

16 The News-Messenger, Fremont, O., Thursday, Feb. 26, 1976

Ross against Clay

Oregon Clay High School's basketball team is just like the earth after a four-year drought—once it started to rain, everything began to blossom.

"I took over a program that had lost every game the season before," the Eagles' master, Bud Felhaber, chuckled Wednesday morning, "and I promptly added some more losses to that streak."

Felhaber can laugh now, nine years later, because after turning the Eagles around from 30 straight hardwood losses, the former coach at Port Clinton High School, has his team flying high. Over the last five seasons, Felhaber has guided his charges to a 76-22 mark, including a 20-1 mark last year, after taking four years to build up his program.

"We lost to Scott last season in the districts," he said, "that's the furthest we have gone in the tournaments."

Clay will get a shot at taking more steps in the chase toward the state crown when they take on Ross at Rossford High School Friday night at 7:30. The 14-4 Eagles are fourth seeded in the maze of 18 teams known as the Toledo sectional tournaments.

Ross, 9-9, will not be lightly taken by the veteran Clay coach.

"They (Ross) finished down in the Buckeye Conference," Felhaber pointed out, "but I watched them beat Admiral King the other night and I think they are an excellent basketball team."

Felhaber is no stranger to Ross Coach Ken Miller. "We worked together in a couple of basketball camps and I know he believes in defense and control basketball."

Will it be a defensive game?

"I think so—at least we are not anticipating any easy shots," Felhaber said.

Defense, of course, is always instrumental but Miller admits that the Eagles may offer a little different problem than the BC schools that the Little Giants have faced this season.

"They are a little different than the type of team we are used to facing," he said. "They are not as quick as some of the conference teams but they do have good size. I'd say they have the size of Findlay and Marion Harding—in other words, three or four big kids."

While overall the Eagles may not be very quick, Miller was impressed by 6-3 Jerry Kettinger and 6-0 Karl Knierim. "Kettinger, for as big as he is (about 215) moves around pretty well," Miller said.

"He played all over the place against DeVilbiss (Clay won 63-58 in the final game of the (season) but he seemed to prefer to shoot from the outside."

Felhaber will likely start 6-5 Keith Taylor (10.9) at center, Mark Powell, 6-5 (9.9) and 6-4 Jim Besgrove (2.0) at the forwards, with Knierim (12.6) and Kettinger (15.1) at the guards.

Miller will have Dave Fahrbach, 6-6 (16.5) at center, 6-0 John Kiser (4.5) and 6-2 Denny Smith (8.2) at forwards with 5-10 Garry Clark (12.1) and 5-10 Pat Belch (7.2) at the guards.

DIRECTIONS—Take route 20 west to Glenwood Road, third road past Stony Ridge, (Haas Overhead Door Company will be on the corner of the route 20-Glenwood intersection); turn right (north)—Rossford High School is located on Glenwood.

