

1977-1978 Season Review

Little Giants' goal: rip up No. 1!

The number "1" figures prominently in the Ross High School basketball season that begins to unfold tonight in the local school's gym.

Ross will host Class AA Fostoria in the initial test of the season and that number "1" will be figuring in a lot of Ross moves.

First — Ross will be guided by Norm "Biz" Paeth, a Fremont native, but at the head of the Ross program for the first time;

Second — Paeth's varsity assistant coach is Steve Krynoch who is also in his first year at Ross;

Third — Junior varsity Coach Tim Pettorini, although no stranger to Ross, is in his first year as the junior varsity basketball coach;

Fourth — The Little Giants will be shooting for their first win since the next to last game of the 1975-76 season;

And fifth — There is a big number "1" posted inside the gym that senior members of the Little Giants want to physically rip down.

"We have a big number '1' hanging up in the gym," Paeth explained the reasoning behind the numeral, "and it does not mean that we are going to be number one — it's just that we are going to win number one."

"We told the seniors that when they win their first game, they can tear it down. We are planning on that Saturday (tonight) night."

Paeth inherited his first Class AAA

coaching job after a highly successful career at Class A Sandusky St. Mary. He also inherited a 20-game Ross losing streak.

He doesn't figure his team to be world beaters. He makes no bones about that. Respectability is the goal that Paeth and Krynoch will be aiming for this first season.

"For us to have a successful season," Paeth labored to explain, "you will not be able to measure it in wins and losses but in terms of kids working and trying their best and me trying my best. It will be a successful season when we can meet at the end of the season and look each other in the eyes and say we tried our best — if we pick up a few wins along the way — that will be great."

The first few weeks for Paeth and Krynoch have not been easy.

"After our first scrimmage, I came home and wanted to cry because I could not see light at the end of the tunnel but since that time, it has gotten better."

The Paeth-Krynoch duo have been busy teaching a new offense and new defense to the Little Giants and as it stands now, the defense is ahead of the offense.

"It just takes a matter of getting used to each other," Paeth said about the offensive problems. "We have played good pressure defense in the scrimmages."

Krynoch is the man in charge of the offense and the chief problem is getting

the fast break functioning well.

Paeth pointed out that all of the teams members have been willing workers — doing everything that the P-K team has asked.

Tonight, Paeth's tallest man (Ross lacks height) will be 6-3 Billy Burel at center.

"We'll surround him with the pygmies," Paeth chuckled.

Randy Hammer, 5-11, a two-year senior letterman, Steve McGilton, 6-0, John Shetzer, 5-11, both juniors, and senior Tim Price 5-11, will be the other four starters.

"These guys are the true "Little Giants,'" Paeth said in regards to his team's height.

The sixth man for Ross will be Jeff Brown on the outside and 6-0 Lawrence Holmes on the inside.

"Hopefully, we are going to use a lot of kids," the new coach said.

Other inside replacements are 6-5 Larry Williams, a two-year letterman, Kevin Cook, a junior, who can go inside or outside, Mike Fahrbach, Jeff Elcher, and T. J. Brudzinski on the outside.

One thing Paeth can chuckle about, be it half-heartedly, is that if his team wins one game, it will be a dubious improvement over last season. He'd just as soon forget that — he'd rather get something more substantial going for the future. The first block of that foundation may be put into place tonight.



THREE FACES, two new and one familiar, will be seen on the sidelines tonight when Ross opens its basketball season by hosting Fostoria. Norm "Biz" Paeth, front, is the new head varsity coach and Steve Krynoch, back right, is the new varsity

assistant. Both are new to the Fremont system. Tim Pettorini, back left, has been in the Fremont school system for several years and will coach the junior varsity team for Ross.

Boxing show and boxing needs

The Fremont AAU Boxing Club is sponsoring a boxing show at the Hancock Recreation Center in Findlay on Dec. 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The local club, sponsored by the Fremont Recreation Department, is planning a show in Fremont after the first of the year.

Jeff Bloom, recreation director, sounded a call for financial assistance

for the team which has 30 members. Bloom said that in addition to financial needs, the team needs a place to practice and transportation to out-of-town matches.

Anyone interested in helping the team should contact the Recreation Department at 332-5353 or send contributions to the Fremont Recreation "Boxing Club", 104 N. Arch St., Fremont, Ohio 43420.

Ross skid halted

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

The monkey is finally off the Ross High School basketball team and first year head Coach Norm "Biz" Paeth.

The Little Giants slugged, clawed, and spurted to a 38-34 win over Fostoria Saturday night at the Ross High School gym. That win catapulted that perky monkey that had turned into a gorilla sized 20-game losing streak out of the Ross karma and gave Paeth a "Jimmy Carter" expression: a big toothy smile.

"Somehow we did it — I don't know how," Paeth said as that Carter look refused to evaporate. "We tried not to (win it) but . . ."

The Little Giants survived an oh for 16 from the field stretch in the second quarter and 10 of 27 free throw shooting to knock off the equally cool Redmen.

Fostoria held a 21-15 lead at the half but then pulled off a mirror-like Ross performance in the third period and fell behind. After outscoring Ross 13-3 in the second period, the Redmen were outscored by Ross 10-2 in the third frame and trailed 25-23.

Steve McGilton's shot from the top of the circle with nine ticks remaining in the first half gave Ross a one for 17 performance from the field for the second quarter. Earlier, Tim Price had hit on the front end of a one and one for Ross's first point at 1:48 of the period.

"It was the first game," Paeth rationalized, "and both teams were nervous."

Both teams employed man-to-man full court presses and Ross responded to that defense better than the Redmen. The Little Giants, surprisingly, had only 17 turnovers, 14 less than Fostoria.

"We had no problems with the pressure," Paeth said as he savored his first win as the Ross coach and then added, "you got to tak'em — you got to take'em (wins)."

Ross led 8-3 in the first period and 12-8 at the end of the opening stanza. Then came the second and third periods and role reversals by each team. In the end, it was Ross that took advantage of a couple of turnovers to take a four-point, twice, and a five-point leads in the final period.

McGilton, who led all scorers with 17 points, popped in seven of the total in the

final eight minutes. The Ross junior forward hit a pair of charity tosses with 28 seconds left in the game to put Ross up 37-32 and for all intents, iced the game for the Little Giants.

Randy Hammer and Tim Price had 10 apiece for Ross as only four Little Giants scored. Jeff Brown rounded out the scoring with a single free throw. Hammer's three of four shooting in the first period had given Ross the early lead.

"We certainly did not play well," Paeth said through that smile, "we have to shoot better. It would help if we just made the layups."

Ross hit only 14 of 52 and the cold showing from the free throw line. Despite that, though, Paeth had confidence in his team's ability to come back despite the cold second quarter.

"I thought our shots would start to drop," he said "but it seemed like we were getting only one at a time most of the time and not two."

Ross's pressure defense held the Redmen to 36 shots and forced the high number of turnovers. Darnell Cousin dropped in eight points for the Redmen and Bob Holderman matched that figure.

Paeth had his smiling session but did not have a thing on Tim Pettorini, the Ross junior varsity coach. Also in his first year as Ross JV coach, Pettorini's squad rolled to a 56-46 win in the first game of the night. Greg Hedden had 14, Rob Bollenbacher 11, and Randy Bury 10 for Ross.

VARSITY GAME Score by quarters

Fostoria		8	13	2	11-34
Ross	N	12	3	10	13-38

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Cousin 4-0-8, Fisher 1-3-5, Loomis 0-1, R. Sallisbury 3-1-7, Nye 2-1-5, Holderman 1-6-8; totals 11-12-34.

ROSS — Burel 0-0-0, McGilton 7-3-17, Hammer 4-2-10, Price 3-4-10, Shetzer 0-0-0, Brown 0-1-1; totals 14-10-38

Season records: Ross 1-0, Fostoria 0-1

JUNIOR VARSITY Score by quarters

Fostoria		6	12	15	13-46
Ross		14	10	18	14-56

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Brough 0-3-3, Curry 0-2-2, Latham 6-0-12, Lynch 5-2-12, Maier 2-3-7, Naus 0-1-1, Tucker 3-3-9; totals 16-14-46

ROSS — Bury 5-0-10, Wolesslagel 1-3-5, Mooney 4-0-8, Ameling 3-0-6, Walker 1-0-2, Hedden 6-2-14, Bollenbacher 4-3-11; totals 24-8-56

Talented Tygers next foe for Ross

Biz Paeth got the shoe on the right foot last Saturday night when his Ross High School basketball team gave him a victory in his debut as the Little Giants leader . . . now he begins searching for his left shoe this Friday.

Finding that shoe will not be easy.

The Little Giants opened the 1977-78 season with a 38-34 win over Fostoria and as Paeth put it: "We won it, but I don't know how." Still, the Ross leader conceded the obvious: it was a win.

Mansfield Senior, Friday's visitor to the home of the Little Giants, comes into Fremont with all the credentials of being a contender for the Buckeye Conference title.

"We saw Mansfield last night (Tuesday)," Paeth said, "and they looked good. They won the game by two on a last second shot but they were quick."

Paeth continued to pile on the superlatives about the Tygers (yes, with a "y"). "They are a streaky team and they have some good shooters," he said.

"They can come down the floor and hit five in a row on you."

Where does that leave his team? In a tough spot, Paeth admits.

"There is no way that we can match up with them man-to-man," the talkative young coach pointed out. "What we have to do is play smart basketball.

"Mansfield gambles a lot on defense and we recognize that and know how to

attack that gambling defense, we can pick it apart."

One thing Paeth does not want to happen is see his team get into a running game with the galloping Tygers.

"We are going to have to play intense defense against them. When they come downcourt, it's usually one pass and sometimes no passes, and the ball is in the air."

On offense, the Little Giants will have to contend with a lightning quick, man-to-man press and at times with a half-court press used by the Tygers.

The Tygers will have a decided height advantage on Ross. Del Rey Feagin, 6-5, and Evie Feagin, 6-3, will operate at the low and high post positions. The Feagins plus Benard Feagin form a brother act for Mansfield.

The man that Paeth fears the most (probably) is the Tygers' sixth man, Jerry Powell, a 5-9 speedster who according to Paeth, "makes things happen when he comes into a game."

"He's a super sixth man," the Ross coach reaffirmed about Powell.

In bidding for his second win of the young season, Paeth will start the same five that opened against Fostoria. Bill Burel, 6-3 will be in the middle with Tim Price, 5-10, Randy Hammer, 5-10, Steve McGilton, 6-0, and John Shetzer, 5-10, operating around Burel.

The junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 Friday night with the varsity game getting started at approximately 8 p.m.

No druthers for Paeth

Last ditch effort fails

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor
If Bix Paeth had his druthers, he would druther have had his Ross basketball have a bad game and win druther than a good game and lose.

Ross did lose, 52-49 in the Buckeye Conference opener to heavily favored Mansfield Friday night, but despite not getting his druthers, Paeth was still a fairly happy man.

"Sure," he admitted, "we are disappointed with the loss but I'm damn proud of these kids."

The Little Giants, despite being undersized compared to the Tygers, clawed from as many as 12 points down twice in the first half and 11 down midway through the third period to close to within two at 51-49 with 25 seconds to play on a looping 22-foot shot off the right hand of Mike Price.

Ross had a chance to tie the game after Price's bucket when Mansfield turned the ball over for the 24th time in the contest. Ross called time at that point with 16 seconds left to play.

"They usually came out on Price," Paeth described the inbounds play from under the Ross basket after his final timeout, "and that would leave McGilton (Steve) open underneath. We wanted to go to Mac but this time they immediately sagged in and took it away."

"I thought we could have gotten them right then during that timeout."

Instead of McGilton getting the shot, Randy Hammer had to push

one up from long range. The shot was short, bounced off the iron with 10 seconds left. Hammer was forced to foul Del-Ray Feagin at that point and the Mansfield center hit one of two to ice the game with four seconds to play.

Hammer with 15, McGilton with 13, and Price with 12 paced Ross. Del-Ray Feagin, one of three Feagin brothers on the Tygers team, had 15 for Mansfield. Evie Feagin had 10.

The Little Giants, trailing 30-23 at the half, roared back to within three at 34-31 with five and one-half minutes to play in the third period. Bill Burel, Ross's jumping jack 6-3 center tipped in a pair of buckets to key the spurt.

