

## 2004 Season Review

# Blissful thinking at Ross

## New coaches bring enthusiasm to teams

By **MATTHEW HORN**  
Sports Writer

Maggie Bliss just wanted to help. The Fremont Ross volleyball team needed someone to supervise open gyms this summer, and Bliss didn't want the girls to miss the preparation.

She didn't want the Little Giants' opponents to have an advantage.

"At the end of the last school year, I offered to help with open gyms if they couldn't find a coach," Bliss said. "I didn't want the kids to lose out on that. I was concerned about the program, not that I think I'm some savior, but it didn't seem like anybody was applying for the job."

So the 1978 Clyde graduate ultimately took the post herself.

Bliss was also co-varsity head coach at Ross with Karrie Gardner from 1999-2001.

Mike Mezinger will also take over a Ross vacancy as wrestling coach.

Bliss' passion for the program is strengthened by the fact that three of her daughters played for the Little Giants. Adrienne graduated in 1995, Simone, who played at Heidelberg, graduated in 1999 and Rebecca graduated in 2000.

Bliss, 44, is anxious to provide Ross with stability.

"Ever since Beth Mufler left seven years ago, from seventh grade on down, every year the coaches have changed," she said. "I think that's a key reason the program has struggled. The coaches that will be with me are young, and I think they'll be with us for a long time."

Sophomore setter Carrie Marroquin has faith in Bliss.

"She's confident with her choices," Marroquin said. "If she sticks somebody somewhere, they'll be successful there. She has confidence in her choices and her players. Our players work together. That makes you want to work harder as a team."

"I'm most excited because we're getting a new group of players," Marroquin continued. "We're starting to form together, and I'm excited to see what happens."

Bliss also looks forward to uniformity at all levels of the program.

"I want grades 7-12 to be taught the same thing and I'm not sure we've had that," she said.

---

**"We're starting to form together, and I'm excited to see what happens."**

**— Ross sophomore Carrie Marroquin**

---

## **Ross**

**COACH:** Maggie Bliss

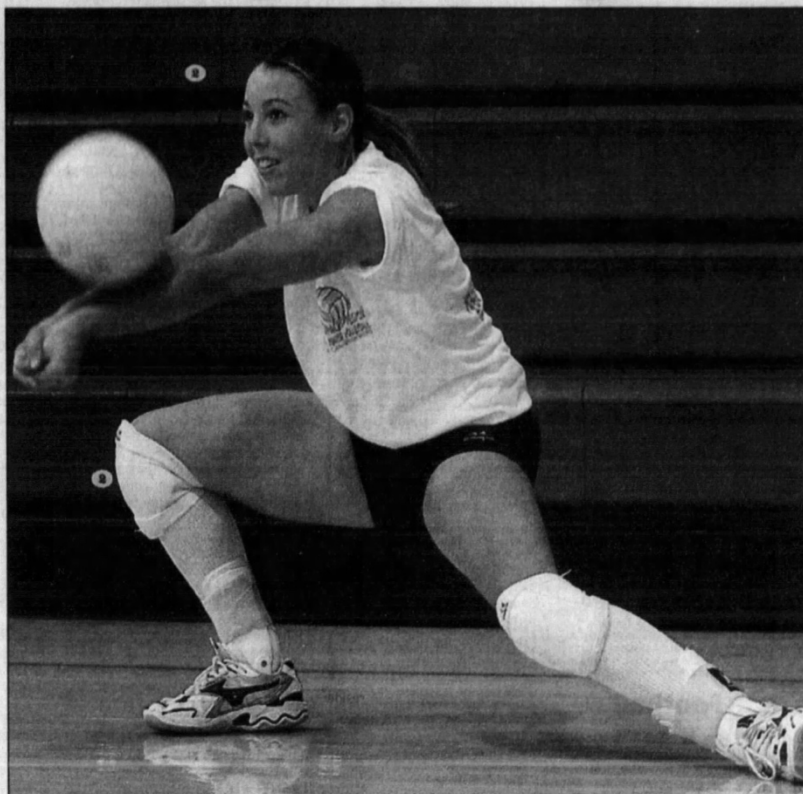
**LAST YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS:** Finished the roller-coaster season 11-11 overall and 6-4 in the GBC. Graduated Seanna Steinle signed to play at Cleveland State.

**TOP RETURNERS:** Emily Legg (Sr., OH), Brittney Miller (Jr., MH), Karie Marroquin (So., Setter)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Jacque Fate (Fr., OH), Stephanie Schneider (So., L), Jennifer Kim (So., OH), Melissa Schrickel (So., OH), Marissa Recny (Sr., MH)

**OUTLOOK:** Bliss, in her first year, is optimistic about this season. "I think we are going to surprise some people," she said. "I think we are going to be competitive in the GBC." Bliss said the Little Giants are short in stature — Marissa Recny (5-foot-11) is the tallest player — and short on varsity experience with only three seniors. "These kids are young," Bliss said, "but they've played a lot of club ball. They have a lot of experience. They have been working hard all summer. They are all excited." Bliss may be most excited about Fate, who will start as a freshman. "You look at her, she is this shy little kid," Bliss said of Fate, who will also be a star swimmer for Ross. "But when she gets a hold of the ball, it's like, 'Oh, my.' She was a nice surprise to me." Bliss is also excited about Schneider at the new libero position.

