

1991-1992 Season Review

Ross opens with a loss

Missed foul shots are costly as Waite prevails

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross lived on the long shot but died with the short shot Tuesday night in a season-opening 68-60 high school boys basketball loss to Toledo Waite.

The Little Giants made nine 3-point baskets — five by Nick Wolf — but missed 15 of 18 free throws.

"Yeah, you are not going to win very many basketball games shooting three-for-18," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, "but it's our first game; it's a learning experience. Waite already has had one game and it showed tonight. It does not matter how many previews you play in, it's the game that counts and it looked like they executed better than we did."

At times, Waite's best defense was putting the Little Giants on the unfriendly foul line.

"I know they shot poorly at the foul line," Waite coach Joe Guerrero said, "and I am sure that is one thing they are going to work on, but we missed some foul shots in crucial spots, too."

"At the end, though, we got a little more confident at the foul line and it's kind of contagious — when one guy hits one, then a couple guys hit them. That worked for us."

It was a disease the Little Giants would have like to have caught.

The Indians, 1-1, made 13 of 22 foul shots in the fourth quarter — 17 of 27 in the game — offsetting six 3-point baskets by Ross.

When Ross crept to within three twice in the final minute, the Indians gave themselves breathing room with free throws. Eric Winters was 5-of-8 and Russel Zieroff 4-of-7 from the line in the final eight minutes for Waite.

Winters knocked in two when Ross closed to 61-58 on Wolf's fifth 3-pointer with 51 seconds left in the game.

Jason Zilles tossed in a shot from the base line with 32 sec-

onds left to pull Ross back to 63-60 but the Little Giants could not stop the Waite parade to the line.

Wolf tossed in a trio of 3-pointers, Mark Scheidler two and Mike Patterson one, all in the final quarter.

"I'll tell you, Nick Wolf is a great player," Guerrero said. "He shot well and we did all we could just to try to slow him down."

That trio along with a hustling Damon Walker kept the Little Giants from being blown out. Waite built a 45-32 lead at the end of three quarters and still held a 56-46 advantage with 3½ minutes to play before the Ross 3-point barrage.

"We did a nice job," Gioffre said about his team's long shooting, "but you have to be able to execute. A lot of those were on transition and a lot were forced threes; when you hit a three, you've got to get inside and get a two because all of a sudden, those defensive wings start forcing you farther out than you want to go."

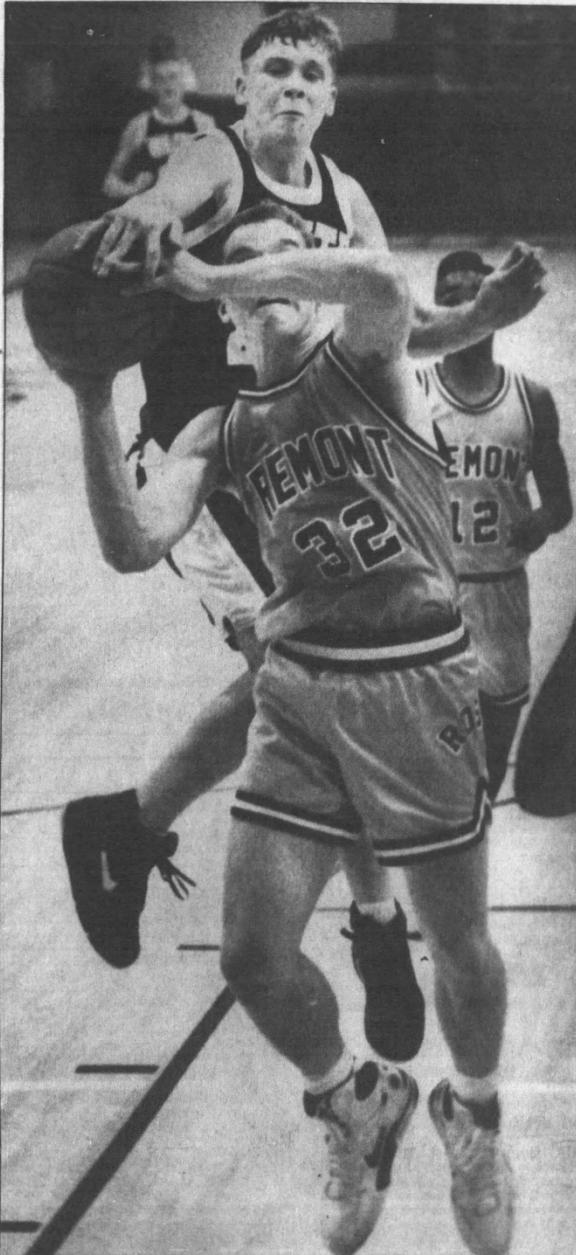
Patterson hit a short shot and Wolf followed with 3-pointer, cutting the Waite lead to 56-51 with 2:50 left. Winters hit a free throw but Scheidler's basket put Ross down 57-53.

Ross pulled to within two — 57-55 with 1:50 to play — on Tyrone Price's rebound, but Russel Zieroff sank a pair of foul shots and 6-8 Jason Beyer hit two more for a 61-55 Waite advantage.

Ross had only Wolf's final 3-pointer and Zilles' shot the rest of the way while Waite turned contagious at the foul line.

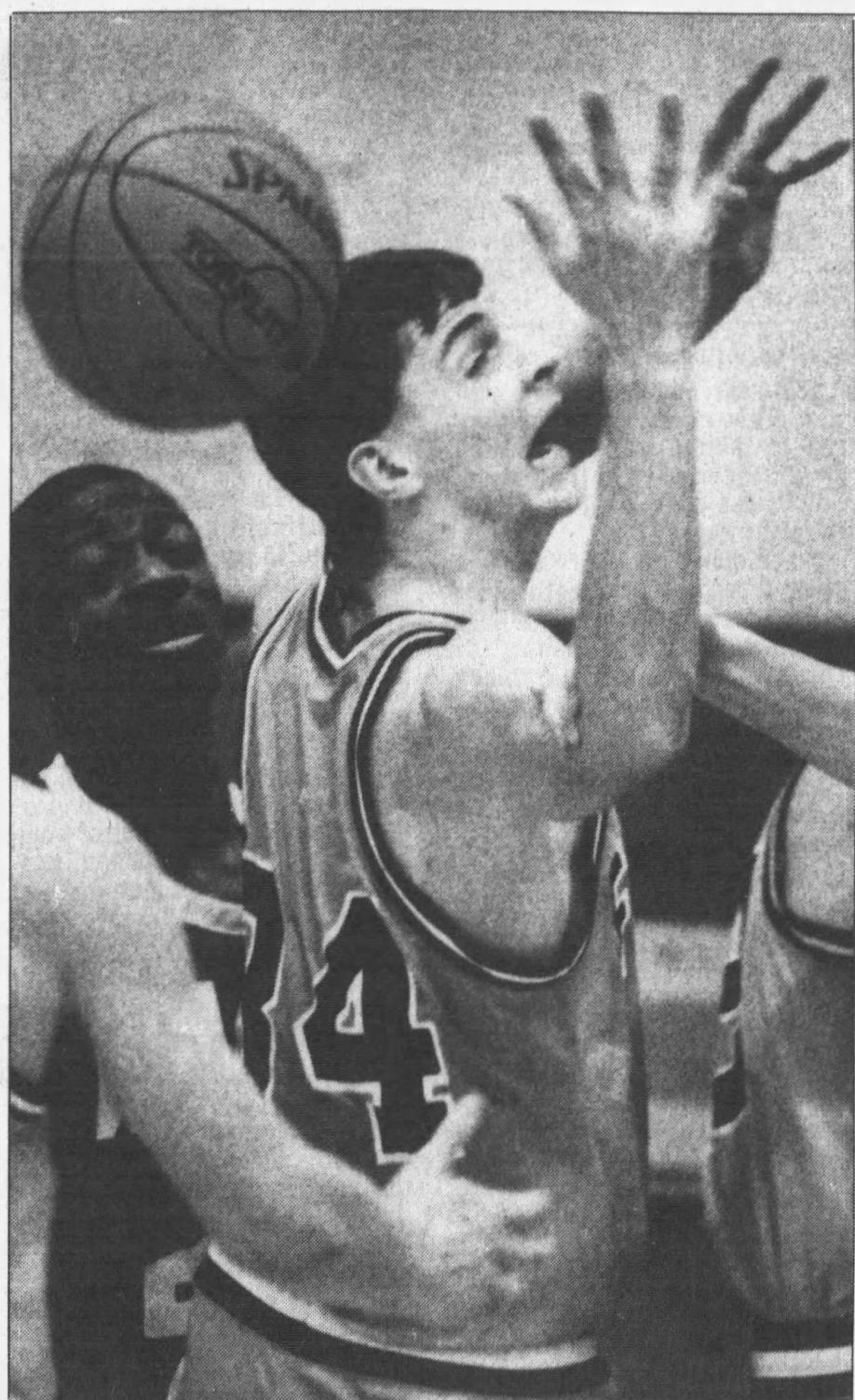
Wolf finished with 19 points, Walker added 12 and Scheidler 10. Beyer had 16, Winters 15 and Jackson 14 for Waite.

Ross opens Great Lakes League play Friday at Whitmer before traveling to Port Clinton Saturday. The junior varsity game at Whitmer begins at 6:15 p.m. and the JV tip-off at Port Clinton is 6:30 p.m.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MARK SCHEIDLER (32) of Fremont Ross is fouled by Toledo Waite's Michael LaCourse on his way to the basket Tuesday night during the Indians' 68-60 victory over the Little Giants.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Rebound slips away

Nick Wolf of Fremont Ross fails to grab a rebound on the defensive end Tuesday night during Toledo Waite's 68-60 victory over the Little Giants.

Basketball

High School Boys

Waite 68, Ross 60

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Waite | 12 | 15 | 18 | 23 | — 68 |
| Ross | 7 | 13 | 12 | 28 | — 60 |

Scoring

WAITE — Russel Zieroff 2-4-9, Bill Twining 3-0-6, Jason Beyer 7-2-16, Eric Winters 5-5-15, Gene Jackson 5-4-14, Anthony Ashford 2-1-5, Donnie Brown 1-1-3, totals 25-17-68.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 7-0-19, Damon Walker 6-0-12, Ryan Zimmerman 0-1-1, Mark Scheidler 3-2-10, Mike Patterson 4-0-9, Jon Hetrick 1-0-3, Tyrone Price 2-0-4, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, totals 24-3-60.

3-point goals: Zieroff, Wolf 5, Scheidler 2, Hetrick, Patterson.

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

Waite JV 55, Ross 42

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Waite | 10 | 11 | 19 | 15 | — 55 |
| Ross | 8 | 8 | 9 | 17 | — 42 |

Scoring

WAITE — Phil Schiffler 2-4-8, Jason Wise 1-0-2, Donnie Parks 1-1-3, Jamal Grant 1-0-2, Michael LaCourse 2-3-7, Romules Durant 2-1-5, Jason Villarreal 1-0-2, Tom Dunston 2-6-10, Keith Stanley 5-5-15, Shawn Temple 0-1-1, totals 17-21-55.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-1-3, Mike Lather 2-0-4, Ryan Smith 4-1-10, Tim, Leeth 1-0-3, David Gibbs 4-3-12, Aaron Smith 1-1-4, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Bryan Myers 2-0-4, totals 16-6-42.

3-point goals: R. Smith, Leeth, Gibbs, A. Smith.

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

Little Giants lose in OT grudgingly

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

TOLEDO — It was the only thing Fremont Ross coach Frank Gioffre could do: chalk it up as a moral victory but write it down as a loss.

Gioffre's Little Giants erased a 15-point second half deficit only to run out of gas late in a 74-68 overtime loss to Whitmer in the Great Lakes League boys basketball opener for both teams.

"Our kids played hard," Gioffre said, "but we still are not starting off the way we want to. We played a great second half. That's two games in a row now, but we have to play four quarters. We play four quarters tonight, we win the basketball game.

"You can't be down 13 at the half (37-24) and then make a great run at the end and expect

to have anything for the final drive. Our kids were really tired."

In addition to the Panthers, Ross was also battling the flu bug.

"We had one playing with the flu (Ryan Zimmerman), Nick Wolf is not feeling well, Damon Walker just got over the flu, I have the flu — it's everywhere," Gioffre said.

Ross fell behind 43-28 three minutes into the second half before turning up the defensive pressure on the Panthers, 3-0, using it to cut the Whitmer lead to 45-42 at the end of three quarters. Wolf, Walker and Mike Patterson led the Ross surge, combining for all 18 Ross points in the period.

After Justin Keller followed his own missed free throw with a rebound basket, Ross ran off 14 un-

answered points. Wolf hit back-to-back buckets, Walker turned in a three-point play and a basket and Patterson's back-to-back baskets made it 43-42 before 6-foot-9 Craig Tipton's short shot for Whitmer stopped the Ross run.

"It was a tremendous game," Whitmer coach Bruce Smith said. "We expected it, knew it was coming and we did not deal with it very well.

"We never saw 12 (Patterson) shoot that well; he hurt us. He came down the lane, we had guys in his face and he just jumped over us."

Walker scored eight points in the final period, including a steal and a court-length drive for the layup that put Ross ahead 56-54 with 2:04 left in regulation. Patterson, who came off the bench to score 16 points, pulled Ross

even at 54 with a 3-point basket seconds before Walker's theft.

Tipton's two free throws tied it but Walker drove the right base line putting Ross up 58-56 with 1:03 left. Keller hit the back end of a two-shot foul, cutting the Ross lead to 58-57 with 48 seconds remaining before Ross fell victim to a malady they suffered in a 68-60 season-opening loss to Waite Tuesday: missed free throws.

Ross missed 15-of-18 foul shots in that game. Against Whitmer, Ross made 13 of 23 but the misses down the stretch were costly.

"Well, at least we did not shoot 17 percent from the line, you know," Gioffre said, "but we have to step up at the end of the game and make those free throws — that cost us the victory tonight."

Walker, who finished with 18 points, missed the first attempt on a one-and-one with 23 seconds remaining in regulation. Wolf, who dropped in 19 points for the second consecutive game, hit the front end of the bonus at the 16-second mark but came up short on the second but still, Ross had a 59-57 lead.

After a timeout, Whitmer got the ball into Keller on the left baseline where the 6-4 junior wheeled and knocked in a 5-footer sending the game into overtime.

Whitmer got the tip in overtime and after running more than 30 seconds off the clock, Ben Langenderfer drove the lane, hit the layup and was fouled by Walker. Langenderfer made the free throw and the

See ROSS, B2

ROSS

Continued From B1

Little Giants were forced to play catch-up.

Whitmer moved out to a 66-61 lead as the Panthers began parading to the foul line. Patterson brought Ross back to 66-63 but Tipton, who was 6-of-6 from the line in overtime, put the lead back to five. Mark Scheidler's basket put Ross within three with 38 seconds left in overtime, but Denard Mays hit two free throws. Wolf sank a 3-pointer, bringing Ross to within two, 70-68, with 12 seconds left, but Tipton and Keller closed the Little Giants out with four more free throws.

"Their quickness gave us a great deal of difficulty," Smith said, "but any time you have a great player like Nick Wolf is, he will elevate the games of the people behind him and that is exactly what happened."

Tipton led the Panthers with 18 points, 10 at the foul line. Walker, 6-2, kept the tall Panther at bay for the better part of the game.

"Damon Walker worked hard on both ends of the floor," Gioffre said.

"(Walker) used his body extremely well," Smith said. "We were crying for a foul but evidently there was none; he did a good job on him."

Gioffre and Smith disagreed on one item: Gioffre said his team was picked to finish sixth in the GLL race while Whitmer was favored to win. Smith said his team was picked to finish third.

"There is no way in the world that is a sixth-place team," Smith said about Ross.

Gioffre could only smile at that thought.

"Whitmer knows they were in a dogfight," Gioffre said. "It was a moral victory, I guess ... but we lost."

Whitmer 74, Ross 68 (OT)

Score by quarters

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Ross | 14 | 10 | 18 | 17 | 9 | — | 68 |
| Whitmer | 14 | 23 | 8 | 14 | 15 | — | 74 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 6-5-19, Damon Walker 7-4-18, Ryan Zimmerman 2-0-4, Mark Scheidler 3-3-9, Jon Hetrick 1-0-2, Mike Patterson 7-1-16, totals 26-13-68.

WHITMER — Ben Langenderfer 2-3-8, Jeff Hoffman 4-0-11, Sean Marsh 2-0-4, Justin Keller 3-4-10, Craig Tipton 4-10-18, Kevin McIlhargey 1-2-5, Denard Mays 4-3-11, totals 23-22-74.

