

MARION HARDING 25, ROSS 22

Little Giants suffer big letdown

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

BASCOM — Rachael Daugherty stood in front of the bench with her hands behind her head or rubbed her palms together as Fremont Ross nursed a one-point fourth-quarter lead Saturday.

Her mannerisms seemed to foreshadow what was to come for the Little Giants.

Ross used an 11-0 first-quarter spurt to establish a lead it maintained until late in the Division I sectional final at Hopewell-Loudon but ultimately fell 25-22 to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Marion Harding.

The Presidents (13-9) also defeated

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the Little Giants (12-10) by two in Fremont and 10 at home during the regular season.

"We can't put a full game together when we play them," Little Giant Abby Werling said. "We're equal skill-wise but unless the whole team wants it we're not going to win. We started well but, we didn't finish playing the whole game together.

"It's disappointing," she continued. "You never want the season to end with a loss but unless you go to state I guess that's what happens. I came today with the attitude that we were going to win, and I don't think everybody had that attitude."

The Little Giants led 20-19 but seemed content working the ball around the perimeter and were not aggressive creating shot opportunities for more than half of the fourth quarter before Leslie Clark scored to give Marion a 21-20 advantage with three minutes to play.

The Presidents had not led since opening the contest with a basket.

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Little Giants end year with loss to Presidents

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White Cyncere then grabbed a rebound after Jessica Jenkins missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity. Misty Eggleton was fouled and converted both free throws for a 23-20 lead with 1:30 remaining.

Tia Simms, who tied for a game-high with 10 points, scored and was fouled with 1:11 left but missed the free throw.

Clark, who also scored 10 points, finished the game making 2 of 4 attempts from the line.

Werling found Simms for an assist before scoring the next five points to cap the aforementioned first-quarter run. Werling also hit a 3-pointer to open the second half and reestablish a little momentum.

"The only person that came to play was Abby Werling," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "Eight points from Abby is a lot for her to score. We got nothing out of anybody else.

"It's called not doing the things you are asked to do," she continued. "I feel they

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— Ross coach Sue Wolf

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Ross lost in the sectional opener at Hopewell last year as Werling suffered a compound fracture in her arm.

"I don't think about it," she said. "It didn't cross my mind once tonight. My defensive responsibility was my only concern."

Ross lost despite not allowing double digit points in any quarter.

"We could have played better defense," Wolf said. "You still have to do something offensive-

ly. We didn't do anything offensively."

Alexis and Dalanea Johnson each added one field goal to round out the Little Giants' scoring.

President coach Bill Sycks said beating a team three times in one season is a daunting task.

"Every possession counted tonight," he said. "Five points was a major lead in this game. Even though we won all three, they were all close games.

"This game was slowed down to (Wolf's) pace," he continued. "Our offensive production from the first two games was cut in half. I think that was her goal."

Wolf, however, did not sound so certain.

"We wanted to look for shots," Wolf said. "We just didn't do it. We had some timid people tonight."

Green Hills

1959 S. Main St., Clyde, OH • 419-547-7947