

Kingsborough scores team-high 11 points

Continued From B1

"In the fourth quarter, they got a little tired," he said. "The biggest adjustment at the half was fighting the mental breakdowns. We did a good job of that in the second half."

Paige Kingsborough, who missed almost all of last season due to a knee injury, returned to the starting lineup for Ross and led the team with 11 points.

"We're glad to have her back," Wolf said. "It's always nice to get somebody back off an injury. She'll have to play herself into better shape. She'll have to take different angles because she isn't as quick, and she'll have to get used to the brace."

Sophomore Ashley Long and senior Rachael Daugherty, who did not play basketball as a junior, started for the Little Giants.

Long scored six points and grabbed five rebounds, and Daugherty added four points.

Wolf said each of the girls demonstrated a strong commitment to the program over the summer.

"(Long's) worked hard," Wolf said. "She does smart things on defense and without the ball. After the summer, we expected her to do a good job for us. She's only going to get better. She's

'Cats fall in opener

Woodmore couldn't stop Megan Jamieson as Ottawa Hills handed Wildcats coach Fran Miller a 53-38 loss in her coaching debut on Saturday.

Jamieson scored a game-high 26 points to lead Ottawa Hills (1-0).

Megan Abbey and Sarah Hernandez each scored nine points for Woodmore (0-1).

The Wildcats trailed just 11-10 after the first quarter but were outscored 17-9 in the second.

Ottawa Hills later increased its lead even more with an 18-11 advantage in the final frame.

— News-Messenger reports

very intelligent and picks things up quickly."

Brittney Miller added seven points and six rebounds for Ross.

St. Ursula's Jena Blosser led all scorers with 12 points.

"She controls the floor rather well," Wolf said. "She controls the whole team actually. They had some nice shooters and some really good athletes."

Tia Simms, who increased her contribution after Kingsborough's injury last season, is anxious to show that the two can produce together. But foul

trouble, a focus for the ultra-athletic Simms this year because she is very active on defense and sometimes overly aggressive on both ends of the floor, kept her from ever getting into a rhythm.

Simms committed her second foul and was taken out less than a minute into the game.

She returned and picked up her third foul midway through the second, and her fourth came in the middle of the third.

"I don't think she ever really got going," Wolf said. "As a senior, she has to learn to adjust. It's hard to fault her on a charge, but the first two (fouls) were reaching fouls. I never felt she got into the flow. She's a key on defense, too. She makes a difference when she's on the floor."

Simms, whose third and fourth fouls each came when she attempted to take a charge, spent more of the game next to Wolf than either obviously preferred.

She finished with two points.

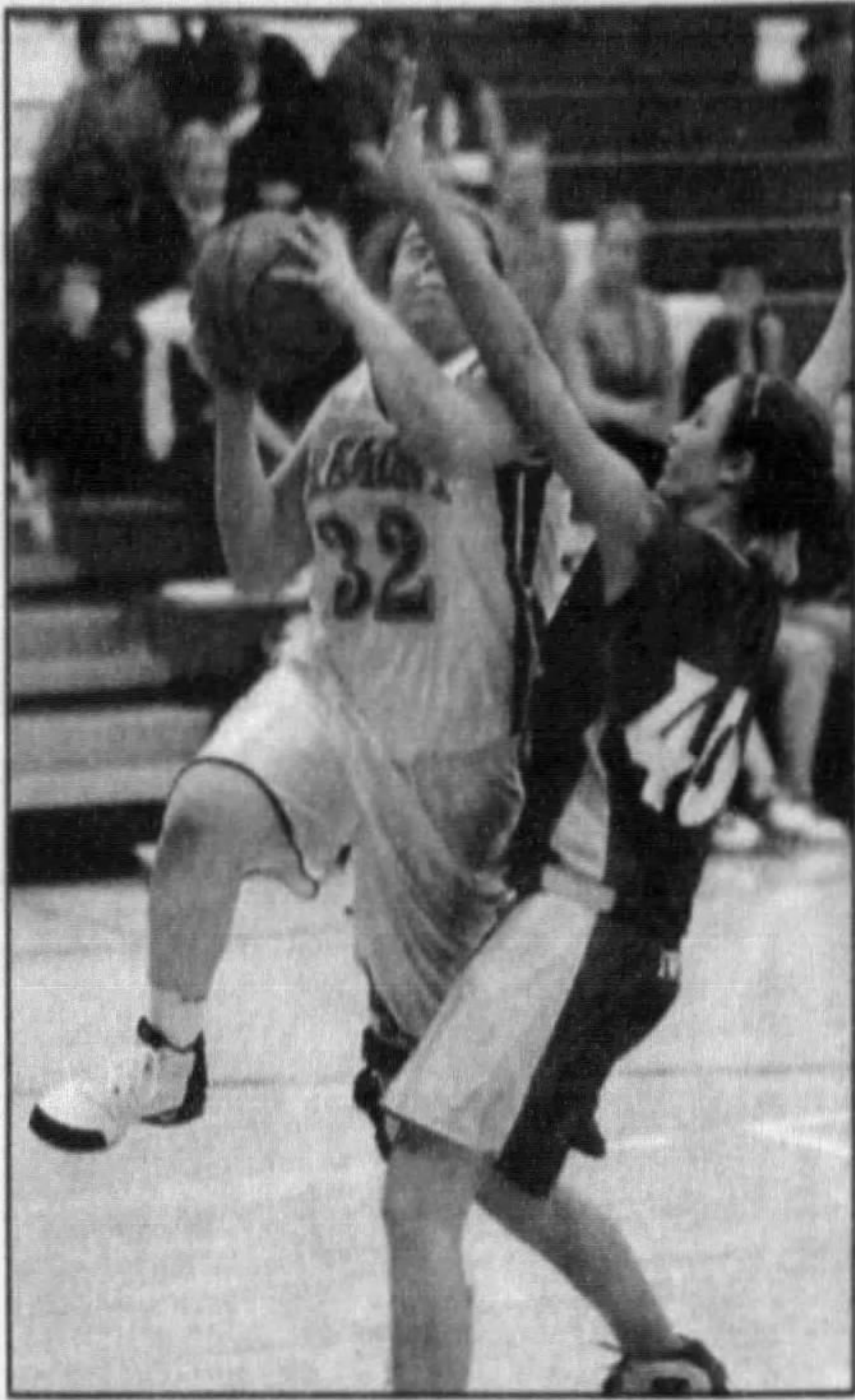
"In our last scrimmage she played as well as we've seen in a while," Wolf said. "Tonight, she played as poorly as we've seen in a while. I just think she needs to slow down. The mind definitely controls the body. But the loss is not on her. Everybody played poorly."



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S Dalanea Johnson drives around a St. Ursula defender during the Little Giants' 54-40 season-opening loss on Saturday.

ST. URSULA 54, ROSS 40



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S Paige Kingsborough goes up for a shot in the Little Giants' season-opening 54-40 loss to St. Ursula on Saturday. Kingsborough scored 11 points.

Little Giants break down after break

Second-half struggles doom Ross in opener

By **MATTHEW HORN**

Sports Writer

Fremont Ross scored two points in the third quarter.

The Little Giants shot 1-for-10 in the frame.

Ross scored five points in the fourth.

The Little Giants shot 1-for-9 in the frame.

After entering the third quarter on Saturday trailing only by two, Ross was shut down while committing a host of errors in the second half in a 54-40 loss to Toledo St. Ursula Academy in the non-conference matchup to start the season.

"We have to have more scoring," Little Giant coach Sue Wolf said. "We have to put the ball in the basket. We struggled with our passing and threw the ball away when we were trying to get out on the break. We turned the ball over way too much. I think we tried to force it a bit too much. This group is learning to play together right now.

"They never gave up," she continued. "They really work hard. It's just a situation where you have to put the ball in a few more times and make your job easier. We have to shoot better."

Ross committed 34 turnovers and forced 24.

St. Ursula coach Tony Donofrio said his girls made the Little Giants earn everything in the second half.

See **KINGSBOROUGH, B5**

■ **ROSS DROPS GBC OPENER:** Fremont Ross's Brittney Miller stole an inbound pass from under the Little Giants' basket and quickly fired a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but it rattled in and out and Marion Harding hung on for a 45-43 victory.

"We shouldn't have been in that situation in the first place," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The Little Giants (1-2, 0-1) shot just 38 percent from the field (18-of-47) and were a combined 5-of-13 from the free-throw line in the Greater Buckeye Conference opener.

The Little Giants also forced 28 turnovers but didn't take advantage of those miscues.

"It was not pretty," Wolf said.

Tia Simms and Paige Kingsborough each scored 12 points to lead the Little Giants.



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S Karie Marroquin moves around Toledo Start's C.C. McKinney Thursday. Ross lost 61-46 to fall to 1-3 on the young season. Marroquin scored nine points for Ross. Tia Simms added 18 for the Little Giants.

Roundup: Crimson Streaks improve to 4-0

Continued From B1

■ **SJCC WINS SNOOZER:** The St. Joseph Central Catholic girls left Mohawk with a comfortable 37-28 Midland Athletic League victory.

They left annoyed, too.

The young and struggling Mohawk squad trailed only 26-19 at halftime, but the Warriors surprisingly chose to stall for basically the entire third quarter.

Each team scored just two points in the frame, and SJCC easily held on in the fourth quarter and improved to 4-0.

"It was a very frustrating game because our kids like to play basketball, and we didn't get the opportunity to play basketball tonight," SJCC coach Gary Geller said. "I don't think either team learned very much tonight. We are supposed to be trying to improve."

"The kids asked, 'Do we go out (and pressure them)?,' " Geller said. "I said, 'No. Stand there and look at them.' So, we stood and looked at them for about 7:30."

Each team made a pair of free throws in the final few seconds.

Katy Hasselbach led SJCC with 11 points, and Becky Babione added eight points, eight rebounds and eight steals.

SJCC next travels to a talented Cardinal Stritch squad on Wednesday.

■ **ROSS FALLS TO START:** Tia Simms scored 18 points, but Fremont Ross lost 61-46 to Toledo Start.

The Little Giants fell behind 19-9 after the first quarter and were never able to catch up.

They dropped to 1-3 on the season.

Karie Marroquin made two 3-pointers and scored nine points for Ross, which trailed 39-24 at the break.

Ottawa Hills to tie the game and send it into an extra period.

Freshman Lindsay Hill scored a team-high 17 points for the Golden Bears, who fell to 2-2.

Aisha Kaemming added 15 points, and Julie Beaschler scored 13 points in her first game of the season.

Beaschler had been previously sidelined with an injury.

Ann Clark had six points and 10 rebounds.

■ **BETTSVILLE STUMBLES:** Emily Johnson scored nine points, but Bettsville lost 65-18 to Hopewell-Loudon in a Midland Athletic League contest.

Bettsville trailed 32-4 at halftime.

Wrestling

■ **LAKOTA SWEPT:** Lakota opened the wrestling season with a pair of losses, a 68-4 decision to Hopewell-Loudon and a 62-17 setback to Arcadia.

Destine McGleflin earned th

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Simms sparks Ross to victory over Lima

Knee pain forces Kingsborough to leave Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Tia Simms outscored Lima Senior in the first quarter and finished with a game-high 16 points as Ross rolled to a 52-45 victory Saturday.

Simms scored six first-quarter points as Ross led 14-5 after the frame.

"She did a lot of good things for us," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The Little Giants were never seriously challenged as they improved to 2-3 overall and 1-1 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

The victory came a day after senior Paige Kingsborough quit the team because of nearly constant knee pain.

Kingsborough tore her ACL early during last basketball season, and Wolf said she wanted to rest it for the upcoming softball season.

"She fought long and hard about (the decision)," Wolf said. "(The knee) was really bothering her a lot. She was really having a hard time."

Rachael Daugherty scored 12 points in Saturday's victory.

"Rachael did a nice job for us," Wolf said. "She is filling in at any position on the court."

Wolf was pleased with the victory.

"We ran our offense and did things we did in practice," she said. "It was a good

win."

■ **PERKINS TOO STRONG:** Marisa Bergman tallied 10 points and eight rebounds, but Oak Harbor lost 50-37 to Perkins in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Oak Harbor led 17-15 after the first quarter but was outscored a combined 25-12 in the second and third quarters.

Oak Harbor fell to 2-2 overall and 1-2 in the league.

■ **LAKOTA FALLS TO LAKE:** Erin Graber scored 16 points, but Lakota lost 55-48 to Lake in the Suburban Lakes League.

Lakota's slow start was the difference. The Raiders trailed 16-9 after the first quarter.

Becky Cheatham and Alison Park added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for Lakota (0-4).

Boys.....

■ **OLD FORT GETS WIN NO. 1:** Mike McCalla scored 15 points and Marcus Hoke added 14 as Old Fort topped Northwood 52-42 for its first victory of the season.

Paul Roberts tallied 10 points for the Stockaders (1-2), who took control by outscoring Northwood 20-9 in the third quarter.

■ **BOOS' EFFORT NOT ENOUGH:** Ben Boos scored 27 points, but Margaretta fell 76-66 to Danbury.

The difference was the second quarter, in which the Polar Bears (1-2) were outscored 21-13.

Matt Zahel and Brandon Meggitt added 14 and 10 points, respectively, for Margaretta.

Jake Fanning tallied 27 points to lead Danbury.

■ **BETTSVILLE STUMBLES:** Greg Weller scored 17 points and Kevin Steele added 11, but Bettsville lost 75-52 to Emmanuel Baptist.

Bettsville (0-3) trailed 41-13 at half-time.



SIMMS



KINGSBOROUGH

ROUNDUP

Simms-led Giants rally on the road

Senior dominates, after break against Napoleon

News-Messenger reports

Tia Simms went from being frustrated to being fantastic.

The Fremont Ross senior was relegated to the bench in the first half because of foul trouble but scored 14 of her game-high 16 points after the break in a 35-32 Greater Buckeye Conference victory at Napoleon Friday.

"We can't afford to have her on the bench," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We have to have her on the floor."



SIMMS

"Tia just did a really nice job late for us," she continued.

Ross, which improved to 3-3 overall and 2-1 in the league, trailed by 14 points midway through the third quarter before rallying for the win.

Rachael Daugherty made the go-ahead jumper in the final minute for Ross.

■ **FINDLAY TOO TOUGH:** Tia Simms scored 18 points, but a slow start doomed Fremont Ross in a 64-43 loss to Findlay in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

Ross trailed 30-15 after the first quarter and fell to 3-4 overall and 2-2 in the league.

