makes you a tough team to go against."

Ross turned the ball over 11 times in the opening half, allowing the Trojans (12-3, 7-2) to build a double-digit lead in the second quarter. The Little Giants never got closer than seven when Dylan Jagodzinski's inside bucket on the opening possession of the second half brought the deficit to 28-21.

Austin Gutting, a 6-foot-3,

245-pound post, did yeoman's work inside for Findlay, muscling his way to game-high 22 points. Nine of his points came in the third quarter where the Trojans' stretched the lead to as much as 17.

Ross trailed 42-29 entering the final quarter where the game came to screeching halt after Jack Gedeon converted a lob pass inside on the quarter's first possession. The Little Giants had multiple opportunities to cut into the lead, but take

advantage.

"We were down 11, we had two open 3s there and a couple of post feeds that we didn't convert," coach Gedeon said. "Good teams have to make good plays in those situations to beat good teams."

"I felt we were in a very good position going into the fourth quarter, and I loved our kid's intensity," continued coach Gedeon. "Every kid that came off the

See NO MATCH, Page 2B

No match

Continued from Page 1B

bench gave us quality minutes and handled their roles, which is something we've been working on the last two weeks. I don't think the score was a good indication of really how well we played at times in this game."

Findlay coach Jim Rucki had a similar remark.

"We really did a better job of disrupting them than it showed because it seemed like we just couldn't complete the sequence," he said. "But it seemed like we should have gotten more out of it. We had (Ross) on its heels so many times and we'd have a pass deflected or get a guy trapped with nowhere to go, then something crazy would happen, and next thing you know, they get a bucket out

of it. Or we'd have two steals that should have been lay-ups for us, but we got nothing out of it.

The 6-1 Niswander was the main guy that had Ross on its heels.

"Grant was tenacious going after the ball," Rucki said.

Braden Miller's 3-pointer from the right corner at the 4 minute, 13 second mark of the fourth quarter broke a period of nearly four minutes with neither team scoring. That made the Little Giants' deficit 45-31. He added another 3 just moments later as Findlay went on a 10-2 run to ice the game.

Ross, led by Gedeon's 13 points, committed a total of 17 turnovers.

Gedeon added six blocks, five assists and a pair of steals to go along with a game-high 10 rebounds.

Drew Solander contributed

eight points for the Little Giants, whose bigs were held to 12 total points.

Ross has lost four straight after opening the year 8-2.

"When I walked in the locker room, the players were saying the exact same things my coaches were saying, which was nice to hear," coach Gedeon said.

"They knew they had good opportunities and that they played hard, and played together."

"I walked into a group in one giant team circle that was hugging each other, which I think says something."

The Little Giants will travel to Fostoria today — weather permitting — for a non-conference match-up.

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**Boys basketball
Friday scores**

Findlay 58, Fremont Ross 36

Fremont Ross	9	10	10	7	—	36
Findlay	13	15	14	16	—	58

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 5 2 13, Dylan Jagodzinski 1 2, Jarvis Jones 1 2, Jalen Slick 2 6, Drew Solander 3 2 8, James Wright 1 3. Totals 14 4 36.

Findlay

Trey Buford 1 2, Michael Clark 3 8, Austin Gutting 8 6 22, Grant McKinniss 1 3, Brayden Miller 3 8, Grant Niswander 3 7, Adam Twining 4 8. Totals 23 6 58.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 4 (Jack Gedeon 1, Jalen Slick 2, James Wright 1), Findlay 6 (Michael Clark 2, Grant McKinniss 1, Brayden Miller 2, Grant Niswander 1), **Rebounds** - Fremont Ross 21 (Jack Gedeon 10), Findlay 20 (Austin Gutting 4, Adam Twining 4).

Next: Ross at Fostoria, today.

Boys Basketball: Lima Senior 62, Fremont Ross 53

LIMA — Three Little Giants players had double-digit scoring performances, but the team fell to the Spartans Friday in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

James Wright led Ross (8-7, 3-6) with 13 points, while Dylan Jagodzinski and Jarvis Jones each added 11.

Things looked promising for the Little Giants heading into halftime leading 29-22, but the Spartan's Jaylin Thomas exploded in the second half scoring 27 of his 32 points.

"Our kids played well," Ross head coach Mark Gedeon said. "I was pleased with their effort, but [Lima Senior] was far-more aggressive in the fourth quarter."

The Spartans (6-7, 4-5) out-scored the Little Giants 25-11 in the final period, thanks to Thomas, who sank most of his 13 free throws during that time span.

Turnovers was the other factor in the loss for Ross according to Gedeon. The Little Giants committed 20 turnovers while Lima Senior had just 10.

Lima 62, Fremont Ross 53

Lima	12	10	15	25	—	N	62
Fremont Ross	11	18	13	11	—		53

Lima

BRADY ALLEN 4 2 13, RUBEN FLOWERS 3 6, JUSTICE GRAHAM 2 2 6, DEMONTAY LILES 1 1 3, MARQUIS MILLER 2 2, JAYLIN THOMAS 9 13 32. Totals 19 20 62.

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 1 1 3, Dylan Jagodzinski 5 1 11, Jarvis Jones 4 3 11, Grant McConnell 1 1 3, Jalen Slick 2 5, Drew Solander 3 1 7, James Wright 6 13. Totals 20 7 53.

3-Point Goals - Lima 4 (BRADY ALLEN 3, JAYLIN THOMAS 1), Fremont Ross 2 (Jalen Slick 1, James Wright 1).

Next: Ross v. Whitmer, Tuesday.

TOLEDO WHITMER 52, FREMONT ROSS 33

Little Giants fall to Panthers

By Josh Morgret

News-Messenger correspondent

Coach: 'The longer the game went on, the worse it got'

FREMONT — In their first meeting of the season, Fremont Ross pulled off an improbable come-from-behind victory over Toledo Whitmer in Toledo.

Unfortunately for the Little Giants, Tuesday night was different.

Whitmer dominated the second half in knocking off Ross 52-33 in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"This is a huge win," Whitmer coach Ryan Brown said. "We've been playing well lately. We do struggle against elite teams, but we played well tonight. If we make some free throws in the first game, we might have won but we didn't. In the fashion we won tonight, it was big."

The Panthers (7-10, 5-7 TRAC) led 19-18 at halftime, but

the second half was all Whitmer. Kemontrece Collins scored five points in the first two minutes of the third quarter to extend Whitmer's lead to 25-18.

The Little Giants (8-8, 3-7) got within four points on a bucket by Chris Liggins at 27-23 but back-to-back buckets by Jonathan Ashe slowed the Ross momentum. James Wright and DJ Triplett exchanged 3-pointers

to end the quarter.

"I felt like we didn't execute (Tuesday)," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We've been struggling shooting the ball. We just got in a stand-around kind of mode. The kids took shots we don't normally take and that hurt us."

Whitmer boosted their lead into double digits at 38-28 and pushed the lead to 13 points mid-

way through the quarter. The Little Giants cut it to 11 points on a Wright bucket, but the Panthers put the game away with a 9-1 run over the last 2:35 of game time.

"We've got to have five guys executing together to get our shot," Gedeon said. "The longer the game went on, the worse it got. The game of basketball is 32 minutes."

Brown noted the big three

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Fall

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combination of Ross' post players of Dylan Jagodzinski, Jarvis Jones and Drew Solander concerned his team. His defense held the three to just 11 points and 10 rebounds combined on the night.

"That was a big concern for us," he said.

"We tried to guard them 1-on-1 in the first meeting, but tonight we wanted to double down with the wings. (Jack) Gedeon was getting to the hole in the first half and that was a halftime adjustment we made."

Ross led 10-7 after one quarter and as many as seven points at 16-9 after buckets by Gedeon and Wright.

A score by Gedeon later made it 18-15 with a shade over two minutes left in the second quarter. Ashe made 1-of-2 free

throws and after a Fremont Ross turnover, Marcus Elliott's 3-pointer put Whitmer ahead for good at halftime.

Ashe topped the Panthers with 18 points, while Collins had 10 points and seven rebounds. Christopher Boykin added six points and nine rebounds.

"Our goal is simply to play better than our opponent every night," Brown said.

"We've got some teams coming up that we've already beat, so we'll see what happens."

Wright led the Little Giants with 12 points, while Jones had five points and eight rebounds.

"For us, it comes down to execution," said coach Gedeon. "We need better spacing and to get our shot. We know we're a better team than how we played... No question that the first half was the worst half of basketball we've played all year."

Boys Basketball: Fremont Ross 53, Oregon Clay 40

OREGON — The Little Giants played well Friday and ended a six-game losing skid, beating the Eagles on the road in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action, 53-40.

Grant McConnell scored 10 points for Ross (9-8, 4-6), but head coach Mark Gedeon credited him with much more.

“[McConnell] played great defense and showed his basketball I.Q. tonight,” Gedeon said. “He did a great job defensively covering Patrice Booth, who’s one of the league’s best scorers.”

Drew Solander led all Ross players with 15 points — eight of which came in the final period.

“[Drew] played solid all game long,” Gedeon said. “He put in a quality effort all around. It was good to see.”

The other player highlighted in the win was Jack Gedeon, who recorded a double-double by racking up 10 assists and grabbing 11 boards to complement his five points.

