

Little Giants eliminated by Lexington

Stierwalt scores 32 points in losing cause

By **ROB BOUKISSEN**
Staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — John Stierwalt did his best impersonation of Charles Atlas, but it wasn't enough to carry the Ross Little Giants Thursday night.

Stierwalt poured in 32 points on a wide array of shots from all over the floor, but his Ross teammates couldn't find the range as the Little Giants fell to the Lexington Minutemen 66-51 in the Class AAA district semifinals at Anderson Arena.

"John's played well for us all year ... his points speak for themselves," Ross Coach Pat McGhee said of Stierwalt. "He's had to do that for us to be competitive. Tonight, it just wasn't enough."

Redmen, Rockets in district finals

News-Messenger Reports

Two area boys basketball teams try to stay alive in tournament action tonight in Class AA district finals.

Bellevue faces archrival Willard at Ashland College while Oak Harbor will meet Lake at Toledo Waite Fieldhouse. Both games begin at 7:30 p.m.

The winner of each game will advance to next week's Class AA regional at the University of Toledo.

Stierwalt's outstanding one-man show was good enough to carry Ross for three quarters — the score was tied 34-34 heading into the final period — but that's when the load simply became too heavy.

The Minutemen got their fastbreak in high gear and erupted for 32 fourth-quarter

points to turn what had been an extremely close game into a blowout.

"It just got away from us," McGhee said of his team's final-period performance. "They (the Minutemen) got running, and we knew we couldn't let them get

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St. Joe girls reach end of the road

Upper Sandusky eliminates Streaks from regional tourney

By **DAVE SHEDLOSKI**
Staff writer

LIMA — The dream was a berth in the Final Four. That dream is over.

And it has just begun.

Upper Sandusky defeated Fremont St. Joe 52-34 Thursday night in the Class AA girls regional semifinals at Lima Shawnee High School, ending the Crimson Streaks' bid for a berth in the state tournament. But the Streaks' awakening was not as rude as some people might think.

"We ran into a team that was just better than us, and that's OK," said St. Joe Coach Gary Geller, who is losing just two seniors off this year's squad that ended the season at 17-8.

"Sure, we're disappointed, but the girls should be proud. We had an amazing run and now it's over. There isn't anything terrible about that. Now we can look ahead to next year and think about going farther."

While St. Joe can dream about next year, the Rams of Upper Sandusky still have this year to think about. The victory over the Streaks lifts their record to 22-3 and moves them into Saturday's regional final, just one step away from the state tourney.

The Rams meet Lima Bath, which defeated Granville 52-42 in the second regional semifinal Thursday night.

In defeating the Streaks, the Rams were able to do what other teams had not done in the tournament, which is take advantage of St. Joe's cold shooting from the field.

St. Joe had beaten Cardinal Stritch and McAuley in the district tournament without the benefit of good shooting. Against Stritch in the district finals, the Streaks missed their first 13 field goal attempts.

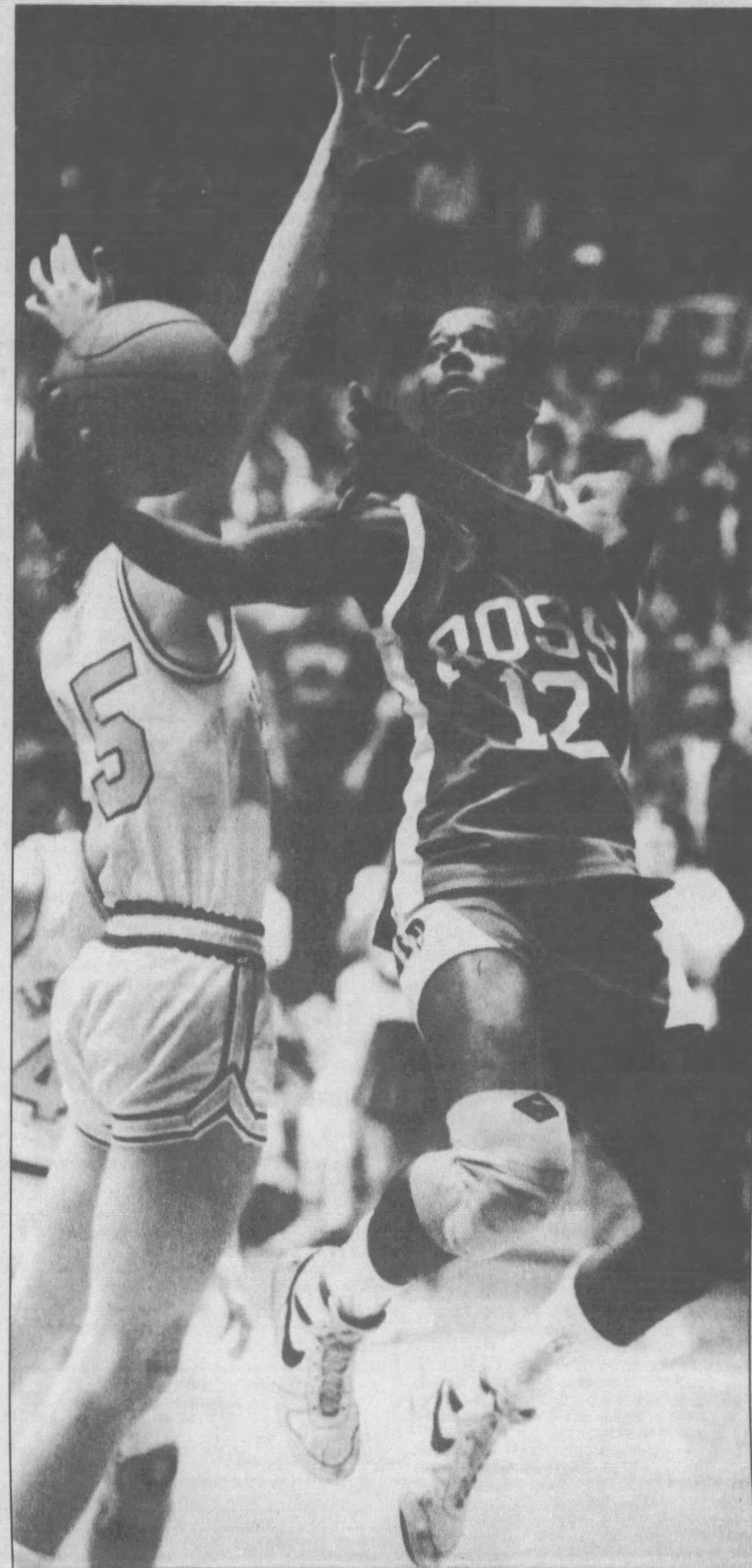
But Thursday, when St. Joe

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News-Messenger/Chris Walker

TRISHA HALBEISEN (center) and Amy Kramer (right) of St. Joe reach for a loose ball along with Marcie Kissling of Upper Sandusky.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

MANOAH JONES (12) of Ross goes under the arm of Cam Rucker of Lexington to put this shot up.