The setback snapped a two-game winning streak.

Rachael Daugherty added eight points for the Little Giants, who play host to rival Sandusky Thursday.

Findlay was led by Carlee Roethlisberger, younger sister of Pittsburgh Steelers rookie quarterback Ben.

Roethlisberger scored a game-high 19 points.

Findlay improved to 8-1 overall and 4-0 in the GBC.

ROUNDUP

Ross silenced by Perrysburg

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross shot just 16 percent from the floor and was shut out in the third quarter of a 36-19 loss to Perrysburg Tuesday.

"If you don't put the ball in the basket, you can't win," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I actually thought the kids put up good shots. They just weren't falling."

The Little Giants' previous season low output was in a 35-32 win over Napoleon.

Ross shot 8-of-50 from the field and 3-of-14 from the free-throw line.

The Little Giants trailed just 17-14 at the break but after that were outscored 19-5 — including 5-0 in the third quarter.

Tia Simms scored a team-high 10 points for the Little Giants, who fell to 3-5.

Bettsville snaps skid

Bettsville snapped a 48-game losing streak with a 49-41 victory over Monclova Christian.

Emily Johnson scored a game-high 25 points for the Bobcats, who improved to 1-8.

Bettsville's last victory was a 48-31 decision over Maumee Valley Country Day on Dec. 1, 2002.

— News-Messenger reports

Boys basketball

■ **CLYDE DROPS CLOSE ONE:** Ryan Hackenburg and Nick Tea scored 18 and 16 points, respectively, but Clyde lost 67-

the Fliers trailing 19-17 after the first quarter and 34-32 at the break.

Clyde pulled within 42-41 entering the final quarter.

"No team had more than a five-point lead," Clyde coach Steve Keller said. "We had an opportunity to tie or win, and that's all you can ask of the kids."

■ **ROBERTS LEADS ATTACK IN WIN:** Paul Roberts made four 3-pointers and scored 17 points to lead a balanced Old Fort attack in a 72-52 win over Arcadia.

Mark Hoffert had 13 points and Cody Perry and Justin Lee each added 12 for the Stockaders, who improved to 3-5.

Old Fort led 17-14 after the first and 35-27 at halftime. The Stockaders took control by outscoring Arcadia 16-9 in

ROSS 71, WOODWARD 28

Simms scintillating in victory

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

Tia Simms jammed to Michael Jackson's greatest hits in the locker room before Thursday's game against visiting Woodward.

The Fremont Ross standout then moonwalked all over the winless Polar Bears.

Simms scored a career-high 28 points to lead Ross to a 71-28 victory.

The senior had 13 of the Little Giants' 19 first-quarter points as they took control and matched their game total from an ugly 36-19 loss to Perrysburg earlier in the week.

"After the last game, we needed this to get going and do some good things," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I think we did tonight.

"They were definitely upset with themselves after that game because they knew they could do better. This was a nice way to come back."

— Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf

Added Simms: "Games like that, you have to forget about and just start all over again. You can't dwell on that. You just have to come out and play."

And Simms certainly played very well.

She shot 12-of-20 from the floor, pulled down 10 rebounds and played a major role in a defense that held Woodward to 10-of-33 shooting and forced 39 turnovers.

Her best play of the night was

a beautiful second-quarter pass.

Simms made a touch, no-look dish to Ashley Long, who made an easy lay-up to cap a 17-0 run and put Ross ahead 24-2 with 5:54 left before halftime.

"That was fun to watch," Wolf said of the assist. "It was a pretty pass. She definitely will give the ball up to her teammates. That's the nice part about it.

"A lot of times, your high scorer is the one who says, 'Give me the

ball, give me the ball, give me the ball,' " Wolf continued. "She will ask for the ball, and I like that. I like people who demand the ball. But if somebody else has a better shot, she will give it to them."

Alexis Johnson and Long added 14 and 10 points, respectively, for the Little Giants (4-5), who snapped a two-game losing skid in their first home game since Dec. 2.

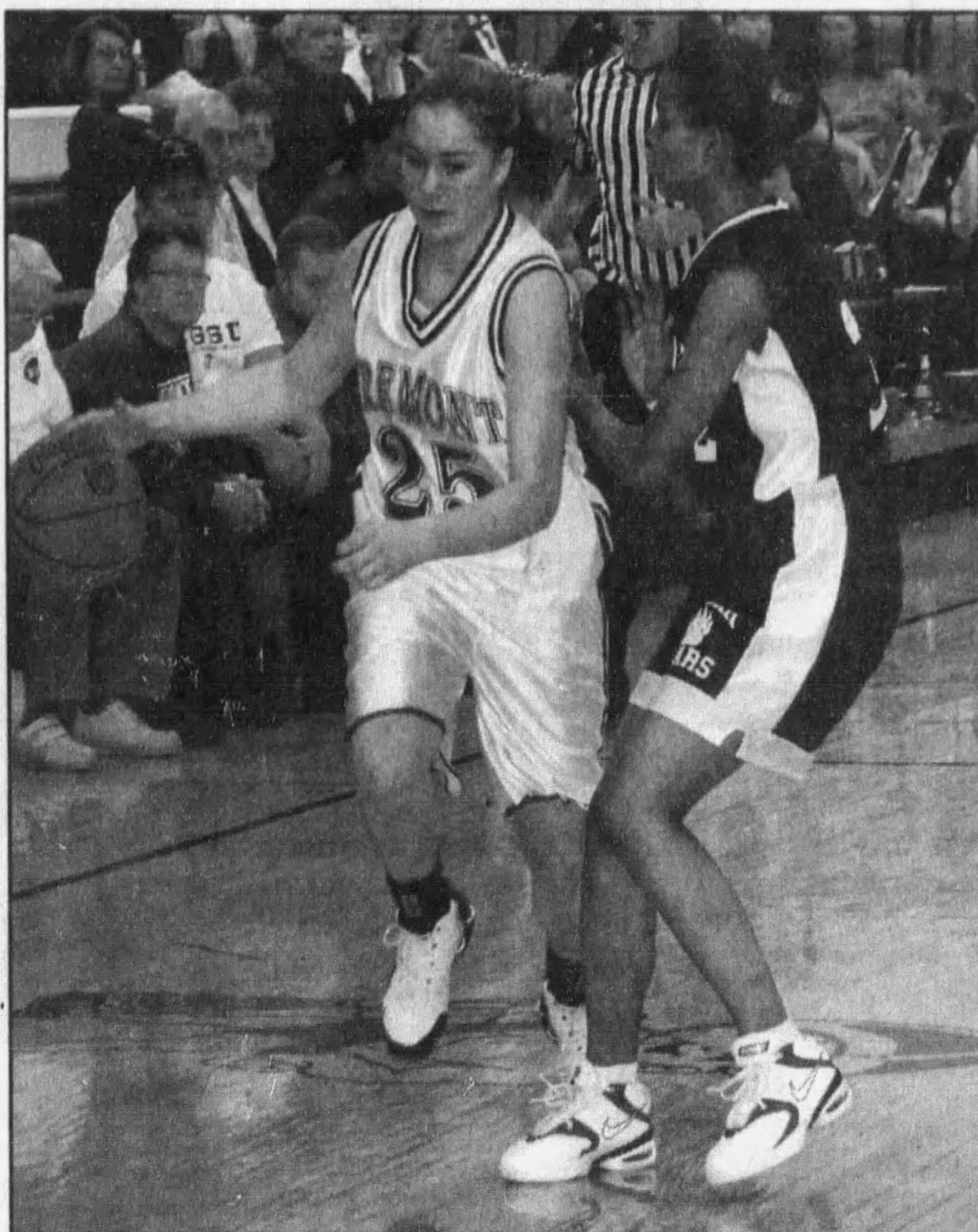
Charlotte Garcia scored a team-high 14 points for Woodward (0-8). She tallied the Polar Bears' first nine points of the game. By the time another teammate scored, they trailed 38-9 with 6:14 left in the third quarter.

See SIMMS, B2



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

FREMONT ROSS'S Tia Simms scores two of her career-high 28 points in the Little Giants' 71-28 victory over Woodward Thursday.



**FREMONT
ROSS'S**
Brittney
Miller
drives
during the
Little Gi-
ants' win
Thursday.

News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

Simms has career night in blowout

Continued From B1

"This was a good win," Simms said. "It felt good that we were all working together as a team."

Simms scored the Little Giants' first five points as they quickly jumped ahead.

She made a strong move, driving from the top of the key, for a game-opening lay-up. She then made a tough three-point play off a Woodward turnover.

"It was great to see her play like that," Wolf said. "It's good to see it from somebody who works as hard as she does. She's just an all-around great person."

"And it's a team game out there," Wolf continued. "They get Tia the ball when she is open, too. That's what's nice about it. I don't think anybody cares who scores as long as we win."

Thursday's game was a stark contrast to Tuesday's loss to Perrysburg. In the setback, the Little Giants shot just 16 percent (8-of-50).

Against Woodward, they just 44 percent (32-of-73).

"Nothing would go in the basket against Perrysburg," Wolf said. "It was really nice to come back and have a game where we put the ball in the basket."

"They were definitely upset with themselves after that game because they knew they could do better," she continued. "This was a nice way to come back."

Hoops du jour

24

Of the game's first 26 points scored by the Ross girls in an easy win

PRIMETIME SCORERS

Boys

David Rice	32
Derrick Berberick	18
Marcus Ahle	16
Andy Apple	14
Nathaniel House	14
Jeff DeBlase	12
Nathan Kirwen	12
Andy Morrison	10

Girls

Micki Kuns	29
Tia Simms	28
Stephanie Meyer	18
Brittany Nesbitt	17
Alexis Johnson	14
Marisa Bergman	14
Amanda Salinas	14
Sam Boss	11
Jenny Miller	11
Cayla Keegan	11
Brittany Slauterbeck	10
Ashley Long	10

FRIDAY'S SCORES

Boys

Danbury 60, SJCC 57
Gibsonburg 62, Old Fort 34
St. Wendelin 72, Lakota 59
Willard 73, Bellevue 60

Girls

Ross 71, Woodward 28
Clyde 68, Perkins 46
Oak Harbor 60, Huron 40
Margaretta 75, Edison 53

Simms has 52 points in two recent wins

Continued From B1

"I thought Abby Werling stepped up and did some nice things," Wolf said of the senior, who finished with nine points. "At the line, she really helped us a lot."

The Little Giants led 23-21 after the second quarter, but a half-time adjustment by Wolf allowed for Simms to increase her scoring output. Simms, who was playing predominately around the perimeter in the first half, moved to the post and notched 11 points in the third quarter.

"That's my spot," Simms said, "the blocks and the whole key. (In the first-half), they had a girl guarding me strong, really strong, denying me the ball. Coach talked to us, and I knew I had to do something."

In addition to Simms, Wolf was happy with her entire team's offensive progress from half to half. The Little Giants were impatient at times in the first two frames, often taking ill-advised shot at-

tempts, according to Wolf.

"We ran our offense," Wolf said about the second half, in which the Little Giants outscored Sandusky 32-16. "In the first half, we weren't running our offense."

"We were taking three passes," she continued. "And we don't want to do that. We want to make the other team play defense and pass it a few more times."

The Blue Streaks were visibly frustrated at Simms' big second-half. She was fouled hard and sent to the line with 7:08 left in the fourth, and then shoved by a Sandusky player about a minute later.

"I get used to it," Simms said with a smile. "They always beat me up."

Simms and the Little Giants will now focus on Friday's contest at GBC foe Marion Harding. The Little Giants suffered a heart-breaking 45-43 setback to the Presidents on Nov. 27 at home.

"I can't wait for that game," Simms said. "We should not have lost that game. We didn't play the way we're capable of playing."

ROSS 54, SANDUSKY 37

Simms leaves Streaks feeling Blue

By RYAN AUTULLO

News-Messenger correspondent

SANDUSKY — The members of the Fremont Ross girls basketball team were getting antsy.

Their star player was dragging her feet.

At the conclusion of their just-completed 54-37 victory over archrival Sandusky Tuesday, the Little Giants were getting frustrated that Tia Simms was preventing them from boarding the team bus.

Simms agitated the host Blue Streaks much worse.

The senior scored a game-high 24 points — 17 in the second half — and the Little Giants held Sandusky to only two fourth-quarter points as they improved to 5-5 and 3-2 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

“I think we all work together,” said Simms, who also scored a career-high 28 points in a win over Toledo Woodward Friday. “(My teammates) give me the ball when I’m open. They know when and when not to give me the ball.”

