

## 2025-2026 SEASON REVIEW

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# LITTLE GIANTS SHOW FIGHT IN SEASON OPENER AT THE PURPLE PIT

Ross battles Perrysburg before falling, 68–45

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## SCORE

**Perrysburg 68**

**Fremont Ross 45**

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**FREMONT** — The Fremont Ross boys basketball team opened its season Tuesday night inside the Purple Pit, battling a strong Perrysburg squad before falling 68–45 in a physical season opener.

The Little Giants came out ready to compete, engaging in a tight first half that featured strong defensive effort and tough play on both ends of the floor. Ross stoyed within striking distance throughout the opening two quarters and went into halftime trailing by just two points.

Coming out of the locker room, momentum swung in the third quarter. A handful of early turnovers opened the door for Perrysburg, which capitalized offensively and created separation. Desptie the shift, Fremont Ross continued to play with energy and determination, refusing to back down.

The Little Giants responded with renewed effort in the fourth quarter, showing grit and competitiveness as they worked to close the gap.

Senior Braylon Jordan led Ross with 10 points, providing steady leadership throughout the night. Freshman Jake Cahill milie an immediate impact in his varsity debut, stuffing the stat sheet with eight points, six rebounds, and four blocks while energizing the Purple Pit crowd with his effort.



Fremont Ross senior Braylon Jordan controls the ball during the Little Giants' season opener Tuesday night inside the Purple Pit, against Perrysburg.

Dalton Harp

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Head coach John Cahill pointed to both positives and lessons following the opener.

“A two-point game at half got away from us in the third.” Cahill said. “We turned the ball over too much, and against a top team you can’t afford that. We’ll continue to improve and be a tough team.”

The Little Giants now have several days to reset before returning to action on December 16, when they travel to Bowling Green.

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### Giants Show Fight in Road Loss, Look Ahead to Busy Weekend

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team endured a tough road loss last night at Bowling Green 73-65. An unusually slow start put them in an early hole. The Giants found themselves facing a double-digit deficit at halftime, but they refused to fold and showed resilience in the second half.

Fremont Ross turned up the intensity after the break, steadily chipping away at the lead and narrowing the margin to under five points in the fourth quarter. Despite the strong late push, the comeback effort fell just short.

There were several bright spots for the Giants, highlighted by the growing on-court connection between freshman Jake Cahill and senior Tallon Brown. Cahill consistently found Brown open in the paint, a combination that continued to flourish as the game went on. Cahill finished the night with an impressive all-around performance, totaling 17 points, five rebounds, and six assists. Brown turned in a career night, contributing 16 points and five rebounds while providing a steady presence inside.

Head coach John Cahill acknowledged both the effort and the areas that still need improvement. "We played hard after a sluggish start," Cahill said. "We have a lot to figure out, but we are working hard and will continue to work hard."

The Giants remain on the road this week, traveling to Clay on Friday night before an early Saturday afternoon matchup in Defiance. The grind continues — keep working, keep believing, and Be Giant.





Yesterday at 5:00 PM · 🌐

### Little Giants Continue to Work Through Early-Season Challenges

The Fremont Ross Boys Basketball program is navigating a slow start to the season, but effort, accountability, and commitment to improvement remain at the forefront as the Little Giants continue to work hard in practice to find their rhythm.

Ross faced a tough weekend slate, dropping a pair of games against quality opponents. On Friday night, the Little Giants hosted Oregon Clay, falling 58-41 to a veteran Eagles squad that entered the night with momentum.

Head Coach John Cahill acknowledged the challenge Clay presented while also noting missed opportunities late in the game.

"Clay is 5-1 and a really good team," Cahill said. "We had some chances to make it interesting in the fourth quarter. We will be challenged again in 14 hours by a huge Defiance team with a 6-9 center."

That challenge arrived quickly. After making the trip to Defiance less than a day later, the Little Giants found themselves up against a physically imposing Bulldogs team. Defiance started fast, controlled the paint, and used their size and strength inside to pull away early. Ross battled but ultimately took one on the chin, falling 74-50.

