

1985-1986 Season Review

SPORTS

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio, Thursday, December 5, 1985 B-3

Sawyer has height, but looking for a leader at Ross

News-Messenger Report

One thing is very apparent about the 1985-86 edition of John Sawyer's Ross High School boys basketball team: its height.

The Little Giants are not so little. Two players reach the 6-foot-4 mark on the team. Two along with that duo, add a 6-3, a pair of 6-4s, three players at 6-2, a six-footer, another at 5-11 and the shorty of the group, a 5-10 player.

That looks nice, but Sawyer sees the behind the scenes situations.

"This far," he said recently, "no one has surfaced as a leader. We need someone to take control out on the floor."

"We have the right combination yet," Sawyer continued. "We lack consistency in everyone except Kovo (Dave Kovaleski) and Cahill (John)."

Kovaleski and Cahill, both seniors, are listed in the tentative starting lineup for Friday night's opener at Port Clinton.

Kovaleski is a 6-4 senior and will operate out of a post slot. Cahill, 6-4 junior, is the point guard. Along with them will be 6-2 sophomore Nick Hall and junior letterman John Stierwalt, 6-0, on the wings. Another junior, 6-5 Chris Mosser will be at another slot.

"We have players doing well off offense," Sawyer described, "but not on defense. Others do well on 'D' but not on 'O.' The chemistry to have a good team is missing at this time."

But Sawyer is not ready to throw in the towel.

"Our team (substitute players) is much better than last year," Sawyer described. "Pat Hetrick (6-2 senior), Matt Reed (6-2 senior), Stan Newell (5-10 senior), Kevin Brooks (6-0 junior) and Mike Wolfe (6-8 sophomore) have looked good at times."

Manoah Jones (5-11 junior) and Shawn McCarthy (6-8 senior) have been slowed by injuries, Sawyer pointed out.

McCarthy, the two-year letterman, is recovering from a broken left wrist suffered during the football season.

"Until we find five players to play at both ends of the floor with some degree of consistency, we are going to have problems," Sawyer pointed out.

The big losses from last season's 15-6 team were Greg Bender, Ross's all-time leading scorer, and Mark Miesle. The duo scored 40 percent of the points for the team last season.

"We are looking for a more balanced scoring attack," the Ross coach said.

Continuing, Sawyer said, "Our inside game should be better when McCarthy is healthy."

"Another one of our obstacles this year," Sawyer said, "will be football visits. Both McCarthy and Kovaleski have indicated that they will miss some games in order to make college football visits."

"To sum up the situation," Sawyer said, "is we have a fairly inexperienced team. Aside from Kovaleski, Cahill and

McCarthy, our other players have little or no varsity experience."

"Stierwalt played in the last few varsity games last season but was not relied on to score or carry the team."

The remainder of the Ross roster were on the junior varsity team last season.

"I think we have a team of average players," Sawyer described, "but if one tries to be a star and if they place the team in a successful area of themselves, I feel we could develop into a fine team."

The first step Friday at Port Clinton will be followed quickly by the second at Sandusky Perkins on Saturday.

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A mystery, but Ross settles for opening win

By DAVE SHEDLOSKI
Reporting for The News-Messenger

PORT CLINTON — This game had both coaches scratching their scalps, shaking their heads, and shrugging their shoulders.

In what was basically a mystery contest at the Port Clinton High School gymnasium Friday night, the usual characteristics that decide the outcome of a basketball game seemed absent, leaving both coaches somewhat speechless in a 67-59 opening game victory for Fremont Ross.

Port Clinton Coach Tom Bodager was at a loss to explain just how his Redskins had lost, and Fremont Ross Coach John Sawyer really didn't understand what his team had done to win. Nevertheless, the Little Giants are now 1-0, while the Redskins fall to 1-3.

"I'm not sure what the deciding factor was in the game," Sawyer said. "This game really could have gone either way. I'm just glad to get the win."

"Maybe if we had gotten a few breaks the game would have been different," Bodager said, searching for a logical reason for his team's defeat. "We did what we had to do in the second half to win the game, but they were always one step ahead."

Bodager was also at a loss to explain how his team scored 32 points in the fourth quarter after it managed just 27 through the first three. But then, the Little Giants pulled off nearly the same feat, scoring 28 in the final stanza after registering 39 after three quarters. Keep in mind these were the same teams that scored five and six points respectively in a horrendous second quarter.

Another puzzling development appeared in the rebounding department, where Port Clinton held a 45-29 advantage over the Little Giants, yet could not make that advantage add up to a victory.

"Usually the team that rebounds the best wins the game," Bodager said. "It just seemed like we were not meant to win this game and I don't know why."

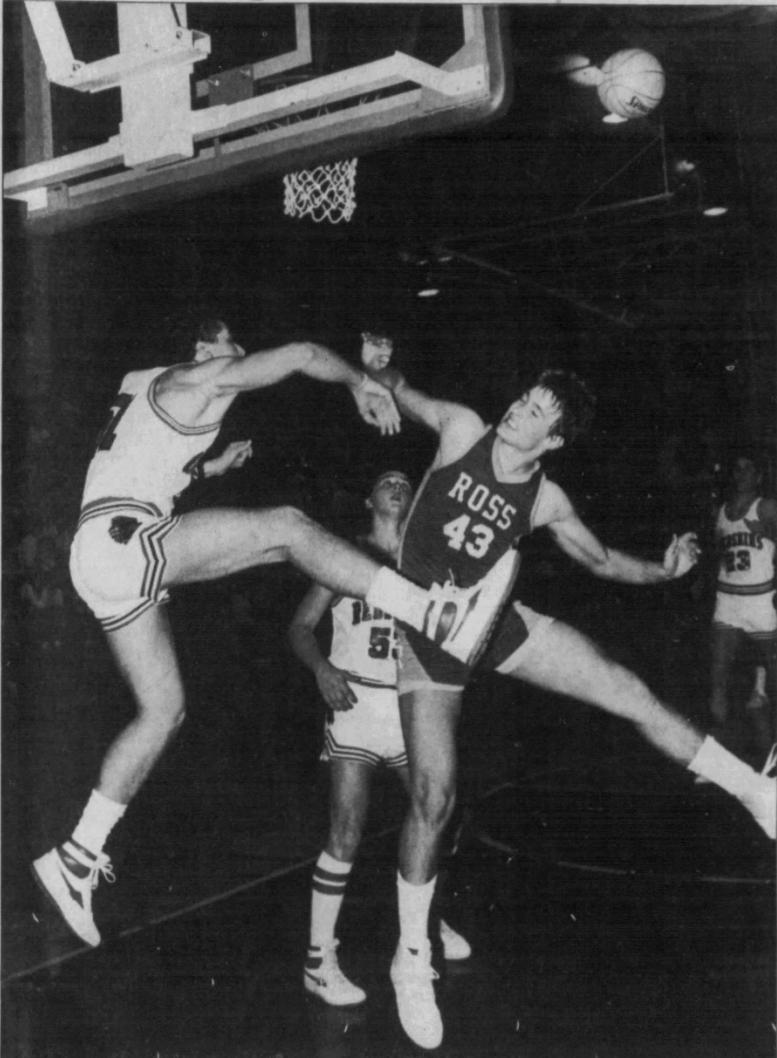
Actually, Bodager did have a small clue as to where his team may have stumbled.

"We were not patient in the first half, and that may have hurt us," he said. "We did not shoot well from the outside because we were not as selective as we should have been."

Indeed, Port Clinton found themselves down 22-13 at the intermission due mainly to a 5-of-20 performance from the field in the first two periods, including a 1-of-9 effort in the second quarter. Fortunately, Ross was a cool three of 15 in the period, helping the Redskins to stay close.

"I really don't think we shot all that well," Sawyer said. "But I do think we hit some key shots when we had to."

Some of the Little Giants' good shooting came at the beginning of the third quarter when John Stierwalt scored six points in a 8-



News-Messenger/Dave Ziemke

COURT BALLET. Eric Kocher, left, of Port Clinton and Chris Mosser (43) of Ross seem to be doing an impromptu dance. Actually, Kocher

picked up his fifth foul while trying to block Mosser's shot during the game at Port Clinton High School.

0 Ross run that gave the Little Giants a 34-19 advantage with 3:14 left in the period. But thanks to nine offensive rebounds in the quarter, the Redskins still kept within striking distance.

The Redskins made a run of their own early in the final period, mostly on the efforts of Barry Millinger, Franz Messner and Tim Wight. After a five-point run by Ross' Stan Newell, Millinger tossed in three long bombs and Messner added another basket to cut the Ross lead to 44-37 with 5:40 remaining. Port Clinton hit five of its first six shots in the quarter to put

some heat on the Little Giants.

But Dave Kovaleski answered with a layup and Nick Hall threw up a wild shot that found the basket to stop the blitz. Port Clinton kept it to within 10 points on the strength of Millinger's 12 points and Wight's 10 in the quarter, but some key free throw shooting and a three-point play by Ross' John Cahill finally put the game out of reach.

Overall, Fremont Ross hit 27 of 60 shots from the field for 45 percent, while Port Clinton made 25 of 63 field goal attempts for 38 percent. Turnovers were even with each squad having 14.

Stierwalt led all scorers in the

game with 24 points, while Chris Mosser added 13 for Ross. The Redskins were paced by Messner with 15 points, while Millinger finished with 14, Joe Lawley had 12, and Wight had 10. Wight also had 16 rebounds for the Redskins.

In the reserve game, the Port Clinton jayvees started fast and then hit 15 of 16 free throw attempts in the final quarter to defeat the Ross reserves 52-34. The Redskins are 3-0 this season.

Doug Cooper, who converted 12 of 13 free throw attempts, led the Redskins with 18 points, while Mike McGee had 10 for the Little Giants.

Ross 67, P.C. 59

Score by quarter

Port Clinton	8	5	14	32	—	59
Fremont Ross	16	6	17	28	—	67

Scoring

PORT CLINTON — Jeff Miller 1-0-2, Barry Millinger 7-0-14, Franz Messner 7-1-15, Tim Wight 4-2-10, Eric Kocher 3-0-6, Joe Lawley 5-2-12, totals 27-5-59.

FREMONT ROSS — John Stierwalt 10-4-24, Matt Reed 1-0-2, Pat Hetrick 2-0-4, John Cahill 2-3-7, Stan Newell 2-1-5, Nick Hall 3-0-6, Dave Kovaleski 2-2-6, Chris Mosser 5-3-13, totals 27-13-67.

Season records: Fremont Ross 1-0, Port Clinton 1-2.

Final quarter stops Ross;

News-Messenger Reports

One day made a difference.

Friday, Ross survived a fourth quarter barrage to defeat Port Clinton 67-59 but Saturday at Sandusky Perkins, another final period eruption buried the Little Giants.

Perkins trailed Ross 36-33 after three quarters but the Pirates poured in 32 points, double that of Ross to pull off a 65-52 victory. Friday, Port Clinton had scored 32 in the final quarter but Ross countered with 28.

In other area games Saturday, Old Fort ran past Clyde 73-54, Bellevue stopped Huron 79-47, Margaretta handed Oak Harbor its fourth straight loss 79-66 and Genoa lost its first 45-37 to Toledo Waite.

Mike Wheeler scored 22 points, Mark Ambos 15 and Shane Rickard 13 to pace the Perkins' comeback. Perkins, after falling behind 8-7 late in the first quarter, never regained the lead until Rickard gave the Pirates a 37-36 lead 33 seconds into the

final quarter by scoring four straight points.

Ross got the led again 40-37 on two buckets by Nick Hall but with 4:20 to play, it was 42-42. Rickard stole an inbounds pass for a layup and Perkins was off on a 17-3 scoring spurt to take command of the game.

Perkins, 3-0, knocked in 21 of 48 shots and 23 of 41 at the line.

Ross, with John Stierwalt getting 15 and Dave Kovaleski 13, hits 21 of 50 and 10 of 17 at the line. Ross slipped to 1-1.

Old Fort.....73

Clyde54

Matt Hiestand scored 33 points to lead unbeaten Old Fort (5-0) to the victory.

The Stockaders led 16-8 after one quarter and 35-26 at the half. A 14-7 spurt in the third quarter gave Old Fort beathing room.

Todd Hull added 11 and Mark Miller 13 for Old Fort.

