

Class AA Sectional Tournament

Little Giants Play At Sandusky

Fremont Draws Willard

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY—Fremont Ross has drawn Willard as its first round opponent for the Sandusky-Norwalk AA Sectional Basketball Tournament.

Coach Alex Clark's Little Giants will begin the tournament grind at Sandusky Friday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. If Ross wins Friday, it will return to Sandusky the following night to play the winner of Friday's Bellevue-Vermilion contest. Game time Saturday would be 8:30 p.m.

Ross, Willard, Bellevue and Vermilion are in bracket five. They'll be joined by Norwalk and Port Clinton. Bellevue with its 13-4 record is the second seeded team in the sectional. Norwalk (12-5) was seeded third.

Norwalk and Port Clinton (9-8) won't play until Saturday when they square off against each other at Sandusky high. Game time is 7 p.m. The game pitting the winners of the Ross-Willard and Bellevue-Vermilion follows.

Bellevue and Vermilion will play at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Clyde, the only other Sandusky County team in the sectional besides Ross, will open the tournament next Tuesday against Huron. The game is slated for Norwalk's junior high school at 7 p.m.

The winner advances to a Saturday meeting with top seeded Tiffin Columbian (14-3). That game will be the first game of a twin bill.

The other game matches the winners of the Tiffin Calvert (4-10)-Sandusky Perkins (6-9) and Margaretta (12-5)-Sandusky Senior (10-6) contests. These games will be played at Norwalk Friday.

Calvert and Perkins square off at 7 p.m. and Margaretta meets the Blue Streaks at 8:30 p.m.

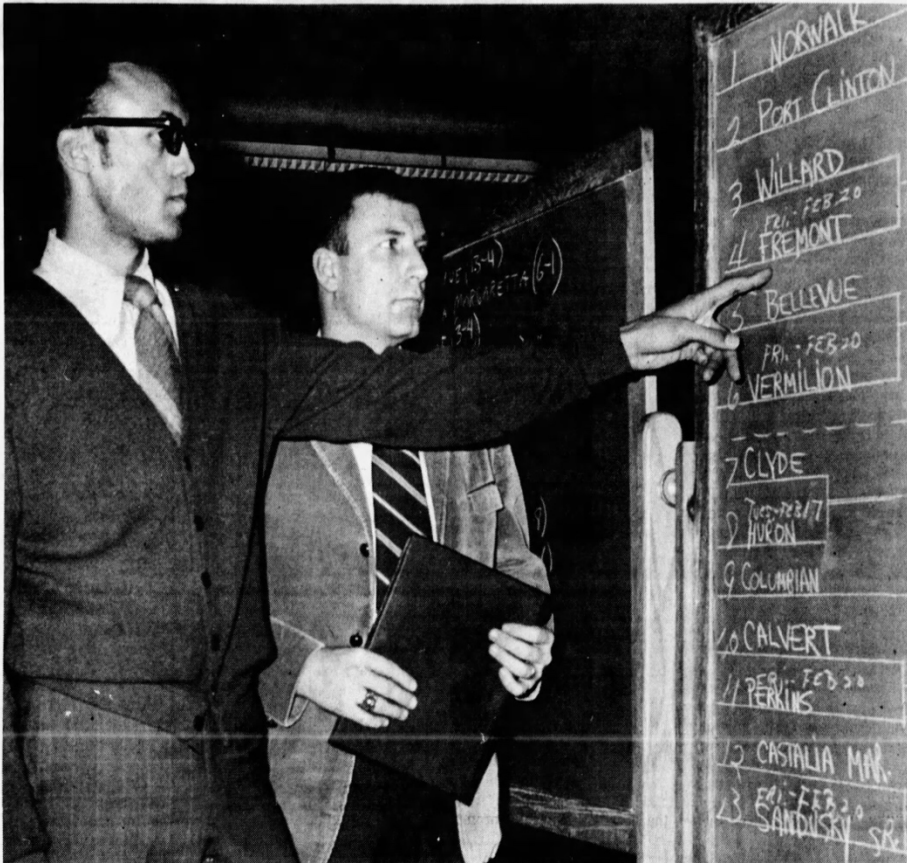
Sandusky's 10-6 record earned it the second seed.

At last night's seeding and drawing meeting, teams participating in the Sandusky sectional decided to hold split sessions. Teams at the Norwalk site felt it wouldn't be necessary for their bracket.

Thus, after the Ross-Willard game next Friday, the gym will be cleared. Fans won't be permitted to see both games with one ticket. The same holds true for the following evening.

