

1986-1987 Season Review



ROSS BOYS basketball team members are, left to right, front row: Kevin Crawford, Scott Nossaman, Tracy McGee, John Stierwalt, Manoh Jones, Kevin Jones; back row: student

trainer Bob Fitzgerald, Nick Hall, Chris Mosser, Mike Wolfe, John Cahill, Tracy Hufford, Kevin McDonald and manager Steve Shimer.

New coach guides Ross boys

Pat McGhee will have a pair of two-year lettermen and two other lettermen to build his first edition of the Ross High School boys basketball team.

McGhee brings a five-year head coaching record of 48-61 to Ross with stints at Cardinal Stritch and most recently Springfield Local. He takes over for John Sawyer, who resigned last spring. McGhee's most successful year as a coach was 18-8 at Stritch when his team was Class AA regional runner-up.

John Cahill and John Stierwalt are Ross's two-year lettermen. Cahill, at 6-4, is one of 10 Little Giants six-feet or taller. Stierwalt is 6-0. Kevin Brooks and Nick Hall lettered last season while coming off the bench. Hall, a 6-4 junior, missed the last half of the season season because of a broken ankle.

Junior Mike Wolfe, 6-7, is the tallest of the Little Giants while senior Chris Mosser is 6-5.

"We want to go inside because we do have decent size," McGhee said.

That size will hopefully be the key to helping Ross run, the new coach agreed.

"We have the potential to have a lot of depth," he explained. "We have a lot of kids with good athletic ability. It just has to come through. That will tell how deep we will be."

Brooks and senior Manoh Jones, along with Stierwalt, are the guards that McGhee will be working with along with junior Scott Nossaman, who will split time with the varsity and junior varsity squads. The forwards, along with Cahill and Hall, are seniors Kevin McDonald and Tracy McGee and juniors Tracy Hufford and Kevin Crawford. With the exception of McGee, who is six-foot, Cahill and Hall, the other three are 6-1.

Mosser and Wolfe will operate out of the center slots.

"Defensively, I like to play a lot of different defenses but will primarily try to stick with man-to-man," McGhee explained, "and we will press some."

"This is my first year here,"

he reminded, "so putting in my system will take some time."

McGhee likes the fact that Ross will not open until Dec. 5, a week later than most schools.

"That extra week will be a benefit," he said. "It allows us to take a good look at the kids to see what they can do and it allowed us to give the football kids a week off."

McGhee said he likes the support he has gotten from the community, pointing out that several former basketball players from Ross and one from St. Joe have donated time.

Dave Fahrback, a one-time 6-4 center (now 6-7) for Ross who went on to play center at Otterbein, and varsity assistant coach Geoff Palmer, are working with the inside people. Palmer was a member of the state champion Sandusky St. Mary's team a few years back.

Other volunteers who graduated from Ross include Dave Aschenbach Jr., who is helping out with the guards, and John Lewis, who along with Mark Boukissen, a St. Joe grad, are working with the wing people.

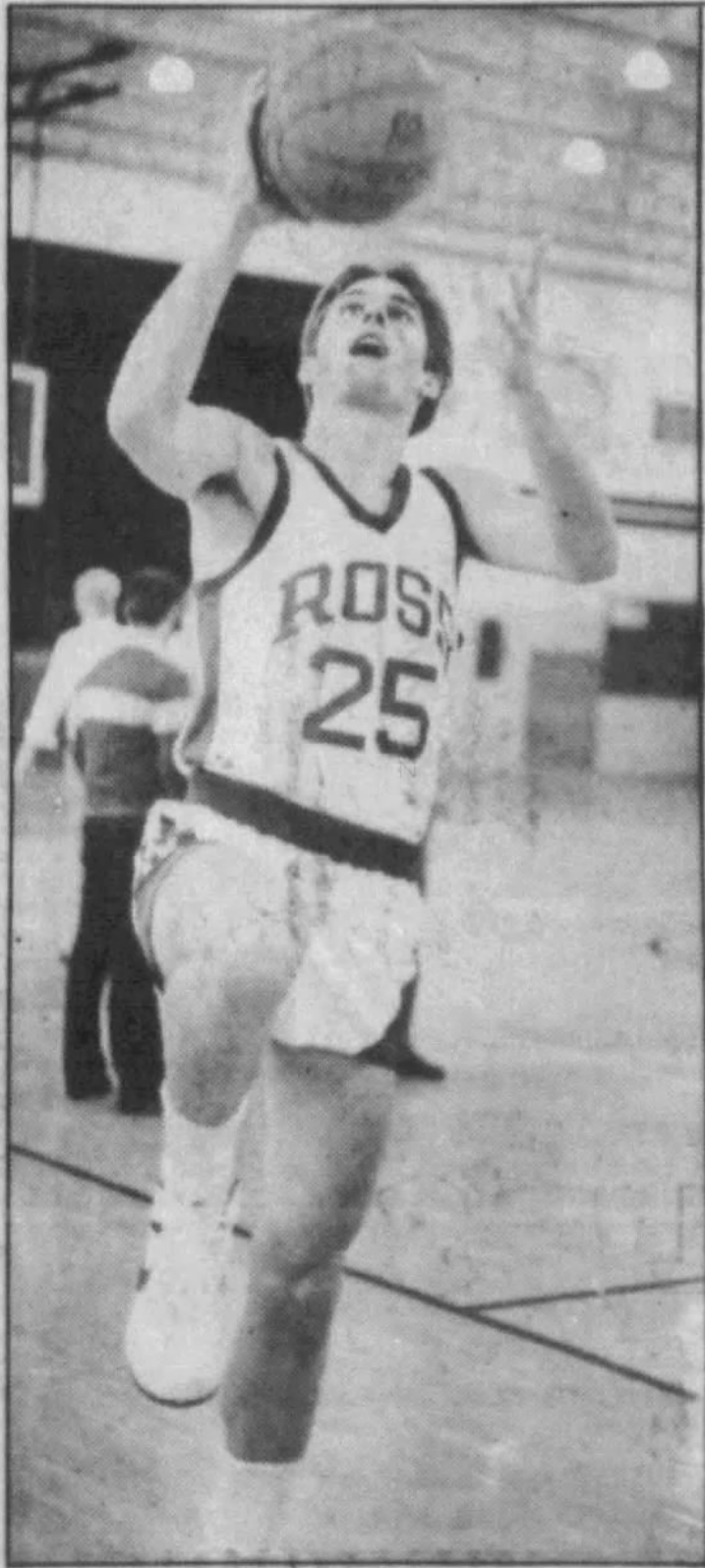
"WINTER SPORTS"

Best Wishes To
Ross Little Giants &
St. Joe Crimson Streaks
For The Coming Season!

WE CARRY ALL
YOUR BUILDING SUPPLIES

- CONCRETE BLOCK
- HOLLOW METAL
- BUILDER'S SUPPLIES
- BASEMENT SASH
- FACE BRICK
- SANDSTONE
- CEMENT
- MORTAR





JOHN CAHILL

Little Giants ready to get down to business

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Getting to know the guys was nice, but now it is time to get down to business.

"We are tired of practicing," Pat McGhee admitted, "it's time to play a game or two."

McGhee will get his wish. The first-year boys basketball coach at Ross High School will debut with his team Friday when Port Clinton invades Fremont, and on Saturday, McGhee gets another game when Perkins will play the Little Giants in the Ross pit.

"It's been good to a point," McGhee said Wednesday about the long practice weeks. "It has

helped the kids get used to a new system and the new coaching staff, and it allowed us to get the football players a week off.

"We have had some good scrimmages during those practices," McGhee continued, "but that does not replace game conditions."

McGhee, who came from Springfield Local to replace John Sawyer who resigned from the position last spring, hopes to play an upbeat game.

"We want to keep pressure on the other team, not so much with full court pressure, but by changing defenses," he explained. "We want to use a lot

of man-to-man."

"On offense, we want to run," he laughed. "I know some people say I can't do that, but I'm suicidal anyway."

"There is a difference between running wild and crazy and running under control. We are going to run under control and take advantage of the opportunities that are presented."

McGhee was hard-pressed to name a starting five for the season opener, saying that nine or 10 players could see action.

"We have to find depth," McGhee said, "and to do that, we have to give the guys

experience and we have quite a few players who do not have varsity playing time."

The lineup that McGhee did list has veterans John Cahill, 6-4, and John Stierwalt, 6-0, at the wings with Manoa Jones, 6-0, at the point guard slot. In the low post spots will be Chris Mosser, 6-5, and Nick Hall, 6-4. All are seniors with the exception of Hall, who lettered as a sophomore but had to sit out the last half of the season with a broken ankle.

Against Port Clinton, McGhee said his team will have to stop the outside game of senior guard Barry Millinger, 5-8, and the

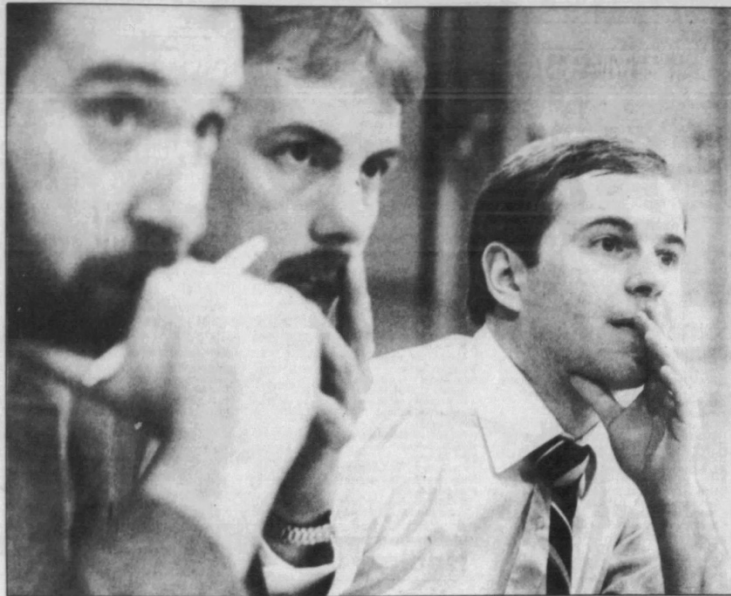
inside strength of 6-5 senior Joe Lawley.

The Redskins lost their season opener last Saturday to a hot-shooting Genoa squad 63-52. Lawley had 25 points and Millinger had 12.

McGhee would not talk much about Perkins except to say the Pirates have seven good players.

"Friday comes before Saturday," he said. "We will worry about Perkins on Saturday."

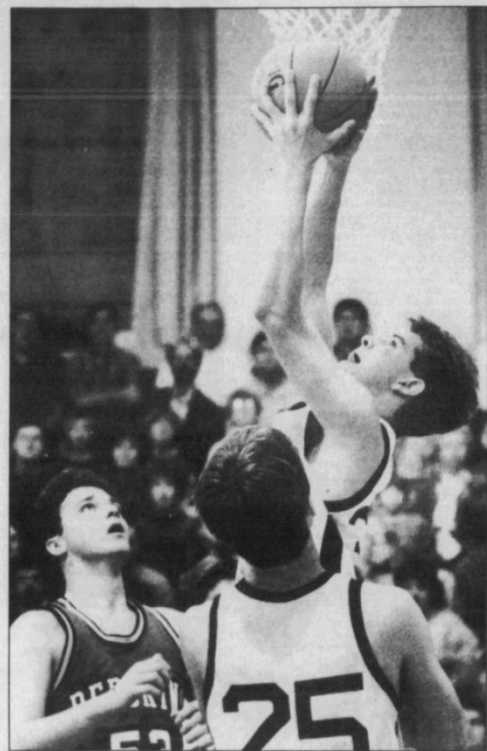
The two games mark the first of three home encounters for the Little Giants. On Dec. 12, Ross will open Buckeye Conference play by hosting Marion Harding.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

PAT MCGHEE, above right, in his first year as coach of the Ross High School Little Giants boys basketball team, intently watches the action Friday night in the Ross gymnasium. At the left is junior varsity coach Don Robinson and

in the center is varsity assistant coach Geoff Palmer. In the photo at the right, Nick Hall of Ross grabs a rebound during early action. Hall's teammate, John Cahill (25), and Joe Lawley (53) of Port Clinton watch. Hall had 22 points.



Ross opens season with a win

Big second-half performance lifts Little Giants past Redskins 56-42

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross pulled off a second-half coup that disposed of Port Clinton in the Ross High School pit Friday night.

"We let them dictate the tempo of the game in the first half," first-year Ross Coach Pat McGhee said after his team pulled away in the final half for a 56-42 victory in the basketball season opener for the Little Giants.

"We let them dictate what they were going to do (in the second half)," Port Clinton Coach Tom Bodager countered after his team lost for the second time in as many games.

The Redskins rebounded from a 14-8 deficit late in the first quarter with an eight-point run to grab a 16-14 lead 2½ minutes into the second quarter. Joe Lawley tossed in four points, Jeff Below and Tom Sheppard had two apiece in the run.

Nick Hall, a 6-4 junior, had propelled Ross into a 14-12 first-quarter lead with eight of his game-high 22 points.

After the Redskins' burst in the first few minutes of the second quarter, both teams turned cold. The Redskins eventually escaped to the locker room with a 20-19 lead after leading by as many as four in the second period.

In the third quarter, McGhee had his finger on the thermostat.

