

## Bad quarter dooms Ross

**GBC leader Marion Harding explodes in second quarter for win**

**BY KEVIN SHIELDS** • Sports Writer • February 20, 2010

FREMONT -- Take the second quarter out of Friday's game between Greater Buckeye Conference leader Marion Harding and last-place Fremont Ross and things would look equal.

But there is a reason the Presidents are the top team in the GBC and Ross isn't and it showed in that second stanza.

Shawn Dyer poured in 11 of his game-high 25 points in the period and Jake White eight of his 14, as Harding stayed perfect in the league with a 75-59 win.

Trailing 15-6 after a Little Giants' basket from Darien Spann halfway through the opening quarter, Harding went on a 25-8 run.

White's 3-pointer from the top of the arc with 4:41 remaining till break put the Presidents (17-1, 9-0) up 22-19 -- a lead they would not relinquish.

"We knew Ross would play hard here," Harding coach Roger Jury said. "They had the big win against Lima Senior a week or so ago and their kids all play hard."

Ross (3-15, 1-7) led 6-0 just 1:13 into the game, as Shunnar Gamble, playing the point, had a hand in all six points. Gamble finished with six points, seven rebounds and four assists, but didn't play a majority of the second half because of foul trouble.

"(Gamble) was very active in our first game and he was a key for us tonight," Jury said. "When he was out, we knew we had to make a run."

That Harding run started with a three from White and ended with another of his threes, as he was 4-of-8 from downtown.

The Presidents led 34-24 at the break. Then the teams played even in the third, as Ross cut the lead

to six once and seven twice.

Fouls were one thing that kept the Presidents scoring, throughout, though, as they went 27-of-33 from the line. That included 17 first-half trips. Ross finished 9-of-16.

"We can't get out of position and let teams have silly fouls," Little Giants coach Mark Gedeon said. "We bailed them out a lot trying to be shot blockers, instead of taking charges."

Dyer, who was 80 percent at the line coming in, got there 15 times, converting 12.

Marvin Owens, held to just two points in the first 16 minutes, then started to warm-up for Harding in the second half. He went on to finish with 15 points, adding two assists.

"(Ross) was very aware of Marvin (Owens)," Jury said. "But when we expanded the lead we got him out in transition more."

Owens had two fourth-quarter dunks, including one off a steal that upped the Harding lead to 62-47 with four minutes left. Shaquille Smith was another President that benefited from the transition offense, as he poured in 12 of his 15 in the half. He chipped in a game-high 13 boards and three steals. Keivus Prude led Harding with four thefts.

All of that came after Ross's quick start, however, as the Little Giants came out fired up for their final home game.

"I was very pleased with the start," Gedeon said. "We ran things, offensively and defensively, exactly how we wanted."

Skylar Reffner had 11 points in the first eight minutes for Ross, but disappeared in the second quarter as the Little Giants were held to five points.

"We just became stagnant," Gedeon said.

Reffner paced the Little Giants with 23 points, while Spann added 15 in what was the best effort of the season for both.

"That was the hardest game Skylar has played all year and that was the Darien Spann we had last season," Gedeon said.

Ross finished 24-of-50 from the field and 2-of-8 from 3-point land. The Presidents were 21-of-53 and 6-of-14 respectively.



Fremont's Marcus Dayringer eyes the Marion Harding defense during Friday's Greater Buckeye Conference game at the Purple Pit. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger)