

Little Giants topple BG

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports editor

HOLLAND — Dawn Zerman provided the offense and Holly Pelfrey the key defensive play as Fremont Ross rallied to defeat Bowling Green 53-41 Tuesday night in the first round of the Division I girls sectional basketball tournament at Springfield High School.

Ross53
B. Green41

Ross, 16-5, will play Toledo Start for the sectional title at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the same site.

Bowling Green, 8-13, held a 32-29 lead with three minutes remaining in the third quarter but Zerman hit a 3-pointer to tie the game and then pumped in two more baskets as Ross took a 36-33 lead.

After Zerman's third straight basket, the Bobcats had the ball out of bounds under the Ross basket. With the five-second count clicking down, Pelfrey stole the inbounds pass for a layup, putting Ross up 38-33 as time ran out.

"That was a big steal and basket," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

"We had a mixup in who was supposed to take the ball out-of-bounds," Bowling Green coach Dick Fox said. "We were disorganized at that point ... that was a big point in the game."

Zerman scored 12 of her 21 points in the third quarter.

In the final quarter, the Little Giants outscored Bowling Green 9-2 to open up a 47-35 lead. Dena Schepflin rebounded her own miss and scored another basket off a Zerman pass to key the run.

Zerman added another assist and two free throws down the stretch as the Bobcats were unable to get any closer than 10 points after the early fourth-quarter Ross pullaway.

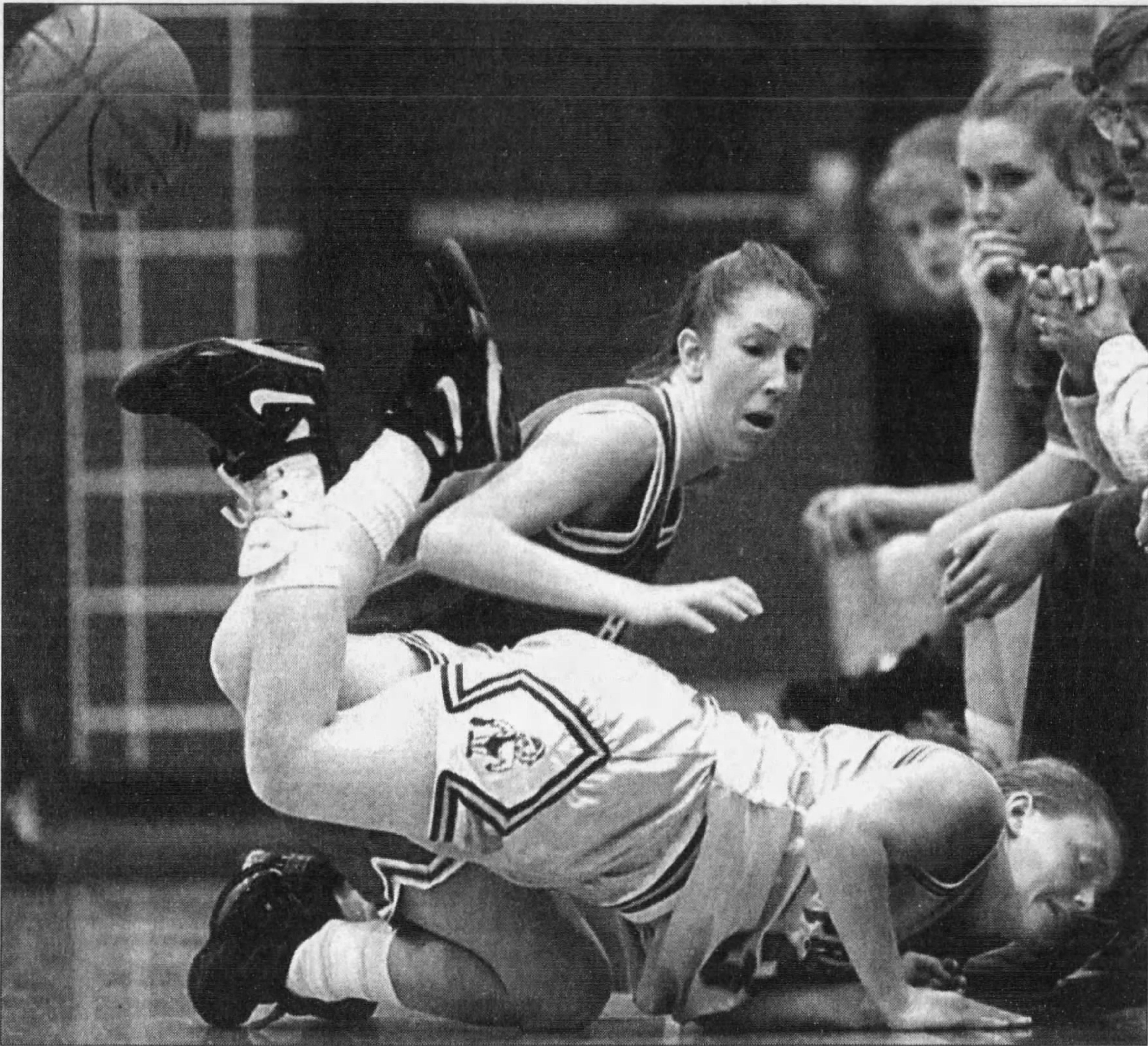
"In the fourth quarter, I told the kids, 'No one gets ahead us,'" Wolf said about her pressure defense that kept the Bobcats off stride. "I said, 'We just want to take time off the clock.'"

