

1988-1989 Season Review

Ross boys open while girls travel

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

The Fremont Ross boys will get their first taste of competition while the girls will hit the road this weekend.

The Little Giants boys host Port Clinton Friday evening before traveling to Perkins Saturday night. Pat McGhee's team will follow that up with a trip to Bowling Green Tuesday.

Saturday afternoon, Coach Sue Wolf will take her girls team to Newark for the Buckeye Central Conference opener.

McGhee's team may be rusty from, of all things, too much practice.

"We are starting (the schedule) late," McGhee agreed, "plus we started practice a week earlier so some of these kids have been practicing for six weeks, and that is a long time to go without playing a game.

"Scrimmages are good but they are not the same as game experience."

The experience will come quick.

"We finally get started, but then we have three games in five days," McGhee said.

Port Clinton is one-up on the Little Giants with a game under its belt. The Redskins spotted Genoa a 15-0 lead last Saturday before coming back for a 63-60 victory.

Port Clinton point guard Steve Smith and a trio of inside players have McGhee concerned.

"Smith is a very seasoned sophomore," he said. "He will be the quickest kid on the floor and he will cause problems plus in (Dean) Gels, Wamsley (Scott) and Smallwood (Al), they have an impressive inside game."

Ross will start four senior lettermen and sophomore point guard Todd Clark. Two-year letterman Adam Bulger and Arlo Brown will be at the low posts with Mike McGee and Brad Hammer at the wings.

Bulger at 6-4 and Brown at 6-3

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are the tallest of the Little Giants starters while Wamsley is 6-4 and Gels 6-3.

The junior varsity game begins at 6:15 p.m. Friday.

Wolf's team is searching for its

first win after three consecutive home losses. Newark is also winless in three games.

"But they have played some strong teams," Wolf pointed out.

Newark has lost to Pickerington, Heath and Mansfield Senior.

"I don't know much about them," Wolf said, "but I heard from the Mansfield coach they are similar to last year, using a

1-2-1-1 press a lot."

Jennifer Foote, 5-6, and Kelly Connell, 5-10, are Newark's lone returning starters.

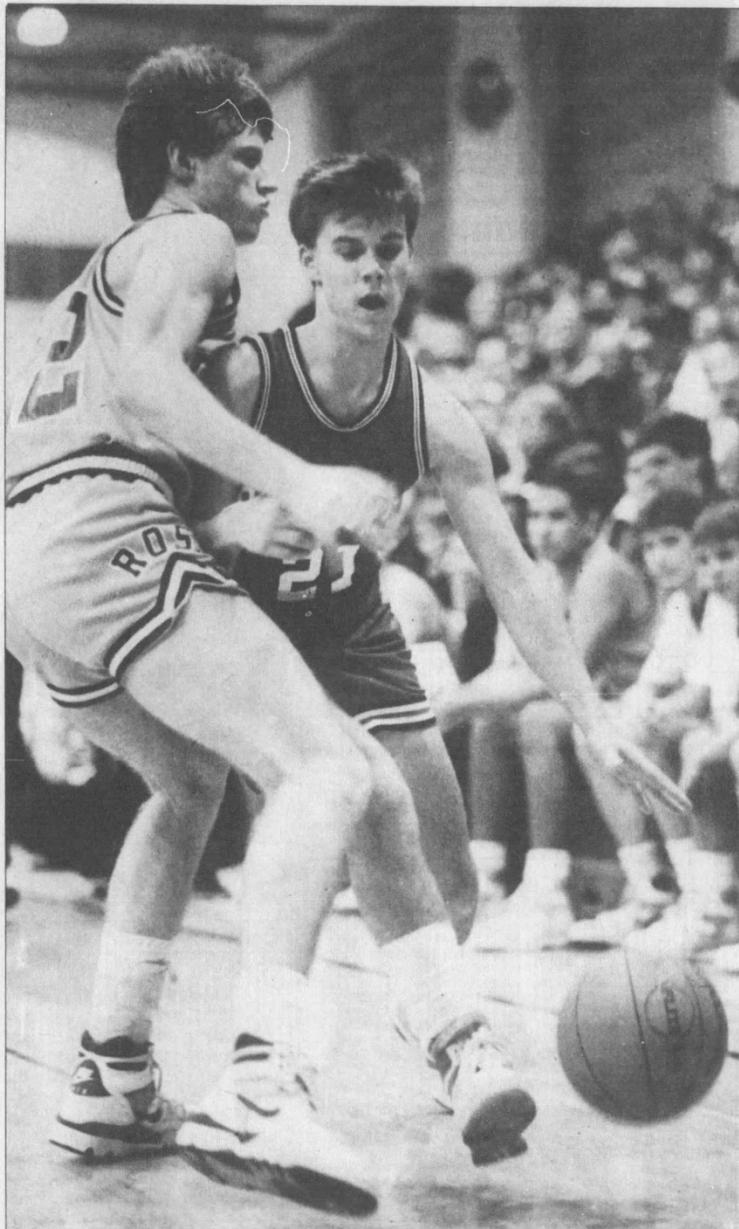
Ross has not been blown out in any of its losses. The Little Giants lost to Tiffin Columbian 36-34, Bellevue 51-42 and Huron 42-37.

"The kids have hustled and they refuse to give up," Wolf

said, "but our shooting is killing us. Defensively, we have played well, but offensively — it's not that we are not getting the shots because we are — we are just not making them."

After Saturday's trip to the southern reaches of the BCC, the Ross girls will travel to Sandusky Perkins Tuesday and visit Clyde Thursday.

Ross whips Port Clinton 64-43



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

JASON BODAGER of Port Clinton dribbles around Shane McConnell of Fremont Ross during the Redskins' loss to the Little Giants Friday night.

Little Giants start fast against 'Skins

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

This time, Ross did not allow history to repeat. Six days earlier, Port Clinton fell behind 15-0 to Genoa only to bounce back for a 63-60 win.

Friday night, the Redskins fell behind 11-2, then 13-2 and in increments of torrid Ross shooting and rebounding, all the way to 23-2. That was it; history would not repeat.

Survival became the goal for Port Clinton as Ross ran past Port Clinton 64-43 Friday in a packed Ross "Purple Pit" in the Little Giants' season-opening basketball game.

"It was one of those games," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee, "where everything we tried seemed to go our way."

"We got our press set early and we were able to create turnovers and scoring opportunities off our defense."

"We got the ball on our first couple of possessions," said Port Clinton Coach Tom Bodager, "and we got it down the court pretty good but we did not convert."

Those missed chances were omens of misfortunes to come.

After that, Bodager said, "They manhandled us."

The Ross defense forced 24 Redskin turnovers and allowed the Redskins just 18 field goals in 50 attempts, while Ross was 27 of 65.

Jason Bodager scored 21 points for Port Clinton, hitting five of eight three-point attempts.

The Redskins were getting few second chances as the taller Little Giants held a 49-25 rebounding edge. Arlo Brown, who led Ross with 20 points, had 18 rebounds, including eight offensive boards.

Mike McGee had 13 points and eight rebounds and Brad Hammer had 12 points on four of 11 shots from three-point range for Ross. Adam Bulger grabbed eight rebounds for the Little Giants, half of those off the offensive board.

Bodager was the only Redskin in double figures. Al Smallwood came off the bench for nine points.

"We have played Sandusky and Ross down through the years," Bodager said, "and it has never been like this."

"It was," Bodager agreed with a bystander, "an old-fashioned whooping."

Port Clinton trailed 23-4 after one quarter as McGee tossed in nine points, Brown six and Hammer hit two three-pointers in the first eight minutes.

The Redskins surged briefly in the second quarter, closing to within 15 at 25-10 but Ross scored

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ROSS

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the next 13 points and the contest was over. At halftime, Brown sank a rebound shot and Ross walked off with a 42-16 lead.

It was status quo in the final 16 minutes with Ross playing out the string and the Redskins flailing away helplessly.

Ross played without point guard Todd Clark who was injured in Wednesday's practice.

"He sprained his ankle so badly, we thought it was broken," McGhee said. "He will be out at least four weeks."

If Clark is out that long, he

will miss 10 games, half of the season.

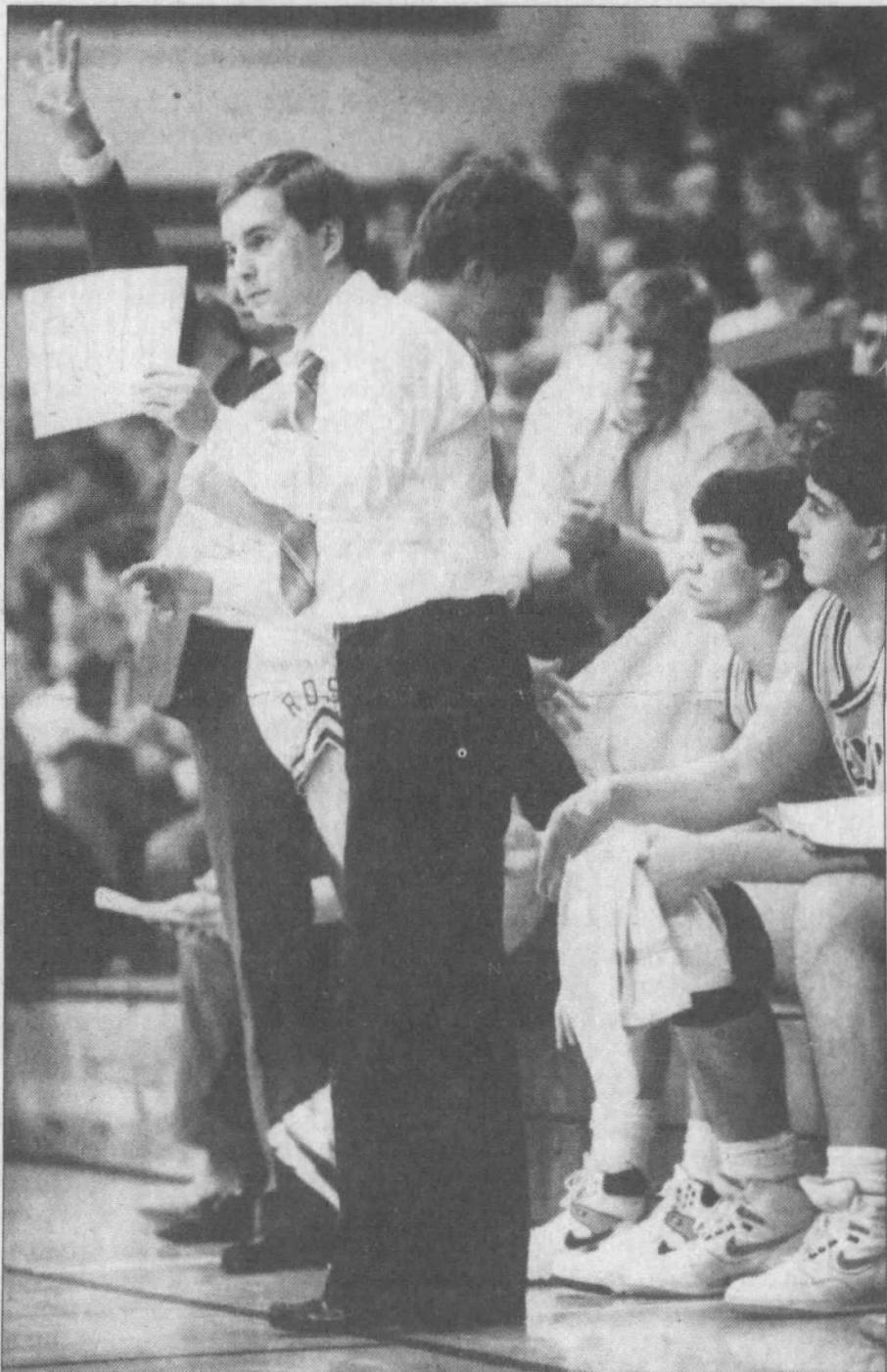
"We were concerned what we wanted to do because we practiced only one day without Clark," the Ross coach said, "but we took care of the ball very well. Hammer and Bulger adjusted very well to bringing the ball down. Everyone was making intelligent passes."

McGhee claimed his team had a "sixth man" on the court.

"The crowd was a factor," he said. "These kids are very emotional and they play well when they have a big crowd at home and on the road."

Port Clinton visits Norwalk tonight while Ross travels to Sandusky for a game against Perkins.

By the numbers



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Fremont Ross basketball coach Pat McGhee signals a play into his squad during Friday night's game against Port Clinton. Playing by the numbers added up to a 64-43 win for the Little Giants. **Details, B-1.**

Ross 64, P. Clinton 43

Score by quarters

Port Clinton

4 12 12 15 — 43

Ross

23 19 11 11 — 64

Scoring

PORT CLINTON — Al Smallwood 4-1-9, Aaron Buxton 1-0-2, Dean Gels 0-1-1, Jason Bodager 8-0-21, Steve Smith 2-0-4, Scott Wamsley 3-0-6, totals 18-2-43.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-2-6, Arlo Brown 9-2-20, Shane McConnell 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 4-0-12, Mike McGee 6-1-13, Tony Roob 2-0-4, Justin Oxley 0-1-1, Cory Lance 1-0-2, totals 27-6-64.

3-point goals: Bodager 5, Hammer 4.

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

Late Perkins rally, overtime blitz stops Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — Timing is essential but not the only thing.

"We had our chances to win the game at the foul line (in regulation)," said Ross boys basketball Coach Pat McGhee after his team dropped an 88-76 decision to Perkins in overtime, "but we made a lot of them to get to that point."

Ross got there but the Pirates finished it off, scoring the last 14 points of the game, including 12 unanswered points in overtime while defeating the Little Giants Saturday night at Perkins High School.

Rob Boos' jump shot from the foul line with three seconds re-

maining in regulation sent the game into the extra period knotted at 76-76. Dennis Neate hit two free throws 25 seconds into overtime, Boos followed with a bucket and two more three throws and the Pirates had stolen one from the Little Giants.

The game was marked by hard, physical play, but more glaringly by the timekeeper failing to start the clock on five occasions.

Perhaps, the most noticeable time was at the end of the third quarter. Ross had the ball out-of-bounds just inside half-court with one second remaining. The pass inbounds was intercepted by Perkins' Lonell Taylor, who bobbed the ball, controlled it,

took a couple of dribbles and got off a shot just past midcourt. The ball hit the backboard, and banged through, giving the Pirates a 55-54 lead.

All in the space of one second. A disputed one second.

McGhee, though upset with the slow finger on the clock, would not blame that for his team's loss.

"No, that was not the reason," he said. "We had our chances to win and on the road, that is what you want ... a chance to win."

Trailing 75-70 with 28 seconds left to play, Perkins rallied while surviving a technical foul. Jim Guerrera hit a pair of free throws and a layup after a Ross turnover, cutting the lead to 75-

74 with 13 seconds remaining.

On the Little Giants inbounds play, the Pirates' Larry Sparks was charged with a technical foul for touching the ball while it was the hands of the Little Giants Cory Lance, who was attempting to toss the ball inbounds.

Brad Hammer hit the first of the technicals but missed the second, his first miss after nine consecutive successful free throws in the final quarter. Ross had the ball again and with 10 seconds left, Hammer was fouled but watched his free throw bounce off the iron. Neate grabbed the rebound and after a Perkins timeout, Boos hit the tying shot.

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ROSS

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Ross made 22 of 28 free throws and Perkins 31 of 40.

"When our kids came back to the bench before the overtime," Perkins Coach Pat Riley said, "they said 'We are going to win this in overtime.' They could see that when Ross had those big scorers on the bench."

The big scorers were Adam Bulger, Arlo Brown and Mike McGee, all lost on fouls within a span of 40 seconds in the final quarter. The last to go was Bulger with 2:02 remaining while McGee, who had 21 points, was the first with 2:42 to play. Bulger had eight points and Brown seven and all three were vital cogs in the Ross rebounding game.

Hammer finished with 22 points and Shane McConnell had 11 for the Little Giants. Taylor had 24 points for the Pirates, Boos 19 and Neate 18.

Basketball

High School Boys

Perkins 88, Ross 76 (OT)

Score by quarters

Ross	23	14	17	22	0	— 76
Perkins	17	17	21	21	12	— 88

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 4-0-8, Arlo Brown 2-3-7, Shane McConnel 4-3-11, Mike McGee 9-3-21, Brad Hammer 4-9-22, Justin Oxley 2-1-6, Tony Roob 0-3-3, totals 25-22-76.

PERKINS — David Voight 1-6-8, Rob Boos 6-7-19, Lonell Taylor 8-6-24, Dennis Neate 5-9-18, Jim Guerrera 5-5-16, Danny Rupp 1-0-3, totals 26-31-88.

3-point goals: Hammer 3, Oxley, Taylor 2, Neate, Guerrera, Rupp.

Records: Ross 1-1, Perkins 1-1.

Ross JVs 44, Perkins 36

Score by quarters

Ross	5	16	10	13	—	44
Perkins	7	8	12	9	—	36

Scoring

ROSS — Mark Gottron 2-7-11, Doug Gahn 3-3-9, Nick Wolf 2-2-6, Chris Wolfe 6-2-14, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 15-14-44.

PERKINS — Jason Wierman 5-1-11, George Lenyo 1-3-5, Shannon Mullins 3-2-9, Drew Acierito 1-0-2, Larry Kingseed 2-1-5, Jerry Lottman 1-2-4, totals 13-8-36.

3-point goals: Lenyo, Mullins.

Records: Ross 2-0.

Ross wears out Bowling Green

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — Ross was tired but it was Bowling Green that got worn out.

The Little Giants, playing their third game in five days, faltered briefly in the third quarter before rallying and pulling out a 63-55 high school boys basketball victory over Bowling Green Tuesday night.

Ross, 2-1, got 26 points and nine rebounds from Arlo Brown and 16 points and 10 rebounds from Adam Bulger.

The Little Giants outrebounded the taller, but not as quick, Bobcats 48-31. Twenty-seven of the Ross rebounds were off the offensive glass.

"These kids are tired," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee while savoring the thoughts of a week off. "We are going to let the kids study and relax for awhile."

Relax, something the Little Giants would not let Bowling Green do.

"We made an adjustment at halftime," said BG Coach Tom Rex. "We tried to get more kids into the paint (foul lane) so they could go for the rebound.

"That slowed Ross down for awhile but they came back and wore us down on the boards."

Ross led 31-24 at halftime but the Bobcats, 1-2, outscored the Little Giants 12-2 in the first three minutes of the second half for a 36-33 lead.

Ross, after two quick timeouts, then shook the slight slump.

A basket by Bulger and two free throws by Brown were sandwiched around Greg Titus' layup.

Cory Lance put Ross ahead for good, 39-38, with 2:30 remaining

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ROSS

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when he grabbed an offensive rebound and hit an eight-foot jump shot.

Ross bounced out to a 10-point lead, 53-43, on a pair of Brown baskets midway through the final period.

Bowling Green rallied behind

Dave Whitmire and trailed 57-55 with 32 seconds left, but Brown canned four consecutive free throws and Bulger hit an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to top off the win.

"We did a nice job getting position for the pass and rebound," McGhee said. "It was a physical game but the key for us was inside with Brown, Bulger and (Tony) Roob. We used our quickness to stop their size."

Ross was 25 of 68 from the floor and 13 of 16 from the foul line. The Little Giants committed 17 turnovers.

Bowling Green made 22 of 52 shots and was nine of 11 at the foul line. The Bobcats had 20 turnovers, including 13 in the second half against the Ross press.

Ross will host Toledo Woodward Dec. 13. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 63, B. Green 55

Score by quarters

Ross	.	.	12	19	12	20	— 63
Bowling Green	.	.	14	10	17	14	— 55

Scoring

ROSS — Cory Lance 1-0-2, Justin Oxley 0-0-0, Brad Hammer 0-2-2, Adam Bulger 7-2-16, Mike McGee 3-3-9, Shane McConnell 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 10-6-26, Tony Roob 1-0-2, totals 25-13-63.

BOWLING GREEN — Greg Titus 4-2-10, Dave Whitmire 5-5-17, Steve Hart 5-2-12, Chris Kec 3-0-6, Jeremy Kerr 2-0-4, Imanu Lewis 3-0-6, totals 22-9-11.

3-point goals: Whitmire 2.

Records: Ross 2-1, Bowling Green 0-1.

Ross JVs 44, B. Green 37

Score by quarters

Ross	16	13	8	7	— 44
Bowling Green	13	7	4	13	— 37

Scoring

ROSS — Mark Gottron 3-1-7, Doug Gahn 1-5-7, Tim Nesbitt 1-0-2, Nick Wolf 3-0-6, Chris Wolfe 6-0-9-12, Jeff Green 5-0-10, totals 19-6-44.

BOWLING GREEN — Jerry Bingham 1-0-2, John Effner 4-4-12, Bill Scovell 7-1-15, Dave Burkle 2-0-4, Chris Flynn 1-0-2, Matt Kallmeyer 1-0-2, totals 16-5-37.

3-point goals: None.

Records: Ross 3-0.

Little Giants sneak past Woodward

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

It was a game Ross was grateful to win and one that Woodward would not let itself win.

Shane McConnell scored 10 fourth-quarter points and Mike McGee muscled in 18 points as Ross held off the Polar Bears 58-53 Tuesday night at Ross High School.

Ross survived 34 percent shooting (17-for-50) and for the first time in four games, lost the rebounding battle. The Little Giants are now 3-1.

Woodward, which got 28 points from Corey Allison, slipped to 1-5.

"Woodward set the tempo of the game," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee, "and controlled the boards.

"It was a game that we are grateful we won."

The Polar Bears had their chances to pull out a win, but a series of four turnovers and two missed layups down the stretch shot them down.

"We were down by two (51-49) and got the ball," Woodward Coach Kim McCualsky recalled, "but Corey missed a layup and we got the rebound but missed another layup.

"After that, we were forced to foul."

McGee was fouled and made one of two free throws for a 52-49 lead.

Brad Hammer, the Little Giants' top foul shooter, was fouled by Allison, sinking both free throws for a five-point lead before Ervin Smith's layup cut the Ross lead to 54-51. McGee canned two free throws with 24 seconds left.

After Allison hit two foul shots, Hammer iced the game with two free throws with four seconds left.

"The key to the game," McGhee said, "was McConnell in the fourth quarter and the kids coming off the bench, especially (Justin) Oxley who I thought played a very good floor game."

The game was deadlocked 34-34 after three quarters, but Ross ran off five straight points on

ROSS

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two McConnell free throws, a foul shot by Adam Bulger and McConnell's eight-footer from the left side to open the forth period.

Woodward bounced back with Allison's bucket cutting the Ross lead to 39-38 with less than six minutes remaining.

After Bulger hit a pair of foul shots, the Polar Bears' string of turnovers helped Ross build a 45-38 lead. McConnell's steal and layup and Hammer's bucket gave Ross the seven-point lead with 4:15 remaining.

Woodward, with Allison leading the charge, got back to

within two before McGee and Hammer hit the clinching free throws down the stretch.

"Woodward is a fine defensive team," McGee said, "and I think we got frustrated because we could never get the game flowing right. We may have forced some shots but you have to win games like this."

Ross was outrebounded 40-34 but 17 of the Little Giants' rebounds were on the offensive boards. The Little Giants had 16 turnovers but just six in the second half. Paced by McGee's eight of 14, the Little Giants were 23 of 36 from the foul line.

Hammer and McConnell had

13 points apiece.

Allison was the only Woodward player in double figures.

"He really is our only offensive threat," McCualsky said.

Allison was eight of 17 from the floor and 11 of 16 at the foul line. Woodward made 18 of 43 shots, 42 percent, and 16 of 25 free throws. The Polar Bears had 23 turnovers but eight were in the final eight minutes.



Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 58, Woodward 53

Score by quarters

Woodward	7	13	14	19	— 53
Ross	9	13	12	24	— 58

Scoring

WOODWARD — Joe Anderson 2-0-2, Corey Allison 8-11-28, Shawn Hoskins 1-2-4, Ervin Smith 2-0-4, David Nelson 2-3-7, Charles Rose 1-0-2, Chris Reynolds 2-0-4, Fred Woods 1-0-2, totals 18-16-53.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 1-3-5, Arlo Brown 1-3-5, Mike McGee 5-6-18, Shane McConnell 5-3-13, Brad Hammer 3-6-13, Justin Oxley 2-0-4, totals 17-23-58.

3-point goals: Allison, Hammer.

Records: Ross 3-1, Woodward 1-5.

Ross 56 JV 56, W'ward 29

Score by quarters

Woodward	9	7	13	7	— 56
Ross	16	14	9	17	— 56

Scoring

WOODWARD — Antione Mim 1-0-2, Kevin Rome 7-1-16, Mike Duhamel 1-0-3, Allen Aiken 1-1-3, Ed Smith 1-0-2, George 1-0-2, totals 19-9-56.

ROSS — Darnell McDonald 0-2-2, Mark Gettron 3-3-7, Doug Gahn 3-6-12, Tim Nesbitt 4-0-9, Mike Byrnes 0-1-1, Nick Wolfe 1-0-2, Joe Frazier 0-0-2, Chris Wolfe 7-0-15, Jeff Green 3-0-6, totals 30-14-56.

3-point goals: Rome, Nesbitt, Wolfe.

Records: Ross 4-0, Woodward 1-5.

Ross defeats Lancaster in BCC opener

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Little things made a difference in Friday night's 57-53 Fremont Ross victory over Lancaster.

Most prominently, tip-ins and missed foul shots allowed Ross to open Buckeye Central Conference play on a positive note.

Lancaster, 2-3 and 0-2 in the BCC, shot 47 percent (seven-for-15) from the free throw line.

"(Foul shots) just killed us tonight," said Lancaster Coach Jack Greathouse, adding that each of his players shoots 100 free throws every morning before school.

Adam Bulger and Arlo Brown, meanwhile, turned three missed foul shots into Ross baskets.

"We got hurt on both ends," Greathouse said. "We didn't make our free throws and didn't box out when they missed."

Lancaster's misses consistently took the wind out of the Golden Gales' sails. The tip-ins by Bulger and Brown seemed to give Ross momentum when the Little Giants needed it most.

"It was a close game and usually close games are won with defense and rebounding," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee. "Tonight was no exception."

Ross outscored Lancaster 10-3 over the first 3:02 of the fourth quarter despite five turnovers. Bulger sparked the run when he tipped in Mike McGee's missed free throw in the opening minute of the period.

Tim Graham's jump shot with 1:08 left to play capped Lancas-

ter's comeback from a 49-39 deficit. That made it 52-51.

The Gales, though, committed two costly turnovers before Bulger again tipped in a McGee miss from the foul line with 41 seconds left.

Brown made one of two from the line and Lancaster's Greg Cave added a short jumper from the lane before Brown sealed it for Ross with a slam dunk with four seconds remaining.

Ross, 4-1, outrebounded Lancaster 39-25. The Little Giants' total included 21 offensive rebounds. Bulger and Brown each blocked four shots to spearhead the defensive charge.

"We knew that they had some talent and had scored some points against some good competition," said McGhee. "I thought we had to locate Graham as soon as possible on defense and neutralize them inside, and I think we did that."

Graham, the fourth leading scorer in the BCC, finished with a quiet 12 points. Lancaster's Eric Lockhart (6-5), Cave (6-6) and Scott Reed (6-4) combined for 19 points but grabbed just nine rebounds.

Brown led all scorers with 17 points and had nine rebounds and Bulger had 16 points to go along with a game-high 12 rebounds.

"You have to get points any way you can," McGhee said. "Until we get a little settled on the perimeter with some outside

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News-Messenger/Chris Walker

SHANE McCONNELL of Ross goes up with a shot against Lancaster in the third quarter at Ross High School. Eric Lockhart (50) of Lancaster defends.

ROSS

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shooting, we have to have strong low-post play and we did tonight.

"That was the difference in our offense. They were sitting on (Brad) Hammer and that freed Adam and Arlo up inside and they went to work on the boards."

After an early 2-2 tie, the lead changed hands 10 times in the first half. Shane McConnell's three-point shot from the top of the key knotted it at 24-all eight seconds before halftime.

The Gales, whose biggest lead in the first half was four at 9-5, missed four of six free throws before the intermission. Brown's tip-in after McConnell missed from the foul line with 3:40 remaining allowed Ross to match

its biggest lead of the half at 19-16.

Ross, which led by as many as five in the third quarter, took the lead for good with 5:55 left in the period on Brown's three-point play off a nice pass from Bulger.

The Little Giants, who led 39-36 after three quarters, committed seven of their 21 turnovers in the fourth quarter but only two in the final four minutes.

"The turnovers were a concern in the fourth quarter," said McGheee. "Then we went back to two guards with Hammer and (Justin) Oxley and that helped against their press."

Hammer and Oxley, with the help of the 6-4 Bulger, handled Lancaster's 1-3-1 trap easily.

The Gales missed three more foul shots in the fourth quarter.

"It's the little things that mean a lot," Greathouse said.

High School Boys

Ross 57, Lancaster 53

Score by quarters

Lancaster	10	14	12	17	— 53
Ross	9	15	15	18	— 57

Scoring

LANCASTER — Tim Graham 6-0-12, Greg Cave 3-0-6, Beau Garverick 3-2-9, Kacy Kern 4-0-9, Eric Lockhart 1-1-3, Joel Foote 2-0-4, Scott Reed 3-4-10, totals 22-7-51

ROSS — Adam Bulger 8-0-16, Arlo Brown 7-4-19, Mike McGee 3-1-7, Brad Hammer 3-0-6, Shane McConnell 1-0-3, Tony Roob 1-1-3, Justin Oxley 1-0-2, Cory Lance 1-0-2, totals 25-6-57.

3-points goals: Kern, Garverick, McConnell.

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

Lancaster JV 53, Ross 45

Score by quarters

Lancaster	9	18	12	14	— 53
Ross	4	16	14	11	— 45

Scoring

LANCASTER — B.J. Holland 0-1-1, Bucky Triplett 5-2-12, Bill Dilley 7-0-14, Tim Henwood 7-0-14, Todd Kauffman 6-0-12, totals 25-3-53.

ROSS — Mark Gottron 5-0-11, Doug Gahn 2-2-6, Tim Nesbitt 1-0-2, Nick Wolf 3-0-7, Chris Benson 1-1-3, Joe Frazier 1-0-2, Chris Wolfe 4-2-10, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 19-5-45.

3-point goals: Gottron, Wolf.

Records: Lancaster 3-2, Ross 4-1.

Ross stops Harding for 5th win

News-Messenger reports

MARION — Ross doubled the score on Harding in the first quarter and used the cushion to record a 65-57 win over the Presidents Saturday night.

The victory was the fifth in six games for Coach Pat McGhee's Little Giants. Harding is winless in seven games.

"We jumped out to the big lead (22-11)," McGhee said, "and basically, kept it. We were up, I think, 18 in the second half.

"They came back at us in the fourth quarter but we made the free throws when we had to," the Ross Coach said.

Ross led 51-37 after three quarters.

The Little Giants made just six of 12 foul shots, all in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter, but the closest Harding got was the final score.

Adam Bulger made eight of 11 shots for the floor — one, a three-pointer — and scored 21 points for the Little Giants. The 6-4 senior also grabbed 13 rebounds.

Mike McGee, the Little Giants' leading scorer, hit his season average, dropping in 15 points.

"Adam played an excellent game," McGhee said, "and Mike has been playing solidly for us all season."

Brad Hammer had 10 for Ross with all three his three goals from three-point range. Arlo Brown added seven points and eight rebounds.

"We shot the ball better," McGhee said about his team's 27 of 54 shooting.

Ross will host Toledo St. Francis Tuesday before hitting the road Friday, traveling to the southern tier of the Buckeye Central Conference for a game against undefeated Newark, 7-0 and 2-0 in the BCC. Ross is 1-0 in the BCC.

St. Francis is 4-2, losing to Toledo City League powers Scott and Macomber. Newark defeated Findlay Friday 67-61 in overtime.

"The caliber of teams we have played so far has been good but it picks up another notch this week," McGhee said.

The junior varsity game Tuesday begins at 6 p.m. while the JV tipoff is at 6:15 Friday.