# Can you dig it?



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

SOPHOMORE STEPHANIE SCHNEIDER will be Fremont Ross's libero, a new position in volleyball this season.

## Defensive sparkplugs are crucial to success

By NICK MATHEWS  
Sports Editor

Bill Orvig is bummed. He has run out of McGorrys.

"Well, there is a son, but I don't think he is going to help me out any," the Margaretta volleyball coach

ventured.

For the last handful of

years, Orvig relied on

Heather and Betsy McGory

as defensive dynamos. But Betsy, the younger sister, graduated after last year's 21-6 campaign that ended in the school's first trip to the Division III regional finals.

And with the OHSAA instituting the libero position — a defense-only spot — this year, Orvig would love to have one more McGory.

"They would have been perfect for it," Orvig said of the sisters. "They were quick. They were hard-nosed. They definitely didn't fear the floor. They were all

### More preps

■ Volleyball capsules of every area team, **Pages B4-5**

■ Kickoff '04, The News-Messenger's football preview section, **Thursday**

### Plenty of changes in prep volleyball

According to Bellevue volleyball coach Karen Irons, "It's going to be an interesting year."

The OHSAA made three major rule changes during the off-season.

The organization implemented the defense-only libero position, rally scoring

and let serve.

"I feel sorry for the referees this year," Irons said.

Rally scoring will be to 25 points each game. Matches will be played in a best out of five games format.

The let serve allows play to continue even if a serve clips the net but still goes over.

over the place."

Liberos can be substituted in for any player on the floor without costing coaches one of their 18 subs each game. They must be good leaders because they can play virtually every minute of a game.

However, a libero cannot attack offensively. That leads coaches to give opportunities to shorter and quicker girls who are athletic.

Liberos read the offensive attack and direct the defense into position.

Their primary objective is to dig a smash and keep it in play by directing it to the setter — and then get out of the way.

The setter passes the ball to the hitters, who usually

get most of the recognition. So liberos often get as little notoriety as offensive linemen but are as vital as any other player on the floor.

"We say all of the time that passing and digging are what make us go," said former Bellevue star and current Owens Community College libero Ashley Hill. "A lot of the time the passers don't get credit, but we all know on the team that that's where it gets started. You have to pass the ball, or the rest of the team can't do its job."

"I think it's very important," Hill continued.

Orvig said that last year's Margaretta squad was not known for its offense but for its stellar defense and hustle.

He said that he often had essentially four defensive specialists — including McGory — on the floor at one time.

And it led to an historic season.

"We've played a lot of teams over the years that had a lot more firepower than what we had, but we were able to keep the ball in play," Orvig said. "That tends to frustrate them."

Orvig said he most assuredly notices the absence of those defensive stars heading into this season.

"Trying to replace those kids is a lot harder than you would think," Orvig said. "You kind of take them for granted."

Karen Irons, Bellevue's coach and a former Miami of Ohio player, said that a good libero can drastically alter a game by continuously digging a talented hitter's skill attempts.

"They get into the hitters' heads," Irons said. "Hitters know they are over there. And they either try to hit it harder and make a mistake, or they start tipping it."

See UNHERALDED, B5

# Unheralded libero a major key to success in volleyball

Continued From B1

Hill said she loves seeing the aggravation she causes opponents.

"We frustrate a lot of people," she said. "You can see it on their faces. It's great."

A stellar defensive play can also provide a jolt to the team.

Maybe even more so than a monster smash.

"That's where most of our momentum is going to come from," said first-year St.

Joseph Central Catholic coach Jackie Swaisgood. "It will come from the libero making a

good save or another great play."

The position, though, is certainly not all that glamorous.

Often, the casual fan may not even recognize if the libero is doing her job correctly. A fan may only realize when liberos make mistakes.

Therefore, they often go unnoticed.

"If you are a person who wants the recognition, you are not going to like that role," Swaisgood said. "That's why you have to have someone who is very strong emotionally."

The role is perfect for those like Hill, who always tries to

shy away from the spotlight.

"I don't like all of the attention," she said. "I just go out there and work my butt off, and it pays off."

The price, though, is often pain from repeatedly diving on the floor for digs.

Hill said after games she packs herself in ice.

"I'm always hurting myself," Hill said. "I always come out sore with bruises all over. It's worth it."

More players of Hill's stature (only 5-foot-6) may grow to love the position.

Especially now that colleges are beginning to offer scholar-

ships for talented liberos.

"I think coaches are really starting to look at the position more," Hill said. "Before, coaches were using their big girls to play as a (defensive specialist), and they can't move as quick. It gives us shorter people a chance.

"It's starting to really be a big position now," Hill continued. "It's a lot of fun. I love it."



## Volleyball .....

■ **SILVER LINING FOR ROSS:** The Fremont Ross volleyball team has three girls with very limited varsity experience.

Findlay, one of its foes in a Saturday tournament, has three girls entering their fourth varsity campaign.

Despite a 25-15, 25-21 loss to the Trojans, the Little Giants may have begun to forget about the fact that so many of them are underclassmen. Ross was winning the second game 14-6 before faltering.

Ross defeated Lima Senior 25-18, 25-10 in a second match.

"The first game, it took a while for us to get going," said coach Maggie Bliss of her first game back as head coach. "We had first-game jitters. A lot of it has to do with inexperience.