The Little Giants were 22-of-35 from the free-throw line (63 percent) on the

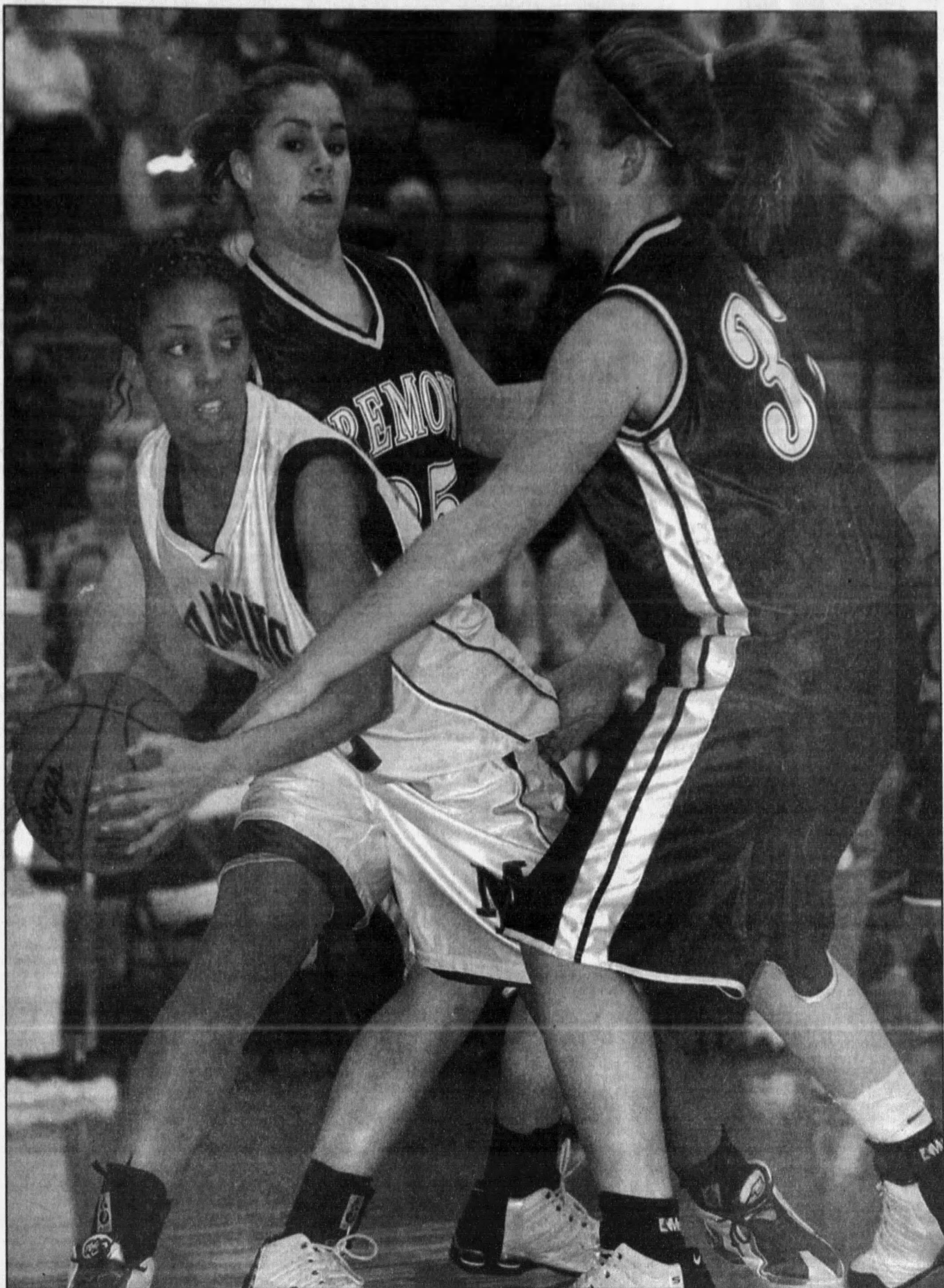
night, including 12 points from the stripe in the final frame.

Sandusky (2-6, 1-2) had earned its seventh team foul of the first half with 2:01 remaining in the first quarter.

“That was one of our keys to winning the game,” Ross coach Sue Wolf said. “We could shoot better, but at least it’s an improvement from games when we’ve been really bad from the line.”

Wolf was most notably impressed by Abby Werling, who was 5-for-5 from the free-throw line.

See SIMMS, B3



FREMONT ROSS'S Ashley Long, right, and Brittney Miller defend Marion Harding's Misty Eggleton Friday. Harding won 44-34. For The News-Messenger/James Miller

Harding too tough for Ross

By DENNY McPHERSON
Gannett News Service

MARION — The Fremont Ross girls basketball team that entered the locker room with three turnovers and a one-point lead at the half of Friday's game at Marion Harding was not the same Little Giant squad that took to the floor for the final two quarters.

Ross lost 44-34 after allowing a 26-25 half-time lead to slip away.

The Little Giants (4-6 overall, 2-3 GBC) committed 18 turnovers and made only three field goals in the second half.

"It's pretty simple. We did not come out in the second half," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We had too many turnovers and we needed to rebound better. Too many of their second shots went in."

Harding's changing defenses were also a key to its victory, as the Presidents combined to hold Ross to only eight second-half points.

"We changed our full-court man pickup to zone pressure and then to a 2-3," Harding coach Bill Sycks explained after his team had improved to 5-6 overall and 3-3 in the conference.

"We got some turnovers off of the pressure and confused them in their half-court offense in the 2-3," Sycks said.

Junior Sarita Feliciano was a big thorn in the side of the Little Giants with six steals on the night, five of them coming in the second half. Feliciano also produced seven points and five assists.

Freshman Jessica Jenkins with 12 points, freshman Kaylee Kepford with nine points and 12 rebounds, and junior Leslie Clark with eight points and six rebounds also contributed mightily for the Presidents.

Ross held the upper hand in the first half thanks to only three turnovers and the scoring of senior Tia Simms, who came into the game averaging 15 points an outing.

Simms tallied 16 of her game-high 22 points in the first two quarters in helping the Little Giants to a 26-25 edge at the intermission. Jenkins scored nine in the opening half to keep Harding close.

Ross then misfired on 9-of-12 shots in the second half as Harding's defenses took over the contest.

Simms scored six of Ross's eight second-half points with Dalanea Johnson scoring the only other field goal.

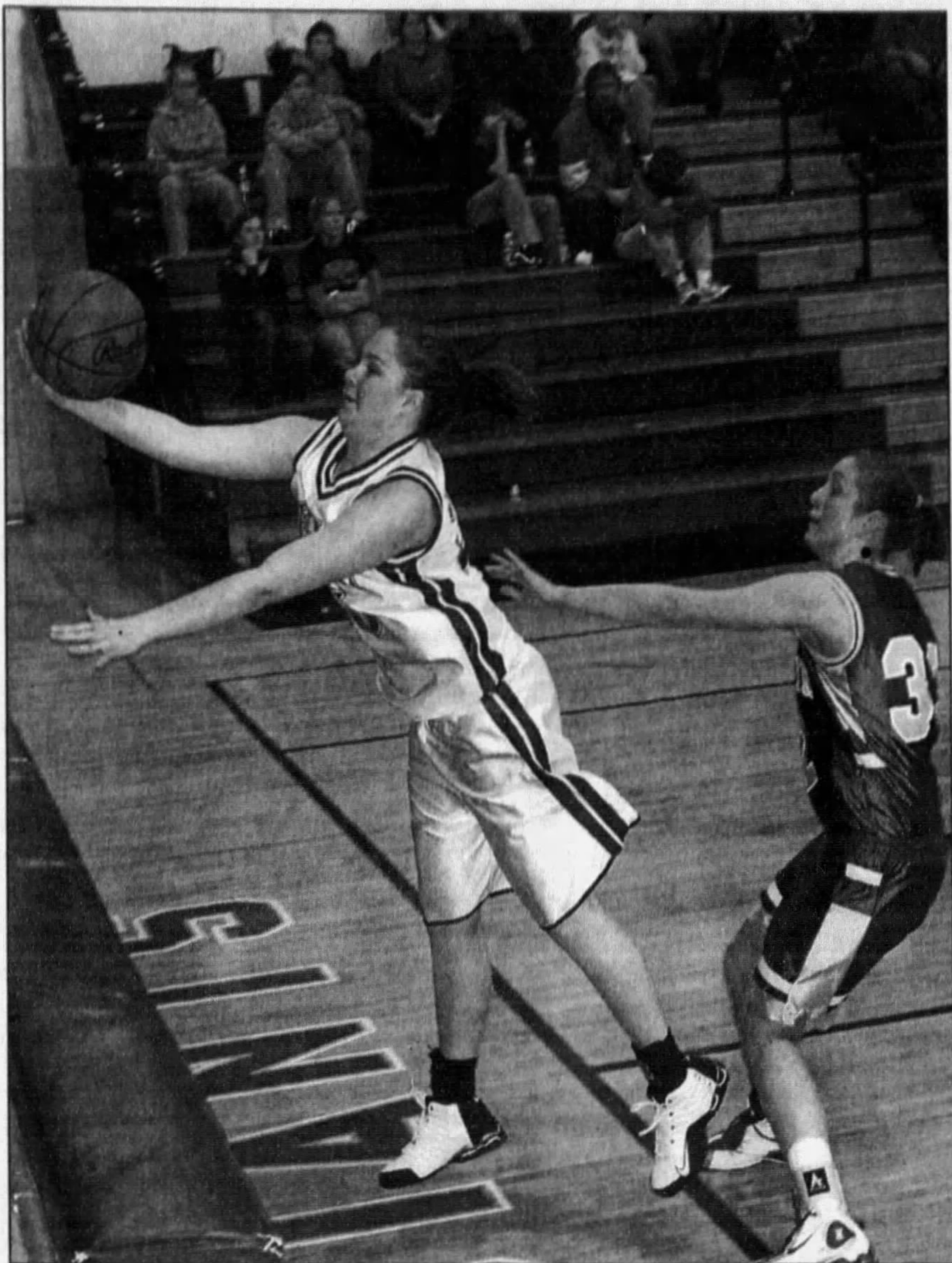
"We need more people scoring than one person," Wolf said. "We've had that all season."

Harding also had some trouble offensively in the game's latter stages against the Little Giants' 2-3 zone. The Presidents, however, scored 11 of the game's last 13 points to seal their fourth win in a row.

Johnson added seven rebounds and three assists to her game totals for Ross while Simms, Brittney Miller and Ashley Long each pulled down four rebounds.

FREMONT ROSS'S

Brittney Miller attempts to save a loose ball during the Little Giants' 46-32 victory over visiting Tiffin Columbian Tuesday. Miller went 2-for-4 from the field and scored four points as the Little Giants won for the third time in their last four games. Tia Simms scored a game-high 20 points for Ross. It was the senior's fourth consecutive game with at least 20 points.



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

Ross earns third win in last four games

Continued From B1

Simms had a sweet assist — on an Ashley Long layup — to cap her personal burst and give Ross a 14-7 lead with 3:45 left before halftime.

Brittney Miller capped the Little Giants' run and put Columbian down 16-7 with 3:02 remaining.

Simms also opened and closed a 7-0 run that gave Ross a 29-14 lead with 4:24 left in the third quarter.

After the run-ending layup off a backcourt steal, Simms was beating Columbian 16-14.

"Tia Simms is a heck of a player," Columbian coach Chip Weingart said. "She is a nice athlete, quick and takes the ball to the basket strong. She's a player."

Simms is averaging 23.5 points in the last four games.

"If she wants to play at the next level, she has to impress people to do that," Wolf said. "And she's doing it right now."

She started the hot stretch with a career-high 28 points in a win over Woodward. Simms added 24 in a victory over archrival Sandusky and 22 more in

a loss to Marion Harding.

On Tuesday, she finished 8-of-11 from the floor and 4-of-4 from the free-throw line.

"I'm just feeling it right now," Simms said. "I'm feeling all of my shots. It seems like everything is going in."

Simms, who grabbed a game-high eight rebounds, also played a major role in the Little Giants' stellar defensive effort.

They forced 25 turnovers and held the Tornadoes to just 30 percent (12-of-40) from the field.

Columbian had nine turnovers and six points in each of the first and second quarters as Ross took a 22-12 halftime lead.

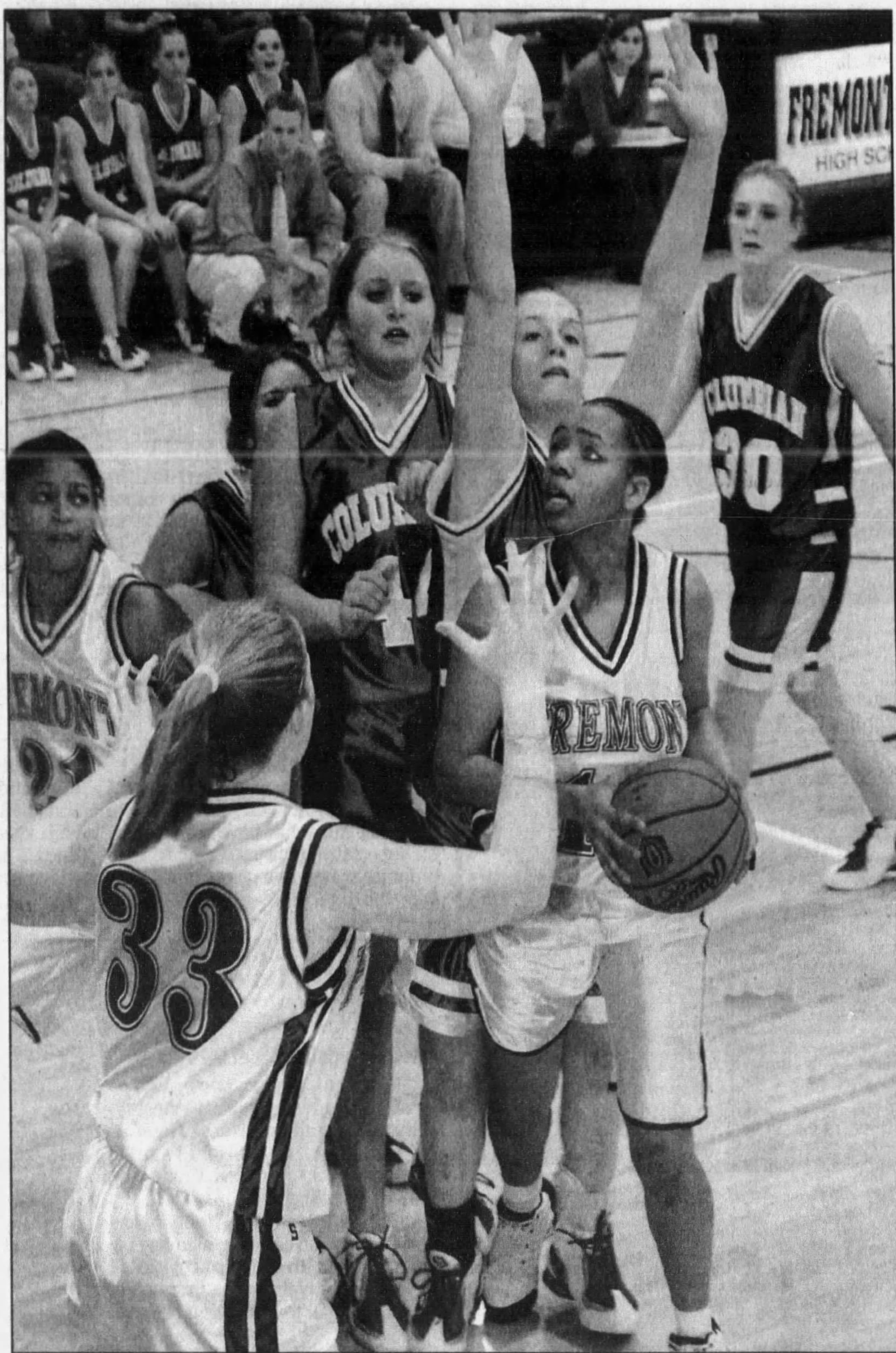
Columbian had just seven second-half turnovers but still made only 7 of 22 shots.

"In the second half, we handled the pressure, but we couldn't put the ball in the basket," Weingart said. "Fremont played really well. They played very good defense and very physical."

Simms likes what she is seeing in the Little Giants, too.

"I think we are getting better each game," she said. "I just hope we keep winning."

Tia on a tear



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

FREMONT ROSS senior Tia Simms looks to shoot during the Little Giants' 46-32 victory over visiting Tiffin Columbian Tuesday. Simms scored a game-high 20 points. It was her fourth straight game with at least 20 points.

Simms stays hot; Giants blow by Tornadoes

By **NICK MATHEWS**
Sports Editor

When things looked ugly, Tia Simms initiated a beautiful, well-timed run.

In Fremont Ross's 46-32 non-conference victory over Tiffin Columbian Tuesday.

And in the Little Giants' season.

With the teams stuck in muck — tied at 6 — after a brutally nasty first quarter, Simms had six points and a nice assist in a 10-1 burst that put the Little Giants in

More preps

Page B3 | Becky Babione scores a game-high 13 points as SJCC improves to 10-1 on the campaign.

front for good.

"She does take control," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The senior standout certainly has taken control of the Little Giants' campaign.

She finished with a game-high 20 points — her fourth consecutive game of at least 20 — as Ross

won for the third time in the last four contests and improved to 6-6.

"Now, we have to push it," said Wolf, whose squad has yet to get above .500 this season. "Maybe we can kick it into another gear."

Simms was in top gear against Columbian (7-6).

She had a put-back basket to start the big second quarter run. She then made a strong drive on the baseline for a layup and got another layup in transition.

See **ROSS, B3**

Simms, Long spark Giants

Continued From B1

Lima Senior (1-11, 1-5) tallied only 19 points through three quarters.

"All week in practice, we worked on what they run," Ross's Ashley Long said. "We were ready for where they were going to go."

Each of the nine Little Giants who saw playing time registered at least one point.

"Everyone that came off the bench contributed to the game," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It's nice to know at this point in the season that you can go to the bench and get contributions."

Abby Werling and Dalanea Johnson each had three steals, and Alexis Johnson added five rebounds for Ross.

And it's exciting to have a sophomore leading all scorers.

Long had 19 points, including nine in the second quarter.

"My teammates were looking for me in the middle and got me the ball," Long said. "I was ready."

Now Wolf hopes Long doesn't relax.

"She's been at open gyms the last two summers and put time

in to be where she is," Wolf said. "I hope she doesn't get satisfied because I believe she can be a tremendous player."

Added Simms: "(Ashley) was aggressive and asked for the ball. She wanted the ball. We knew Ashley had it in her."

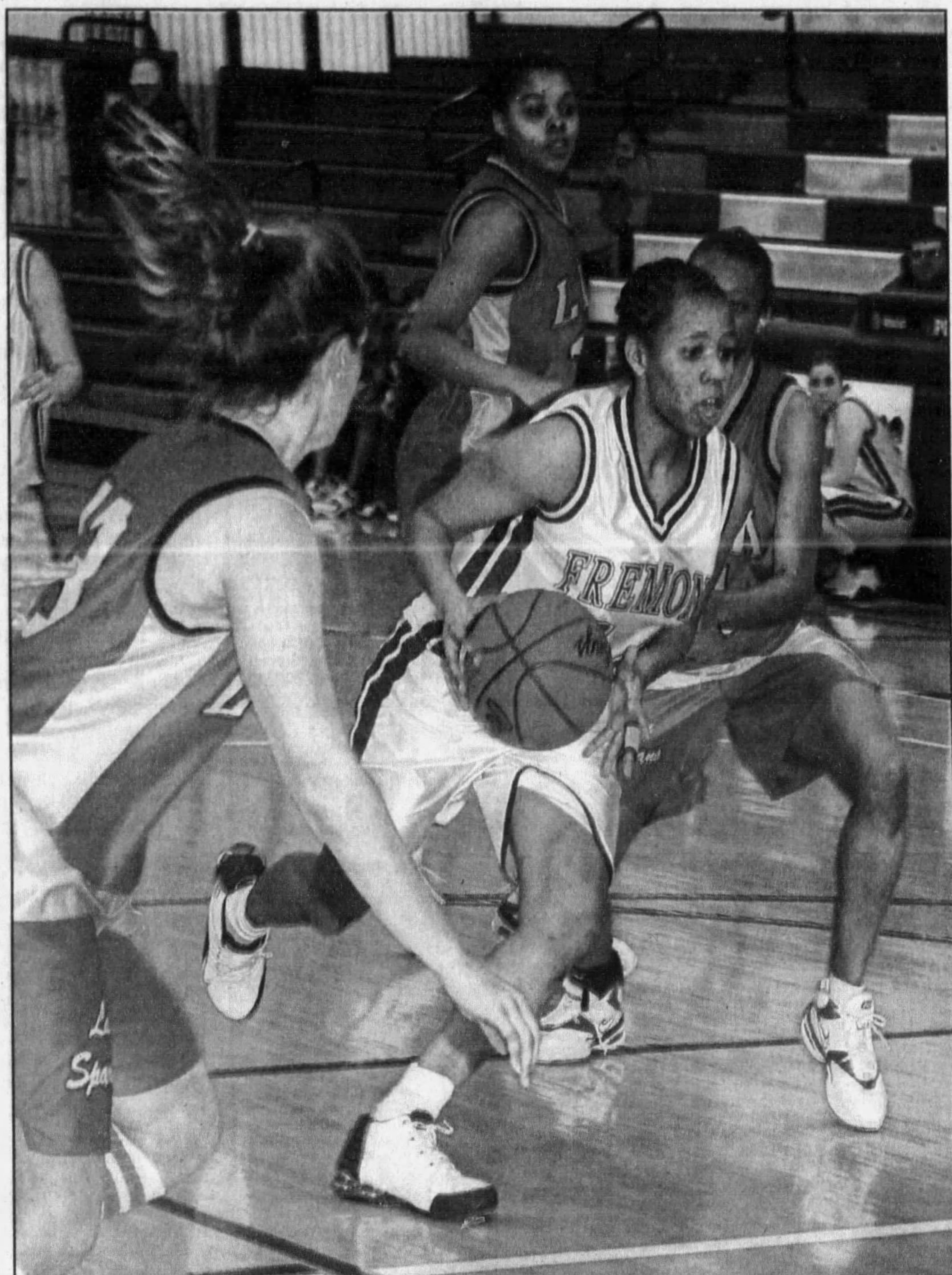
And it has to be refreshing that Simms was ultra aggressive and didn't commit her fourth foul until late in the game.

It is paramount that Simms be on the floor as much as possible for Ross, and staying out of foul trouble is an area where Simms has improved drastically.

"I have to learn to get in control. I feel I've made a big adjustment," Simms said. "At the beginning of the season, I was on the bench right away. I'm playing better defense and getting my hands in the passing lanes. And I'm not trying to make up for it as much (when I miss on the offensive end)."

Ross led 18-7 after one quarter as five of seven field goals stemmed directly from assists.

"We ran the court better and kids made themselves available," Wolf said.



News-Messenger/Ken Dummering

FREMONT ROSS senior Tia Simms drives toward the basket during the Little Giants' 59-33 victory over Lima Senior Saturday. Simms tallied 16 points, 11 rebounds and nine steals. She was one steal shy of the school record.

Thriving on thievery

Simms a steal shy of school record, triple-double in win

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

Tia Simms had scored 20 points in four consecutive games.

So, it would have seemed reasonable if rest was in order.

Simms didn't reach the 20-point plateau Saturday, but not because she took it easy.

Instead, Simms literally took the game away from Lima Senior in a 59-33 Fremont Ross victory in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

On four successive third-quarter Lima Senior possessions, Simms came up with two steals

More preps



Page B3 | Ross freshman Jacque Fate (left) was named the most outstanding swimmer at the Greater Buckeye Conference meet

Roundup, Page B3 | The Oak Harbor boys repeat as Sandusky Bay Conference champions

Page B4 | David Rice tallies 22 points to lead 12 Crimson Streaks in scoring in a blowout of SMCC

Page B4 | Ross boys play best half of season, but Tiffin Columbian rallies after break for victory

and knocked two other balls out of bounds as she got in the passing lanes, snuck up behind her opponents and gravitated to the ball no matter where it went on the court.

Simms finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and nine steals — one act of thievery shy of the

school record and an extremely rare triple-double — as Ross improved to 7-6 overall and 4-3 in the GBC.

"I don't know if they didn't see me or if I'm just quick," said a modest Simms of her steals.

See **SIMMS, LONG, B3**

Daugherty delivers in victory

Continued From B1

"Until the fourth quarter, it didn't seem like we got in sync," Wolf said. "We could have played better throughout the game, but we played well when we had to."

Ross shot 40 percent (18-of-45) from the field and 47 percent (16-of-34) from the foul line. The Little Giants also had 20 turnovers.

Their defense, however, was solid as they held Whitmer to 35 percent shooting (13-of-37) and forced 28 turnovers.

Daugherty has adjusted to a new role this season.

Last year, she simply was a fan.

After playing as a freshman and sophomore, Daugherty decided to take a campaign off.

She tried to attend every game to cheer on best friend Abby Werling and the rest of the Little Giants.

"I would go home and talk to her about the game," Daugherty said of Werling. "It was fun to be the No. 1 fan for a year."

But Daugherty is glad to be a more important piece of the Little Giants' puzzle this campaign.

"Taking a year off taught me a lot about how much I loved to play and how much I loved the girls," she said. "I was more angry when I was on the court before, more agitated."

"Now, I think as I've matured a year, it's different," she continued. "I'm really enjoying it."

Her teammates certainly enjoy having her back, too.

"When we first found out that she was coming back to the team, we were all excited," Simms said. "We missed 'Doc.'"

They missed her personality off the floor and missed the spark she provides on it.

"I think she does a great job coming off the bench," Simms said. "She is there when we need her."

And that's been the case all season.

"She has made big contributions in a lot of our games this season," Wolf said. "I have been really happy with her play."

Doc helps Ross rock Whitmer

Daugherty's run sparks Little Giants in blowout

By **NICK MATHEWS**

Sports Editor

A well-timed Rachael Daugherty run was the perfect remedy for Fremont Ross Tuesday.

Whitmer overcame a 10-point deficit and crawled to within two late in the third quarter, but Daugherty — nicknamed “Doc” — cured all that ailed the Little Giants with a personal 6-0 run that helped vault them to a 53-34 non-conference victory.

“We needed somebody to step up, and she did,” Ross coach Sue Wolf said of the senior reserve. “That’s what you’re looking for.”



DAUGHERTY

Daugherty finished with nine points, seven rebounds and three assists and Tia Simms added a game-high 18 points as Ross improved to 8-6 with its fifth win in the last six contests.

Whitmer, which scored just seven of the game’s last 31 points after getting within 29-27, fell to 2-11.

Ross jumped ahead 17-7 on an Ashley Long layup with 3:42 remaining in the second quarter. The basket, which came off a Daugherty assist, capped a 10-0 burst.

Whitmer chipped away at the lead and got within the aforementioned two-point deficit with 3:27 left in the third quarter on a basket by Michelle Clayton, who finished with a team-high 17 points.

Daugherty tallied the final six points of the third quarter, and Ross took a 35-27 lead into the final frame.

“That definitely got us going,” Wolf said.

Ross then outscored Whitmer 18-7 over the last eight minutes.



News-Messenger/Ken Dummerger

FREMONT ROSS'S Ashley Long fights for a rebound with Napoleon's Kelsey Rolander Friday. The Little Giants lost 48-33.

'Nothing went right' for Little Giants

Continued From B1

"You just can't leave those girls open, and that's what we did," Simms said. "We let those two control the court, the entire game."

Napoleon led by as many as 19 points at 44-25 on a transition layup by Gilgenbach with 3:49 left to play.

From the Ross baseline, Conklin threw an out-of-bounds pass three-quarter court to Gilgenbach, who caught the perfect toss in stride and streaked to the basket.

"I just don't think we played that well," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We didn't do what we wanted to do."

Ross didn't get its first field goal until 6:25 into the game on a short jumper by Dalanea Johnson that made the score 6-4.

Ross tied Napoleon at 8 after the first quarter and led 12-11 with 3:39 left in the first half.

The Little Giants, though, didn't score again before the break.

They turned the ball over on their final six possessions as Napoleon ran off a 10-0 run. Ross had 11 turnovers in the second quarter.

"That's all we did was throw the ball all over," Wolf said.

The Little Giants trailed 21-12 at halftime, but they were calm in the locker room.

After all, they had trailed by 14 points midway through the third quarter before rallying past Napoleon in the first meeting.

