

## 1987-1988 Season Review

# Redskins slips past Ross

## Bodager's tosses seal win

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

When the chips were down, Tom Bodager let his kid do the work.

Jason Bodager, son of the Port Clinton coach, hit two free throws with 12 seconds remaining and the Redskins survived a pair of Ross bombs for a 55-54 high school boys basketball win Friday night in the Redskins' teepee.

Port Clinton is 2-0 and Ross 0-1.

"When I put him in," the Port Clinton coach recalled, "I said, 'Jay, can you make the foul shots?'"

He did, and Dad was walking around on cloud nine.

"Again, any kid in that situation ... it's a tough place to be," Bodager said, "and you want them to respond."

Jason, Jay to his folks, had three first half points, canned a three-pointer in the third quarter and sank the key free throws to put the Redskins up 55-51. That was enough as Port Clinton survived a pair of back-to-back three-pointers in the final minute by Ross's Adam Bulger.

Bulger's first long bomb came from NBA three-point length, cutting Port Clinton's advantage to 53-51 with 20 seconds remaining. His second, also from nearly 23 feet out, came with seven seconds remaining.

On the inbounds pass, Port Clinton survived a wild scramble in which two Little Giants touched the ball but could not get control.

"We had our chance to win it at the end," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, but pointed out that his team, "missed too many easy shots."

Some of those easy shots came

from the foul line, where the Giants were six of 17.

In the first quarter, the Little Giants had trouble missing, getting seven points from Nick Hall and hitting nine of 18 shots for a 19-10 lead. Less than a minute into the second quarter, Ross led 20-10 but the wheels began to come off at that point.

What was falling for Ross in the first eight minutes, would not fall in the final 24. What was missing in the first quarter, began to go in for the Redskins.

Bill Wight, a lanky 6-9 senior, canned eight second quarter points on his way to a game-high 18, and the Redskins went past Ross 28-27 on Eric Rumball's lay-in with 1:16 remaining in the half. Ross never led again but tied the game 48-48 with 1:54 to play on Brad Hammer's second three-pointer.

Wight's free throw 18 seconds later put Port Clinton ahead again.

Port Clinton's biggest lead was nine points, late in the third quarter.

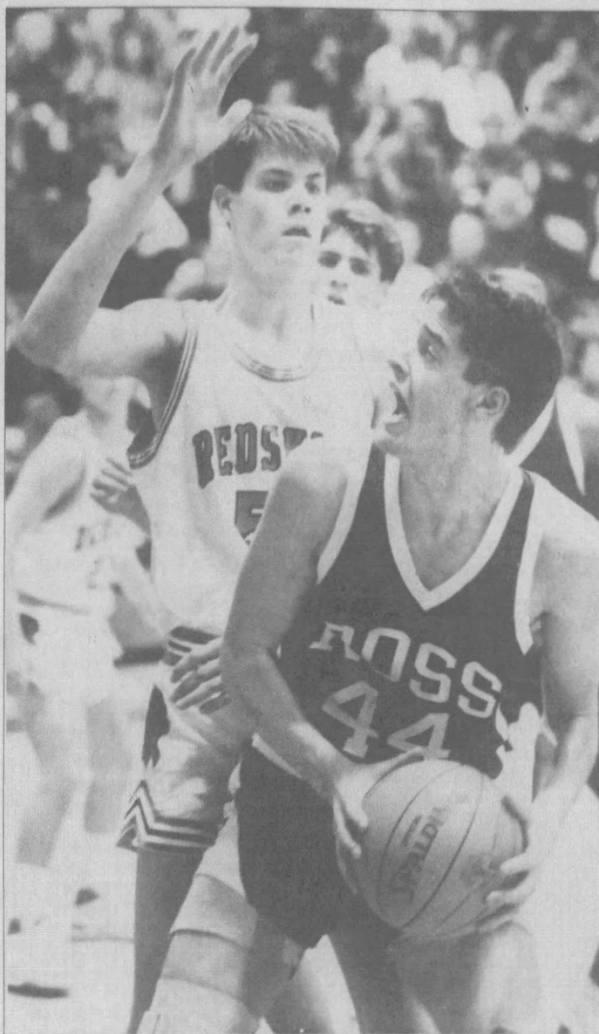
"We could have folded when we got nine down," McGhee said, "but we played hard all night. I am pleased with the effort but we just missed a lot of shots from within 15 feet and those are shots we are capable of making."

"These kids will learn from this and will come back tomorrow (tonight against Bowling Green at Fremont)," McGhee said.

"My guys did not let up," Bodager said while sounding like McGhee, "even when they got down by nine."

"Bill Wight did a great job for us. That was a whale of a

See REDSKINS, Page B-3



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

MIKE WOLFE of Ross finds his path to the basket blocked by Bill Wight of Port Clinton during the Redskins victory over the Little Giants Friday night.

# Redskins

## Continued From B-1

game."

Rumball canned a trio of three-pointers, the third after a Ross turnover, giving the Redskins a 52-48 lead with 1:05 to play.

"That three-pointer he popped

was not by design," Bodager pointed out.

Rumball finished with 12 points. Bulger led Ross with 15 points and Brad Hammer had 11. Bulger and Hammer had a pair of three-pointers each.

Ross held a 46-32 rebounding advantage. The Little Giants made 22 of 63 shots and Port Clinton 19 of 46. Port Clinton had 19 turnovers, two more than Ross.

## High School Boys

### P. Clinton 55, Ross 54

#### Score by quarters

Ross	19	10	10	15	— 54
Port Clinton	10	23	11	11	— 55

#### Scoring

ROSS — Nick Hall 3-1-7, Adam Bulger 5-3-15, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Brad Hammer 4-1-11, Darrin Critchet 2-0-4, Tracy Hufford 2-1-5, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, totals 22-6-54.

PORT CLINTON — Doug Cooper 2-4-8, Todd Warnicke 2-0-5, Bill Wight 7-4-18, Eric Rumball 4-1-12, Paul Rofkar 2-0-4, George Lee 1-0-2, Jason Bodager 2-3-8, totals 19-12-55.

3-point goals: Bulger 2, Hammer 2, Warnicke, Rumball 3, Bodager.

Season records: Port Clinton 2-0, Ross 0-1.

# Not pretty, but a win for Ross

By CLIFF PINCKARD  
Staff Writer

An artist would not be jealous but Pat McGhee will settle for the picture his team painted Saturday night.

The Little Giants got their first victory of the season over Bowling Green 69-66 their home opener. It was a win McGhee, the Ross coach, put in perspective by describing it as "not pretty."

"It's a win, though. We'll take it," he added.

Ross, 1-1, led by as many as 11 points early in the fourth period but the Bobcats managed to come within two points late in the game.

The first period was chaotic, with both teams committing turnovers frequently.

Bowling Green, 2-2, led 14-12 going into the second. The Bobcat lead grew to 21-16 on Chris Ketner three-pointer 5:30 remaining. Ross recovered, tying at 24-24 with three minutes remaining and went ahead 26-24 on Mike McGee's turnaround jump shot. The half ended knotted at 33-33.

McGhee said he stressed execution to his players during the half.

"We told them that they had to be getting back on the boards," McGhee said. "This game was a

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See ROSS, Page B-3



# Ross

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## Continued From B-1

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complete reversal from last night (Friday, the Giants lost 55-54 to Port Clinton). We played terrible in the third period last night."

Brad Hammer paced Ross to a 40-35 lead, hitting a three-pointer and a two-pointer back-to-back. Hammer finished the night with 13 points, including a trio of three-point goals.

Ross managed to hold on to a 49-43 lead going into the fourth period. Using Nick Hall under the basket and outside, Ross extended the lead to 64-53 with just over four minutes left in the game. Hall finished with 23 points.

Ross could not put the Bobcats away as Bowling Green, sparked by the three-point bombs of Ketner and the overall play of Greg Titus reduced the Ross advantage to 68-66 with 41 seconds remaining.

With Ross running a stalling offense, 6-7 senior Mike Wolfe was fouled with 16 seconds left. Wolfe made the first of two shots to put Ross up 69-66.

Bowling Green has two chanced at tying the game in the remaining seconds but both three-point attempts missed, the last by Ketner was partially blocked.

"We told the players that they were gonna make a run at us," McGhee said. "They're a good team. Good teams come back."

Both Adam Bulger and Tracy Hufford fouled out for the Giants, but McGhee said the foul trouble did not worry him.

"I think we did a pretty nice job with the rest of the kids. We played 10 kids. We did a nice job getting balanced scoring. I was pleased with our depth tonight."

Titus had 24 points for Bowling Green and teammate Topher Gideon added 19.

"We expended a lot of energy in the first half," Bowling Green Coach Tom Rex said while explaining he felt his team ran "out of wind," in the third quarter.

"We played with a lot of intensity and it was a super effort. The way we finished impressed me. This was our third road game in the past five days. The (Boston) Celtics don't even play that much," Rex claimed.

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## High School Boys

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### Ross 69, B.G. 66

#### Score by quarters

Bowling Green	14	19	10	23	— 66
Ross	12	21	16	20	— 69

#### Scoring

BOWLING GREEN — Topher Gedeon 4-11-19, Chris Ketner 3-1-10, Curt Yarger 1-0-2, Kevin Cripe 3-0-6, Greg Titus 8-8-24, Dave Whitmire 1-2-5, totals 20-22-66.

ROSS — Brad Hammer 5-0-13, Adam Bulger 3-0-6, Tracy Hufford 3-2-8, Mike McGee 3-0-6, Nick Hall 10-3-23, Kevin Crawford 4-0-8, Mike Wolfe 1-3-5, totals 29-8-69.

3-point goals: Ketner 3, Hammer 3, Whitmire.

Season records: Ross 1-1, Bowling Green 2-2.

### B.G. JVs 34, Ross 31

#### Score by quarters

Bowling Green	4	10	6	14	— 34
Ross	14	3	6	8	— 31

#### Scoring

BOWLING GREEN — Jeremy Kerr 5-4-14, Steve Hart 2-3-7, Kelly Quain 2-1-4, Chris Fox 1-4-6, Chris Kec 0-1-1, Jerry Bingham 0-1-1, Wade Busch 0-1-1, totals 10-14-34.

ROSS — Justin Oxley 3-0-6, Seth Brickner 1-1-3, Todd Clarke 4-0-8, Chris Wolfe 2-0-4, Shane McConnell 3-0-6, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 15-1-31.

3-point goals: none.

Season record: Ross 0-2.

# Ross opens BCC season at Findlay

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Pat McGhee cannot see any real weaknesses with his Ross High School boys basketball team but he also can see no real strengths.

"What we have to do," McGhee, in his second season at Ross, said, "is improve in practice and in games each week; I guess you would call it getting more consistent."

The Little Giants split a pair of games last weekend — losing to Port Clinton 55-54 and defeating Bowling Green 69-66. McGhee felt that his team should have been 2-0.

"We had a chance to win it at Port Clinton, and when you don't win when you have a chance, you feel bad," McGhee said.

Against Bowling Green, Ross led by 11 in the fourth quarter before the Bobcats closed the

gap to two points.

"We kept putting them on the foul line," McGhee said. "You don't do that when you are leading by 11."

Tonight, the Little Giants will take on Findlay in the Buckeye Central Conference opener. The game could be billed a "battle of cellar dwellers" because Findlay was picked fourth and Ross fifth

See ROSS, Page B-3

## Ross edges Findlay in two OTs

By CLIFF PINCKARD  
Staff Writer

FINDLAY — Before the Fremont Ross-Findlay basketball game Friday night, Ross head coach Pat McGhee and some assistant coaches took some antacids.

After the game, McGhee and his assistants probably needed an antacid the size of Texas.

The Little Giants needed two overtimes to defeat the Trojans 65-63. The win gives the Giants, 2-1, a 1-0 start in the Buckeye Central Conference.

"Anytime Fremont beats Findlay in anything, it's a great victory for the community," McGhee said. "It was more than

10 guys and some coaches, it was everything. We try to build our program around that idea, and tonight it paid off."

The first half gave no hint of what was to come. Both teams played ragged, with turnovers and fouls dominating the game.

Ross, behind the defensive play of Adam Bulger, who blocked two shots, was able to erase a 6-2 lead by the Trojans to lead 12-8 after one period. The Giants would not lose the lead until the first overtime.

Ross stretched its lead to 18-11 midway in the second before Findlay began one of its many comebacks. Taking advantage of Ross mistakes and trips to the

foul line, the Trojans managed to even things at 22-22 with just under two minutes left in the half. The Giants defense strengthened, though, and a Brad Hammer bomb for three points gave Ross a 25-22 halftime lead.