"We felt we had to turn up the heat," McGhee said with a voice that reflected the effects of an emotional win for him. "We had to get back to an up-tempo game which we like to play."

The Little Giants slapped a full court defense on the Redskins, a defense that denied the ball inbounds. Twice within 30 seconds, Bodager's team was forced to call timeout.

"It wasn't the pressure that surprised me," the Port Clinton coach said, "the way we handled it did."

"Those timeouts were crucial," McGhee said. "That showed our kids that we could get after people."

Chris Mosser put Ross ahead with a layup at the 6:45 mark of the third quarter. John Stierwalt followed with a jumper 90 seconds later, but Below countered with a bucket to cut Ross's advantage to 23-22. But the press was taking its toll on the Redskins.

Port Clinton, in the first three minutes of the second half, committed four turnovers equalling the number of giveaways the Redskins had in the first 16 minutes. Two more turnovers put Ross on top 27-22 and on the way to a 38-28 lead at the end of the quarter.

Stierwalt canned six points, John Cahill five and Hall four to drive Ross into a 38-26 lead before Doug Cooper's jumper cut the Port Clinton deficit to 10 at the end of the third quarter.

The Redskins had one last rally. Below scored 40 seconds into the final quarter and Lawley followed with a bucket and two free throws to cut Ross's lead to 38-34 before McGhee turned up the heat a few more degrees.

The Ross pressure forced a turnover and Hall converted one of two free throws to break the Redskins' point run. Hall hit a layup, Mosser followed with two charity tosses and Hall converted on a steal as Ross ran off seven consecutive points for a 45-34 lead with 4½ minutes to play.

That broke the Redskins' back as the Little Giants moved out to a 52-38 lead at the 1:46 mark. It was mop-up action after that.

"We felt we had to control (Barry) Millinger and Lawley," McGhee said. "If they were going to beat us, they were going to have to do it with the others."

McGhee's team pulled off the assignment; Millinger, the Redskin point guard who had 12 against Genoa last Saturday, was held scoreless and Lawley got 14. The 6-5 senior had 25 against

Genoa but was held to six second-half points by the Little Giants.

"This is the first time we have began oh-and-two in quite some time," Bodager pointed out. "It's been eight, 10, 12 years or so."

Sheppard had 10 points to be the only other Redskin in double figures. Behind Hall's 22, Cahill and Mosser had 10 apiece for Ross.

McGhee also pointed out the efforts of Tracy McGee who started in place of the injured Manoh Jones and sixth man Kevin Brooks.

"Tracy played under some adverse conditions and played very well," the Ross coach said. "Brooks came in and played good defense."

McGee had four points but, even though just six-feet tall, helped the Little Giants control the boards.

Port Clinton was 18 of 46 from the floor and six of seven at the line. Ross was 24 of 58 and eight of 13 from the charity stripe. Both teams committed 14 turnovers but Ross held a commanding 42-23 rebounding advantage. The Little Giants pulled off 22 offensive rebounds, 13 more than the Redskins.

Ross will host Sandusky Perkins tonight, a 71-62 winner over Tiffin Calvert Friday. The JV game begins at 6:30.

Basketball

High school boys

Ross 56, P. Clinton 42

Score by quarters

Port Clinton	12	8	8	14	— 42
Ross	14	5	19	18	— 56

Scoring

PORT CLINTON — Barry Millinger 0-0-0, Joe Lawley 5-4-14, Tom Sheppard 4-2-10, Eric Rumball 0-0-0, Doug Cooper 4-0-8, Jeff Below 4-0-8, Paul Rofkar 1-0-2, totals 18-6-42.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 4-0-8, John Cahill 3-4-10, Nick Hall 10-2-22, Chris Mosser 4-2-10, Tracy McGee 2-0-4, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, totals 24-8-56.

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

Ross JVs 51, P. Clinton 27

Scoring

PORT CLINTON — Bill Wight 1-0-2, Jim Shietz 1-1-3, Jason Bodager 0-3-3, Aaron Stiefel 2-0-4, Dean Gels 5-1-11, Scott Wamsley 2-0-4, totals 11-5-27.

ROSS — Tracy Hufford 2-0-4, Seth Brickner 0-1-1, Mark Gonzales 2-0-4, Brad Hammer 4-0-8, Andy Manbeck 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 5-0-10, Maurice Jones 4-0-8, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Adam Bulger 3-0-6, totals 25-1-51.

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

Ross holds off Perkins 49-47

By BOB MARKER
Staff Writer

It was two different opinions but the result was the same: Ross pulled off a shocker Saturday night.

The Little Giants ran their record to 2-0 with a 49-47 victory over highly regarded Sandusky Perkins. The Pirates outscored Ross 24-16 in the final eight minutes and sank a last-second layup to make it that close.

Ross never trailed in the game, rolling to a 12-2 lead in the first quarter.

"Our goal is to play hard for 32 minutes," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee, "and we needed every moment of that to beat Perkins."

On the other side, Perkins Coach Pat Riley said it was "one of the worst games we have played in a long time."

"Mostly," Riley said, "we came out flat. We had one mistake right after another."

With Chris Mosser and John Stierwalt supplying the offensive spark and John Cahill and Tracy McGee controlling Perkins' scoring star Mike Wheeler, Ross rambled to as much as a 10-point lead early in the game and as many 12 points in the waning seconds of the third quarter. In the final eight minutes, Perkins began to play as well as it had badly in the first 24 minutes.

"Our defense was awful," Riley described. "We played badly until it was too late."

Mosser tossed in 16 points with eight in the final quarter. The 6-5 senior was four of four from the foul line in pressure-packed situations in the final period. Stierwalt hit 13, converting three of five free throws in the final quarter as the Pirates were chipping away at the Ross lead.

Cahill, with McGee providing relief, controlled Wheeler, a 6-3 senior, for three quarters until he dropped in 10 of his game-high 20 points in the last quarter. He was the only Pirate in double figures. Sophomore Dennis Neate came off the Perkins bench to score nine points.

"I don't think I can be prouder of a team or coaching staff," McGhee, basking the glow of his second victory as the Ross coach, said. "We came in for an hour this morning (Saturday) and went over the scouting report. I had not seen Perkins, but Geoff Palmer (assistant coach) and Don Robinson (JV coach) had scouted them and they got the kids ready."

"Then the kids went out and followed the game plan to a 'T.'"

The Ross man-to-man pressure defense harrassed the Pirates into rushed shots. In the third quarter, when Ross stretched a 23-19 halftime lead to a 33-23 advantage, the Pirates hit just one of 12 shots. The Little Giants' defense did not allow a Perkins point until 2:05 remained when Wheeler canned

a short jumper.

In the final quarter, Ross was up 37-27 when the Pirates began to get their game together. Wheeler hit two free throws and Jim Guerrera put in a layup to cut Ross's lead to 37-31. Mosser hit two free throws to give Ross a 39-31 advantage before Shane Burrows hit for Perkins. Mosser again answered with two free throws before Wheeler and Guerrera pumped in buckets to cut the Ross lead to 41-37.

Mosser put the lead back to six with a layup but Neate hit from out front to make it 43-39 with less than two minutes to play. Stierwalt hit two charity tosses with 1:24 to play but Burrows made it 45-41 with 1:17 to play.

With 50 seconds left, Kevin Brooks dished out a pass to Nick Hall for a layup and a 47-41 Ross lead, but Wheeler sank two free throws with 39 seconds to play. Stierwalt hit a free throw and Neate's bucket cut the Ross lead to 48-45 with 25 seconds to play. Hall hit a free throw to jack the lead back up to four before Perkins committed a turnover.

On the Ross toss-in, Wheeler fouled Hall intentionally but the Ross junior missed both shots with four seconds left. Because of the intentional foul, Ross got the ball back. But Wheeler stole the inbounds pass and hit the layup at the buzzer.

That shot made it close, but it was too late for Perkins.

Ross 49, Perkins 47

Score by quarters

Perkins	8	11	4	24	— 47
Ross	16	7	10	16	— 49

Scoring

PERKINS — Mike Wheeler 8-4-20, Ron Grimmer 1-2-4, Shane Burrows 2-0-4, Jim Guerrera 2-0-4, Shane Rickard 3-0-6, Dennis Neate 4-1-9, totals 20-7-47.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 5-3-13, John Cahill 4-0-8, Nick Hall 3-2-8, Chris Mosser 5-6-16, Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Kevin Brooks 1-0-2, totals 19-11-49.

Season records: Ross 2-0, Perkins 1-2.

Perkins JVs 62, Ross 43

Score by quarters

Perkins	13	14	16	19	— 62
Ross	8	6	15	14	— 43

Scoring

PERKINS — Chris Brooks 1-0-2, Dan McRae 0-2-2, David Voight 0-2-2, John Walker 0-3-3, Chadd Green 4-4-12, Bryan Lippus 1-2-4, Chad Harkelroad 7-4-18, Donnie Icsman 2-0-3, Lonell Taylor 6-3-15, totals 21-20-62.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 1-0-2, Mark Gonzales 1-1-3, Brad Hammer 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 6-0-12, Maurice Jones 2-0-4, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Adam Bulger 4-0-8, totals 21-1-43.

Season records: Perkins 2-1, Ross 1-1.

'Purple Pit Crew' becomes valuable 6th man for Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Suddenly, Ross has a "sixth man."

This guy has not seen game action but has been a key element in a 2-0 start by the surprising Little Giants. He ranges in size from probably under five feet to over the six-foot mark and he possesses many faces with many voices ... very loud voices.

For Pat McGhee, winner of his first two games as the Ross boys basketball coach, that sixth man has been invaluable.

According to the Ross coach, the sixth man is an outgrowth of new found student and community spirit and McGhee is reveling in it. If the sixth man has to have a name, it has to be "Purple Pit Crew." Purple T-shirts with the sixth man's name on the front is his trademark.

"The Purple Pit Crew originated because we felt we needed to get the student body and community involved in the program," McGhee explained. "Doc (Joe, Ross athletic trainer) Hershey said the Ross gym used to be called the purple pit and Todd Vonderheid (Ross student) came up with the name Purple Pit Crew.

"It's a group interested in this program and the school," the Ross coach continued, "and they have helped us. When we have gotten a little down, they pick us up. It has been a positive thing for us."

"It was definitely a force Saturday night against Perkins; they were something," McGhee smiled, "I think they were louder Saturday night than they were Friday night."

"Only thing I would like to see is more students and more of the community involved."

Ross opened the season Friday with a 56-42 decision over Port Clinton and pulled off an upset Saturday, leading all the way for a 49-47 win over Sandusky Perkins.

Friday, Ross hosts Marion Harding in the Buckeye Conference opener and McGhee says his team will need the help of the Purple Pit Crew and improved offensive and rebounding play.

"This is a big game to us in many ways," the Ross coach said. "Marion is 1-0 in the conference and we need to win this one to jump ahead of others in the Buckeye."

"I feel that any team going after a conference title, you have to win the first one and you have to win at home. It will be no problem this week getting the kids ready to play this one."

McGhee called Harding the most improved team in the conference and in the same breath said that it is too early to list his team under that label.

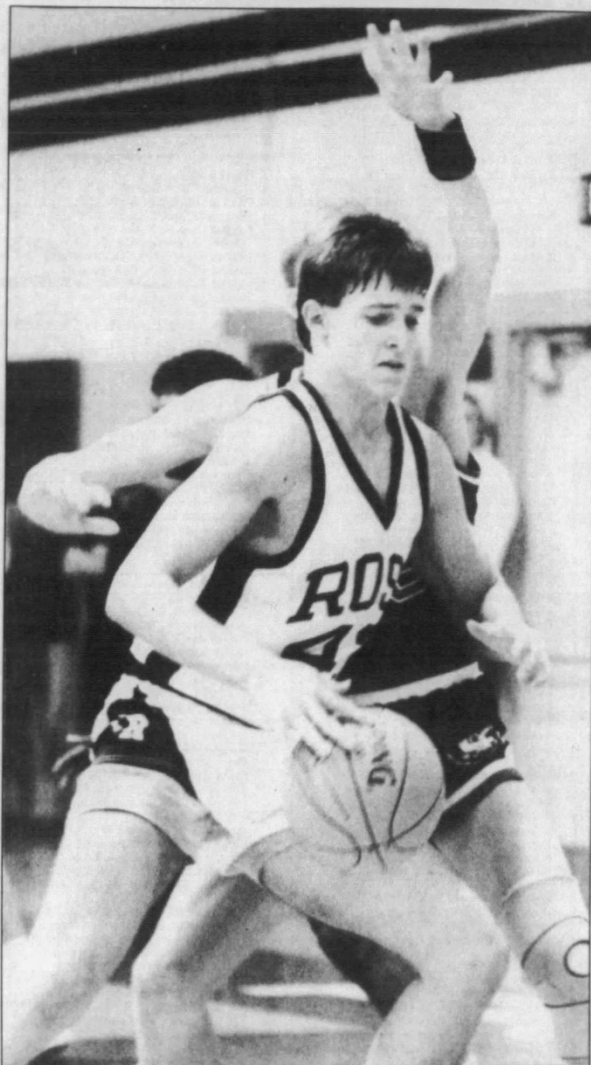
Harding is 1-3, but two of the teams it has lost to — Worthington and Columbus Beechcroft — are undefeated. Tuesday, Harding lost to Beechcroft by a 60-54 count. The Presidents' conference win was over Sandusky 66-64 in two overtimes.

