

Giants lose game to Celina 42-38

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FINDLAY — A game last quarter comeback fell just short for the Ross Little Giants girls basketball club as it was eliminated from tournament action, 42-38, by Celina.

The Giants, having their poorest shooting night of the season (17 of 74), closed a 13-point fourth quarter Celina lead to one, 39-38, with 33 seconds to go, but could not pull out the game played Friday night at Findlay College.

Celina's Bulldogs pulled away in the see-saw game late in the second quarter behind the steals and line-drive, long-range jump shooting of tiny Priscilla Wood. Wood scored 10 of her 14 points in the second quarter, including the last six points of the stanza, to give Celina a 20-14 edge at halftime.

Wood's final run capped an 8-0 spurt that wiped out a 14-12 Ross lead with 1:28 left.

Opening the third quarter, Celina's center Kathy Youngs completed a three point play to start the Bulldogs on a 7-point run that built the Bulldog lead to 13 at 27-14. The lead bounced between 11 and 13 points helped tremendously by Woods' passing underneath to Cindy Dorsten for easy shots.

With 7:24 left in the game, the Woods-Dorsten combination converted on the same play for a 33-20 edge and then Ross started its comeback. Dorsten led everyone with 16 and Youngs finished with 10.

Roxie Price, hobbled by an ankle injury that put her out of action several times in the second half, hit a 15 footer and seconds later tossed in a layup on a nice inside move to pull the Giants within 9, 33-24. But Price hurt that ankle on the play and had to sit down.

However, Celina's Cynthia Noren forgot which hoop she was supposed to be shooting at when she corraled a jump ball at Ross's foul line and scored two for the Giants.

The fluke play fired the Ross attack, and 30 seconds later, Tracy Hull made the score 33-28.

With 33 seconds left, Barb Bliss connected over Youngs to make the score 39-38, but with 10 seconds left, Hull was called for an intentional foul in a scuffle under Celina's hoop. Sue Ballinger made one of those, and with three seconds left, Woods stole the ball and went in for a layup.

Price's injury was a key problem for the Giants, according to Coach Sue Wolf.

"We can't afford to have her out," said Wolf. "And when she got back and we tried to double team them, she couldn't move as fast as she usually does." Price still led the team with 10 points.

The coach also had some complaints about the officiating, the work of the scorer and the opposing coach.

"The (scorer's) table made me mad," she said. "They charged a time out to me that should have been charged to them. That's the kind of thing that loses ball games for you."

She also was upset that Celina coach Tom Helentjaris wasn't "honest" enough to admit the mistake.

"We didn't give up," she continued. "We've worked hard all year."

The loss finishes the Giants with a 9-5 record.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	6	8	4	20-38
Celina	5	15	11	11-42

SCORING

ROSS: Buehler 4-0-8, Sherick 2-0-4, Flickinger 2-0-4, Price 4-2-10, Hull 2-0-4, Weaver 1-0-2, Bliss 1-2-4; totals 16-4-38.

CELINA: Noren 1-0-2, Youngs 3-4-10, Dorsten 5-6-16, Wood 6-2-14; totals 15-12-42.