

Ross wins sectional title!

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

ASHLAND — It was an unusual situation for Ross: a title game.

The Little Giants can count the times on one hand that the purple and white have been in a game going for a title on the hardwood but Ross was there and Lexington's Minutemen had their muskets silenced for the season.

Ross, playing the underdog role despite being seeded second in the Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament, outgunned the Minutemen 59-56 to win the sectional crown and a spot in the Class AAA District Tournament Thursday at Bowling Green State University.

The Little Giants will play a familiar foe — Marion Harding, a 73-58 winner over Wapakoneta Saturday in the sectional at Lima. Ross and the Presidents have met twice this season with Ross winning both times.

Saturday at Ashland College, Ross's starting five and two substitutes took turns handling the hero roles. All seven scored with Mike Held's steady 13 pacing the group and Tom Woieslagel's gutsy play netting a dozen. However, it was Jerry Ameling's only bucket of the night that fired up the Little Giants for the final five minutes of the game, the key time period for the Little Giants.

Ameling leaped out of a crowd to tip in a Held miss with 4:16 to play to give Ross a 50-46 lead. That tip-in was a catalyst that forced Lexington into a pair of turnovers and a pair of timeouts in the next three minutes.

The Minutemen never did quite get their attack together after that tip-in. A bucket by Don Brado with 1:44 to play cut Ross's lead to

50-48 but Woieslagel, left alone at the top of the circle, drilled it to put Ross up 52-48 24 seconds later.

A pair of free throws by Tom Kyff brought the Minutemen back to within two at the minute mark but Woieslagel calmly dropped in two charity tosses to keep Ross up by four. Kyff hit from in close with 40 seconds left but Gregg Hedden canned two freebies and Ross kept the four-point cushion.

Lexington's 6-5 center Greg Junk hit his only bucket of the second half with 14 seconds to play but Woieslagel canned two more foul shots with seven seconds to play to put Ross up 58-54.

The game was not over, though.

Held, trying to get out of Kyff's road was called for a blocking foul with three ticks of the clock remaining. Kyff hit both ends of the one and one to bring the Minutemen back to within two.

Hedden, who hit five of six free throws in the final eight minutes, was fouled deliberately by Tony Browning on the toss-in. The 6-0 Ross senior calmly hit the first free throw, missed the second, but the game was history and the Little Giants were in the district tournament.

Down the stretch, Held with his rebounding and a pair of third period buckets, Gary Harms with six third period points, and Bollenbacher with the bucket that gave Ross the lead for good at 46-45 with five and one-half minutes to play in the game, all the Little Giants played recklessly but controlled.

Using a tight "2-3" zone after opening in a man-to-man, the Little Giants took Lexington's inside game away in the second half. So well was the Ross zone disguised, it

appeared to be a man-to-man and the Minutemen tried to play it like that many times.

Ross trailed throughout the first half and seven and one-half minutes of the third period. Lexington led by eight on several occasions, the last in the first half with the biggest second half lead seven on four occasions.

Down 39-32 in the third period, Ross ran to its first lead with eight straight points. A bucket by Held gave Ross the lead with 34 seconds remaining in the third period. Ross, however, trailed 42-41 going into the final period.

The Little Giants hit five of 10 in the final period from the field while Lexington had three of nine. Ross hit nine of a dozen charity tosses in the final eight minutes.

Ross hit 22 of 50 shots and 15 of 21 from the line. Lexington, with Brian Timberlake's 18 points taking game honors, was 22 of 46 and 12 of 15 from the line. Lexington also controlled the boards 33-29 but Ross outrebounded the Taller Minutemen 17-11 in the final half.

