

## 2019-2020 Limited Season Review



Ross' Brooklyn Baptista scored 11 points in setback against Genoa. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

# Cruickshank helps to lead Genoa past Ross

**Josh Morgret**  
Special to Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every time Fremont Ross made a run Monday, Genoa was there with an answer.

The Comets didn't trail after the first two minutes of the game and shot well from deep in a 52-42 nonleague win.

"We had been battling and trying to figure out how to win," Genoa coach Laura Pierson said. "Tonight, we got into some situational stuff where we overcame some runs and looked to score."

Genoa (5-6) made eight 3-pointers, including 5 of 9 in the first half.

"The kids are taking the extra time to put in shots," Pierson said. "Even over the break, they came in early before practices to shoot. It is starting to pay off and that should be a message to them."

The Comets used a 13-2 surge for a 13-6 advantage. Two of Caitlin Cruickshank's four 3-pointers established leads of 19-8 and 22-10 in the second quarter.

Cruickshank, who finished with 18 points, scored again for a 25-12 margin. Haley Gerke had 13 points.

Genoa won three games last season. "I am very proud of some of my seniors - Haley Gerke and Rylee Frederickson," Pierson said. "They brought the energy. Then you had the shooting of

Caitlin Cruickshank. We had bench players coming in and helping us out by making good choices.

"I like the absolute commitment. They are die-hards. They will show up when we ask them to show up. Nobody complains and everyone wants the team to be successful."

The Little Giants (1-9) closed the first half strong as Mylah Williams scored consecutive buckets, before a 3-pointer by Hannah Sheidler dropped in at the buzzer for a 25-19 deficit.

"There are possessions where we are playing good ball offensively and defensively," Ross coach Juan Vela

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# Ross

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said. "It's just not consistent. The consistency is the most important thing we are trying to figure out.

"You should always try to be as consistent as you can, whether you are experienced or not. It's one of those things I wish I could give to them right away. It's up to the player."

Ross picked up where it left off as Brooklyn Baptista drilled a 3 early in the third. Janiah Holmes split two free throws for a two-point deficit.

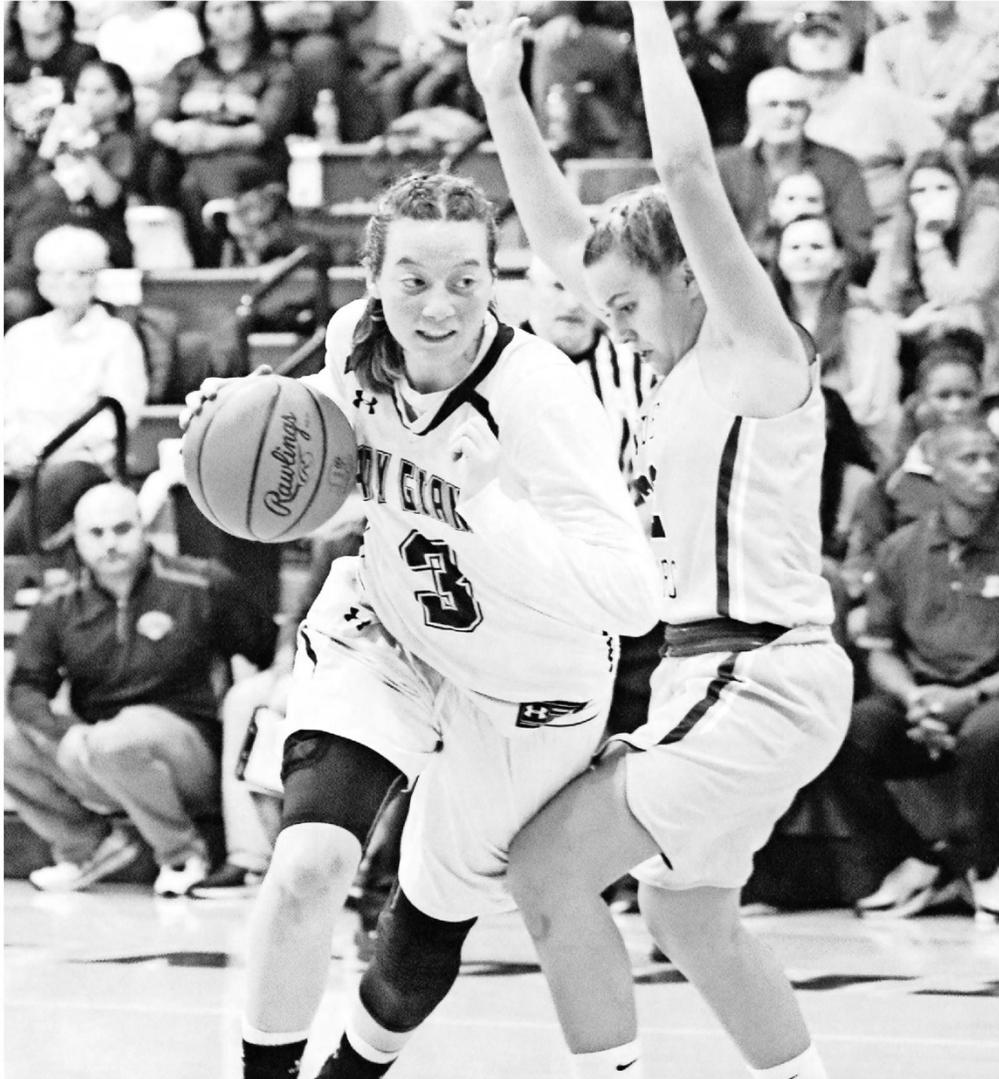
Genoa's Gina Goodman extended a lead to 34-25 with a 3.

