

1979-1980 Season Review

Little Giants

Not quite that little

Norm "Biz" Paeth has a couple of pluses to mull over as he takes his third Ross basketball team into the season opener Saturday against Fostoria at Ross High School.

"This is the most experienced and the tallest team that I have had here," he said as he talked casually about his team.

"But still," he quickly added, "I got something from Findlay the other day and they listed one of their weaknesses as lack of height but they have a couple of 6-5 kids."

Paeth quickly shut that subtle item about the defending Buckeye Conference champions from his mind and continued talking about his third edition Little Giants.

"A couple of our 6-3 kids go over 200 pounds," he said, "and you have that physical size when you play in the Buckeye."

"I also feel we have good depth."

Paeth's somewhat glowing summation of his untested team centered around six senior lettermen and another senior with considerable experience from last season. He will start four of the lettermen and the experienced non-letterman senior.

Randy Bury, 6-0, and Gregg Hedden, 6-1, will start Saturday for Paeth's crew. Mike Held, 6-3, and Gary Harms, 6-1, are the forwards with Jerry Ameling, 6-3, at the post. Harms is the non-letterman, joining Ross at midseason last year.

The remaining two senior lettermen, both football players and still trying to catch up with the others, are Tom Wolesslagel and Rob Bollenbacher. Wolesslagel, 5-11, is the lone two-year letterman while 6-3 Bollenbacher picked up his first letter last season.

"Wolesslagel and Bollenbacher both know they will play a lot Saturday," Paeth pointed out, "but right now they are a little behind the others."

Others on the Ross team in the playing picture include guard Mike Eicher, the top junior varsity scorer from last season. A junior, Eicher stands 5-11 and is expected to see considerable action in Paeth's four-guard plans.

The Little Giants' "Steakman", Greg Nossaman, is a junior but is stretching it when being listed at 5-8. The Ross underclassman earned his nickname via the foul line where he has made a habit of winning dinners for sinking 50 or more straight.

In the forward slots for backup strength, Paeth has 6-3 junior Rod Meyer and Andy Rodenhauser, also a junior but three inches shorter than Meyer.

Dave Szakovits, the tallest of the Little Giants at 6-7, is in the sub role at center.

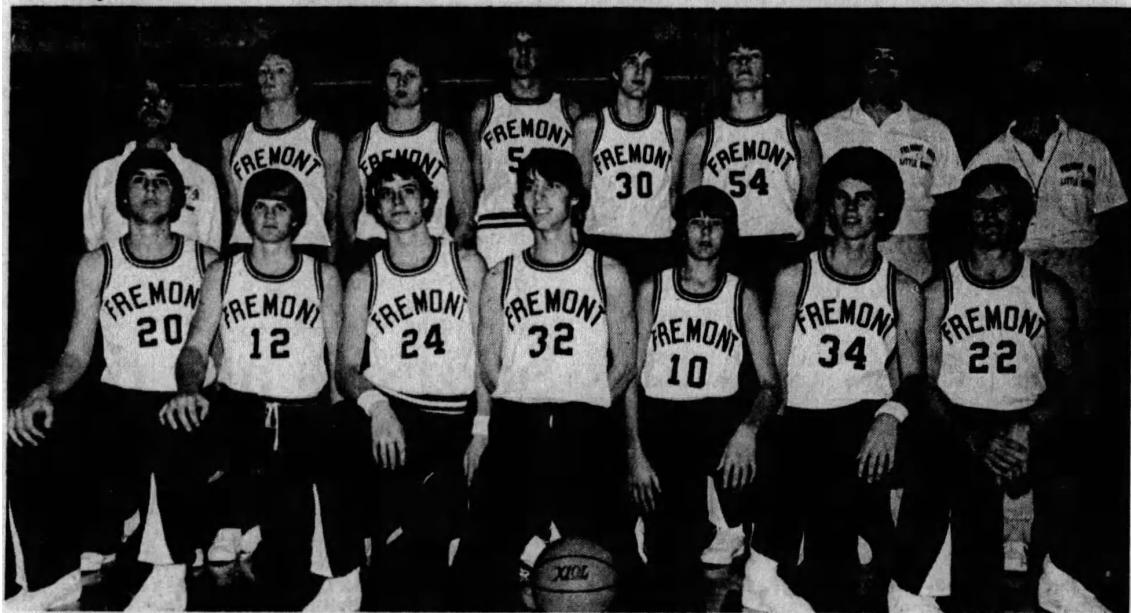
"We want to put a lot of pressure on the other team's guards," Paeth pointed out while describing his style of play for the season. "We have some decent guards and I feel that they may get tired — if they don't, then I'll bet they are not doing the job we want. If they play with the intensity we expect them to, then they will get tired."

The Ross coach pointed out that the seniors on the Ross team are "his."

"We have grown together," he explained. "We have been together for three years and we are demanding a little more from them."

Paeth pointed out that Held, the team's third leading rebounder last season, has improved his game to the point where he feels he is one of the better inside people he has coached.

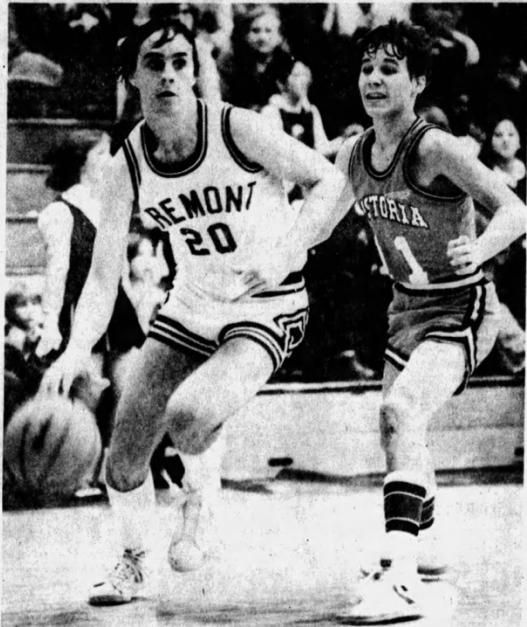
As far as the Buckeye Conference race, Paeth pointed the finger at Elyria as one of the prime challengers. Lorain Senior, Admiral King and Findlay were the other strong teams in the conference that he pointed out as possible conference winners.



THE ROSS BOYS basketball team. Front row, left to right: Gary Harms, Tom Wolesslagel, Gregg Hedden, Randy Bury, Greg Nossaman, Mike Eicher, Andy Rodenhauser; back row: head Coach

Norm "Biz" Paeth, Rob Bollenbacher, Mike Held, Dave Szakovits, Rod Meyer, Jerry Ameling, varsity assistant Coach Steve Krynoch, junior varsity Coach Tim Pettorini.

Little Giants win No. 1 in double overtime



GARY HARMS, (20) of Ross, looks for an open man as he dribbles around Brian Barringer (11) of Fostoria.

Ross won their season opener in two overtimes 71-70.

Moeller dynasty flattens Padua

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A college scout perhaps summed up Cincinnati Moeller's four-time champions the best.

"This is one of the finest sports dynasties ever," said the scout. "For longevity and total dominance, it's better than UCLA's basketball."

Consider what Moeller's 41-7 wipeout of Parma Padua for the Class AAA state prep playoff title accomplished Saturday.

—A 20th straight victory, 57 triumphs in the last 58 games and a 161-17-3 record in the school's 17 years. The Crusaders have been unbeaten in eight regular seasons.

A playoff record of 8-2 with titles coming in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1979, more than any school in the three Ohio divisions.

Moeller was Lakewood St. Edward, a 27-9 victim. That was the lowest point total of the season for the Crusaders, who posted five shutouts among their 12 straight victories.

The Moeller machine crunched Padua, 10-2-0, under a 536-97 avalanche in total yardage. The Crusaders ran 79 plays to just 33 for the Bruins. They were ahead in first downs 29-4.

"They were too physical for us," admitted Tom Kohuth, the Padua coach. "If there is a bigger high school team in the country, I'd like to see it."

Moeller, an all-boys Catholic school of 1,008, has become so well-known among colleges that every offensive line regular in the last six years has earned a scholarship. This year will be no ex-

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor
The world fell on
Fostoria's Ray Uballe
Saturday and caused Ross
Coach "Biz" Paeth to
become a bit of a hypocrite
in his dreams.

"I keep seeing that kid
on the foul line missing
that shot," Paeth
recounted Sunday afternoon
while reflecting back on his team's 71-70,
double overtime victory
over the Redmen.

"I feel sorry for the kid
but I keep thinking how
bad I would have felt if he
had made it," the third
year Ross coach countered.

Sixteen seconds after
Ross's Jerry Ameling sank
the back end of a two-shot
foul, Uballe had the chance
to become an instant hero.
The six-foot junior was
fouled by Ross's Mike Held
as he attempted to rebound
a shot by teammate Joe

Johnson. After a minute of
checking by the officials to
see if the clock had expired
before the foul, Uballe
stepped to the line. The
rest is history — Uballe
missed and Paeth had his
10th consecutive opening
game win.

"I'm 10-0," he explained,
"and I'm pretty doggone
happy but I am still a little
mad because we did not
put them away. We were up
10 in the first half and 10
(actually nine) in the
second."

The Little Giants bolted to a 31-21 lead
midway through the second period but watched
it slip away and trailed 35-34 at the half. In the third
quarter, Ross forged to a
54-45 lead but again let it
slip away.

With Johnson and Scott
Nye denting the Little
Giants defense, Fostoria
finally caught Ross at 66-66
with only 36 seconds to
play in regulation.

Ross, after calling time
with six seconds to play,
was unable to score as
Randy Bury's shot from
the right side bounced off
the rim.

In the first overtime, the
Redmen took the lead on

Nye's two free throws. The
shots were the ninth and
10th straight losses that
Nye hit during the foul-
line contest.

With 51 seconds
remaining in the first extra
session, Gary Harms of
Ross hit from underneath
and was fouled by Nye.
Harms' shot missed and
the game went into the
second overtime tied at 68.

The Little Giants had
another shot at winning in
the first overtime but
Bury's free throw fell off

with 11 seconds to play.
Ross drew first blood in
the second three-minute
session on a pair of charity
tosses by Rob Bollenbacher
at the 1:16 mark. Johnson
hit a layup with 40
seconds left to tie it.

Bury missed a free
throw with 18 seconds to
play but Ameling grabbed
the rebound, put it back up
but was fouled by Uballe.
The 6-3 Ross senior missed
the first shot but swished
the second. After that, it
was Uballe, the world, and
a basketball that weighed
a ton.

Only three Ross players
hit double figures in the
balanced attack. Tom
Woleslagel came off the
bench to net 14 with Harms
hitting 13 and Held 10.
Ameling, Bollenbacher
and Bury had nine apiece.
Johnson with 21 and Nye
with 22 paced Fostoria.

There were 60 fouls
called in the contest, 35 on
Ross with four players
from each team fouling
out.

Paeth would not point a
finger at the officiating.

"I would not have
wanted to officiate it," he
said. "It was a hard game
to officiate with both teams
pressing. I think it was a
fairly well officiated game.
It really was a typical
first game."

Paeth pointed out the
inside play of his team,
noting that there was 41
points scored by the front
line.

"I'm pretty happy with
that. We want to keep
getting the ball inside," he
offered.

Ross had 33 turnovers in
the contest, seven less than
the Redmen.

In the junior varsity
game, Ross broke away
from a 15-15 tie in the third
period to pull out a 46-26
victory. Dave Miller had 13
2-3s and Bob Bollenbacher
14-14; totals 24-23-71.

Season record: Ross 1-0,
Fostoria 0-1.

Score by quarters
Fostoria 13 22 10 21 2 2-70
Ross 15 25 11 2 3-71

Scoring
FOSTORIA — Johnson 9-3-21,
Lynch 1-2-4, Harms 6-10-16,
Uballe 1-0-2, totals 22-29-70.

ROSS: Held 3-4-10, Harms 6-1-13,
Ameling 4-1-9, Bury 2-5-9, Hedden
2-3-1, Bollenbacher 1-1-3,
Woleslagel 4-4-14; totals 24-23-71.

Season record: Ross 1-0,

Fostoria 0-1.

JV game
Ross 46, Fostoria 38

Scoring
FOSTORIA: Boff 6-2-22, Helms 5-
0-1-1, Bollenbacher 4-1-1, Joseph 1-0-1,
Loomis 0-1-1, McDonald 3-1-7.

ROSS: Bates 3-3-9, Bollenbacher 6-1-1,
Ameling 4-1-9, Bury 2-5-9, Hedden
2-3-1, Woleslagel 4-4-14; totals 15-16-46.

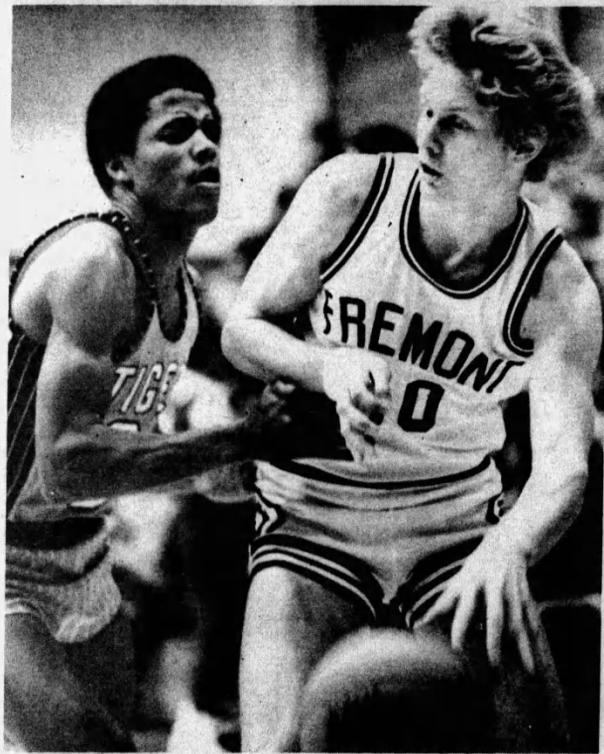
Season record: Ross 1-0,

Fostoria 0-1.



JERRY AMELING, (54) of Ross, battles with
Fostoria's Scott Nye (41) for a rebound during
Saturday night's double overtime victory. (News-
Messenger photos by George Lundskow)

Sports news



MIKE HELD of Ross puts the ball to the floor as he begins to drive the baseline during the Ross-Toledo DeVilbiss game Friday at Ross High School. Held ended up with 20 points in a 75-71 Ross loss. (N-M photos by George Lundskow)

Wittenberg going 'Stagg'

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (AP) — Unbeaten Wittenberg, a two-time champion appearing in the finals for the fourth time, tangles with an old playoff rival, the Ithaca Blue Bombers, in the NCAA Division III championship football game Saturday.

The Tigers are a slight favorite in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, a regionally televised (ABC) event that will begin at 12:50 p.m. EST.

Ithaca, 9-2, is no stranger to championship competition either, having lost to Central Iowa 10-8 in the 1974 Stagg Bowl and to

Wittenberg 28-0 in the 1975 finals.

Wittenberg captured the first Division III playoff in 1973 with a 41-0 decision over Junia and dropped a 24-10 decision to Baldwin-Wallace last year after eliminating Ithaca from the playoffs in an earlier round 6-3.

"We're worried about Ithaca because we had a tough time with them last year," said Coach Dave Maurer of the Tigers. "They have a more diversified attack this year, plus their usual outstanding defense."

"Wittenberg does everything well," said

Coach Jim Butterfield of the Bombers. "They don't have any superstars, but they play good team football and are solid offensively and defensively."

The two coaches rank among the most successful in Division III. Maurer has a 98-14-3 record for 11 seasons and Butterfield has an 80-40-1 mark in 13 years.

The Blue Bombers have advanced to the finals with playoff victories over Dubuque 17-7 and Carnegie-Mellon 15-6 and the Tigers scored playoff triumphs over Millersville State 21-14 and Widener 17-14.

Ithaca's regular season setbacks came at the hands of Clarion State 12-10 and American International 24-19.

The Blue Bombers use the two-quarterback system. Doug Bencsko passed for 857 yards and six touchdowns and Doug DeCarr for 623 yards and four scores.

Ithaca's balanced attack also features tailback John Nicolo, 843 yards rushing, and fullback Bob Ferrigno, 824.

Tracy King has rushed for 1,050 yards for the Tigers and quarterback Chuck Delaney has added 755 and scored 14 touchdowns. Delaney also has passed for 1,220 yards and 11 scores.