"Defiance was very physical and have a really nice team," Cahill said. "We are committed to finding a solution and playing better basketball as the season goes forward."

Despite the tough outcome, there were positive takeaways. Quinn Wolf provided one of the bright spots on the night, knocking down four three-pointers and finishing with 12 points, all from beyond the arc.

The Little Giants remain focused on growth as the season progresses and will look to keep pressing forward as they prepare for their next opportunity. Ross returns to action Tuesday night when they host the Bellevue Redmen, aiming to get back on track and turn lessons learned into results.



## A DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> LOSS TO DEFIANCE ON THE ROAD.

### Little Giant Boys Tested Over Holiday Break

The Fremont Ross Little Giant Boys Basketball team faced a pair of challenging tests over the holiday break, dropping two contests against quality opponents while continuing to gain valuable experience with a young roster.

The Giants opened the break with a tight 53–50 loss to a strong Bellevue team that entered the matchup with a 6–2 record. Fremont Ross struggled to find an offensive rhythm early but battled throughout the game, showing resilience and growth despite the narrow defeat.

In their second game, the Little Giants faced an uphill battle from the opening tip against undefeated Sandusky Perkins, an 8–0 team ranked fourth in the state in Division IV. Despite solid preparation leading into the contest, Fremont Ross again found itself playing from behind and ultimately fell 65–50 to one of Ohio's top programs.

Head Coach Cahill reflected on the slow starts and the importance of consistency.

"You know some say it's not how you start, but how you finish. I don't necessarily agree with that," Cahill said. "We have to start strong, stay strong, finish strong."

When thinking about this team and its journey, Coach Cahill pointed to a quote from legendary coach Bob Knight that resonates with this season's group. "The key is not the will to win. Everybody has that. It is the will to prepare to win that is important," Cahill shared. "I feel like we are working and preparing. What we are gaining is experience with every game. Stay with us. These are Fremont born and bred kids. We will keep working." Cahill also commented that he had some alumni back to practice over the holiday break. They pushed the boys in practice and gave them advice and words of encouragement after practice. "It was good to have the boys back in the building!"

Against Bellevue, Dylan "Dons" McDonald led the scoring effort with 12 points, while Jake Cahill delivered a well-rounded performance with 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists. Bray Jordan served as the team's primary facilitator, dishing out 6 assists and helping keep the offense organized.

Despite the 0–2 mark over the break, the Little Giants remain committed to improvement. With only eight points per game returning from last season, this young Fremont Ross squad understands that growth comes through preparation, effort, and experience.

The Little Giants return home to the Purple Pit on Wednesday, January 6, as they host Toledo Whitmer, looking to turn lessons learned into progress and continue building toward the future.



# Little Giants continue to build through early-season challenges

By Chad Berndt

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team faced another early-season test Friday night, falling to a scrappy Springfield squad, 76—59. While the outcome was not what the Little Giants were hoping for, the performance once again reflected a group focused on competing, learning, and laying the groundwork for future success.

This season has been a period of adjustment for Fremont Ross after graduating five key seniors from last year's team, including four starters. With so much experience lost, many current players are gaining valuable varsity minutes while learning what it takes to compete at a high level on a nightly basis.

Despite the challenges, the team's commitment to preparation has remained strong. The junior class has stepped into leadership roles both on and off the court, helping set the tone as the program continues to build toward a strong senior season next year.

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Freshman **Jake Cahill** has emerged as an offensive spark for the Little Giants during the early stretch of the season. Cahill has tied the team in points, rebounds, and assists, and his all-around effort has been one of the team's bright spots. Sophomore Marcus Lewis has also put together several solid offensive performances in recent games, showing growth and confidence as he finds his rhythm.

The **senior class** has provided steady leadership and quality minutes. Cayden Rodriguez has brought relentless energy, hustling on defense while knocking down timely three-point shots. Floor general Braylon Jordan has facilitated the offense, distributing assists and leading with poise and composure. Tallon Brown has emerged as a reliable scoring option and strong interior presence, giving the Little Giants consistency in the paint.

