

# Holmes slides to quarterback on floor for Ross, Coach Cahill

Matthew Horn

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Kaden Holmes led Fremont Ross in scoring as a freshman shooting guard.

Little Giants coach John Cahill then watched Holmes demonstrate an ability to dictate to the opposition with the ball in his hands at quarterback for the football team. Cahill decided to combine the two and shift Holmes to point guard.

“Partly because of COVID, we practiced in the preseason with Kaden at point guard,” Cahill said. “I don’t think he’s ever played there. Not even middle school. He started to run the point with guys in quarantine.

“There’s some crossover with quarterback, leading and making decisions. We’re looking for him to play a prominent role with something he hasn’t done.”



Cahill likes the optics thus far.

“He’s very level-headed with a sense of poise,” he said. “He’s a crazy athlete running and jumping. He makes good decisions to not put us in bad spots. He doesn’t get too hype or too low and he makes big plays.

“He was exciting with his experience as a freshman. I don’t know if he’ll score as much. He might score more, but he’ll make others better and he’s a cool customer.”



Sophomore Anthony Vann, juniors Kurt Harrison and Labronze Barnett, and senior Mikey Lather also return with starting experience. Senior Jared Adkins earned a letter, senior Jon Szymanski was mostly junior varsity last season and sophomore Bryson Hammer is now in the varsity mix.

Ben Gedeon and Connor Malan graduated. Ross won eight games, including three in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

“We’ll be deeper,” Cahill said. “That will give guys opportunities to play. Last year, we were half-court, matchup zone. We’re more full court. We can pressure more and get up and down.

“There are no fans, but even if you’re in the comfort of your home, we should be a fun team to watch.”

Szymanski played center at 5-foot-10 as Cahill largely deployed a small-ball lineup in a 58-52 victory Saturday over Bowling Green. Holmes scored 13 points and Barnett 11 as nine scored.

“We’ll have good balance,” Cahill said. “It was our third day with all 12 guys in the gym to practice together. We have potential. Maybe it looks like we’re a year away with sophomores in prominent roles, but with our experience I hope to speed up the learning curve.

“Ben had the ball in his hands a lot. It will take some learning, especially without a traditional summer. Maybe the end of the season will be a little more normal with everything and by then we can be a good basketball team.”

Cahill’s in his third year at the helm. He wants Little Giants to be on time, be good teammates and earn Bs or better on report cards.

“It’s been a process to get culture where we want,” Cahill said. “They’re unselfish and excellent in the classroom. I’m proud of the group and Fremont will like to watch them.

One of the Little Giants left a shooting sleeve on the bench after a recent practice. Players organized the team punishment without Cahill even part of the equation.

It’s a small example of evolution.

“COVID made a mess of the summer,” Cahill said. “It was nobody’s fault, but these are guys I trust. It’s a group with leaders. They’re holding the others accountable. There’s collective accountability.

“Someone should have caught (the sleeve). They’ve got experience with what we want the program to be about. Growing up in Fremont, I take pride in being a Little Giant and I want them to earn respect too.

“It will show up in wins and losses. We won’t be an easy out. We’re young. We’ll compete and we can do some good things.”

Cahill hopes the season plays out to where a team can build to finish strong.

“Coaching and basketball are a big part of my life, but if it’s detrimental to health we shouldn’t do it,” he said. “I’m not sure I understand though. If we didn’t have a game, I could have gone to the bar and got a tattoo and gone to the casino.

“If us not playing helps, I get it. They’re running out of ventilators in Lucas County. But we can’t control this stuff. I’m a coach. You’re players. We don’t make the decisions.”

Cahill also recognizes the coronavirus makes a full schedule uncertain.

“All we can control is how we practice and do things,” he said. “We can’t control uncontrollable. We’ll just practice and play. We don’t even know when the next game is. We’ll try to get better and keep working.

“I do wonder why it’s basketball. If they cancel the season, I can go anywhere as long as it’s before 10, but the kids can’t play? I’m all about the health and doing the right stuff, but just basketball doesn’t make sense.”

*mhorn@gannett.com*

*419-307-4892*

*Twitter: @MatthewHornNH*