

Ross season ends with a fizzle

Little Giants eliminated by Madison in sectional tournament opener

News-Messenger reports

SHELBY — The season came to a disappointing end for Fremont Ross Tuesday night.

The Little Giants were never close in a 65-33 loss to Madison in the opening round of the Division I sectional playoffs at Shelby High School.

"We just were not ready to play," said Ross coach Sue Wolf. "We were never in it."



Ross finished its season at 9-12. Madison improved its record to 10-11.

The Little Giants turned the ball over 25 times against the Rams press.

"We couldn't catch the ball," Wolf said. "(Madison) played

good defense. I'm not going to take anything away from them, but the ball was going right through our hands."

Heading into the contest, Wolf was concerned with the size of the Rams, and sure enough Madison easily dominated the inside game.

"Their big people killed us inside," she said. "We just couldn't stop them."

Megan Pease was the offensive force for Madison, pouring in 22 points. Bethany Brafford added 15 and Sherrell Rucker chipped in with 10.

The Little Giants were able to hold the Rams top 3-point shooter, Hope Van Tilburg, to just two points, but a lot of that had to do with the lopsided score.

Emily Dowell scored 12 to lead Ross in her final game in a Little Giants uniform.

"Emily played well but she got no help offensively," Wolf said.

"I'm sure she wanted to go farther than this."

Amy Smith was the next-highest scorer for Ross with seven.

Wolf was pleased with the performance Ainsly Watkins and Allison Decker, both call-ups from the junior varsity team.

"They were diving for loose balls and doing some of the things the others weren't," she said.

Decker grabbed a team-high six rebounds, as Ross out-rebounded Madison 22-21.

But the Little Giants couldn't muster anything defensively. Madison was forced to turn the ball over only 12 times in the game.

"We couldn't take anything

from them," Wolf said. "And it seemed like they got every loose ball."

The Rams dominated from the opening tip. They jumped out to a 13-6 lead after eight minutes and upped the lead to 33-18 at halftime.

The Little Giants couldn't muster a comeback. Madison won the third quarter 16-9.

Dowell was one of three seniors playing in her final game in a Little Giants jersey.

Smith and forward Dusty Ruffing are also finished on the high school hardwood.

Entering the contest, Wolf said she felt confident in her team's chances.

"I watched films of them (Madison) and I really thought we could beat them," she said. "But we weren't even close."

Gibsonburg, Bettsville ousted

In other area high school girls action Tuesday night, Hopewell-Loudon routed Gibsonburg, 116-37, and Tiffin Calvert ousted Bettsville, 60-36.

Heather Hill scored 12 points for the Golden Bears, who were dominated the entire way.

Rachel Riley scored 12 points for the Bobcats, who trailed by only eight at the half, but fell apart.

Clyde learned that it will play Perkins on Saturday. The Pirates defeated Port Clinton, 76-38. The Fliers had a first-round bye.

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