

1980 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Columbian is first Ross opponent in AAA sectional

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

Ross will face Tiffin Columbian Wednesday in its first test in the Class AAA Boys Sectional Basketball Tournament at Ashland College. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

It will be the second meeting of the teams this season. In the first test at Tiffin, the Little Giants downed the Tornadoes 63-57.

The Columbian team gained the spot opposite

Ross with a 66-58 victory over Vermillion Monday night. Columbian had trailed 54-50 in the contest with only two minutes left. In those final seconds, the Tornadoes came up with three steals and a turnover to turn the game around.

When Ross and Columbian met Jan. 19, the Tornadoes sported only a 4-7 mark. Now, after the sectional victory, Columbian is 10-11.

"They have been coming along better since we beat

them," Ross Coach Biz Paeth said after finding out his team's next opponent. "It will be tougher the second time. Sure, we beat them by seven the first time, but it was not a seven-point game.

"They played the worst third quarter of the season against us."

Columbian was outscored by Ross 15-6 in the cold eight minutes of the first game and trailed 50-33 going into the final quarter.

"I think," Paeth continued, "that they feel capable of beating us."

The Ross coach pointed out that the Tornadoes started three players 6-3 on the front line against Vermillion. That will give the Tornadoes a slight height advantage against Ross's starting front line.

Monday, Paeth took his team to Ashland College for a practice session. It was allotted for teams with first round byes in the tourney. Ross, 12-8, got the bye by virtue of being seeded second behind Mansfield Madison (19-1). It is the first time in more years than many Ross fans remember that the Little Giants have been seeded in a tournament.

"We had a good practice down there," Paeth disclosed. "You certainly get more shots in a two-hour practice than in a game.

"Of course, Columbian will not have the first game jitters that we might face but we are all seniors and if we get the jitters, we cannot do anything about them now," Paeth said.

Ross will be led on the court by Mike Held, 6-3 senior forward, who had a banner night in the four-overtime, 72-70 loss to Findlay last Friday. Held scored 31 points and had 23 rebounds.

Gary Harms, 6-1, will be at the other forward with Rob Bollenbacher, 6-3, at center. Buckeye Conference assist leader Tom Wolesslagel, 5-11, and 6-0 Gregg Hedden will be at the guards.

Jerry Ameling, 6-3, will spell Bollenbacher while super sub, 6-0 Randy Bury, will be the first off the Ross bench in giving Harms a rest. Mike Eicher will spell the backcourt duo.

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"We had five guys looking to Elmer all the time," Place explained.

But Elmer wasn't the only Golden Bear bothered by a sub-par shooting performance. In fact, the entire team had a case of the ice hands, particularly in the first half when Woodmore was able to run to a 26-18 advantage at intermission.

Gibsonburg missed their first five shots from the field and couldn't get their first bucket until three minutes into the first period. In that time, Woodmore had a 6-0 lead.

By the end of the quarter, it was Woodmore on top 14-9. Gibsonburg canned only four of 16 from the field in the opening quarter.

More of the same was in store for the Golden Bears in the second stanza, as the Wildcats took advantage of a two of 15 shooting performance by Gibsonburg to jump to the halftime lead.

Woodmore's zone defense was the major reason for Gibsonburg's disastrous first half. The Wildcat zone would not give an inch of the inside court to Gibsonburg. They were forced to shoot from the perimeter.

"They had to shoot long," Place said, "and they didn't shoot well."

"When we got Clark (Paul) the ball inside he was effective but we had trouble getting it to him,"

break the game open.

But Noftz called timeout, inserted scrappy Dan Fought at guard and went into a man to man full court press and on came Gibsonburg.

Fought hit his first three shots from downtown, (25 feet away from the bucket), played tenacious defense and sparked a last ditch Gibsonburg rally that brought the Golden Bears to within four twice.

Mario Garcia put in a layup at the 2:25 mark, right after Fought had hit one of his shots, and Gibsonburg was down 54-50. Two foul shots by Pat Johnson and one by Burner put Woodmore back up by seven but a three-point play by Elmer with 1:21 remaining closed the gap again to four.

But Dave O'Connor hit three of four foul shots in the next 27 seconds, Gibsonburg missed two consecutive shots and Woodmore had the win.

Actually it was an incredible string of foul shots in the final period that sealed the win for Woodmore. In all, the Wildcats went to the charity stripe 24 times alone in the final period and canned 18.