3-point goals: Wolf 2, Patterson, Langenderfer, Hoffman 3, McIlhargey, Block.

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

Ross JV 57, Whitmer 53

Score by quarters (OT)

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| Ross | 11 | 12 | 8 | 19 | 7 | — | 57 |
| Whitmer | 15 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 3 | — | 53 |

Scoring

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 3-0-7, Mike Lather 3-1-7, Ryan Smith 5-4-14, Josh Hetrick 1-0-2, David Gibbs 4-0-9, Aaron Smith 0-2-2, Jason Matney 5-2-12, Bryan Myers 0-4-4, totals 21-13-57.

WHITMER — Rhett Boyd 4-0-9, Ryan Brown 6-1-14, Matt Calmes 2-1-5, Rich Case 1-1-3, Jeremy Fritz 0-1-1, Erin Lehaney 1-0-2, Nate Meford 6-2-14, Chris Ulery 1-1-3, totals 21-7-53.

3-point goals: Cheeks, Gibbs, Brown.

Record: Ross 1-1.

Redskins rip Ross

By MARK GRIFFIN
Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — Port Clinton got off to its best start in five years Saturday night with a 73-57 non-conference boys basketball victory over Fremont Ross.

The Redskins snapped a four-game losing streak to the Little Giants to improve to 2-0 for the first time since the 1986-87 season. Ross fell to 0-3 with its second loss in as many nights.

PC should call Toledo Whitmer and thank the Panthers for their 74-68 overtime victory over the Little Giants on Friday. Port Clinton coach Tom Bodager and Ross coach Frank Gioffre both agreed that Whitmer took some of the wind out of the Little Giants' sails.

"That's one reason we got after them right from the beginning," said Bodager, whose team hadn't played a game since a 65-49 win over Norwalk eight days earlier.

Ross fell behind 12-0 after 4½ minutes, missing its first 10 shots, and trailed 16-6 after one quarter.

"I don't think we've had a day off in about two and a half weeks," Gioffre said. "We've played three games in five days."

"Friday night was such an emotional game for us. We wondered how our kids would react (Saturday). It's the same storyline in all three games: we fall behind early, catch up at half, try to make a big run in the second half and not have any legs left."

Port Clinton outrebounded Ross 21-11 in the first half and 21-13 in the second half behind a team-high 11 rebounds from Matt Quayle and 10 from Jason Kreulen.

Kreulen also poured in a game-high 22 points, with Scott Postma adding 15 and Quayle 11.

Mark Sheidler led Ross with 18 points, while Nick Wolf added 13.

"I think our kids were physically exhausted," Gioffre said. "We've got three kids battling the flu right now. We're going to be a good basketball team, it's just a matter of getting some rest."

The Little Giants managed to battle back in the second quarter, thanks to 10-of-19 shooting.

Port Clinton led by just five points, 34-29, at the half.

The Redskins, however, caught fire in the third quarter, converting six of their first 11 shots. Back-to-back baskets by Kreulen gave PC a 49-37 lead with 2:44 left in the quarter, and the Redskins extended it to 54-41 on a 3-pointer by Craig Thomas less than two minutes later.

Ross made another run in the final eight minutes, closing within six points, 54-48, on a 3-pointer by Sheidler with 6:45 left to play before Port Clinton began steadily increased its lead, forcing the Little Giants to foul.

The Redskins hit 7-of-11 free throws in the fourth quarter and were 6-of-8 from the field. Ross, which was 5-of-22 in the last period, shot 29 percent (11-of-38) in the second half to PC's 63 percent (15-of-24).

"What we tried to do was allow them to shoot from the outside," Gioffre said. "Give Port Clinton a lot of credit, because those kids just stepped up every time and knocked it down when they needed it."

Bodager said the victory over Ross left a better taste in his mouth than did the win over Norwalk.

High School Boys

Port Clinton 73, Ross 57

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 6 | 23 | 14 | 14 | — 57 |
| Port Clinton | 16 | 18 | 20 | 19 | — 73 |

Scoring

ROSS — Jon Hetrick 1-0-3, Mike Patterson 4-0-8, Mark Sheidler 8-0-18, Nick Wolf 4-2-13, Damon Walker 3-1-7, Tyrone Price 2-0-4, Ryan Zimmerman 1-2-4, totals 23-5-57.

PORT CLINTON — Craig Thomas 1-1-4, Ty Bodager 2-0-5, Matt Quayle 5-1-11, Scott Rickel 3-0-6, Scott Postma 5-5-15, Kit Lynch 1-0-2, Tony Meek 2-0-4, Jason Kreulen 10-2-22, Fred Enterman 2-0-4, totals 31-9-73.

3-point goals: Hetrick, Sheidler 2, Wolf 3, Thomas, Bodager.

Records: Port Clinton 2-0, Ross 0-3.

P. Clinton JV 69, Ross 32

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 6 | 8 | 6 | 12 | — 32 |
| Port Clinton | 17 | 22 | 11 | 19 | — 69 |

Scoring

ROSS — Ken Gottron 1-0-2, Mike Lather 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 3-0-6, Josh Hetrick 2-0-4, Tim Leeth 1-0-2, David Gibbs 2-0-4, Jason Matney 2-0-4, Doug Adams 3-0-6, Moe Myers 1-0-2, totals 16-0-32.

PORT CLINTON — Scott Solem 2-5-9, Phil Boss 3-2-8, Steve Gertz 4-0-9, Chris Caswell 1-0-2, Eric Heise 1-1-3, David Sparks 2-1-5, Gene Smith 1-2-5, Rick Cassel 8-1-17, Jamie Green 4-1-11, totals 26-13-69.

3-point goals: Gertz, Smith, Green 2.

Records: Port Clinton 2-0, Ross 1-2.

Little Giants net first win

Ross tops Fostoria

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Everything that had been going wrong for Fremont Ross was momentarily forgotten Tuesday night after the Little Giants' 51-44 high school boys basketball victory over Fostoria.

"As far as confidence, we needed that," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said after Ross overcame a 29-20 halftime deficit. "Hopefully, we can build on that ... get our kids some confidence knowing they can finish a game."

"We held our composure very well in the second half. Our kids didn't panic. We were patient with the basketball, got some good shots and made some free throws when we had to."

The Little Giants, 1-3 and 1-1 in the GLL, made 13-of-19 foul shots in the fourth quarter as they outscored Fostoria 22-6 after trailing 38-29 after three quarters.

"I never doubted our kids," Gioffre said. "When we're in a rut where we're not scoring ... we're looking for someone to get fouled and get to the foul line."

Ross, which has struggled at the line this season, made 18-of-31 shots there Tuesday night.

The Redmen, 2-1 and 1-1 in the GLL, had trouble putting the ball in the basket at all in the fourth quarter. They did not tally a field goal in the period until Derek Kidwell's putback with 18.3 seconds remaining.

"Poor shot selection — extremely poor selection," Fostoria coach Jim Rutter said. "And we were careless with the ball."

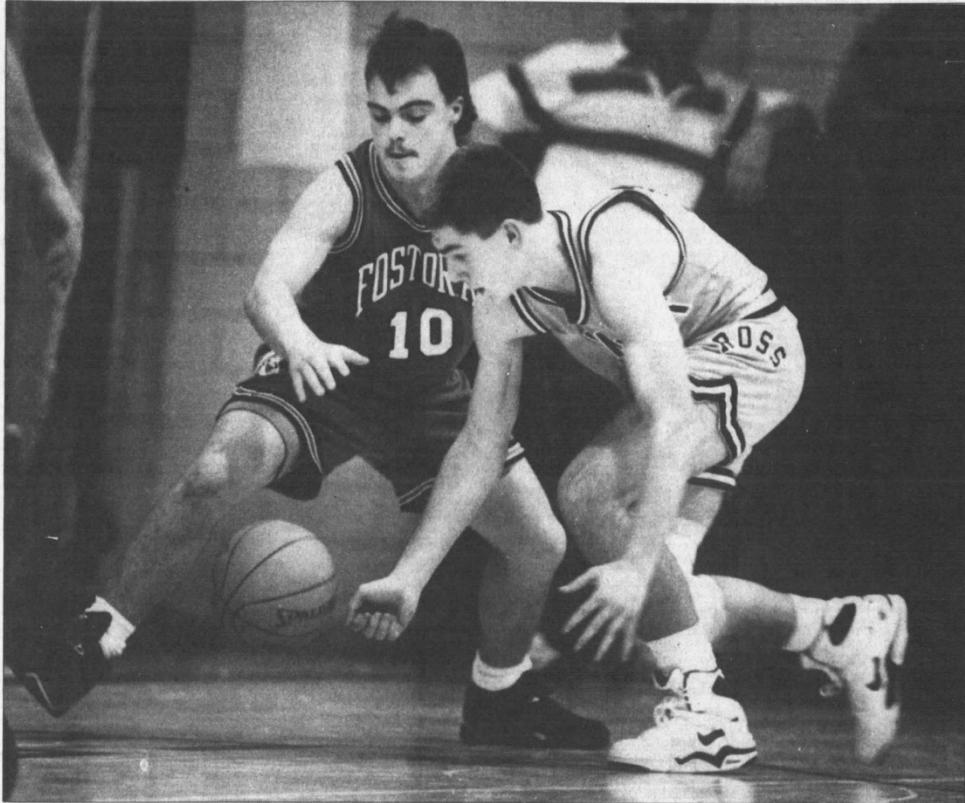
"We look to push it up and down the floor, but we also like a little bit better shot selection than we used tonight. We just didn't use good judgments."

"That's as poor as we've played in three years."

The Ross combination of Nick Wolf, Damon Walker, Ryan Zimmerman, Justin Perry and Mike Patterson had something to do with that.

□ Walker grabbed 14 rebounds and had a hand in the Little Giants' first five points in the second half.

□ Zimmerman scored all six of his points and collected eight of his nine rebounds in the fourth



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JUSTIN PERRY of Fremont Ross scrambles for a loose ball with Fostoria's Tony Hammond Tuesday night at Ross during the Little

Giants' 51-44 Great Lakes League victory. Perry was playing in his first game, and the victory was the Little Giants' first.

quarter. "He knows what his role is, and he proved it to night," Gioffre said.

□ Perry, who had not practiced until Monday because of a football injury, played five minutes and contributed two points and two rebounds. "He's a spark," Gioffre said. "Everyone picked it up a bit when J.P. was on the floor."

□ Patterson was big reason Fostoria's Russell Robinson was held to five points. His jump shot from the circle also gave Ross its first lead of the game at 43-41

with 3:05 remaining.

□ Wolf led Ross with 13 points, collected eight rebounds, made four foul shots in the fourth quarter and was the steady influence on the floor.

After Perry opened the fourth quarter with two free throws, Zimmerman scored off a pass from Patterson, Wolf sank two at the line and Zimmerman added a foul shot — cutting Fostoria's lead to 38-36 with 5:54 to go.

Steve Dieter's foul shot put the Redmen back on top by three but after a Ross timeout, Patterson's

3-point shot with 4:11 left tied the score at 39-all.

Kidwell, who led Fostoria with 11 points and 15 rebounds, made two free throws to slow Ross temporarily with 3:42 to play.

Two free throws by Patterson retied the game 12 seconds later, and Patterson's 16-footer after a Fostoria turnover made it 43-41.

When Zimmerman grabbed a long rebound and went the length of the floor for a layup, it sent the Ross crowd into a frenzy. Zimmerman converted a three-point play, and Ross stretched

its lead to 51-42 before Kidwell's putback.

Fostoria scored the first six points of the game, and the score was tied twice in the first quarter before the Redmen took a 14-12 lead after eight minutes.

The score was knotted at 16, 18 and 20 in the second quarter, but Fostoria took advantage of two Ross turnovers and converted a three-point play in the final minute of the half for its 29-20 half-time lead.

The Redmen held their biggest lead at 32-22 less than a minute into the third quarter.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 51, Fostoria 44

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|---|----|------|
| Fostoria | 14 | 15 | 9 | 6 | — 44 |
| Ross | 12 | 8 | 9 | 22 | — 51 |

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Russell Robinson 2-1-5, Steve Dieter 1-2-4, Greg Flores 3-3-9, Derek Kidwell 4-3-11, Ryan Dunbar 4-0-8, Todd M. Lucius 3-1-7, totals 17-10-44.

ROSS — Jon Hetrick 2-0-4, Mark Scheidler 2-4-8, Nick Wolf 3-5-13, Damon Walker 2-1-5, Ryan Zimmerman 2-2-6, Justin Perry 0-2-2, Mike Patterson 3-4-11, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, totals 15-18-51.

3-point goals: Wolf 2, Patterson.

Records: Fostoria 2-1 (1-1), Ross 1-3 (1-1).

Fostoria JV 44, Ross 39

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|---|------|
| Fostoria | 15 | 8 | 12 | 9 | — 44 |
| Ross | 15 | 12 | 4 | 8 | — 39 |

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Jason Miller 2-0-5, Damon Moore 2-2-6, Ryan Myers 4-5-13, Wes Scherf 1-0-2, Dan Dixie 1-0-2, Ryan Griffin 3-0-6, Shawn Nye 1-0-2, Jason Gerlach 2-0-4, Todd C. Lucius 2-0-4, totals 18-7-44.

ROSS — Mike Lather 3-0-7, Bryan Myers 5-1-11, Ryan Smith 1-2-4, Tim Leeth 2-0-5, David Gibbs 5-0-10, Jason Matney 1-0-2, totals 17-3-39.

3-point goals: Miller, Lather, Leeth.

Records: Fostoria 3-0, Ross 1-3.

Ross wins 2nd straight

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross followed a familiar pattern but not as ardently as in its previous four boys basketball games.

The Little Giants wiped out a one-point Northview half-time lead Friday night and rolled on to a 70-52 Great Lakes League victory.

Ross, 2-3 and 2-1 in GLL play, played sluggishly in the first half despite leading by 10 points at one point. The Little Giants have been plagued by slow starts in its other games but in each contest, have bounced back in the second half.

"They made a nice run at us," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "It was just like in the other games."

Only not as bad.

Nick Wolf spearheaded the Ross second half drive.

"He had a great game," Gioffre said about his 6-4 senior. "When we needed a bucket at crunch time, he got it."

Wolf finished with 23 points, leading a trio of double-figure Ross scorers. Mark Scheidler added 16 points and Mike Patterson 13.

The Little Giants led 16-13 after one quarter but Northview, 0-5 and 0-3, outscored Ross 18-14 in the second quarter for a 31-30 halftime lead.

Ross took control with a 17-11 advantage in the third quarter.

"Our defensive pressure in the second half hurt them and it picked us up," Gioffre said. "Plus we did a nice job of passing the ball around on offense."

Terry Shadle tossed in 13 points and Tim Sweeney had 11 for the Wildcats.

Ross made six three-point baskets, three by Wolf and a pair by Jon Hetrick.

The Little Giants, winners of two straight, travel to Findlay next Friday night.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 70, Northview 52

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 16 | 14 | 17 | 23 | — 70 |
| Northview | 13 | 18 | 11 | 10 | — 52 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 9-2-23, Mike Patterson 4-5-13, Mark Scheidler 5-5-16, Damon Walker 3-3-9, Justin Perry 0-1-1, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, Jon Hetrick 2-0-6, totals 24-16-70.

NORTHVIEW — Tim Sweeney 5-1-11, Colin Chiles 2-0-6, Jeff Slade 3-2-8, Chad Holtz 2-0-4, Doug Crowley 2-2-6, Keith Chrapliwy 0-2-2, Terry Shadle 5-0-13, Ryan Drwes 1-0-2, totals 20-7-52.

3-point goals: Wolf 3, Scheidler, Hetrick 2, Chiles 2, Shadle 3.

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

JV game: Northview 65-34.

Findlay runs past Ross

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Four players scored in double figures as the Findlay Trojans broke quickly away from Fremont Ross with a second-half spurt in a 79-56 high school boys basketball game Friday night.

Findlay led 33-25 at the half but the undefeated Trojans, 5-0, outscored the Little Giants 12-4 in the first four minutes of the third quarter to break the game open.

"We have had problems all year allowing opponents that dramatic spurt," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "We fall behind and have to play catch-up — we have to shoot threes and we shoot ourselves out of the game."

Ross made just three of 14 3-point basket attempts.

"We were down eight at the half," Gioffre said, "and we felt we could make a run at them but Findlay has so many weapons."

One weapon was defensive specialist Jeff Lobb who was like a second skin to Ross leading scorer Nick Wolf. Lobb held Wolf to nine points, more than seven below his season average. Six of Wolf's points were on 3-point shots.

Ross was also plagued by free throw shooting, missing 14 of 23 shots from the line.