"We had to come out with something positive — it didn't have to be a win," she continued. "(Saturday) was the first time they played as a team."

Bliss said the team's cohesion had been lagging in recent practices.

"You can't make the kids play as a team," she said. "They have to pull together and talk on their own. Emily Legg did an awesome job of keeping the team together."

The young Giants received their baptism while splitting two matches with Greater Buckeye Conference opponents.

"We came out of (Saturday) feeling good," Bliss said. "We came back with a win."

Bliss said the team struggled at the net but sophomore setter Karie Marroquin had a strong day.

"I believe in them," Bliss said. "They just needed to believe in themselves."

ROSS 25-19-25-26, PORT CLINTON 23-25-17-24

# A Legg up

## Giant turns ankle, then heads in win

By AARON SMITH  
Sports Writer

Things weren't looking bright for Fremont Ross even before its volleyball match against visiting Port Clinton on Monday.

Senior captain Emily Legg was going through the team's normal warm-up drills and came down awkwardly, twisting her ankle. Legg fell to the floor and had to be helped to the locker-room.

"We are such a young team, and then to see our captain hurt herself

even before we start was hard," Ross coach Maggie Bliss said. "She has totally been awesome on the floor for us, so to see that it threw everyone off."

Not for long, however.

Legg returned late in the first game to fuel a Little Giant rally and help her squad overcome the feisty Redskins in a thrilling 25-23, 19-25, 25-17, 26-24 victory

"I'm the captain, and I wanted to come out and play to help our team get a win at home," Legg said. "I couldn't just sit there. My ankle is pretty sore now, but I'm glad we got the win."

Ross barely squeaked out the fourth game — one that featured a yellow-card warning for Port Clinton coach Seth Benner and several controversial calls near the end — to improve to 2-1 on the season.

Legg was very much a part of the Little Giants victory, showing she was one of the few players on the court that could deliver a hard-swinging kill. It was volleyball's version of small-ball as quick defense and soft points took center stage rather than blocks and thunderous kills.

"We're very similar in that regard," Benner said, referring to the style of play from both teams. "Neither team really had that big hitter, except for

### More preps

■ The Ross boys soccer team cruises past rival Sandusky for its first win of the year. **Page B3**

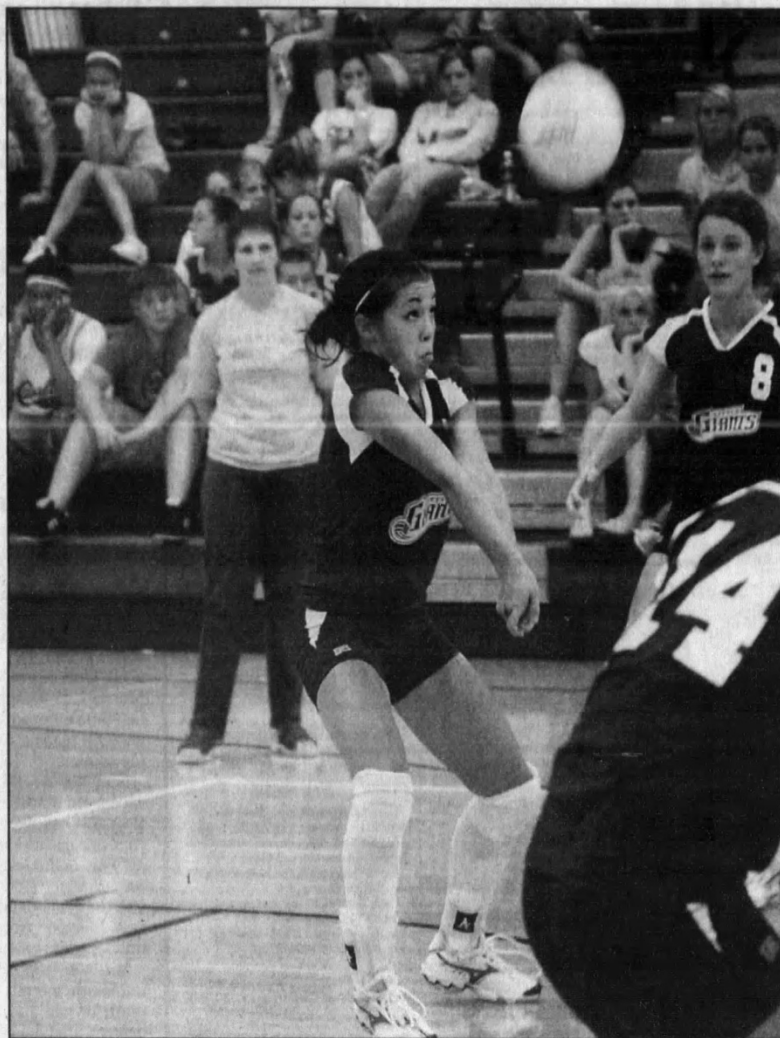


Photo by Ken Dumminger

**FREMONT ROSS'S** Jennifer Kim passes the ball during the Little Giants' 25-23, 19-25, 25-17, 26-24 victory over visiting Port Clinton on Monday. Ross improved to 2-1 on the young season.

(Legg). It was a lot of moving, and that's why the games went so long."

It wasn't Legg's power at the net that pushed Ross to a victory in the first game, however.