Mansfield, however, threw up a 1-2-2 zone and that cooled the Little Giants temporarily. The Tygers, with Del-Ray Feagin hitting a pair of buckets, Evie Feagin one, and Wayne Curry one more zipped to a 42-31 lead at the two-minute mark.

Ross started its spurt at that point, a spurt that drew them close but never quite close enough to cage the Tygers.

The Little Giants man-to-man defense bent but did not break in the first half. Instead of breaking, Mansfield took advantage of its height on the inside to bound out to a 14-2 lead with seven minutes gone in the first stanza.

Del-Ray Feagin, a spidery 6-6 stringbean picked Ross apart on the inside. Scoping up the errant shots of his teammates, Feagin eased three shots over the

scrambling Little Giants to pace the Tygers to a 16-7 lead at the quarter.

Ross has scored the first bucket of the game on Hammer's one-hander jumper from 18-feet on the left side 53 seconds into the game. That was the last time the Little Giants' net moved until Kevin Cook sank the front end of a one and one with 31 seconds to go in the period.

The Little Giants refused to wilt to the super fast break of the Tygers in the second eight minutes. Mansfield upped its lead to as many as 12 (24-12) but could not hold off the scrapping Ross offense. Tim Price dropped in three buckets and McGilton hit five points as Ross outscored the Tygers 11-6 over the final five minutes of the half.

"It's frustrating to lose," repeated Paeth, "but these kids know that if they continue to play well, they will win. They know they can win now."

Ross gave the ball away only 11 times in the game while hitting 22 of 69 shots. Mansfield hit 25 of 56 with 24 turnovers. The Tyger had board control 36-28. Burel was credited with nine rebounds for Ross.

SCORE BY QUARTERS
Mansfield 16 14 14 8-52
Ross 7 16 16 10-49

SCORING
MANSFIELD — Carter 3-1-7, E. Feagin 5-0, D. Feagin 7-1-15, Powell 4-0-8, Curry 4-0-8, Davis 2-0-4, Baush 1-0-2; totals 25-9-52
ROSS — Hammer 7-1-15, McGilton 6-1-13, Burel 2-0-4, Price 6-0-12, Shetzer 1-0-2, Brown 0-2-2, Crook 0-1-1; totals 22-5-49
Season record: Mansfield 2-0 (1-0), Ross 1-0 (1-0)



JOHN SHETZER of Ross puffs out his cheeks and lets go with a bounce pass. Wayne Curry (15) of Mansfield watches the ball leave Shetzer's hand.

Ross JV's win No. 2

Ross's junior varsity team held off a desperate rally by the Mansfield Tygers for a 50-42 win Friday night.

It was the Little Giants second win in as many starts this season.

Mansfield got a lift in the junior varsity game when coach Ron Hether was booted from the game for protesting a charging foul by the Tygers' Willie Gibbs. Hether was assessed three technical fouls, an automatic ouster.

Mansfield, trailing by a 43-25 count at the time of Hether's boot, threw up a skin tight man-to-man full court press on Ross and rode it to a near startling comeback. As it was, the desperate rally fell short.

Randy Bury tossed in 14 points for Tim Pettorini's JV's and Dan Mooney had a dozen as eight Ross players scored. David Givand and Melvin McDowell had 10 apiece for the Tygers.

Score by quarters
Mansfield 8 8 4 22-42
Ross 11 11 17 11-50
Scoring
MANSFIELD — Allen 1-0-2, Baldridge 2-0-4, Crawford 1-0-2, Gibbs 3-2-1, Givand 4-2-10, McDowell 1-0-2, Mooney 5-0-10, Williams 2-0-4; totals 19-4-2
ROSS — Bury 4-6-14, Wooley 0-0-0, Held 0-1-1, Caskey 1-0-2, Mooney 6-0-12, Berger 1-0-2, Walker 1-0-2, Heden 1-0-2, Bollenbacher 2-4-8; totals 19-12-50

STEVE MCGILTON (22) of Ross lets go with a shot during first quarter play Friday night during the Mansfield-Ross basketball game. McGilton ended up with 13 points. (N-M photos by Dan Bomeli)

Rookies closing in on mixed golf leaders

LARGO, Fla. (AP) — Fresh-faced rookies Nancy Lopez and Curtis Strange combined for a 65 that pulled them to within three strokes of the uncompleted leaders, Jerry Part and Hollis Stacy, in Friday's rain-delayed and darkness-haltered second round of the \$20,000 Mixed Team Golf Championship.

Pate and Stacy were among the 16 teams stranded by darkness on the water-logged, 7,015-yard, par 72 North Course at the Bardmoor Country Club. They marked their position on the course and will complete second round play Saturday morning with third-round play scheduled Saturday afternoon.

With one hole to go the front-running Pate and Stacy were 13 under par. They had a first-round 61 and established a six-shot lead through the first round, but couldn't retain that margin on the slow, wet greens.

Lopez, a 20-year-old who holed four putts in the 20-25 foot range, and the 22-year-old Strange were 10 under par with a 36-hole total of 134.

The unusual format for this unique event—the only one of the year in which men and women pros play together—has each member of the team driving on each hole. The man plays his second shot on the woman's ball, and vice versa. Then they pick the one they want and play alternate shots on the same ball for the remainder of the hole.

Veteran Tommy Bolt and Jo Ann Prentice were third at 136 after a second consecutive 68.

Ross boys, girls teams in action

Ross boys basketball coach Biz Paeth admits that he has been avoiding a subject that he can no longer avoid: Findlay.

The Little Giants will hit the road tonight for Fin-

day and the Trojans in a Buckeye Conference clash. While the Ross boys are tackling the Trojans, Ross's girls will be hosting Sandusky Perkins.

"I've been avoiding talking about Findlay," Paeth admitted late last week while watching the snow trickle down with enough authority to postpone last Friday's trip to Marion Harding.

"Findlay is the best coached team that I have seen so far," Paeth praised Trojans coach John Stozich. "He gets the maximum out of his team . . . they do everything well."

The Trojans are 3-1 and 1-0 in the Buckeye, a 71-70 win over Lorain.

"They play well together. They press you and will run and they are big. They are not overly quick but they get up and down the court fast," Paeth praised. "I can look at them and see what I would like to be able to do with a team."

The Trojans utilize zone defenses but will slip into the man-to-man on occasion.

Paeth is expected to start the five that has given Ross a 1-1 record so far this young season. Bill Burel will be in the middle with Steve McGilton, Randy Hammer, Tim Price, and John Shetzer surrounding him for Ross.

While the boys are on the road, Coach Sue Wolf will

be guiding the Ross girls in the team's first clash of the season. This is the third attempt at getting onto the court for the Ross girls — the previous two scheduled games have been postponed because of the weather.

Wolf is expected to start 5-6 Barb Bliss, senior, and 5-7 junior Deb Link at the guards. The wings will be 5-9 sophomore Margaret VanGilder and 5-8 senior Kim Myers. Paula Zimmerman, 5-9 junior, will be in the pivot position.

The junior varsity games at both Findlay and for the girls tonight will be 6:30 p.m. The varsity games should get underway at approximately 8:15.

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now 4-0 for the year.

At halftime, a tribute was held for Rupp during which university officials announced the establishment of a memorial fund for cancer research in his name.

Only two other teams in the Top Twenty were in action Monday night, with No. 7 Cincinnati whipping Eastern Kentucky 73-58 and 17th-ranked Detroit

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Findlay's quick start start stops Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — A vicious rumor flowed through the crowd gathered at Findlay High School Tuesday night but where and why it surfaced was a complete mystery.

The rumor is meaningless today and the Findlay High School Trojans basketball team used Fremont Ross to dispell the hollow slant of words.

Going into the game, Findlay 3-1 and 1-0 in Buckeye Conference play, was reputed to be a poor shooting team despite the season record and a 43 percent field mark during those four games prior to the conference clash with Ross.

Ridiculous!

Findlay drilled in its first six shots of the game, eight of its first nine, and 10 of 12 in the first quarter, while picking up the momentum to knock off the Little Giants 68-51 in a game in which Findlay never really got rolling.

"We have not played a whole, good game yet," Trojan tactician John Stozich said calmly while sitting in the nearly deserted Findlay gym after the game.

"Jefferies (Kurt) did a good job tonight,"

the cagy Trojans coach said as he gazed over his team's stats. "It's been that way this season — someone always comes around to pick us up."

"Tonight, it was Jefferies and," Stozich added. "Replique (Dan)."

Biz Paeth, Ross coach, was a little shocked after the first quarter string singing show put on by the Trojans.

"They scored on those first six possessions," he said quietly, "and then it was catchup the rest of the way. It seemed like we were behind by 12 all the way."

He was one off.

Ross closed to within 11 early in the final period thanks to a sticky man-to-man press that forced several Findlay miscues. The Little Giants, trailing 52-36 at the end of three, outscored Findlay 7-2 in the first half of the final period and had a shot at getting closer.

"We had two possessions," Paeth recalled, "but could not score and it went right back up to 15."

The final margin was the biggest lead that the tall and talented Trojans had over the stubborn Little Giants.

With 6-5 Dave Rieker and sharpshooter

Steve Dean working over Ross on the inside and the outside, respectively, the Little Giants trailed seven seconds into the game on Dean's 18-foot jumper. Five shots later, Findlay was on its way with a 12-6 lead.

Ross could not contain the Trojans on the boards, surrendering several second and third shots to Findlay, while not being able to get a second shot at its own basket.

"We'd 'front' Reiker so that he could not get the ball but then he would roll around and get the rebound," Paeth described the inside dominance of the burly Findlay junior.

Reiker finished with 20 and Dean 16 and the Trojans finished with 31 of 61 shooting. Ross hit 19 of 60.

Ross played better offensively but Paeth praised his pressing defense, a tactic also employed by the Trojans.

"They did not score any breakaway baskets off it (press)," he praised.

Stozich discounted the question of whether he felt that his team should have blown the smaller Ross squad off the floor.

"Not with that defense," he retorted. "You can say that for them — Ross worked like the dickens out there on defense."

Tim Price led Ross in scoring with 16 points, two more than Steve McGilton. Randy Hammer dropped in 14.

Ross was outrebounded 44-34.

The Little Giants will be back home Friday to host Lorain.

In the JV game, Findlay broke away from a 55-45 lead early in the final period to stop Ross 75-56.

VARSITY GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	12	9	15	15	51
Findlay	20	14	18	16	68

SCORING

ROSS — McGilton 6-2-14, Hammer 4-4-12, Burel 1-1-3,

Price 6-4-18, Shetzer 6-0-0, Brown 0-1-1, Williams 1-1-3, Cook 1-0-1, Shetzer 1-0-1.

FINDLAY — Bell 2-4-4, Jefferies 4-0-8, Rieker 9-2-20,

Dean 6-4-16, Weiseman 3-0-6, Gane 2-0-4, Hayer 2-0-4,

Replique 2-0-4, Pulcher 0-0-2, total 31-16-68

Season records: Findlay 3-0, Ross 1-2 (b-2)

JV GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	10	14	17	15	56
Findlay	15	19	21	20	75

SCORING

Ross — Bury 2-2-6, Woleslagel 2-1-5, Held 3-0-6, Caskey 1-

0-2, Montoy 7-0-14, Ameling 2-0-4, Berger 1-0-2, Redden 5-1-

11, Shetzer 1-0-1.

FINDLAY — Accord 6-2-14, Beach 3-0-4, Benedict 1-0-2,

Dean 2-2-6, Gasior 0-0-2, Geyer 4-0-16, Hutton 2-0-4, Maroney

10-2-22, Shabean 0-1-1, Wilcox 1-0-2; total 39-24-75

Season records: Findlay 3-0, Ross 2-1



ROSS'S Steve McGilton closes his eyes as he gets off this shot over the hands of Greg Pille of Lorain Senior. McGilton had 17 points in the game. (N-M photos by Dan Borelli)

Steelmen come from 11 back to defeat Ross

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

"Aw, it was close but there were no cookies," Biz Paeth tried to quip but the effort failed miserably.

"It's just like you got your work done but didn't get paid for it," he added.

Paeth, the Ross High School varsity boys basketball coach may be on the verge of getting punchy. Worse than that, his Little Giants may be a little punchy after going to the well against Lorain, getting a sip of water before being pushed away while still suffering from "cotton mouth."

Pushing Ross away from the drinking fountain was the Lorain Steelmen in both team's fourth basketball game of the season and third in Buckeye Conference play. Lorain came from 11 points down in the final period to pull out a 74-71 win.

