

1976-1977 Season Review



THE ROSS BASKETBALL TEAM launches its 1976-77 season Saturday night at Fostoria. Kneeling in front are manager Ron Allan, head coach Ken Miller and assistant coach Tom Brough. Standing

from left are Jeff Brown, Nick Frey, Randy Hammer, Mike Miller, Dave Zimmerman, Larry Williams, Ed Jones, Bill Burel, Russ Damman, Dave Ballenger, Tim Price and Tim Belch.

Lack of experience plagues Ross

Ross basketball Coach Ken Miller has an old problem facing him this year that is as old as basketball itself: lack of experience.

Miller will send his fifth edition of the Little Giants onto the floor at Fostoria Saturday evening in the season opener for both teams without the benefit of an experienced senior. As a matter of fact, this year Miller has only two seniors on the varsity team and it is unlikely that either one will start. He has only two lettermen returning.

"I can be sure of only three definite starters right now," Miller said prior to Tuesday's practice.

Those three are all juniors. Larry Williams, 6-5 letterman, will go at center with letter winner Randy Hammer, 5-10, at a forward slot. Dave Zimmerman, 6-4 junior, will be at the other forward slot.

The guards could be a combination of juniors Jeff Brown, Tim Belch, or Tim Price, all of them 5-8, while the other forward likely will

be Mike Miller, a 6-2 junior.

No matter what combination Miller chooses, he has watched all of them through brilliant and not so brilliant preseason scrimmage sessions.

"To this point, we have been inconsistent," Miller said as he echoed a common early season problem for inexperienced teams. "They have shown moments of brilliance, so to speak, and then we have had moments when we have struggled.

"There have been quarters where we score 25 points but then come right back and struggle just to get a bucket in another quarter."

Miller does see some strong points in this year's team compared to last season's 9-10 squad. "We are a much better shooting team than last season. At times we handle the ball well but sometimes we have lost concentration."

One person that Miller was counting on this season is Eddie Jones, a 6-3 high jumping junior. Jones came down on his ankle

crooked in practice Monday and suffered a bone chip that will sideline him from four to six weeks.

Jones was counted on to be one of the main cogs in what Miller hoped is an improved rebounding team.

Offensively, Ross will stick with a quick pattern style of play while defensively, Miller will institute practically anything from a zone press to man-to-man to half court trapping.

"We'll even throw the kitchen sink at 'em if we have to," he chuckled.

Miller feels that this year's squad will be able to put points on the board faster than a year ago. "Last year's team was 'gritty,'" Miller described, "and if this team shows as much grit as it did, it will be better than last year."

Dave Ballenger, 6-0, and Russ Damman, 6-2, are the only seniors on the Ross squad. Bill Burel, 6-3, junior, and Nick Frey, 5-11, junior, round out the remainder of the Little Giants team.

Fostoria smothers Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

FOSTORIA — A game of musical chairs engineered by Fostoria Coach Fred Wilch was not a party game for Fremont Ross here Saturday night. Instead the game was a nightmare.

Ross's hardwood five could do nothing right and everytime Wilch inserted one of his "chairs," it seemed to be pulled right out from under Ross. The Redskins rode Wilch's "musical chair diplomacy" past a ragged Little Giants for a 60-50 win in a game that could have been more lopsided.

"We could not stay with them on the boards and we could not adjust to their defense," a glum Ken Miller, Ross coach said

quietly after the game. "Those were the two key factors of the game."

Buckets by Brian Wilch, the Fostoria coach's son, and Don Fagan gave the Redskins a quick 4-0 lead and Ross was never to get its head above water. Fostoria led all the way with the biggest margin, 47-34 with two and one-half minutes left in the third stanza.

Fagan pumped in four points to pace the Redskins to a 12-7 first quarter lead but Wilch put his musical chair act into high gear in the second period and it came up roses.

Brad Fisher, a 6-4 junior, came off the bench and pumped in four straight fielders and Fagan added four more points as the

Redskins moved out to a comfortable 30-22 halftime lead. Fostoria hit 12 of 23 shots in the first half while on its way to a 25-50 performance for the night while Ross was ice cold with only eight of 35 in the first half.

Randy Hammer, one of two junior lettermen for Ross, managed only two of 11 from the field in the first half as Fostoria's collapsing zone defense would not permit the Little Giants to go inside to 6-5 Larry Williams and 6-5 Dave Zimmerman.

Hammer revived with a perfect six of six in the second half to finish with 16 points, high for the game, and paced Ross's third period surge that threatened to turn the game

around.

At the beginning of the second half, Ross picked up its only gift of the night from Fostoria when the Redskins' Dave Folkwein took a pass from Bob McCullough off the opening tip and sank the layup — only Folkwein put it into Ross's basket for a surprise two-points for the Little Giants.

Tim Price and Hammer canned shots to make it 30-28, Fostoria, but McCullough, Jim Williamson, Wilch, and Folkwein connected for Fostoria in the next three minutes and the Redskins had a 38-28 lead to drown Ross's hopes.

Along the way, Wilch had used 10 players with eight of them scoring.

"We do play musical chairs," Wilch bubbled while savoring his first season opening win in four years.

"We slid from a '1-2-2' zone to a '2-3' and invited Ross to get the ball inside," the Redskins' coach explained. "When they did get inside, we could collapse down on them."

Score by quarters

Ross	7	15	12	16	50
Fostoria	12	18	15	15	60

Scoring

ROSS — Miller 4-0-8, Zimmerman 1-4-6, Williams 1-2-4, Hammer 8-0-16, Brown 2-0-4, Price 4-0-8, McGilton 0-2-2; Team 1-0-2; totals 21-8-50

FOSTORIA — Wilch 2-0-4, Fagan 4-5-13, Williamson 3-0-6, Folkwein 4-1-9, McCullough 4-4-12, Cousin 1-0-2, Bockelman 1-0-2, Fisher 6-0-12; totals 25-10-60

JV game

Score by quarters

Ross	10	4	6	11	31
Fostoria	13	14	10	16	53

Scoring

Ross — Holmes 2-0-4, Schleia 2-1-5, Cook 5-1-11, Burel 0-3-3, Eicher 2-0-4, Vance 1-0-2, Brudzinski 1-0-2; totals 12-7-31

FOSTORIA — Lowe 0-2-2, Loomis 6-4-16, Pullom 2-0-4, Hoover 1-0-2, Salisbury 6-4-16, Browning 5-1-11, Brough 1-0-2; totals 21-11-53

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Ross faces Mansfield

The Buckeye Conference basketball race begins bouncing through its 14-game slate Friday and Ross will be up against one of the teams that is figured to be in the battle for the top spot in the race.

Mansfield will be hosting the Little Giants in the initial game for the Tygers but the second contest for Ross. The Little Giants are 0-1 after dropping a 60-50 game to Fostoria Saturday.

"They will be playing their normal game," Ross Coach Ken Miller said about the Ross opponent. "They will be pressing us and trying to run off of every missed shot."

The Tygers, under Coach Jim Goode, were 8-11 last season and 6-8 in the conference, but five lettermen are back this season. Included in that quintet is third team All-Buckeye Conference performer Cliff Belmer, a 6-2, 200-pound senior.

Belmer is expected to start along with 6-3 senior Eric Jefferson, and 6-4 senior

Orin Butler, both lettermen.

Ross will have one new face in the lineup for the game. At guard will be Tim Price in place of Tim Belch. Price came off the bench at Fostoria to score eight points. The other guard for Ross will be junior Randy Hammer who dropped in 16 in the Fostoria game.

At forwards for Ross will be 6-4 Dave Zimmerman and 6-2 Mike Miller. Larry Williams, 6-5 junior, will start at center.

"Of course," Miller said, "being a starter means no more than having your name introduced before the game. Sometimes, the guys on the bench can play more than the starters."

Eddie Jones, Ross's promising 6-3 junior, will again be out for this game with an ankle injury. "He goes to the doctor Monday," Miller said, "but it will still be some time before he can play."

In other BC games, Admiral King is at Elyria, Findlay travels to Lorain, and Sandusky is at unbeaten (0-2) Marion Harding.

Buckeye Conference opener

Little Giants improved but Tygers win 42-35

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

MANSFIELD — You had to look twice at the scoreboard to see which team lost here Friday night because there were smiling coaches in both locker rooms.

The scoreboard, however, set matters straight. It was Mansfield 42, Ross 35 in bright, red, numbers. The game was the opener in Buckeye Conference play for both teams.

Mansfield Coach Jim Goode heaved a sigh of relief in his team's locker room and uttered, "I'm glad to get out of it, very much so — Ross played well."

The praise for Ross was echoed by Ross Coach Ken Miller who had suffered through a 60-50 season opening loss against Fostoria a week ago in a game that a person had to really search hard to find some Ross good points.

"I felt our floor game, both offensively and defensively was vastly improved over last week," the Ross coach smiled quietly. "We were so lethargic last week that there was only one way for us to go."

Ross was cold at the start of the contest and trailed 10-4 as the Tyger's Eric Jefferson pumped in his first three shots of the game. The Little Giants, with 6-5 junior Larry Williams turning in his strongest performance in his two-year Ross varsity career, clicked on three of his first four shots from the field as the Little Giants grabbed a 13-12 lead at the end of the initial stanza.

Ross started with a "1-3-1" zone that slid into what appeared to be a "2-3" zone on occasions. Whatever it was, Goode did not like it and ordered his team to work out front

in an effort to pull Ross out of the zone.

Holding a 20-15 lead with a little over four minutes left in the half, Jefferson and Jerry Powell of the Tygers stood near the midcourt line and played catch while Ross, with Miller frantically waving a program while instructing his team to stay put in the zone, did not offer to come out.

On two different occasions, Jefferson and Powell did no more than pass the ball back and fourth — 58 times (unofficially) on the first occasion and 27 on the second. The stall did not bring Ross out of the zone but with 13 seconds to play, Jefferson followed a missed shot by Wayne Curry with a tip-in for a 22-15 Tyger lead at the half.

"I expected them (Ross) to use a zone against us," Goode said. "They did the same thing last year against us . . . I admit it (the zone) is a good way to slow us down and we could not get them out of it."

"One thing with the slow down, we did not have to exert ourselves — we did mentally but not physically."

"I did not expect them to slow it down," Miller said of the four-minute Mansfield passing drill, "but it was to our advantage that they did."

Mansfield tried the slowdown again at the start of the second half but the officials warned Ross once to force play and when a second warning brought a technical foul, Miller had his team come out on the Tyger ball handlers.

Mansfield opened up a 32-23 lead midway through the third period for the biggest lead of the night as Powell and Orin Butler dropped in four points apiece in the quarter.

Quick buckets by Randy Ham-

mer, Williams, and Mike Miller at the beginning of the final stanza brought Ross back to 34-29 but the margin was to sink no lower than the five points the rest of the distance.

Miller started the game with his son Mike and Tim Price at the guards with Hammer and Dave Zimmerman, who also turned in his best performance on the boards both offensively and defensively, at forwards and Williams at center.

That was the group that battled the faster Tygers to a virtual standstill in the first eight minutes.

Jefferson and high jumping Cliff Belmer led the Tygers with 12 and 10 points, respectively. Williams, who did not shoot at all in the middle two quarters, led Ross with 10. Miller, Zimmerman, and Hammer had eight apiece.

The Little Giants clicked on 16 of 46 from the field and Mansfield 19 of 55.

The Ross JVs lost in overtime 54-42 as Mansfield's Del-Ray Feagin dropped in 10 points in the extra three-minute period.

VARSITY GAME				
Score by quarters				
Ross	13	2	8	12-35
Mansfield	12	10	10	10-42

Scoring
ROSS — Miller 4-0-8, Zimmerman 3-2-8, Williams 5-0-10, Hammer 4-0-8, Price 0-1-1; totals 16-3-35

MANSFIELD — Belmer 3-4-10, Butler 4-0-8, Jefferson 6-0-12, Curry 2-0-4, Stevens 1-0-2, Washington 1-0-2, Powell 2-0-4; totals 19-4-42

Season records: Ross 0-2, Mansfield 1-0

JV GAME (OT)				
Score by quarters				
Ross	4	10	12	14
Mansfield	5	9	13	13

Scoring
ROSS — Burell 2-0-4, Holmes 2-0-4, McGilton 3-2-8, Schlea 5-1-11, Cook 1-2-4, Elcher 1-0-2, Shetzer 3-2-8, Szakowitz 0-1-1; totals 17-8-42

MANSFIELD — E. Feagin 2-0-4, Hunter 2-1-5, D. Feagin 6-3-15, Baldridge 6-1-13, Davis 4-3-11, Paul 1-0-2, Brooks 2-0-4; totals 23-8-54

Season record: Ross 0-2, Mansfield 1-0

Harding at Ross Friday

"Improvement" is the key to Fremont Ross's basketball hopes in the season home opener Friday against Marion Harding.

"I hope that we can show the same improvement that we had last week," Ross Coach Ken Miller said after practice Wednesday.

The Little Giants, 0-2 and 0-1 in the Buckeye Conference, were stopped by a potentially strong Mansfield Tyger team 42-35 a week ago. Despite the loss, Ross showed considerable improvement over the previous week's 60-50 loss to Fostoria.

While Miller is looking for improvements, his hopes were dimmed this week when starting center Larry Williams missed the first two days of practice.

"We thought he had mononucleosis," Miller explained, "but thank goodness he doesn't."

Williams, a 6-5 junior letterman, who had his best overall night as a varsity performer against Mansfield, practiced sparingly in Wednesday and is a doubtful starter against the 2-1 Harding team.

Should Williams, who is still having respiratory problems, not start, the Ross front line will be made up of juniors Mike Miller and Dave Zimmerman, and senior Russ Dammon who will be making his first start. If Williams is able to go, Zimmerman will be on the bench at the start of the game.

"We will use Zimmerman to give Williams a rest," Miller said, "but Dammon will definitely start."

Dammon played sparingly in the Mansfield game but the 6-2 forward has not scored yet this season.

At the guards will be Randy Hammer, the team's leading scorer with a 12.0 average, and either Tim Price or Tim Belch.

In addition to Williams being doubtful, Jeff Brown, a promising guard prospect, quit the team just before last week's game with Mansfield.

Marion will put a veteran crew on the court against Ross. Included in the two Presidents' wins this season is a convincing 73-63 win over highly touted Columbus Marion-Franklin. The other win came in the season opener against Columbus North 46-44, but last Friday, Sandusky stunned the Presidents 56-43.

The guards for Marion will be Bob Gooding, 6-2, and Kelly McGowan, 5-8. Gooding is the leading scorer on the team with a 14.6 average. Against Marion-Franklin, Gooding hit 10 of 10 from the field and five of five at the charity stripe.

At forwards will be 6-4 Jeff Turner (5.6) and 6-2 Luther Jones (8.6). The center is 6-7 Clyde Lutsch (9.6). The top two subs are Dave Miller, a 6-3 junior who has scored at a 7.3 rate and Mark Rubcich, a 5-9 junior.

On Tuesday, the Little Giants will host Findlay in its third BC tilt. The Trojans own a 1-2 record overall and lost the conference opener 73-63 at Lorain last Friday.

The junior varsity games for both Friday and Tuesday will begin at 6:30 p.m.



RANDY HAMMER of Ross jumps in the air in an attempt to get the ball over the outstretched arms of Harding's Jeff Turner.

Familiar faces for Pirate boss

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It'll be like old times when manager Chuck Tanner glances down to his bullpen next season. The new manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates will be able to choose between right-hander Rich Gossage and left-hander Terry Forster.

With the Pirates won't have is Richie Zisk ripping the ball out of the ballpark.

This all came about Friday night at baseball's winter meetings, just three hours before the midnight (PST) interleague trading deadline when the Pirates acquired Gossage and Forster from the Chicago White Sox in exchange for Zisk, a high-hitting outfielder and Steve Martinez, a rookie right-handed pitcher.

