

Ross plays Galion Thursday

Sectionals roll tonight

High School boys basketball sectional basketball tournament games putted off to a start Monday but will swing into full gear tonight.

A pair of Class AAA were played in three sectionals Monday with the winners advancing to March 5 games.

One, Galion's 61-60 win over Sandusky at Ashland College, let Fremont Ross know its opponent for the 6:30 p.m., Thursday game. The winner of the Galion-Ross contest will advance to Saturday's sectional finals against the winner of tonight's Lexington-Ashland game.

In Class A play tonight involving Fremont area games, Woodmore and Gibsonburg will be in action at Fostoria High School.

Woodmore, 15-5, will play Hopewell-Loudon, 14-6, in the 6:30 game. Gibsonburg, 11-9, faces Danbury-Lakeside, 3-17, in the second contest.

Old Fort drew the uneviable task of playing the top seeded Bucyrus sectional

team, Buckeye Central, at 6:30. Old Fort is 3-17 and tonight's opponent is 18-2.

At Fremont Ross, Mohawk and Clyde will square off in a Class AA first round game. The winner of the 7:30 contest will advance to the sectional finals against top seeded Port Clinton, 18-2, Friday. Bellevue will play Milan Edison tonight in the AA sectional at Sandusky High School.

Other games later in the week will be Elmwood against Bettsville and St. Wendelin challenging top seeded Fremont St. Joe in Thursday's Class A games at Fostoria. The winners will play March 7 for the sectional title.

Thursday at Ross, Fostoria and Genoa will play at 6:30 while the clash between Oak Harbor and Lakota begins at 9 p.m. The winners will play Saturday for the title.

Margaretta will take on second seeded Huron Thursday at approximately 8:30 at Sandusky in another AA show.

Galion slips past Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

ASHLAND — Lee Reindl gave Ross two chances before snuffing out the Little Giants' hopes in the Class AAA Sectional Boys Basketball Tournament at Ashland College Thursday night.

Reindl scored all seven Galion overtime points as the Tigers edged the Little Giants 54-51. Reindl had 24 for the game and will lead his team against Lexington in the sectional finals Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

"We matched them bucket for bucket," Ross Coach Biz Paeth said, "but they just scored the last three points of the game."

Mike Eicher's bucket on a follow-up shot with 14 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 47-47 for Ross. The Little Giants had a shot at winning the game when Ed Yanovick of Galion could not find the handle on the ball while all alone under the Galion basket. There were four seconds left when Ross's Craig Daniels grabbed the loose ball and frantically signaled for a timeout.

After a pair of back-to-back timeouts, one by both teams, Ross set up a play that narrowly backfired when Eicher's shot from the top of the key was off to the left.

Greg Nossaman and Sam Lindsey hit key free throws in the final moments of regulation to set up Eicher's game tying bucket. Lindsey hit two with two minutes left to knot the game at 43-43 while Nossaman, who had 14 points in the contest, canned a pair to tie the game at 45-45 with 1:47 to play.

Chris Nicholls of Galion canned five straight free throws in the final period, the last two putting his team up 47-45 with 36 seconds to play.

But it was all Reindl in the overtime. The Tigers' leading scorer played consistently all night but his overtime show stunned the Little Giants.

Reindl canned three buckets and on all three he was fouled. The first two times, the Galion 6-4 senior missed the charity tosses, but on the third free toss, the ball found nothing but net. The three-pointer broke a 51-51 deadlock with just seven seconds remaining in the game.

Reindl pulled off a minor miracle just getting the basket for the final points of the contest. He saved the ball from going out-of-bounds, dribbled once and laid it in while being fouled by Rod Meyer.

"Their money ball player got it for them," Paeth said. "There is not a whole lot more that we wanted to do (in the game) except win it."

Ross's zone defense held Galion to 34 shots but the Tigers hit on 20 of them, the same number of buckets that the Little Giants had. The Tigers hit 14 of 21 shots from the foul line while Ross was 11 of 12.

Galion scored the first four points of the third period but did not score after the four-minute mark while Ross took the lead with a nine-point run and a 37-35 lead at the end of the quarter. Eicher's jumper from the left side gave Ross the lead.

Reindl brought his team even 30 seconds into the final period.

SCORE BY QUARTERS (OT)

Galion	17	14	9	12	7-54
Ross	10	18	9	10	4-51

SCORING

GALION: Reindl 11-2-24, Yanovick 4-2-10, Martin 0-2-2, McElligott 3-1-7, Nicholls 1-5-7, Kennedy 0-2-2, Eristen 1-0-2; totals 20-14-54.

ROSS: Nossaman 6-2-14, Eicher 4-4-12, Gant 2-0-4, Meyer 3-0-6, Simms 3-1-7, Daniels 1-0-2, Lindsey 1-2-4, Rodenhauser 0-2-2; totals 20-11-51.

Season records: Galion 11-11, Ross 2-19.