The Trojans opened the game in a full court press, forcing the Little Giants into 12 turnovers as the Trojans forced an uptempo game.

Chris Ireland topped the quartet of double-figure Trojan scorers with 20 points. Aaron Gralak and Matt Miles added 12 apiece while Lamont Paris dropped in 10. Lobb and Javin Conley had nine apiece for the Trojans.

Mark Sheidler was the only Ross player in double figures with 11.

Basketball

High School Boys

Findlay 79, Ross 56

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 11 | 14 | 12 | 19 | — 56 |
| Findlay | 16 | 17 | 20 | 26 | — 79 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 3-1-9, Damon Walker 3-0-6, Mark Sheidler 4-3-11, Mike Patterson 3-0-6, Justin Perry 1-2-4, Ryan Zimmerman 2-1-5, Jon Hetrick 2-0-5, Tyrone Price 2-1-5, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, Bryan Myers 0-1-1, Todd Desbin 1-1-3, totals 22-9-56.

FINDLAY — Jeff Lobb 3-2-9, Aaron Gralak 5-2-12, Lamont Paris 3-3-10, Marlyn Berry 2-3-7, Chris Ireland 9-1-20, Matt Miles 5-2-12, Javin Conley 2-5-9, totals 29-18-79.

3-point goals: Wolf 2, Hetrick, Lobb, Paris, Ireland.

Records: Ross 2-4, Findlay 6-0.

Findlay JV 54, Ross 41

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|---|------|
| Ross | 6 | 9 | 17 | 9 | — 41 |
| Findlay | 18 | 16 | 11 | 9 | — 54 |

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-3-5, Jason Zilles 1-6-9, Ryan Smith 5-1-11, Tim Leeth 1-0-2, David Gibbs 5-2-14, Totals 13-12-41.

FINDLAY — Brandon Waddell 3-0-6, Scott Lobb 0-5-5, Brian Funkhouser 6-0-13, Thom Romer 1-1-3, Blair Lane 5-0-10, Brian Sallot 2-0-4, Aaron Laube 1-2-4, Scott Hermon 4-1-9, Totals 22-9-54.

3-point goals: Zilles, Gibbs 2, Funkhouser.

Record: Findlay 3-2.

Fast start aids Ross

Little Giants thwart Bedford comeback

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was a luxury that nearly cost Ross.

The Little Giants rolled to a 40-22 halftime lead before the Bedford Mules showed they had a kick, but Ross held on for a 66-54 Great Lakes League victory in the Purple Pit.

The Ross luxury was taxed in the third quarter when Bedford outscored the Little Giants 15-1.

"We played three good quarters of basketball," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "The third quarter we came out flat. We ran some good plays ... we got some good shots like we had in the first half, but they did not go down."

"I thought we played a great first half; we took Bedford out of what they wanted to do. Our press hurt them but in the second half they did a nice job of breaking our press and taking advantage of their opportunities."

Ross, 3-4 and 3-1 in the GLL,

never trailed after Damon Walker's layup at the 6:38 mark of the opening period.

The Little Giants, playing nearly flawlessly offensively and forcing 17 Bedford turnovers, bounded to a 33-8 lead three minutes into the second quarter.

That display helped the Little Giants survive the third period. Ross did not score a field goal until 7:28 remained in the second half — missing all 13 shots in the third period and its first in the final quarter.

Mike Patterson stopped the Ross famine with an 8-foot jumper off a fast-break feed from Tyrone Price.

The Mules, 2-3 and 0-3 in the GLL, whittled the huge Ross advantage to 41-37 at the end of the third quarter on 6-foot-9 James Daniel's layup.

"Obviously, nothing was going right," Bedford coach Mike Germain said about the first half. "Everything we tried was not

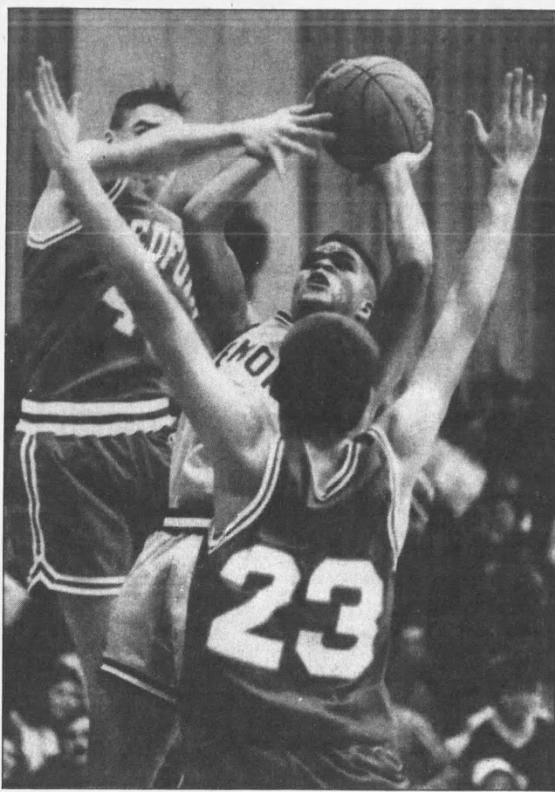
See ROSS, B2



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MARK SHEIDLER (32) of Ross runs into Bedford's James Daniel as he drives the lane during the

third quarter Friday night of the Little Giants' 66-54 victory over the Mules.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Fouled!

Tyrone Price, with basketball, of Fremont Ross is fouled by James Daniel, left, of Bedford during the third quarter of the game at Ross High School Friday night. The Little Giants defeated the Mules 66-54 in the Great Lakes League contest.

Baseball

157 on arbitration list

NEW YORK — The 157 players eligible to file for salary arbitration. Players with between three and six years of major league service and the top 17 percent by service between two and three years may file for salary arbitration from Jan. 4-14 (x-club option for 1992).

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE (6) — Brady Anderson, of; Mike Devereaux, of; Sam Horn, 1b; Bob Milacki, rhp; Randy Milligan, of; Bill Ripken, 2b.

BOSTON (6) — Tom Bolton, lhp; Ellis Burks, of; John Dopson, rhp; John Marzano, c; Jody Reed, ss; Luis Rivera, ss.

CALIFORNIA (5) — x-Bo Jackson, of; Ron Karowski, c; Jack McDowell, rhp; Ken Patterson, lhp; Mike Perez, rhp.

CLEVELAND (2) — Jerry Browne, 2b; Felix Fermin, ss.

DETROIT (3) — Cecil Fielder, 1b; Paul Gibson, lhp; Mike Henneman, rhp.

KANSAS CITY (9) — Luis Aquino, rhp; Tom Gordon, rhp; Chris Gwynn, of; Gregg Jefferies, 2b; Mike Macfarlane, c; Keith Miller, of; Jeff Montgomery, rhp; Kevin Seitzer, 3b; Gary Thurnau, of.

MILWAUKEE (5) — Chris Bosio, rhp; Bruce Ruffin, lhp; Gary Sheffield, 3b; Bill Spiers, ss; B.J. Surhoff, c.

MINNESOTA (2) — Shane Mack, of; David West, lhp.

NEW YORK (7) — Greg Cadaret, lhp; Alvaro Espinoza, ss; Lee Guetterman, lhp; John Habyan, rhp; Roberto Kelly, of; Matt Nokes, c; Randy Velarde, ss.

OAKLAND (4) — Mark McGwire, 1b; Mike Moore, rhp; Terry Steinbach, c; Walt Weiss, ss.

SEATTLE (6) — Greg Briley, of; Jay Buhner, of; Erik Hamber, rhp; Brian Holman, rhp; Randy Johnson, lhp; Mike Schooler, rhp.

TEXAS (5) — Kevin Brown, rhp; Jose Guzman, rhp; Rafael Palmeiro, 1b; Kenny Rogers, lhp; Ruben Sierra, of.

TORONTO (9) — Roberto Alomar, 2b; Manuel Lee, ss; Al Leiter, lhp; Candy Maldonado, of; Greg Myers, c; Todd Stottlemyre, rhp.

Pittsburgh signs LaValliere

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Catcher Mike LaValliere and Pittsburgh finally agreed Friday to their \$6.3 million, three-year contract, and pitcher Don Robinson and California agreed to a \$900,000, one-year deal.

The Chicago White Sox, meanwhile, prevented two players from filing for salary arbitration by exercising 1992 options on outfielder Lance Johnson (\$455,000) and pitcher Donn Pall (\$384,000). And infielder Luis Quinones, released by Cincinnati after the season, agreed to a minor-league contract with Minnesota.

The New York Yankees showed some interest in Danny Tartabull, the top remaining free agent, but it was hard to gauge how serious New York was in its pursuit of the outfielder. The Yankees have been hampered by squabbling between general manager Gene Michael and chief operating officer Leonard Kleinman, leaving it unclear who has the authority to make a deal.

Tartabull, who is wanted by

Ross

Continued From B1

working so at halftime we said 'Let's win the third quarter and see where we are.'

"The kids had a more reachable goal because winning the game at that point was almost out of reach ... we got within four and the kids felt at that time that they had accomplished something."

"We were hard pressed to win the rest of the game; that was a long way to come back. We ran out of steam."

Patterson followed the first Ross field goal of the second half with another and Mark Sheidler followed with a basket off a Bedford turnover for a 47-37 lead 90 seconds into the final period.

The Mules cut the lead back to six twice, the last at 51-46 with 3:38 to play, but in the final minutes Bedford was forced to foul. The Little Giants subdued its early-season nemesis — poor foul shooting — making 6-of-9.

Nick Wolf scored seven points, Ryan Zimmerman and Patterson five apiece, Walker and Sheidler four each as the Little Giants shared in holding off the Mules in the final eight minutes.

"We showed a lot of poise in the last quarter," Gioffre said. "We made some free throws down the stretch when we had to, so it's a 'W'. We got some good things out of it but playing just three quarters of basketball will make it tough competing for the league title."

The Ross guard tandem of Patterson and Sheidler terrorized the Mules with ball-hawking defense while combining for 19 first-half points. Leading 6-3, Sheidler scored eight consecutive points for a 14-3 Ross lead. Nick Wolf popped in a 3-pointer and Patterson's two baskets closed out a 15-point Ross run for a 21-3 lead. Brent Woods' 3-point basket cut the Ross lead to 21-6 after eight minutes and "romp" was etched in the faces of the near capacity crowd.

The Ross lead increased before the sleeping Mules began kicking.

From the 25-point cushion, Ross still enjoyed a 40-17 advantage with a minute to play in the first half, Nathan Halsey drilled a 3-pointer and Daniel tossed in a reverse layup at the buzzer — cutting the Ross lead to 18 at the half.

Ross, after making 17 of 32 first-half shots, finished 25-of-63. Bedford was 18 of 47, hitting just seven of 25 first-half attempts. Ross held a 36-35 rebounding edge.

Wolf and Patterson finished with 15 points, Sheidler had 14 and Zimmerman 11. Daniel had 18, Robert Reichow 12 and Woods 11 for Bedford.

Ross hosts Findlay tonight, and the Little Giants will try to avenge a 79-56 loss to the Trojans a week ago.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 66, Bedford 54

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Bedford | 6 | 16 | 15 | 17 | — 54 |
| Ross | 21 | 19 | 1 | 25 | — 66 |

Scoring

BEDFORD — James Daniel 6-6-18, Brent Woods 3-3-11, Robert Reichow 4-4-12, Nathan Halsey 2-1-6, Tom Dudley 1-0-2, Chad Fornwald 2-1-5, totals 18-15-54.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 5-2-15, Ryan Zimmerman 5-1-11, Damon Walker 3-2-8, Mark Sheidler 4-6-14, Mike Patterson 7-1-15, Justin Perry 1-1-3, totals 25-13-66.

3-point goals: Woods 2, Halsey, Wolf 3.

Records: Bedford 2-3 (0-3), Ross 3-4 (3-1).

Ross JV 65, Bedford 37

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Bedford | 10 | 9 | 10 | 8 | — 37 |
| Ross | 15 | 23 | 15 | 12 | — 65 |

Scoring

BEDFORD — David Standiczuk 1-0-2, Robert Homan 1-0-3, Grantley Lamunyon 2-1-5, Ryan Laskey 1-0-2, Nathan Doyle 6-0-12, Michael Crawford 1-2-4, Martin West 1-0-2, Scott Paracheck 1-0-2, Jay Truscinski 1-0-2, Steve Sass 2-0-4, totals 16-4-37.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 5-1-11, Mike Lather 3-2-8, Ryan Smith 2-0-4, Josh Hetrick 1-0-2, Tim Leeth 2-1-6, David Gibbs 3-0-7, Jeremy Aldrich 1-1-3, Aaron Smith 1-0-3, Jason Matney 6-0-12, Doug Adams 3-0-6, Bryan Myers 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 0-1-1, totals 28-6-65.

3-point goals: Homan, Leeth, Gibbs, A. Smith.

Findlay survives in Purple Pit 63-60

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

A season-long jinx and a key rebound cost Fremont Ross in a 63-60 high school boys basketball loss to Findlay Saturday night in the Purple Pit.

Trailing 62-59 with slightly under 2½ minutes to play, the Little Giants missed five of six free throws the rest of the way while Findlay survived its own missed foul shots with a big rebound off one of the misses to remain undefeated in eight games in the non-league clash.

Ross entered the game shooting below .500 from the line and missed 13 of 24 against the Trojans.

"We have to make some free throws down the stretch," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said after his team fell to 3-5. "We can't continue to miss opportunities like we did. There was an opportunity when they missed a free throw, we did not box out and Matt Miles got the rebound.

"Little things down the stretch cost us the game tonight. For us to really be a good basketball team ... we have to get the little things done."

The teams were never separated by more than six points — Findlay led 58-52 with 5:20 to

play in the second matchup of the teams this season. Eight days earlier, Findlay had trounced Ross 79-56.

Ross led by three once, 25-22.

After the Trojans grabbed the biggest lead of the night, Ross closed to 58-55 on Damon Walker's free throw and Nick Wolf's tip-in off a Ross missed shot. Findlay countered with a bucket by Javan Conley.

The Ross foul line problems began again at that point.

Wolf made the front end of a one-and-one and missed the bonus, but Walker rebounded in the miss — making it 60-58 with 2:40 to play.

Jeff Lobb drove the left side of the lane putting Findlay up by four with 2:30 left. Wolf, who led all scorers with 20 points, hit the front end of the bonus but missed the second. Ross got the ball back but Mark Sheidler, after absorbing Lobb's fifth foul, missed the free throw, leaving it 62-59 with 2:13 remaining.

After a Findlay turnover, Chris Ireland fouled Sheidler but the Ross senior's shot bounced off the rim.

With Findlay melting time off the clock, Wolf fouled Aaron Gralak with 47 seconds left. Gra-

lak missed the free throw but Miles pulled in the rebound for the Trojans forcing more time off the clock.

Still, the Trojans refused to put the Little Giants away as Lamont Paris missed from the line. Mike Patterson of the Little Giants drove the lane, was fouled by Miles with 33.1 seconds remaining. The Ross junior made the first shot but missed the second with Findlay getting the rebound.

Patterson's fifth foul put Chris Ireland on the line with 16.5 seconds left. Ireland made the first shot for a 63-60 lead, missed the second with Ross getting the rebound.

Gioffre called timeout with 10.6 seconds remaining to set up a 3-point shot. The Findlay defense kept Wolf, the man Gioffre wanted to take the long shot, bottled up and with four seconds on the clock, Jon Hetrick cast up an uncontested 3-pointer which bounced off the rim. Miles won the rebounding battle with Ryan Zimmerman of Ross, preserving the Trojans' win.

"They were keying on Nick Wolf," Gioffre said. "It was a play that we run all the time in practice. Jon Hetrick is a good

shooter and I don't think you are going to see a more wide open 3-point shot in the last second of the game than that, but hey, it should not have come down to that. We had some opportunities at the free throw line not to make it a three-point game at the end; it really should not have come down to that."

Findlay coach Jerry Snodgrass said, "I give Ross a lot of credit for an excellent game plan. He (Gioffre) said before the game they weren't overly prepared for us, but I find that hard to believe. They did an excellent job of taking our wings away and that took our rhythm away the whole night."

Paris and Ireland scored 16 points apiece with Gralak adding 11 and Lobb 10.

"We are improving," Gioffre said quietly in the hallway outside the silent Ross lockerroom. "We are going to be a good basketball team if we keep improving like we have been, we are going to compete for the league title."

The Little Giants step back into the Great Lakes League war Tuesday, traveling to Oregon Clay. The junior varsity game begins at 6:15 p.m.