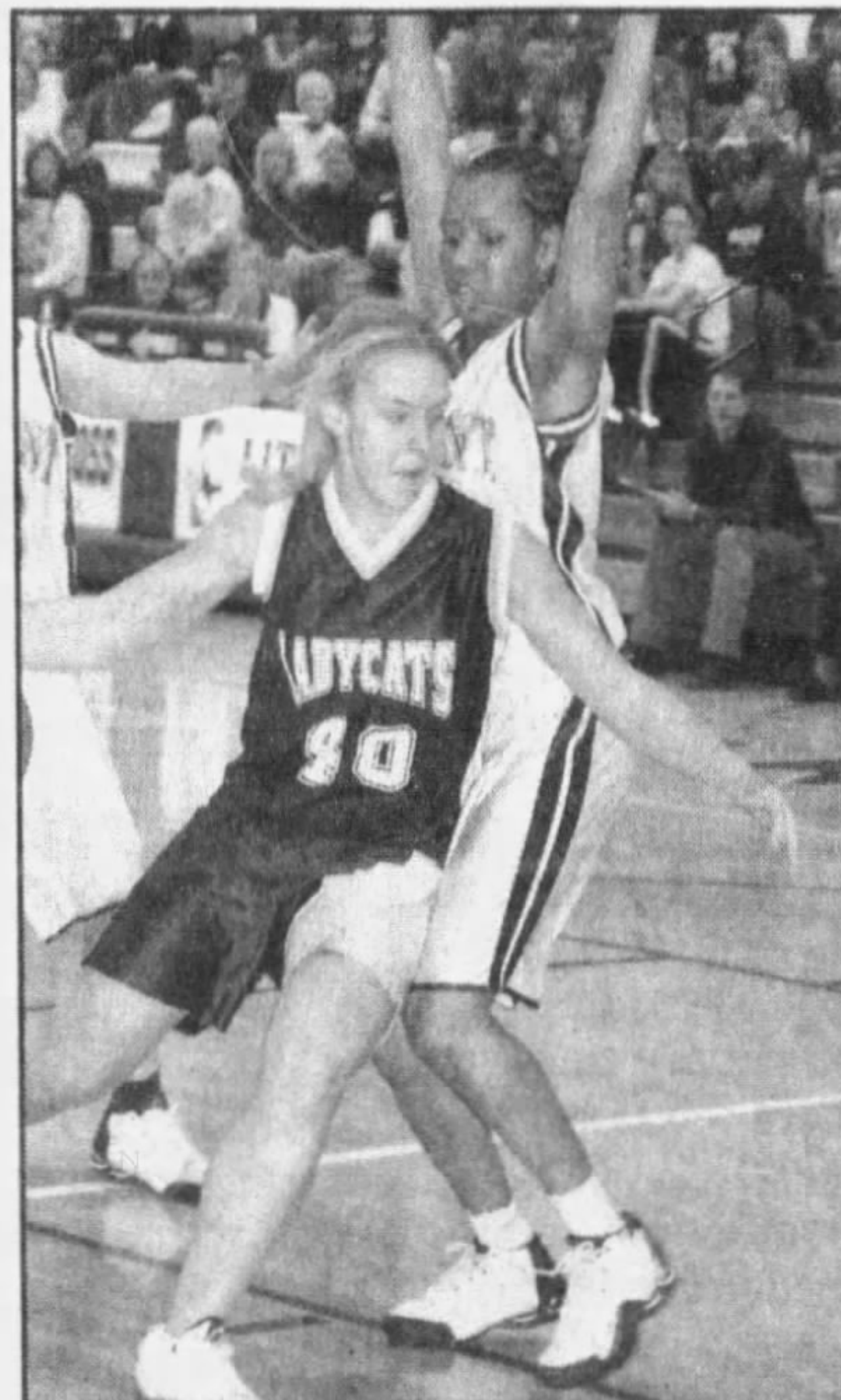
"I told them, 'We can come back,' " Wolf said. "We just didn't get it done."

Ross got within 21-16 on a Melinda Meggitt jumper with 6:45 left in the third quarter, but Napoleon ran off nine straight points to finish its 19-4 run and take control.

Ross trailed 32-20 after three quarters and had 22 turnovers at that point.

Ross finished with 26 miscues and shot just 12-of-35 (34 percent) from the field for the game.

"We just didn't do a whole lot right," Wolf said.



News-Messenger/Ken Dummerger

FREMONT ROSS'S Tia Simms guards Napoleon's Kristen Gilgenbach Friday. Simms scored 17 points, and Gilgenbach finished with 18.

'It was ugly'

Little Giants silenced by the Wildcats

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

Tia Simms was upset.

"I can't be any madder," the Fremont Ross senior said.

She was stunned.

"It absolutely shocks me that we can play like this," Simms said.

And she was confused.

"How many did we lose by?" she asked. "20? 15? 90?"

Well, it wasn't *that* bad.

But it was bad.

The Little Giants scored just four second-quarter points, allowed a 19-4 run and had more turnovers than points entering the final frame in a 48-33 setback to Napoleon Friday.

**More preps
Roundup Page
B4** | Perkins,
Rosenberger
each score 18
points as
Woodmore
notches its
11th straight
victory

"Everything went wrong," said Simms, who scored a team-high 17 points. "Nothing went right for us, not from the beginning to the end. Nothing."

The nightmare was a stark contrast from the Little Giants' dream-like play recently. They had won five of the last six games with an average margin of victory of 23.8 points.

On Friday, though, the Little Giants went 0-for-4 with six turnovers before making their first field goal and never heated up as they fell to 8-7 overall and 4-4 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

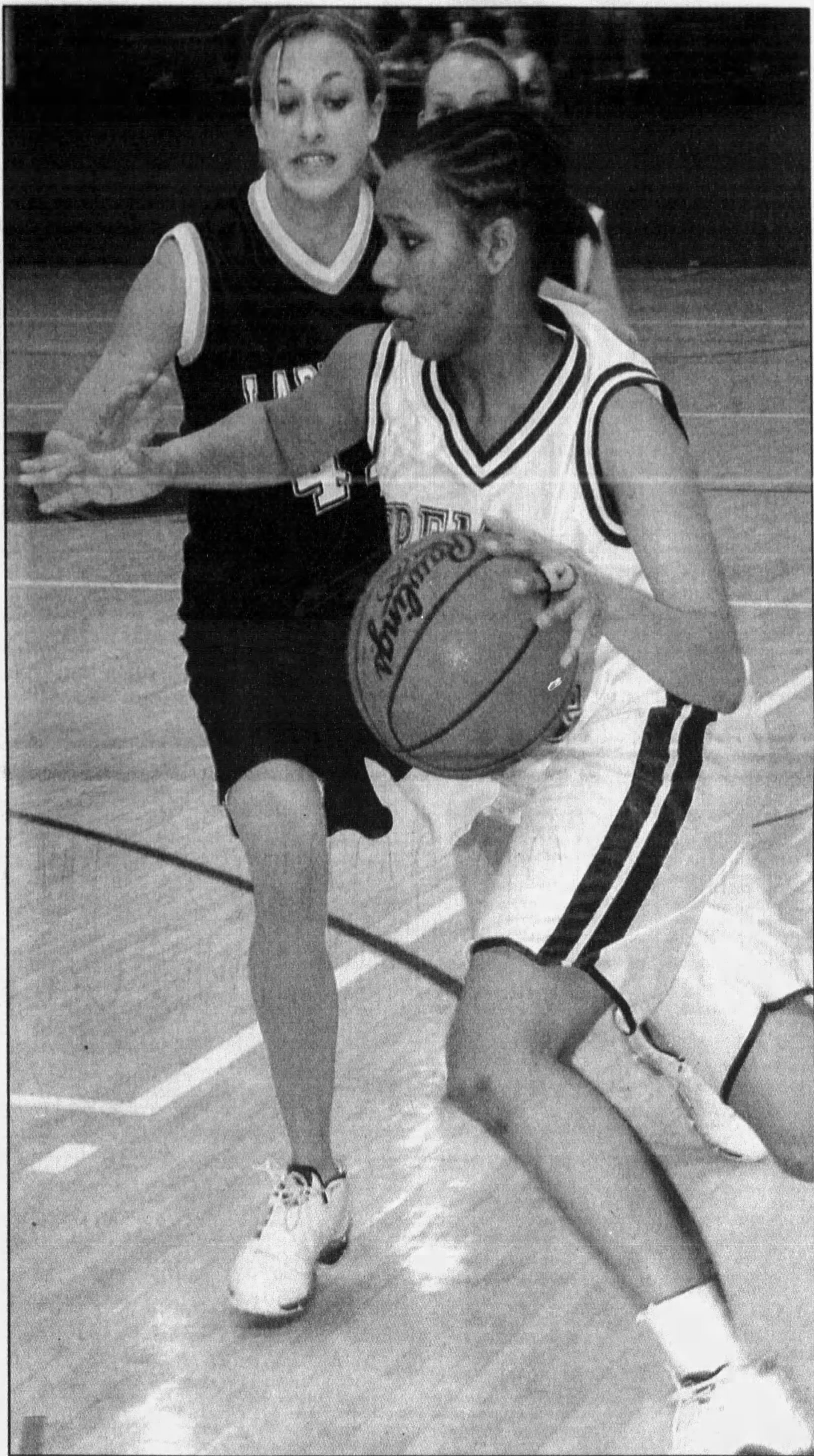
"It was ugly," Simms said.

Kristen Gilgenbach scored a game-high 18 points as Napoleon (9-4, 4-1) avenged a 35-32 loss to Ross on Dec. 10.

Gilgenbach made an inside basket to cap the aforementioned run and give the Wildcats a 30-16 lead with 2 minutes, 34 seconds remaining in the first half.

At that point, Gilgenbach was tied with Ross on the scoreboard.

Amberly Conklin had five of her 14 points in the Wildcats' game-turning run.



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

FREMONT ROSS'S Tia Simms drives to the basket during the Little Giants' 48-33 loss to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Napoleon Friday. Simms scored a team-high 17 points, but the Little Giants fell to 8-7 on the year.

Simms scores 20 points as Ross romps over host Huron

Continued From B1

"She did a really nice job taking it to the basket," Wolf said. "She put them on their heels a few times. Her quickness is God-given, and she uses it well. Her first step — and I've been doing this 33 years — is as quick as any I've seen. I think she'll keep getting better, and I hope she has the opportunity to play Division I at the next lev-

el. If you put her out there with a bunch of great athletes, I'd like to see what she does."

Johnson certainly gives Wolf another standout athlete at her disposal.

"I wish we could get her to look to score more, but her defense is awesome," Wolf said. "I forget to take her off the floor because she's always doing the right thing. She's usually where she needs to be and her jumping ability is phenomenal."

One could certainly find it reasonable if Werling occasionally took a step back — such as when Ross entered the fourth quarter with a 19-point lead — and reflected on how fortunate she is to simply be on the court a year later.

But wasting time in such a fashion would be out of character. She doesn't feel lucky because she never allowed herself to entertain doubts as to whether her athletic career would endure.

"The injury doesn't stop me,"

she said. "If I see a loose ball, I'll go to the ground for it. What are the chances of something like that happening again?"

"I don't think about it — even when I'm playing," she continued. "I'm one of those girls that unless it's a serious injury, I usually think they're faking it. I don't think about (the injury) much. Once the brace came off I never thought about it."

And the brace — and the gloves — have remained off all year.

Werling tough on foes

Gritty senior helps lift Ross to victory

By **MATTHEW HORN**

Sports Writer

HURON — With Mansfield Senior on the horizon Saturday, many recent conversations initiated with Abby Werling have harkened back to last season.

But the Fremont Ross senior has little or nothing to say on the subject.

Werling, a gritty and tough competitor, incurred a gruesome compound fracture of her left arm that may never fully heal as the Little Giants were eliminated from last year's postseason by Mansfield.

And, as has been the case all season, Werling demonstrated no hesitation, reservation or reluctance on the court as she scored six points to help Ross rebound from a recent ugly loss and beat Huron 56-45 out of conference Thursday.

"She's adjusted really nicely," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "She was intimidated a few times during the summer when she took a fall, but if you didn't know she'd been injured you wouldn't know it by the way she plays."

Tia Simms tallied 20 points and Dalanea Johnson added 13 as Ross improved to 9-7 overall with its fourth win in five games.

Julia Butler scored 20 points to lead Huron (3-13), which trailed 17-7 after the first quarter and never seriously threatened.

Werling — who scored to match Ross's largest lead at 42-20 midway through the third quarter — played the entire soccer season with a gaudy brace but was allowed to discontinue doing so for basketball and has therefore been able to conduct unimpeded.

"She runs the show out there a lot. Lately, we've been looking for her to score at the 2-guard," Wolf said. "She's been in the program, and she's kind of a director out there."

Simms kick-started the Little Giants' dominant performance, scoring eight first-quarter points.

The absurdly athletic senior rivals virtually any girl in the area in terms of her first step and active hands.

**More preps
Roundup Page
B3** | Jenny
Miller scores
team-high 15
points in
Clyde's rout of
SMCC

Ross gets revenge in victory

Tia Simms scored a game-high 13 points as Fremont Ross defeated Mansfield Senior 42-30 out of conference for its fifth win in six games.

Mansfield eliminated Ross from the postseason last year.

The Little Giants (10-7) allowed no individual to score more than Doretha Chatman's seven Saturday.

Dalanea Johnson added 10 points and she and Simms combined for eight of Ross's 14 made field goals.

Mansfield was held scoreless in the first quarter and to single digits in the second and third. Ross scored 30 points before halftime.

Findlay remains perfect in GBC

Continued From B1

But Findlay coach Connie Lyon said Carlee needs no assistance in terms of challenging herself athletically and has picked up her play in the second half of the campaign.

"She's really turned her game on," Lyon said. "We're balanced, but she creates opportunities through her athleticism and quickness. Carlee in her own right is a competitor. Her passion is displayed on the court through her offense and dedication to improve her defensive play."

"She comes from a great family," Lyon continued. "She's very grounded and due to her positive attitude she can handle the things around her."

Johnson scored seven consecutive Ross points to keep the Little Giants in the game in the first half.

Johnson said her offensive game has improved in "every aspect."

"Last year, I was more passive and didn't look to shoot," she said. "This year, I am looking to drive and shoot more."

Ross trailed Findlay (17-1, 9-0), which was tied for 12th in this week's Associ-

"She comes from a great family. She's very grounded and due to her positive attitude she can handle the things around her."

— Findlay coach Connie Lyon
on Carlee Roethlisberger

ated Press Division I poll, 15-11 at half-time.

The two teams combined for 15 first-quarter turnovers (eight for Ross), nine shot attempts (four by Ross) and eight points (two for Ross).

"We had too many turnovers," Wolf said. "We couldn't catch the ball. Everybody seemed tight. We didn't know what offense we were running part of the time, but it wasn't the one we worked on."

Findlay won the first meeting between the teams this year 64-43. Findlay averages 66.6 points per game.

"Defense is not normally our problem," Wolf said. "It's offense. We need to put the ball in the basket."

Roethlisberger, Findlay top Ross

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

Apparently nobody in the Roethlisberger clan wastes any time.

Ben Roethlisberger recently became the first NFL quarterback to win the award for top offensive rookie and led the Pittsburgh Steelers into the AFC Championship Game.^N

And sister Carlee, a sophomore at Findlay, is a top candidate for this season's Greater Buckeye Conference player of the year.

The 5-foot-4 Dalanea Johnson did a wonderful job on the 6-0 Roethlisberger defensively, holding the

More preps

Page B3 | Joe Nowak's 25 points lift Woodmore over Genoa^N
Roundup, Page B3 | Nick Tea scores 18 points in Clyde victory

extremely versatile star eight points under her scoring average, but Findlay topped Fremont Ross 43-28 Friday.

"I don't think she was a tough matchup," Johnson said. "The only disadvantage was her height. She can take it to the hole, but it wasn't that tough a matchup."

