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Fremont Ross comes up short in loss to Bowling Green 71-35

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BOWLING GREEN -- Pressure defense is a natural enemy for any inexperienced team.

On Tuesday night at Bowling Green High School, the inexperienced Fremont Ross girls basketball team fell victim to that enemy in a 71-35 loss to the Bobcats in non-conference play.

Bethany Hoehner had a game-high 19 points for BG (2-2), who scored over 70 percent (52 points) of its points in the painted area and forced Ross (0-4) into 30 turnovers. BG finished with 16 giveaways.

"I thought we got better as a team the last two games," Ross head coach Juan Vela said. "But tonight we took one or two steps backwards.

"It was just the little fundamentals that we work on everyday in practice -- they didn't get those done."

All night long, the BG pressure defense and half-court trap led to easy baskets in transition, as Ross finished with 43 shots in the game, compared to 60 for the Bobcats.

The Bobcats began the game with a 9-0 run, before a McKenzie Schneider finally got the Little Giants on the board halfway into the quarter. BG went on to lead 18-9 after the opening eight minutes.

Defense again started a BG run to begin in the second quarter, as it jumped out to a 25-9 lead in the first four minutes. The Bobcats had 12 points in the paint in the second eight minutes as they shot 14-for-33 (42 percent) in the opening half to 6-for-23 (26 percent) for Ross, who had 17 first-half giveaways. Ross trailed 37-16 at halftime.

"That definitely made the difference," BG coach Jeffrey Nichols said of his team's half-court trap and full-court press. "Fremont is a young team and coach (Juan) Vela has them going in the right direction, but I think the trap and pressure made them play uncomfortable and turnovers led to baskets for us."

"(BG) did a nice job passing the ball around and shooting the ball," Vela said. "They were attacking us off the dribble and never got a chance to contain the ball on defense."

Ross would have a run of its own in the third quarter, down 48-16, as it scored eight points in-a-row to get within 24. But the Bobcats went on a 6-2 run to lead 54-26 heading into the final quarter.

"Our guards were really intense on defense in practice," Vela said. "But they didn't show any of that intensity in this game. A lot of girls weren't crashing the boards inside as well."

Leading the way for the Little Giants was Schneider, who had a team-best nine points. Casey Clark finished with eight and a game-high nine rebounds.

"She's always consistent as far as playing hard and giving it her all," Vela said of Clark, a junior post. "But it's not a one-man show. We need five girls out there doing that same thing, plus our bench players."

BG finished the game with a 33-29 edge in caroms, as Jenna Stoner had a team-high seven rebounds for the Bobcats. BG shot 29-for-60, while Ross was 11-for-43.

"I'm a little disappointed in our team right now," Vela said. "But we'll be ready for Sandusky on Thursday."
