

Sandusky routs Ross

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

WILLARD — Sandusky had all the cards and played them well, trumping everything Fremont Ross tried to do in an 85-28 Division I sectional championship game victory Friday night.

"Fremont wasn't playing with a full deck," Sandusky coach John Schlessman pointed out.

Sandusky was the dealer in this one-sided game and the Blue Streaks' aces weren't up their sleeves. Lightning-quick point guard DeMar Moore and hulking Orlando Pace were in plain view.

The Little Giants played without Charles Woodson and substitute Mike Lather. Woodson and his 20-points per game average were serving a one-game suspension; Lather forgot his uniform and shoes.

The Blue Streaks (17-4) will face Celina, which defeated Defiance 60-52 for a sectional title, in the district tournament Thursday at Bowling Green State University. Ross finishes the season 6-16.

Pace, a 6-foot-8, 300-pounder bound for the football wars at Ohio State, muscled in 14 of his 16 points in the first half as Sandusky walked off with a 42-14 halftime lead.

Moore, after a mild first half, scored 12 of his 20 points in the third quarter as Sandusky expanded its lead to 68-19.

"That team right there," Ross coach Frank Gioffre said of Sandusky, "in my opinion, is probably one of the better teams in the state of Ohio."

Gioffre wanted his team to play patiently, but Sandusky ruined that plan quickly by scoring the first eight points.

It was 20-9 after one quarter, with all of the Ross points on 3-point baskets — two by Gary Rakes and the other by Shane Moran.

"We did miss some early opportunities to get momentum...we had some wide-open threes and we could not hit them," Gioffre said.

"They are such a great team in transition, and Orlando does such a great job of rebounding and outletting the ball, that we fell behind early and by halftime, that was the game."

The game was out of reach of Ross, but the second-half card

Woodson out because of suspension

News-Messenger reports

WILLARD — Charles Woodson and Mike Lather did not suit up for Fremont in the Division I sectional finals against Sandusky Friday night.

Woodson, the Little Giants leading scorer at more than 20 points per game, was suspended by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for one game this week following an incident in a 68-67 Ross victory over Ashland in the first game of the sectional tournament.

"The game site manager reports the incident to the OHSAA," Ross Athletic Director Pat McGhee explained, "and then the commissioner (Claire Muscaro) investigates it. He gets input from the game officials and the teams involved, and then makes the ruling."

Woodson, after tipping in a Ross shot against Ashland, was knocked to the floor by the Arrows Mark Timmons. While on the floor, Woodson punched Timmons and was ejected immediately.

"The suspension is for one game," McGhee said. "There will be no carryover to next season."

Lather missed the game because he forgot to pack his equipment, leaving his shoes and uniform in Fremont

shuffling of Blue Streak players had to be played.

"Our game plan was not to do anything fancy," Schlessman said, "and I thought our kids shared the ball well all night long, and that is all you can do in a game like this."

Roger Smith added 12 for Sandusky and Keithrian Pickens came off the bench to score a dozen for the Streaks.

Rakes topped Ross with six points, while Moran and David Gibbs had five apiece.

Tigers beat Indians in preseason opener

Associated Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — Rookie Danny Bautista looked like he belonged in the Detroit lineup as the Tigers defeated the Cleveland Indians 12-5 in the exhibition opener for both teams.

But there was good news Friday for the Indians, too, as Charles Nagy appeared completely recovered from shoulder surgery.