Roethlisberger tallied 10 points — including six straight to bridge the first and second quarters and four consecutive points in

the fourth on an assortment of dribble drives, offensive rebounds and jumpers.

Roethlisberger, who averages 18 points per contest, missed the majority of the third in foul trouble.

Roethlisberger and Tia Simms, who scored 10 points and added five steals for the Little Giants (10-8, 4-5), are likely to vie for conference player of the year honors.

Roethlisberger did a solid job defending Simms in

the first half and blocked four shots in the game.

"I think Carlee could be a top candidate," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "She's surrounded by a little more talent — they've got more of an inside/outside game — and that makes a difference. We're not very balanced, and they have two averaging double figures around her. That takes the pressure off."

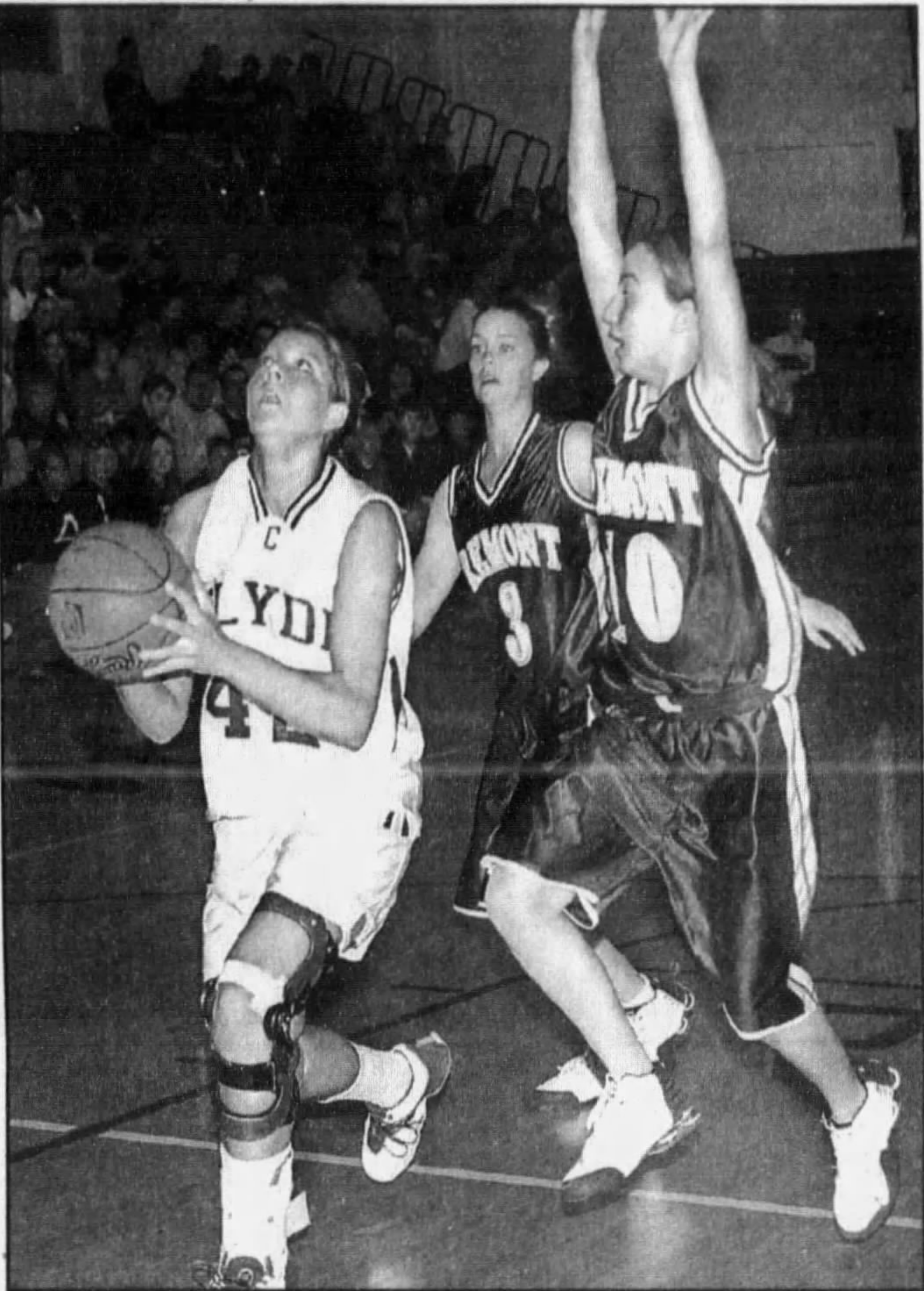
It would seem reasonable to assume that a great deal of Carlee's competitive spirit stems from being part of an inordinately athletic household.

See FINDLAY, B2

Fremont Ross's Tia Simms (D-I), Clyde's Stephanie Meyer (D-II) and Bellevue's Alexa Nasonti (D-II) were also first-team selections.

Simms averages 16.6 points for Ross (10-8), and Meyer averages 15.7 points for the Fliers (13-5). Nasonti averages 14.6 points for Bellevue (7-10).

Ross's Ashley Long and Delanea Johnson, Clyde's Katie Stein, Margareta's Cayla Keegan, Old Fort's Faith Winkle and SJCC's Katy Hasselbach were second-team picks. Ross's Abby Werling, Bellevue's Kasey Lepley, Margareta's Jordie Myers and SJCC's Brittney Luc were honorable-mention selections.



News-Messenger/Diane Cebula

FREMONT ROSS'S Abby Werling, left, and Karie Marroquin try to catch up with a driving Katie Stein in Clyde's 50-49 victory Tuesday.

Clyde rallies past Ross late

Continued From B1

"I don't think we played incredibly well, but we found a way to win," he continued. "I don't think we do that at the beginning of the year. I was pleased with that."

Salinas played a major role in the emotional night.

She opened the game with a 3-pointer and had a nice two-possession span to give Clyde a 19-12 lead — its biggest advantage of the game with 1:27 left in the first quarter.

She hit a 3-pointer and on the next trip down the floor had a beautiful touch pass to Megan Ludrowsky for an easy inside bucket.

Clyde then didn't trail by more than two points until an 8-0 run gave Ross a 45-39 lead early in the fourth quarter and set up the final exciting minutes.

"This was a great win for us," said Salinas, who finished with eight points and five assists. "It was an amazing rush. It was like all my four years just flashed by. It was awesome."

Perfect present

Stohl's heroics give seniors win in home finale

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

CLYDE — Chrissy Stohl had never been in such a pressure-packed situation.

At the free-throw line with 6.6 seconds left Tuesday, Stohl was in charge of creating one last wonderful memory of Nancy E. Hanger Gymnasium for Clyde senior teammates Amanda Salinas and Jenna Branski.

"When I was at the line, I was thinking, 'I can't miss it,'" Stohl said. "I had to make it for them. They deserve it."

Stohl made the two free throws for her only points of the game and gave her friends a perfect Senior Night gift — a memorable 50-49 victory over neighboring rival Fremont Ross.



STOHL

"It's such a great going-away present," Salinas said. "It's great to get a win here — especially with one of your teammates giving you a win in the last seconds. It's exciting."

Stephanie Meyer scored a game-high 12 points — including a difficult runner that began Clyde's late comeback — as the Fliers improved to 14-5 with their 10th win in the last 11 games.

Tia Simms scored a team-high 11 points for Ross (10-9), which led 46-41 with 3:28 remaining.

Meyer's tough 10-footer pulled the Fliers within 46-43 with 2:17 left, and they eventually tied it at 48 on a clutch Ashley Kern 3-pointer with 19 seconds left.

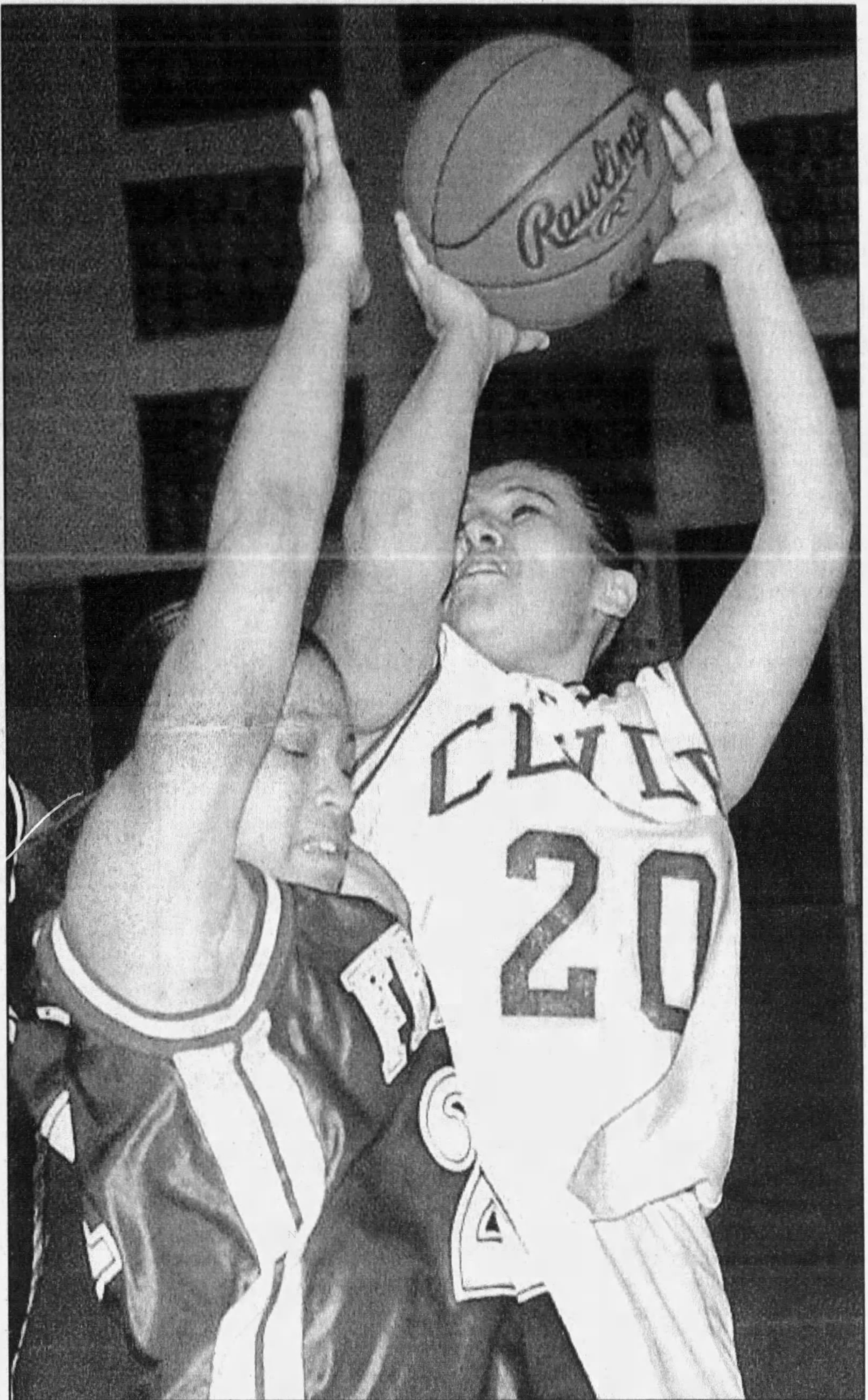
Ross senior Abby Werling was fouled with 16.6 seconds remaining, but she made just one of two shots to allow Stohl's game-winning heroics.

Ross finished 6-of-13 from the line in the fourth quarter and 10-of-26 for the game.

The Little Giants also finished 0-of-9 from the field in the fourth quarter.

That included a missed 17-footer by Brittney Miller and the ensuing missed putback by Werling at the buzzer.

"I told Brittney and Abby that it wasn't the last shots of the game that beat us," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It was the foul



CLYDE SENIOR AMANDA SALINAS, right, takes a shot over Fremont Ross senior Dalanea Johnson Tuesday. Salinas had eight points and five assists as the Fliers beat their neighboring rivals 50-49.

News-Messenger/Diane Cebula

line. When you get to the foul line, you have to capitalize.

"We should have won the game," she continued. "We did everything else right."

The Little Giants played solid defensively, holding the high-scoring Fliers to their third-lowest output of the season.

"Defensively, they were very good and they took us out of a lot of stuff we wanted to do," said Clyde coach John Cahill, a member of the Fremont Ross Athletic Hall of Fame. "They have a nice team. I wouldn't want to play them again, I know that."

Cahill said his Fliers weren't at their best because they tried too hard for their senior teammates.

"Those two kids are so well-liked that I think everybody played a little tight," he said.

A Giant thank-you

Long helps seniors win in home finale

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

Ashley Long gave her four Fremont Ross senior teammates gifts Friday.

Before and during the Little Giants' game with archrival Sandusky.

Long — and fellow sophomore Karie Marroquin — gave each senior a teddy bear with a couple of balloons in honor of her last home game.

Then, Long scored four of her 11 points to kick-start a 9-0 third-quarter run and help give them a 41-27 victory.

"That was my motivation tonight — to play well for them," Long said. "It was their last game. I know they wanted to win. We all kind of stepped it up to get a win for them."

Senior Tia Simms added a game-high 16 points as Ross finished the regular season 11-9 overall and 5-5 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

The Little Giants next play Mansfield Senior in the Division I sectional opener Wednesday at Hopewell-Loudon. Ross beat Mansfield 42-30 earlier this season.

Jamie Matthews scored a team-high 10 points for Sandusky (5-14, 2-8), which never led Friday.

The visiting Blue Streaks, though, tied the game at 21 with 4 minutes and 33 seconds left in the third quarter.

Long answered by scoring her four points to start the key run that gave Ross a 30-21 lead entering the final frame. Long made two free throws following an offensive rebound and added an inside bucket to begin the stretch.

"We need sparks like that," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It's nice to have a sophomore doing something like that, taking it on her shoulders and saying, 'Hey, I can help this team.' And she definitely did that."

Simms added a pair of free throws and a layup off a nice steal to push the lead to 29-21, and senior Abby Werling capped the stretch with a free throw.