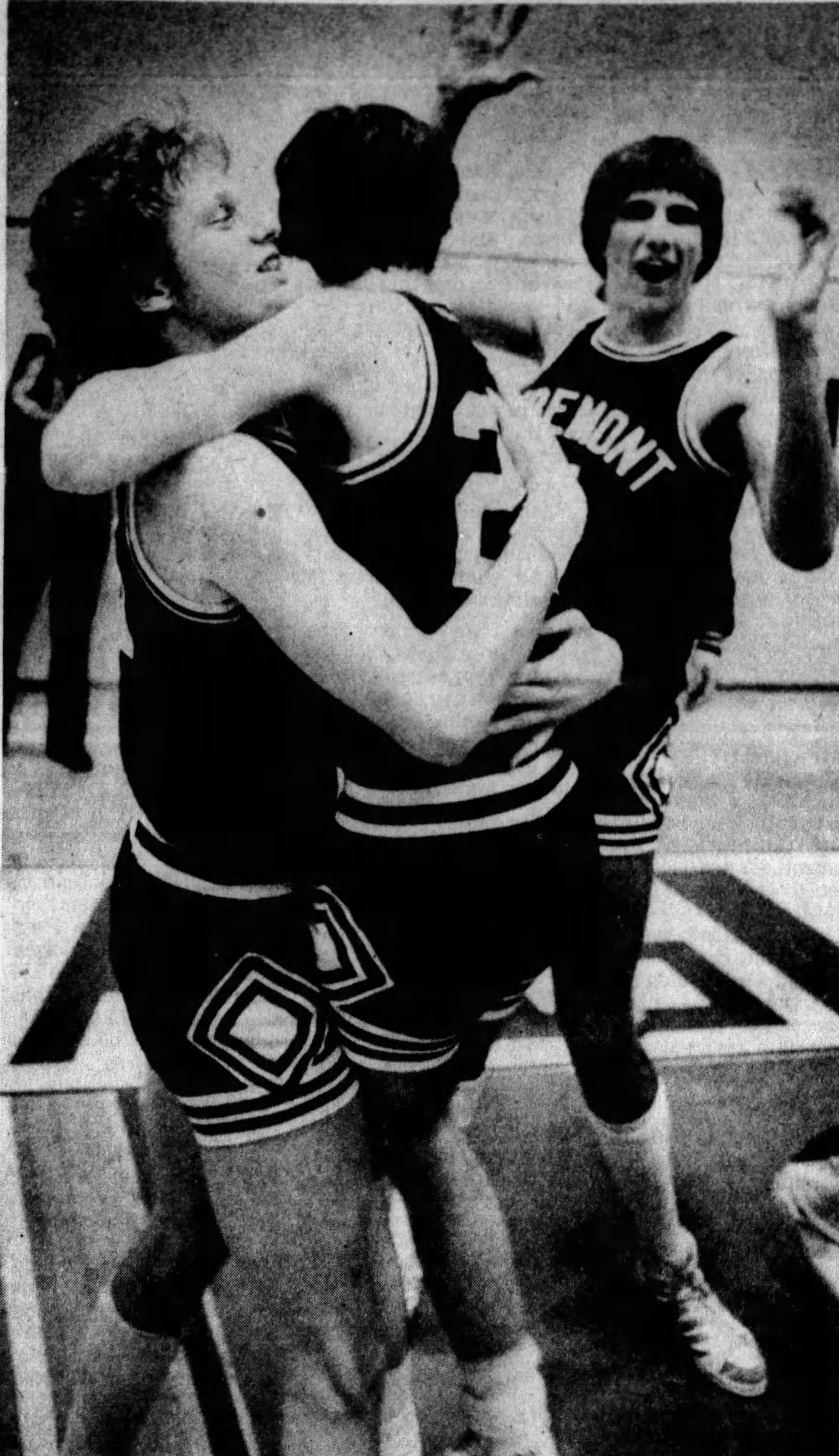
The Little Giants committed only eight turnovers while forcing the Minutemen into 18 giveaways.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Ross	13	11	16	19	59
Lexington	15	14	12	15	56

SCORING

ROSS: Held 5-3-13, Harms 4-1-9, Bollenbacher 2-0-4, Hedden 1-7-9, Woieslagel 4-4-12, Bury 5-0-10, Ameling 1-0-2; totals 22-15-59.
 LEXINGTON: Junk 4-2-10, Timberlake 7-4-18, Huffman 4-0-8, Brado 1-1-3, Kyff 4-4-12, Browning 2-1-5; totals 22-12-56.
 Season records: Ross 14-8, Lexington 18-4.



CELEBRATION. Mike Held, left, grabs Ross teammate Gary Harms in a victory bear hug after Ross defeated favored Lexington 59-56 in the finals of the Ashland College Class AAA Sectional Basketball Tournament Saturday. The Little Giants now advance to the district tournament against Marion Harding Thursday at Bowling Green.

Ross district ticket sales

Tickets for the Ross vs. Marion Harding Class AAA District Basketball Tournament at Bowling Green State University are on sale at Tremper's.

Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students. All tickets at the Anderson Arena door are \$2.50.

Ross officials said that the school has 2,500 tickets to sell. The tickets will be on sale through Thursday.

The Little Giants and Presidents play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

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ports news

Little Giants medley is 12th

CANTON — Ross's medley relay team finished 12th in the Ohio High School State Swim Meet Saturday.

The team of Dave Sanna, Brian Beck, Mike Mowry and John Isaac recorded a 1:43.3 in the state show.

"The top seven teams," Ross coach Art Bucci, sporting a new "chrome dome" haircut, "finished in 1:39 or lower. All seven of those teams could be named 'all-America.'"

Bucci, who promised his swimmers if any of them finished in the top 12 they could shave his head, got his haircut Saturday.

Bucci pointed out that in the medley race, if it had not been for electric timing, the naked eye judgment would have been a three-way tie for third.

"The competition was unreal," he said. "We had good swims and for our juniors, they got a taste of what has to be done for next year."

Bucks win in NCAA

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Center Herb Williams and guard Kelvin Ransey teamed for 50 points to lead Ohio State over Arizona State 89-75.

"I think three people in particular — Kelvin Ransey, Herb Williams and Jim Ellinghausen — had excellent games for us," said Buckeye Coach Eldon Miller.

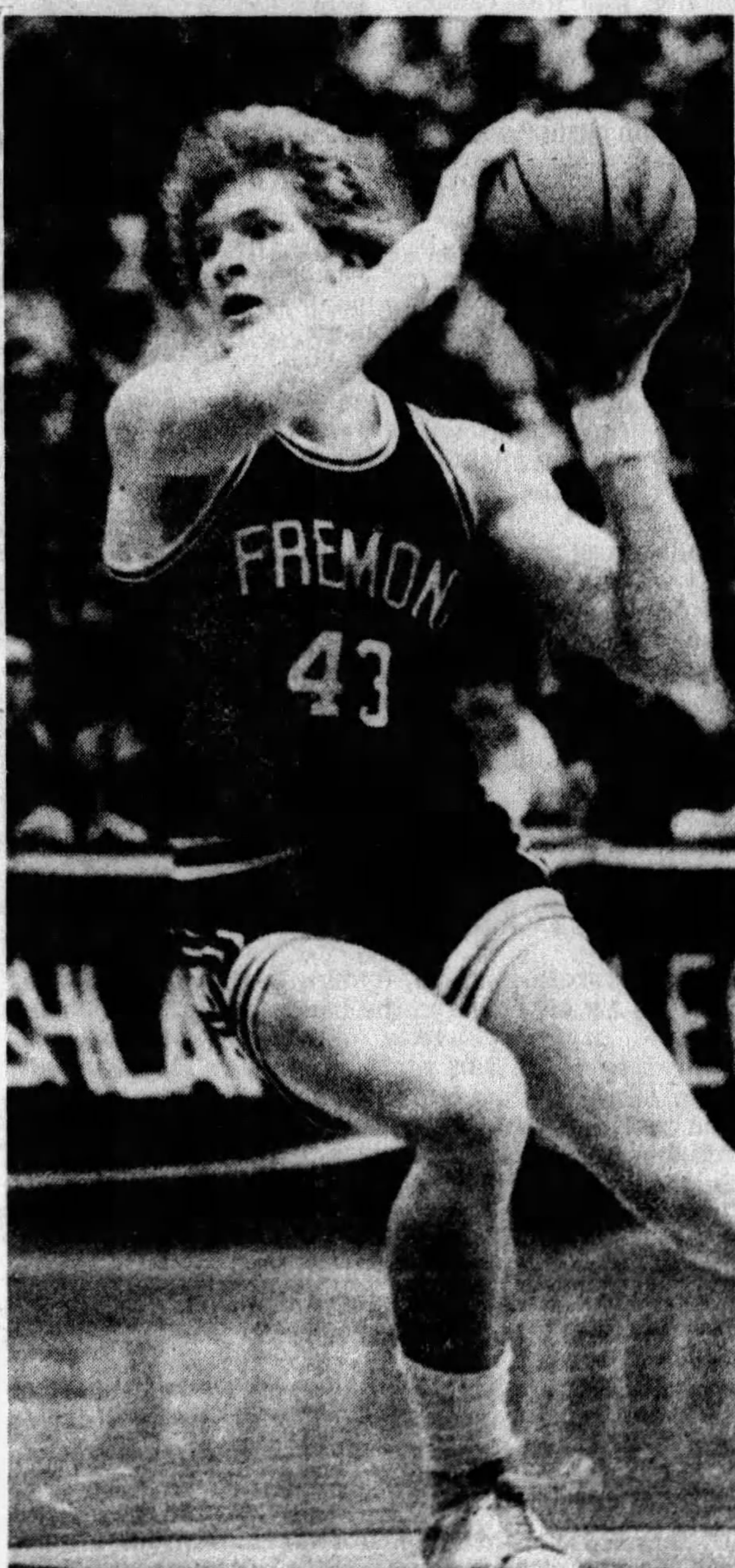
Asked to assess the UCLA Bruins' 77-71 upset of No. 1 ranked DePaul Sunday, Miller said, "I was very impressed with UCLA's rebounding and running. I think they are very outstanding in those two areas. They also have fine players." Ohio State plays UCLA at Tucson Thursday in the next playoff round.

A disappointed Ned Wulk said the Buckeyes "thoroughly outplayed" his Sun Devils.

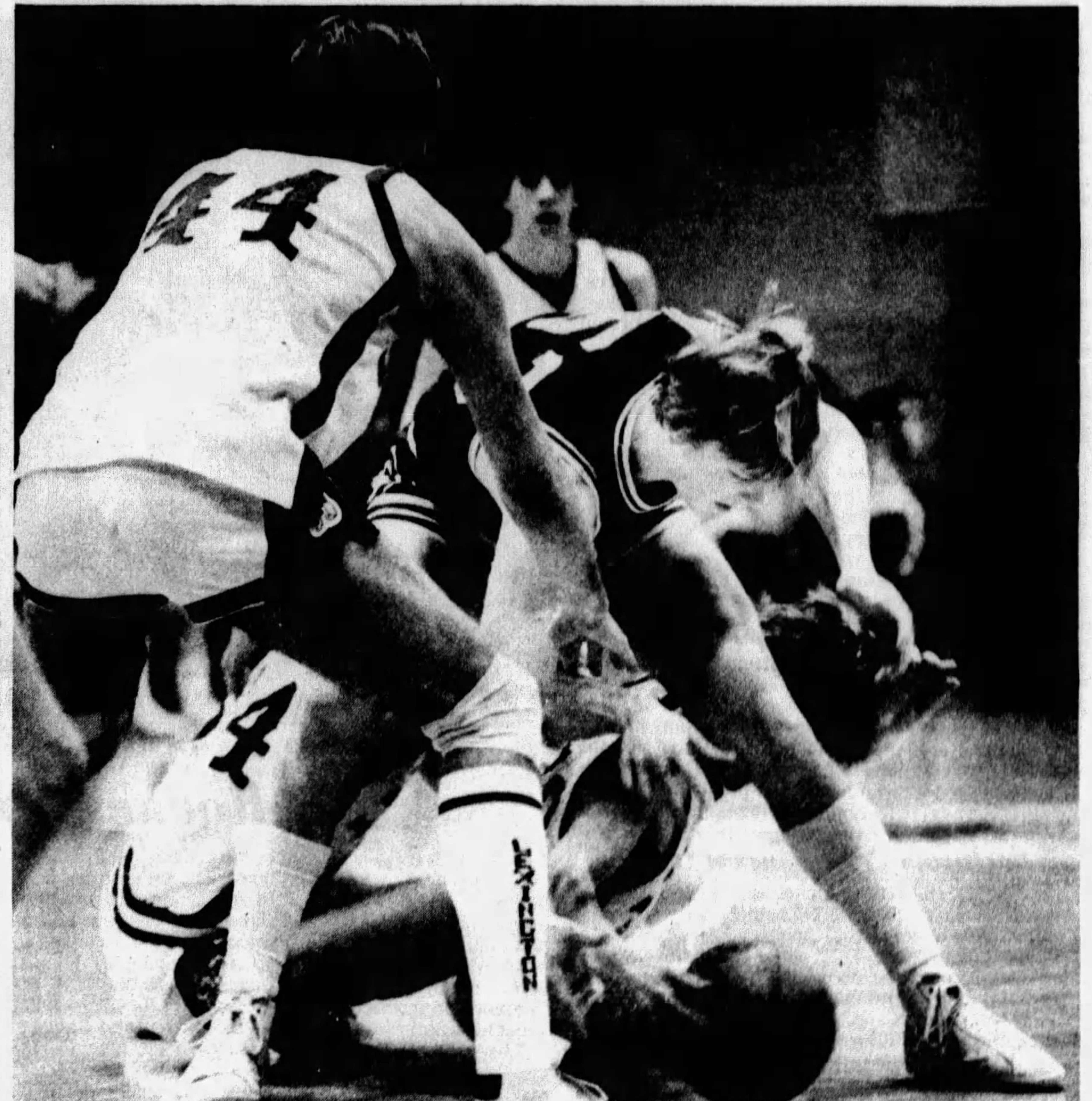
"I just thought Ohio State was a great basketball team today. They got control of the game early and prevented us from getting into much of our game plan. We got no momentum whatsoever."

