

Team Effort Produces 83-78 Win Over Calvert; Rohrbach Scores 38, Fouls Out With 4:55 To Play

By Al Coxon
News-Messenger Sports Editor

The "Solid Seven" of Fremont Ross were never more solid than Saturday night as they met the tremendous challenge of tremendous Bill Rohrbach to win the Sandusky Sectional Class A tournament.

In what was strictly a team achievement, the little qualified for the District tournament at Toledo University. Giants scored an 83-78 victory over Tiffin Calvert and Personal fouls played an important part in the contest from start to finish. The Little Giants suffered early when Larry Miller, 31-point star of the thrilling win over Tiffin Columbian in the semi-finals, drew three personal fouls in the first five minutes and Dean Doren incurred three by the end of the first quarter.

Miller Early Casualty

But after Miller left the game in the last minute of the third period, the tide changed. Big Rohrbach, a 6-6 giant who left a lasting impression on all who saw him perform, departed on personals with 4:55 remaining in the final quarter.

The Giants were ahead, 68-66, when Rohrbach lunged into Ted Houghtaling as they battled for a rebound. Houghtaling was one of seven Fremonters who carried the team to a 14-3 regular season mark and a Buckeye League championship in addition to Sectional honors.

Rohrbach scored a total of 38 points, and missed only 5 of 21 field goal attempts. In this writer's opinion, he played a greater game than when he tallied 49 in the first-round upset of Bellevue, because Dean Doren, Fremont center, played a steller defensive game, battling away at least a dozen passes into the pivot.

Joe Miglioni's free throw with 4:40 to play left Calvert one point behind, then Dick Harter and Doren goaled in rapid succession. Houghtaling, who got all of his four goals in the last period, scored three times from the field and once from the free throw line to help wrap it up.

Three Fremonters and two Senecas fouled out. Fremont lost Miller with one minute to go in the third quarter. Henry Tiller was a casualty with 2:40 remaining of the fourth and Houghtaling was disqualified with just 7 seconds to go. Dennis Bridinger, hard-playing Calvert guard, drew Personal Foul No. 5 with 2:20 remaining and Fremont leading 75-72.

Doren in Top Form

Any number of factors could be regarded as turning points. Doren was brilliant, especially in the first period when he flashed his old form in the pivot to sink five goals and three fouls. His defensive play was almost equal to his offensive work.

Henry Tiller played his best game of the season on offense, scoring 20 points. Jack Baron, although lacking his usual accuracy in long-range shooting, hit a pair of timely second-half buckets.

For the second straight night,

substitutes Dick Harter and Charles Black came through with flying colors. Harter collected 8 points. Black 7. Harter stepped to the foul line when Calvert led 64-62 at the outset of the fourth period and pitched in two points to knot the score. It was tied no less than nine times in the last half.

Press Bothers Calvert

But it was bench strategy that threw Calvert slightly out of kilter. Ross went into a full-court press in the third period, and the Senecas couldn't handle it: They committed numerous errors, with Doren intercepting several passes in mid-court when Calvert tried to arch the ball to Rohrbach.

In spite of losing the ball frequently, Calvert was able to stay abreast in the third quarter. Ross once led 57-52, but Bridinger and Rohrbach tied it at 57-57.

Calvert's biggest lead was in the first period, five points, but the quarter ended with Ross on top 28-24. The Giants held a 42-35 advantage with two minutes remaining in the half but the peerless Rohrbach clicked on three straight shots and Ross left the floor at intermission with a 44-42 lead.

Miller Plays 8 Minutes

Miller actually played only eight minutes. He was taken out after his third personal in the first five minutes and he didn't return until the middle of the third quarter, then he fouled twice and watched the rest of the game from the sidelines.

Dick Sullivan, one of the tourney's better players, was Calvert's second best scorer with 14 points. Doren made 24 to pace Fremont.

More than 2,000 fans, the majority of them cheering for Calvert witnessed the finale. Both teams deserve plenty of praise for their efforts under the terrific pressure. Too much can't be said for Rohrbach and his supporting cast, especially Sullivan. Fremont can't point to any one individual as the hero. It took seven players.

The "Solid Seven" came through in the clutch — just as they have most of the season.

Classified Ads Get Quick Results!