

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS: ROSS 75, MADISON 67

Little Giants moving on

Ross will face
Mansfield
Senior on
Thursday

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WILLARD — Fremont Ross entered Friday's sectional championship game with one focus: beating Mansfield Madison.

The Rams, though, were just as driven. They came ready to battle with the Little Giants before falling 75-67 at Willard.

After a 10-6 run to start the game, Fremont began to let Madison's Richard Marshall heat up.

Marshall knocked in a field goal with about three minutes left in the first quarter and moments later knocked in a 3-point shot to give the Rams an 11-10 advantage.

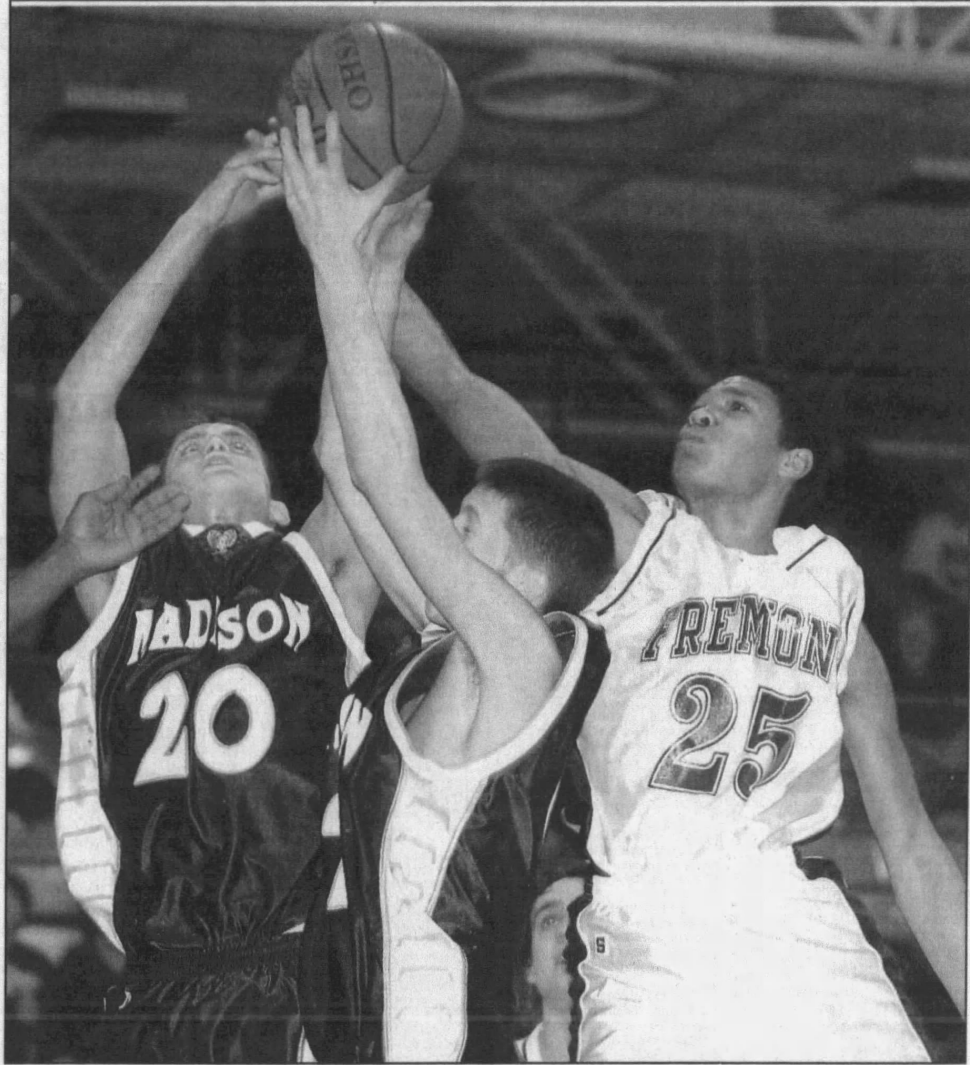
Nick Barr added another basket for Madison before Scott King drained a 3-pointer of his own to tie the game back up at 13-13.

Madison opened the second quarter by taking a 20-16 lead after another Marshall basket.

Fremont coach Mark Gedeon quickly called a timeout to fire up his squad.

Cory Clayton responded with a 3-point field goal and Fremont was back to within 20-19.

"I told them to get the ball inside to (Gries)," Gedeon said. "Then they go out there and hit four 3's. Our guard play has been getting better and better and (Clayton) is getting his



News-Messenger/Charlie Longton

FREMONT ROSS'S Ryan Croudup grabs a rebound over a pair of Mansfield Madison players during Friday's regional final. The Little Giants defeated the Rams to advance.

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Ross advances with win

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confidence back.”

Trailing 24-21, junior Ryan Ottney fed senior Adam Gries for a two-handed slam.

Each team battled back and forth the next few minutes as the Rams took a 26-23 lead on a Jacob Mottayaw basket.

Sophomore Ryan Croudup answered back as he scored two of his nine points and senior Aaron Opelt tied the game at 26 on a free throw.

Following an Aaron Megger basket, the Little Giants exploded for a 9-0 run as Traveyon Wolverton knocked in two consecutive 3-point field goals and senior Scott King sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give Fremont a 35-28 halftime lead.

Fremont would open its largest lead at

55-44 early in the fourth quarter as Robbie Hall scored two of his seven points.

The Rams did not give up easily as they climbed to within four at 62-58 with about three minutes left in the game.

Madison then decided to make the Little Giants earn their victory from the free throw line. Ross took 20 foul shots in the final three minutes.

They made 14 of those 20 as Wolverton made five of six attempts and Clayton made six of 10 to hold on for the victory.

Wolverton finished with 13 points and Clayton added 10 points.

The Little Giants will advance to next Thursday's district semi-final against Mansfield Senior (20-1). The third-rated Tygers defeated Sandusky 82-53 Friday night.