Booth finished with eleven points for the Eagles (2-17, 0-10).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fremont Ross 53, Clay 40

Fremont Ross	19	11	8	15	—	53
Clay	10	11	13	6	—	40

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 2 1 5, Jarren Hampton 2 2 8, Dylan Jagodzinski 4 8, Jarvis Jones 2 4, Grant McConnell 2 4 10, Jalen Slick 1 3, Drew Solander 7 1 15. Totals 20 8 53.

Clay

Patricc Booth 4 1 11, Andrew McCrory 4 5 14, Anthony Ramirez 2 4, Kyle Row 2 4, Luis Saenz 2 1 5, Evan Trowbridge 2 2. Totals 14 9 40.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 5 (Jarren Hampton 2, Grant McConnell 2, Jalen Slick 1), Clay -Oregon 3 (Patricc Booth 2, Andrew McCrory 1).

JV Score: Clay 52-42. Next: Ross at Toledo CC, Tuesday.

Little Giants blitzed by Irish

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

TOLEDO — It's tough enough to win night in and night out in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

But it only gets tougher when you try to do it against maybe the most athletic team in the conference, and get badly out-competed, as was the case for Ross in Tuesday's game with TRAC co-leader Toledo Central Catholic. The Fighting Irish

Toledo Central Catholic stomps Ross in dominating 78-33 victory

scored more points in the paint, alone, than the Little Giants scored as a whole, tallying 42 — half of those second-chance opportunities — in a dominating 78-33 victory inside the Sullivan Center.

Ross (9-9, 4-8) was out-rebounded by 15 (39-24), forced into 22 turnovers and tallied 20

less shot attempts than the Irish (15-2, 10-1). It was the seventh loss for the Little Giants in their last eight contests after starting the year 8-2.

"That's a team that's lost two games on the year, both in overtime, and they're very, very talented with what they can do defensively, turning that into of-

fense ... the athletes they have and their abilities to hit the glass," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We knew we were in for a tough challenge. But there's no question we can probably compete a little bit better than what we did tonight. I don't think we did a very good job on the glass and we definitely didn't do a very good job of taking care of the basketball."

Central's Jeremiah Braswell

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Blitzed

Continued from Page 1B

and DeShone Kizer combined for 18 first-half points, leading all scorers with 15 and 11 points respectively.

Kizer scored nine of the game's first 13 points as the Fighting Irish jumped out to an 11-2 advantage with 3 minutes, 41 seconds to go in the opening quarter. They led as much as 23 (33-10) in the second quarter on a medium-ranged jumper from Braswell.

Ross' halftime deficit was 40-18.

The Little Giants were held to 24 first-half shot attempts, including only five in the first eight minutes.

"I don't know how much of this we can use as a learning tool, to be honest," Gedeon said. "We definitely have some young kids who are

hanging their heads right now because they know they got it taken to them tonight. They didn't play very well, and they know they didn't play very well. They know they got to get better."

A 15-0 run in the third quarter stretched the Central lead to 54-22. The Irish outscored the Little Giants 22-7 in the quarter, taking a 62-25 lead into the final quarter. Of those points, 12 came in the paint with 10 coming during their big run.

"They were physically stronger, they were more aggressive and they worked for their position, which is why they got those rebounds and points," said Gedeon of Central's play inside. "I thought our three post players were trying to tap the ball a lot. They didn't want to work and get low and use the strength they have. But they can't play straight up and down against

these athletes that Central has."

Grant McConnell had seven point to pace Ross, which also got six from Drew Solander.

Jack Gedeon picked up six blocks, seven rebounds and had three assists.

The Little Giants will play at St. Francis de Sales on Friday.

"We'll have to rebound," coach Gedeon said. "St. Francis is a very physical team — probably more so than Central is. They don't have the same athletes that Central does, but it's a team that's very deep with a couple big boys on the inside. And they'll give us a lot of defensive pressure, which we didn't handle real well the first time we played (a 49-43 Little Giants' win in overtime Jan. 14)."

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DISTRICT 6 HONORS

On the boys side, Ross' Jack Gedeon was first-team, as was Jarvis Jones. Dylan Jagodzinski earned second-team honors and Drew Solander was honorable mention.

Boys Basketball: St. Francis de Sales 58, Fremont Ross 55

TOLEDO — Chris Liggins netted 15 points — including a pair of 3-pointers — but the Little Giants lost to the Knights Friday in a Three Rivers Athletic Conference tilt.

Ross led by two at the half, but St. Francis outscored the Little Giants by ten in the third quarter. Jarvis Jones added 10 points for Ross (9-10, 4-9), while teammate Jack Gedeon had 9.

The Knights' Lamar Carswell also hit a pair of triples en route to a game high 25 points.

St. Francis De Sales (Toledo) 58, Fremont Ross 55

Fremont Ross 11 10 16 18 — 55

St. Francis De Sales 10 9 26 13 — 58

Fremont Ross

Jack Gedeon 4 1 9, Dylan Jagodzinski 1 1 3, Jarvis Jones 5 10, Chris Liggins 5 3 15, Grant McConnell 3 3, Jalen Slick 1 3 5, Drew Solander 2 4, James Wright 3 6. Totals 21 11 55.

St. Francis De Sales

Lamar Carswell 9 5 25, Dontay Ellison 2 5 9, CJ Fagan 1 2, Jon Frankhauser 2 4, Kevin Metzger 4 11, Andy Okuley 1 2, Evan Wheeler 1 2 4. Totals 20 13 58.

3-Point Goals - Fremont Ross 2 (Chris Liggins 2), St. Francis De Sales 5 (Lamar Carswell 2, Kevin Metzger 3).

JV Score: St. Francis 50-42. Next: Ross vs. Marion Harding, Tuesday.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

2013-14 AP NORTHWEST ALL-DISTRICT

BOYS

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Nate Allen, Tol. Bowsher, 6-foot-4, senior, 22.2 points per game; Nick Moschetti, Perrysburg, 6-3, sr., 22.6; DeShone Kizer, Tol. Central Cath., 6-5, sr., 12.4; Anthony Glover, Jr., Tol. St. John's Jesuit, 6-0, sr., 18.1; Adam Twining, Findlay, 6-3, sr., 15.6.

Player of the year: Nate Allen, Tol. Bowsher.

Coach of the year: Joe Guerrero, Tol. Bowsher.

SECOND TEAM: Matt Fox, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne, 6-2, sr., 19.0; Dajuan King, Tol. Bowsher, 6-1, sr., 20.5; LaMonta Stone, Bowling Green, 5-7, jr., 20.7; Manny Durden, Holland Springfield, 6-2, sr., 15.3; Matt Morrison, Sylvania Southview, 5-7, sr., 15.1; Isaac White, Ashland, 5-11, jr., 17.6.

THIRD TEAM: Parker Ernsthausen, Tol. St. John's Jesuit, 6-9, sr., 12.3; Marcus Winters, Tol. Central Cath., 6-0, jr., 13.0; Cameron White, Tol. Bowsher, 6-1, sr., 16.0; Mario Davison, Mansfield Senior, 5-11, sr., 6.5; Jack Gedeon, Fremont Ross, 6-5, sr., 8.1; Michael Clark, Findlay, 6-1, sr., 9.4.

Special Mention: Nate Patterson, Perrysburg; Jake Reid, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; Tyrell Ajian, Mansfield Madison; Mike Mitchell, Tol. Start; Aerin West, Sylvania Northview; Nate Hall, Sylvania Southview; Jeremiah Braswell, Tol. Central Cath.; Jon Ashe, Tol. Whitmer; Sam Hickey, Tol. Whitmer; Tyler Longstreth, Marion Harding; Austin Gutting, Findlay; Jalen Reese, Mansfield Senior; Dejorr Gibson, Mansfield Senior; Trey Smith, Ashland; Brett Vipperman, Ashland; Coy VanTilburg, Mansfield Madison.

ALL-THREE RIVERS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BASKETBALL

Ross guard Gedeon on first team

News-Messenger report

Fremont Ross senior Jack Gedeon was recognized first-team all-Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Gedeon averaged 8.1 points, 7.3 rebounds and 5.1 assists. He led the TRAC and established a school record with 62 blocks as a guard.

Seniors Jarvis Jones and Dylan Jagodzinski were honorable mention for the Little Giants' boys. Senior Abbi Hasselbach and sophomore Elayna Ackerman were honorable mention for the girls.

Toledo Central Catholic's DeShone Kizer was player of the year while Jim Welling was coach of the year for the boys. Central Catholic's Marcus Winters, Findlay's Adam Twining, and Anthony Glover and Parker Ernsthansen of Toledo St. John's Jesuit were also first-team picks.

Lima Senior's Indiya Benjamin was player of the year while Clay's Corey Slovak was coach of the year for the girls.

Two players from Division I state semifinalist Toledo Notre Dame Academy—Terra Floyd and Kaayla McIntyre—were also on the first team. Whitmer's Keshyra McCarver, Central Catholic's Byrde Gelnernik and Lima Senior's Rion Thompson were also first-team selections.



Fremont Ross senior Jack Gedeon drives to the basket against St. Francis' CJ Fagan. Gedeon was first-team all-conference. DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