College basketball scores

EAST

Alcorn St. 77, S. Mississippi 71
Assumption 74, St. Joseph's 63
Baltimore 72, Canisius 61
Boston Coll. 95, Bentley 77
Colgate 60, RPI 59
Columbia 78, Brooklyn Coll. 58
CW Post 64, Manhattan 53
Elmira 106, Case Western Reserve 74

Harvard 67, Catholic U. 71
Long Island 75, Pratt 20
Morgan St. 76, CCNY 70
Navy 78, Havertord 57
Seton Hall 74, St. John's 71

SOUTH
Alabama 76, Maine 59
Armstrong St. 66, Indiana St. 63

NBA results

Friday's Games
Boston 100, New York 97
New Jersey 127, Denver 118
Philadelphia 104, San Diego 101
Indiana 99, Washington 91
Seattle 107, New York City 102, OT
San Antonio 107, Portland 100
Houston 106, Atlanta 95
Utah at Golden State, n
Chicago at Los Angeles, n

MIDWEST

Delaware 61, Drexel 60
Florida St. 101, Florida A&M 63
Georgia 100, Troy St. 77
Hampton Inst. 100, Dist. of Columbia 75
Maryland 82, Md-E. Shore 58
Miami 77, Mercer 61
Norfolk St. 89, Kent St. 68
Southern 94, New Orleans 99, OT
Virginia 93, John Hopkins 58
W. Georgia 96, Shorter 61

SOUTHWEST
Illinois 68, Brigham Young 76
Iowa St. 93, St. Cloud St. 71
Minnesota 77, E. Michigan 56
Missouri 86, Kansas 71, OT
Nebraska 106, S. Dakota St. 83

TOURNAMENTS
Alaska Shootout
First Round
Long Beach St. 98, Lamar 85

Tigers sting Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross could have used a fireman but the only thing that put out the fire under Toledo DeVilbiss Friday at Ross High School was the final buzzer and that was too late for the Little Giants.

Canning 33 of 65 shots from the field, including 16 of 31 in the second half, the Tigers clawed to a 75-71 victory over the Little Giants. It was the season opener for DeVilbiss while Ross dropped to 1-1.

"We told the kids at halftime that

DeVilbiss had to cool off," Ross Coach

Biz Paeth said, "but they didn't."

He should have had an inkling that it was not going to be the Little Giants' night when a bizarre shot nearly fell in during the first quarter. That shot, a toss back over his head while falling away from the basket, by Tony Wilson, just rolled off but there were other DeVilbiss shots that got the right bounces and the wrong ending for Ross.

Wilson canned 12 of 24 shots while collecting a game high 27 points and helped turn back every spurt that the Little Giants could muster.

"We just did not have that little bit to get past the hump," Paeth and his assistant coach, Steve Krynoch, agreed.

"I think we played well, but they just played better," was the summation of the two Little Giants' generals.

With Mike Held dropping in 20, Randy Bury 17 and Gregg Hedden 16, the Little Giants would peck away at DeVilbiss lead that at one point climbed to 13 at 6-51 with 7:41 to play in the game.

The Little Giants closed it to 73-67 with 55 seconds to play on the second of four straight baseline driving buckets by Hedden. A pair of free throws by DeVilbiss sophomore Michael Richards with 27 seconds to play iced the contest for the Tigers. Hedden's following two buckets only made it closer at the buzzer.

The second half pattern duplicated the first. DeVilbiss would hit a hot streak and race to as much as a 14 point, 34-20 lead with four minutes remaining in the first half. The Little Giants' spurt in the

final half of the second period closed the DeVilbiss lead to 36-32.

Three buckets and a pair of charity tosses by Held brought back the Little Giants.

In the second half, a bizarre set of happenings momentarily gave Ross momentum. The DeVilbiss bench was whistled for a pair of technical fouls with Bury's four straight shots from the foul line bringing Ross to within two at 38-36. That was as close as the Little Giants could squeeze.

DeVilbiss scored the next eight points and Ross was on the ropes . . . bouncing back several times but never with enough punch to take command.

Paeth said that the Tigers' quickness did not surprise him. "We knew they were going to beat us down the floor but it seemed even when we were there, they would shoot over us and it would go in.

"If they missed, they seemed to get the rebound," he continued. "I think our kids go so used to seeing them make the shot, that they were surprised to see them miss."

Ross canned 30 of 68 from the floor and, surprisingly, out-rebounded the Tigers 37-35.

The Little Giants will have a few hours to rebound from the disappointing loss — another Toledo school, Woodward, will be in town tonight. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30 p.m.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

DeVilbiss	16	20	24	15-75
Ross	10	22	18	21-71

SCORING

DEVILBISS: Richards 7-5-19, Freeman 4-1-9, Lindley 2-4-4, Wells 4-0-8, Wilson 12-3-27, Allen 4-0-8;

ROSS: Harms 2-2-8, Held 8-4-20, Ameding 0-0-0, Hedden 8-0-16, Woesslager 2-0-4, Bollenbacher 3-0-6, Bury 6-5-17; totals 30-31-71.

Season record: DeVilbiss 1-0, Ross 1-1.

JV GAME

DeVilbiss 57, Ross 53

SCORE BY QUARTERS

DeVilbiss	12	17	14	14-57
Ross	12	12	17	53

SCORING

DEVILBISS: Buckingham 4-0-8, Savage 2-2-6, Belton 3-4-10, Barringer 3-3-9, Hill 6-0-12, Conner 3-1-7;

ROSS: Bartsch 5-1-10, Bollenbacher 2-0-4, Gant 1-5-7, Lindsey 4-4-12, Sachs 3-0-6 Miller 5-0-10; totals 22-29-53.

Season record: DeVilbiss 1-0, Ross 1-1.

Streaks whip Alumni

The St. Joe Crimson

Streaks jumped to a 25-9

first quarter lead and then held on for an 86-81 victory over a St. Joe

alumni team in an

exhibition game at St.

Joe Friday night.

The Streaks were

playing an alumni team

with St. Joe graduates

from 1975-79.

"It's just a game to

help us get ready for the

season," Denny Faber,

head coach of the

Streaks, said.

The Streaks went

ahead by 16 after one

period and increased

that lead to 17, 54-37, at

the half.

Score by quarters

Alumni	5	29	19	25-81
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St. Joe	25	29	13	19-86
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Scoring

ALUMNI: Tom Kovaleski 5-

3-13, Dave Saller 5-0-10, John

Yeager 1-2-4, Tom Swint 3-1-7,

Tim Parikh 2-0-4, Mike

Gutierrez 5-1-7, Brian Kuns 5-2-

14, Joe Swint 7-1-15, Dan

Hoffman 3-1-7, totals 37-11-81.

ST. JOE: Ken Swint 7-7-21,

Doni Paradiso 7-8-22, Tom

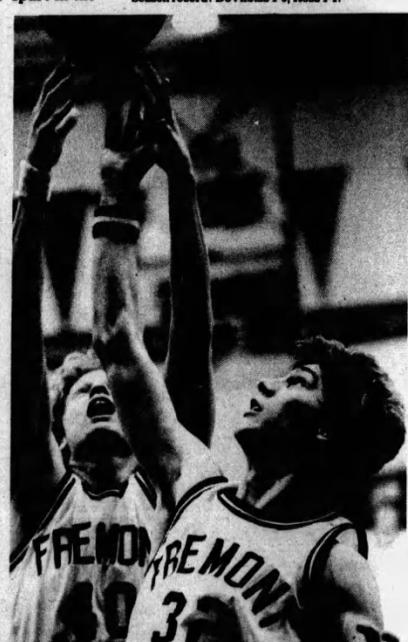
Yellstrom 1-1-3, John Byers 4-2-

1, Mike Redmond 2-1-5, Brian

Burns 2-0-2, Tom Mayle 6-6-12,

Dave Foss 5-1-7, Tom Halm 0-4,

4, totals 30-35-88.



TWO ON ONE. Mike Held (40) and Randy Bury (32) of Ross go up for a rebound during second half action.

Benchmen spark Ross

By TOM STOREY

News-Messenger Sports Writer

The Ross Little Giants raised their record to 2-1 for the young 1979-80 basketball season with a 68-57 win over Toledo Woodward Saturday night at the Ross High School gym.

Two players coming off the bench, Rob Bollenbacher and Randy Bury, combined for 31 points to spark the Little Giants attack and lead them to their second victory.

"That was Rob Bollenbacher's best job since he's been on the varsity," Biz Paeth, head coach for Ross, said. "Randy Bury came off the bench to give us momentum," he added. "He did a super job. That's exactly what we're looking for. Those two kids had 31 points between them of our 68 and didn't start."

Ross was trailing 6-5 in the first quarter when Bollenbacher and Bury were inserted into the game. Bury responded with two baskets and Bollenbacher added one to pace the Little Giants to a 13-11 lead after the opening quarter.

In the second quarter, Bollenbacher hit four of six shots, most of them coming off layups, and added a shot from the foul line to finish with nine points for the quarter and lead Ross to a 30-22 halftime lead.

It was the play of the Little Giants in the third quarter, however, that turned the game into a romp. Ross outscored the visiting Polar Bears 22-12 to take a 52-34 advantage into the third quarter. Bollenbacher did most of the damage, scoring eight points while Gregg Hedden and Gary Harms added four apiece.

The Little Giants increased their lead to 61-40 early in the fourth quarter and began substituting.

Paeth credited a combination of things for the Little Giant victory.

"I thought we got the ball up the floor well," he said, analyzing the game. "We got five quick baskets by beating them up the floor."

"We got the ball inside on them well," the coach said, noting Bollenbachers' 21 points. "We drew seven offensive charging fouls. That shows we played good defense. We closed the middle when they were penetrating."

Paeth added that he thought the 41-36 advantage that Ross had on the boards was also a key factor. Bollenbacher and Mike Held, who Paeth said had a fine game, both had 10 caroms to lead the Ross in the rebounding category.

"Our kids have good balance," Paeth said. "After three games, we have excellent scoring balance. We have two kids averaging about nine points, two about 11 points and two about 12 points which is just where we want it."

"It was a pretty good basketball weekend," Paeth concluded. "I wish we could have won two instead of one but we just ran into a hot team on Friday."

Ross lost to Toledo DeVilbiss 75-71 on Friday when the Toledo team shot a simmering 33 of 65.

The Little Giants begin conference play on Friday with a contest against the Mansfield Tygers. The game is at Ross with the JV's slated for a 6:30 tip off.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Woodward	11	11	12	23-57
Ross	13	17	22	16-68

SCORING

WOODWARD: Louis Davis 2-0-4, David Newsome 5-3-13, Barry Smith 3-0-6, Jeff Smith 1-2-4, Bryan Meyer 10-1-21, Todd Collier 1-0-2, Bill Kaczmarek 3-1-7, totals 25-7-57.

ROSS: Jerry Ameling 0-4-4, Rob Bollenbacher 9-3-21, Randy Bury 4-2-10, Tom Woelslagel 3-3-9, Gregg Hedden 2-3-7, Gary Harms 1-2-4, Mike Held 4-3-11, Mike Elcher 0-2-2, totals 23-22-68.

Finley is the main

TORONTO (AP) — Baseball men gathered in this snowdraped Canadian metropolis Monday for the and transferred to the mile-high Colorado city?

Or is Finley, the wily maverick, again tweaking

Held, Hedden hit key Ross points

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Biz Paeth wasn't happy with the way his Ross boys basketball team performed in a 58-54 victory over Mansfield, he was thrilled.

The enthusiasm bubbled out of the Ross coach after his team led all the way in winning the initial Buckeye Conference game for both schools. The Little Giants fought off some last minute jitters to pull off the victory.

"I'm thrilled with the way the kids played," Paeth offered and then smiled as he said, "I think we have a 'don't know how to play when we are ahead' syndrome, but, by golly, we are getting a little better each time."

Ross led by eight several times in the game, the latest at 54-46 with three minutes to play. A pair of turnovers and a couple of forced in shots by Mansfield's slick moving Tom Murphy closed that Little Giants' cushion to 54-52 with 1:50 to play.

Mike Held, who had 14 points to lead a balanced Ross attack, canned a pair of pressure packed free throws with 42 seconds to play for a bit of breathing room before Mansfield charged back on a pair of charity tosses by Brian Williams to trail 56-54 with 34 seconds left.

The Little Giants held the ball until with five seconds remaining, Stanley Hoke fouled Ross's Gregg Hedden.

"We told Gregg," Paeth revealed what transpired during a timeout before Hedden went to the line, "that if he made one, we did not want to touch the ball again."

Hedden went his coach one better, he hit both, the fifth and sixth of six straight four shots for the senior in the final period, and Ross was home, narrowly, but free.

Joe Pratts, in his first year as the leader of the Tygers, admitted that Ross surprised his team with its quickness in the first half.

"They were getting that second and third shot at the basket," Pratts pointed out, "and we were just playing poor defense. In the second half, we had the opportunities but we did not cash in and Ross did."

"I think one of the keys to the game was we kept Holmes (Russell) off the boards," Paeth said. "We knew we had to do that."

Ross consistently beat Mansfield down the floor and that fact did not surprise the Ross coaching staff.

"We saw them play two games," he began, "and against Ashland — a team that is just about like ours — they were getting beaten down court. Only Ashland was being aggressive defensively."

"I think our aggressiveness on defense made our offense that much better."

Ross zipped out to an 8-0 lead as Mansfield missed its first eight shots. The Little Giants led 14-9 at the first stop, watched the Tygers tie the game at 16 and then jumped out to a 26-18 lead before settling for a 32-26 lead at the half.

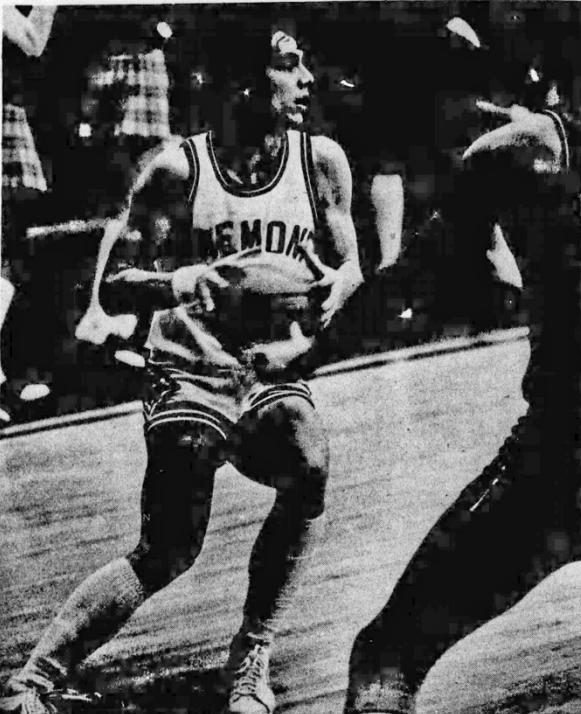
The Little Giants took turns having the hot hands. Gary Harms and Held canned six first period points with Rob Bollenbacher hitting six and Tom Wolesslagel, who had an equally hot passing eye, dropping in five of six free throws in the second stanza.

In the final stages of the game, Mike Eicher came off the bench to hit a pair of clutch baskets. The first on a layup to give Ross a 44-40 and the second, a foul line jumper that put Ross up 54-46.

Ross controlled the boards 40-35 with Bollenbacher grabbing nine and Held eight. Both teams had 21 turnovers.

Harms and Bollenbacher had 10 points apiece and Randy Bury came off the bench for nine. Murphy finished with a game high 16 while Hoke tallied 13 and Holmes finished with 10, eight coming in the second period.

Ross, now 3-1, will travel to Marion Harding next Friday.



Gregg Hedden of Ross looks for a Ross teammate to pass off to during a first period play. Hedden canned six straight free throws in the final period to help ice the game for Ross.

SLL roundup

Defending champs trip Woodmore



TOM WOLESSLAGEL of Ross is about to have a shot stuffed back at him during his third period play under the

Defending champion Lakota used an effective stall in the last three and a half minutes to pull away from visiting Woodmore 63-47 in the opening night of Suburban Lakes League basketball Friday night.

In other SLL games, Gibsonburg fell to Elmwood 73-62, Oak Harbor started slowly, but disposed of Otsego 60-52 and Eastwood whipped Genoa 57-40.

Lakota led Woodmore 42-38 going into the final period, but outscored the Wildcats 21-9 in the final period. Lakota sank 11 of 14 free throws after going into the stall.

The Raiders were paced inside by Terry Hedge's 21 points, and by the outside shooting of Arnold Scherer, who scored 16. Hedge also hauled down 20 rebounds. Lakota hit on 25 of 60 field goals for 41 percent, to 15 of 36 for 42 percent for Woodmore.

The Wildcats were led by Steve Burner, who scored 16 points, and Dave Rymers, who added 12. Lakota is 3-0 overall and Woodmore is 1-1.

Gibsonburg trailed Elmwood by just one point halfway through the third quarter, but then hit a cold spell. The Royals had four players score in double figures with Trent Snowden leading the

way with 19. Gibsonburg was paced by Mario Garcia with 20 points. Tino Ramos added 15 and Doug Elmer 14 for the Royals.

Gibsonburg made 26 of its 62 field goals for 42 percent. The Royals outrebounded the Bears 39-29.

Oak Harbor found itself trailing host Otsego 20-4 late in the first quarter, but then reeled off 10 straight points to close the gap at the end of the period.

The Rockets still trailed by 10 going into the final period, but went on a 22-4 burst to win the game.

"I guess we had the jitters and we couldn't buy a bucket," Oak Harbor Coach Dave Christie said of his team's slow start. "In between (first and fourth quarters) we played pretty decent." Oak Harbor used a press in the final two periods.