The Little Giants had a chance to put the game out of reach in the third period. Led by Nick Hall, who ended the night with 21 points, Ross stretched its lead to 41-28. Findlay, though, slowly began to widdle away at the lead, forcing mistakes by Ross toward the end of the period.

Working the ball into 6-3 center Matt Semeyen, Findlay ran off ten unanswered points to cut the

lead to 41-38. Before the Giants could recover, the Trojans trailed by one, 43-42.

Both teams scored to make it 45-44, when Hall drove for a lay-up and was fouled. He hit the free-throw, giving Ross a 46-44 lead with 3:39 left in regulation.

A Findlay turnover gave Ross the ball, and Mike McGee, who ended with 16 points, scored to give the Giants a 50-44 lead, but again, Findlay came back. With Ross leading 54-51, Findlay's Rick Renz stole the ball and was fouled with 0:13 left. Renz hit the first free throw, but missed the second. The Trojan's John Neer grabbed the rebound and laid it in to send the game into

overtime.

Both teams were ineffective in the first overtime, and after three minutes, the game was tied 56-56, forcing another overtime.

After the teams exchanged baskets, Hammer hit a three-pointer to put Ross up 61-58. The Trojans closed to 61-60 but McGee was fouled and made both free throws to put Ross up 63-60.

Findlay's Jeff Bova erased all security of a three-point lead in one blow, hitting a three-pointer to even the score. Ross took the ball, worked it inside to Bulger, who hit the winning bucket with

See ROSS, Page B-3

## Ross 65, Findlay 63 OT

### Score by quarters

Ross	12	13	16	13	2	7	— 65
Findlay	8	14	12	20	2	5	— 63

### Scoring

ROSS — Brad Hammer 2-1-7, Mike McGhee 6-4-16, Adam Bulger 4-0-8, Tracy Hufford 2-0-4, Nick Hall 10-1-21, Kevin Crawford 4-0-8, Mike Wolfe 0-1-1, totals 28-7-65.

FINDLAY — Jeff Bova 3-1-8, Trei Lane 0-1-1, Grant Haggard 2-2-6, Todd Jenson 2-0-5, Bryan Littleton 2-0-4, Rick Renz 4-2-10, Brian Ashworth 1-1-3, Matt Semeyn 5-2-12, John Neer 6-2-14, totals 25-11-63.

3-point goals: Hammer 2, Bova, Jensen.

Season records: Ross 2-1 (1-0), Findlay 1-2 (0-1).

JV game: Findlay 49-36.

## Findlay JVs 49, Ross 36

### Score by quarters

Ross	8	9	12	7	— 36
Findlay	10	6	23	10	— 49

### Scoring

ROSS — Justin Oxley 1-1-3, Todd Clark 2-3-7, Chris Wolfe 4-0-9, Kelvin McMorris 2-2-6, Shane McConnell 2-2-6, Seth Brickner 2-1-5, totals 13-9-36.

FINDLAY — Brian Shaffer 1-4-6, Jim Kelley 4-0-8, Curt Ammons 1-2-4, Scott Garlock 2-3-8, Blaise Winch 2-0-4, Chris Vance 4-0-8, Dan Gordon 2-0-4, Max Gore 1-0-2, Kevin Hinkle 0-5-5, totals 17-14-49.

3-point goals: Garlock, Wolfe.

Season records: Ross 0-3, Findlay 3-0.

# Ross-Lancaster clash highlights busy weekend

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Pat McGhee is a realist. He knows that his Ross High School boys basketball team could be 0-3, not 2-1.

"Every game we have played," the Ross Coach said, "has been close, but we felt that would be the case at the beginning of the season. Now, the schedule is stepped up a notch."

McGhee's team will host Lancaster in a Buckeye Central Conference clash to help kick off the Ross athletic weekend. Saturday afternoon, Coach Sue Wolf's girls team will also host Lancaster in another BCC test.

Also Friday, the Ross wrestling team will begin wrestling at 4 p.m., the first of two days of competition in the Rogers Tournament at Toledo Rogers High School. Saturday, semifinal wrestling begins at 11 a.m.

McGhee comes to the point with Lancaster.

"We don't know much about them," he admitted. "That is one problem with the conference; you really don't have much to scout them on a school night."

The Golden Gales have been reduced to a moderate wind during the early season, bringing a 3-3 record into Fremont. Tues-

day, against Columbus Watterson, Lancaster came out on the short end of a 74-63 count.

"One thing I have heard about them," McGhee said, "is they are a very good fundamental team and they have three starters back, and they have good size — 6-6 and 6-5 — inside."

Bart Leohner, Tim Graham and Tim Woodward are the Lancaster veteran starters. McGhee rates the 6-4, left-handed Woodward as the Golden Gales' best player.

Ross is coming off a 65-63 overtime victory over Findlay, a game that it led by 13 in the third quarter.

"We played well in spurts," McGhee said about that game, "and we held together pretty when Findlay made a nice run at us."

"One thing I found out in that game," McGhee continued, "is that the kids found out they could play without the big people: (Nick) Hall and (Adam) Bulger. Both of those had to sit on the bench for most of the second quarter because of fouls but, after being behind by two at the end of the quarter, we came back and was ahead at the half."

The Ross girls game begins at 1 p.m., Saturday.

# Ross enters new territory

## Little Giants first in BCC

By **BOB MARKER**  
Staff writer

It was a learning experience for Ross, and Lancaster had no alibis.

The Little Giants found themselves in a dubious position atop the Buckeye Central Conference basketball standings after knocking off Lancaster 54-48 at Ross High School Friday night.

Ross, 3-1, 2-0 in the BCC, has a half-game lead over Newark, 1-0. The Golden Gales slipped to 3-4, 0-1. It is one of the few times in Ross basketball history that the Little Giants have led a conference race.

Against Lancaster, Ross appeared to be on its way to a romp, leading by as many as 18 points late in the third quarter.

The Little Giants built the big lead with a balanced attack throughout the contest.

Kevin Crawford scored six first quarter points as Ross led 13-8. Arlo Brown came off the bench to score eight second period points and the Little Giants led 32-17 at halftime.

Although Mike McGee tossed in six points in the third quarter, the Ross lead was reduced to 44-32 after three quarters. Nick Hall scored eight of his game-high 19 points in the final quarter.

"It was very unselfish out there," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said.

Adam Bulger's bucket with two minutes remaining in the third quarter put Ross up 42-24 before Lancaster began to claw its way back.

"We weren't playing well in the first half," Lancaster Coach Tim Shumaker said. "We

changed a few things at the half but we just played harder in the second half."

McGhee said the circumstances were strange for the Little Giants.

"It was a new situation," he said. "(The Giants) have never played with a lead like that.

"We moved the ball well (to build the big lead). The players without the ball were moving. Once we got organized, the offense worked well."

Shumaker was troubled by some officiating calls and at one time, flung his tie to the floor. But he refused to lay blame on the men in stripes.

"You can alibi about the officiating and about the long trip," he said, "but they would just be alibis."

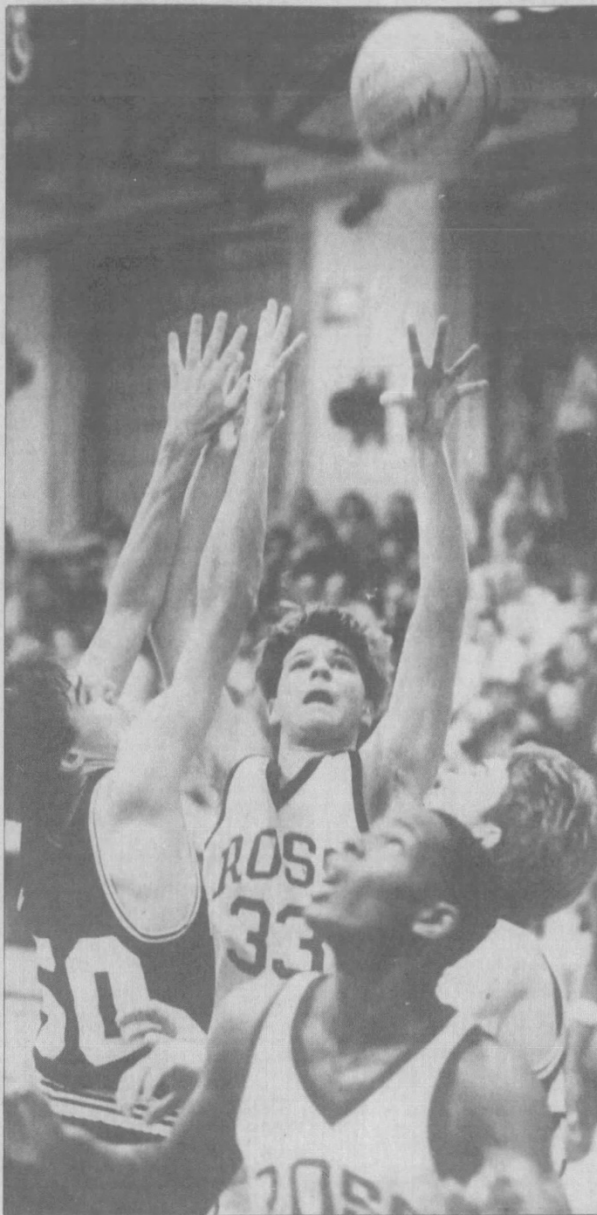
While Shumaker felt his team's stronger effort got the game close, McGhee thought different.

"I think it was more of case of we got a little tentative toward the end of the third quarter," McGhee said. "We were not executing."

Lancaster cut the Ross lead to 50-46 on Jon Holland's bucket with 1:50 left to play.

Hall hit a pair free throws before Steve Gellerstedt tipped in a missed shot with less than 25 seconds remaining. Brad Hammer sealed the Ross win with a pair of free throws with 12 seconds left.

Defensively, McGhee said a quartet of defenders — McGee, Crawford, Bulger and Tracy Hufford — hampered the efforts of Tim Woodward, the Gales' top scorer. The 6-4 senior finished with 13, the same as Holland.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

**NICK HALL** (33) of Ross gets off a shot over Eric Lockhart of Lancaster.



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## High School Boys

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### Ross 54, Lancaster 48

#### Score by quarters

Lancaster	8	17	15	16	— 48
Ross	13	19	12	10	— 54

#### Scoring

LANCASTER — Tim Woodward 6-0-13, Tim Graham 1-0-2, Steve Gellerstedt 3-0-6, Eric Lockhart 1-1-3, Bart Leohner 1-0-2, Jon Holland 6-1-13, Mark Smith 1-1-3, Kacy Kern 2-0-6, totals 21-3-48.

ROSS — Nick Hall 6-7-19, Adam Bulger 2-2-6, Mike McGee 5-0-10, Kevin Crawford 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 1-2-5, Tracy Hufford 0-0-0, Arlo Brown 2-4-8, totals 19-15-54.

3-point goals: Woodward, Kern 2, Hammer.

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

### Lancaster JVs 55, Ross 44

#### Score by quarters

Lancaster	12	13	8	22	— 55
Ross	10	11	9	14	— 44

#### Scoring

LANCASTER — Ben Daubmire 5-0-11, Jeff Kennedy 0-3-3, Ryan Maloney 4-2-12, Joel Fotte 2-5-9, Scott Daniel 4-1-9, Trevor Walker 2-1-5, Andy Wolfe 3-0-6, totals 20-12-55.

ROSS — Justin Oxley 3-0-6, Todd Clark 3-6-12, Chris Wolfe 1-1-3, Shane McConnell 7-0-14, Tom Martin 1-0-2, Jeff Green 1-1-3, Seth Brickner 1-2-4, totals 17-10-44.

3-point goals: Daubmire, Maloney 2.

# Ross has hands full with Whitmer

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Ross jumps into the fire tonight in the first round of the Northwest Ohio Holiday Prep Classic.

"I figure you are (to win it) going to have to play Whitmer some time," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee.

Ross will find out quickly if Whitmer is the team to beat, playing the unbeaten (5-0) Panthers 9 p.m. tonight in the Class AAA opener at Centennial Hall on the University of Toledo campus. The winner of the game will play the winner of the other semifinal between Toledo St. John's and Toledo Central Catholic Saturday at 9 p.m. for the

AAA title.

"The kids won't be in awe of Centennial Hall," McGhee said. "That is not our concern. Our main concern is the big front line of Whitmer. That line is 6-7, 6-6 and 6-5."

Rick Rightnower, a 6-7 senior, is the Panthers' top player according to McGhee. Rightnower signed a preseason letter-of-intent to play at the University of Toledo next season. He is averaging approximately 20 points per game.