Gary Holland had 18 points

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Basketball

High school boys

Perkins 65, Ross 52

Score by quarters

Ross	11	12	13	16	— 52
Perkins	10	13	10	32	— 65

Scoring

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 6-1-13, John Cahill 3-0-6, Chris Mosser 3-3-9, John Stierwalt 5-5-15, Nick Hall 4-0-8, Kevin Brooks 0-1-1, totals 21-10-52.

PERKINS — Mark Ambos 6-3-15, Dave Darr 1-7-9, Mike Wheeler 8-6-22, Shane Rickard 6-1-13, Davis 0-1-1, Burrows 0-2-2, Hoffman 0-3-3, totals 21-23-65.

Season records: Perkins 3-0, Ross 1-1.^N

Little Giants are hoping to cure last-quarter ills

By BOB MARKER

Reporting for The News-Messenger

It's the early season curse and Ross boys basketball coach John Sawyer got a double dose over the weekend.

Friday's medicine was not too bad but on Saturday, the pill was on the bitter side. In both cases, the Little Giants became ill in the final eight minutes.

"We were inconsistent at both ends of the court," Sawyer mouthed the words of a many coaches. "Most played well on Friday but on Saturday, most played poorly."

In both games, a 67-59 win over Port Clinton Friday and a 65-52 loss to Perkins Saturday, Ross allowed 32 points in the final eight minutes.

"Friday night," Sawyer recalled, "I did not realize that they had scored that many points. Of course, it seemed like the clock was standing still."

And Ross scored 28 points of its own.

"The fourth quarter Saturday, 19 of the 32 points were at the foul line," Sawyer pointed out, "but there was no way I felt we should have lost that game, regardless of the officiating."

The Little Giants did, however, after scoring just 16 points in the final eight minutes.

"Physically, we have some guys who are not in shape yet," Sawyer admitted, "but Friday, that should have not been any problem because enough guys played that there should have been no fatigue."

"Saturday, I think it was mental fatigue," Sawyer theorized. "The kids said they were ready to play, but I don't think they were."

Friday, Ross will take its 1-1 record to Marion to play the winless, 0-4, Harding Presidents.

"I have not seen Marion play personally," Sawyer said, "but I know they are fairly young. They have started 6-6, 6-5 and 6-4."

While Sawyer pointed out the bad points of his team's play last weekend, that was not to say he did not see several good points.

"The kids who came off the bench contributed," he described.

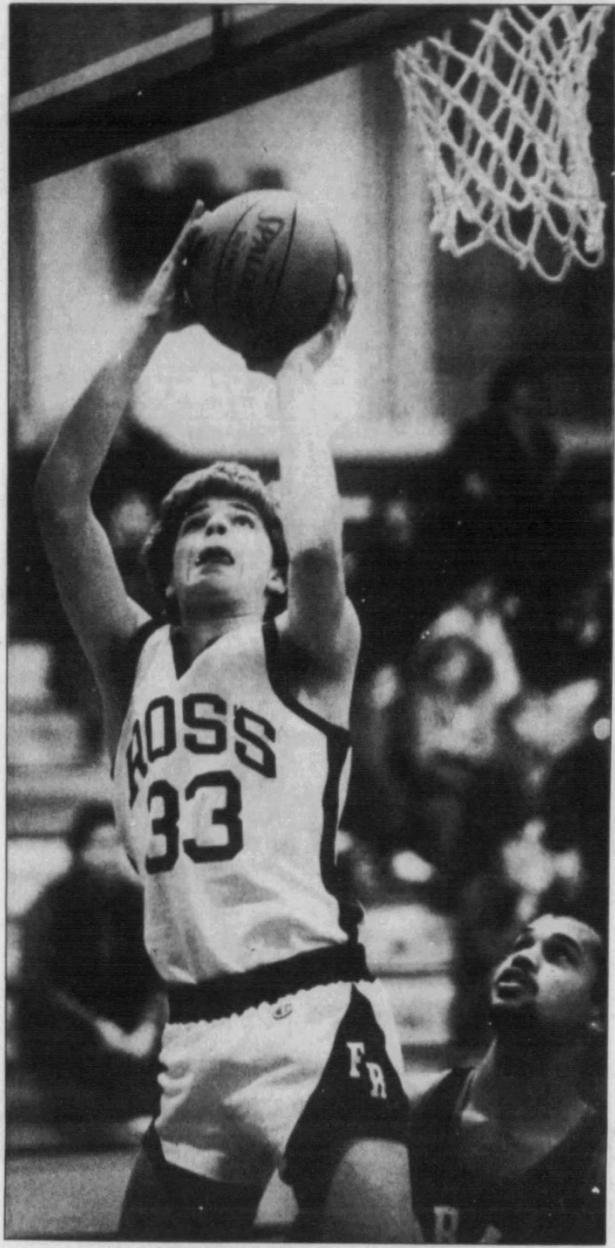
"Another thing I liked," Sawyer smiled, "was the unselfishness of the kids. They were working as a team."

Ross will be one player short this weekend with Dave Kovaleski heading for Purdue University for a football recruiting visit. Shawn McCarthy, who was at Purdue last weekend, will be back and should see extensive action.

Ross, Clyde games postponed

Two area basketball games were postponed Friday night — Ross at Marion Harding and Huron at Clyde. No rescheduled date was given for the Huron-Clyde game, but the Ross-Marion Harding game will be played Monday, Dec. 30.

Lorain Senior wins first game at the expense of Ross 63-53



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

NICK HALL (33) of Ross goes in for an easy two points while Lorain's Jason Williams looks on helplessly during action Friday.

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

Basically, John Sawyer is waiting for a wake-up call.

"It's going to be a long year for them," Sawyer predicted, "if they do not wake up."

The "them" Sawyer referred to are the members of his Ross High School Little Giants boys basketball team. The remarks came after the Little Giants sleepwalked through a 63-53 Buckeye Conference loss to Lorain in the Ross home opener Friday night. It was Lorain's first win in five games.

"The ability is there," Sawyer insisted about his team, now 1-2 this season, "but mentally, they just are not into the game."

Ross was not totally asleep, just drowsing, in the first half as Lorain held a slender 23-22 halftime advantage. Still, Sawyer pointed out, his team missed a wake-up call early in the first quarter.

Trailing 7-4, 6-foot-8 senior Shawn McCarthy dunked a rebound off a Ross miss. That shot brought the crowd into the game with a chorus of "oohs" and "ahs," but the alarm was not loud enough to shake the cobwebs from the minds of the Little Giants.

"Normally, that gets a team fired up," Sawyer pointed out.

Normally, but not this time. Ross trailed 13-8 after the first period, never leading in the first eight minutes. The Little Giants revived momentarily in the second quarter, charging to a 16-15 lead on a pair of Pat Hetrick jumpers.

That narrow lead evaporated quickly as first Al Scott and then Al McConihe scored to put the Steelmen back in front 19-16. John Cahill brought Ross back to within one and Dave Kovaleski's two free throws gave the Little Giants a 20-19 lead, the last that Ross was to enjoy.

McConihe, a pint-sized point guard listed at 5-8 but appearing to be no larger than 5-5, canned two free throws to put the Steelmen up 21-20 and Lorain never trailed again.

"We lost our best player two weeks ago," Lorain Coach Dale Reichert said. "He quit but he was not that much of a team player. In the two games he's been gone, we have played much better."

McConihe is the ring leader of that improved play. He guides the attack, and against Ross, he

tossed in eight big points. Scott was the leader with 21 Steelmen points and Jason Williams added 16.

The key to the Lorain win, Reichert said, was free throws.

"We made them," he summed up quickly. "We had been shooting only 57-percent from the line before this game."

This game Lorain was 21 of 32, nearly 66 percent. In the last eight minutes, Lorain was 11 of 19 at the charity stripe. Scott finished with a nine-of-10 free-throw shooting exhibition, including seven of eight in the final quarter.

Leading 27-26 early in the second half, Lorain outscored Ross 11-3 in the next five minutes to lead 38-29.

Ross trimmed that deficit to 42-37 a minute into the final quarter, but Lorain quietly ran off 11 unanswered points for a 53-37 lead. That was it ... Sawyer tossed in his own wake-up call by running in the subs with 3½ minutes to play.

"The last group was at least hustling after the loose balls," the Ross coach said evenly as he searched for the few good points in the game. "We had a good effort from those kids at the end."

"Pat Hetrick did a nice job in his first start," he said, "and it will take Shawn (McCarthy) a while to get going. He had problems tonight because he was not able to make a move without getting a foul called on him."

McCarthy was playing in his first game. He ended up with four fouls with the infractions taking him out of his defensive game. Hetrick finished with eight points.

Kevin Brooks, one of the quintet that finished the game for Ross, had 10 points, matching that of Kovaleski. Nick Hall and John Stierwalt, both starters in Ross's first two games, but beaten out of their jobs this week by Hetrick and Manoah Jones, had six and five points, respectively.

Ross made just 18 of 48 shots and 17 of 25 free throws. Lorain was 21 of 51 from the floor to go with its hotter than usual free throw shooting. The Steelmen owned a slender 37-34 advantage on the boards while committing 11 turnovers, eight less than Ross.

Tonight, Ross travels to Findlay, a 69-66 overtime loser to Sandusky Friday, for another Buckeye Conference clash.

Basketball

High school boys

Lorain 63, Ross 53

Score by quarters

Lorain	13	10	17	23	— 63
Ross	8	14	11	20	— 52

Scoring

LORAIN — Tony Gummo 1-0-2, Al McConihe 3-2-8, Al Scott 6-9-21, Phil Trinter 1-0-2, Jason Williams 6-4-16, Maurice Davis 2-4-8, Art Udovich 1-0-2, Dan Godlewski 0-2-2, Tony Worthy 1-0-2, totals 21-21-63.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 2-6-10, Pat Hetrick 4-0-8, Shawn McCarthy 1-0-2, Nick Hall 2-2-6, John Cahill 2-0-4, Stan Newell 0-2-2, Chris Mosser 2-1-5, Matt Reed 0-0-0, Manoah Jones 0-1-1, Kevin Brooks 4-2-10, John Stierwalt 1-3-5, totals 18-17-53.

Season records: Lorain 1-4 (1-2), Ross 1-2 (0-1).

Lorain JVs 45, Ross 36

Scoring

LORAIN — Terry Ballard 2-0-4, Kevin Drummond 8-2-18, Jason Hamrlik 1-0-2, Steve Hughes 4-0-8, Chris Loy 1-0-2, Chris Risdon 2-1-5, Tim Stratton 1-0-2, Michael Taylor 1-0-2, Dennis Washington 1-0-2, totals 21-3-45.

ROSS — Tracy McGee 4-3-11, Kevin Crawford 2-1-5, Tracy Hufford 3-2-8, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Mike McGee 4-0-8, Luther McKinstry 1-0-2, totals 15-6-36.

Season record: Ross 0-3.

Trojans top Giants 76-65

Ross record falls to 1-3

News-Messenger Reports

FINDLAY — It was a better show but with the same ending Saturday as Findlay handed Fremont Ross its second loss of the weekend 76-65 in a Buckeye Conference boys basketball game.

Friday, Ross fell to Lorain 63-53 in a game that Ross Coach John Sawyer would just as soon forget.

"We played much better against Findlay," Sawyer said after his team fell to 1-3 and 0-2 in conference play. "If we had played Friday like we did Saturday, we would have beaten Lorain."

Sawyer, however, may have had an inkling that Saturday night was not going to be a hot night for his Little Giants. The bus which the Ross team used on its journey to Findlay lost its steering, and the bus, with the team, had to return to Fremont.

"We got another bus," Sawyer explained, "but no one had warmed it before we got back. It was like riding in a refrigerator all the way to Findlay."

The breakdown caused Ross to be late in arriving at Findlay and pushed the junior varsity game back to an approximate 7:30 start.

"That hurt the JV team (Findlay won 51-28) because I don't think they ever got warmed up," Sawyer said.

In the varsity game, even though Sawyer felt his team had sufficient time to get warmed up, the Little Giants started cold and Findlay hot. At the end of one period, the Trojans had a 17-11 lead. At halftime, Findlay had taken command with a 37-21 bulge.

With Ross switching to a man-to-man defense, Findlay's lead began to shrink gradually in the second half.

"We went to the man-to-man because we were down 16 points," the Ross coach explained. "We had our doubts about whether it would work because Findlay is a very disciplined offensive patterned team. The man-to-man worked; it did not give them a chance to stand out there and shoot."