Tanner knew what he was bargaining for because he had both pitchers when he managed the White Sox from 1972-75.

"Gossage and Forster will be used as relievers," said Tanner, who managed Oakland last season and was dealt by the A's in November for catcher Manny Sanguillen and \$100,000.

In other transactions Friday, the St. Louis Cardinals reacquired third baseman Ken Reiter from the San Francisco Giants for right-handed pitcher Lynn McGlothen and the Cleveland Indians sent right-handed pitcher Jackie Brown to the Montreal Expos for first baseman Andre Thornton.

During this week's meetings 40 players changed teams in 14 deals. This amounts to a sharp decline from last year when 64 players were involved in 23 deals.

Harding explosion crushes Ross 67-49

Jones leads Presidents to 3rd win

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
There was a peculiar feeling in the air at Ross High School Friday evening.

The gym was filled with an air of impending doom; of an explosion about to take place.

Marion Harding was the time bomb and it exploded in Ross's face in the third game of the young school year. The Presidents dealt Ross a 67-49 thump in a Buckeye Conference game that was close only at the opening tip.

The timer for the bomb that Marion had strapped to itself was set a week ago when the Sandusky Blue Devils beat Marion 63-49.

"We were over-confident against Sandusky," Marion Harding Coach Doug Riley recalled, "but we had good efforts tonight."

Luther Jones rolled in eight 14 shots with 10 on his way to 18 points and a 10 rebound game. He matched double figures in the runaway.

Harding scored the first six points of the game before Mike Miller canned Ross's first points on a jumper from the left of the key. Harding, however, outscored Ross 13-12 in the first quarter and led 19-8 at the buzzer.

The lead grew to 18 at the half when Harding scored five points in the final 30 seconds. Jones canned the front end of one and one, Torin Craig dropped in a layup, and Mike Miller followed with a rebound on the toss in after the basket. Harding had the ball again with

three seconds to play in the half. Bob Gooding ripped in a jumper from 22 feet as the buzzer sounded to put the Presidents up 38-20 at the intermission.

This was the ball game — the second half was mere formality.

Harding built up the night's biggest lead, 56-26, a minute into the final quarter. From that point on, it was just a question of how much Ross could chip off the big lead.

Mike Miller hit 17 points to lead Ross, canning eight of 19 shots. Miller sank 11 of his points in the final half.

Harding jumped out to the big half-time lead on 11 of 28 shooting. Jones dropped in 12 of his points before the intermission.

Gooding finished the night with 13 markers and Craig had 10, eight coming in the second half.

Randy Hammer and Tim Belch had 10 and 9 points for Ross.

"I was less than about this game," Ross Coach Ken Miller admitted. "Anytime a good team loses — they come back — it seems their desire to win increases."

Thinking back a year ago, Miller pointed out, "Marion, last year, was like we are this year — practically all juniors and it shows sometimes."

Riley echoed Miller's thoughts.

"Fremont had very young kids just like we had this year," he said. "We are all we are concerned, we still have to grow and improve as we go along."

In the win over Ross, Riley pointed out that his team did "what we wanted to do."

Miller, who has watched his team suffer through three losses, has it thrown in the towel on the young season.

"I'm not giving up on this group," he said firmly. "If we can get everyone together, we can be a decent basketball team."

Harding is 2-1 in the season and 1-1 in Buckeye Conference play. Ross fell to 0-3 and 0-2.

VARSITY GAME
Score by quarters

MARION — Scoring 18 12 6 23-69

ROSS — Scoring 9 11 10 8 5-43

MARION — Jones 9-18, Turner 1-2, Lutach 3-9, Gooding 6-13, McGowan 1-2, Belch 1-2, Hammer 3-3, Craig 3-10, Rees 0-2; totals 26-49-67

ROSS — Damato 2-4, Cook 3-4, Williams 2-3, Homan 3-6, Belch 1-1, Williams 0-2, Price 0-0, Ballenger 2-0-4, Frey 1-2, McGilton 2-0-4, totals 19-11-49

Season record: Marion 2-1 (1-1); Ross 0-3 (0-2)

JV GAME
Score by quarters (OT)

MARION — Scoring 9 11 10 8 5-43

ROSS — Scoring 9 11 10 8 5-40

MARION — Jones 9-18, Turner 1-2, Wyzant 0-1, Robinson 0-2, Booker 1-1-3, Starks 1-2, Wink 1-2, Deas 0-2, Russell 1-1; totals 17-49-67

ROSS — McGilton 5-18, Cook 3-9, Shetzer 1-3, Schles 4-6, Eicher 2-0-4, Brudzinski 0-1; totals 15-10-40



LUTHER JONES of Marion Harding goes high in the air while stopping the drive of Ross's Pat Belch who is behind Torin Craig (10) of Harding.



TIM BELCH of Ross cuts toward the middle during action in the second quarter of the Ross-Marion Harding game Friday at Ross High School.

Torin Craig (10) of Harding is the defender on the play.

Hofstra: household name in the making

By KEN RAPPORPORT
AP Sports Writer

Hofstra is hardly a household name — not even in Pittsburgh.

"We have a car driver and a bus driver on our team," says coach Ralph Gaekler.

But the Flying Dutchmen could be known in some households tonight if they beat southern Illinois in the finals of the Pittsburgh Classic in Pittsburgh.

The college basketball team with the anonymous image defeated Duquesne 76-56 and Stetson turned back LIU 57-47 in the Hatter Classic in Deland, Fla.

Texas A&M, Mississippi, Houston Baptist 67-65 and

Southwestern Louisiana nudged Centenary 91-88 in double overtime in the Bayou Classic in Lafayette, La., and Cal State Fullerton beat South

Alabama 69-71 and Pepperdine trimmed Azusa Pacific 83-62 in the Malibu Classic in Los Angeles.

Elsewhere, ninth-ranked Arizona stopped Northwestern 78-64.

Sophomores James Hardy and Winford Boynes each scored 18 points to lead San Francisco past Tennessee. Jeff Judkins scored 29 points, mostly from outside, and Buster Matheny muscled in many of his 27 points from underneath the basket as Utah defeated Seton Hall in the second game of the Utah Classic.

Tyger wrestlers trip Ross 31-28

MANSFIELD — Ross learned a bitter lesson the hard way Friday in a dual wrestling meet against Mansfield Senior.

Findlay clobbers Ross cagers 81-41

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

The game left Ken Miller nearly speechless; John Stozich had to search for words.

They really did not have to say anything — the talking was on the scoreboard at Ross High School's gym. The scoreboard blared out in harsh, glaring lights: Visitors 81, Ross 41.

The visitors were the Trojans of Findlay while Ross was Ross. The occasion was the third Buckeye Conference game of the season for both teams and the fourth game of the basketball season for Ross. And for Ross's Little Giants and Coach Miller, it was loss number four.

"It's difficult to comment on something like that," Miller said and he didn't in a locker room so quiet, you could have heard a pin hit the floor.

"Something like that" was 37 of 69 shooting by the Trojans and 18 of 65 for Ross. The Little Giants were continually forced to shoot from outside of 18 feet.

Stozich, the head man at Findlay for the past 12 seasons, called it the best shooting performance of the year for his team or his now 23 club. Searching for something a bit negative about his team's play, the dapper Trojan coach pointed out that except for a few shots when his team tried to run, most of the shots were good selections.

"It's the best offensively that we have played," he said and then added apologetically, "I did not realize that the scoring margin was

that much at the end . . . I thought it was 17 when I looked up one time but it must have been 27."

Findlay scored in the first five seconds of the game on a quick layup off the opening tip by Steve Mahoney. The Trojans used that momentum to roll to a 12-1 lead before Tim Price clicked on Ross's first bucket from the left of the key, nearly four minutes into the opening stanza.

Mahoney, who Stozich said never played better, banged in eight first quarter points and Scott Brooks rammed home 10 more on five of seven shooting as the Trojans roared to a 27-7 first period lead.

Mahoney and Brooks combined for 30 points, 16 by Mahoney, in the first half as Findlay rolled up a 42-24 lead.

The best showing by Ross came in the opening minutes of the second stanza. With Steve McGilton checking into the lineup, the Little Giants outscored the Trojans 10-4 to cut the margin to 26-17.

McGilton, who played the third and fourth periods of the junior varsity game and tallied seven points, came up with points in the run for Ross. The 6-0 sophomore ended up as Ross's leading scorer for the night with a dozen points.

Findlay hit 20 of 41 shots in the first half but were even better in the second 16 minutes. With Mike Brickman hitting six of nine, the Trojans connected on 17 of 28 shots, 11 of 15 in the final eight minutes.

Ross was outscored 17-11 and 22-6

in the final two stanzas.

Mahoney ended the night with 22 points and Brickman had 19. Brooks wound up with 16. McGilton was the only Ross player in double figures.

The Trojans won the battle of the boards 45-23 with Brickman grabbing nine and Mahoney eight. Larry Williams had four for Ross.

The Little Giants turned the ball over only 15 times while Findlay had one less.

In the JV game, Findlay pulled away late for a 50-47 victory. Kevin Cook with 10 points and Lawrence Holmes with nine points led Ross. Four players were double figures for Findlay.

Ross's next action will be at Lorain Friday night in another Buckeye Conference game.

VARSITY GAME
Score by quarters

Findlay 22 20 17 22-81
Ross 7 17 11 6-41

Scoring

FINDLAY — Brickman 9-19, Gase 6-6, Mahoney 6-6, Jeffries 2-4, Ricker 2-4, Price 2-2, Brooks 1-16, Ball 3-0-6, Dave Kable 3-4, total 37-7-81

ROSS — Miller 3-6, Zimmerman 1-0-2, Williams 3-3, Price 3-6, Hammer 4-0-8, McGilton 12-16, total 40-11-47

Season record: Findlay 2-3 (1-2), Ross 0-4 (0-3)

JV GAME
Score by quarters

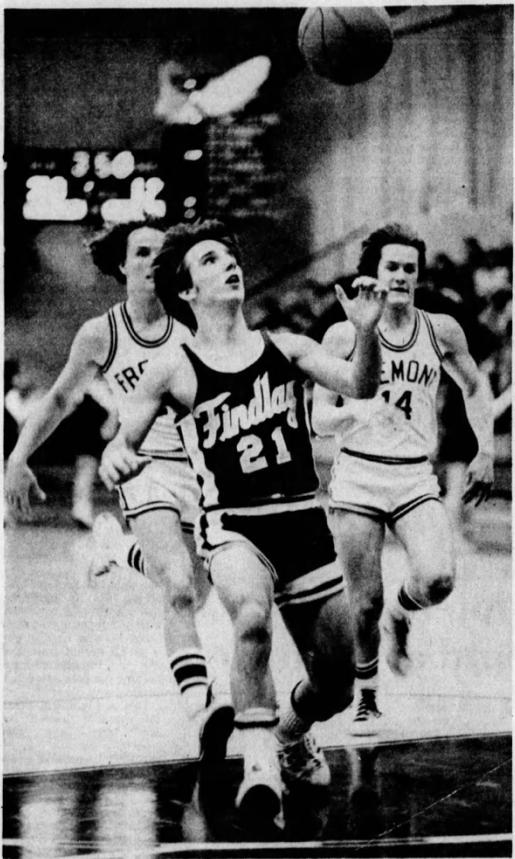
Findlay 14 9 15 12-50
Ross 12 10 12 13-47

Scoring

FINDLAY — Longberry 4-10, Accord 4-2, Reigle 6-1-13, McCleave 5-0-10, Price 2-2, total 34-16-47

ROSS — Burci 6-2-3, Rosemberger 1-0-2, Cook 4-2-10, McGilton 2-3-7, Shetzer 1-0-2, Szakowski 6-1-1, Holmes 3-3-9, Schles 1-0-2, Burci 2-0-4, total 24-11-4-8, total 18-11-47

Season record: Findlay 2-4, Ross 0-4



FINDLAY'S JEFF WICKARD (21) gets ready to haul down a fast break pass while Ross's Tim Belch (14) and another Ross defender valiantly give chase. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)



STEVE MAHONEY of Findlay is on the floor as a Ross player gives chase.

Sports in Brief

By The Associated Press

GOLF

NARASHINO, Japan — Jaime Gonzalez of Oklahoma State University shot a three-under-par

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69, helping the United States to a 4-4 tie with Japan in the first round of the U.S.-Japan collegiate golf tournament.

BASKETBALL

MIFFLINBURG, Pa. — Senior Mark Wagner sank two foul shots with six seconds remaining, giving Mifflinburg High School a 56-55 victory over Munsey to end an 88-game losing streak.

Armbister signs

CINCINNATI (AP) — Reserve outfielder Ed Armbister has signed his 1977 contract with the Cincinnati Reds.



TIM BELCH (14) of Ross is closely guarding Jeff Wickard of Findlay as the Trojan player looks for someone to throw to. It was a long night for the Ross cagers as Findlay walked away with an 81-41 win.

Area cage scores

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE

Findlay 61, Ross 41
Admiral King 84, Lorain 59
Elvira 64, Sandusky 52
Lorain 62, Findlay 54

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE

Sandusky St. Mary's 62, Fostoria

Wendell 54

SUBURBAN LAKES LEAGUE

SENECA COUNTY LEAGUE

Arlington 61, Bettonville 53
Hopewell-Loudon 80, Arcadia 62

Old Fort 63, Miller City 76

GIRLS

Toledo Whittier 42, Ross 36

Clyde 53, Port Clinton 34

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Lorain starts quick, ends quick in 85-61 win over Ross

By BILL STEWART

News-Messenger Sports Writer

LORAIN — The Ross basketball team dug itself in a hole too deep to recover in an 85-61 loss to Buckeye Conference host Lorain here Friday night.

The hole was dug in the first half when the Steelmen hit 11 of 33 shots from the field to take a 46-24 halftime lead.

"It (game) definitely wasn't one you want to remember," commented Ross coach Ken Miller after the game. "It certainly wasn't a defensive struggle."

The Little Giants, however, at the break when the lead was 11, sank four of five technical free throws before a second went off the clock. The technicals were awarded when Ross had its home numbers registered in the scorebook.

With Ross trailing 14-8, Lorain went on a scoring spree in the close of the quarter to take a 27-14 lead. The Steelmen upped the margin to 45-19 near the end of the half.

The shooting stats in the second quarter tell the story. Ross only connected on three of 13 to eight of 18 for the Steelmen after they went 10 of 15 in the opening period.

"We finally shot the ball well," said Lorain coach

Dale Reichert. "And our defense got us a lot too."

Lorain played most of the first half with a tight man-to-man full court pressure as the Little Giants committed 14 of their 19 turnovers in the opening two periods.

"We haven't had good court awareness all season," stated Miller, who wasn't surprised at the Steelmen's play.

One of the big bright spots for the Little Giants in the game was sophomore Steve McGilton, who made his first start of the season at guard and led Ross scores with 20 points.

"I thought for the first time on the floor in a starting role McGilton held up real well," said Miller.

The Little Giants played the Steelmen even in the final two stanzas, which ended up in a free throw shooting contest.

"They showed something with the way they stuck with us in the half," observed Miller.

Sparked by some clutch free throw shooting by McGilton and Mike Miller, the Giants chipped away at the Lorain lead and trailed only 62-49 going into the final period, but it proved to be the closest they got.

Ross sank 15 of 19 free throws in the third quarter and 21 of 26 in the entire second half.

"The only thing that got us in trouble in the second half was foul," lamented Reichert.

Miller, who scored all 12 of his points in the second half hit on five free throws in the third quarter and McGilton had eight during the entire half.

The Giants could have Steelmen shooting in the second half by pulling out a 2-3 zone into a man-to-man defense, but could stop the Steelmen out of a freeze in the final four minutes.

Ross, which tried to get the ball in a half court trap press during the freeze, sent the Steelmen to the line 16 times in the fourth quarter and the hosts made good on 11 of them. Lorain had 25 of 35 free throws while Ross was 27 for 37.

"Right at the moment we don't believe in ourselves," said Miller. "Definitely a win would help. But we have some players that are very disappointing to us."

Ross, a quick 6-0 guard, led all scorers with 26 points while forwards Mike Poegza and Greg Pille had 15 and 14 for the Steelmen, with Pille miraculously being the only player of the game fouling out when he left at the 5:57 mark of the fourth quarter.

Lorain had 30 of 60 shots from the field for an even 50 per cent, while Ross finished with 17 of 59 for 29 per cent.

Ross led 35-28 in rebounds with Larry Williams pulling down 11.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Steelmen, who are now 3-3 and 2-2 in the BC.

Ross, now 0-5 and 0-2 in the BC, travels to Sandusky Tuesday in hopes of getting on the winning track.

The Lorain Jayvees held on to hand Ross a 42-41 setback. Jeff Elcher had 10 points and Kevin Cook nine for Ross.

VARSITY GAME

Score by quarters

Ross	14	10	25	12-61
Lorain	27	19	25	32-86

ROSS — Miller 3-4-12, Zimmerman 5-6-4, Williams 3-8-14, Price 2-3.

7, McGilton 5-10-12, Ballinger 2-6-4, totals 17-27-61.

LORAIN — Masterson 0-4-4, Serocka 1-1-3, Ewers 3-3-9, Smith 1-0-3,

Hollister 1-0-2, Pille 7-0-14, Huff 3-4-4, Stenmark 2-4-8, Ponoga 7-1-19,

totals 30-25-45.

Season records: Lorain 3-3 (2-0); Ross 2-2 (0-4).

JAYVEE GAME

Score by quarters

Ross	6	12	10	12-51
Lorain	12	12	7	31-60

ROSS — Burel 1-0-2, Cook 4-1-5, Shatz 1-1-3, Stakovits 3-3-3,

Holmes 2-4-4, Schles 1-1-3, Brudinski 2-0-4, Elcher 4-3-10, Fahrbach 0-2,

Lorain — Masterson 1-0-2, Walker 7-4-18, Martin 1-1-3, Henderson 3-0-15,

Harrington 2-0-4; totals 14-14-42.

Season records: Ross 0-5

Sandusky 'outponies' Ross

By JERRY ROSEN

News-Messenger Staff Writer

SANDUSKY — Sandusky's F. Willis Clark decks Ross's Steve McGilton with a forearm after Ross is called for a foul elsewhere. The officials ignore it.

McGilton is free along the baseline as Ross breaks a Blue Streak press. The pass is made, but Ross's Larry Williams is breaking to the same spot as McGilton. Both are free underneath, but the ball hits one of their legs and goes out of bounds for a turnover instead of a sure score.

It was one of those games for the Little Giants here Tuesday night as they dropped their sixth straight basketball game to a big, fast Blue Streak contingent, 62-39.

Despite the frustrations, the Giants kept battling, but there just was not enough fire power to match the big front line or the overall speed of the Streaks.

"We played as well as we could have," said head coach Ken Miller.

The superior Sandusky board strength dominated a first quarter explosion that threatened to ice the game early. With burly Paul Biddle and Clark hitting the boards, and Tony McKenzie and Mike Ehrhardt putting in some mid-range jumpers, the Blue Streaks easily overcame the eight-point first quarter performance of Ross's Mike Miller. Sandusky, troubled with missing easy short

shots, managed to open the lead to 12 points, 21-9, and finished up by 10, 21-11.

Miller, who scored 14 points to tie McGilton as high Ross scorer, was saddled with three quick fouls and had to play cautiously. When he picked up his fourth on an offensive foul with less than half the second quarter gone, his dad, Ken, was called on a technical foul for protesting.

"Sometimes a technical can ignite a team," Miller said later.

And apparently the strategy worked — temporarily. The Giants switched to their 1-3-1 defense — "that's been our best defense this year" — and Sandusky had trouble with it. Meanwhile, Ross ran off a 6-2 surge and narrowed the gap to five at 24-19. But the Streaks roared back over the final 2:43, outscoring the Giants 8-4 to take a 32-23 lead at halftime.

The third quarter was a dud both ways, although Ross closed the gap to six at one point and ended up down only by seven at the end of the quarter in which the teams combined for only 14 points.

But the final stanza was all Sandusky. Glen Redding found the mark early in the quarter and paced a 12-2 Blue Streak rally that left the score 50-33 and closed the door on Ross. Halfway through the quarter, Sandusky started another 8-2 run that put the Little Giants down by 21 at 58-37.

"They were just out-ponied," Gary Reynolds, the Sandusky coach said. "We just had more ponies than they did."

"Fremont Ross always puts a scrappy club on the floor and that's indicative of good coaching. I have the highest regard for Ken Miller."

Pacing the Streaks in the scoring department was Biddle, who had 16, followed by Redding with 10.

Ross was outrebounded 35-23, many of those were Sandusky offensive grabs; and turned the ball over 22 times to 16 for Sandusky.

In the preliminary contest, the Ross JV's, paced by Billy Burel's 11 points, pulled out a 39-37 squeaker for their first win of the season.

VARSITY GAME

Score by quarters

Sandusky	21	11	6	24-82
Ross	11	12	8	8-39

Scoring

ROSS—Williams 2-1-5, Miller 7-0-14, McGilton 4-6-14, Price 3-0-6; totals, 16-7-39.

SANDUSKY—Cage 2-0-4, Pettis 2-0-4, Biddle 4-8-16, Blake 1-2-4, Ehrhardt 4-0-8, Koonce 1-0-2, W. Clark 4-0-8, Redding 4-2-10, McKenzie 3-0-6; totals 25-12-62.

Records — Ross 0-6 (0-5); Sandusky 3-3 (2-2)

JUNIOR VARSITY

Score by quarters

Ross	8	16	7	8-39
Sandusky	7	5	13	12-37

Scoring

ROSS—Burel, 5-1-11, Cook 2-1-5, Sakovits 3-3-9, Holmes 4-0-8, Schles 3-0-6; totals 15-5-39.

SANDUSKY—Marshall 4-2-10, Hill 2-1-5, Sizemore 2-4-8, DeHenning 1-0-2, Brown 0-2-2, Hollinger 1-0-2, Everett 3-2-8; totals 13-11-37.

Elyria routs Ross

By BILL STEWART
N-M Sports Writer

ELYRIA — The Elyria Pioneers forced the Ross basketball team to play their game Tuesday night and the result was predictable.

The lightning quick Pioneers, with constant full court pressure and some key offensive rebounding, coasted past Ross 73-40 for their eighth straight victory without a loss and sixth in the Buckeye Conference. Ross stands at 0-7 and 0-6 in the conference.

It was the relentless full court press of Elyria which forced 35 Ross turnovers and turned many of them into baskets, while disrupting the Ross offensive game plan at the same time.

"Our plan was to get the ball to the forwards and have them get it to the hole," said Ross coach Ken Miller. "But our forwards never got it to the bucket."

Ross looked as if it would employ a slow down game at the outset when it went more than four minutes before guard Tim Price took the first shot at the 3:55 mark and leading scorer Steve McGilton made the first Ross bucket seconds later.

Miller revealed that he hoped the Ross big men would pull 6-9 center Richard Montague away from the basket, but it didn't take long for the Elyria press to take its toll.

With Ross trailing 8-4, the Pioneers ran off eight unanswered points to go ahead 16-4 and upped it to

20-5 at the end of the first quarter.

Elyria, with the help of shooting by guard Eddie Byrd, extended a 27-11 lead midway through the second quarter to 41-14 at halftime.

Byrd led Elyria scoring with 15 points, with nine of them coming in the first half. He was one of five Pioneers to score in double figures.

Hubert Oliver, the other quick guard for Elyria, and Montague, who ran into foul trouble when he picked up his third in the second quarter, each had 13 points.

"It's another indication that we have good scoring balance," commented Elyria coach Mike Riley, who substituted freely throughout the game.

"I was really pleased that our kids could play with the intensity they did tonight," Riley continued. "It's really difficult when you're dominating a game not to get a little sloppy."

The Pioneers didn't have that good of a shooting night, particularly from the outside, with 33 of 84 shots from the field for 39 per cent, to 17 of 42 for 40 per cent for Ross.

Elyria, in addition to the Ross turnovers, capitalized on some excellent offensive rebounding with 27 compared to only nine for Ross and Elyria held a 47-32 edge in total rebounds.

Byrd and Steve Lindquist each pulled down seven to lead Elyria, while Ross's Larry Williams had

eight and Dave Zimmerman, coming off the bench in the second half, pulled down six.

"We didn't contest them well on the boards," said Miller. "It's pretty obvious they had the horses," he added.

Ross didn't score in double figures in a period until the fourth quarter when it had 17 to slightly narrow a 61-23 third quarter deficit. McGilton, in his third consecutive start as a sophomore, continued his fine play with 15 points while guard Randy Hammer had eight fourth quarter points for 10.

The Little Giants also hurt themselves at the free throw line with only six of 17 shots.

Ross and Elyria resume Buckeye Conference play on Friday, Jan. 7 with Ross hosting Lorain Admiral King and Elyria traveling to Lorain.

Elyria outscored Ross 28-13 in the middle two periods for the difference in the 56-41 Elyria win in the junior varsity game. Brian Szakovits had 12 points and Kevin Cook 10 to lead Ross, now 1-6. Kurt Schuetz had 19 for Elyria.

VARSITY GAME Score by quarters

Ross	5	9	9	17-40
Elyria	20	21	20	12-73

Scoring

ROSS — Price 1-1-3, Hammer 5-0-10, Williams 4-0-8, Miller 0-2-2, McGilton 6-3-15, Frey 1-0-2; totals 17-6-40

ELYRIA — Oliver 4-5-13, Byrd 7-1-5, Montague 6-1-13, Trice 6-0-12, Lindquist 1-0-2, Gilbert 1-0-2, Warden 6-0-12, Balser 1-0-2, Underman 1-0-2; totals 33-7-73

Season records: Elyria 8-0 (6-0); Ross 0-7 (0-6)

JAYVEE GAME Score by quarters

Ross	12	8	5	16-41
Elyria	15	16	12	13-56

Scoring

ROSS — Burel 2-0-4, Cook 3-4-10, Szakovits 5-2-12, Holmes 3-1-7, Brudzinski 2-0-4, Eicher 2-0-4; totals 17-7-41

ELYRIA — Frey 7-0-14, Schuetz 6-7-19, Collins 4-2-10, McCullough 2-4-8, Love 1-0-2, Rosemond 0-1-1, Lobaach 1-0-2; totals 21-14-56

Season records: Elyria 5-3, Ross 1-6

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Jones in Ross lineup for Admiral King clash

Ken Miller would just as soon forget about the first seven games of the season for his Ross basketball team — there has been little to smile about after seven straight defeats.

This week, however, there was a trace of a grin from the veteran coach who has watched various teams under his guidance produce over 220 wins.

"We are going to give him a go," Miller said as he gazed over Tuesday's practice schedule.

The "him" in Miller's statement is Eddie Jones, a promising 6-2 junior who saw a few minutes of varsity action last season and performed well. After a good preseason performance, Jones was forced to the bench with bone chip in his ankle.

Jones was to have been Ross's battler on the boards — a guy who was to have stuck his nose into the action with the bigger boys when the action got rough under the basket. But the ankle injury set those plans back until this Friday when the Little Giants entertain Admiral King (5-4).

"His timing will be off," Miller acknowledged when asked about Jones but he also said that he will insert the Ross junior into the starting lineup.

"He just started to practice in team

drills this week," Miller said. "He had been working out on the side before that.

"We have watched him closely and he does not seem to be favoring his ankle as much as we anticipated. Of course, when it comes to shooting, his timing is definitely off."

With Jones at one post position, 6-5 Larry Williams will be at the other post. Sophomore Steve McGilton and Mike Miller will be at the wings while either Tim Price or Randy Hammer will be at the point guard. All are juniors with the exception of McGilton who has produced points at a 11.2 per game rate since stepping into the Ross lineup four games ago.

Admiral King, victimized by the Little Giants in the season finale last season depriving them of a share of the Buckeye Conference crown, are led by Mike Cook and Chuck Simmons.

Cook, 6-3, is one of the top scorers in the conference with a 15.0 average while Simmons, a 6-1 backcourt man, is averaging 13.6 points while leading his team in rebounds with a 7.6 average.

"They are as quick as they have been in the past," Miller described the Admirals, "but they are not as tall. They will come out and press us all over the floor — just like usual."

Second half begins Friday

Will things be better the second time around?

Ross will begin to answer that question on the basketball floor Friday when it hosts Mansfield in the kickoff game of the second half of the Buckeye Conference basketball season . . . The first half was nothing but a seven-game long nightmare for the Little Giants and mentor Ken Miller. Ross dropped all seven games and one other for an 0-8 record overall.

Mansfield, implementing a self-imposed stall while trying to draw Ross out of zone defense, downed the Little Giants 42-35 in the first encounter between the two schools.

To date, the Tygers own a 5-4 overall record and carry a 3-4 mark in conference play.

Offensively, the BC clash will feature the two teams at the bottom of the ladder in the conference. Ross is eighth with a 44.0 point average while Mansfield is a notch higher with a 55.6 average.

The Little Giants are also last in total defense with a yield of 67 points per game and Mansfield is ranked fifth, giving up a shade over 59 a game.

Mansfield is expected to start Henry Washington (5-10) and Wayne Curry (5-11) at the guards; Cliff Belmer (6-2) in the middle; and Orin Butler (6-4) and Eric Jefferson (6-2) at the forwards.

Jefferson is the third leading scorer in the BC with a 17.0 ppg while Belmer ranks third in rebounding with an 11.3 average.

Miller will go with 6-5 Williams and 6-2 Eddie

Jones at the post spots; Mike Miller (6-2) and Steve McGilton (6-0) at the wings; and Randy Hammer (5-10) at the point.

McGilton, a sophomore, is ranked 11th in scoring in the conference with a 12.3 average. Miller is 13th in rebounding with a 6.3 mark.

The JV game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday with the doors opening at 6 p.m. at Ross High School.

College basketball

By The Associated Press

EAST

Bucknell 73, Cornell 69, OT
Coast Guard 59, Clark 54
Columbia 118, Wagner 90
Navy 56, Georgetown, D.C. 55
New Hampshire 89, Canisius 77
Pittsburgh 89, Cleveland St 75
St. Bonaventure 79, Duquesne 77
St. Francis, N.Y. 100, Seton Hall
95
St. John's, N.Y. 74, St. Joseph's, Pa. 57
Syracuse 82, Penn St 66
Union, N.Y. 67, Amherst 56
Vermont 61, Dartmouth 55
Villanova 75, W Virginia 65

SOUTH

Appalachian 80, Furman 78, OT
Clemson 80, Duke 73, OT
Florida St 69, Madison 66
Manhattan 70, S Carolina 67
Mercer 73, Georgia St 70
Miss. St 80, Louisiana St 77
Old Dominion 96, W Carolina 79
Richmond 79, Rhode Island 74
Tennessee 71, Kentucky 67, OT
Virginia 55, Virginia Tech 50
VMI 92, William & Mary 79
Virginia St 86, St. Augustine's 85

MIDWEST

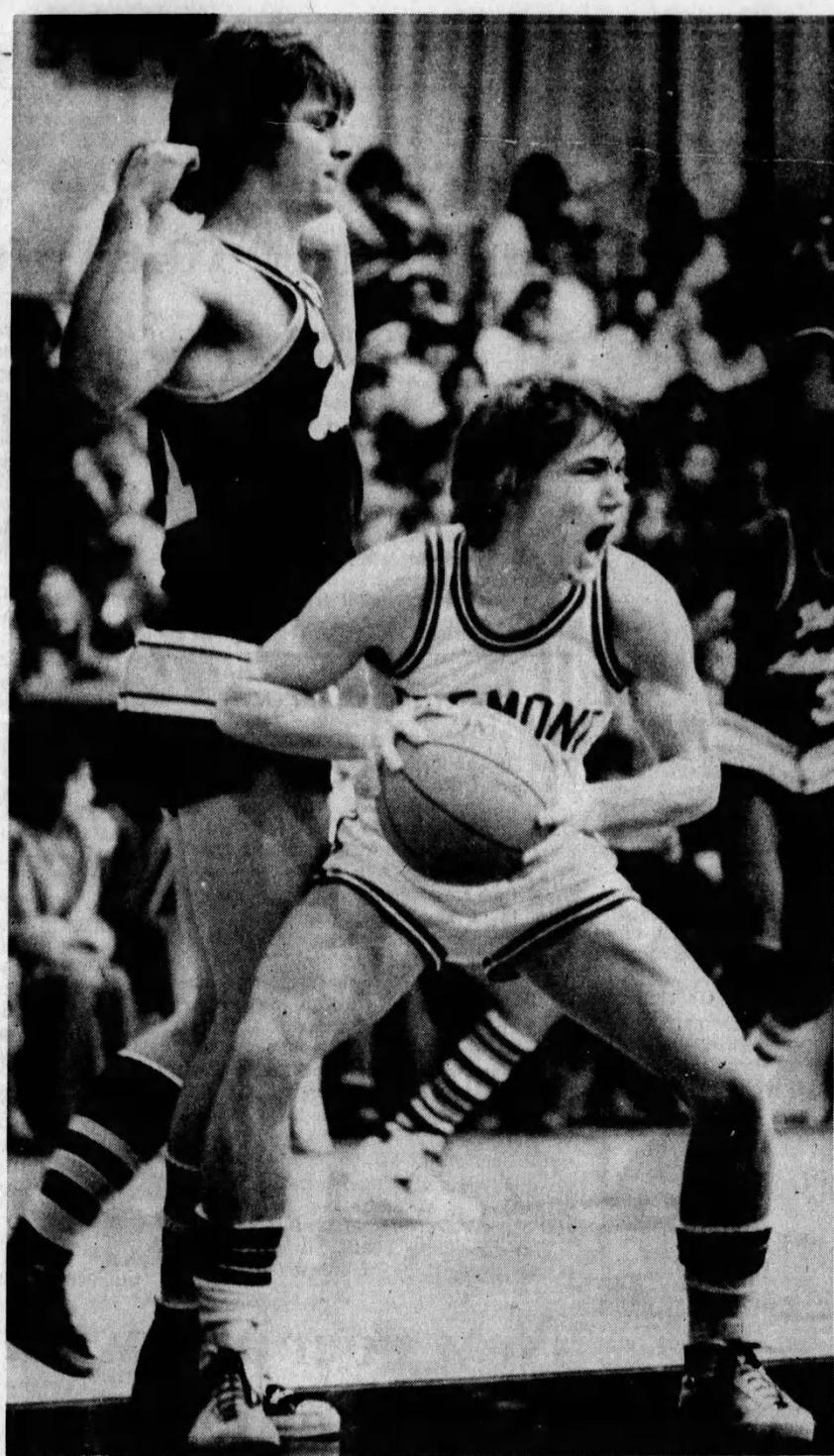
Ball St 64, Kent St 62
Cincinnati 84, Dayton 61
Kansas 62, Oklahoma St 60
Kansas St 63, Iowa St 54
Marshall 79, Ohio 71
Miami, Ohio 71, W Michigan 62
Missouri 69, Oklahoma 60

SOUTHWEST

Grambling 66, Ark-Little Rock
60
Houston 106, Rice 56
N Texas 105, Texas-Arlington 101
SMU 74, Texas 73
Texas A&M 60, Baylor 59
Texas Tech 87, Texas Christian
68

FAR WEST

Nebraska 69, Colorado 54



It's mine!

Ross's Randy Hammer has the ball but Admiral King's Greg Ballish has the muscle and he shows it during the recent Buckeye Conference basketball game. That game, played on Jan. 7, was the last time the little Giants saw action. Bad weather did not allow Mansfield to travel to Fremont last

Friday and bad weather has forced cancellation of games in the Fremont area the past two Tuesdays. Ross, tentatively, will travel to Marion on Friday before hosting Tiffin Columbian on Saturday. (News-Messenger photo by Bruce Crippen)

Ross facing hectic 19 day stretch

Weather permitting, Ross will get in a basketball game this week. As a matter of fact, they should get in two this weekend and another next Tuesday.

Those three games kick off a hectic three weeks for the struggling Little Giants. Ross, 0-8 overall and 0-7 in the tough Buckeye Conference, will play eight games in the next 19 days and it will not only be tiring but hectic if the weather steps in to call the shots.

Ross will travel to Marion Friday for a conference clash with Harding and then return home on Saturday to host Tiffin Columbian. On Tuesday, Toledo DeVilbiss will be in town. Last Friday's scheduled game with Mansfield

has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 8, at Ross.

Cold weather stopped Ross last Friday but it did not stop the Little Giants from practicing this week. "We got in the practices," Coach Ken Miller said, "that has not been a problem."

Miller explained that in an effort to try to shake the losing doldrums, he is instituting more competitive practices.

"Instead of just running fundamental drills, we are trying to make just about everything a competitive situation to help our concentration," he said.

"We have been running a lot of two-minute games using the scoreboard in different situations."

Marion defeated the Little Giants

67-49 in the team's first game back on Dec. 10. Since that time, the Presidents have compiled a 7-3 record which includes a 4-3 BC slate.

On Saturday, a tough Columbian team will face off with Ross. The Tornadoes are currently in a dog fight for the top rung of the ladder in the Northern Ohio League. Columbian is 8-2 with losses to Shelby and Willard.

Miller will have only one minor change in his lineup this week. Junior Mike Miller, the coach's 6-2 son, will be moved from wing to the point, replacing Randy Hammer, who will be moved to the wing. Steve McGilton will be at the other wing while Eddie Jones and Larry Williams will handle the post positions.

Ross responds to 'T' charge

Marion Harding overpowers Little Giants 70-50

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

MARION — Ken Miller's

trickery was disguised very well

and it worked... for a while.

Miller's Ross Little Giants

showed more spunk than ever this

season but lost to the Marion Harding Presidents 70-50 Friday in a Buckeye Conference triple-overtime

encounter. It was the ninth straight loss of the season for the Little Giants while the Presidents jumped up to 8-3 and 5-3 in the conference.

Despite the 20-point loss, Miller

was pleased with the play of his

team against the taller and stronger Harding team but he was not

pleased with the officiating from

Leroy Woods and Al Mocak.

That displeasure set up Miller's

bit of trickery.

With Ross trailing 26-14 midway through the first half, Miller hit the roof when Little Giants' sophomore Steve McGilton was literally run over at midcourt. His anger grew when he did not hear a whistle.

That vocal anger cost him a technical foul but sent a charge of electricity through the Little Giants. After only one on the two technical free throws were hit, Ross, with McGilton, Eddie Jones, and Randy Hammer leading the charge, closed to within five points at 27-32 with 2:50 to play in the second period.

Ross had trailed at one point in the first half 23-8 as Harding's 6-7 lefthander Clyde Lutsch had scored at will.

Miller only smiled in the locker room after the game when he was

asked if he had wanted to get the technical foul but sent a charge of electricity through the Little Giants.

"I was going to lay off that question," he smiled. "I do know one thing: Mac (McGilton) was literally run over at midcourt and they nearly undressed by them in that double team at midcourt and they (officials) did not call a foul."

Harding Coach Mike Riley

simply asked about the

incident. "He (Miller) was trying

to intimidate the officials," Riley

conjectured, "and it worked on

Leroy Woods.

"I had to straighten them out,"

Riley said about the foul. "In the

start, as a matter of fact, I was

about ready to get a "T" myself."

Riley did not have to settle for a

technical on him or his players.

Lutsch and the free throw shooting

of Jeff Turner did his talking.

Lutsch hit 11 of 13 shots, blocked

six Ross shots, and intimidated the Little Giants when and where he chose to the basket. He ended the night with a game high 23 points. Turner canned 11 of 14 free throws while popping in 19 points despite starting the game on the bench.

"Everything I looked up," Miller recited, "Turner was at the stripe."

Being at the charity "stripe" was a rule, not the exception for the Presidents. Harding went to the foul line 38 times as Ross was charged with 26 fouls, 15 in the first half.

Harding used its height and

strength to pull away from the

Little Giants in the second half.

The biggest Harding lead was 27

points at 64-37 midway through the

final period.

In the junior varsity game, Hard-

ing raced to a 70-58 win. Brian

Szakovits had 10 points for Ross

and Mike Achlea added 9.

young players."

The Harding coach was especially impressed with McGilton.

"I'd like to have him on my

side," he said.

McGilton led the Little Giants in

scoring with 20 points while

Harding broke out of a recent

scoreless slump with 14 points. The

Little Giants hit only 19 of 64 from

the field while Harding clicked on

23 of 59.

Harding used its height and

strength to pull away from the

Little Giants in the second half.

The biggest Harding lead was 27

points at 64-37 midway through the

final period.

In the junior varsity game, Hard-

ing raced to a 70-58 win. Brian

Szakovits had 10 points for Ross

and Mike Achlea added 9.

Tonight at Ross High School, the Little Giants host Tiffin Columbian. The JV tipoff is at 6:30 p.m.

VARSITY

Score by quarters

Ross

Harding

Score 16 21 16 17-70

JV GAME

Score by quarters

Ross

Harding

Score 15 24 8 23-70

ROSS

Rosenberger 3-0-6, Cook 3-1-7,

Harris 1-0-2, Szakovits 3-4-10, Shetzer 1-4-6,

Holmes 3-1-7, Schmitz 3-3-9, Vance 1-1-3,

Brinkman 1-0-2, Prudential 1-0-2, total 14-38

HARDING

Owen 1-3-5, Ross 10-20,

Wyant 2-1-5, Robinson 5-0-10, Booker 3-0-6,

McDuffie 5-1-1, Russell 3-3-9, McDuffie 0-0-8,

total 31-8-50

Miller was not pleased with the officiating from Leroy Woods and Al Mocak.

That displeasure set up Miller's

bit of trickery.

Columbian shells Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross enjoyed a rare feeling on the basketball floor Saturday evening: a lead.

But that lead, just like a good rare steak, was quickly eaten and digested by the Tiffin Columbian Tornadoes as the Little Giants absorbed their 10th straight loss of the season 72-52. Columbian is now 10-2.

"We may have been a little tired," Columbian Coach Terry Phillips insisted after the game as he recalled Ross's 14-8 and 19-14 first half leads.

"We had a tough game last night (Friday at Bellevue where the Tornadoes won 52-49) where we had to fight for every point and we may have felt it tonight."

The Little Giants installed a tight man-to-man defense instead of their customary zone to rattle the Tornadoes in the early going. Ross trailed 7-6 with three minutes left in the first period but with Randy Hammer and Steve McGilton hitting the scoring stride, the Little Giants moved out to a 14-8 margin and led 14-10 after one period of play.

It was the first time this season that Ross had led after the first eight minutes of a game.

McGilton, Tim Price, and Mike Miller combined for five quick

points in the second period to give the Little Giants the 19-14 lead but the cool air that haunted the hallways at Ross High School reached into the gym and put a sheet of ice over the Ross basket shortly after that point.

Columbian, with sophomore Eric Gosche hitting two buckets, ripped off 10 straight points and outscored the Little Giants 17-2 over the final five and one-half minutes of the first half for a 30-21 lead.

Columbian went on the scoring spurge as Ross was suffering from "referee's whistle." McGilton was called for his fourth personal foul with eight seconds to play in the half and Hammer was assessed his third at the 7:30 mark of the second quarter.

McGilton eventually fouled out midway through the third period.

"That was part of our game plan," Phillips pointed out about the Ross foul situation. "That's why we were using the low post."

With Gosche at that low point and scoring eight points, Columbian put the game out of reach in the third period, taking a 50-35 lead. Gosche, a 6-2 sophomore, drilled in five more buckets in the early going of the final period for a game high 22 points.

Ross never could recover in the second half despite Hammer's finest shooting performance of the

season. He canned 13 of his 21 points in the final 16 minutes but Ross was never able to get closer than the nine they had trailed by at the half.

The Little Giants hit 31 per cent from the field on 23 of 74 while Columbian had 47 per cent shooting on 29 of 62.

Tuesday, Ross will host Toledo DeVilbiss. The JV game will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the doors at Ross opening at 6 p.m.

In Saturday's JV game, Columbian rolled to a 67-57 win. Tom Brudzinski tossed in 15 points to pace Ross's JVs with Bryan Omior hitting 20 for Columbian.

VARSITY GAME Score by quarters

Columbian	10	20	20	22-72
Ross	14	7	14	17-52

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Feiton 4-3-11, Yackey 4-2-10, Stacey 3-0-6, Gosche 10-2-22, Schaefer 2-3-7, T. Stacey 1-2-4, Reinbold 2-0-4, Smith 2-0-4, Zeis 0-2-2, Omior 1-0-2; totals 29-14-72

ROSS — Miller 2-1-5, Jones 1-1-3, Williams 1-0-2, Hammer 9-3-21, McGilton 3-0-6, Price 1-0-2, Belch 1-0-2, Frey 2-1-5, Burel 1-0-2, Ballenger 1-0-2; totals 23-6-52

Season records: Columbian 10-2, Ross 0-10

JV GAME Score by quarters

Columbian	16	14	19	18-67
Ross	8	12	10	27-57

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Malberger 4-1-9, Smother 0-1-1, Robbins 2-5-9, Edeburn 1-0-2, Hostetler 8-0-16, Omior 7-6-20, Poignon 2-0-4, Zeiter 3-0-6; totals 27-13-67

ROSS — Rosenberger 1-0-2, Cook 3-0-6, Harris 0-1-1, Szakovits 2-0-4, Shetzer 4-0-8, Holmes 1-0-2, Schiea 2-7-11, Eicher 4-0-8, Brudzinski 6-3-15; totals 23-11-57

14 The News-Messenger, Fremont, O., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1977

DeVilbiss pullaway tops Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

"They just put us in the hole and we didn't," muttered Ken Miller, coach of the Ross Little Giants Tuesday while summing up his team's 11th straight loss of the basketball season.

Toledo DeVilbiss pulled away from the Little Giants in the third period for an 88-61 win.

The DeVilbiss Tigers, now 5-3, outscored the Little Giants 27-8 in the third quarter after Ross had charged back from 12 points down in the second quarter to trail by only three, 42-39, at the intermission.

DeVilbiss, with Dale Allen scoring 12 of his game-high 22 points in the period, clicked off 14 unanswered points in the first four and one-half minutes of the second half to break the game apart. Allen nudged in four of those points and point guard Mark Turner dropped in another four.

"Allen is without a doubt the best player in the city," DeVilbiss Coach Mike Murnen oozed as he spoke of Allen. "Then he is one of the best!"

Allen had scored 10 points in the first period as the Tigers and the Little Giants hooked up in a "run and gun" shootout. The Tigers led by a 22-14 at the end of the first half.

In the second, DeVilbiss outscored Ross 12-2 in a two minute span to take a 31-21 lead. DeVilbiss stretched it to 37-25 midway through the period when Ross started to charge.

Randy Hammer, Steve McGilton, Dave Zimmerman, Bill Burel, Tim Belch, and Tim

Price scored as Ross went on a 14-4 scoring surge. Price's bucket off a miss at the buzzer put Ross behind by three at the half.

Murnen explained how he felt after Ross got that close.

"We had scored 90 points in both of our last two games," he said, "and I think our kids were ready to take off everytime for our bucket — they were forgetting to play defense. Of course, Ross was shooting well at that time."

In the second half, DeVilbiss' tight man-to-man press started to wear down the Little Giants. When the Tigers turned Allen loose in the third period and at the same time, poured in 14 of 23 from the field, the skids were under the Little Giants.

Ross hit only four of 14 and just four of 16 in the final two periods. DeVilbiss fell to only four of 23 in the final eight minutes.