While wins have yet to come, belief within the program, remains strong. Growth takes time, and the work being put in now is expected to pay dividends down the road.

## SCOREBOARD

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Springfield 76, Fremont Ross 59

Friday at Fremont

Springfield ..... 76

Fremont Ross ..... 59



FREMONT ROSS BASKETBALL — Fremont Ross freshman Jake Cahill throws down a dunk during Friday night's game

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# LITTLE GIANTS SECURE FIRST WIN IN THRILLING FASHION

Late three by Jordan lifts Ross past Napoleon, 62-61

Chad Berndt

SCORE	
Fremont Ross	62
Napoleon	61

**FREMONT** — The Fremont Ross boys basketball team earned its first victory of the season in dramatic fashion Tuesday night, edging Napoleon 62-61 in a thrilling contest inside the Purple Pit.

After a season-opening stretch that failed to reflect the teams effort and commitment, the Little G Giants were finally rewarded for their hard wrek avith a victry that showcased resilt-, composurse, and belief.

The game was tightly contested from the opening tip, with both teams leading baskets throughout the first half. Neither side was able to create significant-separation, setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

Coming out of the locker room, Fremont Ross elevated its intensity on both ends of the floor. Thar energy trandated into momentum, as the Little Giants built a lead that grew to as many as 10-points the second half.

Napoleon refused to go away. Strong guard play kept the Wildcats within striking distance, and timely fii-tee-point shooting combined with criso ball movernent led to key baskets in the paint. In the final seconds, Napoleon surged ahead, taking a two-point lead with under 10 seconds remaining.

That set the stage for the defining moment of the night.

Junior Mason Englund calmly brought the ball up the court and attacked the lane, drawing defensive pressure before kicking the ball out to senior Braylon Jordan waiting in the corner. Without hesitation, Jordan rose and knocked down a clutch three-pointer, gaving Fremont Ross a one-point lead with just 0.9 se-



Photo by Patrons

**Fremont Ross players react following a dramatic finish Tuesday night inside the Purple Pit, where the Little Giants secured their first win of the season with a last-second three-pointer to defeat Napoleon, 62-61.**

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Several players turned in strong performances. Jake Cahill recorded a near double-double with 13 points and nine rebounds. Tallon Brown provided a strong presence inside, scoring 13 points in the paint, while Dylan McDonald led the team with 14 points, bringing energy and quickness throughout the night.

It was a loud and raucous atmosphere inside the Purple Pit, and the Little Giants' faithful were rewarded with an exciting win that highlighted teamwork, perseverance, and growth — a moment this young Ross squad can continue, to build upon.

## Giants Put on a Passing Clinic in Historic Waite Fieldhouse

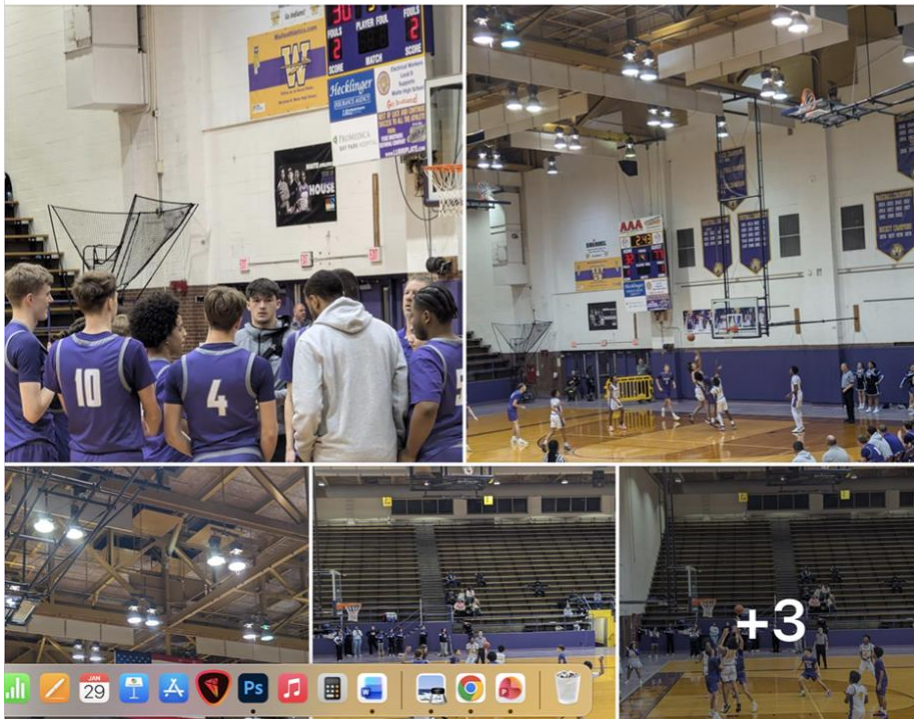
The Fremont Ross Boys Basketball team stepped into one of Ohio's most iconic gyms on the road and delivered a complete team performance. Facing Toledo Waite inside the historic Waite Fieldhouse — a beautiful venue built in 1914 that has seen generations of basketball — the Little Giants left their mark with an impressive 81–36 victory.