With Stan Newell leading the defense, Ross outscored the Trojans 44-39 in the second half. A good show but not quite enough.

"Still, we played better," Sawyer said. "Kovaleski (Dave) had a good game and Newell played 13 minutes and got the defense pumped up."

Kovaleski had 14 points on six of nine shooting and two of two at the line. Newell finished with eight points on four of eight shooting. Jim Givens had 13 points and Kevin Curth 12 for Findlay.

Ross was 26 of 62 from the floor and Findlay 27 of 59. The Little Giants made 13 of 22 free throws and Findlay 22 of 33. Ross held a 43-37 advantage on the boards with Shawn McCarthy grabbing nine and Kovaleski eight.

John Stierwalt had 10 points and McCarthy nine to back up Kovaleski.

Ross will be at Sandusky Friday and come back on Monday for a game at Marion Harding which had been postponed from earlier in the season.

Basketball

High school boys

Findlay 76, Ross 65

Score by quarters

Ross	11	10	14	30	— 65
Findlay	17	20	16	23	— 65

Scoring

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 6-2-14, Pat Hetrick 1-0-2, Shawn McCarthy 3-3-9, Chris Mosser 1-1-3, John Stierwalt 2-6-10, Kevin Brooks 2-0-4, Matt Reed 4-0-8, Nick Hall 1-0-2, John Cahill 2-1-5, Stan Newel 4-0-8, totals 26-13-65.

FINDLAY — Kevin Curth 4-4-12, Jim Givens 3-7-13, Ritzler 3-3-9, Steffan 4-1-9, Rich Bell 5-1-11, Hoffman 4-0-8, Denman 3-3-9, Pry 1-2-4, Hosey 0-1-1, totals 27-22-76.

Season records: Ross 1-3 (0-2), Findlay 6-2 (2-1).

JV game: Findlay 51-28.

Ross edges Sandusky 74-72

By DAVE SHEDLOSKI

Reporting for The News-Messenger

SANDUSKY — Ross had it, lost it, and then got it back just in time.

On a night when the Little Giants turned the ball over 30 times, Ross captured its second win of the season Friday night by defeating Sandusky 74-72 at the Sandusky High School gymnasium.

The Buckeye Conference victory gave Ross a 2-3 mark overall, and 1-2 record in the conference. Sandusky fell to 3-4, 2-2 in the Buckeye.

"I thought we almost lost it there, but we hung on," said Ross Coach John Sawyer. "It was the type of game where when we kept our composure, we played very well."

"When we got frantic, and rushed, we had our troubles."

Ross had very little trouble in the early going, taking a 22-14 lead after one quarter on the strength of 10-of-17 shooting in the first eight minutes and a 13-5 edge on the boards. Shawn McCarthy provided most of the punch, pumping in eight points in the period.

The Little Giants built that lead up to 36-26 before Sandusky's full court pressure

started taking its toll. The Blue Streaks forced 12 turnovers by Ross in the period and got within two, 38-36, with 1:09 left in the half. Nick Hall stopped Sandusky's 8-0 run with a long jumper, but Ross had just a 42-38 advantage at the half.

"I thought we did a pretty good job on defense in the first half, but their press hurt us also," Sawyer said. "We played well, but we just couldn't shake them."

Ross built another eight-point lead only to have Sandusky make another run in the third quarter to cut the deficit to 50-48 with 4:56 left in the period. Two consecutive steals off the press helped Sandusky score six points in 10 seconds, and Ross seemed to be headed for trouble.

A three-point play by John Cahill, who led Ross with 19 points, again stemmed the tide, and the Little Giants managed to hold onto their lead 59-56 after three quarters.

With four straight points from Hall, Ross again built a decent lead, 65-58 with 5:57 to go, but Fritz Taylor and Derrick Keys reeled off two baskets apiece to help the Blue Streaks gain their only lead of the game 70-69 with 2:21 remaining, but Ross came right back to take the lead on a Matt

Reed layup and a Dave Kovaleski free throw, making it 72-70 with 1:08 left.

Chris Williams gave Sandusky one last chance with two free throws to tie it up, but McCarthy, who hadn't scored since the first quarter, knocked in a five-footer to give Ross the lead and the win.

"That was a big shot by Shawn," Sawyer said. "He kind of slumped a bit in the middle of the game, but he was there at the right time."

In terms of rebounding, the Little Giants were there at the right time all night long. Ross outrebounded Sandusky 42-23 to offset the 30 turnovers. Sandusky had just 12 turnovers in the game, but 38 percent shooting (27-71) was the Blue Streaks undoing.

Kovaleski added 15 points for the Little Giants, Hall scored 14, and McCarthy finished with 10 to account for the bulk of Ross' total. Keys finished with 20.

In the reserve game, Sandusky used an 18-4 fourth quarter rally to down the Little Giant jayvees 50-32.

Bert Fenderson had 17 for the Blue Streaks, while Mike Wolfe scored 14 to pace Ross.

Basketball

High school boys

Ross 74, Sandusky 72

Score by quarters

Ross	22	20	17	15	— 74
Sandusky	14	24	18	16	— 72

Scoring *

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 6-3-15, John Stierwalt 2-4-8, Kevin Brooks 0-2-2, Matt Reed 1-0-2, John Cahill 8-3-19, Stan Newell 1-0-2, Nick Hall 5-4-14, Shawn McCarthy 5-0-10, Chris Mosser 1-0-2, totals 29-16-74.

SANDUSKY — Chris Williams 5-6-16, Derrick Keys 9-2-20, Bobby Garrett 1-0-2, Shayne Fischer 4-5-13, Eric Jordan 2-3-7, Fritz Taylor 6-2-14, totals 27-18-72.

Season records: Ross 2-3 (1-2), Sandusky 3-4 (2-2).

Sandusky JVs 50, Ross 32

Score by quarters

Ross	9	13	2	8	— 32
Sandusky	8	13	11	18	— 50

Scoring

SANDUSKY — Todd Lange 2-3-7, Jason Rollison 0-6-6, Bert Fenderson 6-5-17, Chuck Hathorn 1-0-2, Al Bonner 3-2-8, Sean Nickleson 2-2-6, Mike Young 0-4-4, totals 14-22-50.

ROSS — Tracy McGee 1-0-2, Kevin Crawford 1-1-3, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Kevin Jacobs 0-1-1, Scott Nossaman 0-1-1, Craig Raney 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 6-2-14, Mark McGee 2-0-4, Hammer 0-3-3, totals 12-8-32.

Season record: Ross 0-5.

Ross beats Harding by 4

News-Messenger Reports

MARION — Fremont Ross outscored Marion Harding 22-12 in the third quarter to gain an edge that led to a 67-63 Buckeye Conference basketball victory Monday night.

The game was make-up from a contest postponed from Dec. 13.

Harding's 6-6 John Stricklin popped in 12 first quarter points to give the Presidents momentum to roll to a 32-26 halftime advantage over the Little Giants.

Ross, however, started out hot in the third quarter to overtake the winless, 0-6, Harding crew.

The Little Giants, 3-3 and 2-2 in the conference, outscored Harding 12-2 in the early minutes of the second half to take a

38-34 lead. Kevin Brook's layup at the 5:35 mark put Ross up 36-34. John Stierwalt followed with another layup to give the Little Giants a four-point lead.

Harding rallied to deadlock the game at 38 but another Brooks layup with 3:12 remaining in the period gave the Little Giants the lead for good.

At the end of the quarter, Ross held a 48-42 advantage. Harding cut the Little Giants' lead to two, 58-56, on a Stricklin jumper with 2:03 left in the game but that was as close as the Presidents were to come.

Stierwalt scored 20 points to top the Little Giants scoring. John Cahill added 14 while Brooks chipped in with 10. Stricklin, after leading the Presidents to an 18-12 first quarter lead, scored just eight points the

□ Box score on Page B-3

remainder of the game to finish with 20. John Courtright, a 5-8 sophomore, had 17 and Skip Calbert 16 for Harding.

Ross was 24 of 45 from the floor for a hot 54 per cent and Harding 25 of 52. The Little Giants made 19 of 27 at the line and had just a dozen turnovers. Harding was 13 of 19 at the line and had nine turnovers.

Ross held a 27-18 rebounding advantage.

Ross, on a modest two-game winning streak, will host Elyria Friday in another Buckeye Conference game.

In the junior varsity game Monday, Harding won 54-40. Mike Wolfe had 12 points and Tracy McGee 12 for Ross.

High school boys

Ross 67, Harding 63

Score by quarters

Ross	12	14	22	19	— 67
Marion Harding	18	14	12	21	— 63

Scoring

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 0-0-0, Shawn McCarthy 2-0-4, John Cahill 3-8-14, John Stierwalt 8-4-20, Nick Hall 1-0-2, Stan Newell 2-2-6, Matt Reed 2-1-5, Kevin Brooks 4-2-10, Chris Mosser 2-2-6, totals 24-19-67.

MARION HARDING — John Stricklin 8-4-20, James Brown 1-0-2, Skip Calbert 7-2-16, Alan O'Neill 2-0-4, Rick Howell 1-1-3, Geoff Klepzig 0-1-1, John Courtright 6-5-17, totals 25-13-63.

Season records: Ross 3-3 (2-2), Marion Harding

Free-throw accuracy helps Elyria set down Ross 58-55

Pioneers hit 13 of 16 in 4th quarter

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

Keith Sooy didn't have a check to know that he was right. His grin took care of the rest.

"This was a nice win for us," the Elyria High School boys basketball coach said, "especially since we have been struggling."

The Pioneers limped into Fremont Ross High School with a mediocre 3-5 record but emerged with a step toward recovery with a 58-55 win over the Little Giants. The win put Elyria at game above the .500 mark in the Buckeye Conference race and dropped Ross's conference mark to 2-3. The Little Giants are 3-4 for the season.

The Pioneers buried 13 of 16 free throws in the final eight minutes and missed just four out of 22 charity attempts for the night.

"In a close game like this," Sooy described, "it usually comes down to the foul line and we were stepping up there and making them."

"I don't know what the percentage of free throws we made," the Elyria coach grinned, "but I don't have to see that to know it was the best we have shot all year."

The game was knotted at 37-37 heading into the final quarter, and Ross, after leading since midway through the first period, got the lead twice more: 41-39 and 43-42 before Elyria took over.

Elyria got the lead for good with four and one-half minutes remaining in the game on a pair of free throws by Mark Cannon. The 6-4 Cannon followed with a layup a few seconds later putting Ross behind 46-43.

Pat Hetrick canned an 18-footer from the right corner for Ross, but Ed Uszynski answered for Elyria with a short jumper from the left baseline to put his team up by three again.

Pint-sized, 5-5, Elyria sophomore point guard Todd Brubaker put Ross behind by five with a pair of free throws with 2:12 to play, and the Little Giants were to get no closer than three points the remainder of the game.

Elyria canned 10 of 12 free throws in the final two minutes to keep Ross at bay.

The loss marred one of the Little Giants' better performances of the still young season.

"In some respects," Ross Coach John Sawyer admitted, "it was the best game that we have played this season."

"We ran our offense well in the first half, but not in the second half. For some reason, our wing people kept driving to the base



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

IT'S MINE. Dave Kovaleski, right, of Fremont Ross, pulls the ball away from James Mahone of Elyria during first half action at Ross High School Friday.

line and not looking to the foul line where (Shawn) McCarthy was open most of the time.

"That's the type of shot Shawn hit all night but we did not get the ball to him."

With McCarthy and Dave Kovaleski, the inside Ross tandem, the Little Giants had

carved out a 26-21 halftime lead.

McCarthy, on his way to a game

high 20 points, had 12 in the first

16 minutes. Kovaleski had six

first quarter points before

getting into foul problems but

along with McCarthy, the Ross

duo was jamming up the middle

defensively and dominating that

area offensively.

At halftime, Sooy made a

defensive switch, going from a

"2-3" zone to a man-to-man.

"The low post people hurt us in the first half," Sooy said, "so we went to the man-to-man to keep them out. It worked and we stayed with it the whole second half."

Sawyer pointed out that Elyria "packed in" the middle in the second half but unlike the first half, his team did not shoot from the outside to loosen up the Pioneer defense.

"We got the lead by shooting from the perimeter in the first half," he pointed out, "but we did not do that in the second half."