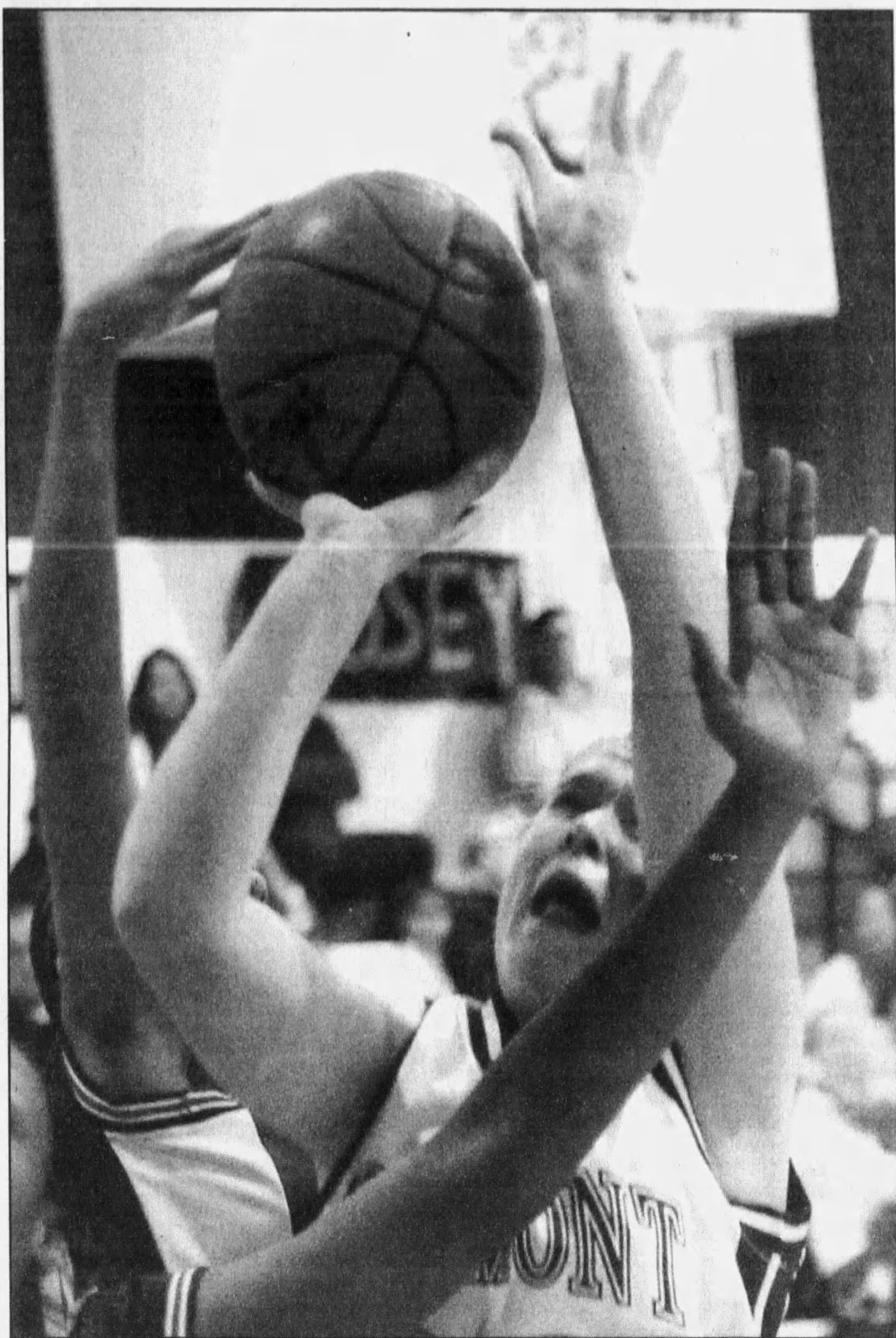
Sandusky never got within seven points after the run.

"It was too close for us," Long said. "We had to do something about that."

Added Wolf: "They worked really well together at that point. That was big."

Ross effectively spread the floor in the final minutes and scored the last seven points of the game to complete the blowout.

"I think a couple of our girls



News-Messenger photos/Diane Cebula

ABOVE, FREMONT ROSS sophomore Ashley Long fights through the Sandusky defense Friday. Long scored 11 points — including four straight to kick-start a key 9-0 third-quarter run — as the Little Giants won 41-27 in the regular-season finale. Below, Ross's Tia Simms drives past Sandusky's Vanessa Randleman. Simms scored 16 points.

mentally took themselves out of the game and showed they didn't care," Sandusky coach Karen Phillips said. "You have to play as a team to win, and they didn't."

"At the end, we just stood there," she continued. "I wish they would have chased them around. It came down to a lack of heart tonight, simply put. Fremont took us out of our game, and we allowed them to do that."

Long tallied the Little Giants' first two baskets of the game as they built a 5-2 lead.

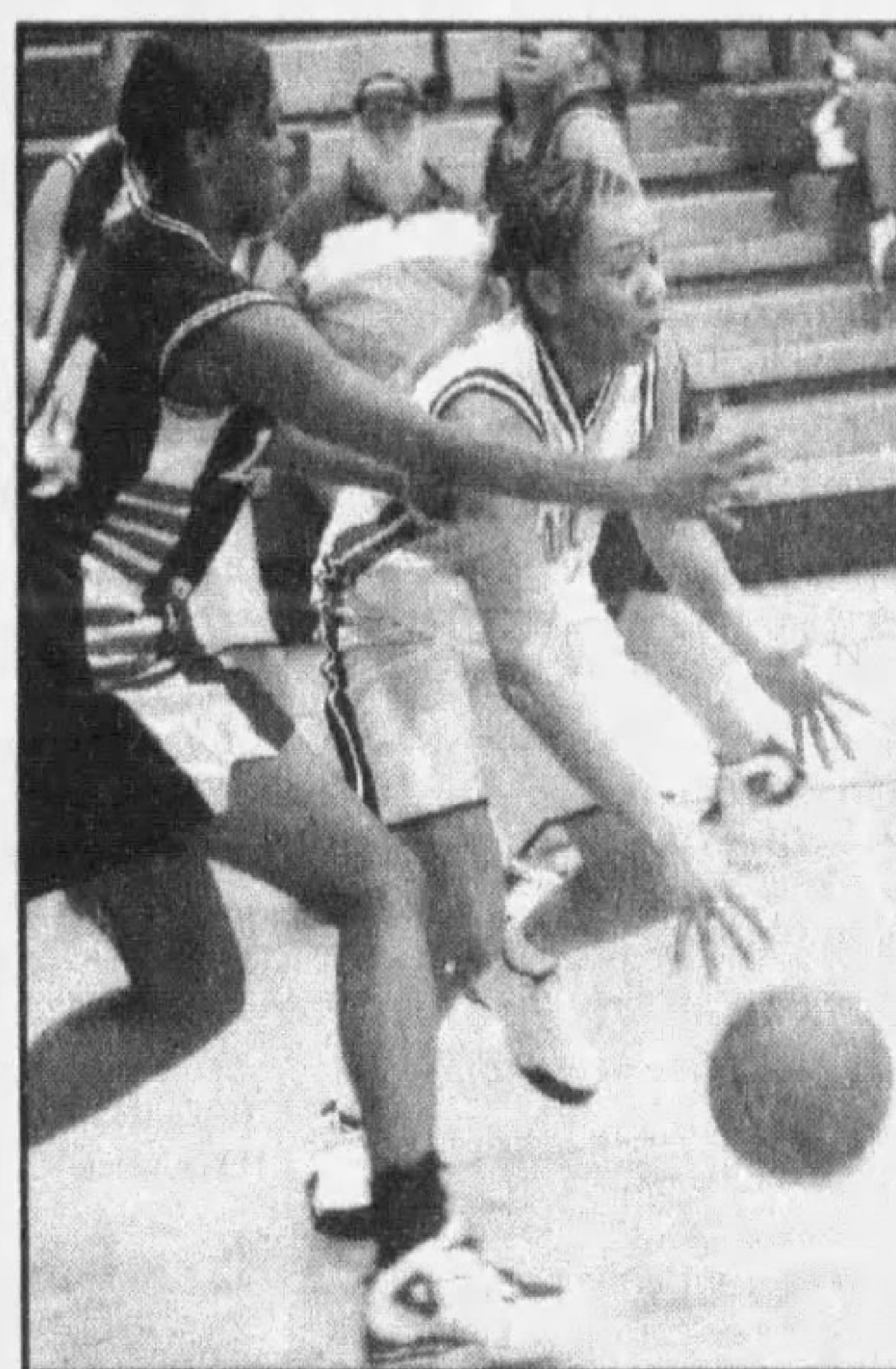
"She did a really good job for us," Simms said. "Whenever we need her, she is always there. I'm really proud of her."

Werling and senior Rachael Daugherty added six and five points, respectively. Classmate Dalanea Johnson played stellar defense on ultra-quick Sandusky point guard Tiffany Reed.

Reed averages seven assists a game but was held to two Friday. She scored six points — all in the second half.

Long said the seniors have had a major influence on her success this season.

"They are always there supporting me," Long said. "On the court and at practice, they tell you how things are supposed to be done. They have helped a ton. They have been great."



POSTSEASON PREVIEW CAPSULES

DIVISION I

Ross (11-9) vs. Mansfield Senior (7-13)

Where: Hopewell-Loudon

When: 6:15 p.m.

Previous result: Ross won 42-30 on the road Jan. 29.

Next: Vs. the winner of today's Ashland-Marion Harding winner at 8 p.m. Saturday at Hopewell-Loudon

Outlook: Ross has one more win than it did at this point last year. Tia Simms continued in the role of primary scorer after stepping in for Paige Kingsborough last season. The senior averages 15.9 points, 7.0 rebounds and 3.9 steals. Simms, who also shoots 50 percent from the field and hands out almost two assists, hopes to parlay her remarkable quickness into a Division I opportunity. Dalanea Johnson has increased her scoring this season to 4.8 points per game. She also averages 5.6 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 2.4 assists. Sophomore Ashley Long grabs 5.9 rebounds and shoots 44 percent from the field, and Rachael Daugherty's return to the team has been a major boost. Simms scored 13 points and Johnson added 10 in the win over the Tygers this year. No Mansfield player scored more than seven points, and it was held scoreless in the first quarter and to single digits in the second and third. Ross scored 30 points before halftime.

Simms nets 25 points as Little Giants get revenge

Continued From B1

"Coach said it was up to us if we wanted to win," Simms said. "And I think we all wanted to win. As a team, we won."

Simms scored 25 points — capped by the pressure-packed free throws — and had 11 rebounds as the Little Giants (12-9) got revenge against Mansfield (7-14).

The Tygers eliminated the Little Giants each of the last two seasons.

"It was very nice to beat them," Simms said.

The breakthrough victory gave Ross an opportunity to avenge two regular-season losses to Marion Harding.

The Little Giants meet the Presidents Saturday in the sectional championship game.

"We would like another shot at them," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The Little Giants get that opportunity because of their clutch play down the stretch Wednesday.

After blowing a seven-point third-quarter lead and falling behind 38-35 with 2:01 left, Ross took control.

Dalanea Johnson's driving layup pulled the Little Giants within one point with 1:45 remaining.

Ross then forced the first of three Mansfield turnovers in its last four possessions.

Simms' free throws followed an offensive rebound and put Ross ahead 39-38.

Mansfield turned the ball over on its next two possessions, and Ashley Long made the first of two free throws to give the Little Giants a 40-38 lead with 21.7 seconds left.

Brittney Miller got an offensive rebound after Long missed the second foul shot. Miller was immediately fouled and drained a free throw to cap the game's scoring with 20.4 seconds remaining.

Ross did not allow a 3-point attempt in the closing seconds.

The Little Giants finished just 12-of-27 from the free-throw line for the game, but they went 4-of-6 in the final 37.9 seconds.

"We made them when we had to," Wolf said. "It's survive and advance (in the tournament),



News-Messenger/Diane Cebula

FREMONT ROSS'S Tia Simms takes a shot during the Little Giants' 41-38 victory over Mansfield Senior in a Division I sectional opener Wednesday at Hopewell-Loudon. Simms scored a game-high 25 points as Ross advanced to Saturday's sectional title game with Marion Harding.

and that's what we did."

The Little Giants led 29-22 after a Simms putback with 3:25 left in the third quarter.

Ross, however, allowed a 16-6 Mansfield run and fell behind by three points with two minutes left in the game.

The Little Giants finished 14-of-37 (38 percent) from the floor.

"I told the girls in the locker room, 'We actually played that badly and won,' " Wolf said. " 'That should show you that we have gotten better. Usually, we would lose those games.' "

Simms didn't let the Little Giants lose.

She finished 8-of-17 from the floor and 9-of-13 from the free-throw line.