John Courtwright, a junior guard, leads the Presidents with an 18 points per game average. Rick Howell, another guard in the three-guard Harding setup, has been producing 10 per game and 6-6 James Brown averages a dozen per game.

Homer McDuffie, who has been in the Harding system for several years, is in his first year

See PURPLE, Page B-3

Ross pounds Harding 63-43



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

CHRIS MOSSER of Ross starts to dribble as he cuts around a Marion Harding defender during second-half action at Ross.

Solid performance by Giants ups early season mark to 3-0

By **ROB BOUKISSEN**
Staff writer

It wasn't quite perfection, but the Ross Little Giants put together a nice little package in drubbing the Marion Harding Presidents 63-43 Friday night.

The Giants had it all — a balanced scoring attack, strong rebounding, solid defense and they led all the way. It all added up to Ross's third win in as many games and its first in the Buckeye Conference.

The only chink in Ross's armor — the only flaw that made it a 9.9 and not a 10 — was a brief lapse in the third quarter that allowed the Presidents to get back into the game.

But with the help of a technical foul on Harding Coach Homer McDuffie and their own resilient play, the Little Giants built their lead back up to the comfortable range and coasted in for the victory.

"I thought the key to the game was our defense," said Ross Coach Pat McGhee. "Our defense played very well. And we hit the boards well."

"In the third quarter, we started standing around. It took us a while to get going. The technical happened, but it's all part of the game. I just worry about what we can do."

After taking a 32-15 lead with a superb first-half performance, the Little Giants came out a bit sluggish in the third period. Harding took advantage of it by rallying to cut its deficit to 35-26 with 3:09 remaining in the period.

Manoah Jones, back in the action after missing the first two games with an ankle injury, scored to make it 37-26. The Presidents then missed a shot

and the ball ended up in the hands of Ross's Chris Mosser.

That's when all the fun began. When Mosser tried to dribble out of trouble, it appeared he may have carried the ball or travelled. But no call was made and Mosser proceeded to score at the other end.

Just as Mosser scored, the referee slapped an irate McDuffie with a technical foul. John Stierwalt sank both free throws and then John Cahill nailed a 15-footer from the baseline to give Ross what turned out to be a six-point play and a 43-26 lead with 2:24 left in the third period. Harding never got closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

Nick Hall, who played a solid all-around game, led Ross's balanced scoring attack with 15 points. Stierwalt added 14, Cahill 13, Mosser nine and Jones seven.

Hall also led the way in rebounding with 13 while Cahill had eight. The Giants outrebounded the Presidents 35-25, including a whopping 18-6 advantage in the first half.

"We played pretty well in the first half," said McGhee. "We have our point guard (Jones) back and that helped to get our break going a little bit. And it puts Stierwalt out on the wing where he's a little more comfortable."

"We also got some good inside play tonight. Mosser, Hall and Cahill really did a nice job."

Ross shot 53 percent (24 of 45) from the field to 35 percent (18 of 51) for Harding. Each team had 18 turnovers.

James Brown and John Courtright led Harding with 12 and 11 points, respectively. The Presidents are 1-4 overall and 1-1 in the Buckeye Conference.

Basketball

High school boys

Ross 63, Mar. Harding 43

Score by quarters

Marion Harding	5	10	16	12	— 43
Ross	16	16	13	18	— 63

Scoring

MARION HARDING — John Courtright 5-1-11, Rickey Howell 2-1-5, James Brown 4-4-12, David Wells 2-0-4, Craig Owens 2-0-4, William Troutman 2-0-4, Geoff Klepzig 1-1-3, totals 18-7-43.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 4-6-14, Manoah Jones 3-1-7, John Cahill 4-5-13, Nick Hall 7-1-15, Chris Mosser 4-1-9, Kevin Brooks 0-1-1, Kevin McDonald 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, totals 24-15-63.

Season records: Marion Harding 1-4 (1-1), Ross 3-0 (1-0).

Ross JVs 46, Harding 27

Score by quarters

Marion Harding	6	0	11	10	— 27
Ross	8	12	17	9	— 46

Scoring

MARION HARDING — Eric Foos 2-0-4, Carlos Prude 1-0-2, Jason Watts 0-1-1, Steve Booker 2-0-4, Shaun McGary 1-0-2, Eric Welch 2-2-6, Thurman Tackett 2-0-4, Sean Smith 2-0-4, totals 12-3-27.

ROSS — Seth Brickner 1-0-2, Mark Gonzales 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 2-0-4, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Andy Manbeck 0-1-1, Arlo Brown 3-0-6, Maurice Jones 3-0-6, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Adam Bulger 5-0-10, Brian Smith 0-1-1, Kevin Crawford 3-2-8, totals 21-4-46.

Season record: Ross 2-1 (1-0).

Ross falls to Lorain Sr. 77-53

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

LORAIN — Keepin' it close was not in Pat McGhee's mind. That went for the Lorain Steelmen, too.

Lorain, on a five-game unbeaten string, ran its Buckeye Conference record to 4-0 while handing Ross its first loss in four games 77-53 Friday night in the home of the Steelmen.

The Steelmen got the Little Giants down early, let them up only briefly, and then delivered the knockout punch in the third quarter.

"They are an excellent team," McGhee, the Little Giants boss, said, "and tonight, they were better than we were."

Lorain scored the first four points of the game, let Ross have a bucket and then outscored the Little Giants 13-4 in the final six minutes of the opening period. The Lorain lead climbed to 23-8 three minutes into the second quarter before Ross shook off the doldrums.

Ross, with John Cahill dropping in eight points and John Stierwalt five, chopped the Steelmen's lead to 27-24 with a minute to play in the half. But that was the end of the road for the Little Giants. Lorain scored the final six points of the half for a 33-24 lead at the intermission.

If there was handwriting on the wall, it was in the final 60 seconds of that first half.

Lorain outscored the Little Giants 10-4 in the first three minutes to open up a 43-28 lead and Ross was unable to trim the lead into single digits again.

Ten Steelmen scored with 6-6 Bill Nowlin leading the contingent with 16 points. Al Scott added 15 with Steve Hughes and Kevin Drummond getting 10 apiece.

Chris Mosser scored 10 points in the second half and finished with 13 to pace Ross. Cahill and Stierwalt had 10 apiece.

"Lorain did a nice job in the zone," McGhee said about the Steelmen's "2-3" zone defense that strangled the Ross inside attack.

"We got down a few baskets and decided to try some things to get back into the game but we got burned," the Ross coach continued. "We weren't trying to keep it close, we were trying to win it."

Lorain dominated the

See ROSS, Page B-3

Lorain 77, Ross 53

Score by quarters

Ross	6	18	16	13	— 53
Lorain	17	16	23	20	— 77

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 3-4-10, John Cahill 4-2-10, Chris Mosser 5-3-13, Nick Hall 3-0-6, Manoah Jones 4-0-8, Mike Wolfe 1-4-6, totals 20-13-53.

LORAIN — Al Scott 7-1-15, Steve Hughes 3-4-10, Bill Nowlin 7-2-16, Don Godlewski 3-2-8, Al McConihe 2-0-4, Phil Trinter 2-0-4, Scott Hamrlik 0-4-4, Art Udovich 0-4-4, Kevin Drummond 5-0-10, Chris Loy 1-0-2, totals 30-17-77.

Season record: 5-1 (4-0), Ross 3-1 (1-1).

Lorain JVs 52, Ross 47

Score by quarters

Ross	10	12	4	21	— 47
Lorain	13	10	16	13	— 52

Scoring

ROSS — Kevin Crawford 0-1-1, Brad Hammer 8-0-16, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 4-3-11, Maurice Jones 3-1-7, Tracy Hufford 0-4-4, Mike McGee 1-1-3, Adam Bulger 1-1-3, totals 18-11-47.

LORAIN — Chad Hamrlik 1-0-2, Joel Provenza 3-0-6, Mike Hartman 0-2-2, Jason Bandersky 3-1-7, Steve Berstling 1-0-2, John Taggart 6-4-16, Tony Robinson 6-1-13, Brendan Minnich 1-0-2, Eric Morgan 1-0-2, totals 22-8-52.

Season record: Ross 2-2.

SPORTS

Little Giants catch Blue Streak cagers on five-game slide

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Sandusky will square off against Ross Saturday night in boys high school basketball action at the Ross High School gym.

The Little Giants will be seeking their third Buckeye Conference boys basketball victory against one loss while Sandusky will be attempting to shake the doldrums of a five-game losing streak which includes an 0-4 conference record.

The Blue Streaks started the season strong, winning their first two games before beginning the victory famine.

"They have lost five in a row," Ross Coach Pat McGhee agreed, but added, "to five pretty good teams."

Saturday, Sandusky was belted by Elyria 84-66, and the night before, the Blue Streaks lost a 75-61 game to Findlay, a team Ross knocked off 62-53 Saturday.

"One thing about this game," McGhee, whose first Ross team is off to a 4-1 start, pointed out, "you can probably disregard the records of both teams; it is usually a heck of a game."

The Ross coach described Sandusky as a very quick team with balanced scoring. Four Blue Streaks are averaging in double figures.

Fritz Taylor, 6-4, leads the quartet. Shayne Fischer, 6-3, is an excellent shooter, McGhee said, and the duo of Chuck Hathorn, 6-3, and point guard Bob Garrett round out the double figure scorers.

"Garrett is also their best defensive player," McGhee said.

The Ross coach was pleased with the way his team bounced back from a 77-53 loss Friday night at the hands of unbeaten

Lorain Senior. Ironically, he feels his team played hard that night but was not rewarded.

"It was not a lack of effort at Lorain," he explained, "but it was a lack of execution and rebounding."

"Saturday, I think we learned something about our team. The way they came back is always a good sign and to play with that kind of effort two nights in a row is good."

McGhee noted that both weekend games were very physical but said he was not surprised by that.

"It was like being back in the Toledo City League," the former coach at Cardinal Stritch and Springfield Local described. "I expect every Buckeye Conference game to be in that mode."

While McGhee's team has weathered the physical play, the flu bug is another matter. The critter has been playing havoc this week, with three starters falling victim to the bite and others not feeling well.

McGhee's coaching staff has not been spared either, with varsity assistant Geoff Palmer and junior varsity coach Don Robinson battling the bug.

Three of the Ross starters were ailing the middle of this week. Monday, McGhee called off practice because of the number of players with the flu.

"One thing," he said, "we may not be 100 percent Saturday."

The JV game begins at 6:30 p.m.

Following the Sandusky game, Ross will travel to Elyria for a Jan. 3 date with the Pioneers.

Also on Saturday, the Ross girls will host Toledo Central Catholic. The JV game tipoff is at 1 p.m.

John Stierwalt dials long distance

Ross guard buries clutch jumper to cap comeback win over Sandusky

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

John Stierwalt's long distance shot with nine seconds remaining capped off an uphill battle as Ross defeated Sandusky 53-51 Saturday night in the Ross High School Purple Pit.

Ross is 5-1 for the season and 3-1 in the Buckeye Conference boys basketball race. Sandusky absorbed its sixth consecutive loss after opening with two wins and slipped to 0-5 in conference play.

"We were lucky," Ross Coach Pat McGhee freely admitted after the comeback.

The Little Giants, playing lethargically the first three quarters, wiped out a 16-point deficit — 40-24 with 2:50 remaining in the third quarter — with a 21-9 final-quarter outburst.

"Stierwalt came through and the defense they used down the stretch worked," Sandusky Coach John Schlessman said.

Schlessman was visibly upset with the officiating late in the game, but refused to comment on it. He was mostly disturbed over losing point guard Bobby Garrett with 2:23 to play, when the 5-10 senior was whistled for his third offensive foul for pushing off.

"I have been coaching 12 years and that is the first time I have had a point guard

called for pushing off three times," Schlessman said.

Ross began its comeback late in the third quarter. With McGhee's quick lineup of Chris Mosser, Manoah Jones, John Cahill, Tracy McGee and Stierwalt in the game, the Little Giants cut the Sandusky lead to 42-32 on Stierwalt's bucket with two seconds remaining in the third period.

Mosser, a 6-4 senior, dropped in nine final-quarter points to pull the Little Giants out of the depths. After canning a pair of free throws early in the period to bring the Ross deficit into single figures, he sank a pair of inside shots as Ross cut the Sandusky lead to 48-42 with 5:17 remaining.

"We did at the end of the game what we should have been doing all along and that was go inside," McGhee said.

When Ross did go outside, McGhee wanted his team in position for the rebound, and it worked for a pair of rebound buckets in the last period.

The Little Giants began their last surge when McGee took a pass from Stierwalt for a layup with 1:58 as Ross clawed back to 50-48. Fritz Taylor, who had a game-high 19 points for Sandusky, hit a free throw with 1:22 to play but missed the second and Cahill got the rebound.

Sixteen seconds later, Mosser followed his own missed shot with a rebound bucket.

Fouled on the play, the Ross senior hit the free throw to pull Ross even 51-51.

The Little Giants got the ball back with a minute to play on missed free throw by Todd Lange, Garrett's replacement. McGhee called timeout with 42 seconds to play to set up the final-second strategy.

Stierwalt's 22-footer to the right of the foul circle was not quite what McGhee wanted, but it came at the right time.

