

# Ross, St. Joe win sectionals

## Giants use OT to top Mansfield

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

WILLARD — Sue Wolf was in an unfamiliar spot.

There she was, perched on a shakey stepladder cutting down a basketball net at Willard High School early Saturday evening. A smile encased her face as she sawed away at the net with the slightly rusty scissors.

Wolf looked none the worse for wear despite having to work extra time as her Fremont Ross High School girls defeated Mansfield 65-57 in overtime in the Division I girls sectional championship game.

"This is the first sectional championship we have won," Wolf smiled amid well-wishers that flooded the floor around the basket. "We've won sectional games, but never a championship."

Ross outscored Mansfield 12-4 in the overtime, sending the game into the extra session tied 53-53 on Tami Reinbolt's layup off an inbounds play with 22 seconds remaining in regulation.

In the overtime, it was all Ross. Cortney Cominsky took a pass from Dawn Zerman for a layup 20 seconds into the overtime and pumped in a shot from the top of the circle after a Tyger turnover for a 57-53 lead at the 2:10 mark. Chandee White of Mansfield and Reinolt traded baskets before a pair of free throws by Jena Prats cut the Ross lead to 59-57 with 1:14 left.

It was no contest from that point, Ross scored the final six on Zerman's drive off a turnover and four free throws, two each by Zerman and Cominsky.

Cominsky finished with 24 points and Zerman 16, the freshman's season high. Reinbolt came off the bench for 11 and Kasey Mangette was 4 of 4 for eight Ross points. White had 22, Requette Lindsay 14 and Rachel Holloway 14 for Mansfield, 7-15.

Ross struggled early. "We were scared," Wolf said. "Then at halftime, Cortney Cominsky said, 'We are not ready to end this season.' She got the message across to the kids."

Wolf credited part of her team's early problems — 13 first-half turnovers — with the quickness of the Tygers.

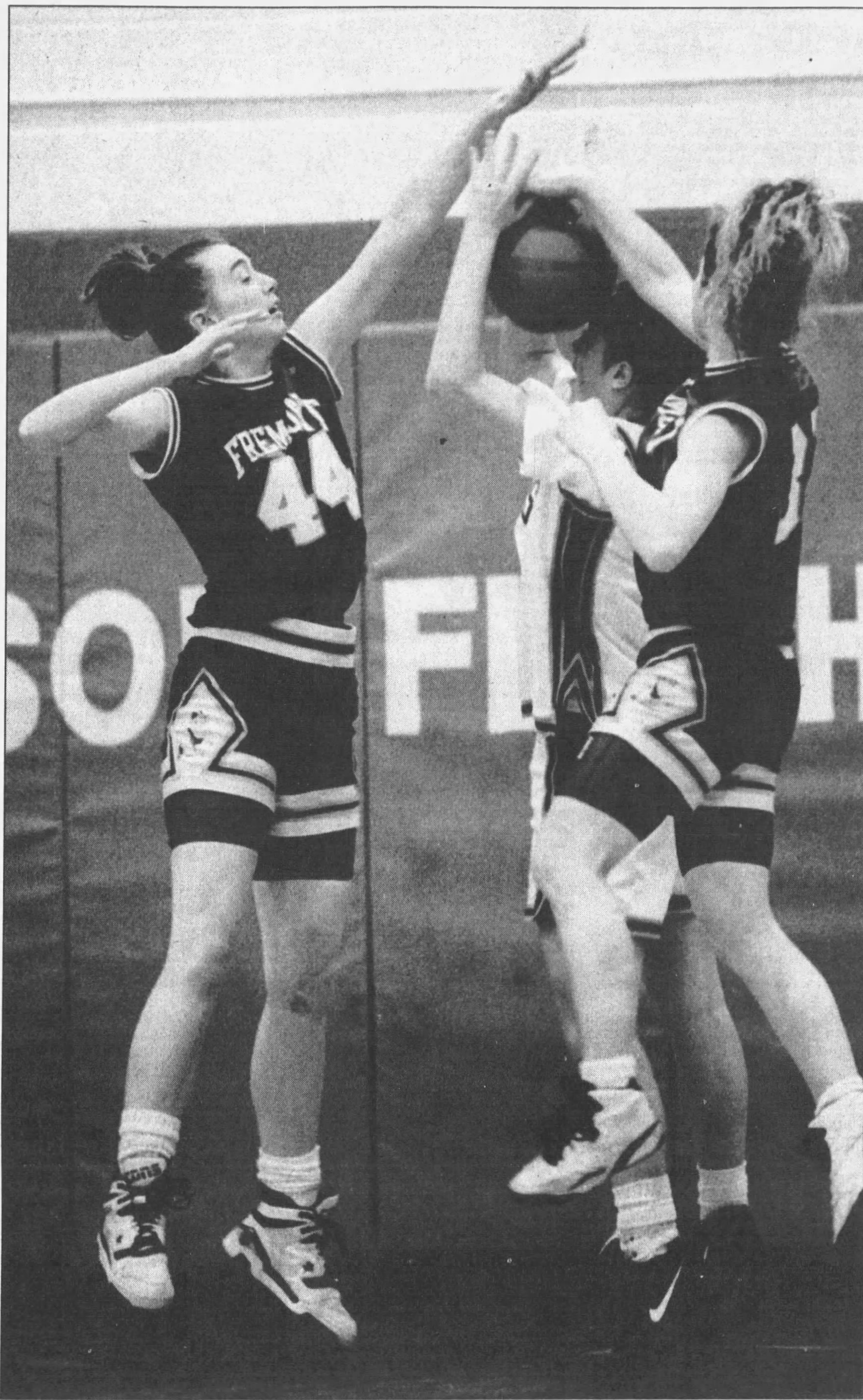
"They are hustlers," she said. "I don't know how their record's so bad. I really don't."