Basketball

High School Boys

Findlay 63, Ross 60

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Findlay | 18 | 20 | 13 | 12 | — 63 |
| Ross | 17 | 17 | 17 | 9 | — 60 |

Scoring

FINDLAY - Lamont Paris 5-6-16, Chris Ireland 5-6-16, Matt Miles 1-3-5, Aaron Gralak 5-1-11, Javan Conley 2-0-4, Anthony Hall 0-1-1, totals 23-17-63.

ROSS - Nick Wolf 8-2-20, Damon Walker 2-3-7, Ryan Zimmerman 4-0-8, Mark Sheidler 2-2-6, Mike Patterson 3-1-7, Tyrone Price 1-2-4, Justin Perry 1-1-3, Jon Hetrick 2-0-5, totals 23-11-60.

3-point goals: Wolf 3, Hetrick.

Records: Findlay 8-0, Ross 3-5.

Ross JV 45, Findlay 44

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Findlay | 11 | 8 | 8 | 17 | — 44 |
| Ross | 7 | 15 | 11 | 12 | — 45 |

Scoring

FINDLAY - Brandon Waddell 3-1-7, Scott Lobb 1-0-2, Brian Funkhouser 3-0-8, Thom Romer 2-0-4, Blair Lane 4-2-10, Brian Sallot 2-0-4, Aaron Laube 1-2-4, Scott Hermon 2-1-5, totals 18-6-44.

ROSS - Mike Lather 3-2-8, Ryan Smith 5-1-11, David Gibbs 2-6-10, Aaron Smith 0-2-2, Jason Matney 2-1-5, Doug Adams 1-2-4, Bryan Myers 0-1-1, Jason Zilles 1-2-4, totals 14-17-45.

3-point goals: Funkhouser 2.

Records: Findlay 3-5, Ross 3-5.

Clay outshoots Little Giants

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

OREGON — Clay drilled in 31 of 56 shots while outgunning Fremont Ross 71-51 Tuesday night in a high school boys basketball game.

The Eagles raised their record to 8-1 and its Great Lakes League mark to 4-0. Clay squares off Friday night with undefeated Whitmer when it hosts the Panthers in a key GLL clash.

While Ross, 3-6 and 3-2 in league play, was making 31 percent (21-of-68) of its field goal attempts, the Little Giants were perfect from the foul line as they made all eight attempts.

"It figures the night we shoot free throws, we don't shoot the basketball well from outside," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said as he managed a small laugh.

Ross has been plagued by poor free throw shooting this season, making well under 50 percent in the first eight games.

But it was Clay, more than anything that hurt Ross.

"They have a nice basketball team," Gioffre praised. "I give them all the credit in the world; they beat us off the dribble all night long; they have tremendous shooters."

"We did not contain the basketball and we were very impatient in our half-court game."

"We have played well up to now," Clay coach Doug Dippman said. "I think what pleases us the most is they play hard; they play hard, aggressive basketball."

Ross never led, falling behind 6-4 in the first quarter as the Eagles took the lead for good.

Josh Jaco benefited from slick passes from the Eagles' guards, turning them into a game-high 21 points.

Clay led 17-8 after the first pe-

riod, built the lead to 37-18 before settling for a 37-20 halftime lead.

Ross charged mildly in the third period, cutting the Eagles lead to 55-42 but Clay extended their advantage to 69-46 late in the final period before both coaches flooded the floor with substitutes.

Ross did not have a player score in double digits. Nick Wolf had nine while Damon Walker, shaking off a slight first-quarter ankle sprain, and Mark Sheidler had eight points apiece.

"They dished off well all night," Gioffre said. "They penetrated down the lane and when we cut them off, they found the open man. When we sloughed off, they hit from the outside. They are a nice basketball team."

Dippman pointed out that his team "has been an unselfish group.

In addition to Dippman, Dan Tobias, a 6-foot-5 junior, also got his share of passes from guards Ross Revenaugh and Brad McMahon, scoring 17 points. Late in the game, Tobias stepped outside and fired in one of the two 3-point baskets the Eagles had in the contest.

Brian Schroeder came off the bench to score 12 for the Eagles.

"Right now," Gioffre said, "the bottom line is we have to get ready for Napoleon Friday night (at Ross)."

As for Dippman, he must prepare for Whitmer with a thought in the back of his mind.

"I'll tell you what, we are not looking forward to going down to Fremont," he said.

In the junior varsity game, Bryan "Moe" Myers came off the bench to spark a late rally as coach Mark Gideon's Little Giants clipped the Eagles 50-47.

Myers had 10 points and Ryan Smith 12 for Ross, 4-5.

Basketball

High School Boys

Clay 71, Ross 51

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 8 | 12 | 22 | 9 | — 51 |
| Clay | 17 | 20 | 18 | 16 | — 71 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 4-1-9, Damon Walker 3-2-8, Ryan Zimmerman 2-0-4, Mark Sheidler 4-0-8, Mike Patteron 3-0-6, Justin Perry 1-3-5, Tyrone Price 1-2-4, Jon Hetrick 2-0-5, Bobby Carter 1-0-2, totals 21-8-51.

CLAY — Josh Jaco 9-3-21, Dan Tobias 8-0-17, Mike Donnelly 4-0-8, Ross Revenaugh 2-2-6, Brian Schroeder 5-1-12, Greg Shuler 0-1-1, Scott Fisher 1-0-2, totals 31-7-71.

3-point goals: Hetrick, Tobias, Schroeder.

Records: Ross 3-6 (3-2), Clay 8-1 (4-0).

Ross JV 50, Clay 47

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 7 | 16 | 10 | 17 | — 50 |
| Clay | 12 | 9 | 13 | 13 | — 47 |

Scoring

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 3-2-8, Mike Lather 2-0-4, Ryan Smith 5-1-12, David Gibbs 3-0-8, Jason Matney 1-2-4, Doug Adams 2-0-4, Bryan Myers 3-3-10, totals 19-8-50.

CLAY — Steve Cherry 3-1-7, Chris Fussell 1-0-2, Kevin Machinski 8-3-22, Steve Berger 3-0-6, Jeff Finch 4-0-8, Eric Gibbs 0-2-2, totals 19-6-47.

3-point goals: Smith, D. Gibbs 2, Myers, Machinski 3.

Records: Ross 4-5, Clay 2-7.

Ross fritters away lead

Little Giants' shooting misses mark

By BOB MARKER
Staff-writer

Napoleon scored the last 18 points of the game Friday night, handing Fremont Ross a 68-56 Great Lakes League boys basketball loss in the Purple Pit.

Ross was held scoreless the final four minutes of the game while watching a 15-point lead (42-27 early in the third quarter) evaporate.

Sixteen of the last 18 Wildcat points were from the foul line.

Napoleon is 7-3 and 3-1 in the GLL race after its fifth straight win. Ross slipped to 3-7 and 3-3 after its third consecutive loss.

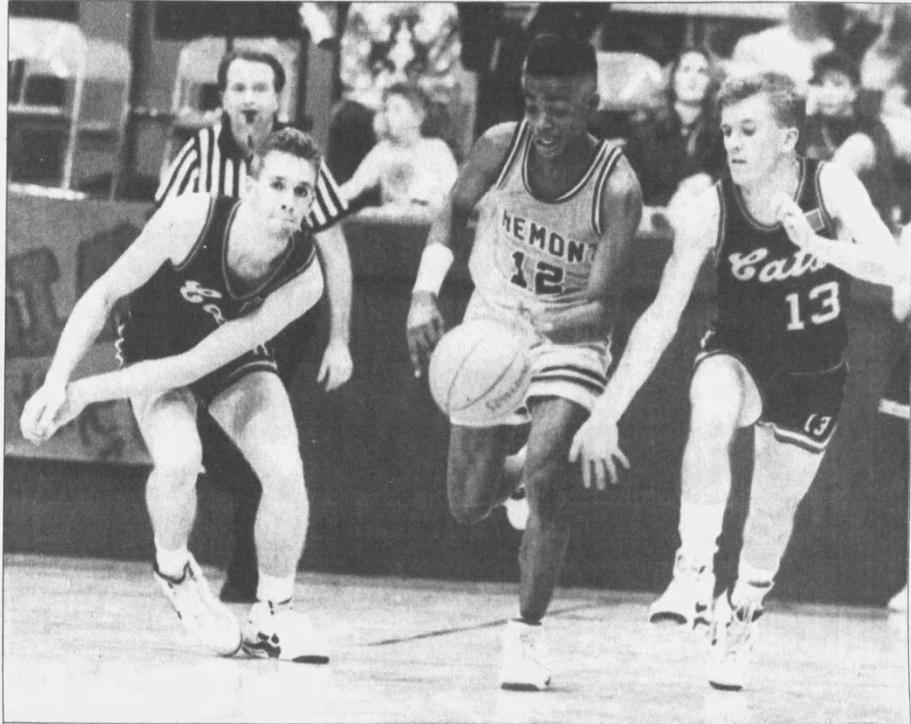
Walt Behrman, whose title is coach of the Wildcats, may have well switched it to doctor after stitching up a Napoleon defense that was cut apart by Ross as the Little Giants built a 38-25 halftime lead.

"Frank (Ross coach Gioffre) had his boys ready to go," Behrman said, "and they came after us very strong. They took a lot of things away from us in the first half; we started to get frustrated and got a little negative and when you get negative, it's tough to execute."

At halftime, Dr. Behrman donned his surgeon's mask.

"Basically, we don't want to be a team to shoot ourselves in the foot," he said. "We were giving them credit, but we said, 'Hey, I think we can still execute and pick up the defensive intensity and force them to work as hard to score as what they were making us work. That's was the key to us turning it around."

Gioffre said, "We did not get it



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MIKE PATTERSON (12) of Fremont Ross cuts between Ryan Aschemeier (left) and Todd Wesche

(13) of Napoleon during fourth-quarter action at Ross High School Friday night.

done when we had to. We played a great first half and then we completely went away from what had gotten us a 13-point lead in the first half. We came out, were very impatient in our half-court offense; we weren't running what we had run all the first half. We started forcing shots. We did not have good movement offensively and defensively, we did not contain the basketball at all."

The Wildcats shot at but missed — with help from the

Little Giants — their foot again down the stretch, missing 5 of 7 free throws while trailing 51-48 three minutes into the fourth quarter. Ross, though, followed a season-long pattern, self-destructing at the free throw line.

Napoleon survived its misses, canning 18 of 28 in the marathon-length final period while Ross fell on its face, missing 7 of 10. Ross added more problems to its game, missing 17 of 19 field goal attempts in the last eight minutes.

The Little Giants missed 15 of 26 free throws and hit 20 of 56 field goal attempts in the game.

As poor as the free throw shooting continued to be, Gioffre did not blame that for his team's collapse.

"They missed a lot of free throws, too, going down the stretch; it's just called execution and we did not get it down," Gioffre said. "That's been the story the whole year."

See ROSS, B2

ROSS

Continued From B1

Napoleon caught and passed the Little Giants 57-56 on a pair of free throws by Jason Gubernath with 2:02 remaining in the game. It was the first time the Wildcats led and sent the game into a foul punctuated deep freeze as Behrman sent his team into a four-corner offense.

Ryan Aschemeier and David Recker keyed the Wildcats comeback, dropping in 20 and 15 points, respectively. Recker scored nine points — Aschemeier six — in the third quarter, pulling Napoleon to 49-44 entering the final eight minutes.

With 4:14 remaining, Ross held a 56-48 lead on Ryan Zimmerman's rebound bucket. It was downhill on roller skates after that for the Little Giants.

Napoleon point guard Todd Wesche started the 18-point run with a pair of foul shots.

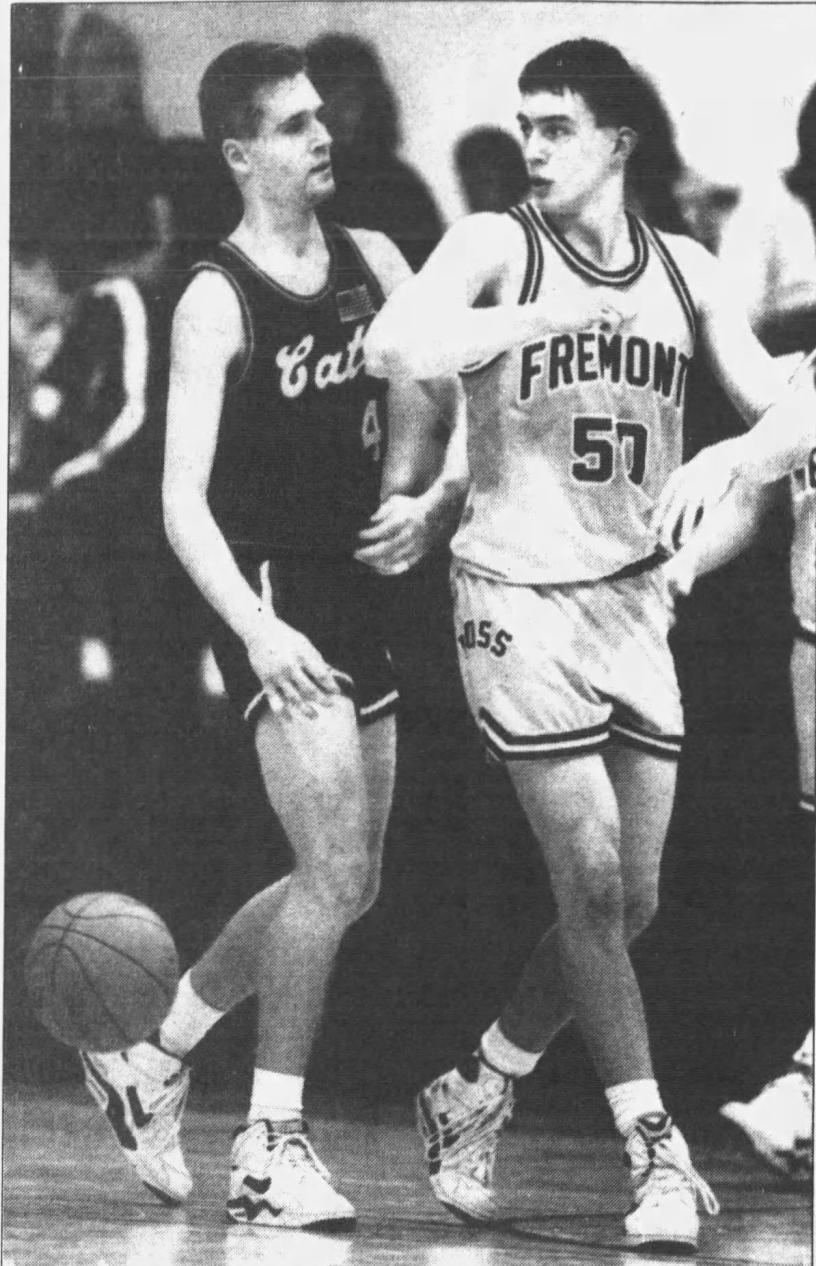
After Gubernath put the Wildcats ahead, the Little Giants migrated to 3-point land but did not have a working visa, missing six attempts as Napoleon steadily marched to the foul line and jerkily widened the lead.

Ross lost four starters to fouls — Nick Wolf, Damon Walker, Mark Sheidler and Zimmerman in the final 3½ minutes — and had two others with four fouls. Napoleon lost Recker to fouls early in the fourth quarter and sixth-man Craig Good four minutes later.

"We both had foul trouble," Behrman said, "... but the strength of any team is in its bench and that's where we excelled tonight."

Gioffre said, "Part of the reason we got into foul trouble is we allowed them to penetrate down the lane ... we had to help and the rotation was not there and it caused a lot of fouls."

Napoleon made 25 of 39 free



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

RYAN ZIMMERMAN (50) of Fremont Ross and Ryan Aschemeier of Napoleon eye each other seconds after a foul had been called during Friday night's game at Ross High School. The foul was away from the two players.

throws, Ross 11 of 26 in the game.

Wolf scored 13 of his team-high 13 points as Ross rolled to a 25-14 first-quarter lead. Ross stretched the lead in the second quarter as Justin Perry came off the bench

for five points and Damon Walker added four.

Wolf gave Ross its 13-point halftime lead, banking in an NBA-length 3-pointer at the buzzer, but that was last hurrah for Ross.

Basketball

High School Boys

Napoleon 68, Ross 56

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Napoleon | 14 | 11 | 19 | 24 | — 68 |
| Ross | 25 | 13 | 11 | 7 | — 56 |

Scoring

NAPOLEON — Ryan Aschemeier 6-7-20, Mike Germann 1-3-5, David Recker 6-3-15, Jason Gubernath 3-4-10, Todd Wesche 3-3-9, Craig Good 1-4-6, Matt Manter 1-1-3, totals 21-25-68.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 7-2-19, Damon Walker 2-4-8, Ryan Zimmerman 4-2-10, Mark Sheidler 2-0-5, Mike Patterson 2-0-4, Jon Hetrick 1-0-3, Justin Perry 2-1-5, Tyrone Price 0-2-2, totals 20-11-56.