"What can you say?" Lorain coach Dale Reichert asked no one in particular while trying to figure out what happened to his team.

"I guess you could say, well, let's face it—we were outmatched for three quarters—that's one way," Reichert added but stopped at that point.

Lorain, despite being pushed around on the floor by Ross's skin tight man-to-man defense, still held a 40-36 lead at the half. That four-point lead disappeared quickly as the Steelmen went into a scoring drought that rivaled the climate on the Sahara Desert.

Leading 44-40 on a pair of free throws by Lee Svette at the 6:01 mark of the third frame, Lorain did not know it, but they were not to come close to a bucket the rest of the period.

Ross, with Steve McGilton and Tim Price banging in three buckets apiece, poured through 17 points while leaving Lorain with a dazed expression.

Along the way to taking 53-44 lead after three periods, Ross ran off 15 straight points.

"We played a good floor game," Paeth pointed out, "but the turning point was when we lost Price."

Ross lost Price in the bombastic final eight minutes in a quarter that first saw Lorain Principal Phil Ryan ejected from the gym and then Lorain faculty manager Jack Looney get the heave-ho from the officials for being a bit to vocal.

But the ejections seemed to fire up Lorain. After Randy Hammer had hit both ends of the two-shot technical, Ross led 63-52 but Lorain, got a basket and a pair of free throws from Steve Henderson and single buckets from Mike Pozega and Rosie Jewells to cut Ross's lead to 63-60 with four minutes to play.

Mixed with the ejections of the Lorain administrators, Ross began to come apart and Lorain began to come together. Four Little Giants—Hammer, McGilton, John Shetzer, and Price—four-fifths of the Ross starting lineup, went to the bench via the foul route.

When Price, the Little Giants' best ball handler, left, Ross could barely get the ball up court. After having only six turnovers in the first three quarters, Ross kicked the ball away 12 times in the final eight

Holding a 71-68 lead with 40 seconds to play, Lorain's Charlie Mastin, who has scored seven points in the junior varsity game, canned a pair of free throws to cut the Ross lead to 71-70.

On the toss-in, Jewells intercepted but the ball got away in the middle of the floor with Lorain and Ross bodies sprawled all over. Mastin found the handle, put up the ball and watched it bounce through with 24 seconds left to give Lorain a 72-71 lead.

McGilton was called for his fifth personal, a charging foul on the next trip downcourt for Ross. Still Ross had a chance. Shetzer fouled Carl Hartman with 10 seconds to play but the 5-6 Lorain sophomore missed the shot, and Ross sub Larry Williams got the rebound. Williams pass out, however sailed over Jeff Brown's head and out of bounds and that was the game for Ross.

Svette iced the game with a pair of free throws, the final two of 68 in game, at the four-second mark and Lorain kept the right to the well water.

"All we wanted was our five fastest guys on the floor there at the last," Reichert said. "All we told them was to go get the ball—they did."

And how.

Hammer led Ross's scoring with 20 points. McGilton had 17, Price 14, and Shetzer 11. Svette had 20 for Lorain with Pozega getting 10 and Mastin 10 all in the last period.

In the JV game, Ross fell 50-44 after enjoying a 36-29 lead at one point in the second half. Dan Mooney with 13 and Jerry Ameling with 10 paced the Ross JVs, now 2-2 for the season.

Ross box scores

VARSITY GAME

Score by quarters

Lorain	18	22	4	30-74
Ross	14	22	17	18-71

Scoring

LORAIN — Svette 6-8-20, Pille 1-2-4, Pozega 3-4-10, Jewells 3-1-7, Hartman 2-2-6, Ewers 4-1-9, Henderson 2-2-6, Mastin 3-4-10, Walker 0-2-2; totals 50-44.

ROSS — Hammer 4-12-20, McGilton 6-1-17, Burel 0-0-0, Price 6-2-14, Shetzer 4-3-11, Brown 1-5-7, Holmes 1-0-2; totals 24-23-71

Season records: Lorain 2-2 (2-1), Ross 1-3 (0-3)

JV GAME

Score by quarters

Lorain	12	11	13	14-50
Ross	8	20	10	6-44

Scoring

LORAIN — Mastin 3-1-7, Walker 4-1-9, Sims 3-3-9, Crapo 1-0-2, Sutton 1-1-3, Jones 2-0-4, English 2-0-4, Earl 3-4-10, Livchak 1-0-2; totals 20-10-50

ROSS — Wolessagel 1-3-5, Held 2-0-4, Caskey 1-0-2, Mooney 5-3-13, Ameling 2-6-10, Heddern 2-0-4, Bollenbacher 2-2-6; totals 15-14-44

Season record: Ross 2-2

Basketball scores from around Ohio on page 8

Sandusky visits

Ross will be jumping straight into the Buckeye Conference frying pan tonight as unbeaten and conference leading Sandusky invades the home of the Little Giants.

The Blue Streaks, 5-0 and 3-0 in BC play, bring a tall, talented, and super quick team to face the rejuvenated but 1-3 Little Giants. Both teams are coming off good games — Sandusky won its game over Findlay Friday 72-69 but Ross lost to Lorain 74-71 after being up by as many as 11 points midway through the final period.

"They are good inside and outside," Ross Coach Biz Paeth quickly summed up the Blue Streaks. "It's Cai Cage on the outside and Fronnie Clark inside."

Paeth went on to talk in glowing terms about the 6-5 Clark, a senior.

"He's the most dominating big man that I have seen this season. He's 6-5 but when he rebounds, it's whoosh, and Cage, well, he's all over the place," the Ross coach added.

Paeth also said that Sandusky "presses like crazy" and that the Blue Streaks usually come up with a lot of steals.

If Sandusky was not enough for Ross, the Little Giants will hit the roads to Marion Harding Thursday in a remake off the postponed Dec. 9 game.

Despite the tough week, Paeth says his team's attitude is good despite possibly having a shot at being 3-1 and not the other way around.

"The kids are in good spirits," he beamed, "not cocky or anything like that but confident. They can see that they can play with these guys."

"One thing," Paeth chuckled, "we are going to keep busy till Christmas."

Paeth didn't say but his team may have another motive or inspiration in tonight's game — a birthday present — the youthful Ross coach is 31 today.

In statistics released by Ross, Steve McGilton is averaging 15.3 points per game and has grabbed a team high 31 rebounds. Randy Hammer is the second leading scorer at 14.3 and is second in rebounds with 29. Tim Price is averaging 13 points and leads in assists with 16. Bill Burel has hauled down 24 rebounds.

The JV game will begin at 6:30 tonight.

Elyria 'big men' in town Tuesday

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Surprising Ross will have only a few days to savor its longest basketball winning streak in more than a year and one-half when Buckeye Conference power Elyria rolls into town Tuesday.

The Pioneers (trees would be more fitting nickname) bring a lineup into the Ross gym to face Biz Paeth's team that may have the maintenance workers at Ross raising the height of the entries.

"We give up 15 inches to them," gulped Paeth who has guided the Little Giants to a 3-3 overall record and 2-3 in the rough and tumble conference. Both Ross marks are more than surprises for the residents of the Buckeye.

The Little Giants had an ultra successful week, knocking off previously unbeaten Sandusky 68-62 on Tuesday and then escaping Marion Harding 62-55 despite playing what Paeth termed a "flat game" on Thursday night.

"Gee whiz," the Ross coach said boyishly, "they (Elyria) certainly are taller than us."

Steve Lindquist, a 6-6 senior, is the biggest of the Pioneers and operates out of low or high post for Coach Mike Riley's crew. Brian Balser, a 6-4 senior, is the point guard but, according to Paeth, "runs inside" most of the time.

Mike Underman, 6-3, is described by Paeth as Elyria's best player and will start at one of the wings or a post spot. Wayne Ross, 6-1, and 5-11 Jamie Gilbert round out the usual Elyria starting five.

The sixth man for Riley's crew is 6-4 Stan Page.

"They have four players who usually do most of the scoring," Paeth said. "Ross is the rebounder . . . a real workhorse on the boards but he has not been scoring much."

Defensively, Elyria has used a tenacious zone press in past seasons, but has not used that tactic too much this season according to the Ross scouting report.

"Against Marion (Elyria lost 55-51), they used a '2-2-1' press," Paeth ex-

plained, "but it was more of a token press."

"So I really don't know what to expect."

What the Ross first year leader does expect is for Elyria to go inside as much as it can on offense.

"What I'd like to do," Paeth chuckled, "is play the entire game on our side of the 10-second line. My feeling is that we have to go after them — I don't want them to come after us with all those big guys."

Paeth disclosed that he had told his team Thursday before the game with Marion that he felt that particular game was very "meaningful."

"I felt that the winner of that game could be a contender," he said, "because a lot of the really good teams in the conference have already lost two games. We are 2-3 but everybody in the conference has lost and we are still in the first round."

Continuing, Paeth said, "This game Tuesday will be a very important one for us in that respect."

Game time is 6:30 Tuesday for the junior varsity game with the varsity game beginning at approximately 8:15 p.m.

ROSS NOTES — Tim Pettorini's Ross JV team broke a three-game losing streak Thursday by stopping Harding 75-55. The Little Giants outscored Harding 24-12 in the telltale third period.

Steve McGilton is the Little Giants' leading scorer with a 17.8 ppg. The 6-0 junior tops a threesome of Little Giants in double figure scoring . . . Randy Hammer, who played possibly his finest all-around game for the Little Giants Thursday is next with a 14.7 and Tim Price, Ross's floor general, is carrying a 13.7 ppg.

McGilton is also Ross's leading rebounder with 46 and Price leads in assists with 29 in six games. The best field goal shooter is McGilton with 40 of 83 for 48 percent.

Bill Burel and Hammer are tied for second in rebounding with 41. Hammer has 19 offensive rebounds.

Woodward dumps Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Jim Leininger should have been a banker.

He could have worn the viser and the arm bands of an old fashioned cashier with wisdom and grace. Instead, Leininger took the basketball coaching reins at Toledo Woodward and turned his hidden banking talents toward the hardwood.

Woodward, with Leininger counting the points like dollar bills, and using his best asset, ran past the listless Ross Little Giants team for an 83-69 win in a game that bordered on boredom. The Polar Bears ran off eight straight points midway through the second quarter to grab a 28-20 lead and Ross was never able to get any closer than six the rest of the night.

The win was Woodward's third in eight games while Ross dropped its fifth in eight outings.

"We scored enough points to win," Ross Coach Bill Paeth said while shaking his head in shocked disbelief. "We lacked intensity on defense."

For Leininger, it was just dipping into the savings account to get enough to dismantle Ross.

"I told these kids we are going to have to use our quickness," Leininger said in the steamy Woodward locker room, "that's our best asset."

That quickness, which constantly left Ross' defenders lagging behind, was bolstered by the outside bombing of Polar Bear Rob Odoms. The 6-2 junior, who his coach used the old basketball cliché of "pure shooter" to describe, proved to be just that — he knocked home 15 of 27 shots while cashing in 34 markers.

Woodward added more interest to Odom's deposit with three other players in double figures. Cliff Mitchell came off the bench to hit his first four shots from

the field in the second quarter and finished with 16 for the Polar Bears. Desmond Cardell canned 10 in the final half and finished with 13 and Keith Bell pumped in 10 for Woodward.

The Polar Bears sank 35 of 71 — 12 of 19 in the second quarter, the pivotal eight minutes — and a torrid 10 of 15 in the final quarter.

Woodward's biggest lead was 16 points on two different occasions, in the final period. Ross, with its big three of Tim Price, Steve McGilton, and Randy Hammer, chopped Woodward's 10-point halftime (40-30) lead to eight twice but could not get the baskets needed to sustain its momentum.

"They (Woodward) shot well," Paeth said, "but that's when the defense has to dig in. . . I don't know what else to say."

Paeth did come up with a few more of his disappointed feelings by adding, "There's no excuse for it."

"They were beating us up the floor — I bet they had five buckets in the first half just beating us up the floor. We just have to play with more intensity."

Ross, which cast up 83 shots and sank 26, was led by Price's 21 points. McGilton had 19 and Hammer 17.

VARSITY GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Woodward	14	26	18	25	— 83
Ross	15	15	16	23	— 69

SCORING

WOODWARD — Bell 4-2-10, Cardell 6-1-13, Odoms 15-4-34, Parades 1-2-4, Mitchell 7-2-16, McCormick 1-0-2, McKinley 1-2-4; totals 35-13-83

ROSS — Hammer 5-7-17, McGilton 7-5-19, Burel 1-3, Price 9-3-21, Brown 3-1-7, Cook 1-0-2; totals 26-17-69

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

JV GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Woodward	6	10	19	11	— 46
Ross	20	14	8	14	— 56

SCORING

WOODWARD — Collier 2-0-4, Fleming 4-1-9, Ben 1-0-2, Yarberry 1-3-5, Smith 7-0-14, Davis 3-2-8, Brown 2-0-4; totals 20-6-46

ROSS — Bury 1-3-5, Woleslagel 2-2-6, Held 3-0-6, Caskey 2-0-4, Mooney 7-4-18, Ameling 0-3-2, Berger 2-1-5, Heden 3-2-8, Bollenbacher 1-0-2; totals 21-14-56

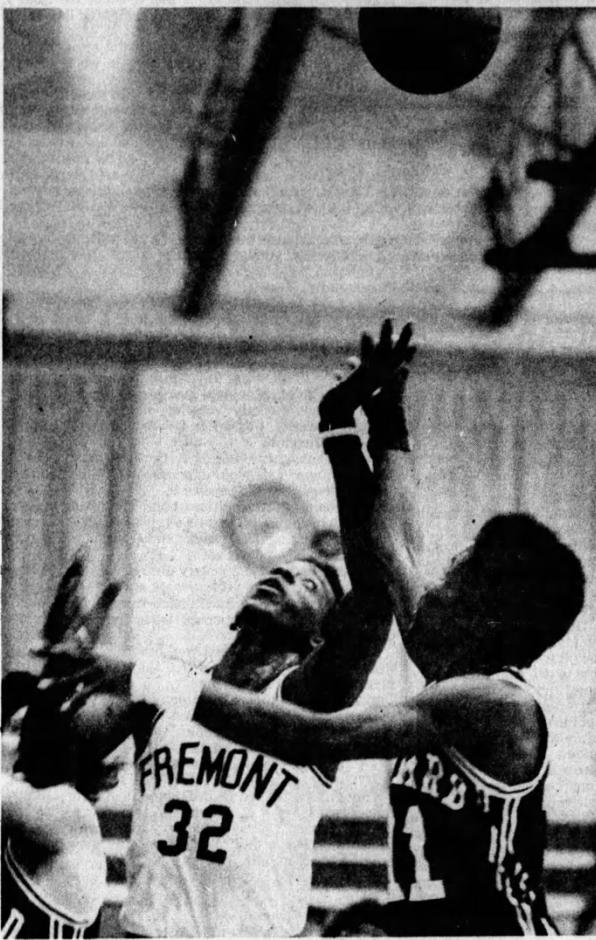
Clyde wins fourth

CLYDE — It was a nice way to start the new year — Clyde basketball Coach Vaughn Schellhouse will attest to that.

Schellhouse watched his team riddle a Gibsonburg zone defense in the first half and then play the Golden Bears to a standstill in the second half for a 65-54

play. Barr popped in 10 points but had to sit out most of the second half because of foul problems.

Butch Magers dropped in four buckets in the third period and Clyde's clutch free throw shooting kept Gibsonburg at bay in the final eight minutes.



BILL BUREL (32) of Ross is battling for the ball with Toledo Woodward's Keith Bell (11) in basketball action Tuesday night at the Ross gym.

Woodward beat the Little Giants 83-69. (News-Messenger photos by Dan Bomell)

Northview faces Ross girls squad tonight

Fremont Ross's girls basketball team will kick off a full slate of action involving Ross athletic teams over the next three days.

Sue Wolf will send her Little Giants girls squad up against unbeaten Sylvania Northview tonight at the Ross gym. The JV game will get underway at 6:30 with the varsity game at approximately 8:15.

Ross's girls are currently 2-3 with the losses coming in a row after opening the season with two wins.

The Ross boys court squad will return to Buckeye Conference action Friday when it travels to Lorain Admiral King. Biz Paeth's team, 3-5 overall and 2-4 in the conference, will be going against an always tough Admirals team.

The Admirals are 5-3 overall but 3-3

in the conference and one game ahead of the Little Giants in the standings.

On Saturday, the Little Giants swim team will travel to Napoleon. It will be the first action for Art Bucci's squad since the Purple-White meet Dec. 17.

The Mal Mackey Junior Varsity Wrestling Tournament will also be held at Ross on Saturday. The Little Giants JVs will host the eight-team tournament.

ROSS NOTES — Barb Bliss leads the Ross girls in scoring after five games with an 11.4 ppg. Steve McGilton leads the boys with an 18.5 and is third in the BC with an 18.7 clip for conference games only. Randy Hammer and Tim Price are 13th and 14th, respectively in the conference scoring race with 13.7 and 13.2.

Price is fourth in the BC in assists.

Admiral King rolls past Ross 70-54

LORAIN — Ross started fast, got a scare, and then lost control of the Admiral King Admirals Friday night in a Buckeye Conference basketball clash.

Ross bolted to an 18-11 lead after one quarter of play but the Admirals came on strong in the final two minutes to win 70-54 in a game that was closer than what the score shows according to Ross Coach Biz Paeth.

The Little Giants and the sparse crowd at Admiral King High School had a bone chilling scare early in the first quarter.

Jeff Brown, Ross's senior guard crashed to the floor in a melee of players. He hit his head and while on the way back up, was inadvertently kicked in the head by an Admirals' player. Brown's head hit the floor again and the Ross player went into convulsion-like tremors.

Brown, after 10 minutes and with the help of the Lorain rescue squad, revived and managed to walk to the ambulance for a ride to the hospital.

"He's okay now," Paeth said when the team returned to Fremont Friday night, "but I have never been that scared in my life. I did not know what was going to happen to him."

Once play was resumed, Ross rushed to the first quarter lead but the Admirals tied the game at 29-29 at the half. After that, a tight press forced Ross into numerous miscues and allowed the Admirals to build a small but comfortable cushion.

"It's the best game that we have played since the Sandusky game (a 68-62 Ross win)," the Ross coach said. "We were within eight with a couple of

minutes to go so it was closer than what it looks like."

Paul Vick came off the bench to score a dozen points for Admiral King in the second half. Along with Mike Wicks, who came up with five of the 15 steals for the Admirals, Vick helped the Admirals pull away.

"Vick hurt us on the boards," Paeth confirmed, "and we had some costly turnovers that they took advantage of."

Ross gave the ball away a season high 25 times, seven more than the Admirals.

Steve McGilton had 18 points for Ross to go with 10 rebounds. Randy Hammer had 14 points and Tim Price had 10 markers. Kevin Cook had nine rebounds for Ross but Admiral King held a 44-27 edge on the boards.

Ross entered the game with only eight

varsity players available. Bill Burel, the Little Giants' starting center, was suspended from school Thursday for disciplinary action. Jeff Eicher had to sit out of the game with a bad foot.

To top that off, the early loss of Brown was compounded by the fact that the Little Giants best ball handler, Price, was hobbled by a bad foot.

Admiral King 70, Ross 54

Score by quarters

Ross	18	11	9	16	54
Admiral King	11	18	17	24	70

Scoring

ROSS — McGilton 6-6-18, Hammer 6-2-14, Price 5-0-10, Cook 2-4-4, Brudzinski 2-2-4, Mooney 0-2-2;

ADMIRAL — Hilliard 7-3-17, Wilson 8-1-17, Gage 4-12, Price 4-0-8, Morrison 1-0-2, Vick 5-2-12, Wicks 1-0-2; totals 30-10-70

Season records: Admiral King 6-3 (4-3), Ross 3-6

(2-5)

JV game: Admiral King 71-49

Ross at Mansfield

Halfway through the 1977-78 basketball season and Ross's Biz Paeth has been forced to become a juggler.

Paeth, in his first year at Ross, and his squad have been decimated by injuries and a suspension in the past week. At one point, the Little Giants were down to seven available varsity players.

Despite those unwanted woes, Paeth and his Little Giants continue to play the exciting brand of ball that the 30-year-old Fremont native instilled from the start of the season. There have been few disappointments despite a 3-6 mark overall and 2-5 in the rugged Buckeye Conference.

"These kids are giving their best," Paeth smiled. "We have only been

disappointed one game (Woodward) where we were outhustled."

Ross, coming off a 70-54 loss to Admiral King, a game in which they trailed by only eight with two minutes to play, will hit the conference trail Friday when the Little Giants take the winding roads to Mansfield. Earlier this season, the Tygers stopped Ross 42-39.

"These kids have held up well," Paeth said while talking about the recent enforced player shortages. "I don't think they expected any miracles and neither did we."

Paeth said that Jeff Brown, injured early in the Admiral King game, will be back and that he will bring up two junior varsity players to fill out the Ross ranks. Sophomores Dan

Mooney and Tom Woleslagel are being moved up — Mooney will see no JV action while Woleslagel will be used for two JV quarters and saved for two possible quarters in the varsity game.

Bill Burel, the Little Giants starting center in its first eight games, was suspended by the school last week for violating school rules, and junior Jeff Eicher is still bothered by a foot injury, forcing the elevation of the two sophs.

Paeth had not decided on a starting lineup for the Mansfield game but will definitely go with the threesome of Tim Price, Steve McGilton, and Randy Hammer.

Joining the three could be Kevin Cook, T.J. Brudzinski, or Brown. Mooney is expected to see quite a bit of action.

Ross Friday sports

Basketball

It will be a "double duty" weekend for the Ross boys basketball team, and it promises to be a difficult weekend for Biz Paeth's crew.

In addition to facing Marion Harding Friday and unbeaten Tiffin Columbian on Saturday, the Little Giants will have a couple of new faces on the varsity bench if Paeth sticks with the plans he had a week ago.

Last Friday, Ross was to have made the trip to Mansfield as the Buckeye Conference began its second round, but Mother Nature helped postpone that game with a snowy blanket and forced the Little Giants to take a vacation. That game was rescheduled for Jan. 24.

Friday, Ross will host the Presidents and will have a chance to pull off a sweep of the two-game season series. In the first meeting, Ross stopped Harding 62-55 in a game that it led all the way at Marion. Since that time, the Little Giants have dropped three in a row to fall to 3-6 and 2-5 in the conference.

"We are getting our money's worth out of these kids," Paeth, in his first year as the Ross leader said before the Mansfield game was wiped out. "They are giving us their best and we have only been out of one game — Elyria."

Paeth added that in an 83-69 loss to Woodward, his team was outhustled in its poorest showing of the season. Against Elyria, the Little Giants were not outhustled, just outshot by a taller Elyria team that picked that night to play its best game of the season according to the Pioneers' Coach Mike Riley.

Getting a chance to put some more coins in the pot on the Ross varsity level Friday will be sophomores Dan Mooney and Tom Woelslagel. Mooney, the JV's leading scorer, is expected to be used as a "swing" man being able to go down low and also play out front.

Woelslagel, who is expected to see two quarters of action in the JV game, will be called on to help Ross get the ball downcourt should the problem arise.

Paeth, who guided the Sandusky St. Mary's Panthers before coming to Ross, is not displeased with his first Ross teams despite the losing record.

"Up to this point, I feel that we have a competitive team," he said. "We have been through the conference once and we can compete with the teams."

"At least they have to scout us now," he added as a grin spread across his face.

Ross is expected to open with its big three — Tim Price (13.3), Randy Hammer (14.8), and Steve McGilton (18.4) with Jeff Brown, Kevin Cook, or John Shetzer filling out the lineup.

On Saturday, Ross will travel to Tiffin to face Northern Ohio League power Columbian. The Tornadoes are 10-0 and will face Upper Sandusky (2-9) Friday before playing host to Ross.

The junior varsity games will begin at 6:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights with the varsity games at approximately 8:15.

Ross knocks wind out of Tornadoes

By BOB MARKER

N-M Sports Editor

TIFFIN — Steve McGilton gave Ross the edge and Coach Bill Paeth suggested the strategy. The underdog Ross knocked off previously unbeaten Columbian here Saturday 64-63.

McGilton, Ross's smooth 6-0 junior, swished a jumper from 12 feet out at the left end of the floor with 48 ticks of the clock left to give Ross the final two points — points that gave Ross its only lead in the second half. Thirty-eight seconds later, Paeth put the "mental hurts" on the Tornadoes.

"We wanted 21 (Rick Robbins) to think about it," Paeth grinned as he sat on a bench accepting congratulations in the Ross dressing room. Paeth was recalling the two Ross timeouts with 10 seconds left in the game.

