

BG helps Ross slide off tournament trail

FINDLAY — It's not hard, as you try to cross the Findlay College campus here, to slip and fall on the heavy layers of ice that cover the walks.

The Ross Little Giant girls basketball squad slipped and fell there Tuesday night, but it wasn't on the sidewalks. It was on the basketball court as it dropped a close sectional game to Bowling Green, 48-44.

Although the score was close, after the first quarter, Bowling Green had things pretty much its own way and dictated the tempo. Poor ball handling by the Giants didn't help their cause.

Four times in the last few minutes of the contest, Ross took the ball away from the Bobcats, only to turn the ball back over.

"We didn't play well tonight," said Sue Wolfe, the Ross coach. "Our timing on our passes was so far off . . ."

But it wasn't just passing that hurt Ross. "They beat us at the foul line," said Wolfe. Ross hit only six of 13 from the line while BG cashed in 12

of 19. Ross had 19 field goals to 18 for BG.

And the Bobcats' chief offensive weapon, Melissa Chase, a 5-9 junior, had a tremendous shooting night scoring 25 points to lead all scorers.

In the first quarter, Ross showed signs of snapping the hex BG seems to hold over the Little Giants. Both clubs started sluggishly, but Ross finished on top 9-8 after eight minutes. Opening the second quarter, the lead changed hands five times in a row as BG's 5-4 senior Alyson Young took on the entire Ross team connecting for six points — she finished with 15 — to keep the Bobcats in the race.

Then, with 4:57 left to halftime, Chase hit a jumper from the middle to give Bowling Green a lead it never relinquished. Ross took a couple of runs at the Bobcats, but could never make it all the way back.

Bowling Green stretched its lead to as much as nine points, 38-29 opening the final quarter, but most of the time the lead hovered at about five

points. A late game comeback brought Ross to within two, 46-44, with 50 seconds left, but the Giants could get no closer.

And Ross's big guns were unusually silent. Barb Bliss, a 5-6 senior who has been averaging 13 points, and Lori Lawrence, a 5-4 junior who had been scoring in double figures late in the season, did not shoot up to par. Bliss finished with eight and Lawrence with only four.

Normally, Wolfe counts on Lawrence's outside shooting to open up an opponent's zone, but Lawrence was well covered most of the night.

On the other hand, 5-7 junior Debbie Link had a good game scoring 13 points and hauling in eight of Ross's 29 rebounds, to lead the Giants. Margaret VanGilder, a 5-9 sophomore, played well in a reserve role, scoring 10 points.

Ross had lost to the Bobcats earlier in the season when Wolfe was trying to get a lineup set. Wolfe felt Ross could have won if the club had played more consistently.

But she noted, "At one point, I had an all-underclass lineup in there. Maybe things are looking good for next year."

One thing she noted that the Ross players lack, however, is off-season practice.

"They (Bowling Green) play all summer — they go to basketball camps," she said. "I'm surprised we're as competitive as we are. Our team doesn't pick up a basketball until the season starts."

"I don't think their whole life should be basketball, but I wish they'd practice more in the off season. I've got to get them to do that."

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Bowling Green	8	16	12	12	—48
Ross	9	10	10	15	—44

SCORING

BOWLING GREEN — Young 5-5-15, Kretzschmar 1-2-4, Hines 2-0-4, Chase 10-5-25; totals 18-12-48

ROSS — Bliss 4-0-8, Link 5-3-13, Zimmerman 0-1-1, Myers 1-0-2, Lawrence 2-0-4, Van Gilder 4-2-10, Carter 2-0-4, Shetzer 1-0-2; totals 19-6-44

Season records: Ross 8-8; Bowling Green 11-5