

1982 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Tygers edge Ross

By BOB MARKER

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ASHLAND — Cliff Hammer hit the front end of a two-shot foul with five seconds to play to give Mansfield a 72-71 victory over Fremont Ross Tuesday at Ashland College in the first round of the Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament.

The free throw cooled off a Little Giants rally by William Johnson, Dave Aschenbach, Eric Bates, Tony Gant and Craig Daniels that had wiped out a 10-point fourth quarter Mansfield lead.

Aschenbach, after taking a tipped ball off the hands of Eric Bates when Hammer's second shot missed the mark, narrowly missed a 30-foot shot at the buzzer. The ball bounced off the backboard and hit the front of the rim.

The win closed out Ross's season at 3-18 while Mansfield, 6-15, will face the winner of the Vermillion-Tiffin Columbian game (tonight) for the upper bracket sectional title at 6:30 p.m., Friday.

The Little Giants led at the half 39-36 but the Tygers scored the first eight points of the second half while on a 14-3 scoring spurt to take a 52-41 lead midway through the third quarter.

"That third quarter," Ross Coach John Sawyer said quietly, "we came out flat, stood around, did not hit the boards and missed those easy shots.

Ross missed four layups and two tips in the quarter.

The Little Giants trailed 62-52 after three quarters but Aschenbach and Gant hit two

buckets apiece, Daniels and Bates one apiece to bring Ross to a 70-68 deficit with 46 seconds to play.

L.B. Williams of the Tygers hit one of two free throws with 26 seconds to play to put his team up 71-68. With 15 seconds to play, Johnson took a pass from Daniels beneath the bucket for a layup while being fouled by Muffin Black.

After Mansfield Coach Joe Prats tried to "ice" Johnson with a timeout, the Ross junior hit nothing but net to tie the game.

Another Tyger timeout with 11 seconds remaining led to the free toss by Hammer. Hammer took a pass on the right baseline, faked, and went over Gant who was soaring above him. Gant was called for the foul on the disputed play.

"From our angle, it looked like he (Hammer) traveled," Sawyer said.

It was history then as Hammer hit the first free throw.

Both teams shot well from the field with Ross hitting 32 of 58 and Mansfield 32 of 57. Ross was 7 of 11 at the foul line and the Tygers 8 of 17.

Muffin Black was a delicacy that would not crumble in the first three periods. The six-foot senior scored all of his game high 27 points in that span before Bates held the Tyger scoreless in the final quarter.

Johnson led Ross with 20 points followed by Gant and Aschenbach with 17 apiece. Daniels had 10 along with five assists. Aschenbach added four assists. Gant had nine rebounds and Johnson seven as the Little Giants held a 33-31 lead in that category.

Basketball

High School

Mansfield 72

Ross 71

Score by quarters

Ross	19	20	12	19—71
Mansfield	18	18	26	10—72

Scoring

ROSS: Dave Aschenbach 8-1-17, Tony Gant 8-1-17, Dan Brudzinski 1-0-2, William Johnson 8-4-20, Craig Daniels 5-0-10, Eric Bates 1-0-2, Matt Collins 1-1-3, totals 32-7-71.

MANSFIELD: Chris Elswick 0-1-1, John Parker 3-2-8, Muffin Black 13-1-27, Bobby Taylor 5-2-12, Bubba Toddie 2-0-4, Cliff Hammer 5-1-11, Willie McGrew 3-0-6, Dennis Minard 1-0-2, L.B. Williams 0-1-1, totals 32-8-72.

Season records: Mansfield 6-15, Ross 3-18.