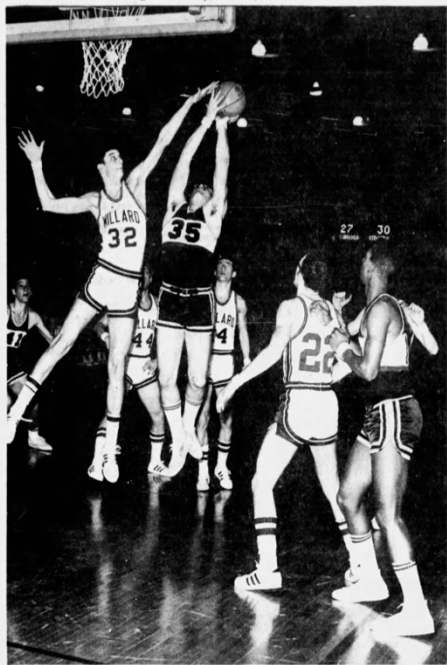
Ticket prices have also been announced. Student price is 75 cents if purchased at the school. All adult tickets are \$1.50. All tickets sold at the door will be \$1.50.

Gary Nossaman, faculty manager at Ross, has announced the following ticket information for Little Giant followers. Beginning Sunday adult and student tickets will be sold at Trempers. Student tickets will also be sold at the senior and junior high schools until the day of the game.



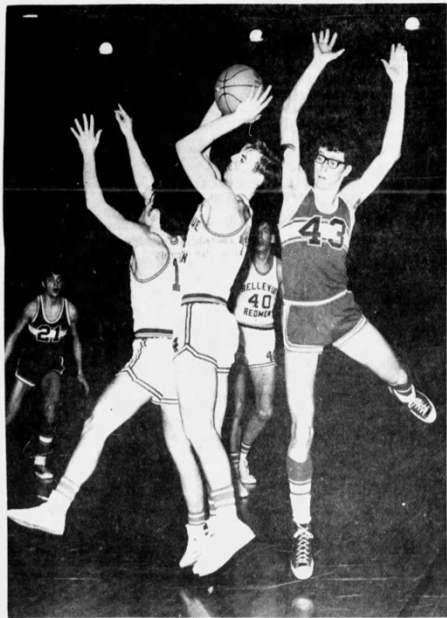
"HERE WE ARE COACH"—Ross high school basketball coach Alex Clark shows assistant Chuck Wegner where the Little Giants are bracketed in the Sandusky-Norwalk AA sectional tourney. Ross will play Willard in a first round game at Sandusky high school next Friday at 7 p.m. If the Little

Giants win they'll play the winner of the Bellevue-Vermilion contest the following night at Sandusky. Drawings and seedings were made at Sandusky high school last night. (News-Messenger Photo)



BLOCKED SHOT —Mike Burma (32), Willard's 6-7 freshman center, blocked Rusty Zimmerman's shot in the second half of last night's game at Sandusky high school. The

Crimson Flashes eliminated Ross from AA tournament action, 65-58. Other Ross players checking the action are Chuck Celek (41) and John Lewis. (News-Messenger Photo)



BELLEVUE CONTROLS REBOUND —Bellevue's Don Seymour out-battled teammate Steve Callaghan and Vermilion's Alex Angrey for this rebound in the first quarter of

last night's AA sectional game at Sandusky high school. Bellevue won the contest, 54-55, and meets Willard in a semifinal game tonight at the same site. (News-Messenger Photo)

Little Giants Lose, 65-58 Willard Eliminates Ross

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Ross high school's basketball season is over.

Willard put the lock on the 1969-70 campaign for the Little Giants with a 65-58 victory in the first round of the AA sectional here last night.

The Crimson Flashes, who trailed at halftime, 27-26, broke loose for 30 points in the second half taking advantage of 14 Little Giant turnovers.

"We just didn't do a thing in the second half," dejected Ross tutor Alex Clark said. "We didn't execute on offense and it looked like we weren't doing anything on defense."

The content was loosely played on both sides. Ross had a total of 23 turnovers and Willard checked in with 24 miscues.

But the difference came in the third quarter when Ross committed eight errors in the early minutes. Willard didn't commit a miscue until only 1:45 remained. By that time the Flashes were in front, 50-32.

Coach Jack Gill ordered his squad to use the press in the second half.

"I think it was the difference," Gill said afterwards. "We thought it really shook them up. It also seemed to help our shooting. We didn't play good at all. I'm just glad to win it."

Willard opened the half with eight straight points — a three point play by Mike Burma,

three free throws by Dean Moll and a field goal by Dave Frye.

After Chuck Celek put the Little Giants on the scoreboard with a charity toss, Willard scored six more points before Rusty Zimmerman got Ross' first field goal of the half with a 23 left. The two-pointers made it 49-30.

Willard, a member of the Northern Ohio League, got a two-point lead from Don Wilson before John Lewis and Rick Dudley cashed in a free throw apiece.