In the junior varsity game at Marion, Ross also won for the fifth time in six games, 67-41.

The Little Giants led 33-17 at the half and after a 12-12 stand-off in the third quarter, out-scored Harding 22-12 in the final period.

Ten Ross players scored with Chris Wolfe's 16 and Chris Benson's 10 topping the list.

High School Boys

Ross 65, M. Harding 57

Score by quarters

Ross	22	13	16	14	— 65
Harding	11	15	11	20	— 57

Scoring

ROSS — Justin Oxley 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 3-1-10, Adam Bulger 9-2-21, Mike McGee 6-3-15, Shane McConnell 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 3-1-7, Tony Roob 2-0-4, totals 27-7-65.

HARDING — Derek Foos 3-1-7, Jason Watts 1-0-2, Peet Keating 4-4-12, Chris Oliver 2-2-6, Ty Stoneburner 10-2-22, Jason Gandee 1-2-4, Randy Baker 2-0-4, totals 23-11-57.

3-point goals: Hammer 3, Bulder.

Season record: Ross 5-1, Harding 0-7.

Ross JV 67, Harding 41

Score by quarters

Ross	14	19	12	22	— 67
Harding	8	9	12	12	— 41

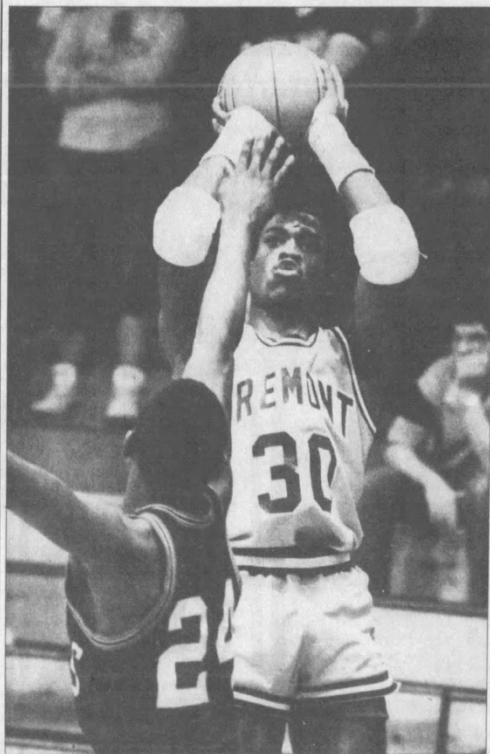
Scoring

ROSS — Darnell McDonald 1-0-2, Mark Gottron 1-0-2, Doug Gahn 3-2-8, Tim Nesbitt 2-0-4, Steve Fox 3-0-6, Nick Wolf 3-1-7, Chris Benson 4-2-10, Chris Wolfe 8-0-16, Kelvin McMorris 3-2-8, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 30-7-67.

HARDING — Harter 2-4-8, Hunt 2-0-4, Ramier 1-0-2, Brown 2-3-7, Imbody 1-0-2, Helton 1-4-7, Adams 1-0-2, Phinisee 1-2-4, McDonell 0-1-1, Stone 1-0-2, Schoonover 1-0-2, totals 13-14-41.

3-point goal: Helton.

Season record: Ross 5-1.



News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

MIKE McGEE of Fremont Ross lines up a jump shot as Al Baker of Toledo St. Francis defends during St. Francis's victory over Ross Tuesday night.

Ross falls in physical contest

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was basketball in disguise. You expected to see a yellow flag thrown into the middle of the numerous pileups, but there were none in the rough-and-tumble game that could have passed for arena football.

Instead of the flag, a shrill whistle dominated the Purple Pit and in the end, Toledo St. Francis had outslugged Fremont Ross 52-47 in a non-conference bout. There were 41 fouls called with St. Francis making 21 of 32 foul shots and Ross 14 of 16.

"That was one hell of a physical game," St. Francis Coach Ray Schreiter said.

Schreiter may have felt more at home than Ross Coach Pat McGhee. The gym was painted purple and white and the sign at the east end of the gym said "The Purple Pit, Home of the Little Giants" but the Ross coach may have had to do a double take.

"We had 26 fouls and they had 15," McGhee said as he ran his finger down the foul column in the scoring book. "That did not cost us the game but it did not help."

"We dug ourselves into a hole. We got a 6-0 lead and then let them get a 20-point run on us. St. Francis is a quality team and it is hard to come back from 14-down."

"We just ran out of energy trying to get back into the game. This was our fourth game in eight days and I think it showed."

Adam Bulger put Ross ahead 2-0 a minute into the game and Todd Clark scored his first points of the season, hitting two buckets for a 6-0 Ross lead with six minutes remaining in the initial quarter.

St. Francis' defense took over from there.

"We play what we feel is the best man-to-man defense in the (Toledo) city league," Schreiter said.

Three minutes into the first quarter, James Johnson got the Knights on the board with a shot in the middle of the paint. There was no stopping St. Francis after that. The Knights picked up steam and the St. Francis defense shut Ross off cold.

Anthony Williams and Jerome Gray scored six points each, Johnson and Craig Eastop four apiece and the Knights had a 20-6 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Ross made just three of 19 shots and St. Francis seven of 14.

Mike McGee, who led Ross with 22 points including 10 of 10 from the foul line, scored his first points of the game 13 seconds into the second quarter to end the St. Francis run. McGee canned 10 more in the period and Ross trailed 32-24 at the half.

"To Fremont's credit after that first quarter, they made some adjustments and midway through the second quarter, they were making it tough on our offense," Schreiter said.

Both defenses dominated play in the third quarter with both teams scoring six points.

In the final eight minutes, Ross fell behind 40-30 on Gray's layup, 30 seconds into the period. Ross trailed again 44-34 with 5:19 remaining but closed to within three — 45-42 — on Brad Hammer's jump shot with 2:40 to play.

The Little Giants failed to convert on a turnover 30 seconds later and Gray's two foul shots made it 47-42 before Arlo Brown's tip closed the gap to three again with 1:05 showing on the clock.

Ross could get no closer as Gray sank two more free throws and Craig Eastop, all alone under the basket, took a pass from Johnson for a layup and a 51-44 lead with 25 seconds left. Bulger's three-points capped the Ross scoring 11 seconds later.

"Both teams played exceptional defense," McGhee said. "Our defense kept us in the game and their's took us out of our offense."

Ross made just 16 of 57 shots and St. Francis 15 of 40.

"The defenses had a lot to do with that," McGhee said.

McGee was the only Ross player in double figures. Gray had 16 for St. Francis and Williams finished with 13, all in the first half.

Ross out-rebounded the Knights 41-37 and had 15 turnovers, four less than St. Francis.

Ross, which has three more games in the next nine days, travels to Newark Friday for a Buckeye Conference game. Newark is 7-0 and sits atop the BCC race with a 2-0 mark.

High School Boys

St. Francis 52, Ross 47

Score by quarters

St. Francis	20	12	6	14	— 52
Ross	6	18	6	17	— 47

Scoring

ST. FRANCIS — Jerome Gray 4-8-16, Al Baker 1-1-3, Anthony Williams 5-2-13, James Johnson 3-1-7, Rayman Dixon 0-7-7, Craig Eastop 2-2-6, totals 15-21-52.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 4-0-9, Arlo Brown 2-2-6, Mike McGee 6-10-22, Brad Hammer 2-0-4, Justin Oxley 0-0-0, Todd Clark 2-2-6, totals 16-14-47.

3-point goals: Williams, Bulger.

Records: St. Francis 5-2, Ross 5-2.

Ross JV 39, St. Francis 37

Score by quarters

St. Francis	10	8	6	13	— 37
Ross	8	4	8	19	— 39

Scoring

ST. FRANCIS — Fred Borgerson 1-0-2, Charlie Davis 1-0-2, Jeff Edgecombe 4-0-8, Derrick Forrest 2-0-4, Larry Sykes 8-1-17, Kevin Baker 2-0-4, totals 18-1-37.

ROSS — Mark Gottron 2-5-9, Doug Gahn 0-4-4, Nick Wolf 6-1-13, Joe Frazier 1-0-2, Chris Wolfe 3-0-6, Kelvin McMorris 12-15-39.

Records: Ross 6-1.

Newark flattens Ross 84-44

News-Messenger reports

NEWARK — Jeff Brown sank four three-point baskets and undefeated Newark outscored Fremont Ross 35-11 in the second quarter en route to an 84-44 Buckeye Central Conference basketball win Friday.

Newark, 8-0 and 3-0 in BCC play, made 13 of 22 shots in the second period. Newark had a 16-14 lead after one quarter.

Brown, the leading scorer in the BCC, finished with 23 points. Teammates Scott Thompson scored 16 and Dwayne Romine added 14. Eleven of 12 Newark players who saw action, scored.

Mike McGee was the only Little Giant in double figures with 12.

Ross made just 13 of 51 shots while Newark connected on 34 of 63 attempts.

Ross, for the first time this season, was outrebounded 43-27.

In the junior varsity game, Newark handed the Little Giants a 58-42 setback, the second loss in eight games for Ross.

High School Boys

Newark 84, Ross 44

Score by quarters

Ross	14	11	8	11	— 44
Newark	16	35	19	14	— 84

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-2-6, Arlo Brown 0-2-2, Mike McGee 3-6-12, Brad Hammer 3-0-7, Todd Clark 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 1-0-3, Cory Lance 1-2-4, Tony Roob 1-3-5, Justin Oxley 1-0-3, totals 13-14-44.

NEWARK — Jeff Brown 9-0-23, Doug Devoll 2-0-5, Scott Thompson 8-0-16, Trent Evans 2-2-6, Dwayne Romine 6-2-14, Alsinder Allen 2-0-4, Jef Wells 2-1-5, Ryuto Takahaski 1-2-4, Jeff Quackenbush 1-1-3, Kyle Fink 0-2-2, Rob Evans 1-0-2, totals 34-10-84.

3-point goals: Hammer, McConnell, Oxley, Brown 5, Devoll.

Records: Newark 8-0 (3-0), Ross 5-3 (1-1).

Newark JV 58, Ross 42

Score by quarters

Ross	9	8	15	10	— 42
Newark	11	17	17	13	— 58

Scoring

ROSS — Chris Wolfe 3-3-10, Nick Wolf 3-0-7, Doug Gahn 3-2-8, Chris Benson 1-4-6, Tim Nesbitt 2-1-5, Kelvin McMorris 1-2-4, Mark Gottron 1-0-2, totals 14-12-42.

NEWARK — Ryan Beeney 6-0-13, Bobby Sellers 4-4-12, Jeff Wells 3-4-10, Jeff Quackenbush 4-1-9, Chris O'Dell 2-0-4, Brice Jones 1-1-3, David Bershas 1-1-3, Ray Brown 1-0-2, Craig Hayes 1-0-2, totals 23-11-58.

3-point goals: Wolfe, Wolf, Beeney.

Records: Newark 5-2, Ross 6-2.

Newark flattens Ross 84-44

News-Messenger reports

NEWARK — Jeff Brown sank four three-point baskets and undefeated Newark outscored Fremont Ross 35-11 in the second quarter en route to an 84-44 Buckeye Central Conference basketball win Friday.

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High School Boys

Newark 84, Ross 44

Score by quarters

Ross	14	11	8	11	— 44
Newark	16	35	19	14	— 84

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-2-6, Arlo Brown 0-2-2, Mike McGee 3-6-12, Brad Hammer 3-0-7, Todd Clark 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 1-0-3, Cory Lance 1-2-4, Tony Roob 1-3-5, Justin Oxley 1-0-3, totals 13-14-44.

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3-point goals: Hammer, McConnell, Oxley, Brown 5, Devoll.

Records: Newark 8-0 (3-0), Ross 5-3 (1-1).

Newark JV 58, Ross 42

Score by quarters

Ross	9	8	15	10	— 42
Newark	11	17	17	13	— 58

Scoring

ROSS — Chris Wolfe 3-3-10, Nick Wolf 3-0-7, Doug Gahn 3-2-8, Chris Benson 1-4-6, Tim Nesbitt 2-1-5, Kelvin McMorris 1-2-4, Mark Gottron 1-0-2, totals 14-12-42.

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3-point goals: Wolfe, Wolf, Beeney.

Records: Newark 5-2, Ross 6-2.

Little Giants play well in crunch time of 67-59 win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Three clutch defensive plays and six consecutive free throws in the final two minutes allowed Fremont Ross to hold off Tiffin Columbian 67-59 Tuesday night in the Ross Purple Pit.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak for the Little Giants, 6-3. The Tornadoes lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Columbian trailed by as many as 18 points in the third quarter but tied the score at 57-all with 3:20 left to play on Brian Hall's three-point field goal.

"We did not play consistently but we had

consistency at the right time," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said.

The "right time" was after the Tornadoes had pulled even. Adam Bulger deflected a pair of Chris Hedden shots and Tony Roob knocked away a pass creating a Columbian turnover.

Todd Clark, who scored all eight of his points in the final quarter, broke the tie with a pair of jump shots, putting Ross up 61-57 with 2:10 to play. A minute later, the sophomore point guard sank two free throws and Brad Hammer's two foul shots extended the Ross lead to 65-57 with 25 seconds left.

Chris Hedden, who scored 19 of his

game-high 21 points in the second half, banked in a shot with 14 seconds left, but Justin Oxley's two free throws with nine seconds remaining iced the game for Ross.

"We got off to one of our great first quarters," McGhee said, "and then let down ... just to keep the fans here."

But he wasn't smiling when he said it.

Ross, with Mike McGee scoring 10 points and Brad Hammer nine, led 23-10 after one quarter but the Little Giants' play deteriorated early in the second quarter.

Hedden, who has scored 20 or more points in his last three games, according to Columbian Coach Larry Kisabeth, got the Tornadoes back into the game in the

third quarter after they trailed 36-21 at halftime.

Hedden muscled in 13 points and Columbian trailed 51-44 after three quarters.

"Ross was in foul trouble," Kisabeth said, "so we were able to go inside to Hedden in the second half. In the first half, we could not get the ball into him."

"Really, in the first half, we did not execute offensively; in the second half, we did."

Kisabeth said although Columbian's offense worked well in the second half, "We don't shoot the ball well. We hurt our-

See ROSS, B-3

ROSS

Continued From B-1

selves by missing a couple of one-and-ones at the end."

Trailing 61-57, Ken Lund missed a free throw with 1:52 left and Hedden missed another 10 seconds later.

Arlo Brown, the Little Giants' leading rebounder, and Bulger were held to four points apiece after both got into foul trouble.

"Yeah, we got into foul trouble again," McGhee said, "but the kids off the bench did a nice job."

The Ross bench crew out-scored Columbian 16-4. Shane McConnell had eight and Roob added six.

Hammer led Ross with 18 points and McGee, who left the game with 4:10 to play after hitting his head on the floor, finished with 17. Lund had 15 and Paul Myers 12 for Columbian.

In the junior varsity game, Ross raised its record to 7-2 with a 71-49 romp. The Little Giants, according to Coach Don Robinson, took just five shots out of the "paint."

Eleven Ross reserves scored, topped by Chris Wolfe's 14 and Doug Gahn's 11.

Basketball

High School Boys

Ross 67, Columbian 59

Score by quarters

Columbian	10	11	23	15	— 59
Ross	23	12	16	16	— 67

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Chris Hedden 8-5-21, Bob Boes 1-1-3, Paul Myers 5-2-12, Ken Lund 7-0-15, Brian Hall 1-1-4, Rusty Snyder 2-0-4, totals 24-9-59.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-0-4, Arlo Brown 1-2-4, Mike McGee 8-1-17, Brad Hammer 6-4-18, Todd Clark 3-2-8, Tony Roob 3-0-6, Justin Oxley 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 4-0-8, totals 27-11-67.

3-point goals: Lund, Hall, Hammer 2.

Records: Ross 6-3, Columbian 2-7.

Ross JV 71, Columbian 49

Score by quarters

Columbian	8	7	13	21	— 49
Ross	18	18	17	18	— 71

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Chris Neukom 5-0-13, Tony Goodman 1-2-4, Mike Betz 6-2-16, Rob Reinbold 0-1-1, Jeff Kuhn 5-2-12, Mike Culp 1-1-3, totals 18-8-49.

