

LITTLE GIANTS DOMINATE SEASON OPENER AGAINST BOWLING GREEN

by Chad Berndt | Dec 3, 2024 | Featured News



The Little Giant basketball team tipped off their 2024-2025 season in style, securing a commanding 63-36 victory over league rival Bowling Green on Tuesday night. Despite some first-game jitters and sloppy play in the opening minutes, the Giants quickly found their rhythm, outpacing the Bobcats with a balanced attack and stifling defense.

Leading the charge for the Giants was senior guard Makai Lee, who showcased his offensive prowess and leadership on the court. Dekentre Hardin and Dontrell Heard also delivered standout performances, proving instrumental not only in scoring but in creating opportunities for their teammates.

The Giants' teamwork and depth overwhelmed Bowling Green, setting a strong tone for the season ahead. Coach Cahill commended the squad's ability to adjust after the shaky start, noting the resilience and determination that will be key throughout the campaign.

Next up, the Little Giants will host Sylvania Northview on Thursday. With momentum on their side, the Giants look to continue their winning ways and solidify their place as a team to watch in the league this season.

Tip-off is set for 7:00 PM at the Little Giants' home court. Fans are encouraged to come out and support their team as they aim to make it two in a row.

LITTLE GIANTS FALL TO NORTHVIEW IN HOME OPENER...



by [Chad Berndt](#) | Dec 6, 2024 | [Featured News](#)

FREMONT – On a night filled with nostalgia and pride, as Fremont Ross High School celebrated its Alumni Night, the Little Giants boys' basketball team fell to Northview 67-50 in their home opener. With stands packed with fans and former players, including all-time leading scorer Greg Bender, the Little Giants couldn't overcome an early deficit despite flashes of resilience.

Northview wasted no time taking control, opening the game with a 10-0 run that stunned the home crowd. Although Ross found their footing late in the first quarter, trading baskets with Northview, they trailed 16-7 at the end of the opening period.

The second quarter continued the back-and-forth action, with both teams finding their offensive rhythm. Despite Fremont Ross's efforts, Northview's balanced attack maintained a comfortable lead, heading into halftime with a 12-point cushion.

The third quarter showcased the Little Giants' trademark grit. Defensively, they tightened the screws, limiting Northview's shot opportunities and cleaning up the boards to prevent second-chance points. Senior Dontrell Heard ignited the offense, attacking the lane with fearless drives and hitting key shots from the perimeter. Ross managed to cut the deficit to 10, sparking hope in the stands. However, Northview's Tyler Robinson proved to be the difference-maker. Pouring in a game-high 27 points, Robinson had an answer for every Little Giants run, consistently finding ways to extend the Wildcats' lead.

Despite a spirited effort, Fremont Ross couldn't close the gap in the final quarter, ultimately falling by a 17-point margin.

Makia Lee led the way offensively for the Little Giants with 18 points, while Heard finished with 15 in an inspired performance. The loss drops Fremont Ross to 1-1 on the young season.

The Little Giants will look to bounce back when they hit the road to take on Anthony Wayne in their next matchup.

ANTHONY WAYNE 65, FREMONT ROSS 45



FREMONT ROSS 47, NAPOLEON 42

FREMONT ROSS 55, SPRINGFIELD 48

12-20-2024



December 24, 2024 · 🌐

Little Giants Secure Big Non-Conference Win Over Bellevue...

BELLEVUE — The Fremont Ross Little Giant basketball team showcased their resilience and teamwork on Monday night, earning a significant non-conference road victory over Bellevue, 65-57. This win marks a turning point for Fremont Ross, who improve their season record to 5-4.

Bellevue entered the game as a formidable opponent, having won five of their last six contests. The matchup was seen as a true test of the Little Giants' mettle, and the team rose to the occasion with an impressive all-around performance.

Head Coach Cahill expressed his pride in his squad following the game, emphasizing the collective effort that fueled the win. "Tonight's victory was the direct result of everyone playing together in true team fashion," said Cahill. "This group continues to show what can happen when we trust each other and execute as a unit."

From the opening tip, Fremont Ross played with energy and focus. Key contributions came from both starters and bench players, demonstrating the depth and versatility of the roster. The Little Giants' defense proved critical in containing Bellevue's high-scoring attack, while their offense delivered clutch baskets down the stretch to secure the win.

The victory serves as a confidence booster for Fremont Ross, who will look to build on this momentum as they prepare for their next matchup on December 27th against Toledo Woodward. With teamwork and determination becoming hallmarks of their play, the Little Giants are poised to continue their ascent in the season ahead.

