

Ross falls in sectional semifinals

Josh Morgret

Special to Fremont News-Messenger

USA TODAY NETWORK

Toledo Central Catholic sophomore Kendal Marshall had a career game Wednesday against Fremont Ross, helping to eliminate the Little Giants in a Division I sectional semifinal at Genoa.

Marshall tallied 26 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Irish past Ross 55-44.

“He took advantage of opportunities,” Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. “In tournament basketball, you have to make plays and he was able to go through and make plays. I do not think it was anything special he did. He got confident after he made his first few shots.”

The Little Giants finish the season 9-14.

“Central Catholic was the more aggressive and physical team,” Gedeon said. “They were able to get their way inside the paint. We knew points in the paint was going to be a key statistic.”

A 3-pointer from Tre Campbell gave Ross a 20-14 lead in the second quarter.

Jabryis Heidelberg nailed a triple for Ross, but Central Catholic scored the next 10 points, including three buckets from Marshall.

Maliek Johnson hit a jumper for the Little Giants, but Marshall split two free throws to put the Irish up 30-25 at halftime. Marshall scored 19 points in the first half, including 13 in the second quarter.

“Central Catholic became the more assertive and aggressive team in the paint,” Gedeon said. “I liked how we were pushing the ball in the first quarter. We got some stops and hit some shots.”

Johnson’s driving layup cut the lead to 32-29 in the third quarter, but Central Catholic again took over. Marshall scored on a putback and later stole a pass and went to the bucket for another score.

Heidelberg halted a 10-0 run with a 3. Keyon Sewell hit three 3s to lead Ross with 12 points, while Johnson and Heidelberg added 10 apiece. Heidelberg grabbed six rebounds.

“We had six turnovers just in that third quarter after three turnovers in the first half,” Gedeon said.

“Some of that was due to playing on our heels. We did not post-feed as well as I know we are capable of.

“We did not attack the gaps to try to get to the paint. I don’t think we were aggressive enough,” he said.

Ross trailed by single digits at 47-38 following consecutive buckets from Bryce Root and a steal and score from Campbell.

“I’m very pleased with the run we made in the fourth quarter,” Gedeon said.

“Our kids didn’t quit or back down, but when you are down that many points to a quality team, you almost have to play perfect basketball.”