

BOYS BASKETBALL: LIMA SENIOR 54, FREMONT ROSS 42

Ross' Upset bid falls short

Fremont Ross takes lead into halftime, but Lima Senior comes back to end Little Giants' season

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

TONTOGANY — Though disappointed his team's season had reached its end Friday night, Fremont Ross boys basketball coach Mark Gedeon had no regrets about how his team went out.

The Little Giants scrapped and battled against the heavily favored Spartans of Lima Senior. A 3-pointer by Chris Liggins in the waning moments of the second quarter even gave Ross lead going into halftime.

In the second half, however, the bigger, stronger, faster Spartans began to pull away and Ross' season came to a close in a 54-42 sectional tournament loss.

"We competed, that's obviously what we wanted to do, to play to the best of our ability and see if we can compete with an incredibly talented team," Gedeon said. "We're disappointed with the result but anytime you're in the state tournament, you know only one team gets to win their last game."

The Little Giants close their season with an overall record of 8-16.

For more than a half Friday night, Ross put itself in position to come up with a major upset.

Though Lima Senior (20-3) used its aggressive press defense to force five Ross turnovers in the opening four minutes of the game en route to an 11-4 lead, the Little Giants weathered the Spartans' early storm.

Lima took a 20-11 lead with 5:10 to play in the half, but then its offense went dry. The Spartans made just two free throws the rest of the half as Ross' defense forced seven second-quarter turnovers and gradually cut into the deficit.



DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Grant McConnell puts up a shot against Lima Senior's Jaylin Thomas.

Ross cut Lima's lead to one with under a minute to play, then Liggins hit a 3-pointer with 17.5 seconds to play in the half and Ross took a 24-22 lead into halftime.

"We were playing very well that second quarter," Gedeon said. "Assertive, was how we

played that second quarter which we did not do as assertive in the second half."

Lima Senior made just 8-of-30 shots in the first half, including a 1-11 mark from 3-point range.

The Spartans finally got going in the third quarter.

Lima held a 31-30 lead with three minutes to go in the third quarter following a Ross 3-pointer by Brody Chudzinski. Lima answered with a lay-in, followed moments later by an ally-oop slam dunk from

See **FREMONT ROSS**, Page 2B

Fremont Ross

Continued from Page 1B

Marquevious Wilson to Rico Stafford to send the Spartans' side of the gym into a frenzy.

Lima continued its momentum into the fourth quarter where the Spartans opened the period on a 9-0 run giving them a 44-30 lead with just five minutes remaining in the Little Giants' season.

"They got a couple to drop down, a couple in transition and a couple back-door lobs there," Gedeon said. "We got too extended there at the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth quarter. That's one of the things we could not do. If you give them an inch, they'll take advantage of it."

Steven Blodgett led Ross with 12 points, James Wright scored seven and

Tavarius Simms added six.

"I'm very proud of them, they represented Fremont Ross very well. We showed a lot of improvement and what happens when a collection of guys focus on one goal," Gedeon said.

"Not a lot of people believed we could come in and compete with this team," he added. "We were able to prove we could go out and compete."

Seniors Grant McConnell, Wright, Liggins and Jalen Slick all played their final game for Gedeon.

"I told them I loved them, they're always going to be a part of Fremont Ross family," Gedeon said. "They're always going to be Little Giants. They're always going to be a part of my family too."

rmcgowan@gannett.com

419-334-1043

Twitter: @RMcGowan1

Facebook: @RMcGowanSports
