

Harding eliminates Ross

By TOM STOREY
N-M Sports Writer
BOWLING GREEN — There wasn't that much difference between the two teams, just a couple of baskets, Marion Hardings' Coach Robert Pacsi said.

But it was enough to send the Presidents to a 51-46 triumph over Ross in the district semifinals here Thursday night and give Harding a shot at Findlay in the finals at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Ross finishes its season at 14-9, the finest in over 20 years for the Little Giants.

"I felt both teams played good defense and it was a typical Buckeye Conference game," Pacsi offered. "A defensive game calls for a lot of pressure shots. We were able to hit a couple of big buckets where they didn't. That was the difference."

Harding's key buckets came in the beginning of the final eight minutes.

The Presidents held a slim three-point lead leading into the fourth quarter, but reeled off six unanswered points to take a 39-30 lead with just over five minutes left in the game. That was all the breathing room they needed as they turned back the Little Giants' comeback attempt down the stretch with some crucial foul shooting.

In the final two minutes, with Ross applying full court pressure, the Presidents went to the charity stripe 12 times and came up with only seven points, but it was enough to hold off Ross.

The Little Giants crept to within four with 31 seconds left but a free throw by Greg Klepzig and two by Ralph Hill put Marion on top 51-44 with 12 seconds left. Randy Bury knocked in a meaningless bucket as the buzzer sounded for Ross.

It was a slow moving

game, except for an occasional fast break, and both teams had trouble getting untracked. But in the end it was Marion's shooting that was the difference.

The Presidents shot 18 of 41 from the field for 44 percent while Ross could connect on only 17 of 52 shots for 32 percent.

"Ross did a heckuva job," Pacsi said. "They played great defense. We were just fortunate that we made a few more shots than they did."

Marion's man-to-man defense completely took away Ross's offense and the Presidents controlled the boards to eliminate the Little Giants' running game.

"Ross is a very good shooting team," Pacsi said. "We knew that if we allowed them to run their offense, we would be in trouble. So we worked real hard on being conscious of

where the ball was and we didn't want to give them any uncontested shots."

Hill, Marion's 6-3 center, dominated play inside, grabbing 16 rebounds and blocking four shots. Overall, the Presidents had a 44-28 edge on the boards.

Fred Ross was the only offensive weapon for Marion. He scored 15 points, most of which were 20 foot jump shots, before fouling out with over two minutes to play.

Mike Held led Ross with 14 points but was only six of 16 from the field and grabbed only three rebounds.

Ross had beaten Harding twice during the regular season, once by 26 points, but that didn't bother Pacsi.

"I think it was in the back of their minds (Harding's players) but we never made mention of it," Pacsi said. "I didn't even

show them the films.

"The past three weeks we've gained a great deal of confidence. You can teach the x's and o's but unless you've got the experience and confidence, the x's and o's won't help. We went through a lot during the season and we're starting to put it together.

"The players see the hard work paying off and are getting confidence in themselves and their ability."

Marion finished the season 4-16 but have won four straight tournament games.

