



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Ross opens at Huron

The Fremont Ross girls basketball team opens the season with a 1 p.m. Saturday game at Huron. Members of coach Sue Wolf's 19th team are, front row, left to right: Lisa Oprie, Dawn Zerman, Natalie Robbins, Christy Hol-

land, Holly Pelfrey; Back row: manager Gail Byers, Cari Ritzman, Andrea Wolfe, Erin Lease, Emili Kreilick, Adrienne Brown, Wolf and manager Latoya Jones. The Little Giants are coming off a 16-6 season.

Huron runs past Ross; Woodmore

News-Messenger reports

Kari Fisher and Amy Allendorf combined for 51 points, leading Huron to a 76-50 high school girls basketball victory over Fremont Ross Saturday in the season opener for both teams.

Ross jumped to an early lead but when guard Natalie Robbins picked up two quick fouls in the opening quarter, Huron took advantage.

"We were up by three," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "but Natalie got into foul trouble and went to the bench, they went up by 10. Then it was like not looking back for them."

In other games, Woodmore won the Tip-Off Tournament at

Woodmore 52-51 over Danbury and St. Joe defeated Bettsville 50-25 in the consolation game; Margareta rolled to a 93-39 win over Shelby; and Clyde topped Fostoria St. Wendelin 54-35.

The Little Giants were also without starting guard Dawn Zerman, out while nursing a muscle pull.

"Without Natalie and Dawn, they ran up and down the floor," Wolf said. "He (Huron coach Dick Wennes) said they were 10 deep, and they were 10 deep."

Fisher popped in 26 points and Allendorf 25 as the Tigers hit a torrid 32-of-53 shooting. Rob bins finished with 23 for Ross while Lisa Oprie added eight. The Lit-

Girls Basketball

tle Giants made 20-of-46 shots but were outrebounded 57-38.

Ross was also guilty of 29 turnovers, 13 more than the Tigers.

Woodmore	52
Danbury	51

Woodmore bounced back from a 24-15 halftime deficit to win the Tip-Off title. The Lakers, 1-1, led 39-34 heading into the final quarter but the Wildcats, 2-0, held an 18-12 scoring edge in the final eight minutes.

A Danbury basket with three seconds to play closed the gap to one.

Ross comes from behind

■ **First win:** The Little Giants erased a nine-point deficit in final 6:15.

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross scored the last 16 points of the game to defeat Sylvania Northview 50-43 Thursday night in a Great Lakes League girls basketball game in the Purple Pit.

With Northview leading 43-34 and in possession of the ball, Wildcats coach Jerry Sigler called time out with 6:15 to play. But the timeout shifted momentum to the Little Giants.

"When he called it, I figured we better go man-to-man because we were trying to play a 1-2-2," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I knew they were going to hold the ball on us so I wanted to get back to man-to-man."

A quick shot after the timeout, Ross began the turnaround.

"We were just trying to come down and run the offense," Sigler said. "We wanted to patient; we did not have to throw up a shot. It was very obvious, all we had to do was run an offense, but we didn't get it done."

"It was a lack of offense and flat out lack of defense; we didn't play a lick of defense."

Wolf's strategy worked as Ross improved to 1-1 in the GLL opener for both teams.

Dawn Zerman, who led a balanced Ross attack with 12 points, started the Ross run with a steal and a layup. Holly Pelfrey then took a pass from Natalie Robbins for a layup, cutting the Wildcat lead to 43-38 with 5:30 remaining.

Robbins passed to Zerman for another layup, and Pelfrey found Dena Schepflin alone under the bucket for another layup — trimming the Northview lead to 43-42 at the 3:45 mark.

Pelfrey gave Ross the lead with a 15-foot jumper from the right of the foul circle and followed with two free throws for a 46-43 Ross lead with 2:24 to go.

"The guards (Robbins and Zerman) had their heads up and they were looking," Wolf said. "I thought Natalie started off a little scared tonight but she picked it up late when we needed it."

Schepflin scored the final four Ross points on a layup off a Zerman pass and a driving layup with a half-minute to play.

Ross made seven of 10 shots in the comeback.

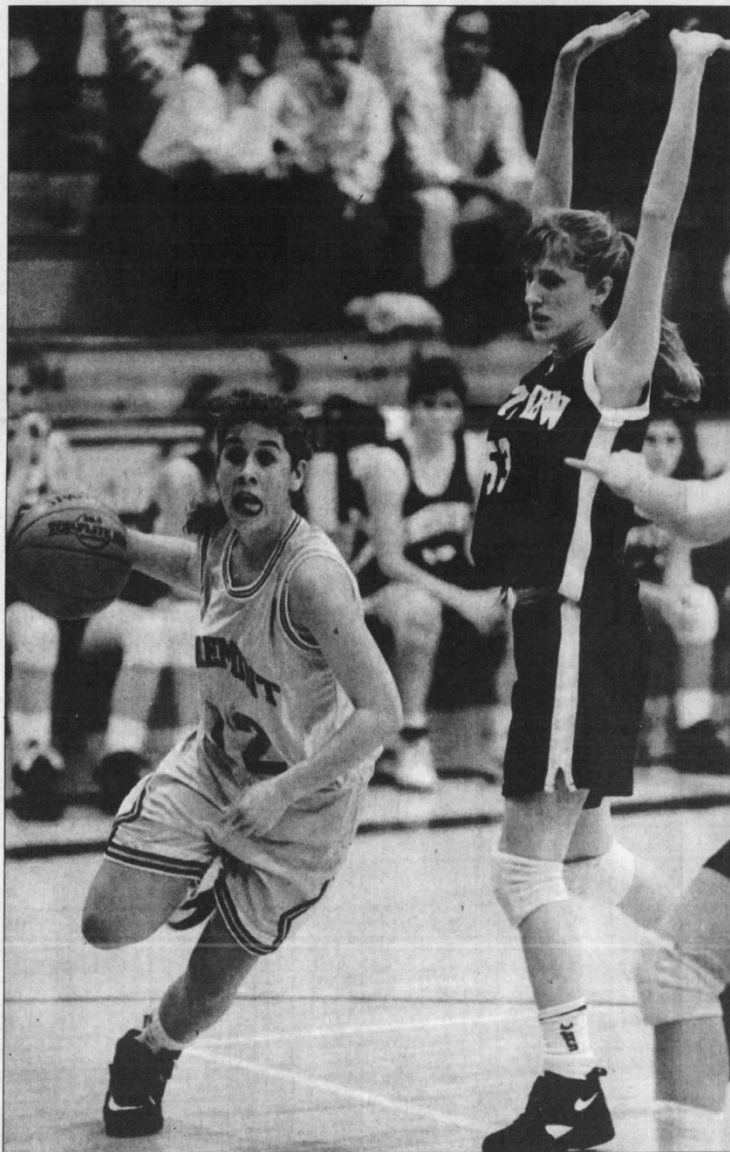
"We were looking for the diagonal pass," Wolf said. "We we got that, I told them to penetrate and when their player left them, get to a spot where you could be an offensive threat. Everyone did a good job of that."

"Schepflin gave us a big game and those foul shots of Pelfrey's were big shots."

Pelfrey finished with 10 points. Northview, after getting two baskets by Heather Machcinski to open the fourth quarter, missed seven of nine shots.

"Our defense got in the passing lanes," Wolf said.

Northview committed 31 turnovers.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN (12) of Fremont Ross drives to the basket during the first quarter Thursday night as Megan Arant of Sylvania Northview defends. The Little Giants won the Great Lakes League girls game 50-43.

Browns say they need five victories

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Cleveland Browns see only one way to win their fans back, only one way to make them forget about Bernie Kosar, only one way to make it to the playoffs:

Win the next five.

"We have to play these last five games like every one is a playoff game," offensive tackle Tony Jones said. "That's the attitude we have to have."

The Browns (5-6) led the AFC Central outright until a four-game losing streak dropped them to third place, behind Houston and Pittsburgh. They have

games remaining against both teams, but both games are on the road.

The losing streak has left almost no margin for error. A 10-6 record would probably be good enough to get them into the playoffs; a 9-7 mark might not.

They host the New Orleans Saints (7-4) on Sunday.

"Right now, we just need a win, just to get ourselves back on track," Jones said. "We've been playing well in spots, and we've beat some people physically, but we've been coming up short every time. We must have a win this game."

NEW ORLEANS

RECORDS: Saints (7-4), Browns (5-6)
WHEN: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS

LINE: Saints by 4

GAME PLAN: Browns could get a rated right shoulder) returns after miss to run well, especially in the middle. Look for struggling Saints to try and pressure off QB Wade Wilson, who has games. He has buckled under heavy

KEY MATCHUPS: Saints: QB Wilson only 9 interceptions. Browns: Offensive second-most sacks in the league (35) in the league (41) in sacks.

TV ANNOUNCERS: Dick Stockton

Press works well

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross and St. Joseph Central Catholic high school girls basketball teams used pressure defense to post victories Thursday night.

At Napoleon, the Ross press helped the Little Giants to a 66-36 Great Lakes League win.

Girls Roundup

"We're getting better with the rotation," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We were weak at the back of it, but it's getting better."

St. Joe, meanwhile, forced 48 turnovers with its press in a 54-43 Midland Athletic League victory over Seneca East.

"They really like it," St. Joe coach Gary Geller said after the Crimson Streaks forced one more turnover than they did Tuesday night against Gibsonburg.

In other games, Edison edged Clyde 71-68 in overtime, Lakota defeated Gibsonburg 43-40, Eastwood beat Woodmore 55-42, Margaretta routed Sandusky Perkins 81-34, Old Fort topped North Baltimore 53-42 and Calvert defeated Bettsville 39-21.

Ross	66
Napoleon	36

Natalie Robbins scored a season-high 24 points for Ross, but Wolf said she played an even more important role than what showed up in the scorebook.

"She did a nice job on the floor," Wolf said. "And Dawn Zerman had a good floor game as well."

Ross, which improved to 2-1 and 2-0 in the GLL, balanced the good guard play with a strong inside game as Andrea Wolfe scored nine points.

"They're working on that real hard," Wolf said.

Ross wins at Findlay for third straight win

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross won its third straight high school girls basketball game Saturday, defeating Findlay 56-52.

The Little Giants, 3-1, led 29-23 at halftime.

In other games, Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic defeated Oak Harbor 63-44 and Bucyrus nipped Bellevue 41-39.

Natalie Robbins pace Ross with 21 points, the third time in four games that she has scored more than 20. Dawn Zerman added 10 and Cari Ritzman eight.

"There is not enough that I can say about everyone who played," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "because they played so well. Everyone played with poise down the stretch."

That poise was tested by Findlay's Amy Jauert who led the Trojans with 19 points. Early in the fourth quarter, Jauert grabbed a rebound at the foul line off a Ross miss, whirled and threw toward a Trojan who was near the Findlay basket. The throw, however, went through the basket for a 3-pointer.

"There was dead silence for awhile," Wolf said, "and then everyone started yelling. The basket cut our lead to three or four points and was the type that could have broken us.

"The girls did not panic, though. We came down and missed a couple of easy ones after that shot but that did not bother us. We played good defense at the other end of the floor and they did not score either."

Findlay closed to within two points twice late in the game, but Robbins made three of four free throws to keep the Little Giants' cushion intact.

Beside leading the Little Giants in scoring, Robbins had seven rebounds, six steals, made two of four 3-point attempts and 5 of 11 two-point shots plus 5 of 6 at the line. Zerman also had five rebounds and three steals.

Ross made 22 of 49 shots and Findlay 22 of 56. The Trojans out-rebounded Ross 34-22 but committed 19 turnovers, eight more than Ross.

Ross returns to action Thursday, traveling to Oregon Clay for a GLL contest.

Girls Roundup

After a 9-9 first-quarter stand-off, St. Mary's took a 23-18 lead at the half. The Panthers steadily increased the lead in the second half.

Tera Bodner and Rachel Schulz scored 10 points apiece for Oak Harbor.

St. Mary's is 2-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

The game was Oak Harbor's SBC opener.

Bucyrus 41

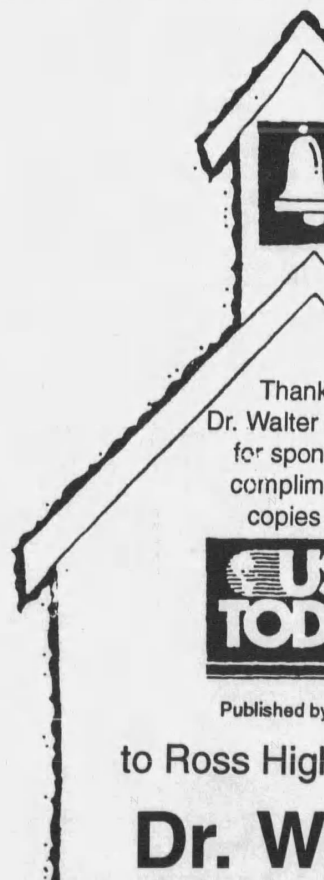
Bellevue 39

Tonya Swick's putback at the buzzer gave Bucyrus the win.

Bucyrus, 3-1 and 2-0 in the Northern Ohio League, led 19-18 at halftime but the game was tied 27-all after three quarters.

Shelly Rahm paced Bellevue with 11 points, and Swick finished with eight.

Christie Borgia topped Bellevue, 2-3 and 2-1, with 12 points.



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Defense leads Ross girls to 3rd GLL win

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross is the lone team without a loss in the Great Lakes League girls basketball race.

The Little Giants, who have won four straight games since losing their opener at Huron, defeated Oregon Clay 43-30 Thursday night for their third league win.

"We definitely won it with defense," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We were in the passing lanes. We were hustling all over the place to make up for the lack of offense."

Ross shot 32 percent (18-of-57) from the floor despite making 7 of 15 shots in the second quarter when it opened up a 25-17 halftime lead.

"The defense never stopped playing," said Wolf, who was not displeased with the offense.

"We took some good shots," she said.

While forcing 30 Clay turnovers, Ross committed just 14 for the second straight contest.

"Emili Kreilick did a good job on the front of the press pressuring the ball," Wolf said. "Everybody else rotated well."

"We've been taking good

See ROSS, B3

Ross tops Clay, 43-30

Continued From B1

care of the basketball."

Natalie Robbins led Ross with 13 points. Dawn Zerman added eight, including four in the second quarter, and Christy Holland scored all six of her points in the second period.

Clay, 3-3 and 1-2, missed 26 of 35 shots and got 11 points from Kelli Fisher.

Panthers snatch win at Ross

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Instead of controlling the Great Lakes League girls basketball race today, Fremont Ross is simply one of three teams with one league loss.

Toledo Whitmer defeated Ross 55-40 at the Purple Pit Wednesday, dropping the Little Giants to 3-1 in league play.

The Panthers, along with Sylvania Northview, are 2-1 in the GLL.

"It's up in the air for anybody to win," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Whitmer may have the upper hand. The Panthers host Ross and Northview in February, while Ross travels to Northview next month.

"In our league, two losses can tie," Whitmer coach Jack Mattimore said.

Ross and Whitmer are both 4-2 in all

games.

Whitmer never trailed Wednesday after breaking a 7-all tie with eight straight points, including back-to-back baskets on the interior by Sarah Dermer and Kellie Jakubowski.

"We tried to convince our inside kids that we have to take the ball inside and they have to try and do something with it," Mattimore said. "We got beat by Northview (47-46 last Thursday) and I don't think we did anything different tonight except Reo (Doom) was a little more aggressive."

"When she plays aggressive, we play better."

Doom scored 10 of her 19 points in the first quarter as the Panthers made 8 of 10 shots and took a 17-12 lead.

"We had a horrible practice yesterday,"

Wolf said. "We haven't practiced well in three days."

It showed, both offensively and defensively.

"We weren't on the same page offensively at all," Wolf said. "All we had to do was drive the ball to the basket on them."

"I told them, 'we've got to run our offense.' I knew we could take baseline on them. It was there, but we didn't do it."

Meanwhile, the Panthers fired in 23 of 45 shots with a nice mix of outside shooting and layups.

"When the ball was inside, we had kids following people away from the basket who were not even a part of the offense at that time."

Whitmer compounded the Little Giants' shooting woes (they were 15-of-43 from the floor and 8-of-20 at the foul line) by outre-

bounding Ross 34-18.

The Little Giants, unable to press consistently because of their shooting problems, seemed a step slow on both ends of the floor all night.

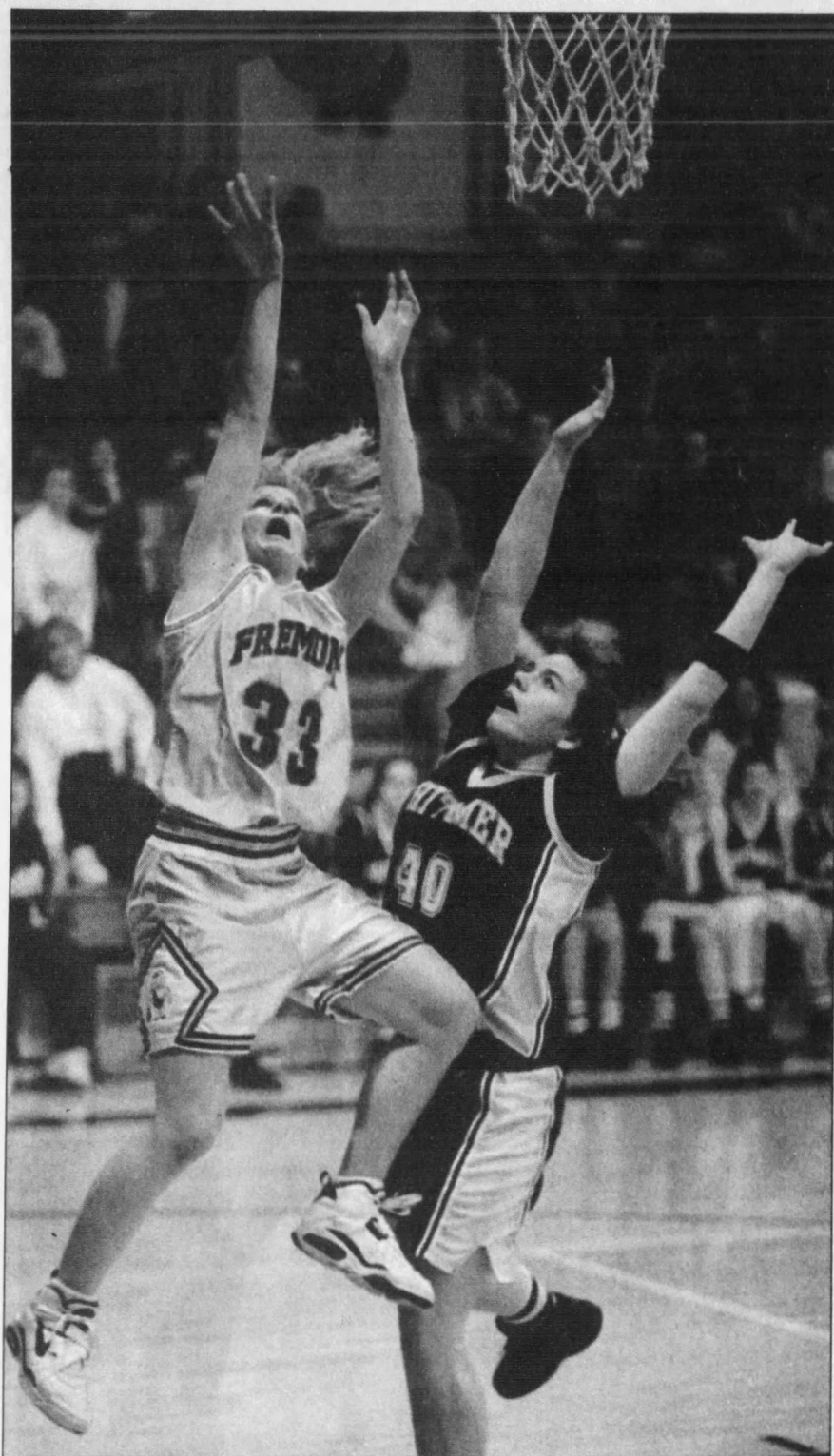
"I've been coaching against (Wolf) for 16 years," Mattimore said. "She runs the same offense, plays the same presses..."

"You have to be ready for them and we do have a little more speed than I think she thinks we do."

Speedy guard Theresa Downing came off the bench to back Doom's output with 16 points.