Robbins was on the foul line, facing a one and one after being fouled on a rebound off a Colum-

bian miss by Kevin Schaefer. As the teams were lining up for the free throw, Paeth signaled for the first Ross timeout. When that ended, the two teams lined up again for the free throw lane but Paeth again called a timeout and Robbins had another minute to think.

The strategy worked — Robbin's shot rolled off but Columbian got the first of two possible reprieves when Schaefer led up Ross sophomore Dan Mooney on the rebound.

Ross got the jump as Jeff Brown wrapped himself around the ball at the top of the free throw circle but while he was doing that, the time-keeper thinking that an official had blown the whistle to stop play, had stopped the clock with two seconds to play.

Given a second reprieve, Columbian's Joe Stacy nearly tied up Brown — nearly, but not quite. Realizing his mistake, the time-keeper had restarted the clock for

the final seconds and Ross had stopped Columbian's 1977-78 winning streak of 10 games.

"It takes a little luck plus some good coaching," Paeth said as he rehashed his team's fourth win in 10 games.

Columbian had taken a 30-27 lead into the locker room at intermission and had rolled out a 51-46 lead after three periods and for all intents and purposes was about to use its height advantage to bury Ross.

"We had that trouble all season," Columbian Coach Terry Phillips said quietly when asked if his team had trouble "putting teams away" ones that had built up a sizable lead.

"We only had 14 turnovers tonight," Phillips said, "but most of them were crucial turnovers. I can remember two turnovers plus a bad shot that we took toward the last and Ross scored on every one of them."

Taking advantage of most of the Columbian turnover was for Ross was Tim Price who had his best shooting night of the season. The 10 field general of the Little Giants pumped in 26 points, 20 in the first three periods, on 11 of 22 shooting. It was Price's shooting that kept Ross close although Kevin Cook hit four free throws in the first period in a 14-16 standoff.

Columbian's multiple zone defenses, had held McGilton, Ross's leading scorer with an 18.4 going into the game, to just five points in the first 24 minutes of play, but Price's hot hand had taken that away.

In the final period, McGilton erupted for 11 points, Price and Randy Hammer six each, as Ross outscored the Tornadoes 25-12. Hammer, averaging nearly 15 a game, had only four points in the first three periods.

Hammer's bucket cut Columbian's lead to 61-56 with 2:55 to play

in the game. After Robbins hit a pair of free throws at the 2:30 mark, three Ross players had a hand in the scoring down the stretch.

McGilton and Hammer hit on back-to-back buckets to make it 63-62. Columbian at the two-minute mark. A Columbian turnover and two free throws by Mooney took the Tornado lead to 63-62 with 1:28 to play.

Another turnover gave Ross the ball and McGilton had center stage with his game winning shot.

Paeth's face was all smiles when he glanced at the rebounding charts. Ross had come on the short end but only by a 38-37 mark. McGilton and Hammer had 10 apiece and Cook seven.

"They outrebounded us by one," he said, "I don't know how many inches we gave them."

Paeth, for the first time that night was wrong when he said that. It was not a question of inches but

of time — the time that Paeth had forced Robbins to use while thinking about that free throw.

Ross will have little time to savor its latest win because Tuesday the Little Giants will travel to Mansfield in a rematch of Friday's postponed game.

In Saturday's JV game, Ross fell 70-64 in a game of spurts. Down 42-24 at the half, Ross outscored Columbian 19-2 in the first four minutes of the third period only to have the Tornadoes score the final 15 points of the period to gain a cushion for the final period.

Randy Bush had 17 for the Ross JVs and Jim Berger added 15.

VARSITY GAME
SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	14	11	12	25-64
Columbian	16	14	21	12-63

ROSS — McGilton 7-8, Hammer 5-6, Price 11-4, Cook 4-4, Shetter 6-4, Brown 6-6, Stacy 1-3; steals 28-4.

COLUMBIAN — Houser 5-5-12, Robbins 4-2-10, Stacy 6-6-12, Schaefer 5-0-10, Gothe 6-4-16, Zeiter 1-1-3; steals 27-9-33.

Season records: Columbian 10-1, Ross 4-4

Paeth's search is stymied by Tygers

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

MANSFIELD — The search was on Tuesday night but Biz Paeth could not find a thing — he was trying hard but there was nothing to find. Nothing.

Ross, conquerors of unbeaten Tiffin Columbian Saturday night, did not even come close to being a shadow of the team that turned out that stunning performance as Mansfield waltzed past the Little Giants 65-43, in a Buckeye Conference basketball game.

The game was a remake of last Friday's scheduled trip . . . it should have been postponed again if Ross and Paeth could have glanced into the future.

"I cannot think of any one person who played a good game," the Ross coach said in the tomb-like Ross locker room moments after the Buckeye Conference loss. It was the second time that the Tygers had beaten Ross this season. The first was a 42-39 game at the home of the Little Giants in December.

"I don't know how we can be up and down like this," Paeth said as he picked his brain for reasoning behind the lacklustre Little Giants' showing. "I didn't know if we were going to score in the third period."

He was not alone — the sparse crowd of approximately 200 had its doubts, too.

Despite struggling in the first half, Ross trailed by only a 33-27 count at the half and it was still anyone's game. Five Ross turnovers and seven minutes later, it was Mansfield's.

With Bernard Feagin coming off the bench to can five of six shots in

the third period, the Tygers stretched that six-point intermission lead into a dominating 45-27 coaster. Ross was as cold as the 18-inch layer of snow that blanketed Mansfield during that seven minutes.

Fifteen shots into the period, the Little Giants had not even moved a cord on the basket. It was not until there were 47 seconds left in the third frame that Ross scored on a pair of charity tosses by Kevin Cook.

Tim Price, who along with Randy Hammer had 14 points in the game, hit Ross's first bucket of the second half at the :02 mark of the third quarter and it was a "circus" shot — a falling down one-hander from the foul line on a shot that he was fouled. Brown's free throw gave Ross five points in the period, 11 fewer than the Tygers.

Implementing a "1-2-2" zone, Mansfield kept the Little Giants outside and with Ross hitting only 14 of 55 shots, the defense was as good as gold. After hitting 10 of 26 in the first half, Ross managed a paltry four of 29 in the final 16 minutes.

The Tyger defense was not only causing Ross to fire from long range, it forced 22 turnovers, nine more than Mansfield committed. It also held Ross's leading scorer, Steve McGilton (18.2) to no field goals and six free throws.

"We knew they were going to play the '1-2-2,'" Paeth said as the sour taste of the loss continued, "we have seen better zones than that. I just don't know what it was."

Mansfield, playing without the

services of 6-5 star Del-Ray Feagin, used two other Feagins plus had a big assist from Wayne Curry in running its record to 3-6 and 2-6 in the Buckeye. Bernard, who did not come in until the second quarter, dropped in 18, 16 coming in the second half. Evie Feagin had nine, all in the first half for the Tygers and Curry lofted in 16, 10 in the first 16 minutes of play.

The closest Ross came in the first half after falling behind 9-2 early, was 14-13 at the close of the first period. After that it was 29-25 but the Little Giants' fire that was so evident Saturday, was not even a glowing ember this night and that left them out in the cold.

Ross is now 4-7 and 2-6 in the conference race.

In the junior varsity game, Ross was defeated soundly 66-47. David Givand of Mansfield scored 32 points while Randy Bury's dozen paced Ross.

VARSITY GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	13	14	5	11-43
Mansfield	14	19	16	16-65

SCORING

ROSS — Hammer 6-2-14, McGilton 0-6-6, Price 6-2-14, Cook 0-2-2, Shetzer 0-0-0, Brown 1-0-2, Mooney 1-3-5; totals 14-15-43

MANSFIELD — Curry 8-0-16, Powell 3-0-6, B. Feagin 9-0-18, E. Feagin 3-3-9, Krichbaum 1-0-2, Baums 1-1-3, Davis 1-0-2, Carter 4-1-9; totals 30-15-45

Season records: Ross 4-7 (2-6), Mansfield 3-7 (2-6)

JV GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	8	16	9	14-47
Mansfield	14	16	15	21-66

SCORING

ROSS — Wolesslagel 0-1-1, Hedden 0-1-1, Bury 5-2-12, Bollenbacher 1-0-2, Held 3-0-6, Berger 3-3-9, Ameling 2-2-6, Caskey 3-0-6, Steen 2-0-4; totals 19-9-47

MANSFIELD — McDowell 5-3-13, Allen 1-0-2, Givand 15-2-32, Williams 3-1-7, Kockheiser 2-0-4, Crawford 1-0-2; totals 30-6-66

Season record: Ross 4-7, Mansfield 3-6

Sandusky avenges loss

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Gary Reynolds screwed up his lean frame on a bench in the Sandusky locker room and said he did not feel sorry for Ross. Not even after the Blue Streaks had gained revenge for one of their two season losses here Friday night.

Sandusky rolled to its 11th win in 13 games by trimming the Little Giants 78-63 in a game that was a good deal closer than the final margin. The win atoned for a 68-62 defeat Ross had pinned on the Blue Streaks late in December.

"I stopped feeling sorry for Ross after the first quarter of the first game," Reynolds, coach of the Blue Streaks, said and he was not being malicious. "A lot of people felt sorry for Ross (that was prompted by an 0-19 record a season ago) this year but they have three kids who could play for any team in this conference."

While Reynolds had no sympathy, his Blue Streaks were not having an easy time of shaking off the Little Giants. Ross had bolted back from a 5-0 deficit in the first period to grab a 23-19 lead after the first eight minutes.

Tim Price, one of the three the Sandusky coach spoke of, dropped in 11 points in the first period for Ross, and Steve McGilton and Randy Hammer, the other two-thirds of Reynolds' trio, added six more in the period.

Sandusky installed a "diamond and one" defense in the second period which was designed to stop Price who ended the game with 25 points. It did — the Little Giants' floor general did not get off a shot in the second frame and had only two free throws. McGilton, with nine points, picked up the slack as Ross forged to a 37-36 lead at the half.

"That defense has been good to us," Reynolds said. "We used it against Elyria and it worked. It's our 'don't let him touch the ball defense.' "

Sandusky abandoned that defense in the second half but it had taken its toll. Ross, however, was still in the game until three and one-half minutes remained in the third quarter.

"Gap time," Ross Coach Biz Paeth described the fatal time sequence for Ross, "that's what wins a lot of games — they are won in spurts. That's just what happened tonight."

Leading 46-44 at that point, Sandusky outscored Ross 13-3 in the final three-plus minutes to grab a comfortable 11-point cushion. Cal Cage dropped in seven of his game high 27 points in the spurt.

Paeth used nine players freely against the taller Blue Streaks and he was pleased with the effort from the crew.

"One time I don't think we had a player on the floor over six-feet," he said. "Our kids played well. I have no complaints . . . none at all."

Paeth started sophomore Tom Wolesslagel out front with Price and the 5-10 soph responded with four points and a good floor game in his first varsity start.

Reynolds said the win was a test of his team's "fiber" because it came on the heels of a 69-67 loss to Elyria Tuesday.

"It proved that we are hungry enough to want to win," he said. "Against Elyria we had enough opportunities to win so this game was a learning lesson to see if we could force ourselves to perform to the level that we are capable of."

He didn't have to say his squad answered his questions.

Ross hit 23 of 62 shots. McGilton had 17 to go with Price's 25. The Little Giants were guilty of a season high 29 turnovers while Sandusky kicked the ball away 26 times.

Ross will return to action Tuesday when Admiral King comes to town. On Friday, Ross is at Elyria before traveling to Lorain Senior on Saturday, Feb. 11.

VARSITY GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	23	13	12	15	63
Sandusky	19	16	24	19	78

SCORING

ROSS — McGilton 6-17, Hadden 1-4-8, Cook 1-2-4, Price 8-9-25, Shetzer 1-3, Wolesslagel 2-0-4, Morrissey 1-0-2; totals 23-17-63

SANDUSKY — Cage 11-5-27, Williams 2-0-4, Sizemore 3-0-6, Hathorn 8-0-16, Redding 3-2-8, Clark 1-2-4, Craig 5-3-13; totals 33-12-78

Season records: Sandusky 11-2 (8-2), Ross 4-8 (2-7)

JV GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	14	18	16	16	64
Sandusky	14	15	4	11	44

SCORING

ROSS — Heden 5-2-12, Bury 1-4-6, Bollenbacher 6-0-12, Held 0-4-4, Berger 4-0-8, Ameling 6-4-16, Caskey 2-0-4, Walker 1-0-2; totals 25-14-64

SANDUSKY — McDougle 4-1-9, Johnson 5-0-10, Hollinger 7-0-14,

Lemmons 3-0-6, White 1-0-2, Simbolo 0-1-1, McIntosh 1-0-2; totals 21-2-

44

Season records: Ross 5-7

Tidal wave hits Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

The tide was high for Ross but lasted longer for Admiral King Tuesday night in a Buckeye Conference basketball game that was as one-sided as it could be.