ROSS — Darnell McDonald 3-0-6, Mark Gottron 4-1-9, Doug Gahn 4-3-11, Tim Nesbitt 1-1-3, Steve Fox 1-2-4, Nick Wolf 2-0-4, Chris Benson 0-2-2, Joe Frazier 2-0-4, Chris Wolfe 7-0-14, Kelvin McMorris 3-0-6, Jeff Green 4-0-8, totals 31-9-71.

3-point goals: Neukom 3, Betz 2.

Records: Ross 7-2, Columbian 1-8.

Hammer's jumper nets Ross OT win

Little Giants nip Zanesville

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Brad Hammer's final shot was disputed but there was no disputing that it was the game-winner.

Hammer hit a long bomb from the right of the circle with five seconds remaining in overtime, giving Ross a 57-55 Buckeye Central Conference boys basketball win over Zanesville Friday night in the Purple Pit.

Coaches from Ross thought the shot was good for three points but happily settled for two.

The shot did not settle at all with Zanesville Coach Lee Himmeger after he watched his team slip to 4-5 and 1-2 in the BCC.

Himmeger could not question the obvious — Hammer's shot hit nothing but net — but the time remaining after the shot, he did question.

"I usually don't question officiating," Himmeger said, "but at the end of the game, there was 10 seconds left (when Hammer made the shot). Our kid tried to call timeout and the official was looking right at him but let the time run down."

Run down all the way to zeroes, Himmeger did get three seconds put back on the clock but he was hot after those three ticks had evaporated.

"(Todd) Whiteman was going to shoot — he was instructed to

do that — and he was fouled," Whiteman contended.

Himmeger felt that Ross sophomore Todd Clark had slapped Whiteman on the wrist on his attempt at a 50-foot bomb but his argument went unheeded and Ross had its seventh win in 10 games and second against one BCC loss.

Ross started quickly before Himmeger slipped his team into a 2-3 match-up zone defense.

"We changed the tempo of the game," Himmeger said.

"No question about that," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "We could not get good shots against it."

Hammer had five points in the first quarter but after his three-pointer with 3:30 left put the Little Giants up 11-2, the Zanesville zone began to take effect. The Little Giants did not score after that but led 11-4 at the end of the quarter.

The Little Giants' biggest lead was 14 points — 26-12 and 40-26, the latter in the third quarter, but Zanesville scored the next 11 points.

Arlo Brown's free throw ended the streak and put Ross up 41-37 with 7:15 remaining in regulation.

Martin Scanlon's baseline jumper tied it at 45-45 with 5:10

See ROSS, B-2



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

STILL TRYING. Todd Whiteman (12) of Zanesville attempts to get the ball even though he is nearly upended in a first half scramble at the Ross

Purple Pit Friday. Shane O'Connell, left, and Todd Clark, right, move in on Whiteman. Adam Bulger (22) of Ross watches.

Oak Harbor ninth at Medina

News-Messenger reports

MEDINA — Oak Harbor finished ninth and Fremont Ross 26th in the 14th Medina Invitational Wrestling Tournament Friday.

Lakewood St. Edward won the 30-team tourney with 257 points. Solon was second with 153½ and East Liverpool third with 152½.

Oak Harbor had 89 points and Ross 32½.

Craig Tomor of Oak Harbor defeated Jamie Ramirez of Ross 2-1 for third place in the 145-

pound division. Ramirez was penalized for stalling with two seconds remaining in the match and Tomor was awarded a penalty point.

Chad Miller of Oak Harbor was third in the 152-pound competition. Miller defeated Jeff Aldrich of Elyria 10-2 in the consolation finals.

Oak Harbor's Chris Losie lost to Steve Frantz of New Philadelphia in the consolation finals at 189 pounds.



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

UP FOR GRABS. All hands are after a second quarter rebound in the game at the Ross Purple Pit. Todd Whiteman (12) and Bobby France (52)

of Zanesville battle with Arlo Brown, middle, and Adam Bulger, back, of Ross. Ross won the game in overtime 57-55.

Ross

Continued From B-1

to play and Cornelius Harris's jumper gave Zanesville its first lead 49-48 with 2:35 remaining.

Mike McGee, who led Ross with 16 points, tied it at 49-all 13 seconds later, hitting the front end of a one-and-one.

Zanesville ran the clock down from 2:03 to 0:20 before Hammer swiped the ball from Harris who immediately fouled the 5-10 senior.

Hammer calmly hit two free throws, putting Ross up 51-49 and Ross seemingly had the game won when Whiteman missed a short jumper with less than three seconds remaining. Adam Bulger of Ross grabbed the rebound but his outlet pass to

Hammer was intercepted by Whiteman who made good on his second chance, tying the game as the buzzer went off.

In overtime, Whiteman's two free throws put the Blue Devils up 53-51 but Bulger's layup tied it at the 2:20 mark. Brown canned a pair of free throws with 1:15 to play for a 55-53 Ross lead but Bobby Johnson's rebound layup off teammate Bobby France's shot tied the game again with 28 seconds remaining.

McGhee called time out with 23 seconds left and Hammer's shot followed 18 seconds later.

"That's a play we work on," the Ross Coach said. "We just toss in cross court to Brad and let him shoot it."

McGhee described the win as "ugly" and almost a repeat of Tuesday's 62-57 win over Tiffin

Columbian, a game in which Ross kissed away a 17-point lead.

"There are two primary reasons why that happened," he said. "Number one is rebounding and two, is our shot selection. We have to be more particular about our shot selection and we cannot let our opponent get the offensive rebounds."

Zanesville had 23 offensive rebounds and had a 43-34 edge.

Whiteman, playing his first game after recovering from a broken foot, led Zanesville with 20 points after coming off the bench. Johnson, also a non-starter, had 10. Brown had 13 for Ross and Hammer finished with 12.

Ross won the junior varsity game 38-36 on Mark Gottron's three-point goal with 42 seconds left. The Little Giant reserves improved to 8-2.

Ross 57, Zanesville 55 (OT)

Score by quarters

Zanesville	4	18	13	16	4	—	55
Ross	N	11	18	11	11	6	— 57

Scoring

ZANESVILLE — Steve Hodge 1-0-2, Cornelius Harris 3-0-6, Bobby France 1-3-5, Martin Scanlon 5-0-10, Cody Dickinson 1-0-2, Todd Whiteman 8-4-20, Bobby Johnson 4-2-10, totals 23-9-55.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-1-5, Arlo Brown 5-3-13, Mike McGee 7-2-16, Brad Hammer 4-2-12, Todd Clark 0-3-3, Cory Lance 0-2-2, Shane McConnell 3-0-6, totals 21-13-57.

3-point goals: Hammer 2.

Season records: Ross 7-3 (2-1), Zanesville 4-5 (1-2).

Ross JV 38, Zanesville 36

Score by quarters

Zanesville	8	15	10	3	—	36
Ross	15	14	2	7	—	38

Scoring

ZANESVILLE — Jon Ohlinger 4-0-9, Jason Ryton 3-0-6, John Howe 1-2-4, Jol Dunn 3-3-9, Pete Mathews 3-0-6, Kevin Witucky 1-0-2, totals 15-5-36.

ROSS — Mark Gottron 3-0-8, Doug Gahn 4-1-9, Steve Fox 0-2-2, Nick Wolf 2-0-4, Chris Wolf 3-1-7, Kelvin McMorris 2-0-4, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 16-4-38.

3-point goals: Ohlinger, Gottron 2.

Records: Zanesville 5-4, Ross 8-2.

Ross savoring 7-3 start

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Getting off to a good start for the Ross boys basketball team is like a very fine wine ... it's worth savoring each sip.

The Little Giants are 7-3, their best start since 1984-85. That was the senior year of Greg Bender, the all-time Ross scoring leader, now a senior at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Ross climbed to 13-4 that year before settling for 15-6.

It was the year Ross lost to Mansfield Senior 68-63 in a first round sectional tournament overtime thriller at Ashland College.

It was the year that Coach John Sawyer said quietly that the winner of that sectional game could make it to the state tournament. Mansfield advanced to the final four.

The faces have changed. Sawyer is gone and Pat McGhee is calling the shots. Bender is gone, replaced by a group in which individuals pick up for each other when one is down.

The Little Giants have come off a tiring stint, playing 10 games in 28 days. It lightens up in January, all Ross has is seven games in 25 days.

McGhee likes the start but talks little of it, perhaps remembering the 5-1 start his first Ross team had two years ago. That team won only four of its last 14 games but did make it to the district semifinals, finishing 11-12.

The past was fine but McGhee is looking at the future.

Friday, Ross begins the sec-

See ROSS, B-3

ROSS

Continued From B-1

ond half of the season with a Buckeye Central Conference game at Findlay against a veteran Trojan team.

"All five starters are back from last season," McGhee said.

Included in the group is junior Todd Jenson, an all-conference performer as a sophomore. Jenson is second in the BCC in scoring, averaging 16.3 per game.

Rich Renz, the son of Findlay Coach Roger Renz, is the BCC rebounding leader with nearly 10 per game and the Trojan trio of Brian Shaffer, Renz and Grant Haggard are in the conference top 10 in three-point field goal accuracy.

"Their strong strong point is shooting and flexibility," McGhee said. "They all play inside

and out and that causes problems."

Renz and Matt Semeyn along with top sub Chris Vance are all 6-4.

"That gives them decent size," the Ross Coach said, "but what stands out is their experience on the perimeter. We have to do a better job of defending on the perimeter because if we give them an uncontested three-point shot, they'll make them all night."

The Trojans are 6-3 and 1-2 in the BCC. Ross is 2-1 in the BCC while Newark tops the conference at 4-0.

Findlay upset Sandusky 70-59 in its last game.

"They got an 18-10 first quarter lead," McGhee said, "and they handled Sandusky's full-court pressure. After they got that lead, they were able to control the tempo."

McGhee said, in addition to

stepping up its defense against the BCC's top scoring team (70 per game), the Little Ginats will have to regain their rebounding edge.

"I think we surprised people by how well we jumped," he said. "Now they battle us for position. Rebounding, I think, is our strength, but we have to work harder now on getting position."

NOTES: It will be a double dose of Findlay for Ross. This evening, the Ross girls visit the Trojans for a conference game. Findlay is 5-3 and 2-1 in the BCC. Ross is 1-3 and 0-3.

In boys BCC stats, Mike McGee is fourth in scoring with nearly 15 per game. The Little Giants' version of the Three Amigos — Arlo Brown, Adam Bulger and McGee — are second, third and fifth in rebounding. Brown hauls in a little over nine per game, Bulger 8.5 and McGee,

nearly seven. Brad Hammer is eighth in three-point field goal accuracy, making 16 of 51 for 31 percent. Brown is fifth in free throw accuracy, sinking 26 of 33, nearly 79 percent. Hammer is seventh with 24 of 31, 77 percent. Todd Clark is fourth in assists with 3.2 per game.

In team stats, Ross is third in offense with nearly 60 points per game and fourth in defense, allowing slightly under 60 per contest.

In girls stats, Kim Borys is ninth and Joy Eischen 10th in scoring with 8.2 and 7.8 points per game, respectively. Amy Ritzman and Dian Schepflin are

tied for eighth in rebounding with five a game. Lela Dorsey is eighth in field goal accuracy, making four of her nine shots for 44 percent. Schepflin is 10th, making 41 percent. Boys is third in three-point goal accuracy with 27 percent. Becky Thiesen is third (5 of 7, 71 percent) and Schepflin seventh (20 of 31, 65 percent) in free throw shooting. Borys is second (2.3) and Eischen fourth (2.0) in assists. Eischen is first in steals with nearly three per game. Borys is third with 2.3.

As a team, the Ross girls are fifth in scoring with 39 per game and third in defense, allowing 48 per game.



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Ross outslugs Findlay 66-61 for eighth victory

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Adam Bulger scored 28 points, blocked nine shots and hauled in eight rebounds as Ross defeated Findlay 66-61 in rough Buckeye Central Conference boys basketball game Friday.

The Little Giants took advantage of a pair of technical fouls to take the lead for good with 4:06 remaining in the game. One technical was called on the Findlay student section and the other on Trojan Coach Roger Renz. Brad Hammer made all four free throws, putting Ross up 54-52.

"It was a very physical game," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "It was a big road win for us and one that we were fortu-

nate to win but we have to forget about this one and get ready for Eastwood Tuesday."

The Little Giants host the Eagles in a non-conference clash in the Purple Pit.

At Findlay, Bulger, Arlo Brown, Mike McGee and Justin Oxley blocked 15 Findlay shots among them. Bulger led the way with Brown rejecting four and McGee and Oxley one apiece.

"Adam and Arlo played an excellent game," McGhee said. "They went to the boards hard and we got the ball inside to them."

Brown grabbed 16 rebounds as Ross held a 54-47 rebounding edge. He also scored 12 points.

See ROSS, B-3

ROSS

Continued From B-1

McGee, the Little Giants leading scorer, was held to seven points but the Ross coach was not unhappy.

"Findlay was putting a lot of pressure on McGee and Hammer," McGhee said, "but they handled it well by getting the ball inside."

"McGee played well on defense. We had him on (Todd) Jensen and he did a nice job on him."

Jensen, the BCC's second leading scorer, had 14 points.

"We played a man-to-man most of the time," McGhee said. "We went into a zone once but they hit a three-pointer and we got back out of it very quickly."

"We wanted to put more pressure on the perimeter and we did do a nice job of that. "We wanted to make them drive and shoot off the dribble."

With 4:55 left in the game, Matt Semeyn tipped in a missed shot, giving Findlay a 51-50 lead.

Fifty seconds later, Semeyn was fouled, setting the stage for the two technicals.

As Semeyn was getting ready to shoot the first free throw, a small ball was tossed onto the floor from the Findlay student section. A technical foul was called immediately and when Renz objected, he was slapped with a technical.

After Semeyn made the first shot but missed the second, Hammer converted all four free throws, putting Ross up 54-52. Bulger canned a pair of jump shots after a Findlay free throw and Ross led 58-53. Twenty seconds later, McGee hit a pair of free throws for a 60-55 lead. Findlay could get no closer.

Hammer finished with 13 points. Chris Vance led Findlay with 16 points but fouled out with 2:48 remaining. Rick Renz had 11 for the Trojans.

Ross was 24 of 58 from the floor and 16 of 27 at the line. Findlay was 23 of 65 and 13 of 27 from the foul line. Ross had 12 turnovers, two more than the Trojans.

High School Boys

Ross 66, Findlay 61

Score by quarters

Ross	9	18	15	24	— 66
Findlay	13	13	17	18	— 61

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 11-6-28, Arlo Brown 5-2-12, Mike McGee 2-3-7, Brad Hammer 4-5-13, Todd Clark 2-0-4, Tony Roob 1-0-2, totals 24-16-66.

FINDLAY — Todd Jensen 6-1-14, Rick Renz 4-2-11, Matt Semeyn 2-4-8, Chris Vance 8-0-16, Jeff Bova 1-4-6, Grant Hazzard 0-2-2, Scott Garlock 1-0-2, Brian Ashworth 1-0-2, totals 23-13-61.

3-point goals: Jensen, Renz.

Records: Ross 8-3 (3-1), Find. 6-4 (1-3).

Findlay JV 75, Ross 62

Score by quarters

Ross	10	21	8	23	— 62
Findlay	17	19	24	15	— 75

Scoring

ROSS — Darnell McDonald 0-2-2, Cory Lance 1-2-4, Jeff Green 4-3-11, Mark Gottron 4-0-9, Doug Gahn 8-1-18, Steve Fox 3-1-7, Mike Burns 1-0-2, Nick Wolf 3-2-9, totals 24-11-62.

FINDLAY — Shane Pichard 1-1-4, Chad Dillon 1-1-3, Korey Hinkle 4-0-8, Steve Copeland 0-2-2, Vince Perrine 9-2-22, Matt Greenwalt 2-1-5, Todd Phillips 5-2-14, Kevin Hinkle 4-4-12, Rick Ritzler 2-1-5, totals 28-14-75.

3-point goals: Gottron, Gahn, Wolf, Pickard, Perrine 2, Phillips 2.