"We wanted to get the shot off with enough time left so that if it missed, we had a chance to rebound it and put it back up," the Ross coach said.

Stierwalt didn't give his teammates a chance.

Mosser finished with 15 points, Jones, who guided the Ross attack from his point guard slot, had a dozen and Cahill, playing with a six-stitch gash on the index finger of his right hand, finished with 10 points. Stierwalt had eight.

Ross, after being outrebounded 17-13 in the first half, finished with a 34-29 advantage, which included 12 offensive rebounds in the second half.

After the New Year's break, Ross will travel to Elyria Saturday, Jan. 3, to play the Pioneers, winners over Marion Harding by a lopsided 95-43 count Saturday night. Elyria is 6-1 overall and 4-0 in the BC.

Ross 53, Sandusky 51

Score by quarters

Sandusky	13	16	13	9	— 51
Ross	15	7	10	21	— 53

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Fritz Taylor 7-5-19, Chuck Hathorn 1-4-6, Sean Nickleson 3-2-8, Al Bonner 1-2-4, Bobby Garrett 6-2-14, totals 18-15-51.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 4-0-8, John Cahill 4-2-10, Chris Mosser 5-5-15, Nick Hall 2-0-4, Manoah Jones 5-2-12, Tracy McGee 2-0-4, totals 22-9-53.

Season records: Ross 5-1 (3-1), Sandusky 2-6 (0-5).

Sandusky JVs 52, Ross 47

Score by quarters

Sandusky	9	18	11	14	— 52
Ross	8	10	15	14	— 47

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Mike Delk 3-1-7, Daryl Castille 2-0-4, John Sortino 4-0-8, Demetrius Brown 4-2-10, Tracy Shoemo 9-0-18, Johnny Moore 2-0-4, Tory Nesbitt 0-1-1, totals 24-4-52.

ROSS — Scott Nossaman 1-5-7, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 1-0-2, Maurice Jones 2-0-4, Mike McGee 4-4-12, Adam Bulger 5-4-14, totals 17-13-47.

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

Ross falls to Lorain Sr. 77-53

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

LORAIN — Keepin' it close was not in Pat McGhee's mind. That went for the Lorain Steelmen, too.

Lorain, on a five-game unbeaten string, ran its Buckeye Conference record to 4-0 while handing Ross its first loss in four games 77-53 Friday night in the home of the Steelmen.

The Steelmen got the Little Giants down early, let them up only briefly, and then delivered the knockout punch in the third quarter.

"They are an excellent team," McGhee, the Little Giants boss, said, "and tonight, they were better than we were."

Lorain scored the first four points of the game, let Ross have a bucket and then outscored the Little Giants 13-4 in the final six minutes of the opening period. The Lorain lead climbed to 23-8 three minutes into the second quarter before Ross shook off the doldrums.

Ross, with John Cahill dropping in eight points and John Stierwalt five, chopped the Steelmen's lead to 27-24 with a minute to play in the half. But that was the end of the road for the Little Giants. Lorain scored the final six points of the half for a 33-24 lead at the intermission.

If there was handwriting on the wall, it was in the final 60 seconds of that first half.

Lorain outscored the Little Giants 10-4 in the first three minutes to open up a 43-28 lead and Ross was unable to trim the lead into single digits again.

Ten Steelmen scored with 6-6 Bill Nowlin leading the contingent with 16 points. Al Scott added 15 with Steve Hughes and Kevin Drummond getting 10 apiece.

Chris Mosser scored 10 points in the second half and finished with 13 to pace Ross. Cahill and Stierwalt had 10 apiece.

"Lorain did a nice job in the zone," McGhee said about the Steelmen's "2-3" zone defense that strangled the Ross inside attack.

"We got down a few baskets and decided to try some things to get back into the game but we got burned," the Ross coach continued. "We weren't trying to keep it close, we were trying to win it."

Lorain dominated the

See ROSS, Page B-3

Lorain 77, Ross 53

Score by quarters

Ross	6	18	16	13	— 53
Lorain	17	16	23	20	— 77

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 3-4-10, John Cahill 4-2-10, Chris Mosser 5-3-13, Nick Hall 3-0-6, Manoah Jones 4-0-8, Mike Wolfe 1-4-6, totals 20-13-53.

LORAIN — Al Scott 7-1-15, Steve Hughes 3-4-10, Bill Nowlin 7-2-16, Don Godlewski 3-2-8, Al McConihe 2-0-4, Phil Trinter 2-0-4, Scott Hamrlik 0-4-4, Art Udovich 0-4-4, Kevin Drummond 5-0-10, Chris Loy 1-0-2, totals 30-17-77.

Season record: 5-1 (4-0), Ross 3-1 (1-1).

Lorain JVs 52, Ross 47

Score by quarters

Ross	10	12	4	21	— 47
Lorain	13	10	16	13	— 52

Scoring

ROSS — Kevin Crawford 0-1-1, Brad Hammer 8-0-16, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 4-3-11, Maurice Jones 3-1-7, Tracy Hufford 0-4-4, Mike McGee 1-1-3, Adam Bulger 1-1-3, totals 18-11-47.

LORAIN — Chad Hamrlik 1-0-2, Joel Provenza 3-0-6, Mike Hartman 0-2-2, Jason Bandersky 3-1-7, Steve Berstling 1-0-2, John Taggart 6-4-16, Tony Robinson 6-1-13, Brendan Minnich 1-0-2, Eric Morgan 1-0-2, totals 22-8-52.

Season record: Ross 2-2.

SPORTS

Little Giants catch Blue Streak cagers on five-game slide

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Staff writer

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Season records: Ross 5-1 (3-1), Sandusky 2-6 (0-5).

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

Ross travels to 6-1 Elyria tonight

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Pat McGhee is not in favor of seeing history repeat.

The first time his Ross High School boys basketball team played outside the friendly confines of the Purple Pit, it was, as McGhee succinctly termed it, disaster.

Lorain Senior thrashed the Little Giants 77-53, a game in which Ross never did get started.

That has been the only blemish for Ross in six games this season. Tonight, McGhee's crew will be on the road for the second time, traveling to Elyria to take on the surging Pioneers.

Elyria is 6-1 with a 4-0 Buckeye Conference mark. Ross will carry a 3-1 conference record into the clash. Elyria's

only loss was to Toledo Macomber 64-59 the second game of the season.

"It's nice to be in a position where the games means something," the Ross coach said about the key early season conference game.

In the past two games, Elyria has scored 84 and 95 points while defeating Sandusky by 18 and Marion Harding by 52 points. Ross's last two wins have come over Findlay, 62-53, and Sandusky, 53-51. In the latter, the Little Giants came from 16 points behind in the last 10 minutes.

Elyria will put size and leaping ability against the Little Giants. Mark Cannon, 6-4, will team up with 6-4, 220-pound Eric Bush, 6-4 Chris Phillips and 6-1 Corey Williams.

Cannon has high-jumped seven

feet while Williams, according to McGhee, can jump as well as anyone in the conference with the exception of Cannon. Phillips comes off the bench but has fit into that role so well, that he is the fifth leading scorer in conference games with 13 per contest. Cannon ranks second in that category.

"Their main assets are quickness and depth," the Ross coach described. "they will play nine guys."

McGhee says his team must continue to execute both offensively and defensively and rebound well.

He said the Ross lineup will remain the same with Manoah Jones at the point, John Stierwalt and John Cahill on the wings with Chris Mosser and Nick Hall in the low post slots.

Ross falls to quick Pioneers

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

ELYRIA — It was a basketball game, but Ross got beat in a track meet with Elyria Saturday night.

The Pioneers outjumped and outran the Little Giants for a 79-56 Buckeye Conference basketball victory that raised Elyria's BC record to 5-0 and dropped Ross to 3-2.

The loss was also the second in as many tries on the road for Ross, which has won all five home games.

"Their quickness was no surprise," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "We got caught in a track meet with them and we cannot win a track meet."

Mark Cannon pumped in 18 points, including a pair of dunks, and blocked eight Ross shots, four in the opening quarter, to lead Elyria, 7-1. Pioneer point guard Todd Brubaker, listed as an imaginative 5-foot-7, cut through Ross for 16 points while dishing out a half dozen assists as four Pioneers scored in double figures. Corey Fields came off the bench for 13, nine in the final quarter, and Eric Bush canned six of nine shots for a dozen.

John Stierwalt dropped in 15 to pace Ross and Manoah Jones had 10.

"We got beat on the boards and got beat back on the transition game," McGhee pointed out, "and we gave up too many layups."

The Pioneers had 21-9 and 23-18 rebounding advantages in the halves. Seventeen of the Elyria retrieves were off the offensive boards with 11 of those in the second half.

Elyria scored 14 consecutive points in the first quarter to take the Little Giants out of the game. Stierwalt's bucket from the right side ended the Elyria run at the 7:20 mark of the second quarter but the Little Giants never got closer than 13 points the remainder of the game.

Elyria held a 21-3 first-quarter lead as Brubaker, Cannon and Bush tossed in six points apiece. The Pioneers outscored Ross 19-15 in the second quarter as Brubaker scored six more points and Cannon added five.

Cannon and Bush dominated the Little Giants inside with Cannon being the biggest nemesis.

"We did not do a good job on helping out on Cannon," McGhee said, "and he is too good to hold for one guy."

Elyria made 34 of 62 shots and Ross 22 of 65. The Little Giants were 12 of 14 at the foul line and Elyria 11 of 19. Elyria was not called for a foul until 4:26 remained in the first half.

Ross had 11 turnovers and Elyria 10.

Tuesday, Ross will host Toledo Woodward and come back on Friday to host Buckeye Conference power Lorain Admiral King.

In the junior varsity game, Brad Hammer's 15-foot jumper from the right of the foul line with one second to play gave Ross a 41-39 victory. The win raised the Little Giants JVs record to 4-3.

Adam Bulger topped the Ross JVs with 19 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots.

Elyria 79, Ross 56

Score by quarters

Ross	8	15	13	20	— 56
Elyria	20	19	17	22	— 79

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 5-5-15, John Cahill 3-0-6, Chris Mosser 2-4-8, Manoah Jones 5-0-10, Nick Hall 2-0-4, Mike Wolfe 3-0-6, Tracy McGee 0-1-1, Kevin Brooks 1-2-4, Kevin McDonald 1-0-2, totals 22-12-56.

ELYRIA — Mark Cannon 7-4-18, Eric Bush 6-0-12, Corey Williams 3-1-7, Todd Brubaker 7-2-16, Doni Moody 0-1-1, Gerald Burton 1-0-2, Joe Dallas 0-1-1, Chris Phillips 4-1-9, Corey Fields 6-1-13, totals 34-11-79.

Season records: Elyria 7-1 (5-0), Ross 5-2 (3-2).

Ross JVs 41, Elyria 39

Score by quarters

Ross	12	10	7	12	— 41
Elyria	14	9	10	6	— 39

Scoring

ROSS — Brad Hammer 4-0-8, Arlo Brown 2-2-6, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Adam Bulger 8-3-19, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, totals 18-5-41.

ELYRIA — Ray Volney 2-0-4, Tony Bumphus 3-0-6, Dale Moore 8-2-18, Dennis Smith 4-0-8, Tom Overs 1-0-2, Tom Pawlikowski 0-1-1, totals 18-3-39.

Season record: Ross 4-3.



MICHAEL WILLIAMS of Woodward is surrounded by Little Giants during fourth quarter action at Ross High Tuesday. Tracy McGee is at the left, with Mike Wolfe in front of John Stierwalt (11).

News-Messenger/Chris Walker

Woodward deadly at free throw line in win over Giants

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Kim McCualsky's fears were laid to rest by an unfamiliar ally: the free throw line.

McCualsky, coach of the Toledo Woodward High School boys basketball team, watched his team sink 14 of 15 final-quarter foul shots and hang on to upset Ross 70-66 Tuesday night in the Ross High School gym.

"We hit a few key buckets and those free throws," McCualsky smiled while savoring his team's third win in 10 games. "We had only been hitting 55 percent of our free throws before this."

The Polar Bears were 22 of 26 in charity tosses for the game while Ross was 18 of 22.

"I was afraid we would wilt," McCualsky admitted, "but we came back. We did not fall apart. We had been having a tough time handling pressure this season, but we handled it

OK tonight.

"We hit a couple of key baskets and free throws and we beat a good team tonight," the Woodward coach said and added, "Pat's (Ross Coach Pat McGhee) doing a good job here; he will build a good program."

McGhee, whose team slipped to 5-3, wasn't so happy: "We just did not play ball. We had too many turnovers and got outrebounded in the second half."

Woodward led virtually the whole game behind the double figure scoring of Michael Williams, David Wright, Bob Lingohr and Tony Bell. The widest margin for the Polar Bears was eight points early in the second quarter and again in the third period.

Ross rallied to take the lead 52-50 on a John Stierwalt layup with 6:54 remaining in the game.

See ROSS, Page B-4

High school boys

Woodward 70, Ross 66

Score by quarters

Woodward	18	18	14	20	— 70
Ross	14	16	16	20	— 66

Scoring

WOODWARD — Michael Williams 9-0-18, David Wright 4-8-16, Jarvos Mayo 1-4-6, Bob Lingohr 6-4-16, Nolan Hych 1-0-2, Tony Bell 4-4-12, totals 24-22-70.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 7-2-16, John Cahill 2-6-10, Chris Mosser 2-2-6, Nick Hall 10-4-24, Manoah Jones 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Kevin Brooks 0-4-4, totals 24-18-66.