"We played well," Sawyer said. "We got good games from McCarthy, Kovaleski, Hetrick and Newell (Stan), but it was a

lot of little things at crucial times that hurt us."

Kovaleski finished with 12 points while Hetrick came off the bench to score eight. Newell had four points while playing flawlessly from the point guard slot. He capped off the night and gave the Ross fans something to cheer about by sinking a shot from halfcourt as the final buzzer was sounding.

Cannon had 18 points for Elyria and Uszynski popped in 11. Kent Jones and Eric Bush had nine points apiece coming off the bench for Elyria.

Ross was 24 of 60 shooting and Elyria 20 of 50. The Little Giants were seven of 10 from the line. Elyria outrebounded Ross 36-27 and committed 11 turnovers, four less than the Little Giants.

Basketball

High school boys

Elyria 58, Ross 55

Score by quarters

Elyria	10	11	16	21	— 58
Ross	12	14	11	18	— 55

Scoring

ELYRIA — Mark Cannon 8-2-18, Ed Uszynski 4-3-11, James Mahone 1-1-3, Todd Brubaker 1-4-6, Kent Jones 4-1-9, Eric Bush 1-7-9, Corey Fields 1-0-2, totals 20-18-58.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 6-0-12, Shawn McCarthy 9-2-20, John Cahill 2-0-4, John Stierwalt 2-2-6, Kevin Brooks 0-0-0, Stan Newell 2-0-4, Manoah Jones 0-1-1, Pat Hetrick 3-2-8, totals 24-7-55.

Season records: Ross 3-4 (2-3), Elyria 4-5 (2-2).

Elyria JVs 62, Ross 23

Score by quarters

Elyria	15	13	14	20	— 62
Ross	0	7	2	14	— 23

Scoring

ELYRIA — Donni Moody 4-4-12, Mark Jones 3-0-6, Anthony Corlew 4-5-13, Joey Dallas 1-1-3, Jim Miller 1-0-2, Chris Phillips 1-0-2, Rod Moore 1-1-3, Mike Ellis 0-1-1, Steve Schroeder 0-2-2, Steve Singleton 2-8-12, Karl Armstrong 2-0-4, totals 20-22-62.

ROSS — Mike McGee 3-2-8, Kevin Crawford 0-2-2, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Kevin Jacobs 1-0-2, Scott Nossaman 0-1-1, Luther McKinstry 2-0-4, Brad Hammer 1-2-4, totals 8-7-23

Ross falls to Admiral King 69-59

News-Messenger Reports

LORAIN — LeBron Gladden scored 25 points while leading Admiral King to a 69-59 victory over Fremont Ross in a Buckeye Conference boys basketball game Friday.

Gladden scored 13 of his points in the second quarter as the Admirals stretched a 13-9 first-quarter lead into a commanding 37-21 halftime advantage.

"We did not shoot well and missed a lot of foul shots in the second quarter," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "Most of those missed fouls were on the front end of one-and-ones, and that killed us."

Ross, shooting from the outside, took a 6-0

lead a minute and 12 seconds into the game before the Admiral King launched its offense. The Admirals scored 13 straight points to take the lead for good. Then came the second eight minutes and the Admirals were on their way to their ninth win in 11 games while remaining unbeaten in the Buckeye Conference with a 6-0 mark.

Ross slipped to 3-5 and 2-4 in conference play.

"We played hard when we went to a man-to-man in the second half," Sawyer pointed out. "We kept coming back but we could not get the breaks when we needed them."

Derrick Thomas added 15 points and

George McCall 10 to the Admirals' attack.

John Cahill was the only Little Giant in double figures with 11. John Stierwalt had nine points and Pat Hetrick eight.

Ross was 20 of 51 from the floor and the Admirals 27 of 52. The Little Giants made 19 of 29 free throws and Admiral King 15 of 27.

The Little Giants were hurt in the rebounding department, losing that battle 40-25 with Gladden grabbing 10. Nick Hall had eight rebounds for Ross.

In the junior varsity game, Ross lost 57-50. Kevin Crawford had 23 points for the Little Giants JVs.

Basketball

High school boys

Admiral King 69, Ross 59

Score by quarters

Ross	9	12	18	20	— 59
Admiral King	13	24	18	14	— 69

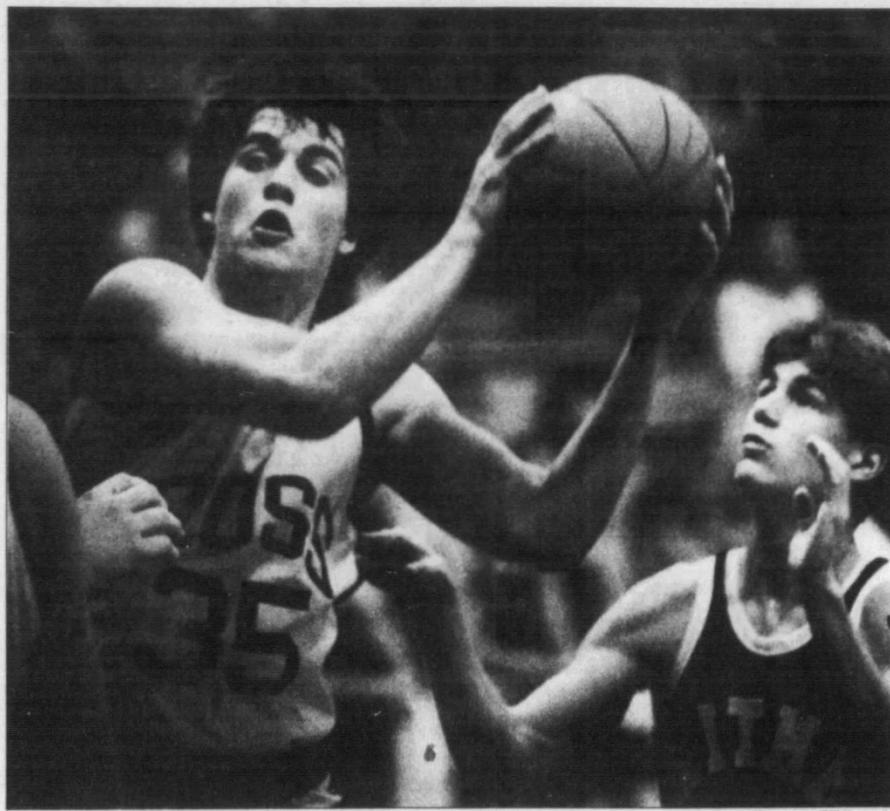
Scoring

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 2-1-5, Shawn McCarthy 2-3-7, John Cahill 5-1-11, John Stierwalt 2-5-9, Kevin Brooks 3-0-6, Pat Hetrick 3-2-8, Stan Newell 1-0-2, Matt Reed 1-4-6, Manoah Jones 0-2-2, Nick Hall 1-1-3, totals 20-19-59.

ADMIRAL KING — Joe Roswer 2-3-7, David Cannon 2-0-4, Ty Jeter 1-0-2, LeBron Gladden 10-5-25, Kelvin Harvey 1-1-3, George McCall 4-2-10, Mike Carrico 1-0-2, Brandon Bromley 0-1-1, Derrick Thomas 6-3-15, totals 27-15-69.

Season records: Admiral King 9-2 (6-0), Ross 3-5 (2-4).

JV game: Admiral King 57-50.



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

DAVE KOVALESKI (35) of Fremont Ross grabs a rebound during early action of the Saturday

night game against Whitmer. The Panther's John Dzikowski (40) gets a good look at the ball.

Whitmer dumps Ross 65-56

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

Rick Kaifas said it was his team's defense that turned the game around, but John Sawyer's opinion did not back that up.

Kaifas' Whitmer Panthers spotted Sawyer's Ross Little Giants an eight-point first quarter lead before scrambling back for a 65-56 high school basketball victory Saturday night at Ross High School.

"When we went to the '1-3-1 trap' and the half-court trap, it slowed their offense down," Kaifas explained about the strategy his team used in the second quarter.

"Yeah, their defense bothered us only because we had too many people standing still ... that's why it bothered us," Sawyer countered.

Whichever theory was true, the fact was Ross followed up a very good offensive and defensive quarter with three of its worst quarters of the season, which has now sagged to 3-6.

Sawyer, who had the Giants in a man-to-man throughout the game, wanted his team to cut down on fouls, but that did not happen. The Little Giants committed 27 fouls which equated to 37 Whitmer free throws.

"We had a good week of practice," Sawyer said, "and we

got off to a good start, but the defense did not play well; all we did was foul them. You cannot put a team on the line that much and expect to win."

Whitmer, with John Dzikowski and Tom Hood combining to convert 22 of 27 free throws between them, finished with 27 of 37 from the line, more than enough charity to sink Ross.

The Little Giants had four more field goals — 23 to 19 — and, as Sawyer dejectedly stated, still lost.

Plus, there was a lack of communication that hurt the Little Giants.

It came after a Ross timeout midway through the third quarter.

"It was a wasted timeout," Sawyer admitted. "We wanted them to go into a '1-3-1 trap' but they went back out and stayed in the man-to-man. That was why I took the whole team out."

Sawyer sent in five subs when play stopped, but before that happened, a pair of John Cahill buckets had sliced the Panthers' lead to 40-36. In the final two-plus minutes of the quarter, Whitmer ran off six unanswered points for a 46-36 lead.

Whitmer, however, was not picking only on the Ross subs. With the Little Giants starters back in at the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Panthers

outscored Ross 10-4 in the first three minutes for a 56-40 lead.

After that point, the Panthers fought off a mild Ross charge to hang on for the win.

Sawyer admitted that he did not see a lot of the fouls called on his team but he pointed out, "The way we played offense, that did not cost us the ballgame.

"We just did not play well."

In the first quarter, John Stierwalt scored six points and Cahill five as the Little Giants ran to a 21-13 lead. That lead reached 23-13 on a Manoah Jones bucket shortly into the second quarter but after that, it was Whitmer's ball game.

Dzikowski's free throw tied it at 27-27 at the 3:04 mark, but Cahill gave Ross the lead with a pair of charity tosses 30 seconds later. Hook tied it with two more free throws five second later.

Dave Kovaleski's free throw gave Ross its last lead, 30-29, at the two-minute mark, but Whitmer got buckets from Mark Sclachcic and Mark Eberflus to close out the half.

Ross committed 10 turnovers in the quarter.

Cahill's 21 points led Ross. Kovaleski had 11. The Little Giants made 23 of 56 shots and 10 of 12 free throws. Ross outrebounded 33-32.

Basketball

High school boys

Whitmer 65, Ross 56

Score by quarters

Whitmer	13	20	13	19	— 65
Ross	21	9	6	20	— 56

Scoring

WHITMER — Dave Digby 3-2-8, John Dzikowski 4-11-19, Mark Szlachcic 4-0-8, Rick Rightnowar 4-2-10, Tom Hood 1-11-13, Mark Eberflus 1-1-3, Steve Agard 2-0-4, totals 19-27-65.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 5-1-11, Shawn McCarthy 2-2-6, John Cahill 8-5-21, John Stierwalt 2-2-6, Kevin Brooks 1-0-2, Stan Newell 2-0-4, Pat Hetrick 1-0-2, Nick Hall 1-0-2, Manoah Jones 1-0-2, totals 23-10-56.

Season record: Ross 3-6.

Whitmer JVs 50, Ross 31

Score by quarters

Whitmer	11	9	14	16	— 50
Ross	8	5	3	15	— 31

Scoring

WHITMER — Doug Szymkowiak 1-0-2, Keith Linkey 3-0-6, Lee Durham 1-2-4, Richie Vozel 0-2-2, Toby Schroyer 5-3-13, Matt Eberflus 2-2-6, Scott Pieron 0-2-2, Tom Estrel 2-4-8, Craig Michelis 2-3-7, totals 16-18-50.

ROSS — Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, Tracy McGee 0-2-2, Kevin Crawford 2-4-8, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Kevin Jacobs 1-0-2, Brock Lewis 0-3-3, Scott Nossaman 0-2-2, Mike McGee 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 1-0-2, Luther McKinstry 0-1-1, totals 9-13-31.

Torrid Eagles burn Little Giants 75-59

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

One was hot, one was cold, and that added up to a 75-59 loss for Ross Saturday night in a boys high school basketball game.

