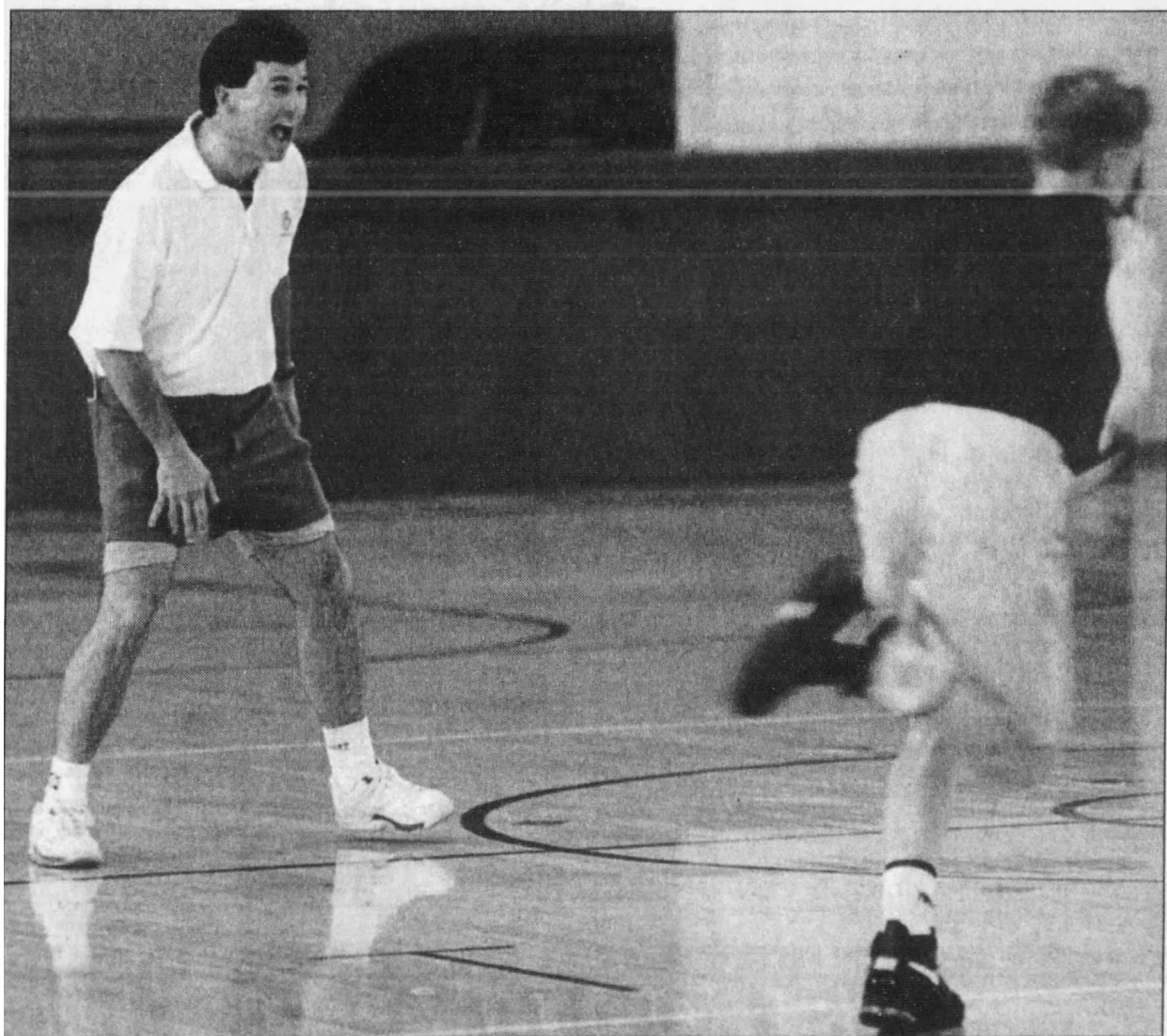


1994-1995 Season Review



Ross basketball school

New Fremont Ross boys basketball coach Bruce Brown encourages one of the players attending his basketball school at the high school gymnasium Wednesday. Brown is tutoring seventh, eighth and ninth grade players this week. Next week, fourth, fifth and sixth grade

players will attend. Sessions are from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day this week and next. Players interested in attending school next week but not yet registered can come to the first session on Monday. The fee is \$40. For information, call the athletic department at 332-6462.

Woodson quits basketball team

News-Messenger reports

Charles Woodson has quit the Fremont Ross boys basketball team, coach Bruce Brown announced Tuesday.

Woodson, a 6-foot-2 senior, led the Little Giants in scoring the last two seasons., averaging nearly 21 points a game.

"I think Charles looked at a lot of options as far as his future is concerned, and what he perceived he had to do," Brown said. "Basketball did not rate high in his priorities. I wish him well because he has a lot of athletic potential."

Woodson, a football standout who was named the Associated Press Division I offensive player of the year Tuesday, is being recruited by several major college programs.

He will visit Michigan, Miami of Florida and Notre Dame this winter. He has the option of two more visits.

BG defeats Little Giants

By BOB MARKER

Sports Editor

It was simple, Mike Vannett said.

"We just became sound," the Bowling Green boys basketball said after BG's 61-44 victory over Fremont Ross.

Once that happened, Fremont Ross wilted in the heat of the Purple Pit and the blistering shooting of BG's Pete Maienknecht.

"I told the guys, 'Hey, if we just get sound — sound offense, sound defense — our ability level will take care of itself,'" Vannett said.

The closest Ross came after the third quarter was 52-38, but a five-point Bobcat spurt put Ross down by 21 with four minutes to play.

"We got tired, first and foremost," Ross coach Bruce Brown said, making his debut with the Little Giants. "People were looking around for someone to pick them up, but everyone was in the same boat."

Ross scored the first eight points and led 10-5 after one quarter, but Maienknecht got as hot as the thermostat in the nearly full Ross gym.

Maienknecht, a 6-foot-6 junior, scored at will. He made 13 of 17 shots, including three from beyond the 3-point arc, for 29 points. His 5-of-5 second-quarter performance — three twos and a pair of threes — propelled the

Bobcats to a 24-23 halftime lead.

"He was stepping inside and outside," Brown said. "They were just taking the ball to the five-foot area and we stressed all week that Bowling Green was a team that ultimately was going to beat you inside."

"They hit some three-pointers but their basketball team will beat you inside."

Ross led only once in the second half, 25-24, on Shaun Root's layup off a pass from Gary Rakes.

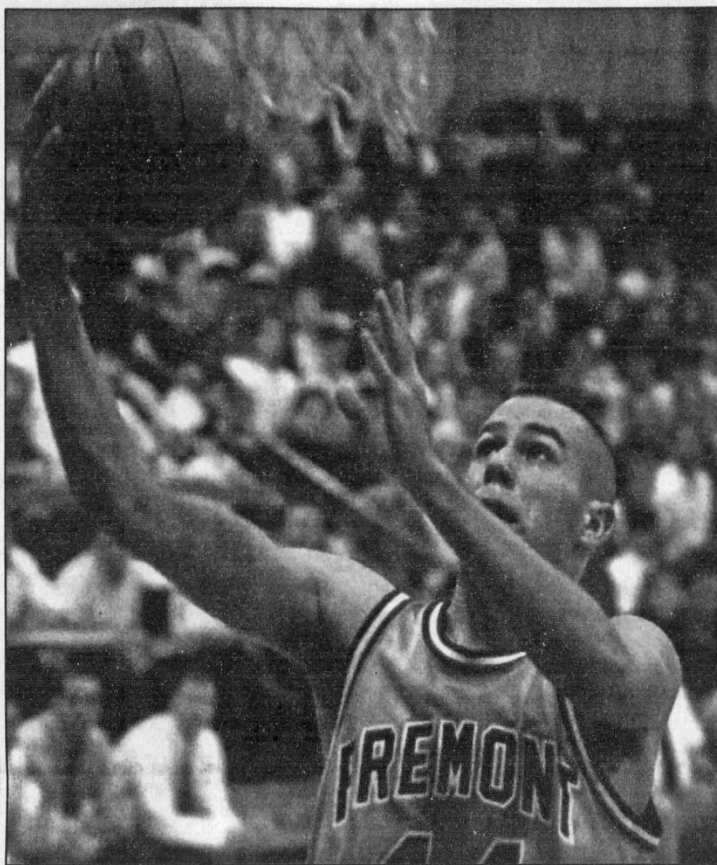
The Bobcats ran off the next 10 points, including six by Maienknecht. Ryan Shively's basket stopped the Bowling Green run, but the Bobcats outscored the Little Giants 26-11 in the period for a 50-34 lead.

"At the beginning of the ballgame," Vannett said, "we came out on offense, made one or two passes and took jump shots from 18 or 20 feet."

In the second quarter, the coach — played by Gene Hackman — from "Hoosiers" would have been proud of the Bobcats. The Indiana high school coach extolled his team to make "four passes before taking a shot."

With Vannett and his assistants shouting "four passes," the Bobcats generally began getting good shots after four passes.

Shaun Root led Ross with 10 points.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

SHAUN ROOT of Ross goes up for two of his 10 points against Bowling Green Friday night at the Purple Pit.

Bowling Green 61, Ross 44

Bowling Green 5 19 26 11 — 61

Ross 10 13 11 10 — 44

BOWLING GREEN—Mike Saneholtz 4-1-9, Marcus Taylor 3-1-7, Pete Maienknecht 13-0-29, Aaron Kale 1-0-2, D.J. Eidson 2-1-5, Marc Campisi 3-1-7, Steve Drake 1-0-2, totals 27-2-61.

ROSS—Chad Root 3-0-6, Shane Moran 1-0-3, Doug Hershey 3-1-7, Shaun Root 5-0-10, Gary Rakes 2-1-5, Ryan Shively 2-0-4, Geoff Berger 1-0-2, Rob Stotz 2-1-5, Chad Hoffman 0-0-0, Jason Harper 1-0-2, totals 19-2-44.

3-point goals: Maienknecht 3, Eidson, Campisi, Moran, Stotz.

Records: B. Green 1-0, Ross 0-1.

Ross JV 57, B.Green 44

Bowling Green 6 9 15 14 — 44

Ross 12 15 15 15 — 57

BOWLING GREEN—Tony Szymczak 2-1-5, Chris Campisi 2-0-4, Doug Whitmire 2-0-4, Matt Saneholtz 5-0-12, Keith Schick 1-0-2, Ben Huffman 1-0-2, Matt Frakes 6-0-13, Jesse Reza 1-0-2, totals 20-1-144.

ROSS—Sam Root 4-0-9, Thach Dinh 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 1-2-04, Aaron Waggoner 3-0-6, Harry Liggins 3-2-8, John Overberg 2-0-4, Kevin Mosser 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 5-3-13, totals 24-7-57.

3-point goals: Saneholtz 2, Frakes, Root, Snyder.

Records: Ross 1-0, B. Green 0-1.

Little Giants fall short at Waite

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross carries 11 players on its boys basketball roster. However, only eight were able to play in a 66-64 loss to Toledo Waite Tuesday night.

"We're not going to use that for a reason for the loss tonight," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "Defensively, we just have a lot to learn. We need to learn to develop some savvy."

"We must become more passionate in our playing."

Waite's Jeff Rains sank two free throws with two seconds remaining as the Indians evened their record at 1-1 and the Little Giants fell to 0-2.

Ross played without Jon Minich (ankle

injury), Ryan Shively (illness) and Doug Hershey, who turned his left ankle when he stepped on a teammate's foot during warm-ups.

"We didn't have a lot of quickness on defense," Brown said. "But it wasn't because we don't have quick players. We just let them get us back on our heels. We kept telling our players to quit letting them take the game to us."

Waite's 5-foot-9 senior guard Jerome Bush led all scorers with 25 points.

"Jerome did a real good job getting himself into position to get a good look at the basket," Waite coach Kevin Horn said. "He was key for us early in the game as he kept pushing the ball at the defense."

The Little Giants led 11-10 after one

quarter and 29-27 at halftime.

"They were setting some real nice back screens against our man-to-man and our kids were not getting through them," Horn said. "But they also did a nice job against our zone. They did a nice job of moving the ball."

Ross made nine 3-point baskets in the game, but the Little Giants made numerous turnovers after penetrating the Waite defense or had shots blocked by the taller Indians' defense.

"We did get ourselves into good positions to score, but we just didn't cash in," Brown said. "We really didn't get the little things done."

The Little Giants took a 48-46 lead with seven minutes left to play on Shaun Root's

basket off a pass from Geoff Berger. It was their last lead as Waite ran off eight straight points to take a 54-48 lead with three minutes to go.

But Ross didn't quit.

With the Indians up 57-50 with 1:56 to play, a 3-pointer by Rob Stotz and a steal and layup by Gary Rakes made it 57-55.

But Waite made 7 of 8 free throws in the final 18 seconds.

"We have a good plan," Brown said. "Our players are still trying to learn their roles. Our problems right now are not what we're doing, but how we're doing it."

Root led Ross with 16 points, and Stotz made five 3-pointers for 15. Root and Chad Root had eight rebounds apiece, but Waite outrebounded the Little Giants 37-24.

High School Boys

Waite 66, Ross 64

Ross 11 18 15 20 — 64

Waite 10 17 19 20 — 66

ROSS — Chad Root 5-1-12, Shaun Root 7-2-16, Gary Rakes 2-0-5, Shane Moran 1-0-3, Jason Harper 1-0-2, Geoff Berger 2-0-5, Rob Stotz 5-0-15, Chad Hoffman 1-4-6, totals 24-7-64.

WAITE — Corey Aurman 3-0-6, Orlando Williams 4-0-9, Jeff Rains 2-4-9, Jerome Bush 10-2-25, Jeremy Petroff 1-1-3, James Walker 1-3-6, Scott Swan 3-2-8, totals 24-12-66.

