



February 3, 2010

Little Giants take step back in road loss

BY KYLE SCHIMMING

News-Messenger Correspondent

TOLEDO -- After taking a step forward in its previous game, the Fremont Ross boys basketball team took two more backwards, getting beat 70-48 by Rogers in a Tuesday non-conference game.

After defeating Lima Senior on Friday, it appeared the inexperienced Little Giants (3-11) were beginning to come together. However, they could not handle the Rams' defensive pressure.

"Our players have to know that every time they step in between the lines there is going to be competition and they've got to be ready to compete," Ross coach Mark Gedeon said. "I thought tonight we took a big step backwards after a big overtime victory against Lima Senior."

The Rams' full-court pressure forced the Little Giants to commit 38 turnovers, many of which resulted in easy layups and dunks for Rogers.

The Little Giants trailed 35-21 after the first half. After a 9-0 run by the Rams in the first two minutes of the second half, the game was out of reach.

"To turn the ball over 38 times is ridiculous," Gedeon said. "Against an athletic team like Rogers, they're going to create some pressure, they're going to press, and they are going to be very aggressive. I thought our players backed down from the contact."

Rams coach Earl Morris said his team's defensive pressure is important to the team's success.

"When we pressure we're a good team," Morris said. "The three games we lost, we didn't play any defense and we're not a big team so we have to pressure and get turnovers and easy baskets.

"When Damond (Powell) and Quincy (Caldwell) go well, we go well and when they don't, we're just an average team."

Powell was the main beneficiary of the Rams ability to force turnovers, as he finished with a game-high 23 points.

"Coach has told us that we need to start putting more pressure on the ball and we came out and really executed that tonight," Powell said. "It helped make it easier to get to the basket and get buckets."

The Little Giants were led by Skylar Reffner's 15 points. They were outrebounded 24-15.

"We have to keep getting better every time we go between the lines," Gedeon said. "We have to continue to work. This group we have right now has been very receptive to coaching, studying video, trying to make sure they're in the right place at the right time and I think this will be a very easy video for them to go in and see the mistakes that we made."