

# Little Giants fall from tourney

## Quick Tygers snare victory

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

NORWALK — Mansfield Senior's 56-48 victory over Fremont Ross in a girls Division I sectional championship game at Norwalk Middle School Saturday was never that close.

"We didn't look like we were in it," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "I didn't think we were in it from the very beginning.

"At one point in the season, we had a letdown, but we got it back together. I thought we would win today."

The Tygers' victory, which lands them in the district tournament Thursday night at Hope-well-Loudon against Wapakoneta (a 47-42 winner over Celina in a sectional final at Cory Rawson), can be succinctly explained by a brief stretch midway through the fourth quarter. A stretch that featured Mansfield offensive rebounds, Ross turnovers and the Tygers' transition game.

After the Little Giants whittled a 15-point Mansfield lead down to 41-34, Chandee White scored for the Tygers in transition and was fouled. White missed the free throw, but Stacy Osbun rebounded the miss and scored.

Ross, 14-8, then committed two of its 25 turnovers and White converted the second into a layup for a 47-34 lead with 3:39 remaining.

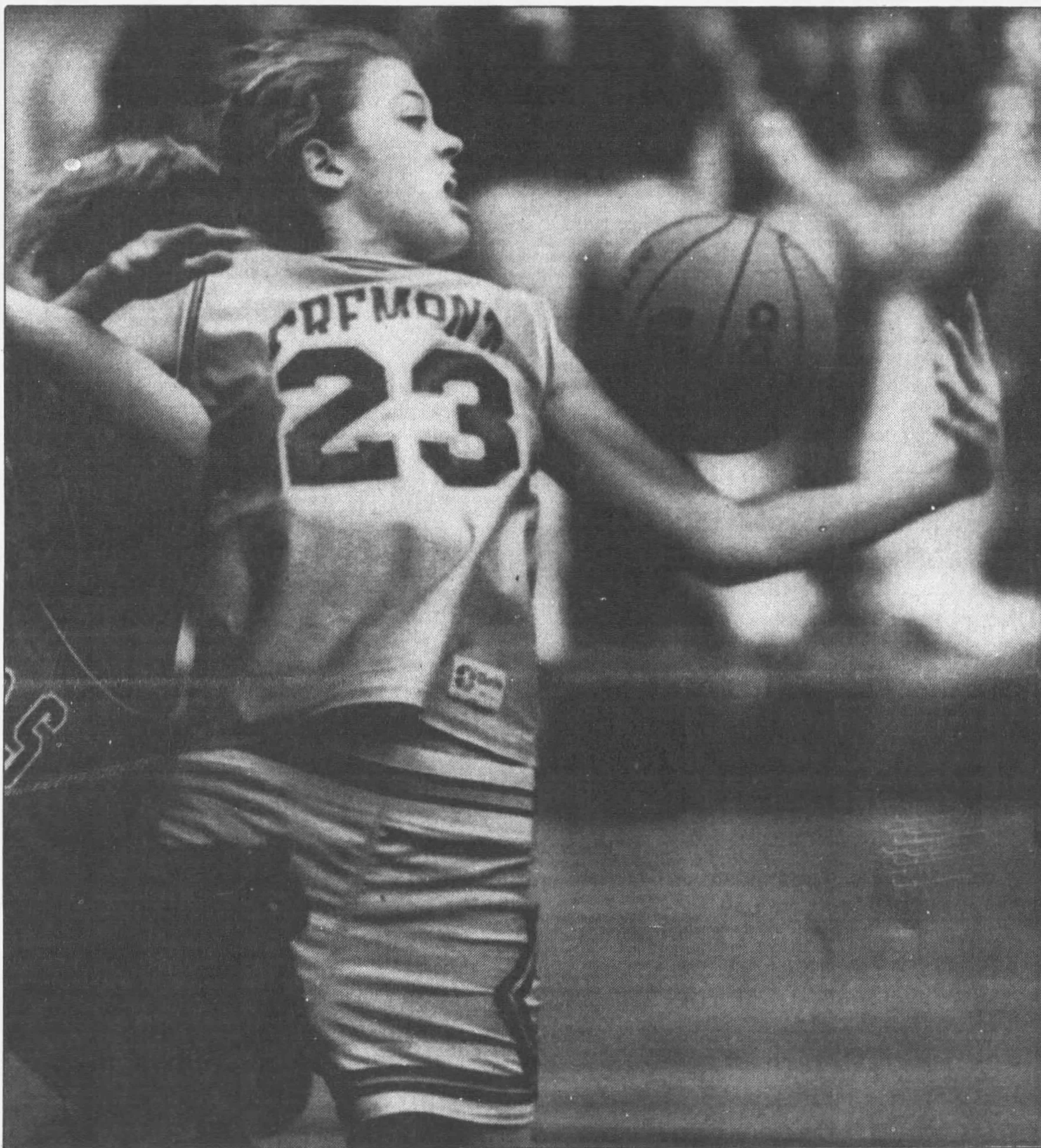
Mansfield, 15-6, collected 21 offensive rebounds in the game — many off missed free throws.

"We looked like we were a step slow," Wolf said. "I don't know if we were tentative."

"We looked like we were waiting for them to do something then we would react to them. That's not how we play defense."

The Little Giants, who never led, pulled within 48-43 with 1:56 remaining after a 9-1 run. The Tygers, though, put the game away at the foul line — making 10 of 19 free thows in the fourth quarter to 2-of-8 for Ross.

"To stop and be patient is not exactly fitting our nature," Mansfield coach John Miefert said, "but we handled the ball and either drew the foul or hit



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

**BECKY WILLIAMS** of Fremont Ross tries to control a rebound during the fourth quarter of the

Little Giants' Division I sectional championship game against Mansfield Senior Saturday.

some nice passes inside and got a couple of baskets that broke it back open again."

Mansfield pulled away from a 4-4 tie (both Ross baskets coming from Leah Lomax) for an 11-4 lead after one quarter, and the Tygers led 21-17 at halftime.

"Cortney (Cominsky) couldn't get on; they did a nice job defending her," Wolf said. "They knew that was the player to stop and they did a nice job doing it."

Cominsky, who finished with 17

to lead Ross, scored five points in the first half after going to the bench with her second foul with 2:22 left in the first quarter.

A basket by White from the left wing with 1:48 to go in the third quarter gave Mansfield a 36-21 lead, but Ross closed to 38-25 with one quarter left.

Becky Williams scored 11 of her 15 points for the Little Giants in the fourth quarter as Ross nearly doubled its scoring output through three quarters in the pe-

riod, but it went for naught.

"I'm sure (Ross) is a step quicker than seven out of 10 teams they play, but we're probably one of those three out of 10 that's just a step quicker than they are," Miefert said.

Requette Lindsay led Mansfield with 15 points, White finished with 13 and Marinise Pender added 10.

Osbun led all rebounders with 11, while Williams collected 10 rebounds for Ross.