Her team followed her instructions.

After Schepflin put Ross up 43-35, the Little Giants ran off 55 seconds following a Bobcats turnover. Ritzman scored on Zerman's assist at the end of that patient offensive display and the tone had been set for the Little Giants offense down the stretch.

"We were moving well and making good cuts," Wolf said.

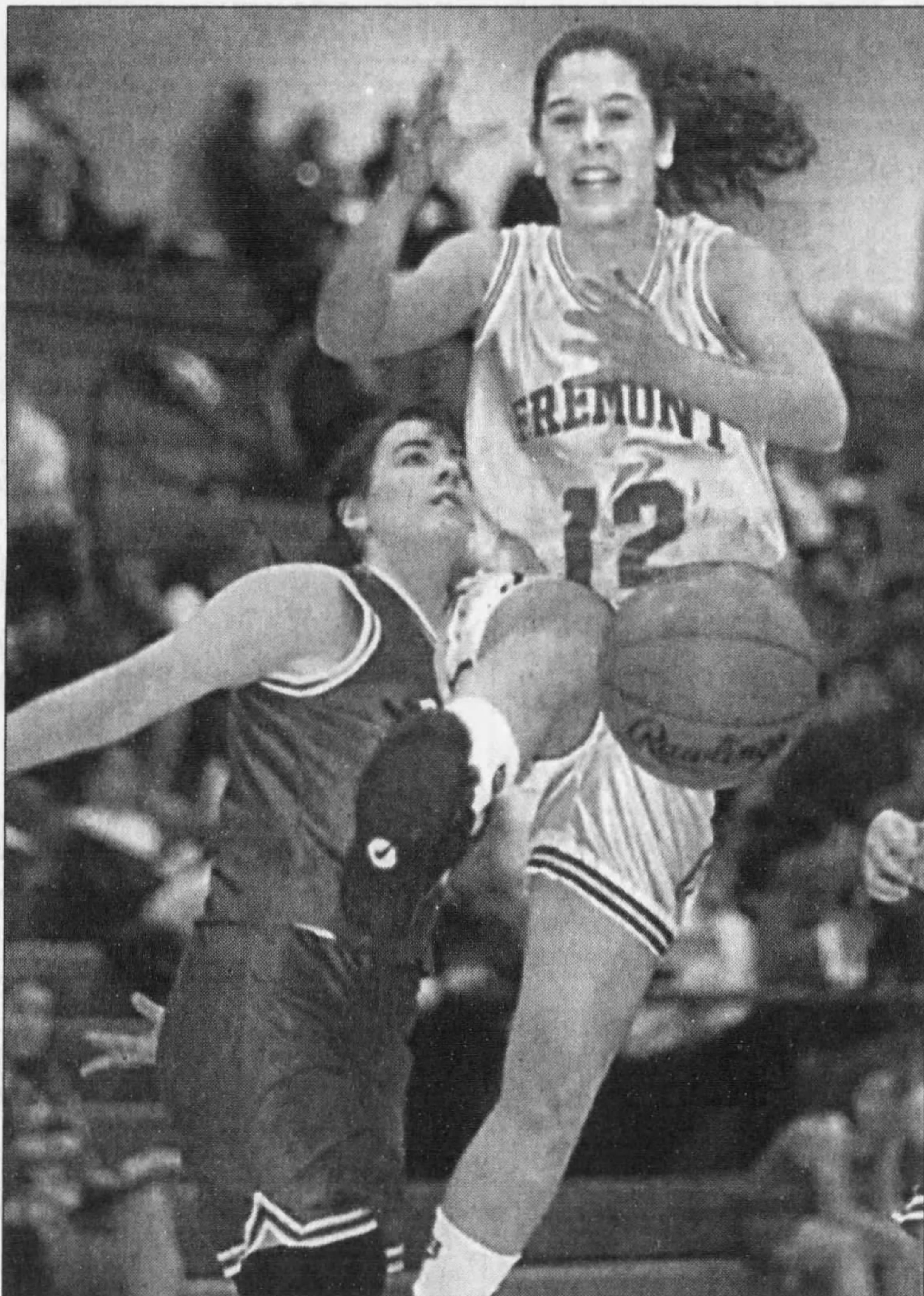
Ritzman finished with 11 points, Emily Dowell nine and Schepflin seven. Tricia Wulff had 11 points and Mary Edwards 10 for Bowling Green.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

HOLLY PELFREY, foreground, saves the ball from going out-of-bounds during a third-quarter scramble

Tuesday night at Springfield High School. Tricia Wulff of Bowling Green, back, and her teammates watch.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN of Ross is fouled by Courtney Tracy of Bowling Green.

Stritch ends Gibsonburg's season

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — Oregon Cardinal Stritch jumped out to a 21-9 first-quarter lead and went

Stritch51
G'burg41

on to a 51-34 win over Gibsonburg in a Division IV girls sectional basketball tournament game at Bowling Green High School.

"We didn't read their defense well at all," Gibsonburg coach Don Williamson said. "We weren't the same team as we were the last two nights in practice."

Maureen Liller led nine Stritch players who scored with 10 points. Stacey Poskarbiewicz added eight with Holly Volmar and Jennifer Schuetz adding seven points apiece.

Carrie Hoy topped Gibsonburg with 10 points. Samantha Radel added seven for the Golden Bears.

Gibsonburg finished the season 4-17.

What's next:

Ross plays Toledo Start for sectional title, 6:30 p.m., Saturday