For Fremont Ross fans, Monday night's triumph was more than just a win; it was a glimpse of what this team is capable of when they come together. All eyes will be on their return to the court next week as they aim to extend their winning streak.



December 30, 2024 · 🌐

Fremont Ross Boys Basketball Secures Two Nonconference Wins Over the Weekend...

The Fremont Ross Little Giants boys basketball team delivered an impressive performance over the weekend, notching two nonconference victories. On Friday night, they dominated Toledo Woodward with a commanding 72-29 win. The game allowed all players to contribute on the court, showcasing the team's depth and versatility.

The Little Giants were back in action on Saturday, taking on the Tiffin Columbian Tornadoes. True to their season's form, Fremont Ross had a slow start, trailing by eight points at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter saw a back-and-forth battle, with both teams exchanging baskets. Despite their efforts, the Little Giants entered halftime facing a 10-point deficit.

However, the second half marked a dramatic turnaround. Fueled by an aggressive and energized approach, Fremont Ross tightened their defense, led by standout performances from Dakiyus Webb and Dekentre Hardin. Their relentless pressure forced several Columbian turnovers, creating opportunities for the Little Giants to chip away at the lead.

Dekentre Hardin's hot shooting in the second half was instrumental, as he spearheaded the team's comeback effort. The combination of defensive intensity and the electrifying energy from the home crowd propelled Fremont Ross to erase the Tornadoes' lead late in the fourth quarter. Hardin's stellar performance culminated in a game-high 21 points, securing a hard-fought 60-51 victory for the Little Giants.

With these wins, the Little Giants improve to a solid 6-3 on the season. They will face a formidable challenge this Friday as they host Perrysburg, a matchup that promises to test their resilience and growth. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the team as they aim to build on their momentum.



PERRYSBURG 75, FREMONT ROSS 67

01-03-2025



January 7 · 🌐

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Little Giants Bounce Back with Big Win Over Perkins...

After a heartbreaking overtime loss to Perrysburg on Friday night, the Fremont Ross boys basketball team rebounded in commanding fashion, securing a 63-53 victory over non-conference opponent Perkins on Saturday evening.

Senior guard Dontrell Heard led the offensive charge with an impressive 22-point performance, showcasing his ability to attack the basket and score in critical moments. Junior forward Michael Stover complemented Heard's efforts with 13 points, contributing key buckets that helped maintain the Little Giants' lead throughout the game.

The defense proved to be the X-factor for Fremont Ross. Their relentless pressure stifled the Pirates' offense, forcing turnovers that were quickly converted into fast-break points. The team's commitment to tenacity and teamwork on the defensive end set the tone early and kept the momentum firmly on their side.

With the win, the Little Giants improve to 7-4 on the season, a strong position as they hit the halfway mark. The victory also gives them a boost of confidence as they strive to remain undefeated in the Cardinal Division and chase their first league title since joining the Northern Lakes League.

Head coach John Cahill praised the team's resilience after the tough loss to Perrysburg. "This was a great response from our guys. They showed heart, grit, and determination, and that's what it takes to be successful in this league."

The Little Giants will look to build on this momentum when they return to the court on Saturday to host conference rival Oregon Clay. Tipoff is scheduled for 10:00 am for Freshman with JV and Varsity to follow. Fans are encouraged to pack the gym and show their support as the team continues its quest for league dominance.





January 13 · 🌐

Fremont Ross Boys Basketball Holds on for Key NLL Victory...

The Fremont Ross Little Giants secured another pivotal Northern Lakes League (NLL) Cardinal Division victory on Saturday, edging out a tough Oregon Clay Eagles squad with a final score of 63-58.

As has been the narrative for the Little Giants this season, a sluggish start nearly jeopardized their chances. Oregon Clay capitalized early, building a steady lead with sharp shooting and physical defense. However, Fremont Ross flipped the script in the second half, dialing up their intensity and deploying relentless defensive pressure that overwhelmed the Eagles down the stretch.

Makia Lee and Dekentra Hardin led the charge offensively, combining for a dynamic scoring duo that ignited the Little Giants' comeback. Hardin's sharpshooting from beyond the arc and Lee's ability to create shots provided the much-needed spark to keep Fremont Ross in control when it mattered most.