Records: Find. 8-2 (2-2), Ross 8-3 (2-2).



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

MIKE McGEE (30) of Ross gets off a pass around the outstretched arms of Eastwood's Jeff Schroeder Tuesday night.

Ross short shots sink Eastwood 73-62

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

In a battle of long shots, it was ironic that the short shots were the big baskets.

Adam Bulger tossed in a pair of missed Ross free throws in the second half, helping the Little Giants shake off Eastwood for a 73-62 non-conference high school boys basketball victory in the Purple Pit Tuesday night.

In the first half, the teams made 13 of 20 three-point attempts but it was Bulger's emergence in the second half that got Ross moving.

"We got Adam back into the flow of the game," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "It was important that we get him established inside."

Bulger, a 6-4 senior, picked up a pair of first half fouls and sat out most of the second quarter.

Bulger dropped in nine sec-

ond-half points and grabbed most of his eight rebounds after halftime.

Mike McGee, who had 16 points, sank a pair of shots from in close, breaking a 44-all tie and putting Ross up 48-44 with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Brad Hammer, who scored a game-high 24 points, hit the front end of a one-and-one but missed the second foul shot. Bulger got the rebound and hit the tip as the Ross lead grew to 51-44.

By the time the Eagles recovered, Bulger had sank a pair of free throws and made another tip-in for a 55-44 lead.

Eastwood bounced back, cutting the Ross lead to 58-51 when Bulger figured in another short shot. His feed to Arlo Brown for a layup in a 13-5 run helped Ross to a 71-56 lead with under 50 seconds remaining. Bulger had another tip-in, this time off

McGee's missed free throw, during the pull-away.

In the first half, the short shot seemed out of place. Eastwood made eight of 10 three-point shots and Ross five of 10, all from the right hand of Hammer. The Eagles were five of seven from long range in the first quarter but trailed 18-17.

Eastwood made all three three-point shots in the second quarter but trailed at the half 36-34.

"They were getting the ball inside and then kicking it out," McGhee said, "and they were nailing them."

"We were not adjusting defensively in the first half," McGhee said, "so at halftime we adjusted. We had to take away that three-point shot."

The Ross adjustments worked. Eastwood made just three of 13 three-point attempts in the second half.

"When you live by it (three-

point shot), you die by it," Eastwood Coach Steve Stoller said. "We are a good three-point shooting team but nothing like that first half."

"I think their (Ross) athletic ability wore us out inside. In the first half, we hit our shots, but we did not shoot well in the second half. I think it was just a case of us battling them so hard inside, that we got tired and it hurt our shooting."

Ross outrebounded the Eagles 48-35, but just 26-22 in the second half. McGee led Ross with 11 rebounds.

"I am not satisfied with the loss," Stoller said, "but I am satisfied with the effort."

Schroeder led Eastwood with 23 points. Don Schmeltz added 16 and Brian Edens 13.

Ross is idle Friday but will return to action Saturday, traveling to Toledo to play Whitmer, winner of 10 of 11 games.

High School Boys

Ross 73, Eastwood 62

Score by quarters

Eastwood	17	17	12	16	— 62
Ross	18	18	19	18	— 73

Scoring

EASTWOOD — Don Schmeltz 5-2-16, Scott Graffice 1-1-3, Jeff Schroeder 8-2-23, Kraig Rahe 1-0-3, Brian Edens 4-4-13, Todd Adams 1-2-4, totals 20-11-62.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 5-3-13, Arlo Brown 1-1-3, Mike McGee 7-2-16, Brad Hammer 7-4-24, Todd Clark 2-2-6, Shane McConnell 2-0-4, Tony Roob 1-2-4, Justin Oxley 0-2-2, Cory Lance 0-1-1, totals 25-17-73.

3-point goals: Schmeltz 4, Schroeder 5, Rahe, Edens, Hammer 6.

Records: Ross 9-3, Eastwood 6-5.

Ross JV 59, Eastwood 40

Score by quarters

Eastwood	6	14	11	9	— 40
Ross	9	18	11	21	— 59

Scoring

EASTWOOD — Jason Bowser 5-0-12, Gary Haas 1-0-2, Denny Dewese 2-0-4, Brandon Keiser 5-3-14, Kasey Lewis 0-2-2, Heath Wagner 2-2-6, totals 15-7-40.

ROSS — Darnell McDonald 4-5-13, Mark Gottron 3-2-9, Doug Gahn 4-1-9, Steve Fox 1-1-3, Nick Wolf 3-2-8, Jeff Green 5-1-11, Cory Lance 3-0-6, totals 23-12-59.

3-point goals: Bowser 2, Keiser, Gottron.

Records: Ross 9-3, Eastwood 5-6.

Whitmer slips past Ross

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Whitmer rolled to a big early lead but had to hang on to defeat Fremont Ross 70-66 Saturday night.

In other area games, Margareta at St. Joe and Cory-Rawson at Gibsonburg were postponed because of the icy roads created by freezing rain late Saturday afternoon. In the one game played, Fostoria defeated Port Clinton 71-67.

Whitmer, 12-1, led 30-20 after one quarter and increased that lead to 20 in the second quarter before Ross mounted a comeback.

At halftime, the Little Giants, 9-4, trailed 44-31 and after three quarters, Ross had trimmed the Panther lead to 50-44. Early in the final quarter, Ross grabbed a two-point lead but was unable to hold it.

"Whitmer shot 70 per cent in the first," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "They were making everything."

"We held them to six in the third quarter; they got cold and we got the ball inside," McGhee said about his team's comeback. "What we began to do, basically, was take care of the ball and play better defense."

The Ross comeback was hurt when Adam Bulger, the team's second leading rebounder, fouled out with two minutes remaining in the game.

"Down the stretch," McGhee said, "Whitmer got some key baskets and when Bulger fouled out — he was playing very well — we did not match up very well defensively with them. They hurt us on the boards after that."

"It was a great game," the Ross coach said, "between two pretty good teams. It was good to see our kids playing with determination coming back and giving themselves a chance to win in the fourth quarter."

"We need to play like that on the road."

Mike McGee topped Ross with 20 points. Arlo Brown had 15 and Bulger scored 10. Craig Michaelis led Whitmer with 29. Tyrone Sanders added 15.

In the junior varsity game, Ross raised its record to 10-3 with a 59-44 romp.

Chris Wolfe had 12 points, Joe Frazier 11 and Doug Gahn 10 for the Little Giants.

Ross returns to Buckeye Central Conference action Friday, traveling to Lancaster.

High School Boys

Whitmer 70, Ross 66

Score by quarters

Ross	20	11	13	22	— 66
Whitmer	30	14	6	20	— 70

Scoring

ROSS — Brad Hammer 3-0-8, Adam Bulger 5-0-10, Todd Clark 1-3-5, Mike McGee 7-5-20, Shane McConnell 3-2-8, Arlo Brown 4-7-15, totals 23-17-66.

WHITMER — Craig Michaelis 12-4-29, Jeff Brighton 2-1-5, Todd Yates 1-2-4, Tyrone Sanders 5-2-15, Pat Murphy 2-2-6, Mark Reighard 2-0-4, Harrison Hilliard 2-3-7, totals 26-13-70.

3-point goals: Hammer 2, McGee, Michaelis, Brighton, Sanders 3.

Records: Whitmer 12-1, Ross 9-4.

Ross JV 59, Whitmer 44

Score by quarters

Ross	13	10	12	13	— 59
Whitmer	8	14	11	11	— 44

Scoring

ROSS — Mark Gottron 1-1-3, Doug Gahn 2-6-10, Nick Wolf 4-1-9, Mike Byrnes 1-0-2, Chris Benson 1-2-4, Joe Frazier 5-0-11, Chris Wolfe 5-2-12, Jeff Green 1-0-2, Cory Lance 3-0-6, totals 23-12-59.

WHITMER — McIlhargey 6-0-16, Fritz 1-0-2, Common 2-0-4, Martin 4-2-10, D. Ledyard 2-0-4, J. Ledyard 4-0-8, totals 19-2-44.

3-point goals: Frazier, McIlhargey 4.

Records: Ross 10-3, Whitmer 7-6.

Ross is Gales' first BCC victim

News-Messenger reports

Ross started slow and finished slow as it dropped a 66-51 Buckeye Central Conference game to Lancaster Friday night.

In other games, Lakota defeated Elmwood 56-49 and Woodmore topped Northwood 66-60 in the Suburban Lakes League; Sandusky Perkins beat Clyde 67-50 and Margaretta beat Edison 69-54 in the Sandusky Bay Conference; Old Fort got by Fostoria St. Wendelin 71-64 and North Baltimore edged Bettsville 68-65 in the Midland Athletic League and Bellevue defeated Tiffin Columbian 73-61 in the Northern Ohio League.

The Little Giants scored just nine points in the first quarter and only 10 in the fourth quarter.

Lancaster hit six straight free throws with less than two minutes to play while holding off Ross. The Little Giants, 9-5 and 3-2 in the BCC, trailed 46-44 after Mike McGee scored with 6:50 remaining but the Golden Gales scored five straight points for a 51-44 lead. Ross could get no closer than six — 54-48 on Brad Hammer's 3-point goal with 2:03 to play — the rest of the game. Lancaster ouscored the Little Giants 22-10 in the final period.

Lancaster led 16-9 after one quarter and 28-27 at halftime. The Golden Gales took a 44-41 lead into the final quarter.

The win was the first in six conference games for Lancaster and raised its record to 6-8.

McGee led Ross with 22 points and Hammer added 11. Tim Graham had 22 for Lancaster with Joel Foote adding 12 and Greg Cave 11.

(16-for-62) of its shots from the field and did not have a player score in double figures in dropping its second straight game.

Perkins, 10-4 and 8-1 in the SBC, led 17-12 after one quarter, 27-22 at halftime and 47-33 after three quarters.

Clyde, 10-4 and 6-3, got nine points each from Mike Laconis and Ken Garcia and eight from Matt Jenne.

Lonell Taylor scored 19, Jim Guerrera added 17 and Dennis Neate chipped in 15 for Perkins, which remains tied for first place with Huron in the SBC.

The Tigers routed Sandusky St. Mary's 94-40 Friday.

Margaretta 69

Edison 54

Margaretta pulled away fromn a 27-22 halftime lead with a 24-point third quarter and four Polar Bears scored in double figures.

Chris Hilton scored 14 points, Danny Smith and Mike Lyons 12 apiece and Kent Miller 11 for margaretta, 6-7 and 3-6 in the SBC.

Julio Medina led all scorers with 17 points for Edison, 1-12 and 1-7.

Old Fort 71

St. Wendelin 64

Kevin Guth scored 24 points and Kandy Cameron had 20 as Old Fort evened its record at 7-7 and 6-6 in the MAL.

The Stockaders led 22-18 after one quarter, 38-32 at halftime and 57-44 after three quarters.

Jamie Williamson led St. Wen-

Lancaster 66, Ross 51

Score by quarters

Ross	9	18	14	10	— 51
Lancaster	16	12	16	22	— 66

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 2-0-4, Arlo Brown 2-1-5, Mike McGee 10-2-22, Brad Hammer 3-4-11, Todd Clark 2-2-6, Tony Roob 1-1-3, totals 20-10-51.

LANCASTER — Kacy Kern 2-0-4, Timn Graham 6-8-22, Eric Lockhart 2-4-8, Greg Cave 5-1-11, Joel Foote 2-8-12, Scott Reed 1-0-2, Trevor Walker 1-1-3, Bucky Triplett 2-0-4, totals 21-22-66.

3-point goals: Hammer, Graham 2.

Records: Ross 9-5 (3-2), Lancaster 6-8 (1-5).

JV game: Lancaster 36-36 (OT).

State-ranked Newark congers up bad memories for Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Revenge would be nice but anything may be better than what Newark did to Ross two days before Christmas.

"We obviously did not play well," Ross boys basketball Coach Pat McGhee said. "We got drubbed pretty good."

Obviously.

Newark did anything it wanted that night, beating the Little Giants by 40 points, 84-44.

The loss came at the end of one of the long Buckeye Central Conference southern trips.

Friday, Newark makes the trip north to Fremont.

"We have to improve to beat a team like that," McGhee said. "They are a lot like Whitmer (14-1) ... maybe a little bigger but not as experienced in some positions."

Newark is 14-2 and unbeaten in six BCC games. The Wildcats clinched at least a share of its second successive conference title last Friday with a 72-57 win over Findlay. A win over Ross would give Newark the outright title.

Ross is 9-5 and 3-2 in the conference but is coming off two consecutive losses — 70-66 to Whitmer and 66-51 to Lancaster, both on the road.

The Wildcats, ranked 12th in the Associated Press Division I state poll, is led by long-shot artist Jeff Brown, a 6-4 forward. Brown leads the BCC in scoring with 19 points per game and has made 52 of 111 three-point field goal attempts, nearly 47 percent. Brown made seven three-pointers against Ross in the first game.

"We are going to have to de-

fense Brown better at the three-point line," McGhee said, "and we have to battle them better on the boards. The last time, they just out-boarded (rebounds), then they got out and ran on us."

The Newark lineup also features 6-7 Dwayne Romine, 6-6 Scott Thompson and a pair of 6-5 players coming off the bench.

Brown, along with Doug DeVoll, are the more experienced Wildcats but in game 17, the inexperience tag has worn off.

Thompson is sixth in conference scoring with 14 per game while making 97 of 148 field goal attempts, 65.5 percent, second in the BCC. Romine, 10th in rebounding, is also an accurate shooter, making 73 of 166 shots — nearly 43 percent.

"Newark has nice depth," McGhee said.

The junior varsity game be-

gins at 6:15 p.m., Friday.

ROSS NOTES: At 1 p.m. Saturday, the Ross girls will also host Newark. The Little Giants are 1-14 and looking for their first win in six BCC games. The junior varsity game begins at 1 p.m.

Mike McGee, fresh off a 22-point performance against Lancaster, is fourth in conference scoring with 15.1 per game and is seventh in rebounding with nearly seven per contest.

Arlo Brown is second and Ross teammate Adam Bulger third in rebounding with 9.7 and 8.6 per game, respectively.

Brad Hammer is eighth in scoring with 11.4 and ninth in three-point field goal accuracy with 33.3 percent on 23 of 69. He is also fourth in free throw accuracy, making 37 of 47 for 78.7 percent.

Brown is ninth in free throw shooting with 37 of 53 for 69.8 percent.

Todd Clark is fourth in assists, averaging 3.3 per contest.

On the girls stat sheet, Joy Eischen of Ross is first in three-point field goal accuracy, making three of five, first in steals with nearly three per game, fifth in assists with a 1.7 average and is ninth with a 9.4 scoring average. Eischen is tied for eighth, along with teammate Dian Schepflin, in rebounding with 4.9 per game.

Lela Dorsey is eighth in field goal shooting with 43 percent (six of 14). Kim Borys is fifth in three-point accuracy, making five of 17 for slightly over 29 percent and is first in assists with a little over three a game. She is fourth in steals with 2.5.

Famine cuts Ross short

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fremont Ross failed to score in the final 4:55 of the game and Newark won its second straight Buckeye Central Conference basketball championship.

The Wildcats took advantage of the scoring famine to pull out a 46-41 victory Friday night.

The Little Giants overcame a 27-20 halftime deficit to lead 36-35 after three quarters.

"We had good people taking shots, and shots that they can make," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "They just didn't drop."

"We didn't score in some key situations, but I thought we had some good opportunities."

Ross, 9-6 and 3-3 in the BCC, took a 41-37 lead on Mike McGee's baseline jump shot with 4:55 remaining.

A steal and two free throws by Kyle Fink with 55 seconds left gave Newark the lead for good

at 42-41, but Ross was not without its chances.

McGee missed a baseline jumper with 38 seconds left to play and Todd Clark had his 12-footer spin out of the basket with 10 seconds left.

"We wanted to take the best shot," McGhee said of McGee's miss. "I have no problems with that shot. (McGee) has made that shot before and he made it earlier in the game."

"I felt we had to go on the offensive. We needed as many opportunities as we could get."

Clark's chance came after Newark's Doug DeVoll missed the front end of a one-and-one with 31 seconds left.