She came in and delivered a service ace to give the Little Giants a 24-23 edge. She then served the game-winning point as Jacque Fate finished off the Redskins.

In the decisive fourth game, Legg had a run-stopping kill to cut a Port Clinton lead to 14-11. From that point, Ross slowly ate away at the Redskins, tak-

ing advantage of Port Clinton's unforced errors. The Redskins gave the Little Giants five points on service errors in the fourth game alone.

With the game tied at 24, things got out of hand.

Port Clinton had the serve, and the line judge alerted the chair umpire that the Redskins were out of rotation. After a long discussion, the umpire awarded the Little Giants a 25th point.

Benner then erupted and tried to explain to the line judge that his team did not move out

of rotation. Again, the officials discussed the matter and eventually took the point off the board.

"It was so confusing," Port Clinton sophomore Kelly Logsdon said. "I had no idea what was going on."

When the dust settled, Legg finally served for Ross's final point. After a short rally, Britany Miller dropped the ball into the front, right corner and Port Clinton couldn't return it.

See **LEGG**, B3

---

# Legg leads Ross past Port Clinton

---

## Continued From B1

---

Bliss wasn't pleased with the overall play of her squad but was excited to see Legg perform at the level she did.

"We missed a lot out there," she said. "We gave them too many points off our serve. We haven't been in a match like this, and we certainly aren't used to it."

Legg, who wasn't the star for the Little Giants a year ago, is making a strong case to be exactly that this season.

"Emily's not always been our best player, but she certainly looked like it tonight," Bliss said. "I was on her hard during the off-season, and she's playing great for us."

Legg said she is honored to be captain of the team and is looking for the younger players to improve as the season continues.

"We've got some great players," Legg said. "We just need to stay aggressive and keep playing with heart. We needed a win like this at home."

# Volleyball

---

## High School Girls

**Margaretta 25-25-25,  
Ross 18-22-10**

For Ross — Karie Marroquin 23 assists; Stephanie Schneider 15 digs.

For Margaretta — Micki Kuns 24 kills, 13 digs; Jordie Myers 7 kills, 7-7 serving, 12 digs; Brittany Nesbitt 6 kills; Julie Logan 7 blocks, 7-7 serving; Samantha Winkel 8-8 serving, 1 ace; Kari Day 17-17 serving, 1 ace; Alexis Lynn 57-61 setting, 27 assists; Sara Long 15 digs.

Record — Ross 2-2, Margaretta 2-0.

JV score — Margaretta 26-25, Ross 24-22.

Freshman score — Margaretta 25-25, Ross 15-16.

SANDUSKY 25-25-25, ROSS 21-21-17

# Left behind

## Giants can't catch up to rival Streaks

By NICK MATHEWS  
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross senior Emily Legg lunged at Sandusky stand-out Bri Patterson's game-clinching kill.

Legg's effort wasn't enough as the ball landed perfectly in the right corner. She sat on the ground for just a moment — partly discouraged and, even more so, exhausted.

The Little Giants played a valiant game of catch-up all night but were never able to get past rival Sandusky in a 25-21, 25-21, 25-17 Greater Buckeye Conference loss on Tuesday.

After trailing 14-3 in the final game, Ross (3-5, 1-2) made a spirited run to get within 18-14. But the Blue Streaks (3-4, 2-1) were able to take control and seal the win.

"We were kind of worried because we were down so much (in the third game)," said Legg, who finished with a team-high eight kills. "But it kind of pushed us a little bit more and showed us what we were made of."