"Rightnower plays almost everywhere," McGhee said. "He will help bring the ball upcourt and he will go inside, too. It's not going to be a one-man job stopping him"

Also on the front line is 6-6 Craig Michaelis and 6-5 Mark Szlachcic, an All-Ohio tight end this fall.

"Michaelis holds the Whitmer season record for rebounding and Szlachcic is 215 (pounds)," McGhee said, "and they have a couple of very quick guards."

Ross is riding a three-game winning streak after Friday's 54-48 victory over Lancaster. The Little Giants led by as many as 18 points.

"(Lancaster) made some key shots and we threw the ball away on a couple of consecutive possessions," McGhee said. "We have to avoid that when people make a run at us. Hopefully, it was a learning experience."

McGhee called the big lead a "new situation" for his team.

"Close games are normal situations for us," he said. "It's the big lead that is new. Hopefully, we will have that opportunity (big lead) several more times."

McGhee was pleased with players coming off the bench Friday night, pointing out the play of Arlo Brown, Mike Wolfe and Kevin Crawford.

"I thought (Tracy) Hufford rebounded well and passed well," McGhee said. "Hufford did not score but he does a lot of little things you don't notice. There are a lot of different ways to help a team."

And Ross will need all those little things against Whitmer.



# Whitmer foils Ross comeback 57-52

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

TOLEDO — Pat McGhee saw a meaning to something that he felt deep down was meaningless. "Comeback?" the Ross boys basketball coach asked and then answered, "It doesn't mean a thing if you don't win the game."

Whitmer, now 6-0, made it meaningless, beating Ross 57-52 in the first Class AAA game of the Northwest Ohio Holiday Prep Classic at Centennial Hall.

The Ross comeback was dramatic:

- It featured a Ross defensive effort that held Whitmer to three baskets and 16 shots in the final 16 minutes;

- It came within a point of erasing a 19-point halftime deficit;

- It featured four three-points shots;

- It softened McGhee's thinking of comeback effort.

"Actually, it does mean something," McGhee said. "It showed that we can play with this type of team. It also showed us that you have to be ready to play in the first half against teams of this caliber."

Whitmer, with 6-5 Craig Michaelis tossing in 14 points, bulled its way to a 39-17 halftime lead.

"Then we went into our Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde syndrome," Panthers Coach Rick Kaifas said. "We preach team concept but the 'me stuff' came out in the second half."

"I feel that Ross played well (in the second half)," Kaifas said, "and we played sloppy."

Mike Wolfe came off the bench to pace the Ross second half charge. The 6-7 senior scored 10 points in the third quarter, and coupled with the defensive effort, had Kaifas mumbling.

"Getting a basket?," Kaifas responded when asked if he wondered when his team would get the elusive bucket, "I was wondering if we would ever get a shot."

"In the first half, we did have a very good shot selection," McGhee said. "we seemed to be tentative but in the second half, we played the type of ball of which we are capable."

Ross chopped the Whitmer lead to 44-32 after three quarters.



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

NICK HALL (33) of Ross goes up for a shot between Whitmer defenders Pat Murphy (12) and

Mark Szlachcic during second half action Tuesday at Centennial Hall.

See ROSS, Page B-3

## Tigers claw Bettsville

News-Messenger Reports

TOLEDO — Holgate outscored Bettsville 18-9 in the first six minutes of the second half and went on to defeat the Bobcats 72-46 Tuesday night at Centennial Hall.

The Bobcats' loss, the fifth against two victories, dropped them into the Class A consolation game of the Northwest Ohio Holiday Prep Classic. Bettsville will play Liberty Center, a 79-73 loser to Ottawa Hills in the other A game Tuesday, at 3 p.m. today.

The Tigers, 6-1, led 30-22 at the half but after the early second half spurt, had a 48-30 advantage. The lead never dipped below 15 from that point.

Troy Mendizabal scored 26 points, including four three-point shots, and Holgate teammate Jeremy Stober added 18. Mike Gustwiller and Adolf Casillas scored 12 and 10, respectively, giving Holgate a quartet of double figure scorers.

The ball-hawking Holgate defense forced 24 Bettsville turnovers and limited the Bobcats to 41 shots.

Eric McNutt had 15 points and Hank Hielman 10 for Bettsville. Ron Wise added nine.

## Gibsonburg bulls over Elmwood

News-Messenger Reports

Gibsonburg bounced back from a 30-point loss to Wayne Trace last Saturday with a 74-62 Suburban Lakes League victory over Elmwood Tuesday night.

Steve Cantrell led the Golden Bears with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Keith Jones and Jon

# Ross

Continued From B-1

Five minutes later, Nick Hall canned a free throw, reducing Whitmer's lead to 47-46. Three-point buckets by Brad Hammer and Kevin Crawford keyed the 14-3 Ross scoring spurt.

A pair of free throws and a Whitmer's second and third buckets of the half, both by Mark Szlachcic, at the 1:23 mark and the last with 40 seconds to play, put Ross down 53-46. Hall's three-pointer at the half-minute mark chopped the Panther lead to four but that was the end of the string.

Szlachcic and Michaelis added two free throws apiece in the next 20 seconds to ice the game. Hammer sank his second three-pointer of the quarter as time ran out.

"This was a step up in competition," McGhee said, "and to go against a team like Whitmer, you have to play very well."

One half of good ball was not enough for the Little Giants.

Hall led Ross with 21 points. Michaelis had 18, Szlachcic 14 and Rick Rightnower 12, eight below his average.

Ross hurt itself at the foul line, making just nine of 19 while Whitmer was 19 of 23. The Panthers were 18 of 42, including two three-pointers by Rightnower, from the floor. Ross was 19 of 50.

Ross will play the consolation game at 3 p.m., Saturday, against the loser of tonight's (9 p.m.) Toledo Central Catholic-Toledo St. John's game.

# Basketball

## High School Boys

### Whitmer 57, Ross 52

#### Score by quarters

Whitmer	17	19	8	13	— 57
Ross	10	7	15	20	— 52

#### Scoring

WHITMER — Rick Rightnower 3-4-12, Craig Michaelis 6-6-18, Mark Szlachcic 4-6-14, Tyrone Saunders 1-0-2, Pat Murphy 3-2-8, Matt Eberflus 1-1-3, totals 18-19-57.

ROSS — Nick Hall 8-4-21, Adam Bulger 2-1-5, Kevin Crawford 3-0-8, Mike McGee 0-0-0, Brad Hammer 3-2-8, Mike Wolfe 3-4-10, totals 19-9-52.

3-point goals: Rightnower 2, Hall, Crawford 2, Hammer 2.

Season records: Whitmer 6-0, Ross 3-2.

# Newark sours ending for Ross

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

It was a sour ending to what had been a sweet game for Ross.

Newark coupled a key defensive effort with a Ross defensive lapse in the final 10 seconds to defeat the Little Giants 50-48 in a Buckeye Central Conference boys basketball game Tuesday at Ross High School.

The Wildcats, winners of five in a row, are 6-2 and took over the BCC lead from Ross with a 2-0 slate. Ross slipped to 3-4 and 2-1 in conference play.

The Little Giants led by as many as 14 points, 26-12, in the second quarter and held a 40-31 lead after three quarters, but the game boiled down to the final 10 seconds.

Brad Hammer, who had 14 points while directing the Ross offense, put Ross ahead 48-47, hitting one of two free throws with 32 seconds to play. Newark worked the clock down to the 10-second mark before apparent disaster struck as Jeff Brown's cross-court pass sailed out-of-bounds.

That set up the Newark defensive gem.

"We wanted to deny the ball to (Nick) Hall or Hammer," Newark Coach Gary Walters said, "because we felt they were their best foul shooters. If they had gotten the ball in, we were going to foul, but not them."

The strategy worked. Tracy Hufford could not find a Little Giant open and the Wildcats took over after the five-second violation.

"I am not going to blame anyone," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "All we had to do is get the ball in bounds and we did not get it in; we just did not get the job done."

Still with 10 seconds remaining and clinging to the lead, McGhee felt his team could survive.

"We had to play good defense for 10 seconds," he said, "but we had a defensive lapse."

Bob Coffey, a 6-5 senior, took advantage of the lapse, driving the right side of the lane for a layup with two seconds remaining, putting Newark up 49-48. Jeff Brown added the final point, hitting one of a pair of technical free throws when Ross called timeout but did not have a timeout remaining.

The bitter ending soured what had been a good game for Ross.

"We played exceptionally well for three quarters," McGhee said, "but we were a little tentative on offense in the fourth quarter."

"Defensively, we held them to 50 points and that is great de-



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

**NICK HALL** of Ross goes up for a third quarter shot between Newark defenders Bob Coffey (40) and John DiBlasio.

fense."

Hall scored seven of his 17 points in the first eight minutes as Ross led 11-6 after one period. Hammer, Hufford and Adam Bulger dropped in two buckets apiece in the second quarter and Ross walked off with a 29-19 half-time lead.

"We got straightened out at the half," Walters said. "Freemont played well — I thought they had an excellent defensive game plan — and they were beating us to death on the boards."

Actually, both teams had 17 first half rebounds but Ross seemed to get the key retrieves.

"We wanted to cut the lead to six at the end of three quarters," Walters said, "but we lost the ball. Hammer hits that three-pointer at the buzzer and we gain only a point."

Newark gained control of the boards in the second half (16-8) and with Mark Freeman scoring all 11 of his points in the final quarter, wiped out the Ross lead. Two free throws apiece by Freeman and Brown tied it at 45 with 3:05 to play.

Hall's two free tosses made it 47-45 but Freeman's bucket knotted it a 47 with two minutes to play.

Newark's second lead of the game since a 4-1 first quarter edge, came on Coffey's layup.

Hall and Hammer were the only double figure scorers for Ross. Devoll, Freeman and Brown had 11 apiece and Coffey 10 for Newark.

## High School Boys

### Newark 50, Ross 48

#### Score by quarters

Newark	6	13	12	19	— 50
Ross	11	18	11	8	— 48

#### Scoring

NEWARK — Bob Coffey 5-0-10, Jeff Brown 2-5-11, Mark Freeman 3-4-11, Doug Devoll 3-5-11, John DiBlasio 1-3-5, Scott Thompson 1-0-2, totals 15-17-50.

ROSS — Nick Hall 6-5-17, Adam Bulger 3-0-6, Mike Wolfe 1-1-3, Tracy Hufford 2-0-4, Brad Hammer 6-1-14, Mike McGee 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 0-2-2, totals 19-9-48.

3-point goals: Brown 2, Freeman, Hammer.

Season records: Ross 3-4 (2-1), Newark 6-2 (2-0).

### New. JVs 59, Ross 51 (OT)

#### Score by quarters

Newark	10	14	14	11	10 — 59
Ross	9	13	12	15	2 — 51

#### Scoring

NEWARK — Jason Offenbaker 2-4-8, Rob Brun 0-2-2, Fred Woltjen 2-0-4, Rob Evans 3-3-9, Alsindor Allen 1-4-6, Josh Harrison 5-3-13, Jeff Wells 7-3-17, totals 20-19-59.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 3-2-9, Justin Oxley 4-1-9, Todd Clark 5-0-10, Corey Lance 3-0-6, Chris Wolfe 2-0-4, Shane McConnell 0-3-3, Jeff Green 5-0-10, totals 22-6-51.

3-point goal: Brickner.

Season records: Newark 2-6, Ross 0-7.

# Ross dismantles Woodward 79-70

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

It was a day and "one-half" to remember.

"That hasn't happened in some time," Ross High School boys basketball coach Pat McGhee said after his team dismantled Toledo Woodward 79-70 Tuesday night in the Ross High School gymnasium.

Ironically, he was not referring to his team's win — he could have because the victory ended a three-game losing skid — but instead to a 5-0 day for Fremont school system boys basketball teams.

"The seventh, eighth, ninth and reserves won," he said as his smile reflected his team's verdict.

Ross shook off 14 first half turnovers with a sharp passing game and just four second half giveaways while winning for the fourth time in eight games.

Twelve Little Giants players played and 10 scored as Ross handed the punchless Polar Bears their ninth loss in 10 games.

"I think our passing game was the key to the game," McGhee said. "We were finding the open man and hitting him no matter who it was."

"In the third quarter we played them to a stalemate. They play the type of ball, I guess you call it street ball or NBA-style where they want to

get running, but we did not let that happen."

It was Ross that dictated policy in the final eight minutes, pouring in 30 points, the high water mark this season, while limiting Woodward to 15.

