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Columbian upsets Ross in girls AAA sectional

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FINDLAY — Columbian played as well in the second half as it had played badly in the first half and Ross, well, stayed just about the same all the way through the first game of the Findlay Class AAA Girls Sectional Basketball tournament.

"What can I say," questioned grim faced Sue Wolf, coach of the Ross girls moments after the Tornadoes had upset the number two seeded Little Giants 40-31. "I can't put the ball in the basket for them — that's all I can say."

As if in a reflex she added, "We

never got going tonight."

Columbian, with Barb Richards leading the attack, rebounded from a horrendous second quarter to outscore Ross in the third period to take a 25-18 lead. The Tornadoes never lost that lead.

Ross had lumbered to a 13-7 halftime lead when the Tornadoes missed connections on all 18 shots in the second quarter. Ross was not much better canning one of 18 tries but had three free throws while outscoring Columbian 5-1.

That was the end of the road for the Little Giants. Columbian wiped out the Ross lead before two minutes had ticked off the clock in the third period. Buckets by Richards, Linda Reiss, and Deb Mizen knocked the score at 13 at the 6:29 mark.

Richards' 18-footer from the right of the lane put Columbian on top for the first time at the 3:57 mark. Roxie Price brought Ross back to a 15-15 tie with a bucket but the Tornadoes went on a 10-2 scoring splurge to grab the third period lead.

Ross rallied briefly at the start of the final quarter, running off the first four points of the period.

Paula Zimmerman connected from the lane and Price knocked one home from the right of key to

cut Columbian's lead to 25-22 with 7:17 to play before Ross faltered.

A pair of turnovers and a 7-0 scoring run by Columbian put the game out of reach for the Little Giants.

Columbian's biggest lead was 14, 38-24, with four minutes to play.

Ross hit only 10 of 62 shots while Columbian, with a 15 of 35 performance in the final half, finished with 18 of 67 from the field. Ross committed 26 turnovers to Columbian's 23.

Richards led all scorers with 15 points and Reiss tossed in nine for the Tornadoes. Price with 11 and Diane Flickinger with 10 led Ross.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross 8 5 5 13—31 Columbian 6 1 18 15—40 SCORING

ROSS — Flickinger 3-4-10, Price 5-1-11, Solze 0-0-0, Zimmerman 2-0-4, Bliss 0-3-3, Myers 0-1-1, Carter 0-2-2; totals 10-11-31

COLUMBIAN — Haman 1-0-2, Reiss 4-1-9, Stiger 1-0-2, Wahl 1-0-2, Morris 2-0-4, Richards 7-1-15, Heyman 2-2-6; totals 18-4-40

Season record: Ross 8-9