3-point goals: Aschemeier, Wolf 3, Sheidler, Hetrick.

Records: Napoleon 7-2 (3-1), Ross 3-7 (3-3).

Napoleon JVs 47, Ross 42

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Napoleon | 11 | 14 | 10 | 12 | — 47 |
| Ross | 11 | 15 | 5 | 11 | — 42 |

Scoring

NAPOLEON — Barry Damman 1-1-3, Jason Meyer 5-1-11, Jeff Ressler 1-0-2, Chris Badenhop 7-4-18, Brandon Gerken 4-0-9, Andrew Rausch 1-0-2, Ryan McDougle 1-0-2, totals 20-6-47.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-1-3, Ryan Smith 4-2-11, David Gibbs 2-4-9, Aaron Smith 1-0-2, Jason Matney 3-0-6, Bryan Myers 4-1-9, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, totals 16-8-42.

3-point goals: Gerken, R. Smith, Gibbs.

Records: Napoleon 6-3, Ross 4-6.

Gioffre addresses foul shooting

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Frank Gioffre flinches at questions concerning his team's free throw shooting.

If he was on Jeopardy, he'd have the answer, but for the Fremont Ross boys basketball coach, the question is: Why is his team is doing so poorly at the line?

It has been unanswerable in the first 10 games. Gioffre's team is shooting a shade over 50 percent at the foul line, which has cost his team.

Gioffre figures if the Little Giants had made two-thirds — 67 percent — of their free throws, they could be 7-3, not 3-7.

"Seven-and-three at best and six-and-four at the worst," Gioffre said while seated in his office between snow days this week.

Losses against Findlay (79-56), Port Clinton (73-57) and Clay (71-51) were

games Ross lost legitimately, not beat themselves.

"Our free throws... those are clutch," he said. "You have to have people who want to step to the line when the game is on the line and make some critical free throws. We just have not been able to do that the first part of the year."

The Little Giants have gotten a little better, rising from 46 percent at one point to .5047169 — you can't get it to 51 — on 107 of 212 shooting at the line.

Gioffre is hesitant to say the foul line has tossed up a psychological defense at the Little Giants, but he has a hard time denying it, too.

"I have to believe a little bit," he said, "that when the games are tight and when the kid, whoever it is, steps to the line knows in the back of his mind that we are shooting 50 percent; it may have an effect."

The problem has struck other teams before Ross. In each case, it is mystifying.

"The thing is, we have been practicing every day; the kids have been shooting free throws since the third grade," Gioffre said. "It's a matter of concentrating, mental toughness, stepping to the line and making free throws when it counts."

"Those are situations when the game is on the line, you get fouled, you have to be able to step to the line and win the game for Ross."

That hasn't happened.

"The first part of the year has been disappointing," Gioffre said, "because I had high hopes for our kids — I still do. I know we are going to turn this around and finish the second half of the season strong."

"I am just disappointed because I feel we should be 7-3."

The Little Giants are not in action to-

night after playing four games in eight days. Ross has been off since a 68-56 loss to Napoleon last Friday. Ross tips off the second half of the season Saturday night at Bowling Green, where the Bobcats are 3-5.

The Ross record is nearly opposite of last year's 10-2 start and Gioffre remembers that, albeit painfully. After reaching that point, the Little Giants lost nine in a row, including the first game of the sectional tourney.

"I told the kids Monday," Gioffre said, "if you remember last year, we were 10-and-two and everything was fine and dandy but all of a sudden, we lose nine straight."

"I said 'Let's make it the same thing this year, but let's reverse it.' We had a bad first half, let's really turn it around the second half."

His wish is that it doesn't get fouled up.

'Best two minutes of basketball' leads to Ross victory over BG

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — Fremont Ross used a first-half spurt and a big third quarter to upend Bowling Green 69-55 in a non-league high school boys basketball game Saturday night.

The Little Giants, 4-7, out-scored the Bobcats 12-2 in the final 2½ minutes of the second quarter for a 41-31 halftime lead before putting the game away with an 18-4 scoring advantage in the third period.

"That's the best two minutes of basketball we have played this year," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "We talked to them about going into the lockerroom at the half with some momentum and we definitely picked up the intensity at the end of the half."

Nick Wolf led a quartet of Little Giants scoring in double figures with 25 points including five 3-point goals. Ryan Zimmerman and Mike Patterson added 11 apiece and Damon Walker 10. Justin Perry, making his first start, scored eight.

"Nick Wolf shot the basketball well (10 of 18) and anytime he shoots well, it opens up a lot of things for us," Gioffre said, "especially inside. Walker and Zimmerman did a super job of going after the ball on the offensive glass and creating some opportunities down low for us."

Perry started in place of Walker who had missed a couple of practices because of football recruiting visits.

"J.P. (Perry) has been working hard, so it was an opportunity to start him," Gioffre said.

Ross was as hot as it was cold outside, making nine of its final 10 first-half shots.

Wolf's 3-pointer broke a 29-29 tie with 2:30 to play in the second quarter. After BG sophomore Mark Carek's basket, Ross ripped off nine unanswered points. Zimmerman started the run and Patterson finished it with a 3-point play off a steal and a pair of jump shots. Patterson scored nine points in the period.

"Mike Patterson did exactly

what we needed in the first half," Gioffre said. "We like to tell our point guards to score the last couple of minutes every half; that is the time for him to take the game over. The first part, he has to get everyone involved in the offense and he did that and than he took it over the last part of the half."

Patterson's only problem was two quick fouls in the first quarter. Bryan "Moe" Myers came in at that point, picking up where Patterson left off before Patterson returned in the second quarter.

"Moe did a great job," Gioffre said. "He was controlling the offense and playing good, solid defense."

In the third quarter, Wolf hit a trio of 3-point buckets and four other Little Giants scored. Ross sandwiched seven and 11-point runs around buckets by BG's David Sullivan and Tony Kramp. The Bobcats did not score the last 3:15 as the Ross lead shot to 59-35, its biggest lead, at the end of the period.

In the final eight minutes, the Bobcats mounted a mild charge but never got any closer than the final margin.

Bowling Green, 3-6, behind 10 points from point-guard Shawn McMahon and seven from Andy Tracy, led 20-18 after one quarter. The last Bobcat lead was 29-27 before Walker's rebound bucket pulled Ross even and put the Little Giants in gear for the first-half surge. Tracy finished with 15 points and McMahon 12.

"We had to go to a match-up zone," Gioffre said, "we could not stop them in the man-to-man defense. We were getting beat on the dribble ... they hit some big baskets in the first half and kept the game close."

The Little Giants made 29 of 60 shots and were 6 of 9 from the foul line. Bowling Green was 23 of 57 and 3 of 3 at the line. Ross had a 36-31 rebounding advantage but held a 31-18 edge in that department after three quarters. Ross had 18 turnovers — 10 in the final quarter — and Bowling Green 23.

Ross 69, B. Green 55

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 18 | 23 | 18 | 10 | — 69 |
| Bowling Green | 20 | 11 | 4 | 20 | — 55 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 10-0-25, Damon Walker 4-2-10, Ryan Zimmerman 5-1-11, Mike Patterson 5-1-11, Mark Sheidler 2-0-4, Justin Perry 3-2-8, totals 29-6-69.

BOWLING GREEN — Tony Kramp 2-0-4, David Sullivan 1-0-2, Andy Tracy 6-0-15, Shawn McMahon 5-2-12, Carl Frushour 2-0-6, Mark Carek 3-0-7, Ryan Schneider 1-1-3, Nate Arrowsmith 2-0-4, Matt Carek 1-0-2, totals 23-3-55.

3-point goals: Wolf 5, Tracy 3, Frushour 2, Mark Carek.

Records: Ross 4-7, B. Green 3-6.

B. Green JV 46, Ross 42

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 1 | 11 | 13 | 17 | — 42 |
| Bowling Green | 15 | 9 | 11 | 11 | — 46 |

Scoring

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 2-1-5, Ryan Smith 2-2-7, Tim Leeth 2-0-6, David Gibbs 4-4-13, Doug Adams 1-0-2, Bobby Carter 0-1-1, Bryan Myers 0-1-1, Jason Zilles 3-1-7, totals 14-10-42.

BOWLING GREEN — Aaron Kale 4-1-10, Brian Cass 1-0-3, Lars Cleland 4-0-8, Matt Edwards 1-0-2, Doug Frisbie 2-1-5, Mike Saneholtz 5-0-10, Chris Toland 4-0-8, totals 21-2-46.

3-point goals: R. Smith, Leeth 2, Gibbs 3, Kale, Cass.

Record: Ross 4-7.

Ross upsets Whitmer



RYAN ZIMMERMAN of Fremont Ross slam dunks Little Giants' 63-58 Great Lakes League victory over Toledo Whitmer.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Sheidler, Walker lead the way

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross found a friend in an old foe while combining a pair of streaks to defeat Toledo Whitmer 63-58 Friday night in front of a boisterous Purple Pit crowd.

The loss was the Panthers' second in 11 games and dropped their Great Lakes League record to 4-2. Ross raised its record to 5-7 with its second consecutive win and is 4-3 in GLL clashes.

"That was a great, great win for us," Ross coach Frank Gioffre, his raspy voice echoing the strain of the game, said. "Our kids played hard and kept their composure the whole second half."

The game was marred at the end with a minor skirmish which was quickly broken up by school officials and police. Tyrone Price of Ross suffered a scratch on the neck but there were no other injuries in the melee.

Ross — which was shooting slightly over 50 percent from the foul line for the season — sank 4 of 5 from the line in the last three minutes. The Little Giants ended up missing 9 of 17 foul attempts, but Whitmer connected on only 7 of 21.

"We made some free throws when we had to," Gioffre grinned.

Whitmer's foul line performance baffled Panthers coach Bruce Smith.

"I don't know if it is the gym," Smith began. "Those are young kids out there and there is a lot of pressure. We normally make them but tonight we didn't."

The streaks, however, did the most damage to Whitmer.

First Damon Walker, then Mark Sheidler, had the hot hands for the Little Giants, who twice led by 10 points in the first and second halves.

Walker scored eight first-quarter points — 10 for the half — as

See ROSS, B3

Ross

Continued From B1

Ross grabbed 16-14 and 28-22 leads. Walker, a 6-foot-2 senior, topped off his first half with a bounce pass to Jason Zilles for a layup as the first half ended.

Sheidler, after scoring two points in the first half, scored 14 in the third quarter, finishing with 20. His final quarter basket put Ross back on top 59-58 and his two free throws gave Ross breathing room at 61-58 with 43 seconds left in the game. Nick Wolf polished off the win with a breakaway layup as time expired.

Sheidler, a 6-foot senior was 8-of-10 shooting and grabbed six rebounds in taking over the show in the second half.

"He had a great game; he really picked his game up a notch. He stepped up and made some big baskets when we needed them," Gioffre said. "He was the key for us."

Wolf, the Little Giants' leading scorer with 16 per game, was held to 12 but grabbed 15 rebounds, leading Ross to a 49-32 edge over the taller Panthers. Ryan Zimmerman added 12 points, five in the final quarter and had a dozen rebounds.

Walker grabbed five rebounds while being matched up against 6-9 Craig Tipton in the Ross match-up zone defense. The Panther senior was held to seven points, six below his average.

The match-up zone was coupled with full-court pressure.

"We finally picked it up defensively," Gioffre said. "I thought our press hurt them; we did not get a lot of turnovers but they (Whitmer) were tired at the end of the game."

"We wanted to keep a lot of pressure on them, get them in the uptempo game; we thought that would be in our favor and that is exactly what happened."

Smith discounted the effectiveness of the pressure.

"I was glad they pressed us," Smith said. "We got some opportunities ... we shot the ball and we win. We just did not shoot the ball."

Whitmer was 22 of 58 (38 percent) and Ross 27 of 52 (52 percent).

Ross point guards Mike Patterson and Bryan "Moe" Myers ran the Ross offense. Myers took over when Patterson picked up his second foul in the first half and again when he picked up two more in the first two minutes of the third quarter.

"They took care of the basketball, didn't force anything and ran the offense the way we had to," Gioffre said.

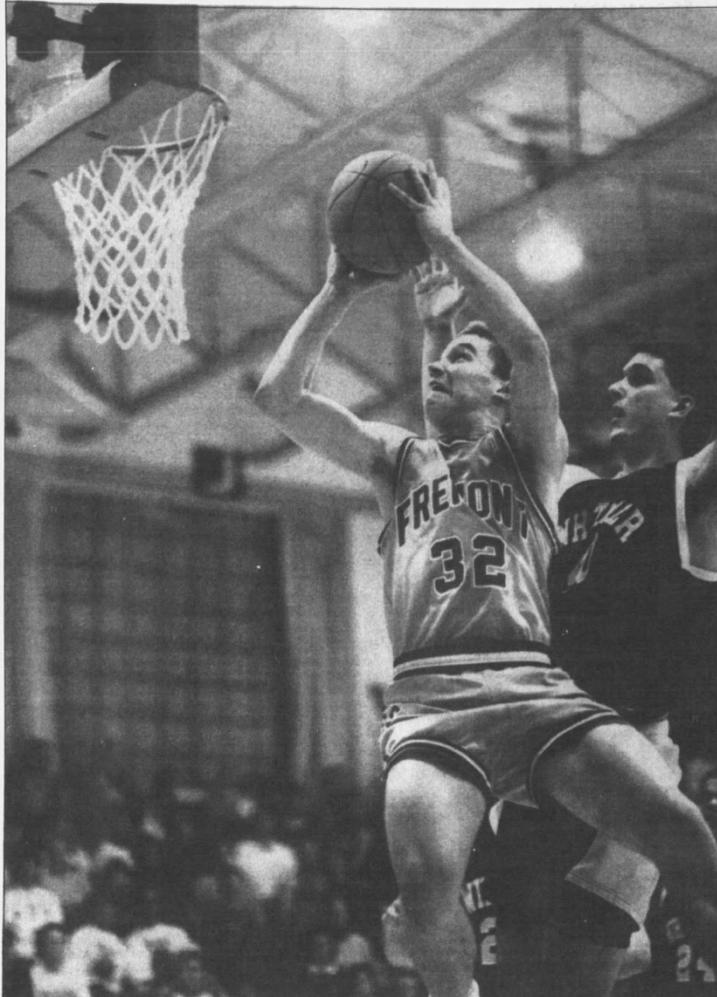
After Tipton tied the game at 16, the Little Giants ran off 10 unanswered points, six coming from Wolf.

Ross had a 43-33 lead midway through the third period as Sheidler hit back-to-back buckets. At the end of three quarters, the Ross lead shrank to 47-43.

In the final eight minutes, Jeff Hoffman, who led Whitmer with 20 points, paced a Panther assault that netted a 58-57 lead with 1:55 to play. Hoffman pumped in a 3-point basket, cutting the Ross lead to 54-51 before stepping in defensively.

Hoffman helped double-team, first Patterson, and then Wolf, stripping the ball away as Denard Mays and Hoffman hit back-to-back layups off the screens for the one-point lead.

Ross returns to action tonight, hosting Sandusky.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MARK SHEIDLER of Fremont Ross makes a layup as he is fouled by Toledo Whitmer's Craig Block during the third quarter Friday night. Sheidler scored 20 points in the Little Giants' victory.

Boys

Continued From B1

Perkins falls to 5-6 and 3-4 in the SBC.

St. Mary's 72
Margareta 61

St. Mary's, which leads the SBC by one-half game over Port Clinton, outscored Margareta 16-7 in the fourth quarter. The Panthers improved to 11-2 and 7-1 in the SBC as Scott Ruthsatz led four players in double figures with 18 points.

Margareta, 4-7 and 2-5 in the conference, got 13 points apiece from Wade Adkins and Tony Artino and 12 from Matt Brunner.

Artino and Tom Groot each grabbed 14 rebounds for the

Polar Bears, who trailed 22-20 after one quarter, 40-38 at halftime and 56-54 after three quarters.

St. Wendelin 71
Old Fort 53

St. Wendelin, undefeated in five MAL games, remains one-half game in front of Tiffin Calvert in the league standings.

Eric Williams led the Mohawks, 10-1 after outrebounding Old Fort 31-19, with 14 points.

Matt Molyet scored 23 points and Troy Diels 17 for the Stockaders, 2-9 and 2-3 in the MAL.