3-point goals: C. Root, Rakes, Moran, Berger, Stotz 5, Williams, Rains, Bush 3, Walker.

Records: Ross 0-2, Waite 1-1.

Ross JV 63, Waite 29

Ross 15 11 17 20 — 63

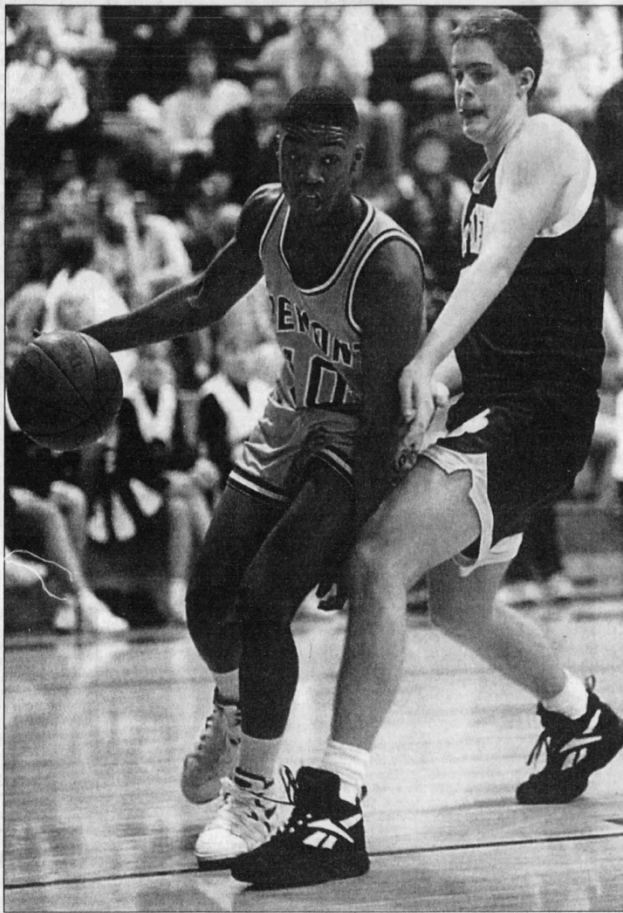
Waite 6 0 13 10 — 29

ROSS — Sam Root 2-0-4, Thach Dinh 1-1-3, Rob Liggins 3-0-6, Ben Lagrou 3-2-9, Kris Myers 0-2-2, Aaron Waggoner 0-2-2, Harry Liggins 1-0-2, John Overberg 4-0-11, Kevin Mosser 2-1-5, Kurt Snyder 0-4-4, Kyle O'Neill 1-1-3, Derrick Hershey 4-4-12, totals 21-17-63.

WAITE — J.R. Carswell 2-0-4, Spencer Yates 2-2-6, Allen Thomas 0-1-1, Reggie Brown 5-2-12, Mike Smith 3-0-6, totals 12-5-29.

3-point goals: Lagrou, Overberg 3.

Records: Ross 2-0



News-Messenger/Eric Branda

JASON HARPER of Fremont Ross drives the baseline past Sylvania Northview's Tim Joyce during the first quarter Friday night at the Ross Purple Pit. The

Wildcats defeated the Little Giants 55-51 in the Great Lakes League game. Ross never overcame a first-quarter deficit and lost its third straight game.

Slow start Little Giants' downfall in GLL loss

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Bruce Brown would have gladly stepped into Al Capp's comic strip if he had his "druthers" Friday night.

The creator of Lil' Abner and his Dogpatch regulars had their "druthers" about certain things. Brown would "druther" have had his Fremont Ross Little Giants not play the first quarter.

But the Little Giants did and it cost them in a 55-51 loss to Sylvania Northview in the Great Lakes League boys basketball opener.

Brown, the first-year Ross coach, is still looking for his first win after three losses. Northview, in past years the doormat of the GLL, is 2-1.

"We wanted to come out hard, play with a little sizzle and pop," Brown said, "and we didn't. The positive side is, the last three quarters we did."

But, oh that first quarter. Eleven turnovers and 1-of-10 shooting put Ross in a 17-2 hole. It deepened to 18-2 before Chad Root hit the first of his 14 points at the 7:35 mark of the second quarter, ending a six-minute

scoring famine for the Little Giants.

"Many of those first-quarter turnovers were unforced," Brown said. "We were not concentrating...we were not getting body on body in there."

After that, the Ross defense tightened up.

"They did a good job of taking our inside game away," Northview coach Dennis Shoemaker said. "We did not put the outside shot down very well tonight."

"We'd take four quarters like that first one."

Ross committed eight turnovers in the second quarter but managed to cut the Wildcats' lead to 23-17 as Chad Root scored eight points and Shane Moran hit the first of his four 3-point shots.

"We just told them to go play," Brown said of the comeback.

Ross continued to surge in the third quarter, getting two more buckets from Chad Root, a 3-pointer from Moran and two baskets from Jason Harper to go along with some key rebounds. Harper's baseline layup with three minutes

remaining in the quarter closed the Ross gap to 32-30 but the Little Giants got no closer.

Northview, behind its twin towers of Josh Penix and John Ellenwood, both 6-foot-6, continued to limit the Little Giants to one shot. Ross had only five offensive rebounds, none in the second and fourth quarters.

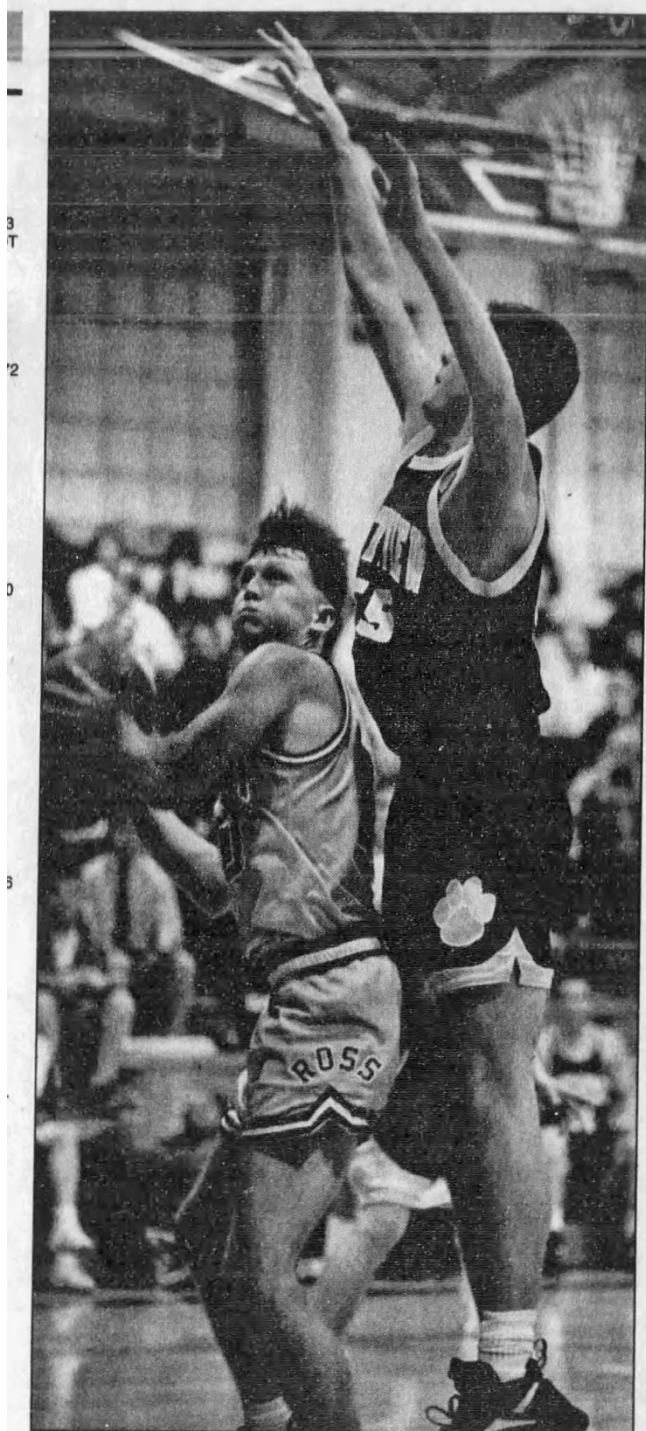
Despite that, the Wildcats could not shake Ross. Up 51-42 with 3:34 to play, Ross ran off six straight points, five by Moran, making it 51-48. But Penix's rebound off a missed free throw by Brian Anderson gave Northview a 53-48 edge.

Moran hit a 3-pointer with 25 seconds to play. On the toss-in, Ross came up with a turnover with 12 seconds remaining but Geoff Berger's driving one-hander was short and Penix was fouled with 6 seconds left.

Penix made both free throws.

Penix scored 20 points and Ellenwood 17, most from inside the paint, while leading the Wildcats to a 43-27 rebounding edge.

Moran had 14 points and Shaun Root 10 for Ross.



News-Messenger/Eric Branda

Looking

Shane Moran, left, of Fremont Ross looks for a shot as Tim Joyce of Bedford towers above him during second quarter action Friday night at Ross High School. Northview defeated the Little Giants 55-51 in the Great Lakes League opener for both teams. Moran scored 14 points, hitting four three-point baskets.

High School Boys

Northview 55, Ross 51

Northview	17	12	8	18	—	55
Ross	2	15	16	18	—	51

NORTHVIEW — Brian Anderson 1-0-2, Josh Penix 7-6-20, John Ellenwood 8-1-17, Brian Ruckman 0-1-1, Jamie Westfall 2-0-4, Ryan Porter 4-0-8, Tim Joyce 1-0-3, totals 23-8-55.

ROSS — Chad Root 5-4-14, Shane Moran 4-2-14, Shaun Root 4-2-10, Gary Rakes 0-1-1, Geoff Berger 1-1-3, Jason Harper 4-0-9, totals 18-10-51.

3-point goals: Joyce, Moran 4, Harper.

Records: Northview 2-1 (1-0), Ross 0-3 (0-1).

Ross JV 59, Northview 37

Northview	7	11	10	9	—	37
Ross	22	7	16	14	—	59

NORTHVIEW — Jim Schueler 3-0-6, Kyle Hillard 2-0-5, Jay Crandell 5-4-14, Andy Tresize 2-0-5, David Greninger 1-0-2, Jeff Hite 0-1-1, Shaun Morris 1-0-2, Craig Koperski 1-0-2, totals 15-5-37.

ROSS — Sam Root 7-2-16, Rob Liggins 3-0-6, Kris Myers 1-0-2, Aaron Waggoner 4-2-11, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, John Overberg 2-1-7, Kevin Mosser 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 3-1-7, totals 25-6-57.

3-point goals: Hillard, Tresize, Waggoner, Overberg 2.

Records: Ross 3-0 (1-0), Northview 2-1 (0-1).

Little Giants fail in fourth quarter

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

BEDFORD, Mich. — Coaches call it crunch time — the critical period at the end of a close game where a team either does what it takes to win or doesn't.

Bedford did it Tuesday night, and Fremont Ross didn't, and the Mules crunched the Little Giants 63-56.

"When it gets down to crunch time, there must be an instinctive ability to get a steal or (denying a player) to make the difference in the game," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "Our players must learn to will themselves to do it, but tonight we didn't when we had to."

"We were very passive in the last two minutes."

The game began as if crunch time wouldn't matter as Bedford, 2-1 and 1-1 in the Great Lakes League, scored the first nine points.

But the Little Giants, 0-4 and 0-2, responded with a seven-point run of their own.

"They did a nice job of catching their breath and coming out of that early fog," Brown said.

The Mules led 20-15 after the first quarter, but the Little Giants outscored Bedford 15-11 in the second quarter and trailed 31-30 at halftime.

"We were having trouble with their post players in the key," Bedford coach Mark German said. "They did a great job in the post offensively. We were having trouble

establishing good position with them inside. We were neither in front or behind, but playing on the side ... which is, I believe, the worst place to be. So we made an adjustment to play behind and it worked out better."

Ross had trouble with Bedford's post play as well.

Christian Schlachter, the Mules' 6-foot-3 center, repeatedly penetrated the key for short jumpers and finished the game with 19 points.

"We knew what kind of ballplayer he was," Brown said. "He knew what to do with the ball when they got it into his hands."

The Little Giants grabbed their first lead in the game with one minute left in

the third quarter on Jason Harper's steal and layup.

Harper had three other steals which led to lay-ups and finished with 11 points.

Ross enjoyed its second and final lead, 50-49 after Shane Moran's 3-point basket with five minutes left in the game.

But the Mules outscored the Little Giants 14-6 down the stretch for the win.

"We needed to have better concentration offensively during that critical situation," Brown said. "Late in the game we were trying to do a number of different things ... we were making changes (offensively) and the players must know what we're supposed to be running."

Ross scored three points in the last 2:30.

High School Boys

Bedford 63, Ross 56

Ross	15	15	13	13	—	56
Bedford	20	11	13	19	—	63

ROSS — Chad Root 2-1-5, Shaun Root 4-1-9, Gary Rakes 2-1-6, Shane Moran 3-1-8, Jason Harper 5-0-11, Geoff Berger 1-0-2, Rob Stotz 2-0-6, Jon Minich 3-3-9, totals 22-7-56.

BEDFORD — Matthew Campbell 3-0-6, Chad Henman 7-7-1-16, Jason Kehoe 2-0-4, Christian Schlachter 8-3-19, Matt Sherman 1-0-2, Dan Williams 5-4-16, totals 26-8-63.

3-point goals: Rakes, Moran, Harper, Stotz 2, Henman, Williams 2.

