

# ROSS SEASON ENDS IN LOSS

Early turnovers put Little Giants in hole early

**RICH MCGOWAN**  
REPORTER

TOLEDO – For Fremont Ross to have a chance to pull off a shocking upset of undefeated Lima Senior in sectional tournament play Wednesday, the Little Giants needed to play nearly mistake-free basketball.

Instead, the Little Giants turned the ball over 13 times in the first quarter, leading to numerous points in transition and a large, early lead for the heavily-favored Spartans as Ross' season came to an end, 91-42.

"Lima has that ability, with that quickness, to speed you up and we can't do that and be successful," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "Unfortunately a lot of those turnovers were just going to too fast:

Passing the ball out of bounds, a high dribble, missing a pass. It's that composure. You can't simulate that speed in practice."

The onslaught began early as Ross turned the ball over on its opening two possessions and did so five times in the game's first 3 minutes and 30 seconds, during which time Lima jumped out to a 12-4 lead.

In its two previous meeting with Lima, Ross found itself torched by Lima senior Xavier Simpson, who scored school-record point totals of 59 and 65 points. Wednesday, the Spartans (23-0) showed the Little Giants how much depth they have.

In addition to Simpson scoring a game-high 21 points with six assists, Marquavious Wilson scored 18 with six assists and Rico Stafford (12) and Jarius Ward (10) also scored in double digits.

Lima led Ross 22-6 after the first quarter and expanded that lead to 50-21 at

halftime en route to ending the Little Giants' season.

"That got all three perimeter players shooting 50 percent from 3, over 60 percent from 2," Gedeon said. "They have tremendous talent, there is no question about that. It is a big task for anybody to go against the right now."

Ross ends its season with an 8-16 record. While the Little Giants struggled to play consistently this season, Gedeon wants his players to remember the good times, such as Monday's fourth-quarter comeback and overtime win against Toledo Start, but also learn from the tough ones as well.

"Anything in life you want, you have to work for, you got to compete," Gedeon said. "Whether it's your job or your girlfriend, nobody is going to give you anything. You got to do the right things in order to get those goals and I think that's

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RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross' Tre Bulger and Jarren Hampton defend Lima Senior's Xavier Simpson Wednesday night.

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# Ross

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one of the great things athletics does.”

Senior Jarren Hampton led Ross with eight points Wednesday and is one of eight seniors graduating from the roster. With so many openings available next year, Gedeon said the ball will be in the court of the program’s youngsters to improve in the offseason.

“How these younger players see the challenges will dictate a lot of what’s going to hap-

## Stat book

Fremont Ross 6-15-10-12 — 42

Lima Senior 22-28-31-10 — 91

Ross: 15 10-18 42. 3FG, 2 (Druckenmiller, Chudzinski). Rebounds, 26 (Hampton, Simms 5), Turnovers, 31, Assists, 5, Steals, 0. Scoring: Druckenmiller 3 0-0 7, Hampton 1 6-9, 8, Homler 1 0-0 2, Simms 3 0-1 6, Blodgett 1 0-2 2, Trolio 1 0-0 2, Chudzinski 1 0-0 3, Young 2 0-0 4, Alridge 1 2-4 4, Bulger 1 0-0 2, Burling 0 2-2 2.

Lima: 34 12-19 91. 3FG, 5 (Wilson 4, Ward). Rebounds, 31 (Upshaw 8), Turnovers, 7, Assists, 19 (Simpson 6, Wilson 6), Steals, 7 (Stafford 3). Scoring: Wilson 6 2-2 18, Liles 0 1-2 1, Simpson 8 5-6 21, Flowers 4 0-0 8, Stafford 6 0-0 12, Ward 4 1-4 10, Upshaw 4 1-1 9, Thomas 1 0-0 2, Miller 0 2-4 2, Long 1 0-0 2.

pen over the next couple years,” Gedeon said. “I think you’re going to see a lot of youth that goes into our program next year. When you lose

eight seniors, the people who compete and do things right are going to get the opportunities.”

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