

Close not good enough for Ross girls

Little Giants drop opener

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Joy Eishen and Fremont Ross came close, but Tiffin Columbian had just enough to slip past the Little Giants 36-34 in the season opening basketball game for both teams at Ross High School Tuesday night.

Eishen's 12-foot jumper from the right baseline rolled around the rim, slipped halfway in the bucket before spinning off with eight seconds remaining, preventing Ross from sending the game into overtime.

"It was a game of streaks," said Ross Coach Sue Wolf.

Streaks both physical and mental.

"We could have quit at the half," Wolf said, "but they came back."

Columbian hit six of seven first quarter shots for a 12-9 lead and ran off seven unanswered second quarter points for a 19-9 advantage.

Ross missed its first 14 shots of the second quarter before Becky Thiessen's bank shot from 18 feet out on the right side ended the Ross drought with 40 seconds left in the first half.

Ross made just one of 16 shots in the second and five of 28 in the first half.

The Little Giants trailed 19-11 at halftime but hit six of 11 shots in the third quarter, outscoring the Tornados 13-6.

Trailing 21-17, Ross scored six straight points on baskets by Kim Borys, Amy Ritzman and Shari Root for a 23-21 lead.

That's when a mental letdown hit Ross.

"It seemed that when we got ahead it was, 'Whew! That was hard work,' and we had a letdown," said Wolf. "I think that might have been our youth showing through."

Ross has just two seniors on the squad.

Columbian took the lead again



BECKY THIESSEN (left) and Dian Schepflin (right) of Fremont Ross defend against Tiffin Columbian's Adrienne Allen during the Tornadoes

News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot
does victory over the Little Giants Tuesday night at Ross. The game was the season opener for both teams.

on buckets by Amy Meyer and Carrie Stiltner, the last, giving Columbian the lead for good, 25-23.

Columbian outscored Ross 7-2 in the first four minutes of the final quarter before Ross started another streak.

Trailing 33-26, the Little Giants pulled within one on a pair of baskets by Borys and another by Thiessen.

With 1:43 remaining, Columbian's DeeDee Shaffer hit from in close and with 57 seconds left, Adrienne Allen canned a free

throw. Allen had missed five consecutive free throws in the final quarter before hitting the key shot.

Dian Schepflin canned two free throws for Ross with 41 seconds to play but the Little Giants failed to convert on three more

chances before Eishen's shot fell off the rim.

Borys led Ross with 10 points. Schepflin had eight and Ritzman six. Stiltner topped Columbian with 14.

Ross was 15 of 55 from the floor and Columbian 16 of 40.

Scrappy Ross falls at home

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Ross may have out-scrapped Bellevue, but the Little Giants did not outscore the Lady Redmen.

Bellevue had just enough to hand Ross a 51-42 setback in a high school girls basketball game Saturday afternoon at Ross High School.

"That was a scrappy team," Bellevue Coach Ron Brown said about Ross. "Ross played well defensively; they played hard.

"We missed some easy shots on the inside after we had worked hard to get the ball there. We played aggressively, too, but we could not put them away."

Bellevue, 2-0, built up 11 and 13-point leads the final quarter but watched as Ross, behind Becky Thiessen and Joy Eishen trimmed the lead to four points twice, the last 46-42 with 1:40 remaining.

Ross was saddled with early foul problems. Point guard Kim Borys and sub Amy Brandt had four fouls in the first half. Borys fouled out with 2:55 remaining in the third quarter.

"The people coming off the bench did a nice job," said Ross Coach Sue Wolf, "but we really missed too many layups."

Ross was anemic from wherever it shot, making just 16 of 64 shots. Bellevue was five of 23 in the first half but was 13 of 23 in the second half, including a nine of 12 showing in the pivotal third quarter.

Leading 19-16 — only after Eishen had been called for traveling after making a three-point shot with two seconds remaining in the first half — Bellevue outscored the Little Giants 20-14 in the third period. Alisa Raifsnider, who finished with a game-high 16 points, scored six in the period with Kim Zelms and Tracey Powell canning two buckets apiece.

Thiessen kept Ross in the game in the third quarter, hitting three buckets to go along with four points by Dian Schepflin.

In the final quarter, Ross, 0-2, charged but Bellevue hit clutch baskets to take away the Little Giants' momentum each time. Raifsnider canned a bucket when Ross crept to within 44-39 and Zelms hit the clutch bucket when Ross got to within 46-42.

Schepflin had 11 points and Eishen had 10 for Ross.

Ross girls can't clear hump in loss to Huron

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Huron rebounded from a sluggish first half with a third-quarter spurt and held on in the final quarter for a 42-37 victory over Fremont Ross in a high school girls basketball game at Ross Tuesday night.

Huron, 3-0, outscored the Little Giants 14-6 in the third quarter, opening up a 32-21 lead. Ross, 0-3, bounced back with a 16-10 advantage in the final eight minutes but the final margin was the closest the Little Giants got.

"I just feel we cannot get over

the hump," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said about her team's ability to charge but inability to cash in for the win.

In the third quarter, Huron, behind Donnelle Cowell, Stacie Esposito and Julie Zimmerman, took control. Cowell tossed in six points the other two, four points each.

The Tiger defense forced Ross into seven turnovers in the quarter.

