

1994 Football Season...



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

STEVE HOLLAND (67) and Chad Root (10) of Fremont Ross bring down an Elyria ball carrier Saturday at Hartman Stadium. Matt Gerner (51) of Ross runs in to help out on the play.

Area teams fare well in scrimmages

News-Messenger reports

The scrimmage season has begun after a full slate of high school football practice games for area teams this weekend.

Schools in The News-Messenger area began making contact with other teams on Saturday.

Fremont Ross hosted Elyria at Harmon Stadium, and Gibsonburg met the Ross and Elyria junior varsity squads.

Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic, meanwhile, traveled to Holland Springfield.

In other scrimmages, Clyde hosted Anthony Wayne, Lakota went to Sandusky Perkins, Oak Harbor traveled to Bowling Green, Fostoria St. Wendelin played Woodmore at Elmore, Margaretta went to Elyria Catholic and Notre Dame Cathedral Latin played at Bellevue.

Following is a capsule look at what transpired Saturday:

■ Fremont Ross outscored Elyria 3-0 as Shane Moran passed 5 yards to Matt Merrill for a touchdown, and Charles Woodson scored on runs of 5 and 60 yards.

High School Football

Gregg Aldrich scored on a 20-yard run, Jeff Paul returned a fumble 50 yards for the Fliers' second score and Chad Long had a 35-yard scoring run.

"We pretty much dominated the line," Bishop said.

■ Lakota and Perkins played to a scoreless tie.

"I thought we played well offensively and defensively," Lakota coach Joe Wyant said. "We played better than I expected us to play because of our inexperience."

■ Oak Harbor's Nate Noggle completed a 70-yard touchdown pass to Bryant Whitcomb on the first play of the scrimmage against Bowling Green and the Rockets went on to outscore the Bobcats 5-1.

Noggle also scored on runs of 2 and 15 yards, and Roger Hamilton added touchdown runs of 25 and 15 yards.

■ Woodmore scored four touchdowns, while the Wildcats' first-team kept St. Wendelin out of the end zone. The Mohawks

BASEBALL STRIKE Talks on hold

Tornadoes blow by Ross

■ A home loss:

Columbian's last win over the Little Giants at Harmon Stadium was a 20-17 triumph in 1986.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

A leaping catch followed by a scooping save gave Tiffin Columbian an upset win over Fremont Ross in the high school football opener at Harmon Stadium Friday night.

The Tornadoes overcame a 13-0 deficit with three second-half touchdowns for a 21-13 win.

"We wanted to take them into the fourth quarter," Columbian coach Steve Gilbert said. "We thought, 'We get them into the fourth quarter, we're going to play some football.'"

Ross coach Rex Radeloff got to the point quickly.

"We just did not play well and they played a heck of a ball game," Radeloff said. "We could not get anything going and that was because of their defense."

"Overall, we were ill-prepared for the game and that is my responsibility."

Facing a fourth-and-goal from the Ross 9, Columbian quarterback Jeff Leopold lofted a pass into the left corner of the end zone where 6-foot-2 Dennis Green outleaped 5-9 Ross defender Jeremy Lozano for the catch — tying the game at 13 with 2:40 to play.

On the point after, holder Aaron Gilbert scooped a low snap off the ground, barely setting it down before kicker Ryan Bleeks split the uprights.

"We had a good talk at half-time," Gilbert said. "We told them to start playing the way they were capable of playing and we believed in them...I'm not sure many people believed in us."

"We beat a heck of a football team on their home place."

On the next Ross series, Tornado defensive end Tony Eisenhard, a 6-7 senior, knocked the ball from Ross quarterback Shane Moran and fell on it at the Ross 15. Five plays later, Steve Newland knifed in from the 3 with a half-minute left.

The game was marked by 10 fumbles and three pass interceptions. Ross lost five of its six fumbles and Moran was intercepted twice in a 12-of-26, 101-yard performance.

Columbian lost all four of its fumbles and had a fifth turnover on an interception as Leopold was 12-of-22 for 151 yards after going 1-of-7 for minus-4 yards in the first half.

The Tornadoes had a minus-4 yards of offense in the first half and did not get their initial first down until 6:09 remained in the third quarter.

Ross built its lead on Charles Woodson's 44-yard run and Ken

"Maybe this will be a wake-up call for everybody."

Rex Radeloff, Ross coach



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Burkett's fumble recovery in the end zone on a snap over Columbian punter David Misner's head.

Woodson had 155 yards on 27 carriers but fumbled four times.

"We felt we had to double cover him when he became a wide receiver," Columbian defensive end Jeff Wise said. "Our whole game plan was centered around him."

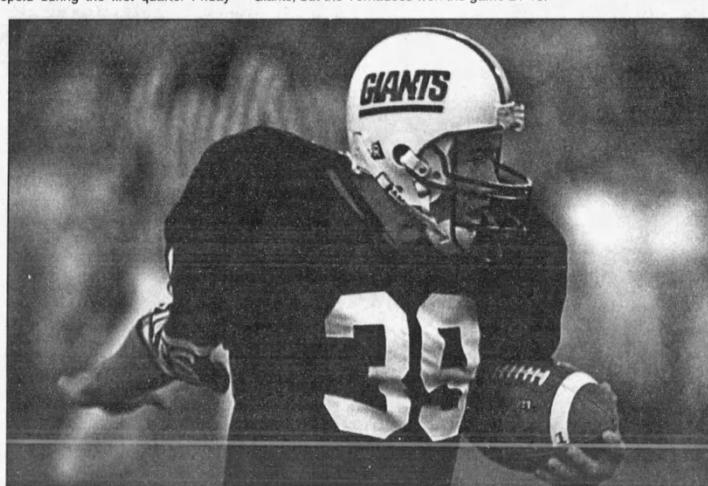
Woodson caught four passes for 36 yards.

Columbian's drive for the go-ahead TD started at its 21. On a first-and-10 at the 45, Leopold found Aaron Ward for 45 yards to the Ross 10 setting. Green's catch came four plays later.

"The last time Columbian beat us (26-20 in 1989), we went to the playoffs," Radeloff said.

Columbian 21, Ross 13

Columbian	0	0	7	14	—	21
Ross	7	6	0	0	—	13



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MATT MERRILL of Fremont Ross takes off on a 21-yard catch-and-run in the first quarter Friday night at Harmon

Stadium. The play netted a first down for the Little Giants, but the Tornadoes won the game 21-13.

High School

Columbian 21, Ross 13

Columbian	0	0	7	14	—	21
Ross	7	6	0	0	—	14

Ross: Charles Woodson, 44 run (Tim Rakes kick), 0:17, 1st.

Ross: Ben Burkett, fumble recovery in end zone (kick failed), 8:31, 2nd.

Columbian: Nate Perry, 8 pass from Jeff Leopold (Ryan Bleeks kick), 3:10, 3rd.

Columbian: Dennis Green, 9 pass from Leopold (Bleek kick), 2:40, 4th.

Columbian: Steve Newland, 3 run (Bleeks kick), 0:32, 4th.

	C	R
First downs	8	10
Rushes/Yards	37/49	33/173
Passing Yards	151	101
Passes/Comp./Int.	22/12/1	26/10/2
Punts/Average	8/29.1	6/26.0
Fumbles/Lost	4/4	6/5
Penalties/Yards	1/5	4/40

Rushing: Columbian—Leopold 6-10, Perry 16/48, Newland 14/30. Ross—Shane Moran 4/8, Woodson 27/155, Jake Binder 1/0, Jason Lather 1/10.

Passing: Columbian—Leopold 22/12/1—151. Ross—Moran 26/10/2—101.

Receiving: Columbian—Perry 3/25, Newland 1/4, Bleeks 2/10, Aaron Gilbert 1/10, Green 3/62, Jason Pagnard 1/0, Aaron Ward 1/45. Ross—Woodson 4/36, Matt Merrill 2/27, Jamie Ross 2/17, Brian Reinbolt 1/15, Gary Rakes 1/6.

Records: Columbian 1-0, Ross 0-1.

ST. JOHN'S AT ROSS

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Harmon Stadium

COACHES: Fred Beier, St. John's; Rex Radeloff, Ross

LAST YEAR: The teams combined for 20 penalties for 183 yards and 32 incomplete passes in 51 attempts, but Charles Woodson scored four touchdowns and Ross prevailed 35-20.