Natalie Robbins, Doom's summer AAU pal, led Ross with 18 points and five rebounds.

Whitmer led 30-19 at halftime and 44-23 after three quarters.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Off-balance shot

Natalie Robbins (33) of Fremont Ross puts up an off-balance shot as Toledo Whitmer's Kellie Jakubowski defends dur-

ing the first quarter Wednesday night at the Ross Purple Pit. The Panthers defeated the Little Giants 55-40.

Little Giants, Crimson Streaks lose at Sandusky, Genoa

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross and St. Joseph Central Catholic each suffered a loss in the final game before the New Year for both teams.

Girls Roundup

Sandusky defeated Ross 56-48, and Genoa edged St. Joe 45-41.

Sandusky	56
Ross	48

"We just aren't shooting the ball well," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We're missing some shots that we should be making."

The Little Giants, 4-3, shot 39 percent (20-of-51) from the floor.

"They shot 37 percent and beat us," Wolf said of the Blue Streaks, who made 20 of 53 shots.

Sandusky also outscored Ross 15-6 at the foul line, making 15 of 22 to the Little Giants' 6 of 10.

Ross trailed 11-4 after the first quarter, and Sandusky outscored the Little Giants 25-16 in the second quarter.

Natalie Robbins scored 15 points for Ross, and Dawn Zerman added 12.

Each team committed 21 turnovers, while the Streaks outrebounded Ross 28-20.

Genoa	45
St. Joe	41

The Crimson Streaks led twice in the final minute but had their four-game winning streak stopped.

A 3-point basket by Emily Wilhelm, who led St. Joe with 20 points, gave the Streaks their first lead of the game at 38-37. But Missy Kelly answered with a 3-pointer — her lone basket of the game — and Genoa was back on top.

Wilhelm came back with her fourth 3-pointer of the contest, giving SJCC a 41-38 edge. The Comets, however, scored the final seven points.

Genoa, 5-3, led 13-4 after one quarter, 24-19 at halftime and 32-28 after three quarters.

The Streaks made 16 of 33 shots (48 percent).

Reformed Ross girls roll

By **BOB MARKER**

Staff writer

The school Christmas break could not have come sooner for Sue Wolf.

"We were only going through the motions in the practices before Christmas," the Fremont Ross High School girls basketball coach said, "but since we got back to school, we have had very good practices."

Saturday in the Purple Pit, Sandusky Perkins felt the full force of the reformed Little Giants work habits as Ross methodically posted a 60-41 win. The victory snapped a two-game losing streak for Ross, 5-3. Perkins is 6-5.

It had been 17 days since the Little Giants last played but the long layoff was not evident. Ross ran to an 18-12 first-period lead, raised it to 34-20 at the half and steadily increased the advantage in the second half while leading by as many as 22.

"We played today like we have been practicing," Wolf said.

Natalie Robbins scored 17 points for Ross as

eight Little Giants scored. Cari Ritzman added 13 and Dawn Zerman nine. Christine Ash led Perkins with 25 points.

Wolf pointed out she was able to play everyone.

"The kids coming off the bench, I felt," Wolf said, "played well. It was a good game because we got to play everyone."

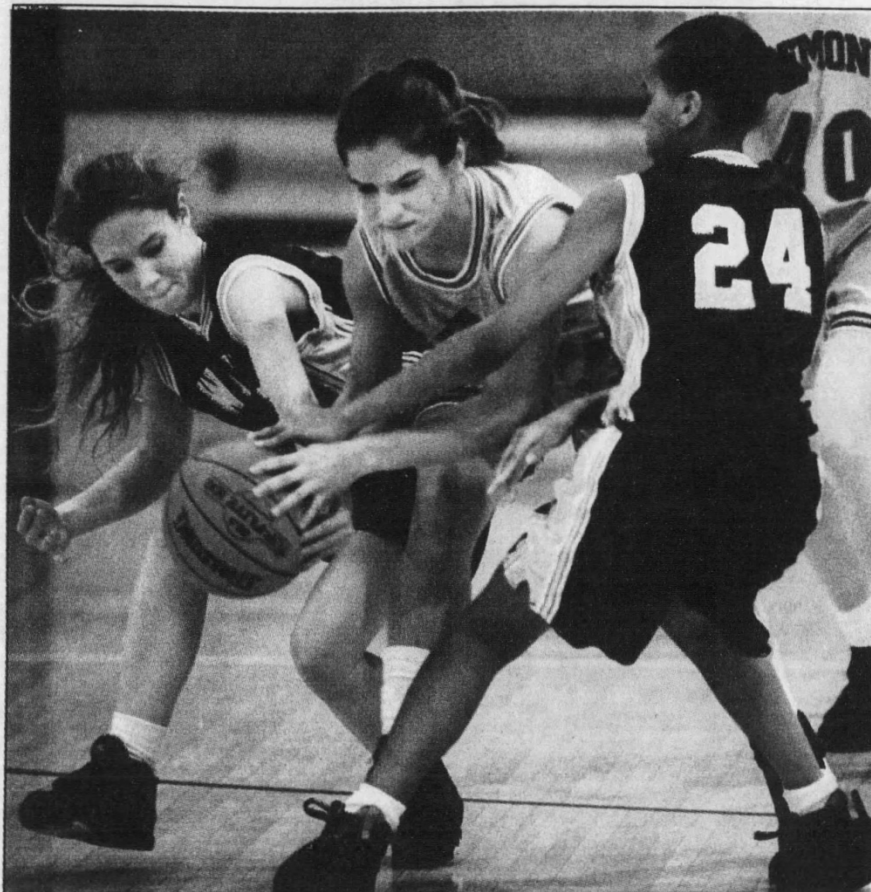
Ross took the first-half lead on the strength of 15-of-24 shooting. Robbins scored 15 of her points in the opening half. Ritzman pumped in eight in the second half.

as Wolf subbed liberally.

For the game, Ross made 25 of 46 shots.

The Little Giants outscored the Pirates 8-2 in the opening minutes of the third quarter for a 42-22 lead. Perkins was never able to get any closer than 16 points the remainder of the game.

Ross travels to Tiffin Columbian Tuesday before resuming Great Lakes League play at Sylvania Northview Thursday. The junior varsity games both nights begin at 6 p.m.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

LISA OPRIE (center) of Fremont Ross goes for a steal against Waite's Robin Day as Sherri Winters (24) tries to screen Oprie Saturday during the Little Giants' 78-19 victory at the Purple Pit.

Little Giants have no trouble in win over Waite

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

The suspense and game strategy was over quickly Saturday afternoon.

When Fremont Ross sprinted to a 21-0 lead, the only question was how many points coach Sue Wolf's girls basketball team would score. Ross settled for a 78-19 win over Toledo Waite in the Purple Pit.

It was the first court appearance for the Little Giants in a week after a pair of games were postponed during the week.

"It was nice to be back on the court," Wolf smiled even though her starters played approximately half the game.

Twelve of 13 Ross players scored as Wolf used a steady stream of substitutes. Natalie Robbins led the dozen with 19 points, Dawn Zerman had 18 and Holly Pelfrey and Emili Kreilick added eight apiece.

With Ross using its normal 1-2-2 full-court press, Waite fell apart quickly — committing 17 first-quarter turnovers as the Little Giants built a 26-2 lead.

Waite finished the half with 32 turnovers and had 44 in the game.

The Ross defense was suffocating. The Indians got their first shot off two and one-half minutes into the game.

Midway through the opening quarter, Wolf began subbing. What game plan she had was shelved.

"Well, we tried to work on our three-point shot a little bit," she said when asked what good could come from the lopsided victory.

"We hit a few of them — a couple of times we moved the ball around very well to get a three. It was something we could work on because we might need it somewhere down the road."

That could be as early as Tuesday when Clyde, 8-4, visits the Purple Pit.

Against Waite, the 3-point drill ended when Natalie Robbins, Dawn Zerman and Holly Pelfrey hit from beyond the arc.

Pelfrey's trey with two minutes to play in the third period was the swan song for the starting five. It was 66-15 and the bench players finished up.

Ross girls capture 7th win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross sputtered frequently but still had enough offense to bury Fostoria 67-37 in a Great Lakes League girls basketball game Saturday night in the Purple Pit.

Ross, 7-3 and playing for only the third time since Dec. 29, moved into a tie for the GLL lead with Whitmer. Both teams are 4-1.

The Little Giants led 21-8 after one quarter but the Redmen closed the gap to 24-18 before Ross began pulling away.

"The second quarter we had too many turnovers," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We had 16 turnovers in the first half but only 11 in the second, so we improved on that."

"We missed some easy shots in the beginning of the second quarter but we shot it very well in the first quarter."

The Little Giants, after missing half of their first six shots, finished with 10-of-14 in the first quarter. Ross fell off to 4-of-12 shooting in the second quarter. Ross was 14-of-31 in the second half.

Natalie Robbins scored 13 first-half points as Ross walked off with a 32-20 half-time lead.

Lisa Oprie scored seven of her 11 points in the third quarter as the Ross lead climbed to 49-25. Dena Schepflin scored six and Dawn Zerman five points in the final quarter for Ross.

Wolf credited lack of practice — caused by three days of weather-forced school postponements—for her team's inconsistency.

"We only practiced Friday and we were really bad; our timing was off so I was pretty happy with the way we started the game tonight," Wolf said. "Then we took a little dive in the second quarter but then we got it back."

Robbins finished with 21 points and Zerman had 13.

The game was the first of seven in 13 days for Ross which has had six games postponed or canceled.

Ross wins

Fremont Ross outscored Tiffin Columbian 19-4 in the first quarter and held on for a 44-37 high school girls basketball victory Monday night.

The Little Giants, 8-3, got eight points from Dawn Zerman, six from Natalie Robbins and four by Holly Pelfrey in the quick first-period start.

In the middle two quarters, Ross lost its offense, scoring 13 points. The Tornadoes, 6-5, pulled within eight by scoring 20 in the same span.

The Little Giants turned in enough key plays in the fourth quarter to hold the Tornadoes at bay, according to Ross coach Sue Wolf.

"Emili Kreilick had a couple of big baskets and got three big defensive rebounds," Wolf said.

Anjee Beard scored 17 and Kari Smith 11 as only four Columbian players scored.

Zerman finished with 14 and Robbins 13 for the Little Giants.

Ross travels to Bellevue tonight. The Redmen are 9-6. The junior varsity game begins at 6 p.m.

Bellevue girls edge Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Christy Borgia's free throw with 25 seconds to play gave Bellevue a 43-42 victory over Fremont Ross in a high school girls basketball game Tuesday night.

"We had many opportunities at the end to win," Ross coach Sue Wolf said, "but we could not convert."

The loss dropped Ross to 8-4, while the Redmen improved to 10-6.

Bellevue led 12-10 after one quarter but trailed 24-21 at halftime as Natalie Robbins canned a pair of 3-point baskets while scoring eight points for Ross in the second quarter.

Ross took a 37-32 lead into the final quarter, but with Jami Lilli scoring six points in the fourth quarter and Borgia five, the Redmen overtook the Little Giants.

Robbins finished with 14 points, and Dawn Zerman added 13. Borgia had 16 points and Lilli 10 for Bellevue.

23 points, including four 3-point baskets, eight steals and six assists.

Lisa Keegan, who added 12 points, collected 21 rebounds. Keegan's effort was three shy of the school rebounding record of 24 set by Rhonda Pearce during the 1987-88 season.

Andrea Kruelen scored 11 points and Christy Patenaude added 10 for the Redskins, 1-13 and 0-10 in the SBC.

Margaretta 75
St. Mary's 59

The Polar Bears broke a 29-all halftime tie by outscoring St. Mary's 23-10 in the third quarter. They are undefeated in 14 games, including nine in the SBC.

Gaby Highlander led Margaretta with 18 points, Jennifer Castle and Andrea Lindsley each had 17 and Danielle Longnecker added 11.

Shelley Faber scored 14 points for the Panthers, 10-4 and 6-4.

Perkins 44
Oak Harbor 38

Fostoria defeats St. Joe

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fostoria did two things better than Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic Tuesday night to win a close non-league high school girls basketball game.

The Redmen were better at possessing the ball, and they made more free throws in the fourth quarter of a 44-37 victory.

"We were extremely out-quickened," St. Joe coach Gary Geller said. "I told them we had to go after the basketball and we just stood there and watched."

Neither team led by more than four points — Fostoria 14-10, St. Joe 24-20 at halftime and Fostoria 35-31 — before the Redmen opened up a 42-37 lead with a minute left to play.

"Our kids kept their composure," Fostoria coach Yvette Anez said. "We've lost some close games and I think our kids have learned from that."

St. Joe, 8-6, committed five turnovers in the final 1:12.

"We got aggressive at the end and that was important," Anez said. "Sometimes the kids don't play as hard as we'd like."

Fostoria, 4-11, made 8 of 10 free throws in the fourth quarter. The Crimson Streaks, meanwhile, were 4-of-11.

"It's been a problem," Geller said. "Even when we had our better foul shooters at the line we missed them."

Emily Wilhelm led St. Joe with 11 points and Amy Herring had 10. Wilhelm made three 3-point baskets, and Herring made two 3-pointers. Erica Hare scored 13 points and Desiree Spencer 12 for Fostoria.

Zerman leads Ross in victory over Clay

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Dawn Zerman's performance Thursday night was one both Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf and Oregon Clay coach Mike Csehi knew she was capable.

The Ross sophomore exploded for a career-high 24 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, dished out seven assists and made six steals while leading Ross



ZERMAN

to a 52-35 Great Lakes League girls basketball victory at the Purple Pit.

"She is capable of playing like that every game," Wolf said after the Little Giants moved into first place in the Great Lakes League.

"We knew she was capable," Csehi said. "She had a helluva ball game. We were just hoping it would not be against us."

Ross, 9-4, won for the fifth time in six GLL games. Clay is 7-8 and

3-4 in league play.

Zerman scored the first five points of the game and seven in the first quarter as Ross took an 11-6 lead. In the second quarter, the 5-foot-5 point guard scored eight as Ross pulled out to a 31-13 halftime lead.

Natalie Robbins, the top scorer for the Little Giants (17 points per game), was the main target of the Eagles' defense. They held her to eight points, four in each half.

"We were laying a little bit more for Robbins," Csehi said, "and it ended up she (Zerman) took the ball to the hole. She made some hellacious shots; I don't know how some of them went in."

Said Wolf: "If she could develop her outside shot a little more, I don't know how they could stop her because of her capability of taking it to the basket."

Zerman had a supporting cast.

Christy Holland and Lisa Oprie combined for eight points coming off the bench in the second quarter as seven of the eight players Wolf shuttled in scored.

"The one thing this stretch (seven games in 13 days) is doing

Wolf 1 win from 200

Thursday night's 52-35 victory over Oregon Clay was the 199th in Fremont Ross coach Sue Wolf's career.

Wolf will go after her 200th Saturday when the Little Giants host Clyde in the Purple Pit. The game will follow the junior varsity game, which begins at 11 a.m.

is making our bench come out and play," Wolf said.

Ross starting center Emili Kreilick missed her second straight game with an ankle injury. Kreilick could have played, Wolf said, but was kept out when Ross started quickly. Sophomores Dena Schepflin and Andrea Wolfe worked in the position and contributed six points.

Second place tie

Toledo Whitmer fell from a first-place tie after losing 51-35 at home to Sylvania Northview Tuesday night.

The Panthers and Wildcats are 4-2 in Great Lakes League games.

Little Giants run away from Fliers

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross forced Clyde to play its game Saturday in a 54-38 high school girls basketball win.

"Basically," Clyde coach Ralph Hohenstein said, "they are a lot faster than we are. Girl-for-girl, I think we have good players. Speed-wise, we are a step or two behind.

"They forced us out of our press; they forced us out of our zone."

Wolf, who earned her 200th coaching victory, had reservations about the Little Giants' play although they improved to 10-4.

"We're quicker, but we started the game sort of out of control," she said. "Once we got going and running knew what we were doing, then we were fine."

Both teams started slowly with three baskets apiece out of a combined 22 first-quarter shots. But Dawn Zerman scored five of her 20 points in the period and

Ross led 10-8.

Zerman tossed in six more points in the second quarter as Ross clicked on 6-of-12 shots for a 24-13 halftime edge. The Fliers, 10-7, did not get a basket in the period until Lisa Keegan's rebound shot with 50 seconds to play in the half.

Ross broke the game open in the second half, scoring the first eight points. A steal and layup by Zerman was followed by Cari Ritzman's layup, Zerman's jumper and Natalie Robbins' drive. The Ross lead expanded to 35-14, but was trimmed to 41-26 at the end of the period.

"We got them playing up and down the floor," Wolf said.

Clyde closed to 45-34 late in the fourth quarter but Robbins got a layup off Holly Pelfrey's pass and a three-point play off a pass from Andrea Wolfe as the lead climbed back to 16 with 1:43 to play.

"We knew we had to stop Zerman and Robbins," Hohenstein said, "but today, we didn't stop anyone very well."

Ross girls roll over Port Clinton for 11th win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross scored the first 18 points while rolling to 57-32 high school girls basketball win in the Purple Pit Monday night.

The Ross full-court press forced Port Clinton into 11 turnovers and the Little Giants made 12 of 19 shots for a 28-5 first-quarter lead. The suffocating Ross defense forced Port Clinton coach Doug Armstrong into two timeouts before two and half minutes had elapsed in the

game.

"Their press, you know, put it to us," Armstrong said succinctly after his team suffered its 14th loss in 16 games.

Dawn Zerman scored 10 points and Natalie Robbins nine in the first period Ross pullaway that led to the Little Giants 11th victory against four losses. Robbins finished with 22 and Zerman 12 as eight Little Giants scored.

In the second quarter, the Ross defense slacked off along with its offense as Port Clinton had an 11-

7 scoring edge. Nicole Roberts scored six of her eight points in the period, all off rebounds.

Ross coach Sue Wolf, whose team has played six games in 10 days, said the Little Giants did not tire in the second quarter despite the hectic schedule even though she did pull her team out of the press.

"We were not getting into the passing lanes," Wolf said. "We sat back and reacted to what they were doing instead of us forcing them to do what we want-

ed to do.

"I am sure they are a little tired," Wolf continued. "We have practiced the past two Sundays but we are taking tomorrow (today) off. They need a day of rest."

The Little Giants return to the practice floor on Wednesday before traveling to Fostoria for a Great Lakes League game Thursday. Ross leads the GLL with a 5-1 mark.

In the third quarter, Wolf put her team into the press again

and it forced 13 more turnovers that produced 51-38 lead heading into the final quarter. Port Clinton had 30 turnovers in the game.

The Redskins outscored the Little Giants 14-6 in the final eight minutes as Christy Patenaude, Cheri Lawson and Jessica Sanchez scored four points apiece.

Patenaude topped Port Clinton with nine points.

■ Area Roundup, B2

Ross, St. Joe top Fostoria, St. Wendelin

News-Messenger reports

Both the Fremont Ross and St. Joseph Central Catholic girls basketball teams returned from Fostoria with victories Thursday night.

Ross defeated Fostoria 50-41 in a Great Lakes League game, and St. Joe topped St. Wendelin 52-49 in a Midland Athletic League contest.

The Little **Girls Roundup** Giants, 12-4 and 6-1, beat the Redmen for the second time. They routed them 67-37 on Jan. 29.

"They played a little better, and we played a little flat," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Natalie Robbins led Ross with 21 points and Dawn Zerman added 12. Robbins was 4-of-4 at the foul line in the fourth quarter and Zerman made 3 of 4 free throws as the Little Giants made 8 of 12 in the final period.

the early going but trailed 27-23 at halftime.

"Their press hurt us," St. Joe coach Gary Geller said. "Not that they stole the ball, but we threw it in places we shouldn't."

St. Joe regained control by outscoring the Mohawks 16-6 in the third quarter.

"We took the ball to the basket more instead of relying on the outside shot," Geller said.

Emily Wilhelm led the Streaks with 14 points and eight rebounds. Michelle Montagno and Amy Szymanowski added 11 points apiece.

Alicia Harmon scored 10 points for St. Wendelin, 5-11 and 4-4.

In other games:

Clyde 60
Oak Harbor 52

Clyde used 49 percent shooting to offset 35 turnovers, improving to 11-7 and 6-6 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Oak Harbor, 4-12 and 1-10.

Margaretta 70
Huron 54

The Polar Bears remained undefeated in 16 games and clinched their second straight outright SBC championship.