"Huron was not doing anything differently defensively," Wolf said, "but we were standing around. We were not breaking to

the open gaps."

Huron's biggest lead was 40-27 with two minutes remaining in the game before Ross mounted a late charge. Kim Borys hit the Little Giants' first three-pointer of the season in the 10-2 run in the final two minutes.

Ross utilized a press in the final quarter.

"Maybe," Wolf second-guessed herself, "I should have put the press on sooner but really it did not take effect until the final two minutes."

By that time, Huron had a cushion too big for Ross to climb

over.

Borys led the Ross scoring with 15 points. Shari Root added five. Esposito had 16 for the Tigers.

Ross was 14 of 47 from the floor and Huron 17 of 45. Huron held a 37-33 rebounding edge and committed 28 turnovers, two more than Ross.

In the junior varsity game, Huron came from three points behind with less than a minute to play, pulling out a 26-23 victory. Tanya Stull paced Ross with 11 points on 11 of 12 free throw shooting.

Newark.....58

Ross28

Newark outscored Ross 30-12 in the second and third quarters and won the Buckeye Central Conference opener for both teams.

The Little Giants, 0-4, made just seven of 43 shots, while Newark was 26 of 50 for 52 percent. The Wildcats, 1-3, also dominated the backboards, 35-15.

Jennifer Foote led 10 Newark players in the scorebook with 11 points.

Joy Eishen and Shari Root had eight points apiece for Ross.

Ross girls remain winless despite solid effort in 44-33 loss at Perkins

News-Messenger reports

Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolfe says the effort is there, but the wins aren't after the Little Giants lost their fifth straight game Tuesday night.

Sandusky Perkins was the villain this time, handing Ross a 44-33 setback at Sandusky.

In other games, Gibsonburg defeated Elmwood 40-36, Lakota pounded Woodmore 69-43, Eastwood got by Genoa 58-51 and Bellevue beat Galion 64-43.

"We played very good defense," said Wolfe. "We just missed some key shots."

Wolfe said a missed layup and two turnovers down the stretch prevented the Little Giants from cutting into a six-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Dian Schepflin led Ross, 0-5, with 14 points but was the only Little Giant in double figures.

Shannon Chill led all scorers with 21 points for Perkins, 4-1

the second half to remain unbeaten in two Suburban Lakes League games.

Janelle Haslinger led the Golden Bears with 11 points, and Monica Bissack added 10.

Melinda Myers paced Elmwood with 15 points and Amy Firsdan had 13.

Gibsonburg improved to 4-1, while Elmwood remained winless in four games including two league contests.

Lakota.....69

Woodmore.....43

Lakota rolled to an easy win after breaking a 12-all first-quarter tie.

Wendy Krupp led four Raiders in double figures with a career-high 21 points. Janet Geyman scored 14 points, Beth Gabel added 11 and Deb Carlo chipped in 10 for Lakota, 3-1 and 2-0 in the SLL.

The Comets trailed by five in the fourth quarter and had chance to get closer, but missed layup and a few turnovers spelled their doom.

Eastwood, which remained unbeaten in four games including two SLL contests, stretched five-point halftime lead to 1 after three quarters.

The Eagles, who were led by Deb DeWese with 15 points, committed just five turnovers.

Genoa's Amy Sander led all scorers with 20 points. Lisa Wit scored 14 points for the Comets 3-2 and 1-1 in league play.

Bellevue.....64

Galion.....41

Bellevue overcame a sluggish start to easily defeat Galion in Northern Ohio League game.

The Lady Redmen stretched two-point lead after the first quarter into a 10-point halftime

Ross's first victory isn't pretty

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

CLYDE — Winning is not always pretty but losing is not always ugly.

Ross got its first win in six tries, defeating Clyde 46-38 Thursday night in a high school girls game at Clyde High School. The loss dropped Clyde to 1-3.

"It wasn't pretty but it was a win," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said, savoring the first victory. "At least it goes on the left hand side of the (won-lost) column."

Ross led by as many as 16

points, 41-25, but had to survive several turnovers in the final five minutes.

With two minutes remaining, Clyde cut the Little Giants' lead to 44-36. The point spread could have squeezed but the Fliers missed five layups and had a three-pointer bounce in and out in the final 20 seconds.

That comeback added a little beauty to the Fliers' loss for Coach Nancy Hanger.

"The kids played well and kept in the ball game," Hanger said.

"Defensively, I think we kept

them from the inside. Ross is definitely a better outside shooting team than us, but that's where they had to shoot from tonight."

Clyde led 12-11 after one quarter, but the score could have read Clyde 12, Amy Ritzman 9 and Ross 2. Ritzman, a scrappy sophomore, scored the Little Giants' first nine points.

In the second quarter, Kim Borys and Joy Eishen had two baskets apiece, leading a 15-4

See FIRST, B-3

third straight SLL win

time to make things easier for Otsego.

The Knights outscored the Wildcats 8-3 in the extra session, mostly on offensive rebounds.

Jody Keifer led all scorers with 17 points for Otsego, which won its first game in six outings and improved to 1-2 in the SLL.

Becky Riseborough led Woodmore with 13 points and Jenny Verbyrke and April Bringman each added 10 as the the Wildcats remained winless in five games, including three league contests.

