

# Ross slips past Arrows to advance

## Tygers next for Little Giants

By MICHAEL MOHR  
Staff writer

WILLARD — When Reggie Jones won the tip for the Fremont Ross boys basketball team and T.J. Hammer found Steve Dagg along the left baseline and Dagg cruised in for an easy layup, it looked like the Little Giants might be on their way to another easy vic-

tory. But as it turned out, Ashland was there to play.

The Little Giants held off a tough Ashland team and posted a 64-61 win in a Division I sectional final game at Willard High School Friday night.

The Little Giants did not commit a turnover in the fourth quarter.

"That's an impressive stat," said Ross coach Mark Gedeon. "Our kids executed very well. We were able to

start posting up Juan (Vela) and Steve and that really got us a little bit of a run there. We're a very good shooting basketball team, when we get shots as opposed to throwing it away, you've got that much of a chance to score.

"That just shows a lot about the execution and heart of our kids tonight."

Ross advanced to a district semifinal against No. 4 Mansfield Senior at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Tygers, who whipped Sandusky 94-62 on

### Friday

Ross .....64

Ashland .....61

### Wednesday

Ross vs. Mansfield, 7:30 p.m.  
district semifinal at Willard

Friday, beat the Little Giants in a district semifinal last year in overtime.

The first quarter seemed to be rolling along pretty smoothly for the Little Giants as they cut the seven point deficit to one with a two-hand-

ed dunk by Jones after Bryan Root rebounded a Hammer shot and fed Jones.

But the play proved costly for the Little Giants, as Hammer suffered a right ankle injury on the play.

"Right away Doc (Ross Athletic Trainer Joe Hershey) confirmed my worst fears," Gedeon said. "It was a major injury in terms of a possible break, he definitely wasn't returning to the game. He's getting x-rays right after the game.

"You can't lose your leaders on the floor, but we battled after we lost Kelly and now we have to battle again losing T.J. Now we need someone else to step up for us."

Without Hammer, Ross turned to two sophomores and a freshman, as Bo Martin, Mike Price and Terrence Jones filled the void.

"I can't say enough about the efforts of our younger kids stepping up," Gedeon said.

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# Ross wins sectional title over Ashland

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"Bo Martin comes in and gives us great defense, great passing and great leadership from a sophomore really in his first extended time on varsity, and he just refused to lose.

"Mike Price goes out in the second quarter when it starts looking like they are going to pull away and hits a big jumper for us. Terrence Jones comes up with 11 points, plays a ton of minutes. That's probably the most minutes he's played on varsity in his career. We got the great effort we needed from everybody. We showed a lot of heart and character tonight."

Said Vela, "Coach (Gedeon) has been telling them all week, if they come in for a minute or whatever that they have to give us something. Tonight, they were ready.

They came in and gave us a lot of positives and we owe this game to them because they did a great job."

The Arrows were able to control the tempo and took a 35-32 lead at halftime.

"We wanted to try to control the tempo," said Dagg, "but we got down a little bit. We tried to pick it up, had a couple runs, had a couple let-downs. The main thing is that we won."

In the first half, Ashland pretty much dictated how every part of the game was played with its two post players, 6-foot-7 Matt Schlingman and 6-6 Jason Hess, drawing fouls inside on Reggie Jones and Dagg and getting Ross into situations where it had to sit those two for extended periods of time.

"We got them in some foul trouble," said Ashland coach Chris Stokes. "I think we got up eight or so then we made

"We showed a lot of heart and character tonight."

— Mark Gedeon,  
Ross coach

some quick turnovers that gave them six points off of easy baskets. That allowed them to get confidence and get back in the game. We should have pushed the lead out a little bit further, we just didn't do that. They were in a lot of foul trouble.

"Second half was the same thing. We had a big lead, then we made a couple easy passes. Reggie Jones intercepted one of them and got a three-point play off of it. We made bad mistakes at bad times."

TICKETS: Tickets for Wednesday's game will go on sale at 7:30 a.m. Monday in the Ross athletic office.