Oregon Clay pumped in a sizzling 30 of 45 shots while Ross was a stone cold 22 of 81.

"It had to be one of their best games," shrugged Ross Coach John Sawyer. "I thought our kids played hard, but we came out flat and when a team shoots like that..."

"We have not shot that way for a while," Clay Coach Bud Felhaber almost sheepishly admitted.

With 6-5 junior center Brad Morrison dropping in 10 of 13 shots while scoring a game-high 24 points, there was little the Little Giants could do defensively.

"We tried everything," Sawyer said. "They shot well from outside but they had a good inside game, too."

Morrison and sophomore Jim Cox provided the inside strength and an early dominance in rebounding against the taller Little Giants.

"We have been working hard on our rebounding game," Felhaber pointed out. "We have been trying to get Morrison to go to the board, and tonight both he and Fox rebounded well."

Clay, 7-7, outrebounded Ross only 46-41, but the margin was narrowed in the final half when Ross grabbed 20 offensive rebounds.

Still, even with the command of the boards, it was the Eagles' shooting that gunned down Ross.

Clay was eight of 15, its

poorest shooting of the game, in the first quarter. That was followed with eight of 10 in the second quarter, eight of 12 in the third and six of eight in the final eight minutes.

In those periods, Ross was six of 20, three of 16, four of 15 and nine of 30.

"When a team shoots like that, there is not much you can do about it," Sawyer sighed.

Adding salt to the wound was the fact that Ross committed just three turnovers in the game.

Ross, 4-7, had just one player in double figures — John Stierwalt — who had 14 points, 10 in the frantic final quarter. All 10 Little Giants who saw action scored, but the best shooting performance by any of the 10 was Manoah Jones' two of three from the floor.

Ross led just twice in the contest: 8-6 and 10-8 in the first quarter. Clay ran off six straight points to regain the lead and held a 16-14 advantage at the end of the quarter.

The Eagles canned their first three shots of the second quarter while Ross missed its first four, and the script was written for the remainder of the game.

Cox finished with 11 points to back up Morrison's performance for Clay. Guards Tony Reams and Kevin Seimet had 12 and 10 points, respectively, for the Eagles.

John Cahill had eight for Ross with Dave Kovaleski and Shawn McCarthy getting seven apiece.

Ross is on the road for a pair of games this weekend. Friday, Ross will be at Lorain Senior before traveling to Tiffin to play Columbian Saturday.

Basketball

High school boys

Clay 75, Ross 59

Score by quarters

Clay	16	20	17	22	—	75
Ross	14	7	13	25	—	59

Scoring

CLAY — Mike Caldwell 2-1-5, Jim Cox 3-5-11, Brad Morrison 10-4-24, Kevin Seimetz 5-0-10, Tony Reams 5-2-12, Mike Sprague 3-0-6, Aaron Reynolds 0-1-1, Kevin Seimetz 0-2-2, Mike Finch 1-0-2, Jason Pier 1-0-2, totals 30-15-75.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 3-1-7, Pat Hetrick 1-0-2, Matt Reed 1-0-2, Stan Newell 1-0-2, John Cahill 3-2-8, Nick Hall 1-4-6, Shawn McCarthy 3-1-7, Kevin Brooks 2-2-6, John Stierwalt 5-4-14, Manoah Jones 2-1-5, totals 22-15-59.

Season records: Clay 7-7, Ross 4-7.

Clay JVs 58, Ross 54, 3OT

Score by quarters

Clay	12	13	8	6	5	8	6	—	58
Ross	10	17	6	6	5	8	2	—	54

Scoring

CLAY — Mike McGee 0-2-2, Jeff Ladd 3-2-8, Matt LaBuhn 6-8-20, Scott Allen 1-4-6, Bill Burson 3-3-9, Marc Strickland 5-0-10, Jamie Loehrke 1-1-3, totals 19-20-58.

ROSS — Tracy McGee 3-8-14, Kevin Crawford 2-0-4, Tracy Hufford 3-3-9, Scott Nossaman 1-2-4, Mike Wolfe 8-1-17, Mike McGee 2-0-4, Luther McKinstry 1-0-2, totals 20-14-54.

Lorain edges Ross 69-66

News-Messenger Reports

LORAIN — The Ross Little Giants squandered a six-point halftime lead on their way to a 69-66 loss at the hands of the Lorain Senior Steelmen here Friday night.

Ross led 33-27 at the intermission, but Lorain came back to cut it to three, 52-49, after three quarters before taking command in the final period.

Ross trailed by just one, 65-64, and the ball with 17 seconds left, but Lorain stole it and scored to make it 67-64 with 12 seconds left.

After Ross came right back to cut it to one again, 67-66, the Little Giants called timeout with four seconds remaining. But they were whistled for a technical foul since they had no timeouts left. Lorain sunk both technical free throws to clinch the victory.

"The kids played real hard and pretty good," said Ross Coach John Sawyer. "We just got beat on the boards in the second half. Lorain had 20

offensive rebounds. A couple times they got three or four shots, and that killed us."

Jason Williams led the Steelmen in scoring with 24 points. Lorain is now 7-9 overall and 6-3 in the Buckeye Conference.

Ross, meanwhile, falls to 4-8, 3-5. The Little Giants out-goaled Lorain 28-27 but had five fewer free throws, 15-10.

Sawyer cited the play of John Cahill and Pat Hetrick. Cahill had team-high totals of 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Hetrick added eight points and nine rebounds.

John Stierwalt chipped in 16 points and Dave Kovaleski added 10.

The Little Giants played without the services of 6-8 senior Shawn McCarthy, who was out with the flu. And 6-2 sophomore Nick Hall may have been lost for the season, according to Sawyer, when he injured his ankle in the fourth quarter last night.

Ross will be in action again tonight at Tiffin Columbian.

Lorain Sr. 69, Ross 66

Score by quarters

Ross	14	19	19	14	— 66
Lorain Senior	12	15	22	20	— 69

Scoring

ROSS — Pat Hetrick 4-0-8, Dave Kovaleski 3-4-10, Stan Newell 2-0-4, John Cahill 9-0-18, John Stierwalt 6-4-16, Nick Hall 2-2-6, Mike Wolfe 2-0-4, totals 28-10-66.

LORAIN SENIOR — Jason Williams 10-4-24, Maurice Davis 5-4-14, Bill Nowlin 4-2-10, Al Scott 3-0-6, Art Udovich 2-1-5, Tony Gummo 2-0-4, Phil Trinter 1-1-3, Don Godlewski 0-2-2, Scott Hamrlich 0-1-1, totals 27-15-69.

Season records: Ross 4-8 (3-5), Lorain Senior 7-9 (6-3).

JV game: Lorain Senior 53-30.

'Foul bug' bites Ross

News-Messenger Reports

TIFFIN — Ross fell victim to the foul bug in the second half as Tiffin Columbian handed the Little Giants a 65-54 setback Saturday night in a boys high school basketball game.

Ross was assessed only three personal fouls in the first half but the second half was a turnaround for the men in the stripes. The Little Giants picked up 21 second-half fouls as the Tornadoes wound up with 34 chartiy tosses.

"We weren't doing anything differently in the second half than from the first half," Ross Coach John Sawyer said, "but in the second half we were getting called for the fouls."

Columbian canned 21 of the free shots, 13 more than Ross. The Little Giants outgoaled Columbian 23-22, but Ross took 81 shots to make that many. Columbian was 22 of 49 from the floor.

"Each game," Sawyer lamented, "it's the same old thing, and that is putting the other team on the foul line too much."

"In the second half, we could not do anything without fouling them."

Ross, with Pat Hetrick leading the attack, held a slim 26-25 halftime lead but lost that when the Tornadoes went on a 20-13 scoring advantage in the third quarter.

Hetrick would up with a career-high 20 points. Dave Kovaleski had 14 for the Little Giants. Doug White had 18, Brian Heebsh 15 and Rod Kagy 11 for Columbian, now 11-5.

Ross held a commanding 41-19 advantage in rebounding with 21 of the caroms coming off the offensive board.

Ross, now 4-9, will host Toledo Woodward Tuesday evening.

Basketball

High school boys

Columbian 65, Ross 54

Score by quarters

Ross	12	14	13	15	— 54
Columbian	12	13	20	20	— 65

Scoring

ROSS — John Cahill 1-2-4, John Stierwalt 2-0-4, Dave Kovaleski 6-2-14, Pat Hetrick 10-0-20, Stan Newell 1-0-2, Matt Reed 1-4-6, Kevin Brooks 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 1-0-2, totals 23-8-54.

COLUMBIAN — Mike McDonald 0-7-7, David Kin 0-5-5, Rod Kagy 5-1-11, Brian Heebsh 7-1-15, Doug White 7-4-18, Brian Briggs 3-3-9, totals 22-21-45.

Season records: Ross 4-9, Columbian 11-5.

JV game: Columbian 54-43.

2nd-half surge lifts Ross 67-50

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

It wasn't mud in your eye but a hand in the face that had Coach John Sawyer smiling.

Not to mention "the duck."

But we'll go into that later.

Sawyer's Ross High School Little Giants pulled off a Jekyll and Hyde act Tuesday night while racing to a 67-50 thumping of Toledo Woodward. The win snapped a three-game losing skid and put the Little Giants at 5-9 this season. Woodward is 8-8.

Ross, up and down much of the season, was definitely on an "up" in the second half. After playing well in spots during the first half, the Little Giants scored the first 14 points of the second half to leave the Polar Bears clawing for survival.

After the Little Giants raced to that 40-29 lead, the closest the Polar Bears got the remainder of the game was nine on three different occasions late in the third quarter.

Pat Hetrick, coming off a 20-point performance against Tiffin Columbian Saturday, scored 12 points in Ross's 24-point third quarter. He finished with 14 points for the game.

"We did not do a very good job

of getting our hands in the faces of the shooters in the first half," Sawyer said. "In the second half, we came out on Caldwell (Chris) and did get our hands in the faces of the shooters."

"They rely so much on the outside shot, and they did not fall for them in the second half."

The "here's a hand in the face" routine paralyzed the Polar Bears. After knocking in 14 of 35 first half shots, Woodward found the bottom of the basket just six times in the last 16 minutes of play, taking 31 shots to do that.

After Ross took the lead — Hetrick's 18-footer from the right side made it 30-29 one minute and 12 seconds into the second half — Ross was able to do a little "skakin' and bakin'" and that is a luxury that Sawyer's charges have not enjoyed this season.

"When we got the lead," the Ross coach described, "they began to double-team us and we were finding the open man."

John Cahill, switched from the wing to the point guard slot in the second half along with wingman John Stierwalt, directed the Ross pullaway with numerous passes that set up

Hetrick, Dave Kovaleski and Shawn McCarthy for easy buckets. Stierwalt, who had only two points but possibly played his best game of the season for the Little Giants, dished off a couple of passes that Cahill turned in for buckets in the decisive third quarter.

After those eight minutes, Ross had rolled up 24 points and a comfortable 50-37 lead.

"That is what confidence will do for you," Sawyer said about his team's second-half play. "When they began playing like that, the confidence showed."

In the final quarter, Ross started a little tentatively, according to Sawyer.

"We did not want to force it (play) and we did not want to turn it over," he said. "We wanted to take some time off the clock."

That shaky spell lasted briefly as McCarthy scored on a baseline layup and a "jam" three minutes into the quarter. That turned the Little Giants loose and it was mop-up time.

Kovaleski scored a Ross career-high 18 points. The 6-4 senior also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

McCarthy finished with 15

points, making all five second-half shots and finished with seven of nine for the night. Cahill was four of eight and finished with 11 points.

Ross was 29 of 52 from the floor and committed 18 turnovers, zero in the third quarter. Woodward was 20 of 67 and had 12 turnovers. Ross outrebounded the Polar Bears 41-35 with Kovaleski topping the individuals. McCarthy and Hetrick grabbed eight rebounds apiece with Cahill getting seven and Stierwalt six.

Caldwell led all scorers with 23 points, 12 in the first half and nine in the final quarter when the game was no longer in doubt. Wendell Miller finished with 16, also for Woodward.

And "the duck"?