Woodson, who rushed for 197 yards on 24 carries, scored on runs of 5, 8, 69 and 49 yards.

The Little Giants' defense harassed quarterback Tom Klotz into four interceptions — by Kris Kayden, Woodson, Ricky Price and Chad Root.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 3-1, winning the last two games. Akron Buchtel replaces St. John's on the Ross schedule in 1995.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: How well Ross bounces back from last week's upset loss to Tiffin Columbian.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The Ross offensive line vs. defensive tackles Matt Baldwin (6-3, 250) and Matt Dennis (6-2, 245).

Ross defensive ends Jake Binder and Sean Sprouse vs. quarterback Tom Klotz.

St. John's speedy receiver Eddie Ziemke vs. the Ross secondary.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: The last time Ross started a season with two losses was 1968, when the Little Giants lost 14-6 to Toledo Rogers and 14-12 to Cleveland West.

STAT OF THE WEEK: St. John's forced seven Fostoria fumbles in a 17-8 victory over the Redmen.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "The last time Columbian beat us we went to the playoffs." — Radeloff after last week's 21-13 loss.

KEY TO THE GAME: Turnovers. They hurt Ross last week against Columbian and helped St. John's against Fostoria. They will be pivotal Friday night.

Ross redeems itself

■ Woodson scores 5 TDs: After fumbling four times last week, the Ross senior ran wild in a 38-13 victory over St. John's.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

It was atonement for Fremont Ross, and especially Charles Woodson.

Last week, Woodson rushed for 155 yards and scored once but fumbled the ball away four times in a 21-13 loss to Tiffin Columbian.

"After last week, feeling the way I did, I was not going to let that ball on the ground," Woodson said following a 38-13 victory over Toledo St. John's Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

"When I got the ball, I thought about holding it, thought about breaking tackles and getting into the end zone."

Woodson got it into the end zone five times, scoring on a pair of 1-yard runs, two on broken field dashes of 71 and 65 yards and once an 84-yard punt return.

The punt return was the second longest in Ross history. The longest was 92 yards by Bob Shaw in 1939 against Columbian.

Woodson finished with 205 yards rushing on 24 attempts.

Parents' Night for the Little Giants added incentive.

"And you never want to let your parents down," Woodson smiled.

Woodson broke over right tackle Mike Byerly on his 71-yard run with 2:30 left in the third quarter. On his 65-yard jaunt with 3:41 left before halftime, he broke off a crushing block by wide receiver Jamie Ross.

Brian Reinbolt's second inter-

KEY PLAY

Field goal gives Ross 23-0 lead at halftime

Tim Rakes 40-yard field goal as time expired in the first half put the Little Giants on top by more than three TDs Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

The special teams for Ross remained special in the second half, when Charles Woodson returned a punt 84 yards for a TD before the half was three minutes old.

ception and return to the Ross 47-yard line helped set up Tim Rakes' 40-yard field goal.

Shane Moran passed 15 and 14 yards to Jeremy Lozano to put Rakes in position. Rakes' kick gave Ross a 23-0 halftime lead.

"I thought if they were up by two (TDs) or even three, the way our offense did move the ball, we had a chance if we could stop Woodson," St. John's coach Fred Beier.

"We were still in it behind 20 points; we felt we could score three because Tiffin did it last week, but 23 points is a lot to overcome. You have to stop Woodson.

"That is hard to do."

Woodson proved Beier's point with his punt return.

"I know winning is big," Ross coach Rex Radloff said, "but going out and playing the game hard is fun...that's what it's all about."

Ross 38, St. John's 13

St. John's	0	0	0	13	—	13
Ross	7	16	15	0	—	38



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross churned up 205 yards rushing and five touchdowns in the Little

Giants' 38-13 victory over Toledo St. John's Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Ross 38, St. John's 13

St. John's	0	0	0	13	—	13
Ross	7	16	15	0	—	38

Ross: Charles Woodson, 71 run (Tim Rakes Kick) 2:30 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Rakes kick) 8:22 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 65 run (Kick failed) 3:41, 2nd.

Ross: Rakes, 40 field goal, 0:00, 2nd

Ross: Woodson, 84 punt return (Rakes kick), 9:21, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Moran pass to Matt Merrill), 2:21, 3rd.

St. Johns: Tom Koltz, 11 run (run failed), 3:40, 4th

Steve Spenthoff, 7 pass from Mark Malone (Jeff DelVerne kick), 1:35, 4th

	SJ	Ross
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First downs	18	11
Rushes/Yards	41/200	30/225
Passing Yards	75	81
Passes/Comp./Int	15/8/3	11/6/1
Punts/Average	4/38.5	4/28.5
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	0/0
Penalties/Yards	0/0	4/40

Rushing: SJ—Koltz 7/58, Ken Jones 26/128, Gary Beier 2/1, Dan Van Kouhghnet 5/2, Malone 1/6. Ross—Woodson 24/205, Jake Binder 1/0, Derek Thiessen 5/12, Jason Lather 5/-6, Otis Martin 1/6.

Passing: SJ—Koltz 8/4/1—31. Ross—Moran 8/5/1—73, Chad Root 3/1/0-8.

Receiving: SJ—Joe Ozierwa 2/27, Kevin Szelagowski 2/25, Tom Gallagher 1/1, Spenthoff 3/22. Ross—Gary Rakes 2/15, Jeremy Lozano 3/57, Shane Heberling 1/9.

Records: Ross 1-1, St. John's 1-1.

High School

SANDUSKY AT ROSS

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Harmon Stadium

COACHES: Larry Cook, Sandusky; Rex Radeloff, Ross

LAST WEEK: Ross ran to a 23-0 halftime lead and went on to defeat Toledo St. John's 38-13, leveling its record at 1-1; Sandusky lost to Detroit Brother Rice 28-6 — it's second straight loss.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Sandusky leads 48-32-8.

LAST YEAR: The Ross passing game surfaced as Ross came from behind to win 20-14 at Strobel Field.

Shane Moran's 7-yard touchdown pass to Kris Kayden with 5:13 left to play erased Sandusky's 14-12 lead. The TD was set up by Moran's 52-yard completion to Ryan Smith.

Moran completed 12 of 14 passes for 167 yards, while Ross was limited to 80 yards rushing. Charles Woodson gained 68 yards on 19 attempts.

The Little Giants scored twice in the first half, on an 18-yard run by Woodson and a 7-yard run by Jason Lather.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: One of the all-time great rivalries in Ohio.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The improving Ross offensive line against Sandusky tackle Shannon Aaron and linebackers Shane Fox and Ben Ohlemacher.

Charles Woodson running to the outside against Sandusky's defensive ends.

The Ross defensive interior against the runs of tailback Torrez Rollison behind 215-pound fullback Shane Fox.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Although this is one of the oldest series in the state, the teams did not meet in 1987 or 1988. Prior to that, the teams met every year since 1912.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Ross did not commit a turnover against St. John's after giving the ball away seven times in an opening-game loss to Tiffin Columbian.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "After last week, feeling the way I did, I was not going to let that ball on the ground." — Charles Woodson on not fumbling last week after dropping the ball four times against Columbian.

KEY TO THE GAME: How well Sandusky holds up offensively and defensively in the fourth quarter with nine two-way players. Ross has two players who go both ways, Woodson at tailback and free safety and Keith Decker at guard and linebacker.

Ross routs Sandusky

■ **Rival falls:** Even the years of gridiron battles the Blue Streaks have had with the Little Giants couldn't keep this one close.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

A punt return set a fire under Fremont Ross as the Little Giants burned Sandusky 46-7 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Charles Woodson's fifth career punt return for a touchdown, this one covering 75 yards, put Ross on the board at the 4:52 mark of the first quarter and it got no better for Sandusky.

"That was a great effort on his part bringing it back," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We got a couple of initial blocks but he broke a couple of tackles and once he got in the open he was gone."

"Man, he is exciting."

Said Sandusky coach Larry Cook of Paco Romero's 46-yard punt: "I could not ask for a punter to punt it any better; we just did not sprint downfield and cover it....whether that was the thing that unglued us and pumped them up even more, I don't know."

By the end of the first half, Woodson had scored three touchdowns and the Little Giants were cruising toward their 33rd win in the 89-game series.

Sandusky leads the series 48-33 with eight ties. It was the widest margin of victory since Sandusky piled it on Ross 74-0 in 1966.