From the opening tip, Fremont Ross played unselfish, high-energy basketball. All 11 dressed players scored in the game, a testament to the depth and togetherness of the roster. The ball moved freely, shots came in rhythm, and the Giants quickly built a commanding lead that resulted in a running clock for much of the second half.

After the game, Coach Cahill praised his team's approach, noting how well they shared the ball. Channeling his inner Phil Jackson, the message was simple: "Basketball is sharing." The Giants embraced that philosophy throughout the night, turning teamwork into points on the scoreboard.

Fremont Ross also showcased balance across every class, with all four classes scoring in double figures. Senior Braylon Jordan finished with 12 points, junior Mason Englund added 10, sophomore Marcus Lewis chipped in 12, and freshman Jake Cahill led the team in scoring with 15 points.

It was a special night in a historic setting, and the Little Giants made it memorable with an all-around performance that highlighted what Fremont Ross basketball is all about — sharing the ball, playing together, and getting contributions from everyone on the floor.



# High school boys basketball: Witcher leads Southview boys past Fremont Ross



BLADE STAFF  
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FEB 7, 2026 11:49 PM



Jaron Witcher's big performance helped the Southview boys basketball team defeat Fremont Ross 69-48 on the road Saturday in Northern Lakes League action.

Witcher finished with 24 points in the win for the Cougars while Jackson Pollock netted 11 points and Damien Clay pitched in with 10.

Leading the Little Giants were Mason Englund and Braylon Jordan with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

## **SOUTHVIEW 69, FREMONT ROSS 48**

Southview 15 15 21 18 – 69

Fremont Ross 8 6 11 23 – 48

SOUTHVIEW: Jaron Witcher 7-1-7-24, Webb 2-1-0-7, Damien Clay 2-2-0-10, McArthur 0-1-0-3, Lepla 2-2-6, Jackson Pollock 2-2-1-11, Blake 0-1-0-3, Herron 1-1-0-5. Totals 16-9-10-69.

FREMONT ROSS: Braylon Jordan 1-3-0-11, Mason Englund 6-0-12, Simms 0-1-0-3, Lewis 3-3-9, Brown 1-0-2, Cahill 1-2-0-8, Bowling 1-1-3. Totals 13-6-4-48.

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team dropped a hard-fought contest to Bowling Green on Wednesday night, falling 68–57. While the season has not unfolded the way the Giants had hoped, the effort and competitiveness of this group continue to show each time they take the floor.

The Little Giants once again kept the game within reach, battling throughout the night but struggling to finish down the stretch. Despite the challenges, the Giants have continued to fight, winning two of their last five games and showing steady growth as the season progresses.

In Wednesday's game, freshman Jake Cahill had a solid performance, finishing with a double-double of 15 points, 11 rebounds, and 4 assists. Senior Braylon Jordan also reached double figures with 11 points and added 3 assists in the loss.