Tim Priesman paced Oak Harbor with 14 points and had most of them in the fourth quarter. Rick Gibbs and Tony Asmus led Otsego with 17 and 15 points respectively.

Eastwood outscored Genoa 34-16 in the second and third quarters to win going away against Genoa. Mike Albright scored 20 points to lead the Comets. The winners were paced by 22 points by Jim Juergens.

High school basketball

scores on page 8

Woleslagel's missile stuns Harding

MARION — Tom Woleslagel's final shot of the night turned a noisy Harding High School gym into a tomb Friday as Ross upended the Presidents 60-58.

Woleslagel's shot was not normal . . . it was from 47 feet away and was in the air as the final buzzer reverberated in the ears of the fans in the crowded gym.

"He got the ball with three seconds to go," Ross Coach Biz Paeth recalled, "took two or three dribbles and let go. I don't know how far it was . . . I was blind."

Woleslagel had grabbed a rebound off Harding's Fred Ross's missed shot to set up his dramatic mid-court heave. The ball left the Little Giant senior's hands with just one second left on the clock.

Both officials signaled that the shot was good if it went in. It did and Paeth had his once in a decade shot.

"That happens once in 10 years," he laughed, "and it probably won't happen again for another 10 years."

Up to that point, Ross and Harding had traded baskets all through the final eight minutes.

The Little Giants held a 34-26 lead at the half but lost it in the early going of the second 16 minutes.

"I told the guys at halftime," Paeth disclosed, "that they were up by eight and that if we could get the first couple of buckets in the second half we'd be up by 12 and have them on the run but I'll be darned if we did not miss our first two shots and they hit their's and it was nip and tuck from there on."

The Little Giants' biggest lead of the game was nine points in the first half.

Ross followed its game plan to stop the

penetration of Harding's guards, Ross and Greg Kelpzig, and it worked in a roundabout way. The Little Giants drew seven offensive charges from the Presidents but on four of the charges, the Harding shots went through.

"They'd make those," the Ross coach pointed out, "but we would come down and make the one and one."

While Ross was converting 14 of 19 charity tosses, the foul line was an evil place for the Presidents.

Harding hit only four of 16 from the line and wasted a 27-23 advantage in field goals. Harding hit 49 percent from the field to Ross 23 of 56, 46 percent.

Woleslagel's shot was set up by a combination of things. First, Ross's Gregg Hedden, the leading scorer for the Little Giants with 15, was called for

charging with 27 seconds to play.

"I thought Harding would hold the ball for the last shot," Paeth said while discussing his team's timeout immediately after the call against Hedden. "I just told our kids to play the 'rat' (1-3-1 zone). They didn't go for the shot though."

Harding tossed the ball up from 18 feet, Woleslagel grabbed the ball, took his dribbles, launched his guided missile from just inside the Little Giant forecourt and the Little Giants had their fourth win in five games. The second against no losses in the Buckeye Conference.

"I can still see it going in," Paeth gleamed. "I think halfway home I'll start laughing."

And it will be a chuckle that will last several days.

B-2 The News-Messenger, Fremont, O., Saturday, Dec. 22, 1979

Middle quarter blitz stops Little Giants



JERRY AMELING, right, and Gregg Hedden (24) of Ross go up for a rebound during a third period play under the Ross basket. Ameling got credit for a tip-in on the play. (N-M photo by George Lundskow)

Ballard's hot hand burns Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
Larry Ballard came off the bench to click on his first six shots from the field to spur Lorain to a 75-63 victory over Ross Friday night at the Ross gym but Ballard's bench-warming days are not over.

"That's the first good ball game he has had in the last three," Lorain Coach Dale Reichert pointed out, "and he's going to stay on the bench if he keeps doing that!"

Ballard ended up with seven of 10 from the floor and 14 points to back up the 24-point night of Rick Melendez and an 18-point production from pint-sized Carl Hartman.

Lorain, now 4-3 and 3-1 in the Buckeye Conference, roared from a 13-11 deficit in the first period to burn Ross in the second and third stanza. The Steelmen shredded Ross's zone, eventually forcing the Little Giants out of the defense in the third period, with 20 of 37 from the field in the middle two stanzas.

Ross is 4-2 and 2-1 in the BC. Lorain outscored the Little Giants 49-32 in that 16 minutes.

A bad break, actually a twist, bullied the Little Giants out of their game plan midway through the initial quarter. Rob Bollenbacher, Ross's 6-3 center, twisted his ankle at that point and saw only 30 seconds of action the rest of the night.

"When we lost Rob," Biz Paeth, Ross's coach, pointed out, "it hurt

us personnel-wise and substitute-wise. It took us right out of our game plan."

Bollenbacher's backup, Jerry Ameling, performed well but picked up three quick fouls and had to take a seat on the splinters.

"We had to drop Mike Held down low and he is normally out high," Paeth explained his juggling act, "and we had to move Gary Harms up high and he is normally the free forward. When Lorain went man to man, we didn't have anyone to play center."

The Little Giants opened with a match-up 1-3-1 zone, a defense that Reichert admitted befuddled his team.

"Yeah," he admitted, "we had trouble solving it in the first quarter. We went into a different offensive start that helped us."

Ballard had a big hand in that new beginning for the Steelmen "O." He popped in four shots from in close in the second and followed up with his first two of the third period.

Hartman, the fourth leading scorer in the Buckeye Conference, could not get free against the Ross zone but Melendez, the second leading scorer in the BC with a 20 point average, shot over it and managed to muscle in a couple of rebound shots for 15 first half points.

When Ross was forced out of the zone in the third period, the move freed Hartman to do his act. He canned 11 third period points and it hurt the Little Giants.

"I felt we had to get out of the zone and into the man-to-man if we were going to catch up," Paeth said and then second guessed himself. "Who knows, if we had been in the man-to-man the whole game, they may have ripped us or it may have worked."

The Little Giants lost the lead for the first time in the game 20-19 on a pair of Melendez free throws. The Little Giants led twice more at 22-21 and 23-22 but a bucket by bullish Corey Earl with four and one-half minutes to play in the first half gave the Steelmen a 24-23 lead and Ross was never able to regain an advantage.

Lorain's biggest lead was 23 points at 74-51.

Held's 14 paced Ross with Tom Woleslagel canning 13, six in the final period. Gregg Hedden finished with 11.

Lorain ended up with 30 of 64 from the field and a sizzling 15 of 17 at the charity stripe. Ross shot well, 26 of 58 for 45 percent, but managed only 11 of 18 from the line.

The Little Giants held a slim 34-28 lead in the rebounding game.

Bollenbacher's ankle injury left him questionable for tonight's clash with Findlay at the home of the Trojans. Immediately after the game, the ankle showed no signs of swelling.

In the junior varsity game, Lorain broke away from a 16-13 halftime lead to win going away 50-34.

Findlay 66, Ross 55

Respectful loss

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Ross lost the ball game but gained a ton of respect from Findlay basketball Coach Roger Renz.

"I am very impressed with Fremont Ross," Renz said moments after hearing the final buzzer signaling the end of his team's 66-55 Buckeye Conference win. "Norm (Biz Paeth, Ross coach) has the program turned around. Before, Ross did not play with form and execution."

The Little Giants, playing without regular center Rob Bollenbacher, who was back in Fremont with an ice pack on a badly sprained ankle, outhustled the Trojans in the second half but could chop only a point off a 31-19 intermission deficit.

"I thought Ross outhustled and executed much better than us in the second half," Renz admitted. "We did not play well but not all of that was our fault."

He made that last statement pointing out that the Little Giants' inspired play forced his team to commit errors.

"I felt our kids did not respect Ross before tonight," he added.

When it boiled down to the final gun, however, Findlay had just enough to keep its unbeaten string at seven this season while keeping pace with Admiral King for the top spot in the conference race with a 4-0 mark.

Rick Acord's seven of 12 shooting and an eight-point run by substitute Jim Geyer kept the Little

Giants from creeping any closer than six points, 33-27, in the final half. Geyer, better known for his football ability, scored the last four Findlay points of the opening half to abort a Ross charge and took the lid off the Trojan bucket in the third period with a pair of free throws two and one-half minutes into the stanza. The freebies came when Ross closed Findlay's lead to six.

Ross and Findlay matched field goals 23-23 but the Trojans canned 20 of 28 free throws to Ross's nine of 16. Findlay managed only 46 shots from the field and Ross 58.

The Little Giants, now 4-3 and 2-2 in conference play, outgoaled Findlay 7-3 in the third period but got into foul trouble doing it.

"That's the toughest that we have played," Paeth openly admitted after the game. "It's not the best shooting night that we have had but the way the kids played in effort, intensity and hustle, it was a great game for us."

"Ross just doesn't play that tough over here," Paeth continued as he backed up Renz's feelings about the improved play of the Little Giants. When Ross usually plays here, it's supposed to get beat by 25."

Paeth admitted that the

absence of Bollenbacher hurt, pointing out that the injured senior gives Ross more flexibility.

The Ross coach did not challenge his team's shot selection — "They weren't bad," he said, "they just weren't falling in."

But Findlay, with Acord tossing in 14 to lead a quartet of Trojans in double figures, took the pen out of Paeth's clutches temporarily.

Geyer had a dozen with Rick Maroney tossing in 10 and bruising 230-pound Rick Hutton adding 10 more, rounded out the top scorers for Findlay.

Mike Held tossed in 14 to pace Ross while Randy Bury came off the bench to hit 11. Gary Harms and Tom Woelslagel added eight apiece.

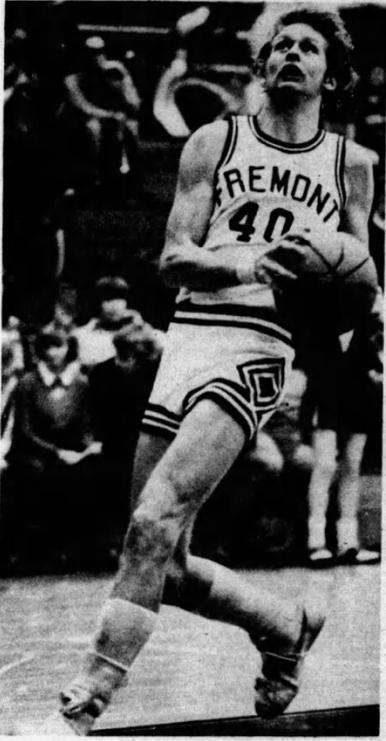
The Little Giants had only 16 turnovers while forcing Findlay into 22. Findlay, however, outrebounded Ross 38-31 — the first time that Ross has lost the battle of the boards this season.

Ross will host Sandusky next Friday.

In the junior varsity game, Findlay held Ross to only two points in the second period to wipe out a five point deficit and roll to a 52-34 win. Craig Daniels had 10 points to pace the Little Giants JVs.



Little Giants run past Sandusky, 75-62



THIS WAS A FAMILIAR sight in the Ross High gym Friday night. Mike Held prepares to go up for one of his many layups against Sandusky. Held scored a game high 30 points to pace Ross. (N-M photo by George Lundskow)

Smith may return by February

BIRMINGHAM, Ohio (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers

By TOM STOREY
News-Messenger Writer

Both Bill Paeth and his assistant Steve Krynoch agreed that Friday night's basketball game between Sandusky and Ross was the best game they had ever seen since being at Ross High School.

The Ross coaches were all smiles after the Little Giants had literally laid up a tough Sandusky team in a Buckeye Conference battle 75-62.

"We executed extremely well, super," Paeth exclaimed in his office after the game. "It's the best game since I've been here. We picked apart their zone and got up the floor quickly. That's why we got those layups."

Mike Held led the Ross assault with a game high 30 points. Most of his buckets came from underneath when Sandusky was pressing. He simply put his head down and went right to the basket. No one could stop him.

"Mike Held had a super game," Paeth said. "He ought to take Wooley's place for supper for all those assists he gave him."

Tom Wooley dished out 13 assists as he weaved his way through a full court press and found Held all alone underneath. He was the conductor of the Ross show.

When it wasn't Wooley and Held it was Randy Bury popping in his bombs from the far wing. He finished with 20 points and at one point in the second quarter had four straight swishes to help build a 44-38

"I thought it was a case of Ross shooting the ball extremely well," Sandusky coach Gary Reynolds said. "A team as hot as they were creates problems for us. We tried to pressure them and they hurt us. Then in the fourth quarter, when we had to go man to man, they spread us out and we had to chase them."

The game started out with Sandusky in a full court press but Ross quickly burned the Blue Streaks for several layups. Held was under the basket hitting the easy shots for 12 first quarter points, including two three-point plays.

But Sandusky stayed in the game behind Eric Delk's hot hand, four of six from the field in the initial stanza, and the defensive play of Leon McDougle. McDougle blocked a number of shots to keep Ross from blowing the game wide open. The first quarter ended in a 18-18 tie.

The second quarter was a shootout between Delk and Bury. Both ripped the nets for 12 points apiece. Held's 10 points was the difference in the quarter as Ross took a 44-38 halftime lead.

Sandusky scored the first four points in the third quarter and appeared headed to take control of the momentum. But Ross scored the next six points to regain the momentum.

Then came one of the most confusing plays of the game. Sandusky had the ball out of bounds and were ready to inbound the ball when a technical foul was called on the Blue Streak's Greg Turner.

One official ruled that Turner had to be the player to put the ball in play from out of bounds.

"It was ruled a designated out of bounds play," Reynolds tried to explain. "That's the first time I've ever heard that called. What did that cost us, three points?"

Gregg Hedden sank the technical and on the preceding play, Held hit one of his patented driving layups and before you knew it, Ross was back on top 53-46.

Before the quarter was over, the Little Giants had increased that to a 61-50 advantage.

The Blue Streaks went to a man to man defense in the final quarter to try and get the ball. It worked for a couple of buckets, but in the end, Ross spread out its offense and Sandusky was forced to foul while trying to steal the ball.

Two pressure foul shots by Jerry Ameling with 1:34 remaining gave Ross a 70-62 lead and Hedden added the front end of a one on one with 56 seconds left to lift the lead to 71-62. Two buckets by Gary Harms and Rod Meyer in the final 20 seconds iced the game for the Little Giants.

"Everybody played well," Paeth said. "Bury had 20 coming off the bench. That's super. I thought Ameling blocked out well."

"I'm really tickled the way the kids played. We had bad practices all week and I chewed them out. I wasn't sure what they would do tonight."

"We played well as a team," assistant coach Krynoch said. "That's the best team play I've ever seen."

"Sandusky didn't play a poor game," Paeth added. "They kept the pressure on us and we had to shoot well."

Ross shot 30 of 65 from the field and 15 of 24 from the foul line. Sandusky, on the other hand, was 25 of 50 from the field and 12 of 20 from the charity strip.

Delk turned in a fine 23 point performance for Sandusky and McDougle tallied 14 points and a game high 25 rebounds.

Sandusky is now 2-6 overall and 1-4 in the Buckeye Conference. Ross upped its record to 5-3, 3-2 in conference play.

Ross 75, Sandusky 62

SCORE BY QUARTER

Sandusky	18	20	12	12	62
Ross	18	26	17	14	75

SCORING

SANDUSKY: Delk 10-3-23, Moore 2-3-7, McDougle 5-4-14, Turner 4-1-9, Young 4-1-9, totals 25-12-62.

ROSS: Held 13-4-30, Harms 4-0-8, Ameling 1-1-3, Hedden 2-2-6, Wooley 0-4-4, Bury 8-4-20, Eicher 1-0-2, Meyer 1-0-2, totals 30-15-75

Season record: Ross 5-3 (3-2), Sandusky 2-6 (1-4)

JV GAME

Sandusky 54, Ross 39

SCORE BY QUARTER

Sandusky	18	3	18	15	54
Ross	6	8	13	12	39

SCORING

SANDUSKY: Abrams 1-0-2, Smith 6-3-15, Pearson 3-2-8, Brown 0-2-2, Collins 1-0-2, Jordan 5-4-14, LaCourse 2-0-4, Loftres 3-0-4, Liebenhal 1-2-4, totals 20-14-54.

ROSS: Daniels 3-0-6, Bates 2-0-4, Sachs 1-0-2, Miller 5-2-12, Gant 4-1-9, Benson 1-0-2, Bollenbacher 1-0-2, Culliss 1-0-2, totals 18-3-39

Held's last second tip-in trips Elyria 65-63

(Continued from page B-1)
disrespectful. When I asked him again, he told me to sit down or I would get one (technical), too."

Roth's fuming description concerned a call that sent Darnell Glover to the bench with his fifth foul and ended up with the technical and a five-point play for the Little Giants. It came with 3:41 to

play and propelled Ross from a 55-54 deficit to a 59-55 lead.

Jerry Ameling sank both ends of the bonus after being fouled by Glover and then added the technical toss. On Ross's inbounds play, Held popped in an 18-footer to complete the five-point reversal.

"My kid did not say a thing," Roth

insisted, "and I believe my kid."