The Little Giants defense limited the Blue Streaks to 36 yards as defensive ends Jake Binder and Sean Sprouse would not allow the Sandusky option attack to develop. When the Blue Streaks went inside, linebackers Brandon Willard and Shane Heberling and tackles Rob Burns and Keith Decker cut them short.

"There were some great defensive hits," Radeloff said. "You could tell that by the number of turnovers they had (four). We hit 'em and hit 'em and hit 'em and that's fun."

One Sandusky turnover was Brian Reinholt's third interception of the season.

"I lost track of 'em," Cook said of the turnovers.

Jason Lather scored on a 25-yard counter play for a 13-0 Ross lead four minutes into the second

KEY PLAY
Rakes' sandlot pass
Halfback Gary Rakes passed 66 yards to wide receiver Jeremy Lozano for a touchdown on the first play of the second half for Ross.
"It's not a gimmick...that's part of the offense," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "That's the wide-open aspect of it. If you are going to run wide with Charles Woodson, you better be able come back with a reverse and if you are going to come back with a reverse, you might as well be able to throw the pass and we have a guy like Gary who can throw the pass."
"You run it on a sandlot but it's a logical play and it's a good play."

quarter and a pair of TDs in the final 1:37 of the first half put the game away.

Shane Moran, who completed 6 of 9 passes, hit a slant over the middle to Woodson on a 30-yard scoring play, making it 20-0.

Woodson scooped up Sandusky quarterback Brian Smith's fumble and returned it 28 yards with 44 seconds left in the first half and Ross took a 27-0 lead into the halftime break.

On the Little Giants' first offensive play of the second half, Gary Rakes hooked up with Jeremy Lozano on a reverse pass play for 66 yards. Tim Rakes' fourth extra point kick put Ross up 34-0.

Moran polished off the Ross scoring, running 6 and 4 yards on option plays.

Sandusky scored with 1:04

remaining in the game on a 90-yard fumble return by Marcel Gowdy.

Woodson had 95 yards on 17 carries, Lather 57 on five and sophomore Derek Thiessen 65 on seven fourth-quarter attempts as Ross rolled up 262 yards on the ground and 410 yards of total offense.

Ross 46, Sandusky 7
Sandusky 0 0 0 7 — 7
Ross 7 20 13 6 — 46



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
JAKE BINDER of Fremont Ross brings down Sandusky running back Torrez Rollison behind the line of scrimmage during the first quarter of the Little Giants' 46-7 victory Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Off and running



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Charles Woodson of Fremont Ross takes off on a 75-yard punt return against Sandusky Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Woodson scored three times, ran 17

times for 95 yards and caught two passes for 33 yard as Ross won 46-7. Matt Merrill (39) escorts Woodson on his trip to the end zone.

High School

Ross 46, Sandusky 7

Sandusky	0	0	0	7	—	7
Ross	7	20	13	6	—	46

Ross: Charles Woodson, 75 punt return (Tim Rakes kick), 4:52, 1st.

Ross: Jason Lather, 25 run (Pass failed), 7:50, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 30 pass from Shane Moran (T. Rakes kick), 1:37, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 28 fumble recovery (T. Rakes kick), 0:44, 2nd.

Ross: Jeremy Lozano, 66 pass from Gary Rakes (T. Rakes kick), 7:48, 3rd.

Ross: Moran, 6 run (kick failed), 2:09, 3rd.

Ross: Moran, 4 run (pass failed), 10:34, 4th.

Sandusky: Marcel Gowdy, 90 fumble recovery, (Paco Romero kick), 1:04, 4th.

	S	R
First downs	2	15
Rushes/Yards	31/21	44/262
Passing Yards	15	148
Passes/Comp./Int.	7/3/1	11/7/0
Punts/Average	6/28.8	2/25
Fumbles/Lost	7/3	2/2
Penalties/Yards	5/44	4/40

Rushing: Sandusky—Brian Smith 6/14, Shane Fox 6/8, Torrez Rollison 15/44, Wayne Durrah 3/2, Romero 1/15, Ross—Moran 9/38, Woodson 17/95, Jake Binder 1/5, Chad Root 1/2, Lather 5/57, Derek Thiessen 7/65, Shane Heberling 2/4, Otis Martin 1/4, Harry Liggins Jr. 1/2.

Passing: Sandusky: Smith 7/3/1 —15. Ross—Moran 9/6/0—82, G. Rakes 1/1/0—66, Woodson 1/0/0.

Receiving: Sandusky—Fox 1/12, Rollison 1/2, Paul Brown 1/5, Ross—Woodson 2/33, Lozano 3/91, Kyle Kusmer 1/2, Shaun Root 1/26.

Records: Ross 2-1, Sandusky 0-3.

Ross opens GLL schedule at Whitmer

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

The fine tuning continues as Fremont Ross begins the serious work of winning their first Great Lakes League championship.

After three games in the confines of Harmon Stadium, the Little Giants hit the road for Toledo to take on Whitmer.

Ross is 2-1 and Whitmer 1-2, but the Panthers have a GLL win to their credit already.

Toledo Start beat Whitmer 31-13 in week one, and the Panthers dropped a 7-3 decision to Toledo St. Francis before bowing over Bedford 39-0.

"I watched that game film (Start)," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, "and I still think Whitmer is a better football team than Start."

"Whitmer was almost like us in the first game (a 21-13 loss to Tiffin Columbian)...they had too many mistakes. I think if the game was played over, Whitmer would win."

Radeloff pointed out St. Francis is 1-2, but the losses were to Lima Senior and Cleveland St. Ignatius, the defending Division I state champ which hasn't lost in 37 games. St. Francis led St. Ignatius at halftime.

"Whitmer is a good, solid football team," Radeloff said. "They are very aggressive on defense stunting with the linebackers. They are going to present a lot of problems to us from the offensive standpoint."

The Panthers will throw multiple offensive sets at the Little Giants. Whitmer uses a one-back set, wishbone and I-formation as well as several other formations.

"They will try to get outside...at least that has been their game plan the first three weeks," Radeloff said. "Our linebackers will have to run better and get to

Ross career rushing leaders

Rank, Player	Yards
1 Jim Tiller	3,755
2 Terry Carter	3,516
3 John Lewis	2,787
4 Tyrone Price	2,684
5 Rob Lytle	2,593
6 Tom Liggins	2,579
7 Terry Bates	2,304
8 Charles Woodson	2,288

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

the point of attack because they will be putting a lot of pressure on our perimeter."

Last week in a 46-7 win over Sandusky, Radeloff said he saw a great deal of improvement in his offensive line play. There's room for more — cutting off the back-side attack and sustaining blocks better.

"We showed we have more than one weapon than Charles Woodson," Radeloff said. "I thought the passing game was good; we caught the ball well and we showed a diversified attack by running inside and outside. Whitmer will have to defend the whole field."

"Defensively, when we had the chance, we struck them hard. The special teams played well."

Despite allowing 36 net yards last week, Radeloff would like to see a better inside pass rush on defense along with better tackling.

"Other than that, I was happy with the enthusiasm and hustle the kids showed on the field," Radeloff said.

"We have to continue that this week."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

TAKING A BREAK before the start of the Great Lakes League portion of the Fremont Ross schedule is Little Giants tailback Charles Woodson. Actually, Woodson is taking a breather after returning a punt 75 yards for a

touchdown to give Ross a lead last Friday night against Sandusky at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants went on to a 46-7 victory over the Blue Streaks, their second win in three games.

Little Giants power past Whitmer

■ **Offense, defense dominate:** Charles Woodson rushed for 219 yards and three touchdowns, while the Little Giants limited the Panthers to 60 yards.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross flexed its muscles in a 45-0 Great Lakes League victory over Toledo Whitmer Friday night.

The Little Giants buried Whitmer under a second-half deluge of points, scoring 38 points after clinging to a 7-0 halftime lead.

"Honestly, we felt pretty confident coming out in the second half," Whitmer coach Jeff Robbins said, "but then the roof caved in, the dam broke and when it rained, it hailed hard...I don't know what else to say."

Ross, 3-1 and 1-0, held the Panthers, 1-3 and 1-1, to 17 yards in the second half.

"I am really happy with what is going on," Ross defensive coordinator Chuck Lindsey said. "I don't think there was a kid who did not play well."