In the next 1:22, Willard converted three Ross miscues into field goals and added another two free throws to take a commanding 43-point lead.

The Crimson Flashes, who entered the game with a 6-12 record card, didn't get a point the rest of the frame as Ross chopped the lead to 13 points on two free throws by Zimmerman and three by Denny Shearon.

Willard built the margin back up to 18 points — 55-37 — at the start of the final frame. Ross again closed the gap to 14, 57-43, but, the victors again got the 18 point margin when Frye and Dale Slater got back-to-back field goals.

The Little Giants then started a desperate come back attempt but the damage was done. In the final 3:38 Ross held a 13-4 scoring advantage.

John Lewis and Rick Dudley sparked the surge with five and four points, respectively.

Lewis, who has been the spark-plug for the Little Giants all

season, scored only 14 points, nine in the final eight minutes.

Willard used a diamond and one to defense the high scoring junior.

"We had three special defenses we developed just for him," Gill said. "We would have gone with a box and one or a one-three-one if the other two didn't work."

"We have used the one-three-one all season but we varied it a little for this game. I told the kids before the game if they beat us the other four players will do it, but not Lewis."

"We thought we could give them the outside shot. I saw them last Saturday night and their guards had trouble putting the ball in the hoop."

Willard's free throw shooting kept it in the game in the first half. The Crimson Flashes canned 16 of 18 charity tosses.

Ross led at the quarter by a 10-5 margin. But if the Little Giants could have connected from the field in the initial stanza they could have put the game out of reach. Willard had 12 turnovers in the period but Ross made only three of 13 two point tries.

REMARK(S): Willard cashed in on 29 of 36 free throws. Four of those seven missed shots came in the final 30 seconds when the substitutes were playing, however. From the floor, the Crimson Flashes made 18 of 33 attempts. Ross was 15-56 from the floor and 28-40 at the line. The referees called 53 fouls—36 against Ross and 27

against Willard. Denny Shearon's 16 points led the Ross attack. Frye and Moll paced Willard with 18 and 17, respectively. Ross finished the season with a 3-16 mark.

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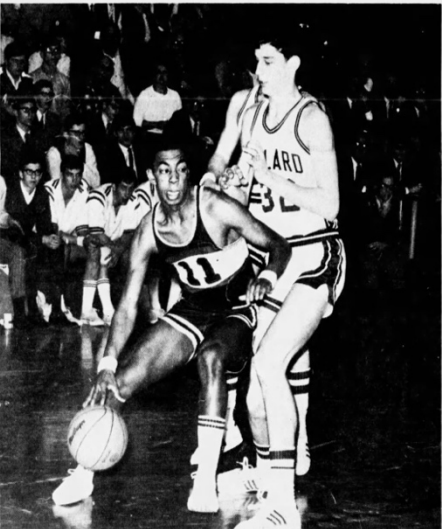
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News-Messenger SPORTS



DRIVING THE BASELINE —Ross' high John Lewis attempts to maneuver on the base line against Willard's Mike Burma last night.

Lewis scored 14 points in Ross' eight point loss to the Northern Ohio League squad. (News-Messenger Photo)

Shafei Scores Tennis Victory

SALISBURY, Md. (AP) — Ismail El Shafei, in his second tournament as a professional, seemed not quite ready to believe what he had just done.

"I've just beaten the world champion," the 22-year-old Egyptian said several times after scoring a convincing 6-3, 10-8 victory over Rod Laver of Australia Friday night.

As Laver went to the sidelines following the battle of left-handers in the U.S. National Indoor Open Tennis championships, American Cliff Richey remained as the lone seeded player in today's semi-finals.

Richey, the No. 2 domestic seed, required only 40 minutes to roll over American Jim Osborne, 6-2, 6-2, in the quarterfinals. But as Richey was doing what was expected of him, El Shafei wasn't.

The Egyptian had packed his bags for a fast getaway following an expected loss and told Bill Riordan, the tournament chairman, to hold onto his prize money in the event they missed

each other after the match. By winning, El Shafei doubled his assured earnings to \$2,000 and now has a shot at the \$7,200 which goes to the winner.

Laver, who represents a firm which manufactures carpet-like artificial surface, criticized the canvas playing surface at the Civic Center, saying it was too loose for proper footing. He said it must be 15 years old.

Riordan said it was three years old, and contended it was "stretched tautly over wood."

Richey, who lost to El Shafei here last year, will play him in the semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. In an afternoon match, Roger Taylor of England takes on the Nastase of Romania.

El Shafei, asked if his victory over Laver was the biggest he ever scored, said: "Biggest? It could be the biggest for the next 10 years."

What will happen when he plays Laver again? "I think he'll beat hell out of me."