"Toledo is just a better ball club than we are," shrugged Miller, "and they are a good ball club."

Continuing, the Ross coach pointed out, "I thought we played well in the first half and in the second half, too. As a matter of fact, we probably have played our best ball the last three games. Unfortunately, we have played three good teams."

Ross used 10 players in the game with nine hitting the scoring column. Hammer and McGilton led the scoring for Ross with 14 points apiece. Mike Miller popped in 11.

DeVilbiss substituted frequently throughout

the game and ended up using 12 players with all of them hitting the scoring column. Allen led the scoring with 22 and Turner's 12 the only other Tiger in double figures.

Ross hit 23 of 65 from the field while DeVilbiss cooled off to 32 of 79.

DeVilbiss came from behind late in the third period to defeat Ross in the JV contest 61-47. Ross had led at the half 28-25 but fell behind after three 37-36.

Kevin Cook had 18 points for the Ross JVs and Mike Schiea added 13. Lance Crenshaw led the Tigers with 17.

Ross will be back in Buckeye Conference action Friday when they host the Lorain Steelmen.

VARSITY GAME Score by quarters

DeVilbiss	22	21	27	16-61
Ross	19	20	8	14-47

SCORING

DEVILBISS — Jansma 5-4-1, Turner 6-0-12, Allen 9-7-25, Dorn 2-2-4, Schaefer 4-0-4, Mosley 3-0-6, Gregory 3-2-5, West 2-0-2, Crenshaw 6-4-4, Hilley 1-4-6, Kaser 1-0-2, Anderson 1-1-3, Cook 3-0-12

ROSS — Miller 4-3-11, Jones 3-3-9, Williams 0-1-1, Hammer 6-2-12, Belch 1-0-2, Price 0-3-3, Burel 1-0-2, Belch 1-0-2, Frey 1-0-2, Turner 1-0-1, Ross 0-1-1

Season records: DeVilbiss 5-3, Ross 0-11

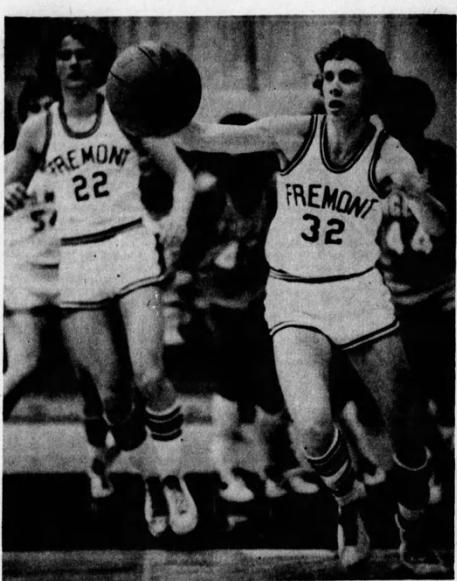
SCORE BY QUARTERS

DeVilbiss	9	16	12	24-61
Ross	10	11	8	14-47

SCORING

DEVILBISS — Crenshaw 6-5-17, Brinkley 7-0-18, Brown 5-1-7, Windgate 1-1-3, Anderson 3-0-5, McDaniel 1-0-2, Bass 0-1-1, Ross 0-1-1, Turner 1-0-1, Cook 3-0-6, Price 0-1-1, Belch 1-0-2, Frey 1-0-2, Turner 1-0-1, Ross 0-1-1

ROSS — Burel 1-1-3, Rosenberger 3-0-4, Cook 8-5-18, Hammer 6-2-12, Schiea 5-3-13, Vance 1-0-2, Brudzinski 2-2-6, totals 19-9-47



MIKE MILLER (32) wears the look of determination as he dribbles the ball for the Ross Little Giants Tuesday. To the left of Miller is teammate Steve

McGilton (22) with Rene Mosley and Clint Dorn closing in from behind for DeVilbiss. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

More support for Jabbar

By ALEX SACHARE
AP Sports Writer
Remember the joke

Basketball Association's
Pacific Division.
The Lakers moved one-



News-Messenger

Sports

Rush and Steelmen in town Friday

Perry Rush, the Buckeye Conference's fifth leading scorer and its top free throw shooter, leads his Lorain Steelmen into Ross High School Friday for the Little Giants' 12th game of the season.

Lorain, 3-8 overall, and 2-7 in the conference, stopped Ross in the two team's first meeting 85-61 in a game that had a weird beginning and ended with a constant parade to the foul line for both teams.

In the first encounter, Lorain had a 4-0 lead before the first second had ticked off the clock. Rush hit four of five technical foul shots when it was discovered that the wrong numbers had been listed in the score book for the Little Giants.

Ross never recovered after that as Rush and his teammates riddled the Little Giants' zone defense for the win that ended with the shrill sound of the officials' whistles hanging in the air. Ross canned 21 of 26 free throws in the final half while Lorain hit 11 of 16 in the final period.

"Rush is definitely the key for them," Ross Coach Ken Miller said logically. "He's a good outside shot and he drives the lane well — and

he mixes up that game very well."

Rush, hitting 16 per game, is bolstered on the boards by 6-4 Doug Zientarski who ranks 10th in the BC in rebounding with a 7.0 average. That is three spots higher than Ross's best rebounder, Mike Miller.

"Lorain plays eight players," Miller said about the Steelman shuttle system. "That makes it difficult for us to match up defensively.

"We will have to check off on the boards well against them because they do hit the boards hard," Miller explained as he spoke about what he expected from Lorain.

Ross, in the midst of a rough eight games in 19 days part of its schedule, will have little time to dwell on a game slated for Tuesday, Feb. 1. The Little Giants' will be traveling to Findlay for the second test against the Trojans on that day.

"It's really difficult to prepare two games in advance," Miller said when talking about the Friday-Tuesday setup and he will face more of that difficulty next week. After Findlay's game, the Little Giants will have games at

home on Friday (Sandusky) and Saturday (Perkins), followed by another Tuesday game at home again against Mansfield on Feb. 8.

In other BC stats, sophomore Steve McGilton of Ross ranks 10th in scoring with a 13.7 average. The leader is Rich Montague of Elyria with a 19.1 mark. Ross's Larry Williams is eighth in field goal shooting with 50 per cent on 19 of 38 from the field.

McGilton is eighth in free throw shooting and Williams is 10th.

ROSS WRESTLING

Tonight's wrestling meet at Clyde has fallen victim to the weather. There has been no date yet for a make-up match.

The meet was the last on Ross's schedule before the Buckeye Conference Tournament on Feb. 5, at Mansfield Senior.

Coach Al Voggenthaler's crew figures to have good shots at claiming four individual titles in the eight-team tourney. Jessie Heidelberg, 9-1, at 107, Aaron Sewell, 7-3, at 134, Clarence Parks, 11-2, at 157, and heavyweight Jim Smith, 9-3 are the potential Ross champs.

Ross athletics roundup

Two games for Little Giants

Ross's on and off basketball season is on for at least two games this weekend but the swimmers and wrestlers will have to continue the weather enforced layoff.

The Little Giants hardwood team, still searching for that first win after 11 straight setbacks, will entertain Sandusky in a Buckeye Conference encounter Friday and will host Sandusky Bay Conference leader Perkins on Saturday. The two games will be the first of five games in the next 12 days for Ross.

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, Ross will host Lorain Senior in a game that was postponed from Jan. 28. Mansfield Senior, originally postponed from Jan. 14 to Feb. 8, has been moved back another week to Feb. 15. Sandwiched between the Lorain and Mansfield games, Ross will take on conference leader Elyria on Feb. 11. All of the games are at Ross High School.

The Buckeye Conference Wrestling Tournament, which has grown into one of the better tournaments in the state the past few seasons, has been postponed from this Saturday at Mansfield Senior to Feb. 19.

The Ross swim team was to have traveled to Lorain Catholic Saturday but that meet has been canceled. The swimmers will not be in action (possibly) until Tuesday, Feb. 8, when they travel to Perkins for a 4 p.m. meet.

Ross's girls basketball team, after having the Jan. 27 game with Bellevue canceled, will play

Sandusky on Monday, Feb. 7. The game had been originally slated for Jan. 29. The junior varsity game will begin at 6 p.m.

Tonight's girls game at Upper Sandusky has been canceled.

In a meeting held on Jan. 29, in Columbus, the State Board of Control of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) met with a representative group of superintendents and principals of schools throughout the state. An opinion was issued as a result of the meeting that if schools were going to be permitted the additional "calamity" days (15), then every effort should be made to have as many activities maintained as possible.

Schools that are fortunate enough to have adequate heat were encouraged to share their facilities with those not so fortunate.

Ross is heated by fuel oil and so all athletic events scheduled for the high school building will be held even if regular school is closed.

Sandusky will bring a 6-5 slate (5-4 in the conference) to Fremont Friday. In the first meeting of the two teams, the Blue Streaks stopped the Little Giants 62-39.

"They pressed us from the start," Ross Coach Ken Miller recalled. "I felt we did a fairly good job against the press . . . early in the game we did give up the ball a few times though."

Miller expects Sandusky to use the same tactics this game.

The Blue Streaks, although roughly the same height as Ross, are a bit quicker. A pair of quick juniors, Calvin Cage (5-9) and Glenn Redding (5-11) will start at the guard slots for Sandusky. As a sophomore, Redding got his first start at Ross and clipped the Little Giants for 27 points.

"He got 10 against us this year but he was coming off an injury," Miller said about Redding. "I think since that time he has improved."

At the forwards for Sandusky are seniors Mike Blake (6-1) and Mike Ehrhardt (5-11) while the center is high scoring senior Paul Biddle (6-4). Fronnie Clark (6-4), a junior, usually replaces Blake at forward early in the game.

On Saturday, Perkins, which sits alone at the top of the SBC with a 5-1 record, will pit its 7-5 overall slate up against Ross.

Barry Roll and Dave Lawrence, a pair of 6-1 seniors, will start at the forwards for the Pirates while a 6-4 sophomore, Brad Dwelle, is at center. Dan Kelly, 5-10, and DeWayne Young, 5-11, both juniors, will be the guards.

"I don't know much about Perkins," Miller admitted. "The only time we saw them is in the preseason preview at Bellevue."

Miller is expected to start Dave Zimmerman (6-4) and Ed Jones (6-2) at the post positions; Steve McGilton (5-10) and Randy Hammer (5-10) at the wings; and Mike Miller (6-2) at the point in both weekend games.



PAUL BIDDLE (23) of Sandusky soars over Ross's Tim Price (10) after being "faked" into the air. Price had just gathered in a rebound and was passing off to a teammate. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

BSU for Ross duo

Terry Bates and Jim Smith, Ross High School All-Ohio football players, expect to be members of attending Ball State University next fall however, the two Little Giants' stars are not bound by a "letter of intent."

Both Ross players signed forms with the Mid-American Conference team stating that they both would be on scholarships should they attend the Muncie, Ind. school.

Bates, a tailback, shattered Ross' single season rushing mark with 1,624 yards while gaining first team Class AAA on the Associated Press (AP) poll.

Smith made the top team defensively on both the AP and the United Press International (UPI) state poll. The 6-1, 250-pounder was recruited as a defensive tackle.

By not signing "letters of intent," Bates and Smith are still free to deal with any other M-A school.

The "letter of intent," on a conference level, binds a player with the particular school he signed the letter for and would not allow him to sign with any other school of that conference.

News
Messenger

Sports
Bob Marker, editor



STEVE MCGILTON, middle reaches down for the ball as Sandusky's Paul

Biddle and Glen Redding (41) move in on Ross sophomore.

Little Giants' rally falls short

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross was two minutes away from chalking up its first basketball win of the season Friday but instead had to settle for the loss.

Sandusky blew a 16-point halftime lead but managed to cash in at the charity stripe to salvage a 69-64 Buckeye Conference win over the fired up Little Giants in a chilly Ross High School gym.

The win提升了 Ross' record to 7-5 this season and 6-4 in the conference.

Ross is 0-9 in conference play.

Randy Hammer of Ross stripped the ball away from Sandusky Blue Streaks' guard Calvin Cage with 2:25 to play in the game, drove down the middle of the court and eased in a layup to put Ross on top 69-64.

"I wish the horn would have went off then," Ross' varsity assistant Coach Tom Brough said wistfully after the game. But the horn did not utter a syllable and Sandusky ran off the next five points to pull out the game.

Ross, with Larry Williams, Tim Price, and Randy Hammer getting help from Steve McGillton and Eddie Jones, had battled back from a 42-26 deficit at the half and a 11-11 point, 53-42 count after three quarters to take the lead.

"It was a typical Sandusky-Fremont game," relieved Sandusky Coach Gary Reynolds said while savoring his team's win. "I think this is the first time in five years that Sandusky has beaten Ross twice in one season."

"Things like this happen in basketball," Reynolds continued. "Fremont had momentum on us in the second half and we had to play this game is all about momentum."

Ross fell behind by 13, 57-44, a minute and a half into the final period before

buckets by McGillton and Hammer began the revival that eventually put the Little Giants in front.

Hammer clicked on two free throws and a bucket, times often, in a charity line to draw Ross closer to the Blue Streaks, 57-53, with 4:58 showing on the scoreboard. Cage canned two free throws to break the Ross streak and Williams clicked on the first two foul shots, giving Sandusky a 59-54 lead.

Mike Ehrhardt hit two more free throws and Sandusky went up 64-64 but Ross had an eight-point run for the lead. Williams tipped in a Hammer miss from the corner and came back with a sweeping right handed hook from the left of the key to cut the Sandusky lead to 61-60.

McGilton popped in a jumper from the free throw line to put Ross behind by one with 2:44 to go and when Hammer pulled off his theft from Cage, the sparse crowd in the Ross gym nearly blew the cap off the chilly container.

The Little Giants wanted to hear the horn but the next minutes were nothing but close calls for Ross and bounces for Sandusky.

Cage hit two free throws 15 seconds after losing the ball to Hammer to give Sandusky the game's final lead. Mike Pettis hit two more charity tosses, before Jones hit a jumper from the left of the lane for Ross with a half minute to play.

Cage hit another free throw as Ross was forced to foul and Ehrhardt wrapped the Blue Streak win with two more charity tosses with four seconds to play in the game.

During the last minute and a half of the game, Ross Head Coach Ken Miller had to suffer through three near misses

by his team. McGillton's five footer bounded in and out at the 1:30 mark; Tim Belch's jumper from the line was halfway in before bouncing out with 50 seconds to play; and Williams' soft hook met the same fate with five seconds to go.

When those close calls were pointed out to Miller, he shrugged, "Looks like someone up there was saying 'not this time.'"

Miller had reason to smile, even though it may have been on the inside. "The most encouraging thing is that we were down 16 at the half — not that we have never been down 16 at the half — we were able to come back and go one-up in the fourth quarter. It shows determination on our part."

Ross was led in scoring by Hammer's 21 points. Williams who led Ross to a 35-advantage on the boards with 13 rebounds, had 13 points. McGillton had 11 and Jones dropped in nine to go along with nine rebounds.

In the junior varsity game, Ross' Mike Schles scored 21 points including eight of eight free throws in the final half to lead the Little Giants to a 54-53 win. It was the second time this season Ross JV's have beaten the Blue Streaks.

Tonight, Ross will host Sandusky Perkins with the JV game beginning at 6:30 p.m.

VARSITY GAME

Score by quarters

Sandusky 24 18 11 16-69

Ross 14 12 16 22-64

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Blake 26-4, Ehrhardt 4-12, Biddle 5-12, Redding 3-6, Cage 4-14, Clark 2-4, McGillton 11-10, Pettis 2-2, Jones 5-5, Belch 4-11.

ROSS — Jones 5-5, Miller 1-2, Zimmerman 4-0, Hammer 8-5-21, McGillton 4-3-11, Williams 7-1-15, Pettis 3-0-6, total 18-10-50.