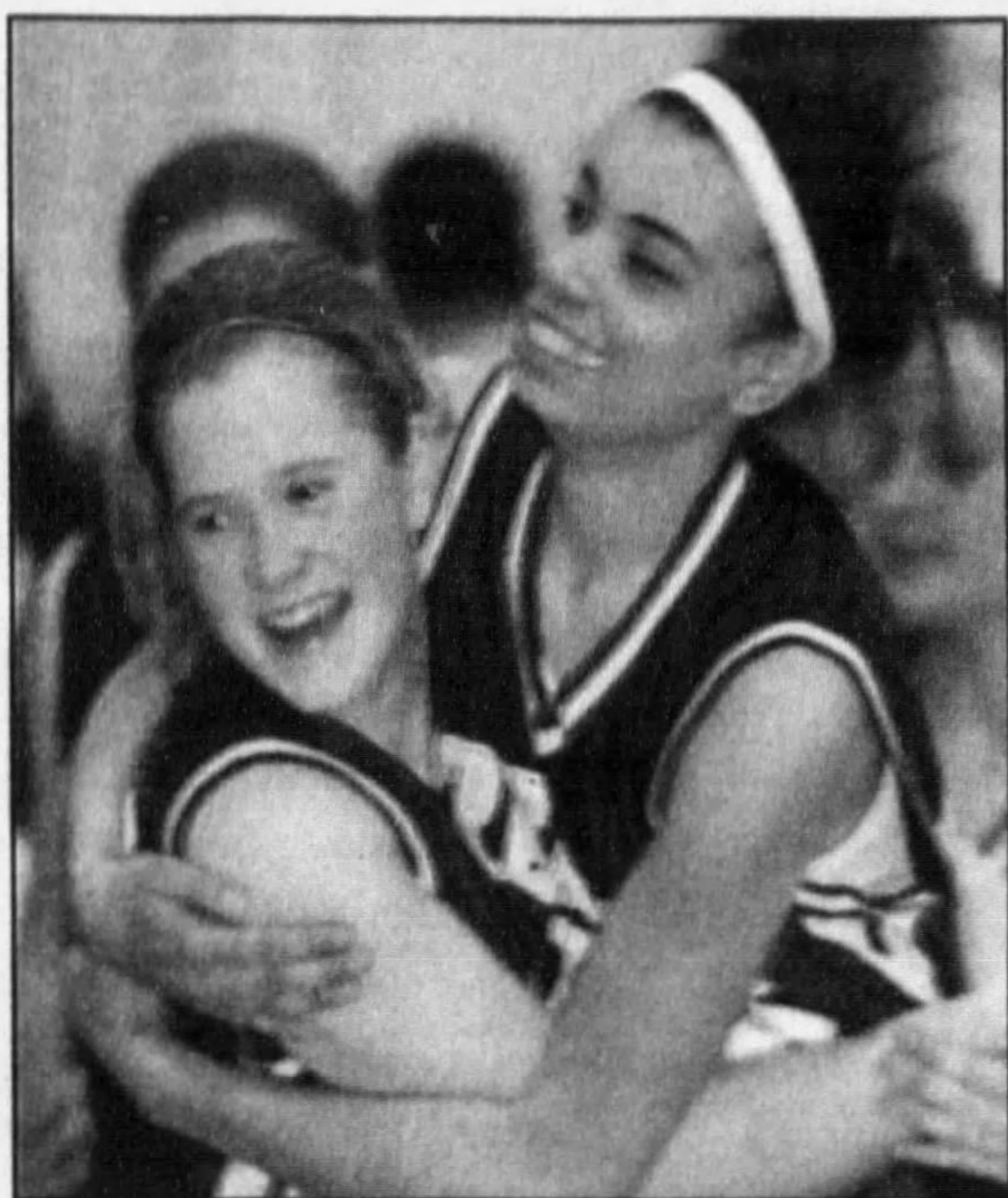
Simms scored all of the Little Giants' points in a 9-4 run that gave them a 19-13 lead with 3:56 left in the second quarter.

At that point, Simms matched Mansfield in scoring.

She also tallied six of the Little Giants' 12 fourth-quarter points.

"She is a person that you can count on," Wolf said. "She is never going to stop taking it to the basket. She is somebody that is going to lead the team, no matter what.

"That's the sign of somebody who is a good player," Wolf continued.



News-Messenger/Diane Cebula

FREMONT ROSS'S Alexis Johnson, right, hugs Ashley Long after the Little Giants' 41-38 victory over Mansfield Senior in a Division I sectional opener Wednesday at Hopewell-Loudon.

Giants clutch down stretch

Ross scores final six points in sectional win

By **NICK MATHEWS**
Sports Editor

BASCOM — When Tia Simms was fouled, she certainly wasn't in a foul mood.

The Fremont Ross senior happily went to the free-throw line with 37.9 seconds left in Wednesday's Division I sectional opener with postseason nemesis Mansfield Senior at Hopewell-Loudon.

"When I got fouled, I was like, 'Yes,'" Simms said. "I knew I was going to make those free throws. I love the pressure."

Simms drained both attempts to put Ross ahead for good, and the Little Giants scored the game's final six points in a 41-38 victory.

More preps

Page B3 |

Poor shooting dooms Bellevue in setback

Page B3 |

Gibsonburg dominates MVCD to advance

Hoops du jour

6

Consecutive points scored by Fremont Ross to end its victory over Mansfield Senior

15

Consecutive points allowed by Bellevue in the second half of a loss to Port Clinton

PRIMETIME SCORERS

Girls

Tia Simms	25
Megan Abbey	20
Casza Rhodes	17
Alexa Nasonti	12
Lindsay Hill	11
Brittany Perkins	11
Ann Clark	10
Julie Beaschler	10
Danielle Lowry	10

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

Girls sectionals

Division I

Ross 41, Mansfield Sr. 38

Division II

P.C. 47, Bellevue 31

Division III

Woodmore 64, Genoa 59

Division IV

Gibsonburg 54, MVCD 25

See **SIMMS**, B3

Little Giants end year with loss to Presidents

Continued From B1

White Cyncere then grabbed a rebound after Jessica Jenkins missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity. Misty Eggleton was fouled and converted both free throws for a 23-20 lead with 1:30 remaining.

Tia Simms, who tied for a game-high with 10 points, scored and was fouled with 1:11 left but missed the free throw.

Clark, who also scored 10 points, finished the game making 2 of 4 attempts from the line.

Werling found Simms for an assist before scoring the next five points to cap the aforementioned first-quarter run. Werling also hit a 3-pointer to open the second half and reestablish a little momentum.

"The only person that came to play was Abby Werling," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "Eight points from Abby is a lot for her to score. We got nothing out of anybody else.

"It's called not doing the things you are asked to do," she continued. "I feel they

"It's called not doing the things you are asked to do. I feel they choked."

— Ross coach Sue Wolf

choked."

Ross lost in the sectional opener at Hopewell last year as Werling suffered a compound fracture in her arm.

"I don't think about it," she said. "It didn't cross my mind once tonight. My defensive responsibility was my only concern."

Ross lost despite not allowing double digit points in any quarter.

"We could have played better defense," Wolf said. "You still have to do something offensive-

ly. We didn't do anything offensively."

Alexis and Dalanea Johnson each added one field goal to round out the Little Giants' scoring.

President coach Bill Sycks said beating a team three times in one season is a daunting task.

"Every possession counted tonight," he said. "Five points was a major lead in this game. Even though we won all three, they were all close games.

"This game was slowed down to (Wolf's) pace," he continued. "Our offensive production from the first two games was cut in half. I think that was her goal."

Wolf, however, did not sound so certain.

"We wanted to look for shots," Wolf said. "We just didn't do it. We had some timid people tonight."

Green Hills

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North Coast Golf Show

MARION HARDING 25, ROSS 22

Little Giants suffer big letdown

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

BASCOM — Rachael Daugherty stood in front of the bench with her hands behind her head or rubbed her palms together as Fremont Ross nursed a one-point fourth-quarter lead Saturday.

Her mannerisms seemed to foreshadow what was to come for the Little Giants.

Ross used an 11-0 first-quarter spurt to establish a lead it maintained until late in the Division I sectional final at Hopewell-Loudon but ultimately fell 25-22 to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Marion Harding.

The Presidents (13-9) also defeated

More preps

Page B2 | Lincoln Fahrback, Jacque Fate lead eight Ross swimmers to state

Page B3 | Clyde ends three-year sectional-title drought with rout of Fostoria
Basketball, roundup Page B3 | Julie Beaschler scores 25 in Gibsonburg win

the Little Giants (12-10) by two in Fremont and 10 at home during the regular season.

"We can't put a full game together when we play them," Little Giant Abby Werling said. "We're equal skill-wise but unless the whole team wants it we're not going to win. We started well but, we didn't finish playing the whole game together."

"It's disappointing," she continued. "You never want the season to end with a loss but unless you go to state I guess that's what happens. I came today with the attitude that we were going to win, and I don't think everybody had that attitude."

The Little Giants led 20-19 but seemed content working the ball around the perimeter and were not aggressive creating shot opportunities for more than half of the fourth quarter before Leslie Clark scored to give Marion a 21-20 advantage with three minutes to play.

The Presidents had not led since opening the contest with a basket.

See LITTLE GIANTS, B3

High School Girls

Northwest All-District

DIVISION I FIRST TEAM

Leah Mattayaw, Mansfield Madison, 5-9, sr., 13.8; Carlee Roethlisberger, Findlay, 6-0, so., 18.5; Jessica Minnfield, Tol. Cent. Cath., 5-6, sr., 14.1; Niki McCoy, Sylvania Northview, 5-11, sr., 16.7; Sha-reese Ullis, Tol. Waite, 5-6, so., 11.3.

Players of the Year: Jessica Minnfield, Tol. Cent. Cath.; Niki McCoy, Sylvania Northview.

Coach of the Year: Manny May, Tol. Waite.

SECOND TEAM

Krissy Koester, Wapakoneta, 6-0, sr., 15.3; Stephany Johnson, Tol. Bowsher, 5-9, so., 16.4; Tatyana McNeal, Tol. Waite, 5-11, jr., 13.3; Allison Florian, Tol. St. Ursula, 5-8, jr., 14.9; **Tia Simms, Fremont Ross, 5-7, sr., 16.2.**

THIRD TEAM

Yanette Feagin, Mansfield Senior, 5-9, so., 13.8; Leya Spence, Mansfield Madison, 5-8, sr., 9.0; Kellyn Tisci, Findlay, 5-8, sr., 13.4; Tiffany Reed, Sandusky, 5-7, sr., 8.1; Riana Miller, Sylvania Northview, 6-3, jr., 12.8; Patrice Lalor, Tol. Notre Dame, 5-5, fr., 11.9.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ashley Long, Fremont Ross.

Division I All-Ohio List

COLUMBUS — The 2004-2005 Associated Press Division I girls All-Ohio high school basketball team, based on the recommendations of a state media panel:

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Shana Andrus, Barberton, 5-foot-11, senior, 19.0 points per game; Niki McCoy, Sylvania Northview, 5-11, sr., 16.7; Jessica Minnfield, Tol. Cent. Cath., 5-6, sr., 14.1; Kate Verhoff, Elyria, 5-10, sr., 20.6; Megan Skouby, Mentor, 6-6, sr., 23.1; Maria Getty, Dayton Chaminade-Julienne, 5-9, sr., 14.6; Michelle Jones, Cin. Mt. Notre Dame, 6-2, sr., 16.3; Marshae Dotson, Cols. Mifflin, 6-0, sr., 18.9; Star Allen, Cols. Independence, 5-11, sr., 21.1.

Players of the year: Michelle Jones, Cin. Mt. Notre Dame; Maria Getty, Dayton Chaminade-Julienne; Megan Skouby, Mentor.

Coach of the year: Manny May, Tol. Waite.

SECOND TEAM: Abby Bunstine, Chillicothe, 5-7, sr., 22.8; Jessica Moore, Youngs. Boardman, 6-0, sr., 15.0; Jenna Schone, Pickerington North, 5-7, sr., 12.5; Carlee Roethlisberger, Findlay, 6-0, soph., 18.5; Jacy Schulz, Midpark, 5-8, jr., 20.3; Aisha Jefferson, Dayton Chaminade-Julienne, 6-2, sr., 14.2; Denise Tate, Cleve. Glenville, 6-1, sr., 15.4; Carly Hawkins, Stow, 5-7, sr., 13.5.

THIRD TEAM: Maddie McGarvey, Zanesville, 5-7, jr., 19.9; Shareese Ullis, Tol. Waite, 5-6, soph., 11.3; Special Jennings, Cleve. E. Tech, 5-6, soph., 17.8; Leslee Mason-Cox, Cin. Winton Woods, 5-9, jr., 20.1; Amber Witt, N. Canton Hoover, 5-5, jr., 12.0.

Special Mention

Jennifer Bushby, Gahanna Lincoln; Jodie McClain, Westerville South; Allison Lawyer, Zanesville; Brittany Wells, Miamisburg; Britney Brooks, Harrison; Jessica Harris, Logan; Megan McAuley, Marietta; Leah Mottayaw, Mansfield Madison; Jenny Kohr, Painesville Riverside; Audra Mihalic, Amherst Steele; Kourtney Brown, Solon; Cassie Schrock, Wadsworth; Ta-myra Davis, Akron Firestone.

Honorable Mention

Tammy Anderson, Galloway Westland; Ashleigh Brown, Delaware Hayes; Stephanie Foster, Cols. Brookhaven; Mika Marteina, Cols. East; Cydnei Stoudt, Pickerington North;

Angel Morgan, Springfield North; Rachel Fiely, Greenville; Amber Gray, Lakota West; Kristen Richardson, Oxford Talawanda; Catherine Bove, Cin. Ursuline; Ashlee Bridge, Cin. Princeton;

Krissy Koester, Wapakoneta; Stephany Johnson, Tol. Bowsher; Tatyana McNeal, Tol. Waite; Allison Florian, Tol. St. Ursula;

TIA SIMMS, FREMONT ROSS;

Cassie Barandi, Painesville Riverside; Kierstin Filla, Chardon; Jamie Henry, Garfield Hts.; Jihann Williams, Glenville; Ashley Barnett, Cleve. Lincoln West; Megan Wydra, North Royalton; Ashley Carney, Solon; KeyAuna Jenkins, Cle. John F. Kennedy;

Sahar Nusseibeh, N. Canton Hoover; Brittany Mingo, Barberton; Ashley Veal, Wadsworth; Brittany Orban, N. Canton Hoover; Jen Uhl, Wadsworth; Abby Kacsandi, Wooster; Jasmine Baity, Brunswick; April Melquist, Youngs. Boardman.

PREP CORNER

Simms earns All-Ohio honorable mention spot

Not many would have expected this from Tia Simms.

It should come as a surprise to no one that Simms had an immense impact on both ends of the court for Fremont Ross with her startling athletic ability, anticipation and quickness.

But were it not for an injury to Paige Kingsborough when Simms was a junior, the Little Giants may never have known the extent of what they had.

Simms replaced Kingsborough as Ross's primary scoring option last season and carried that over to the recently completed campaign. Simms averaged 15.9 points, 7 rebounds and 3.9 steals this season and was named Division I honorable-mention All-Ohio Monday by The Associated Press.

Simms scored 25 points, including two clutch free throws in a first-round playoff victory over Mansfield Senior this year. Ross was 12-10 this season.

Now, Simms hopes her incredible first step and defensive abilities allow her a chance to continue to play basketball.

And nobody should be surprised at what she does if afforded the opportunity.

High School Girls

GBC All-Conference

League Champion: Findlay.

Player of the Year: Carlee Roethlisberger (Findlay).

Coach of the Year: Connie Lyon (Findlay).

First Team

Name	School
Tia Simms.....	Ross
Amberly Conklin	Napoleon
Kellyn Tisci	Findlay
Allie Niekamp	Findlay
Leslie Clark	Marion Harding

Second Team

Kristen Gilgenbach	Napoleon
Jessica Jenkins	Marion Harding
Kristine Roberts	Findlay
Ashley Long	Ross
Shannon Williamson	Lima

Honorable Mention

Ross: Dalanea Johnson, Abby Werling.