Carey 83
Bettsville 46

Carey landed 13 different players in the scoring column as it remained in the MAL title chase. The Blue Devils, 7-3 and 3-1 in

the league, led 51-25 at halftime and outrebounded Bettsville 38-11.

Matt Dasher was the lone Carey player in double figures, scoring 20 points.

Billy Craun scored 10 points to lead the Bobcats, who remained winless in 10 games, including five MAL contests.

Shelby 76
Bellevue 59

Chad Crosby's 18 points weren't enough for Bellevue as Jason Carver scored 25 and Kelly Yarman 18 for the Redmen.

The Redmen, who committed 22 turnovers to the Whippets' 12, drop to 6-6 and 4-3 in the NOI.

Shelby, which outshot Bellevue 65 to 53 percent, improves to 5-5 and 5-1.

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News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

On its way

Damon Walker (40) of Fremont Ross gets off a pass to a teammate during second half action Friday night at Ross High School. Denard Mays

is the Whitmer defender. Ross won the Great Lakes League game 63-58. Walker scored 10 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 63, Whitmer 58

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Whitmer | 14 | 8 | 21 | 15 | — 58 |
| Ross | 16 | 12 | 19 | 16 | — 63 |

Scoring

WHITMER — Sean Marsh 0-0-0, Justin Keller 2-1-6, Craig Tipton 3-1-7, Ben Langenderfer 1-0-2, Jeff Hoffman 8-1-20, Kevin McIlhargey 1-0-3, Craig Block 3-0-7, Denard Mays 4-4-13, totals 22-7-58.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 5-0-10, Damon Walker 5-0-10, Ryan Zimmerman 5-2-12, Justin Perry 0-0-0, Mark Sheidler 9-3-22, Jason Zilles 1-0-2, totals 27-8-63.

3-point goals: Keller, Hoffman 3, McIlhargey, Block, Mays, Sheidler.

Records: Whitmer 9-2 (4-2), Ross 5-7 (4-3).

Whitmer JVs 44, Ross 32

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Whitmer | 18 | 5 | 11 | 10 | — 44 |
| Ross | 8 | 10 | 6 | 8 | — 32 |

Scoring

WHITMER — Rhett Boyd 5-1-11, Ryan Brown 1-2-4, Matt Calmes 1-0-2, Rich Case 0-2-2, Chad Fitzgerald 0-2-2, Jeremy Fritz 2-0-6, Erin Lehane 2-1-5, Nate Mefferd 5-0-11, totals 16-9-44.

ROSS — Mike Lather 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 1-0-2, David Gibbs 7-2-19, Jason Matney 3-1-7, Doug Adams 0-2-2, totals 12-5-32.

3-point goals: Fritz 2, Mefferd, Gibbs 3.

Record: Ross 4-8.

Sheidler's basket gives Ross win over Streaks

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Mark Sheidler's 12-foot jumper with five seconds remaining gave Fremont Ross a 75-73 victory over Sandusky Saturday night at the Ross Purple Pit.

Sandusky fell to 9-3 when Sheidler's shot fell through. The Little Giants have won three in a row and are 6-7.

"(The shot) felt good," Sheidler said in a noisy lockerroom. "Nick (Wolf) dished it off ... and I just threw it in."

Sheidler, who is known as the quiet man on the Little Giants, let his shooting do his talking in a pair of weekend victories. Friday night, his 20 points — 18 in the second half — keyed a 63-58 win over Great Lakes

League rival Whitmer. Saturday, he had only eight points but four came in the final eight minutes when the Ross lead shrunk from 13 early in the third period to a 65-62 deficit in the final quarter.

"We had a great weekend," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "I was anxious to see how our kids would react after beating Whitmer."

The reaction was positive but Sandusky offered a helping hand, missing six of 10 free throws in the final quarter.

"The obvious thing, except the end of the game, is all the one-and-ones we missed," Sandusky coach John Schlessman said, "and possibly a breakdown defensively at the end."

The Little Giants spotted Sandusky a 4-0 lead before Justin Perry's layup three minutes into the game broke the ice for Ross. With Ryan Zimmerman and Mike Patterson scoring six points apiece, the Little Giants were up 19-13 after one quarter.

Zimmerman, who hit a career high 20 points, knocked in 10 in the second period. Wolf, the Little Giants' leading scorer, was held scoreless in the first eight minutes but fired in 10 in the second period as Ross raced to a 48-38 halftime lead.

"We lost the basketball game in the first half," Schlessman said. "We were out of sync; Fremont took it to us ... we just did not play with emotion."

Wolf and Damon Walker dropped in buckets as Ross expanded its lead to 53-40 in the third period before the Blue Streaks turned up the defensive pressure and clawed their way back into the game.

Scott Irby, coming off the bench, scored 11 of his 13 points in the third period. The Blue Streaks forced Ross into eight turnovers and closed to 60-58 at the end of the period on buckets off turnovers by Dasha Jones and Bryce Weatherspoon.

Jones, penetrating for short jumpers as well as hitting from outside, brought Sandusky even at 62 and put them ahead with a free throw when he was fouled by

See ROSS, B3

ROSS

Continued From B1

Walker on the shot.

Weatherspoon, scoring 18 points in a substitute role, put Sandusky up 65-62 before Ross came back.

Wolf, who had 22 points, cut it to 65-64 with 5:10 to play. Zimmerman's layup off an inbounds play put Ross ahead 66-65 and Wolf's slam dunk and free throw resulting from a Sandusky turnover put Ross up 69-65 at the 3:08 mark.

Sandusky bounced back, tying it at 69 on Jones' free throw and Weatherspoon's 3-pointer.

"We went to our match-up zone for awhile," Gioffre said, "but Dasha Jones —he's just such a great basketball player — went through it."

Up to the third period switch to the zone, Ross was playing man-to-man.

"We were not as aggressive (in the zone) as we were in the first half when we played man the whole time, so we switched it back the last quarter and our kids did a lot better job," Gioffre said.

Zimmerman's shot shot put Ross up 71-69 but Jones tied it with a foul line jumper with 90 seconds left. Patterson dropped

in a pair of free throws — Ross was 13 of 17 from the line in the game — with 1:12 remaining before Irby hit a layup with 45 seconds on the clock.

Ross took the clock down to 31.7 seconds before calling timeout.

"We went to our high delay game," Gioffre explained. "We wanted to get the ball into Mike Patterson's hands with 12 seconds but he got it with 17 seconds left and had to give it up to Nick Wolf too quick but Nick did a good job of seeing the open man, Mark Sheidler. You know Mark had such a great game last night (Friday), he was just destined to make that shot."

Schlessman said, "The Sheidler kid made a heck of a move and a heck of a shot."

Sandusky called timeout with 4.1 seconds remaining. The Streaks got the ball in but never got off a shot as the Ross defense kept the ball in front, forcing the Streaks to go the length of the floor.

"That 4.1 seconds was almost as long at the game," Gioffre, who was Sandusky's junior varsity coach two years ago, said as a smile crossed his face.

In the JV game, David Gibbs scored 22 points as Ross won in overtime 61-58.

The Little Giants travel to Fostoria Friday and host Toledo St. Francis Saturday.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 75, Sandusky 73

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Sandusky | 13 | 25 | 20 | 15 | — 73 |
| Ross | 19 | 29 | 12 | 15 | — 75 |

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Chad Taylor 2-0-4, Dasha Jones 10-5-27, Orlando Pace 1-0-2, Brian Willis 1-0-2, Brad Johnson 1-1-3, Scott Irby 6-1-13, Bryce Weatherspoon 8-0-18, totals 31-7-73.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 9-1-22, Damon Walker 3-0-6, Ryan Zimmerman 8-4-20, Justin Perry 1-2-4, Mike Patterson 5-4-15, Bryan Myers 0-0-0, Mark Sheidler 3-2-8, totals 29-13-75.

3-point goals: Jones 2, Weatherspoon 2, Wolf 3, Patterson.

Records: Sandusky 9-3, Ross 6-7.

Ross JV 61, Sand. 58 (OT)

Score by quarters

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|---|------|
| Sandusky | 7 | 19 | 11 | 17 | 4 | — 58 |
| Ross | 16 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 7 | — 61 |

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Tony Esposito 3-0-7, Nate Conway 4-3-11, Derrick Dickey 3-2-8, Todd Kaufman 5-0-12, Lemond Kirksey 3-3-9, Mike Theibert 3-0-8, Roger Smith 1-0-3, totals 22-9-58.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 2-2-7, Ryan Smith 3-5-11, David Gibbs 6-7-22, Aaron Smith 3-0-7, Jason Matney 3-2-8, Doug Adams 3-0-6, totals 20-16-61.

3-point goals: Esposito, Kaufman 2, Theibert 2, Cheeks, Gibbs 3, A. Smith.

Record: Ross 5-8.

Ross wins fourth straight

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

FOSTORIA — A confident Fremont Ross boys basketball team walked onto the court Friday night at Fostoria High School.

A confident team walked off the floor after its fourth straight victory, a 71-64 Great Lakes League triumph.

"The kids are finally starting to play good basketball," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "They're starting to realize that we are a good basketball team; play both ends of the floor, which we did tonight; and we're working together, which is the best part."

Team play was on exhibition during a one-minute stretch of the fourth quarter, when the Little Giants opened up a close game with eight straight points.

After a hook shot by Derek Kidwell cut a Ross lead to 59-56, Mark Sheidler fed Damon

Fliers upset Panthers

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

CLYDE — Jeremy Gregg tossed in 26 points and Ken Lacey hit the winning bucket as Clyde upset Sandusky Bay Conference leader and the state's eighth-ranked Division IV team Sandusky St. Mary's 55-53 Friday night in The Hangar.

Clyde, 8-6 and even after eight conference games, led by as many as nine (34-25) early in the second half but early in the final quarter, the Fliers trailed 46-38.

"We had a chance to fold," Clyde coach Marc Marshall admitted. "... but we held our composure and came back. We talked at halftime that even though we were up (30-25), we had

See FLIERS, B3

Walker for a basket. A steal by Mike Patterson followed and his assist on a basket by Sheidler made it 63-56.

Walker and Ryan Zimmerman then cleared back-to-back defensive rebounds, which led to easy baskets at the other end —

first by Zimmerman off an assist by Sheidler and then by Nick Wolf off a pass from Patterson.

Ross, 7-7 and 5-3 in the GLL, got a game-high 25 points from Wolf, 16 from Patterson and 15 from Zimmerman. Wolf made five 3-point baskets.

"Nick Wolf shot the basketball," Gioffre said. "Anytime he shoots the basketball, he picks us up to a new level. He came out tonight and really did a great job of stroking the basketball and he picked everybody up."

"I tried to get in Wolf's face, too," said Fostoria's Damon Moore, who has recently been moved up from the junior varsity to a starting position. "I remember one time, I was right in his face and it was still all net."

Sheidler, meanwhile, passed for eight assists as Ross was able to solve Fostoria's zone defense by reversing the basketball around the perimeter and dumping it inside when it could.

Fostoria, 6-6 and 2-4 in the GLL, opened up a 29-22 lead late in the first half after trailing 18-16 after a quarter.

"In the first half, I thought defensively we didn't do a good job," Gioffre said. "They had a

lot of transition baskets; they had a lot of layups."

"In the second half, we made a couple of adjustments and they didn't get as many easy baskets. We told our kids, we've got to allow them to come down half-court in their offense and really work the basketball. We didn't really think they would hurt us as bad in the half-court offense."

"They're a transition basketball team. They like to get out and run and they proved that in the first half. I thought we did a lot better job getting back and forcing them to run their offense."

The Redmen, who came in averaging 14 turnovers a game, committed 24. Walker and Patterson had four steals apiece and Wolf stole the ball three times.

"It was a combination of our post people not working hard

See ROSS, B3

Ross

Continued From B1

enough to get open, and the perimeter people not seeing the passing lanes," Fostoria coach Jim Rutter said.

Ross didn't convert all the turnovers into points, but the Little Giants outrebounded the Redmen 35-27 as Patterson pulled down nine rebounds and Zimmerman had eight. Ross also converted seven of its 12 offensive rebounds into points.

Wolf's 3-pointer from the left

corner with five seconds left before halftime left the game tied 31-all at the half. The Redmen would not lead again.

The Little Giants opened up a 45-35 lead midway through the third quarter. After Fostoria made it 50-46, Bryan Myers' running 10-footer from the right of the lane made it 52-46 with one quarter to play.

A Wolf 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, which made it 58-50, was followed by a 6-1 Fostoria run, including Kidwell's short, left-hand hook.

Team Ross, which hosts Toledo St. Francis tonight, took over and its 8-0 run provided the

biggest lead of the game at 67-56.

Fostoria still had a chance with eight seconds left. Trailing 69-63, the Redmen had Russell Robinson at the foul line shooting three free throws. Robinson, who led Fostoria with 14 points, made one.

Wolf closed the scoring with two foul shots four seconds later.

"We were three and seven at one time," Gioffre said. "We were about as low as we could possibly get, and we kept harping at our kids that they are a good basketball team."

"Our kids are really proving it right now; they're playing with a lot of confidence."

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 71, Fostoria 64

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 18 | 13 | 21 | 19 | — 71 |
| Fostoria | 16 | 15 | 15 | 18 | — 64 |

Scoring

ROSS — Mike Patterson 6-2-16, Mark Sheidler 2-1-5, Ryan Zimmerman 7-1-15, Nick Wolf 7-6-25, Damon Walker 2-0-4, Justin Perry 2-0-4, Bryan Meyers 1-0-2, totals 27-10-71.

FOSTORIA — Damon Moore 6-1-13, Tony Hammond 3-2-8, Derek Kidwell 2-0-4, Russell Robinson 5-3-14, Ryan Dunbar 4-2-10, Todd M. Lucius 3-3-11, Heath Norton 1-0-2, Steve Dieter 1-0-2, totals 25-11-64.

3-point goals: Patterson 2, Wolf 5, Robinson, Lucius 2.

Records: Ross 7-7 (5-3), Fostoria 6-6 (2-4).

Fostoria JV 54, Ross 32

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 6 | 4 | 11 | 11 | — 32 |
| Fostoria | 15 | 17 | 11 | 11 | — 54 |

Scoring

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 3-0-7, Josh Hetrick 1-0-2, David Gibbs 3-1-8, Jeremy Aldrich 2-2-6, Aaron Smith 1-1-3, Jason Matney 1-0-2, Doug Adams 1-0-2, totals 13-4-32.

FOSTORIA — Jason Miller 3-3-10, Ryan Myers 0-3-3, Jermaine Cousin 5-4-14, Ryan Griffin 3-3-9, Shawn Nye 2-1-5, Jason Gerlach 0-3-3, Wes Scherf 1-2-4, Aaron Sheets 2-0-4, Todd G. Lucius 1-0-2, totals 17-19-54.

3-point goals: Smith, Gibbs, Miller.

Records: Ross 5-9, Fostoria 11-1.

St. Francis stops Ross win streak

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Toledo St. Francis shook off a second-half Fremont charge, while blistering the Purple Pit nets with 59 percent shooting, and defeated the Little Giants 76-61 Saturday night.

The loss snapped a four-game Ross winning streak and was the fifth win in 12 games for the Knights. The Little Giants are 7-8.

St. Francis made 23 of 39 shots and had Ross coach Frank Gioffre wondering if his team was playing at home while attempting 40 free throws, 31 more than the Little Giants. The Knights made 28 foul shots and Ross two. The Little Giants were 26 of 60 from the floor.

"They are a good basketball team," Gioffre said. "They play a great schedule, they have some nice players."

"(Kevin) Baker did a nice job inside and when we tried to help out on Baker, (Josh) Murphy and (Jeremy) Benington stepped up and hurt us."

The Knights, behind Baker and Murphy, rolled up a 31-21 lead late in the first half before Ross ran off 11 straight points in the second and third periods for a 32-31 lead. Nick Wolf, who led all scorers with 28 points, hit one of his five 3-point goals at the first-half buzzer, cutting the Knights' lead to 31-25.

Eleven seconds into the second half, Wolf converted on a three-point play and Mark Sheidler drilled in a 3-pointer, putting Ross up 32-31 before St. Francis bounced back. Taking advantage of a defensive lapse by the Ross press, Tom Takats broke free for a layup and a 33-32 lead.

"They did a good job against our press," Gioffre said. "We tried to pressure them all night; they did a good job of taking care of the basketball. We got beat by a good basketball team."

The Knights had 12 turnovers and Ross 14.