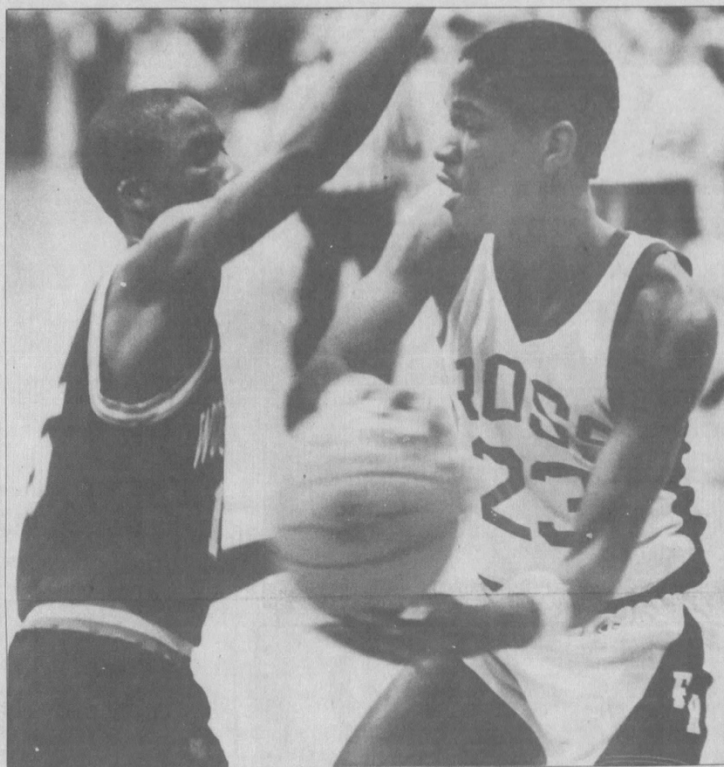
Coupled with the passing game was a trio of double figure scorers: Mike Wolfe with a career-high 14, first-time starter Arlo Brown with 10 and Adam Bulger with 10. Toss in nine by Darrin Critchet, who came off the bench, and eight apiece by Brad Hammer and Nick Hall, and Ross won going away. Scott Nossaman's looping three-pointer as time ran out was icing on the cake.

The biggest Ross lead of the night was the final score. The Little Giants led 17-5 after one quarter and rode seven of eight shooting in the second quarter for a 36-21 halftime lead. It was 49-35 at the third period stop.

Ross hit 26 of 46 shots and 25 of 38 free throws. The Little Giants had a 39-29 rebounding advantage.

Corey Allison led Woodward with 17 points. Ron Darden had 11. The Polar Bears made just 19 of 52 shots over the Ross 2-3 zone and man-to-man defenses.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won its first game 59-47. Justin Oxley had 14 points, Shane McConnell 11 and Seth Brickner 10 for Ross.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

ADAM BULGER (23) of Ross attempts to get the ball around Justin Jackson of Woodward during

second half boys basketball action at Ross High School Tuesday.

# Basketball

## High School Boys

### Ross 79, Woodward 50

#### Score by quarters

Woodward	5	16	14	15	— 50
Ross	17	19	13	30	— 79

#### Scoring

WOODWARD — Daryl Conley 1-0-2, David Nelson 1-0-2, Corey Allison 6-5-17, Nolan Hych 3-3-9, Justin Jackson 1-2-5, Ron Darden 5-1-11, Greg Carter 2-0-4, totals 19-11-50.

ROSS — Nick Hall 2-4-8, Adam Bulger 4-2-10, Mike Wolfe 5-4-14, Arlo Brown 4-4-12, Brad Hammer 3-2-8, Darrin Critchet 2-5-9, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Tracy Hufford 1-3-5, Kevin Crawford 2-0-5, Scott Nossaman 1-1-4, totals 26-25-79.

3-point goals: Jackson, Crawford, Nossaman.

Season records: Ross 4-4, Woodward 1-9.

### Ross JVs 59, W'dward 47

#### Score by quarters

Woodward	13	5	11	18	— 47
Ross	12	20	18	9	— 59

#### Scoring

WOODWARD — Charles Rose 2-0-4, Chris Reynolds 0-2-2, Greg Carter 3-2-8, Mike Laytart 1-4-6, Mark Reed 1-0-2, Will White 1-2-4, Harold Haithcock 1-0-2, Richard Wright 4-3-10, Robert Woods 1-0-2, Robert Kimble 3-0-7, totals 16-13-47.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 3-4-10, Justin Oxley 5-4-14, Todd Clark 2-0-4, Corey Lance 2-0-4, Chris Wolfe 2-2-6, Kelvin McMorris 0-4-4, Shane McConnell 3-5-11, Tom martin 0-1-1, Jeff Green 2-1-5, totals 19-21-59.

3-point goals: Wright, Kimble.

Season record: Ross 1-7.



# Ross gets needed road win

News-Messenger reports

Arlo Brown's two free throws with 10 seconds remaining sealed Ross's 39-37 victory over Toledo St. Francis Saturday night.

The win raised the Little Giants' record to 5-4.

In other games Saturday, St. Joe was upset by Mohawk 62-49, Lakota knocked off New Riegel 53-50, Gibsonburg downed Old Fort 64-59, Edison surprised Oak Harbor 69-47, Port Clinton tripped Perkins 83-78, Huron stopped Margaretta 57-42, Bettsville lost to Arcadia 69-55 and Sandusky topped Bellevue 79-76.

"This was a good one for us," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "because it was nice that we were able to win a close one on the road. We lost at Port Clinton (55-54) and a close one at Centennial Hall (to Whitmer 57-52)."

Playing in the dark St. Francis gym, McGhee was happy to that his team was flexible enough to adapt to the slow-down play of the Knights.

"We much bigger than they were," he pointed out, "and we were sagging in because we wanted them to shoot from the perimeter. They didn't want to shoot from there so they were taking 40 seconds or more to shoot."

Ross trailed 21-20 at the half but led 31-30 after three quarters. The Little Giants never trailed by more than four but did not lead by any more than three.

After Brown's free throws, Ross led 39-35. St. Francis hit a bucket at the buzzer. Ross was four of five at the foul line in the last quarter and 17 of 26 for the game. Ross made seven of 15 field goal attempts in the final 16 minutes and 11 of 37 in the contest.

Nick Hall had 10 points to lead all scorers. Brown and Mike Wolfe added eight apiece. Gary Blanton led St. Francis with eight points.

## Basketball

### High School Boys

#### Ross 39, St. Francis 37

##### Score by quarters

Ross	10	10	10	9	— 39
St. Francis	9	12	8	8	— 37

##### Scoring

ROSS — Darrin Critchet 0-1-1, Brad Hammer 0-4-4, Adam Bulger 2-1-5, Tracy Hufford 0-2-2, Mike McGee 0-1-1, Nick Hall 4-2-10, Arlo Brown 1-6-8, Mike Wolfe 4-0-8, totals 11-17-39.

ST. FRANCIS — Rob Reams 1-0-2, Gary Blanton 4-0-8, Mark Oedems 3-0-7, Baker 1-0-2, Gray 3-1-7, Womak 1-1-3, Bratalsky 3-0-6, totals 17-2-27.

3-point goal: Oedems.

Season records: Ross 5-4, St. Francis 4-6.

#### S. Francis JVs 62, Ross 51

##### Score by quarters

Ross	19	13	12	7	— 51
St. Francis	11	8	20	23	— 62

##### Scoring

ROSS — Todd Clark 2-4-8, Justin Oxley 2-1-5, Chris Wolfe 6-0-15, Shane McConnell 3-4-10, Jeff Green 2-3-7, Seth Brickner 2-0-4, Kelvin McMorris 1-0-2, totals 18-12-51.

ST. FRANCIS — Dixon 1-3-5, Johnson 5-7-17, Logan 3-0-6, Herdegan 2-2-6, Eastop 0-2-2, Sasko 2-2-6, Bartinkowski 2-2-6, Palicki 3-8-14, totals 18-26-62.

3-point goal: Wolfe 3.

Season record: St. Francis 9-2, Ross 1-8.



# Little Giants will be tested by Zanesville, and Howe

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

When the points were taken off the ball, it was of no concern to Buster Howe.

Howe, the Zanesville tailback who led practically every offensive category in the final Buckeye Central Conference football statistics, has moved inside and to the round basketball to strut his stuff this winter.

The 6-1 — up two inches from his listed height in football — senior wing player, leads the BCC in scoring with nearly 21 per game. He ranks in the top 10 in two- and three-point field goal shooting and free throw accuracy.

Howe is also in the top five in rebounds and, on the dubious side, leads the BCC in turnovers.

The only category he is not among the leaders in is assists.

Ross will travel to Zanesville Friday to take on Howe and the 7-4 Blue Devils.

"Howe is impressive as always," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "He scores a lot of points; he is a good offensive player."

"He scores a lot of points off their fast break," McGhee said, "and the fast break is one thing we have to take away from them."

"We have to rebound well, and defensively, we have to slow them down."

Along with Howe, Zanesville is expected to start Martin Scanlon and Todd Whiteman, both 6-2, at the guards, Gene Evans, 6-2, opposite Howe and Troy Touvell, 6-4, 230, in the middle.

"They basically have six players," McGhee said. "When they were two-and-three, three players were suspended from the team, but since that time, they have won five of six."

McGhee's Little Giants, 5-4, are coming off their high and low points of the season and the Ross coach is smiling about both. A week ago Tuesday, Ross outscored Toledo Woodward 79-50 and came back on Saturday to nip Toledo St. Francis 39-37. The 79 is the high and 39, the fewest points Ross has scored in games this season.

"I think those games show character," McGhee said, "plus flexibility. A good team has to play a variety of styles. It has to be able to run some time and also be able to play half-court."

## Zanesville topples Ross 64-53

News-Messenger reports

ZANESVILLE — Fremont Ross fell behind 23-18 after one quarter of play and Zanesville kept the lead the remainder of the game in a 64-53 Buckeye Central Conference win Friday.

The loss dropped the Little Giants to 5-5 and 2-2 in BCC play. Zanesville is 8-4 and won for the first time in three BCC contests.

The Little Giants closed to within one point, 43-42, with 4:35 remaining in the third quarter but that was as close as Ross was to get. A bucket by Todd Whiteman and Buster Howe's free throw put the Blue Devils up by four. At the end of three quarters, Zanesville had a 50-41 lead.

Howe, the leading scorer in the BCC, canned

pair of three-point shots in a game-high, 19-point effort. Martin Scanlon and Whiteman added 15 points apiece.

Nick Hall led a trio of Little Giants reaching double figures with 13 points. Arlo Brown had 12 and Adam Bulger dropped in 11. Hall also grabbed 10 rebounds and Bulger nine.

Troy Touvell had 12 rebounds and Whiteman nine to lead the Blue Devils to a 43-38 edge on the boards.

Ross was 23 of 48 from the floor and seven of 13 at the line. Zanesville made 22 of 49 shots and 16 of 24 from the foul line.

Ross travels to BCC leader Newark next Friday.

## Zanesville 64, Ross 53

### Score by quarters

Ross	18	15	12	7	— 53
Zanesville	23	16	11	14	— 64

### Scoring

ROSS — Nick Hull 6-1-13, Adam Bulger 5-1-11, Mike Wolfe 2-0-4, Brad Hammer 2-4-8, Mike McGee 2-1-5, Arlo Brown 6-0-12, totals 23-7-53.

ZANESVILLE — Buster Howe 7-3-19, Troy Touvell 3-1-7, Martin Scanlon 7-0-15, Todd Whiteman 4-6-15, Bobby France 0-2-2, Gene Evans 1-4-6, totals 22-16-64.

3-point goals: Howe 2, Scanlon, Whiteman.

Season records: Zanesville 8-4 (1-2), Ross 5-5 (2-2).

# Ross can't climb from early holes

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Pat McGhee probably cringes everytime he walks past a shovel display in a hardware store.

"It was just like the last three games," Ross boys basketball Coach Pat McGhee said, "we dug ourselves into a hole."

The Little Giants, after an early excavating job, climbed out of the hole briefly but Marion Harding pushed them back in for a 62-53 victory Saturday at Ross High School.

The Ross digging crew has lost three straight, dropping the Little Giants to 5-7. The Presidents rode home with a 4-8 record.

Twenty-five seconds into the second half, Ross trailed 34-21 but Adam Bulger scored to end a four-minute scoring famine for the Little Giants. Bulger's bucket temporarily resurrected Ross.

The Little Giants ran off 17 unanswered points to take a 38-34 lead. Mike Wolfe's second basket of the quarter gave Ross its first lead, 35-34, and Nick Hall's jumper ended the run with 2:45 remaining in the third quarter.

After that, the magic left Ross.

