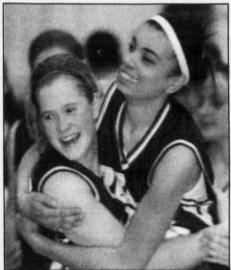
FREWONT ROSS 41, WAYSFIELD SEWOR 38



News-Messenger/Diane Ceb

FREMONT ROSS'S Alexis Johnson, right, hugs Ashley Long after the Little Giants' 41-38 victory over Mansfield Senior in a Division I sectional opener Wednesday at Hopewell-Loudon.

Giants clutch down stretch

Ross scores final six points in sectional win

By NICK MATHEWS

BASCOM - When Tia Simms was fouled, she certainly wasn't in a foul mood.

The Fremont Ross senior happily went to the free-More preps throw line Page B3 with 37.9 seconds left in Wednesday's Division sectional opener with Gibsonburg postseason nemesis Mansfield Se- advance

Poor shoot ing dooms Bellevue in setback Page B3 dominates MVCD to

Hopewell-Loudon

"When I got fouled, I was like, 'Yes,' "Simms said. "I knew I was going to make those free throws. I love the pressure.

Simms drained both attempts to put Ross ahead for good, and the Little Giants scored the game's final six points in a 41-38 victory.

See SIMMS, B3

Hoops du jour

Consecutive points scored by Fremont Ross to end its victory over Mansfield Senior

Consecutive points allowed by Bellevue in the second half of a loss to Port Clinton

PRIMETIME SCORERS

ums	
Tia Simms	.2
Megan Abbey	.2
Casza Rhodes	.1
Alexa Nasonti	.1
Lindsay Hill	.1
Brittany Perkins	.1
Ann Clark	.1
Julie Beaschler	.1
Danielle Lowry	.11
WEDNESDAY'S SCORE	S

Girls sectionals Division I

Ross 41, Mansfield Sr. 38 **Division II** P.C. 47, Bellevue 31

Division III Woodmore 64. Genoa 59

Division IV Gibsonburg 54, MVCD 25

Simms scored 25 points capped by the pressure-packed free throws - and had 11 rebounds as the Little Giants (12-

> The Tygers eliminated the Little Giants each of the last

The breakthrough victory gave Ross an opportunity to avenge two regular-season loss-

The Little Giants meet the Presidents Saturday in the sec-

We would like another shot at them," Ross coach Sue Wolf

The Little Giants get that opportunity because of their clutch play down the stretch

third-quarter lead and falling behind 38-35 with 2:01 left, Ross took control.

layup pulled the Little Giants within one point with 1:45 re-

Ross then forced the first of three Mansfield turnovers in its last four possessions.

Simms' free throws followed an offensive rebound and put Ross ahead 39-38

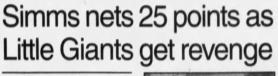
over on its next two possessions, and Ashley Long made the first of two free throws to give the Little Giants a 40-38 lead with 21.7 seconds left.

Brittney Miller got an offensive rebound after Long missed the second foul shot. Miller was immediately fouled and drained a free throw to cap the game's scoring with 20.4 seconds remaining

Ross did not allow a 3-point attempt in the closing sec-

The Little Giants finished just 12-of-27 from the freethrow line for the game, but they went 4-of-6 in the final 37.9 seconds.

"We made them when we had to," Wolf said. "It's survive and advance (in the tournament),



Continued From B1

"Coach said it was up to us if we wanted to win," Simms said. "And I think we all wanted to win. As a team, we won.

9) got revenge against Mansfield (7-14).

"It was very nice to beat them," Simms said.

es to Marion Harding.

tional championship game.

Wednesday. After blowing a seven-point

Dalanea Johnson's driving

Mansfield turned the ball



FREMONT ROSS'S Tia Simms takes a shot during the Little Giants' 41-38 victory over Mansfield Senior in a Division I sectional opener Wednesday at Hopewell-Loudon. Simms scored a gamehigh 25 points as Ross advanced to Saturday's sectional title game with Marion Harding.

and that's what we did."

The Little Giants led 29-22 after a Simms putback with 3:25 left in the third quarter.

Ross, however, allowed a 16-6 Mansfield run and fell behind by three points with two minutes left in the game.

The Little Giants finished 14of-37 (38 percent) from the

"I told the girls in the lock-er room, 'We actually played that badly and won,' " Wolf said. " 'That should show you that we have gotten better. Usually, we would lose those games.

Simms didn't let the Little Giants lose.

She finished 8-of-17 from the floor and 9-of-13 from the freethrow line.

Simms scored all of the Little Giants' points in a 9-4 run that gave them a 19-13 lead with 3:56 left in the second quarter.

At that point, Simms matched Mansfield in scoring.

She also tallied six of the Little Giants' 12 fourth-quarter

"She is a person that you can count on," Wolf said. "She is never going to stop taking it to the basket. She is somebody that is going to lead the team, no matter what.

"That's the sign of somebody who is a good player," Wolf con-