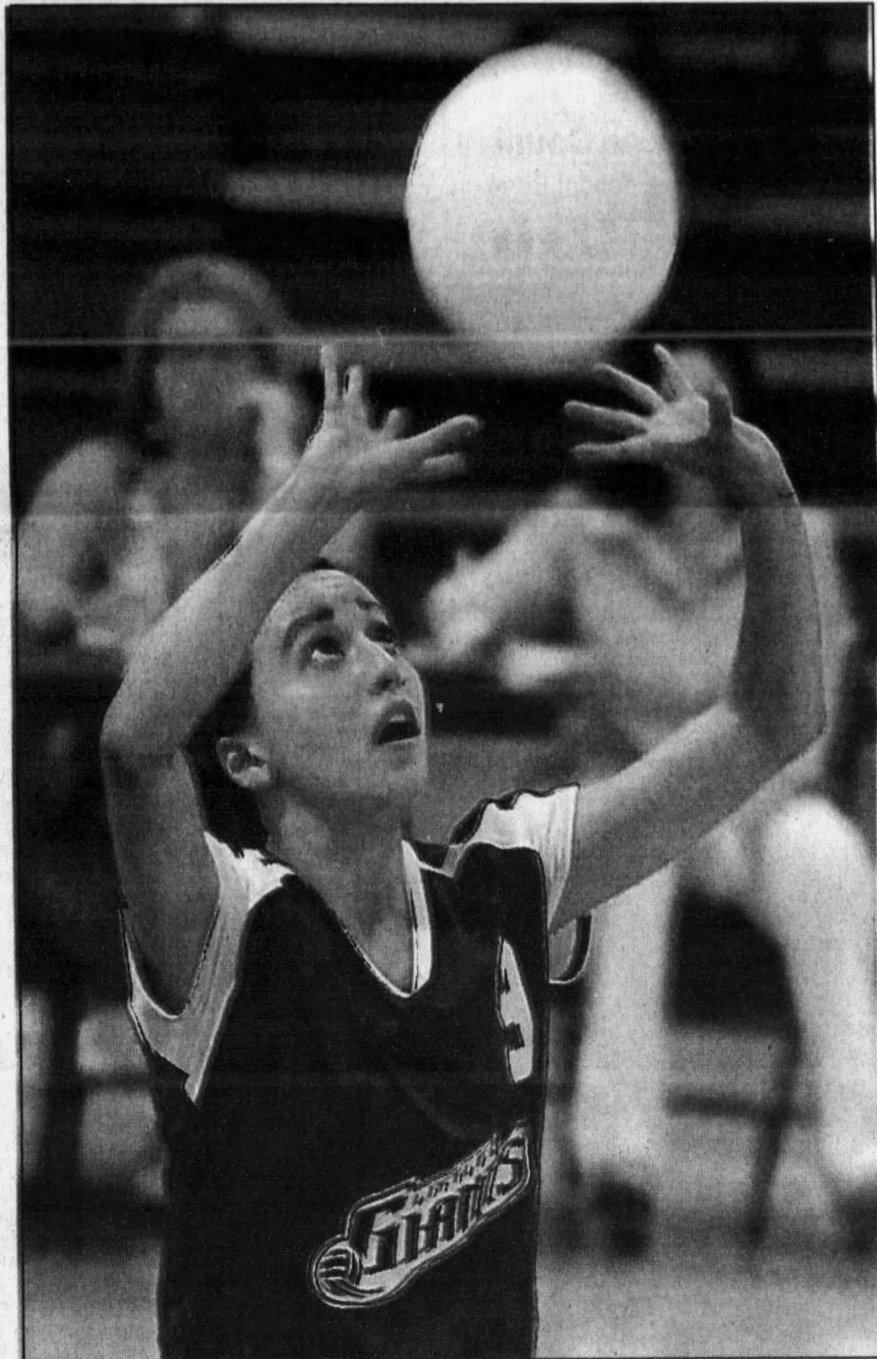
It showed Ross that it is a talented squad. The Little Giants just have some "little things" that they have to improve on.

Ross coach Maggie Bliss said her players must, first and foremost, concentrate on every point.

In the final game, mental lapses hurt the Little Giants as they had six service errors.

### More preps, Page B3

■ Ross tennis team cruises to 5-0 victory over Lima Senior.  
■ Kyle Dussel leads Lakota's strong effort in tri-meet.



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst  
**FREMONT ROSS SOPHOMORE** Karie Marroquin sets the ball during the Little Giants' 25-21, 25-21, 25-17 loss to rival Sandusky on Tuesday. Marroquin is part of Ross's powerful youth movement, which also includes sophomore Jennifer Kim and freshmen Jacque Fate and Stephanie Reed.

See **YOUNG LITTLE GIANTS, B3**

# Young Little Giants fall to rivals

Continued From B1

"Those cost us big time," she said. "You just can't do that. That's one of the mental things that I've been talking with them so much about. It's the little things.

"I was pleased today," Bliss continued. "I really was. I think with how early we are in the season and how much we improve every time out, by the end of the season we are going to be OK. ... I believe in them."

After Ross got within four points in the final game, Vanessa Randleman hit back-to-back kills to give Sandusky a 20-14 lead.

Ross got one point on a Sandusky hitting error, but returned the favor with its final service error to make the score 21-15.

The Little Giants never got within five points after that.

Sandusky built 8-3 leads in each of the first two games. Ross, though, battled back to take the advantage each time before falling.

"I always tell the girls, 'Get a good lead and keep with it,'" Sandusky coach Andrea Baaske said. "It's very important to get the early lead."

Baaske was pleased with how her players weren't satisfied with a five-

point lead in the third game but instead continued to step on the accelerator.

"They had a lot of intensity after the second game was over with," she said. "They kept up that intensity."

Bliss said the main reason for her Little Giants' mental breakdowns and inconsistency is because of their youth.

Bliss plays two talented freshmen — Stephanie Reed and Jacque Fate — on her front line.

"They both have done a great job," Legg said. "The confidence level is still a little bit low with them, but they both played extremely aggressive tonight."

Reed had one of the Little Giants' best plays — a perfect block on a hard smash by Randleman late in the first game. Fate finished with four kills.

"Stephanie gets so excited out there," Bliss said. "(Fate) is just very consistent. She hasn't gotten a hold of the ball as hard as I know she can, but she is

playing great."

Legg said it gives the Little Giants a bit of optimism that they can challenge a more experienced squad like Sandusky, which was led by Patterson's 12 kills.

"It's definitely a confidence booster that we can hang with them," she said.

---

"I think with how early we are in the season and how much we improve every time out, by the end of the season we are going to be OK."

— Ross coach  
Maggie Bliss

---

# Volleyball

## High School Girls

Napoleon 25-24-25-25-15,

Fremont Ross 14-26-15-27-11

For Ross — Kari Marroquin 32 assists; Stephanie Reed 8 blocks, 6 kills; Mindy Meggitt 15 digs; Emily Legg 6 kills; Melissa Schrickel 6 kills; Brittney Miller 6 kills.

Record — Ross 3-6, Napoleon 3-5.