Records: Ross 0-4 (0-2), Bedford 2-1 (1-1).

Ross JV 53, Bedford 44

Ross	11	16	10	16	—	53
Bedford	2	13	19	10	—	44

ROSS — Sam Root 0-6-6, Derrick Hershey 3-10-16, Harry Liggins 2-1-5, John Overberg 3-4-12, Kevin Mosser 0-3-3, Aaron Waggoner 1-0-2, Kris Myers 0-1-1, Kyle O'Neill 0-1-1, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Rob Liggins 1-0-2, totals 12-26-53.

BEDFORD — Nick Francis 2-0-5, Matt Tippin 2-0-4, Chris Forrey 3-0-9, Bradford Lewis 1-2-4, Tony Konczak 1-0-2, Greg Williams 0-2-2, Scott Dukate 2-0-4, Matt Lawn 6-2-14, totals 17-6-44.

3-point goals: Overberg 2, Snyder, Francis, Forrey 3.

Records: Ross 4-0.

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross dominated the first half but Napoleon bounced back in the second half to defeat the Little Giants 68-55 in a Great Lakes League boys basketball game Friday night.

The Little Giants, 0-5 and winless in three GLL contests, led 17-8 after one quarter and took a 30-23 lead into intermission.

The Wildcats, 3-2 and 2-1, outscored Ross 20-10 in the third quarter and 25-15 in the final period.

Boys Roundup

Chad Root topped eight Little Giants reaching the scoring column with 20 points. Shane Moran was the only other Ross player in double figures with 11.

Joe Good had 18 points and Ryan Hinez 11 for Napoleon.

Napoleon took 29 shots from 3-point range, making nine of them.

Napoleon 68, Ross 55

Ross	17	13	10	15	—	55
Napoleon	8	15	20	25	—	68

ROSS — Chad Root 8-3-20, Shaun Root 3-0-6, Jon Minich 1-0-2, Gary Rakes 3-1-8, Shane Moran 4-0-11, Jason Harper 1-0-2, Ryan Shively 2-0-4, Geoff Berger 1-0-2 totals, 23-4-55.

NAPOLEON — Joe Good 7-0-18, Kris Shepard 3-0-9, Ryan Hinez 2-5-11, Doug Brown 4-1-9, Josh VanAusdile 3-3-9, Louis Green 3-2-8, Jason Gerken 2-0-4, totals, 24-11-68.

3-point goals: Good 4, Moran 3, Shepard 3, Hinez 2, C. Root, Rakes.

Records: Ross 0-5 (0-3), Napoleon 3-2 (2-1).

Ross JV 56, Napoleon 48

ROSS — Kurt Snyder 3-2-10, Sam Root 0-2-2, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, Harry Liggins 3-0-6, Aaron Waggoner 1-0-2, John Overberg 1-0-3, Derrick Hershey 6-8-20, Kevin Mosser 4-1-9 totals, 20-13-56.

NAPOLEON — Byrd 5-2-12, Holmes 2-0-4, Kruse 1-0-2, Limbird 4-2-10, Stevens 2-0-5, Vance 2-0-4, Witte 1-0-2, Rathge 4-1-9 totals, 21-5-48.

3-point goals: Snyder 2, Overberg, Stevens.

Records: Ross 5-0.

Fourth-quarter blues halt Ross again

■ **League loss:** Four of the Little Giants' six losses have come in GLL contests.

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

Near-perfect shooting in the fourth quarter by Oregon Clay helped the Eagles to a 75-66 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross Tuesday night at the Purple Pit.

Clay, 4-0 and 3-0, scored 30 points in the fourth quarter on 8-of-9 shooting along with 13 free throws in 17 attempts.

"Every shot they took in the fourth quarter, they took with authority," Ross coach Bruce Brown said.

The Little Giants, 0-6 and 0-4, weren't as fortunate.

"We missed eight shots inside of 10 feet in the third quarter and they missed only one shot in the fourth quarter," Brown said. "We got the ball where we wanted it consistently and in the first half we were making the plays."

"But in the second half, even though we were still getting the shots we wanted, we weren't finishing them off, and they were."

Until the fourth quarter, the game was close. The lead changed hands seven times in the first quarter and Ross led 18-17 at the end of the period following a driving layup by Jon Minich.

"Jon Minich gave us a heck of an effort on one leg tonight," Brown said.

Minich, still feeling the effects of an early-season ankle injury, finished the game with 13 points.

The Little Giants stretched their lead to 23-19 early in the second quarter on a three-point play by Minich and a putback by

Jason Harper.

But after a Clay timeout, the Eagles tied it on consecutive baskets by 6-foot-6 forward Sean Granger.

Granger finished the game with 22 points and six rebounds.

"He has played really well for us, both inside and outside," Clay coach Joe Guerrero said.

The score was knotted three more times in the second quarter at 25, 27 and 31.

Chad Root, who led Ross with 23 points and six rebounds, gave the Little Giants a 35-31 halftime lead with a reverse lay up and a spinning jumper in the key in the last minute of the half.

It took the Eagles less than a minute to catch the Little Giants in the third quarter on baskets by Mike Pirrwitz and Brian Tobias.

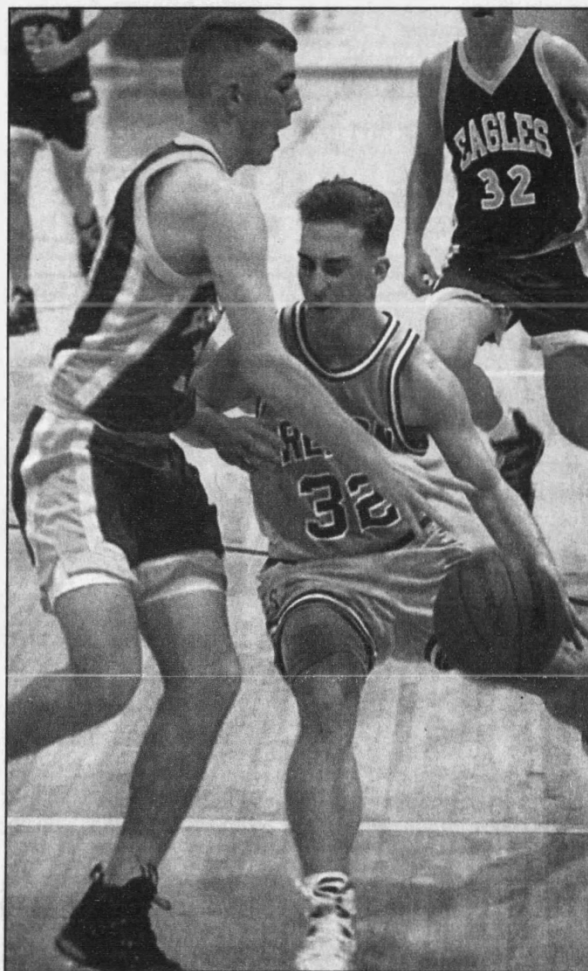
Clay took a three-point lead on Pirrwitz's 3-point basket at the 3:05 mark and stretched its lead to 45-41 at the end of the quarter.

Eight quick points in the first minute of the fourth quarter made it 53-43.

"There was that critical point at the end of the third and the beginning of fourth where they scored 12," Brown said. "They came up with either a basket or they made a play in every critical situation...that's the sign of the good team."

The Little Giants got as close as 69-62 with 1:07 to play on Root's third 3-pointer.

But the Eagles won it at the foul line, making 6 of 8 in the last minute.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

GARY RAKES (32) of Fremont Ross drives to the basket as Brian Tobias of Oregon Clay defends Tuesday night in the Purple Pit.

Clay 75, Ross 66

Oregon Clay	17	14	14	30	—	75
Ross	18	17	6	25	—	66

CLAY — Eric Brinkman 2-2-6, Mike Pirrwitz 5-3-14, Brian Tobias 4-4-13, Marc Berryman 0-2-2, Eric Stager 1-0-2, Eric George 3-2-8, Jim Murray 1-0-2, Neil Punsalan 3-0-6, Sean Granger 8-4-22, totals 27-17-75.

* ROSS — Chad Root 8-4-23, Gary Rakes 1-2-4, Shane Moran 1-0-3, Jon Minich 6-1-13, Geoff Berger 3-2-9, Shawn Root 2-2-6, Jason Harper 1-0-2, Ryan Shively 1-0-2, Chad Hoffman 1-2-4, totals 24-13-66.

3-point goals: Pirrwitz, Tobias, Granger 2, C. Root 3, Moran, Berger.

Records: Clay 4-0 (3-0), Ross 0-6 (0-4)

Ross JV 60, Clay 33

Oregon Clay	6	10	4	13	—	33
Ross	15	12	18	15	—	60

CLAY — Justin Guerrero 1-0-2, Kevin Pfefferle 5-0-11, David Brown 1-0-2, Kris Bell 1-2-4, Steve Habegger 2-0-4, Tim LaPlante 4-2-10, totals 14-4-33.

ROSS — Derrick Hershey 10-3-23, Harry Liggins 6-1-13, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Kyle O'Neil 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 4-1-9, Thach Dinh 2-0-4, Ben Lagrou 1-0-2, Kris Myers 1-0-2, totals 27-5-60.

3-point goals: Pfefferle, Snyder.

Records: Ross 6-0.

Scoreless streak costs Ross

■ Trojans roll:

Findlay wins 59-49 as Little Giants fail to score in final 3:44.

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

Fremont Ross was held scoreless over the final 3:44 of the game and the Little Giants dropped a 59-49 non-league boys basketball game to the Findlay Trojans Tuesday night at the Purple Pit.

"Findlay (2-5) did a great job of executing when it counted," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "We totally lost our focus in running our offense (at the end).

"It wasn't anything they were doing ... we did it to ourselves.

"We get very passive when it came to crunch time, and that's a real disappointment. Some of our kids are not making the effort we need to win the game," Brown said.

Chad Root sank a 3-point basket from the top of the key as time expired in the third quarter, sending the game into the final quarter tied at 44.

Root finished the game with 18 points.

Ross, winless in seven games, took the lead 47-45 at the 4:55 mark on another 3-pointer by Root.

Findlay tied it 15 seconds later on a basket by Todd Guear and the Trojans took the lead on Chett Wohlgamuth's basket.

Ross tied it at 49 on two free throws by Shaun Root.

They were Ross's last points.

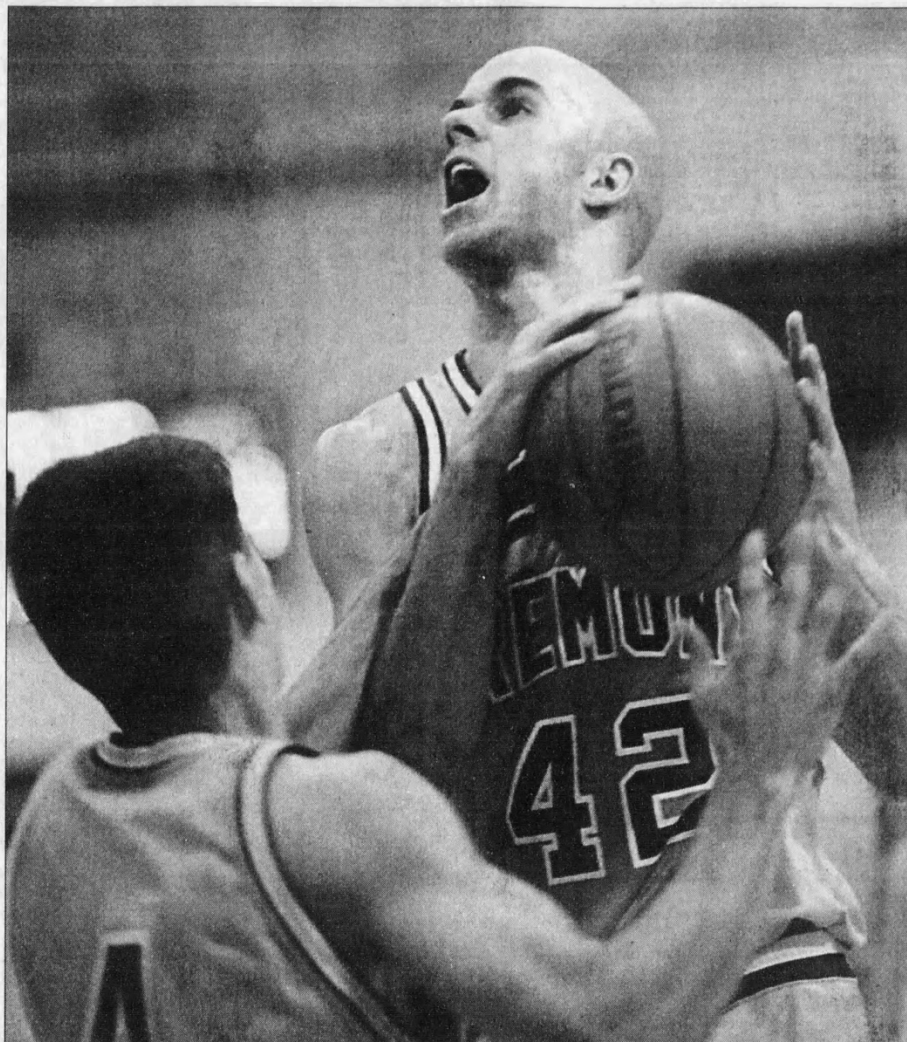
But Ross had opportunities.

With 2:30 left, and Findlay leading 51-49, Shaun Root missed a short jump-hook in the key after a feed by Ryan Shively.

Wohlgamuth countered with a three-point play to make it 54-49 with just under two minutes to play.

Wohlgamuth finished with 19 points, 13 in the second half.