"(Clark) tried to get ball inside," McGhee said. "He picked up the loose ball and at that point he knows the clock is running down and has to shoot as

See ROSS, B-3

Hot halftime talk fires up St. Joe in 82-58 win

News Messenger reports

NORTH BALTIMORE — Biz Paeth didn't use any words of wisdom or a lecture in basketball fundamentals at halftime of Friday's Midland Athletic League game.

The Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic boys basketball coach gave his team a tongue-lashing at the intermission and the Crimson Streaks went on to an 82-58 victory over the Tigers.

North Baltimore, 2-13 and 2-11 in the MAL, led 34-31 at halftime. St. Joe, 12-3 and 11-2, outscored the Tigers 51-24 in the second half.

"What I said at halftime didn't have anything to do with Xs and Os," Paeth said. "I got on (the Streaks). They were not playing hard or with any intensity."

St. Joe took Paeth's message to heart.

"Everything went up a notch," Paeth said. "We were playing at the game in the first half. In the second, we went after it."

The Streaks tied the score at 34-all with 5:05 remaining in the third quarter then tacked on 29 points the remainder of the period.

Mike Denman and Jeff Radde led St. Joe with 17 and 14 points, respectively. Radde broke out of a scoring slump and Denman scored 15 of his points in the second half.

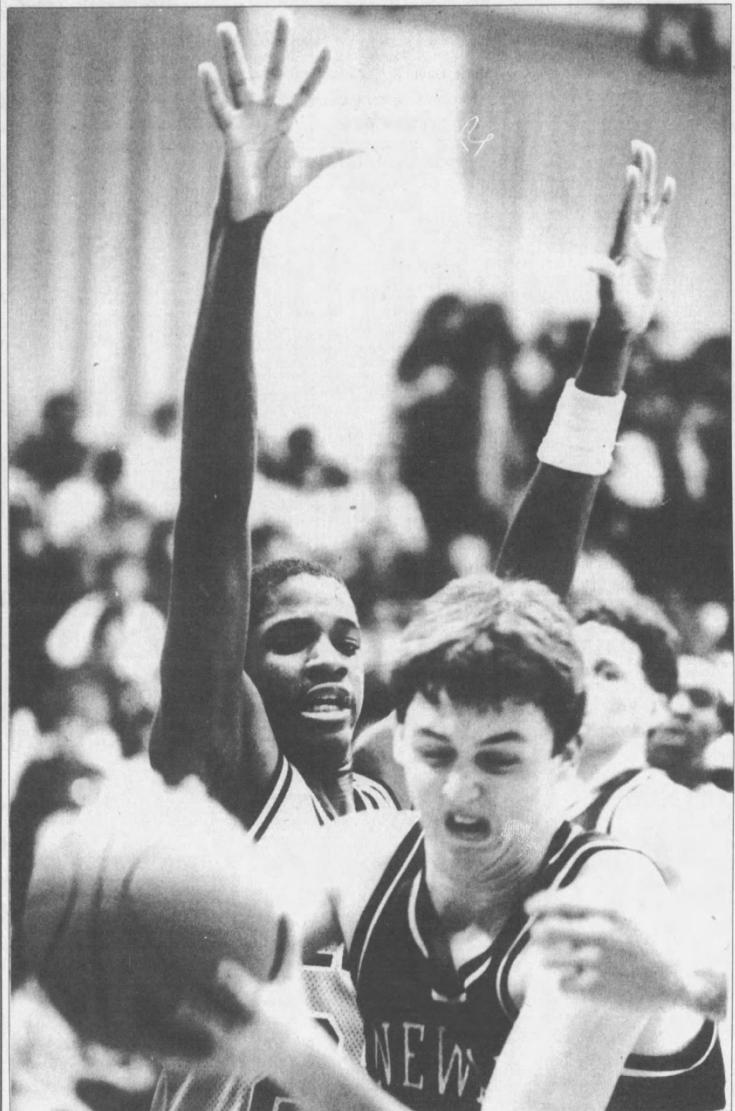
Todd Drusback added 15 points for St. Joe, which committed just nine turnovers, and Scott Radde had 13. Scott Radde grabbed a game-high 19 rebounds and dished out six assists.

St. Joe held a 51-38 rebounding advantage. North Baltimore committed 12 of its 14 turnovers in the second half.

Marty Gazarek scored a game-high 23 points for the Tigers.

ADAM BULGER of Fremont Ross defends against Newark's Dwayne Romine during the Buckeye

Central Conference game at Ross. The Wildcats edged the Little Giants 46-44.



News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

Ross

Continued From B-1

soon as he can."

Clark's miss was a microcosm of the game, which featured good shots but low field goal shooting percentages.

"(Ross) leads the league in field goal percentage (36.4) allowed," Newark Coach Gary Walters said. "That's no quirk. I'd say we would have a tough time winning shooting like we did, but fortunately we played good defense."

Walters said winning the BCC title "felt good."

Newark made only 15 of 55 shots (27 percent) but outrebounded Ross 41-25. The Little Giants made 15 of 47 shots (32 percent).

"It was an old-fashioned, hard-nosed defensive basketball game," Walters said.

"Sometimes you can't measure a game by the number of points scored, but we didn't get to be 15-2 by missing the kinds of shots we did."

The score was tied three times in the first quarter, including 12-all at the end of the period when Arlo Brown made two free throws with four seconds left.

Scott Thompson, who led all scorers with 17 points and grabbed a game-high 17 rebounds, gave Newark its first lead at 17-16 with a free throw with 4:13 left in the first half.

Newark outscored Ross 10-4 the rest of the half for a 27-20 halftime lead.

"It was a funny game," Walters said. "(Ross) has the better speed and quickness and they were looking to play the half-court game and we were looking to push it up the floor."

Newark led 35-28 with 2:29 left in the third quarter after Dwayne Romine's 15-foot jumper and two free throws. Romine finished with 12 points.

Adam Bulger, who led Ross with 13 points including six in the third quarter, missed two foul shots before Brad Hammer brought the Ross crowd back into the game with a pair of 3-point field goals from the left side of Newark's match-up zone.

Bulger's basket inside closed the third quarter with Ross leading for the first time since midway through the second quarter.

Ross, which played zone defense in the first half, used a man-to-man to help itself catch up. The Little Giants held the Wildcats to eight points in the third quarter.

"We felt like our best defense was man-to-man," McGhee said. "We felt like we had to contain (Jeff) Brown."

McGhee did just that, holding the BCC's leading scorer at 19.1 points per game to just one field goal and six points.

That was the good news for Ross. The bad news was that Hammer's 3-pointers made Newark stand up and take notice.

"(The Wildcats) went to a box-and-one on Hammer," McGhee said. "They took Brad out of the game after that."

With Fink, then freshman Bobby Sellers, guarding Hammer. The Ross sharpshooter, who finished with 12 points, was not a factor down the stretch.

After Clark's miss in the waning moments, Bulger was called for an intentional foul and Fink sank both free throws for a 44-41 Newark lead with seven seconds remaining.

McGhee then fouled Thompson intentionally on a breakaway with five seconds left. Thompson made one of two and added another foul shot a second later for the final count.

Appropriately, the game ended when Hammer's short shot spun out as time expired.

The Ross junior varsity defeated Newark 55-44 to improve to 11-4 and 2-4 in the BCC. Chris Wolfe scored 12 points for Ross and Doug Gahn had 11 for the Little Giants.

High School Boys

Newark 46, Ross 41

Score by quarters

Newark	12	15	8	11	— 46
Ross	12	8	16	5	— 41

Scoring

NEWARK — Doug Devoll 1-0-2, Kyle Fink 0-4, Bobby Sellers 3-0-6, Scott Thompson 6-5-17, Jeff Brown 1-4-6, Dwayne Romine 3-3-9, Trent Evans 1-0-2, totals 15-10-46.

ROSS — Brad Hammer 6-0-12, Todd Clark 0-0, Adam Bulger 6-3-13, Mike McGee 3-2-8, Arlo Brown 2-4-6, totals 15-0-41.

3-point goals: Hammer 2.

Records: Newark 15-2 (7-0), Ross 9-4 (3-3).

Ross JV 55, Newark 44

Score by quarters

Newark	11	14	7	12	— 44
Ross	14	14	9	10	— 55

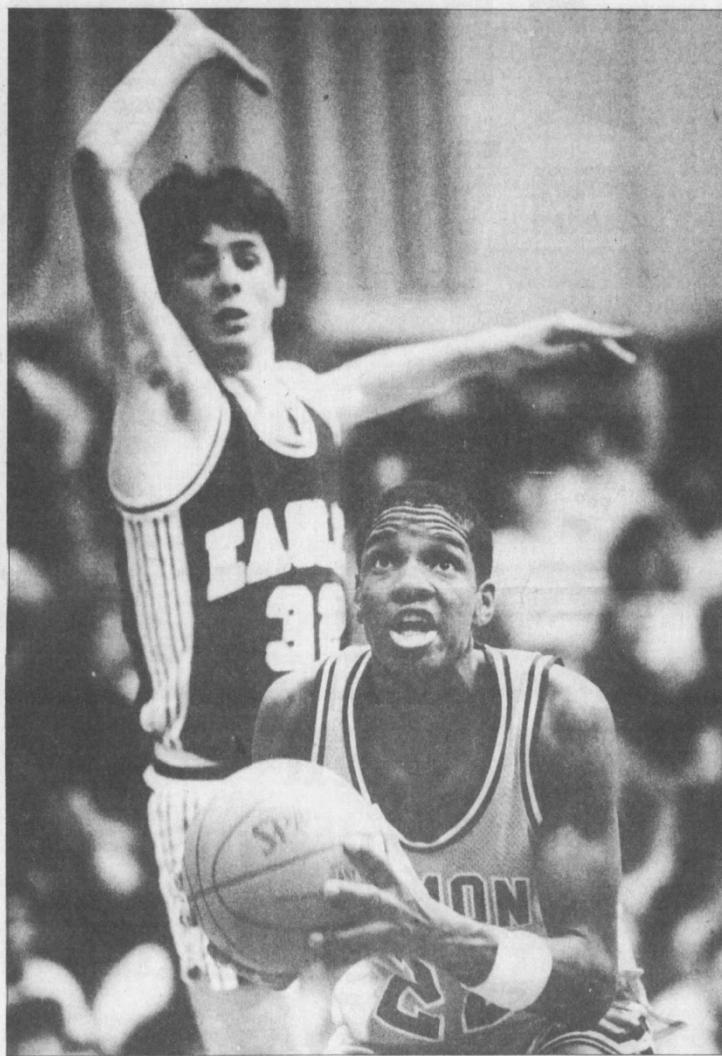
Scoring

NEWARK — Brice Jones 1-2-4, Chris O'Dell 0-4, Ryan Beeney 1-2-5, Bobby Fox 0-1-1, Craig Hays 2-0-4, Jeff Quackenbush 4-4-12, David Bershaw 2-0-4, Jeff Wells 5-0-10, totals 17-0-44.

ROSS — Mark Gottren 3-1-7, Doug Gahn 0-1-11, Nick Wolf 2-2-6, Joe Frazier 1-0-2, Chris Wolfe 6-0-12, Kevin McMorris 2-0-4, Jeff Green 1-0-5, Cory Lance 0-2-2, Justin Oxley 2-2-6, totals 29-11-56.

3-point goals: Beeney.

Records: Newark 12-4 (4-3), Ross 11-4 (2-4).



ADAM BULGER of Ross looks at the basket while preparing to shoot during Tuesday's game at Ross High School. Corey Slovák (32) of Clay comes up behind Bulger.

News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Bulger sparks Ross victory

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Clay nearly caught Ross on the rebound.

Instead, Adam Bulger scored 20 points and hauled in 10 rebounds as Ross snapped a three-game losing streak with a 55-53 win over Oregon Clay Tuesday in the Ross High School Purple Pit.

Bulger hit 14-foot jump shot with 1:34 to play, putting Ross up 53-49 and Todd Clark sank two free throws with 13 seconds left, putting Ross up 55-51 and ensuring the win.

Ross is 10-6 while Clay had its three-game win streak ended and sank a game below .500 at 8-9.

"We were not as sharp as I would like," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "but we made the plays when needed and got the rebounds when we needed them."

"Mentally, though, we struggled more than anything," the Ross coach said, "after coming off the tough loss to Newark (46-41) last Friday."

"This is always a good game," Clay Coach Doug Dippman said.

"We kept in it tonight just because of the kids hustling. We may not have the better talent but they are always hustling."

"Those front three players of Ross," Dippman said, "are probably the best three athletes we have seen this season; they are excellent."

Bulger, along with Arlo Brown and Mike McGee, hauled in 29 of the Little Giants' 39 rebounds. Brown had a dozen rebounds to go with four points and McGee had seven rebounds and eight points. Clay had 27 rebounds.

Brad Hammer tossed in 11 points for Ross, including a 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter that extended the Little Giants' lead to 46-38.

"We also got some great play off the bench from Shane McConnell," McGhee said. "He played especially well after practicing just one day."

McConnell missed most of last week, including the Newark game, because of illness. Tuesday, he played like he had never

See ROSS, B-3

St. Joe breaks Jackets 90-59

By JOHN CUMMINGS
Staff writer

St. Joseph Central Catholic is giving Coach Biz Paeth the break the team needs.

St. Joe used a fast-break attack to bury Midland Athletic League foe New Riegel 90-59 Tuesday.

"The last half of the last game, and this game is the best we've done (running the break) all year," Paeth said.

The Streaks, 14-3 and 12-2 in

MAL play, ran wild, starting the second quarter with a 20-2 run that left the Blue Jackets in the dust, 38-14. All of this came after New Riegel had forced St. Joe to play catch-up ball in the first quarter.

"There are times that we don't play well," New Riegel Coach Rick DeMoss said.

The Blue Jackets, 4-12, and 4-10, came back to outscore the

See ST. JOE, B-4

ROSS

Continued From B-1

missed a beat, scoring 10 points and grabbing four rebounds, three off the offensive board.

Ross led by as many as eight — 16-8 — early in the second quarter but never more than that. Clay rallied, behind a skin-tight man-to-man defense, to take the lead 26-25 on Jeremy Erdmann's basket with 50 seconds remaining in the first half but it was the last time the Eagles led.

Hammer drove the left side for a layup with seven seconds remaining, putting Ross up 27-26 at the half.

"The real difference," Dippman said, "was they got the upper hand in the second half.

They would take it (lead) out to six or eight points but we would get back in it but never go ahead; we just could not get over the top.

"Ross did everything it had to do to win it."

"They are a good team," McGhee praised the Eagles, "but we need to concentrate better."

"This (the win) feels good though," McGhee said, "because it has been three weeks since we won."

Erik Heintschel paced Clay with 17 points and six rebounds and Corey Slovak added a dozen points.

In the junior varsity game, Ross raised its record to 12-4 with a 61-54 win. Ten Ross players scored, with freshman Nick Wolf scoring 10 and Mark Gottron nine.

Basketball

Ross 55, Clay 53

Score by quarters

Clay	8	18	12	15	— 53
Ross	12	15	19	9	— 55

Scoring

CLAY — Erik Heintschel 6-5-17, Mark Routson 2-0-5, Bill St. John 2-2-6, Chad Nikoncyk 2-0-4, Jeremy Erdmann 2-2-6, Dan Williams 1-1-3, Corey Slovak 6-0-12, totals 21-10-53.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 8-4-20, Arlo Brown 2-0-4, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Brad Hammer 5-0-11, Todd Clark 0-2-2, Shane McConnell 4-2-10, totals 23-8-55.

3-point goals: Routson, Hammer.

Records: Ross 10-6, Clay 8-9.

Ross JV 61, Clay 54

Score by quarters

Clay	8	16	11	19	— 54
Ross	13	18	14	16	— 61

Scoring

CLAY — Rob Belegrin 4-4-13, Jarrod Buffy 5-4-14, Jay Dunn 0-1-1, Jamie Swartz 2-0-4, Steve Finch 7-5-19, Jason Hoogerhyde 0-1-1, Pat Schwierking 0-2-2, totals 18-17-54.

ROSS — Mark Gottron 4-0-9, Doug Gahn 2-2-6, Nick Wolf 6-0-12, Chris Benson 1-3-5, Joe Frazier 1-0-2, Chris Wolfe 3-0-6, Kelvin McMorris 1-4-6, Cory Lance 0-2-2, Justin Oxley 2-0-4, Jeff Green 4-1-9, totals 24-12-61.