Danielle Longnecker led four Margaretta players in double figures with 20 points.

Kari Fisher scored 19 points for Huron, 11-6 and 7-5.

Northwood 44
Gibsonburg 42

Northwood outscored Gibsonburg 17-9 in the fourth quarter. Both teams are now 3-9 in the Suburban Lakes League.

The Rangers, 7-10, outscored the Golden Bears 14-1 at the foul line. Gibsonburg, 5-12, attempted five free throws to Northwood's 20.

Eastwood 40
Lakota 25

The Raiders, 6-11 and 3-9, go 10 points from Suzette Conrad.

Elmwood 57
Woodmore 48

Angie Fegley's 23-point effort wasn't enough for Woodmore as Elmwood outscored the Wildcat 23-9 in the fourth quarter.

The Royals, 13-4 and 8-4, made 19 of 28 foul shots while the Wild cats were 8-of-16 at the line.

Janelle Harmon led Elmwood with 16 points, and Woodmore fell to 8-9 and 3-8.

Carey 63
Old Fort 57

Carey's 22-12 first-quarter lead helped it even its record at 8-4 and up its mark in the Midland Athletic League to 6-3.

Jenny Magers scored 23 points for Old Fort, but the Stockaders fell to 6-9 and 4-4.

New Riegel 81
Bettsville 34

Coaches District 6 All-Stars

DIVISION I

Name, school, height, Yr., Avg.

FIRST TEAM: Chandee White, Mansfield Sr., 5-7, Sr., 16.4; Jennifer Hawk, Ashland, 6-3, Jr., 15.6; Kim Woodring, Madison, 5-8½, Sr., 13.7; Natalie Robbins, Fremont Ross, 5-6, Sr., 17.0; Michelle Johnson, Sandusky, 6-3, Sr., 13.1.

SECOND TEAM: Anjee Beard, Tiffin, 5-11, So., 17.3; Sunny Litteral, Madison, 5-8, Jr., 12.0; Misty Poorbaugh, Ashland, 5-5½, Sr., 9.5; Nakaissia Rawls, Mansfield, 5-8½, Jr., 12.2; Dawn Zerman, Fremont Ross, 5-6, So., 12.7.

Honorable mention: Dawn Paulo and Wendy Swartz, Ashland; Amber Roberts, Sandusky; Renee Pore, Madison.

Player of the Year — White, Mansfield Sr.

Coach of the Year — Sue Wolf, Fremont Ross

Whitmer spoils Ross hopes for now

■ **Must-win game:**
The Little Giants can share GLL title with win Saturday.

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

TOLEDO — Whitmer earned at least a share of the Great Lakes League girls basketball title Thursday while forcing Ross into a "must win" situation to get its share.

The Panthers (16-4) outscored the Little Giants 17-5 in the third quarter and held on for a 49-44 victory. Ross (13-5) led by as many as nine points in the first half.

"That makes Saturday's game really important for us," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

Whitmer finishes the GLL season 8-2, while Ross is 7-2 in the league race. The Little Giants must defeat Napoleon (5-14, 2-7) in a 1 p.m. game Saturday in the Purple Pit to tie Whitmer.

Oregon Clay defeated Napoleon 63-36 Thursday night.

The Panthers scored the first 12 points of the third quarter for a 32-25 lead before Natalie Robbins' 3-point basket five minutes into the quarter broke the ice for Ross. Reo Doom, who led the Panthers with 18 points, Carrie Girrell and Angie Keller scored four points apiece as Whitmer took a 38-30 lead into the fourth quarter.

"If you look at our stats for the whole year, our third quarter is our worst quarter," Whitmer coach Jack Mattimore said. "All I told them (at halftime) was we had all our bad third quarters, now we have to have a good one."

"The key to beating Ross, though, is playing defense. So we told them they had to lift it up a little bit."

No defense could stop Ross in the first quarter. The Little Giants made 7 of 8 shots for a 14-7 lead. Dawn Zerman, who led Ross with 18 points and Robbins,

See **ROSS, B3**

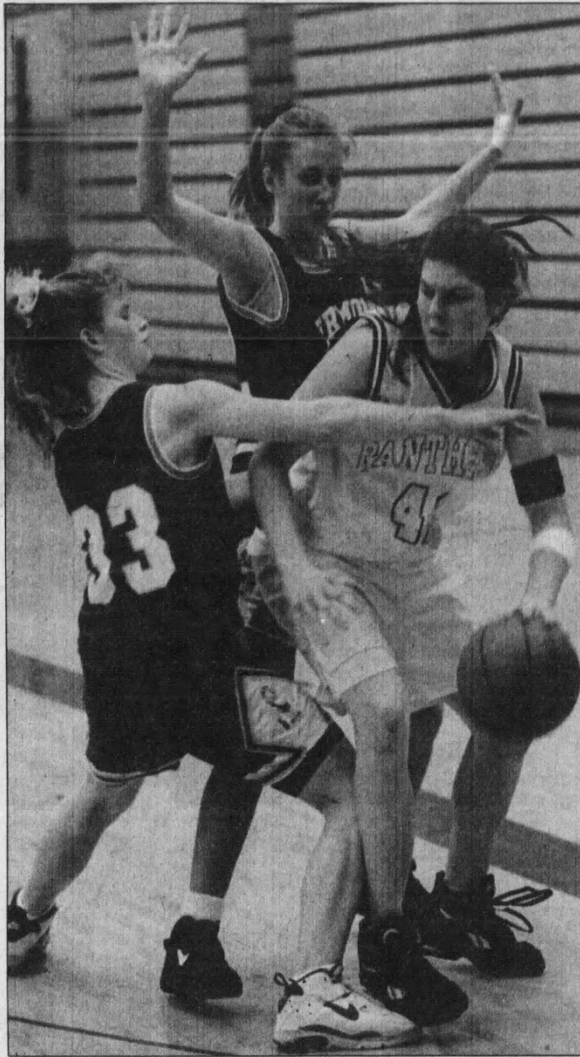
■ **St. Joe wins, B3**



DAWN ZERMAN of Fremont Ross drives to the basket as Toledo Whitmer's Carrie Girrell defends Thursday night.

News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsowrth

The Little Giants failed to clinch the Great Lakes League championship, losing 49-44.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

NATALIE ROBBINS (33) and Dena Schepflin (back) of Fremont Ross double team Toledo Whitmer's Reo Doom Thursday night during Great Lakes League girls action.

Ross loses at Whitmer, needs one win for title tie

Continued From B1

who had 17, scored four apiece for the Little Giants.

The Ross lead expanded to 19-10 as Zerman scored five straight points in the second quarter, but Girrell pumped in three straight buckets and Doom's layup cut the Ross lead to 19-18.

Zerman's seventh straight point made it 21-18, but Keller's free throw and Doom's bucket tied it at 21. Dena Schepflin and Robbins scored to put Ross up by four at halftime.