On Ross's next possession, Chad Root failed to connect on a 3-pointer and Findlay's Phil Thomas grabbed the rebound, quickly fed Wohlgamuth for a breakaway layup to give the Trojans a seven-point lead with one



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DOUG HERSHEY (42) of Fremont Ross is fouled by Findlay's Craig Bova of Findlay as he goes up for a fourth-quarter shot Tuesday night in the Purple Pit at Ross High School.

minute left.

"That was the key possession of the game," Findlay coach Jerry Snodgrass said. "We told our kids during that last timeout to expect Root to be taking three's and to look for a long rebound."

The Trojans committed just 10 turnovers for the game and had none in the fourth quarter.

"We talked a lot about poise as

we prepared for this game," Snodgrass said. "We were on the road and playing a very physical team. Last Friday we had 21 unforced turnovers."

Said Brown, "They (Findlay) were real efficient with their offense down the stretch, but we didn't create any defensive pressure to make them turn it over."

"We did not match their con-

centration on offense with any kind of intensity on defense. We kept pleading with our players during the timeouts to step up their pressure, but they chose not to do it.

"Our kids have been telling us that they are ready to take the steps to win. We have to find those players who want to walk the talk."

Findlay 59, Ross 49

Findlay	15	15	14	15	—	59
Fremont	17	7	20	5	—	49

FINDLAY—Jason Lane 0-2-2, Craig Bova 4-3-14,, Phil Thomas 1-0-2, John Disher 1-0-2, Chett Wohlgamuth 8-1-19, Scott Crates 1-0-3, Todd Guear 6-1-12, Seth Conley 1-1-4, totals 22-9-59.

FREMONT—Chad Root 7-1-18, Shane Moran 5-0-12, Geoff Berger 0-6-6, Shaun Root 1-2-4, Ryan Shively 0-1-1, Doug Hershey 2-4-8, totals 15-14-49.

3-point goals: Bova 3, Wohlgamuth 2, Guear 2, Root 3, Moran 2, Crates.

Records: Findlay 2-5, Fremont 0-7, (0-4).

Ross JV 58, Findlay 50

Findlay	10	12	10	18	—	50
Ross	15	8	20	15	—	58

FINDLAY—David Buch 5-2-12, Chad Curlis 3-0-6, P.J. Martinez 1-1-3, Nate Gibson 6-0-13, Curtis Slough 5-0-10, David Bills 1-0-2, Nathan Springer 2-0-4, totals 23-3-50.

ROSS—Sam Root 0-2-2, Kevin Mosser 4-0-8, Derrick Hershey 10-4-24, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, John Overberg 1-0-3, Kurt Snyder 1-2-5, Aaron Waggoner 3-1-7, Rob Liggins 1-0-2, Ben Lagrou 1-0-3, totals 23-9-58.

3-point goals: Gibson, Overberg, Snyder, Lagron.

Records: Fremont Ross 7-0.

BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Francis shoots past Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

The sharp 3-point shooting of Toledo St. Francis' Mark Taylor helped send Fremont Ross to its eighth loss without a win.

Taylor made seven 3-pointers and the Knights routed the Little Giants 78-49 Tuesday night.

St. Francis, 7-1, went on a 17-5 run in the first five minutes of the second quarter and led 38-18 at halftime.

Ross, which got 16 points from Chad Root and 15 from Doug Hershey, made 19 of 59 shots and 9 of 18 free throws.

The Knights outrebounded the Little Giants 36-21 and committed 19 turnovers.

Taylor had five 3-pointers at halftime and finished with 27 points. He did not play in the fourth quarter.

In one other game:

Clyde62

Fostoria50

Ryan Carter led three Clyde players in double figures with 21 points and also had 20 rebounds as the Fliers improved to 4-1.

"We did a nice job of handling the pressure," Clyde coach Marc Marshall said.

Brian Farrar and Jeff Paul added 10 points apiece for Clyde, while Ryan Webb passed for seven assists.

Clyde led 13-10 after one quarter, 28-21 at halftime and 40-32 after three quarters.

The Redmen got 14 points from Richard Newsome.

Fostoria defeated Clyde in a Division II tournament game last season.

High School Boys

St. Francis 78, Ross 49

Ross	10	8	12	19	—	49
St. Francis	16	22	19	21	—	78

ROSS — Shane Moran 0-0-0, Gary Rakes 2-0-4, Doug Hershey 5-5-15, Shawn Root 2-0-4, Chad Root 6-3-16, Geoff Berger 1-0-2, Jon Minich 2-1-5, Rob Stotz 1-0-3, totals 19-9-49.

ST. FRANCIS — Kris Rios 1-0-2, Jay Barnett 3-0-6, Robierre Cullars 5-3-14, Tim Wagner 2-0-4, Cory Thompson 1-0-2, Mark Taylor 10-0-27, Rich Jackson 0-5-5, O.B. Murray 3-1-7, Ryan Gorman 2-0-4, Aaron Wright 3-0-6, James Doane 0-1-1, totals 30-10-78.

3-point goals: C. Root, Stotz, Cullars, Taylor 7.

Records: Ross 0-8, S.F. 7-1.

Ross JV 55, St. Francis 42

Ross	21	7	15	12	—	55
St. Francis	8	7	8	19	—	42

ROSS — Derrick Hershey 6-3-15, Harry Liggins 4-0-8, Sam Root 1-3-5, John Overberg 2-0-6, Kevin Mosser 3-1-7, Kurt Snyder 2-2-8, Aaron Waggoner 1-0-2, Kris Myers 2-0-4, totals 21-9-55.

ST. FRANCIS — Dale Pelz 3-0-9, Andy Viertelbeck 1-0-2, Lee Kucinski 1-0-2, Rick Fox 2-3-7, Zach McClellan 3-2-8, Chris Sadowski 1-0-2, Keith Cuda 5-1-12, totals 16-6-42.

3-point goals: Overberg 2, Snyder 2, Pelz 3, Cuda.

Records: Ross 8-0.

News-Messenger reports

Bowsher's Derek Caywood and Stacey Hopson combined for 45 points Saturday night as the hot-shooting Rebels ran past Fremont Ross 86-74 in high school boys basketball.

Caywood, a 6-foot-3^N senior, scored 30 points, 12 in the Rebels' second quarter in which they made 13-of-16 shots.

Bowsher, 3-6, made 29-of-49 shots, 59 percent, for the game.

"We knew that he and Hopson were their best scorers. We didn't do a real good job of contesting their shots," Ross coach Bruce Brown said.

The Rebels outscored Ross 30-21 in the second quarter for a 46-33 halftime lead.

Bowsher stretched the lead to 24 points at the 2:53 mark of the third quarter, but Ross scrambled back with an eight-point run early in the final quarter. Ross trailed 71-58 with 4:30 to play.

But easy baskets against the Little Giants' full-court pressure and costly turnovers spoiled any chance for a comeback.

Chad Root led Ross, 0-9, with 23 points and seven rebounds. Doug Hershey added 16 points for the Little Giants.

High School Boys

Bowsher 86, Ross 74

Ross	12	21	14	27	—	76
Bowsher	16	30	17	23	—	86

ROSS—Geoff Berger 1-2-4, Shane Moran 4-0-11, Chad Hoffman 0-1-1, Gary Rakes 3-2-9, Jon Minich 1-0-2, Chad Root 20-3-23, Doug Hershey 4-8-16, Shaun Root 0-2-2, Sam Root 2-2-6, totals 25-20-74.

BOWSHER—Kevin Chatman 0-4-4, Derek Caywood 12-3-30, Shawn Boyd 2-2-6, Stacey Hopson 7-0-15, Emil Bates 5-0-10, Damon Miller 0-1-1, Darrell Rouse 4-0-8, Juston Fisher 5-0-12, totals 35-10-86.

3-point goals: Moran 3, Rakes, Caywood 3, Hopson, Fisher 2.

Records: Bowsher 3-6, Ross 0-9.

Ross JV 53, Bowsher 41

Ross	13	15	12	13	—	53
Bowsher	9	9	5	18	—	41

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 8-4-20, John Overberg 3-0-6, Harry Liggins 4-0-8, Kevin Mosser 1-0-2, Kurt Snyder 0-6-6, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Ben Lagrou 1-0-3, Rob Liggins 3-0-6, totals 21-10-53.

BOWSHER—Melvin Dujnbar 1-0-2, Jason Schazetzke 1-0-2, Doug Wright 2-1-5, Brent Nowak 3-1-7, Chris Mitchell 5-2-13, Phil Lager 4-0-10, Sam Doria 1-0-2, totals 17-4-41.

3-point goals: Lagrou, Mitchell, Lager 2.

Record: Ross 9-0.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Whitmer defeats Ross

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

TOLEDO — Standout freshman Floyd Campbell's 20 points and 10 rebounds Tuesday night paced Whitmer to a 75-62 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross.

"He is going to be a great basketball player," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "We couldn't come up with anyone to stop him in the second half. But it wasn't any one man's fault because we play team defense and our help was not good tonight."

The Little Giants, 0-10 and 0-5, were able to control the versatile 6-foot-1 freshman in the first half, limiting him to four points.

Whitmer, 4-7 and 2-3, had defensive problems of its own as Chad Root made two 3-point baskets and scored 10 points in the first quarter.

The Panthers, who managed to lead 19-16 after one quarter, shut out Root in the second period. But Jason Harper came off the bench to score the Little Giants' first nine points of the second quarter to give Ross a 25-24 lead with 4:15 left in the half.

"Jason came off the bench in the first half and gave us a good spark," Brown said.

But Harper went to the bench with his second foul one minute later, and Whitmer outscored the Little Giants 9-2 to lead 33-27 at halftime.

The Little Giants scored the first four points of the second half on baskets by Root and sophomore guard Sam Root.

But then Campbell broke free with 10 points in less than three minutes, and the Panthers broke out to a 50-38 lead midway through the third quarter.

"We noticed that they started out by putting a guard on him (Campbell) and so we played him inside," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said. "But then they switched and put bigger people (Shaun Root and Doug Hershey) on him, so we moved him to the perimeter. We worked very hard to get him open."

The Panthers held on to their 12-point advantage as the third quarter ended, not only by giving the ball to Campbell, but also by not giving the ball to the Little Giants.

Whitmer's first turnover came with 1:25 left in the third quarter, and the Panthers committed just two in the period.

"We noticed in the first half when we made runs, we took care of the ball," Smith said. "With our lack of size, we have to control the ball and be patient and take good shots."

The Panthers remained in control in the fourth quarter as well, taking only nine shots but making six.

"We didn't get many key defensive stops when we needed them," Brown said. We would make some runs offensively, but then we wouldn't step up defensively.

"They (Whitmer) are a fundamentally sound team. They do all the little things we are trying to get our kids to do more consistently."

"I keep telling our players that we must be doing something right because we are competitive, but we just need to do the right things for longer periods of time."

Hershey led the Little Giants with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

■ Boys roundup, B3

High School Boys

Whitmer 75, Ross 62

Ross 16 11 18 17 — 62

Whitmer 19 14 24 18 — 75

ROSS — Chad Root 6-2-16, Doug Hershey 8-3-19, Jon Minich 1-1-3, Sam Root 1-0-2, Shaun Root 5-1-11, Jason Harper 5-0-11, totals 26-7-62.

WHITMER — Floyd Campbell 8-3-20, Rob Calmes 1-0-2, Jake Lyons 5-0-11, Scott Kessler 3-0-6, Chad Baxter 1-4-7, Trevor Toney 4-0-9, Steve Mefferd 0-3-3, Jason Marsh 1-0-2, Scott Reighard 2-0-5, Tod Calcamuggio 4-0-9, Theron Toney 0-1-1, totals 29-11-75.

3-point goals: C. Root 2, Harper, Campbell, Lyons, Baxter, Trevor Toney, Reighard, Calcamuggio.

Records: Ross 0-10 (0-5), Whitmer 4-7 (2-3).

Ross JV 50, Whitmer 44

Ross 6 17 15 12 — 50

Whitmer 6 9 11 18 — 44

ROSS — Aaron Waggoner 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 7-7-21, John Overberg 2-0-4, Kevin Mosser 2-0-4, Harry Liggins 3-0-6, Kurt Snyder 3-0-8, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, Thach Dinh 0-1-1, totals 20-8-50.

WHITMER — Chad Baxter 2-0-5, Steve Mefferd 1-0-3, Jason Zielinski 0-2-2, Theron Toney 2-1-5, James Bonds 1-0-2, David Rodriguez 3-0-6, Chad Lorton 5-0-10, Jay Wiseman 1-1-3, Delano Robinson 2-0-6, Ernest Harmon 1-0-2, totals 18-4-44.

3-point goals: Snyder 2, Baxter, Mefferd, Robinson 2.

Records: Ross 10-0, Whitmer 5-6.

Little Giants go for first win tonight

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross is not a team to overlook another, boys basketball coach Bruce Brown said logically.

With the first part of the season a whitewash with no wins in 10 games, it's not hard to figure why.

Tonight, Ross has perhaps its best shot at breaking into the win column when Fostoria visits the Purple Pit.

The Redmen, after posting an

Boys Basketball

18-7 record and a spot in the regional semifinals last season, have fallen on hard times this season.

Fostoria is 1-7 and like Ross, 0-5 in the Great Lakes League race.

"We go after every team," Brown said. "I think coach Rutter (Jim) has gone through the same kind of frustration with his team as we have our's."

"The difference is our's is

learning a new system and their's is just youthful."

"It's certainly a game that we are not overlooking in the sense of taking them for granted."

While Brown, admittedly experienced at rebuilding a team, has had little to smile about in the first half of the season.

"We felt the majority of the ball games we have played have been winnable games," he said.

"Certainly this is one of them but we have to be sounder in what we do."

"Unfortunately, the things that have beaten us is those key five to seven possessions that swing things around."

While realizing Fostoria is struggling, Brown refuses to make a case for it being a good shot at his first win at Ross.

"We try not put too much pressure on the kids and say this is a must win or this one is this and that one is that," he said. "It's just a matter of playing sound basketball and getting the job done."

Brown said he is not entertain-

ing the thought of wholesale lineup switches.

One change he made two games ago was move sophomore point guard Sam Root up from the junior varsity to a starting slot on the varsity.

Chad Root leads Ross in scoring at 15.3 points per game. Doug Hershey, who missed five of the first six games because of an ankle sprain, has scored 58 points in the last four games and is averaging 13 a contest.

Ross nets No. 1

Little Giants out of last place in GLL

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

The postman knocked, and Fremont Ross was more than happy to answer the door — defeating Fostoria 48-41 Friday night in a sweltering Purple Pit.

It was the first win for Ross after 10 losses and first in six Great Lakes League games.

"This creates some breathing room for the kids," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "I am the happiest guy for our own kids. It was kind of like waiting for that special delivery and the postman never brought it."

Finally, the package arrived.

Brown's first win as Ross coach came about because for the first time the Little Giants dictated what happened late in the game.

"When we can dictate what is going to happen, we have what we call a clock game," Brown said. "At that point, we are playing against the clock...we just want to turn our offense through and get good looking shots and layups."

"For the most part, we did it."

Ross led 14-10 after one quarter. Fostoria, 1-8 and 0-6, never got closer.

The Ross lead reached 35-21 midway through the third quarter but the Redmen closed to 36-29 before Chad Root hit a 3-pointer for a 39-29 Ross lead after three quarters.

Chad Root's second 3-pointer gave Ross a 44-31 with 6:20 to play but Fostoria charged back to trail 44-37 with 4:55 remaining in the game. After a Ross timeout, Geoff Berger found Sam Root for a layup and a 46-37 Little Giants lead with 4:40 to play.

That's when the patience paid because Fostoria missed eight of its last 10 shots.

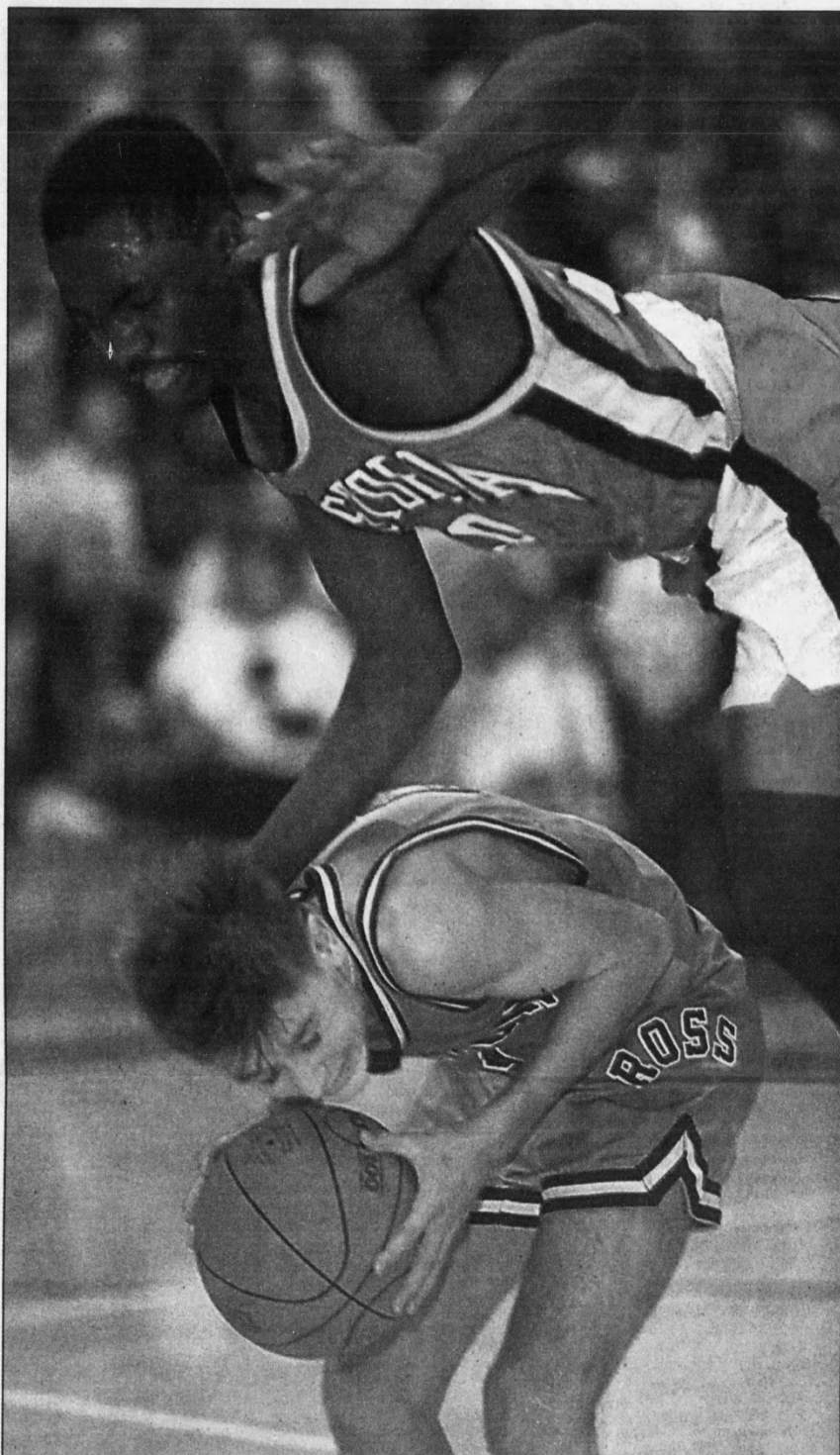
"We knew what we had to do," Brown said. "We were tired. I think part of it was emotional and part of it was the heat. We were dragging, but they were also."

"I was pleased with our defense. We did a good job of getting into the gaps and stopping the penetration that we had been giving up in other games."

Said Fostoria coach Jim Rutter: "It makes a lot of difference when you cannot make a basket. Every defense looks good...if we shot 30 percent, we were lucky."

The Redmen were not that bad, making 17 of 46 for 37 percent.

Doug Hershey led Ross with 12 points and Chad Root had 10. Richard Newsome and Josiah Wade led Fostoria with eight points apiece.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JERRY DESSAUSURE of Fostoria flies past Fremont Ross point guard Sam Root during the fourth quarter of the Little Giants' 48-41 Great Lakes League victory over the Redmen. Dessausure was

trying to avoid fouling Root and apparently did the job because no foul was called. The victory was the first for the Little Giants after 10 losses.

High School Boys

Ross 48, Fostoria 41

Fostoria	10	9	10	12	—	41
Ross	14	12	13	9	—	48

FOSTORIA—Leo Frierson 1-2-4, Jerry Dessausure 2-2-6, Richard Newsome 4-0-8, Josiah Wade 4-0-8, Jeremy Young 2-2-6, Jahmane Morant 1-0-2, Chris Jones 0-1-1, Chris Twining 3-0-6, totals 17-7-41.

ROSS—Chad Root 4-0-10, Doug Hershey 4-4-12, Jon Minich 0-2-2, Geoff Berger 2-0-4, Sam JRoot 2-3-7, Jason Harper 3-0-6, Shaun Root 2-3-7, Gary Rakes 1-0-2, Shane Moran 1-0-3, Chad Hoffman 1-0-2, Rob Stotz 0-0-0, totals 18-9-48.

3-point goals: C. Root 2, Moran.

Records: Fostoria 1-8 (0-6), Ross 1-10 (1-5).

Ross JV 51, Fostoria 35

Fostoria	10	13	4	8	—	35
Ross	6	15	15	15	—	51

FOSTORIA—Jason Durst 2-0-5, Shaun Ponn 1-0-2, Seth Brandeberry 2-1-5, Ryan Freshour 1-0-2, Eli Haughwout 4-0-9, Malcom Robinson 2-1-5, John Rivera 3-0-7, totals 15-2-35.

ROSS—Thach Dinh 0-3-3, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, Ben Lagrou 1-0-2, Kris Myers 0-1-1, Aaron Waggoner 2-0-4, Harry Liggins 1-0-2, John Overberg 1-0-3, Kevin Mosser 4-6-14, Kurt Snyder 1-0-3, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 5-3-13, totals 18-14-51.

3-point goals: Durst, Haughwout, Rivera, Snyder.

Records: Fostoria 5-4, Ross 11-0.

Northview slips past Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross had trouble in the fourth quarter again Friday night.

This time, the Little Giants missed a chance to upset Sylvania Northview.

Ross led after three quarters, but the Wildcats came away with a 55-52 victory.

The Little Giants, 1-11 and 1-7, led 42-40 after three quarters. Northview, 9-3 and 6-1, outscored Ross 15-10 in the fourth quarter.

John Ellenwood led three Northview players in double figures with 20 points.

Jason Harper and Chad Root scored 14 and 11 points, respectively, for Ross.

Northview led 16-7 after one quarter and 27-24 at halftime. The Little Giants went ahead with an 18-13 advantage in the third quarter before faltering.

High School Boys

Northview 55, Ross 52

Ross	7	17	18	10	—	52
Northview	16	11	13	15	—	55

ROSS—Chad Root 5-1-11, Doug Hershey 3-0-6, Sam Root 0-2-2, Shaun Root 3-0-6, Geoff Berger 0-2-2, Jon Minich 2-4-8, Jason Harper 7-0-14, Rob Stotz 1-0-3, totals 21-9-52.

NORTHVIEW—Brian Anderson 0-1-1, Josh Penix 4-6-14, John Ellenwood 9-2-20, Brian Ruckman 1-2-4, Jamie Westfall 1-1-4, Rick Brady 5-0-12, totals 20-12-55.

3-point goal: Brady 3, Westfall, Stotz.

Records: Ross 1-11 (1-6), Northview 9-3 (6-1).

Northview JV 50, Ross 47

Ross	12	15	9	11	—	47
Northview	17	10	15	8	—	50

ROSS—Rob Liggins 1-0-2, Aaron Waggoner 2-0-4, Harry Liggins 4-1-9, Kevin Mosser 2-4-8, Kurt Snyder 2-0-6, Derrick Hershey 2-10-14, Thach Dinh 0-1-1, Ben Lagrou 1-0-3, totals 14-16-47.

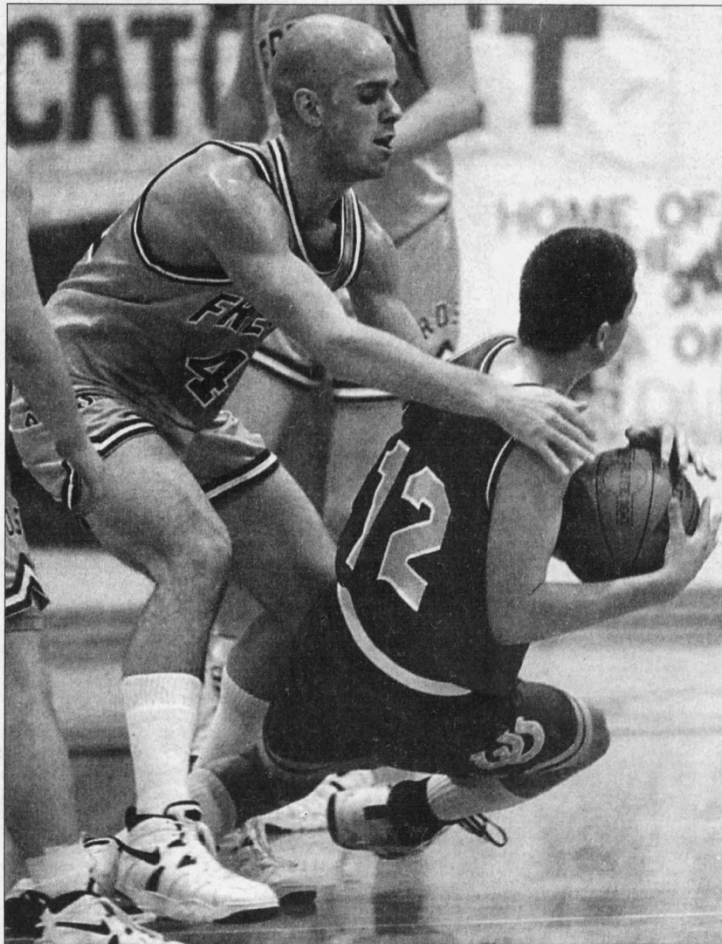
NORTHVIEW—Jim Schueler 4-1-9, Kyle Hillard 2-2-6, Jan Crandell 1-0-2, Andy Tresize 1-0-3, Craig Koperski 1-0-2, Troyan 6-2-14, Gonzales 5-4-14, totals 20-9-50.

3-point goals: Snyder 2, Lagrou, Tresize.

Records: Ross 11-1.

Little Giants fall short again

Ross suffers one-point loss



By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

Fremont Ross experienced another close encounter of the basketball kind Friday night, dropping a 56-55 Great Lakes League game to Bedford.

"We talk daily in practice about close games," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "We are trying to teach our kids that they need to really focus and concentrate and learn how to execute during that portion of practice when we work on close encounters we will face in game situations."

"That was what it was all about tonight."

Chad Root's 3-point shot to tie the game at 56-all was short, and Ross settled for Doug Hershey's putback and its 12th loss in 13 games.

Ross was 8-of-12 shooting in the first quarter, scoring all its baskets inside the key. Bedford, 4-8 and 3-5, was almost as good — making 8 of 16 shots.