Season records: Sandusky 7-3 (6-4), Ross 6-12 (0-9)

JV GAME

Score by quarters

Sandusky 10 9 19 15-53

Ross 14 14 12 14-54

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Sizemore 4-8, Hollinger 1-1-3, Hill 0-2-2, Biddle 2-2, Redding 1-1-2, Clark 1-1-1, Terrell 1-3-5, Simmons 1-2-2; total 21-11-33

ROSS — Burel 1-0-2, Cook 1-5-7, Skatzos 1-0-2, Shear 2-0-4, Holman 6-6-12, Schles 5-11-21, Brudzinski 2-0-4; total 19-16-54



LARRY WILLIAMS (44) of Ross flinches as a ball goes sailing into the air during second half action Friday

at Ross High School. Tony McKenzie (21) of Sandusky eventually wound up with the ball.

Ageless January leads in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Old pro Don

January got his game in gear. New

sensations Tom Watson got his string

snapped. And Jack Nicklaus got down

the road.

"A helluva round for me," chorused the

47-year-old January after he had played

an almost errorless, eight-under-par 64

that staked him to the second-round lead

in the warm, sunny weather and, at 145, was one stroke over the cut-off mark.

Also failing to qualify for the final two

rounds was a line-up that included PGA

champion Dave Stockton and four of the

game's \$1 million winners— Johnny

Miller, Tom Weiskopf, Billy Casper and

Gene Littler.

January, who once retired from golf

Little Giants nipped

"That's the worst foul shooting we have had all season," moaned John Schlessman, Perkins' high school's youthful basketball coach.

What he did not have to say, however, was that his team's worst was enough to knock off Ross 62-59 Saturday night.

The Pirates, who frittered away as much as an 11-point lead in the first half and nine points in the second half, were forced to use the foul line to pull out the win, the team's eighth in 13 games.

Dan Kelley hit the front end of a one and one free throw situation to snap a 59-59 tie with 1:20 to play to give Perkins the small cushion it needed for the win. Kelley hit another free throw with 10 seconds to play and DeWayne Young knocked home another for the final Perkins' points with four seconds left to ice the win.

The three charity tosses were the only ones made in eight attempts for Perkins in the final 1:20 of the game but the bulls-eyes offset a comeback by the erratic Little Giants.

Trailing 50-41 with 6:25 to play, Ross outscored the Pirates 13-3 in the next five minutes to take only its second lead of the game 54-53 but the Ross point run began to fizzle at that point.

Eddie Jones dropped in six points, Dave Zimmerman added three, and

Fremont teams in action

Ross and St. Joe Central Catholic high school athletic teams are scheduled to be in action tonight and Tuesday.

The Ross girls basketball team resumes action after a long layoff in a home game with Sandusky tonight. The junior varsity game will begin at 6 p.m.

The Ross swimming team will travel to Perkins for a meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

On Tuesday night, the Ross boys basketball game hosts Lorain in a makeup game. The junior varsity game will begin at 6:15 p.m. instead of the usual 6:30.

The St. Joe boys travel to Clyde Tuesday night in another makeup game. The junior varsity game will begin at 6:45 p.m. at Clyde Junior High School.

The St. Joe girls team is also in action Tuesday night. It will travel to Fostoria for a game with St. Wendelin.

Mike Miller and Randy Hammer two each in the Ross run. Jones' layup off an inbounds pass from Hammer gave Ross the lead with 3:30 to play.

That lead lasted just 27 seconds with Barry Roll putting Perkins back on top, 55-54, with a pair of free throws. A bucket by Dave Lawrence upped the Pirates' lead to 57-54 before Jones hit again for Ross.

Joel Hoelzer lofted in a 20-footer from the right side to stretch Perkins' lead to 59-56 before Miller hit a running one-hander. Miller was fouled on the shot by Kelley and hit the free throw to tie the game at 59 with 1:24 to play.

That's when Perkins' worst facet of the game was enough to save them.

"We did not play a good ball game," Schlessman insisted.

Ross had bounced back from a 17-6 deficit in the first quarter to trail by a 30-27 count at the half.

"Miller was hitting from outside and Williams (Larry) and Jones were getting them from the inside," Schlessman said. "Ross just shot fantastically in the second quarter."

Williams knocked in eight points in second period for Ross, one less than he finished for the game. Jones canned 18 points, 14 in the final 16 minutes to lead the Little Giants in scoring. Miller finished with 13.

Ross hit 27 of 58 from the field but only five of 10 at the foul line. Perkins hit 24 of 57 and 14 of 24 free throws.

In the junior varsity game, Ross won its second straight game 50-37. Mike Schlea had 17 points and Lawrence Holmes tossed in 14 for Ross.

VARSITY GAME

Score by quarters

Perkins	17	13	16	16	62
Ross	9	18	14	18	59

Scoring

PERKINS — Roll 4-4-12, Lawrence 6-0-12, Dwelle 5-1-11, Young 6-2-14, Kelley 1-2-4, Hoelzer 2-5-9; totals 24-14-62

ROSS — Jones 9-0-18, Miller 6-1-13, Williams 4-1-9, Hammer 4-0-8, Price 1-0-2, Zimmerman 1-1-3, Belch 2-2-6; totals 27-5-59

Season records: Perkins 8-5, Ross 0-13

JV GAME

Score by quarters

Perkins	6	16	8	7	37
Ross	14	12	16	8	50

Scoring

PERKINS — Hedberg 2-0-4, Bixler 3-0-6, Widdoes 6-2-14, Printy 2-4-8, Sheely 2-1-5; totals 15-7-37

ROSS — Burel 0-1-1, Rosenberger 1-0-2, Cook 1-0-2, Szakovits 0-2-2, Shetzer 2-0-4, Holmes 6-2-14, Schlea 4-9-17, Eicher 2-0-4, Brudzinski 1-2-4; totals 17-16-50

Miller blasts officiating

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Lorain got a little boost Tuesday in handing Fremont Ross its latest setback in the 1976-77 season. At least Ross Coach Ken Miller felt that way after watching his club drop a bitter 70-65 Buckeye Conference game to the Steelmen.

"I'm getting tired," Miller fumed in the locker room after the game, "of getting scored by a bunch of officials in the last two minutes — but when it comes down to it, when they (opponents) claw, scratch, and shove, and get away with it — well, it's a crock of crap!"

Target of Miller's wrath were officials Lynn Rader and Hank Janzen, both of Elyria. Two of the officials calling the foul calls that went against Ross in the final moments particularly irked Miller and his assistants Tom Brough and Clark.

Ross, up 58-57 with 3:46 to play, coughed the ball up to the Steelmen to set up one foul. Lorain's Mike Pozega was in the front row of the bench, laughing with Ross's Eddie Jones trailing him. Just as Pozega went up with the ball, another Steelmen player hit Jones from behind with the Ross player ramming into Pozega. The result: Jones was called for a foul with Pozega's shot tying the game.

The foul going against the call for Ross was Pozega's third in the game.

The other call(s) involved two back-to-back rebounding fouls on Ross's 6-4 junior Dave Zimmerman. Both led to possible three-point plays for the Steelmen.

"You know it just seems," Miller said, "that just because we are Fremont, we are not supposed to win."

"It's too damn bad when kids play their hearts out the whole game and then get blown down by the stripes."

Miller, in his official blasting, claimed the same type of officiating took place in Friday's 69-64 loss to Sandusky.

Despite the final two disastrous minutes for Ross, the game was the best that the Little Giants have offered this season. Ross led from the very start except for a brief period in the second quarter and the final moments of the

game and free throws by Hammer and Jones of Ross gave the Little Giants their final lead of the game 62-60 with 2:50 to play.

Pozega hit the tying bucket and Sveete tipped in two more before Ross was able to score again.

Miller praised his team after thinking about the disheartening loss.

"Everyone that played against Lorain and Sandusky (Friday) played their hearts out," he said. "It's just not easy to do when you have not won a ball game — I just wish the season was just starting."

Hammer's 25 led all scorers with Miller hitting 19. The Little Giants had 27 of 53 shots while Lorain canned 29 of 62. Ross held a slight edge in rebounding 27-26.

Friday evening the Little Giants host unbeaten Lorain and the third ranked team in the state, Elyria.

Ross's junior varsity team dropped a 45-44 decision. Mike Schlesa, who led Ross with 16 points, tossed up a last second shot that rolled off the rim to let Lorain escape with the win.

RESULTS

		VARSITY GAME					
		SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Lorain	Ross	12	19	12	27-70		
		16	20	15	14-63		

SCORING

LORAIN — Piles 2-6, Sveete 5-24, Ziolkowski 1-6, Rush 9-19, Evans 3-6, Huff 3-6, Pozega 1-3; totals 65.

ROSS — Miller 8-19, Jones 0-2, Zimmerman 2-15,

Hammer 12-23, Price 3-6, Williams 2-4; totals 27-45.

Season records: Lorain 9-9 (3-8); Ross 6-14 (0-10).

JV GAME

		SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Lorain	Ross	14	16	8	7-45		
		5	9	17	13-44		

SCORING

LORAIN — Walker 2-4-2, Martin 4-8-2, Cical 5-2-2,

Harrington 2-1-3, Crapo 2-0-2, Henderson 1-0-2, Cecil 0-2-2; totals 18-9-4.

ROSS — Cook 3-10, Shetzer 3-1-7, Homes 2-1-5, Schlesa 4-14, Eicher 1-0-2, Brudzinski 2-0-1; totals 17-10-4.



ED JONES of Ross meets Lorain's Lee Sveete on this play as Sveete desperately looks for someone to throw to. Sveete scored 24 points for Lorain to help the Steelmen rally for a 70-65 win. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)



RANDY HAMMER of Ross drives in for a layup as he is guarded by Lorain's Perry Rush. Hammer led one of the finest Ross efforts of the season with 25 points.

Perkins tops Ross tankers

SANDUSKY — Brian Koenig won two events and had a big boost from Lee Sveete when he made his return to the pool after missing the first half of the season with an injury. The 6-2 junior dropped in 24 points including four on two tips in the final two minutes of play.

Sweet and slick Lorain guard Perry Rush helped bring their teammates back from 10 down (51-41) in the third period to the team's fifth win in 14 games. Perry canned nine of 17 shots in the win.

After Ross fell behind 59-58 with 3:46 to play, Tim Price gave the Little Giants a 60-59 lead at the 3:30 mark. Pozega hit a free throw to tie

also turned in season bests. Gottron finished second with 162 points and Mehling scored his first 100 points last dive when he came up short. The Ross dive dropped him to fifth with 130 points.

The only other winners for Ross were Kevin Casey in the breaststroke with a 1:09.910, and the medley relay.

Ross will be back in action at Findlay Saturday in the Buckeye Conference Invitational.

RESULTS

		MEDLEY RELAY: Ross					
MATERIALS (written)		Herrick, Casey, Perkins, Gottron 1:48.56; Perkins 1:55.164, Perry 1:56.315					
200 FREESTYLE: Carpenter (P) 1:56.72; Cokes (P) 1:57.12, Sveete (P) 1:57.12							
INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Koenig (R) 2:10.49; Hammer (P) 2:14.85; Everingham (P) 2:15.062; Jones (R) 2:15.10; Schlesa (P) 2:15.341; Giesler (R) 2:16.098; Berger (P) 2:16.741							
DIVING: Parker (P), Giesler (R), Buder (P); Buder (R), Parker (P), Giesler (R), Jones (P) 1:00.535; Everingham (P) 1:02.237; Jones (R) 1:03.500; Coker (P) 1:04.297; Buder (P) 1:04.601							
200 FREESTYLE: Carpenter (P) 1:57.637; Perry 1:58.544; Buder (P) 1:58.681							
BACKSTROKE: Hammer (R) 1:08.910; Giesler (P) 1:09.710; Bailey (P) 1:07.412; Jones (R) 1:09.710; Sveete (P) 1:09.710; Mehling (R) 1:10.698; Berger (P) 1:10.726							
400 FREESTYLE RELAY: Perkins (Clemow, Everingham, Carpenter, Giesler) 3:33.885; Perkins (Clemow, Carpenter, Giesler) 3:33.885; Perkins (Clemow, Carpenter, Giesler) 3:33.885; Perkins (Clemow, Carpenter, Giesler) 3:33.885							

RESULTS

Agase named at EMU

DETROIT (AP) — Former Purdue football Coach Alex Agase will be named athletic director at Eastern Michigan University at a press conference today, according to a Detroit newspaper.

The Detroit Free Press said the 54-year-old Agase would take over the post from acting athletic director Ron Oestrake.

Agase was unavailable for comment but the Free Press said his wife, Norma, confirmed that her husband expected to

coaching at Purdue in 1973 and compiled a 18-21 record.

Eastern has been looking for an athletic director since September when Albert Smith resigned to become the vice-chancellor for development and university relations at North Carolina A&T.

Oestrake, EMU baseball coach, withdrew his name from consideration after learning he would have to give up his coaching position.

"I know he wanted the job," Mrs. Agase said. "He was getting a paycheck."

Agase was an interior lineman in college and became the only player in college football to win All-American honors at two universities. He was All-American at Illinois in 1943 before entering the service in World War II. He played at Purdue in 1945 and finished out his college career at Illinois in 1946.

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Agase

Elyria struggles past Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Elyria slipped into Fremont Friday night and struggled out with a 56-51 win over Ross.

It was the 14th win against no losses for the No. 3 state ranked Pioneers and Concluded at least a share of the Buckeye Conference crown. Elyria is now 11-0 in BC play while Ross is winless at 0-15 and 0-11 for the conference.

"That's the worst that we have shot this season," mused Elyria Coach Mike Riley but rejected the idea that Ross' slow pattern of offense may have been responsible.

"They were using a half-court offense," Riley described the Little Giants' pattern of play, "and all they were looking for was for baseline shots. Of course when we got the ball, we were not scoring so we could not get into our full court press."

Riley suffered as his team suffered with 19 of 44 free throws and only nine field goals in 40 attempts in the second half. The Little Giants had a hand but Elyria's top two scorers, 6-9 Richard Montague and 5-9 Hubert Oliver, managed only a combined 11 buckets in 40 attempts between them.

Ken Miller, Ross's coach, pointed out that his team's tempo, which at times took 30-50 seconds for a shot, may have had a little something to do with slowing down the potent Elyria offense.

"Sometimes good teams will push the panic button when the tempo changes," Miller said. "Sometimes it throws off the team's offensive and defensive patterns.

"Elyria is a very talented ball team," Miller continued, "and with such an outstanding team as Elyria, we knew we could not run up and down the floor with them — that would be playing right into their hands."

Ross's slowdown may have disrupted the Pioneers' offense, but it did not have a pronounced effect on the pressing, swarming, trapping zone defense and the tight man-to-man that Riley's team used.

"I thought we played good defense," Riley said. "When you have a shooting night like this, the defense has to be good."

Elyria did not begin to shake loose from Ross until the third period. The pattern play kept Ross within 11, 27-16, at the half and Miller still felt his team had a shot.

"This day and age of basketball, anytime when you are within 11-15 points, you are still in the game," Miller said.

But Elyria's stingy defense forced six Ross turnovers in the first five minutes of the third period and the Pioneer offense was functioning just well enough to open up a 37-31 lead.

With Montague and Oliver taking charge of the boards, Elyria steadily pulled away for good. Montague, after hitting eight in the first half, dropped in seven more points in the last half to lead all scorers with 15 points. The Pioneer all-Ohio hopefully corralled 12 rebounds as Elyria completely dominated the boards 42-17. Twenty-four of the rebounds were of the offensive variety.

Oliver hit only six of 17 shots for 12 points but grabbed eight rebounds and caused numerous Ross miscues while on defense.

Randy Hammer led Ross with five of 13 shooting for 10 points but fouled out of the game with 7:24 to go. He was the second Ross player whistled to the sidelines — Eddie Jones had departed with 6:25 to go in the third frame.

Mike Miller added eight points for Ross, who was led twice in the game at 2-0 and 6-4.