3-point goals: Belegrin, Gottron.

Record: Ross 12-4.

Zanesville nips Little Giants on late field goal

News-Messenger reports

Chris Norris picked up a loose ball and tossed in a 12-foot jump shot with time running out to lift Zanesville to a 67-65 Buckeye Central Conference victory over Fremont Ross Saturday.

Zanesville, 10-8 and 4-3 in the BCC, had the ball for the final 30 seconds of the game. After a missed shot, the ball was volleyballed around before Norris' game-winner.

In other games Saturday, Oak Harbor beat Lake 78-63, Margaretta buried Danbury 105-33, Toledo Woodward knocked off Port Clinton 66-52, and Bellevue defeated Galion 66-49.

At Zanesville, Ross trailed by eight points at halftime and by as many as 11 in the third quarter.

"We made a nice comeback," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "It was a tough way to lose, but we played a good game all the way through.

"I was pleased because we

haven't played well in our other two long trips (losses to Newark and Lancaster)."

Ross, 10-7 and 3-4 in the BCC, got 24 points from Mike McGee, 12 from Brad Hammer and 10 from Adam Bulger.

Martin Scanlon scored a game-high 25 points for the Blue Devils.

Margaretta.....105

Danbury.....33

Danbury fell behind 21-8 after the first quarter and never recovered against the Margaretta onslaught. The Polar Bears led 52-46 at halftime.

Margaretta, which led 82-19 after three quarters, missed breaking the school record for most points in a game by two points. The record, 107, was set against Edison on Feb. 7, 1978.

Tim Fredrick led five Polar Bears in double figures with 22 points. Trevor Zimmerman had 20 for Margaretta, 8-9, Kent Mil-

ler added 14 and Keith Miller and Mike Lane each chipped in 10.

Oak Harbor.....78

Lake.....63

Greg Holman had five 3-point field goals, and 27 points, as Oak Harbor won its seventh straight game. The win was the Rockets' eighth in their last 10 contests.

Oak Harbor, 11-6, led 25-16 after one quarter, and 48-39 at halftime and outscored the Blue Streaks 30-24 in the second half.

Steve Alexander added 20 points, while Rich Schultz threw in 14 for the Rockets.

Jeff Clere led the Streaks with 24 points.

Toledo Woodward.....66

Port Clinton.....52

The Redskins fell behind by 10 after one period, but could only play non-league opponent Woodward even the rest of the contest.

Port Clinton, 5-13, has now dropped nine of its last ten games. Woodward won for just the second time in 17 games.

Steve Smith led Port Clinton with 14 points, Jason Bodager had 12 and Scott Wamsley added 11.

David Nelson led Woodward with 14 points. Shawn Hostiling, and Joe Anderson rounded out the double digit scorers with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

The Redskins were outrebounded 49-13.

Bellevue.....64

Galion.....49

Bellevue improved to 12-6 and 8-4 in the Northern Ohio League against winless Galion.

Galion falls to 0-17, and 0-12 in the NOL.

Bellevue turned a 14-8 first quarter lead into a 34-24 halftime margin.

Kory Santoro led all scorers with 21 points and Dusty Erdman had 17 for the Redmen.

High School Boys

Zanesville 67, Ross 65

Score by quarters

Ross	16	13	20	16—	65
Zanesville	9	28	14	16—	67

Scoring

ROSS: Brad Hammer 5-1-12, Adam Bulger 5-4-14, Todd Clark 1-0-2; Mike McGee 10-4-24, Shane McConnell 2-0-4, Arlo Brown 3-2-8, Jeff Green 0-1-1.

ZANESVILLE — Bob France 8-0-16, Martin Scanlon 8-9-25, Steve Hodge 3-4-10, Todd Whiteman 1-2-4, Bob Johnson 1-0-2, Chris Norris 4-0-8, Aaron Gaiters 1-0-2.

Ross JVs 61, Z'ville 57

Score by quarters

Ross	8	22	12	19—	61
Zanesville	10	15	8	24—	57

Scoring

ROSS: Darnell McDonald 1-2-4, Mark Gottron 4-3-11, Doug Gahn 3-4-10, Nick Wolf 4-1-9, Chris Benson 0-1-1, Joe Frazier 2-2-6, Chris Wolfe 2-0-4, Jeff Green 3-1-7, Cory Lance 1-1-3, Justin Oxley 2-0-6, totals 24-15-61.

ZANESVILLE — Ohlinger 3-1-7, Payton 6-2-14, Dunn 4-0-8, Mathews 6-0-12, Witucky 4-1-10, Franklin 1-0-2, McGlade 2-0-4, totals 26-4-57.

Three point goals: Oxley (2), Witucky.

Records: Ross 13-4.

Redmen edge Little Giants

By JOHN CUMMINGS

Staff correspondent

FOSTORIA — Aaron Hampton made two free throws with six seconds remaining to help lift Fostoria to a topsy-turvy 64-61 victory over Fremont Ross Tuesday night.

Hampton's foul shots, which made it 64-60, finally slammed the door on Ross, which trailed much of the game but led 52-49 with 4:41 remaining.

"You can only fight back so many times," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said.

Ross's 52-49 advantage came when Adam Bulger made two free throws after drawing Ryan Hipsher's fifth foul.

"We struggled an awful lot

after he (Hipsher) fouled out," Fostoria Coach Jim Rutter said. "We are just so small without him out there."

Bulger scored the Little Giants' last 11 points. They would, however, be spaced far enough apart to allow Fostoria to retake the lead at 60-58.

Bulger made two foul shots to knot the game at 60-all, but Pratt Robinson scored the last of his game-high 26 points to make it 62-60 with 21 seconds left.

"When we were up by three, we had several turnovers in a row, and lost the momentum we had built up," McGhee said. "Our defense also let us down. I think that one of our strong points is defense, and rebound-

ing, but we gave them too many shots inside 10-feet, and we put them on the free throw line too many times."

Fostoria made 16-of-23 free throws, while Ross made 20-of-31.

The Little Giants, 10-8, had to fight back from the start, as the Redmen, 8-9, made seven of their first eight shots from the field while running to a 17-5 lead midway through the first quarter.

Ross made its first run of the night to close within 19-15 after one quarter.

"We fell too far behind," McGhee said, "and they were shoot-

See ROSS, B-2

ROSS

Continued From B-1

ing the ball well tonight."

Fostoria went on to shoot 51 percent (22-for-43) from the floor. Ross made 20 of 52 shots.

"I'm surprised the way we jumped out on them," Rutter said, "We've been a slow-starting team."

The Redmen started to slow some in the second quarter, while Ross was still getting the gears oiled, and the two squads went to halftime with Fostoria clinging to a four-point lead, 30-26.

Ross led twice in the first half at 24-23 and 26-25.

Hipsher hit two free throws after a 3-point play by Robinson to give Fostoria its halftime cushion.

The Little Giants were able to keep Fostoria close in the third quarter thanks to the inside play of Mike McGee, Bulger, and Arlo Brown. Fostoria led 44-39 after three quarters.

Bulger led Ross with 20 points and McGee had 15.

"We only got eight points from our three guards (six by Brad Hammer)," McGee said.

The Little Giants outrebounded the Redmen, 31-20. McGee had 10 rebounds and Bulger nine.

Fostoria 64, Ross 61

Score by quarters

Ross	15	11	13	22	— 61
Fostoria	19	11	14	20	— 64

Scoring

ROSS — Brad Hammer 2-1-6, Adam Bulger 6-8-20, Mike McGee 5-5-15, Shane McConnell 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 3-3-9, Jeff Green 1-0-2, Tony Roob 2-3-7, totals 20-20-61.

FOSTORIA — Rob Alexander 1-0-2, Jamie Clay 2-2-6, Aaron Hampton 3-2-9, Ryan Hipsher 4-6-14, Derek Kidwell 2-1-5, Casey McBeth 1-0-2, Pratt Robinson 9-7-26, totals 22-18-64.

3-point goals: Hammer, Hampton, Robinson.

Records: Ross 10-8, Fostoria 8-9.

Ross JV 57, Fostoria 49

Score by quarters

Ross	12	9	17	19	— 57
Fostoria	6	16	12	15	— 49

Scoring

ROSS — Mark Gottron 4-2-10, Doug Gahn 1-1-3, Tim Nesbit 0-1-1, Nick Wolf 4-0-8, Chris Benson 0-2-2, Chris Wolfe 3-4-10, Kelvin McMorris 2-0-4, Jeff Green 6-0-12, Cory Lance 1-0-2, Justin Oxley 2-0-5, totals 23-10-57.

FOSTORIA — Brooks Lance 1-0-2, Matt Green 2-0-5, Keith Sheets 1-0-2, Robert Holmes 7-3-17, Greg Furgeson 4-0-9, Tony Settles 2-0-5, Davon Cousin 3-3-9, totals 20-6-49.

3-point goals: Oxley, Green, Furgeson, Settles.

Records: Ross 14-4.

Sandusky boys nip Ross on late jump shot

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — Mike Delk's 15-foot jump shot with four seconds left gave Sandusky a 62-60 high school boys basketball victory over Fremont Ross Saturday night.

The Blue Streaks, 13-6, came from five points down with 2:18 remaining.

The final 2:18 was a study in Ross futility which hit its zenith with 42 seconds left.

The game was deadlocked 60-60 when Mike McGee of Ross missed a free throw. Arlo Brown of Ross got the rebound but missed the three-footer. Adam Bulger of the Little Giants got that rebound but missed and Brown missed his second rebound shot. Bulger got the rebound of Brown's second miss and was fouled with 42 seconds left.

Bulger, who finished with 15 points, missed both free throws and Sandusky's Brent Hudson

grabbed the rebound. After a timeout with 19 seconds left, Delk hit his shot from the right of the foul circle.

"It's ironic," Sandusky Coach John Schlessman said, "that the guy who could not buy a basket or a layup, hit the game-winner."

Delk was two of 10 before hitting the shot that produced the Little Giants' ninth loss against 10 wins. Ross has lost seven of its last eight, the last three by a total of seven points.

Sandusky is 13-6.

"We did a decent job defensively," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "even on the last shot our man was right out on him.

"We had our chances ... on our follow-ups and free throws, but the ball just did not fall for us."

"There is no doubt those follow-up shots and the free throws were the crucial parts of the game," Schlessman said.

Ross made just nine of 17 free throws while Sandusky was 11 of

21.

Ross dominated the rebounding 57-30 with 25 of the retrieves off the offensive board. Brown, who led Ross with 18 points, grabbed 20 rebounds including 12 offensive. Bulger had 13 rebounds and McGee 10.

Terrill Green scored 14 points and Sandusky rolled to a 21-14 first quarter lead. Green finished with a game-high 23.

Sandusky led 34-26 at the half.

In the third quarter, Brown scored six points, Bulger, Brad Hammer and Todd Clark four each, leading the Little Giants to a 22-13 scoring edge and a 48-47 lead.

Ross got its first lead 42-41 on Clark's 18-foot jumper from the right of the key with 2:23 remaining in the third quarter.

The Little Giants' biggest lead was six, twice in the final quarter, the last time at 58-52.

After Brown sank the last of six straight free throws in the final quarter, Ross had a 60-55

lead before futility took over.

Terrill Green hit a three-pointer from the corner with 2:10 remaining and Orlando Keys tied it with a shot from the foul line with 1:24 showing on the clock.

"They made some key shots down the stretch," McGhee said, "and we just could not get the ball to fall."

The Ross defense held Chad Green, who was averaging 18 points, to 13.

"When you take something away," McGhee said, "you have to give something up."

Terrill Green was the something given up. The Greens were the only Blue Streaks in double figures.

Hammer gave Ross a trio of double-figure scorers with 13 points.

Ross was 25 of 60 from the floor and Sandusky 24 of 58. Ross committed 23 turnovers.

Ross will close the regular season Friday at home against Findlay.

High School Boys

Sandusky 62, Ross 60

Score by quarters

Ross	14	12	22	12	— 60
Sandusky	21	13	13	15	— 62

Scoring

ROSS — Adam Bulger 7-1-15, Arlo Brown 6-6-18, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Brad Hammer 6-0-13, Todd Clark 1-2-4, Shane McConnell 1-0-2, totals 25-9-60.

SANDUSKY — Jarrod Williams 2-3-7, Terrill Green 10-2-23, Mike Delk 3-0-6, Chad Green 4-4-13, Orlando Keys 3-1-7, Brent Hudson 1-1-4, Chad Harkelroad 1-0-2, totals 24-11-62.

3-point goals: Hammer, T. Green, C. Green, Hudson.

Records: Sandusky 13-6, Ross 10-9.

Sandusky JV 65, Ross 59

Score by quarters

Ross	13	15	13	18	— 59
Sandusky	13	16	17	19	— 65

Scoring

ROSS — Cory Lance 2-0-4, Justin Oxley 2-0-4, Jeff Green 6-2-14, Mark Gottron 0-2-2, Doug Gahn 6-1-13, Nick Wolf 3-0-7, Chris Wolfe 6-3-15, totals 25-8-59.

SANDUSKY — Tate Wilkins 1-0-2, Todd Lawson 1-1-4, Mike Franklin 5-1-13, Shaki Johnson 4-5-13, Mario Johnson 3-0-6, Damon Rice 1-0-2, Paul Hardin 3-3-9, Shawn Reed 5-0-11, DeWayne Johnson 0-4-4, totals 24-13-65.

3-point goals: Wolf, Lawson, S. Johnson 3.

Records: Sandusky 16-3, Ross 14-5.

McGee, Radde are District 6 first-team picks

News-Messenger reports

Mike McGee of Fremont Ross and Scott Radde of Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic have been named to the District 6 Coaches Association All-Star team.

McGee is a first-team selection in Division I and Radde is a first-team selection in Division IV.

In District 7, Division III voting, where Oak Harbor's Greg Holman won Player of the Year honors, Gibsonburg's Steve Cantrell was selected to the first team.

Adam Bulger of Ross was a second team Division I pick in District 6 and the Little Giant's Brad Hammer earned honorable mention status.

Old Fort was represented on the District 6, Division IV team by Kandy Cameron and Kevin Guth. Cameron was named to the second team and Guth was tabbed honorable mention.

In Division II, Bellevue's Brent Swartzmiller was named to the second team while teammate Kory Santoro and Clyde's Ken Garcia received honorable mention recognition.

Other Division III honors in District 7 went to Genoa's Daryl Goodman, a second-team choice, and honorable mention picks Brent Liskai of Gibsonburg and Craig Burner and John Schwochow of Woodmore.

Defense powers Ross past Findlay

Little Giants finish tied for 2nd

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross used a skin-tight defense and two second-half scoring spurts while defeating Findlay 53-46 in a steamy Purple Pit at Ross High School Friday night.

Ross closed the season with an 11-9 record and 4-4 in the Buckeye Central Conference, good enough for a tie for second place in the final standings with Zanesville. Findlay finished 12-8 and 3-5 in the BCC.

Ross started an all-senior lineup, but Ross coach Pat McGhee did not do that because it was the last home game for the five.

"We did a nice job on our perimeter defense," McGhee said. "We showed them a little zone defense but with that many good shooters, it is hard to play zone all the time. You have to stand

some people in front of them."

"By starting Tony (Roob), we were able to put some bigger people out on the perimeter to give them somebody to shoot over," McGhee said. "Tony did a nice job of plugging up the middle and that allowed Adam (Bulger, 6-4) to go outside. We knew Findlay was going to make some shots; we just had to make them earn their points."

Roob, listed as 6-3, 240 pounds and starting his second varsity game, scored the game's first bucket and helped Ross control the rebounding game 49-34. He was unofficially credited with six rebounds.

"Ross is a dominating rebounding team anyway," Findlay Coach Roger Renz said. "That was a big part of it, but I

SECOND, B-3

Giants' seniors make last game memorable

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Brad Hammer was where Pat McGhee wanted him: on the foul line.

"He is one of the best in the conference (Buckeye Central)," the Ross boys basketball coach said after the Little Giants defeated Findlay 53-46 Friday night in the Purple Pit.