Fremont Ross will look to turn the page and get back on track tonight as they return home to the Purple Pit to take on Sylvania Northview. Tip-off is set for 7:15pm, and the Giants will aim to protect their home court and build momentum moving forward.



## **NORTHVIEW 58, FREMONT ROSS 45**

Northview 12 18 14 14 – 58

Fremont Ross 11 11 9 14 – 45

**NORTHVIEW:** Carson Holmes 1-4-3-17, Schoen 4-0-8, Jacob Rowland 0-4-2-14, Tate Manthey 4-1-0-11, Robinson 3-0-6, D. Rowland 0-2-2. Totals 12-9-7-58.

**FREMONT ROSS:** Jordan 1-0-2, Cayden Rodriguez 1-3-0-11, Mason Englund 4-1-1-12, Lewis 0-2-2, Brown 1-0-2, Elder 0-1-2-5, Jake Cahill 4-3-11. Totals 11-5-8-45.



February 4 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

### Little Giants Show Fight in 70–59 Loss to Toledo Start

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team came up just short Tuesday night, falling 70–59 to a tough Toledo Start squad in a game that was competitive from start to finish.

The contest was back and forth all night, with the Little Giants playing with renewed energy and enthusiasm, matching Start's intensity possession for possession. Fremont Ross showed fight early and never backed down, making it clear this was not going to be an easy night for a Toledo Start team that entered with only three losses on the season.

Mason Englund helped set the tone inside, coming alive on the boards with seven rebounds while knocking down a few early buckets to keep the Little Giants within striking distance. His physical presence and effort were key in keeping Fremont Ross competitive throughout the game.

Freshman Jake Cahill continued to show why he is considered one of the top young talents in the area, pouring in a game-high 21 points. Cahill electrified the Purple Pit with two emphatic slam dunks that brought the crowd to its feet and provided momentum swings for the Little Giants.

Despite the loss, Head Coach John Cahill was encouraged by his team's recent play. He noted the steady improvement over the past two weeks and knew his group would compete against a quality Toledo Start team.

"These kids are tough, and they haven't given up on the season," Coach Cahill said. "It hasn't been the season we envisioned, but they're still working hard every day and getting better."

The challenge only ramps up for Fremont Ross, as the Little Giants return to action with a busy weekend ahead. They'll host Clay on Friday night and Southview on Saturday, with both games taking place in the Purple Pit.



**CLAY 61, FREMONT ROSS 45**

**Clay 16 15 18 12 – 61**

**Fremont Ross 10 10 17 8 – 45**

CLAY: Berryman 1-1-3, Max Morrison 1-3-0-10, Buffaloe 1-1-0-5, Carson Vincent 5-2-12, Liam Cody 3-1-2-12, Grant Obderdick 5-2-3-19. Totals 16-7-8-61.

FREMONT ROSS: Jordan 2-0-4, McDonald 2-1-0-7, England 1-0-2, Lewis 1-0-2, Brown 3-1-0-9, Elde 0-1-0-3, Jake Cahill 3-2-6-18. Totals 12-5-6-45.



Fremont Ross Athletics

February 19 at 12:00 PM · 🌐



### Little Giants Earn Gritty Road Win at Napoleon

The Fremont Ross boys basketball team went on the road and delivered a strong performance, defeating Napoleon 55-46 in front of a raucous crowd. It's never easy to win away from home, but the Little Giants controlled the game from start to finish and earned a well-deserved victory.

Ross set the tone early and never relinquished the lead. Freshman standout Jake Cahill paced the offense with 17 points, showing poise beyond his years in a tough road environment. His ability to score in key moments helped keep momentum on the Little Giants' side throughout the night.

Bray Jordan played a crucial role as the team's facilitator, dishing out six assists and keeping the offense flowing. His decision-making and unselfish play were instrumental in breaking down Napoleon's defense.

On the glass, Mason Englund provided a spark of energy that fueled the team. Englund grabbed nine rebounds and helped limit second-chance opportunities, a major factor in securing the win. The Little Giants did an excellent job finishing defensive possessions and were on the winning side of the 50/50 plays for most of the night.

