

Gioffre resigns at Ross

■ **Not leaving:** After four years as boys basketball coach, he'll remain as teacher.

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Frank Gioffre has resigned as the boys head basketball coach at Fremont Ross, confirming what has been rumored since the end of the season three weeks ago.

Gioffre compiled a 34-52 record, including 2-4 in tournament games, in four seasons as coach. He did not resign from his developmental handicapped teaching position.

"I have not checked into any other coaching positions," Gioffre said. "My thinking is taking one day at a time and coming back here next year to teach."

He did not rule out going for another coaching job but it would have to be "the right situation," he said. He said he prefers to stay in the area because most of his family resides here.

Gioffre, hired at the age of 26 for the Division I job after coaching a successful junior varsity program at Sandusky High School, led Ross to a 10-11 record his first season after the Little Giants started 10-2.

He followed up with records of 11-10, 7-15 and 6-16.

"With the exception of the first year, we always started slowly but we always got better at tournament time," said Gioffre, a graduate of Huron High School and Otterbein College.

In his last two years, Gioffre refused to comment on a rumor that he did not have the full support of key administration personnel at Ross and he still maintains that policy.

Despite his sub-.500 record, Gioffre is not downcast.

"My confidence is not shaken," he said. "I have won everywhere I have been as a player and a coach until I got here."

"I know the game, I love the

game. As far as wins and losses here, I am disappointed but I definitely believe a coach can win at Ross. We have some great talent coming up.

"I think we are getting kids interested in playing basketball. I think we have a lot of kids who are just going to specialize in basketball; we have some basket-

"...someone else will come in and reap the success of the program I feel I have built up."

Frank Gioffre

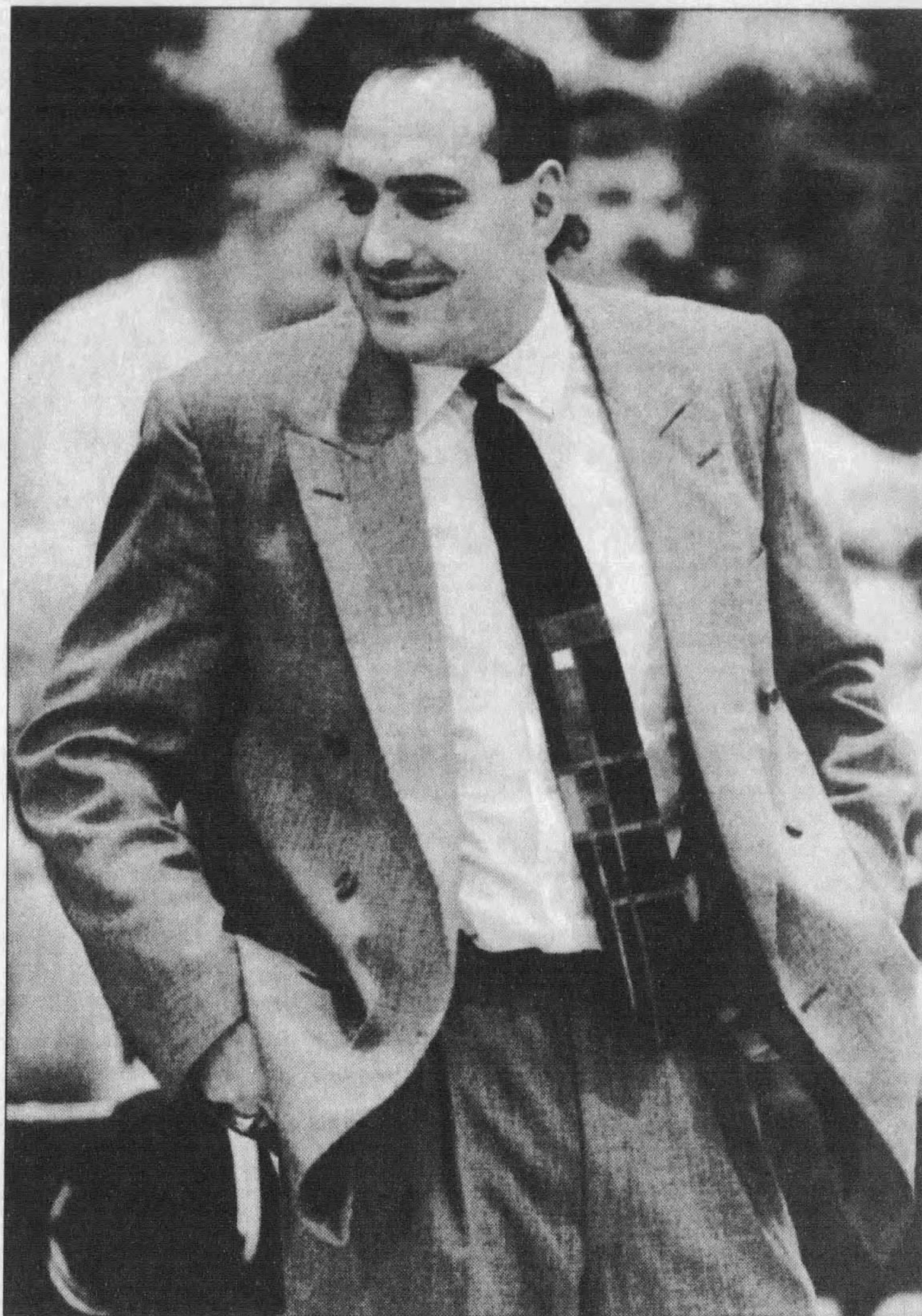
ball junkies in the younger grades."

Gioffre said recalling several highlights have helped ease the pain of resigning.

"In my first year when we beat Newark (64-63 in overtime) down there, it was the first time Newark had lost in 13 years on that floor," he said. "I think that is one of the top victories all-time for Ross."

A couple of the others were a six-game win streak his second year that included wins over Toledo Whitmer and Sandusky on back-to-back nights and beating Oregon Clay by 14 points without leading scorer Nick Wolf. Clay had beaten the Little Giants by 20 earlier in the season.

"This has been a learning experience here, but I am glad to have had the opportunity," Gioffre said. "Everything that happened to me here will help me down the road. I am definitely going to land on my feet...the thing I love to hear is 'coach Gioffre.'"



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FRANK GIOFFRE poured plenty into the Fremont Ross High School boys basketball program with only moderate success.

Gioffre's record

Frank Gioffre took over the Little Giants and in four seasons coached them to 34 wins and 52 losses. His record by season:

1990-91: 10-11

1992-93: 7-15

1991-92: 11-10

1993-94: 6-16