Score by quarter

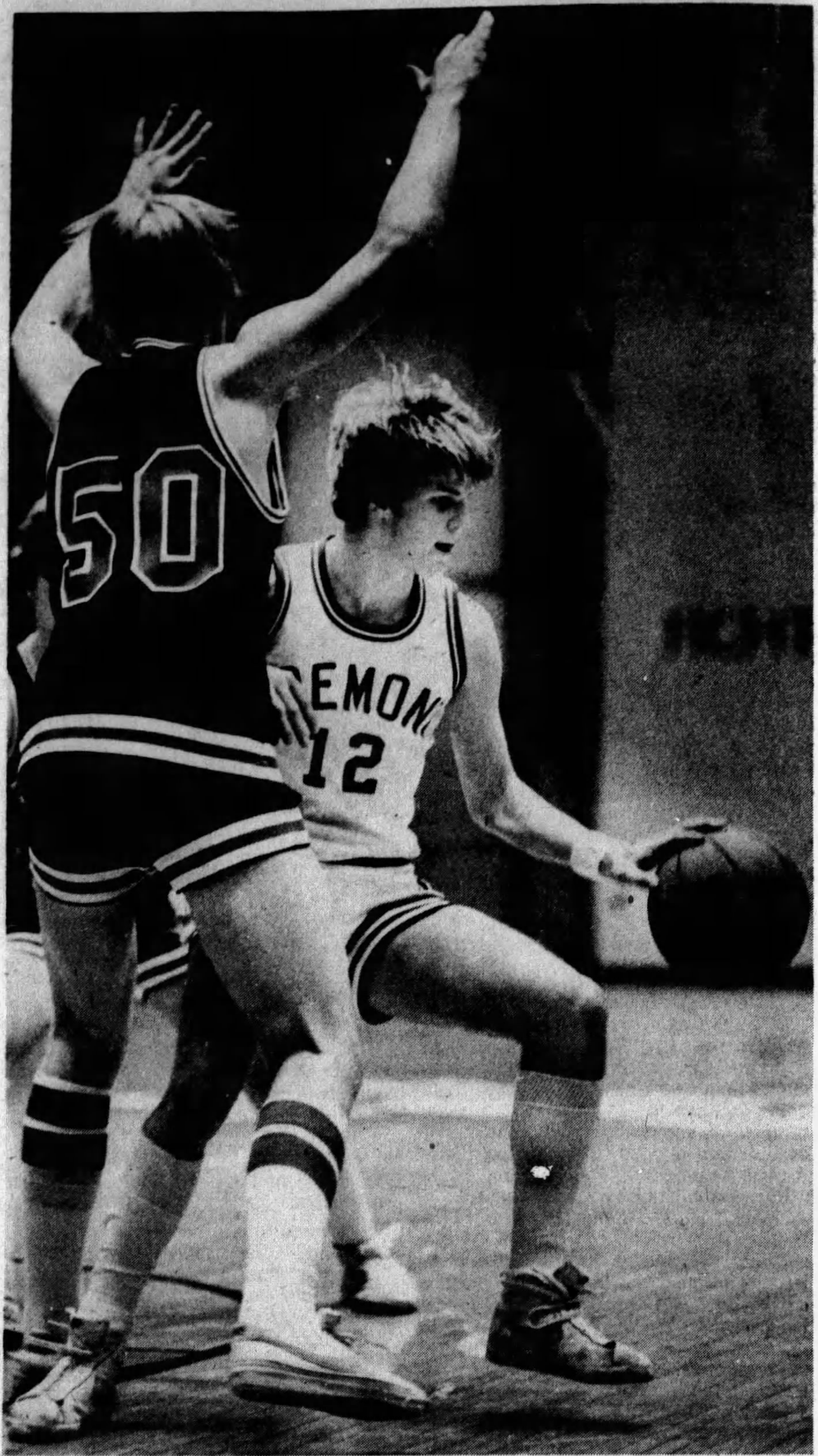
Harding	8	10	15	18-51
Ross	8	10	12	16-46

Scoring

HARDING: Ross 5-5-15, Klepzig 4-1-9, Hill 2-5-9, Carter 3-0-6, Scowden 4-0-8, Simmons 0-4-4; totals 18-15-51

ROSS: Held 6-2-14, Harms 3-2-8, Hedden 2-2-6, Woelzel 1-1-3, Ameling 2-0-4, Bury 3-1-7, Eicher 0-4-4; totals 17-12-46

Season record: Harding 8-16, Ross 14-9



MARION HARDING'S tight man to man defense effectively shut down the Ross offense all night during the district semifinals at Bowling Green Thursday night. Here the President's John Scowden (50) stops Tom Woelzel. (N-M photo by George Lundskow)

Lakota advances to district final

By CHRIS CELEK
N-M Special Writer
TOLEDO — Happy Lakota teachers stood around joshing about "showing 'em up here in the big city how to play basketball," and Dave Worstein just smiled.

Lakota's coach grinned, naturally, because his Raiders had just whipped Swanton 62-56, but also because the kids from Kansas didn't show anyone at Waite High School Thursday night how the game's played — the Raiders were just in better shape.

"We respected Swanton and knew they are a good team, but it was our conditioning that came through," Worstein said. "Not that they weren't in good condition, but all that pressing paid off for us."

"All that pressing" came from Lakota's 2-1-2 zone defense which got stronger as the Class AA district tournament game wore on. The Raiders got particularly tough in the fourth quarter when they

held the Bulldogs to 12 points, and squeezed Swanton's high-jumping John Bell real hard.

The scouting report warned that Bell could leap and score from nearly everywhere on the floor, and he did, for three quarters. In the final period, however, Lakota worked Bell over and the 6-4 Bulldog found the basket just once.

Besides being in peak physical condition, the swashbuckling Lakota team had its raiding plan set. They knew what to expect from Swanton, which was 18-4 entering the tournament's semifinal contest, and the Raiders executed just as they had practiced.

"They are great jumpers and we had to play the boards smart and get good position, which we did," said Worstein, still grinning as he listed what had been worked on over and over back in Kansas and what the Raiders then did to win.

"We worked real hard on

that four corner offense for Swanton. We had two guys holding on to the ball and worked on not running through double teams. We told them to pass instead and we did all that successfully."

The sweat spent during the week continually running through their four corner stall helped the Raiders when they switched to that offense with 2:30 remaining in the game. Lakota led 53-48 and the Bulldogs were nowhere near quitting.

Worstein ordered his squad to pass the ball around the perimeter and run down the clock. The play worked, as Bell fouled Terry Hedge just after the change.

Hedge, Lakota's postman, missed the first toss of a one-and-one situation, but teammate Al Wiseman bagged the rebound and the basket to put Lakota up by seven.

Then just as quickly, Rick Younker ran into Randy Shane while trying to rip apart Lakota's stall.

The Raider senior sank one free throw, and was fouled, after Lakota went to its four corners following a Swanton turnover.

Shane missed both ends of the bonus situation, but another turnover gave Lakota the ball. Worstein had worried before the game about Swanton's quickness, but the Bulldogs' fast feet worked against them in the final minutes.

Shane was fouled again, this time by Stuart Sims. Shane couldn't sink his free throws, but got help from Roger Wasserman's rebound and basket with just 33 seconds left.

The scoreboard read 58-52 at that point and Swanton still had hope until Jeff Thames hit Scherger while going after a Lakota pass. Scherger made the score 60-52 with his shooting from the foul line, and then added another when Thames ran into him trying to intercept a Wiseman pass. Scherger stroked in the last two of his 16 points.

"You've got to give them credit, Swanton is a good team," Worstein said. "Their offense and their fast break kept up with us. They're a real swift team, but we were ready for them."

Hedge led all scorers with 19 big ones, and Wasserman ended the night with 14. Worstein had praise for both. "This was one of the few games that Terry took the ball to the basket. He played real intelligently. So did Wasserman."

The pair drove inside against Lakota reserve star Paul Hoffman all week to get accustomed to the shot-blocking abilities of Swanton's Bell and Younker, Worstein said. And the Raider coach grinned even wider when he described how that preparation paid off.

Score by quarters

Lakota	18	13	14	17-62
Swanton	16	11	17	12-56

Scoring

LAKOTA: Shane 2-3-7, A. Scherger 6-4-16, Wasserman 7-0-14, Wiseman 3-0-6, Hedge 9-1-19; totals 27-8-62

SWANTON: Thames 9-0-18, Mousing 8-0-16, Younker 1-0-2, Bell 7-1-15, Sims 2-1-5; totals 27-2-56

Paeth: Bad way to end a good season

By BILL STEWART
News-Messenger Staff Writer
BOWLING GREEN — "It's a bad way to end a good season."

That was the best way Ross Basketball Coach Biz Paeth could describe his feelings after the Little Giants' disappointing 51-46 loss to Marion Harding in the Class AAA District semifinals here Thursday night.

The Ross coach was definitely down, but he couldn't help but think back at the season as a whole that produced a 14-9 record and a surprising sectional title en route to the district tournament here.

Thursday night's game between the two Buckeye Conference squads was like a time bomb that never went off for the Little Giants. One kept waiting for something to explode, but it never occurred.

The two teams struggled to an 18-18 deadlock at halftime and the only real spurt of the game came when Marion Harding reeled off six unanswered points at the beginning of the fourth quarter to go ahead 39-30.

"At halftime Tom Woelzel said 'come on guys they are just waiting for us to win,'" Paeth related. "But we just couldn't get our momentum."

"At the beginning we were a little bit tight and I think they were tight too," Paeth continued. "Once things aren't going well in a game you tend to get tighter and tighter. We couldn't get over the hump."

Ross came out in the second half and temporarily abandoned its 2-3 zone and went to a man to man defense and began to put more pressure on the Prexies, who lost to Ross twice during the season and go into Saturday's finals with an 8-16 record.

Paeth said the Little Giants were beginning to get some momentum before Greg Hedden injured his eye when Marion's leaping center Ralph Hill was called for goal tending under the hoop to put Ross ahead 24-22 early in the third quarter.