Season records: Ross 5-3, Woodward 3-7.

Ross JVs 59, Wood'ard 52

Score by quarters

Woodward	7	11	10	24	— 52
Ross	11	10	13	25	— 59

Scoring

WOODWARD — Ron Darden 0-1-1, Chris Whitlock 2-2-6, Dale Jones 1-2-4, Mike Frames 1-0-2, Darryl Lee 5-9-19, Shawn Hoskins 3-0-6, Kim McCallum 1-0-2, Robert Furr 0-2-2, David Nelson 5-0-10, totals 18-16-52.

ROSS — Scott Nossaman 2-1-5, Kevin Crawford 4-4-12, Brad Hammer 3-6-12, Arlo Brown 4-4-12, Maurice Jones 0-2-2, Mike McGee 1-1-3, Adam Bulger 3-7-13, totals 17-25-59.

Season record: Ross 5-3.

King hands Ross 3rd straight loss

Missed scoring opportunities spoil solid defensive effort

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

The goal was to set the "tempo" and each coach thought his team accomplished it, but only one was smiling.

For the 20th time in the last 21 meetings, Mitch Gillam wore the smile and a Ross coach was frowning at the end of the game.

Gillam's Lorain Admiral King squad handed Pat McGee's Little Giants their third consecutive loss, 60-51, in a Buckeye Conference boys basketball clash Friday night in the Ross Purple Pit.

Gillam, on crutches due to a Wednesday practice accident, said, "We wanted to come out and dictate the tempo of the game. We did not want to let them stand around and shoot. I think we forced them out of their offense."

McGee didn't see it quite the same way: "We got the tempo slowed down like we wanted, but we just did not put the ball in the basket. We were getting the shots we have to make to win.

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE		
Team	Conf.	Overall
	W-L	W-L
Lorain Senior	6-0	9-1
Elyria	5-1	7-2
Admiral King	4-2	6-3
Ross	3-3	5-4
Findlay	2-4	5-5
Marion Harding	2-4	3-8
Sandusky	0-6	2-8
Friday's results		
Admiral King 60, Ross 51		
Marion Harding 61, Findlay 47		
Lorain Senior 64, Elyria 44		
Tonight's games		
Elyria at North Ridgeville (NL)		
Cle. John Adams at Findlay (NL)		
Sandusky at Columbian (NL)		

"Our defense was good enough to win but you still have to score," the Ross coach continued. "We had the opportunities to score but we didn't."

Nick Hall put Ross ahead 2-0 with the first of his 14 points just 23 seconds into the contest but that was the only time the Little Giants led. The Admirals ran off the next six points on the way to a 10-5 lead at the end of the quarter.

Ross was just one of 10 shooting and three of six at the

line in the quarter.

The Admirals began to pull away in the second quarter, rolling to a 20-7 lead two minutes into the period. Ross, with John Stierwalt hitting six points, rallied to trail 28-19 at the half.

Behind seven points by Joe Rowser and six by Kelvin Harvey, the Admirals stretched their lead to 45-31 after three periods. The margin climbed to 16 — 49-33 — early in the final quarter before Ross began to charge.

Ross chopped the lead to 10 twice and then to eight at 59-51 with 45 seconds to play, but the Admirals stalled out the remainder of the game.

"We played about as good as we ever have over here," Gillam said while pointing out that his teams have struggled, rather than played well, the majority of the times he has brought them to Fremont.

"I was upset at the end because we were holding the ball too much. We wanted to take

time off the clock, keep the ball moving and not get fouled but we were holding the ball and waiting to get fouled," the Admirals' coach explained, "and when we went to the foul line, we were missing."

King was hot from the floor, hitting 25 of 41 but cold at the foul line, missing 11 of 21 shots. Ross was 19 of 44 and 13 of 21 at the line. The Admirals outrebounded Ross 30-25 and had three more turnovers with 19.

Harvey pumped in 16 points and Rowser 13 to lead the Admirals, 8-3 and 4-2 in conference play. Three players — Stierwalt, Hall and Manoah Jones — had 14 apiece for Ross.

The Little Giants are 5-4 and 3-3 in BC play.

In the junior varsity game, Admiral King overtook Ross for a 54-52 win, the 10th victory in 11 games for the Admirals. Ross, 5-4, got 15 points from Kevin Crawford, 11 points from both Adam Bulger and Mike McGee and 10 by Arlo Brown.

Admiral King 60, Ross 51

Score by quarters

Admiral King	10	18	17	15	— 60
Ross	5	14	12	20	— 51

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING — George McCall 4-0-8, Joe Rowser 6-1-13, Mike Carrico 2-1-5, Harold Walton 3-1-7, Jamie Gladden 2-2-6, Mike Koscho 3-0-6, totals 25-10-60.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 5-4-14, John Cahill 1-3-5, Chris Mosser 1-2-4, Nick Hall 6-2-14, Manoah Jones 6-2-14, totals 19-13-51.

Season records: Admiral King 8-3 (4-2), Ross 5-4 (3-3).

A. King JVs 54, Ross 52

Score by quarters

Admiral King	13	10	15	16	— 54
Ross	10	18	12	12	— 52

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING — David Lee 2-0-4, Jacento Vasquez 3-2-8, Marcus Martin 7-0-14, Dion Whitfield 6-0-12, Keith Hogan 0-4-4, Chuck Latimer 1-0-2, Leonard Taylor 4-0-8, Dax McCall 1-0-2, totals 24-6-54.

ROSS — Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Kevin Crawford 6-3-15, Brad Hammer 0-1-1, Arlo Brown 3-4-10, Maurice Jones 1-0-2, Mike McGee 5-1-11, Adam Bulger 3-5-11, totals 19-14-52.

Season records: Admiral King 10-1, Ross 5-4.

Clay breaks away from Ross 73-51

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

OREGON — The first eight minutes were ones to remember but the Ross Little Giants boys basketball team would just as soon forget the final 24.

Oregon Clay and Ross nearly matched point for point in the first quarter as the Eagles grabbed a slim 23-22 lead. In the second quarter, however, a pair of Clay scoring runs coupled with the Little Giants' suddenly cold shooting, put the skids under Ross and Clay ran to a 73-51 victory Tuesday in the Eagles aerie.

"I did not think we got back on defense well," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said quietly after his team had dropped its fourth game in a row to slip to 5-5 for the season.

"Clay executed the fast break well. Then, their defense pushed our offense out from the basket and we did not attack the zone very well."

Added to that were the Giants' foul problems. John Stierwalt, Ross's season-leading scorer, picked up his third foul less than a minute into the second quarter and eventually fouled out with 30 seconds to play in the third quarter. He managed just two points.

Ross point guard Manoh Jones also was hit with three first half fouls and had four midway through the third quarter.

But it was the scoring bursts that fouled up Ross.

Leading 25-24, the Eagles, winners for the 10th time in 11 games, got a bucket and two free

throws by Brad Morrison and a layup from Mike Sprague to gain a 31-24 cushion.

With less than two minutes remaining in the half, Mike Caldwell started a six-point run with two free throws and Marc Strickland followed with a short jumper from the lane. Jim Cox then drove the length of the court to sink a layup at the buzzer for a 41-29 Clay advantage at the half.

Four quick third quarter points sealed the verdict.

"What really hurt Ross," Clay Coach Bud Felhaber said, "was that spurt just before the half. It killed them."

"That let us pack our zone in but they still got inside on it too often and I was not too happy about that."

Chris Mosser and John Cahill were the chief penetrators of Felhaber's 2-3 zone. Mosser muscled in a season-high 18 points and Cahill got 14.

While the two scoring runs were the key points for the Eagles, Felhaber could smile over a hot 32 of 50, including 17 of 24 in the first half, shooting performance. Morrison, who hit a game-high 24 points, was 10 of 12.

Ross, after making 10 of 15 first quarter shots, finished with 14 of 31 in the first half and 22 of 57 for the game.

Clay had a 36-26 advantage on the boards which included a 23-8 rebounding margin in the second half. Both teams had 11 turnovers.

Ross is idle Friday night but will travel to Toledo Saturday to play Whitmer.

High school boys

Clay 73, Ross 51

Score by quarters

Ross	22	7	8	14	— 51
Clay	23	18	12	20	— 73

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 1-0-2, John Cahill 7-0-14, Chris Mosser 8-2-18, Nick Hall 1-2-4, Manoah Jones 2-2-6, Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Kevin Brooks 0-1-1, Adam Bulger 1-2-4, totals 22-9-51.

CLAY — Brad Morrison 10-4-24, Mike Finch 5-0-10, Mike Caldwell 4-0-8, Mike Sprague 4-2-10, Jim Cox 4-1-9, Marc Strickland 1-0-2, Scott Allen 4-0-8, Chad Schwierking 0-2-2, totals 18-9-73.

Season records: Clay 10-1, Ross 5-5.

Ross JVs 44, Clay 27

Score by quarters

Ross	7	12	9	16	— 44
Clay	6	8	6	7	— 27

Scoring

ROSS — Kevin Crawford 2-0-4, Tracy Hufford 4-0-8, Scott Nossaman 2-1-5, Arlo Brown 0-2-2, Adam Bulger 1-0-2, Mark Gonzales 0-2-2, Brad Hammer 3-2-8, Maurice Jones 3-0-6, Mike McGee 3-1-7, totals 18-8-44.

CLAY — Jamie Loehrke 1-0-2, Jeff Ladd 4-2-10, Mat Arnold 1-0-2, Jeremy Erdmann 1-0-2, Tom Persiani 2-3-7, Chad Schwierking 0-1-1, Bill St. John 0-1-1, Todd William 1-0-2, totals 10-7-27.

Season records: Ross 6-4, Clay 4-5.

Strong performance not enough for Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

TOLEDO — Ross looked good in every category except two — the score and the medical report.

Toledo Whitmer capitalized on a pair of Ross cold spells to wipe out an 11-point third-quarter deficit and go on to hand the Little Giants their fifth straight high school boys basketball loss 57-51 Saturday night.

In addition to seeing its record slip to 5-6, Ross lost the services of center Chris Mosser for at least four to five weeks. Mosser injured his left foot midway through the third quarter. Sunday morning, X-rays confirmed that the 6-4 senior broke the little toe on his left foot.

"He will be out at least that much time," Ross trainer Joe Hershey said Sunday evening.

"Our kids played great," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said after the tough loss. "We had some tough breaks offensively and when we lost Mosser, we were put in a bad situation."

Mosser sustained the injury with Ross leading 32-24 and his departure coincided with the Little Giants' second major cold spell. After taking a 32-21 lead on Nick Hall's basket at the 5:37 mark of the third quarter, the Giants did not score again for two minutes. Whitmer sliced the lead to six and then outscored

Ross 12-7 in the final four minutes of the period to trail 39-38.

Ross had already weathered a five-minute scoreless famine in the second quarter.

Tom Hood canned a shot from the right corner 20 seconds into the final quarter and Ross never led again. Mark Szlachcic knifed through the middle for two more and Rick Rightnowar hit from the top of the key as Ross fell behind 44-39. But the Little Giants bounced back.

Hall hit a short jumper, followed by a John Cahill basket and Hall hit again to answer Hood's 22-footer, but the Little Giants trailed by a point, 46-45, with 4:30 to play. Mark Szlachcic gave the Panthers a little room with two free throws, but John Stierwalt's bucket kept Ross close 48-47 with 2:22 to play.

Rightnowar tossed in a shot from downtown Toledo, splitting the net from nearly 25 feet out. Stierwalt brought Ross back with a driving layup, but sophomore Criag Michaels came up with a three-point play to put Whitmer up 53-49 with a minute to play. Hall got Ross to within two with his 16th point of the game with 50 seconds to play, but that was the last gasp for the Little Giants.

John Dzikowski hit a free throw with 30 seconds left and

See ROSS, Page B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Rightnowar iced it with two more foul shots 20 seconds later.

"I thought the whole game we did a good job defensively," McGhee said. "The kids improved."

He also praised to the play of sophomore Adam Bulger, moved

up from the junior varsity to the varsity early last week. The 6-3 Bulger hit his first shot, had a block and hauled in several rebounds while playing more than half the game.

Hall, in spite of being hampered by three first-half fouls and a fourth early in the second half, led Ross scorers with 16. Cahill had 15 and Stierwalt had 14, 11 in the second half. Dzikowski had 15 and Rightnowar 13 for the Panthers.

Whitmer 57, Ross 51

Score by quarters

Ross	16	10	13	12	— 51
Whitmer	6	11	21	19	— 57

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 5-4-14, John Cahill 6-3-15, Chris Mosser 0-0-0, Nick Hall 7-2-16, Manoah Jones 1-2-4, Adam Bulger 1-0-2, totals 20-11-51.

WHITMER — John Dzikowski 6-3-15, Tom Hood 4-0-8, Paul Gerding 4-0-8, Rick Rightnowar 5-3-13, Dave Digby 1-0-2, Craig Michaels 2-1-5, Mark Szlachcic 2-2-6, totals 24-9-57.

Season records: Whitmer 9-2, Ross 5-6.

Whitmer JVs 67, Ross 51

Score by quarters

Ross	11	15	14	11	— 51
Whitmer	12	15	13	27	— 67

Scoring

ROSS — Tracy Hufford 3-4-10, Scott Nossaman 0-4-4, Mike Wolfe 3-0-6, Arlo Brown 2-5-9, Brad Hammer 3-0-6, Maurice Jones 1-0-2, Mike McGee 6-2-14, totals 18-15-51.

WHITMER — Scott Pieron 4-0-8, pat Murphy 6-2-14, Dan Trost 1-3-5, Andy Jacobs 0-1-1, Todd Yates 1-1-3, Mark Reighard 3-0-6, Randy Sayre 0-2-2, Matt Smith 7-11-25, Bill Semler 0-3-3, totals 22-23-67.

Season records: Ross 6-5, Whitmer 6-5.

Little Giants pass test at Marion

News-Messenger Reports

MARION — Ross geared up for Friday's invasion of powerful Lorain Senior with a 52-46 mind-easing win over Marion Harding Tuesday night.

The game had been postponed from Friday due to the snowy weather.

The Buckeye Conference win broke a five-game Ross losing streak and leveled its season record at 6-6 with a 4-3 BC record. The loss ended Harding's three-game win streak, putting the Presidents at 5-9 and 3-5 in the BC.

"It was a nice win," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "We played strong defensively and we held our poise when things got tight."

That poise was tested when

Harding bounced back from a 36-29 Ross lead into a 40-40 tie with 5:18 remaining in the game. Harding, however, failed to convert on four consecutive possessions after earning the deadlock.

Adam Bulger put Ross on top again with a free throw at the 4:59 mark. John Stierwalt, who had a game-high 20 points, made it 43-40 with a shot from the corner before John Courtright pulled Harding to within one, 43-42.

Stierwalt followed with another jumper and Nick Hall, who had 14 points, and Stierwalt sank four straight free throws to put Ross up 49-42 with 58 seconds to play.

"The kids kept their cool," McGhee described. "They took

the ball inside and played intelligently at the end of the game. That was nice to see.

"It was very important that we win tonight," the Ross coach continued. "We got a lot of positive things out of the game such as overcoming (Chris) Mosser's injury. (Mike) Wolfe and Bulger gave us a nice game filling in for him, and it's always nice to get back into the win column."

The victory was the first on the road this season for Ross.

Ross was 19 of 40 from the floor and Harding 18 of 50. Hall had nine rebounds to lead the Little Giants to a 23-22 advantage. Ross had 10 turnovers, one more than Harding.

Now comes Lorain, ranked

eighth in the Associated Press Class AAA poll.

"Our concern for Friday," McGhee said, "will be improving ourselves from tonight. Basically, we just want to play better. That is our goal for the remainder of the season ... to improve each week."

"Lorain, obviously, has many assets: size, depth, great athletes and a lot of confidence," McGhee said. "The fact that they are ranked does add a little incentive, but we will prepare for them the same as we prepared for Harding. We will not change anything, we just hope to do it better."

Lorain handed Ross its first loss of the season, 77-53, after the Little Giants had opened with three wins.

Ross 52, Harding 46

Score by quarters

Ross	12	13	15	12	— 52
Harding	11	14	10	11	— 46

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 7-6-20, Manoah Jones 3-0-6, John Cahill 3-1-7, Nick Hall 5-4-14, Adam Bulger 0-1-1, Mike Wolfe 1-2-4, totals 19-14-52.

HARDING — Rick Howell 1-0-2, Pete Cressor 3-0-6, William Troutman 2-3-7, James Brown 5-1-11, John Courtright 5-4-14, Geoff Klepzig 2-2-6, totals 18-10-46.

Season records: Ross 6-6 (4-3), Harding 5-9 (3-5).

Ross JVs 48, Harding 38

Score by quarters

Ross	9	9	13	17	— 48
Harding	8	10	8	12	— 38

Scoring

ROSS — Mike McGee 3-1-7, Maurice Jones 1-3-5, Arlo Brown 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 3-6-12, Scott Nossaman 2-2-6, Kevin Crawford 3-1-7, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Seth Brickner 1-0-2, Brian Smith 0-1-1, totals 17-14-48.

HARDING — Thurman Packett 2-2-6, Jason Watts 2-0-4, Eric Welch 3-2-8, Shaun McGary 0-4-4, Rodney Evans 3-3-9, Anthony Snyder 1-0-2, Sean Smith 2-1-5, totals 13-12-38.

Season records: Harding 3-11, Ross 7-5.

Poor shooting dooms Ross in loss to Lorain

8th-ranked Steelmen defeat Little Giants 52-34

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was a case of Lorain being willing to give, but Ross refusing to accept.

Lorain Senior, the eighth-ranked Class AAA team in the state, would only offer its gifts so long before snatching them away to disappear in a flurry of points for a 52-34 Buckeye Conference boys basketball win at Ross High School Friday night.

Lorain is 14-1 and leads the conference with a 9-0 mark. Ross slipped to 6-7 and 4-4 in BC play.

"We had the opportunities to put the ball in the basket inside and we had the open jump shots," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said painfully, "but the most obvious was at the foul line."

McGhee's team converted just 14 of 49 shots from the field for an anemic 29 percent, but more inexcusable was a six of 19 showing at the foul line, a slightly better percentage (31) but on a far easier shot.

It was good defense coupled with inept offenses in the early moments.

"We felt fortunate early that they were not scoring because we weren't scoring either," Lorain Coach Dale Reichert said. "We knew they would come out and play us with a lot of intensity and they did a nice job

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE		
Team	Conf.	Overall
	W-L	W-L
Lorain Senior	9-0	14-1
Elyria	6-2	13-3
Admiral King	6-2	12-3
Ross	4-4	6-7
Marion Harding	3-4	5-10
Findlay	2-7	1-8
Sandusky	0-8	4-11
Friday's results		
Lorain Senior 52, Ross 34		
Findlay 75, Sandusky 68		
Admiral King 61, Marion Harding 58		
Elyria 61, Mohiwee 51		
Tonight's games		
Sandusky at Elyria		
Columbian at Ross (NC)		

of getting the ball inside against us.

"A good thing for us is we limited them to one shot; it was just a question of when we would begin to score."

Lorain's "2-3" zone faltered only briefly but the cold hands of the Little Giants were nearly as good a defense as the Steelmen zone.

"We are a better shooting team than that," McGhee said, "and I am sure that their defense had something to do with it."

"Against a team like Lorain Senior, you have to make the open shot and hit the free throws to stay close and then make a run at the end. We let them get away."

No one was making a run early; Ross led 9-0 after nearly

4½ minutes. John Stierwalt had given Ross the lead at the 6:30 mark of the opening period before Steve Hughes tied it for Lorain at the 3:42 mark. The Steelmen, after surrendering the lead twice, took the lead for good 7:6 on Maurice Davis' layup. Al Scott followed with another layup to put Lorain on top 9-6. Ross was to tie the contest but was never to lead again.

Adam Buiger brought Ross even at 16-16 with 2:25 remaining in the first half but Davis finished off the half with three buckets and Lorain went into the halftime break with a 22-16 lead.

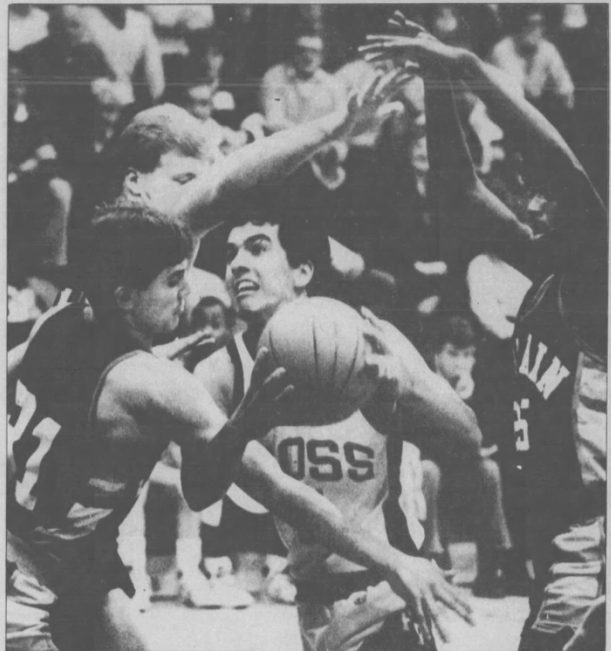
Davis, a 5-11 senior, had 15 of his game-high 17 points in the first 18 minutes.

Ross never got closer than five points after halftime.

The Little Giants trailed 39-32 with 5:45 to play in the game but Lorain outscored the Little Giants 13-2 after that to put the game on ice.

Manoah Jones led Ross with 11 points and Stierwalt had nine. Scott chipped in with 13 for Lorain, which hit 21 of 48 shots. The Steelmen had a 42-29 rebounding edge while committing 18 turnovers, four more than Ross.

Tonight, Ross will host Tiffin Columbian, 10-4. The junior varsity game begins at 6:30.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

FOUL! Art Udovich (31) of Lorain reaches in on John Stierwalt of Ross while Phil Trinter, behind Udovich, and Steve Hughes (25) of Lorain form an umbrella over the Ross senior Friday night.

Lorain 52, Ross 34

Score by quarters

Lorain	9	13	15	15	— 52
Ross	8	8	10	8	— 34

Scoring

LORAIN — Maurice Davis 8-1-17, Don Godlewski 2-4-8, Al Scott 6-1-13, Steve Hughes 2-2-6, Bill Nowlin 3-1-7, Art Udovich 0-1-1, totals 21-10-52.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 3-3-9, John Cahill 1-0-2, Adam Bulger 2-1-5, Nick Hall 2-0-4, Manoh Jones 5-1-11, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Kevin McDonald 0-1-1, totals 14-6-34.

Season records: Lorain 14-1 (9-0), Ross 6-7 (4-4).

Lorain JVs 52, Ross 43

Score by quarters

Lorain	11	12	14	15	— 52
Ross	18	3	6	16	— 43

Scoring

LORAIN — Mike Hartman 7-0-14, Jeff Williams 1-1-3, Jason Bandersky 1-0-2, Steve Berstling 0-1-1, John Taggart 1-0-2, Tony Robinson 9-2-20, Eric Morgan 4-0-8, totals 23-6-52.

ROSS — Kevin Crawford 1-1-3, Brad Hammer 2-0-4, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 8-2-18, Maurice Jones 1-0-2, Tracy Hufford 5-4-14, totals 18-7-43.

Season record: Ross 7-6.

Stierwalt's big first half sparks Ross to victory

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

John Stierwalt poured in 26 first-half points before letting his teammates take over in the second half as Ross defeated Tiffin Columbian 70-55 in a high school boys basketball game Saturday.

The game was a turnaround from Friday when Lorain Senior humbled the Little Giants 52-34. With a minute to go in the first half Saturday in the Purple Pit, Ross had surpassed its point total of the night before by one.

"We could not stop Stierwalt in the first half," Columbian Coach Larry Kisabeth said. "He was unbelievable. We thought he was a streak shooter and he is."

"Streak shooter" may have been an understatement. The six-foot Ross senior hit all six of his shots in the first quarter to go with a pair of technical free throws assessed the Columbian bench for 14 points.

Stierwalt missed his first and last shots in the second quarter, but in between he dropped in six straight for his 26 first-half points. At the end of the 16 minutes, it was Columbian 31, Stierwalt 26 and Ross 11.

In the second half, the "guy"

with the 11 first-half points took over. Comprised of John Cahill, Nick Hall and Manoah Jones, that "guy" popped in 14 points, two more than the Tornadoes in the third period for a 51-43 Little Giants lead. Stierwalt, with Columbian's David Kin and Mike McDonald shadowing him, did not get off a shot in the third quarter.

"In the second half, when they denied Stierwalt the ball," Ross Coach Pat McGhee explained, "our other guys stepped forward and did the job. We had a lot of people play well in the second half."

"For us to be successful, we have to have balanced scoring," McGhee continued. "Sure, we like to get the ball to the man with the hot hand but we have others who can respond."

In the final eight minutes, Stierwalt shook loose for seven points, five from the foul line, for a career-high 33. Jones had six points in the quarter and Hall

added a pair of buckets with Cahill and Adam Bulger, making his third Ross start, hauling in key rebounds.

The closest Columbian was to get in the last quarter was six, the last 54-48 with five minutes to play. At that point, Jones hit two free throws and a jumper from the right to open up a 60-48 Ross lead.

Two more Jones free throws and Stierwalt's only second half basket put Ross up 64-50 and out of reach with two minutes to play.

"We needed to play a strong ball game against a good team like Columbian," McGhee said while still having flashbacks of 24 hours earlier. Ross leveled its record at 7-7 while Columbian slipped to 10-5.

Jones with 16 and Hall with 12 backed up Stierwalt. Jones had 12 and Hall eight in the final 16 minutes. Ross hit 28 of 51 shots and 14 of 18 at the foul line, a vast improvement over Friday's six of 19 effort. Ross also had a season low nine turnovers.

Doug White, 6-7 senior, topped Columbian with 22 points.

Friday, Ross will travel Sandusky to resume Buckeye Conference play.