At one point, however, they were 14 of 16 from the line.

Gibsonburg ends its season at 7-14, winning their last five of nine games after being 2-10. Woodmore is 11-10 which ties a school record

'Super Sub'

Bury filling the role

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

Randy Bury is one kid you don't let stand around. He can pick your pocket from a distance and when he's warmed up, knock the bottom out of a basket with the frequency of a heart beat.

Bury is to Fremont Ross basketball as John Havlicek (in his younger years) was to the Boston Celtics.

Bury is a country lad who has stepped in to snuff out zone defenses that Ross clashes with and with his long bombs has helped the Little Giants to its best regular season in 26 years — 12-8.

Tonight, Bury, a six-foot senior, will take his shooting eye along with his teammates into the Class AAA Sectional Tournament against Tiffin Columbian at Ashland College. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

The Ross sharpshooter has his best success coming off the bench as the Little Giants' "sixth man or super sub." He's started only two games, the first two of the year, for the Little Giants. From that point on, he's been coming in a few minutes into the first period to work his magic.

"I think it's important," Bury said as he explained his role for Coach Biz Paeth's charges, "coming off the bench. If the team is

down, it's good to come in and pick them up."

How? Bury usually launches some 20-25 foot bombs and more often than not, the only thing he hits is the bottom of the net.

He averaged 11 points a game, 20th in the Buckeye Conference.

"I think I can shoot well," he said sheepishly during a Tuesday talk. "If the shot (a long one) is there, I feel he (Paeth) wants me to take it.

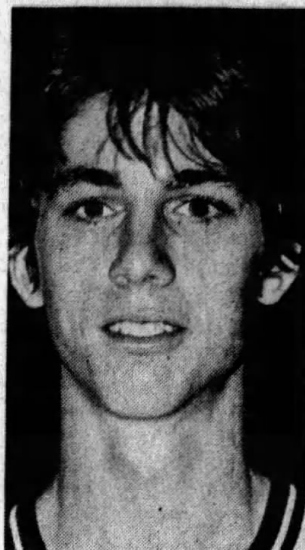
"I feel that if a team lets me stand out there alone, I can pick them apart," he said and then added proof. "My best success this season was against Sandusky when they just let me shoot."

In those two games, he ripped the Blue Streaks for 20 and 18 points, mostly from the outside.

Lately, though, and especially in the three-game losing streak that the Little Giants closed the regular season with, when opponents see number 32 step onto the floor, the defense reacts. Bury is defended as tight as a glove.

He has been forced to drive in for his shots with only moderate success. He prefers to do his talking from long distance.

Bury played sparingly last season and could see some reason for it. "I could not handle the ball that well last year," he admitted, "all I could



BURY

do was shoot."

This season, that (handling the ball) has improved. It was a facet of his game he worked on during the summer.

What's the difference in Ross's season and the 5-14 mark last year?

"We got a couple of good breaks at the start of the season," Super Sub pointed out, "and it helped. Last year, it was always in the back of our minds that we were going to lose. This year, we have not gone on the floor anytime without feeling that we could win the game."

That statement summed up Ross's rejuvenated basketball fortunes and as Bury pointed out — and it speaks for him and his teammates as well as faithful Ross fans — "it really feels good to win."



FIGHTING FOR THE BALL. Mike Held of Ross reaches over a Tiffin Columbian players' back to try and get the ball. Ross won the contest and will

play Lexington at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in the AAA sectional finals. (N-M photo by George Lundskog)

4th quarter saves Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

ASHLAND — Ross shook off a case of "overanxiousness" with a 24-point final period for a come-from-behind 57-48 victory over Tiffin Columbian in the Class AAA Sectional Tournament semifinals at Ashland College Wednesday night.

The win vaulted the Little Giants into the sectional finals Saturday night at 6:30 against Lexington.

Ross, plagued with a cold shooting hand in the first three periods, bounced back from a pair of eight-point deficits in the third period to pull off the win.

"For some reason," Ross Coach Biz Paeth proclaimed after the chilling contest, "I felt that the momentum was starting to swing our way in the fourth period. Don't ask me how I knew it, I just felt that way."

Three key buckets proved Paeth right; the final one put the icing on the cake.

Jerry Ameling's tip-in at the 5:30 mark of the final period brought Ross even with the Tornadoes at 39-39 and set off Ross's first run to its first second half lead.