Roth was right . . . Glover did not say a word to Lauer. It was a gesture he made that got him into trouble. Lauer explained that after the game.

In the third period, minutes before the final fireworks, Ross was as hot as Roth was mad. The Little Giants moved out to a 10-point lead twice only to turn stone cold.

"There were a couple of turnovers there that hurt us," Paeth said about his team's biggest lead of the night. "Then that press they used hurt us."

Using that tight man to man and zone full court pressure, Elyria whittled away at the Ross lead and went up by three, 53-50 on the hot shooting of Tom Underman.

Underman blitzed Ross for 26 points as Ross's multi-faceted defense could not cool off the lefthander. Underman entered the game with a near 19-point average and proved that the average was no fluke.

While Underman had things his own way, his teammate Steve Bush, also carrying a near 19-point average, was stymied. He went scoreless in the first

half and finished with seven but it was his second bucket of the final period that tied the game at 61-61.

Bush had a shot at winning the game for Elyria with a short jumper from the lane but that shot ended up in Woleslagel's hands and turned into the mad dash to Held's tip.

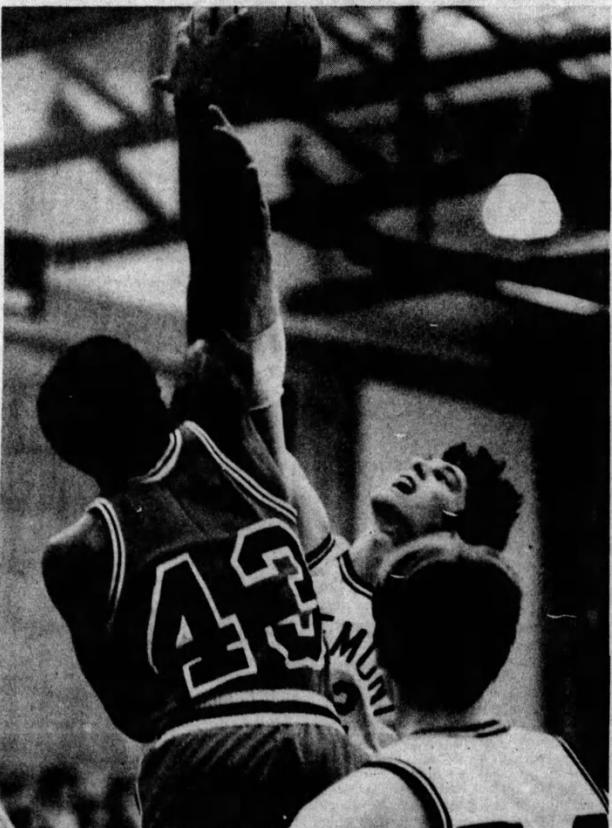
"This was a big game for Ross," Paeth smiled.

That was the reason for Ross's slow start, Paeth explained. This was the tightest that we have been since our first game. Because we had not beaten Elyria since 1970 and the kids wanted to so bad, we were tight and that was why we were sluggish."

The victory, Ross's sixth in nine games and fourth in six BC tests, is one more than Ross had all last season.

Held's 10 rebounds helped Ross to a 37-30 margin in that department. The Little Giants hit a hot 26 of 44 from the field, including 12 of 20 in the final half.

Held finished with 19, Gary Harms and Gregg Hedden added 10 each. Hedden's layup with 18 seconds to go off a Held feed knotted the game at 63-63.



NOT QUITE ENOUGH. Randy Bury of Ross is a hand short as he leaps with Darnell Glover (43) of Elyria during a "jump ball" situation. Bury

scored six points in Ross's sixth victory of the season. (N-M photo by Scott Maynard)

Bucs:

Loose as a goose

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Coach John McKay put his young Tampa Bay Bucs through their final full practice Friday before Sunday's National Football Conference title game, and said he didn't detect any signs of pressure.

"I told my team after practice: 'You're so loose you look like a goose, just don't play like one and lose,'" McKay said. "I guess that's poetry."

McKay said his upstart team, accused of choking during a late season three-game losing streak, has "gotten over the biggest hurdle — that's winning the Central Division. I think that gave them a lot of confidence and they still have it."

McKay conceded that his team will be going against a Los Angeles Rams team full of experienced veterans.

"But we've got players of our own who have been in big games. This is the biggest thing about our inexperience in that the players don't have a point of referral," McKay said. "I can go over to Charley Hannah (converted to offensive tackle this season) and say, 'Charlie, remember how you did this last year?'

And then he says, 'But coach, I was playing defense last year.'"

McKay was asked how he assessed his team's chances of winning the division before the season.

"My original statement was, and get this for posterity, was that anybody can win the Central Division. Even somebody who's not in the division could win it if they wanted to," he replied. McKay, who has guided the Bucs to the highest point ever reached by a fourth-year franchise, said he decided to rely on the draft and young players after studying case histories of past expansion teams.

"A lot of them traded for quality players who were over-the-hill and won three or four games . . . When you do that you're getting players the other teams want to get rid of," he said. McKay added that because his team has built through the draft, "We will be a much stronger football team three years from now, because these young players will have experience."

Admirals' speed will test Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

If Ross blinks Friday in Lorain, it may miss Admiral King.

The Little Giants' eyesight may not be at fault but the lightening quick Admiral King Admirals could make the Ross, 6-3, boys basketball team search for them in a key Buckeye Conference clash.

The Admirals are fresh off a 64-49 thumping of previously unbeaten Findlay Tuesday night.

"They were faster than streaks," Ross varsity assistant Coach Steve Krynoch said in awe as he described the 8-0 Admirals. "They are super."

Talking for Ross head Coach Biz Paeth, Krynoch admitted that the Admirals are baffling to the Ross staff.

"We have seen them play twice," Krynoch began. "The first game we saw, 90 percent of their offense was going to the boards. Last night (Tuesday) against Findlay, they shot unbelievably well from the field and they were really disciplined. They would come down the floor and go through the offense.

"Their passing was crisp and they ran their patterns very well," he said.

The Ross assistant pointed out that the Admirals are a "team of

guards."

"It's hard to match up with them," he explained. "All five of them are guards. Their center, Eric Morrison, starts at the post but moves out to point guard when a team goes into a zone against them. All five of them play the post during a game."

Krynoch said that the Admirals are not big but the speed that King uses in its execution makes up for the lack of size.

Tony "The Fly" Nieves, 5-10, blitzed Findlay for 26 points on 12 of 15 from the floor.

"He is a guard," Krynoch pointed out about Nieves, "but he plays underneath and runs the

baseline."

Defensively, Krynoch explained that the Admirals are hard to play man to man, pointing out that when a team switches from a zone to a man to man or vice versa, the Admirals pick up the switch effortlessly and immediately go into the proper offense.

"Defensively," Krynoch said, "they will start pressing us the moment we get off the bus. They mix it up, using a zone and man to man press and they execute very well.

"They executed Findlay to death," he concluded.

In conference stats, Nieves is ranked 10th while Morrison is fourth in

scoring. The latter is hitting 18.4 while Nieves is at a near 16-point pace. Mike Held of Ross is eighth, hitting nearly 16 a game.

Held is 10th in rebounding and Rob Bollenbacher 17th, hauling in nine and seven, respectively, rebounds per game.

Gregg Hedden of Ross leads the BC in free throw accuracy with 28 of 33 for 85 percent although Jerry Ameling has canned 13 of 15 free tosses, 87 percent, tops for Ross.

Tom Wolessiagel is second in the assist department, dishing out nearly six a game.

'Gap time' costs Ross

LORAIN — Ross threw more than a scare into unbeaten Admiral King here Friday night but in the end, "gap" time cost the Little Giants in a 66-60 Buckeye Conference loss.

Admiral King, 9-0 and 7-0 in the BC, broke away from a 45-45 deadlock with 6:27 to play in the game with a 10-point run, giving the Admirals a 55-45 lead with 4:55 to play.

"Turnovers definitely hurt us," Ross Coach Biz Paeth said after the hard loss. "We played very well but we had that 'gap' there. We had three turnovers and a couple of missed shots. It seemed like every loose ball in that span, King picked up."

Eric Morrison was the chief Ross nemesis, especially in the second half. He popped in 19 points with two of his buckets coming in the 10-point spurt. Toni Nieves added two of his buckets in the streak for the Admirals and Jeff Simmons' basket topped off the run.

"It was a good overall game," Paeth hastened to point out. "There is nothing that we would do differently."

"It's funny," he said, "some other reporters were saying that it was really something that we were this close to Admiral King. I would have agreed with that a couple of years ago but not this time . . . we wanted to win this game."

Ross fell behind quickly 6-0 but the game was deadlocked at 16 after the first eight minutes. A 15-9 spurt in the second period gave Ross a 31-26 halftime lead.

The intermission lead could have been greater but a 30-foot jumper as the buzzer sounded by Joe Rybarczyk fell in for the Admirals.

The Little Giants held a 39-32 lead with 3:25 to play in the third period but Morrison scored nine of the next 11 points in the game to give King a 41-41 tie at the end of three periods. Randy Bury's bucket was Ross's only answer during Morrison's hot streak.

After King's 10-point run in Ross's gap time, three-point plays by Ross's Tom Wolesslagel and Mike Held brought Ross back to within four at 55-51 but King would not break.

The Little Giants ran off the last four points of the game to close the gap.

"They pressed us," Paeth pointed out, "and we had turnovers but everyone has turnovers against King. We played good; they are the leaders in the conference and we took them to the hilt."

"I think we are capable of playing better but not a whole lot better," Paeth continued. "I thought we could beat them. I'm happy with the way we played and with the closeness of the score but I am disappointed that we did not win."

Concluding, Paeth offered his opinion of the Admirals: "That's the best team that we have played this year."

For King coach Mitch Gillam, the victory was his 200th in 300 career games as a head coach.

"I was very impressed with Ross's defense and rebounding," he said. "I kept saying all week that they were a very physical team and I was right, they gave us a lot of trouble."

Nieves finished with 17 points and Simmons had 14.

Wolesslagel had 14 to pace Ross. Held added 13, Gregg Hedden 10 and Randy Bury 12 for the Little Giants.

King hit 30 of 59 shots, Ross 24 of 50. The Little Giants outrebounded the Admirals 28-23 but committed 10 more turnovers with 26.

Ross is now 6-4 and 4-3 in the conference.

Second time around for Ross

Ross had its fun the first time it played Mansfield. In that game at the home of the Little Giants, Ross handed Mansfield its first loss of the season, exactly one-third of the Tygers' season total, 58-54.

"They're 9-3 now," confirmed Ross Coach Biz Paeth, and they have what it takes to be 9-3."

The Little Giants court squad will travel to the Tyger cage to touch off a tough weekend of play for Ross athletic teams.

While the boys court squad is in Mansfield, the Little Giants wrestlers will host Lima Shawnee and Findlay in a triangular match that promises to be rugged. On Saturday afternoon, the Ross swimmers will host powerful Findlay while the Ross girls basketball team hosts tall Upper Sandusky.

The wrestling will begin at 7 p.m. Friday night while the swim meet and the girls basketball game begin at 1 p.m.

"They are good inside and outside," Paeth said as he described why Mansfield is 9-3. The only other teams besides Ross, Paeth pointed out, that have beaten the Tygers are Admiral King and Findlay. AK is currently 10-0 and Findlay 12-1.

"We shut off the inside the first time we played them," Paeth offered, "and we want to basically do the same thing again this time."

Tom Murphy, a 5-10 guard, however, has been on a hot streak for the Tygers and that worries Paeth.

"He's (Murphy) scored close to 20 points in each of the last six or seven games."

Paeth said playing in the Tyger "cage" is a "tough place to play."

"It sits down away from the seats and it is a compact type of place and I imagine that they will have a pretty decent crowd."

The Ross coach said that his squad has been bothered by the flu bug that has been sweeping the Fremont schools. Rob Bollenbacher, still nursing a sore ankle, and super sub Randy Bury missed a half-day of school Wednesday. Jerry Ameling and Tom Wolessiagel, although not ill, have had or have bad colds.

"There are a lot of kids walking around here who are half-sick," Paeth said.

Saturday night, Ross will travel to Tiffin to play Columbian.

"We aren't even talking about them yet," the Ross coach said. "All we know is they have a good inside game and they are good shooters."

Al Voggenthaler, Ross wrestling coach, said that his squad has been touched by the flu bug. Andre Parks, the Little Giants state tournament hopeful, has missed the entire week of school because of the bug.

While Parks may be out, the Little Giants will regain 114-pounder Gilbert Palacios. He missed last week's Mal Mackey tourney.

"It has hit us," Voggenthaler admitted, "but right now, Parks is the only one."

Art Bucci is hoping for a speedy recovery for members of his swim team. Four swimmers — Mike Mowery, John Isaac, Dave Sanna and Brian Overmyer — missed a meet against Margaretta Tuesday.

A fifth Ross swimmer, Tim Heslet, is still feeling the effects of the illness.

"I know they are tall," was coach Sue Wolf's quick assessment of Upper Sandusky.

The Lady Little Giants, 6-7 after a loss to Elyria Tuesday, are healthy with the exception of Della Hall who has a sprained ankle.

Bury's tosses stop Tygers in overtime

MANSFIELD—Randy Bury sank two free throws with four seconds to play in overtime but Ross had to rely on a goal tending call to earn a 60-58 victory over Mansfield Senior Friday night.

Russell Holmes was called for goal tending on a half-court shot by Mansfield's Tom Murphy to insure the Little Giants' seventh win of the season and the second over the Tygers. Ross, 5-3 in the Buckeye Conference, took over sole possession of third in the BC race.

Mansfield is now 9-4 and 4-4 in the conference.

"We took Bury out last week for a steak dinner," Ross Coach Biz Paeth laughed after the spine-tingling win. "He made 50 straight free throws on us (that is a standard prize for a steak for Ross players) and he got the steak. Tonight, he paid for it."

Bury ended up with 15 points to go with Mike Held's 25 as the Little Giants again cut off the Tygers' inside game. It was the key to Ross's early season 58-54 win over Mansfield.

"That's the third one we have won at the buzzer," Paeth chuckled, "now we have a shot a winning two games in one weekend — Ross has not done that in five years."

Tonight, Ross will be at Tiffin Columbian.

"The bucket was good," Mansfield Coach Joe Pratt said intently while being haunted by the goal tending call. "It's a shame that we have to lose a game on a call like that. In my opinion, it was the wrong call."

The game was knotted at 55-55 at the end of regulation. Mansfield's Jack Elswick came off the bench to give the Tygers a 55-53 lead with 1:09 to play but Bury's layup with 53 seconds to play tied the contest.

Mansfield, going for the last shot, tossed the ball away with five seconds to play in regulation.

Stanley Hoke's eight-footer and Holmes' free throw were sandwiched around a 20-footer by Ross's Tom Wolesslagel in the overtime. Wolesslagel tied the game with a free throw with 11 seconds to play.

With five seconds to go in overtime, Mansfield tossed the ball away and Bury was fouled on the play. His charity tosses and the goal tending call sealed the Tygers' fate.

"On the last play," Paeth recalled, "we told the kids we wanted to put pressure on them...and we put Jerry Ameling in the middle and told him to pray. He must have said the right prayer."

Both teams canned 25 of 64 shots but Ross won the game at the line with 10 of 14 to Mansfield cold eight of 22.

Foul shots the key to Ross win

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

TIFFIN — It was a luxury that Ross had not had the chance to squander this season but when given the opportunity, the Little Giants used it to coast to their eighth win in a dozen basketball games.

The Little Giants used a stone cold third quarter by Tiffin Columbian to vault to a 63-57 victory in a game that was not all that close.

Columbian canned only one of 11 third quarter shots as Ross's pressure defense forced the Tornadoes into several poor shots as the Little Giants outscored their hosts 15-6 to grab an insurmountable 50-33 lead.

"Yeah," Ross Coach Biz Paeth chuckled, "we had the luxury of a 20-point lead and we took advantage of it by squandering a lot of it."

Mike Held, who played with the flu bug during both of Ross's weekend victories, led the assault against Columbian with 19 points. That effort came on the night after a 25-point effort in Ross's 60-58 overtime win over Mansfield Senior.

"It was a good weekend for us," the Ross coach echoed the unspoken opinion. "We outrebounded both teams and they were good rebounding teams."

"We also had a good foul shooting weekend," Paeth continued. "It (foul line shooting) did it for us Friday and again against Columbian."

Columbian outgoaled Ross by one, 23-22, but the Little Giants canned 19 of 26 charity tosses while the Tornadoes missed 14 of their 25 attempts from the line. That surprised Paeth.

"On our scouting report," he explained, "we have a space to fill out asking what player should we foul if we had to — our report said no one; they were that good from the line."

"But tonight (Saturday), they were cold."

The Little Giants employed basically a zone defense in the first half to take a 35-27 lead but a switch to a pressurized man-to-man helped Ross outscore the Tornadoes 15-3 in the first seven minutes of the third quarter to reach the biggest point spread, 50-30, of the night.

The pressure defense forced Columbian into the majority of its 27 turnovers.

The closest that Columbian came in the final quarter was the final score.