STIERWALT

High school boys

Ross 70, Columbian 55

Score by quarters

Columbian	16	15	13	12	—	55
Ross	18	19	14	19	—	70

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Duane Tyree 3-0-6, Keith Reinbolt 0-1-1, Doug White 7-8-22, Mike McDonald 6-0-12, David Kin 2-0-4, Brian Heebsh 1-0-2, Doug Paul 1-0-2, Ken Lund 2-0-4, Craig Paul 1-0-2, totals 23-9-55.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 13-7-33, John Cahill 2-0-4, Adam Bulger 1-1-3, Nick Hall 5-2-12, Manoah Jones 6-4-16, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, totals 28-14-70.

Season records: Ross 7-7, Columbian 10-5.

Ross JVs 44, Col. 40

Score by quarters

Columbian	8	11	4	17	—	40
Ross	8	16	11	9	—	44

Scoring

COLUMBIAN — Craig Paul 1-0-2, Rodney Osmena 1-1-3, Sean McClung 5-4-14, Bob Boes 1-0-2, Rusty Snyder 0-1-1, Steve Hoerig 4-6-14, Alan Kline 1-2-4, totals 13-16-40.

ROSS — Tracy Hufford 5-0-10, Brad Hammer 4-0-8, Scott Nossaman 4-3-11, Arlo Brown 2-7-11, Mike McGee 1-2-4, totals 16-12-44.

Season records: Ross 8-6, Columbian 11-4.

Late charge falls short as Ross loses to Elyria

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Ross nearly caught Elyria thinking positive too early.

The Pioneers, however, shook off a final-quarter Ross hot streak to record a 55-49 win over the Little Giants Friday night at Ross High School.

Elyria is 9-2 in the Buckeye Conference, a game behind Lorain, the team it will face Friday in the Pioneers' corral.

Lorain polished off Marion Harding 68-42 to climb to 10-1 in the conference race and Admiral King kept within striking distance, matching Elyria's conference record with a 61-47 romp over Sandusky.

"When we got up by 12 towards the end of the third quarter, I think the kids thought it was all over," Elyria Coach Keith Sooy said, "but Fremont did not think that."

Elyria, with Corey Fields scoring six and Chris Phillips four, doubled the output of Ross in the third period 12-6 for a 45-31 lead.

The Little Giants roared back in the final quarter, clicking off eight unanswered points to trail 45-39 with more than six minutes remaining. Manoa Jones, who, along with John Stierwalt, topped Ross with 14 points, hit a pair of jumpers with Stierwalt and Nick Hall getting the other two buckets.

Todd Brubaker got Elyria's first bucket of the final quarter

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE		
Team	Conf.	Overall
	W-L	W-L
Lorain Senior	10-1	16-2
Admiral King	9-2	16-3
Elyria	9-2	15-3
Ross	4-6	7-9
Marion Harding	3-8	5-12
Findlay	2-8	7-10
Sandusky	1-11	5-13
Friday's games		
Elyria 55, Ross 49		
Admiral King 61, Sandusky 47		
Lorain Senior 68, Marion Harding 42		
Saturday's games		
Ross at Bowling Green (NC)		
Toledo Macomber at Findlay (NC)		

at the 4:50 mark with a scoop shot at the end of a drive down the center of the lane. The 5-7 junior followed with another bucket after John Cahill had scored for Ross.

Ross charged again as first Jones, and then Cahill scored to cut the Elyria lead to 51-47 with 1:15 to play.

The Little Giants had clawed back into the game with the eight-point streak, and in the final three minutes, with strategic fouls, but that went awry in the final minute. Mark Cannon, Elyria's 6-4 center, who had missed two free throws earlier in the quarter, hit two with 36 seconds to play to put Elyria up 53-47. Twenty seconds later, Phillips sealed the win, sneaking in from the baseline to tip in a missed free throw by teammate Donni Moody.

"This was a tough loss for our kids," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said. "They played hard."

McGhee explained that the zone defense that Ross used much of the game was designed to stop Cannon. It worked as Cannon had just 10 points but it also cost the Little Giants.

"Anytime you do something like that to take something away, you have to give something up," the Ross coach said. "They had guys step in and hit the big shots."

Phillips had 16 to top Elyria with Fields adding 14 and Brubaker 12.

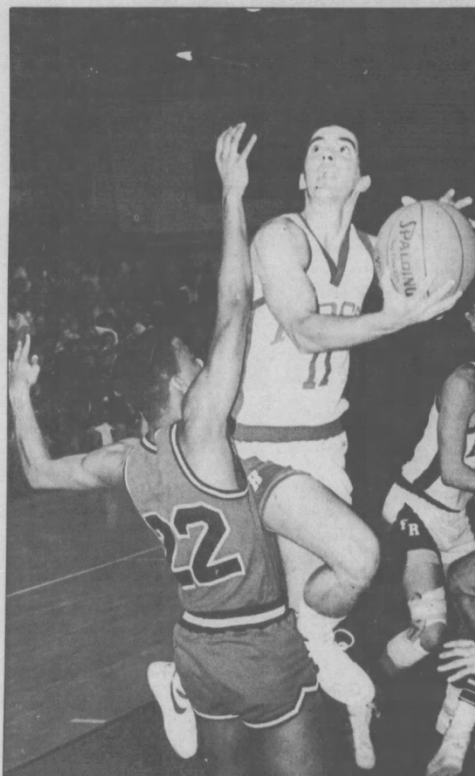
"If we were to win, we had to stop Cannon," McGhee said. "Then, in the fourth quarter, we made a run at them but we had let them get too far away from us."

Ross, with Stierwalt getting six and Adam Bulger four points, led 15-14 after one quarter, but Elyria, behind Phillips' eight points, rolled to a 33-25 halftime lead. At the end of three, Elyria had its biggest lead, 45-31.

The Little Giants, 7-9 and 4-6 in BC play, were 22 of 46 from the floor and Elyria 24 of 49. It was not the night for free throws for either team as Ross made just five of 11 and the Pioneers seven of 17. Elyria had a 30-27 rebounding edge.

In the junior varsity game, Ross, 9-7, defeated the Pioneers 50-40 as Scott Nossaman scored 12 points and Mike McGee 11.

Tonight, Ross travels to Bowling Green High School. The JV game begins at 6:30.



News-Messenger/Dave Ziemke

JOHN STIERWALT of Ross eyes the basket as he goes up for a shot during second quarter action Friday at Ross High School. Corey Williams (22) is the Elyria defender.

Elyria 55, Ross 49

Score by quarters

Elyria	14	19	12	10	— 55
Ross	15	10	6	18	— 49

Scoring

ELYRIA — Mark Cannon 4-2-10, Eric Bush 1-0-2, Corey Fields 5-4-14, Todd Brubaker 6-0-12, Chris Phillips 8-0-16, Joey Dallas 0-1-1, totals 24-7-55.

ROSS — John Stierwalt 6-2-14, John Cahill 3-1-7, Adam Bulger 3-0-6, Nick Hall 3-1-7, Manoah Jones 7-0-14, Mike Wolfe 0-1-1, totals 22-5-49.

Season records: Elyria 15-3 (9-2), Ross 7-9 (4-6).

Ross JVs 50, Elyria 40

Score by quarters

Elyria	6	9	10	15	— 40
Ross	12	11	9	18	— 50

Scoring

ELYRIA — Ray Volney 1-0-2, James Scott 3-1-7, Dale Moore 3-3-9, Jeremy Baker 6-0-12, Dennis Smith 3-0-6, Tom Overs 2-0-4, totals 18-4-40.

ROSS — Tracy Hufford 1-3-5, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, Seth Brickner 0-2-2, Brad Hammer 3-3-9, Scott Nossaman 4-4-12, Arlo Brown 2-4-8, Mike McGee 5-1-11, Brian Smith 0-1-1, totals 16-18-50.

Season records: Ross 9-7, Elyria 10-8.

Ross rolls to victory over Bowling Green 73-52

News-Messenger Reports

Ross spotted Bowling Green an 18-15 first quarter lead before turning up the heat in the second quarter and racing to a 73-52 high school boys basketball victory Saturday night.

John Stierwalt scored 12 of his game-high 27 points in the second quarter and Manoah Jones added seven as Ross raced to a 36-28 halftime lead.

In other games, Mohawk downed Bettsville 68-58, Hopewell-Loudon smashed Old Fort 64-36 and Galion dumped Bellevue 73-54.

"In the second quarter, we tried to 'uptempo' and run the ball," Ross Coach Pat McGhee

said. "We did a nice job of running the fast break and converting in the quarter."

In the third period, the Little Giants outscored the Bobcats 19-13 and then coasted in the final eight minutes.

Stierwalt was 12 of 17 shooting over the Bowling Green zone. Jones was seven of 12 while finishing with 15 points. The Ross point guard also had seven assists and five steals. Nick Hall added 12 points and nine rebounds and John Cahill had 10 points for Ross.

Ross, 8-9, made 32 of 62 shots. Bowling Green is 3-16.

Tuesday, Ross will travel to Fostoria to play the 5-11

Redmen. The junior varsity game will begin at 6 p.m.

Mohawk68

Bettsville58

A pair of 20-point quarters carried the Warriors to the victory at Bettsville.

The Bobcats, who slipped to 4-14 for the season, had a 16-12 lead after one quarter before Mohawk rallied. The Warriors went in at the half with a 32-29 lead and upped that margin to 52-45 after three quarters.

Heath Sager and Cayce Smith had 18 points apiece for Mohawk, now 9-9.

Bill Nye scored 16 for

Bettsville, while Tony Hausman had 12 and Mike Wise added 10.

Hopewell-Loudon64

Old Fort36

At Hopewell, the Chieftains outscored the Stockaders in every quarter to ease to the victory.

Hopewell, 12-6 for the year, led 12-3 after one quarter and 29-17 at the half. A 12-6 third quarter run made it 41-23 and Old Fort was out of it.

The Stockaders, led by Sam Dandar's 10 points, fell to 6-12 for the season.

Bill Riley poured in 25 for Hopewell.

Galion73

Bellevue54

Galion broke open a close game with a big third-quarter outburst in Northern Ohio League play.

The Tigers led 34-26 at the half, but put the game out of reach with a 25-10 run in the third period. Bellevue, which slipped to 8-10 overall and 4-8 in the NOL, never recovered.

Nick Fulkerson had 19 points and Mike Reidling added 17 for Gallon, now 11-7, 7-5 in the league. Brad Schubert led the Redmen with 14 and Chris Missler scored 13.

High school boys

Ross 73, B. Green 52

Score by quarters

Ross	15	21	19	18	— 73
Bowling Green	18	10	13	11	— 52

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 12-3-27, Manoah Jones 7-1-15, Kevin Brooks 0-4-4, John Cahill 5-0-10, Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Nick Hall 6-0-12, Adam Bulger 0-1-1, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, totals 32-9-73.

BOWLING GREEN — Joe Hastings 2-0-4, Chris Ketner 3-1-7, Chris Witham 7-1-15, Greg Titus 2-3-7, Topher Gedeon 2-6-10, Eric Wolf 0-2-2, Brian Metcalf 1-1-3, Curt Yarger 1-0-2, Sean Ensinger 0-2-2, totals 18-16-52.

Season records: Ross 8-9, Bowling Green 3-16.

Ross JVs 48, B. Green 39

Score by quarters

Ross	10	12	14	12	— 48
Bowling Green	14	7	2	16	— 39

Scoring

ROSS — Mike McGee 2-0-4, Maurice Jones 2-0-4, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 4-2-10, Scott Nossaman 3-2-8, Arlo Brown 6-0-12, Mark Gonzales 1-0-2, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Seth Brickner 0-2-2, Brian Smith 1-0-2, totals 21-6-48.

BOWLING GREEN — Kevin Cripe 4-3-11, Chris Fox 2-3-7, Dan Wulff 2-0-4, Dave Whitmire 6-0-12, Jeremy Kerr 1-3-5, totals 15-9-39.

Season record: Ross 10-7.

Ross finds beauty in eyes of winner

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

FOSTORIA — A fairy tale?

No, but a not so pretty duckling became a beautiful "W" for Ross.

"Any win is beautiful," Ross High School boys basketball Coach Pat McGhee said after his Little Giants had sauntered to a 56-50 victory over Fostoria Tuesday night.

At one time late in the game, McGhee wondered aloud how far the play of his team had set basketball back, but the final buzzer wiped that frown off his face and changed his tune.

"Our team has matured a lot," he began after Ross evened its season record at 9-9, "and this was the type of game that we lost to Woodward (70-66) in January. We missed a lot of free throws in that one.

"Tonight, we stayed in the game and kept the lead and our composure and I am pleased with that."

And made free throws.

Told that Ross also was 16 of 19 from the foul line after a 10-for-10 start, McGhee's grin widened.

"We have lost games this year at the foul line," he reminded. "That was one of two consistent points for us tonight."

The other was defense, McGhee said while pointing out Fostoria did not get many second shots in the second half. Ross outrebounded the Redmen 34-25 while allowing Fostoria just four offensive rebounds in the second half.

With four players scoring in double figures and another waiting in the wings with eight, the Little Giants methodically

kept the Redmen at bay. Fostoria never led but never trailed by more than eight. Twice, the Redmen tied the game — the first at 10-10 and the last 40-40 with 35 seconds to play in the third quarter.

Nick Hall dropped in eight of his 10 points in the first half as Ross held a 30-24 lead and John Stierwalt scored 10 of his game-high 14 in the second half.