"When you let a team get ahead like that, there is not

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**See ROSS, Page B-3**

# Ross

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## Continued From B-1

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much margin for error (when you come back)," McGhee said.

Harding's Eric Foos's bucket ended the President's drought but Tracy Hufford's free throw put Ross up 38-36. Harding scored the final six points of the period, the last three on a three-pointer by John Courtwright and Ross never regained the lead. Instead, Ross began to dig another hole.

Trailing 48-44 with 4:20 to play, Ross missed three scoring opportunities with Harding getting four points in the same span. After Bulger's bucket made it 52-

46, Harding began a foul line parade which kept Ross at arm's length.

Ross mounted one last effort, closing to 56-53 on Hall-three-pointer, but the Presidents sandwiched six free throws around a Ross turnover to ice the victory.

Ross fouls put Harding into the one-and-one five minutes into the contest. Before the night was over, Harding went to the line 33 times, making 26, including 13 in a row in the second half. Ross was five of 12 from the line.

The Little Giants were 23 of 53 from the floor.

Courtwright had 21 points, Pete Cressor 15 and Foos 10 for Harding. Hall topped Ross with 21 with Brad Hammer tossing in 13 and Adam Bulger 10.

# Basketball

## High School Boys

### Harding 62, Ross 53

#### Score by quarters

Harding	14	16	12	20	— 62
Ross	10	10	17	15	— 53

#### Scoring

HARDING — Pete Cressor 2-10-15, Sean Smith 0-6-6, Rodney Evans 1-1-3, John Courtwright 7-4-21, Eric Foos 3-4-10, Carlos Prude 2-0-4, Rick Howell 1-2-4, totals 16-26-62.

ROSS — Nick Hall 8-4-21, Adam Bulger 5-0-10, Mike Wolfe 4-0-8, Arlo Brown 0-0-0, Brad Hammer 6-0-13, Tracy Hufford 0-1-1, totals 23-5-53.

Three-point goals: Cressor, Courtwright 3, Hall, Hammer.

Season records: Harding 4-8, Ross 5-7.

### Harding JVs 55, Ross 41

#### Score by quarters

Harding	15	14	5	21	— 55
Ross	9	10	14	8	— 41

#### Scoring

HARDING — Ryan Borland 4-1-11, Jason Gandee 5-6-18, Brandy Baker 1-0-2, Alphonso Bailey 3-3-9, Billy Scott 2-1-5, Stan Keating 2-4-8, totals 18-15-55.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 1-0-2, Justin Oxley 1-1-3, Todd Clark 5-6-16, Corey Lance 2-1-5, Chris Wolfe 2-1-5, Shane McConnell 2-6-10, totals 13-15-41.

3-point goals: Borland 2, Candee 3.

Season records: Ross 2-10, Harding 6-6.

# Ross boys look for consistency

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

It may not be a crucial point, but this weekend is important to the Ross High School boys basketball team.

The Little Giants are at a low point. Losers of three straight, Ross has slumped to 5-7 and dipped below the .500 mark in the Buckeye Central Conference race with a 2-3 mark.

Friday, Newark visits Fremont and on Saturday, Ross travels to Tiffin Columbian.

"We have lost three games to tough opponents," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "and in each one, we had a chance to win. You can say we have not come up with the big play at the right time."

The latest loss was to Marion Harding 62-53, a game in which Ross trailed by 13, then rallied to lead by three before faltering in the final minutes.

"I think this weekend is important," McGhee said, "in respect that we have to play more consistently. I think after 12 games, we are close to getting there."

"Our biggest problem has been the lack of individual scoring other than Hall (Nick)," the Ross coach said. "We have to get three or four people in double figures."

The Little Giants have also been plagued "less than intelligent play" both offensively and defensively McGhee said.

"We have been giving the ball up too easily on offense, and on defense, we have been fouling too much," he said. "A lot of the fouls have been positioning fouls. It's nothing that hard work and hustling won't cure."

"Really, I think we are close to becoming a good team, but right now we are just not playing well."

McGhee admitted that he and his coaching staff have been looking at new combinations of players, including a couple of junior varsity players.

One in particular is freshman Todd Clark.

"He will still play JV ball," McGhee said. "I am not going to say I am going to play him (on the varsity level) because if I don't, I think it would be harder on him than on me."

Instead, McGhee's likely lineup will have four juniors and a senior. Mike McGee, Adam Bulger, Brad Hammer and Arlos Brown are the juniors and Hall, owner of a 16-points-per-game average, is the senior.

"I have not given up on the seniors," McGhee said, "but they have to step forward and do the job."

Friday, Newark's attack will feature Ohio's "Mr. Football" Buster Howe, who recently agreed verbally to attend The Ohio State University. Howe is second in the conference in scoring for Newark, 9-5, 2-2.

Saturday's opponent, Columbian, is 8-4.

## Devils overtake Ross

By CLIFF PINCKARD  
Staff Writer

Pat McGhee could have been downcast, but instead he was optimistic even though his Ross High School boys basketball team had lost its fourth straight game.

Moments after Buckeye Central Conference foe Zanesville stopped the Little Giants 54-51, McGhee said he felt the game yielded some positive results for his team.

"I'm very pleased with the club," McGhee said. "We had a super crowd, the kids hustled, and we improved from last week."

With all the positive aspects though, the Little Giants still fell short in a game that seemed to go their way early. In the first quarter, Giants guard Brad Hammer poured in eight points to give Ross a 14-12 advantage.

Hammer topped a trio of Ross double figure scorers with 14 points. Adam Bulger added 11 and Arlo Brown 10.

The Little Giants' good

fortunes continued in the second quarter, as they took advantage of numerous Blue Devil mistakes for a 29-24 halftime lead.

"We're a young ball club. We have one or two runs a game where we get impatient and we try to score too many points," Blue Devils Coach Bob Ream said. "And our shot selection was poor tonight."

Zanesville came out shooting poorly in the third quarter, and Ross had the opportunity to increase its lead. But the Little Giants failed to convert numerous Zanesville turnovers into points, and the Devils were back in the game.

Using an aggressive full-court press, Zanesville began to force mistakes by Ross, and behind Martin Scanlon and Todd Whiteman, the Devils took a 42-39 lead going into the final quarter.

Whiteman finished with a game-high 18 points. Scanlon added 13 and Buster Howe had 12 for the Blue Devils.

"We didn't play as well in the

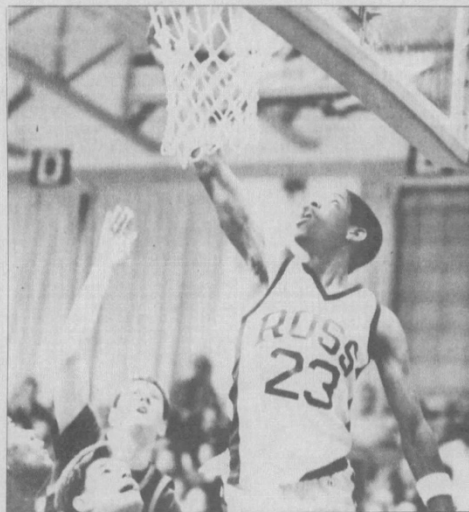
third period as we did in the other three," McGhee said. "We got a little tentative. They came out a lot more aggressive and we needed to respond with that same aggression."

"We made some offensive and defensive adjustments at the half, and we played better in the second half," Ream said.

In the fourth quarter, Whiteman and Scanlon continued to lead the Devils. Whiteman tormented the Giants from the lane, hitting fade away jumpers from the baseline. He finished with 18 points and Scanlon had 13.

Zanesville led 48-41 lead with 5:45 left before Ross sparked by Mike McGee and Adam Bulger, rallied. McGee hit two field goals, and with Bulger controlling the offensive boards, Ross closed to 52-51 with 1:30 remaining.

The Blue Devils went into a four-corner stall at that point, and by the time Ross reacted



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

ADAM BULGER of Ross goes up to tip in a fourth quarter shot against Zanesville at Ross High School Friday.



# Basketball

## High School Boys

### Zanesville 54, Ross 51

#### Score by quarters

Zanesville	12	12	18	12	— 54
Ross	14	15	10	12	— 51

#### Scoring

ROSS — Brad Hammer 7-0-14, Adam Bulger 5-1-11, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Nick Hall 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 5-0-10, Mike wolfe 1-0-2, Todd Clark 1-2-4, totals 24-3-51.

ZANESVILLE — Todd Whiteman 8-2-18, Buster Howe 3-4-12, Martin Scanlon 6-1-13, Troy Touvell 3-2-8, Gene Evans 1-1-3, totals 21-10-54.

3-point goals: Howe 2.

Season records: Zanesville 10-5 (3-2), Ross 5-8 (2-3).

### Zanes. JVs 55, Ross 46

#### Score by quarters

Zanesville	13	14	12	16	— 55
Ross	8	11	12	15	— 46

#### Scoring

ZANESVILLE — McGlade 3-4-10, Norris 10-0-20, Howe 3-1-7, Johnson 3-0-6, Dickinson 4-1-9, Hodge 0-3-3, totals 23-9-55.

ROSS — Todd Clark 1-1-3, Justin Oxley 6-1-13, Shane McConnell 10-2-22, Corey Lance 2-0-4, Seth Brickner 0-1-1, Kelvin McMorris 1-1-3, totals 20-6-46.

Season record: Ross 2-11.

# Ross ends loss streak

News-Messenger reports

Arlo Brown shook off a defender and at the same time, helped Ross shake a four-game losing streak Saturday in high school boys basketball.

Brown, a 6-3 junior, grabbed a missed Ross free throw and scored on a layup to put Ross ahead 58-57 with 1:18 to play and the Little Giants went on to defeat Tiffin Columbian 62-59.

"Brown just out-quickened the defender," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said.

The Little Giants outscored Columbian 6-2 in the final two minutes. Mike McGee's two free throws with two seconds remaining iced the game.

The rebound was one of 15 Brown had as the Little Giants won for the sixth time in 15 games. Brown added nine points to his night.

Ross trailed by as many as eight points in the first half against the 8-6 Tornadoes.

"In the second half, we moved the ball a lot better," McGhee said. "Their zone defense both-



# Ross

## Continued From B-1

ered us in the first half but we made some adjustments at half-time to get people in the right spots."

The Little Giants responded, outscoring the Tornadoes 21-19 in the third period after trailing 26-

23 at the half. In the final eight minutes, The Little Giants had an 18-14 scoring advantage.

"We were able to get inside in the second half," McGhee said.

Adam Bulger had nine second half points and Mike McGee scored six of his 10, all from in close.

Ross overcame another hurdle in the final quarter. For the final five and a half minutes, Ross was without the services of lead-

ing scorer Nick Hall who had fouled out after scoring 19 points.

Freshman Todd Clark had nine of his 11 points in the final half as Ross had one of its better balanced scoring efforts.

Brad Hammer tossed in six while dishing out five assists for Ross. McGee had four assists and Bulger collected eight rebounds as Ross held a 37-28 edge.

Brian Heebsh led Columbian with 22 points.

## Ross 62, Columbian 59

### Score by quarters

Ross	9	14	21	18	— 62
Columbian	15	11	19	14	— 59

### Scoring

ROSS — Todd Clark 4-3-11, Brad Hammer 2-1-6, Adam Bulger 4-1-9, Mike McGee 4-2-10, Nick Hall 7-5-19, Arlo Brown 3-3-9, totals 24-14-62.

COLUMBIAN — Brian Heebsh 9-4-22, Duane Tyree 4-1-10, Ken Lund 3-0-6, Alan Kline 1-0-2, Ron Osmena 0-2-2, Bob Boes 1-0-2, David Haught 5-5-15, totals 23-12-59

3-point goals: Hammer, Tyree.

Season records: Ross 6-8, Columbian 8-6.

JV game: Ross 50, Columbian 46.

# Old BC rival Sandusky next for Little Giants

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

If Ross blinks Saturday night, it may miss something.

The Little Giants, 6-8, will take on former Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky, 9-4, after having an off-night this evening. The rest may benefit Ross when the speedy Blue Streaks run into the gym.

"They are quick," Ross boys basketball Coach Pat McGhee said. "Maybe quicker than they have been in the past."

Otherwise blink, and a Blue Streak could be past a Little Giant.

Added to the quickness factor is Sandusky possesses a number of good athletes McGhee said. "When they put five guys on the floor," McGhee said, "I think they all can dunk it."

But Sandusky's quickness may dictate what defense McGhee's team uses.

"I look for us to play more

zone defense," the Ross coach said. "We will try to make them shoot from outside and then keep them off the boards."