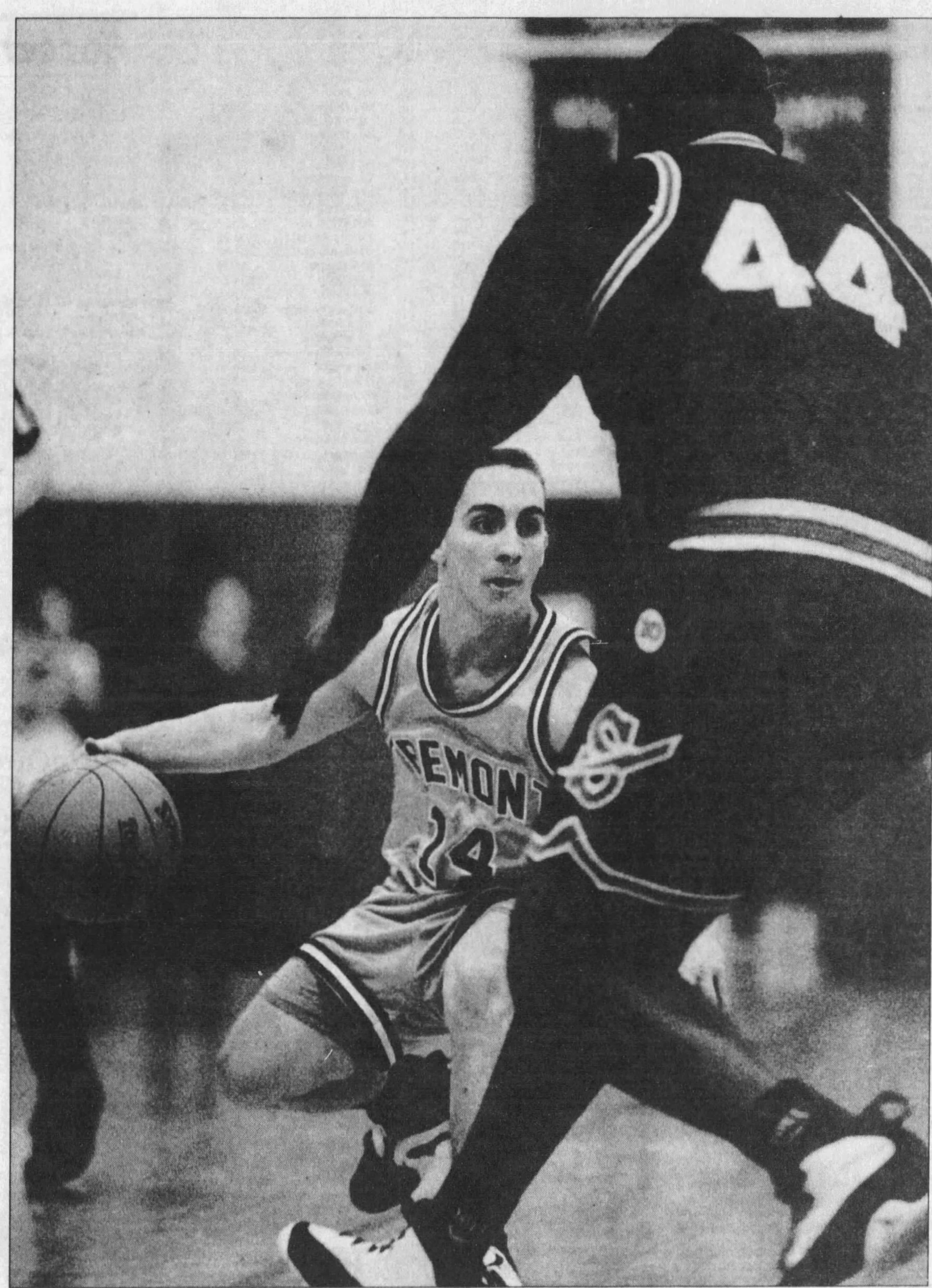
Nagy (0-1) retired the first five batters, striking out Juan Samuel, Travis Fryman and Cecil Fielder. Then the powerful Detroit offense caught up with him.

The Tigers, with two outs in the second, exploded for four runs. Chad Kreuter had a two-run triple and Bautista hit an RBI single in the rally.

The Tigers got homers from Alan Trammell and Junior Felix in the five-run fifth, both off Mark Clark. Trammell hit a three-run homer to left and Felix homered to right.

Mike Moore (1-0), Bill Gullickson, Krueger and Mike Christopher each pitched two innings for Detroit.