With the win, Fremont Ross improves to 8-4 overall and remains perfect in the Cardinal Division at 4-0. The victory also sets the stage for a high-stakes showdown this Tuesday, as the Little Giants travel to Southview to face the Cougars. Southview, also undefeated in conference play at 3-0, promises to be a formidable challenge in what many are already calling a potential game of the season.

League championship implications will be on the line, and the battle of unbeaten is shaping up to be a clash for the ages. Fremont Ross will look to carry the momentum from Friday's gritty win into Southview's gym as they aim to solidify their position atop the NLL standings.

For Fremont Ross, the path to glory runs through consistency and resilience, qualities they'll need to bring in spades on Tuesday. Stay tuned—this one promises to deliver all the drama basketball fans live for.

SYLVANIA SOUTHVIEW 68, FREMONT ROSS 47
01-14-2025

FREMONT ROSS 49, FINDLAY 27
01-17-2025



January 27 · 🌐

Ross Secures 10th Win with Gritty Victory Over Bowling Green...

The Fremont Ross boys' basketball team notched their 10th win of the season Friday night, battling past Northern Lakes League foe Bowling Green for a 59-47 victory.

Senior guard Dekentra Hardin remained red-hot from beyond the arc, helping the Little Giants establish control in a game that remained competitive throughout. Despite a slow start, Fremont Ross found its rhythm, using strong defensive pressure and timely shooting to pull away in the second half.

Head coach John Cahill praised his team's resilience but emphasized the need for a more complete effort.

"I love the way our guys competed, but we need to come out with more energy from the start and play four solid quarters," Cahill said postgame.

With the win, the Little Giants improve to 10-5 on the season and continue their push through a challenging NLL schedule. They will hit the road Tuesday for a key league matchup against Napoleon, looking to build on their momentum.



January 29 · 🌐

Ross Falls in Heartbreaker to Napoleon in OT...

It's often said that on occasion, it's better to be lucky than good. On Tuesday night, the Fremont Ross boys' basketball team experienced that firsthand in a gut-wrenching overtime loss to the Napoleon Wildcats.

The Little Giants controlled much of the game with unselfish play, building a comfortable lead late into the fourth quarter. Up by nine with just over three minutes remaining, Ross appeared to be in command. However, uncharacteristic mistakes and costly turnovers allowed Napoleon to inch their way back.

Despite the late-game surge by the Wildcats, Ross still clung to a three-point lead with seconds remaining. Napoleon, however, managed to get off a shot that found the bottom of the net - tying the game and sending it into overtime.

In the extra period, Napoleon jumped out to a sizeable lead, but credit to the Little Giants for their resilience. They fought back, closing the gap and eventually taking a two-point lead after clutch free throws from Braylon Jordan.

With time winding down, Napoleon had one final possession. A contested three-point attempt banked off the backboard and into the net, giving the Wildcats a one-point lead. Ross had one last attempt, but their final shot fell short, sealing a heartbreaking defeat.

Though the loss stung, the Little Giants walked away hungry for redemption. They'll look to bounce back as they host Toledo Whitmer on Friday night.



TOLEDO WHITMER 88, FREMONT ROSS 76
01-31-2025

SYLVANIA SOUTHVIEW 41, FREMONT ROSS 40
02-01-2025



February 5 · 🌐

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Little Giants Edge Lorain in Thrilling Finish...

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team bounced back in dramatic fashion Tuesday night, securing a heart-stopping road victory over Lorain. After suffering two tough losses to Whitmer and Southview last week, the Little Giants found themselves on the right side of a thriller, pulling off a last-second 57-56 win.

The contest was tightly contested from start to finish, with neither team gaining a significant advantage. Lorain held a slim lead at halftime, but the second half continued to be a back-and-forth battle, with both teams exchanging baskets and defensive stops.

The final ten seconds provided all the drama. With the score tied, Michael Stover powered his way to the rim and converted a clutch layup, giving the Little Giants a 55-53 lead with just five seconds remaining. However, Lorain quickly pushed the ball down the court, and with fouls to give, Ross attempted to stop the play before a shot could be taken. A controversial call resulted in a continuation and an and-one opportunity for Lorain, which they converted to reclaim the lead, 56-55, with just 2.1 seconds left.

Coach Cahill immediately called a timeout, drawing up a last-second inbounds play. Off a series of screens, Dekentre Hardin found space to catch and fire a desperation three as time expired. The shot didn't go down, but Hardin was fouled on the attempt, sending him to the line for three free throws with no time on the clock. The pressure was high, but Hardin remained calm, sinking the first two shots to give Ross the one-point victory.