Port Clinton.....81

Danbury.....65

Jacque Mattox exploded for a career-high 46 points and Port Clinton overcame a 40-30 half-time deficit.

Krishna Myers led Danbury with 25 points despite being in foul trouble much of the game.

The Redskins and Lakers are now 2-2.

Calvert.....55

Bettsville.....29

Michelle Weber scored 16 points as the Senecas handed Bettsville another loss despite 18 points from Chris Lynch.

Bettsville fell to 0-5 and 0-4 in the Midland Athletic League. Calvert improved to 3-2 and 2-2 in the MAL.

N. Baltimore.....57

Old Fort.....45

Nicki Wymer scored 28 points and Jan Reichenbach chipped in 11 as the Tigers improved to 4-3 and 3-1 in the MAL.

Amy Brueggemeier scored 20 points in a losing cause for the Stockaders, who fell to 0-4 and 0-3 in league play.

title in own tournament

Cesar Mendoza, a junior 145-pounder, and sophomores George Flores, 152, and Bob Jahna, 160, are the other returnees.

That group will lead the Golden Bears, winners of the tourney the past three seasons, and holder of four Golden Bear titles.

The tourney entry list also includes, Archbold, North Baltimore, New London, Hopewell-Loudon, Seneca East, Calvert, Van Buren, Woodmore, St. Wendelin and Spencerville

"According to the seeded wrestlers, the top teams are Archbold, Hopewell-Loudon, North Baltimore and New London," Funk said.

"Archbold may be a little off because they are not bringing a couple of kids who played on the football team."

Archbold won the Division V state football crown six days ago.

Third-round action begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and the semifinals are at 1 p.m. The finals begin 7 p.m. Saturday.

First

Continued From B-1

Ross spurt and a staking it to a 26-16 halftime lead.

Ross stretched that lead to 39-25 after three quarters, the last three points of the quarter on Borys' shot from the top of the key.

In the final eight minutes, six Clyde players scored as the Fliers came close to crawling out of the hole they had dug. Ross, between turnovers, survived by taking valuable seconds off the clock with a delayed offense.

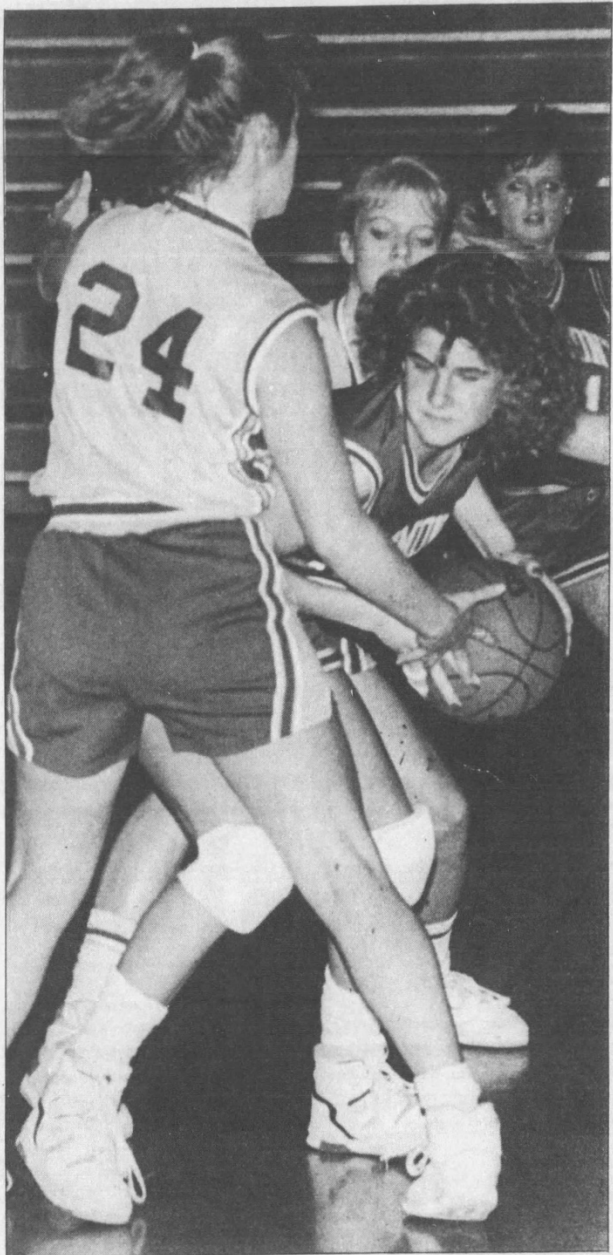
Ritzman and Borys finished with 12 points apiece. Shari Root added seven, all in the third quarter.

Lindi Morrison had 11 points and Sherri Nelson eight for the Fliers.

Ross was 17 of 48 from the floor but just seven of 19 from the foul line. Clyde was 14 of 43 and eight of 14 at the line. The Fliers had a 31-30 rebounding edge.

Ross center Dian Schepflin was forced out of the game in the third quarter when her nose was bloodied by a hit in the face by the ball. She did not return.

"I don't know how serious it is," Wolf said. "We will have to wait to see what the doctor says."



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Double team

DIAN SCHEPFLIN of Fremont Ross is guarded by Clyde's Jodi Ferrell (24) and Lindi Morrison (back) as Diane Borys looks on.

THERE'S A BIG GIVEAWAY



Lancaster tops Ross girls 65-41

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross stumbled in the second and third quarter en route to a 65-41 loss to Buckeye Central Conference for Lancaster in a high school girls basketball game at Ross Saturday.

In other games, Oak Harbor defeated Huron 53-44 and Woodmore beat Bettsville 58-28.

Ross, 1-6 and 0-2 in the BCC, led 14-13 after the first quarter, but scored just seven points in each of the next two quarters. Lancaster, meanwhile, scored 26 points in the second quarter and 14 in the third.

No Little Giant scored in double figures although Joy Eishen and Shari Root each had eight points.

Holly Coll led all scorers with 20 points for Lancaster, 4-3 and 2-0 in the BCC.

Port Clinton girls hold off Ross 54-51

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Girls basketball teams on opposite ends of the won-loss spectrum hooked up at Fremont Ross High School Monday night.

In a well-played game, Port Clinton extended its winning streak to five games with a 54-51 victory over Ross.

The Redskins improved to 6-2 while the Little Giants fell to 1-7.

Jacque Mattox scored 23 points and Jennifer Heigel had 21 for Port Clinton, which led by as many as 12 points before holding off the scrappy Little Giants.

Ross never led after Kim Borys opened the game with a jump shot from the right side. The Little Giants caught the Redskins at 41-all at the outset of the fourth quarter but failed to cash in.

Joy Eishen led Ross with 20 points, including 16 in the second half. Eishen made five of six shots in the third quarter and three of four in the fourth period.

"I was a little disappointed that they caught up to us," said Port Clinton Coach Doug Armstrong. "I knew that if they kept hitting from the outside it was going to be close."

Ross, which shot 44 percent (24-for-54) from the field, relied mainly on the outside shooting of Eishen and Borys.

"We missed too many layups," said Ross Coach Sue Wolf. "We should have been in the game. We missed five layups in the

first quarter and 11 in the game. "You're not going to be in too many ballgames when you miss shots like that."

After Eishen tied the score with a jumper with 6:36 left to play, Port Clinton moved back to a four-point advantage at 45-41 on buckets by Debbie Tucker and Mattox.

The Redskins were clinging to a 49-48 edge when Heigel stepped to the foul line for a one-and-one with 37 seconds remaining.

Heigel made the first free throw. She missed the second, but Mattox grabbed the rebound and scored to make it 52-48.

"We don't like to box out," Wolf said. "We practice it, but we don't like to do it."

"We think we can jump with people ... when you're our size, you shouldn't think you can jump with anyone."

A Ross turnover resulted in Jennifer Armstrong's only basket of the night and sealed the PC victory.

Ross committed just 16 turnovers but every one seemed costly.

"They came at expensive times," Wolf said.

Port Clinton took advantage of Ross's layup woes for a 16-6 first-quarter lead. Heigel scored six points and assisted on Mattox's three baskets.

The Redskins led 21-9 with 5:12 to go before halftime, but sev-

See GIRLS, B-3



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

JENNIFER HEIGEL of Port Clinton drives around Kim Borys of Fremont Ross as Borys applies

pressure during the Redskins' victory over the Little Giants Monday night in Fremont.

Girls

Continued From B-1

eral turnovers and sloppy defense allowed Ross to pull within six at 27-21 with 33 seconds left.

"We were switching our defenses," said Armstrong, "and I think we switched them too much because we got confused."

Playing for the last shot of the half, Ross committed a turnover and Heigel scored on an easy layup for a 29-21 PC lead at half-time.

The third quarter featured hot shooting by both teams and ended with the Redskins on top 41-39. Neither team was called for a foul in the period.

With Ross threatening an upset, Mattox rose to the occasion in the fourth quarter. She scored eight points, including the putback off Heigel's missed foul shot.

"Mattox and Heigel are our 'go-to' people," Armstrong said. "They got it done tonight. Heigel on that first free throw and Mattox on the rebound."

After Armstrong's late basket, Borys accounted for the final points with a long three-point field goal.

The game was a microcosm of the season for both teams.

A win for Port Clinton.

"The girls are playing with a lot of confidence," Armstrong said.

One that got away for Ross.

"It was enjoyable to watch, but we didn't win," Wolf said.



AMY BRANDT of Fremont Ross shoots over the hand of Zanesville's Mary Newton during the

second quarter of Thursday's Buckeye Central Conference game at Ross High School.

Bad shooting haunts Ross in 47-38 loss

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross has a case of the "rerun blues."

Zanesville's 47-38 Buckeye Central Conference girls basketball victory Thursday afternoon in the Ross High School Purple Pit repeated a familiar script for the Little Giants.

They stay close but suffer from poor shooting.

"We've only been out of two games," Ross assistant coach Greg Storer said.

Ross, 1-8, has lost six games by 11 or fewer points. Three of the losses have been by five or fewer points.

In Thursday's loss, Ross took itself out of the game, going scoreless during a six-minute stretch in the fourth quarter.

The Blue Devils, 4-6 and 2-1 in the BCC, trailed 31-29 after Amy Ritzman gave Ross the lead with a basket 20 seconds into the final quarter. Zanesville pulled even on Felisha Johnson's driving layup, which began a 12-point run.