Ross's only happy moment came in the first few seconds of the game when the Little Giants got the ball on the opening tip; the rest of the night was a long, slow drowning.

Admiral King pull-away down the stretch. Eversen ended up with 17 points, Gage 16, and Wilson 11.

The Admiral slapped a "2-3" zone on the Little Giants at the outset and the defending was continuing throughout. The defensive maneuvers had the Little Giants reeling in both halves. Ross had 14 turnovers in the first half and a dozen more in the second.

"I think we were so press conscious," Paeth tried to explain, "that when they did not use it, we did not know what to do and turned the ball over."

Paeth said that happened five times to his squad in the first half.

Paeth also said, "They just totally 'outquicked' us. At times it looked like they had six men on the court."

Ross' assistant coach Steve Krynoch had his doubt about the Admirals' quickness. "It may have been that we were slow," he said.

Although not offering it as an excuse, Ross' coaches did confirm that the team had been racked by the flu bug the past couple of days.

Tim Price and Kevin Cook, both starters, missed part of the school day with the bug. Mike Farber, the Little Giant reserve player, Jerry Ameling were home in the sack because of the flu and varsity sub Jeff Elcher was feeling the effects of the sickness.

Price, despite the flu, led Ross scorers with 20 points. Randy Hammer had a dozen for the Little Giants but Ross' leading scorer, Steve

McGilton, was held to two free throws by the tidal King zone.

"I think we just held them right up until the end," Paeth said as tiredness flowed from his eyes. "With five minutes to go, 'Ham' (Randy Hammer) said in the huddle we could still win it."

"Unfortunately for Ross, Admiral King did not agree."

The Admirals hit 36 of 72 from the floor while Ross managed only 16 of 51. Admiral King outrebounded Ross 41-20 with 18 of the Admirals' retrieves coming on the offensive end of the court.

Ross will travel to Elyria Friday and it will be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. The Admirals are riding on top of the BC with a 16-2 record and currently own a seven-game winning streak.

In the junior varsity game, Ross jumped out to a 7-4 lead but Admiral King turned around to run off 18 straight points while on the way to a 45-40 win.

VARSITY GAME

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Admiral King 20 16 20 20—76

Ross 11 7 11 19—48

SCORING

ADMIRAL KING — Gage 8-16, Eversen 8-17, Hillard 5-2, Cook 4-2, Wilson 6-11, Adams 1-3, Morrison 4-8, Vicks 4-8; totals 38-78

ROSS — McGilton 6-12, Hammer 6-12, Cook 1-2, Price 2-2, Shetter 4-4, Farber 1-1, Ameling 0-1, Shetter 4-4, Brudinski 3-4; totals 16-48

Season records: Admiral King 8-6 (5-5), Ross 4-9 (2-8)

JUNIOR VARSITY**SCORING**

ADMIRAL KING — Reed 1-2, Morrison 0-2, Simmons 6-2, Givens 1-2, Nisius 1-2, Rybicki 2-2, Baron 1-2, Socha 1-2, Henson 1-2; totals 19-7-4

ROSS — Bury 5-12, Rodd 6-1, Held 1-2, Caskey 2-4, Hedden 1-2, Henson 1-2; totals 16-4-4

Season record: Ross 5-4



TOM WOLESLAGEL is off to the races during action late in the game. Behind Woleslagel is teammate Jeff Elcher.

Ross rejects Elyria gifts in BC loss

ELYRIA — Ross couldn't take advantage of what Elyria offered in the first half and it cost them in a 66-43 loss to the Pioneers in a Buckeye Conference basketball game. With the win, Elyria wrapped up the conference title.

"We would have been in the ball game," Ross Coach Norm "Biz" Paeth said after his team absorbed its 10th loss in 14 games this season.

The Little Giants, normally one of the better foul shooting teams in the conference, managed to hit just three of 11 charity tosses in the first half, including missing the front end of three one and ones. Ross sank only seven of 18 free throws in the game.

"We probably played our best defense of the year in that first half," Paeth explained. "It's tough being out of a game while giving up only 29 points."

Elyria grabbed a 29-15 lead at the half and then used its superior height to hold off Ross in the second half.

"The thing is we had them in foul trouble," the Ross coach continued. "Their press did not get us where it was supposed to but it got us elsewhere."

The Little Giants were guilty of 13 first half turnovers and that figure helped in holding Ross to only

12 shots at the basket in the first 16 minutes. Ross made only four shots in the half. If Ross wasn't shooting a free throw, then it was turning the ball over by going for the "home run."

"We would beat their press," Paeth recalled painlessly, "but we would get into our forecourt and turn it over. We were trying to go for the home run instead of setting up after beating the press."

Ross scored only eight points in the initial stanza and five in the second period, all by Tim Price.

Price, who led Ross scorers with 17, actually scored nine points in a row. With 4:15 left in the first quarter, Randy Hammer sank a free throw for the Little Giants. No other Little Giant, other than Price, was to score again until Steve McGilton tipped in a shot at the 4:56 mark of the third period.

In the second half, Elyria beat Ross on the boards badly while compiling a 50-26 margin. Mike Underman of Elyria, grabbed 15 rebounds, including nine off the offensive board. He scored 13 points.

Brian Balser led all scorers for the game and Elyria with 18 points. Steve Lindquist, who picked up three first quarter fouls, added 14 to the Pioneer offensive attack.

Price was the only Ross player in double figures.

Elyria is now 11-2 in the conference and 13-4 overall. In the JV game, Elyria outscored Ross 21-6 in the second period to race to a 63-52 win.

VARSITY**SCORE BY QUARTERS**

Ross 8 15 13 17-43

Elyria 15 14 20 17-66

SCORING

ROSS — Hammer 3-2-4, Price 6-17, McGilton 3-1-7, Fahrbach 1-0-2, Cook 2-2, Simmons 0-2-3, Woleslagel 1-1-3, totals 19-7-4

ELYRIA — Gilbert 2-4-8, Frye 1-0-2, Underman 5-3-13, Ross 3-2-8, Collins 0-3-2, Balser 7-4-18, Paige 0-1-1, Lindquist 7-0-14; totals 25-16-66

Season records: Elyria 13-4 (11-2), Ross 4-10 (2-9)

JV GAME**SCORE BY QUARTERS**

Ross 11 6 14 21-52

Elyria 11 21 14 17-63

SCORING

ROSS — Hedden 6-3-15, Bury 1-5-7, Bollenbacher 4-2-10, Berger 4-4

12, Held 1-1-3, Caskey 1-0-2, Ameling 1-1-3; totals 18-16-52

ELYRIA — Riley 6-0-12, Bush 4-1-9, Schuetz 5-2-12, Appleby 7-3-17,

Glover 2-5-9, Costes 1-0-2, Swan 0-2-2; totals 25-13-63

Speaking of Sports

Low point: Ross ripped by Lorain Steelmen 94-54

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

LORAIN — Biz Paeth and his Ross High School basketball team won't be adopting "Down In the Valley" for a theme song but Paeth feels his team has reached where the song indicates.

"They say there is a bottom to every valley," he said gloomily after Saturday's Buckeye Conference basketball game against the Lorain Senior Steelmen, "and we have hit it — we can't go anyplace but up."

Paeth was facing fact after watching his team absorb a one-sided 94-54 loss.

The Conference's leading scorer, Lee Svette rubbed a little salt into the Ross wound by dunking a shot late in the final period.

"That told the story," Paeth said, "it was really frustrating."

The Little Giants, now 4-11 and 2-10 in the conference, stayed with the Steelmen for a quarter, trailing only 22-20 after the first stop. That sticking power left the Little Giants in the second eight minutes as the Steelmen matched the first quarter and raced to a 44-30 lead at the half.

"We played decent the first quarter," the Ross coach explained, "we went cold in the second period but we're still in the game at the half."

A 21-12 scoring edge in the third period by the consistent Steelmen put the Little Giants on the skids and easy pickings for "bunnies" in the final stanza. With Ross in a full court press, the Steelmen picked up numerous layups for a 29-12 scoring margin to grab the 40-point

win — the worst defeat that Ross has suffered in Paeth's first year at the coaching reins.

The stunning loss caused Paeth's life to flash back before his eyes just like a drowning man.

"I had almost forgotten what happened to me about six years ago," he began as if going down for the third time, "We played Strausburgh, Sugarcreek Garoway, and Indian Valley South (all ranked in the top 10 in small school ranking that year) and they really took it to us. It was really frustrating — that all ran clear for me tonight."

Paeth was referring to his coaching days at Tuscarawas during his flashback.

But Paeth was rescued from a fitful night of restlessness.

"The co-captains (Tim Price and Randy Hammer) came up to me and told me that they were sorry for the way the team played. They were speaking for the team.

"They told me that they

were not giving up and that they would be giving it everything when it came time to practice Monday," he continued. "I was concerned. I thought the season was over after this game but the players offered a positive thing by the way they talked.

"Maybe the loss woke us up — it could be a blessing in disguise," Paeth concluded but then quickly added, "I never asked them (players) to be good; just to try. They are doing that."

Lorain hit a torrid 43 of 81 shots against the Little Giants while outgoaling Ross by 25 buckets.

Svette led the scoring attack with 19 points, one more than Rosie Jewells. Sopomore Tom Wolesslagel had 15 for Ross and Price had 14.

"If there was a bright spot for us," Paeth said, "It was the play of Wolesslagel."

The Little Giants will play three games this week. Tuesday, Ross travels to Toledo Whitmer before returning home to

close out the season with Marion Harding on Friday and Findlay on Saturday.

Ross's junior varsity lost a close 52-47 game to the Steelmen. Greg Hedden had 10 points with Mike Held adding eight.

Score by quarters

Ross	20	10	12	12	54
Lorain	22	22	21	29	94

Scoring

ROSS — Hammer 3-4-10, Price 3-8-14, McGilton 2-1-5, Cook 1-0-2, Wolesslagel 6-3-15, Brudzinski 1-0-2, Eicher 1-0-2, Farbach 1-2-4; totals 18-18-54.

LORAIN — Svette 7-5-19, Pille 5-0-10, Jewells 9-0-18, Ewers 2-0-4, Smith 1-2-4, Walker 6-0-12, Henderson 3-1-7, Mastin 3-0-6, Pozegga, 4-0-8; totals 43-8-94.

Season records: Ross 4-11 (2-10)

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Ross cold spells hurt in 63-51 loss to Whitmer

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Sports Writer

TOLEDO — The Ross Little Giants did a lot of things well Tuesday night, but had trouble putting the ball in the hoop.

The host Whitmer Panthers pulled away from Ross late in the third quarter and coasted to a 63-51 basketball victory here.

"None of these nights things are going to start falling our way," said Ross coach Buz Paeth after the game. "They (players) committed and that's all I ask of them. I feel so sorry for them."

As usual, Ross found itself looking up at a much larger front line Tuesday night and it gradually started taking its toll.

Whitmer was using a combination of zone defenses, but mostly a 2-3-1 and Tom Walter and reserve Jeff Thielman along with 6-6 Don Winzeler and Dave Bogart to throw at the Little Giants.

Despite the size, Ross was getting inside on the Panthers, but often came up with either a missed shot or turnover.

"It was unbelievable," said Paeth, "that we got inside so much. "But when we did get inside, there

were two guys 6-4 standing there."

Ross, led by Randy Hammer's 15, outrebounded the Panthers 30-20, but could only connect on 21 of 63 field goal attempts (33 percent).

"We'd go in spurts," Paeth observed. "They (Whitmer) probably played more consistently than we did."

A key point in the game that Paeth brought out was the opening minute of the fourth quarter.

Ross was only trailing 44-39, but a quick bucket off the glass by Whitmer and a steal and a basket by Mike McIntyre suddenly found Ross down by nine points and it proved too much to come back from.

Ross led most of the first quarter and partly through the second, but six unanswered points by the Panthers helped them take a 28-23 halftime lead. Ross was held to seven points in the second quarter and made only three of 10 field goals.

