

1979 Class AAA Sectional Tournament

Little Giants draw top seed

By **BOB MARKER**
N-M Sports Editor

MANSFIELD — It won't be the first time that Ross will have played Mansfield Madison Rams but it was the first time that Ross Coach Biz Paeth felt as though he and his team had been jumped on this season.

Madison, sporting a gaudy 14-3 mark, landed the top seeded spot in the Malabar-Lexington Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament Monday evening and ambushed Ross at the same time.

Picking second in the "draw", Paeth was left with a lot of lines on the bracket sheet but no real choice of who he wanted to play.

"I hated to take a bye," Paeth said when faced with the option of accepting one of the two byes in the upper and lower brackets, "so I placed us on the first line.

"They (Madison) jumped right on us after that," Paeth managed to chuckle.

Ross and Paeth were ripe for Madison's placement by Coach Ron Barbo. The Little Giants' 5-10 record is not one of the more impressive but Barbo's election to face Ross in the 7:30 p.m., Feb. 27 game at Lexington High School was not entirely based on Ross's lacklustre season mark.

"He (Barbo) told me that he did not want to play Lexington," Paeth explained. "He said he felt that Lexington is playing good basketball right now."

Paeth also pointed out that the Lexington team could have a psychological boost had it been pitted

against Madison. Barbo coached at Lexington and a couple of seasons back and he did not want to catch the team he took to the regionals as a "AA" team in the first round.

Paeth has mixed emotions about going up against the top-seeded team but he refuses to take a cowering stance.

"Anyone you play in the tournament is tough," he offered, "because you have to play every game well and you may as well get used to playing that way right from the start because if you lose, the season is over."

The Ross coach pointed out that the Rams and Ross had scrimmaged before the season.

Madison plays its last game of the regular season Friday at Dover and will then have a week and a half to rest with a chance at seeing Ross play at least two games in that span. Ross hosts Toledo Whitmer tonight before traveling to Lorain to face Admiral King Friday and closing out the regular season at Findlay on Feb. 23.

The remainder of the drawing went like this Tuesday:

Tiffin Columbian was seeded second with its 12-4 record and took the lower bracket bye. The Tornadoes will face the winner of the Shelby-Vermilion game (7:30, Feb. 26 at Malabar High School) on March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Malabar. Lexington will play Galion at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 27 in the other lower bracket game at Malabar.

In the upper bracket, Mansfield Senior will face Sandusky at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 26, at Lexington with the winner squaring off against Ashland March 1 at 7:30. The winner of those games will face the winner of the Ross-Madison contest in the sectional championship game at 6:30 p.m., March 3 at Ashland College. The lower bracket sectional title game will be at 9 p.m. that day, also at Ashland College.

Tonight at Ross, the Little Giants will be without the service of Buckeye Conference scoring leader Steve McGilton due to a bad cold and sore throat.

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No contest:

Madison Rams 90, Fremont Ross 40

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

LEXINGTON — Mansfield Madison knocked what confidence Ross possessed out of the Little Giants' basketball socks while dancing to an ultra easy 90-40 Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament victory Tuesday night.

The game was nearly over after the first eight minutes and was definitely over five minutes into the second period. That's when the Rams, now 16-3, opened up a 32-9 lead and Ross Coach Biz Paeth waved the white flag for his team's third timeout of the young game.

"That may have been the key to the game," Madison Coach Ron Barbo said as he tried to find something to say about the laughter. "We hit the early ones and they didn't; we got our confidence and I think they lost theirs."

Ross hit only three of 15 shots in the first period and was three of 21 before Mike Held's tip gave Ross its first points of the second quarter at the 2:23 mark. That made it 32-11 and the approximately 1,500 fans reacted with one of the biggest collective screams of the night.

Ross hit five of 26 first half shots — Madison 17 of 31 — and it was over with only the formalities of the second half for Ross to suffer through.

"It's the pits," were the first words that rolled out of a sullen Paeth's mouth. "It's the worst I have ever felt."

"What a way to end the season after being so close all year," he managed to continue, "we could not do a thing right."

Joe Jakubick and Scott Jones along with Dave Harman sliced apart any defense the Little Giants attempted to form. Harman's shooting, according to Barbo, helped beat Ross's "triangle and two" defense early in the game.

The combination zone with man-to-man coverage on Jakubick and Jones, was tossed out the window when Harman poured through three early bombs. After that, no defense worked well for the Little Giants.

Jakubick hit on some rollicking barnyard drives in the third period as the Rams rolled out to a 66-22 lead. The 6-4 junior ended up with a game-high 24 points and Jones, hitting both inside and out, dropped in 19 to go with Harman's 18.

The biggest Rams' lead of the game was the final 50-point spread.

"It was a snowball," Paeth tried to explain, "we wanted to get back in it right away and we started to force ourselves — we kept getting worse and they had a snowball effect that kept getting better."

Steve McGilton closed out his

Ross career with 13 points. He was the only Ross player to reach double figures. Jerry Ameling was second high for the Little Giants with seven.

The Rams hit 38 of 66 shots — nearly 58 percent — and Ross 15 of 66 — 23 percent.

The only area where the Rams suffered, and Ross could not claim having anything to do with it, was at the foul line when they had their poorest night of the season with 14 of 23 for 61 percent. Entering the game, Madison had a team foul line shooting percentage of 80 percent.

"It's a long time till next year," Paeth reflected, "and it's a bad game in which to remember the season. I feel sorry for our seniors (McGilton, Kevin Cook, Brian Szakovits and Jeff Eicher), it's a bad way to finish. It's the worst feeling I ever had."

Paeth paused a few seconds and then summed up his feelings succinctly: "I feel like selling tennis shoes."

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Madison	18	22	26	24—90
Ross	9	6	7	18—40

SCORING

MADISON: Herbst 1-0-2, Jones 9-1-19, Danner 1-0-2, Harman 9-0-18, Jakubick 9-6-24, Finley 1-2-4, McVicker 4-1-9, Birmelin 1-0-2, Bryant 4-0-8, Keller 0-2-2; totals 38-41-90;

ROSS: Szakovits 1-0-2, Eicher 1-1-3, McGilton 5-3-13, Hedden 0-0-0, Harms 1-0-2, Cook 1-2-4, Bollenbacher 1-3-5, Held 2-0-4, Ameling 3-1-7; totals 15-10-40;

Season records: Madison 16-3, Ross 5-14.