

Ross early victim in boys tournament

Mansfield defeats Little Giants 68-53

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

NORWALK — The tournament trail ended quickly for Fremont Ross Saturday as Mansfield Senior rolled to a 68-53 win in the Division I boys sectional finals at Norwalk Middle School.

Mansfield, 12-10, will play Toledo Scott, 19-2, at 9 p.m. Tuesday at Anderson Arena on the Bowling Green State University campus in the district semifinals. The 6:30 p.m. game will feature the state's top-ranked Division I team, Toledo Ma-comber, and Sandusky, a 92-65 winner over Ash-land at Norwalk.

Ross shot just 30 percent, making 18 of 60 shots against the pressurized Mansfield defense.

"I definitely think that was a key," Tyger Coach Joe Prats said, "it was a great defensive effort and it was maintained the whole four quar-ters."

"Earlier, we had not been shooting that well but the defense kept us in the game."

Ross Coach Pat McGhee said, "They did play good defense but we still had quite a few make-able opportunities that if we had capitalized on those, it would have possibly made a difference in the flow of the game, but we got behind too far and we had to speed up the game and we played right into their hands."

Chico Feagin, a sophomore and normally a starter for Prats but playing in his first game since a one-game suspension, came off the bench to score a team-high 14 points and grab a game-high 16 rebounds.

"Chico Feagin is going to be a great one," Mc-Ghee said after his team bowed out with an 11-10 record.

Ross, wanted to slow Mansfield down, but let the Tygers get away at the end of the first quarter and most of the second quarter.

Leading 7-5, the Tygers outscored Ross 9-4 for a



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MIKE McGEE (30) of Fremont Ross tries for a steal against Mansfield's Kenny Feagin as Ross's Shane McConnell

looks on during the Division I sectional championship game at Norwalk High School Saturday.

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16-9 first-quarter lead. Midway through second quarter, the Tygers had ran to a 31-15 lead.

Ross recovered slightly, pulling to 31-20 on a Shane McConnell bucket but Mansfield led at half-time 34-20.

The Little Giants cut the Tygers' lead to 45-36 with 1:40 remaining in the third quarter on the second of two 3-point goals by Brad Hammer in the period, but Robert Jones hit from the foul line and Kenny Feagin hit a re-

McConnell's 3-point goal with 5:23 remaining but was unable to get any closer.

"When we got settled back down, we made a run at them," McGhee said, "we had some rebound shots and some free throws then but they did not go down. We had our opportunities but just did not capitalize on them."

"But the kids played hard. We had a good season but Mansfield was just better today."

Mansfield's biggest lead was 66-46 with under two minutes to play. At that point, McGhee sent bound shot, giving the Tygers a 49-36 after three quarters.

Ross closed the gap to 50-40 on

is his reserves.

McGhee said late last week that Mansfield was much like the Little Giants, losing several close games in the regular season.

"Kenny Feagin was out for 13 games and we had four kids out for three and another for two games, so we have had our problems through the year," Prats said. "We had seven close games that could have gone either way, but we lost all seven."

"But it is starting to come to-

gether. I felt all along that somewhere along the line, we had to get some luck and hopefully, it will stay with us."

Ross outrebounded the Tygers 44-38 with Mike McGee grabbing 13 and Adm Bulger 11. McGee led Ross with 16 points. Arlo Brown added eight.

Robert Jones and Jason Bunting had 11 points each for Mansfield. The Tygers were 26 of 56 from the floor, 46 percent, and 16 of 32 at the foul line.

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