Ross was guilty of 23 turnovers and Elyria 13.

The Little Giants hit 12 of 39 from the floor. In the junior varsity game, Ross led 23-18 at the half but could not find the bucket in the second half, losing 47-35. Mike Schlesa had 13 points for Ross and Mike Collins came on 14 for Elyria.

Ross's next game will be Tuesday when it hosts Mansfield in a game that was postponed from Jan. 28. It will be the last home game of the season for Ross. The JV game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

VARSITY GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	18	9	14	15-36
Elyria	8	8	5	10-31

SCORING

Elyria — Lindquist 1-2, Trice 8-12, Montague 5-5-15, Byrd 5-5-4, Oliver 6-6-12, Williams 5-5-13, Underman 5-5-2, Ross

1-0-2; totals 19-18-56

Ross — Miller 4-6-8, Jones 1-0-5, Williams 0-4-4, Hammer

5-10, Zimmerman 0-1-1, Price 1-0-4, Beth 1-0-2; totals 17-7-31

Season records: Elyria 14-6 (11-0), Ross 0-14 (0-10)

JV GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	7	11	10	19-47
Elyria	12	11	4	35

SCORING

Elyria — Frys 2-5-8, Lindquist 1-2-4, Schaefer 2-3-5, Collins

6-2-14, McCullough 5-1-7, Zimmerman 2-3-6, Lorbach 5-1-1,

Montague 1-0-2; totals 19-11-47

Ross — Burel 1-0-4, Cook 3-0-6, Shetler 1-0-4, Homes 3-0-6, Schlesa 0-1-1, Brudzinski 1-0-2; totals 15-9-35

Massengale: loving leader

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Rik Massengale is leading. And he loves it.

Bruce Lietzke is just a little bit back and he likes that, too.

"I've won two tournaments I've won, both at Tallahassee and Hartford. I've led all the way," said Massengale, the leader all the way in the \$200,000 Bob Hope Desert Classic and the owner of a four-stroke advantage at the end of Friday's third round.

"I like to play from the lead—if possible, way out in front. I like being where I am. Hopefully, I'll just get there."

Chasing him is the game's hottest player, the 25-year-old, hard-hitting Lietzke who now has a string of 24 consecutive rounds at par or better, already has won twice this season and, suddenly, has hit the tour with bombshell effect.

"I've responded well to pressure so far," he said, "but there's no telling what may happen if I get out there in front."

Each cooled off slightly in the third round of this unique, five-day, 90-hole event, had a two-under-par 70 and went into Saturday's play with Massengale showing a 200 total, 16 under par, and Lietzke second.

Veteran Gay Brewer romped into contention with a six-under-par 66 and was third alone at 205. He was followed by Hubert Green, 69-206, Wally Armstrong, 71-207 and Ron Cerrudo, 70-208.

South African Gary Player, making his first start of the year in this country, headed a group of five at 209 after a 68. Australian Jim Ferrier, 69-209, and Arnold Palmer, 69-209, and was tied at 210 with Lee Elder, who also shot a 68 despite the huge gallery he estimated at 10,000 that followed him and his three amateur partners, one of whom was former President Gerald Ford.

Individual scores are not compiled on the amateurs.

Sports in Brief

BASEBALL

CHICAGO — Bill Madlock, two-time National League batting champion whom the Chicago Cubs had traded to the Atlanta Braves, has been traded for Bobby Murcer, the former-run hitter whom the San Francisco Giants were unable to sign. Three other players were involved.

TENNIS

COLUMBUS — Too-seeded Yvonne Vermaak of



KEEPING BOTH EYES on the ball is Elyria's Robert Trice (21) while the entire Ross team watches the action. Tim Price is behind Trice while from

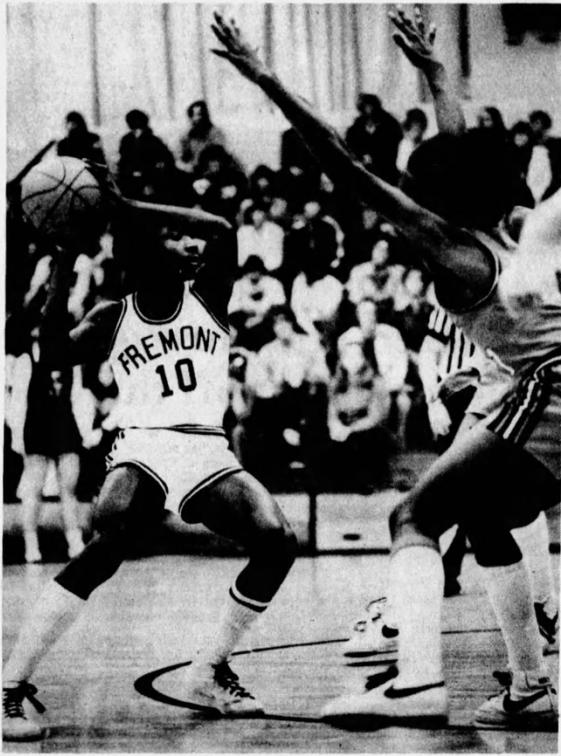
front to back at the left are Ross's Tim Belch, Dave Zimmerman, Larry Williams, and Mike Miller.



A NEW VERSIÓN of the "bump" is demonstrated by Ross's Larry Lindquist during fourth quarter action at Ross Friday night. (News-Messenger photo by Bruce Crippen)

The mile is the thing tonight on K of C Track Meet menu

By MIKE HADDIE Games. He hopes to lead champion Francis Larion



TIM PRICE (10) of Ross has some waving arms of a Mansfield player in front of him as he desperately looks for someone to

throw to. Mansfield got a quick start on the Little Giants for a 77-63 victory. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)

Baron deal falls through

CHICAGO (AP) — The turnaround could not have been much more complete. A long day of negotiations Monday appeared to have found new ownership for the troubled Cleveland Barons. Then, a few hours later, the prospective

deal had fallen through and every problem had returned.

National Hockey League President Clarence Campbell, looking haggard and sullen, said Tuesday, "My understanding of the arrangement is that the proposed deal...has collapsed completely." Ownership was to have been transferred from Mel Swig to Sanford Greenberg, owner of The Coliseum in Richfield, Ohio, where the Barons have played their home games to an average of 5,248 fans this season.

"The offer included \$1 million in new money to finance the operation for the rest of the year plus a personal commitment to raise another \$3-4 million to continue the team," according to Coliseum President Peter Larsen.

That money could have been put to good use, since the players were not paid Feb. 1 nor Tuesday, the 15th of the month.

Swig said he would pay the

players for the Feb. 1 payroll by midnight Thursday, thereby forestalling their becoming free agents under NHL bylaws. But he will be faced with a similar deadline in two weeks.

Swig's attorney, Howard Nemirovski, said, "The piece of paper shown to me (Greenberg's offer) was for less than \$1 million and did not have in it an unequivocally firm commitment to raise additional money."

Swig added that "The deal presented to us was best expressed as 'locked in concrete'-impossible to be changed in any way." That precluded an agreement on the transaction, he said, causing Greenberg to pull out of the picture.

"With the rejection, it absolutely ends any hope of keeping the team alive—at least from Sandy's (Greenberg's) view," said Larsen.

Campbell added a somber note after completing two harried days of attempts to save the team in meetings. "We came here with some expectation of a change in ownership. That's not possible now," he said.

That left the players in a situation similar to the one they have endured for the last several months: doubt. NHL Players Association head Alan Eagleson said in Toronto that "there is some confusion as to whether the rest of the Cleveland games will be played in Cleveland and some will be played in other cities."

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Curry leads Tygers past Ross 77-63

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

Dave Ballenger had his day but Mansfield and Wayne Curry had a better one.

Curry made like an All-American while dumping 25 points and propelling Mansfield past the winless Ross (0-16) Little Giants 77-63 Tuesday night at Ross High School in a Buckeye Conference basketball clash.

Ballenger, Ross's lone senior, received the night's biggest cheer from the sparse Ross following when he strode onto the court with 1:50 to play in the third period. The little used Ballenger, along with another sub, Bill Burel, transferred that near ovation into some hustling play on the floor that brought Ross back from as far as 22 points down to within nine late in the final period.

"Ballenger and Burel came off the bench," Ross Coach Ken Miller confirmed, "and ignited us. Hammer started to hit, too, and well, the kids played with a lot of heart."

Ballenger tossed in five points and Burel four in the final period as Ross outscored the Tygers 25-22 but the period was easily the most impressive of the game for Ross. Hammer, who finished with 23 points, dropped in five buckets in the final eight minutes in helping key Ross's improved play.

But Curry could not be stopped.

After scoring 19 points in the first half, he came back for eight more in the last 16 minutes to finish with 27 for the game. The 5-11 junior also grabbed his share of rebounds.

Curry's first half hot hand spurred the Tygers to a 20-4 lead after one period and a 42-21 margin at the half.

"That first half was a nightmare," Miller shuddered in the quiet Ross locker room after the game. "Once we got untracked in the second half, we looked alright."

But the first half was the story. Ross had 15 turnovers in the first period and 20 all told in the first half. The Little Giants hit only two of 12 shots in the first quarter and only nine of 26 in the first half.

Mansfield alternated 2-3 and 1-2-2 zone defenses with a half-court trap and tight man to man to force the Little Giants into the numerous miscues.

It was another story in the second half.

With Ross's defense forcing the Tygers into turnovers along with the Ballenger-Burel-Hammer boost, the Little Giants chipped away at the big Mansfield lead.

Ballenger canned two buckets at the start of the final period to cut the Tyger lead to 57-42. Cliff Belmer tipped in one of his 18 rebounds for Mansfield to up the Tyger lead to 57-42 but the Little Giants went on a 10-4 spurt to make it 61-52 with four minutes to play.

Belmer and Curry canned back to back buckets to give the Tygers some breathing room but Hammer and Edditt Jones hit for Ross to bring Ross back to 67-58, but that's when the Ross charge ran out of gas.

Orin Butler hit from in close for Mansfield and Jerry Powell dropped in three layups in the final two minutes as Mansfield finished strong for the win.

Belmer's rebounding guided the Tygers to a 51-29 margin on the boards.

Larry Williams of Ross fouled out with 1:35 to play in the third period but not before he dropped in five of seven shots for 10 points making him second high for the Little Giants.

Both teams were fairly warm from the field with Ross canning 26 of 57 for 46 per cent and Mansfield a notch higher percentage-wise with 32 of 68.

In the junior varsity game, Mansfield stopped Ross 44-40, outscoring the Little Giants 11-7 in the final period after breaking a 33-33 third quarter deadlock.

Evie Fagin popped in 16 to lead the Tygers and Mike Schles's 16 topped the Little Giants.

Score by quarters

Mansfield	20	23	12	22-77
Ross	4	17	17	25-63

Scoring

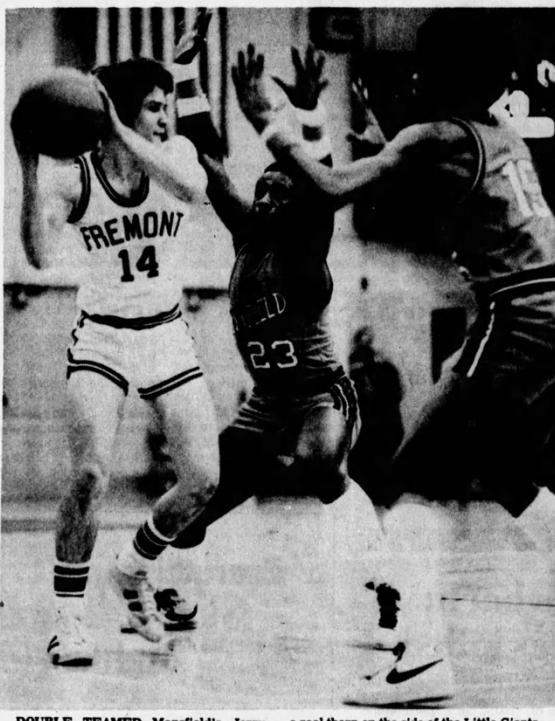
MANSFIELD — Jefferson 3-1-7, Butler 5-0-10, Belmer 7-18, Curry 11-5-27, Powell 5-3-13, Carter 1-0-2; totals 32-13-77
--

ROSS — Miller 4-1-9, McGilton 2-2-6, Williams 5-0-10, Jones 2-2-6, Hammer 10-3-23, Burel 1-2-4, Ballenger 2-1-5; totals 26-11-63
--

Season records: Mansfield 6-8 (4-7), Ross 0-16 (0-12)

JV game

Score by quarters
Mansfield 9 11 13 11-44
Ross 6 13 14 7-40



DOUBLE TEAMED Mansfield's Jerry Powell (23) and Wayne Curry (14) appear to have Ross's Tim Belch (14) trapped at the side as Belch looks for help. Curry was

a real thorn on the side of the Little Giants as he scored 27 points in Ross's final home game.

Two left for Ross

Ross has a two-game season left on the hardwood and for Coach Ken Miller's squad, it still has a chance to be a bit of a "spoiler" in the Buckeye Conference basketball race.

The top spot has already been decided; Elyria took care of that by thumping Marion Harding 57-50 Tuesday night for its 12th straight BC victory and 16th overall, against no losses. That clinched the title for the Pioneers.

The only contest left in the conference is for second place and Ross will meet both teams who have a shot at the spot.

The Little Giants will make the long trip to Lorain Admiral King Friday night to face the surging Admirals, winners of six straight and a 12-5 record. The Admirals hold an 8-5 slate in conference play and trail Findlay by a half game in the race for second.

Ross will play at Findlay (7-4 in the conference) in a rescheduled game on Feb. 25.

Ross, losers of 16 in a row this season, have nothing to lose and a lot to gain with wins in the last two season encounters. In the last four of five games, the Little Giants has shown flashes of good sound play, mostly in the second half of play.

First half play has been nothing to speak about, but in the four games (Elyria was the fifth and the state ranked Pioneers were

much too powerful for Ross) the Little Giants have outscored its opposition in the second half in every game.

Ross lost to Sandusky by five and Perkins by three but led late in the game. Against Lorain, the Little Giants did put together three good quarters of play while leading for those three periods before faltering and losing by five in the final period. Against Mansfield on Tuesday, the Little Giants rebounded from a 22-point deficit at the half to close to within nine twice in the final period before losing by 13.

Keying the Little Giants' attack in the recent improvement has been Randy Hammer and Larry Williams consistently with splashes of solid play by Eddie Jones, Mike Miller, and Steve McGilton. That's the five that is expected to start against Admiral King.

Hammer has pumped in 87 points in the last five games for a 17.4 average while Williams has been coming alive on the boards as well as showing a deft touch in shooting.

In the first game with Admiral King, Ross was felled 63-49.

The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday with the varsity contest at approximately 8:15.

Admirals conquer Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

LORAIN — Admiral King won two battles within one big battle here Friday night while disposing of Ross's reeling Little Giants 87-43 in a Buckeye Conference laugher.

The Admirals, now 13-5 and 9-5 in the BC, won the "battle of the first half" with its varsity and added a little icing on the cake with another victory in the fourth quarter's "battle of the benches."

In the first battle, the Admirals cashed in on five of seven Ross turnovers in the final three and one-half minutes of the half to break open what had been a fairly close game. Within that span, the Admirals went from a 28-22 advantage to a commanding 41-22 lead at the half.

That turnover created turmoil sent Ross's regulars to the splinters. Ross field general Ken Miller did not mince words while explaining the move that benched Ross starters Mike Miller, Randy Hammer, Steve McGilton, Larry Williams, and Eddie Jones for the duration of the second half.

"Lack of ability is one thing," Miller said tersely, "but there is no excuse for lack of desire to play.

"There was no way for them to have their mind on the game and make the number of turnovers that we had . . . there were missed layups, balls shot that missed the basket completely, and bad passes," the Ross coach said as he itemized his team's lapses in the final stages of the first battle.

Continuing, Miller explained, "I am not used to having players not

making an effort and I'm not going to get used to it now."

Miller began the second half with Tim Belch and Tim Price at the guards, Dave Zimmerman at center, Nick Frey and Dave Ballenger were at the wings. Intermingled with that group was Bill Burel who eventually led Ross in scoring with 10 points.

Admiral King kept its regulars in during the third period in which the AK lead swelled to 33 points, 63-30. Mike Cook, a 6-4 senior, drilled in 26 points in his three quarters of action for the Admirals and Lowell Simmons added another dozen.

Admirals' Coach Mitch Gillam set the stage for the "second battle" by clearing his bench at the start of the final eight minutes. Gillam's reinforcements topped off the evening by outscoring Ross's game but tiring reserves 24-13.

Niles Price led the AK bench minders with 10 fourth quarter points.

Ross committed 17 turnovers in the first half with the last seven the most glaring. Up till that time, McGilton's nine points had kept the Little Giants close. In the last half, the former bench warmers turned player added 19 miscues to that total in an evening that seemed like one big turnover for the Little Giants.

Admiral King canned 36 of 83 shots for 43 per cent while Ross hit a meager 13 of 47 for 28 per cent. The Admirals controlled the boards 42-26.

"We are going to have to shake up things," Miller said quietly. "True, it's the end of the season but

we have got to get people who want to play and are eager to play."

Ross has only one more regular season game at Findlay on Feb. 25 before heading into tournament action.

In the junior varsity game, the Little Giants racked up their fourth win in 17 outings by coming from as far as 10 down in the last quarter to nip the Admiral JVs 61-60.

Mike Schlea's driving layup with 10 seconds to play gave Ross the win. Along the way, the Little Giants had key buckets from Brian Szakovits and Kevin Cook in the last minute and a half of play.

Schlea led Ross in scoring with 20 points, 17 in the second half. Lawrence Holmes scored 14 and grabbed 20 rebounds for the Little Giants.

VARSITY GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	12	10	8	13-43
Admiral King	18	23	22	24-87

SCORING

ROSS — Jones 0-4-4, Williams 1-1-3, McGilton 2-5-9, Hammer 2-0-4, Zimmerman 0-2-2, Price 0-1-1, Belch 0-1-1, Ballenger 2-1-5, Frey 2-1-5, Burel 4-2-10; totals 13-17-43

ADMIRAL KING — Tarpley 3-1-7, Pagan 3-2-8, Cook 11-4-26, Simmons 5-2-12, Hilliard 3-0-6, Ballish 3-0-6, Wilson 1-0-2, Price 3-5-11, Grandetti 2-1-5, Nieves 2-0-4; totals 36-15-87

Season records: Admiral 13-5 (9-5), Ross 0-17 (0-13)

JV GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	14	11	15	21-61
Admiral King	8	16	24	12-60

SCORING

ROSS — Burel 2-2-6, Cook 4-1-9, Szakovits 1-0-2, Shetzer 1-4-6, Holmes 7-0-14, Schlea 8-4-20, Brudzinski 0-2-2, Fahrbach 1-0-2; totals 24-13-61

ADMIRAL KING — Everson 1-0-2, Shorts 3-0-6, Wicks 3-1-7, D. Nieves 6-0-12, Adams 1-0-2, Baker 1-0-2, Knezelis 2-0-4, Simmons 1-1-3, T. Nieves 6-2-14, Rybarczyk 1-0-2, Morrison 3-0-6; totals 28-4-60

Findlay last test for Ross

Ross basketball Coach Ken Miller has relented from a stand he took Friday night after Ross had absorbed its 17th straight loss this season.

Vowing to "shake up" the Little Giants after the 87-43 blistering at the hands of Admiral King, Miller said Wednesday

that "you will probably see some new faces," for Friday's final game at Findlay.

Miller nullified a wholesale shifting of junior varsity players up to the varsity level for the final regulation season game.

"We don't necessarily want to break up the

reserve team at this late stage of the season," he said.

Miller did say that Bill Burel and Lawrence Holmes will be seeing action for the Little Giants. Burel came off the bench to score a Ross game high 10 points Friday.

Holmes, one of the mainstays of Coach Alex Clark's JV team, will be making his first varsity appearance.

As far as Burel is concerned, Miller said, "I don't know whether we will start him at this time (Wednesday)."

Findlay is 11-6 overall and 9-4 in the Buckeye Conference. The Trojans must defeat Ross to take the number two spot outright in the conference race. A loss would drop Findlay into a tie with Admiral King for the runnerup spot.

Leading Findlay is 6-4 Mike Brickman who is ranked fourth in the conference in scoring with a 15.6 points per game and second in rebounding with a 13.0 average.

The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Findlay High School.

Reardon hits 22 for Broncos

Mike Reardon, former All-Ohio basketball player for Fremont Ross, scored 22 points to top Western Michigan Wednesday in a Mid-American Conference basketball game against Miami of Ohio.

Miami, however, dulled Reardon's performance by thumping the defending MAC champs 76-66 to end any chances of the Broncos repeating as conference titlists.

Reardon is a junior at WMU.

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Ripped off!

Trojans trip Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Ross got ripped off but it was not on the basketball floor here Friday night.

Host Findlay safely locked up second place in the Buckeye Conference basketball race while Ross's locker room, somehow, was unlocked. The locked-unlocked situation cost Ross seven basketballs and junior Larry Williams a watch as thieves ransacked the Little Giants' possessions.

The Trojans, while the goods were being spirited away beneath the Ross fans in the locker room, overpowered the Little Giants on the court 76-52. The win gave the Trojans a 10-4 mark, one game ahead of Admiral King, in the conference race and a 12-6 record overall.

The loss for Ross ended the school's worst mark ever for a regular season at 0-18 overall and 0-14 in the BC. It is the first time that a Ross team has not won at least one game in a season in nearly 60 years of basketball history at the school.

Ross Coach Ken Miller was at a loss for words and summed up his feelings briefly.

"Before the game," he recalled, "I just asked the kids to give all they had. I told them that the only way they could embarrass

themselves was if they did not do that.

"They tried hard and there is no more that I could ask from them."

Findlay canned 10 of 15 shots in the first period to launch itself on a torrid night of shooting. Before the evening was over, the Trojans had canned 33 of 64 shots for 51 per cent shooting.

"Yeah," Coach John Stozich agreed when asked if this was Findlay's best shooting night of the season. "We shot 50 per cent or better every quarter.

"They were not all layups, either," Stozich, who was carrying a 102-degree temperature and suffering from an intestinal disorder, pointed out. "A bigger portion of those were from 18-20 feet out."

Stozich, paled because of his illness, was doubly distressed about the ripoff in the Ross locker room. "I feel badly about that," he said.

Mike Brickman, Findlay's 6-4 senior pivotman, poured in 10 of 17 shots for 21 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the balanced Trojan attack. His 16 caroms gave him the conference rebounding title, four ahead of Richard Montague of conference champ Elyria.

Scott Brooks hit eight of 14 for 16 points to finish second in the Trojan scoring parade. In all, 11 Trojans crashed the scoring column.

Sophomore Steve McGilton led Ross with 12 points and junior Randy Hammer added 11. Ross hit only 18 of 61 shots, unofficially, for 29.5 per cent. The Little Giants were guilty of 28 turnovers.

Findlay led after one quarter 20-10 as Brickman dropped in five of seven shots and upped that lead to 37-26 at the half. The Trojans put the game away with a 20-8 explosion in the third frame.

In the junior varsity game, Findlay grabbed a 59-48 win to end the Little Giants' JV mark at 4-14. Mike Schleia hit 18 points to top Ross as nine Ross JV players scored.

VARSITY GAME
SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	10	16	8	18-52
Findlay	20	17	20	19-76

SCORING

ROSS — Miller 3-0-6, Jones 1-2-4, Williams 1-0-2, Hammer 5-1-11, McGilton 5-2-12, Price 0-2-2, Zimmerman 0-4-4, Holmes 1-0-2, Burel 1-0-2, Ballenger 1-5-7; totals 18-16-52

FINDLAY — Brickman 10-1-21, Brooks 8-0-16, Dean 4-1-9, Gase 0-2-2, Jefferies 3-1-7, Mahoney 2-1-5, Rieker 1-0-2, Wiseman 1-2-4, Wickard 1-1-3, Kahle 2-0-4, Belle 1-1-3; totals 33-10-76

Season records: Findlay 12-6 (10-4), Ross 0-18 (0-14)

JV GAME
SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	6	14	11	17-48
Findlay	13	16	10	20-58

SCORING

ROSS — Rosenberger 1-0-2, Avers 0-2-2, Cook 3-2-8, Szakovits 1-2-4, Shetzer 1-2-4, Eicher 2-2-6, Schleia 6-6-18, Brudzinski 2-0-4; totals 16-16-48

FINDLAY — Longberry 4-0-8, Accord 4-0-8, Pulcheon 7-0-14, Replogle 2-1-5, Smith 0-1-1, Bell 8-3-19, Miles 0-2-2, Myers 0-2-2; totals 25-9-59

Hammer on BC third team

Randy Hammer of Ross was named to the third team of the All-Buckeye Conference squads announced today. He was the only Ross player mentioned in the balloting by the coaches.

Elyria dominated the team selections with four players plus hauling down the "coach of the year" and "player of the year" awards.

Richard Montague was given the conference's top player award for the second straight year. The 6-9 Elyria senior has been a starter for the Pioneers all three years of his varsity career.

Besides Montague on the first team, Elyria placed Hubert Oliver on the second unit, Steve Lindquist on the third team, and Robert Trice on the third team.

Rounding out the first team are Mike Brickman of Findlay, Paul Biddle of Sandusky, Mike Cook of Admiral King, Marion Harding's Bob Gooding, and Lorain's Perry Rush.

Hammer, a 5-10 junior, averaged 10.3 points a game to make the third team. With Lindquist and Hammer on the third squad are Cliff Belmer of Mansfield, Robert Pagon of Admiral King, and Trice.

On the second team were Scott Brooks of Findlay, Eric Jefferson of Mansfield, Clyde Lutsch of Marion Harding, Chuck Simmons of Admiral King, and Oliver.

Hitchen resigns

GENOA — Dave Hitchen, highly successful basketball coach for the Genoa Comets, has resigned from that position effective at the end of the season.

Hitchen's letter of resignation was accepted by the Genoa Board of Education Tuesday night, as was that of football coach Jim Firestone.

Hitchen has coached Genoa basketball for nine years. After taking over a team that had only one winning season in 10 years, Hitchen has guided Genoa to six winning seasons, including five in a row. His team has won four Suburban Lakes League championships and has been runner-up in both the Northern Lakes League and SLL.

The Comets made it to



WINNERS OF SPECIAL AWARDS for the boys were, front row, left to right: Steve McGilton, Tom Messina, Jim Smith, Hal Hawk, Mike Miller, Ray Long; back row: Brian Koenig, Randy Hammer, Jim Albright, John Lipstraw, and Jesse Heidelburg.

Ross winter athletes honored

Five Ross High School athletes received "most valuable" awards at Tuesday evening's Ross Winter Sports Awards Night.

Roxie Price and Randy Hammer were named as the most valuable players for girls and boys basketball, respectively, while Jesse Heidelburg won the top honor for wrestling. Hal Hawk and Brian Koenig shared the swim team's top honor.

Koenig and Hammer are seniors while the others are seniors.

The annual program featured 42 letter winners and/or special award winners while it honored participants in swimming, basketball, and wrestling. Also being introduced were

the Ross cheerleaders.

With coaches of the various sports handing out the awards at the Ross High School cafeteria, the special awards highlighted the program.

Heidelburg took home the night's biggest share of hardware. The Ross senior wrestler (51-4 for the past two years) added the team trophy for the most takedowns (72), the captain's trophy, and the Jaycee sponsored Mal Mackey Memorial Trophy, along with his MVP award.

Other wrestling special award winners were Ray Long, "most improved," Jim Smith, "most pins"; and Coach Al Vogenhaller presented John Lipstraw with the coaches award.

In girls basketball, Price took home the captain's trophy and the "best defensive player" award to go with her MVP trophy. Kim Myers, a junior, was voted as the team's most improved player while Coach Sue Wolf gave sophomore Paula Zimmerman the team's top rebounding trophy.

Diane Flickinger won the free throw shooting trophy for the season with a 67 per cent figure to go with a captain's trophy. Karyl Solze also was presented a captain's trophy.

Hammer topped the boys basketball awards with sophomore Steve McGilton winning the free throw shooting award. Larry Williams, a junior, won the rebounding trophy, and another junior, Mike Miller, was named the team's most improved player by Coach Ken Miller.

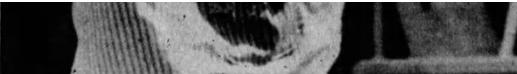
In swimming, Hawk, in

addition to sharing MVP honors, was presented a captain's trophy. Kevin Casey was also awarded a captain's trophy by Coach Art Bucci.

The most improved swimmers were Tom Messina and Jim Albright, both seniors.

There were six three-year letter winners announced: Smith, Heidelburg, and Aaron Sewell in wrestling; Messina, Hawk, and Casey in swimming.

In other announcements, Koenig and Mark Porczak were named as the captains for next season's swim team while Clarence Parks will hold that responsibility for the wrestling team.



Contact

After struggling and losing the first set, 14-year-old Tracey Austin, of Rolling Hills, Calif., came back to defeat Kate Latham 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the opening round of the \$110,000 Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head, S.C. (AP Laserphoto)

Cavs rout Celtics 110

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — The Boston Celtics seem to bring out the best in the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Boston Coach Tom Heinsohn doesn't like that.

Cleveland's 110-82 rout of the Celtics Tuesday night gave the Cavaliers a 3-0 edge over Boston this season and their first season series victory over the defending National Basketball Association champions in Cleveland's seven years in the league.

"My team is getting into the bad habit of playing any kind of basketball and thinking we can get back in the second half," growled Heinsohn. "I don't like my team's attitude right now."

"There's no excuse," he added. "We had 'em 27-27 and they (the Cavaliers) just wanted it more. We played a bummer last week (against Washington), too, and that's why I'm perturbed."

Cleveland broke out of the 27-27 tie with 10 straight points, ran off a 29-12 edge the rest of the first half and put it away with a 31-21 third-period.

The victory, combined with Kansas City's triumph over the New York Knicks, cut Cleveland's magic number to two. Any combination of Cleveland victories and Knicks losses totaling two will assure the Cavaliers a spot in the playoffs.

The victory also moved the Cavaliers one game ahead of the Celtics in their battle for the fifth playoff position in the NBA Eastern Conference.

"We shot very well tonight, but the key to the game was our defense," explained Cleveland Coach Bill Fitch. "We were just swarming over 'em most of the time out there. They didn't get any easy baskets until that last quarter."

"I'm sure that Heinsohn peeled the paint in their locker room at halftime," Fitch said, "and they really came out running. But we got back well most of the time and they didn't get that many shots."

Austin Carr led the Cavs with 14 in the decisive shots from the field and can Cleveland shot 47 per cent rebounded the Celtics 44.

Bobby Smith and Jim Clegg had 10 each in the third period, each adding 12 in the first half.

When Heinsohn was a player, reported in the ringer, he said darkly, "I don't like my uniform off and don't play ready to play basketball."

"I want us to get ready," he said. "We can't play seven or eight to the playoffs and turn on."

Fitch, on the other hand, worked hard the last three can ask at this time of the every time out and maybe for those guys who

Pro Baseball

Tuesday's Results
0 St. Louis (N) 1, Houston (N)
0 Montreal (N) 6, Los Angeles (N) 5
1 New York (A) 3, Toronto (A)
1 Kansas City (A) 4, Chicago (A)
1 Detroit (A) 10, Pittsburgh (N) 8



GIRLS BASKETBALL award winners at Ross are shown above. Left to right are Kim Myers, Paula Zimmerman, and Diane Flickinger. Not present for the photo were Roxie Price and Karyl Solze.



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