Gary Harms followed with a driving layup down the middle of the lane for a 41-39 lead that old friend, momentum, was rolling along with Ross.

Columbian came back to tie the game at 41-41 on two charity tosses, the 27th and 28th straight free throw in two sectional games by Columbian, with 3:53 to play.

Tom Woieslagel's bucket gave Ross a two-point lead but Columbian guard Scott Kim quickly tied it. The front end of a one and one by Ross center Rob Bollenbacher gave Ross a 44-43 lead with 3:22 to play. Columbian was never to tie or lead the game again.

Mike Held canned two straight "alley-oop" buckets off Woieslagel passes and Randy Bury sank two straight charity tosses for a 50-43 lead with 1:35 remaining.

Ross's third key bucket came with the Little Giants up 54-46 with 51 seconds to play. With Ross lined up under its own bucket and Columbian set to press, the Ross football quarterback hurled a strike downcourt to a breaking Gregg Hedden for a layup and a bucket that put the game out of reach.

"He," Paeth laughed after the game while pointing to varsity assistant Coach Steve Krynock, "was responsible for that play. He got so excited when it came off, his nose began to bleed. The way Columbian

was lined up, though, we knew it was there."

"It wasn't my nose," Krynock jumped in, "I reached up to run my hand down the back of my head after the play and it was bleeding. I don't know why."

Ross survived eight of 30 shooting in the first half to trail by only a 25-19 count. In the third period, Ross was again a bit cool with seven strikes in 17 attempts but still outscored the Tornadoes 14-12 and trailed 37-33 after being behind twice by eight — 35-27 and 37-29.

"I think our kids were just too anxious," Krynock said as he tried to explain the Little Giants' cold start. "The kids wanted to do so good, they started to try too hard when the shots would not fall. It just became a snowball effect after that."

Ross used a lightning quick 1-3-1 defense throughout the first half and most of the third period before switching to a man-to-man. The zone worked to perfection, forcing numerous Columbian turnovers and completely shutting off the inside. Still, Paeth pointed out, when his team went into the man-to-man, a spark was ignited.

"It seemed like we got more aggressive," he said. "I told the kids after the third period that we were playing great defense but we needed some points. The man defense seemed to turn us around."

Held, who hit only one of his first nine shots, came back to drop in 18 to lead Ross. Bury added a dozen while Woieslagel had eight, including six in the final eight minutes.

The Little Giants, after being outscored 20-13 in the first half, came back to take control in the second half and held a 40-39 lead in that department.

Ross ended up with 22 of 38 from the floor and 13 of 18 at the line. Columbian, with Dan Felton hitting 15 and Tim Pfeiffer 14, hit 17 of 51 shots. The Tornadoes ended up with 14 of 17 at the line, hitting the first 12 straight to go with 18 straight in the first sectional game Monday.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Columbian	6	9	12	11	48
Ross	9	10	14	24	57

SCORING

COLUMBIAN: Felton 4-7-15, Gargiel 3-6-6, Pfeiffer 6-2-14, Kim 1-0-2, Smith 0-1-1, Winters 1-0-2, Peck 0-2-3, Culver 1-2-4, Bergthouser 1-0-2, totals 17-14-48.

ROSS: Harms 3-6-6, Held 9-18, Bollenbacher 0-1-1, Woieslagel 1-4-8, Hedden 3-6-6, Bury 4-12, Ameling 2-6-6, Eicher 0-0-0; totals 22-13-57.

Season records: Ross 13-4, Columbian 10-12.

'Freebies' lift Genoa past Rockets

The score book column fourth period began, Hallett had a look at that and Randy Grotz.

Genoa Coach Tom Palmerton, Denis Buehler, Hallett had a look at that and Randy Grotz.

Lexington next Ross tourney trail foe

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Biz Paeth can thank a five-minute revival period for his Ross Little Giants basketball team being able to practice Thursday and Friday.

"Yeah," he could smile, "I was glad to practice Thursday rather than vote on a MVP."

The Little Giants will square off against Lexington, 17-4, for one of two Class AAA sectional titles tonight at Ashland College. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Ross came from an eight-point deficit in the third period to overtake Tiffin Columbian in a frantic final five minutes of the game to gain the berth opposite the Minutemen. The Little Giants, 13-8, downed the Tornadoes 57-48.

"I don't really know what the reason was," Paeth, fresh from his first tournament win as a Ross coach, said as he tried to explain his team's shaky start Wednesday. "It may have been a combination of possibly first game jit-

ters and frustration set in before we got going."