"We went flat," Wolf said. "It might have been my fault. Maybe I should not have gone to a "diamond and one" (defense on Doom) because people ended up standing around instead of playing defense."

Ross closed to 41-39 on Zerman's foul line jumper with 1:50 to play, but Keller scored on a rebound and Holly Sebring was 4-of-4 from the foul line down the stretch to keep Whitmer on top.

That left the Panthers chanting "GLL...GLL...GLL" and Ross waiting for its first-ever league championship.

Little Giants start slow but finish fast

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross shook off a slow start to defeat Napoleon 53-34 Saturday and claim a share of the Great Lakes League girls basketball championship.

The Little Giants compiled an 8-2 GLL record, matching that of Toledo Whitmer. The Panthers had forced Ross into a "must win" game against Napoleon after coming back to top Ross 49-44 Thursday.

Coach Sue Wolf said the slow start could have resulted from a pre-game ceremony honoring seniors Natalie Robbins, Christy Holland and Emili Kreilick. The ceremony was marked by tears.

"This team is so close to those seniors," Wolf said, "it was a little tough getting going. But in the second half, we picked it up and played better defense."

Against Napoleon, Ross scored the first eight points of the game but led 8-6 after one quarter. Ross began snapping out of its doldrums in the second quarter as Robbins scored nine points and Dawn Zerman six for a 24-15 halftime lead.

"Thirty-three and 12 (Robbins and Zerman) are excellent players," Napoleon coach Gregg Merrill said. "They feed off each other, and hey, Ross is a good squad; they're co-champs."

Merrill had his team playing the Ross duo hard at the beginning of the game before shifting to a triangle-and-two and finally, a 2-3 zone.

"They tried a lot different things," Wolf said about the defense on Robbins and Zerman, "but those two are pretty hard to stop."

The Little Giants, 14-5, grabbed control in the third quarter, making their first five shots while building a 35-19 lead. Holly Pelfrey and Zerman scored twice each and Robbins sank a 3-pointer as Ross outscored the Wildcats 11-4 in the first four minutes of the second half.

"Fremont is dangerous because they can score in bunches and we can't," Merrill said. "For us, three points is a run. We hit a 3-pointer, and I'm excited."

Up 39-25 at the end of three quarters, the Ross lead grew to 49-28 before Ross coach Sue Wolf

flooded the floor with substitutes.

Zerman led Ross with 20 points, and Robbins had 18 after not scoring in the first quarter.



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High School Girls

All-Northwest Ohio District teams

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1994 Associated Press Northwest All-District girls high school basketball teams, as selected by a media panel from the district:

DIVISION I

FIRST TEAM: Amy Jauert, Findlay, 5-foot-9, Senior, 17.7 points per game; Shaunda Roberts, Toledo St. Ursula, 5-10, Sr., 25.7; Reo Doom, Toledo Whitmer, 5-10, Sr., 17.8; Kari Barcus, Sylvania Southview, 5-11, Jr., 16.0; Madinah Slaise, Lima Senior, 5-9, Soph., 16.2; Kelly Penhorwood, Celina, 5-8, Sr., 20.3.

SECOND TEAM: Anjee Beard, Tiffin Columbian, 5-11, Soph., 17.3; Kim Woodring, Mansfield Madison, 5-8, Sr., 14.0; Chandee White, Mansfield Senior, 5-8, Sr., 17.0; Beth Nowicki, Bowling Green, 5-3, Sr., 14.9; **Natalie Robbins, Fremont Ross, 5-6, Sr., 16.7.**

THIRD TEAM: Sunny Litteral, Mansfield Madison, 5-9, Jr., 13.0; Gretchen Myers, Sylvania Southview, 5-5, Sr., 8.4; Angie Marti, Toledo Central Catholic, 5-8, Jr., 9.8; Meghan Hinds, Toledo Notre Dame, 5-9, Soph., 15.1; Robin Nesper, Perrysburg, 5-9, Jr., 14.6.

Player of the year: Shaunda Roberts, Toledo St. Ursula.

Coach of the year: Ken Koperski, Toledo St. Ursula.

Area honorable mention

Dawn Zerman, Fremont Ross.

High School Girls

All-Great Lakes League

FIRST TEAM

Player, school	Gr	Ht	Ppg
Reo Doom, Whitmer	12	5-10	16.2
Natalie Robbins, Ross	12	5-6	16.7
Bevin Malley, Northview	10	5-10	10.8
Dawn Zerman, Ross	10	5-6	13.4
Holly Sebring, Whitmer	12	5-3	6.1

SECOND TEAM

Kris Hymore, Clay	12	5-9	11.0
Desiree Spencer, Fostoria ..	12	5-7	13.2
Heather Machcinski, N'vw ..	12	5-10	7.0
Lynne Rausch, Napoleon ..	12	5-7	11.5
Theresa Downing, Whit.	10	5-3	8.6

Honorable Mention

Kelli Fisher and Nichole Leathers, Clay; Erica Hare, Fostoria; Holley Peltrey and Emily Kreilick, Ross; Shannon Boulton, Napoleon; Nancy Belkofer and Megan Arant, Northview; Sarah Dermer and Angie Keller, Whitmer.

Robbins, Woodson named MVPs in Ross basketball

New-Messenger reports

Natalie Robbins and Charles Woodson were named the most valuable players on the Fremont Ross basketball teams Tuesday evening during an awards program in the high school cafeteria.

Robbins, a senior, was also presented with the team's best defensive player, highest free throw percentage and most rebounds trophy.

Coach Sue Wolf announced that Robbins will be attending Ashland University on a full athletic scholarship next fall.

Other special awards handed out by Wolf were the most improved to senior Emili Kreilick and junior Holly Pelfrey and the most assists to sophomore Dawn Zerman.

Senior Christy Holland, Kreilick and Robbins were presented with captain trophies.

Woodson, a junior, won the MVP honor for the boys for second successive year. He also received the trophy for the most rebounds.

Other special awards handed out by coach Frank Gioffre included the most improved to junior Jon Minnich, the most assists and the best free throw percentage went to junior Gary Rakes and the best defensive player award went to senior Darren Cheal.

Seniors Tim Leeth and Jason Matney took home captain trophies.

Athletic Director Pat McGhee handed out awards to players making the All-Great Lakes League, District VI Coaches and Associated Press Northwest Ohio District teams.

Robbins and Zerman were first team All-GLL while Robbins was first team District VI and second team AP all-district as well as earning honorable mention on the AP All-Ohio team. Zerman was a District VI second team pick and honorable mention on the AP district team.

Kreilick and Pelfrey were honorable mention in the GLL and Wold was the District VI Division coach of the year.

Robbins, who scored 29 points in leading the East to a 60-58 victory Sunday in the 22nd East-West Game in Fostoria, will play March 30 in the Wendy's Classic at Perkins High School according to Wolf.

For the boys, Woodson was a first-team All-GLL and a first team Coaches District VI. Minnich and Root were GLL honorable mention and Root was honorable mention in District VI.



ROBBINS



WOODSON