Ross survived its first-half turnover problems with 13 of 21 shooting.

Ross forged ahead 46-43 after three quarters but committed six turnovers in the final quarter, forcing them to rely on Reinbolt's layup to get the game into overtime.

"In the overtime, we went back to a triangle and two (defense)," Wolf said, "and told the kids to just take the ball to them."

The Little Giants did and Wolf earned her perch at the top of the ladder.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

KASEY MANGETTE (44) and Natalie Robbins, right, of Fremont Ross block the shot of Rachel Holloway of Mansfield during first half action Saturday at Willard High School. The Little Giants defeated the Tygers 65-57 in overtime to advance to this week's district tournament.

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## Findlay waiting in Division I district

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross will face a old nemesis in the Division I girls district basketball tournament semifinals.

Findlay will take on the Little Giants for the third time this season at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, at Hopewell-Loudon High School in Bascom.

Ross won both games in the regular season: 49-40 on Dec. 12 and 50-47 nine days ago.

In the second win over the Trojans, Tami Reinbolt came off the Ross bench to score 14 points,

paving the way for the victory. Reinbolt's scoring helped offset the 19 second-half points put on the board by Amy Jaurett of Findlay.

The Trojans, 15-7, defeated Wapakoneta 51-48 in overtime in their first tournament game and stopped Lima Senior 58-45 in the sectional championship game.

Ross will take a 16-5 record into the contest after winning its first sectional title under coach Sue Wolf. The Little Giants set a single season record for wins, 15.

## Streaks roll past SC Trojans

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

NORWALK — It was a sub-par game offensively for the Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic girls basketball team Saturday.

So the Crimson Streaks relied on defense — primarily a match-up zone — Saturday in a 55-43 Division IV sectional championship victory over South Central at Norwalk Middle School.

"In the first half, their guards did a nice job with penetration," St. Joe coach Gary Geller said. "In the second half, we took that away from them."

"We wanted to put a little pressure on those outside shooters and not allow them to go to the basket either. So we slid out there rather than rush at them."

After freshman Ashley Bond's 3-point basket at the outset of the

See DEFENSE, B3

## St. Peter's up next for SJCC

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

NORWALK — Seven times before this season, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic's girls basketball team has reached the district tournament.

The Crimson Streaks have advanced to the regional twice.

SJCC earned another chance in the district Saturday with a 55-43 Division IV sectional championship victory over South Central at Norwalk Middle School.

"We are capable of playing with anybody to get to the regional," St. Joe assistant coach coach Jim Halbeisen says. "But we have to play like we did against Port Clinton (a 65-62 victory), Norwalk St. Paul, Clyde (a 56-53 win) and Fostoria St. Wendelin (a 66-51 win)..."

St. Joe, 15-6, will meet Mansfield St. Peter's in the district at Colonel Crawford High School Thursday following a semifinal game between New Riegel and Buckeye Central.

"(St. Peter's) plays 2-3 zone, and they press — denying the ball, which is the kind of press we have problems with," St. Joe head coach Gary Geller said. "They have a 5-10 kid inside who is a nice player."

Halbeisen said the Streaks experienced an emotional letdown against South Central following Tuesday's 63-48 semifinal victory over St. Paul.

"These kids are different type of kid than we've had in the past," Halbeisen said. "It's very difficult to keep their intensity level up. It could be a problem down the line here. I think we can come back Thursday and play real well."

Sectional roundup, B3