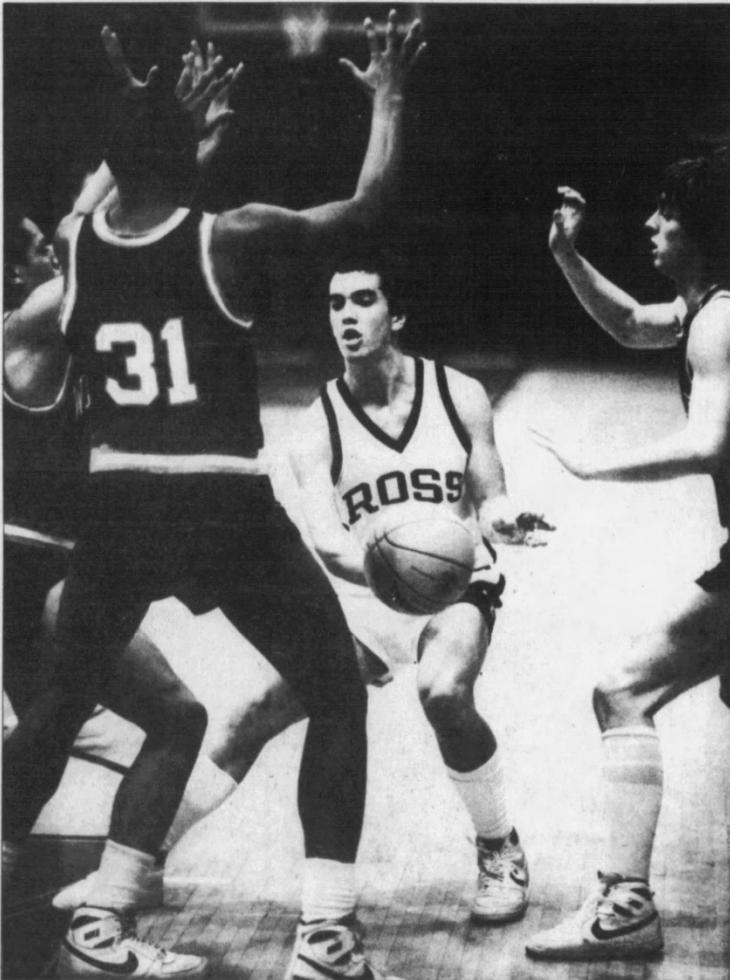
The animal adored the sweater Sawyer wore Tuesday.

"And it (the sweater) is three-and-a-half," he grinned.

Will he wear it again soon?

"How about the rest of the season," he said while probably making it a silent promise to himself.

Ross will host Sandusky Friday before hosting the state's third-ranked Class AAA team, Admiral King, next Tuesday.



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

JOHN STIERWALT of Ross is surrounded by three Toledo Woodward players during third-quarter action Tuesday at Ross High School.

Left to right are Woodward's Derrick Galloway, Sam Wallace and Bob Lingohr. Stierwalt was able to pass the ball to a teammate.

Bears shock Eagles

News-Messenger Reports

GIBSONBURG — The Gibsonburg Golden Bears dealt the Eastwood Eagles a severe blow to their Suburban Lakes League title hopes by upsetting the Eagles 45-42 here Tuesday night.

Eastwood is now 7-3 in the SLL, two games behind league-leading Lakota with four games left. The Eagles are 10-6 overall.

The victory for Gibsonburg was just its second overall in 14 games and first in 10 SLL games.

"In our own quiet, little way, we've been improving," said Gibsonburg Coach Rick Briggle. "You can credit the kids for this win. They couldn't buckle at any moment, but they didn't."

Gibsonburg took an 8-5 lead after one quarter and a 24-21 edge at halftime. The Bears increased it to 33-28 after three quarters before hanging on in the final quarter for the big upset.

"We were a little more patient with our shots," said Briggle. "The three seniors — Steve Bowers, Joe Sarnes and Pat Payne — really came through for us."

Sarnes led the way with 18 points and seven rebounds, while Payne added 15 points, and Bowers had eight points and seven rebounds.

Gibsonburg shot 54 percent from the field (19 of 35) to 37 percent for Eastwood (19 of 52).

The game was a makeup of this past Friday's originally scheduled contest which was postponed due to the large amount of flu cases at Eastwood that day.

High school boys

Ross 67, Woodward 50

Score by quarters

Woodward	16	13	8	13	— 50
Ross	13	13	24	17	— 67

Scoring

WOODWARD — Michael Williams 1-0-2, Wendell Miller 7-2-16, Chris Caldwell 8-7-23, Fred Nash 1-0-2, Bob Lingohr 1-0-2, Derrick Galloway 0-1-1, Jarvis Mayo 1-0-2, Darryl Conley 1-0-2, totals 20-10-50.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 7-4-18, Pat Hetrick 7-0-14, John Cahill 4-3-11, Kevin Brooks 1-1-3, Stan Newell 1-0-2, Shawn McCarthy 7-1-15, John Stierwalt 1-0-2, Matt Reed 1-0-2, totals 29-9-67.

Season records: Ross 5-9, Woodward 8-8.

W'ward JVs 47, Ross 41

Score by quarters

Woodward	9	10	13	15	— 47
Ross	7	9	8	17	— 41

Scoring

WOODWARD — Don Bubacz 3-3-9, Darryl Conley 0-2-2, David Hardison 2-1-5, Nolan Hych 6-5-17, Justin Jackson 1-1-3, Troy Smith 1-0-2, David Wright 3-3-9, totals 16-15-47.

ROSS — Mike Wolfe 3-4-10, Tracy McGee 2-3-7, Kevin Crawford 3-2-10, Tracy Hufford 2-1-5, Mike McGee 3-0-6, Brad Hammer 1-1-3, Luther McKinstry 1-0-2, totals 15-11-41.

Ross stuns Admiral King

By BOB MARKER

Reporting for The News-Messenger

You could call it a confidence fulfilled. "The kids felt they could win," Ross boys basketball coach John Sawyer smiled.

That was a brave thought for a team which had won just five out of 14 games, especially when it was to face the state's fourth-ranked Class AAA team: Lorain Admiral King.

But it was a thought backed up. The Little Giants trailed only briefly while posting a 55-53 upset of the Buckeye Conference champion Admirals.

The win ended a 19-game winning streak that Admiral King held over Ross. That dominance dated back to 1976 when Ross knocked the Admirals out of a Buckeye Conference title with a 58-54 overtime win. The Admirals are 16-3 while suffering their first conference loss in 11 games. Ross is 6-9 and 4-5 in conference games.

"Confidence," Sawyer grinned. "The kids played with confidence and that was the key."

That, plus 19 points from Shawn McCarthy and 17 points and the fired-up play of John Stierwalt. Actually, while those two topped the Ross point list, it was a game where every Ross player who played, performed well.

Admiral King Coach Mitch Gillam went along with that.

"They (Ross) played an excellent ballgame," he said. "But we came in not in the right frame of mind."

Gillam did not start conference leading scorer Lebron Gladden, waiting until 2:15 remained in the first quarter before he inserted the 6-3 senior in the lineup.

"We have policies and rules that were broken," Gillam explained. "You can call it (not starting Gladden) disciplinary."

By the time Gladden came into the lineup, Ross held an 11-5 lead. At the end of the first quarter, Ross led 13-11, which was as close as the Admirals were to get the remainder of the game.

McCarthy, held scoreless and to only one rebound in the first eight minutes, exploded for 10 points in the second quarter and eight more in their third.

During that spree, Ross's lead climbed to as much as eight but never fell below four.

"Obviously, we knew what their game plan was," Gillam said. "We started off slow and got ourselves in a hole."

"We could not control the ball after that and we could not play the defenses we wanted," the Admirals' coach explained. "They were content to hold the ball and because we were behind, we had to come out and force the ball."

"As it was, they made the free throws and they got every call they needed plus they made the baskets they needed to make."

Ross took just three shots in the final eight minutes and made them all. Coupled with that, the Little Giants were eight of 13 from the foul line, and it was enough to hold off the Admirals.

Ross led 54-45 after a pair of John Cahill free throws with 54 seconds remaining in the game. Admiral King charged back on buckets by Dave Cannon and Gladden to cut it to 54-49 with 28 seconds left.

McCarthy made one of two free throws seven seconds later, but the Admirals retaliated with baskets by George McCall and Cannon to trail 55-53 with six ticks still on the clock.

On the inbounds play, Ross knocked five seconds off the clock before Pat Hetrick was fouled by Gladden, but it was too late to save the Admirals. Hetrick missed the free throw, but Gladden's last-second

desperation toss hit the rafters and Ross had the upset.

Ross took the lead for good 6-5 on Hetrick's bucket midway through the first period.

"When we got the lead, we knew they would trap and double-team us," Sawyer said, "but we worked hard on that in practice Monday. We used six players on five and it paid off; we were finding the open man tonight."

"This win gives us momentum and confidence," Sawyer insisted, "and we can enjoy this, but we cannot let up this Friday at Elyria."

Sawyer pointed out that Admiral King was fresh off a four-overtime win (56-55 over Findlay Friday) and could have been a little flat.

"And we don't want that to happen to us Friday," he added.

The Ross starters were the only players to score for the Little Giants. In addition to McCarthy's and Stierwalt's production, Hetrick added seven points, McCarthy and Dave Kovaleski six apiece. Kovaleski got into early foul trouble, but as Sawyer pointed out, still played well defensively in spite of the fouls.

"We also got good efforts from Kevin Brooks, Matt Reed and Mike Wolfe when they were in," Sawyer said about the substitutes he used. "It's too bad we could not play everyone but it did not work out."

Ross took just 34 shots but made 19 of them. Admiral King was 24 of 56. The Little Giants were 17 of 23 at the foul line and the Admirals five of 10.

Admiral King controlled the boards 31-21. Ross had 17 turnovers, seven in the final quarter, to Admiral King's 13.

McCall and Gladden finished with 16 points apiece for the Admirals.

Basketball

High school boys

Ross 55, Admiral King 53

Score by quarters

Admiral King	11	12	12	18	— 53
Ross	13	14	14	14	— 55

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING — Joe Rowser 1-1-3, George McCall 7-2-16, Tyrone Jeter 5-0-10, Dave Cannon 3-0-6, Lebron Gladden 8-0-16, Derrick Thomas 0-2-2, totals 24-53.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 3-0-6, John Stierwalt 5-7-17, Shawn McCarthy 7-5-19, Pat Hetrick 3-1-7, John Cahill 1-4-6, totals 19-17-55.

Season records: Ross 6-9 (4-5), Admiral King 16-3 (10-1).

AK JV's 62, Ross 46

Score by quarters

Admiral King	14	19	11	18	— 62
Ross	10	8	11	17	— 46

Scoring

ADMIRAL KING — Mike Koscho 7-0-14, Harold Walton 4-3-11, Dave Fabian 0-1-1, Rick Washington 7-5-19, Jameson King 2-0-4, Jamie Gladden 3-0-6, Glen Theiss 0-1-1, Keith Hogan 1-0-2, Scott Lavish 1-0-2, Jason Smith 1-0-2, totals 26-10-62.

ROSS — Mike Wolfe 5-0-10, Dave Casperson 1-0-2, Tracy McGee 4-1-9, Kevin Crawford 0-2-2, Tracy Hufford 3-2-8, Scott Nossaman 1-3-5, Craig Raney 1-0-2, Mike McGee 0-1-1, Brad Hammer 0-2-2, Luther McKinstry 1-0-2, Chris Mosser 1-3-5, totals 16-14-46.

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Reporting for The News-Messenger

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Elyria nips Ross 60-58

News-Messenger Reports

ELYRIA — It was a good move but a bad roll which cost Ross a shot at forcing Elyria into overtime Friday night.

Instead, Elyria slipped past Ross 60-58 in a boys Buckeye Conference high school basketball game.

Trailing 60-58 with five seconds remaining, John Stierwalt of Ross dribbled the ball upcourt, spun around at the top of the circle, got free for the layup but had the ball fall off the rim.

"John made a heck of a move at the top of the circle," Ross Coach John Sawyer said. "I think he got the ball off before the buzzer but it would not fall."

That ended a game in which Sawyer felt both teams played well, but it was also a game in which his team was whistled for 21 fouls and Elyria eight.

The Pioneers marched to the line 28 times and made 18 of them, while Ross sank just two of six chances. The Little Giants held a 28-21 field goal advantage over Elyria.

"We played well, but they played well, too," Sawyer said. "We did a nice job defensively holding Cannon (Mark, Elyria's leading scorer) to 13 points.

"It just came down to the foul line."

Ed Uszynski picked up the slack left by Cannon, firing in 20 points. Todd Brubaker, who made two free throws with 12 seconds remaining to put Elyria up 59-56, finished with 13 points.

After Brubaker's fourth quarter charity tosses, Stierwalt was given an uncontested layup with five seconds remaining in the game. Ross immediately called timeout during which Sawyer told an official his team was going to foul Cannon intentionally.

Cannon is the Pioneers' worst shooter, but Sawyer had another reason to put Cannon on the line.

"We wanted him away from the boards because he rebounds so well," Sawyer explained.

Cannon missed the first shot but made the second to set up Stierwalt's ill-fated shot.

Elyria led by as many as five points in the final quarter, enjoying that margin with a little more than one minute to play.

Ross started out hot, hitting its first five shots and scoring on its first six possessions. In the first quarter, Ross made nine of 12 and led 18-10. Elyria bounced back to trail 29-28 at the half.

Dave Kovaleski topped Ross with 16 points. Cahill added 14 and Pat Hertick 12.

Ross, which will host Bowling Green this evening, is now 6-10 and 4-6 in the Buckeye Conference.

Basketball

High school boys

Elyria 60, Ross 58

Score by quarters

Ross	18	11	10	19	— 58
Elyria	10	18	13	19	— 60

Scoring

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 7-2-16, Shawn McCarthy 4-0-8, John Stierwalt 4-0-8, John Cahill 7-0-14, Pat Hertick 6-0-12, totals 28-2-58.

ELYRIA — Mark Cannon 6-1-13, Ed Uszynski 7-6-20, Corey Williams 2-1-5, Todd Brubaker 3-7-13, Doni Moody 1-1-3, totals 21-18-60.

Season records: Elyria 10-10 (6-6), Ross 6-10 (4-6).

JV game: Elyria 40-21.

Ross cagers defeat BG 74-63

By BOB MARKER

Reporting for The News-Messenger

It was a game where Ross did little right except win the game.

"It was actually a joke," Sawyer smiled after his Ross Little Giants defeated Bowling Green 74-63 Saturday night at Ross High School.

"To tell you the truth, Brian (Wilch, JV coach) and I were laughing about what was happening on the floor," Sawyer admitted but in the same breath added, "still, it was good to have a game like this."

Sawyer did not discount the efforts of Bowling Green, now 4-15, but he pointed out that his team made mistakes offensively and defensively. He explained that at both ends of the floor, his team ran the wrong plays or set up in the wrong defenses.

"The things we were doing were unbelievable," he was able to laugh.

What was believable was the 25-point effort of Dave Kovaleski and three other Ross players climbing into double-figure scoring.

Kovaleski, the 6-4 co-captain of the Little Giants, hit his career-high on 12 of 20, including six of eight in the final eight minutes. To go with the point production, Kovaleski grabbed 12 rebounds.

Backing up Kovaleski were the 18 points and a career-high 17 rebounds by Shawn McCarthy, 15 points by John Stierwalt and 10 points from Pat Hetrick.

After the game was tied at 24-24 at the half, Ross outscored the Bobcats 24-16 in the third quarter.

"In the first half," Sawyer explained, "Bowling Green was beating us down floor. We did not check them well enough to slow them down; they made the outlet passes at will."

Bowling Green Coach Keith Diebler, who coached Gibsonburg last season, agreed with Sawyer about his team's ability to beat Ross at the transition game in the first half.

"In the first half," Diebler explained, "we had Kovaleski and McCarthy in transition and they

were not getting downcourt."

But Diebler called Kovaleski's effort a "super job."

"He cut across the lane a couple of times to score in the second half and we did not adjust to that," the BG coach said. "I was surprised that he was able to do that."

Ross hit four of its first five shots to take an 8-0 lead.

By the end of the first quarter, Ross had cooled off and held a slim 14-10 lead.

In the second period, Bowling Green, with Mark Gedeon and Chris Witham leading a balanced attack, took a 16-14 lead. Ross regained the lead at 20-18 and 22-20 but the Bobcats went ahead 24-22 on buckets by Gedeon and Rich Tracy. Matt Reed got Ross the halftime tie with a pair of free throws.

In the third quarter, Ross took shaky control of the game as McCarthy pumped in eight points, Kovaleski and Stierwalt five apiece.

During the final quarter, the Ross lead climbed to 16 three times, the last at 68-52 with less than three minutes remaining in the game. Less than two minutes later, however, Ross led by only a 68-60 count.

Ross woke up again at that point as Stierwalt hit four straight free throws and Kovaleski topped off the Ross scoring with a 15-footer from the left side.

"I did not think we were ready to play when we came to the bench after warmups," Sawyer said. "It was a whole different attitude than Tuesday night when we beat King."

Ross upset the state's fourth-ranked Class AAA team that night, 55-53.

Tracy finished with 18 points for Bowling Green while Gedeon added 16 and Witham 15.

Ross was 31 of 70 from the floor and 12 of 17 at the line. The Bobcats were 26 of 69 and 11 of 15.

Unofficially, Bowling Green outrebounded Ross 43-42.

Tonight, Ross will host Sandusky in a game postponed from Feb. 7. The junior varsity game will begin at 6:15.

Basketball

High school boys

Ross 74, BG 63

Score by quarters

Bowling Green	10	14	16	23	— 63
Ross	14	10	24	26	— 74

Scoring

BOWLING GREEN — Rich Tracy 9-0-18, Rob Chambers 0-2-2, Chris Witham 7-1-15, Mark Gedeon 5-6-16, Greg Titus 3-0-6, Joe Hastings 2-0-4, Randy Jones 0-2-2, totals 26-11-63.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 12-1-25, Shawn McCarthy 9-0-18, Pat Hetrick 5-0-10, John Cahill 2-0-4, John Stierwalt 3-9-15, Matt Reed 0-2-2, totals 31-12-74.

Season records: Ross 7-10, Bowling Green 4-15.

Ross JVs 57, BG 54, OT

Score by quarters

Bowling Green	12	13	12	11	6	— 54
Ross	20	10	8	10	9	— 57

Scoring

BOWLING GREEN — Chris Ketner 0-1-1, Dan Benschoter 4-6-14, Andy Hartwell 3-2-8, John Paxton 3-3-9, Topher Gedeon 4-12-20, Chuck Daniels 1-0-2, totals 15-24-54.

ROSS — Manoah Jones 7-4-18, Chris Mosser 1-0-2, Mike Wolfe 5-0-10, Tracy McGee 2-0-4, Mike McGee 3-1-7, Brad Hammer 4-0-8, Luther McKinstry 2-4-8, totals 24-9-57.

Season record: Ross 2-15.

'New ingredient' fells Ross

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

Sandusky lived or died by the long shot for most of early part of this season but it was an added ingredient that gunned down Fremont Ross Monday night.

The Blue Streaks dominated the Little Giants in the middle two quarters while rolling to a 76-59 high school basketball win in the Ross gym.

"We shot tonight like we did the first part of the season," Sandusky Coach John Schlessman said, "but rebounding was the key tonight."

That element was a missing ingredient in the early season edition of the Schlessman's team.

The sharpshooters were Chris Williams and Derrick Keys for the Streaks, hitting 22 and 18 points, respectively, but it was Vince Phillips and Fritz Taylor that drew Schlessman's praise.

"They are our rebounders and they are both juniors," the Sandusky coach pointed out. "We have been rebounding and playing defense quite well this last part of the season."

"They had the hot hand and if they missed," Ross Coach John Sawyer pointed out, "they had the ability to get inside and get the rebound."

"They did a good job of rebounding and we did not do a good job."

Sandusky had 38 rebounds, seven more than Ross and controlled the boards 24-19 in the middle two quarters.

In those quarters, Sandusky outscored the Little Giants 16-7 and 20-8. The Streaks were eight of 15 and eight of 18 in shooting in those periods while Ross made just six of 25 shots in that 16-minute span.

Sandusky held an 18-16 lead after one quarter before rocking

the Little Giants into submission in the second quarter.

Not even a sensational defensive play by Shawn McCarthy could shake Ross out of its lethargic state. The 6-8 McCarthy blocked a Williams shot, kept after the ball, grabbed it at midcourt and finished it off with a slam-dunk.

That made it 30-23 and had the crowd into the game. The crowd, however, was quickly yanked back out of the contest as first Phillips, and then Williams hit from close and the Streaks took a 34-23 lead into the locker room.

Sandusky kept up its battering in the third quarter, outscoring the Little Giants 10-2 in the first two and one-half minutes for a 44-26 lead and Ross was to get no closer than 13 the remainder of the game.

McCarthy, who finished with three blocks and two slam-dunks, had 10 points, the same as Dave Kovaleski, to lead Ross. John Stierwalt added nine and Kevin Brooks had eight, all in the final quarter when Ross scrambled to 28 points, just three less than it had in the first three quarters.

Sandusky, after hitting 16 of 28 first half shots, finished the game with 30 of 62 while Ross was 19 of 49. The Little Giants committed 16 turnovers, six more than Sandusky.

"Sandusky played a nice ball game," Sawyer said. "They shot well, did not have many turnovers, rebounded and hit the free throws."

That added up to Ross's 11th loss against seven wins and dropped the Little Giants to 4-7 in the Buckeye Conference. It also eliminated Ross's chance of finishing .500 during the regular season. Sandusky is 8-11 and has finished the conference season with a 4-8 mark.

Perfect 10 jackpot up to \$250

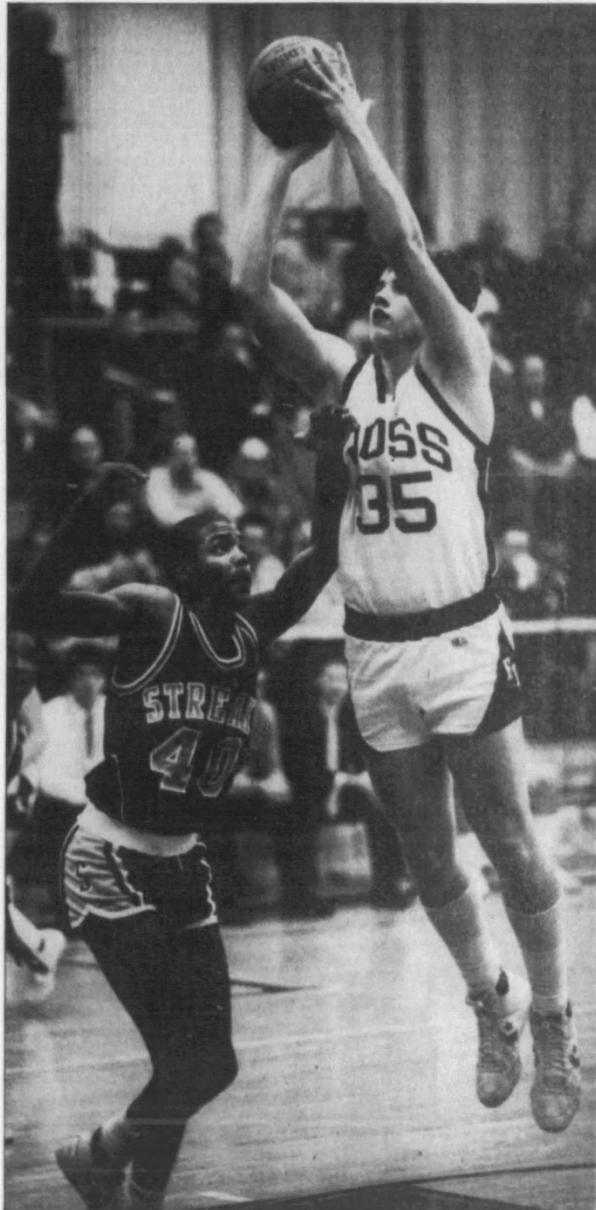
The News-Messenger Perfect 10 Basketball Contest has hit its final week. And the jackpot is the highest it's been all season — \$250.

Last week 274 people entered the contest, but nobody was able to get all 10 games right.

Two Saturday games provided the toughest challenges for the forecasters. They were the Sandusky-Port Clinton contest and the Mohawk-Clyde game. Most people picked Port Clinton and Mohawk, but Sandusky and Clyde prevailed.

Remember, this is the final week for the contest. If nobody wins, then no money will be paid out.

So, enter now. The entry form is on Page B-4.



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy
DAVE KOVALESKI (35) of Ross goes up for a shot against Vince Phillips of Sandusky during first half action Monday.

High school boys

Sandusky 76, Ross 59

Score by quarters

Sandusky	18	16	20	22	— 76
Ross	16	7	8	28	— 59

Scoring

SANDUSKY - Chris Williams 9-4-22, Bobby Garrett 0-1-1, Shayne Fisher 2-0-4, Vince Phillips 4-4-12, Fritz Taylor 3-2-8, Tim Collins 1-0-2, Derrick Keys 8-2-18, Luis Guervara 1-3-5, Brian Garrett 1-0-2, Sean Nickelson 1-0-2, totals 30-16-76.

ROSS - Dave Kovaleski 2-6-10, Shawn McCarthy 4-2-10, Pat Hetrick 2-0-4, John Cahill 2-0-4, John Stierwalt 3-3-9, Matt Reed 2-2-6, Stan Newell 2-2-6, Kevin Brooks 2-4-8, Mike Wolfe 0-2-2, totals 19-21-59.

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

Sandusky JVs 60, Ross 30

Score by quarters

Sandusky	16	14	8	22	— 60
Ross	6	9	9	6	— 30

Scoring

SANDUSKY - Todd Lange 4-0-8, Daryl Castille 1-0-2, Jason Rollison 0-1-1, Bert Fenderson 4-2-10, Chuck Hathorn 2-0-4, Al Bonner 5-3-13, Sean Nickelson 1-3-5, Eddie Ferguson 1-5-7, Mikke Young 1-0-2, Graham Bluhm 1-1-3, Ron Charlton 2-1-5, totals 22-16-60.

ROSS - Manoah Jones 2-1-5, Chris Mosser 1-1-3, Mike Wolfe 4-4-12, Kevin Crawford 1-0-2, Tracy Hufford 0-1-1, Mike McGee 1-1-3, Kevin McDonald 2-0-4, totals 11-8-30.

Findlay-Ross game will not be played

News-Messenger Reports

The Findlay at Ross basketball game scheduled for this evening has been postponed because of the snowy weather and will not be rescheduled, according to Ross athletic director Dick Sherman.

Ross will entertain Fostoria Saturday in the final regular season game of the year. Sherman said he attempted to get Fostoria to cancel its contract so that the Buckeye Conference game could be played, but Fostoria officials declined.

Sherman also sought to reschedule the Findlay game for Sunday afternoon, but Findlay officials turned thumbs down on that. The game could not be rescheduled for next week because of sectional tournaments.

As of press time, here are the reports on other

games involving area schools:

□ The Clyde at St. Joe, Lakota at Elmwood, Old Fort at Mohawk, Port Clinton at Huron, Perkins at Margaretta games are still on;

□ A decision on the Woodmore at Oak Harbor game was to be made at noon;

□ Genoa at Gibsonburg is still on providing the weather does not get any worse;

□ And the Bellevue at Upper Sandusky game has been rescheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m.

Also at Ross, tickets are on sale at Tremper's for the Little Giants' Class AAA sectional tournament game against Lexington to be held Tuesday at 8:15 p.m., at Willard High School.

Adult tickets are \$2.50 and students \$1.50. All tickets at the door will cost \$2.50.

Fostoria shocks Ross 59-55 in season finale

By BOB MARKER

Reporting for The News-Messenger

It was a game that few words from a coach could describe.

"I'd prefer not to say much about this game," Ross Coach John Sawyer said as he swallowed some words.

Sawyer could have talked about anguish and tossed in low point of the season to sum up the Ross loss.

Whatever the description, Ross blew a 17-point first-period lead and Fostoria pulled off a 59-55 high school boys basketball victory Saturday night.

Fostoria did most of the talking after refusing to turn tail and run after the first eight minutes.

The Redmen outscored Ross 53-32 in the final 24 minutes and sent the Little Giants, tails between their legs, off the floor with their 12th loss in 19 games.

Fostoria finished with a 5-14 record, two of the wins coming via the forfeit route with the other wins over Seneca East and Elmwood.

Burly Glenn Park repeatedly stole the baseline from the Little Giants, blitzing Ross for 21 points, 17 in the first three periods.

In the final quarter, Eric Drake canned three baskets, with the second and third buckets tying and then giving the Redmen their first lead since early in the first quarter.

Ross led 47-39 going into the final quarter, but two minutes into the stanza it was 51-47. Then 51-49 before Stan Newell's bucket gave Ross a 53-49 lead with 4:32 to play.

Brad Griffin brought Fostoria back to within two before Drake's two buckets, the second coming with 2:45 to play, for a 55-53 Redmen lead.

The Fostoria lead grew to 57-53 with 35 seconds and the win was secure as the the lackadasical Little Giants saw the writing on the wall.

Drake finished with 15 points to back up Park's production. Griffin added eight.

Dave Kovaleski led Ross with 12 points and Newell had 10. Shawn McCarthy finished with nine while Pat Hetrick and John Cahill had eight apiece.

Ross was 24 of 64 from the floor and Fostoria 22 of 47. The Redmen made 15 of 22 free throws and Ross seven of 12.

ROSS NOTES: The \$250 "bomb shot" was won by Paul Stout, a graduate of Ross High School. Instead of a "bomb shot" attempt from midcourt, Stout made more of a "pop shot" from the foul line.

The shot generated \$250 for himself and \$250 for the Ross Booster Club. The total purse of \$500 was put up by Al Baumann Chevrolet-Buick of Fremont.

Ross will play Lexington in the Class AAA Sectional Tournament at approximately 8:15 p.m., Tuesday, at Willard High School.

"They have a pair of 6-4 kids inside who play very well," Sawyer said of Lexington. "They play very intelligently."

Directions to Willard as provided by the Ross Athletic Director Dick Sherman are: Route 20 east to Route 99 at Monroeville; south to Willard. Stay on 99 to the south side of Willard. Turn right on Howard Street to Dale Street, turn right to Whistler Drive, and the school is located on Whistler Drive.

John Stierwalt missed the game with Fostoria and is reportedly out for the season because of a sprained ankle.

Fostoria 59, Ross 55

Score by quarters

Fostoria	6	16	17	20	— 59
Ross		23	9	15	8 — 55

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Jamie Watson 2-2-6, Eric Drake 6-3-15, Javier Gomez 2-0-4, Glenn Park 8-5-21, Mike Watson 1-1-3, Brad Griffin 3-2-8, Bob Wenzinger 1-0-2, totals 22-15-59.

ROSS — Dave Kovaleski 5-2-12, Shawn McCarthy 4-1-9, Pat Hetrick 4-0-8, John Cahill 4-0-8, Stan Newell 4-2-10, Matt Reed 3-0-6, Mike Wolfe 0-2-2, totals 24-7-55.

*Season records: Fostoria 5-15, Ross 7-12.

Fostoria JVs 53, Ross 49

Score by quarters

Fostoria	11	7	16	19	— 53
Ross		12	10	10	17 — 49

Scoring

FOSTORIA — Chris Chafins 8-1-17, Cory Greg 4-6-14, John MacKnight 1-0-2, Sean Mills 0-3-3, Todd Norman 3-1-7, Andy Piper 1-0-2, Pat Ramsey 2-0-4, Pat Ramsey 1-2-4, totals 20-13-53.

ROSS — Chris Mosser 0-2-2, Mike Wolfe 4-5-18, Kevin Crawford 6-2-14, Tracy Hufford 1-0-2, Scott Nossaman 1-2-4, Mike McGee 1-1-3, Brad Hammer 1-2-4, Kevin McDonald 2-1-5, totals 17-15-49.

All-BC boys team named

News-Messenger Reports

Conference champion Admiral King swept the top honors on the All-Buckeye Conference boys basketball team.

LeBron Gladden, a 6-3 senior for the Admirals, was named player of the year, and Mitch Gillam, in his 15th season at the helm, was chosen as coach of the year.

Other players on the all-senior first team were Chris Williams of Sandusky, Jason Williams of Lorain Senior, Ed Uszynski of Elyria and Kevin Curth of

Findlay.

Senior Dave Kovaleski of Ross made second team and his teammate, junior John Cahill, made third team.

Others on the second team were Jim Steffen of Findlay, Derrick Thomas of Admiral King, Mark Cannon of Elyria and Al Scott of Lorain Senior.

Joining Cahill on the third team were Mark Ritzler of Findlay, Skip Calbert of Marion Harding, Dave Cannon of Admiral King and Derrick Keys of Sandusky.

All-BC

FIRST TEAM

LeBron Gladden, Admiral King, 6-3, sr., 16.4 points per game; Chris Williams, Sandusky, 6-0, sr., 16.4; Jason Williams, Lorain Senior, 6-1, sr., 16.4; Ed Uszynski, Elyria, 6-2, sr., 11.9; Kevin Curth, Findlay, 6-3, sr., 12.6.

SECOND TEAM

Jim Steffen, Findlay, 6-0, jr., 16.4; Derrick Thomas, Admiral King, 6-3, sr., 9.6; Mark Cannon, Elyria, 6-3, jr., 15.4; Dave Kovaleski, Ross, 6-4, sr., 11.5; Al Scott, Lorain Senior, 6-2, jr., 9.8.

THIRD TEAM

Mark Ritzler, Findlay, 5-11, sr., 10.5; John Cahill, Ross, 6-3, jr., 9.3; Skip Calbert, Marion Harding, 6-5, sr., 12.6; Dave Cannon, Admiral King, 5-10, sr.; Derrick Keys, Sandusky, 5-9, sr., 11.8.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTION

Pat Hetrick.



ROSS HIGH SCHOOL'S winter sports teams' most valuable performers, left to right, front row: Julie Schaaf, Shelly Leggett and Brenda Kline;

back row: John Lozano, Dave Kovaleski, Brian Mowry and Tom McDonald. All of Ross's winter sports athletes were honored Tuesday night.

Ross honors winter sports stars

News-Messenger Reports

Seven Fremont Ross High School varsity athletes received "most valuable" honors for their respective sports during the Ross Winter Sports Awards Program Tuesday night.

Two of the sports, boys swimming and girls basketball, had co-most valuable selections.

Brenda Kline and Shelly Leggett, both seniors, shared the honor in girls basketball while Tom McDonald and Brian Mowry, also seniors, got the honor for the boys swim team.

In addition to the most valuable awards, girls basketball coach Sue Wolf presented the most valuable reserve player award to sophomore Shelly Hetrick.

Other girls court honors went to Taunya Downing as the most improved varsity player and Shannon Carter as the most improved junior varsity player. Kline and Amy Schepflin shared the best free throw shooter honor while Kline and Julie Young took home the top rebounders trophy. Aimee Lejeune won the top defensive player honor and Kline and Leggett received captains awards.

Dave Kovaleski won the boys basketball most valuable award. He was also presented a captain's trophy along with co-captain Matt Reed by Coach John Sawyer.

Mike Wolfe won the most valuable JV trophy while Pat Hetrick, varsity, and Kevin Jacobs, JV, won the most improved honors. Stan Newell was named as the best defensive player while John Stierwalt won the best free throw shooter

honor. John Cahill won the top rebounding honor.

John Lozano won the Mal Mackey Award, emblematic of being the most valuable wrestler. Coach Al Voggenthaler presented the most improved award to Jon Ramirez and the most takedowns trophy to Matt Marinis.

Other wrestling awards went to Jamie Ramirez for having the most pins while Richard Yassi won the coach's award. Lozano received the captain's award.

Voggenthaler announced that Shawn Ramirez, by a vote of his teammates, would be the captain for the 1986-87 season.

Julie Schaaf won the most valuable swimmer award for the girls swim team by Coach Beth

Caster. The most improved swimmer honor went to Dawn Brooks while Jamie Brudzinski won the coach's award.

Julie Randolph and Dawn Vogel received captain's awards.

Coach Art Bucci presented the most valuable swimmer awards to McDonald and Mowry, and that same duo took home captain's trophies. Bucci also presented the most improved award to Brad Shank.

McDonald, Mowry, Andy Scott and Bill Taylor won coach's awards.

Four cheerleaders — Erin Brudzinski, Shannon Moran, Melanie Tod and Jill Wright — won first year letters while Jodi Beatty, Christy Michael, Ann Schroeder and Wendy Woolf won second year cheerleading letters.



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