Chuck Hathorn and Shawn Nickelson average approximately 15 and 16 points, respectively, for Sandusky according to the Ross coach.

"Those two are primarily inside people," McGhee said, "but they play a lot of people. They play alot while trying to wear you down with full court pressure and the fast break."

"We cannot let them run the fast break and we have to avoid turning the ball over on the press," McGhee said.

The Little Giants lost a couple of practices because of weather this week and McGhee has had to alter his plans for Sandusky.

"It cuts down on the things you are trying to prepare for," the Ross coach explained. "You have to pick one or two and hope you do them all right as opposed

to working on a whole game plan. Today, we have to review and then play it Saturday."

The game is the first of three in seven days for Ross. Tuesday, The Little Giants host Oregon Clay and travel to Marion for a Saturday date with Harding.

Saturday afternoon, the Ross girls team has a 1 p.m. game at Zanesville, 12-5 and 5-1 in Buckeye Central Conference play. Ross is 2-13 and 1-5 in BCC games. Zanesville defeated Ross 46-41 Dec. 29.

ROSS NOTES: In BCC stats, the Ross girls rank fifth offensively with 40.7 points per game but hold down second defensively, permitting 49 per contest.

Individually, Amy Schepflin is seventh in two-point field goal and free throw shooting, making 55 of 138 from the floor for 40 percent and 43 of 74 foul shots for 58 percent. Schepflin is eighth in scoring with 10.2 average, just

behind teammate Shelley Hetrick's 10.9 ppg. Schepflin is third and Cindy Laird fourth in rebounding with 7.9 and 6.4, respectively, averages.

Hetrick leads in three-point goal accuracy with nine of 14 for 64 percent. Point guard Kim Borys leads in assists with slightly over four per game. Shannon Watts is third in assists with 2.3 per game.

In boys stats, Ross is second defensively, permitting 57 points per game and is third in offense with 56.6 per contest.

Individually, Nick Hall is 6th and Adam Bulger seventh in field goal accuracy with 50 and 49 percent, respectively. Hall is ninth in free throw shooting with 70 percent, third in scoring with 15.7 per game and fifth in rebounding with 7.3 per game.

Brad Hammer is fifth in three-point goal shooting, making 37 percent of his long-distance attempts.

# Second half defensive spurts help Sandusky stop Ross

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

John Schlessman was not happy with his team's defense but Sandusky played well enough in streaks to hand Fremont Ross a 69-62 high school boys basketball defeat Saturday at Ross High School.

"We were not putting enough pressure on the ball in the first half," Schlessman, the Sandusky Coach said even though his team walked off with a 39-24 halftime lead, the last three points on a bucket by Chadd Green at the buzzer.

Sandusky's defense played

well in two spurts in the second half, both during the early stages of the final two quarters.

At the beginning of the third quarter, the Sandusky defense, along with several missed opportunities on offensive rebounds by Ross, turned the game toward the Blue Streaks.

"They (Sandusky's defense) turned it up a notch," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said about the first 3½ minutes of the third quarter. "That forced us into calling a quick timeout. Then, we missed three layups off offensive rebounds."

Sandusky forced three Ross

turnovers while jumping to a 45-36 lead. The Little Giants did not get a field goal until Adam Bulger's bucket at the 4:40 mark.

Ross rallied for a 51-51 tie on Brad Hammer's tip-in off a missed free throw by Nick Hall late in the quarter but Sean Nickelson's rebound basket at the buzzer put the Blue Streaks up 53-51. Sandusky never lost the lead after that.

In the fourth quarter, the Blue Streaks defense forced a pair of Ross turnovers helping them to a 62-54 advantage with 3:20 to

See ROSS, Page B-3

# Ross

Continued From B-1

play.

The Streaks slowed play at that point, forcing the Little Giants to foul.

"At first, we were going for the steal," McGhee said, "but then we had to foul."

Sandusky was deadly at the foul line, hitting seven of 10 down the stretch while holding off the Little Giants.

The loss dulled an 18-point, 13-

rebound effort by 6-3 junior Arlo Brown. Ross, paced by Brown, outrebounded the Blue Streaks 46-26, including 23 offensive rebounds.

"We have been beat on the boards before this season," Schelessman said, "but nothing like this. The refs were letting them play at both ends and Ross has a good rebounding team but there is no excuse for us being outrebounded like that."

"Arlo is really working hard," McGhee said. "He has been working hard in practice because people are pushing him. He knows if he does not perform,

there are others who will."

Brown, who was matched by Hall for game scoring honors, had 13 in the first half and Hall, 14. Mike McGee tossed in 10 for Ross.

Chadd Green paced the balanced Sandusky attack with 14 points. Terrill Green added 12.

Ross committed 24 turnovers and Sandusky 14. The Little Giants were 21 of 56 from the floor and 19 of 31 at the foul line. Sandusky made 26 of 56 shots and 15 of 21 at the line.

Tuesday, Ross will host Oregon Clay.

## High School Boys

### Sandusky 69, Ross 62

#### Score by quarters

Sandusky	17	22	14	16	— 69
Ross	16	18	17	11	— 62

#### Scoring

SANDUSKY — Chuck Hathorn 4-2-10, Sean Nickelson 4-3-11, Chadd Green 5-2-14, Mike Delk 1-5-7, Terrill Green 5-2-12, Bert Fenderson 3-1-7, Al Bonner 1-0-2, Jon Moore 3-0-6, totals 26-15-69.

ROSS — Nick Hall 4-9-18, Adam Bulder 2-1-5, Mike McGee 4-2-10, Arlo Brown 7-4-18, Brad Hammer 2-1-5, Todd Clark 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 1-2-4, totals 21-19-62.

3-point goals: C. Green 2, Hall.

Season records: Ross 6-9, Sandusky 11-4.

### Sandusky JVs 55, Ross 47

#### Score by quarters

Sandusky	5	17	14	19	— 55
Ross	15	15	8	9	— 47

#### Scoring

SANDUSKY — Jarrod Williams 6-2-16, DeRon McGill 2-2-6, Cass Lewis 1-0-2, Willie Philon 3-0-6, Charles Traylor 1-0-2, Darvio McDaniel 3-1-7, Orlando Keys 8-0-16, totals 24-5-55.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 5-2-12, Justin Oxley 2-4-8, Corey Lance 3-2-8, Chris Wolfe 2-0-4, Kelvin McMorris 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 3-3-9, Jeff Green 2-0-4, totals 18-11-47.

3-point goals: Williams 2.

Season records: Sandusky 14-1, Ross 2-13.

# Clay shakes Ross in two OTs

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Ross boys basketball coach Pat McGhee was more concerned with his team's lack of emotion than in Tuesday's 78-67 double overtime loss to Oregon Clay at Ross High School.

The Little Giants, trailing 59-44 with less than two minutes remaining in regulation, used a barrage of three-point goals to catch the Eagles at 60 with five seconds remaining, sending the game into overtime.

"I am more disappointed in the way we played overall; were were missing the emotional element," McGhee said after his team fell to 6-10. "I am proud of the way the kids played at the end, coming back like that, but the fact is, if we had played to our potential, we would not have been in that situation."

Brad Hammer led the Little Giants' frantic final minutes, hitting a trio of three-pointers in the span. The Ross junior made five of six three-point attempts in the period while scoring 17 of his 31 points, but it was Hammer's shortest shot of the quarter that got Ross into overtime.

Hammer's rebound bucket off Tracy Hufford's missed layup with six seconds remaining tied it at 60-60. Hufford had stolen the ball from Clay's Marc Strickland near the top of the key but missed the driving layup.

The Ross comeback was ignited by Hammer's three-pointer with just under two minutes left, cutting the deficit to 59-47. There were 52 seconds left when Kevin Crawford launched a three-pointer to make it 59-50.

After a Clay timeout, the Ross defense forced two turnovers and Hammer nailed three-pointers, the last with 34 seconds left, cutting the Clay lead to 59-56.

Jim Cox hit one of two free throws, putting Ross down by four with a half-minute to play but the Little Giants' Nick Hall drove the lane for two with 18 seconds left. On the toss-in, Hufford came up with his steal and Hammer hit the tip.

"When we got a 12 to 14-point led, I wanted to sub," Clay Coach Doug Dippman said, "but we had a couple tough calls go against us, then they hit the three-pointers and we lost the ball a couple of times against the

press."

Add that up and Ross scored 16 points in the final two minutes including 13 in the final 52 seconds.

Ross had its chances of winning in the first overtime. Hall made two of four free throws for a 62-60 lead but John Valentine's bucket brought Clay even with a half-minute left.

Hufford missed a shot with 20 seconds left but Clay's Jeff Ladd was called for charging under the Eagles basket. Ross got possession with 11 seconds to score but on the trip downcourt, the clock malfunctioned, zooming to 20 seconds. Ross had to bring the ball downcourt again but the Little Giants failed to get off a decent shot.

"We had a chance to win it," McGhee said, "but we did not get the shot we wanted. I don't know whether the clock had anything to do with it but we just did not get the shot."

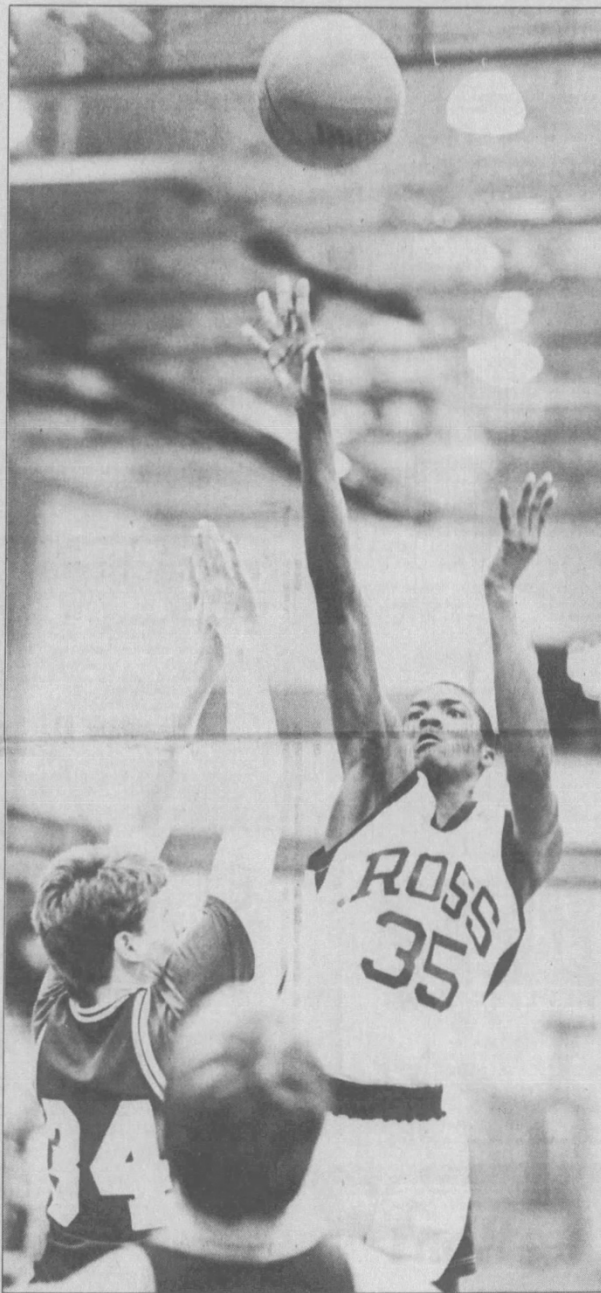
Hammer was to have gotten the shot in the middle but the Clay defense would not allow any penetration, forcing Hammer to pass off to Darrin Critchet whose desperation shot at the buzzer was off the mark.

Overtime number two belonged exclusively to the Eagles. Ladd's bucket and free throw 15 seconds into the extra session gave Clay a 65-62 edge and started the Eagles on a 16-5 scoring binge. Hammer sank a pair of foul tosses but Clay ran off the next five points and the game was over. Not even Hammer's seventh three-pointer of the game with 1:03 to play could bring Ross back.

"The whole game of basketball is emotion and momentum," McGhee said. "We did not have either until those last two minutes and in the overtimes."

Outside of the comeback, there were a couple of other bright spots for McGhee's team. Freshman Todd Clark stepped into the starting lineup and scored 14 points. In the final quarter, McGhee inserted sophomore Shane McConnell into the lineup and he responded with a pair of buckets. McConnell had scored 21 points while leading the Ross junior varsity to a 69-60 win over Clay.

Scott Allen led Clay with 20 points.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

ARLO BROWN of Ross launches a jump shot over Marc Strickland of Oregon Clay.

