

Little Giants edge Streaks in OT

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

WILLARD—The Fremont Ross boys basketball team received a scare, and then got a huge lift Tuesday night during a Division I sectional tournament semifinal game against Sandusky.

Starting swingman Stephen Carnicom twisted his ankle and had to be helped off the court before sophomore Shunnar Gamble erupted for 17 points and 11 rebounds during the Little Giants' 64-58 win over the Blue Streaks in overtime.

"I like giving a spark to the team because it gets everybody going," said Gamble, who relishes his role as the Little Giants' sixth man. "When I come into the game, I've got fresh legs and I'm pretty fast. I can take it to a lot of other post players."

The extent of Carnicom's injury is unknown, but he did not return in Tuesday's game.

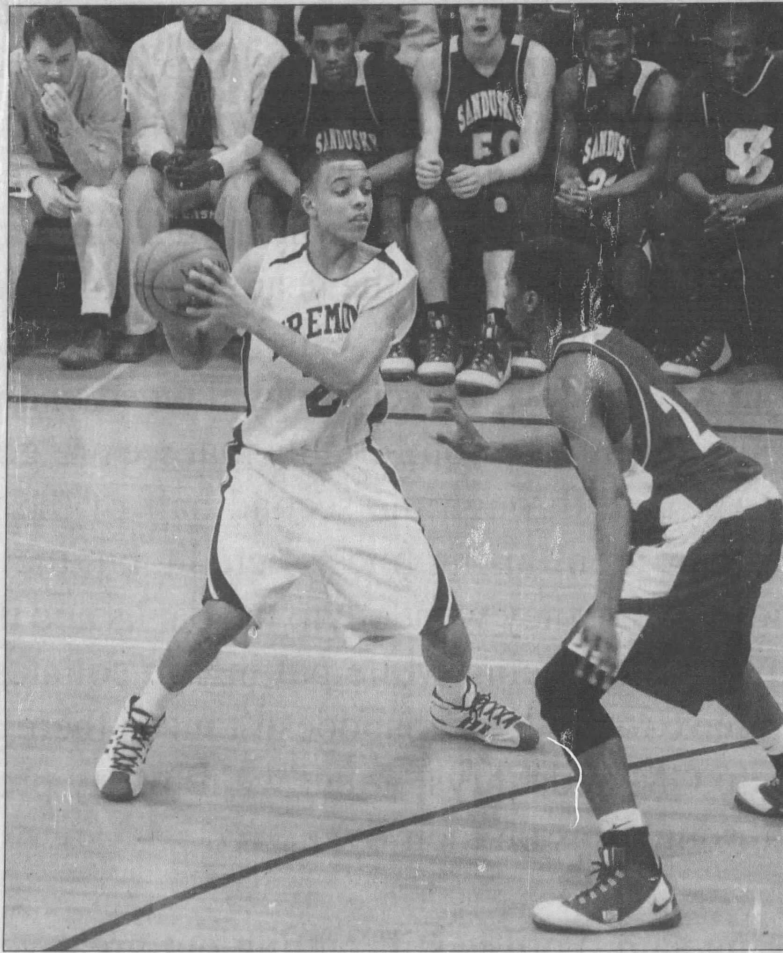
Fremont Ross coach Mark Gedeon enjoyed Gamble's effort, which picked up a lot of slack for the Little Giants.

"Give Shunnar a lot of credit for going back-and-forth between starting and having an off-the-bench role," Gedeon said. "When we sat down, he said, 'Coach, I like coming off the bench. I can give us a lot of versatility this way because I can play multiple positions and use my length.' And he's been outstanding in that role."

With the contest tied at 51 after 32 minutes, Ross senior post player Andrew House aggressively attacked the Sandusky defense inside the lane, where he scored 6 of his 14 points during overtime. Along with Gamble, House's 11 rebounds gave the Little Giants a pair of double-double contributions.

Jones, who had 12 points, handed Ross a 54-51 lead with 3:44 left in overtime after converting a 3-point play after driving to the basket for a layup.

But it was the Ross defense that held the Blue Streaks in check. Sandusky failed to score during the first 1:58 of the extra session, when the Little Giants went on a



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger
Fremont Ross' Shunnar Gamble protects the ball as he looks for a teammate during a game against Sandusky on Tuesday. Gamble scored 17 points and collected 11 rebounds for the Little Giants.

9-0 run that ultimately sealed the game.

"It definitely went both ways in

terms of momentum," Gedeon said. "But when we outscore another team 28-14 in crunch time

when they had a double digit lead, it says a lot about our de-

SEE LITTLE GIANTS | 7

LITTLE GIANTS FROM 6

9-0 run that ultimately sealed the game.

"It definitely went both ways in terms of momentum," Gedeon said. "But when we outscore another team 28-14 in crunch time when they had a double digit lead, it says a lot about our defensive pressure."

Blue Streaks' center Kiewann Collins had 17 points and 14 rebounds, but was limited to only one fourth-quarter layup and one overtime basket. And with Ross leading 56-51 with less than 3 minutes in extra time, Collins missed a pair of free throws that could have cut into the Little Giants' lead.

Ross overcame a 37-26 deficit after Sandusky began the second half on 12-2 run. Gamble scored with a pair of driving layups and House hit a jumper inside the lane before Kenny Penn, who ended up with 13 points, buried a pair of free throws with 17 seconds left in the third quarter to cut the Little Giants' deficit to eight (44-36).

In the fourth quarter, Ross went on a 13-2 run that was capped by 3-point shots from Gamble and Darien Spann 3 minutes into the period. Gamble's second bucket from behind the arc allowed Ross to grab its first lead of the game at 46-45 with 5:50 left in regulation time.

Despite not scoring a field goal in the last 5 minutes before overtime, the Little Giants withstood the Blue Streaks' 6-2 run to close the fourth quarter. Donald Williams, who had 10 points for Sandusky, sent the game into an extra session after hitting a turnaround jumper from inside the paint.

"I was really please with how our kids fought and battled," Sandusky coach Steve Keller said. "We've overcome adversity all year. We were able to get enough stops and get a score at the end to put it into overtime. But were not able to make a enough plays and we struggled to score at the finish."

Cordney Strickland added 12 points for the Blue Streaks, who build a 13-4 lead after 8 minutes, but were outscored 20-12 in the second quarter.