By the time Shari Root converted on a three-point play, Ross trailed 41-34 with 1:28 left to play.

"We still cannot shoot the ball," Ross head coach Sue Wolf repeated, a statement that manifested itself against Zanesville.

In the first half, Ross was fortunate Zanesville was misfiring just as frequently. The game was knotted 6-6 after one quarter and 13-13 at halftime. Both

teams combined for an eight-of-49 shooting performance in the opening half, with Ross four-of-28.

"Our passing game was looking good," Wolf said. She stopped there, however.

The passing was good but that phase of the game does not light up the scoreboard.

Both teams turned lukewarm in the third quarter, scoring 16 points apiece. Ross was eight of 16 from the floor and Zanesville seven of 14. The Blue Devils continued their .500 shooting pace in the final eight minutes while Ross took itself out of the game, making just two of 15 shots.

The Ross effort was summed up in one frenzy. With 4:57 remaining in the game and the Little Giants trailing 35-32, Ross collected three offensive rebounds but missed four shots, all from less than three feet.

After that, Zanesville steadily pulled away.

"What can you say?" Wolf asked no one in particular. "If we were taking bad shots, I could understand."

Ross was eight of 59 from the floor while Zanesville was 12 of 50.

Johnson paced Zanesville with 13 points. Mary Newton came off the bench to score nine points and Tracy Simmons added eight.

Kim Borys topped Ross with nine points and Shari Root had seven. Amy Ritzman and Joy Elshen added six apiece.

News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

Findlay.....68

Ross54

Findlay outscored Ross 44-28 in the first half and then held on for its sixth win in 10 games.

Ross, 1-9, closed to within eight points in the final quarter but could get no closer.

Heather Pirschel led a trio of Findlay players reaching double figure scoring with 18. Ruthie Johnston had 16 and Kristin Petry 14 for the Trojans.

Kim Borys led Ross with 14 including a pair of three-point goals. Amy Brandt came off the bench to get a season-high 11 for Ross.

Ross was 19 of 64 from the floor and Findlay 29 of 59.

Findlay is 3-1 in the Buckeye Central Conference and Ross 0-4.

Northview whips Ross girls

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross scored in double figures in only the fourth quarter and 10 Sylvania Northview players scored as Northview defeated the Little Giants 51-33 in a girls non-conference game Monday night.

Northview took a 16-6 first-quarter lead and was never threatened. The Wildcats led 28-15 at halftime and 40-20 after three quarters.

Janice McCombs led Northview with 10 points as all but one of the Wildcats that played scored.

Joy Eishen was the only Ross player in double figures with 11.

While Ross struggled to 27 percent (12-for-45) shooting from the floor, Northview made 22 of 44 shots for 50 percent.

The Little Giants fell to 1-10. Northview improved to 8-2.

Macomber40

Ross.....33

Macomber scored the first eight points of the second half and went on to defeat Ross in the non-conference game.

Ross, 1-11, outscored Macomber 15-8 in the second quarter and led 21-18 at half-time but Sha Rhonda Purley tossed in 10 third-quarter points to spur the Macomber takeover.

The Little Giants closed to 31-29 late in the third quarter but Joy Staten hit two breakaway layups and Macomber led 35-29 at the end of the period.

Purley led Macomber, 9-5, with 17 points and Staten added 13.

Joy Eishen topped Ross with 10 and Kim Borys added six.

Clay pulls away from Ross with big third quarter

News-Messenger reports

One bad quarter pushed Ross into the loss column for the 12 time in 13 games this girls basketball season.

This time, Oregon Clay outscored Ross 15-5 in the third quarter and went on to post a 56-49 victory in Oregon Tuesday.

It was the seventh straight loss for Ross.

In a pair of Sandusky Bay Conference games Tuesday, Margaretta whipped Clyde 71-33 and Port Clinton defeated Edison 63-45. The Polar Bears and Redskins remain tied for first place in the SBC with 7-1 records.

"We got behind 16-2," Ross Coach Sue Wolf said, "but got ourselves back into it at the half and then we come back and play poorly in the third quarter."

Oregon Clay, 10-3, led Ross at 31-26 at halftime.

The Little Giants cut the lead down, outscoring the Eagles 18-10 in the fourth quarter — but still fell short.

"We clawed our way back in the fourth quarter," Wolf said, "and we had them on the ropes with a chance to win it, but it was the same old story: We played hard but lost it."

Joy Eishen led Ross with 14 points and Becky Thiessen had 10.

Julie Unsinger lead all scorers with 15 points and Andrea Dunn had 13 for Clay, 10-3.

Margaretta71

Clyde33

The Polar Bears took advantage of numerous Clyde turnovers for an 18-2 first-quarter lead and coasted.

Vicki Czekaj led Margaretta, 10-3, with 14 points with Jenny Greene and Jenny Lindsley each adding 12.

Clyde, 1-13 and 0-8 in the SBC got 13 points from Sherri Nelson. The Fliers committed 32 turnovers.

Port Clinton.....

Edison

Jennifer Armstrong score career-high with 20 points. Jennifer Heigel matched her season high with 21 as Port Clinton kept its share of first.

Jacque Mattox added 18 for the Redskins, 11-3. Kim Lindsley scored 20 points for Edison and 3-5 in the SBC.

Lakers, 5-8.

Woodmore led 18-10 after one quarter, 28-18 at halftime and 39-35 after three quarters.

Lancaster57

Ross37

The Little Giants, who fell behind 11-6 after one quarter, trailed just 25-19 at halftime but were outscored 32-18 in the second half.

Joy Eishen scored 20 points for Ross, 1-13 and winless in five Buckeye Central Conference games, and Amy Ritzman had 10.

Jill Hiles led Lancaster, 9-6 and 4-2 in the BCC, with 19 points.

Seneca East48

Old Fort35

Penny Keaton scored 15 points and Sonya Holmer had 13 as Seneca East improved to 4-13 and 4-9 in the Midland Athletic League.

Old Fort, which made just 14 of 64 (22 percent) shots from the floor and scored only 13 points in the second half, did not have a player score in double figures.

Susan Miller and Amy Brueg-

Columbian.....40

Ross35

The difference was at the free throw line where Columbian made 10 foul shots and Ross just five.

The Little Giants had a 17-point fourth quarter but the Tornadoes were almost as good, scoring 15 points.

Kim Borys and Joy Eishen scored 10 points apiece for Ross, 1-14 and losers of nine straight. Scarlett Schnepat had eight points for Columbian, 5-11.

Ross girls savor second win of season

News-Messenger reports

This one was worth savoring.

The last time the Newark girls played Ross, the Little Giants were buried 55-28, and Sue Wolf remembered.

It was a bad memory, but after Saturday's 53-52 win by the Ross girls in the Purple Pit, the Little Giants coach could smile.

"We won it at the foul line," Wolf said.

Ross made 21 of 31 at the foul line and Newark four of eight.

Newark committed 20 fouls, many when Ross players were in the act of shooting, while the Little Giants were charged with 12.

"We shot the free throws well, but for us, it was a team win," Wolf said.

A common statement from coaches but Wolf backed it up.

"We were getting the ball to the person who was hot at that time," Wolf said. "We were picking each other up, helping on defense; it was a team win."

Team or otherwise, it was only the second time the Ross girls have tasted victories in 16 games.

Amy Ritzman's short jumper with 14 seconds left put Ross up by the point and when Newark failed to score in the final seconds, the Little Giants had their first Buckeye Central Conference

win in six attempts.

"We had balanced scoring," Wolf pointed out and adding to the "finding the hot player" theory, "the girls were scoring in bunches."

Joy Eishen, who had a game-high 17 points, scored six in both the second and third quarters. Kim Borys had six of her 11 in the third quarter while Ritzman was consistent, scoring a bucket in each quarter for her eight points.

Wolf said one of the keys for her team was near the basket.

"I told our two inside people — Becky Thiessen and Dian Schepflin — we had to have at least 10 points from them for us to win,"

Wolf said. "They got 14 for us."

Thiessen had eight of the 14 including six in the first quarter.

Ross led at the half 29-22.

"We played very well that half," Wolf said. "We still didn't shoot the ball well but we shot well enough and played good defense."

Ross was 16 of 43 from the floor.

Newark, paced by Danielle Shackelford's eight points, outscored Ross 21-16 in the third quarter but trailed 45-43.

Trish Hill topped Newark with 11 points and three other Wildcats scored eight apiece.

Ross will play Eastwood, 15-1, at Pemberville tonight.

Eastwood whips Ross

News-Messenger reports

PEMBERVILLE — The Fremont Ross girls basketball team ran into state-ranked Eastwood Monday night and the Eagles came away with a 64-33 victory over the Little Giants.

Eastwood, 16-1 and ranked second in the Associated Press (AP) Division III poll, outscored Ross 21-6 in the second quarter and won easily.

The Eagles made 30 of 47 shots (64 percent) from the floor while the Little Giants, 2-15, made just 14 of 49 field goal attempts.

Jenny Parsons led all scorers with 22 points for Eastwood. Dian Schepflin led Ross with 12.

Ross won the junior varsity game 40-35 behind 16 points from Tanya Stull and 15 from Vickie Castile.

The Ross reserves improved to 5-12.

Ross girls fail in fourth quarter at Zanesville

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross managed to play three good quarters in its 54-41 loss to Zanesville Saturday.

The problem was, Zanesville played four good quarters in its Buckeye Central Conference victory.

In other games, Oak Harbor topped Clyde 41-31, Bellevue upset Upper Sandusky 58-48, Lakota defeated Fostoria 53-44, Genoa clobbered Elmwood 60-39, Arcadia beat Gibsonburg 53-31, and Vanlue outlasted Old Fort 44-38.

Ross trailed 34-32 entering the fourth quarter, but was outscored 20-9 in the final period.

Mary Newton led Zanesville with 16 points, Felisha Johnson added 12 points and Kim Shriber accounted for 10 points as the Blue Devils upped their record to 8-8 and 5-2 in the BCC.

Joy Eishen and Amy Ritzman each had 12 for the Little Giants, 2-16 and 1-6 in the BCC.

Ross fell behind by five after the first quarter, but managed to cut the deficit to two, 24-22, at halftime. The teams played to a 10-all standoff in the third quarter.

their own in the Sandusky Bay Conference game.

The Fliers, 3-16 and 2-11 in the SBC, managed just two points in the first quarter, while the Rockets managed seven.