## High School Boys

### Clay 78, Ross 67 (2OT)

#### Score by quarters

Clay	13	11	15	21	2	16	— 78
Ross	11	12	9	28	2	5	— 67

#### Scoring

CLAY — Scott Allen 6-8-20, Jim Cox 4-8-16, Matt Labuhn 2-2-6, Jeff Ladd 5-3-13, John Valentine 5-0-10, Marc Strickland 5-3-13, totals 27-24-78.

ROSS — Nick Hall 3-2-8, Adam Bulger 2-0-5, Arlo Brown 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 11-2-31, Todd Clark 7-0-14, Shane McConnell 2-0-4, Kevin Crawford 1-0-3, 27-4-67.

3-point goal: Bulger, Hammer 7, Crawford.

Season records: Ross 6-10, Clay 6-10.

### Ross 69, Clay 60

#### Score by quarters

Clay	9	12	14	25	— 60
Ross	18	15	13	23	— 69

#### Scoring

CLAY — Mark Routson 3-4-12, Rob Belegri 1-0-3, Jarrod Buffy 4-1-9, Edi Cutcher 1-1-3, Eric Markus 2-0-4, Mark Metzger 2-1-6, Don Miller 5-6-16, Mike Uhler 2-3-7, totals 20-16-60.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 2-2-6, Justin Oxley 2-5-9, Mike Byrnes 0-2-2, Corey Lance 4-5-13, Chris Wolfe 6-0-12, Shane McConnell 5-11-21, Jeff Green 3-0-6, totals 22-25-69.

3-point goals: Routson 2, Belegri, Miller.

Season records: Ross 4-12, Clay 5-11.



# Ross boys get hurt in first half

News-Messenger reports

MARION — Harding poured in 46 first half points and then held on to defeat Fremont Ross 80-73 in a high school boys basketball game Saturday.

"They shot the ball extremely well in the first half," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said after watching his team fall behind 46-31. "We played well offensively, too, but we could not slow them down in the first half.

"It seemed as if every thing they threw up would go in. 31

points is a pretty good clip for us but when you give up 46 ..."

John Courtwright scored 27 points to pace the Presidents. Nick Hall of Ross matched Courtwright for game scoring honors.

Brad Hammer had 16 and Todd Clark 10 for the Little Giants, 6-11. Rick Howell with 14 and Pete Cressor with 12 backed up Courtwright.

Ross hosts Fostoria, Tuesday. The JV game begins at 6:15 p.m.

# Basketball

## High School Boys

### Harding 80, Ross 73

#### Score by quarters

Ross	13	18	17	25	— 73
Harding	24	22	10	24	— 80

#### Scoring

ROSS - Nick Hall 12-3-27, Adam Bulger 4-0-8, Arlo Brown 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 5-3-16, Todd Clark 4-1-10, Mike McGee 1-0-2, Shane McConnell 2-0-4, totals 31-7-73.

HARDING - Pete Cressor 5-0-12, Sean Smith 1-0-2, Rodney Evans 14-6, John Courtwright 8-8-27, Eric Foos 2-5-9, Rick Howell 6-2-14, Brian Perry 0-1-1, Carter 4-1-9, totals 27-21-80.

3-point goals: Hammer 3, Clark, Cressor 2, Courtwright 3.

Season records: Ross 6-11.

### Ross JVs 57, Harding 53

#### Score by quarters

Ross	9	16	13	19	— 57
Harding	14	14	12	13	— 53

#### Scoring

ROSS — Justin Oxley 1-2-4, Seth Brickner 0-5-5, Jeff Green 3-1-13, Cory Lance 6-1-13, Chris Wolfe 3-4-10, Kelvin McMorris 1-2-4, Tom Martin 1-1-3, Mike Byrnes 0-5-5, totals 18-21-57.

HARDING — Borland 4-4-13, Gandee 3-6-12, Baker 2-2-6, Oliver 2-0-4, Watts 3-0-6, Keating 5-2-12, totals 15-14-53.

3-point goals: Borland.

Season record: Ross 5-12.



# Hall, Ross work overtime, beat back Fostoria 62-57

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Nick Hall scored four of Ross's seven points in overtime to defeat the Fostoria Redmen 62-57 Tuesday at Ross High School.

Hall had a game-high 23 points, 18 in the second half.

"We did exactly what we wanted to do in the overtime," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "and that was go inside to Nick."

Hall hit from in close 47 seconds into the extra session and gave Ross a 59-55 lead with another short shot a minute later.

Pratt Robinson scored Fostoria's only two overtime points, cutting the Ross lead to 59-57 with 47 seconds remaining, but Ross freshman Todd Clark hit the front end of a one-and-one, putting the Little Giants up 60-57.

On the trip downcourt, Arlo Brown of Ross was fouled after getting the rebound off Aaron Hampton's missed three-point attempt. Brown, who grabbed 10 rebounds and scored 12 points, missed the three throw but Ross guard Brad Hammer sneaked inside on the baseline to grab the rebound.

A few seconds later, Hammer was fouled and iced the game with two free throws with 12 seconds left.

"We played good defense after the first quarter," McGhee said about his mainly man-to-man game plan.

The Ross "D", with Clark and Scott Nossaman sharing the assignment, held Fostoria's leading scorer Corey Gregg to a single three-pointer in the final quarter. Gregg, a 5-7 senior, brought a 15-point average into the contest.

## Sandusky ends Ross streak

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Trina Aaron scored 18 points to lead Sandusky to a 61-43 victory over Fremont Ross in high school girls basketball Tuesday.

The loss ended a two-game Ross winning streak. The Little Giants are 4-15.

The Blue Streaks, 9-10, outscored the Little Giants 19-9 in the third quarter after leading 27-20 at the half.

Shelley Hetrick topped Ross with 17 points. Amy Schefflin added 12. Adrienne Watts had 13 points for Sandusky.

"Clark and Nossaman were to keep the ball out of Gregg's hands," McGhee said, "and when he did get it, they were to pressure him."

"Gregg had one of those nights," Fostoria Coach Jim Rutter said. "We ask him to do a lot of things for us and he just did not have a good night."

Todd Norman was having a good night for the Redmen, but it ended prematurely when he picked up his fifth foul with 2:44 to play in regulation after scoring 19 points.

"Losing Norman was a big factor in the game," Rutter said. "With Norman out of the game, we lost our aggressiveness inside."

"Actually, our offense was hurting our defense," McGhee said.

But rebounding was saving it. Ross outrebounded the Redmen 42-34 with 16 off the offensive

boards. Hall topped Ross with 12 rebounds.

Ross trailed 17-10 after one quarter as Fostoria sophomore Ryan Hipsher scored seven points.

"We had to slow down Hipsher," McGhee said, "and get the ball inside more."

The defense took up the task, forcing three Fostoria turnovers in the first 90 seconds of the second quarter and Ross took an 18-17 lead on three baskets by Mike McGee and one by Hall.

Fostoria charged back, grabbing a 25-19 lead on seven straight Norman points. The Ross defense bounced back, forcing six Redmen turnovers in the final three minutes and pulling even at the half 25-25 on two baskets by Brown and two free throws by Hammer. Hipsher had three second quarter free throws.

Hall's basket and Hammer's three-pointer, sandwiched around Casey McBeth's basket, gave Ross a 30-27 lead early in the second half. Ross never lost the lead until Gregg's only bucket put Fostoria up 53-51 with 3:40 remaining in the final quarter.

Hall got Ross even with a short jumper and put Ross up 55-53 with a lay-in with 2:08 to play. McBeth hit two free throws with 1:52 remaining. Neither team scored after that but Ross got the final shot, a desperation three-pointer from Hammer that fell short.

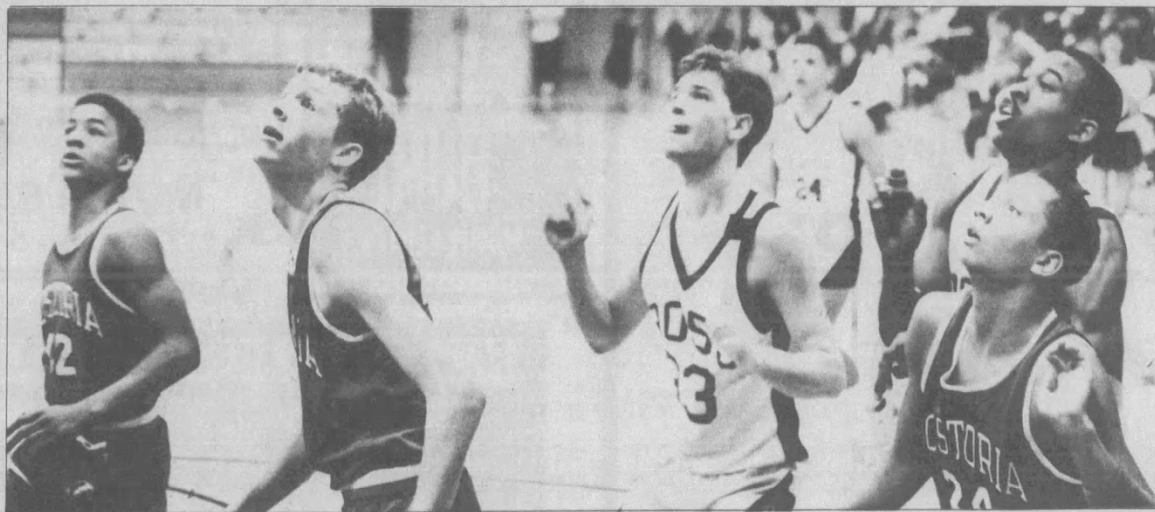
Hammer added 15 points for the Little Giants, while Hipsher led Fostoria with 21.

Friday, Ross travels to Lancaster for the final Buckeye Central Conference game.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

NICK HALL of Ross shoots over Ryan Hipsher of Fostoria during first half action Tuesday at Ross High School.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

IT'S UP THERE! All eyes are focused skyward as the ball, which was bouncing around the rim, drew the attention of, left to right,

Aaron Hampton and Ryan Hipsher of Fostoria, Nick Hall and Mike McGee (Ross), behind Pratt Robinson of Fostoria.

## Ross 62, Fostoria 57 (OT)

### Score by quarters

Fostoria	17	8	14	16	2	— 57
Ross	10	15	18	12	7	— 62

### Scoring

FOSTORIA — Ryan Hipsher 7-7-21, Todd Norman 7-5-19, Pratt Robinson 3-0-6, Cory Gregg 1-0-3, Casey McBeth 2-2-6, Aaron Hampton 1-0-2, totals 21-14-57.

ROSS — Nick Hall 10-3-23, Arlon Brown 6-0-12, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Brad Hammer 3-6-15, Todd Clark 1-2-4, totals 24-11-62.

3-point goals: Gregg, Hammer 3.

Season records: Ross 7-11, Fostoria 10-8.

## Ross JVs 64, Fostoria 32

### Score by quarters

Fostoria	7	5	7	13	— 32
Ross	10	20	19	15	— 64

### Scoring

FOSTORIA — Bill Wyant 1-1-3, Miles Meinhard 1-0-2, Rob Alexander 0-1-1, Damon Smith 1-0-2, Brian Koby 2-0-4, Dan Baldwin 0-1-1, Chad Miller 3-3-9, Tom Settles 2-1-7, totals 10-9-32.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 1-0-2, Justin Oxley 2-1-5, Cory Lance 1-2-4, Chris Wolfe 6-1-13, Kelvin McMorris 2-0-4, Shane McConnell 8-1-17, Tom Martin 2-0-4, Jeff Green 5-0-10, Joe Frazier 0-2-2, Doug Gahn 1-1-3, totals 28-8-64.

3-point goals: Settles 2.

Season records: Ross 6-12, Fostoria 8-10.

# Ross falters at Lancaster

News-Messenger reports

Ross made its third long road trip of the season Friday and for the third time, the Little Giants came home with a loss.

This time, the Lancaster Golden Gales pinned a 60-50 Buckeye Central Conference loss on the Little Giants. The win was Lancaster's first in the BCC this season.

Jon Holland and Tim Graham scored 18 points apiece to lead Lancaster, 5-15 and 1-7 in the BCC. Nick Hall led Ross, 7-12 and 2-5, with 14 and Brad Hammer had 11.

Ross shot just 37 percent (20 of 54) from the floor while Lancaster shot 47 percent (20 of 43). The Golden Gales out-rebounded the Little Giants 35-27 and each team had 14 turnovers.

Ross led 21-20 at halftime, but Lancaster held a 19-13 advantage in the third quarter and a 21-16 edged in the fourth.

In the reserve game, Lancaster prevailed 49-45 in overtime.