Both teams maintained their hot shooting in the second quarter as the Mules went 7-of-9 and Ross was 4-of-6.

But the Mules took advantage of five Ross turnovers in the second quarter and led 34-30 at half-time.

Root, who did not start because of a shoulder injury, came off the bench to score seven points in the second quarter. He finished with 13.

Dan Williams scored 12 first-half points for the Mules.

The Mules stretched their lead to 43-38 midway through the third quarter as Christian Schlachter canned three consecutive baskets.

Bedford led 44-40 as the quarter

ended.

The Mules pushed their lead to 48-40 in the first minute of the final period, but Ross countered with baskets by Jason Harper and Chad Root to make it 48-44 with 4:50 to play.

Matt Sherman's putback and layup put the Mules up 52-44 at the 3:59 mark.

Short jumpers by Hershey and Harper, two free throws by Hershey and a putback by Shaun Root tied it at 52 with 1:30 remaining.

"I wasn't real happy with the way we used the clock in the last three minutes of the game," Bedford coach Mark German said. "We were getting the ball to the people we wanted to have shoot, but we were two or three passes too early. We didn't take the shots we really wanted."

Chad Henman's slashing layup on the right side gave Bedford a 54-52 lead with 1:10 left, but Sam Root made the second of two free throws for Ross to make it 54-53 with 59 seconds to play.

On the Mules' next possession, Schlachter was fouled by Hershey but he missed the front end of the one-and-one opportunity and Shaun Root grabbed the rebound.

Sam Root's short jumper in the key missed and Sherman was fouled on the rebound.

Sherman made both ends of his one-and-one to give the Mules a 56-53 lead with 27 seconds remaining.

Brown tried unsuccessfully get his players' attention to call for a timeout on the trip upcourt.

"I just wanted to make sure we were organized and set up," Brown said.

DOUG HERSHEY (left) of Fremont Ross grabs hold of Bedford's Joe Albring instead of the ball during the first half of the Mules' 56-55 Great Lakes League victory over the Little Giants Friday night at the Purple Pit.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

High School Boys

Bedford 56, Ross 55

Bedford	17	17	10	12	—	56
Ross	18	12	10	15	—	55

BEDFORD—Christian Schlachter 6-0-12, Chad Henman 5-0-12, Dan Williams 6-3-15, Matt Campbell 2-1-5, Matt Sherman 4-2-10, Joe Albring 1-0-2, totals 24-6-56.

ROSS—Chad Root 6-0-13, Doug Hershey 4-4-12, Geoff Berger 2-1-5, Sam Root 1-1-3, Jon Minich 1-0-2, Shaun Root 3-0-6, Jason Harper 7-0-14, totals 24-6-55.

3-point goals: Henman 2, C. Root.

Records: Bedford 4-8 (3-5), Ross 1-12 (1-7).

Ross JV 65, Bedford 45

Bedford	10	13	6	16	—	45
Ross	13	19	11	22	—	65

BEDFORD—Scott Dukate 1-0-2, Nick Francis 1-0-2, Matt Banks 5-0-10, Tony Konczal 1-0-2, Matt Lawn 5-0-10, Bradford Lewis 4-0-10, Justin Oleszcuk 2-0-4, Matt Tippin 1-0-2, Greg Williams 1-0-3, totals 21-0-45.

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 7-6-20, Kevin Mosser 3-0-6, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Aaron Waggoner 4-2-10, John Overberg 4-4-12, Kurty Snyder 2-0-4, Rob Liggins 1-1-3, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Ben Lagrou 2-0-4, totals 26-13-65.

3-point goals: Lewis 2, Williams.

Records: Ross 12-1, Bedford 3-9.

Ross knocks off Columbian for 2nd win

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

Fremont Ross made 9-of-11 free throws in the final four minutes while defeating Tiffin Columbian 78-65 Saturday night in the Purple Pit.

It was the Little Giants's second win in 14 games.

"We are very happy with the win," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "Especially after losing the close one last night (Friday, 56-55 to Bedford). Tonight we found out quite a bit about the character of this team."

Ross, after leading 35-34 at the half and 54-51 at the end of three quarters, used its torrid free throw shooting to pull away from the Torandoes, 8-4, in the final quarter. After building a 67-57 lead, Ross began its parade to the foul line.

For the game, Ross outscored Columbian 29-4 from the foul line. Ross shot 38 free throws to Columbian's 11.

"It wasn't the officiating," Columbian coach Bob Nocton said. "We were just fouling a lot. We weren't moving our feet."

Columbian starters Kory Winkler and David Porter and sub Dennis Green fouled out. Plus, Columbian played without 6-foot-7 senior Tony Eisenhard who is sitting out a one-week suspension. Eisenhard was ejected from Friday night's game, an 85-75 loss to Bellevue, after being assessed two technical fouls.

The suspension is according to an Ohio High School Athletic Association rules.

With Eisenhard out, Ross out-rebounded the Tornadoes 31-22 including 11 off the offensive board. The Tornadoes' inside defense also suffered as a quartet of Ross inside players combined for 40 points.

Doug Hershey led the group with 17 points and Shaun Root

Crimson Streaks bounce back against Panthers

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic boys basketball team needed a win Saturday night.

"It's important because we let one get away from us yesterday," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said after an 84-73 victory over Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic.

Ironically, what led to SJCC's 76-73 loss to North Baltimore Friday night also contributed to the win over the Panthers.

North Baltimore used its press to knock off the Crimson Streaks. St. Mary's tried the same thing after it fell behind by 10 points in the second half.

"We passed the ball better tonight against the full-court press," Gabel said. "People stepped to the ball instead of stepping away from it."

St. Joe, 6-8, took a 49-39 lead with 6:14 to go in the third quarter on a 3-point basket by Bryan Busold.

But the Streaks got just a free throw by Louis Gabel over the next five minutes and St. Mary's took a 51-50 lead on a putback by Gabe Schirg with 1:36 left in the third quarter.

The Panthers, 3-12, led 54-52 with a quarter left.

"We couldn't sustain anything," St. Mary's coach Rick Dominick said. "That's been the story of our season. We haven't played a

complete game yet."

St. Joe outscored St. Mary's 13-7 at the outset of the fourth quarter. The Panthers led 61-58, but a basket by Chad Mapus and a free throw by Gabel tied the score.

A tip-in by Busold and Pat Eberly's steal and layup gave the Streaks a 65-61 lead with 5:37 left to play.

Leading 73-65 with three minutes to go, the Streaks ran 25 seconds off the clock before Busold drove the lane for a layup and converted a three-point play.

"I hope we learned that (the flex) offense is a good offense if you're patient," Gabel said.

A tip-in by Rob Jones off a missed free throw with 1:48 remaining capped a 19-8 St. Joe run. Jones had not played in the game until that point.

"I needed some defense; I wanted fresh legs," Gabel said. "He got the big tip in, which I think put the game away."

Pat Eberly capped a 43-point, 35 rebound performance this weekend with 25 points and 15 rebounds against St. Mary's.

Busold finished with 18 points, Josh Wehring scored all 12 of his points in the second quarter before leaving with an ankle injury and Louie Gabel made 6 of 9 foul shots and had 10 points.

Todd Fulop led St. Mary's with 18 points, including 10 in the first quarter when the Panthers overcame an early 18-7 deficit.

added 12. Jon Minich with seven and Chad Hoffman with four rounded out the quartet that Brown shuttled in and out.

"Jon and Chad did a real nice job for us," Brown said. "They gave us a nice rotation with our inside people...that's the best we have done this season."

Jason Harper had 16 points

and Geoff Berger 11 for Ross.

Winkler was expected to take up some of the scoring slack lost with Eisenhard's suspension but the Ross defense held him to nine points. Chris Murphy had 16 to lead Columbian.

"We did miss him (Eisenhard)," Nocton said about his missing star. "But we missed

him more than we should have. We needed to step up but we didn't. We didn't get a body on anybody and block out.

"We should have been able to rebound with Ross...they didn't have any 6-foot-7 people."

Ross returns to Great Lakes League action Friday, hosting league-leader Napoleon.

High School Boys

Ross 78, Columbian 65

Columbian	21	13	17	14	—	65
Ross	15	20	19	24	—	78

COLUMBIAN—Kory Winkler 4-1-9, Chris Murphy 7-0-16, Tim Hoffman 1-0-2, David Porter 3-2-11, Dennis Green 2-1-5, Matt Ross 3-0-6, Reid Nahm 2-0-4, Dave Losey 1-0-2, Adam Kahler 5-0-10, totals 28-4-65.

ROSS—Doug Hershey 7-3-17, Shaun Root 2-8-12, Geoff Berger 3-5-11, Sam Root 1-4-6, Jason Harper 6-4-16, Chad Root 1-2-5, Jon Minich 2-3-7, Chad Hoffman 2-0-4, totals 24-29-78.

3-point goals: Murphy 2, Porter 3, C. Root.

Records: Columbian 8-4, Ross 2-12.

Columbian JV 60, Ross 59

Columbian	12	12	17	19	—	60
Ross	22	9	16	12	—	59

COLUMBIAN—Herb Sendelbach 2-2-6, Dave Losey 8-0-20, Kaene Runion 5-0-10, Chris Hill 2-0-4, Aaron Gooding 5-0-10, Eric Slosser 3-2-8, Adam Perna 1-0-2, totals 26-4-60.

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 6-1-13, Kevin Mosser 5-1-11, Harry Liggins 7-0-14, Aaron Waggoner 2-0-5, John Overberg 4-1-9, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Kyle O'Neill 0-2-2, totals 26-5-59.

3-point goals: Losey 4, Waggoner, Snyder.

Records: Columbian 9-3, Ross 12-2.

Ross finding ways to win

Little Giants upset Napoleon

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Bruce Brown was shocked. "Are you kiddin' me?" the Fremont Ross boys basketball coach asked when he was told his team had held Napoleon to a single shot from the floor in the final quarter of the Little Giants' 57-52 Great Lakes League upset win in the Purple Pit.

"Wow!" Brown said. "That's all I can say, wow!"

Napoleon's Mike Limbird did not get off the 3-point attempt until 2.8 seconds remained. Shaun Root of Ross pulled down the rebound and sank a pair of free throws.

"You need big plays to win games, and they were fortunate to come up with them."

Walt Behrman, Napoleon coach

The Wildcats did have some luck, remaining in a first place tie in the league because Toledo Whitmer defeated Clay 66-64. Napoleon and Clay are both 7-2 in the league race.

See ROSS, B3

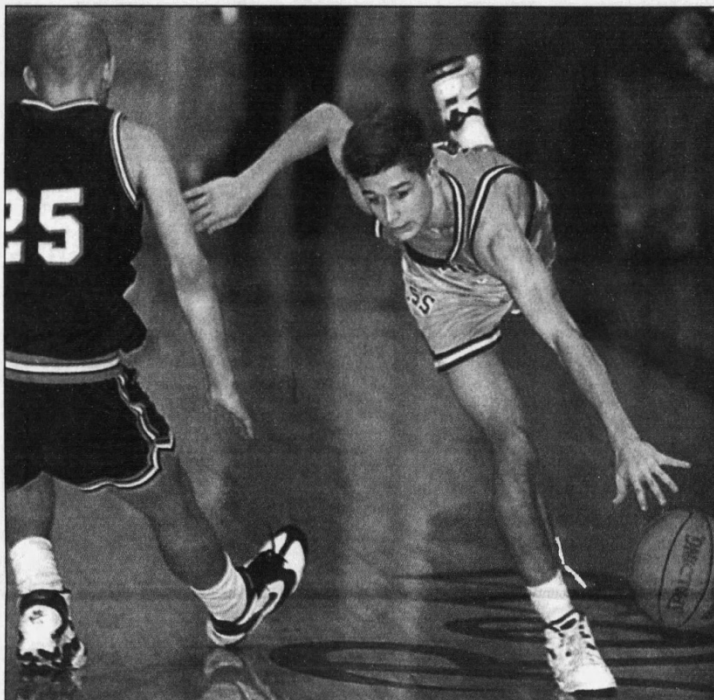
KEY PLAY

Berger makes steal late in game

Geoff Berger went from goat to hero in 15 seconds Friday night. On an inbounds play with Ross leading 53-52 and 36 seconds to play, Berger was caught in the corner and forced to call a timeout. On the inbounds play, he was unable to get the ball inbounds and was unable to call another timeout, turning the ball over to Napoleon.

On Napoleon's trip downcourt, Berger tipped the ball away from Joel Hammon of Napoleon, retrieved it with under 21 seconds to go and then found Doug Hershey alone for a layup and a 55-52 Ross lead with 15 seconds to go.

"He could have gotten fogged up and gone down to the other end and said 'Aw gosh,'" Ross coach Bruce Brown said.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

SAM ROOT (right) of Fremont Ross trips and loses the ball after colliding with Napoleon's Joe Good during the

first half of the Little Giants 57-52 Great Lakes League victory over the Wildcats. Friday night.

Ross wins 2nd straight

Continued From B1

"Fremont is a much better ball club than when we played them back in December (a 68-55 Wildcats win)," Napoleon coach Walt Behrman added. "Bruce has got his kids playing very well right now."

Ross has won two straight games after losing 11 of 12.

The Little Giants' upset was marked by three pivotal plays in the fourth quarter.

■ After Jason Harper came from behind to knock the ball away from Napoleon's Ryan Hines, Gary Rakes retrieved the ball while sitting with his back to the Ross basket at the Wildcats' foul line. Rakes whipped the ball over his head, hitting Harper in stride at the Ross foul line for a layup and a 44-42 Ross lead.

"We work on that play 10-15 minutes each day in practice," Brown laughed.

■ Rakes' 3-pointer from the top of the foul circle put Ross up 49-48 with 3:03 to play.