"Brad wanted the ball in his hands tonight, and that is a good sign," McGhee said.

Hammer was held in check by the Findlay tandem of Jeff Bova and Grant Haggard, but his two free throws with 33 seconds left put Ross up by six, 51-45. He missed a free throw with 29 seconds left, but senior classmate Arlo Brown iced the game with two foul shots with nine seconds remaining.

It was "senior" night for the Little Giants. All five started and all played key roles in the win.

"I felt a lot of pressure at the end," Hammer said.

He remembered early in the season when he missed a free throw that could have given Ross a win over Perkins.

"That went through my mind; I really thought about that," Hammer said. "I just wanted to hit those first two."

Hammer, normally the shooting guard, moved to point guard against Findlay.

"I really don't prefer it (playing the point), but it is part of my job, filling in where we need people," Hammer said. "I really don't prefer it, but I can do it."

Mike McGee set the tone for

See SENIORS, B-3



TONY ROOB (50) of Ross gets his hand on the ball as Findlay's Matt Semeyn goes up for a

shot. Adam Bulger (22) of Ross was called for a foul in the Little Giants' 53-46 win.

News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Second

Continued From B-1

thought their defense really took us out of our offense.

"We just could not get into any offense. They over-played the passing lanes; I don't know how many times we threw it right to them. We did not adjust at all," Renz said. "They played a very aggressive man-to-man and their quickness really showed against us tonight.

"We did a nice job defensively, too," Renz added. "Anytime you hold Fremont to 53 points, you expect to win... we average 76 points a game."

The Ross defense held Rick Renz, averaging 10-plus points a game, scoreless.

"We felt we had to take someone out of their offense," McGhee said. "Renz, I felt, was a key for them."

Ross broke a 29-29 deadlock

with a six-point run, all by Mike McGee, in the third quarter before outscoring the Trojans 11-3 in the first half of the final quarter for a 46-37 lead.

Findlay closed the gap to 47-45 with 1:27 remaining, but Adam Bulger hit a short jumper from the middle of the lane and Brad Hammer sank two free throws, putting Ross up 51-45 with 33 seconds left. Arlo Brown's two free throws with nine seconds left iced the game.

Mike McGee, Bulger and Brown, the Little Giants' chairmen of the boards, scored 28 of Ross's 30 second-half points.

McGee scored 14 of his Ross-high 16 in the second half, including 10 in the third quarter. The six-foot senior's six-point run included a stuff shot on a breakaway.

Bulger scored eight in the final eight minutes and Brown dropped in four.

Ross led 12-11 after one quarter, but it was 23-23 at the half.

Findlay took its biggest lead, 29-25, midway through the third quarter before Ross came to life.

McGee hit two free throws and Bulger's layup tied it, setting up McGee's six-point run. Todd Jensen's 3-pointer cut the Ross lead to 35-32 after three quarters.

Bulger's layup and three-point play and McGee's rebound put Ross up 42-34 before Jensen buried another 3-pointer, cutting the Ross lead to 42-37 with 4:40 left. The Ross lead expanded to nine again on Brown's short jumper from the left side and McGee's eight-footer from the middle of the paint.

Jensen, on his way to a game-high 26, and Matt Semeyn cut the Findlay deficit to 46-41. After Bulger hit a free throw, Findlay's Chris Vance made two foul shots and Jensen hit his last basket, shrinking the Ross lead to 47-45 with 1:27 remaining.

Bulger broke the Findlay run

with a bucket and Hammer gave Ross breathing room before Brown's foul shots iced the game.

Bulger, who finished with 12 points, the same as Brown, blocked two Findlay shots in the final minute.

"It's nice to get this win," McGee said, "and it is especially nice to beat Findlay twice in one season."

In the junior varsity game, Ross upset Findlay 45-44 on Jeff Green's free throw with 52 seconds remaining. The loss was just the third in 20 games for the Trojans while Ross finished 15-5.

Findlay had a chance to tie with eight seconds left but Kevin Hinkle missed a free throw and Chris Wolfe of Ross grabbed the rebound.

Wolfe led Ross with 14 points and Nick Wolf added 10. Doug Gahn chipped in with seven.

Seniors

Continued From B-1

his 16-point, 10-rebound performance by singing the National Anthem before the game.

"It put tears in my eyes," McGee said. "It was my last home game."

McGee, held to two first-half points, scored 10 in the third quarter.

"I lost my concentration," he said, "but coach, he pulled us to-

gether and said, 'This is your last game, you got to do it,' and we did it."

McGee had a stuff shot in the third quarter.

"In a way, it may have gotten us going. I know it pumped me up," he said.

Adam Bulger scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

"I felt like it (game) was slipping away," he said, "but it felt good to win this one. I just wish I had gotten a dunk."

"It was our last game and we just had to go out there and do

the job," Brown said after scoring 12 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

McGee sat Brown down momentarily in the third quarter.

"My feet wanted to move before my hands wanted to catch the ball," he said. "I had to calm myself down but I thank the Lord he gave me the strength to go back out there and do the job."

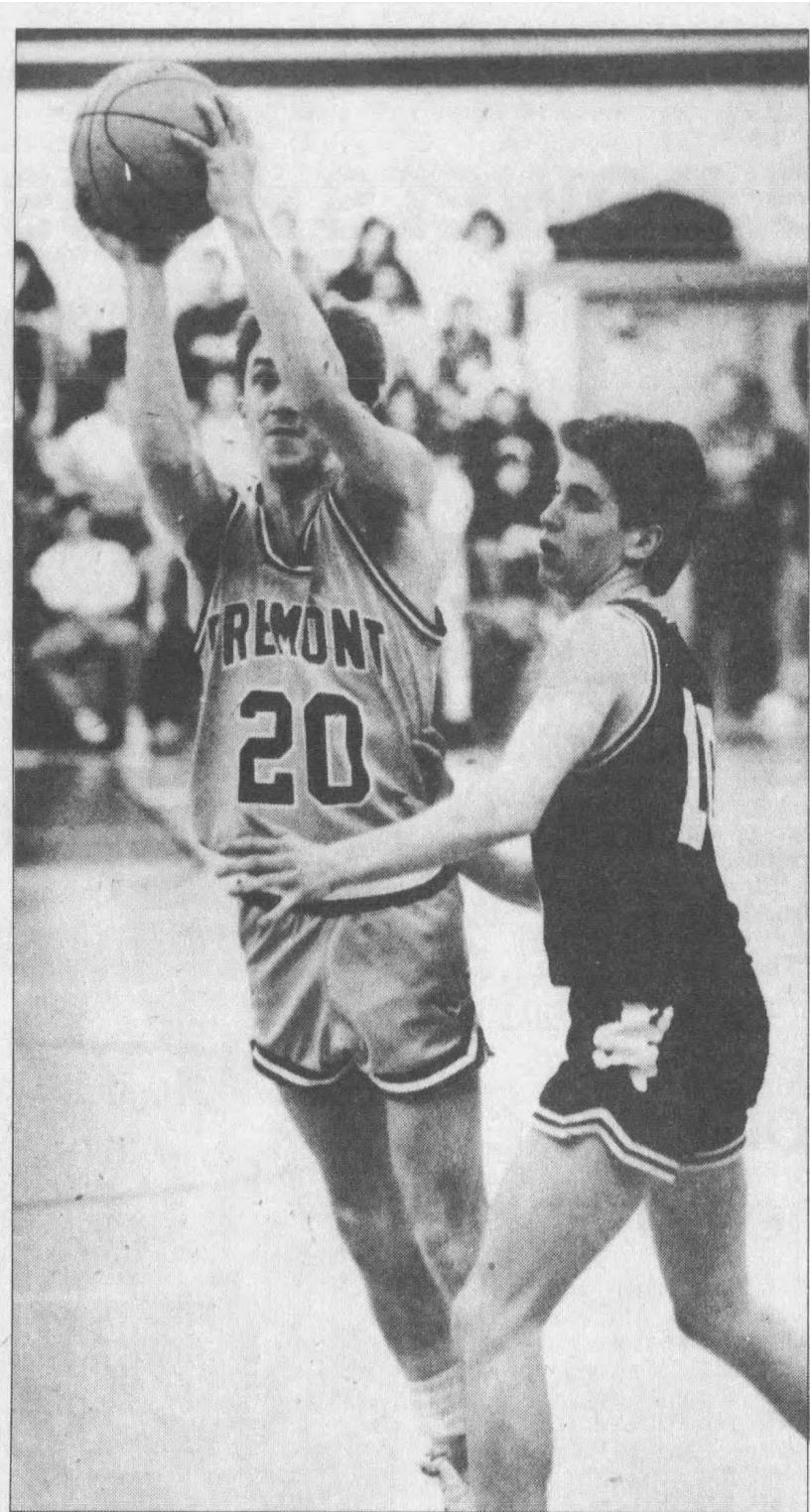
Tony Roob started his second varsity game and scored the first Ross basket. Roob, an All-Ohio football player at offensive tackle, said the start made him

more nervous than any football game.

"It's not like football, when you can go out and hit someone hard," Roob said. "You have to be delicate in basketball; I found that out early."

"Coach McGhee said I had to mellow down a little bit."

The five seniors and the other Little Giants are idle until Feb. 25 when Ross takes on the winner of Wednesday's Mansfield Senior-Madison game in the Division I sectional final at Norwalk.



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Tight defense

Brad Hammer (20) of Ross attempts to get off a shot against Grant Haggard of Findlay during the first half at Ross High School Friday night. Ross won the Buckeye Central Conference game 53-46.

High School Boys

Ross 53, Findlay 46

Score by quarters

Findlay	11	12	9	14	— 46
Ross	12	11	12	18	— 53

Scoring

FINDLAY — Rick Renz 0-0-0, Chris Vance 4-2-10, Matt Semeyn 1-0-2, Todd Jensen 10-3-26, Jeff Bova 1-0-2, Grant Haggard 1-4-6, totals 17-9-46.

ROSS — Adam Bulger 5-2-12, Arlo Brown 3-6-12, Mike McGee 7-2-16, Brad Hammer 1-2-4, Todd Clark 1-0-2, Tony Roob 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 2-1-5, totals 20-13-53.

3-point goals: Jensen 3.

Records: Findlay 12-8 (3-5), Ross 11-9 (4-4).

Ross JV 45, Findlay 44

Score by quarters

Findlay	12	17	4	11	— 44
Ross	10	15	14	6	— 45

Scoring

FINDLAY — Chad Dillon 1-0-2, Korey Hinkle 5-4-14, Vince Perrine 3-1-7, Todd Phillips 4-0-11, Kevin Hinkle 1-2-4, Rick Ritzler 3-0-6, totals 17-9-44.

ROSS — Cory Lance 0-1-1, Justin Oxley 1-0-2, Jeff Green 2-1-5, Darnell McDonald 0-2-2, Mark Gottron 1-0-2, Doug Gahn 3-1-7, Nick Wolf 4-2-10, Joe Frazier 1-0-2, Chris Wolfe 7-0-14, totals 19-7-45.

3-point goals: Phillips 3.

Records: Findlay 17-3 (6-2), Ross 15-5 (4-4).

Basketball

AP High School Northwest All-District

COLUMBUS — The 1989 Associated Press Northwest all-district boys all selected by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters representing the N

BOYS

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Jim Jackson, Toledo Macomber, 6-foot-6, Senior, 31.8 points per game; Craig Michaelis, Toledo Whitmer, 6-6½, Sr., 27.2; Lance Reinhard, Toledo St. John's, 6-2, Sr., 16.0; Donnie Dobbs, Toledo Macomber, 6-4, Jr., 18.8; Jerome Gray, Toledo St. Francis, 6-4, Jr., 19.5.

SECOND TEAM: Richard Glover, Lima Senior, 6-3, Sr., 22.6; James Williams, Mansfield Madison, 6-foot, Sr., 19.6; Anthony Williams, Toledo Scott, 6-5, Jr., 17.7; David Smith, Toledo Macomber, 6-foot, Sr., 15.0; Sean Scrutchins, Toledo Scott, 6-4, Jr., 13.8.

THIRD TEAM: Chadd Green, Sandusky, 6-4, Sr., 17.7; Mike McGee, Fremont Ross, 6-1, Sr., 14.5; Chris Vance, Findlay, 6-4, Jr., 16.5; Luke Ragan, Toledo St. John's, 6-5, Jr., 13.0; John Batson, Toledo Central Catholic, 6-2, Sr., 16.7.

AREA HONORABLE MENTION: Brad Hammer and Adam Bulger, Fremont Ross.

Player of the year: Jim Jackson, Toledo Macomber.

Coach of the year: John Schlessman, Sandusky.

DI

FIRST TEAM: La nior, 6-0, Sr., 19.4; I ers, 6-0, Sr., 20.0; Central Catholic, 5-4 Toledo Notre Dame, liams, Lima Senior,

SECOND TEAM: St. Ursula, 5-5, Sr., 1 Southview, 5-10, Sop Notre Dame, 5-9, Sr Toledo Macomber, Aaron, Sandusky, 6-0

THIRD TEAM: K Jr., 12.9; Beth Raph Sr., 12.8; Jackie Cu Catholic, 5-6, Sr., 11. Clay, 5-6, Sr., 15.2; Clay, 5-6, Jr., 13.3; nior, 5-11, Sr., 11.4.

Player of the year: Senior.

Coach of the year: Senior.

DIV
FIRST TEAM: I

BCC All-Stars

First Team

Jeff Brown, Newark; Tim Graham, Lancaster; Scott Thompson, Newark; **Mike McGee, Fremont Ross; Martin Scanlon, Zanesville; Todd Jensen, Findlay.**

Second Team

Rick Renz, Findlay; **Brad Hammer, Fremont Ross; Doug Devoll, Newark; Greg Cave, Lancaster; Dwayne Romine, Newark; Chris Vance, Findlay.**

Player of the Year: Jeff Brown, Newark.

Coach of the year: Gary Walters, Newark.

Honorable mention: **Arlo Brown and Adam Bulger, Fremont Ross.**



News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

SPECIAL AWARD winners at Fremont Ross are seated, left to right: Becky Thiessen and Todi Heslet; standing: Mike McGee, Brian Schaaf and Jamie Ramirez.

Ross winter athletes receive recognition

News-Messenger reports

Five athletes were named "most valuable" during the winter sports program at Fremont Ross High School Tuesday night.

Jamie Ramirez in wrestling, Becky Thiessen and Mike McGee in basketball and Todi Heslet and Brian Schaaf in swimming topped the list of special awards.

In addition to the top honor in wrestling, Ramirez took home a captain's trophy and the most pins award. He also won his fourth letter.

Other wrestling awards handed out by Coach Al Voggenthaler went to senior Mike Rocha as the team's most improved and Troy Williamson, who received the most takedowns trophy.

Thiessen was voted the girls basketball team's most valuable player in addition to being presented with a captain's trophy by Coach Sue Wolf.

The team's most improved player was Melissa Smith while Any Ritzman won the award for being the team's leading rebounder and best defender. Amy Brandt won the highest free throw shooting trophy and Kim Borys won the most assists honor as well as a captain's award.

McGee led boys Coach Pat McGee's honors list. McGee also won the top scorer's award and was presented with a captain's

trophy.

Brad Hammer was the team's top free throw shooter and was presented with a captain's trophy. Arlo Brown led the team in rebounding and Adam Bulger was the top field goal percentage shooter. Bulger was also a three-year letterman.

Todd Clark won the award for most assists.

Heslet and Schaaf, both four-year letterwinners, led the swimmers.

Heslet, in addition to being the girls most valuable swimmer, was a co-captain along with Leah Baker.

Katie Hiser won the most improved award presented by Coach Neal Wensinger. Brenda Audorff was the recipient of the coaches' award.

Schaaf, along with Chad Root and Jason Sprenger, also earned a captain's award.

Allyn Spanfellner was named the boys team's most improved while divers B.J. Blair and Root won the coaches' award.

Also, cheerleader advisor Whitney Hinds presented Ali Ayers and Bethanie Shank with their second letters.

The Ross Booster Club presented three other awards for individuals placing in state meets. Ramirez was fifth in Division I, 145-pound wrestling while Blair was third and Root 6th in the state diving meet.