Tonight, the Little Giants will have to take the game to the Minutemen before the team from Lexington has a chance to take it to Ross.

"They (Lexington) come out so aggressive," Paeth pointed out, "that if we sit back, they'll put it to us."

Paeth has nothing but praise for his team's next test. "Lexington has a lot," he flatly said. "I was really impressed with them."

The Ross coaches got a first hand look at the Minutemen during the team's 58-56 win over Mansfield Senior last Tuesday.

"They will start two 6-4 kids and one 6-5 on the inside," Paeth said as he went over the Lexington lineup. "The first kid off the bench is also 6-5."

Paeth was especially impressed with the Minutemen junior Greg Junk and the team's sixth man, 6-5 senior Dan Brado.

He pointed out that both go to the boards extremely well.

"I thought Mansfield was tough going to the boards," he said, "but Lexington got them the other night. They play a lot like Lorain Senior, only taller."

Tom Kyff, a 5-10 junior guard, canned the first four shots from the field against Mansfield prompting Paeth to describe the "good blend" of outside and inside play for the Minutemen.

Brian Timberlake, 6-4 senior, along with Junk are the men that do most of the damage inside for Lexington although it was Brado coming off the bench that provided the ignition enabling the Minutemen to get past Mansfield.

"I was impressed with their man-to-man defense," Paeth continued. "It is the best that I have seen this year."

"I bet their coach (Dan Cooper) was sitting back scouting us and saying we are going to have fun with that little 5-10

About how he feels Lexington will attack his team, the Ross coach offered, kid down there."

He was referring to Ross's 1-3-1 zone and Tom Woieslagel, the senior who plays under the bucket on the defense. Ross used that defense for nearly three quarters against Columbian.

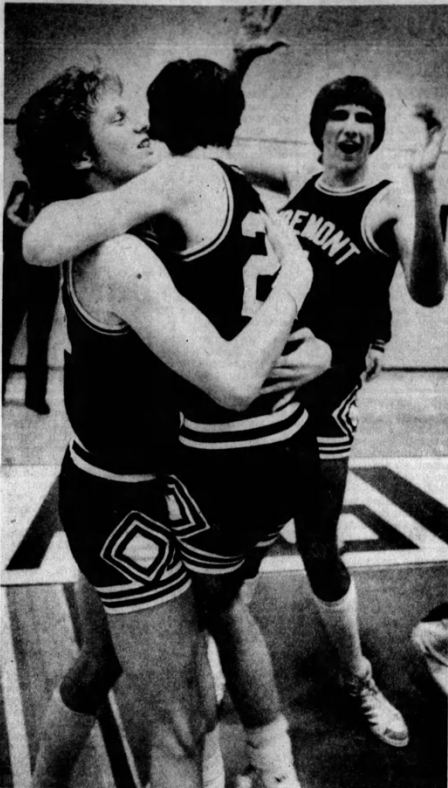
Paeth hinted that the defense would be changed, possibly with Ross using more man-to-man.

"I also want to see how well their guards handle pressure," he added.

Paeth offered two keys to the game tonight.

"Rebounding and how we execute offensively. We have to do the little things and be patient and keep going through the offense," he explained. "We can't be taking shots out of position."

The winner of tonight's game will advance to the Bowling Green Class AAA District Tournament and play next Thursday night.



CELEBRATION. Mike Held, left, grabs Ross teammate Gary Harms in a victory bear hug after Ross defeated favored Lexington 59-56 in the finals of the Ashland College Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament Saturday. The Little Giants now advance to the district tournament against Marion Harding Thursday at Bowling Green.

Bucks win in NCAA

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Center Herb Williams and guard Kelvin Ransey teamed for 50 points to lead Ohio State over Arizona State 89-75.

"I think three people in particular — Kelvin Ransey, Herb Williams and Jim Ellinghausen — had excellent games for us," said Buckeye Coach Eldon Miller.

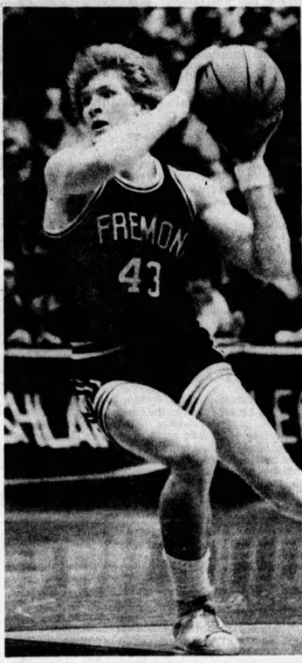
Asked to assess the UCLA Bruins' 77-71 upset of No. 1 ranked DePaul Sunday, Miller said, "I was very impressed with UCLA's rebounding and running. I think they are very outstanding in those two areas. They also have fine players." Ohio State plays UCLA at Tucson Thursday in the next playoff round.

A disappointed Ned Wulk said the Buckeyes "thoroughly outplayed" his Sun Devils.

"I just thought Ohio State was a great basketball team today. They got control of the game early and prevented us from getting into much of our game plan. We got no momentum whatsoever."

The Buckeyes, 21-7, will face UCLA, and Lamar, 22-10, will meet Clemson, 22-8, in Tucson on Thursday.

More on NCAA on page 21



ROB BOLLENBACHER of Ross looks for a place to pass during first half action of the sectional Class AAA tournament at Ashland Saturday. Bollenbacher hit the bucket that put Ross ahead for good in the final period.

Ross wins sectional title!

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

ASHLAND — It was an unusual situation for Ross: a title game.

The Little Giants can count the times on one hand that the purple and white have been in a game going for a title on the hardwood but Ross was there and Lexington's Minutemen had their muskets silenced for the season.

Ross, playing the underdog role despite being seeded second in the Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament, outgunned the Minutemen 59-56 to win the sectional crown and a spot in the Class AAA District Tournament Thursday at Bowling Green State University.

The Little Giants will play a familiar foe — Marion Harding, a 73-58 winner over Wapakoneta Saturday in the sectional at Lima. Ross and the Presidents have met twice this season with Ross winning both times.

Saturday at Ashland College, Ross's starting five and two substitutes took turns handling the hero roles. All seven scored with Mike Held's steady 13 pacing the group and Tom Woleslagel's gutsy play netting a dozen. However, it was Jerry Ameling's only bucket of the night that fired up the Little Giants for the final five minutes of the game, the key time period for the Little Giants.

Ameling leaped out of a crowd to tip in a Held miss with 4:16 to play to give Ross a 40-46 lead. That tip-in was a catalyst that forced Lexington into a pair of turnovers and a pair of timeouts in the next three minutes.

The Minutemen never did quite get their attack together after that tip-in. A bucket by Don Brado with 1:44 to play cut Ross's lead to

50-48 but Woleslagel, left alone at the top of the circle, drilled it to put Ross up 52-48 24 seconds later.

A pair of free throws by Tom Kyff brought the Minutemen back to within two at the minute mark but Woleslagel calmly dropped in two charity tosses to keep Ross up by four. Kyff hit from in close with 40 seconds left but Gregg Hedden canned two freebies and Ross kept the four-point cushion.

Lexington's 6-3 center Greg Junk hit his only bucket of the second half with 14 seconds to play but Woleslagel canned two more foul shots with seven seconds to play to put Ross up 58-64.

The game was not over, though. Held, trying to get out of Kyff's road was called for a blocking foul with three ticks of the clock remaining. Kyff hit both ends of the one and one to bring the Minutemen back to within two.

Hedden, who hit five of six free throws in the final eight minutes, was fouled deliberately by Tony Browning on the loss-in. The 6-0 Ross senior calmly hit the first free throw, missed the second, but the game was history and the Little Giants were in the district tournament.

Down the stretch, Held with his rebounding and a pair of third period buckets, Gary Harms with six third period points, and Bollenbacher with the bucket that gave Ross the lead for good at 46-45 with five and one-half minutes to play in the game, all the Little Giants played recklessly but controlled.

Using a tight "2-3" zone after opening in a man-to-man, the Little Giants took Lexington's inside game away in the second half. So well was the Ross zone disguised, it

appeared to be a man-to-man and the Minutemen tried to play it like that many times.

Ross trailed throughout the first half and seven and one-half minutes of the third period. Lexington led by eight on several occasions, the last in the first half with the biggest second half lead seven on four occasions.

Down 39-32 in the third period, Ross ran to its first lead with eight straight points. A bucket by Held gave Ross the lead with 34 seconds remaining in the third period. Ross, however, trailed 42-41 going into the final period.

The Little Giants hit five of 10 in the final period from the field while Lexington had three of nine. Ross hit nine of a dozen charity tosses in the final eight minutes.

Ross hit 22 of 50 shots and 15 of 21 from the line. Lexington, with Brian Timberlake's 18 points taking game honors, was 22 of 46 and 12 of 15 from the line. Lexington also controlled the boards 33-29 but Ross outrebounded the Taller Minutemen 17-11 in the final half.

The Little Giants committed only eight turnovers while forcing the Minutemen into 18 giveaways.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross Lexington 13 11 16 19 — 59 13 14 12 15 — 56

SCORING

ROSS: Held 5-13, Harms 4-19, Bollenbacher 3-8, Hedden 1-7, Woleslagel 4-12, Brado 5-10, Ameling 1-2; totals 22-50.

LEXINGTON: Junk 4-2-10, Timberlake 7-4-18, Huffman 4-6-8, Brado 1-1-3, Kyff 4-4-12, Browning 2-1-5; totals 22-56.

Season records: Ross 14-8, Lexington 18-4.

Ross district ticket sales

Tickets for the Ross vs. Marion Harding Class AAA District Basketball Tournament at Bowling Green State University are on sale at Tremper's.

Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students. All tickets at the Anderson Arena door are \$2.50.

Ross officials said that the school has 2,500 tickets to sell. The tickets will be on sale through Thursday.

The Little Giants and Presidents play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

News-Messenger

sports news

Little Giants medley is 12th

CANTON — Ross's medley relay team finished 12th in the Ohio High School State Swim Meet Saturday.

The team of Dave Sanna, Brian Beck, Mike Mowry and John Isaac recorded a 1:43.3 in the state show.

"The top seven teams," Ross coach Art Buccell, sporting a new "chrome dome" haircut, "finished in 1:39 or lower. All seven of those teams could be named 'all-America.'"

Buccell, who promised his swimmers if any of them finished in the top 12 they could shave his head, got his haircut Saturday.

Buccell pointed out that in the medley race, if it had not been for electric timing, the naked eye judgment would have been a three-way tie for third.

"The competition was unreal," he said. "We had good swimmers and for our juniors, they got a taste of what has to be done for next year."



JERRY AMELING of Ross reaches down while trying to come up with the ball during a scramble with three Lexington players during the first period. Greg Junk (44) of the Minutemen tries to get a hand in on the action. (News-Messenger photos by George Lundskow)

A puff on a victory cigar

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

ASHLAND — Something was wrong.

Norm "Biz" Paeth was being a hypocrite.

John Wooden, the "Wizard of Westwood," the guy who guided UCLA to all those NCAA basketball titles is Paeth's hero but the Ross coach was mimicking Red Auerbach, the coach who took the Boston Celtics to all those world professional basketball crowns.

But here was Paeth, a non-smoker, puffing on a stogie that would rival any that Auerbach ever put the match to in the final minutes of another Celtic win.

The impression would have been graded 100 percent but Paeth's face twisted up, turned a shade of red, then bordered on green while a cough shook all the color from his face. John Wooden was his hero again.

was entrusted with transporting the stogie to the game. It was the elder Woleslagel who thrust the cigar into Paeth's face and touched the flame to it.

Paeth's puffing was just a part of the celebration in the Ross locker room. The cigar was a part of the sweetest victory that the Little Giants have realized in several years.

"I'll tell you guys," Paeth said to his team, "I've won sectional titles before, but this one was the most fun."

Getting back to that cigar, Paeth offered it to members of the team — one puff only. A couple went through the act of a puff but there was no smoke passing through the lips on the exhale. They knew the lethal qualities of that stogie by the look on their coach's mug.

Paeth, once the smoke cleared was ecstatic. "I've never been so happy," he

Tom Woleslagel, who came through with the chips down with his four free throws and a long lumber for a bucket was nearly wordless.

"I don't know what it was," he laughed while talking about his clutch free throws, "I just took a deep breath. I never have been so happy."

Rob Bollenbacher, a lefthander, hit the bucket that gave Ross the lead for good with 5:30 to play. The odd thing about it was that he drove right for the key bucket. He never thought about the move, though.

"I just took off for the hole," he said, "and put it up lefthanded."

Paeth was not at a loss for giving credit for Ross's tight "2-3" zone. The defense was especially devastating to Lexington in the second half, taking away all of the Minutemen's inside game.

"Tim Pettorini (Ross junior varsity coach) and Tim Price (a