■ And Geoff Berger tipped the ball away from Joel Hammon of Napoleon, retrieved it with under 20 seconds to go and passed to Doug Hershey for a layup and a 55-52 Ross lead with 15 seconds remaining.

"That was about as huge a defensive series as we have had all year," Brown said.

The game was tied or the lead changed hands 10 times in the fourth quarter.

Ross took the lead for good 51-50 on a basket by Hershey with 2:10 to play. Hershey then gave Ross breathing room with two free throws with 1:36 to play.

Joe Good cut the Ross lead to one with two free throws with 11 seconds later.

Hershey finished with 14 points, Harper 12 and Chad Root 11. Root banked in a 3-pointer as time ran out in the first half, cutting Napoleon's lead to 30-28.

Good had 17 points and Doug Brown 14 for Napoleon.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHAD HOFFMAN (30) of Fremont Ross tries to grab a rebound in front of Napoleon's Josh VanAusdale during the first half of Friday night's Great Lakes League game

at the Purple Pit. The Little Giants defeated the Wildcats 57-52 for their second consecutive win after losing 11 of their first 12 games.

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Ross 57, Napoleon 52

Napoleon 14 16 10 12 — 52

Ross 13 15 10 19 — 57

NAPOLEON—Ryan Hines 1-0-3, Doug Brown 4-6-14, Josh VanAusdale 2-0-4, Joel Hammon 3-0-6, Joe Good 5-4-17, Louis Green 1-0-3, Jason Gerken 0-5-5, totals 16-15-52.

ROSS—Shaun Root 1-4-6, Doug Hershey 2-10-14, Geoff Berger 0-0-0, Jason Harper 5-2-12, Sam Root 1-0-2, Chad Root 4-0-11, Jon Minich 2-0-4, Gary Rakes 1-3-6, Chad Hoffman 1-0-2, totals 17-19-57.

3-point goals: Hines, Good 3, Green, C. Root 3, Rakes.

Records: Ross 3-12 (2-7), Napoleon 9-6 (7-2).

Ross JV 43, Napoleon 39

Napoleon 8 7 13 17 — 39

Ross 15 6 10 12 — 43

NAPOLEON—Jason Gerken 1-1-3, Troy Rathge 1-0-2, Brad Stevens 3-2-9, Kevin Good 2-0-6, Todd Kruse 1-0-2, Ron Witte 1-0-2, Nate Byrd 4-1-9, Marcus Holmes 1-0-2, totals 16-4-39.

ROSS—Ben Lagrou 1-1-4, Aaron Waggoner 0-2-2, John Overberg 3-3-9, Kevin Mosser 5-2-12, Kurt Snyder 1-2-4, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Derrick Hershey 4-2-10, totals 15-12-43.

3-point goals: Stevens, Good 2, Lagrou.

Records: Ross 12-1, Napoleon 10-5.

Clay rebounds against Ross

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

OREGON — "Key play" was key in Oregon Clay's 65-60 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross Tuesday night.

"We told our kids before the game and again during the game that it would be won or lost inside of twelve feet," Ross coach Bruce Brown said.

Each team had a total of 30 rebounds, but 13 of the Eagles' were at the offensive end — including seven in the fourth quarter.

"I questioned how hard we were going to the boards, both defensively and offensively, at halftime," Clay coach Joe Guerrero said. "They (Ross) would shoot and we would just stand and watch."

Clay's switch from its man-to-man defense to a match-up zone to start the second half made the difference in the key.

"We looked at the shot chart at halftime and saw that Ross was scoring exclusively from inside the key," Guerrero said. "We wanted to play man-to-man, but we were just giving up too many layups."

After turning the ball over six times in their first nine possessions, and falling behind 10-2 midway through the first quarter, the Little Giants went on a 10-0 run in the last three minutes of the period to tie it at 14.

Ross, 3-13 and 2-8, led 34-33 at halftime as Jason Harper made a 30-foot 3-point basket at the buzzer.

Harper had 13 points in the half and finished with 19 to lead Ross.

"There were three critical points in the game," Brown said. "The first five minutes of the game, which we didn't handle very well; the last five minutes of the first half, which we handled with excellence; and the final four minutes of the game...the key storm which we did not weather."

The Little Giants began the fourth quarter leading 49-48 and stretched their lead to 53-50 with 6:30 to play. But six Ross turnovers and seven offensive rebounds by the Eagles in the final five minutes gave Clay, 12-4, its eighth GLL win in 10 games.

Sean Granger and Neil Punsalan grabbed three offensive rebounds apiece for the Eagles in the fourth quarter.

Punsalan grabbed a total of eight rebounds for the Eagles to go along with 12 points. Granger led Clay with 20 points.

"Shaun Root really battled at that end of the floor (Clay's offensive end)," Brown said. "We just needed one or two more to battle with him. Those late putbacks broke our back."

Root had 12 of the Little Giants' 25 defensive rebounds.

Clay 65, Ross 60

Ross	N	14	20	15	11	—	60
Clay		14	19	15	17	—	65

ROSS—Doug Hershey 4-2-10, Sam Root 3-0-6, Geoff Berger 1-0-2, Shaun Root 4-1-9, Jason Harper 9-0-19, Chad Root 2-2-6, Jon Minich 1-0-2, Chad Hoffman 2-0-4, Shane Moran 0-2-2, totals 26-7-60.

CLAY—Sean Granger 8-4-20, Mike Pirwitz 2-2-6, Brian Tobias 6-4-16, Neil Punsalan 6-0-12, Eric Brinkman 3-0-7, Jim Murray 1-0-2, Eric Stager 1-0-2, totals 27-10-65.

3-point goals: Harper, Brinkman.

Records: Ross 3-13 (2-8), Clay 12-4 (8-2).

Ross JV 58, Clay 52

Ross	11	11	14	22	—	58
Clay	16	9	17	10	—	52

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 5-13-23, Kevin Mosser 2-0-4, John Overberg 1-0-3, Aaron Waggoner 2-0-4, Kurt Snyder 5-3-18, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, totals 18-16-58.

CLAY—Ryan Huegley 3-0-8, Kevin Pfefferle 1-0-3, Tim LaPlante 2-0-4, Tom Clay 11-0-22, Chris Bell 4-0-9, Kevin Wilson 3-0-6, totals 24-0-52.

3-point goals: Overberg, Snyder 5.

News-Messenger reports

Sandusky used a big offensive rebounding advantage to defeat Fremont Ross 85-69 Saturday night.

Sandusky collected 35 rebounds to the Little Giants' 26, but the Blue Streaks had 21 offensive rebounds. As a result, Sandusky took 33 more shots than Ross.

The Streaks made 37 of 87 shots, and Ross was 24-of-54.

Geoff Berger led Ross with 19 points and Jason Harper came off the bench to score 17 and Jon Minich added 10.

DeMar Moore led four Sandusky players reaching double figures with 27 points. Paul Brown added 15, Anthony Aaron 13 and Keitheran Pickens 12.

Ross turned the ball over seven of its first 11 possessions and Sandusky took a 22-16 first-quarter lead. The lead grew to 31-16 after Ross gave the ball away on four of its first six possessions in the second period.

"We never seem to have five people play well at the same time," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "We would have one pass

Boys Roundup

tipped and they would run off six or eight points."

Ross cut the Blue Streaks' lead to 54-47 on Harper's 3-point shot with 2:45 remaining in the third quarter but got no closer.

"Down the stretch, we could never come up with a key defensive stop," Brown said.

In other games:

St. Joe68

Mans. Christian57

Pat Eberly scored 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds as the Crimson Streaks won a night after losing at home to New Riegel.

"It was a slow-paced game," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said. "We needed to bounce back, and we did it playing a solid half-court game."

Louis Gabel added 10 points and Josh Wehring and Brian Szabo each added seven rebounds for St. Joe, which led 16-8 after one quarter and improved to 9-9.

The Streaks made 25 of 57 shots, and the Flames 19 of 66.

Sandusky 85, Ross 69

Ross	16	19	18	16	—	69
Sandusky	22	25	15	23	—	85

ROSS—Doug Hershey 0-1-1, Sam Root 0-3-3, Geoff Berger 5-9-19, Shaun Root 1-2-4, Jason Harper 7-0-17, Chad Root 3-0-7, Gary Rakes 2-0-4, Jon Minich 4-02-10, Ryan Shively 2-0-4, totals 24-17-69.

SANDUSKY—DeMar Moore 13-1-27, Travis Cooper 3-0-6, Torrez Rollison 1-0-2, Anthony Aaron 6-1-13, Gregg Peugeot 1-2-4, Keitheran Pickens 5-0-12, Paul Brown 5-4-15, Ed Minnifield 2-0-4, Ben Ohlenmacher 1-0-2, totals 37-8-85.

3-point goals: Harper 3, C. Root, Pickens 2, Brown.

Records: Ross 3-14.

Sandusky JV 87, Ross 77

Ross	17	18	21	21	—	77
Sandusky	18	21	24	24	—	87

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 8-3-19, Kevin Mosser 9-1-19, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, Aaron Waggoner 1-0-2, John Overberg 1-2-5, Kurt Snyder 3-0-8, Kyle O'Neill 0-2-2, Ben Lagrou 7-0-18, totals 31-8-77.

SANDUSKY—Kirk Fortier 4-3-14, Jason Jones 7-2-19, Marcus Harris 2-0-4, Shannon Pickens 7-2-16, Bobby Crabb 5-2-12, Marchel Gowdy 3-0-6, Dion Jones 6-2-16, totals 34-11-87.

3-point goals: Overberg, Snyder 2, Lagrou 4, Fortier 3, J. Jones 3, D. Jones

Whitmer subdues Ross



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

GEOFF BERGER of Fremont Ross (left) steals the ball from Toledo Whitmer's Jake Lyons during the first quarter Friday night.

Little Giants shoot 22 percent in second half

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Whitmer broke away from Fremont Ross and held off the Little Giants in the second half for a 50-39 Great Lakes League win Friday night in the Purple Pit.

The Panthers, 10-8 are 8-3, remain a game behind Oregon Clay in the GLL. Ross fell to 3-15 and 2-9.

Rob Calmes' short jumper from the left side put Whitmer ahead 19-17 with 5:40 remaining in the first half, and the Panthers had the lead for good. Calmes' bucket ignited a 10-2 run for a 27-19 Whitmer lead, and the Panthers led 29-21 at halftime.

In the second half, Ross kept in touch but never cut the lead lower than six points — 39-33 with 1:13 to play in the third quarter.

"It was not a very pretty basketball game," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said. "I don't think we played particularly well and I don't think they did...we got some breaks that allowed us to maintain the lead."

The Panthers did that without much help from leading scorer Trevor Toney. Averaging over 16 points per game, Toney was held scoreless in the first half and finished

with three points. Others picked up the slack, though.

"They are a balanced team," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "With their motion offense, one of the things they can do is isolate people and that is what they did in the second half."

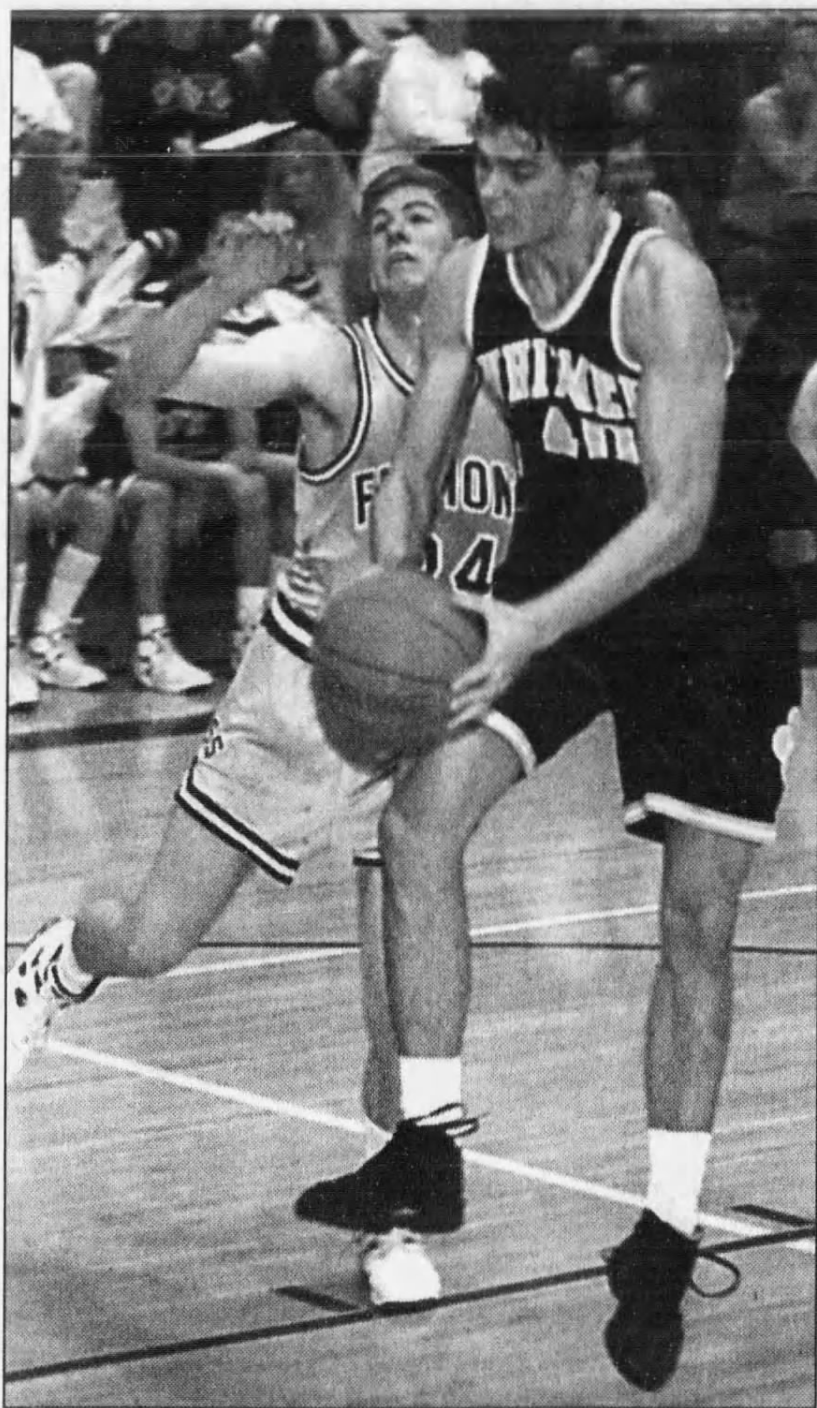
Four Panthers scored in double figures with Todd Calcamuggio's 12 leading the way. Scott Reighard, who hit a pair of 3-point shots in the first quarter as Whitmer wiped out a 7-3 Ross lead, and sophomore Jake Lyons scored 11 apiece. Floyd Campbell added 10 points.

