



PICKOFF ATTEMPT — Mansfield Madison's Gene Gottfried slides back to first base after pickoff attempt by Little Giant pitcher Denny Shearon in first inning of

yesterday's AAA sectional contest. First baseman is Denny Smith. Umpire is Merl Dutt. (News-Messenger Photo)

Little Giants Drop Extra Inning Tilt

By **MARK CARLSON**
N-M Sports Editor

NORTH ROBINSON — A Class AAA sectional baseball championship literally bounced away from Fremont Ross yesterday afternoon.

The Little Giants led Mansfield Madison, 4-2, with one out in the seventh inning. A single, error and single loaded the bases. Then two of the runners scored on pitches that bounced in the dirt and got past catcher Roger Hetrick.

Then in the eighth, the roof caved in on the Little Giants. Madison scrambled for three runs and earned a trip to the Lima district tournament with a stunning 7-4 victory.

"This is really something," Ross head coach Tom Dorman said. "We should have had the game won in the seventh by two runs. I guess they just wanted to win more than we did."

When Madison filled the sacks in the seventh, Dorman yanked starting pitcher Denny Shearon in favor of Jim Fausey.

"I guess I'll second guess myself about that move for a long time," Dorman said. "But I figured a different pitcher might give them (Madison) problems."

"I wasn't real disturbed with the way Denny had been pitching. He hurled a real strong game. I just thought a change might shake them up."

But, the move backfired.

Fausey fanned the first batter he faced but in the process threw a curve ball that bounced in front of the plate, over Hetrick's

shoulder and to the backstop allowing Ron Rickert to score.

The next batter, Gene Gottfried, walked but when the count was 2-1 another curve ball dipped into the dirt and went by Hetrick allowing Charles Nicks, a pinch-runner, to score.

Fausey finally struck out Jack Martin to end the inning. Ross couldn't do anything in its half of the seventh and the contest went into overtime.

Madison's first batter in the eighth, Dave Kudika, doubled over the head of leftfielder Gary Butdorf. Stave Kanz bunted in front of the plate and legged it to first for a base hit.

After Fausey fanned Mike Shambre, Ron Rickert laid down another bunt. It wasn't a suicide attempt but did score Kudika from third. Rickert was safe at first when Ross infielders failed to cover the bag.

The next batter, Mark Williams, also bunted. Fausey committed an error on the play and the Rams had their second run of the inning. The third marker came when Steve Holfinger dropped a bunt along the first base line. He was out on the play but was credited with a sacrifice and run batted in. The nightmarish inning ended with a ground out.

Ross failed to get a batter on base in its half of the eighth. Shambre, who was in constant trouble in the first five innings, picked up two strikeouts and got the third out on a pop fly.

The Little Giants stranded a total of seven runners in the first

three innings before breaking loose for two runs in the fourth. The scoring came with two out. Chuck Lindsey walked and raced home when Al Davis tripled to deep left center.

Gary Butdorf then walked. When he reached first, Butdorf began to stroll for second. Shambre went off the mound and began to chase the Little Giant senior. At the same time, Davis broke for home. Shambre fired to the plate but Davis was safe after diving into home head first.

The Little Giants, who now have a 14-11-1 record and were scheduled to meet Bellevue Friday, also dented home in the fifth. Hetrick walked with one out and went to third on Denny Knipp's single. Knipp stole second to put runners at second and third with Shearon at the plate. He hit a long fly to left that scored Hetrick.

Knipp headed for third when it appeared Madison was going to make a try for Hetrick at the plate. The throw was cut off, however, and the Rams tried to get Knipp. The throw went past the third baseman and out of the playing area. Knipp was given home on the overthrow and Ross had its 4-2 lead.

Madison went ahead in the second on a hit-batsman, two sacrifices and single by Mark Williams. The Rams added a second run in the fourth.

Ross left one runner on base in the first and three in the second and third innings. In the second, the Little Giants had runners at first and second with nobody out and the bases were jammed with only one away.

MADISON	AB	R	H		
Gottfried, 2b	3	0	0		
Martin, cf	4	0	0		
Kudika, rf	4	2	2		
Kanz, 1b	3	2	1		
Fireland, 1b	0	0	0		
Shambre, p	3	0	0		
Rickert, ss	3	2	3		
Williams, lf	3	0	1		
Hicks, pr	1	1	0		
Holfinger, 3b	3	0	1		
Foster, pr	0	0	0		
Norris, c	3	0	0		
Miller, c	0	0	0		
Kanz, ph	1	0	0		
Totals	31	7	8		
ROSS	AB	R	H		
Lindsey, 2b	3	1	0		
Davis, cf	5	1	1		
Butdorf, lf	3	0	1		
Arndt, 3b	3	0	0		
Smith, 1b	4	0	2		
Lowery, ss	3	0	0		
Hetrick, c	3	1	0		
Knipp, rf	3	1	1		
Shearon, p	3	0	0		
Fausey, p	1	0	0		
Totals	31	4	5		
Madison	010	200	23-7 8 2		
Ross	000	220	00-4 5 3		
RBI—Davis, Shearon, Williams, Rickert 2, Holfinger. E—Lowery, Knipp, Fausey, Gottfried, Holfinger. 2B—Kudika. 3B—Davis. Sac—Holfinger, Shambre. LOB—Madison 5, Ross 10.					
	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Shambre (W)	8	5	4	7	10
Shearon	6.1	5	4	0	7
Fausey (L)	1.2	3	3	1	3

Jurski's Homers Power Golden Bears To Win

GIBSONBURG — Tom Jurski blasted two home runs and collected six runs-batted-in as Gibsonburg rolled to a 10-4 victory over Otsego yesterday in a contest that featured five circuit clouts.

Jurski's four baggers came in the fourth and sixth innings. In the fourth there wasn't anybody on base but two mates scored ahead of Jurski in the sixth.

Gibsonburg, which has now reeled off eight consecutive wins, came from behind for the win. The Golden Bears trailed 4-1 when they stepped to the plate in the fourth.

Otsego	031	000	0-4 4 4
Gibsonburg	001	603	x-10 7 1
RBI — Beck, LaSalvia, Jurski 6, Shull, S. Smith, Dowald, Gamby 3. E—Ahle, Grolle, Heyman, Bernitter, Gamby. HR — Jurski 2, Beck, Donald, Gamby. SB — Jurski, Shull, Murphy. LOB—Gibsonburg 4, Otsego 4.			

After Jurski's homer, Ted Smith singled and the next three batters walked. A fielder's choice followed before Otsego got the first out. Then came an error and fielder's choice. Jurski ended the scoring in the inning with a two-run single.

Ladd Beck homered for the Golden Bears in the third inning.

Otsego had jumped into a 3-0 lead in the second on a homer by Bruce Gamby. Ron Donald homered for the Knights in the third.

Gibsonburg sophomore Alan Ahle was credited with the victory. He now has a 3-0 mark for the season.

The Golden Bears now have an 11-3 record. Their next outing is Monday at Eastwood. Coach Tom Kashmer's club plays a Sandusky