"This is the first time in five years that Ross has won two weekend games," Paeth proudly pointed out, "and it gets us pointed to next Friday. That's our only home game for more than a month."

The Little Giants will host Marion Harding Friday and then will not play at home until Feb. 22.

Tom Woleslagel, who scored five big points in the final period, had 11 points for Ross to back up Held. Gregg Hedden had 10 before fouling out with 1:20 to play in the game.

Kirby Martin came off the bench to lead Columbian with a dozen points. Dan Felton and Jim Smith added nine apiece.

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Record-book season for Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Biz Paeth didn't know his "fun" game would spawn a win for his team during this surprising season of Ross basketball. But it did and Tom Woleslagel's midcourt shot against Marion Harding earlier this season was just one of many the Little Giants have generated this year.

Friday, the Little Giants will host the Presidents while gunning for victory number nine in 13 outings and at the same time put in a bid for a more stable third place position in the Buckeye Conference race.

Woleslagel won a preseason long shot contest during a Christmas practice session more than a year ago and Paeth recalled that contest.

"I think we just told the kids to line up at midcourt and told them whoever made one would win a pair of tube socks. Woleslagel hit the only shot."

Woleslagel made lightning strike twice for Paeth when he sank the shot that gave Ross its fourth win of this season . . . that shot was a 47-footer as the buzzer sounded to give Ross a 60-58 win.

While Paeth savored that shot, he reflected that each time the Little Giants win this season, he has to dig into the Ross record book.

"This is the best start since 1954," he said. "That's what is funny here, everytime we win, we get out the record book."

"The last time Ross won 11 games (Ross has a shot at that mark with eight games to play) in the regular season was in the 1963-64 season, the year I was a senior here."

Paeth's team needs only one more win to equal his team's total during his first two years at Ross. He also wants to not only have to take out the record book again Friday but he expressed a wish that he would like to see a crowd large enough to force Ross officials to set up the bleachers behind one of the baskets at Ross.

"Yeah," he smiled, "I told Mr. Sherman (Dick, Ross athletic director) that we are going to try to pull those bleachers out Friday."

Harding, despite a 3-9 record, has won three of the last five games but lost a triple overtime 71-70 contest to Sandusky last Friday.

"Last week against Delaware Hayes," Paeth said, "they shot 82 percent from the field in the first half, 100 percent from the foul line, and had a 38-16 lead at the half. It was just about perfect basketball for them."

"I expect it to be a close game — we beat them on a wing and a prayer the last time."



MIKE HELD of Ross holds the ball up while looking for a teammate during first quarter play. Held ended up with 16 points for the Little Giants. (N-M photos by George Lundskow)

No immediate danger for Jesse Owens

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Former Olympic track star Jesse Owens is in no immediate danger as he undergoes treatment for lung cancer, his physician said Friday.

Dr. Stephen E. Jones, chief of the Clinical Oncology Section at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, told a news conference that Owens, 66, was "fairly comfortable" and in good spirits.

Jones said Owens should be released early next week. The former athlete was hospitalized Wednesday after he was diagnosed by a Chicago hospital as having a cancerous tumor in his left lung.

Jones said Owens has a form of cancer called adenocarcinoma, usually linked to heavy smoking. Owens smoked about a pack a day for about 35 years before quitting, Jones said.

The doctor said the tumor appears confined to the lung, but its location prevents surgery.

Owens plans to return to his home in Paradise Valley, near Phoenix, for about three weeks until he starts to commute to the UA Hospital for further chemotherapy treatments.

Jones said Owens was admitted to Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago last Dec. 12 for shortness of breath.

'Clinic' routs Harding

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross played a basketball game but Tom Wolesslagel put on a clinic for a multitude of noisy Fremont fans Friday as the Little Giants overwhelmed Marion Harding 81-55.

"He put on a clinic," Ross coach Biz Paeth praised his senior guard. "That's the best guard play I have ever had from a player."

Wolesslagel handed out 15 assists while shredding any type of defense the Presidents tossed at the Little Giants. His pin-point passes seemed capable of picking a flea off a gnat's back. The blonde floor general dished out a variety of blind passes and a dazzling behind-the-back maneuver for a two-pointer.

"We are all seniors," Wolesslagel said as he talked about his display. "The guys know when the ball is coming; they are driving and they look for it."

Wolesslagel was just one of many stars Ross had in one of the better games the Little Giants have played in several seasons.

"How can you sing out anyone?" Ross assistant Coach Steve Krynick asked while conceding the Wolesslagel show. "Everybody did things well."

"This was the easiest I have ever had to talk to the kids after the game," Paeth pointed out. "They were quiet; there was no whooping and hollering — they knew that they had played a good game."

Ross trailed only once in the game — 2-0 — on Sam Carter's layup 30 seconds into the contest. The first quarter ended 22-8 as seven Little Giants hit the scoring column. By the half, it was only 39-25 Ross but a delayed third period explosion wiped out the Presidents.

The second half was delayed when the Ross basket had to be replaced. The rim had cracked. It seemed that should have happened after the Little Giants' torrid third period.

With Wolesslagel picking up five assists, the Little Giants missed only one of 13 shots while outscoring 26-10 in the third period pullaway.

That display, with Gregg Hedden canning eight and Mike Held six, paved Ross's way to its ninth win in 13 games. It was the sixth Buckeye Conference win in nine contests and set Ross up for a trip to Lorain Senior next Friday.

Banking on that third period net burning, Ross canned 31 of 55 shots in the game, a torrid 56-plus percent. Five players hit double figures and 10 of 12

players seeing action in the game scored.

Held, hitting seven of nine shots, and Hedden, seven of 10, shared game high honors with 16 apiece. Gary Harms tossed in 11 with Rob Bollenbacher and Randy Bury adding 10 each for the Little Giants.

While Paeth was all smiles with his team's offensive show, he had high praise for the defense.

"I've never seen so many double pumps as Marion had tonight," he said.

"I think we may have crossed them up by not playing the man-to-man," he offered. "We stayed in the rat (zone) the whole

game while they could not press us on defense."

The only real concern Paeth had was the delayed third period.

"I did not know how that would affect the kids," he admitted but quickly pointed out, "We came out and hit the first eight points and we were up by 22."

Getting back to his offense, Paeth shed some light on how his team cut up the Presidents' defense.

"When they tried to press us, we would beat them down floor or Wolesslagel would pick the press apart," Paeth said. "Even when they were down by 25, they could not

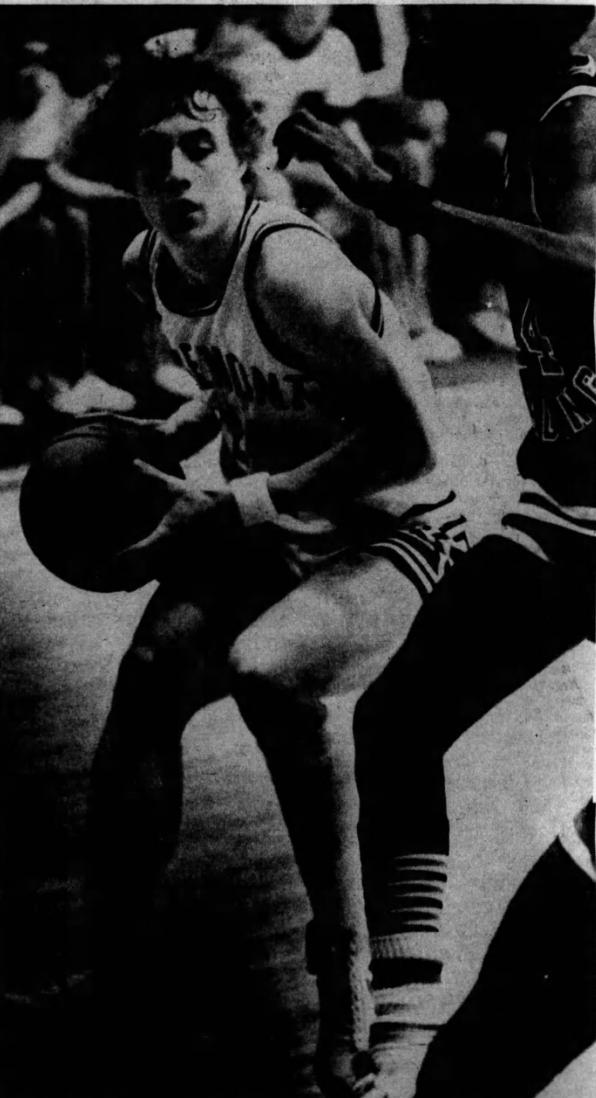
press us — that's how well we attacked their press."

The Little Giants' biggest lead of the game was 30 on three different occasions.

Ross outrebounded the Presidents 48-36 with Bollenbacher grabbing eight. Held, Harms and Jerry Ameling had seven apiece. Ross forced Harding into 27 turnovers.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won its first Buckeye Conference tilt, running away from the Presidents 53-30.

Dave Szakovits and Tony Gant tossed in 10 points apiece to lead the Ross JVs. Andy Rodenhausen added eight.



TIME TO STOP. Gregg Hedden of Ross comes to a quick stop against Marion Harding's Darvin White. Hedden dropped in 16 points as Ross won its sixth Buckeye Conference game.

Ross hits the road the next 3 weeks

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Biz Paeth is going to have to wait a month to see if his Ross High School basketball team can cause a stir big enough to fill the Ross gym. Friday, his team can start selling the tickets for the Little Giants next home game against Admiral King Feb. 22.

"We have to keep the people interested for a month," he chuckled while delving into the scouting report on Lorain, the Little Giants next foe in the home of the Steelmen.

Ross will be at Lorain Friday, then travel to Sandusky on Feb. 8, to Toledo Whitmer Feb. 12, then to Elyria on Feb. 15 before returning home seven days later.

Lorain is the only team to beat Ross this season in a game that the Little Giants really never had a shot at winning. It was a third period pullaway by the Steelmen in the team's first meeting that led to a 75-63 Ross loss.

"It was not like a four-point game that turned into a 13-point game," Paeth theorized. "They had us by 13 and we played about even in the final period."

The Ross coach pointed out that his team will face a double dose of Hartman — Carl and Chris.

"One's (Carl) been beating us for three years," Paeth observed wryly, "now we have to put up with another."

Carl Hartman, a senior, carries a 15.3 points per game average into the contest while his 6-1 sophomore brother Chris, has started the last five games for the Steelmen. Lorain has won four of those five to run up an 8-5 mark and a 5-4 record in the Buckeye Conference.

Ross will enter with a 9-4 mark overall and a 6-3 record in the conference. The Little Giants need to win three of its last five conference games to equal Ross's top win production in the BC. Back in the 1964-65 season, the Little Giants posted a

9-5 conference mark and finished in a tie with Elyria for third in the final standings.

That is the only time in the Buckeye Conference's 25-year history that the Little Giants have finished in the top division. Ross, needless to point out, has not won a conference title — it's the only school without a conference hoop title.

Another Steelmen that Ross will have to contend with is the BC's leading scorer Rick Melendez. The 6-3 senior is hitting 20.4 ppg and hit in the mid-20s the first time the teams met this season.

The complexion of the game has a double meaning for the Little Giants. Not only will a win insure a break even season for the Little Giants, but it will keep the Little Giants in the running for a possible share of the season title. That's a situation that Ross has faced only once before — back in the 1964 season.

"We are certainly feeling good," Paeth began to explain about the upcoming game's importance to his team. "The thing is, each week the games get bigger simply because we are winning."

"This is the biggest conference game that we will have played yet. If we had lost last week," Paeth continued, "right now we would be playing for pride instead of still going for a trophy."

"We play both Findlay and Admiral King here, (Fremont)" he added, "and they have to play each other again . . . each conference team still has five conference games left to play and the conference is so well balanced this year, that even the teams that have won only one game, Elyria and Marion Harding, especially Elyria, can beat anyone."

But for now and before Friday night, Ross and Paeth and Ross fans can bask in the possibility of savoring a Buckeye Conference title and this one in a game that is played with a ball that is round.

Lapses helps Steelmen to 65-60 win

LORAIN — A pair of mental lapses reminiscent of a previous encounter across town cost Fremont Ross a disappointing 65-60 setback in a crucial Buckeye Conference game against Lorain Friday night.

The Little Giants had two fatal scoreless stretches in the third period where the Steelmen ran off 20 unanswered points to turn the contest around and give Ross its fifth loss in 14 games this season.

More importantly, the loss took away the Little Giants remote hopes of a share of the conference crown.

The loss resembled an earlier 66-60 loss to Admiral King. In that game, Ross watched a lead evaporate under a 10-point King run. Against Lorain, the Steelmen started with the first seven points of the third period to take 34-33 lead, calmed down for a minute and then held Ross scoreless for four minutes and 28 seconds to take control of the game.

In that span, Lorain scored 13 points to wipe out a 42-36 Little Giants lead and turn it into a 49-44 lead at the end of three periods.

"We kind of felt that Admiral King did it to us," Ross Coach Biz Paeth recalled somberly, "but tonight, our mental lapses did it to us. I think we lost our intensity both times when they had those scoring runs."

Ross outscored the Steelmen 22-17 in the second

eight minute to roll into the locker room with a 33-27 halftime advantage but a pep talk by Lorain Coach Dale Reichert put fire under the Steelmen's boilers and skid beneath the Little Giants' feet.

"We were lackadasical in the first half," Reichert grinned, "so I gave them a good chewing out at the half. We came out and were aggressive in the second half."

How aggressive did the game become?

"I guess you could call that a physical game," the Lorain coach deadpanned, "I was sitting on the bench and I'm black and blue!"

Carl Hartman, who fired in 26 points and took over the game when his team got the lead, was the culprit in that aggressive Lorain surge. It was a play, one on which Hartman was called for an intentional foul, that took the wind out of Ross and Gregg Hedden.

With 4:59 to play in the third period, Hedden went for a layup and was undercut by Hartman. Hedden landed on his head and was unconscious for awhile. Five minutes later, after being awarded a two-shot foul, Hedden completely missed the bucket on his first attempt and that was it for him.

Randy Bury of Ross sank the remaining free throw but Hedden was out for good ... and so was Ross for awhile.

Lorain scored the next 13 points in the contest to take over the lead.

"When that team gets the lead," Paeth offered, "that Hartman takes over and that's what he did. They used the four corners at the end of the third period and in the fourth."

Ross had to foul to get the ball and the Steelmen took advantage of the situation for eight charity points.

"There was not a lack of effort," Paeth said while talking about intensity, "I don't think we got beat because we did not try; we just let it get away from us."

The Little Giants, now 6-4, like Lorain, in the conference race, now face a challenge according to the coach.

"Now we will find out what the kids are made of," he began. "We still have a lot of goals we can reach but that championship is not there ... now we are playing for pride."

"I know these kids though, they'll bounce back."

Mike Held led Ross with 14 points while Hedden had 11 and Tom Woelslagel 10. The Little Giants canned 28 of 51 shots but only four of 11 from the foul line. Only two of Ross's 11 free tosses were in the second half.

Buckeye Conference leading scorer Rick Melendez had 16 points and Larry Ballard added 10 for Lorain. The Steelmen had 25 of 67 from the field while winning the game at the line on 15 of 25 shooting.

Ross committed 21 turnovers, one more than Lorain. The Steelmen dominated the boards, pulling down 41 rebounds to Ross's 25.

Ross will travel to Sandusky next Friday.



Playing for pride

Biz Paeth will admit it — his team is playing for pride now.

That comes after saying that his team still had a shot at gaining a portion of the Buckeye Conference basketball crown. A shot that not many people thought Ross had before the season.

However, Lorain Senior snuffed out the Little Giants' hopes, thanks to a couple of mental dry spells, last Friday 66-60 and changed Ross's road to a pride route.

"Sure, we were down last Friday," the Ross coach said, "but Monday and Tuesday we had good practices.

"We've still got a lot to shoot for," Paeth clicked off Ross's rest of the season goals, "we can have our best Buckeye Conference finish and the best season in 25 years."

Friday, Ross will take on Sandusky for the second time this season at the home of the Blue Streaks. In the first meeting, Ross played, according to Paeth, possibly its second best game of the season while stopping the Blue Streaks 75-62.

"We played that well and still beat them by only 13," Paeth explained. "They play everyone tough — except last Friday against Findlay (Sandusky was walloped 76-40). We saw them play Elyria Saturday and they lost in overtime (73-69).

"We have to come ready to play up there."

Paeth called 6-3 Leon McDougle and 6-5 Neil Young Sandusky's chief threats inside and on the boards. McDougle is

the second leading scorer in the conference with a 19.1 average. Young has scored at a 14.4 clip.

McDougle is tied for the BC lead in rebounding with Tom Underman of Elyria. Both corral an average of 13.5 caroms per contest.

The Ross coach also voiced concern over the outside shooting of Eric Delk. He burned Ross for 18 points in the first contest and Paeth pointed out, that although Delk does not start, he is quickly inserted into the game.

"We will be pressing them if we can," Paeth said as he discussed his strategy for the contest. "If they do have a weak point, it's that they have trouble with pressure."

