



Springfield's Cameron Arce and Fremont's Tre Campbell fight over the ball.

MOLLY CORFMAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

McKinstry helps Ross power past Springfield in overtime

Little Giants overcome double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter

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TOLEDO - For the second year in a row, Fremont Ross used a big comeback to stun its opponent in a Division I sectional semifinal at Central Catholic.

The Little Giants overcame a dou-

ble-digit lead in the final six minutes of regulation Tuesday, then dominated Holland Springfield in overtime for a 72-66 victory. Ross erased a seven-point deficit in the final 20 seconds and beat Toledo Start in overtime last year.

Ross (7-16) plays top-seed Toledo St. John's (21-2) at 8 p.m. Friday at Central Catholic. The Little Giants lost to St. John's twice during the regular season.

"When our backs were against the wall, our kids really stepped up the defensive intensity," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "We converted when we

attacked and we were the aggressive team. We did a good job once we started to do that."

Tre Campbell's elbow jumper tied the game at 63-63 with 21 seconds left. The Blue Devils (3-20) failed to get a clean look at the hoop to end regulation.

Once in overtime, forward Bryce McKinstry took over on the offensive end. The sophomore, who battled Springfield's posts and foul trouble throughout the night, scored on back-

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Fremont's Bryce McKinstry grabs a rebound against Springfield.

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to-back possessions for a 67-64 lead.

McKinstry also made sure the Blue Devils didn't forget about him on the defensive end. McKinstry blocked a driving layup attempt by Springfield, leading to a transition bucket from Brandon Trolio.

JT Hale scored to slice the Ross lead to 69-66, but Springfield committed one of its 17 turnovers on its next possession. McKinstry scored with 15 seconds left to put the game out of reach.

"I felt like we needed to play stronger defense," McKinstry said. "If we would have played the whole game like we did late, it would not have been as close. I was more aggressive in the second half. I should have played that way the whole game."

McKinstry finished with 10 points and 15 rebounds for Ross. "He was the man and it started with his defense down low," Gedeon said. "He played with four fouls for a long time there, too. That offense is what we have been waiting for for a while now. He asserted himself and finished at the rim."

The Little Giants led 23-21 after a back-and-forth first quarter.

Stat book

Springfield 21-16-14-12-3 - 66

Ross 23-7-12-21-9 - 72

Springfield: 25-55 FG, 11-22 FT, 5-18 3pt (Bryant 4, Akaar), 43 rebounds (Arce 14), 17 turnovers. Scoring: Terrel Bryant 7 8-12, 26; Cameron Arce 6 1-4, 13; Denzel Prince 3 0-0, 5; Brad Ammons 2 0-0, 4; Dae'vion Arnold 4 2-4, 10; JT Hale 1 0-2, 2; Dayshon Thompson 1 0-0, 2; Kaar Akaar 1 0-0, 3.

Ross: 26-62 FG, 14-23 FT, 6-17 3pt (Johnson 2, Campbell 2, Druckenmiller, Root), 28 rebounds (McKinstry 15), 11 turnovers. Scoring: Maliek Johnson 4 2-2, 12; Keyon Sewell 3 0-0, 6; Taylor Druckenmiller 2 4-7, 9; Bryce McKinstry 5 0-1, 10; Brandon Trolio 1 4-5, 6; Davion Anderson 1 0-0, 2; Tre Campbell 6 3-6, 17; Bryce Root 3 1-2, 8; Roger Burling 1 0-0, 2.

Springfield scored the first seven points in the second quarter, but a 3-ball by Taylor Druckenmiller kept Ross close.

The Blue Devils pushed their lead to 37-30 at halftime.

"We wanted to push," Gedeon said. "You always want to take advantage of any opportunities you get. We did not want to hurry and we shot the ball well. We can play fast offensively, but if we play slow defensively, that is not a good combination."

Springfield picked up where it left off in the third quarter, as four

different players scored for a 45-30 advantage. Ross chipped away, as Campbell made two free throws and Bryce Root sank a 3 to get the Little Giants within 51-42 after three quarters.

"What got us back in the game was we played with the defensive intensity that Fremont Ross basketball should play with," Gedeon said. "We knew Springfield was a great dribble-drive team. They have some good shooters when they are set and we played into their hands early."

Springfield pushed the lead back to 11 points, but scores by Keyon Sewell and Davion Anderson made it 56-49. Druckenmiller scored four points, Sewell hit a jumper and Maliek Johnson made two free throws to tie the game at 61-61.

Terrel Bryant, who scored a game-high 26 points, made two free throws with 48.3 seconds left in regulation before Campbell's jumper knotted the game again. Campbell led Ross with 17 points while Johnson had 12.

St. John's beat Ross 72-35 at home and 59-38 in Fremont.

"We need to get healthy and at this time of the year it's mostly mental preparation," Gedeon said. "We will watch some video and find some things that we need to do to compete with a very, very good team."