In the second half, the Ross defensive front of Rob Burns, Josh Jones, Steve Holland, Sean Sprouse and Jake Binder kept relentless pressure on the Panthers. What tackles that crew didn't make, linebackers Shane Heberling, Brandon Willer, Jason Lather and Carlos Sanchez did.

The defense was matched by an equally aggressive Ross offense in the second half.

Charles Woodson scored three times on runs of 40, 30 and 59 yards — finishing with 219 yards on 19 carries, including 165 yards on 12 in the second half.

The three touchdowns give Woodson 50 in three seasons.

"They were giving us some problems in the first half," Ross head coach Rex Radloff said. "They were not letting us get on the outside and we were having trouble controlling the linebackers. So we decided to get into the goal line, prevent any penetration and try to get outside...and it

worked. That was about it.

"We played good smash-mouth football in that second half, and that defense...it just keeps getting better and better."

Ross scored late in the first half. Lining up in a one-back offense, Woodson shifted to the slot on the right and the Panther defense shifted over to cover him. That left Jason Lather wide open on the right, and quarterback Shane Moran hit Lather in stride on a 54-yard scoring play.

Running behind its goal-line offense, Ross scored in three plays after taking the second half kickoff.

Woodson lost 3 yards on the first play, ran for 19 on the second and scored from 40 yards on the third.

The unbalanced line had tackles Brad Drake and Mike Byerly on the same side with tight end Kyle Kusmer. Guards Matt Gerner and Willer and center T.J. Wolfe supplied the backside blocking. The backfield lined up in a power-I.

"We had our best three linemen all together," Ross offensive coordinator Dan Fought said.

A 10-yard Whitmer punt gave Ross the ball at the Whitmer 39 on its second possession of the second half. Woodson ran 9 yards to the 30 and scored on the next play.

Rakes hit a 27-yard field goal, giving Ross a 24-0 lead after three quarters.

At the 10:21 mark of the fourth quarter, Woodson ran 59 yards for a 31-0 lead.

Sophomore Derek Thiessen ran 25 yards after Willer recovered a fumbled punt at the Whitmer 33.

On the following kickoff, Whitmer's Ernest Harmon fumbled at the 25. Gary Rakes scooped the ball and ran it back for the final Little Giants' touchdown.

High School Football

Ross 45, Whitmer 0

Ross	0	7	17	21	—	45
Whitmer	0	0	0	0	—	0

Ross: Jason Lather, 54 pass from Shane Moran (Tim Rakes kick), 2:50, 2nd.

Ross: Charles Woodson, 40 run (T. Rakes kick), 10:21, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 30 run (T. Rakes kick), 6:49, 3rd.

Ross: T. Rakes, 27 field goal, 4:05, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 59 run (T. Rakes kick), 10:21, 4th.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 25 run (T. Rakes kick), 4:49, 4th.

Ross: Gary Rakes, 25 fumble return (T. Rakes kick), 4:41, 4th.

	R	W
First downs	10	6
Rushes/Yards	35/254	35/55
Passing Yards	73	5
Passes/Comp./Int.	10/4/0	8/2/0
Punts/Avg.	4/35.0	9/30.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	4/3
Penalties/Yards	3/20	7/58

Rushing: Ross—Woodson 19/219, Moran 5/11, Jake Binder 1/4, Thiessen 4/24, Shane Heberling 2/10, Harry Liggins 1/7, Fred Cooley 2/1, Mike Willer 1/0. Whitmer—Andy Boyd 12/20, LeCharles Smith 11/58, Ernst Harmon 11/16, Scott Reighard 1/1.

Passing: Ross—Moran 10/4/0—73. Whitmer—Boyd 7/2/0—5, Harmon 1/0/0—0.

Receiving: Ross—Lather 3/65, Jeremy Lozano 1/8. Whitmer—Justin Laux 1/9, Chad Lorton 1/4.

Records: Ross 3-1 (1-0), Whitmer 1-3 (0-1).

Around Ohio

Friday'

Ada 20, Paulding 14
Akron Firestone 17, Akron Kenm
Akron Garfield 28, Akron N. 0
Akron Spring 14, Canton S. 12
Akron St.V-St.M 56, Cle. West T
Allen E. 47, Lima Perry 7
Alliance 16, Uniontown Lake 7
Am.-Clearcreek 35, Bloom-Carro
Amherst 8, Bay 0
Ansonia 58, National Trail 7
Anthony Wayne 7, Millbury Lake
Archbold 37, Evergreen 0
Ashtabula 32, Jefferson 6
Aurora 47, Brooklyn 0
Austintown-Fitch 10, St. Edward
Avon Lake 51, Westlake 0
Beachwood 28, Columbia 26
Beallsville 35, Frontier 0
Beaver Local 30, E. Liverpool 14
Bellaire 35, Wheeling Central 6
Bellevue 28, Willard 3
Belpre 44, Trimble 0
Berkshire 38, Crestwood 7
Berne Union 28, Licking Hts. 0
Bethel 30, Covington 0
Bethel-Tate 30, Western Brown 7
Bexley 27, Grandview 6
Bishop (Ind.) Chat. 29, Cin. W. H
Black River 42, Buckeye 13
Bradford 39, Mississinawa Vall. 1
Brecksville 30, Berea 20
Brookfield 50, Newton Falls 0
Brookside 27, Wellington 20
Brookville 42, Bellbrook 0
Brunswick 31, Cloverleaf 8
Brush 21, Cle. South 6
Buckeye Central 18, Riverdale 13
Canton 24, Cle. Kennedy 13

High School

ROSS (3-1) AT AT FINDLAY (3-1)

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Donnell Stadium, Findlay

COACHES: Rex Radeloff, Ross; Jim Casarta, Findlay

LAST WEEK: Ross scored 38 points in the second half and shut out Toledo Whitmer 45-0; Findlay defeated Marion Harding 21-14 as Chris Beltz recovered two fumbles, intercepted a pass and was the leading rusher with 111 yards.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 45-30-3. The Little Giants' biggest margin of victory was 63-0 in 1920, while the Trojans topped Ross 53-0 in 1953.

LAST YEAR: Ross sophomore Jason Lather stepped in for injured Charles Woodson and rushed for 106 yards and a touchdown in the Little Giants' 29-13 win.

Quarterback Shane Moran passed for two touchdowns for the Little Giants and added 69 yards and another touchdown rushing.

Ross led 22-7 at halftime.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: A Ross defense that has not allowed a point the last two weeks. Sandusky scored on a fumble recovery two weeks ago.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Ross defensive ends Sean Sprouse and Jake Binder vs. Findlay's option offense. This is the third successive week the Little Giants have had to prepare for the option.

The Little Giants' quickness vs. a moderately slow Findlay defense.

Moran vs. the Trojan's secondary as the Little Giants bid to take pressure off its running game.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: When Findlay joins the GLL next season, the Trojans and Ross will have been members of three league affiliations within the last 10 years: Buckeye Conference, Buckeye Central Conference and GLL.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Ross limited Whitmer to 60 total yards, including 21 in the second half.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "We have more concerns than just (Charles) Woodson." — Casarta on the Little Giants.

KEY TO THE GAME: The Ross defense. If it continues to dominate, Findlay's offense will be without options.

Ross, Findlay renew rivalry

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross may be running into what they dished out in the second half against Toledo Whitmer last Friday.

The Little Giants, 3-1, travel to Findlay, 3-1, Friday for the 97th meeting between the two high school football teams.

Ross used a goal-line offense — generally a power-I set with the line unbalanced either right or left — to score 17 third-quarter points while defeating Whitmer 45-0.

"They are a wing-T offense," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "They will use mis-direction, play-action pass...but they will be more power oriented than anything else."

At least that is how the Trojans' game plan looked in their first three games. Last week, Findlay changed gears a bit.

Justin Stutzman, a 5-foot-10, 160-pound junior, returned at quarterback after missing the early part of the season while recovering from a broken collarbone. His return added a

Two more wins

High school football researcher Jim Baker of North Olmsted, Ohio, has found a couple more wins for Fremont.

It seems he found them in the 1906 and 1907 seasons.

The Little Giants victory over Toledo Whitmer last week was the 497th in Ross history.

Fremont and Ross football teams are 497-314-48 since 1895.

dimension to coach Jim Caserta's offense.

"He is an excellent quarterback," Radeloff said. "He ran the option well, threw the ball well and the scouts said he looked very sharp doing it. He made them a better football team."