The Buckeyes, 21-7, will face UCLA, and Lamar, 22-10, will meet Clemson, 22-8, in Tucson on Thursday.

More on NCAA on page 21



ROB BOLLENBACHER of Ross looks for a place to pass during first half action of the sectional Class AAA tournament at Ashland Saturday. Bollenbacher hit the bucket that put Ross ahead for good in the final period.



JERRY AMELING of Ross reaches down while trying to come up with the ball during a scramble with three Lexington players during the first period. Greg Junk (44) of the Minutemen tries to get a hand in on the action. (News-Messenger photos by George Lundskow)

A puff on a victory cigar

By BOB MARKER
 News-Messenger Sports Editor
 ASHLAND — Something was wrong.

Norm "Biz" Paeth was being a hypocrite.

John Wooden, the "Wizard of Westwood," the guy who guided UCLA to all those NCAA basketball titles is Paeth's hero but the Ross coach was mimicking Red Auerbach, the coach who took the Boston Celtics to all those world professional basketball crowns.

But here was Paeth, a non-smoker, puffing on a stogie that would rival any that Auerbach ever put the match to in the final minutes of another Celtic win.

The impression would have been graded 100 percent but Paeth's face twisted up, turned a shade of red, then bordered on green while a cough shook all the color from his face. John Wooden was his hero

was entrusted with transporting the stogie to the game. It was the elder Woieslagel who thrust the cigar into Paeth's face and touched the flame to it.

Paeth's puffing was just a part of the celebration in the Ross locker room. The cigar was a part of the sweetest victory that the Little Giants have realized in several years.

"I'll tell you guys," Paeth said to his team, "I've won sectional titles before, but this one was the most fun."

Getting back to that cigar, Paeth offered it to members of the team — one puff only. A couple went through the act of a puff but there was no smoke passing through the lips on the exhale. They knew the lethal qualities of that stogie by the look on their coach's mug.

Paeth, once the smoke cleared was estatic.

Tom Woieslagel, who came through with the chips down with his four free throws and a long jumber for a bucket was nearly wordless.

"I don't know what it was," he laughed while talking about his clutch free throws, "I just took a deep breath. I never have been so happy."

Rob Bollenbacher, a lefthander, hit the bucket that gave Ross the lead for good with 5:30 to play. The odd thing about it was that he drove right for the key bucket. He never thought about the move, though.

"I just took off for the hole," he said, "and put it up lefthanded." Paeth was not at a loss for giving credit for Ross's tight "2-3" zone. The defense was especially devastating to Lexington in the second half, taking away all of the Minutemen's inside game.

"Tim Pettorini (Ross junior varsity coach) and Tim Price (a