After Fostoria pulled even in the third period, Ross got buckets from John Cahill and Stierwalt to lead 44-40. The Redmen never got any closer.

Hall opened the final quarter with a five-footer from the right side and sophomore Adam Bulger put in a rebound for a 48-40 lead. The Ross lead slipped to four, 50-46, with four minutes remaining but Stierwalt sandwiched four free throws

around a pair by Bulger to put the game on ice.

Bulger had his highest scoring night since being called up to the varsity midway through the season, with 10 points. Manoa Jones finished with 10 and Cahill just missed the double figure list with eight.

"Fostoria's kids played hard and aggressive," McGhee praised, "and they controlled the tempo of the game. We were fortunate to win the game."

Mike Watson and Todd Norman had 12 points apiece to lead Fostoria, 5-12.

Ross was 20 of 45 from the floor and the Redmen 23 of 47. Fostoria was four of eight at the line. Ross had 15 turnovers and the Redmen 16.

Ross returns to action Friday, traveling to Lorain Admiral King.

High school boys

Ross 56, Fostoria 50

Score by quarters

Ross	16	14	14	12	— 56
Fostoria	14	10	16	10	— 50

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 4-6-14, John Cahill 3-2-8, Adam Bulger 3-4-10, Nick Hall 4-2-10, Manoh Jones 4-2-10, Mike Wolfe 2-0-4, totals 20-16-56.

FOSTORIA — Todd Norman 4-4-12, Cory Gregg 2-0-4, Jamie Watson 2-0-4, Mike Watson 6-0-12, Bob Wenzinger 4-0-8, Glenn Park 4-0-8, Javier Gomez 1-0-2, totals 23-4-50.

Season records: Ross 9-9, Fostoria 5-12.

Ross JVs 34, Fostoria 30

Score by quarters

Ross	7	13	6	8	— 34
Fostoria	2	10	8	10	— 30

Scoring

ROSS — Tracy Hufford 5-0-10, Scott Nossaman 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 5-3-13, Maurice Jones 1-1-3, Mike McGee 2-0-4, totals 15-4-34.

FOSTORIA — Jamie Clay 4-1-9, Barry Baker 2-0-4, Bill Wyant 1-0-2, Damon Smith 0-2-2, Dan Baldwin 4-0-8, Tim Jackson 2-0-4, Pat Ramsey 0-1-1, totals 13-4-30.

Little Giants fall to Admirals 58-41

News-Messenger Reports

LORAIN — George McCall dropped in a dozen points and grabbed 17 rebounds to lead Admiral King to a 58-41 victory over Ross Friday night.

The Admirals closed the season at 17-3 and took second in the Buckeye Conference with a 10-2 mark. Ross slipped to 9-10 and 4-7 in conference play and will close the regular season Friday at Findlay.

Lorain Senior defeated Elyria 48-46 last night to win the conference title with an 11-1 BC slate. Elyria finished third with

a 9-3 mark. In the other conference game, Findlay defeated Marion Harding 65-60.

Admiral King jumped off to a 12-7 first-quarter lead. That lead grew to 23-12 midway through the second quarter before Ross rallied to close the gap to 25-18 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Admirals took control, outscoring the Little Giants 15-4 in the first six minutes and took a 42-25 lead into the final period. The Admirals' lead climbed to 21 twice in the final quarter.

Kelvin Harvey had 16 points to

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE		
Team	Conf.	Overall
	W-L	W-L
Lorain Senior-x	11-1	18-2
Admiral King	10-2	17-3
Elyria	9-3	15-4
Ross	4-7	9-10
Findlay	3-6	8-10
Marion Harding	2-9	3-14
Sandusky	1-11	5-13
x-Conference champion		
Friday's games		
Admiral King 58, Ross 41		
Lorain Senior 48, Elyria 46		
Findlay 65, Marion Harding 60		
Saturday's games		
Marion Harding at Mans. Madison (NC)		
Elyria at Lorain Southview (NC)		
Port Clinton at Sandusky (NC)		

with eight offensive rebounds. Admiral King had a 42-24 rebounding edge.

John Stierwalt with 12 points and John Cahill with 11 topped Ross.

The Little Gaints were 16 of 46 shooting and Admiral King 23 of 63. Ross made nine of 17 free throws and AK 12 of 16.

In the junior varsity game, Admiral King won 39-38 in overtime. The game was tied 36-36 at the end of regulation. Tracy Hufford with 12 and Arlo Brown's 10 points topped the Ross JVs, 11-8.

High school boys

Admiral King 58, Ross 41

Score by quarters

Ross	5	13	7	16	— 41
Admiral King	12	13	17	16	— 58

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 4-4-12, John Cahill 4-3-11, Nick Hall 0-2-2, Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Kevin Brooks 2-0-4, Manoah Jones 1-0-2, Adam Bulger 3-0-6, Chris Mosser 1-0-2, totals 16-9-41.

ADMIRAL KING — George McCall 6-0-12, Joe Rowser 3-5-11, Harold Walton 1-2-4, Kelvin Harvey 8-0-16, Jamie Gladden 1-1-3, Rick Washington 0-4-4, Mike Koscko 2-0-4, Landry Simmons 2-0-4, totals 23-12-58.

Season records: Admiral King 17-3 (10-2), Ross 9-10 (4-7).

Ross falls to Findlay in finale

Fourth-quarter free throws help Trojans defeat Little Giants 73-68

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

FINDLAY — A seven-point run in the final quarter pulled Findlay to a 73-68 Buckeye Conference boys basketball victory Friday night.

The game was the finale of the Buckeye Conference which disbands this year after 33 years. Ross and Findlay, along with Newark, Lancaster and Zanesville will play in the Buckeye Central Conference next season.

The Trojans, 10-10, tied Ross for fourth place in the final conference standings with a 4-8 mark. The Little Giants finished 9-11.

Findlay trailed 51-50 when Ross began to run into foul problems. Richie Bell, who had a bucket and two key assists in the quarter, tied the game with one of two free throws. Another one of two foul shots by Jim Steffan put the Trojans up 52-51 with six minutes to play.

That set up the streak of free tosses that shackled Ross. Jeff Denman, who hit seven of seven from the foul line in the final eight minutes, hit three straight, the final on a technical foul assessed Ross's John Stierwalt when he did not toss the ball directly to an official after committing a foul.

Denman's tosses put Findlay up 55-51 and Bell followed with two more for a 57-51 Findlay lead. Later in the quarter, Ross trailed 67-62 but fell behind by nine when the Trojans sank four more free throws.

Denman hit his final two and when Mike Wolfe of Ross was called for pushing on a possible rebound off the second shot, Steffan hit two more, giving Findlay four points without a second ticking off the clock. The Trojans were 16 of 21 at the final line in the period.

"That last quarter, we shot a gob," Findlay Coach Roger Renz

said about the free throw barrage. "Denman hit those shots and then Bell hit two more that helped us."

"I know they made a ton of free throws," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said.

Findlay finished with 21 of 28 at the foul line and 26 of 48 from the floor. That shooting offset a 41-27 Ross rebounding advantage.

"The rebounding figures are deceiving," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "because we had only 19 defensive rebounds. They shot the ball well and we gave them several second chances."

The Little Giants, even though it seemed to be a constant parade of Trojans to the foul line in the final eight minutes, had 26 free throws and made 20 of them. Ross was 24 of 65 from the floor.

Stierwalt led Ross with 25 points, one of four Little Giants in double figures. Nick Hall, hampered by a sprained ankle

suffered in Thursday's practice, had 16 with John Cahill adding 11 and Manoh Jones 10.

"Defensively, I thought we played well in the second half," McGhee said, "but Findlay shot well. They earned their points; we were not letting them get them easily."

"We played an excellent third quarter and we made a nice run to catch them."

Ross led 14-13 after one period but fell behind at the half 34-26. In the third quarter, Jones scored eight points and Hall seven to lead Ross to a 21-point quarter and a 47-47 deadlock.

Steffan had 19 points and Bell 17 for Findlay. Rick Hoffman, a 6-11 senior, and Denman had 13 apiece.

Ross will return to action Tuesday, traveling to Ohio Northern University to play Lima Shawnee in a Class AAA sectional tournament game. The game will begin at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Basketball

High school boys

Findlay 73, Ross 68

Score by quarters

Ross	14	12	21	21	— 68
Findlay	13	21	13	26	— 73

Scoring

ROSS — John Stierwalt 9-7-25, John Cahill 4-3-11, Adam Bulger 1-0-2, Nick Hall 5-6-16, Manoh Jones 3-4-10, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Arlo Brown 1-0-2, totals 24-20-68.

FINDLAY — Richie Bell 6-5-17, Jim Steffan 7-5-19, Rick Hoffman 5-3-13, Jeff Denman 3-7-13, Dave Smith 4-0-8, Doug Hosey 1-0-2, John Babcock 0-1-1, totals 26-21-73.

Season record: Ross 10-10 (4-8), Ross 9-11 (4-8).

Ross JVs 42, Findlay 35

Score by quarters

Ross	9	9	10	14	— 42
Findlay	5	14	7	9	— 35

Scoring

ROSS — Kevin Crawford 3-4-10, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Scott Nossaman 0-2-2, Mark Gonzales 1-0-2, Brad Hammer 6-1-13, Maurice Jones 0-1-1, Mike McGee 5-2-12, totals 16-10-42.

FINDLAY — Grant Haggard 2-1-5, Eric Echelberger 1-2-4, Chris MaKraney 1-0-2, Dean Whitacre 0-2-2, Jeff Bova 1-1-3, Rick Renz 1-1-3, Jim Kelley 1-0-2, Matt Semeyn 2-2-6, Brian Ashworth 3-0-6, Derrick Manns 1-0-2, totals 13-9-35.

Season records: Ross 12-8 (6-6), Findlay 11-9 (5-7).

Stierwalt and Havens make AP all-district

News-Messenger Reports

John Stierwalt of Ross and Beau Havens of Oak Harbor are the lone area players to be honored on the Associated Press All-Northwest Ohio high school boys basketball team released today.

Stierwalt, a 6-0 senior, was named to the Class AAA third team and Havens, a 6-4 junior, made the Class AA third team.

The AP all-district teams were voted upon by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from across northwest Ohio.

Both Stierwalt and Havens have played key roles in keeping their respective teams alive in the tournament.

Stierwalt, who averaged 15.1 points a game during the regular season, has scored 45 points in Ross's two tourney wins. Havens, who had a 19.2 average during the regular season, has tallied 53 points in the Rockets' three tournament triumphs.

Ross will play in the Class AAA district semifinals tonight at 9 against Lexington at Bowling Green State University, and Oak Harbor will play Lake in the Class AA district finals Friday night at 7:30 at Toledo Waite.

Players of the year in each class were: Jim Jackson of Toledo Macomber in Class AAA; Jim Harris of Tinora in Class AA; and Steve Hall of Wayne Trace in Class A.

Several other area players received special mention. They are listed along with the complete teams on Page B-2.

All-Buckeye Conference

FIRST TEAM

Mark Cannon, Elyria, sr., 6-4; Al Scott, Lorain Senior, sr., 6-3; Richie Bell, Findlay, sr., 6-0; George McCall, Admiral King, sr., 6-4; John Stierwalt, Ross, sr., 6-0.

SECOND TEAM

Harold Walton, Admiral King, jr., 6-0; Bobby Garrett, Sandusky, Sr., 5-10; James Brown, Marion Harding, sr., 6-6; Jim Steffan, Findlay, sr., 6-0, Don Godlewski, Lorain Senior, sr., 5-11; Todd Brubaker, Elyria, jr., 5-5.

THIRD TEAM

Bill Nowlin, Lorain Senior, sr., 6-7; Kelvin Harvey, Admrial King, sr., 6-2; John Courtright, Marion Harding, jr., 6-0; Chris Phillips, Elyria, jr., 6-3; Fritz Taylor, Sandusky, sr., 6-3.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTION

Manoah Jones, sr.; John Cahill, sr.; Nick Hall, jr.

Ross High honors winter sports stars

News-Messenger Reports

Six athletes were named most valuable for Ross High School winter sports Thursday evening.

Junior Matt Marinis topped that list with his second wrestling team MVP honor.

Other wrestling awards went to Shawn Ramirez for most takedowns and Jim Carroll for most pins. Andy Alejandro was named the most improved and Jon Ramirez won the coach's award.

In girls basketball, Sherrie Hathaway won the MVP honor.

Other girls court awards went to Lisa Colon for most improved, Amy Schepflin as best free throw shooter, Cindy Laird as top rebounder and Aimee LeJeune and Julie Young as the top defensive players.

Becky Thiessen was named the

most valuable junior varsity player with Stacy Pasch earning the most improved award.

John Stierwalt was named the boys basketball team MVP.

Stierwalt, along with Chris Mosser, also won the top field goal and free throw percentage trophies.

Manoah Jones took home the assists trophy with Nick Hall winning the top rebounder award and John Cahill was named the team's top defensive player.

Todi Heslet won the MVP award for the girls swim team and Gwen Poust was named the most improved. Ann Wells won the coach's award.

Rob Penrod won the top boys swim team award with Jason Sprenger being named the most improved. Ryan Nuhfer won the coach's award.



ROSS WINTER sports most valuable award winners are, left to right, front row: Becky Thiessen and Sherrie Hathaway; back row: Todi Heslet, John Stierwalt, Matt Marinis and Rob Penrod.