



Marissa Overmyer has earned coach Juan Vela's trust off the bench for Ross. PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORMAN/THE NEWS-MESSANGER

# Ross moves ahead to district tourney

Overmyer's key basket gives Bulger, Little Giants a big lift

Josh Margret  
Special to Fremont News Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Marissa Overmyer of Fremont Ross had one bucket Saturday.

It came just 22 seconds after entering the game in the fourth quarter in place of senior Jazmin Bulger, who had picked up her fourth foul. The Little Giants never trailed in the fourth quarter and held off Springfield 53-48 in a Division I sectional final at Genoa.

The fifth-seeded Little Giants (14-9) play third-seeded Whitmer (17-7) at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Lake.

"Marissa has always been very consistent," Ross coach Juan Vela said. "She is able to pass the ball and we know what we are going to get from her. That is a girl that I have a lot of confidence in coming off of the bench."

It's the first time Ross has advanced to the district semifinals since 2012-2013.

"It is always exciting when you get girls that want to compete," Vela said. "It is fun to watch and play when you get five



Braelyn Horn, back, hugs Olivia Baptista after Fremont Ross beat Springfield.

girls playing the right way."

Cierra Harris made two free throws for the Blue Devils (10-12) off of Bulger's fourth foul. Overmyer responded with a layup to push the lead back to 42-37.

Springfield got a 3-pointer from Rayonna Armstrong and a score from Harris to cut the lead to one, but Bulger scored off a Blue Devils' turnover and then stole the ball and drove

See ROSS, Page 6A

JSA TODAY NETWORK

## Ross

Continued from Page 5A

for a bucket and 47-42 advantage.

Bulger sat for 3:14. Springfield got within two points once, but Ahlia Simms scored before Brooklyn Baptista and Braelyn Horn split two free throws apiece to seal the win.

Ross led 17-10 in the first half. "We had to be consistent about what we were doing," Vela said. "We were getting stops, but getting stops and scores was the key."

The Little Giants trailed 26-24 at the half. Brooklyn Baptista scored five straight points in the third quarter for a 34-32 advantage and Ross led from there.

"We knew Ross shot the ball well," Springfield coach Keith McClure said. "They played hard and they come from a tough conference. We knew they would not lay down. They are a good team."

Neither team shot free throws

well. Ross made just 11-of-25, including 3-of-10 in the final eight minutes. Springfield connected on just 8-of-16 free throws.

Bulger finished with 15 points and four rebounds while Brooklyn Baptista scored 14 points and grabbed six rebounds. Simms added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Harris topped the Blue Devils with 19 points while Hawkins added 10. Harris tallied nine points.

"The biggest thing we wanted to do defensively was limit Harris' touches," Vela said. "Armstrong had a great game and we could not find an answer for her. We knew if we could silence one of them, we would have a shot at it."

Whitmer beat Ross twice this season in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. The Panthers won 68-45 on Jan. 11 at Whitmer and 53-41 on Feb. 15.

"We have to keep playing together and battling," Vela said. "We have to keep getting better and correct the problems that we had (Saturday). We know Whitmer well and the winner will be whoever can make less mistakes and score the basketball."



Jazmin Bulger looks to score Saturday in Ross's win. MOLLY CORMAN/THE NEWS-MESSANGER