JV score — Ross won.

## Volleyball .....

■ **ROSS REBOUNDS:** Fremont Ross rebounded from a rough weekend and beat Sylvania Southview 30-28, 25-18, 25-14.

“The girls were very frustrated on Saturday,” Ross coach Maggie Bliss said of an 0-3 performance at the Toledo Central Catholic tournament. “This was nice.”

Emily Legg had 15 digs and 10 kills to lead the Little Giants, who improved to 4-9.

Mindy Meggitt had 13 digs and Karie Marroquin tallied 29 assists for Ross.

MARION HARDING 25-25-25, ROSS 14-16-20

# Giant struggle

Setback adds to frustration for Bliss, Ross

By NICK MATHEWS  
Sports Editor

Midway through a three-game loss to visiting Marion Harding on Tuesday, Fremont Ross's Jacque Fate received a serve, bumping the ball forward to the front row.

The pass, however, landed in between Marissa Recny and Karie Marroquin, who looked at each other quizzically as the ball hit the floor.

The communication error proved to be a microcosm of the Little Giants' 25-14, 25-16, 25-20 setback to the Presidents.

It also proved to be a snapshot of the entire roller-coaster season for the Little Giants, whose hit-and-miss campaign has seen more misses than hits.

Tuesday's loss, which coach Maggie Bliss characterized as the worst of the season, dropped Ross to 4-10 overall and 1-4 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

"It's frustrating," Bliss said. "At this point in the season, I'm still seeing some of the same mistakes that I saw at the beginning."

The Little Giants had 28 total errors, including 11 in a first game that started the match on a sour note. They had 16 hitting errors.

"We make the same hitting errors," Bliss said. "We are under the ball, we're not on top of the ball, we don't snap our wrists. That kind of stuff."

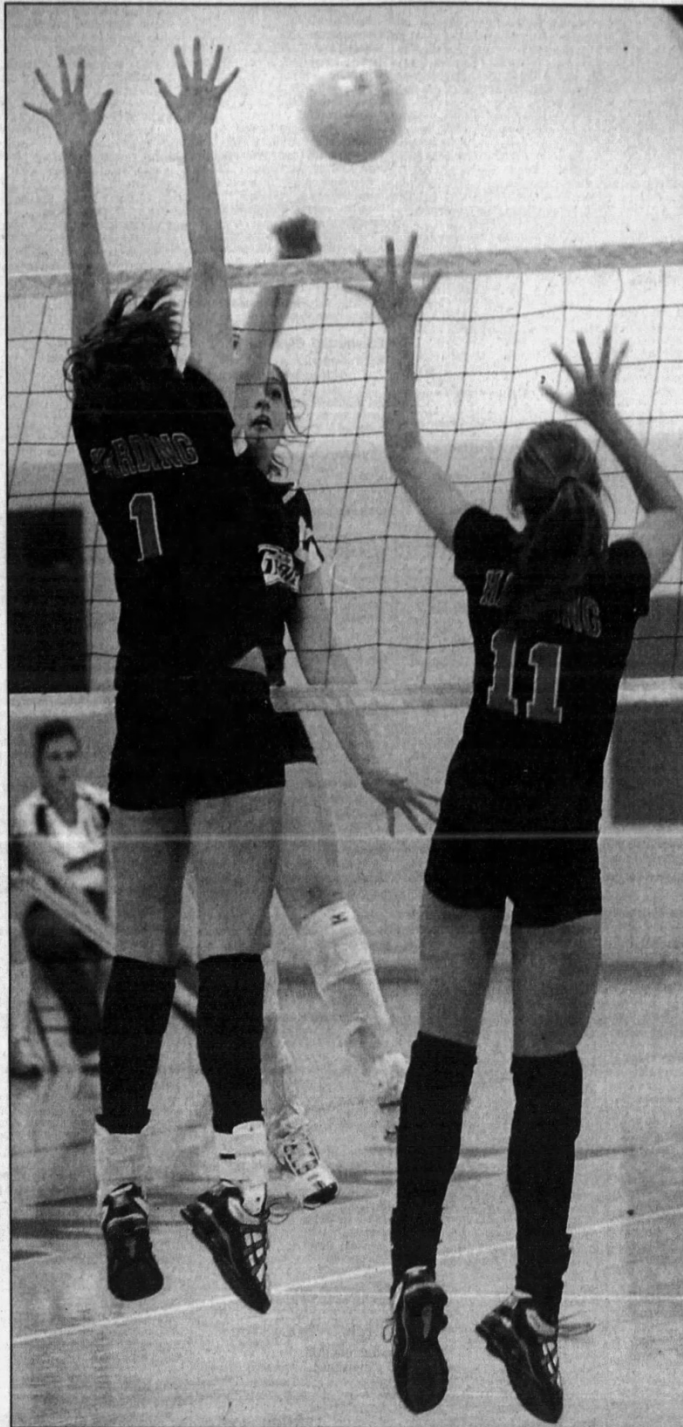
Ross made a 7-0 run to take a 10-5 lead — its biggest advantage of the match — in the third game.

Marion Harding, though, responded with six straight points and only trailed briefly once the rest of the game. The Presidents won the final four points to seal the match.

Bliss said that when the Little Giants take the lead, they change their game and play too conservatively.

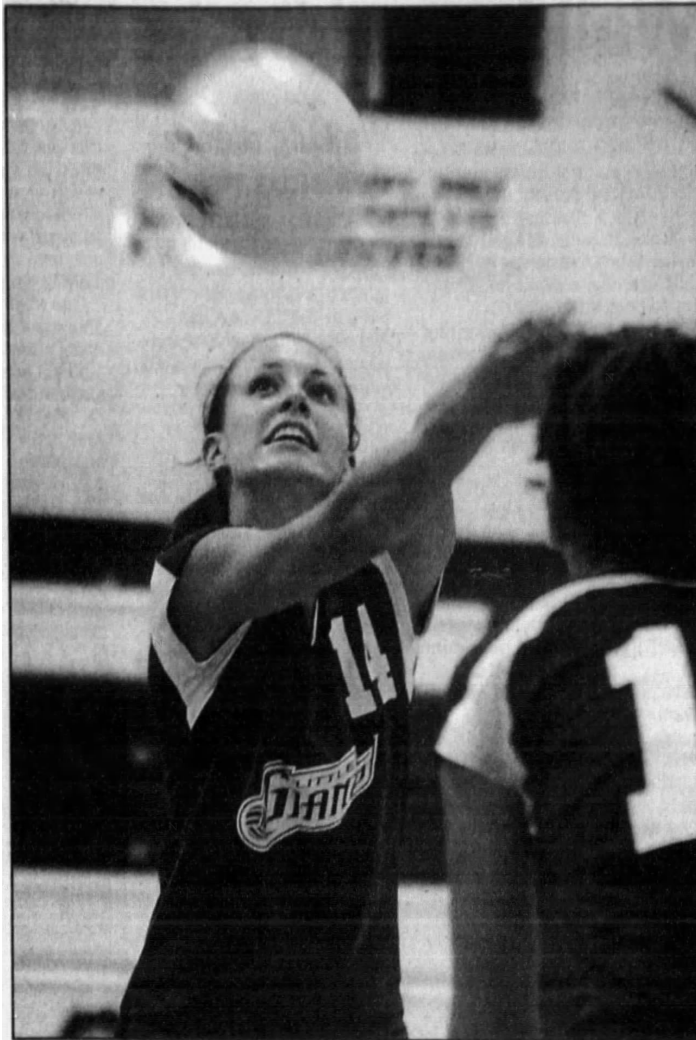
"We get to that point and they start playing like they are scared to make mistakes," she said. "We started to get on a little roll there. We got the lead. Then they were like, 'Oh, no. We have to (back off). You can't do that.'"

The serving of Jessica Jerew also helped spark Marion Harding in the final game.



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst  
FREMONT ROSS'S EMILY LEGG hits the ball between Marion Harding's Leslie Clarke, left, and Samantha Pace during the Little Giants' 25-14, 25-16, 25-20 loss on Tuesday.

See PRESIDENTS, B3



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst  
**FREMONT ROSS'S MELISSA SHRICKEL** hits the ball during the Little Giants' 25-14, 25-16, 25-20 loss to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Marion Harding on Tuesday.

## Presidents rule the Little Giants

### Continued From B1

During the 6-0 run that put the Presidents back in control, she scored three points directly off of her serve.

Overall, Marion Harding scored 14 points directly off its serve with only two service errors. Ross, meanwhile, had five points off its serve and five service errors.

"This is the first time I've seen them serve like that," Marion Harding coach Jill Vanderhoof said of her Presidents. "I think that's what helped us win; we served aggressively."

Jennifer VanSickle tallied a game-high 10 kills for Marion Harding.

Freshman Stephanie Reed had a team-best five kills for Ross.

"She is going to be awesome," Bliss said of Reed. "She is improving every game."

Marion Harding scored eight of the match's first nine points to take control early in the first game.

In the second game, Ross trailed only 10-9 before the Presidents went on a 10-2 run. The final point in that span was the communication error between Marroquin and Recny.

The inconsistency of her squad has been infuriating for Bliss.

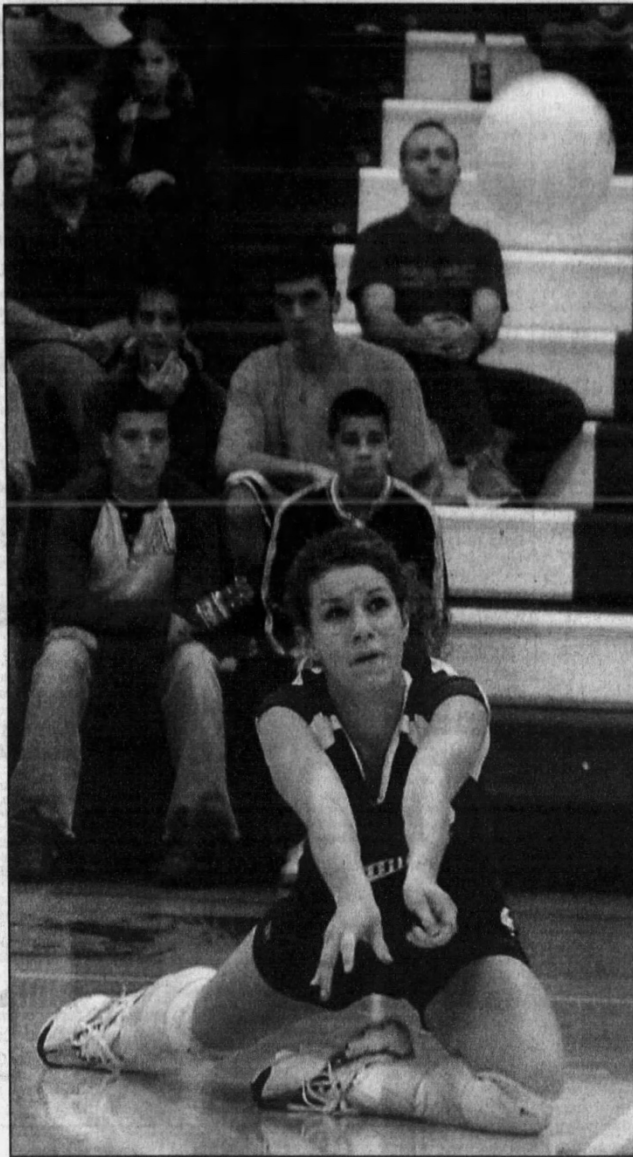
The Little Giants played well in a tough loss to rival Sandusky recently. But then they had a disappointing weekend at the Toledo Central Catholic tournament and struggled against Marion Harding.

"I never know which team is going to show up," Bliss said. "I know we have the potential. I know it's there. I've been telling them all year. I believe in them."

Now, the Little Giants just have to believe in themselves.

**NAPOLEON 25-25-21-25, ROSS 19-11-25-20**

**FREMONT ROSS'S JESSICA WHITE** digs the ball during the Little Giants' match with Napoleon on Tuesday. Ross lost 25-19, 25-11, 21-25, 25-20 to fall to 6-12 overall and 2-5 in the Greater Buckeye Conference this season. In preparation for the postseason, Ross has altered its offensive scheme, and coach Maggie Bliss said the Little Giants have adjusted well.



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

## New-look Giants fall

News-Messenger reports

Karie Marroquin had a beautiful kill — perfectly placed down the line — during Fremont Ross's last-ditch effort in a set-back to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Napoleon on Tuesday.

And with the Little Giants now utilizing a new offense, Marroquin will get plenty more opportunities to show off her offensive talents.

"She can hit it," Ross coach Maggie Bliss said after the Little Giants' 25-19, 25-11, 21-25, 25-20 loss. "I've always known that. With the 6-2 (offense), she

is hitting more now."

Mired in a disappointing season — the Little Giants are 6-12 overall and 2-5 in the GBC — Bliss decided to alter her offense two weeks ago from a 5-1 to a 6-2.

That means that Ross now utilizes two setters, instead of only Marroquin. And it frees up the sophomore to show off her all-around game.

"Karie was excited about hitting," Bliss said.

Marroquin had three kills and 22 assists against Napoleon. Jenny Kim led Ross

with 13 points and five kills, and Stephanie Schneider had 19 digs.

Bliss said she was looking ahead to the postseason when she decided to incorporate the changes.

"I figured, 'What is it really going to hurt to change everything at this point?'" Bliss said. "It's not going to hurt anything. This season is pretty much over — not that I'm giving up on this year. But let's see what we can do to get ready for sectionals."

See ROSS, B3

# Ross toppled by conference foe Napoleon

---

**Continued From B1**

---

Despite the setback, Bliss was happy with the play of her Little Giants.

They were dominated in the second game but rebounded with a late 8-0 run to capture the third game.

They had a 9-1 stretch — including Marroquin's impressive smash — to take a 13-11 lead in the fourth game.

Napoleon, though, had a late 7-1 spurt to take control and seal the victory.

"I wanted them to take something positive from tonight," Bliss said. "We did a lot of things that we haven't done all year — little mental things.

"I tell them to play until the ball hits the floor, and we did that tonight," she continued. "We ran into the bleachers. We ran all over. I'm not disappointed."

## PREP ROUNDUP

# Thrilling win caps off year

### Confident Giants now eye sectional tourney

News-Messenger reports

It was an up-and-down regular season for the Fremont Ross volleyball team, but the Little Giants ended it on the highest of highs.

Ross beat Marion Harding 26-24, 25-27, 9-25, 25-13, 15-12 in a Greater Buckeye Conference thriller on Tuesday.

"Our girls were so excited," Ross coach Maggie Bliss said. "You would have thought that we won the state championship. It was a great way to end the season."

Ross ended the regular season 7-15 overall and 3-5 in the league.

Marion Harding, which swept Ross in three games earlier this season, fell to 7-12.

Ross next plays in the Division I sectional tournament at Hopewell-Loudon on Oct. 23. The Little Giants will learn of their opponent from Sunday's draw.

"This is a real confidence booster for us going into sectionals," Bliss said.

Brittney Miller had 11 kills — including a "perfect" match-clinching kill, according to Bliss. Mindy Meggitt added 16 points and 15 digs for the Little Giants.

Karie Marroquin had 26 assists.

Ross won the first game in thrilling fashion but stumbled in Games 2 and 3. Bliss was impressed with how her squad responded in the fourth game.

"They came back in the fourth game on fire," Bliss said. "It was just unreal the way they came back."

---

"You would have thought that we won the state championship. It was a great way to end the season."

— Ross coach  
Maggie Bliss

---