"We have been in those situations probably three or four times in the last six games," Pierson said. "We get down because of a run, but (Monday), we got refocused in timeouts. We knew what we needed to do."

The Little Giants climbed within 44-39 on a 3 from Baptista with 5:08 left in the game. Olivia Wiciak made four straight free throws and Genoa led 49-39 with 51.1 seconds remaining.

"We make a run with good basketball," Vela said. "Our girls are doing what they are taught and capable of doing and then the next three or four possessions, we do totally something off the wall."

Williams and Baptista each scored 11 points. Holmes had 14 rebounds and Baptista eight.



Ross' Brooklyn Baptista drives to the basket as Clyde's Sidney Hohman defends. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

# BAPTISTA'S ROLE EXPANDS FOR ROSS

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

You can't dance if you don't have the steps own.

Fremont Ross junior Brooklyn Baptista's basketball waltz immediately earned her a key spot in the varsity mix on the court as a freshman.

With eight seniors, including older sister Olivia Baptista, she didn't have to be vocal in the huddles as an underclassman. Things changed.

Baptista is a dance instructor.

"We knew it wouldn't be easy for Brooklyn with our young players," Little

Giants coach Juan Vela said. "For Brooklyn to be in her first year where she's being asked to lead on the court and in the locker room — it's a lot to ask.

"She's learning. She's doing a good job."

Baptista works to build relationships, including hosting team gatherings outside basketball.

"I look at myself as a leader," she said. "Always talking. I love to be a leader. As the only returning varsity player, that's my job. Growing up, I was always under Liv's wing. I had to step up and bring everybody together.

"I struggled with it at first. We're coming together. We're this close. Once

it clicks, we'll be in rhythm and we can dance."

Baptista leads the team at 14 points and four assists per game. She's second to Jannah Holmes with five rebounds.

"She shoots the ball," Vela said. "When she's in rhythm, she's probably the best shooter I've coached. With her physical abilities, she can rebound and she's a presence. You can move her around at guard and in the post.

"She hasn't backed down. She can go in the post. She can play point guard. She can guard their best player."

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## Ross

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Baptista's responsibilities have expanded overall.

"From freshman year until now, I've developed more skills," she said. "I just stood in the corner (for 3-pointers). Now, I have to be the (point guard). I play (shooting guard). In the post. I go wherever."

Baptista has 116 3-pointers for her career. The program record is 125.

"It would be exciting," she said. "I'd love to do it my junior year. I won't force it. I want to let it come naturally."

She'll have another year to help Ross (3-16, 0-12) learn the steps, while growing as a leader.

"Different plays the kids do well, but it's not good enough," Vela said. "We need to play more consistent. We need to be in rhythm and the bench needs to give us something."