Another Trojan Radeloff said the Little Giants must control is two-way player Mike Montgomery, a 6-2, 200-pound junior. He plays tight end and defensive end.

"He can run and looks very active on defense," Radeloff said.

One thing working against Findlay, the Ross coach said, is a lack of speed — a commodity of which Ross has in abundance.

Unlike the past few years, Findlay does have some size this season on both the offensive and defensive lines. The defensive front starters weigh in at 250, 295, 200 and 205 pounds.

Findlay has beaten Cleveland John Adams and Fostoria in addition to Marion Harding. The loss was 7-6 to Toledo St. John's, a team Ross routed 38-13.

Findlay uses 4-4, 4-3 and 5-3 defensive alignments.

"We look for them to a lot of stunting...I don't know whether they can sit there and just play a straight defense against us," Radeloff said. "They are good size up front, but I still think they be using the linebackers in stunts."

Running

Woodson runs wild

■ 256 yards: Ross star too much for Findlay in 37-7 win.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Charles Woodson battered Findlay, but Jake Binder delivered the knockout punch as Fremont Ross defeated

the Trojans 37-7 Friday night at Donnell Stadium.

Ross led 14-0 when Binder blew in from the left defensive end slot and blocked Zach Dennis' punt, putting Ross in business at the Findlay 9.

"We knew coming in we had to avoid the big play," Findlay coach Jim Caserta said, "and that is exactly what hurt us.

"When we got that punt blocked, that really hurt us."

Ross coach Rex Radeloff agreed.

"They had some confidence up to that point," Radeloff said.

Woodson scored the third of his four touchdowns three plays later on a 1-yard run with 4:16 remaining in the first half.

"We controlled the line of

scrimmage for the most part," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, "but those defensive tackles, especially number 72 (6-foot-1, 250-pound Scott Flores). We had a hard time cutting him off."

SEE ROSS, B2

Ross 37, Findlay 7

Ross	7	21	7	2	—	37
Findlay	0	0	7	0	—	7

Ross career rushing leaders

Rank	Player	Yards
1	Jim Tiller	3,755
2	Terry Carter	3,516
3	John Lewis	2,787
4	Tyrone Price	2,684
5	Rob Lytle	2,593
6	Tom Liggins	2,579
7	Charles Woodson	2,507
8	Terry Bates	2,304

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Ross career scoring leaders

Rank	Player	Points
1	Jim Tiller	373
2	Charles Woodson	308
3	Tom Liggins	312
4	John Lewis	262
5	Rob Lytle	242

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Ross career rushing leaders

Rank	Player	Yards
1	Jim Tiller	3,755
2	Terry Carter	3,516
3	John Lewis	2,787
4	Charles Woodson	2,763
5	Tyrone Price	2,684
6	Rob Lytle	2,593
7	Tom Liggins	2,579
8	Terry Bates	2,304

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Ross rolls to 4th straight win

Continued From B1

The Little Giants took firm control two minutes later as quarterback Shane Moran led Ross on a seven-play, 68-yard drive. Moran completed passes of 13, 7 and 8 yards before hooking up with Jeremy Lozano on a 41-yard touchdown pass.

While Binder came up with the demoralizer, Woodson was hampered but not contained. He scored the first Little Giants touchdown on a 1-yard run with 2:31 remaining in the first quarter. He followed that with a 91-yard scoring jaunt, the second longest in Ross history, five minutes into the second quarter.

The longest run from scrimmage was a 98-yarder by Lester Franks in 1952. Woodson topped 90-yard runs by John Lewis in 1951 and Jim Hailey in 1957.

Woodson ran 67 yards for his fourth TD with 2:15 to play in the third quarter. Of his 256 yards on 20 attempts, 211 yards came on three carries.

"Charles got loose two or three times on the long runs," Caserta said. "We knew we were going to have to surround the ball and we were getting a guy or two there, but we did not have

enough people there for as good a player as he is."

Woodson was not only weapon with which the Trojans had to contend.

Moran completed 8 of 9 passes in the first half for 103 yards, while Woodson ran for 180.

"They were packing it in with eight players inside," Radeloff said, "and that's tough to run on. They forced us to throw the ball several times."

Gary Rakes hauled in a pair of passes for 17 yards and Matt Merrill came up with a pair for 24 yards.

"We knew they could pass the ball," Caserta said. "We were aware of it, but when you are trying to defend everything, that is what makes them tough because they are balanced now."

Binder and the Ross defense took away the Trojans's running game, limiting it to 51 yards on 35 attempts. Findlay had 157 total yards.

"We had to come out of here with a win to set up an excellent football game next week in Fostoria," Radeloff said. "We want to go into that with confidence."

High School

Ross 37, Findlay 7

Ross	7	21	7	2	—	37
Findlay	0	0	7	0	—	7

Ross: Charles Woodson, 1 run (Tim Rakes kick), 2:31, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 91 run (T. Rakes kick), 6:57, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (T. Rakes kick), 4:16, 2nd.

Ross: Jeremy Lozano, 41 pass from Shane Moran (T. Rakes kick) 0:55, 2nd.

Findlay: Scott Crates, 7 pass from Zach Dennis (Ryan Devore kick) 3:08, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 67 run (T. Rakes kick), 2:51, 3rd.

Ross: Safety, 11:11, 4th.

	R	F
First downs	9	9
Rushes/Yards	33/272	35/51
Passing Yards	103	106
Passes/Comp./Int.	12/8/0	24/9/2
Punts/Avg.	6/35.8	8/29.9
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	4/0
Penalties/Yards	7/91	4/37

Rushing: Ross—Woodson 20/256, Jason Lather 2/12, Derek Thiessen 4/2, Harry Liggins 5/1, Fred Cooley 1/8, Travis Johnson 1/3. Findlay—Justin Stutzman 9/20, Chris Beltz 6/27, Crates 7/16, Dwight Decker 7/18, Mike Montgomery 1/1, Jason Neff 1/2, Zach Dennis 4/29.

Passing: Ross—Moran 11/8/0—103, Liggins 1/0/0. Findlay—Stutzman 16/6/1—70, Dennis 6/3/0—36, Andy Bower 2/0/1—0.

Receiving: Lather 1/8, Lozano 1/41, Kyle Kusmer 1/6, Gary Rakes 2/17, Matt Merrill 2/31, Jamie Ross 1/7. Findlay—Crates 1/7, Montgomery 3/16, Ben Leonard 1/13, Dennis 1/10, Phil Thomas 1/10, Craig Bova 2/50.

Records: Ross 4-1, Findlay 3-2.

Ross losers of three straight to Fostoria

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

"Big game?" Rex Radeloff asked himself. "No, it's just a football game."

But when Fremont Ross faces Fostoria at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium, it's a game the Little Giants would like to win for the first time in four years.

For sure, the game does not have the same complexion as in previous years.

Ross was undefeated last year and faced the Redmen with one Great Lakes League loss on two other occasions.

The Little Giants are 4-1 this year, with one of those wins coming in the GLL.

Fostoria has been undefeated in the three previous meetings with Ross, but the Redmen are 2-3 and even after two GLL games in 1994.

In 1991 and 1993, the Little Giants were in contention for the GLL championship when Fostoria came to town. The Redmen won 14-6 in 1991 and 7-6 last year; and the Redmen routed Ross 34-0 in 1992 at Memorial Stadium.

"It's not for a conference championship, it's mid-season," Radeloff said. "I don't know who called this a big game...probably a sports writer or a fan."

If it's not a "big" game, Radeloff admitted it's an important game. But he said that's not unusual.

"We treat them all like that," he said.

Fostoria has been plagued by turnovers, but the Redmen are improving in that area. After being a minus-9 in takeaway-giveaway ratio the first two games, they are now a plus-1.

"They have had some mistakes in the secondary," Radeloff said. "They may not run as well as in the past, but they are a solid ball club. We have to take advantage of their mistakes."

Defensively, the Redmen are allowing 154 yards a game, only 10 more than Ross. But the Little Giants are averaging over 355 yards per game offensively, while Fostoria is at 238.

"The more we play, we are showing that we are not one-dimensional," Radeloff said.

Although Charles Woodson rushed for 256 yards in last week's 37-7 victory over Findlay, Shane Moran contributed 8-of-9 passing for 103 yards in the first half.

"We have a lot of weapons on offense," Radeloff said, "and Fostoria is going to have to defend them all."

