

# *Little Giants whip Wapakoneta 49-31*

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

VAN BUREN — Ross dominated the boards and turned a first half hot streak into a 49-31 victory over Wapakoneta in the Class AAA Girls Sectional Basketball Tournament here Wednesday.

The Lady Little Giants will play Buckeye Conference champion Findlay Saturday at 6:30 p.m. for the sectional title.

Rhea Paulson came up with six offensive rebounds in the second period and converted five into buckets as Ross began to shake off the cold shooting Western Buckeye League School.

Ross sank four of 10 first period shots to lead 9-5 but a nine for 18 performance in the second eight minutes, including an 14-6 advantage on the boards, turned the game toward the Purple and White. Ross outscored Wapakoneta 8-0 in the first five minutes of the period.

"We did what we wanted," coach Sue Wolf said after her team picked up its 11th victory in 20 games. "We saw (in Monday night's game against Lima Shawnee) that they did not box out well so we worked hard on that this week. I really expected us to take the boards."

Ross "took" the boards by a 41-26 margin which helped offset 31 Lady Little Giants turnover. Wapakoneta committed 17 giveaways. The majority of the Ross turnovers came in the second 16 minutes.

"We weren't making good passes," Wolf said. "I think we were telegraphing them to much."

Wapak, however, did not receive the Ross messages. After closing the once 20-point Ross lead (37-17) to 42-29 with three minutes to play that was it. Ross cut Wapakoneta off with buckets on four of five turnovers and the fire left the Lady Redskins.

Ross canned 23 of 48 shots, one of its better shooting nights of the season, while

Wapakoneta hit only 13 to 58.

The Lady Little Giants used a combination of zones and a "man-to-man" defense to throttle Wapakoneta. The Lady Redskin's tight 2-1-2 zone had Ross baffled for a portion of the first period.

"We switched offenses," Wolf explained. "We brought out a point guard to split'em. It worked because we began to get better shots."

Paulson was the only Lady Little Giant in double figures. She hit nine of 12 from the field. Laurie Smith had eight while Della Hall came off the bench to chip in six.

Alicia Bush scored 10 for the Lady Redskins despite missing her first 10 shots. She had eight in the third period.

Ross played for the second game in a row without the services of Tammy Haas. Wolf said that the senior guard will return Saturday. She went to the bench when she reinjured her left knee against Tiffin Columbian a week ago.