

Gedeon named new hoop coach at Ross

Little Giants assistant moves up to varsity

By **TIM HARMON**
Staff writer

Mark Gedeon hesitates when considering he's a 27-year-old head coach of a Division I high school boys basketball program.

"I don't think that any one can say they are 100 percent ready," Gedeon said after being named to replace Bruce Brown in the position at Fremont Ross Monday night.

"Every coach learns in each situation.

"There is a challenge that needs to be met, and I think I've prepared myself for the challenge."

Gedeon doesn't feel any pressure to win, perhaps because the Little Giants have struggled in recent seasons.

"You can really feel for our seniors right now," Gedeon said. "They've been through two coaching changes in two years.

"I definitely feel a sense of obligation to the kids."

That's where it starts for Gedeon, who has compiled a 59-51 record in five seasons as the Ross junior varsity coach.

"The kids that are here are my kids — kids that I coached before," Gedeon said. "I think it's going to be an easy transition for the kids.

"My number one thing is working with the kids to get them to accept the challenge. If we put a product on the floor and people believe in what we're doing and have confidence in us, we'll get the domino effect.

"We'll get the student body behind us, and it will spill over and then we'll have the community."

Before coming to Ross, Gedeon was a seventh grade coach and freshman coach at Bowling Green.

"When I first started coaching at Bowling Green, it was always some day I want to be a head coach in Division I basketball," he said. "When the opportunity opened up, I had a chance to fulfill a dream that I've always had."

Brown replaced Frank Gioffre last year, and the Little Giants won four games. Gedeon has led the Ross reserves to back-to-back 16-4 records.

"People think there doesn't seem to be a lot of long-term stability," Gedeon said. "It's to my advantage that I have been here five years already."

Lynn Huffman, director of personnel for Fremont City Schools, said Gedeon was a good choice to present to the board of education.

"The overall pool of applicants was pretty well known," Huffman said. "We decided to do it internally because we like what Mark has done at the reserve level and as a varsity assistant."

Gedeon wants his teams fundamentally sound, mentally tough and wants them to want to compete.

"He's done a good job of coaching fundamentals, and his teams have always played with enthusiasm and intensity," Ross Athletic Director Pat McGhee said. "He's organized in practice, and I think his teams have always improved from the beginning of the season to the end.

"Mark's players have improved once they got to the varsity level. To me, that's a sign that there's a lot of good things happening with the teams he's coached."

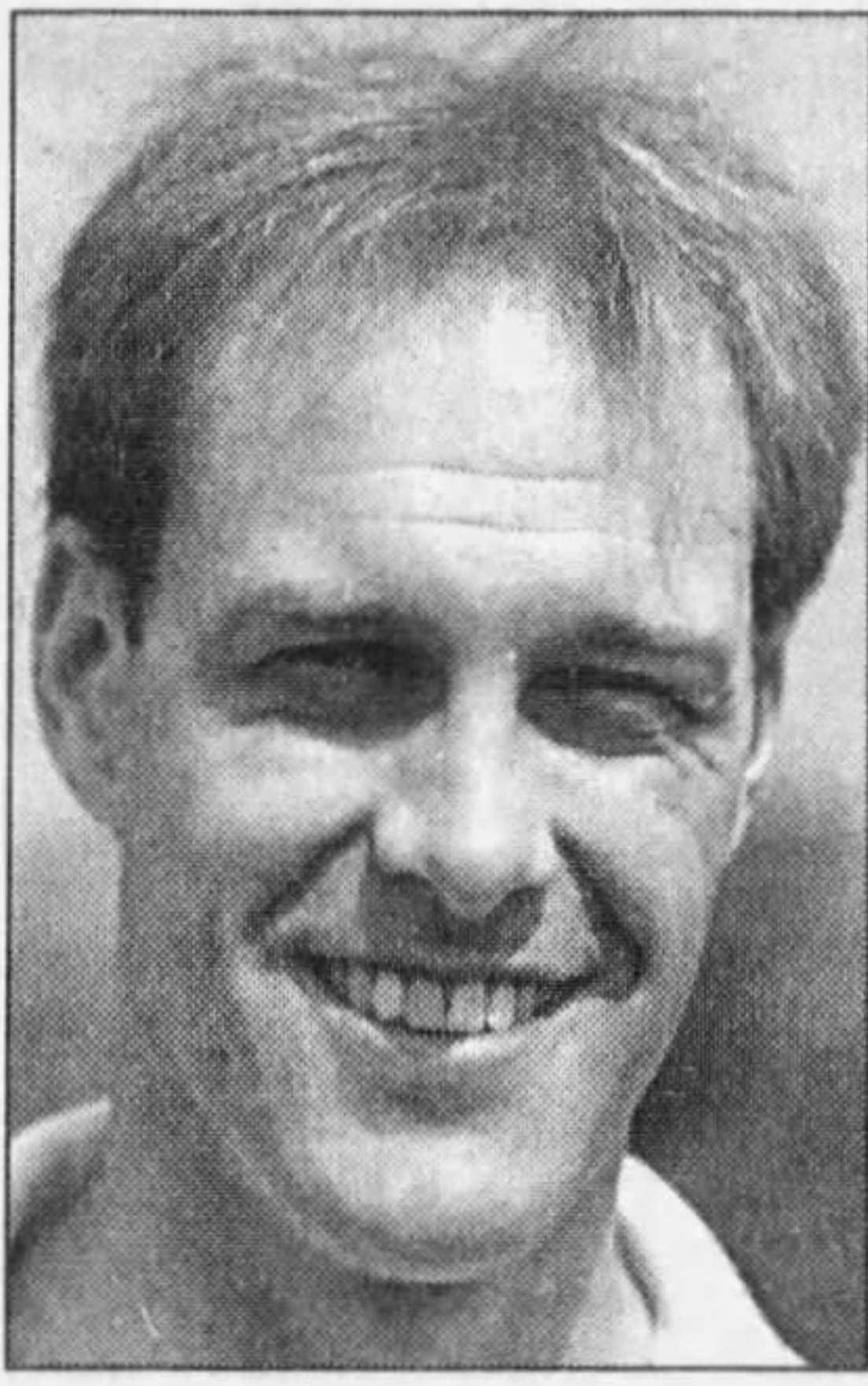
And Gedeon hopes good things happen for the Little Giants' varsity.

"Last year, I wasn't surprised that I didn't get the job because they wanted someone with previous head coaching experience," Gedeon said.

"This year, I felt that I had a very good chance at the position. I had confidence in my abilities. A lot of other people had confidence in me as well."

To all, 27 is just a number.

PROFILE



MARK GEDEON

AGE: 27

FAMILY: Wife Mindy; daughter Alexis, 2; expecting second child in October

HOMETOWN: Bowling Green

EDUCATION: Bowling Green High School, 1986; Bowling Green State University, 1990; currently working on master's degree

OCCUPATION: Math teacher at Fremont Junior High School

HOBBIES: Family and participant sports