Another key to the victory was ball security. Ross limited turnovers while creating key takeaways of their own, giving them valuable extra possessions and keeping the home crowd from gaining momentum.

"We know these boys have been working hard and are improving," said Coach Cahill. "I'm proud of their fight and resolve."

The road win is another step forward for a team that continues to grow and compete with confidence. The Little Giants showed toughness, discipline, and togetherness — all ingredients for continued success.





Fremont Ross Athletics

February 21 at 10:54 AM · 🌐

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### Little Giants Shock the Den: Fremont Ross Upsets Southview 53-46

The Fremont Ross Little Giants closed out the regular season in unforgettable fashion Friday night, storming into a packed and raucous Cougar Den and knocking off the first-place Sylvania Southview Cougars 53-46.

For the second straight game, the Little Giants played spoiler on Senior Night — and this time the stakes were even higher. With a win, Southview would have claimed the outright Northern Lakes League Cardinal Division title. Instead, they now share the crown with Oregon Clay Eagles.

The night didn't start in Fremont Ross's favor. But no doubt they weathered that storm. Fueled by a loud, energetic home crowd, Southview jumped out to a quick 9-0 lead. The Cougar Den was rocking. The Little Giants never flinched. They locked in defensively, earned a critical stop, and finally saw their first basket fall. That single score opened the floodgates. What followed was a jaw-dropping 21-2 run that completely flipped the game and stunned the home crowd.

A major part of the huge run was Sophomore Marcus Lewis. He was electric off the bench in the first quarter. The rim must have looked as big as the ocean — because he simply could not miss.

A couple of deep three-pointers. Strong, confident drives to the rim. Ten points in what felt like the blink of an eye.

Lewis finished with a team-high 17 points and provided the offensive spark that ignited the upset.

After the game, Coach Cahill praised the young guard:

"I'm happy for Marc. That's the type of player he can be when he plays within himself. He got hot and we rode that hot hand."

While Lewis was extremely hot offensively, Mason Englund was having his Mutombo moment. He anchored the defense with a performance that can only be described as Dikembe Mutombo-like.

He wasn't just blocking shots — he was sending them into the fifth row of the bleachers. His presence in the paint was overwhelming. Englund controlled the glass, erased drives, and finished with tough put-backs inside.

The defensive intensity from Englund and the Little Giants resembled the bruising, suffocating style of the early 2000s Detroit Pistons — physical, relentless, and disciplined. Englund was the Ben Wallace of the night. A high praise deserving of the two defensive legends named.

In Coach Cahill's words:

"He was a dude on the court last night!"

It wasn't just those two mentioned. This was a total team effort. It was complete team basketball.

The scrappiness of Cayden Rodriguez set the tone.

Bray Jordan facilitated the offense and knocked down clutch free throws.

Quin Wolf delivered a key three-pointer and brought physical play, at times annoying the opponent because they were getting pushed around.

Dylan McDonald made smart passes and buried timely shots from deep.

Tallon Brown attacked the boards with authority and finished with silky smooth finger-roll layups.

Jake Cahill showed the poise and confidence to take over when the moment demanded it.

The Little Giants took care of the basketball. They won the 50/50 loose balls. They defended every possession like it was the last of the season.

And perhaps most importantly — they never quit.

Just two weeks ago, Southview handed Ross a 23-point loss. Friday night was a different story.

"We've never stopped competing," Coach Cahill said. "We're growing. We're tough. I'm proud of this team."

These Little Giants are peaking at the right time. The 53-46 victory sends a message as the Giants head into the OHSAA tournament: this is a team getting hot at the right time.

They're young. They're fearless. And if Friday night was any indication, they'll be a very scary team next year — and a dangerous one right now.





Fremont Ross Athletics

February 20 at 12:00 PM · 🌐



Big congratulations to Freshman Jake Cahill on being named District 6 D2/D3 Second Team!... [See more](#)



Fremont Ross High School

**DISTRICT 6 - D2/D3  
SECOND TEAM**

**Jake Cahill**

**13.6 Points | 5.2 Rebounds | 4 Assists**