The Little Giants made 10 of 20 shots in the first half but were 7-of-32 in the second. Whitmer was 13-of-24 in the first half and 9-of-21 in the second.

G Geoff Berger topped Ross with 14 points. He was the only Little Giant in double figures.

"I thought we got the shots we wanted," Brown said. "The ball did not roll our way again this evening. I think we would have been OK if a couple of shots had gone in for us and the kids had gotten some confidence."

"Unfortunately, there is not a whole lot you can do. You cannot go out there and adjust the basket for them."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Ouch!

Jon Minich, left, of Fremont Ross is hit on the chin by the shoulder of Toledo Whitmer's Scott Reighard during first half action Friday night in the Purple Pit at Ross High School. The Panthers defeated the Little Giants 50-39.

High School Boys

Whitmer 50, Ross 39

Whitmer 14 15 13 8 — 50

Ross 13 8 12 6 — 39

WHITMER—Scott Reighard 4-1-11, Todd C. alcamuggio 6-0-12, Trevor Toney 1-1-3, Jake Lyons 5-1-11, Floyd Campbell 5-0-10, Rob Calmes 1-1-3, totals 22-4-50.

ROSS—Chad Root 3-1-8, Shaun Root 1-2-4, Doug Hershey 0-0-0, Geoff Berger 7-0-14, Sam Root 2-1-5, Jon Minich 2-0-4, Dhad Hoffman 1-0-2, Jason Harper 1-0-2, totals 17-4-39.

3-point goals: Reighard 2, C. Root.

Records: Whitmer 10-8 (8-3), Ross 3-15 (2-9).

Whitmer JV 46, Ross 44

Whitmer 10 13 10 13 — 46

Ross 9 10 16 9 — 44

WHITMER—Chad Lorton 4-0-9, Jason Zielinski 5-0-10, Chad Baxter 2-0-5, Corey Keller 1-0-2, Steve Mefferd 4-2-10, Theron Toney 2-0-4, Rick Gerasimik 1-0-2, Rick Lukasik 2-0-4, totals 21-2-46.

ROSS—Ben Lagrou 1-0-2, Aaron Waggoner 2-0-4, Harry Liggins 2-0-4, John Overberg 1-0-2, Kevin Mosser 5-0-10, Kurt Snyder 2-0-5, Derrick Hershey 5-7-17, totals 18-7-44.

3-point goals: Lorton, Baxter, Snyder.

Records: Whitmer 10-8, Ross 14-4.

'Skins nip Little Giants

Turnovers costly for Ross in 44-43 loss

By **CRAIG SNYDER**
Staff correspondent

Pat Gwinn's two free throws with 6.2 seconds left gave Port Clinton a 44-43 high school boys basketball win over Fremont Ross Saturday night in the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants had a chance to win but Doug Hershey missed two foul shots with 1.4 seconds left.

Port Clinton, 4-15, has won two games in a row while Ross is 3-16.

Jon Minich's jumper gave Ross a 43-40 lead with 1:35 to play but Port Clinton took advantage of an errant pass by Geoff Berger with 1:04 to play and cut the lead to 43-42 on Matt Millikin's layup.

Another Ross turnover set up Gwinn's winning shots. Scott Solem poked the ball away from the Little Giants' Gary Rakes with a half-minute remaining. Gwinn, after a scramble in the Redskins' lane, was fouled by

Chad Root and he calmly gave Port Clinton the win with the free throws.

"They helped us with those turnovers," Port Clinton coach Tom Bodager said.

After a Ross timeout with 3.4 seconds left, a planned, but strange, play put Hershey at the line. Shane Moran's inbounds pass from midcourt caromed off the backboard and into the 6-foot-3 junior's hands. Hershey was fouled by Brian Rickel as he attempted to get off a shot.

"We had worked on that play in practice," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "It tends to freeze the defense. The ball actually came off the board too low it was supposed to come off on the other side to Shaun Root, but Doug was our backup on that play and he did a good job of getting his hands on the ball."

Hershey missed the first of the free throws before Port Clinton called timeout. Hershey's second miss was rebounded by Gwinn to

to preserve the win for the Redskins.

Ross, after taking a 32-28 lead early in the fourth quarter, turned the ball over on six straight possessions. The Ross defense held the Redskins to four points in the period but the turnovers cost Ross. The Little Giants led 36-32 going into the final quarter.

Brown started his five seniors — Chad Hoffman, Chad Root, Moran, Rakes and Minich — in the final home appearance for the Little Giants. Moran led Ross with 12 points, all on 3-point baskets. Chad Root finished with 10 points.

Gwinn finished with 15 for Port Clinton. Millikin had 12 and Pugh 11. Gwinn also had nine rebounds.

Port Clinton put a premium on the 3-point shot but made only 5 of 28. The Redskins were 7-of-17 from 2-point range. Ross was 10-of-24 on 2s and 6-of-14 on 3s.

Port Clinton 44, Ross 43

Port Clinton	11	17	4	12	—	44
Ross	14	13	9	7	—	43

PORT CLINTON—Pat Gwinn 3-7-15, Mike Pugh 4-0-11, Brian Notestine 0-2-2, Matt Milikin 3-6-12, Brian Rickel 2-0-4, totals 12-15-44.

ROSS—Doug Hershey 1-0-2, Sam Root 1-1-3, Geoff Berger 1-2-4, Shaun Root 2-0-5, Chad Root 4-2-10, Gary Rakes 2-0-5, Jon Minich 1-0-2, Shane Moran 4-0-12, Chad Hoffman 0-0-0, totals 16-5-43.

3-point goals: Gwinn 2, Pugh 3, S. Root, Rakes, Moran 4.

Records: Port Clinton 4-15, Ross 3-16.

Ross JV 53, Port Clinton 37

Port Clinton	9	6	8	14	—	37
Ross	8	17	12	16	—	53

PORT CLINTON—Paul Wallen 3-0-7, Brett Dunson 2-0-5, R.J. Basil 1-1-4, Adam Ferrari 0-2-2, Andy Linkous 2-1-5, David Sellards 1-1-3, Ryan Rusincoutich 1-0-2, Dan Goode 1-1-3, Ryan Dubsky 3-0-6, totals 14-6-37.

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 7-0-14, Kevin Mosser 1-0-2, Harry Liggins 6-1-13, Aaron Waggoner 0-2-2, Kurt Snyder 5-0-10, Rob Liggins 4-0-8, Kyle O'Neill 1-0-2, Ben Lagrou 1-0-2, totals 25-3-53.

3-point goals: Wallen, Dunson, Basil.

Records: Ross 15-4, Port Clinton 12-7.

Little Giants triumph at Fostoria

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

FOSTORIA — Charity usually begins at home, but Fremont Ross found it away from home Friday night as the Little Giants posted a 55-46 Great Lakes League victory.

The Little Giants, who committed only eight fouls to Fostoria's 22, made 17 of 28 shots from the "charity" line to Fostoria's 2-of-6 foul shooting.

Eighteen of Ross's 28 free throws were taken by post players Doug Hershey and Jon Minich.

"We felt like we had to go inside at them," Ross coach Bruce Brown said. "We did a nice job of throwing the ball inside. We got 30 of our 55 points from our inside

game."

Minich had 15 points to lead the Little Giants, Hershey netted 11 to go with eight rebounds. Shaun Root, the third Ross post player, added four points.



MINICH

(Ross) gets its second foul of the half called with less than two minutes left in

the fourth quarter...

"But even with the circumstances, we didn't play well enough to win."

Ross, 4-16 and 3-9, used a match-up zone in the second quarter to hold the Redmen scoreless over the final 2:30 as the Little Giants built a 24-21 halftime lead.

"Jon (Minich) was solid every time we went to the zone," Brown said. "He did a nice job of covering the corners."

Ross stretched its lead to 31-23 early in the third quarter, but three consecutive turnovers midway through the period resulted in baskets by Jerry Dessausure and Richard Newsome to cut the lead to 31-27.

Dessausure finished with 17 points for Fostoria, 3-17 and 1-11.

A three-point play by Hershey and a 3-point basket by Geoff Berger helped Ross to a 37-33 advantage at the end of three quarters.

Ross went back inside in the fourth quarter as the Little Giants made 7 of 8 shots, all from inside the key.

Minich's putback midway through the fourth quarter stretched the Little Giants' lead to 42-35.

Berger's three-point play and another basket by Minich made it 47-35 with 2:30 remaining.

The Ross junior varsity defeated Fostoria 47-38 to finish 16-4.

The Little Giants, tops in the GLL at 10-2, got 17 points from Derrick Hershey and 14 from Kurt Snyder.

High School Boys

Ross 55, Fostoria 46

Ross 10 14 13 18 — 55

Fostoria 9 12 12 13 — 46

ROSS—Doug Hershey 2-7-11, Shaun Root 2-0-4, Geoff Berger 3-3-10, Sam Root 1-0-2, Chad Root 4-2-10, Jon Minich 5-5-15, Shane Moran 1-0-3, totals 18-17-55.

FOSTORIA—Leo Frierson 3-0-6, Jerry Dessausure 6-1-17, Richard Newsome 4-0-8, Brandon Canterbury 1-0-2, Jahmane Morant 1-0-2, Chris Jones 3-1-7, Josiah Wade 2-0-4, totals 20-2-46.

3-point goals: Dessausure 4, Berger, Moran.

Records: Ross 4-16 (3-9), Fostoria 3-16 (1-11).

Ross JV 47, Fostoria 38

Ross 11 6 17 13 — 47

Fostoria 9 0 11 18 — 38

ROSS—Derrick Hershey 6-5-17, Kevin Mosser 2-1-5, John Overberg 0-2-2, Kurt Snyder 5-3-14, Ben Lagrou 1-0-3, Rob Liggins 2-0-4, Kris Myers 1-0-2, totals 17-11-47.

FOSTORIA—Jermond McBeth 1-0-3, Brent Fisher 1-0-3, Ted Jagucki 1-0-2, Shawn Ponn 1-0-2, Seth Brandeberry 2-0-4, Ryan Freshour 4-0-8, Eli Haughwout 2-1-5, Malcom Robinson 5-1-11, totals 17-2-38.

3-point goals: Snyder, Lagrou, McBeth, Fisher.

Records: Ross 16-4, Fostoria 6-13.

All-GLL teams

Following is the All-Great Lakes League team released today. Teams were selected by a vote of the coaches:

FIRST TEAM

Player, school	Gr	Ht	PPG
Christian Schlachter, Bed.	11	6-3	18.2
Sean Granger, Clay	12	6-6	17.4
Joe Good, Napoleon.....	12	6-5	18.6
John Ellenwood, N'view	12	6-6	18.3
Floyd Campbell, Whitmer	9	6-2	16.1

SECOND TEAM

Dan Williams, Bedford	11	6-0	17.0
Brian Tobias, Clay	12	6-1	13.8
Josh Penix, Northview	12	6-6	15.5
Rick Brady, Northview	10	6-2	9.1
Trevor Toney, Whitmer	12	6-0	14.5

Player of the year: Ellenwood

Coach of the year: Joe Guerrero, Clay
and Dennis Shoemaker, Northview

Honorable mention

Bedford: Chad Henman

Clay: Eric Brinkman, Mike Pirwitz,
Jim Murray.

Fostoria: Richard Newsome, Leo
Frierson

Ross: Chad Root, Doug Hershey,
Geoff Berger

Napoleon: Doug Brown, Louis Green

Northview: Jamie Westfall

Whitmer: Jake Lyons, Todd Calca-
muggio.

Awards

Zerman, Root Ross basketball MVPs

News-Messenger reports

Dawn Zerman and Chad Root were presented with most valuable player awards during the Fremont Ross High School Basketball Awards Program Tuesday evening in the high school cafeteria.

Zerman, a junior, helped lead Ross to the Division I district finals as coach Sue Wolf's Little Giants won a record 18 out of 24 games.

Zerman, a three-year letter winner, also received a captain's trophy, best free throw shooter and most assists awards. Holly Pelfrey and Cari Ritzman also received captain's trophies.

Ritzman and Zerman shared the top rebounder award with 155 each and Pelfrey was named the top defensive player.

Sophomore Michele Smith was named the team's most improved.

Root won the award for coach Bruce Brown's boys team. Root, a senior, also received his third letter. as did Jon Minich.

Junior Geoff Berger won three awards:



ZERMAN



ROOT

highest free throw percentage, most assists and best defensive player.

Senior Chad Hoffman was named the team's most improved player while juniors Doug Hershey and Shaun Root won the top rebounder award with 98 each.

Brown announced that Berger and Hershey had been elected co-captains for the 1995-96 season.