Takats' breakaway ignited an 18-6 St. Francis run, putting the Knights in control 49-38 after three quarters. The Little Giants got within 11 only once more — 70-59 with less than a minute to

Basketball

N

High School Boys

St. Francis 76, Ross 61

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| St. Francis | 14 | 17 | 18 | 27 | — 76 |
| Ross | 9 | 17 | 12 | 23 | — 61 |

Scoring

ST. FRANCIS — Tom Takats 1-2-4, Damian Ogrodowski 0-2-2, Kevin Baker 7-4-20, Jeremy Benington 4-7-16, Jim Bursor 0-1-1, Josh Murphy 6-10-23, Dan Pierce 3-2-8, Mike Green 1-0-2, totals 23-28-76.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 11-1-28, Damon Walker 1-0-2, Ryan Zimmerman 6-0-12, Mark Sheidler 2-1-6, Mike Patterson 4-0-9, Justin Perry 1-0-2, Demond Cheeks 1-0-2, totals 26-2-61.

3-point goals: Benington, Murphy, Wolf 5, Sheidler, Patterson.

Records: St. Francis 5-7, Ross 7-8.

St. Francis JV 50, Ross 39

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| St. Francis | 12 | 11 | 9 | 18 | — 50 |
| Ross | 7 | 11 | 10 | 11 | — 39 |

Scoring

ST. FRANCIS — Craig Turner 1-2-4, Ryan Gabel 2-3-8, Luke King 1-0-2, Todd Kucinski 1-1-4, Cliff Brown 1-0-2, Neil Szenderski 0-4-4, Matt McClellan 2-5-9, Calvin Dixon 8-1-17, totals 16-16-50.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-2-4, Mike Lather 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 4-1-10, Tim Leeth 1-0-3, David Gibbs 4-2-11, Aaron Smith 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 3-1-7, totals 15-6-39.

3-point goals: Gabel, Kucinski, R. Smith, Leeth, Gibbs.

Records: St. Francis 7-5, Ross 5-10.

See ROSS, B3

Fun night at Ross in big win

Little Giants roll 82-37

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Sherlock Holmes would have left his magnifying glass in his pocket because the mystery was quickly solved.

The suspense evaporated quickly Friday night as Fremont Ross solved any puzzles Sylvania Northview offered in the first five minutes of an 82-37 romp in the Purple Pit Friday night.

As Holmes would say, it was elementary after that.

Ross, 8-8 and 6-3 in the Great Lakes League, outscored Northview 20-10 in the opening five minutes, and the Little Giants had fun the rest of the night.

"It was fun," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said.

It was not fun for the Wildcats, who broke a 40-some game losing streak only two weeks ago. Since then, Northview has lost two in a row and has slipped to 1-14 and 0-9 in the GLL.

The only thing resembling suspense after Ross took a 26-12

first quarter lead was whether Jason Zilles would hit another 3-pointer.

Zilles, who scored 10 points in the Ross junior varsity's 54-47 victory, was 4 of 5 from 3-point range in the fourth quarter. After missing the first attempt, he hit the next four, sinking the last one from a distance that would cause Larry Bird to be jealous.

"Jason can shoot the basketball," Gioffre may have understated this night. "He's improving every day and he proved it tonight. He's going to be a good basketball player."

Zilles finished with 12 points and drew a thunderous ovation when Gioffre took him out. That move worked as did about everything for Ross in this game.

Shortly after Zilles departed, Tyrone Price quickly tossed in a 15-footer and became the 10th

See FUN, B3



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
TYRONE PRICE (right) and Jon Hetrick (left) of Fremont Ross force Northview's Terry Shadle into a turnover Friday night during the Little Giants' 82-37 victory.

Wildcats cage Golden Bears

By SCOTT KIRSCH
Staff correspondent

ELMORE — Gibsonburg found it difficult to score in the waning moments of Friday night's Suburban Lakes League game, but Woodmore did not.

The Wildcats outscored the Golden Bears 20-13 in the fourth quarter in a 74-66 victory.

Woodmore improved to 8-5 and 6-4 in the league, while Gibsonburg falls to 3-11 and 2-8.

"We just did not put the ball in the hole," Gibsonburg coach Keith Diebler said. "We could have won that game tonight. Our shots just went in and out."

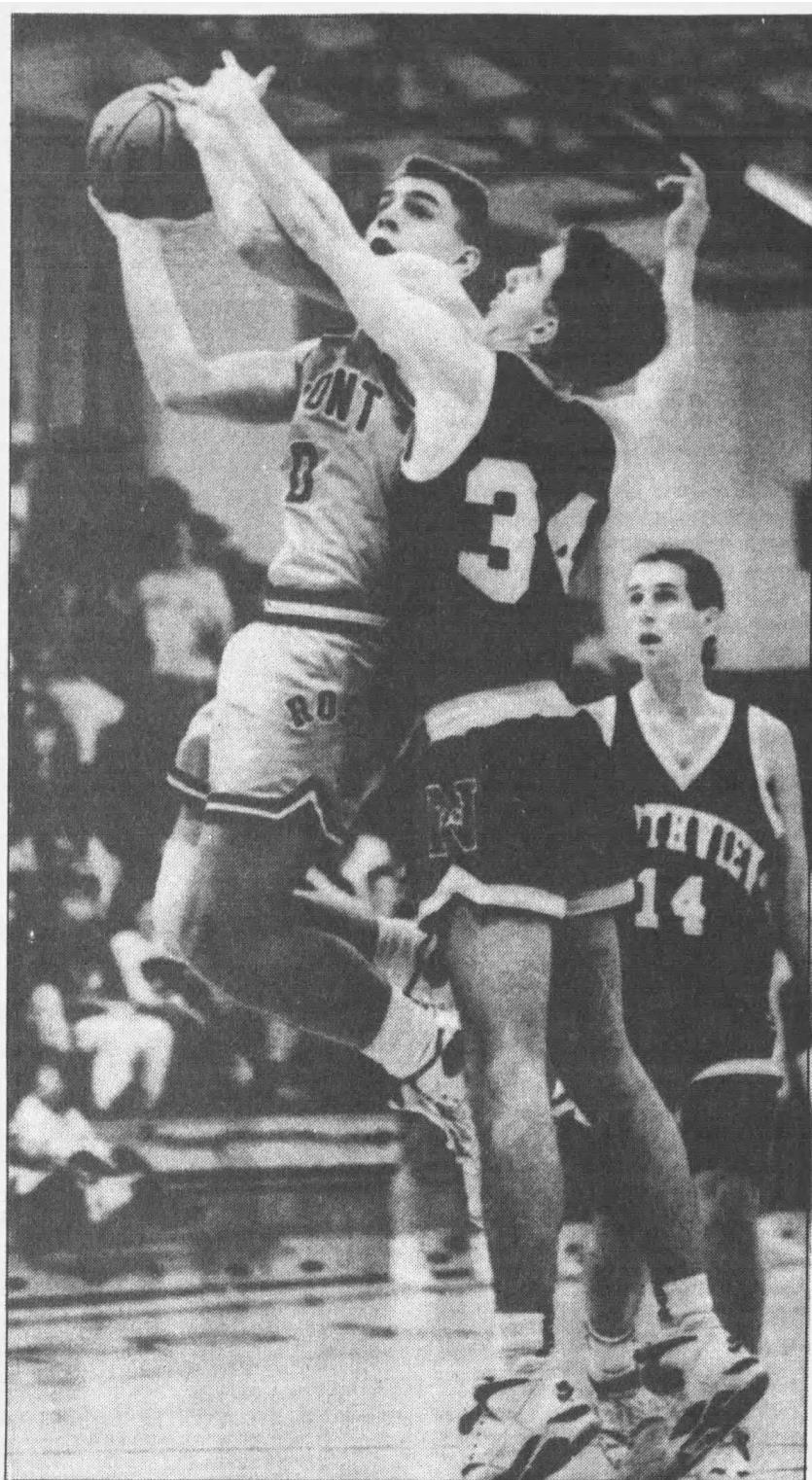
"I thought it was a hard-fought game," Woodmore coach Jude Meyers said. "I thought both

free throws by Steve Ritterbach and a 3-point shot by Rick Jones cut the lead to 69-66. After a Gibsonburg timeout, Woodmore's Jonathan Cook hit the front end of a one-and-one free throw attempt.

The Wildcats then finished the game on the free throw line as Gibsonburg was forced to foul.

"I've got some kids that want to get fouled and go to the foul line," Meyers said. "They just believe they're going to make the foul shots."

"Down the stretch, when Gibsonburg made it obvious they were going to try to foul and put us at the line, I said, 'Get it, hang on to it tight, and just go and put two more points in the scorebook.'



Foul!

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Justin Perry, left, of Fremont Ross is fouled by Sylvania Northview's Ryan Drews during second quarter action Friday at Ross High School. Perry scored 10 points in the Little Giants' 82-37 Great Lakes League victory.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 82, Northview 37

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Northview | 12 | 2 | 13 | 10 | — 37 |
| Ross | 26 | 20 | 15 | 21 | — 82 |

Scoring

NORTHVIEW — Ryan Drews 4-0-9, Chad Holtz 3-0-6, Jeff Slade 0-6-6, Tim Sweeney 5-0-10, Terry Shadle 2-0-5, Doug Crowley 1-0-2, totals 15-5-37.

ROSS — Nick Wolf 6-0-16, Damon Walker 7-2-16, Ryan Zimmerman 1-3-5, Mark Sheidler 5-1-13, Bryan Myers 1-0-3, Tyrone Price 1-0-2, Justin Perry 3-4-10, Bobby Carter 0-0-0, Jon Hetrick 1-0-3, Jason Zilles 4-0-12, Demond Cheeks 1-0-2, totals 30-10-82.

3-point goals: Drews, Shadle, Wolf 4, Sheidler 2, Myers, Hetrick, Zilles 4.

Records: Ross 8-8 (6-3), Northview 1-14 (0-9).

Ross JVs 54, Northview 47

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|------|
| Northview | 6 | 16 | 12 | 13 | — 47 |
| Ross | 9 | 26 | 10 | 9 | — 54 |

Scoring

NORTHVIEW — John Eberle 5-1-12, Rob Payne 0-2-2, Todd Korb 1-5-7, Garrett Schupp 5-1-12, Steve Gerguson 4-3-11, Max Ostermeyer 1-0-3, totals 16-12-47.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 4-2-10, Mike Lather 0-1-1, Ryan Smith 3-4-11, Tim Leeth 2-0-5, David Gibbs 2-4-9, Jeremy Aldrich 1-0-2, Jason Matney 3-0-6, Jason Zilles 3-4-10, totals 18-15-54.

3-point goals: Eberle, Schupp, R. Smith, Leeth, Gibbs.

Record: Ross 6-10.

Coaches' stars

Nick Wolf of Ross was a first team selection on the Division I team of the District 6 Coaches Association All-Star team.

In Division II, Fred Entenman and Jason Kreulen, both of Port Clinton, and Jeremy Gregg of Clyde were first team picks and Josh Manlet of Bellevue earned second-team honors. Port Clinton coach Tom Bodager shared coach of the year honors.

In Division IV, Ben Hall of Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic was a second team selection.

Ross sets up 'big game' with win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

BEDFORD, Mich. — Bedford went down kicking Tuesday night as Fremont Ross posted an 81-74 high school boys basketball victory over the Mules.

The win was the sixth in the last seven games for Ross, 9-8, and raised the Little Giants' Great Lakes League record to 7-3. Bedford fell to 3-11 and 1-7 in the league race.

Ross, two games behind GLL leader Napoleon, plays the Wildcats Friday in their lair.

"That's the big game," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said. "We kept telling our kids we cannot look past Bedford. I don't think we really did but we have a lot of work from now until Friday."

The Kicking Mules were, indeed, kicking the Little Giants but not enough to knock Ross out. Ross led 19-17, 37-35 and 52-50 at the quarter stops before outscoring Bedford 29-24 in the final eight minutes.

Nick Wolf scored 28 points for Ross and Mike Patterson came off the bench to score 20 including a 4-of-4 foul line performance in the last 90 seconds. Damon Walker added 11 with eight coming in the final quarter.

"Mikey Patterson had ice in his veins," Gioffre said.

Patterson's first two free throws put Ross up 74-68 and his next two, 76-71. Ryan Zimmerman added two more foul shots down the stretch, and Walker scored off Wolf's missed free throw with 17 seconds left, putting Ross up 80-74.

"Ryan burying those two kind of helped," Gioffre grinned after his team climbed a game above .500 for the first time this season.

Jim Daniel and Brent Woods led a balanced Bedford attack that kept the Little Giants on the go. The 6-foot-8 Daniel finished with 18 points and Woods 16. Bob Reichow added 11.

"I give those guys a lot of credit," Gioffre said about the Mules' effort. "They played hard right from the 'get-go.' They almost beat Napoleon up here."

"Those kids did exactly what we thought they would do; they are quick off the drive and they beat us to the basket all night long."

"The first half, our press did not hurt them at all. They got way too many easy

baskets. Then we switched a little in the second half to slow them down, which we did, but they shot the ball and executed well."

"But good teams are supposed to win games like that and we have a good basketball team."

The biggest lead for Ross was 15-5 midway through the first quarter. After catching and then going ahead 22-19 early in the second quarter, the game was either tied or the lead changed hands 20 times. Ross kept the lead after Wolf buried his fourth 3-pointer for a 65-62 lead with four minutes to play.

Ross was 29-of-55 shooting and made 19 of 28 free throws. Bedford was 28 of 54 and 13 of 22 at the line. The Mules outrebounded Ross 35-27.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 81, Bedford 74

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 19 | 18 | 15 | 29 | — 81 |
| Bedford | 17 | 18 | 15 | 24 | — 81 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 9-6-28, Damon Walker 5-1-11, Ryan Zimmerman 2-3-7, Tyrone Price 2-1-5, Bryan Myers 0-2-2, Justin Perry 3-0-6, Mike Patterson 7-6-20, Mark Sheidler 1-0-2, totals 29-19-81.

BEDFORD — Bob Reichow 3-4-11, Josh Konczal 2-2-6, Jim Daniel 8-2-18, Brend Woods 6-0-16, March Schlachter 3-3-9, Chad Fornwald 1-1-3, Geoff LaMunyon 3-1-7, Tom Dudley 2-0-4, totals 28-13-74.

3-point goals: Wolf 4, Reichow, Woods 4.

Records: Ross 9-8 (7-3), Bedford 3-11 (1-7).

Ross JV 58, Bedford 49

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 11 | 13 | 16 | 18 | — 58 |
| Bedford | 10 | 15 | 6 | 18 | — 49 |

Scoring

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 4-0-8, Mike Lather 1-1-3, Ryan Smith 6-1-13, Tim Leeth 1-0-2, David Gibbs 9-3-25, Aaron Smith 0-1-1, Jason Matney 3-0-6, totals 24-6-58.

BEDFORD — Steve Sass 1-1-3, Mike Crawford 3-0-7, Nathan Doyle 3-0-6, Scott Paracheck 5-3-13, Grant LaMunyon 1-4-6, Matt Moran 5-0-10, Ryan Laskey 1-0-2, Jay Truscinski 1-0-2, totals 20-8-49.

3-point goals: Gibbs 4, Crawford.

Records: Ross 7-10

Ross falters at Napoleon

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

NAPOLEON — "Welcome to the Grand Canyon" the sign read, but for Fremont Ross, the canyon was not a garden spot.

The Napoleon Wildcats, the predators that roam the canyon, made life in the hole miserable — defeating the Little Giants 79-57 in a Great Lakes League boys basketball game.

The loss eliminated Ross, 9-9 and 7-4, from the GLL title race.

Napoleon, 14-3, kept a half-game lead over Oregon Clay with an 8-2 mark. Clay rolled over Whitmer 96-67 Friday and is 7-2 in the league chase.

While "Grand Canyon" is the nickname of the home of the Wildcats, it was a bottomless pit of miscues for Ross.

"They beat us at every facet of the game ... every facet," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said, looking as though he had fallen into an abyss. "They outhustled us, they outrebounded us, they got to every loose ball .. they shot the basketball well. We could not stop them defensively.

"I could see us not shooting the basketball well, but defensively, we just did not do it tonight."

Napoleon beat the Little Giants emphatically in the transition game.

"That was the key," Gioffre said and repeated, "that was the key. We'd miss, they'd get the long rebound, go with it — they had a lot of fast break opportunities tonight.

"Everytime we would make a run, they would counter with a three or a transition basket."

Napoleon coach Walt Behrman agreed.

"The transition game came out of our defense," he said. "I thought we played exceptionally up-tempo tonight defensively because we knew what we had to do in containing Nick Wolf —he's a heck of a player — and their inside people (Damon) Walker and (Ryan) Zimmerman can take it to us.

"We had to play hard, there was no question about that."