With the win, the Little Giants improve to 11-8 on the season and will look to carry the momentum into their next matchup as they host Springfield at home this Friday.



FREMONT ROSS 55, SPRINGFIELD 42
02-07-2025

OREGON CLAY 75, FREMONT ROSS 72



Fremont Ross Athletics
February 17 · 🌐

The Rivalry is Alive and Well: Fremont Ross
Rallies to Defeat Sandusky...

This past Saturday, the storied rivalry between Fremont Ross and Sandusky took center stage once again, reminding everyone in attendance that the competitive fire burns as strong as ever. The evening was filled with thrilling moments, heartbreak, and ultimately, a dramatic comeback that sent the Fremont faithful into a frenzy.

The night began with the freshman and junior varsity games setting the tone for the varsity showdown. The freshman squad battled hard but fell in overtime, while the JV team saw an early lead slip away in the final minutes, giving Sandusky victories at both the sub-varsity levels.

The varsity game, however, delivered a spectacle worthy of the rivalry's history. Sandusky came out firing on all cylinders, building an early lead that only grew throughout the first half. By halftime, the Little Giants found themselves in a daunting 18-point deficit, leaving many to wonder if they could mount a comeback.

But Fremont Ross refused to back down. The Little Giants came out of the locker room with a renewed defensive intensity, forcing turnovers and capitalizing on their offensive possessions. Shots that failed to fall in the first half started to drop, and as the third quarter came to a close, the deficit had been cut significantly, bringing the home crowd to life.

The energy in the gym reached a fever pitch as the fourth quarter unfolded. With just over a minute remaining, Dekentre Hardin drilled a clutch three-pointer to give Fremont Ross its first lead of the night. The final minute saw three lead changes, each basket intensifying the roar of the crowd. Clutch free throws from Hardin and Lee extended the Little Giants' lead to four points with just seconds remaining. A desperate last-second shot from the Blue Streaks missed its mark, sealing a thrilling victory for Fremont Ross on senior night.

This emotional win not only secured bragging rights over their fiercest rival but also provided the Little Giants with a surge of confidence as they head into sectional play on Thursday. If Saturday's performance was any indication, this team has the resilience and firepower to make some noise in the postseason. [See less](#)



Ross' Makai Lee heads to the bench for the final time in the home gym. MATTHEW HORN/NEWS-MESSENGER

Ross senior Makai Lee model of dependability

Matthew Horn
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross coach John Cahill's favorite thing about Makai Lee is the fact that Lee never changes.

Lee doesn't get too excited or too disappointed. He had some growing up to do, but he was already mature as a youngster.

From avoiding turnovers to directing traffic to setting a tone of composure, Lee is dependable. He also takes difficult defensive assignments and harasses them relentlessly.

"He's always been someone you can count on," Cahill said. "He takes care of the ball, he creates his own shot and for others. He's meant so much. He doesn't ever change, he's grounded."

Lee played a limited role as a freshman with 1,000 point scorer Ayden Carter.

"He played with his cousin Ayden and then he had to be the guy and his role evolved," Cahill said. "Even when he doesn't shoot it well, he handles the ball and plays defense. He's always impactful."

Lee appreciates lessons Carter passed along and was ready for more

responsibility.

"It was exciting to play with Ayden and also exciting to learn under my cousin to be the man," he said. "Being more vocal and seeing the floor better."

He's been a full-time starter since sophomore year.

"Helping my team get to their spots and places where they can score," he said. "I worked on ballhandling to be the point guard and shooting and finishing to be another threat."

Lee averages 11.7 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 3.3 steals.

See LEE, Page 3B

Lee

Continued from Page 1B

Lee scored his only three points on a jumper from the corner but typically avoided mistakes running the offense as Ross defeated Toledo Scott 65-36 last week for the first sectional crown in 19 years.

It was Lee's final home game. Ross (14-10) fell to top seed Toledo Central Catholic (11-9) in a district semifinal Tuesday.

He'd like to continue his career in college and plans to make a decision on where after the season.

"It was a great feeling, not much of a down feeling at all," he said. "The fans and the coaches put into us to help us become our best selves and he fans bring so much energy for us to play as a team. It was great to be a Little Giant and win my last game in the home gym."

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NW District area s

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Whiteman shared coach of the year.

Division III

Margaretta junior Julian Washington shared player of the year honor in Division V, recognized by the Northwest District Board for the Ohio Prep

Fremont Ross senior Makai Lee was third-team. Senior Michael Stover was honorable mention.

