

BOYS BASKETBALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

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Fremont seniors show will to win

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FINDLAY — And the Little Giants move on.

Ross had its way with Clay in the opening round of the Division I sectionals Tuesday at Liberty-Benton, defeating the Eagles for the third time this season by way of a 50-23 rout.

Seniors Diante Pettiford, Jay Carnicom and Skylar Reffner made it evident they did not want their high school basketball careers to end in round one and all turned in double-digit scoring efforts. Reffner led the way with 15 points while the other two each chipped in 10.

The Little Giants will play again at Liberty-Benton Friday in the sectional finals against Findlay. Ross lost twice to the Trojans in Three Rivers Athletic Conference play.

"It feels great," Reffner said. "It was a good team win, we played hard and we played together."

The Little Giants' dominion was established early as they held Clay to four points in each of the first two quarters and carried a 25-8 lead into the locker room at the break. Ross would hold Clay to four points again in the fourth quarter which marked a crossing into uncharted territory as far as Coach Mark Gedeon can remember.

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"I don't think I've had that before at any level in my 26 years of coaching," he said. "I thought our kids just did a great job of position D and talking, communicating and supporting each other."

Carnicom led an abashed Little Giants rebounding edge over the Eagles, 32-17, with seven boards and Pettiford and sophomore guard Jack Gedeon contributed six apiece. Ten were pulled down on the offensive glass which resulted in 12 points on second-chance tries.

Clay sophomore guard Patrick Booth, who leads the team in scoring, led a stifled Eagles offense with ten points on 5-of-18 shooting. Clay's next highest scoring total was five from Ross Achter.

The Eagles were 11-for-42 from the field and 0-for-3 from the stripe.

The game started with both teams trading buckets to get to 4-4 before Ross closed the frame out on an 8-0 run capped with a trey from Carnicom from the right wing at the 1:19 mark to go up 12-4.

Clay would finally end a 10:23 scoring drought, which began at the 5:30 mark in the first, when Booth entered the scoring column on a 10-foot leaner from the left side of the floor with 3:07 to go in the half. The bucket also ended a 15-0 spurt from Ross, which held a 6-2 scoring advantage the rest of the way to get to the halftime margin.

But Clay wasn't going away quietly.

The Eagles went on a 7-0 run to start the second half to pull within ten. A triple from Achter from the right corner was sandwiched with two layups coming on baseline drives from guard Jack Nagy and Booth which