"I think the only time in the game when we had some momentum was when Hedden got hurt," Paeth observed. The Ross senior left the game and had to have five stitches near his eyebrow. From then on, the Little Giants struggled on offense and gradually saw the game slip away. They made only 17 of 52 shots from the field for just under 33 percent.

Ross's two victories over the Prexies included an 81-55 romp at the Fremont gym in late January. Was it a disadvantage psychologically going against a team you had beaten twice during the year?

"I really don't think that was the reason," Paeth said. "Although they come in here with nothing to lose. More pressure is on us, because we are expected to win."

He credited Harding for playing a good defensive game and getting the Little Giants out of their tempo and patterns. Ross tried to get its running game going against Harding whenever it could, with only limited success.

"We just couldn't get untracked," Paeth said. "And that's certainly a credit to them."

"We knew man to man they matched up with us real well, but they weren't that deep," he said. He credited Harding guard Ted Simmons for coming off the bench down the stretch when leading scorer Fred Ross ran into foul trouble. Paeth thought Simmons might rattle, but he didn't.

He described the squad as mentally ready for the game and said they had one of their best practices of the year on Wednesday night.

The Ross contingent of fans certainly made its presence known at the Bowling Green State University arena. The students, who were dressed in purple, turned out in the highest numbers of the season and far outnumbered Marion's fans in numbers and volume.

"It was a thrill to be here," Paeth said. "There was great backing and the kids did a great job."

Today's Sports in Brief

GOLF
MIAMI (AP) — Tommy Valentine chipped in for a birdie on his final hole, completing a 4-under-par 68 that tied him with Keith Fergus for the first-round lead in the \$250,000 Doral Open.

Dave Hill, Rex Caldwell, Dave Eger, Leonard Thompson, Wayne Levi and Kermit Zarley all tied at 69.

RANCHO BERNARDO, Calif. (AP) — Pat Bradley shot a 5-under-par 67 for a

two-stroke lead in the opening round of a \$150,000 LPGA tournament.

Two strokes back at 69 were Jane Blalock and Cindy Chamberlin.

SKIING
OSLO, Norway (AP) — Oddvar Braa of Norway won the men's 15-kilometer cross country race at the 1980 Holmenkollen Ski Festival in 45 minutes, 40.6 seconds, nearly half a minute better than

Thomas Wassberg of Sweden.

SAALBACH, Austria (AP) — Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden won the season's sixth World Cup giant slalom in 2 minutes, 37.23 seconds, less than two seconds better than Joel Gaspoz of Switzerland.

TENNIS
BOSTON (AP) — Tracy Austin and Billie Jean King, the top remaining seeded players at the \$125,000 women's tournament, advanced to the quarterfinals after concise and convincing wins.

In other action, Yugoslavia's Mima Jausovec defeated Laura DuPont 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; while Joanne Russell staged a comeback 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 upset of Mary Lou Piatek.

SKATING
DORTMUND, West Germany (AP) — Jan Hoffmann of East Germany, capitalizing on his early lead, gained revenge on Olympic champion Robin Cousins of Britain to take the World Figure Skating Championships for the second time in his career.

Aubly, who rolled games of 227, 235, 259, 266, 215, 212, 220 and 223, qualified 12th for match play and won six of eight matches with a 232 average, surpassing Arnie Goldman, who suffered a 162-161 loss in his final match.

Aubly totalled 5,971 for 26 games, 29 pins better than Pete Weber and 31 ahead of Goldman. Ernie Schlegel stood fourth with 5,916 and Henry Gonzalez was fifth with a 5,886 total.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Jeff Beloate rolled a 634 series to take singles honors in the American Bowling Congress championships.

The top doubles score of the day came from Glen Chesser and Jim Walensa, who combined for a 1,203 total.

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agri-facts

by CLARK BOATMAN

It's getting time to tell whether the grain embargo imposed on the Soviet Union last January is going to have any appreciable effect. Ag observers say the most crucial time, March through July, is when the USSR will be denied the 13 million metric tons of US grain they had planned to receive. Observers, whose business it is to know these things, will be watching primarily to see if the big shortfall in grain shipments will force the USSR to sharply reduce the herds which have been building up over the last

BOWLING
GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP) — After losing his seventh match, 300-220, to Mark Roth, Professional Bowlers Association Rookie of the Year Mike Aubly of Indianapolis came back with a 223-196 final-game victory to move into the lead after four

rounds of the \$85,000 Long Island Open.

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