## High School Boys

### Lancaster 60, Ross 50

#### Score by quarters

Ross	8	13	13	16	— 50
Lancaster	8	12	19	21	— 60

#### Scoring

ROSS — Nick Hall 6-2-14, Mike McGee 4-0-9, Brad Hammer 4-2-11, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 2-4-8, Todd Clark 2-0-4, Darrin Critchet 1-0-2, totals 20-8-50.

LANCASTER — Tim Woodward 2-0-4, Tim Graham 5-8-18, Steve Gellenstedt 1-4-6, Eric Lockhart 2-1-5, Bart Leohner 3-1-9, Jon Holland 9-0-18, totals 22-14-60.

3-point goals: McGee, Hammer, Leohner 2.

Season records: Lancaster 5-15 (1-7), Ross 7-12 (2-5).

JV game: Lancaster 49-45.

# Findlay's bombers at Ross

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

The Findlay "bomb squad" is the last regular season opponent tonight for the Ross High School boys basketball team.

The Trojans, 8-11 and 4-3 in Buckeye Central Conference action, and Ross, 7-12 and 2-6 in the BCC, will be tuning up for the Division I sectional tournament, which begins next week, in the Little Giants' home.

Ross defeated the Trojans 65-63 in overtime earlier this season.

Findlay has been riding the fortunes of the three-point goal the past few games.

"They have gone more to a perimeter game," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "They use three guards who do not hesitate to put the ball up from the three-point range."

Against Newark, McGhee said, Findlay had 11 three-points goal in a 62-58, overtime victory against the BCC champs, the only conference loss for the Wildcats.

"The three-point shot is a very important part of their offense," McGhee said. "They come down the floor on a fast break and they will pull up and shoot the three-pointer."

"So, we are going to have to be prepared to defend that," the Ross coach said.

Todd Jensen, Jeff Bova and Grant Haggard are the chief bombers for the Trojans. Jensen and Haggard, combined, have made 47 percent of their three-point attempts.

McGhee said the season finale is important for several reasons.

"First, it's against Findlay and I think anyone in Fremont gets excited about that," he said. "Second, you want to play well going into the tournament. You need a solid game to build on."

"Third, it is the final home game for the seniors and you want play well in a game like that."

Ross will play Oregon Clay Tuesday at Lake High School in a Division I sectional tournament game.

NOTES: Findlay Coach Roger Renz will be after his 300th high school coaching

victory. He coached four years at Continental, seven at Defiance and the last 10 at Findlay. He is 299-143.

The probable Ross lineup tonight: Nick Hall, Arlo Brown, Brad Hammer, Todd Clark and Adam Bulger.

Hammer finished second among BCC three-point goal shooters, making 27 of 64 for 42 percent. Hall finished third in scoring with 16.2 per game and he was fifth in rebounding with 7.3 per contest.

# Bulger's layup produces Ross win

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Adam Bulger was staring at a life sentence.

"I knew if I missed that one, I would be running '7s' the rest of my life," the 6-3 Ross junior said after his layup with one second remaining gave Ross a 58-56 victory over Findlay Friday in the Ross High school gym.

"7s?" Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "Oh, they are seven lengths of the gym in 38 seconds."

And something to avoid.

Bulger earned his reprieve, grabbing Nick Hall's missed shot and putting it back in for the game-winner.

An easy shot? Not on this night for Bulger.

"I think I missed six of them (layups)," he said, "and I was afraid of missing another one...especially that one."

He didn't, and Ross pulled off a season double, sweeping the Trojans and ending both team's

regular season with 8-12 records. Findlay's loss dropped it to 4-4 in the Buckeye Central Conference while Ross (3-5) ended a five-game conference losing streak.

Hall, who finished with a game-high 18 points, was the object of McGhee's attention after Ross had called a timeout with eight seconds left.

"We wanted to get the ball to Nick and let him play 'one-on-one' anywhere he could," McGhee said. "Bulger threw the ball into Hall, but Findlay defended it well. Bulger really hustled because he got down for the rebound."

Hall's shot from deep in the left corner came up short and into Bulger's hands.

About the missed layups, McGhee said it may have been a case of Bulger trying too hard.

"He missed the first one and he may have gotten a little frustrated," he said.

Neither team led by more than

six points with the Little Giants enjoying that lead, 33-27, shortly before halftime. Hall canned 14 of his points in the first half and Brad Hammer tossed in seven of his 15.

"Hammer played a good, solid game," McGhee said.

Hammer had three three-pointers, including one that put Ross up 53-49 with three minutes to play.

Mike Wolfe's 10-foot jumper at the buzzer put Ross up 45-40 at the end of three quarters but Brian Ashworth came off the Findlay bench, and scored eight straight points to put Ross down 48-45 three and a half minutes into the final quarter. Todd Clark's free throw broke the Ross famine and the Little Giants regained the lead on Bulger's shot from the middle of the lane and Hammer's rebound shot.

Ross built a 55-51 lead but Jeff Bova hit a free throw and Todd

Jensen's bucket cut the lead to 55-54. Clark hit a free throw with 26 lefts but Jensen tied it with a jumper from the circle at the 12-second mark, setting up Bulger's last second stay of execution.

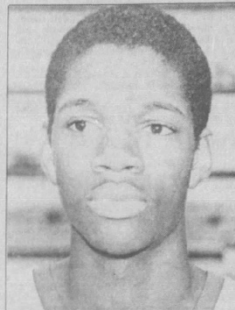
"The key to the game was their (Ross) offensive rebounding," Findlay Coach Roger Renz, who was deprived of his 300th win, said. "They would force shots but get the rebound for the layup."

Ross outrebounded the Trojans 43-38 with 23 of the retrieves off the offensive board.

Arlo Brown, Mike McGee, Bulger, Hall and Wolfe shared the rebounding duties for Ross. Brown and Wolfe had two blocked shots apiece.

Jensen had 16 points but Ross cut his three-point shooting and that of Bova and Grant Haggard down to practically nothing: one of three.

"They had hit seven or eight three-pointers in each the last



ADAM BULGER

few games," McGhee said, "and we wanted to take that away from them."

The win set up the tournament season for the Little Giants. Ross plays Oregon Clay at approximately 8:15 p.m. Tuesday at Lake High School.

## Ross 58, Findlay 56

### Score by quarters

Findlay	16	13	11	16	— 56
Ross	16	17	12	13	— 58

### Scoring

FINDLAY — Jeff Bova 0-2-2, Grant Haggard 3-1-7, Todd Jensen 7-1-16, Matt Semeyen 4-4-12, John Neer 2-0-4, Rick Renz 3-1-7, Brian Ashworth 2-4-8, totals 21-13-56.

ROSS — Nick Hall 7-4-18, Arlo Brown 2-0-4, Adam Bulger 4-1-9, Todd Clark 0-2-2, Brad Hammer 4-4-15, Mike MckGee 1-2-4, Mike Wolfe 3-0-6, totals 21-13-58.

3-point goals: Jensen, Hammer 3.

Season records: Ross 8-12 (3-5), Findlay 8-12 (4-4).

## Findlay JVs 62, Ros 59 (OT

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### Score by quarters

Findlay	18	4	22	12	6 — 62
Ross	19	13	10	14	3 — 59

### Scoring

FINDLAY — Brian Shaffer 5-6-17, Jim Kelley 4-0-8, Curt Ammons 1-0-2, Scott Garlock 2-2-7, Dan Gordon 3-2-8, Brian Fleck 4-3-11, Kevin Hinkle 4-0-9, totals 23-13-62.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 4-4-12, Justin Oxley 3-3-9, Mike Byrnes 1-0-2, Corey Lance 6-1-13, Chris Wolfe 5-0-10, Shane McConnell 4-1-10, Tom Martin 1-0-2, Jeff Green 0-1-1, toals 24-10-59.

3-point goals: Shaffer, Garlock, Hinkle, McConnell.

Season records: Findlay 14-6, Ross 6-14.



# Hall, Hammer chosen for BCC hoop honors

News-Messenger reports

Nick Hall and Brad Hammer of Fremont Ross were named to the All-Buckeye Central Conference team.

Hall, a 6-3 senior, was a first team selection of the conference coaches and Hammer earned second team honors.

Hall led the Little Giants in scoring and was third in the BCC with a 16.3 average. He was sixth in both field goal and free throw percentage, making 118 of 242 field goal attempts for 49 percent and 75 of 110 free throws for 68 percent. He was fifth in rebounding with an average of a little over seven per game.



HALL

Hammer, 5-10, averaged nearly 10 points per game and was 10th in the conference scoring race. He was the conference's third best three-point field goal shooter, making 30 of 69 attempts for 43 percent.

Other first team selections included Player of the Year Bob Coffey of Newark, Buster Howe of Zanesville, Jon Holland of Lancaster and Todd Jensen of Findlay.

Coffey led the BCC in scoring with a 20.5 average and field goal percentage with 162 of 152 for 65 per cent and was second in rebounding with 11.8 per game.

Joining Hammer on the second team were Troy Touville and Todd Whiteman of Zanesville and Jeff Brown and Mark Freeman of Newark.

Adam Bulger of Ross was among the honorable mention selections.

The coach of the year was Gary Walters of Newark.

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# High School Boys

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## Northwest All-District

COLUMBUS — The 1988 Associated Press Northwestern All-District boys basketball teams, as selected by sports writers and broadcasters in the Northwestern District (with school, height, grade and scoring average):

### DIVISION I

**FIRST TEAM:** Jim Jackson, Toledo Macomber, 6-foot-6, Junior, 26.7 points per game; Dapreis Owens, Mansfield Senior, 6-9, Sr., 26.6; Jim Heffner, Toledo Start, 6-2, Sr., 25.5; Craig Michaelis, Toledo Whitmer, 6-6, Jr., 20.6; Jeff Griffith, Vermilion, 6-2, Sr., 24.2.

**SECOND TEAM:** Kevelin Capers, Lima Senior, 6-2, Sr., 16.2; Steve Petee, Ashland, 5-10, Sr., 22.1; Greg Periatt, Toledo St. John's, 6-1, Sr., 18.3; Mike Clark, Perrysburg, 6-1, Sr., 19.7; Rick Rightnowar, Toledo Whitmer, 6-7, Sr., 14.6.

**Player of the Year:** Jim Jackson, Toledo Macomber.

**Coach of the Year:** Ed Heintschel, Toledo St. John's.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Nick Hall, Brad Hammer, Fremont Ross.

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## Ross honors winter athletes

News-Messenger reports

Six athletes won "most valuable" awards during the Ross High School Winter Sports Awards program Tuesday.

Amy Schepflin and Nick Hall won the MVP honor for boys and girls basketball, B.J. Blair took the top honor in boys swimming while Todi Heslet and Ann Wells shared the honor for the girls swim team, and Jon Ramirez won the award in wrestling. Blair and Wells are sophomores, Heslet a junior and the others, seniors.

Other special awards presented by girls basketball Coach Sue Wolf went to sophomore Kim Borys, most improved; Shannon Watts, highest free throw percentage (74 percent) and top defensive player; Schepflin, most rebounds and captains trophy, and Shelley Hetrick, captains trophy.

In girls junior varsity awards, Joy Eishen was named MVP and Shanell Moneghan won the most improved honor.

Hall, in addition to his MVP honor, took home the top rebounding, free throw, field goal shooting honors and captains trophy.

Other boys special awards handed out by Coach Pat McGeorge went to Brad Hammer for most assists and a free throw trophy. Hammer and Hall tied

for the free throw honors, hitting 68 percent apiece.

Kevin Crawford and Tracy Hufford also received captains trophies for boys basketball.

In addition to Blair capturing the most valuable honor, junior diver Chad Root won the most improved honor for Coach Tom Thomson's boys swim team. Brian Schaaf won the coaches' award and Steve Schaaf and Todd Vogel received captains trophies.

For the girls, Heslet and Wells shared the top honor with the most improved honor going to diver Michelle Velliquette. Leah Baker won the coaches' award and Jamie Brudzinski and Tina Streeter received captains trophies. Brudzinski also received her fourth-year letter award.

Ramirez received three trophies and shared another for Coach Al Voggenthaler's Buckeye Central Conference championship team. In addition to his MVP award, Ramirez got trophies for the most takedowns and for being the captain while tying Matt Marinis and Rob Beck for the most pins.

The most improved wrestler award went to Troy Williamson and the coaches award was won by Greg Abdo.

Marinis, who was ill and could not attend, won his fourth-year letter award.



News-Messenger

**ROSS MOST** valuable performers were, left to right, Todi Heslet, Amy Schepflin, Ann Wells; B.J. Blair, Nick Hall and Jon Ramirez.