

Ross cage coach named; brings successful record

John Sawyer, 34, will be the next basketball coach at Fremont Ross High School.

Sawyer guided Kinsman Badger into the Class State Basketball semifinals this past season before losing 49-47 to Columbus Academy. Badger compiled a 27-1 record during the 1980-81 season. He will be replacing Biz Paeth who resigned this year.

The Youngstown State graduate coached two years at the Trumbull County school, finishing with a combined record of 44-10. In his first year at Badger, Sawyer's team was 12-8 in the regular season and finished 17-9, losing in the regional finals.

Sawyer had inherited a 1-20 team at Badger.

Prior to the Badger job, he had spent two years at Farmington High School, one year as an assistant and one as the head coach, compiling a 7-12 mark.

"It's going to be very interesting," Sawyer said during a phone con-

versation this morning. "It will be a challenge coming to a triple-A school."

Sawyer shrugged off Ross's past history of weak basketball.

"Everyone said I was crazy when I came to Badger," he said. "We got turned around the first year and last year we went to the state tournament.

"I'm optimistic. They play good football up there (Ross) and in a school that size, there has to be some people who can play basketball."

Sawyer will bring an assistant coach along with him. That will be Dennis Holmes, currently an assistant coach at Windham High School. Holmes is also a Youngstown State graduate.

The new Ross coach operates a carter fishing boat during the summer and has a summer residence on Catawba Island. He is married to Pat and has a seven-year-old boy.

"I expect that we will be living in the trailer on Catawba," the Niles, Ohio, native said.