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A start to build on for Ross

Little Giants open well, but Sandusky finishes stronger

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports Writer

FREMONT -- For two minutes and 15 seconds Tuesday, the Fremont Ross basketball team did what it needed to do.

Unfortunately, there are 32 minutes in a basketball game.

After jumping out to an early 7-2 lead, Ross was outscored by Sandusky 17-4 the rest of the opening quarter, going on to fall 68-45 in a Greater Buckeye Conference game.

"The first couple minutes is sort of how we were hoping to play," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "We wanted to try getting some stuff in the paint with some back-door cuts, hit the open 3-point basket and try keeping Sandusky on the perimeter."

That's exactly how the opening minutes went for Ross. Shunnar Gamble and Skylar Reffner got inside buckets in the paint, before Gamble hit a wide-open three at the top of the arc, as the Blue Streaks called timeout.

From there, Sandusky's (5-8, 2-3) defense and its' rebounding took control of the game. The Blue Streaks went on to score 32 of the next 46 points for a 34-21 halftime edge.

"Our defensive intensity was the key to this basketball game," Sandusky coach Steve Keller, Jr. said. "We did a nice job of defending and creating transition off our defense."

Post Caleb Young had five first-half points for Sandusky, but his biggest contribution came on the glass. Young had eight boards in the first 16 minutes, as the Blue Streaks out-rebounded Ross (2-9, 0-5) 18-13 in the opening half with eight of them coming on the offensive end. In total Sandusky had 36 rebounds to 24 for the Little Giants.

"Our interior defense really started to let us down," Gedeon said. "(Sandusky) got a couple cuts to the elbow where they hit a couple jumpers and then their penetration started hurting us.

"Then it turned into a transition game and then it was offensive rebounding and then just one thing led to another."

Sandusky also forced Ross into 12 first-half turnovers and 19 for the game. The Blue Streaks finished with 18. Five different Blue Streaks racked up steals, as 10 Ross turnovers came from thefts. Jay Page topped Sandusky with four thefts with Rayshawn Daniels and Dominique Stovall both tallying two.

"That's a big part of Sandusky's game," Gedeon said. "Putting defensive pressure on, attacking the wings, pressuring the ball hoping for a mistake and then turning that into offense."

The Blue Streaks kept the foot on the gas, scoring the first seven points of the second half to open up a 41-21 lead. The lead would grow to as much as 25 points after a Page layup off a steal with under

three minutes to go in the third quarter.

Page finished with 19 points for the Blue Streaks, also grabbing eight rebounds. Cordney Strickland's 20 points topped Sandusky, who also had a game-high four assists.

Ross trailed 52-35 entering the final quarter, but never closer than 15.

"We got a young team, but that doesn't mean you don't go out and compete," Gedeon said. "I thought at times, we didn't compete with all five players on the floor, whether it was mentally or physically."

Gamble led the Little Giants with 15 points, adding six boards, two steals and two blocks. He was the lone Ross player to reach double figures.

Reffner finished with seven points, six rebounds and blocked two shots for Ross, who dropped its fifth straight game.



Fremont's Shunnar Gamble dunks during Tuesday's Greater Buckeye Conference game with Sandusky. Ross started well, but lost 68-45. (Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent)