



KEVIN SEIFERT □ The Lima News

Wes Dudgeon of Lincolnview (left) watches the ball slip away in a rebound battle with Old Fort's Lucas Cantu.

# Streaking Lincolnview bound for Columbus

By JIM NAVEAU  
The Lima News

TOLEDO — The celebration broke out with seven seconds left on the clock.

Lincolnview led Old Fort 80-69 in the finals of the Division IV boys basketball regional at the University of Toledo Friday night.

Now, the Lancers knew for sure they'd be playing in the state tournament next Friday against Dalton (25-1). They'd written that trip down as one of their team goals before the season began and kept it in mind all year.

Through 25 straight victories, through being ranked No. 1 in the state, this had always been something they'd talked and dreamed about.

As the last seven seconds ticked down on their 80-69 win, they saw they'd gotten what they came to Savage Hall for.

Now, it was time to celebrate.

"This is great, it's something you dream about from the time you're a little kid," said Lincolnview forward Wes Dudgeon.

Lincolnview point guard Brandon Pardon said, "It's the best feeling I've ever had. You

## LANCERS 80, OLD FORT 69

dream about this all your life and when you get here, it's awesome."

The Lancers lifted coach Dave Evans to their shoulders in the post-game festivities like a bunch of veterans at this sort of thing.

Earlier, though, it was Dudgeon, a 6-6 junior and Chad Pollock, a 6-5 junior, who did much of the heavy lifting in the Lancers' win.

Dudgeon scored 24 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. Pollock had 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Pardon scored 16 points and Shawn Thatcher had 11 points.

It turned into an inside vs. outside matchup between Lincolnview's big players and Old Fort's 3-point shooters.

"We knew their perimeter game was better than their inside game," Pardon said.

Old Fort (20-5) kept the pressure on the Lancers until the final minutes.

Eric Hoover, who had 26 points and six 3-pointers, combined with Jeff Miller (25 points) to keep the Stockaders in

the game to the end.

The Lancers led just 66-64 with 2:35 to play, but ran off a 14-5 streak down the stretch to clinch the trip to state.

Until then, every time Lincolnview would open up a lead Old Fort would come charging back.

The Lancers led 40-31 a minute before halftime, but Old Fort drilled back-to-back 3-pointers to pull within three, 40-37, at the half.

Lincolnview took a nine-point lead, 56-47, late in the third quarter. But Old Fort was back to within two points four minutes into the last quarter.

"We felt really good when we were only down three points at halftime," Old Fort coach Rich Renz said.

"Our goal was to go out and get the lead by the end of the third quarter, but Lincolnview was too good a team to do that."

Even with Dudgeon sitting or the bench with foul trouble, Lincolnview wouldn't let Old Fort take the lead.

After three straight 10-footers from the same spot in the lane to put Lincolnview up 56-47

► LINCOLNVIEW/C

## BASKETBALL

### Lincolnview in final four

C1



## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Lincolnview, Ottawa-Glandorf ready for state tournament

