

Clay rallies by Ross

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

MILLBURY — Fremont Ross may be Scott Allen's favorite high school.

Not to attend, but to play against.

"He had not played a good game since the first time we played Ross," Oregon Clay Coach Doug Dippman said. "Tonight, he played one of his better, if not his best game."

Allen scored 20 points and sparked Clay in the final minute for a 52-49 victory over Ross in the first game of the Division I boys sectional tournament at Lake High School. Allen's output matched his performance in a 78-67 double overtime win over the Little Giants Feb. 9.

"Allen hurt us," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "especially the play where he put it up right-handed."

A lefthander, Allen faked left, went right and lofted a soft eight-foot jumper off the backboard, cutting the Ross lead to 49-48 with 1:35 remaining.

"I don't think we could have defended him any better," McGhee said about the play.

Jim Cox rolled one in over the front of the rim with 40 seconds to play for the game-winner and Allen iced it with a pair of free throws at the eight-second mark.

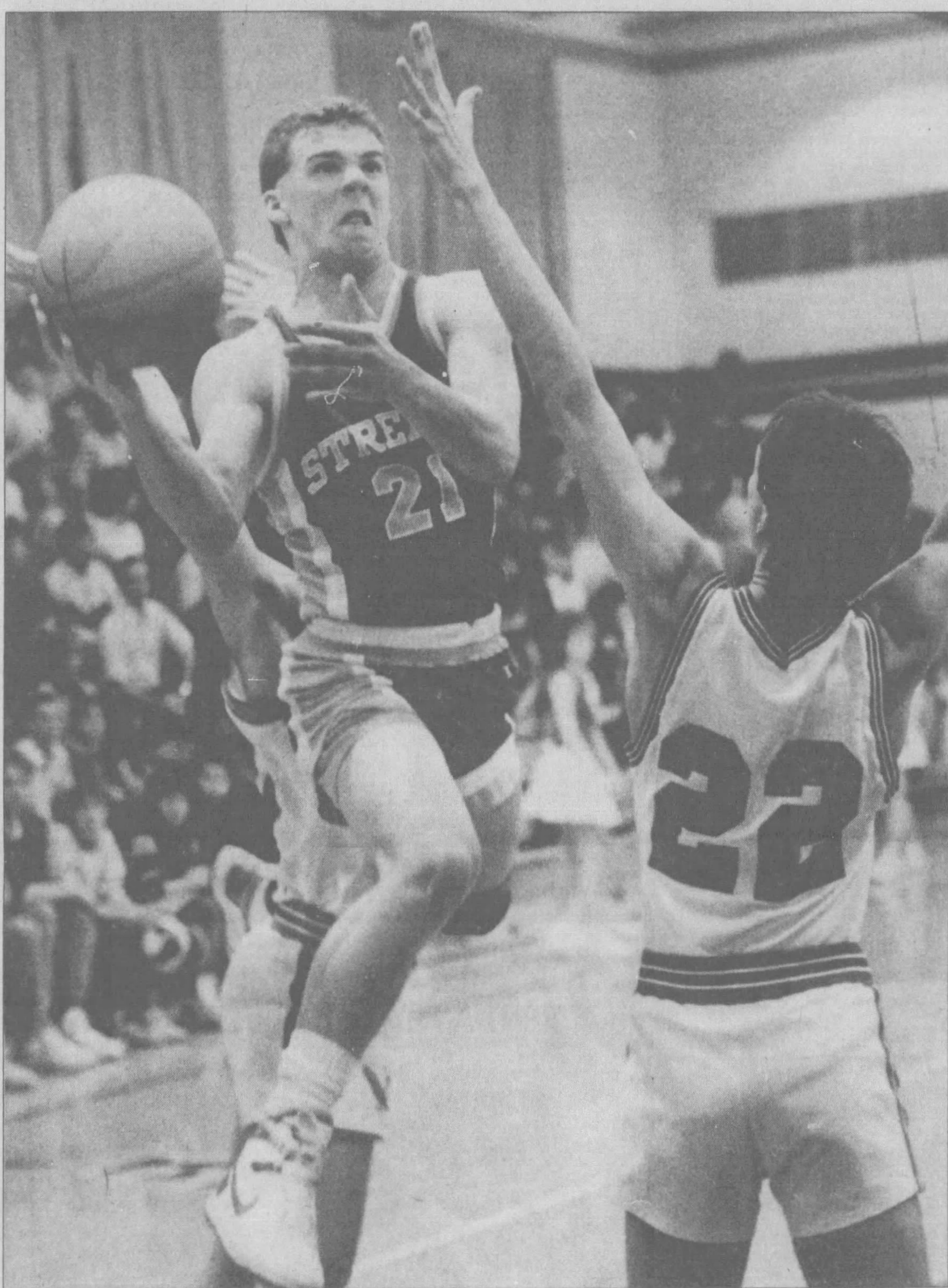
Ross had a shot at tying, but Nick Hall's shot from 30 feet was off to the left as time expired.

Ross, which grabbed the lead for the first time 38-37 on back-to-back buckets by Mike McGee and Hall midway through the third quarter, took its biggest lead, 49-46, with 1:49 remaining. Adam Bulger pulled Ross even at 46-46 with a lay-up off a pass from Todd Clark. Brad Hammer followed with the go-ahead bucket a half-minute later and Bulger's free throw put the Little Giants up by three.

Clay led after one quarter 16-8 and held a 29-26 halftime advantage.

"They hurt us on the boards early," McGhee said. "We had to neutralize that and we did after a quarter and a half."

The Eagles had 16 rebounds at



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

STEVE DURST of St. Joseph Central Catholic drives to the basket around Eastwood's Jamey Bowser during the first quarter of Tuesday's sec-

tional tournament game at Ross High School. Durst scored on the play, but the Streaks dropped a 73-66 decision to the Eagles.

the half but 12 of them were off the offensive boards. Ross ended up with a 31-28 rebounding edge.

"I think we lost control of the boards at the end of the first half," Dippman said. "We were

up eight and then they came back on us. They forced us out of the zone into man-to-man because we could not rebound out of the zone."

McGhee said his a key factor

in the first half was his team not shooting any free throws.

Hall led the Little Giants with 15 points. Bulger had 11 and Hammer 10. Jeff Ladd had 12 for Clay.