Oak Harbor, 14-4 and 10-2, ran their lead to 16-6 at halftime, then held off Clyde, which erupted for 17 points in the third quarter.

The Rockets led 26-23 going into the fourth quarter.

Alison Gohnick led Oak Harbor with 14 points and Janice Butzin had 10.

Sherri Nelson led the Fliers with nine points.

Bellevue58
Upper Sandusky48

Bellevue's upset over the host Rams knocked Upper Sandusky from first place in the Northern Ohio League.

The Lady Redmen improve to 11-7 and 7-6 in the NOL. Upper Sandusky falls to 15-3 and 11-2. Shelby is now tied with the Rams for first.

The two teams entered the fourth quarter in a 37-all tie, but Bellevue forged a 21-11 fourth-

Lakota.....53
Fostoria.....44

Lakota came back from a 25-16 halftime deficit to defeat Fostoria in non-league play.

The Raiders, 14-3, outscored Fostoria 16-9 in the third quarter, and 20-10 in the fourth quarter.

Janet Geyman led all scorers with 22 points. Beth Gabel and Terri Nagy each added 12 points for the Raiders.

LeAnn Dennison and Jacquie Flipse each had 12 points for Fostoria, 5-14.

Genoa.....60
Elmwood.....39

Genoa outscored the Eagles 12-4 in the first quarter and 18-5 in the third quarter in the Suburban Lakes League game.

The victory lifts the Comets to 13-5 and 9-3 in the SLL. Elmwood falls to 3-14 and 1-11.

After the 12-4 first quarter, Elmwood came back to cut the Comets' lead to 25-19 at halftime.

Lisa Witt led Genoa with 13 points, and Amy Sander had 12 for Genoa. Melinda Mvers led

The Eagles turned the ball over 35 times, while Genoa committed only 13 turnovers.

Arcadia.....5
Gibsonburg.....3

Jane Wrecker scored 25 points in Arcadia's non-league win over Gibsonburg.

Arcadia, 16-1, held the Bears to 12 second-half points.

Monica Binsack led Gibsonburg, 9-8, with 16 points.

Vanlue.....4
Old Fort3

The Stockaders were outscored 15-4 in the third quarter of their non-league loss to visiting Varlue.

Old Fort, 3-16, was two-out of seven from the foul line, while the Wildcats made 12-of-16 from the line. The Stockaders, who led 17-16 at halftime, also made only 18 of 70 (26 percent) of their shots from the floor.

Susan Miller had 10 of her 1 points in a fourth quarter comeback try by the Stockaders. Amy Brueggemeier led Old Fort with 15 points.

Sandusky's second-quarter spurt topples Little Giants 55-34

News-Messenger reports

Sandusky outscored Fremont Ross 21-4 in the second quarter and went on to a 55-34 non-conference girls basketball victory over the Little Giants Tuesday night.

In other games, Genoa beat Gibsonburg 69-44, Lakota pasted Elmwood 70-25, Northwood nipped Woodmore 43-42, Huron topped Clyde 61-51, St. Mary's defeated Port Clinton 63-58 and Bellevue got by Columbian 58-49.

At Ross, The Little Giants led 11-10 after one quarter before the Blue Streaks caught fire. Ross, 3-16, outscored Sandusky 10-6 in the third quarter, but the Streaks, 16-3, put the game in the win column with an 18-9 advance-

ment in the fourth quarter. Trina Aaron led all scorers with 16 points for Sandusky. Amy Brandt came off the bench to lead Ross with 12 points.

Genoa.....69
Gibsonburg.....44

The Comets opened up a 20-6 first quarter lead while breezing past Gibsonburg in a Suburban Lakes League game.

Genoa, 14-5 and 10-3, placed four players in double figures. The Comets were led by Lisa Witt's 16 points.

Monica Binsack led the Golden Bears, 9-9 and 6-6 in the SLL, with 14 points.

Genoa made 29 shots from the

field, while Gibsonburg made just 17 field goals. The Comets also made 10 of 11 free throws to just 10 of 22 for the Bears.

Lakota.....70
Elmwood.....25

Elmwood's entire team outscored Lakota's Janet Geyman by one point during the SLL contest. Geyman led all scorers with 24 points.

The Raiders, 16-3 and 11-2 in the SLL, led 32-14 at halftime and increased their margin with a 19-3 third-quarter advantage.

Elmwood, 3-14 and 1-12, committed 28 turnovers to just seven for the Raiders.

Northwood.....43
Woodmore.....42

Jenny Kane made two free throws with no time on the clock as Northwood overcame a poor third quarter to snap Woodmore's four-game winning streak in the SLL game.

Northwood, 9-9 and 7-6, was outscored 15-8 in the third quarter after recovering from an eight-point first quarter output to lead 30-29 at halftime.

Woodmore, 6-12 and 3-9 in the SLL, led by as many as 10 points in the third quarter, but mustered just eight fourth-quarter points.

Amy Blausey led the Wildcats

with 14 points.

Huron.....61
Clyde.....51

Danielle Cowell scored 24 points and Stacie Esposito had 15 as Huron won its second Sandusky Bay Conference game of the year. The Tigers improved to 6-13 and 2-11 in the SBC.

Sherry Nelson used four 3-pointers en route to 15 points for Clyde, 3-17 and 2-12. Lindi Morrison and Karen Birkholz both added 10 points for the Fliers.

