

Tornadoes storm past Ross, 46-35

Cold shooting dooms Giants

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SHELBY — Tiffin Columbian girls coach Larry Kisabeth kept his hottest player on the bench for as long as he could.

Then, with Fremont Ross poised to take the lead midway through the fourth quarter, Kisabeth ordered junior Jess Sendelbach back into the game, four fouls and all.

Sendelbach delivered immediately. After Ashley Taylor missed the front end of a one-and-one, Sendelbach grabbed the rebound and drew a foul with four minutes, 40 seconds remaining and Columbian leading 33-32.

Her subsequent free throws and a later offensive rebound bucket bracketed an 11-0 run by the Tornadoes that led to a 46-35 victory over Ross on Saturday in a Division I sectional final.

Sendelbach poured in a team-high six points in the fourth quarter, despite her limited playing time.

"It was a gamble, but we felt that we had to have her at the end," Kisabeth said of keeping Sendelbach on the bench after she picked up her fourth foul with 5:37 to play in the third quarter.

Sendelbach scored 13 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for the Tornadoes (16-5), who won their fifth consecutive game and clinched their sixth sectional title in nine years.

Columbian will meet Mansfield (21-0) — which defeated Ashland, 58-35, in the other sectional final on Saturday — in a district semifinal on Thursday.

Sendelbach, a 5-foot-9 forward, scored 8.7 points per game during the regular season and was her team's third option behind point guard Katie Kobelt and center Alex Miller. She managed only four points during a 43-41 victory over Ross on Jan. 15.

"She really stepped up," Kisabeth said. "There has been no question that Alex and Katie have been the people to stop. We're looking for that third person. Jess did that early for us, but she's kinda faded a little bit. But, boy, she played very well tonight, even in foul trouble. She was good offensively, and she did a great job on the boards."

Kobelt led the Tornadoes with 16 points, seven coming immediately after Sendelbach left the game in the third quarter. Miller managed six points.

Ross (10-11) got nine points and eight points, respectively, from seniors Laura Wilson and Taylor.

Streaks, Wildcats, Bears win



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■ **Div. IV:** Rachel Fisher scored 24 as St. Joe got past Hopewell.

■ **Div. III:** Ashley Perkins hit 6 treys and scored 32 points as Woodmore romped to district.

■ **Div. III:** Margaretta used a big second quarter to rout Huron.

See LADY GIANTS, **B4**

Lady Giants drop Division I final to Columbian

Continued From B1

The Lady Giants ended their season on a cold note. Ross made only 2 of 11 field-goal attempts in the fourth quarter and didn't connect from the field in the final 5:50 of the game. The Lady Giants finished 15-of-47 (31.9 percent) from the field and 5-of-16 from the free-throw line (31.3 percent).

"We missed a few key shots and missed some real key foul shots," Ross head coach Sue Wolf said. "They were hitting theirs. That was really the difference in the ballgame."

Wolf said the poor offensive performance gave her team a direction for its offseason.

"I thought we got what we deserved (this season) because we didn't put the time in during the summer that we needed to put in. I said, 'Next year, if you want to win, you've got to be able to score. More than one person on the floor has to be able to score,'" she said.

Even the one person on whom Ross usually depends struggled Saturday. Wilson missed all seven of her attempts from the field in the second half.

Still, the Lady Giants stayed close for most of the game, thanks to their defense.

Ross forced 22 turnovers and held Columbian to only a Kobelt free throw for more than six minutes in the second half to cut a 32-24 deficit to 33-32.

"I was pleased with our defense. I thought we did a pretty good job all the way around," Wolf said. "You hold a team to 46 points, and you have a chance to win."

The Lady Giants also got contributions off the bench from seniors Ashley Foos and Adrienne Robertson.

Foos, who played sparingly during the regular season, entered the game late in the third quarter to score a bucket, take a charge and cause another turnover to lead the Ross comeback. Robertson drove for a bucket to get the Lady Giants within 32-30 on the first possession of the fourth quarter and played tenacious defense throughout the game.

"Ashley Foos and Adrienne Robertson came in and did a nice job," Wolf said. "They helped us. That's why they were out on the floor."