Sandusky will enter the game with a 4-11 overall mark and 2-9 in the BC. Ross is gunning for its 10th victory in 15 outings and conference win number seven out of 11 games.

ROSS NOTES: Mike Held is seventh in conference scoring with a 16.4 mark. He also ranks eighth in rebounding with 9.3 per game. The 6-3 senior is also seventh in field goal accuracy with 53.8 percent.

Gregg Hedden leads the BC in free throw shooting with 83 percent on 33 of 40 from the line. Randy Bury is fourth with 79 percent on 41 of 52.

Tom Woleslagel leads the BC in assists with 6.7 per game.

As a team, Ross is averaging 65 per game while holding opponents to 62.9. The Little Giants have six players averaging between 7.7 to 16.4 points per game.

'Rat' helps Paeth to 100th

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Ross threw up a red flag at Sandusky while Randy Bury and Mike Held saw nothing but net as the Little Giants pulled away in the final minutes for a 61-54 Buckeye Conference victory over the Blue Streaks.

The win, Ross's 10th in 15 games, assured the Little Giants of a break even season and was Coach Biz Paeth's 100th career win. The Little Giants are now 7-4 in the conference while Sandusky slipped to 4-12 and 2-10 in the BC race.

"We used our 'red rat,'" Paeth beamed after the win while explaining how the Little Giants forced the Blue Streaks into seven turnovers in the final two minutes and 30 seconds of the game.

The defense the Ross

coach described is a 1-2-1-1 full court press but for personal reasons, Paeth utterly disdains the word "zone." Using that word is tantamount to Woody Hayes saying Michigan during his coaching days for Paeth.

"Red rat" or zone, Sandusky could not solve it and it cost the Blue Streaks the game.

Up by two, 50-48, at the 2:30 mark, Sandusky began to wilt. Held, who along with Bury, tossed in 18 points, knotted the score with a bucket.

Tom Woelslagel followed with a pair of free throws and Ross was off and winging on an 11-point run that put the game away. The Ross guard's charity tosses came at the 1:50 mark.

Gregg Hedden took over for the next four Ross points. He hit on a pair of

free throws and stole Sandusky's inbounds pass for an easy layup and Ross held a 56-50 lead. Rob Bollenbacher clicked on a free throw and Held hit again to up Ross's lead to 59-50 with less than a half-minute to play.

"We really did not get going until the final two minutes," Paeth explained. "That's when we played up to our capability."

"It was not artistic but I'll take it. Down the road we'll need the good games so we'll take these when we can win like this."

The win over Sandusky was the second this season for Ross. In the first game, Ross won 75-62 as Held hit 30 and Bury 20.

"I think Held and Bury would like to play Sandusky all the time," Paeth grinned.

Held also led the Little

Giants in rebounding with 13 as Ross won that statistic 35-31.

The Little Giants' first half was nothing to brag about Paeth said. His team missed five layups.

"You can't get mad at them (players), they (layups) just did not go in — they were trying — but if they won't go in, they don't go in."

Ross canned 25 of 54 shots and hit 11 of 15 free throws. Nine of the free throw connections came on 11 attempts in the final eight minutes. Sandusky hit 21 of 49 as Ross's "rat" and a tight man-to-man hampered the struggling Streaks.

Leon McDougle's 18 took game honors for Sandusky.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won its third in a row 62-47. The Little Giants JVs held a commanding 32-15 lead at the half.

Tony Gant had 18 for Ross and Eric Bates added nine.

Tuesday, Ross will travel to Toledo to take on the Whitmer Panthers, 11-6.

Gentry wins 1st Gloves bout

DAVENPORT, Ia. — Jeff Gentry of Fremont won a split decision over Thomas King of Detroit in a first round match in the National Silver Gloves Boxing Tournament.

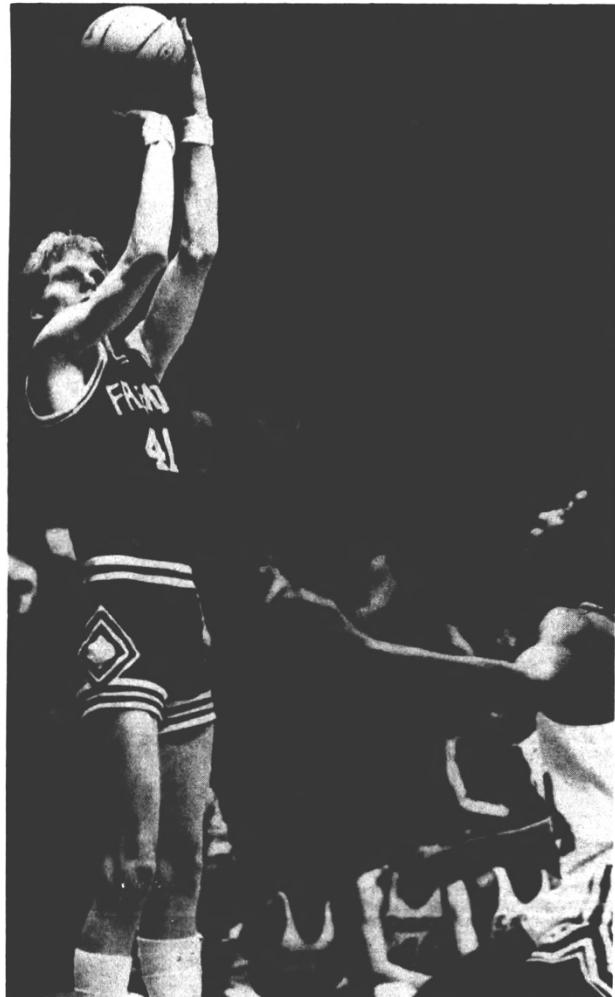
Gentry, 119-intermediate, was the only one of three Fremonters, boxing under the Fremont Recreation Department banner, to box Friday night.

Billy Isaman, 110-pound senior, will take on Kelly Girard of Davidson, Mich., in today's second round. Heavyweight Scott Distel will box either this afternoon or evening; however, his opponent was not known.

Welterweights set for Feb. 24

NEW YORK (AP) — The 10-round nationally televised welterweight fight between Roberto Duran, the former world lightweight champion, and Wellington Wheatley of Ecuador will be held at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., Feb. 24 promoter Don King announced Friday.

The fight will be televised by NBC, beginning at 4:30 p.m. EST.



MIKE HELD of Ross goes up for a jumper while cashing in for two of his 18 points in Ross's victory over Sandusky. Held and Randy Bury

paced the Little Giants to win number 10 in 15 outings. (News-Messenger photo by George Lundskow)

Little Giants stop Whitmer for No. 11

By BOB MARKER

TOLEDO — "Aw, boy, this is a good one," Biz Paeth laughed as his toothy smile sparkled in the dark locker room at Whitmer High School Tuesday night.

Paeth's face showed the elation of his Ross

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basketball team's 59-52 win over Whitmer in a game where Ross rode out to a 16-point lead, flirted with disaster, before melting off the final seconds to preserve its 11th victory of the season.

The win insured the Little Giants of their first winning season since 1973 and gave them a shot at the best record at Ross since 1963.

Mike Held and Randy Bury tossed in 16 points, each taking turns with the hot hand, and Ross got

solid performances from each of the other six players seeing action in the game.

Citing his multi-faceted defensive game, Paeth said it was a game where the game plan worked to perfection.

"We wanted to press them because we felt we could wear them down," Paeth said, "we told the kids that we did not care if we were down one or two points at the half because we felt that we could tear them down in the second half."

Instead of being down at the half, Ross combined its aggressive defense with flashes of brilliance offensively for a 32-20 halftime lead. The final two points coming at the buzzer for Ross on Jerry Ameling's fall-away jumper from the charity

stripe.

Bury, the Little Giants' "super sub" canned 10 of his points in the second period as Ross broke away with an 18-9 scoring burst.

Held dropped in five of six third period shots as Ross extended its lead by two, 48-34 at the end of the third session.

In the last eight minutes, Whitmer went into a full court man-to-man press that forced the Little Giants into mistakes. The biggest problem that Whitmer threw at the Little Giants with the press was double teaming the ball once Ross got the ball inbounds.

Gary Harms, who did not score against Sandusky last Friday, canned four of nine shots, grabbed six rebounds, and had five steals plus a key bucket in the stretch for Ross. With

Whitmer surging, Ross held only a 50-42 lead with four minutes to play when Harms got an unexpected assist for the bucket.

Stacey Andrews of Whitmer found his way out of a tangle of bodies beneath the Ross bucket on the play but tossed the ball right to Harms on the outlet and the 6-1 Ross senior banked it to cool off the Panthers temporarily.

After that point, Ross survived four turnovers with a spread-out delaying offense that took precious time away from Whitmer. Tom Wolesslagel, with 11 assists, and his chief sub Mike Eicher, kept offensive pressure on Whitmer with some blind passes that led to several easy buckets for Held.

Rob Bollenbacher dropped in 10 points for the

Little Giants while cluttering up the middle of Whitmer's patterned offense. Gregg Hedden, although not having a good shooting night, forced several Whitmer miscues defensively.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross 14 18 16 11-59

Whitmer 11 9 14 18-50

SCORING

ROSS: Held 8-0-16, Harms 4-0-8,

Brown 4-0-8, Eicher 5-0-10, Hedden 1-2-4,

Wolesslagel 0-1-1, Bury 5-6-16,

Ameling 2-0-4, Eicher 0-0-0; totals

25-9-59.

WHITMER: Siebert 3-3-9, Andrew 3-2-8, Wulf 1-0-2,

Banachuk 1-2-4, Lynn 8-0-16,

Ameling 0-1-1, Mays 3-2-8, Bushong

1-0-2; totals 20-10-50.

Season records: Ross 11-5,

Whitmer 12-7

JV GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross 12 8 24-56

Whitmer 18 12 14 22-66

SCORING

ROSS: Meyer 1-0-2, Nossaman 3-

2-0, Rodenhauser 0-2-2, Bates 5-1-

11, Daniels 3-0-6, Gant 5-4-14,

Lindsey 3-0-6, Miller 2-1-5, Sachs 1-

0-2; totals 21-14-56.

Held now plays with confidence

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

Mike Held looks the same as he did last year.

The blond, unruly hair is still there; the braces on the teeth, too. The bashful, boyish grin still unfurls the same but there is a world of difference from the Mike Held of the 1978-79 basketball season and the one that has run up and down the hardwood for Ross this season.

A year ago, if he hit five points in 32 minutes, it was an occasion; this year, 20 points are not uncommon. If he grabbed three or four rebounds in a game last season, that was a high

point; this year a dozen or more is common for the willowy 6-3 Little Giants senior.

Why?

"Last year I did not have any confidence in myself," he said as the words reluctantly tumbled from his lips.

That single item, confidence, has made Held, vintage 1979-80, and his Ross teammates into the most successful roundball team that Ross fans have witnessed in 26 years.

Not since Al Ziemke's 1953-54 squad posted a 15-3 record in the regular season has Ross had a shot at winning more than a

dozen games.

Held's growth in the confidence department has been a major cog in that shot.

"We knew before the season," Ross Coach Biz Paeth said, "that if Mike could get that confidence and get off to a good start, he'd have a good season."

Held got the good start and is now leading the balanced Little Giants attack with 16.8 points per game, sixth in the Buckeye Conference and an average of nine rebounds per game, also sixth in the BC.

The Ross forward shrugs off claiming the "catalyst" tag.

"The coaches helped us more," he began, "and I think that we (the players) worked harder in the off-season. Then, we have been together for three years."

As far as his jump of nearly 13 points in scoring average, Held pointed out that he has more opportunity to score.

"I'm getting more shots

and when I get open, I know that I am going to get the ball," and then he added, "I do have a lot more confidence in myself."

Getting the ball to Held many times, is conference assist leader Tom Wolesslagel but Held pointed out that is a trademark of this season's Ross team — the ability to hit the open man for the easy shot.

While ticking off his goals and the team's goals for this season, Held pointed out that the success of the Little Giants has not surprised him.

"I knew we had the potential of being better than last year."

That continuing potential will be tested severely Friday night when Ross returns home to face Admiral King. The Admirals are 15-3 and hold down second in the conference race with a 10-3 mark.

Tuesday, the Admirals rolled over crosstown rival Southview 72-36.

"We saw them," Paeth

said, "and they were very patient with their offense."

"They'd pass the ball seven or eight times and boom, they'd have a layup," Ross assistant Coach Steve Krynoch added.

"The only times that Admiral King has lost is when they have not been patient with the ball," Paeth pointed out.

ROSS NOTES: Randy Bury is the second leading scorer with an 11.2 mark. He ranks 19th in the BC and is third, a notch ahead of Gregg Hedden, in the conference free throw shooting with 82 percent. Hedden is also at 82 percent but Bury has been at the line more times.

Wolesslagel leads the conference in assists, averaging 7.3 per game. He is also 16th in free throw shooting.

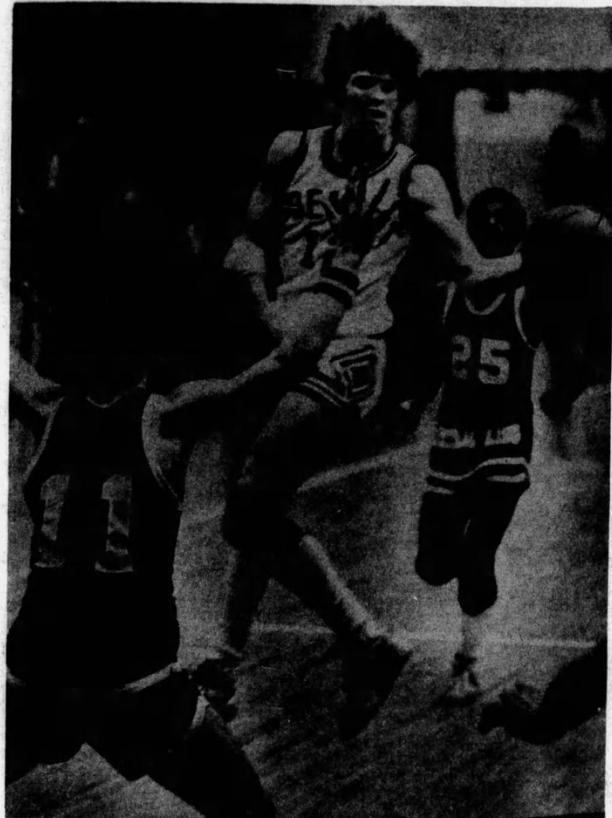
Held is third in field goal accuracy with 54 percent and Rob Bollenbacher is 18th. Wolesslagel is 21st.

Bollenbacher also ranks 16th in rebounding.

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TOM WOLESLAGEL of Ross lets go of a pass with his left hand during early action of the Little Giants-Admiral King game at Ross High

School. Woleslagel scored a dozen points but Ross lost the Buckeye Conference encounter. (N-M photos by George Lundskow)

Indiana following formula

By JOE MOOSHIL
AP Sports Writer

Win at home and split on the road has long been the formula for winning Big Ten basketball championships. The road has been so hazardous this season that no team can get a split.

But Indiana's 19th-ranked Hoosiers can do the next best thing and if they win at Michigan Saturday, they will wind up with a 4-5 record on the road to go along with a perfect 7-0 at home where they close the season next week against Wisconsin and Ohio State.

With only three regular season games remaining, nothing will be decided until the March 2 collision between Ohio State and Indiana but by then the Hoosiers can be in position to clinch an outright title with a victory over the 11th-ranked Buckeyes.

Indiana and Ohio State currently are tied for the lead with 10-5 records. Ohio State defeated Northwestern 68-59 Thursday night at Columbus while Indiana was posting a 75-72 triumph over Michigan State.

It was Indiana's third straight triumph since the return of Mike Woodson and

two of those victories have come on the precarious road. That's some accomplishment in view of the fact that visiting teams in Big Ten teams have won only 17 of 75 games.

"I think you have seen the Big Ten champions or maybe even the NCAA champions," said Michigan State Coach Jud Heathcote whose Spartans last year shared the Big Ten title and went on to capture the NCAA championship.

Once again it was Woodson leading the way. Woodson scored 20 points, 13 of them in the second half. He has averaged a shade over 20 points in the three games Indiana has won since his return from back surgery.

Minnesota and Iowa saw their title chances diminish as they both lost on the road Thursday night. Minnesota was tripped by Illinois 60-58 in overtime and Iowa dropped a 62-58 decision at Wisconsin. Michigan knocked Purdue out of a tie for the lead 75-64.

Purdue is now 9-6, one game behind the leaders and Michigan is two games out with 8-7 and in a three-way tie with Minnesota and Iowa.

Unknowns lead PBA tournament

NORTH OLMSTED, Ohio (AP) — Unknowns Kyle Shedd and Ed Wallace shared the spotlight Friday as a \$100,000 professional bowling tournament entered its final phase of match play.

Shedd, a 22-year-old from Downey, Calif., led the field of semifinalists with an 8,110 total for 34 games. Wallace, a tour rookie from Tulare, Calif., was just 47 pins back of Shedd with 8,063.

Bob Hadley of Fairway, Kan., also

seeking his first Professional Bowlers Association championship, was in third place with 8,044, followed by Mark Roth of North Arlington, N.J., 8,003, and Steve Martin of Kingsport, Tenn., 7,973.

One more eight-game session of match play remained Friday night before the top five bowlers advance to Saturday's nationally televised (ABC) finals to shoot for a \$15,000 first prize.

Morrison's 28 leads AK win

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

A little bitty smile spelled trouble for Admiral King early but the Admirals had the last laugh in a jam packed noisy Ross High School Friday night.

Admiral King, waltzed into Fremont with a 15-3 mark, 10-3 in the Buckeye Conference, and escaped from the error-plagued Little Giants with a 62-55 victory. Ross, now 12-6 and 8-5 in the BC, played near perfect ball for the first seven minutes of the game before the Little Giants started to come apart piece by piece.

With Ross leading by a 16-10 count, the Admiral's John Rhybarczyk was whistled for his fourth foul with 16 seconds to play in the opening stanza. That's when a smile betrayed Ross.

Rhybarczyk was assessed a technical and seconds later, Admiral King Coach Mitch Gillam was T'D.

"He (the official) told me my kid was not allowed to laugh. My kids are not allowed to get technicals," Gillam ratted off after the game. "I discipline them on that; they are not to get technicals ... only the coach gets technicals."

"And he told me my kids are not allowed to smile on the court!"

Gillam picked up his technical for arguing the call but Ross was able to hit only two of five free throws — one by Rob Bollenbacher on the personal foul on Rhybarczyk and Randy Bury on one of the three technical shots.

"That was five points right there," Ross Coach Biz Paeth pointed out. Bury followed up with a bucket at the five-second mark giving Ross four out of a possible seven points on the continuing play and a 20-10 lead at the first stop.

It was downhill from there for the Little Giants.

Ross went scoreless in the first four minutes and 16 seconds of the second period while the Admirals ran off 10 straight points to tie the game. The Admirals took the lead for good in the game on two free throws by Eric Morrison for a 26-25 lead with 1:49 to play in the half.

After that, it was mostly Morrison with a big assist from Tracy Suttles as Gillam switched defenses and Ross could not find the bucket or any luck.

Morrison bruised Ross for 28 points and 22 rebounds, 15 coming off the

offensive board. In the final period, Admiral King took only six shots, hit three and picked Ross apart from the foul line. Admiral King, with Suttles hitting five of six from the line and Morrison controlling the boards, built up a 57-46 lead with 2:36 to play.

"Morrison just had a tremendous night," Gillam praised his 6-3 senior. "What we did in the second quarter was switch out of the press. Then we used the zone and caught Ross in a zone offense with a man-to-man a couple of times."

The versatile Admirals defense held Ross to a season low 36 shots, 22 coming in the final half. Most of the Little Giants shots were from downtown Fremont, especially in the last 16 minutes.

"I think their quickness hurt us," Paeth said tiredly after the game. "And I felt we had a lot of careless turnovers ... not against the press but just careless ones."

"They hurt us on the offensive boards — Morrison really hurt us and when they had to make the foul shots, they made them," Paeth observed.

Using pressure on the

Ross outside game, Gillam pointed out that his team was also able to keep pressure on Ross's leading scorer Mike Held on the inside. Held ended up with 12 points but most of his inside game was cut off by the Admirals' quick shifting zone.

"The fans were super tonight," Paeth said as his team accomplished a season goal — forcing Ross officials to pull out the east end bleachers, "and that's what makes the loss so disappointing for us."

Bury ended up as Ross's high scorer with 13 while Tom Woleslagel had a dozen. Suttles with 13 and Tony Nieves 11 backed up Morrison.

Admiral King canned 16 of 20 free throws and 23 of 46 from the field while Ross hit 16 of its 36 shots and 23 of 33 charity tosses.

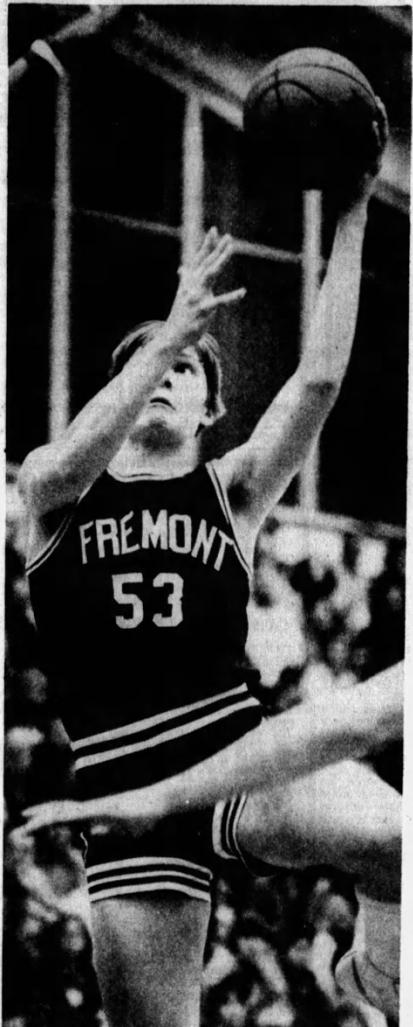
Tonight, the Little Giants travel to Port Clinton. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30 p.m.

In the JV game Friday, Ross surprised Admiral King 62-49. It dropped AK's record to 15-4 while the Ross JVs are now 6-12.

Tony Gant popped in 18 points and Craig Daniels dished out seven assists in the second half to lead Ross.



TWO FOR HELD. Mike Held drops in two of his 12 points in the first period against Admiral King.



USING HIS LEFT hand, Fremont's Jerry Ameling goes up for a shot in Saturday night's game against Port Clinton. The Little Giants lost 64-53. (N-M photo by Scott Maynard)

Redskins stun Ross 64-53

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

PORT CLINTON — For Ross and basketball Coach Bill Paeth, it was the low point of the season. For Tom Bodager and his Port Clinton Redskins, it was a high.

The Redskins took the Little Giants by the ears, shook them down to size, and posted a fairly easy 64-53 upset Saturday night in front of a large Parents Night celebration at the Ottawa County school.

Paeth was smoldering. He popped a notebook off the floor in the stonily silent Ross locker room shortly after the final seconds had ticked off on Ross's seventh loss in 19 games and second in two days. Ross had lost to Buckeye Conference rival Admiral King Friday 62-55.

"I thought we would be flat but never like this," Paeth said evenly.

Paeth agreed that it was the worst game of the season for the Little Giants. Ross's press was rendered ineffective, and it's inside game went to pot thanks to a tight man-to-man that Bodager had the Redskins playing.

"They (Port Clinton) played well," Bodager began as a smile spread across his face. "I'm real happy with them."

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"We worked all week on their pressure. We did not play last night (Friday) and they did — that may have been a factor in the game," the Port Clinton coach explained after his team's 10th victory in 19 outings.

"I don't believe we had many turnovers against the press," he pointed out.

He was right ... the Redskins gave Ross the ball only three times on the full and half-court presses.

Port Clinton guards Brad Meek and Dave Gresh handled Ross's pressure and kept up their own pressure on the Little Giants guards of Tom Wolessagel and Gregg Heden. The tight man-to-man took away Wolessagel's passing game.

Late in the contest, Port Clinton slipped into a zone but came out of it when Ross's high scorer, Mike Held, got a couple of quick buckets inside.

Held ended up with 22 points, 15 in the second half.

Meek canned 11 first half

points as the Redskins eased to a 26-23 lead. The Little Giants led 8-4 and 10-8, the latter with three minutes to play in the first period.

The Redskins closed out the first period with five straight points on Mike Vidoli's three-point play and a pair of Meek charity tosses. Vidoli's bucket and free throw came with 1:17 to play gave Port Clinton its first lead. Ross was to lead only twice more — at 19-17 and 21-20.

"There is no excuse for it," Paeth said quietly after the loss. "It's really disappointing and I don't think there is any excuse."

"Good teams don't let things like this happen — there is no excuse," he repeated. "I don't mind getting beat by a real good one (team) and I don't think Port Clinton is better than us but they were tonight."

Scott Norris pumped in 20 points for the Redskins with Vidoli dropping in 15 and Meek a dozen. The Redskins hit 19 of 46 shots but canned 26 of 35 free

throws — 15 of 19 in the final eight minutes when Ross was forced to foul against the patient PC offense.

In the same stretch, the Little Giants missed five of eight charity tosses.

Wolessagel ended up with 10 points to back Held. Ross hit 21 of 45 shots and 11 of 21 from the free throw line. The Little Giants outrebounded the Redskins 40-28.

Score by quarters

Ross	10	13	13	17	53
Port Clinton	13	13	23	23	84

Scoring

ROSS: Held 1-4-22, Harms 3-0-8, Wolessagel 1-0-2, Heden 2-2-6, Ameling 0-0-4, Elcher 1-1-3; totals 21-11-53.
--

PORt CLINTON: Norris 7-6-20, Gresh 2-3-7, Meek 2-8-12, Vidoli 5-5-15, Cuttala 2-0-4, Drusbacky 0-0-0, Haberman 1-4-6; totals 19-26-64.
--

Season records: Ross 12-7, Port Clinton 10-9
--

JV game

Score by quarters

Ross	6	12	16	20	54
Port Clinton	10	12	10	8	40

Scoring

ROSS: Meyer 9-0-18, Nossaman 0-0-0, Binkley 1-0-2, Gresh 3-0-8, Bowen 1-0-2, Daniels 4-0-8, Gant 3-2-8, Miller 1-0-2; totals 25-4-54.

PORt CLINTON: Colston 4-2-10, Vidoli 1-1-3, Habegger 1-2-4, Ohm 2-6-10, Horne 3-3-9, Below 1-0-2, Rhode 0-0-2; totals 12-16-40.

Season record: Ross 7-12.

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FREMONT - BOWLING GREEN - PORT CLINTON

Paeth talks it over with his Little Giant squad

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Biz Paeth bared his thoughts Monday to his Ross High School Little Giants basketball team.

He had a lot to say after Saturday's sub-par performance by his team in a 64-53 upset at the hands of Port Clinton. That loss came on the heels of a hard fought setback at the hands of Lorain Admiral King on Friday.

"Yeah," Paeth began, "we had a good talk Monday. The kids did not know whether we would punish them or not but we had a good talk.

"We said that if something like that (poor play) had to happen, it was a good thing it was in the next to last game of the season rather than in the tournament," he talked about his team discussion.

"I don't know if we are going to win the state tournament," he continued, "but I told them that if we lose in the tournament it better be out there (court) rather than up here (he was pointing to his head)."

Against Port Clinton, he said he did not feel his kids were mentally ready. "They would nod their head agreeing with me when I said that they could not just walk on the court and beat Port Clinton but I know they did not believe it.

"They tried," he continued, "but I think the kids thought that if they played mediocre, they could still win the game.

"I think as that game went on, the kids became frustrated — we never had 28 fouls in a game on us — and it was just fouling out of frustration," he said as he shifted toward Friday's regular season finale at Findlay at Ross.

"I know one thing, it was not a good game to come off to play the number five team in the state."

The Trojans, 18-1 and the winner of the Buckeye Conference title with a 12-1 mark, at present, are reportedly playing the game as well if not better, than they have played it this season.

"The kids certainly want to win this

one," Paeth said, "it's the seniors' last game at home and we want to be ready for them.

"But," he grimaced, "we can play a super game Friday night and still get beat. We just want to play well, though."

Paeth agreed that Findlay is playing "unbelievably well", pointing out that the last time out, the Trojans fired up 81 shots. In the first game, a 66-55 win for Findlay, the Trojans got off only 48 shots but got 66 points with them.

"If we let them have that many shots," the Ross coach warned, "even if they have a bad night, they'd hit 40 percent of them. I think they are hitting 50 percent this season."

So how is he going to have his 12-7 Little Giants play the Trojans?

"We cannot let them get the ball up floor fast," he insisted, "and we have to run but be patient at the same time. I mean if the fast break is there, fine, but if it isn't we have to be looking for the good shot. I'm not against the quick shot, just so it's a good shot."

"I hope that we cannot play any worse than last Saturday," he offered.

That's a silent prayer for everyone . . . it was definitely not understated.

ROSS NOTES: Ross is averaging 63.6 points per game while allowing 61.8 to rank fifth and fourth in the BC, respectively.

Mike Held is seventh in scoring with a 16.8 and is second in field goal accuracy at 55 percent. He is also sixth in rebounding with a 10.4 per game average.

Tom Woelslagel continued to lead the BC in average assists per game with 6.9. He is also 14th in free throw shooting with 64 percent.

Gregg Hedden is third and Randy Bury fourth in free throw accuracy with 84 and 80 percent, respectively.

Bury is 20th in scoring with a 19.9 ppg.

Rob Bollenbacher is 17th in rebounding with 6.7.

Hedden is also 10th in assists, averaging 3.3 per game.

Sports

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SECTION B

4 overtimes later, Thomas stops Ross

Page B-2



BIZ PAETH, middle, gives quick instructions to his team during the closing minutes of regulation time during the Findlay-Ross game Friday night. Findlay defeated the Little Giants 72-70 in

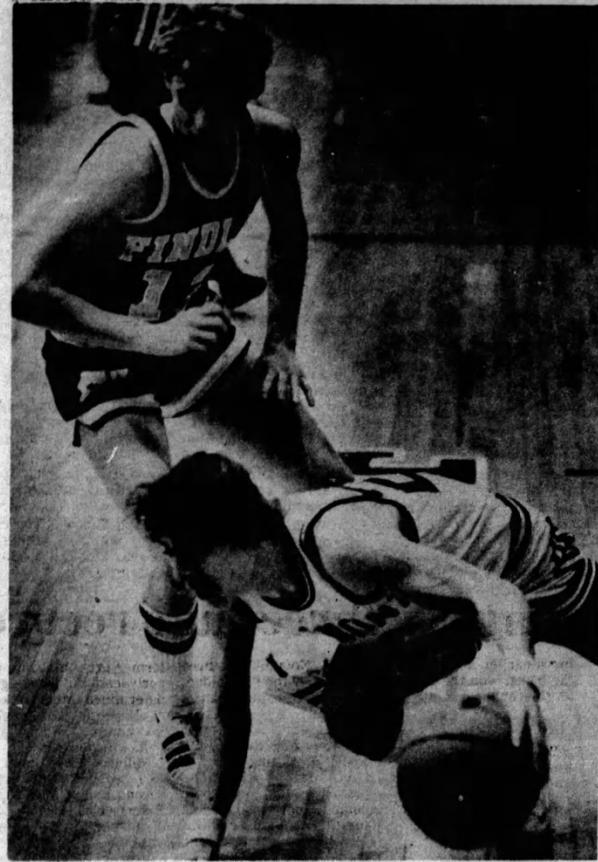
four overtimes to finish 19-1 for the season. Ross had its best season in 26 years, finishing with a 12-6 mark. (News-Messenger photos by George Lundskow)

Lakers upend Streaks

Page B-3

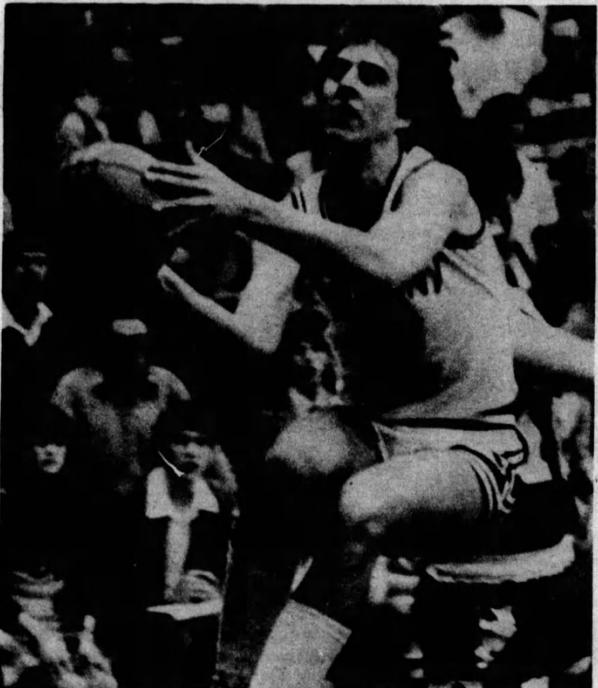


MIKE FIELD of Ross grabs one of 23 rebounds he had against Findlay. The 6-3 forward also tossed in a game high 31 points.



GRIGG HEDDEN of Ross goes down in front of Al Thomas of Findlay in the top photo. Hedden recovered on the

play. Below, Gary Harms goes up in the air for a layup in the first quarter. (N-M photos by George Lundskow)



Loss overshadows Mike Held's 31

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross had its invisible sixth man and Findlay had Al Thomas.

The latter beat the Little Giants vocal off-the-court-player with a high arching 23-footer with six seconds remaining in the fourth overtime to give the Trojans a 72-70 Buckeye Conference and season ending win over Ross.