St. Mary's.....63
Port Clinton.....58

St. Mary's used a 23-17 advance-

ment in the second quarter of the SBC game despite 30 by Port Clinton's Jacquie Mark. The Redskins finished their regular season at 14-6 and in place in the SBC with a mark.

Bellevue.....
Columbian.....

Bellevue overcame a third-quarter with a 19-4 quarter advantage as it proved to 12-7 and 8-6 Northern Ohio League.

Alisa Raifsnider scored game-high 22 points for the Redmen, who led 26-25 at a time. Jenny Windau added and Kim Zelms chipped in

Ross girls find Friday night to their liking

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Ross was leading, but Sue Wolf could not shake the thought.

"I kept waiting to see how we were going to lose," the Ross girls coach said as a smile crossed her face.

Instead of finding a way to lose, the Little Giants painted a portrait of how to win, posting a 49-46 win over Findlay in a rare Friday night game for the girls in the Purple Pit.

The Trojans, 13-7, needed a win over Ross, 3-17, to win the Buckeye Central Conference title but now is forced to share the crown with Lancaster with a 6-2 conference mark. The win enabled Ross to clinch fourth place in the final BCC standings with a 2-6 record.

Ross, which has made a habit of losing but not by much this season, trailed 38-33 early in the final quarter.

"We have only been beaten bad three times," Wolf said, "but this one, well, it

was really fun."

"I thought when we got up by five," Findlay Coach Bill Lobb said, "we had it turned around."

Instead, Ross turned it around, outscoring the Trojans 9-4, catching up at 42-42 on the second of three. Amy Brandt back-door layups and Brandt's free throw with 4:25 remaining.

The Little Giants continued the hot streak, running off five more points for a 47-42 lead. The bucket giving Ross a five-point lead was another back-door layup by Brandt, who took passes from Kim Borys on both layups. Earlier in the run, Joy Eishen, who led Ross scoring with 17 points, had found Brandt on the first Ross back-court play, closing the Findlay lead to 42-39.

"We had just worked on that play yesterday (Thursday)," Wolf said.

"We were just outstuffed," Lobb said. After falling behind by five, Findlay got baskets from Kristin Petry and Ruthie

Johnston and trailed 47-46 with 50 seconds left. That's when Wolf began the wait that never happened.

Brandt, who finished with 11 points, all but two in the final quarter, sank two free throws with 42 seconds left. After that, Findlay committed three turnovers, missed two shots and lost another ball when Dian Schepflin of Ross tied up Petry on a rebound with possession going to Ross with 13 seconds left.

Ross missed three free throws in the last 25 seconds, but Schepflin came up with rebounds on two of them, helping preserve the upset.

"That was fun," Wolf was able to say.

"We had to keep them off the boards," she said, "because at Findlay (68-54) they had 46 shots in the paint, eight layups and just six shots from the outside. So we wanted to pack it in an force them outside."

Findlay outrebounded Ross 40-32 but the Little Giants had the key rebounds down

the stretch.

"This game shows what a little determination will do," Lobb said. "It doesn't matter whether the team is two and 17 or 18 and two, the team that plays hard is going to win."

Ross backed up Lobb's thinking.

Both teams committed 10 turnovers in the first quarter with Ross holding a 12-8 lead. Ross committed 10 more turnovers in the second quarter — Findlay cut its miscues in half — and fell behind 20-19. After three quarters, the Trojans held a 37-33 advantage.

Eishen scored just three points in the first half but pumped in eight in the third quarter and six more in the final eight minutes. Amy Ritzman had 11 points, nine in the first half.

Petry led Findlay with 15 points and Ruthie Johnston had nine.

Ross will play Tiffin Columbian in Division I tournament action at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Ontario High School.

Coaches All-District

DISTRICT 6

Division I

First team

Latoja Hams, Mansfield Senior, 6-0, Sr.; Trina Aaron, Sandusky, 6-0, Sr.; Nicole McFadden, Ashland, 5-5, Sr.; Michelle Butler, Sandusky, 5-7, Jr.; Beth Raphael, Mansfield Senior, 5-7, Sr.

Second team

Erin Kulka, Mansfield Madison, 5-10, Sr.; Donna Lash, Ashland, 5-5, Sr.; Ayanna Black, Mansfield Senior, 5-8, Jr.; Dionne Graves, Sandusky, 5-7, Sr.; Adrienne Allen, Tiffin Columbian, 5-9, Sr.

Honorable mention: **Kim Borys, Ross.**

Coach of the Year: John Miefert, Mansfield Senior

BCC All-Stars

First Team

Jill Hiles, Lancaster; Kristin Petry, Findlay; Holly Coll, Lancaster; Ruthie Johnston, Findlay; Jennifer Foote, Newark; Mary Newton, Zanesville.

Second Team

Feleshie Johnson, Zanesville; **Kim Borys, Fremont Ross; Joy Eishen, Fremont Ross;** Becky Shaffner, Findlay; Penny Plinke, Lancaster.

Player of the Year: Jill Hiles, Lancaster.

Coach of the Year: Bill Lobb, Findlay.

Honorable mention: **Becky Thiessen, Amy Ritzman and Dian Schepflin, Fremont Ross.**