

2007 Division I Sectional Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Postseason begins Tuesday for area teams

By VINCE GUERRIERI
Sports Editor

Familiar matchups abound in the first week of girls basketball playoffs.

Many area teams will see opponents they've played before — in many instances, opponents they've seen twice due to conference schedules — in the sectionals, to be held Tuesday and Saturday.

In Division I, Ross (5-15) will face off in the first

game Tuesday at Willard against Marion Harding. The Presidents defeated Ross twice, by an average of about 34 points. However, the Little Giants ended the season strongly, winning two of their last three, against Toledo Libbey and Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky.

In Division II, the Bellevue girls will meet Port Clinton (9-10) at 7 p.m. at Old Fort, an unfamiliar

match this year. But the winner of that game will face Oak Harbor on Saturday, also at Old Fort.

In Division III, Lakota (8-12) will play Suburban Lakes League rivals Otsego at Findlay at 6:15 p.m. The winner of that game will play Columbus Grove on Saturday, also at Findlay.

Margaretta got a bye as the top seed in the Sandusky section, and they'll face a Sandusky Bay Con-

ference rival on Saturday. Edison will play Huron on Tuesday, and the winner will face the Polar Bears (16-3) on Saturday. The Polar Bears have beaten the Chargers twice this year.

Gibsonburg (7-13) will face Woodmore (5-15) in the second game at Northwood on Tuesday, with a start time around 8 p.m. The winner of that game will face Cardinal Stritch on Saturday in the second half

of a doubleheader. Suburban Lakes League champion Genoa will play either Lake or Rosssford.

In Division IV, Bettsville will play Midland Athletic League rival Tiffin Calvert in the first half of a doubleheader. The Senecas beat the Bobcats this year. In the second half of the doubleheader, Old Fort will meet Danbury. The Lakers prevailed, 79-62, in the last meeting of the two teams,

in December.

St. Joseph Central Catholic also received a first-round bye, and will play the winner of Tuesday's South Central-Norwalk St. Paul game at Norwalk on Saturday. The Crimson Streaks haven't faced South Central this year, but defeated St. Paul on the road.

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Ross run over by Willard

By **BOB PUTMAN**

Gannett News Service

WILLARD — Harding got off to a slow start Tuesday in Division I Northwest District sectional opener.

But the Lady Presidents picked up the pace in the second half, scoring 38 points, and ran away with a 59-28 victory over Fremont Ross at Willard.

It was also a special night for freshman Shawnta' Dyer.

She not only played in her first tournament game, but also set a new single-season Harding scoring mark.

Dyer tallied 20 points, including 15 in the second half, giving her 377 points for the season, breaking the old record of 361 set by Lorentha Jones.

"The team has been behind me and cheering me on to get the record," Dyer said. "I wasn't really any extra nervous because it was my first tournament game."

With Fremont Ross setting the tempo of the game, Harding took a 3-2 lead with 3:45 left in the first quarter and thanks to a pair of 3-point field goal by Jessica Jenkins held an 11-4 cushion at the end of the stanza.

The flow of the game still remained with the Lady Giants and they kept things close, trailing just 21-11 at the half.

But the Lady Presidents turned up the offense in the second half.

Limiting Fremont Ross to just six points in the third quarter, Harding nearly matched its first half point count with 19 markers, including 11 by Dyer.

"We were well prepared physically but mentally it took us 16 minutes to get focused," said Harding coach Bill Sycks. "You don't ever underestimate an opponent."

Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf knew her team had to slow the tempo of the game to stay with Harding.

"We had to slow it down to have a chance," she said. "Harding is a good team and once we got tired, they started pushing the ball up the court."

A seven-point run to start the fourth quarter upped Harding's lead to 47-17 and the Lady Presidents were well on their way to their 18th victory in 21 games.

In addition to scoring 20 points, Dyer also grabbed 15 rebounds. Jenkins totaled 17 points and dished out 17 assists.

Sycks also was pleased with the play off the bench of Sarah Woodrum, who scored six points.

Ashley Long paced Fremont Ross (4-17) with 10 points and five rebounds.

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