Whitmer led by as much as nine in the third quarter until the Little Giants went into one of their spurts.

Steve McGilton was found underneath for an uncontested bunny, Kevin Cook sank two free throws after being fouled underneath and Jeff Brown canned a jumper from the corner to close a 36-29 deficit to 36-

35. Hammer, after several tries at the hoop, kept fighting and was trying to draw Ross within one at 38-37, but it was the closest the Little Giants would get the rest of the night.

Ross early in the game used a full court press against the Panthers and did so again in the fourth quarter in an effort to catch up. The Panthers beat the press at times, but Paeth was pleased with it.

"We got some off of it," he said. "It's a give and take thing and what we want to do is take more than you can give. They made 20 turnovers, but we just couldn't capitalize on them."

Tim Price, with several outside jumpers, led Ross scorers with 14 points, including 10 in the first half. McGilton penetrated in the second half, when he scored nine of his 13 points.

Whitmer was strong on the Little Giants' side in the second half with 15 points and finished the night with 21 to lead scorers. McIntyre scored three key buckets in the fourth quarter Whitmer spurt to finish with 12.

The loss lowered the Ross season record to 4-12, while Whitmer upped its mark to 7-10 for the season. The Little Giants close with regular season with home

dates Friday and Saturday with Marion Harding and Findlay.

The Ross Jayvees were outscored 12-2 in the third quarter and lost the lead for good in a 43-39 defeat. Mike Held had 12 points for Ross and Ken Miller led Whitmer with nine.

VARSITY GAME SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross Whitmer SCORING 16 7 16 13-31
14 14 16 19-63

ROSS — Hammer 4-1-9, McGilton 5-3-13, Cook 1-3-5, Price 7-0-14, Wolesslag 2-2-6, Brown 2-0-4; totals 21-5-31.
Whitmer — Bury 1-0-2, Berger 1-2-4, Held 4-4-12, Rodd 1-0-2, Steen 1-0-2, Ameling 2-1-5, Mooney 3-0-6; totals 16-7-39.

WHITMER — Hamill 2-0-2, Lynn 3-1-7, Larkin 2-2-6, Miller 4-1-6, Burch 2-0-2, Burchfield 3-0-4, Winzeler 10-2-1, totals 28-7-43.

Season records: Whitmer 7-10, Ross 4-12
JV GAME
SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross Whitmer SCORING 14 9 2 14-38
8 13 12 10-43

ROSS — Bury 1-0-2, Hedden 3-0-4, Berger 1-2-4, Held 4-4-12, Rodd 1-0-2, Steen 1-0-2, Ameling 2-1-5, Mooney 3-0-6; totals 16-7-39.

WHITMER — Hamill 2-0-2, Lynn 3-1-7, Larkin 2-2-6, Miller 4-1-6, Burch 2-0-2, Burchfield 3-0-4, Winzeler 10-2-1, totals 28-7-43.

Season records: Whitmer 7-10, Ross 4-12

Marion vs. Ross

Cellar dweller battle

Marion Harding and Ross have one embarrassing thing in common: the teams are tied for the first spot when starting from the bottom of the Buckeye Conference basketball standings.

That will change tonight. One must suffer the tag of being the conference's cellar dweller. The Little Giants know that feeling, having frequented that spot many times in the past.

The Presidents and Ross are 2-10 in the BC and carry two of the worst offensive and defensive averages in the rugged eight-team conference.

Ross is on the bottom of the conference in offensive stats, averaging 54.7 points per game. Harding is a notch above with a 55.6 ppg.

Marion is also a notch above the Little Giants on the defensive charts, giving up 65.3 points while Ross is more than four points behind that with a 69.9 yield.

The Little Giants, however, have a better overall won/lost record with a 4-12 mark (a 400 percent improvement over last season) while the Presidents carry a

3-12 slate. Ross also defeated Harding on its home court 62-55 back on Dec. 22 and will have the home court advantage tonight.

One intangible that could affect both teams — the flu bug. Ross has been fighting it all week. Jeff Brown and Tim Price were the most recent casualties but both are expected to be ready for tonight's contest.

Tonight's game will be the 17th of the season for Ross and the 18th will be Saturday night when Findlay visits Fremont. The junior varsity games will begin at 6:30 tonight and Saturday.

Marion will bring the top assist artist in the conference in Mark Rubich. The President senior is averaging 6.3 assists per game. Price of Ross is third in that department with a 5.2 mark.

Dave Miller is the top Marion scorer with a 11.5, good for 16th in the conference. Price is hitting 14.9 to rank fourth in the BC and Steve McGilton is seventh at 13.9. Ross's Randy Hammer is 15th at 12.3.

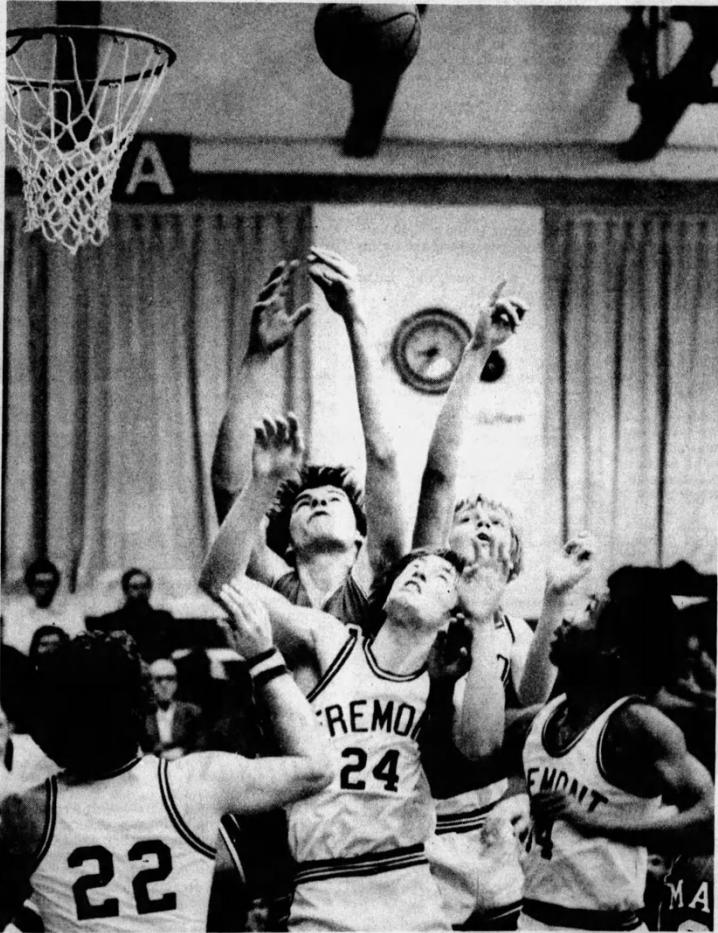
Sports

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SECTION B

Marion wins cellar dweller tilt

Page B-2



N-M photo: DAN BOMELI

GUESS WHAT'S UP THERE? It's the basketball and all attention is focused on it Friday night at Ross High School during the Marion Harding-Ross Buckeye Conference basketball game.

Randy Hammer (24), Steve McGilton (22), Jeff Brown, right, and Kevin Cook (in back of Hammer) of Ross surround Marion's Dave Miller.

Walt Frazier flashes old form for Cavaliers in 99-96 win over New Jersey in National Basketball Association play.

Page B-2

Dr. Gil Morgan is cruising along with two-shot lead in Glen Campbell-LA Open Golf Tournament.

Page B-3

St. Joe wrestlers have three pins in 37-17 win over Clyde.

Page B-3

Genoa wins Suburban Lakes League basketball title after Otsego upsets Oak Harbor 55-52; Lakota edges Woodmore in shootout.

Page B-4

Eldon Miller taking it easy despite his up and down Ohio State Buckeye cage team.

Page B-6

Cesar Cedeno may be the richest baseball player after signing huge pact with Houston Astros.

Page B-7

Mario Andretti survives big pile-up to win IROC race at Daytona Beach; Richard Petty is injured.

Page B-8

Marion spurs put Ross in BC basketball cellar

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Marion Harding took the words right out of Biz Paeth's mouth and stuffed Fremont Ross back into the basement of the Buckeye Conference here Tuesday night.

"I had it all planned what I was going to say," Paeth, coach of the Ross little Giants basketball team said, "when we won this and did not end up in the basement."

He never got to utter the first syllable of his speech.

Marion lashed the Little Giants 64-58 to finish the BC season with a 3-11 mark. Ross is 2-11 and can tie for the bottom spot tonight but to do that, the Little Giants would have to knock off Findlay when the Trojans visit Fremont for the final regular season game.

Ross played like a sputtering engine — the Little Giants would run smoothly for a spell, but then sputter for a half minute. Invariably, the Presidents would run off a cluster of points while the Little Giants were attempting to retake.

"When we would get close," Ross varsity assistant Coach Steve Krynoch began, "we could not seem to get that one basket we needed."

The sputtering Little Giant machine had its worst coughing spells in the second half. Marion took advantage of those spells to move out to a nine-point lead but Ross always managed to come back. In the end, chunky Ray Haines came off the Marion bench to score four big points and another sub, Plez Booker, put the coup de grace on the game for the Presidents.

The Presidents bolted from a 51-47 lead midway through the final quarter to take a 57-49 lead with 2:57 to play. At that point, Ross seemed to get back in a smooth gear.

When Marvin Owens of Marion failed to pick up a ball that passed over the midcourt line from the Marion forecourt, Ross's Randy

Hammer scooped it up and drove for the bucket. Marion's floor general, Mark Rubcich, fouled Hammer on the "good and bad" play for Ross.

It was good that the foul was the fifth on Rubcich and it was bad as Hammer's shot on the layup just rolled off the rim. Hammer hit one of two but another turnover and Tim Price's shot from the middle made it 57-52. That's when Haines struck paydirt.

Haines went to the foul line twice after being fouled by Ross's Jeff Brown and Steve McGilton. He missed both shots but on the second miss, Haines stepped up, grabbed his own rebound and laid it in to put Marion up 59-52.

Tom Brudzinski's looper from the top of the key brought Ross back to 59-54 but Haines took a pass from Owens and laid his second basket through the hoop for a 61-54 lead.

But Ross was not through. Two Marion turnovers and consecutive buckets by McGilton cut the Marion lead to 61-58 with 34 seconds left. Then came the pivotal play.

Hammer sneaked in to steal the inbounds pass before being driven to the floor by Owens. However, instead of being fouled, Hammer was called for the foul and Marion had the ball at the foul line with 24 seconds to play.

"I thought he (Hammer) had position," Paeth said. "It really could have gone either way — it was just two kids going after the ball."

And the ball went to Marion.

Owens missed the free throw but Booker got the rebound and was fouled by Price. Booker hit the first of the one and one before Ross got the rebound off the second missed shot. Booker, however, stepped in front of the Little Giants' outlet pass and drilled a 12-foot jumper from the left side to give the Presidents the 64-58 margin with less than 15 seconds to play.

"We hustled our butts off," in-

sisted Paeth. "We fought and scrapped but still came up short."

"It was just a lot of big little things throughout the game for us. That's just it," he continued. "If the loss can be attributed to anything, it wasn't one big thing, just a lot of little ones."

Ross led on three occasions in the game — 13-12, 15-14, and 27-26. The latter lead came after a seven-point run.

Paeth played his bench like a poker player shuffling cards. He would alternate Price, who was battling the flu and was sick at the half and after the game, with Tom Woleslagel and Brudzinski.

"It was just to keep fresh players in there," Paeth explained. "We beat Marion in the first game by keeping the pressure on them and that's what we wanted to do this game."

Price scored 17 points to lead all scorers and McGilton finished with 15. McGilton also grabbed 17 rebounds, his best effort on the boards this season, as the Little Giants had a surprising 37-29 edge in that department.

Dave Miller had 15 for Marion with 11 coming in the second half. Booker ended up with 12 and Owens had 10.

Marion also won the junior varsity game 60-54.