Wolf, who entered the game averaging over 19 points per game, was held to nine — all on 3-pointers — while missing 15 shots. Jason Gubernath was the primary defensive player on the 6-4 Ross senior. When he was resting, Ryan Aschemeier took over.

Sophomore Mike Germann

"They beat us at every facet of the game ...

— Frank Gioffre
Ross coach

scored from inside and 5-foot-8 point guard Todd Wesche from the outside to keep Ross off balance. Wesche nailed a trio of 3-point baskets in the third quarter as the Wildcats broke away from a 33-29 halftime lead to a 53-40 edge after three quarters.

Ross, which fell behind by as many as 18 late in the third period, closed the gap to 53-45 on Walker's layup, a 3-point play Mark Sheidler and Wolf's 3-pointer a minute into the fourth period. After a timeout, the Wildcats countered with three straight layups — two by Aschemeier with the last being converted into a 3-point play and a 62-45 Napoleon lead.

From that point, there was little Ross could do. Germann tossed in six points, Aschemeier five and Wesche added four as the Wildcat lead expanded to 79-55.

Germann finished with 19 points, Wesche 17, Aschemeier 16 and Gubernath 14.

Walker led Ross with 18 points, many coming on drives through the middle of the Napoleon defense. Mark Sheidler scored a dozen and Mike Patterson 10 for Ross.

Behrman was disappointed in just one facet of his team's game but that was mainly in the first half when Ross held a 22-16 rebounding edge. Eleven of the Ross first-half rebounds were off the offensive glass, but that changed in the second half.

Napoleon controlled the boards, grabbed 23 to the Little Giants' 10 in the second half. The Wildcats became so dominant in the rebounding game that Ross did not have an offensive rebound in the final 16 minutes.

"We did not pull away from them right away," Behrman pointed out. "We got a run and then they made a run at us — it was a fun game. We did not break them down until late in the second half."

When that happened, the walls of canyon fell in on Ross and left the Little Giants to dig out for their final home game next Friday night against Clay.

Basketball

High School Boys

Napoleon 79, Ross 57

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 15 | 14 | 11 | 17 | — 57 |
| Napoleon | 22 | 11 | 20 | 26 | — 79 |

Scoring

ROSS — Nick Wolf 3-0-9, Damon Walker 9-0-18, Ryan Zimmerman 3-0-6, Tyrone Price 0-0-0, Brian Myers 0-0-0, Mike Patterson 5-0-10, Mark Sheidler 5-2-12, Demon Cheeks 1-0-2, totals 26-2-57.

NAPOLEON — Ryan Ashemeier 6-3-16, Jason Gubernath 6-2-14, Dave Recker 1-0-2, Mike Germann 8-3-19, Todd Wesche 6-2-17, Kurt Schlade 1-0-3, Brad Glanz 1-2-4, Mark Dietrich 0-2-2, Matt Manter 1-0-2, totals 29-16-79.

3-point goals: Wolf 3, Aschermeier, Wesche, Schlade.

Records: Ross 9-9 (7-4), Napoleon 14-3 (8-2). N

Napoleon JV 69, Ross 31

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ross | 3 | 13 | 7 | 8 | — 31 |
| Napoleon | 10 | 17 | 22 | 20 | — 69 |

Scoring

ROSS — Ken Gottron 1-0-2, Demond Cheeks 1-0-2, Ryan Smith 5-3-14, Josh Hetrick 0-1-1, David Gibbs 1-0-3, Jason Matney 3-0-6, Doug Adams 1-0-2, Jason Zilles 0-1-1, totals 12-5-31.

NAPOLEON — Shan Bretz 2-0-5, Barry Damman 4-1-10, Jason Barlow 0-2-2, Chad Rohrbaugh 1-0-3, Jason Meyer 4-1-9, Nathan Bickel 1-3-5, Jeff Ressler 4-0-8, Chris Badenhop 1-1-3, Brandon Gerken 4-0-9, Tony Meyer 1-0-2, Andrew Rausch 1-0-2, Ryan McDougle 2-1-5, Hines 3-0-6, totals 28-10-69.

3-point goals: R. Smith, Gibbs, Bretz, Damman, Rohrbaugh, Gerken.

Record: Ross 7-11.

Little Giants asked to respond without Wolf

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross lost a shot at the Great Lakes League championship last week, and the Little Giants now face a two-game weekend with their leading scorer likely to miss both games with an injury.

Nick Wolf, the second leading scorer in the GLL with a 16.9 average, sprained an ankle during Monday's practice and it is doubtful that he will see action against Oregon Clay tonight in the Purple Pit or Saturday at Tiffin Columbian.

With Wolf hobbled, Ross coach Frank Gioffre offered two words how his team must cope.

"Step up," he said. "We have a lot of kids who are going to have to step up a level for Clay and then we have to come right back and play at Tiffin."

"We have to have some of the other kids step up and take up some of the scoring slack."

"Defense, though, is going to be the key for us (against Clay). We have to play sound defense and hopefully create some turnovers in order to get some easy transition baskets. We are going to probably press most of the game and switch it up as much as possible and hopefully catch them off guard for some easy baskets in the beginning."

"We are going to have to really rely on Damon (Walker) and Zimmy (Ryan Zimmerman) to give us some scoring inside, but every kid has to step up right now and take their game to another level."

Clay, at 14-3, is tied with Napoleon for the GLL lead at 8-2. In the first meeting

with Ross, the Eagles cruised to a 71-51 romp.

The Eagles feature Josh Jaco, the GLL's leading scorer at 17.5. But Gioffre pointed out, Jaco's supporting cast is formidable.

"The scary part of the team," Gioffre said, "is not just Josh Jaco. Probably one of their better players is Dan Tobias (third in the GLL scoring race at 15.2); he is overlooked. He scored 21 and had 17 rebounds against Whitmer — he's a great player."

"The (Russ) Revenaugh kid does a great job of running the show; he's a penetrator and he gets everyone involved in the game. They've got a kid named McMahon who can really shoot the ball from the outside and Donnelly who is an inside-outside player."

"They have a nice bench with (Brian)

Schroeder coming in —he's deadly from the outside.

"So, it's not just Josh Jaco —he's just one part of that unit."

While not have a shot at the league title may have dulled the Little Giants' lighting finish to a season that started with seven losses in 10 games, Gioffre has kept his team informed of the "spoiler" role against Clay.

That's the nice thing derived from last week's loss to Napoleon.

"That's the nice part," Gioffre said, managing a small smile, "we can go in there a little relaxed and just have some fun."

"It is senior night an I would like to see these kids go out winners."

That would be a positive step up toward ending the regular season in Tiffin.

Emotion carries Ross

Little Giants prevail in final home game

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

The emotion of the game rolled down Frank Gioffre's face.

"This is the most emotional game that I have ever been involved in," Gioffre said after the Little Giants' shocking 70-56 victory over Oregon Clay.

Emotion.

It oozed from the Purple Pit as Ross knocked the Eagles out of a first-place tie with Napoleon (which clinched a tie for the championship with a 71-63 victory over Toledo Whitmer) in the Great Lakes League.

Ross, 10-9, is 8-4 in the GLL. Clay is 8-3 in the league after losing for the fourth time in 18 games.

Emotion.

There were very few dry eyes on the Ross bench before the game and there were none in the lockerroom afterwards. It was the final home game for the seniors and the eyes betrayed their emotions.

"It was so emotional before the game, you could not help but to cry a little bit," Gioffre said. "I knew that we were going to play with a lot of emotion, but I did not know how it was going to affect them but it affected them in a good way."

Emotion.

Nick Wolf, the GLL's second leading scorer, watched the game from the bench while riding crutches to get there. He sprained his ankle Monday and is hoping to get back into the lineup by sectional tournament time. The fidgeting on the crutches gave away his emotions.

"Each kid has to step up,"

Gioffre said in midweek about replacing Wolf.

"Every kid stepped up," Gioffre declared Friday night. "Everybody. I can go down the line and bring out specific plays but it was a great, great team effort. That was the bottom line. Tonight, they stepped to the top."

Clay coach Doug Dippman said, "Sometimes, our kids look over there and see Nick's not playing, and they start thinking it's going to be easy but Frank did a good job of getting his kids ready to play and they just outplayed us. They were the better basketball team tonight."

Four Little Giants scored in double figures. Mike Patterson, the first junior inserted by Gioffre after starting all seniors, pumped in 19 points.

All five senior starters — Damon Walker, Justin Perry, Ryan Zimmerman, Jon Hetrick and Mark Sheidler — scored in the first quarter.

The Little Giants turned their emotion into torrid 56 percent (25-of-45) shooting, easily compensating for a 47-30 Clay rebounding advantage.

Topping the shooting effort was a 17-of-31 performance — 14 of 21 in the fourth quarter — from the foul line, where the Little Giants have faltered at times this season.

A skin-tight Ross defense forced Clay into 22-of-65 (34 percent) shooting while the Eagles were 9-of-16 at the line.

Hetrick finished with 13 points, including a 6-of-9 effort at the line in the final period; Perry



News-Messenger/Eric Branda

JUSTIN PERRY of Fremont Ross puts up a shot between Oregon Clay's Ross Revenaugh (30) and Josh Jaco during the fourth quarter Friday night at the Purple Pit.

See ROSS, B3

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 70, Clay 56

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Clay | 10 | 17 | 14 | 15 | — 56 |
| Ross | 20 | 16 | 10 | 24 | — 70 |

Scoring

CLAY — Josh Jaco 7-2-16, Dan Tobias 6-1-13, Mike Donnelly 3-4-10, Brad McMahon 4-1-11, Russ Revenaugh 0-1-1, Brian Schroeder 1-0-3, Greg Shuler 1-0-2, totals 22-9-56.

ROSS — Damon Walker 5-0-10, Justin Perry 6-1-13, Ryan Zimmerman 2-1-5, Jon Hetrick 2-7-13, Mark Sheidler 3-4-10, Mike Patterson 7-2-19, Jason Zilles 0-2-2, Tyrone Price 0-0-0, Bryan Myers 0-0-0, totals 25-17-70.

3-point goals: McMahon 2, Schroeder, Hetrick 2, Patterson 3.

Records: Clay 14-4 (8-3), Ross 10-9 (8-4).

Clay JV 55, Ross 47

Score by quarters

| | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Clay | 15 | 9 | 15 | 16 | — 55 |
| Ross | 4 | 12 | 10 | 21 | — 47 |

Scoring

CLAY — Eric Gibbs 1-5-7, Steve Cherry 2-1-5, Kyle Snow 6-4-16, Chris Fussell 1-2-4, Kevin Machinski 3-2-9, Steve Berger 3-1-7, Luke Meinke 1-5-7, totals 17-20-55.

ROSS — Demond Cheeks 1-0-2, Mike Lather 0-4-4, Tim Leeth 2-1-5, David Gibbs 9-0-23, Aaron Smith 1-0-3, Jason Matney 4-0-8, Doug Adams 1-0-2, totals 18-5-47.

3-point goals: Machinski, Gibbs 5, A. Smith.

Record: Ross 7-12.

High School Boys

AP All-District

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1992 Northwest All-District boys high school basketball team, as selected by a media panel in the Northwest District:

DIVISION I

First team: Dasha Jones, Sandusky Senior, 6-1, Jr., 20.8; Greg Simpson, Lima Senior, 6-1, Sr., 35.3; Jamie Feick, Lexington, 6-8, Sr., 22.9; Kevin Baker, Toledo St. Francis, 6-6, Sr., 21.6; Jay Larranaga, Toledo St. John's, 6-4, Jr.; 20.3.

Second team: Jon Woolley, Elida, 6-9, Sr., 20.7; Chris Ireland, Findlay, 6-2, Sr., 19.0; Chad Honaker, Ashland, 6-5, Sr., 23.8; Kris Matuszewski, Toledo Central Catholic, 6-2, Jr., 18.2; Jim Dotson, Toledo Start, 6-6, Sr., 18.0.

Third team: NICK WOLF, Fremont Ross, 6-4, Sr., 17.8; Kurt Pottkotter, Celina, 6-4, Jr., 15.8; Jason Beyer, Toledo Waite, 6-9, Sr., 13.7; Ron Bess, Holland Springfield, 6-2, Sr., 23.0; Josh Jaco, Oregon Clay, 6-6, Sr., 19.6.

Player of the year: Greg Simpson, Lima Senior.

Coach of the year: Gregg Collins, Lexington.

Honorable Mention

Javan Conley, Findlay; Jeff Fey, Tiffin Columbian; Jamie Johnson, Rob Whitfield, Mansfield Madison; Andy Smith, Defiance; Kevin Rome, Eugene McCoy, Tony McClain, Toledo Woodward; Scott Graser, Perrysburg; Ryan Lewis, Chris Swilling, Toledo Start; Gene Jackson, Toledo Waite; Neshawn Coleman, Toledo St. John's; Scott Cooper, Ryan Fesmier, Lexington; Mark Lee, Watt Selmon, Brian Davis, Mansfield Senior; Demond Lyles, Lima Senior; James Buffaloe, Rashod Johnson, Toledo Rogers; Troy Scott, Toledo Bowsher; Dan Tobias, Oregon Clay; Craig Tipton, Toledo Whitmer; Steve Wheeler, Lonacy Utley, Nakia Witcher, Jamarr Riven, Toledo Scott; Shawn Murlin, Celina; Hans Zipfel, Defiance.

Wolf, Cominsky earn All-GLL honors

News-Messenger reports

Nick Wolf and Cortney Cominsky of Fremont Ross have been named to the first team on the 1992 boys and girls All-Great Lakes League basketball teams, respectively.

Oregon Clay senior Josh Jaco was named boys player of the year, while senior Deanna Kreidel of Sylvania Northview is the girls player of the year.

Walt Behrman and Rod Hersha of Napoleon were named coach of the year for boys and girls, respectively. Both Napoleon teams were champions of



WOLF



COMINSKY

the GLL.

Wolf, a 6-foot-4 senior, who averaged 16.9 points per game for the Little Giants, and Jaco (17.8) are joined on the first team by

senior Ryan Aschemeier (14.1) and Todd Wesche (9.8) of Napoleon and Fostoria's Russell Robinson (16.8).

Cominsky, a 5-8 junior who averaged 15.7 points, and Kreidel (17.9) are joined on the first team by senior Amy Flory (15.6) of Napoleon and Flory's junior teammate Renee Miller (15.7) as well as Fostoria senior Danielle Moore (13.3).

The boys second team consists of Napoleon's Dave Recker; Dan Tobias and Ross Revenaugh of Clay; Jim Daniel of Bedford, Mich.; and Denard Mays of To-

ledo Whitmer.

Mike Patterson and Damon Walker of Ross were among the honorable mention selections.

Andrea McGee of Ross was named to the girls second team.

Becky Williams and Leah Lomax were honorable mention picks for Ross.

Several Ross athletes have also been recognized as all-academic in the GLL for the winter sports season. Little Giant wrestler Fred Schnee was honored along with Williams, Lomax, Wolf, Justin Perry, Mark Sheidler and Ryan Zimmerman.

Wolf, Cominsky honored

News-Messenger reports

Cortney Cominsky and Nick Wolf were named the most valuable players for the Fremont Ross High School girls and boys basketball teams Tuesday night during an awards program in the high school cafeteria.

Cominsky led the Ross girls in scoring as the Little Giants advanced to the sectional finals. The junior also won the team's best free throw shooter trophy.

Ross coach Sue Wolf also presented the most rebounds award



WOLF



COMINSKY

to senior Andrea McGee and the most assists trophy to sophomore Natalie Robbins.

The best defensive player trophy went to senior Leah Lomax and the most improved player award went to junior Kasey Mangette.

Lomax and McGee also received captains trophies.

Wolf, a three-year letterman, led the Ross boys team to an 11-10 record, including a third-place finish in the Great Lakes League.

In addition to the MVP award presented by coach Frank Giuffre, Wolf, along with senior teammates Damon Walker and Mark Sheidler received captains trophies.

Other special awards went to Walker as the player with the best field goal percentage and to senior Justin Perry at the team's top free throw shooter.

Junior Mike Patterson won the most assists trophy and senior Ryan Zimmerman won the top rebounder award. Junior Tyrone Price won the team's best defensive player award and Sheidler was named the team's most improved player.

During the program, Cominsky and Wolf received certificates for being named first team All-GLL and Coaches Distict 6. Andrea McGee was a second team selection on both of those teams.

Both Cominsky and Wolf won third team Associated Press Northwest Ohio honors.

Lomax, Becky Williams, Patterson and Walker were GLL honorable mentions.

Also, the cheerleaders and athletic trainers received their awards.

Senior Heidi Hetrick was a second year award winner for the cheerleaders while Ben Carr and Jeremy Simington, both seniors, received third-year awards.

