

GIRLS BASKETBALL

MARION HARDING 59,
FREMONT ROSS 30

Harding jumps early, beats Ross

BY BOB PUTMAN

Special to the News-Messenger

BUCYRUS — The ability to start quickly has been the way to go for the Harding girls basketball team in the Northwest District Division I tournament at Bucyrus High School.

Just days after scoring the first 17 points in a win over Ashland, Harding opened with a 13-0 run en route to a 59-30 victory over Fremont Ross on Saturday.

"It was a repeat of our first game," Harding coach Greg Noftz said. "We came out early and got it done early."

Shawnta' Dyer and Brenae Harris, Harding's top players, once again led the Lady Presidents. But Ross coach Juan Vela felt other players were also important to Harding.

"Dyer and Harris got a lot of attention, but they had some other girls his some big shots," Vela said.

Kura Hairston, who normally comes off the bench for Harding (22-0), was in the starting lineup and scored six points during the Lady Presidents' opening spurt. She would eventually finish with 12 points.

"We decided to start Kura and it was a big plus for us getting going early," Noftz said.

Harding concluded the opening frame with an 18-2 lead, increased the margin to 30-8 at the half and then 48-21 going into the fourth quarter.

The Little Giants finished the season with a 2-19 mark, but Vela felt his team was able to some good things against a very tough opponent.

"Overall I think we played well," he said. "For the most part we executed what we wanted against a very good team."

Morgan Welty paced Ross with nine points while Anissa Guardiola and Alex Ferguson each had five points. Sam Michael snared seven

SEE ROSS 16

ROSS FROM 5

rebounds and McKenzie Schneider added six rebounds.

Dyer totaled 16 points for Harding while Harris contributed 12 markers.

Ross lose just two players to graduation, Taylor Redinger and

Welty, and Vela was pleased with the improvement of the Little Giants.

"Just the fact we finished better than when we came into the start of the season," Vela said.

"We want to keep going from that."