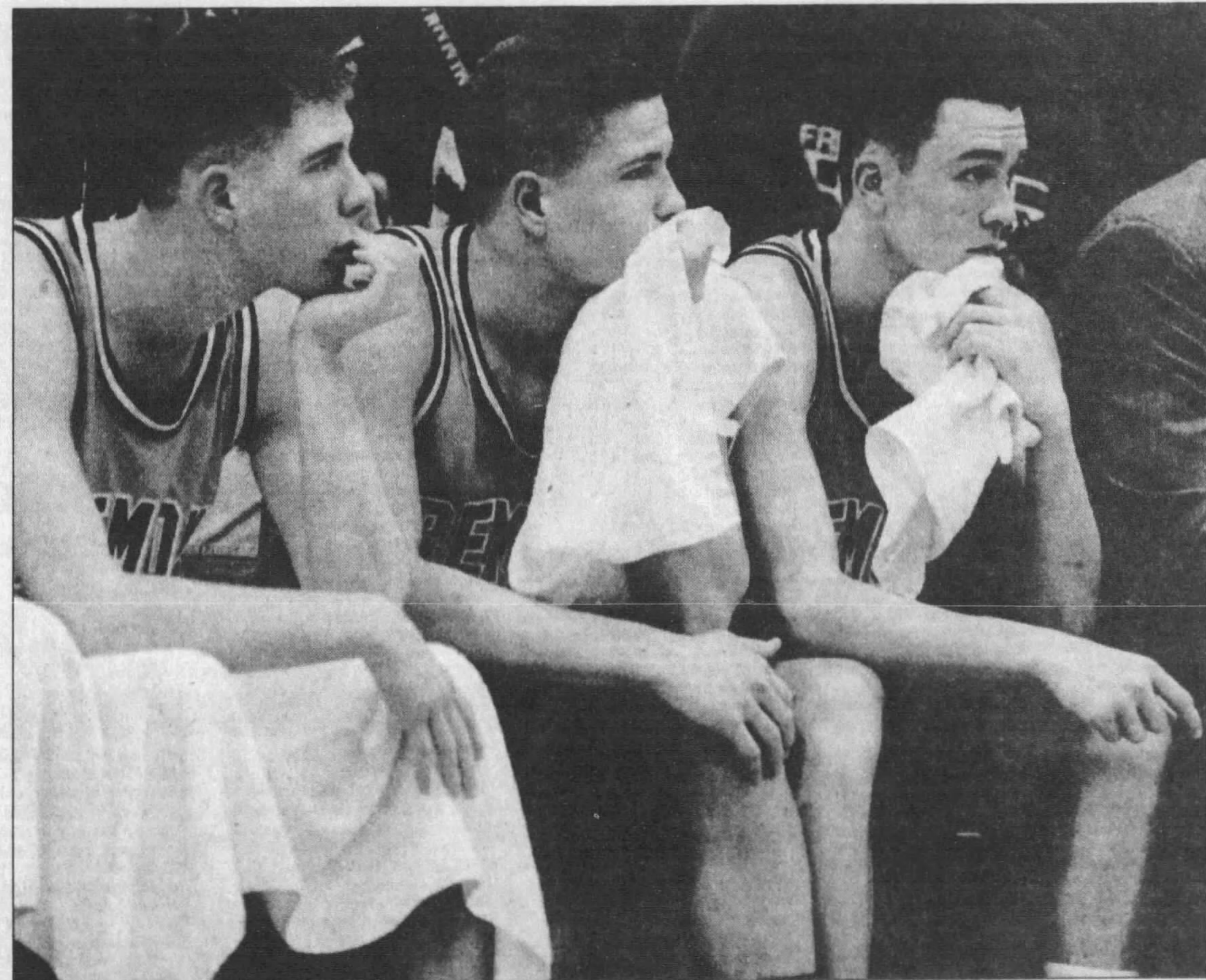
The Tigers had 15 hits off five Cleveland pitchers.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

GARY RAKES, 5-foot-7, of Fremont Ross tries to go around Sandusky's Orlando Pace, 6-foot-8, during a sectional championship game at Willard High School Friday

night. Below from left, Jon Minnich, Chad Root and Geoff Berger watch the final moments of Sandusky's 85-28 win from the Ross bench.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison