

ANTHONY WAYNE 32, FREMONT ROSS 31



Fremont's Jazmin Bulger takes it to the hoop past Anthony Wayne's Alix Carter.

MOLEY CORREIA/THE NEWS-MESSANGER

Ross drops heartbreaker to Anthony Wayne in OT

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TOLEDO - For the longest of time Wednesday, Fremont Ross could not score.

Then, the Little Giants could do nothing wrong against Anthony Wayne in the third quarter. The Generals, however, made a stand in the fourth quarter, forced overtime and Ross couldn't avoid a 32-31 setback in a Division I sectional semifinal at Start.

"When you get so close against a good team like that and come up short, it is going to hurt," Ross coach Juan Vela said. "It hurts more for the girls because they are the ones that are playing hard. I wanted the win for them."

Jazmin Bulger, who finished with 15 points, split two free throws to get Ross (12-11) within 25-20 with 57 seconds left. The Generals (18-5) committed their 20th turnover, giving the Little Giants an opportunity to tie.

Bulger drove and was fouled and made her first free throw, but the second clanked off. Matalyn Overmyer grabbed the rebound, but her shot was short.

Ross committed a foul with 4 seconds left, but af-

ter a missed free throw, a heave by the Little Giants was well short to end their season.

"Turnovers killed us," Vela said. "When they put the pressure on, we could not get the ball in or get any offense for us. I know that hurt us. Turnovers always kill you."

Ross jumped to a 7-3 lead but struggled offensively throughout the rest of the half. The Generals needed of the next 13 points to take a 16-7 lead at half-time as the Little Giants were scoreless for the final 12:04.

"In the first quarter, they played man-to-man, but in the second quarter, they got into a zone and gave us fits," Vela said. "We did not get enough ball movement in the zone."

The third quarter, however, belonged to Ross. Ahlia Simms made two free throws to end the scoring drought before Bulger drilled a 3-pointer and scored again to cut the deficit to 16-14.

After a timeout by the Generals, Bulger stepped in front of a pass and went coast-to-coast for a game-winning layup.

"Jazmin is one of our playmakers," Vela said of

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Fremont's Jazmin Bulger, left, and Anthony Wayne's Hannah Saul fight for the ball.

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Ross

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the junior. "She is one of those players that if you leave her open, she will hit jump shots. She is becoming a better shooter. The 3 was in the flow of the game and good timing. It was big for us." — good timing.

Simms scored and Marissa Overmyer connected on a 3 for a 21-16 lead. Simms connected on two more shots for a nine-point advantage that Ross took into the fourth quarter.

The Little Giants' lead was 28-21 when Bulger picked up her fourth foul in the fourth quarter. Alix Carter drilled a 3 to slice into the lead before Bulger returned to the floor.

Rylie Seals scored off a Ross turnover and Abigail Yunker splashed in two free throws to tie the game at 28-28. Bulger missed a shot as time expired in regulation.

"We made adjustments to get ball movement in the third quarter and the girls felt comfortable, hit some shots and get offensive rebounds," Vela said. "We took the ball to the lane and got some foul shots. We had more energy and that led to our big run."

Anthony Wayne's Emily Brandeberry laid in a bucket for a 32-29 lead with 2:01 left in overtime. The Generals played without first-

team all-Northern Lakes League senior Renee Simcholtz. Simms had 11 points and nine rebounds. The Little Giants finish with a winning record for the first time since going 12-10 in 2005.

"This group was special," Vela

said. "Skill-wise, we do not have someone that is going to go to a Division I college or anything like that. We played hard, got along and played the game right."

Stat book

Ross 7-0-19-2-3-31
Anthony Wayne 11-5-11-1-4-32

Ross: 10-31 FG, 9-15 FT, 2-11 3pt (Bulger, Mae Overmyer), 24 rebounds (Simms 9), 22 turnovers. Scoring: Matalyn Overmyer 10-6-2, Jazmin Bulger 5-4-7-15, Ahlia Simms 3-5-9-11, Marissa Overmyer 1-0-0-1.

Anthony Wayne: 12-35 FG, 7-19 FT, 1-9 3pt (Carter), 26 rebounds (Yunker 12), 25 turnovers. Scoring: Abigail Yunker 3-6-9, Alix Carter 2-0-4-5, Hannah Saul 0-2-8-3, Rylie Seals 3-2-2-7, Emily Brandeberry 4-0-8.