VARSITY GAME
Score by quarters

Marion	12	15	15	18	64
Ross	11	18	10	19	58

Scoring

MARION — Miller 6-3-15, Rubcich 0-7-7, Booker 5-2-12, Haines 3-0-4, Robinson 4-0-8, Owens 5-0-10, Carter 3-2-8; totals 25-14-64

ROSS — Hammer 2-4-8; McGilton 5-5-15, Price 7-3-17, Woleslagel 3-0-6, Brown 2-2-6, Brudzinski 3-0-6, Cook 0-0-0; totals 22-14-58

Season records: Ross 4-13 (2-11), Marion 5-12 (3-11)

JV GAME
Score by quarters

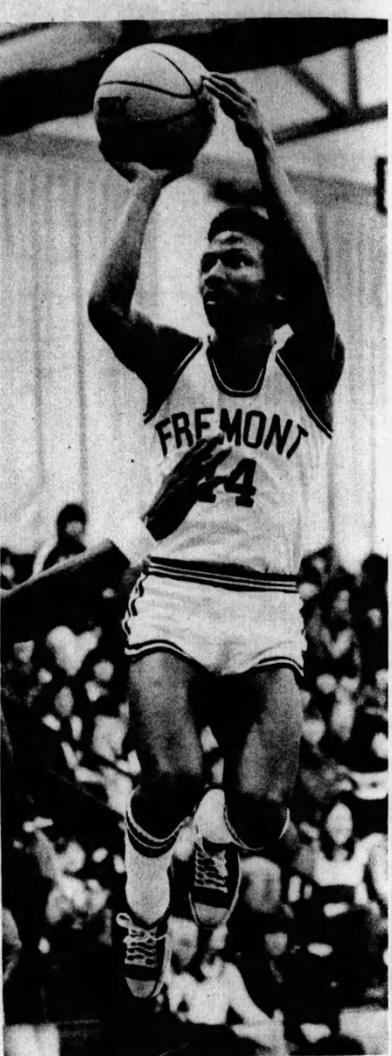
Marion	15	18	14	13	60
Ross	16	10	10	18	54

Scoring

MARION — Wright 5-0-10, Lucas 2-3-7, Russell 2-0-4, Hathaway 4-3-11, Lewis 1-0-2, Hiechenbrach 5-0-10, Rush 5-6-16; totals 24-12-46

ROSS — Bury 3-4-10, Held 2-0-4, Caskey 3-0-6, Mooney 4-2-10, Berger 1-0-2, Hedden 8-2-18, Bollenbacher 0-4-4; totals 21-12-54

Season records: Ross 5-12



JEFF BROWN of Ross goes up into the air unmolested for an easy shot against Marion Harding Friday at Ross High School. (N-M photos by Dan Bomeli)

Frazier's 21, key defensive play stops New Jersey

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP) — Walt Frazier scored 21 points and came up with a key defensive play in the closing seconds, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 99-96 National Basketball Association victory over the New Jersey Nets Friday night.

It was the third straight victory for the Cavaliers and pushed them one game above the .500 mark at 28-27.

Cleveland led 84-73 with 8:16 to play before the Nets scored 11 straight points — eight in a row by Howard Porter and a three-point play by John Williamson which tied the score at 84 with 5:44 to go.

Frazier had four points and two assists in the next two minutes but Williamson kept the Nets close, then tied the score again at 96 on a 15-foot jumper with 57



KEVIN COOK (40) of Ross cradles one of five rebounds he had in the game. Marvin Owens (4) of Marion

watches along with Ross's Steve McGilton (far left) and Randy Hammer (24).

MAC swim meet moved

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Mid-American Conference swimming championships next month have been moved from Ball State University to Western Michigan University because of the electricity shortage in Indiana.

Commissioner Fred Jacoby said Friday the decision to move the meet was made after it was determined that Ball State will have to make drastic cutbacks in power usage because of the coal strike, including the closing of the university pool.

Game of emotions

Ross charge falls short; Trojans win

By JERRY ROSEN

News-Messenger Sports Writer
Norm "Bliz" Paeth shook his head, sipped some cola from a paper cup and said in his soft-spoken voice, "That was the second place team in the Buckeye and we PLAYED 'em."

No, Paeth's Little Giants didn't pull off one of their major surprises and drop the Findlay Trojans Saturday night. But the touted Trojans left with something to think about.

The 78-68 Findlay win actually was a lot closer than the numbers indicate. The scrappy Little Giants, paced by the 28-point efforts of senior Tim Price, did everything to the visitors but beat them.

"This was a real special game for the seniors," said Paeth his voice full of emotion. "We played

with an awful lot of emotion — just to stay close, we did it on emotion. They're a good team and we played them close. We outlasted them. We're a four-and-14 team. A lot of times a team that's down just finishes the season, but not our team."

Maybe it was a first quarter-ending heave by Randy Hammer that showed Ross Findlay was vulnerable. Hammer let the ball fly with his hands at his neck on the mid-court line and time ran out. The ball rippled through the cords and kept the crowd buzzing for several minutes.

"That's our number two play," Paeth joked later about the shot that started the Findlay charge.

Early in the second quarter, the Trojans ran off an 11-3 spurt and outscored the sputtering Little Giants 21-7 in the quarter. It looked

like everything should have been put away for the night at halftime as Findlay took an imposing 39-27 margin and its strong basketball tradition in the locker rooms.

It looked like the curse early in the third quarter as Findlay stretched its lead to 19, 49-30, outscoring Ross 10-3 in the process.

But suddenly Price caught fire and the rest of the Little Giants picked up the tempo by forcing turnovers. Hitting mostly from the outside, Price connected 12 of his points in the third quarter and brought Ross back within striking distance.

"Price was just hitting from everywhere," said Trojan coach John Stozich as he rushed to return to Detroit and his weekend Reserve stint. "We switched to a diamond and one and we held him to two

baskets."

But despite the defensive work on Price, Findlay could not hold down the other Giants. And the Giant defense rattled the Trojans.

Down by as much as 14, 65-51 with 5:47 remaining in the fourth, the Little Giants hit a string of their own outscoring Findlay 13-3 and closing that gap to four, 68-64. Price got six of those and Steve McGilton, who finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds, got three.

In the middle of the stretch, Stozich called a time out and chastized his club at mid-court. "We made four errors in a row there. We missed two layups; one boy picked up his dribble, forgot, then bounced it again; and we were in the lane too long. I reminded them of that."

It must have worked because the

Trojans rattled off six unanswered points to ice the contest.

Terry Schlencher, a sophomore who started the year on the reserve team, led five Trojans in double figures with 19 points. In front of him were Rick Bell with 13; Rick Maroney another sophomore called up from the reserves, with 12; and Steve Dean and Dave Rieker with 11. Rieker also grabbed 10 rebounds.

For Ross, Jeff Brown joined Price and McGilton in double figures with 13 points, and Hammer grabbed 10 rebounds.

"I don't want to belabor the point," said Paeth, "but they're a heck of a lot bigger. We started a team with no one over six feet. Their guards are 6-2."

It was a strong effort for Ross despite the loss.

"That's effort with a capital 'E,'" said Paeth.

The Ross junior varsity team avenged an earlier season 75-56 loss to the Trojan JVs 55-52. Randy Bury tossed 16 points and Dan Mooney had 15 for the Little Giants.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	20	7	20	21	68
Findlay	18	21	20	19	78

SCORING

ROSS — Bell 13-6; McGilton 14-6; Brown 4-5-13; Price 11-5-28; McGilton 14-6; Brown 2-1-5; totals 25-16-60.

FINDLAY — Bell 4-5-13; Denin 4-5-11; Gass 4-0-2; Schlencher 4-4-13-1; Wiseman 0-2-2; Maroney 4-4-12; Schlencher 9-1-19; Dean 3-2-2; Rieker 5-0-10; Hutton 2-0-4; totals 30-18-78.

Season records: Ross 4-14 (2-12); Findlay 12-4 (10-4).

RESERVE GAME

Ross 55, Findlay 52

SCORING

ROSS — Bury 16-4-14-3-10; Caskey 1-

0-2; Mooney 7-1-15; Ameling 6-1-1; Heden 3-

0-6; Bellenicher 2-1-5; totals 28-8-35.

FINDLAY — Denin 4-5-13; Gass 2-4-8;

Benedict 0-2-2; Dean 3-2-2; Geyer 5-0-10;

Hutton 2-0-4; totals 30-12-32.

Ross duo voted All-BC

Tim Price and Steve McGilton of Ross were named to the second and third teams, respectively, of the All-Buckeye Conference basketball teams.

The conference "dream teams" were selected by a vote of the coaches.

Lee Svette of Lorain, the conference's leading scorer was named the conference's "player of the year." Elyria Coach Mike Riley received the "coach of the year" honor for leading the Pioneers to the conference title.

Price, a 5-10 senior, and the Little Giants' leading scorer, was joined by Jamie Gilbert and Steve Lindquist of Elyria; Dave Ricker of Findlay; and Craig Wilson of Admiral King on the second team.

McGilton was one of two juniors on the top three teams. Reicker, 6-6, was the other underclassman.

Randy Hammer of Ross was accorded honorable mention.

First team

Lee Svette, Lorain, 6-3, 12; Mike Underman, Elyria, 6-3, 12; Cal Cage, Sandusky, 5-10, 12; Rick Bell, Findlay, 6-2, 12; Joe Hilliard, Admiral King, 6-1, 12; Fronnie Clark, Sandusky, 6-4, 12;

Second team

Jamie Gilbert, Elyria, 5-11, 12; Dave Riecker, Findlay, 6-6, 11; Steve Lindquist, Elyria, 6-6, 12; Craig Wilson, Admiral King, 5-7, 12; Tim Price, Ross, 5-10, 12;

Third team

Greg Pille, Lorain, 6-1, 12; Wayne Curry, Mansfield, 5-11, 12; Steve McGilton, Ross, 6-0, 11; Bo Hathorn, Sandusky, 5-11, 12; Brian Balser, Elyria, 6-4, 12.

Ross honorable mention

Randy Hammer, 5-10, 12.

Five Ross athletes win MVP awards

Five Ross High School athletes were awarded "most valuable" trophies Thursday evening during the Ross Winter Sports Awards Program.

Clarence Parks and Paul "Tex" Miller shared the MVP award for the wrestling team. Named the Mal Mackey Award, Parks and Miller earned

the honor for team leadership and accomplishments during the season.

Parks, a senior, was the sectional and district

champion, as well as a repeat winner in the Buckeye Conference Tournament at 155 pounds. Miller, a junior, was the sectional champ and runnerup in the district while also winning a conference title at 126. Both of the MVPs made it to the state tournament in Columbus.

Parks was also the recipient of a captain's trophy and shared the award for most takedowns with another senior, Dave Campbell.

Other wrestling awards went to junior heavyweight Troy Amor for most pins; senior Chuck Binkley for most improved; and Mike Pena, a junior, won the coaches' award for his attitude and effort. Pena was a surprise winner of a conference title at 119 pounds.

Paul Adams was named the most valuable JV wrestler.

Mark Porczak was named the most valuable swimmer. It was one of three trophies that the Ross senior took home. He also was named as a co-winner of the White Scholarship along with Doug Ackerman, a junior.

The White Scholarship is awarded in memory of Tom White Jr. by White Plumbing and Heating.

Other special award winners for the swim team went to Dave Stover as the most improved while Ackerman won the coaches' award. Ackerman went through the season with a steel pin in his leg after an automobile accident last fall.

Jean McKittrick and Charlie Lease also received captain's trophies for the swim team.

Senior Kim Myers was tabbed as the girls basketball team's MVP. She also shared the co-captaincy with senior teammate Barb Bliss.

Bliss was awarded a trophy as the team's best defensive player.

Lori Lawrence, a junior, won two awards. She was the team's best free throw shooter and also won the most improved award.

Paula Zimmerman, a

junior, won the rebounding trophy while Amy Troike was the most valuable junior varsity player.

Randy Hammer, a three-year letterman for the Little Giants boys basketball team, was named the most valuable player. It was one of three trophies that Hammer took home. He was also tabbed

as "Mr. Defense" and co-captained the Little Giants along with Tim Price.

Price was awarded the team trophy as the best free throw shooter along with his captain's trophy.

Steve McGilton, a junior, won the rebounding award. Gregg Hadden, a sophomore, was the junior varsity's "outstanding" player winner.



GIRLS BASKETBALL award winners. Left to right are Lori Lawrence, Kim Myers, Paula Zimmerman, Amy Troike and Barb Bliss.

News-Messenger

Sports news

Bob Marker, editor



WRESTLING AND BOYS BASKETBALL award winners. Seated at the table, left to right, are Mike Pena, Paul "Tex" Miller, Chuck Binkley, Troy Amor and Dave Campbell; standing: Clarence Parks, Gregg Hadden, Randy Hammer, Steve McGilton and Tim Price.



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