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Ross' Brooklyn Baptista drives to the basket as Clyde's Brooke Newsome, left, and Kristen Harrah defend. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

# Baptista establishes program record with nine 3-pointers in game

News-Messenger report  
Updated Feb. 7, 2020, 2:31 p.m. ET



Ross' Brooklyn Baptista drives to the basket as Clyde's Sidney Hohman defends. *Doug Hise*

Fremont Ross junior Brooklyn Baptista tied the program record with six 3-pointers in a game as a freshman.

Older sister Olivia Baptista later dropped in seven 3s as a junior the same season.

Baptista canned nine 3s in a 45-37 setback Thursday to Oregon Clay in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Baptista scored 31 of the Little Giants' 37 points.

She made 124 3-pointers in her career. The program record is 125.

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# Baptista cans 128th 3-pointer for Ross

## From Staff Reports

Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every 3-pointer for the rest of Brooklyn Baptista's career at Ross extends a program record.

Baptista canned four 3-pointers to establish a career mark Monday for the Little Giants in a 56-46 nonconference victory over Port Clinton. Baptista is a junior.

She has 128 3s in three years. The program mark was 125.

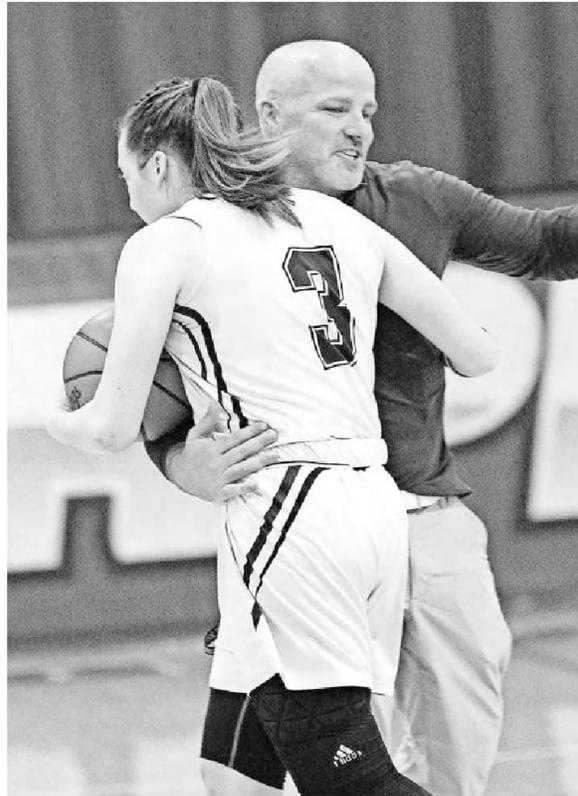
She established a single-game record with nine 3s last week.

She scored 20 points Monday in three quarters, including eight in the third quarter.

Janiah Holmes scored 14 points in three quarters and Mylah Williams added 12 for the Little Giants.

Freshman Taylor Bollinger scored nine points to lead nine Redskins with at least four.

Ross led 14-9 after one quarter, 35-15 at the half and 53-21 after three quarters.



**Ross' Brooklyn Baptista is congratulated by athletic director Chad Berndt after she broke the school record for career 3-pointers at 126.** DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

# Girls

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season.

Bellevue won its last 10 conference crowns.

Malson was first-team all-Northwest District and player of the year in the SBC Bay Division. She averaged 17.1 points, 4.7 rebounds, 4.2 steals and 3.6 assists as Margareta advanced to the regional semifinals for the second straight season.

Moore averaged 13.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 3.1 steals as the Polar Bears defended their conference crown. She was second-team all-Northwest District and first-team all-conference.

Baptista, who was second-team in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference, surpassed 125 3-pointers for the pro-

gram's career record. She canned nine in one game for another.

Baptista averaged about 14 points and four assists. She stepped up as a leader, with Jannah Holmes and Mylah Williams in key roles as freshmen.

St. Joseph Central Catholic senior Tristan Reineck averaged 12.4 points and 5.3 rebounds. She was first-team in the SBC River Division.

Eli averaged 13.9 points and 3.5 assists, and surpassed 1,000 points. She was first-team all-conference three times.

Hohman averaged 13.9 points and 4.9 rebounds. She was first-team in the SBC Lake Division.

Nighswander averaged 13.6 points and nine rebounds to help Woodmore win 17 games. She was first-team all-Northern Buckeye Conference.

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