Findlay finished the regular season at 19-1 and 13-1 in the BC while Ross will carry a 12-8 mark into the Ashland Class AAA Sectional Tournament next Wednesday.

"There isn't a kid out there," Ross assistant Coach Steve Krynoch motioned wearily from the coaches room after the game, "with an ounce of energy left."

It was that type of game. The game would have been justified if it could have ended in a tie. It didn't. Thomas' shot took care of that.

"Things like that will happen in a four-overtime game," Findlay Coach Roger Renz said as he heaved a sigh of relief. "Ross proved that it could play with anyone."

"I thought the game would be close," he said, "but they had some turnovers in the fourth quarter and then we started to hit."

Mike Held was a one-man army for the Little Giants. He tallied 31 points and hauled in 23 rebounds. He led Ross into a 42-29 lead with 3:55 to play in the third period.

But the Trojans, down 53-45 with three and one-half minutes to play, tied the game at 56-56 on John Kidd's 15-footer with 29 seconds remaining to hurl the game into what turned out to be a parade of overtimes. Each one offered its own collection of suspenseful seconds.

The game was tied a 62 in the first overtime, 64 after the second, 64 again after the third, and ended on Thomas' shot that quieted the full house at Ross.

Up to that point, the overflow crowd had lent its noise as the Ross sixth man. There was no fouling out for it, the guy's presence could be felt and most definitely heard.

With Kidd's shot saving Findlay in overtime, the Trojans had to score in the final 25 seconds of the first two extra sessions to avert defeat.

Thomas found Jim Geyer alone under the Ross bucket for the game tying bucket with four seconds remaining in the second overtime for the closest call for the Trojans.

Ron Neds only basket of the game with 22 seconds left in the first session knotted the score at 62.

Ross had the biggest lead of the overtimes, 69-66 with 2:10 to play in the

final session. A bucket by Rick Maroney who finished with 17 points, and a tip-in by Kidd, he had 27 points and 15 rebounds, put Findlay ahead with a half minute to play.

Ross guard Tom Woleslagel was called for an offensive foul with 50 seconds to play to set up Kidd's go-ahead tip. With 21 seconds to play, Ross turned the ball over but Steve Corbin was unable to connect on a free throw a second later and Ross had a final chance.

Rob Bollenbacher was fouled but missed his first charity, got the rebound, tossed it out to Held who returned the ball. Findlay's Rick Hutton fouled Bollenbacher and the 6-3 Ross senior hit his first shot to knot the game at 70-70.

After a Findlay timeout, Bollenbacher's second toss hit the front and back of the rim, was halfway in but jumped out and off the front of the rim. Kidd grabbed the rebound with a dozen seconds remaining, tossed the ball to Thomas who dribbled to the top of the circle and hit the game winner.

"Doggone it, doggone it," Ross Coach Biz Paeth, the strain of the game etched in his face, repeated after the game.

"It's so hard to think right now. It seems like years since regulation time ended."

"I think," he said as he attempted to collect his thoughts, "that it was a game of breaks (especially in the overtimes) and they got the last one."

Ross, and Findlay, playing without the conference's second leading scorer Rick Acord, out with a sprained ankle, played well. Paeth pointed out.

"We felt before the game that we would either play well or bad," the Ross coach said, "because we had such a poor practice Thursday.

"Doggone it, though," he grimaced, "you don't get any stars for this."

Ross controlled the boards against Findlay, 54-39, one of the rare times the Trojans have lost that battle. Findlay however, using the man-to-man and 2-zone defenses mixed in with a full court pressure, forced Ross into 23 turnovers 16 more than the Trojans.

In the second half and all through the extra 12 minutes of play, Findlay committed only one turnover.

Thomas ended up with 12 points while Held was the only Little Giant in double figures. Gregg Heden and Randy Bur finished with nine points apiece and Woleslagel had eight. Bollenbacher had seven points and 11 rebounds.

The game was the longest in Findlay 74-year history, wiping out a three overtime loss to Ross at Findlay during the 1975-76 season.

Frustrating year for Cavs

ATLANTA (AP) — It has been a long and frustrating year for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Coach Stan Albeck said after the Atlanta Hawks added to his team's woes.

Atlanta defeated Cleveland 111-103 in overtime in National Basketball Association action Friday, but the game was especially frustrating for Albeck because his team came back from a five-point deficit in the last 19 seconds of regulation only to watch an uncontested layup fall away at the buzzer.

With four seconds left in regulation and the score tied at 98, Willie Smith stole the ball from Atlanta's Eddie Johnson and passed it to Footh Walker at the other end. Walker, who was wide open, missed the shot.

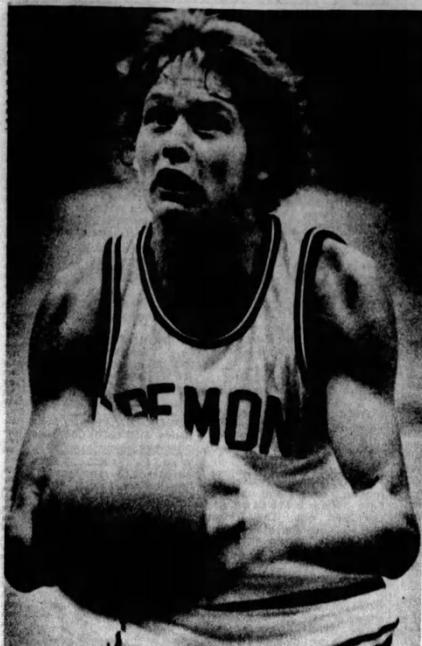
"I've seen it a lot of times because you can expect anything at the end of the game in the NBA," Albeck said. "What

it really boils down to is our inability to make the big play. We've lost 11 basketball games by four points this season, and it's been a very frustrating and a very mentally tough year."

Friday's game was also tough on Atlanta Coach Hubie Brown. With his team leading 98-93 with 19 seconds left, Johnson fumbled the ball and Dave Robisch was fouled at the other end. After Robisch hit his two free throws, Austin Carr pummeled in a three-point field goal to tie the score.

"I think that with us up, they shoot and miss, we kick the ball out to Eddie Johnson with 19 seconds to go and we're sitting pretty fat," Brown said. "Eddie Johnson falls asleep with the basketball and they score. That is the critical play in the whole game which allows the last 19 seconds to happen."

Held is All-BC



MIKE HELD

Hartman is player of the year

Mike Held of Ross was named to the Buckeye Conference first team. The all-conference teams were selected by the conference coaches and released today.

Carl Hartman, a three-year starter at Lorain Senior, was named the BC "player of the year." He led Lorain to a 15-5 regular season mark and a third place finish in the conference race.

Hartman, 5-8, averaged 17.4 points per game and tied a national high school record during the season, hitting 16 consecutive free throws in one quarter of play.

Held paced Ross to its best regular season record in 26 years, 12-8. He averaged 17.5 points per game, fifth in the BC, while hauling down 11 rebounds a game. The 6-3 Ross senior connected on 56 percent of his field goal attempts, good for second in the conference.

Joining Held and Hartman on the first team are Rick Acord of conference champ Findlay, Leon McDougle of Sandusky and Eric Morrison of Admiral King.

The second team is made up of Al Thomas of Findlay, Tom Murphy of Mansfield, Ralph Hill of Harding, Tony Nieves of Admiral King and Rick Melendez, the conference co-leader, along with McDougle, in scoring with a 19.2 average, of Lorain Senior.

On the third team are Rick Maroney of Findlay, Tom Underman of Elyria, Russell Holmes of Mansfield, Jeff Simmons of Admiral King and Cory Earl of Lorain Senior.

Tom Wolesslagel, Gregg Hedden, Randy Bury.

All-Buckeye Conference

Following are the All-Buckeye Conference basketball team selections.

FIRST TEAM

Carl Hartman, Lorain Senior, senior, 5-8, 17.4; Rick Acord, Findlay, senior, 6-4, 18.0; Leon McDougle, Sandusky, senior, 6-5, 19.2; Eric Morrison, Admiral King, 6-3, senior, 16.9; Mike Held, Ross, senior, 6-3, 17.5.

SECOND TEAM

Al Thomas, Findlay, junior, 5-10, 14.1; Tom Murphy, Mansfield, junior, 5-11, 16.5; Ralph Hill, Harding, junior, 6-3, 14.4; Tony Nieves, Admiral King, senior, 5-10, 15.4; Rick Melendez, Lorain Senior, junior, 6-3, 19.2.

THIRD TEAM

Rick Maroney, Findlay, senior, 5-10, 11.8; Tom Underman, Elyria, junior, 6-5, 17.1; Russell Holmes, Mansfield, junior, 6-2, 13.9; Jeff Simmons, Admiral King, senior, 6-3, 12.9; Cory Earl, Lorain Senior, senior, 5-2, 10.0.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTION

Tom Wolesslagel, Gregg Hedden, Randy Bury.

Sports in Brief

SUMMER OLYMPICS

MOSCOW (AP) — The chairman of the 1980 Soviet Olympic Organizing Committee said that 100 countries have confirmed their intention to participate in the Summer Games in Moscow, Radio Moscow reported.

Ignaty Novikov made the statement to a group of visiting American and Canadian sports writers and teachers, the radio said.

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, stepping up her Conservative government's campaign to boycott the Moscow Olympics, urged Britons not to go to the Games as spectators.

The Prime Minister's comments came after scores of British athletes earlier this week voted in favor of participating in Moscow despite a government effort to persuade them to stay away as a protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

GOLF

LAUDERHILL, Fla. (AP) — Danny Edwards shot a 6-under-par 66 that set the first round lead in the \$300,000 Jackie Gleason-Inverrary Classic.

Tied at 67, one shot off the lead, was a group that included Lee Trevino, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Bob Murphy, Bill Kratzert, Artie McNickle, J.C. Snead, Andy North and DeWitt Weaver.

Larry Nelson, the defending champion, shot a 68 and was only two shots back.

BOWLING

ADELPHI, Md. (AP) — Matt Surina won six of eight matches to move into the lead after four rounds of the \$90,000 Professional Bowlers Association tournament.

Wolesslagel was the top man in assists, averaging seven a game with 139 in the 20-game schedule. Hedden ranked 12th with a 3.4 average.

In rebounding, Held finished sixth and Rob Bollenbacher 16th with a 6.9 per game average. Bury finished 20th in scoring with a 10.9 average.

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Shetzer, Held, Park, Mowry are Ross MVPs



Twenty-one Ross High School athletes received special awards Tuesday evening during the Ross Winter Sports Awards Night.

There was also a total of 60 "letters" handed out. Members of the boys and girls basketball, wrestling and swimming teams were honored during the program. The cheerleaders were also introduced during the program.

Judy Shetzer and Mike Held were named the most valuable players for the girls and boys roundball teams, respectively. Shetzer led her team to a school record 11 victories this season while being named to the All-Buckeye Conference team.

The 5-1 senior also was presented with a captain's trophy, along with Margaret Van Gilder by Coach Sue Wolf, and took home the trophy for the top foul shooter, a division that she also led the BC in with 78 percent.

Other girl's winners included Tammy Haas for most improved and Laurie Smith won the rebounding trophy. Joan Osmon was named the outstanding sophomore.

Held and Gregg Hedden won two awards each for Coach Biz Paeth's boys team with Held, Tom Woleslagel and Jerry Ameling receiving captain's trophies. Hedden won the foul shooting and shared the "Mr. Defense" award with Woleslagel.

In addition to his most valuable award, Held won the rebounding trophy. During the season, the 6-3 senior was named to the All-Buckeye Conference first team, second team Associated Press (AP) Northwest Ohio and was honorable mention in the AP All-Ohio voting.

The outstanding sophomore for the boys was Tony Gant. Gant led the junior varsity team in scoring and rebounding.

Andre Parks walked off with his second MVP award, dubbed the Mal Mackey Award, for the wrestling team. He also received the team trophy for the most season takedowns from Coach Al Voggenthaler and received a captain's trophy along with Tim Walther.

Parks finished sixth in the state last year and fourth this past season.

Corey Beard, a sophomore, won the Chuck Binkley Award as the team's most improved and the trophy for the most pins went to senior Greg Brown. Craig Hiltz won the coaches award.



Jennings Schuster

Mike Mowry headed the trophy winners for Coach Art Bucci's swim team. The Ross junior was named the team's most valuable and shared the coaches award with diver Ed Weiler.

Mowry qualified for the state meet in the 100 and 200-yard freestyles and was on the Ross medley relay that also qualified for the state meet.

Weiler came back from a cracked seventh vertebra suffered during a summer accident to lead the Ross diving congregation.

The team's most improved swimmer is sophomore Brian Overmyer while captain's trophies went to Tim Heslet and Mark Schuster.

Dale Jennings, the team's manager for three years, was awarded the Tom White Scholarship.

Following are the names of the letter winners for the winner sports:

BASKETBALL

Girls: Judy Shetzer, Kelly Shoemaker, Margaret Van Gilder, Diane Borys, Cindy Gilson, Tammy Haas, Debbie Hall, Amy Lindstrom, Rhonda Paulson, Lisa Pfeiffer, Laurie Smith and Sue Jess, manager.

Boys: Jerry Ameling, Rob Bollenbacher, Randy Bury, Gary Harms, Gregg Hedden, Mike Held, Tom Woleslagel, Mike Eicher, Tim Niles, manager and Ted Orndorff, trainer.

WRESTLING

Greg Brown, Tony Burel, Craig Hiltz, Jeff Hull, Mitch Johnson, Gilbert Palacios, Andre Parks, Ed Salcedo, Tim Walther, Jim Lipstraw, Wayne Orndorff, Doug Smith, Tom Smith, Mark Walther, Corey Beard, Tony Gardner, John Havener, Keith Zimmerman, manager and Dana Szymanowski, trainer.

SWIMMING

Tim Heslet, Mark Schuster, Jamie Avelos, Brian Beck, Greg Bobay, Dennis Eickert, Johanna Hawk, John Isaac, Ty Mitchell, Mike Mowry, Scott Pitts, Dave Sanna, Mike Waggoner, Ed Weiler, Ron Kelley, Brian Overmyer, Janice Smith, Randy Penrod and Dale Jennings, manager.

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Bailey named top star of Class A All-Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Dexter Bailey, a 6-foot-4 star for Cincinnati Summit Country Day, reigns today as The Associated Press' Player of the Year in state Class A high school boys basketball.

Bailey's versatility has led the private school to 49 victories in 51 games over the last two seasons. His ability has attracted the nation's major college scouts despite the smallness of Summit Country Day.

The second team All-Ohio in 1979 averaged 21.1 points during the regular season, leading the Silver Knights to Ohio's No. 4 ranking and into the state semifinals for the second straight time.

Bailey edged two-time first team all-stater, Tom Pollock, of state poll champion Mogadore, for the No. 1 player honors. Pollock, a 5-11 senior, averaged 19 points for the Wildcats, leading them to an unbeaten regular season.

Pollock also was all-state in football as an end and was named Ohio's Class A Lineman of the Year.

Fran Guibault of St. Henry is the Class A State Coach of the Year.

Guibault kept St. Henry a statewide power despite the loss of three starters from last year's state championship team.

St. Henry won 19 of 20 regular season games this time for its veteran coach of 19 years. Guibault has compiled a 289-111 record, despite a 13-45 mark in first three seasons.

Teammates of Bailey and Pollock on the first team All-Ohio are Bill Faine of Rawson Cory-Rawson, Jack Duffy of Racine Southern, Bryan Roth of Sandusky St. Mary's, Chuck Stahl of St. Henry, John Kantner of Canal Winchester, Jay Ferguson of Plain City Jonathan Alder and John Champer of Malvern.

It's a classy all-senior group, led by the 6-7 Faine's 30.9 scoring average. The all-staters average more than 20 points except Pollock, Duffy and Kantner, the All-Ohioan in football. Duffy, an accurate-shooting left-hander, averaged 19.6 and Kantner 19.1.

Second team all-staters are Steve Tiber of Burton Berkshire, Don Hoover of Mingo, Reeves Northrup of Toledo Ottawa Hills, Bill Garrett of Peebles, Greg May of East Canton, Dave Jones of Jewett-Scio, Gary Pugh of Mineral Ridge and Dave Canalos of Lorain Catholic.

Comprising the third team All-Ohio are George Thomas of Lorain Clearview, Kevin Richardson of Columbus Academy, Neil Leist of Beaver Easter, Ben Washington of Ripley Lewis-Union, Fred Stimpert of Ashland Crestview, Dennis Williams of Holgate, Ed Badger of Covington and Rick Scarberry of Franklin Furnace Green.

The selections are made on the recommendations of a statewide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Track battle takes back seat to FISA-FOCA off track rift

By MIKE HARRIS
AP Motorsports Writer

The sleek, powerful Formula One cars will be roaring through the streets of Las Vegas this

race, disliked by many competitors because it is located in an out-of-the-way area in central New York. A long list of complaints about facilities, the Vegas event — scheduled to be run on a tiny course confined to the parking lot at Caesar's Palace Hotel — will be cancelled. The Formula One people were