Ross career rushing leaders

Rank	Player	Yards
1	Jim Tiller	3,755
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3	John Lewis	2,787
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5	Tyrone Price	2,684

NewsMessenger/Bob Marker

Little Giants big on defense

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Chuck Lindsey is searching for an answer.

"We won't find out where we really are until we face a really outstanding offensive team," said Lindsey, the Fremont Ross defensive coordinator.

Ross surrendered 21 second-half points in a season-opening 21-13 loss to Tiffin Columbian.

Since then, the Little Giants have given up 20 in four games — most as Lindsey and his assistants were flooding the field with substitutes.

Seven points against Ross have come on a fumble return by Sandusky.

After giving up 200 yards (all in the second half) to Columbian and 275 yards in a 38-13 win over Toledo St. John's, the Little Giants have allowed 36 yards to



BINDER



SPROUSE

out and hit people."

It's a no-name defense, with several players taking turns coming up with key plays.

Ends Sean Sprouse and Jake Binder have been most obvious with their charges into the opponents' backfields, while the combination of tackles Rob Burns, Steve Holland and Josh Jones along with inside linebackers Shane Heberling and Brandon Willer have taken care of most inside running games.

"I think inside, the kids are playing above and beyond what we expected," Lindsey said.

On the outside, linebackers Jason Lather and Carlos Sanchez have been consistent.

The defensive backfield contingent of Brian Reinbolt, Chad Root and Charles Woodson as well as spot performers Matt Merrill and Jeremy Lozano have

played solidly.

"Totally, overall, we can get better," Lindsey said. "There is no doubt about it that we have been successful, but there are little things could be better."

"I guess, in discipline, it's kind of like (University of Indiana basketball coach) Bobby Knight says, 'It's doing the right thing all the time,'" Lindsey said. "A lot of people get upset with Bobby Knight because he's up by 20 points and he's mad because a kid made a mistake. Well, that's because fundamentally, you want to make sure that kid does everything right whether it is the first or last play of the game."

"That's where I am coming from...I just want them to get better."

The Little Giants are getting better, and Fostoria presents another test Friday night.

Ross losers of three straight to Fostoria

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

"Big game?" Rex Radloff asked himself. "No, it's just a football game."

But when Fremont Ross faces Fostoria at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium, it's a game the Little Giants would like to win for the first time in four years.

For sure, the game does not have the same complexion as in previous years.

Ross was undefeated last year and faced the Redmen with one Great Lakes League loss on two other occasions.

The Little Giants are 4-1

Fostoria beats Ross

Woodson misses game: A knee injury kept the Little Giants star running back from testing the Fostoria defense.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

FOSTORIA — Two touchdowns in the first two minutes of the fourth quarter and a high-pressure defense powered Fostoria to a 22-15 upset victory over Fremont Ross Friday night at Memorial Stadium.

Ross is 4-2 and 1-1 in the Great Lakes League chase, while Fostoria is 3-3 and climbed back into the title picture with a 2-1 mark.

Ross played without leading rusher and scorer Charles Woodson. The senior, who had rushed for 930 yards and scored 16 touchdowns in the first five games, is suffering from bursitis in his left knee. His status is day-to-day, according to Ross trainer Joe Hershey.

Woodson first hurt the knee two weeks ago against Whitmer and aggravated it in Thursday's light workout.

"Charles is an outstanding athlete and I hate to see him not play," Fostoria coach Dick Kidwell said, "but it made victory a little easier for us."

Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, "Who knows, he (Woodson) may have been able to break a few plays here and there. We'd been a better football team with him on the field."

Sophomore Wendell Young's 13-yard run five seconds into the final period capped a four-play, 39-yard drive, giving the Redmen the go-ahead touchdown. Jerry Dessausure's pass to Lee Stalnaker gave Fostoria a 14-7 lead.

A minute and a half later, another sophomore, Leo Frieren, scooped up a fumble and returned it 21 yards for another Fostoria touchdown. Dessausure's run put the Redmen ahead 22-7 with 10:54 to play. Tackle Shawn Doogs sacked Ross quarterback Shane Moran, forcing the fumble.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

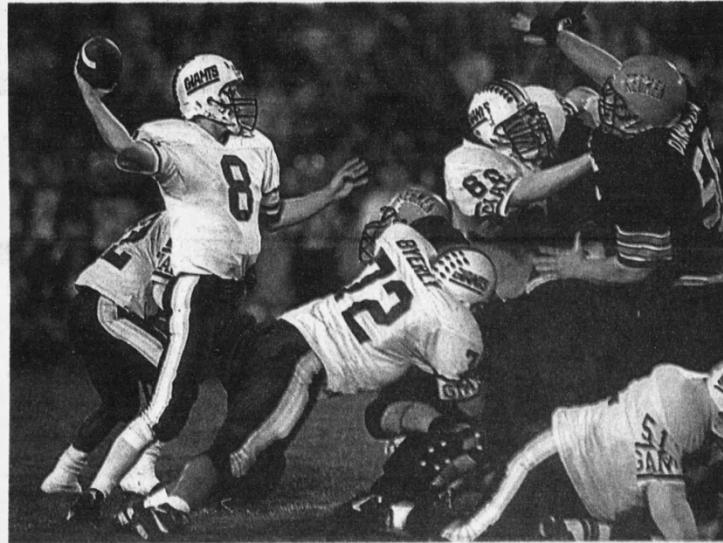
JASON LATHER of Fremont Ross finds some running room against Fostoria Friday night.

Doogs, running mate Walter Talley, making his first start at the other tackle, and linebacker Scott Moran led a defense that humiliated the Little Giants' offensive line.

"We did not control the line of scrimmage," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We got beat up front...simple as that."

Moran was thrown for 63 yards in losses on 11 carries by the Redmen defense. The Little Giants had minus-9 yards rushing. Jason Lather, taking over for Woodson, had 53 yards on 17 attempts.

"Our defense played outstanding," Kidwell said. "We kept pressure on them. We knew they had a quick passing game and we knew that without Charles, they



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS quarterback Shane Moran has time to throw on this play against Fostoria, but he was sacked on several occasions for 63 yards in losses. Fostoria

defeated the Little Giants 22-15 in the Great Lakes League game at Memorial Stadium in Fostoria. Ross has now lost four straight games to the Redmen.

"We did not control the line scrimmage. We got beat up front...simple as that."

Rex Radeloff

would probably go to the air a little more."

Moran completed 9 of 19 passes for 190 yards.

"That's the only thing we could do," Radeloff said. "If you cannot control the line of scrimmage, you can't run the ball, and we certainly had trouble protecting...we could not protect our inside gaps."

Fostoria led 6-0 at halftime on Ryan Russell's 12-yard TD run with 2:27 remaining in the half. The Little Giants took the lead

on Moran's 36-yard pass to tight end Kyle Kusmer with Tim Rakes' kick putting Ross up 7-6 with 5:31 to play in the third quarter.

"We thought we could come out in the second half and get it done but we did not," Radeloff said. "You got to give a lot of credit to Fostoria, they did a great job and they beat us. What can I say?"

After Fostoria scored the quick touchdowns, Gary Rakes took a short pass over the middle and with blocks by Matt Merrill at

the Fostoria 40 and another by Jeremy Lozano at the Redmen 15, covered 76 yards to score at the 9:47 mark of the final quarter. Moran ran for the extra points, cutting the Fostoria lead to 22-15.

After the team's trade the ball, Dessausure led a time-consuming, 10-play, 52-yard drive that stalled on the Ross 13 but the drive consumed more than five minutes. By the time Ross took over, the Little Giants were out of timeouts and out of protection for Moran.

On the final play, Talley threw Moran for a 13-yard loss.

Fostoria 22, Ross 15

Ross	0	0	7	8	—	15
Fostoria	0	6	0	16	—	38

High School

Fostoria 22, Ross 15

Ross	0	0	7	8	—	15
Fostoria	0	6	0	16	—	22

Fostoria: Ryan Russell, 12 run (run failed), 2:27, 2nd.

Ross: Kyle Kusmer, 36 pass from Shane Moran (Tim Rakes kick), 5:31, 3rd.

Fostoria: Wendall Young, 13 run (Lee Stalnaker pass from Jerry Dessausure), 11:55, 4th.

Fostoria: Leo Frieson, 21 fumble return (Dessausure run), 10:24, 4th.

Ross: Gary Rakes, 76 pass from Moran (Moran run), 9:47, 4th.

	R	F
First downs	8	11
Rushes/yards	29/-7	41/183
Passing yards	190	29
Passes/comp/int	19/9/1	8/2/0
Punts/average	7/33.4	6/30.0
Fumbles/lost	3/1	2/2
Penalties/yards	5/40	5/35

Rushing: Ross—Moran 11/63, Jason Lather 17/56, Jack Binder 1/0. Fostoria—Dessausure 11/54, Russell 7/41, Shawn Doogs 11/40, Walter Talley 5/12, Young 7/36.

Passing: Ross—Moran 19/9/1—190. Fostoria—Dessausure 8/2/0—29.

Receiving: Ross—Lather 1/11, Jeremy Lozano 2/24, Kusmer 2/54, G. Rakes 3/92, Matt Merrill 1/9.

Records: Ross 4-2 (1-1), Fostoria 3-3 (2-1).

Football

BEDFORD (2-4, 1-3) AT ROSS (4-2, 1-1)

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Harmon Stadium, Fremont

COACHES: Bill Regnier, Bedford; Rex Radeloff, Ross

LAST WEEK: Fostoria scored 16 fourth-quarter points and beat Ross 22-15 as the Little Giants played without tailback Charles Woodson.

A 21-yard fumble return for a touchdown by the Redmen with 10:54 to play turned out to be the game-winner.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 3-0.

LAST YEAR: Woodson scored six touchdowns while rushing for 237 yards in a 46-16 victory.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: How well the Little Giants bounce back after being dominated on both sides of the line by Fostoria.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The Ross offensive line vs. an aggressive Bedford front six.

The Ross passing game vs. a defense which will have eight to nine players within 3 yards of the line of scrimmage.

Bedford's multiple offensive attack vs. a Ross defense that had some problems controlling the Fostoria option.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Woodson missed a game last season because of bursitis in his right knee. Last week, it was bursitis in his left knee that forced him to miss the game.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Fostoria sacked Ross quarterback Shane Moran nine times for 63 yards in losses.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "Once we started playing, the game was over." Radeloff after the 1993 Bedford game.

KEY TO THE GAME: The Ross lines. Both must bounce back from disappointing performances a week ago.

Ross eyes GLL title, playoff berth

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

There is a ray of optimism in the Fremont Ross football camp.

"We are still in the playoff picture and we are still in the race for the GLL championship," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Ross, 4-2 and 1-1, trails Napoleon (3-0) in the GLL. Fostoria, which beat Ross 22-15 last Friday, and Whitmer both have won two of three league games.

The Little Giants got a break in the calculating of the weekly average of computer points, which determines playoff berths.

All four of Ross's defeated opponents won games last weekend, keeping the Little Giants in the fourth spot of Division I, Region 2. The top four teams qualify for the state playoffs, and Ross currently trails Canton McKinley, Massillon Washington and Akron Garfield.

Another loss will wipe away any championship or playoff hopes, however.

But Ross may face Bedford Friday night at Harmon Stadium without All-Ohio running back Charles Woodson for the second consecutive game.

Woodson was taken out of the lineup at 3 p.m. last Friday.

"It's a day-to-day basis," Radeloff said, "depending on the swelling in the knee and how he feels. The doctors and the trainer make that call."

Woodson, who rushed for 930 yards and scored 16 touchdowns in the first five games, is working out lightly this week.

Woodson is just one of the

injured tailbacks at Ross. His replacement, Jason Lather, wears a protective wrap on his left shoulder, and third-string tailback Derek Thiessen is out at least this week with a knee injury.

If Woodson doesn't play Friday, Lather will be backed up by sophomore Travis Johnson, who has recovered from a broken bone in his hand.

The Little Giants were hit hard by illness prior to the Fostoria game. The starters did not practice as complete units on prime practice days Tuesday and Wednesday.

"We had a skeletal squad for the most part," Radeloff said. "I did not say anything, but I was concerned with that."

"You don't win football games when you can't practice, especially on Tuesdays and Wednesdays."

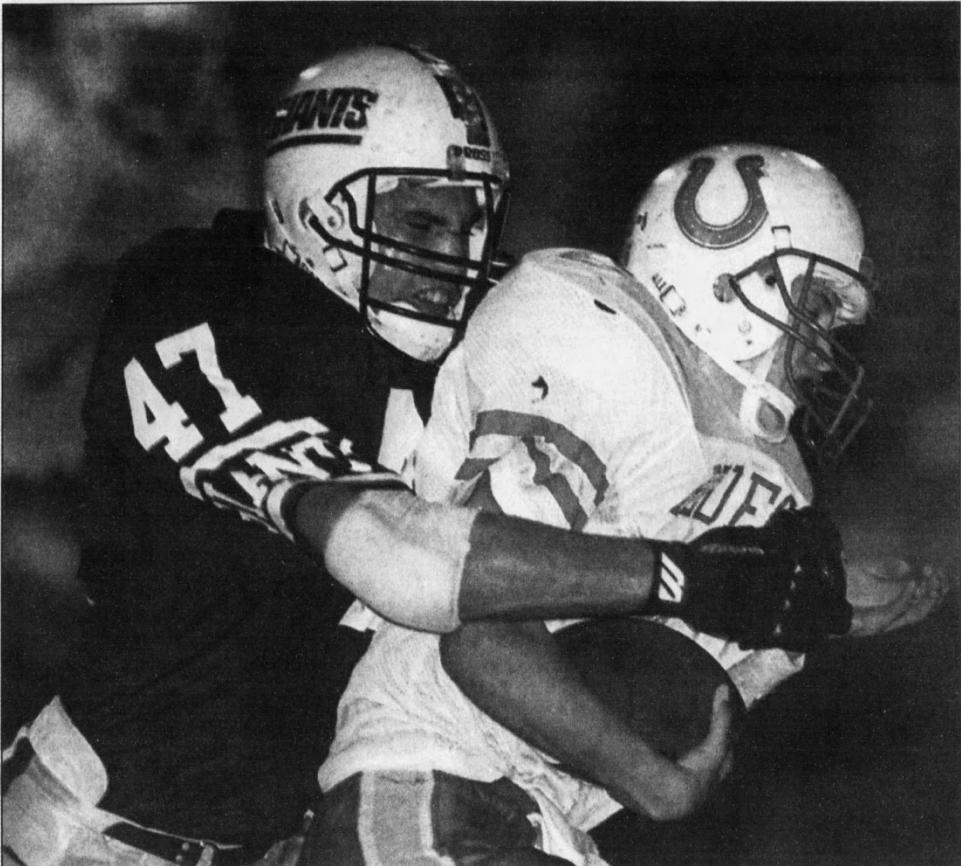
This Friday, Ross will face a very aggressive Bedford defense led by 285-pound senior tackle Jon Miller.

"They have good personnel especially on the defensive side and Miller in particular," Radeloff said. "They will show eight to nine people in the box (within three yards of the line of scrimmage) and they will come like gangbusters."

Offensively, Bedford uses multiple sets with the wishbone, double slots, one-back, no-back and shotgun formations.

"Hopefully, we can get control of both lines this week," Radeloff said.

Ross on track again



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS defensive end Jake Binder catches Bedford running back Joseph Zogab from behind during the second quarter of a 34-10 Little

Giants' victory over the Mules at Harmon Stadium Friday night. The Ross defense limited Bedford to 129 total yards.

■ Woodson back:

The Little Giants' tailback returns to lineup with 250 yards and 4 TDs.

By BOB MARKER
Sport Editor

Bedford's Kicking Mules rolled into Fremont Friday night, but Charles Woodson and Fremont Ross did the kicking at Harmon Stadium.

Woodson rushed for 250 yards and four touchdowns in a 34-10 Ross victory after sitting out last week's loss to Fostoria with bursitis in his left knee.

He also completed a pass for 13 yards, intercepted his second pass of the season and forced a fumble.

"That's not too bad for a kid with a banged up knee playing at about 80 percent," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Said Bedford coach Bill Regnier: "There aren't too many high school kids that can do that."

Woodson also had scoring runs of 47 and 37 yards called back because of penalties.

Despite Woodson's heroics, it took a blocked punt to take momentum away from Bedford.

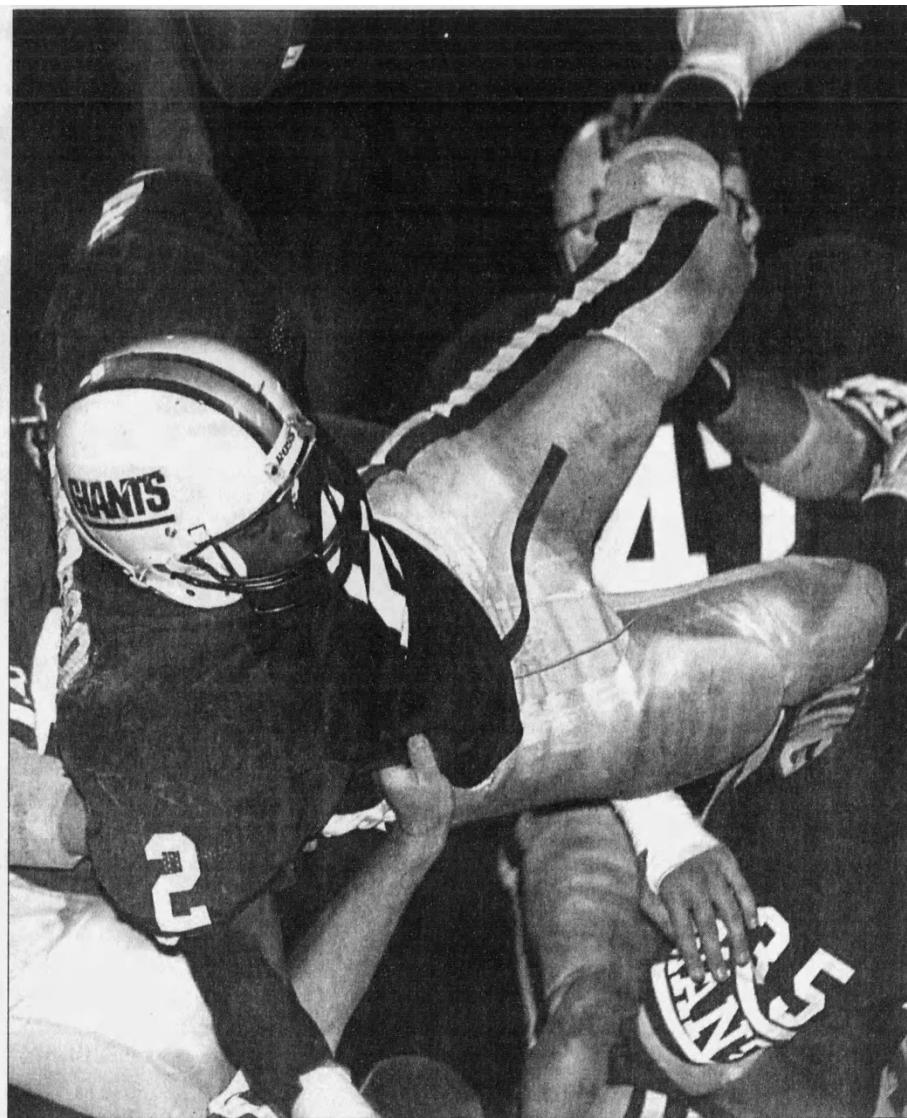
Ross, 5-2 and 2-1 in the Great Lakes league, trailed 10-7 when Ben Burkett broke through the left side of the Bedford line and blocked Chad Henman's punt. Jake Binder scooped it up at the Bedford 10 and fell at the 6.

"That hurt us quite a bit," Regnier said.

Woodson scored on the first play, and the Little Giants took a 14-10 lead and momentum.

"We needed some momentum," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

See ROSS, B2



News-Messenger/Andrew Morris

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross dives into the end zone for this third touchdown late in the second quarter of Friday's game against Bedford at Harmon Stadium. Woodson finished with four touchdowns.

Ross rolls past Kicking Mules 34-10

Continued From B1

"For whatever reason, we came out very flat...but the blocked punt was a big emotional turnaround, and we took charge from that point."

The Mules, 2-5 and 1-4, took the opening kickoff and moved 65 yards in 12 plays with Joseph Zogaib going the final 2 yards for the score.

"They were in the right defense and we were in the right offense at the right time," Regnier said.

The Little Giants quickly tied it as Woodson picked up all 71 yards in a six-play drive. He ran 13 yards for the touchdown.

Bedford took the ensuing kick-

off and moved it 52 yards before settling for Dave Stock's 33-yard field goal.

Woodson set up his third touchdown, tackling Bedford quarterback Dan Williams and forcing a fumble which Jason Lather recovered at the Bedford 22. This time, Woodson ran for 2 yards, passed 13 yards to quarterback Shane Moran to the 1 and scored on the next play.

Ross led 21-10 at halftime, and Woodson cut off a block by tight end Kyle Kusmer and rambled 66 yards down the sideline for his fourth touchdown on the second play of the third quarter.

With 1:04 to play in the third quarter, Shane Heberling scored from the 1 for the final points.

Ross, led by Heberling and Woodson, allowed 40 total yards in the second half after giving up 89 in the first.

"As the game went on, we got tough on the inside and shut them down," Radeloff said.

The Little Giants will be without defensive end Jake Binder for next week's game at Oregon Clay.

Binder and a Bedford player were ejected for a scuffle in the final minutes of the second half. According to Ohio High School Athletic Association rules, Binder must sit out a game before being reinstated.

Junior Shaun Root took over for Binder in the second half Friday night.

Football

Ross 34, Bedford 10

Bedford	7	3	0	0	—	10
Ross	7	14	13	0	—	34

Bedford: Joe Zogaib, 2 run (Chad Stock kick), 6:01, 1st.

Ross: Charles Woodson, 13 run (Tim Rakes kick), 3:15, 1st

Bedford: Stock, 33 field goal, 11:09, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 6 run (Rakes kick), 6:01, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Rakes kick), 0:57, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 66 run (Rakes kick), 10:48, 3rd.

Ross: Shane Heberling, 1 run (kick failed), 1:04, 3rd.

	B	R
First downs	11	11
Rushes/yards	34/80	34/287
Passing yards	49	34
Passes/Comp/Int	20/6/1	7/4/0
Punts/average	3/30	3/27.3
Fumbles/lost	3/1	3/2
Penalties/yards	3/15	12/115

Rushing: Bedford—Dan Williams 13/44, Matt Hofmann 4/1, Tony Brescol 6/48, Zogaib 8/25, Dustin Winkler 2/1, Chad Henman 1/37. Ross—Woodson 24/250, Shane Moran 1/1, Jason Lather 3/11, Heberling 1/1, Harry Liggins 2/16, Travis Johnson 3/8.

Passing: Bedford—Williams 17/6/1—49, Brian Sanford 3/0/0. Ross—Moran 4/3/0—21, Woodson 1/1/0—13, Liggins 2/0/0.

Receiving: Bedford—Brescol 1/8, Brian Widmer 3/33, Zogaib 1/5, Stock 1/13. Ross—Moran 1/13, Lather 1/3, Gary Rakes 1/3, Kyle Kusmer 1/15.

Records: Ross 5-2 (2-1), Bedford 2-5 (1-4).

ROSS (5-2, 2-1) AT CLAY (4-3, 1-3)

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Clay High School, Oregon

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 20 west to Ohio 590 north to Ohio 2. Turn left and head west on Ohio 2 to Stadium Road. The field is on Stadium Road past the first traffic signal.

COACHES: Rex Radeloff, Ross; John Johnson, Clay

LAST WEEK: Fremont Ross defeated Bedford 34-10; Toledo Whitmer beat Clay 26-14

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 8-2.

LAST YEAR: Ross scored 14 points in both the first and third quarters for a 28-14 win. Ross held the Eagles to 30 yards rushing, helping the Little Giants survive 83 yards in penalties.

Shane Moran completing 11 of 14 passes, including three for touchdowns.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: The Ross running game against the stunts of the Clay defense.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The Ross defensive front vs. the hard running of Clay halfback Dave Little.

The Little Giants vs. the Eagles' offense, when it slips into an unbalanced set.

Moran's passing against a decent Clay secondary.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: After visiting both Findlay and Fostoria this season, the Little Giants will again play at Findlay and Fostoria in 1995. And Bedford will again return to Fremont in '95. The GLL season changes with Findlay joining the league, and it's a quirk of scheduling that has Ross visiting Findlay and Fostoria two years in a row.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Woodson was the only Ross player with a rushing attempt in the first half against Bedford.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "That's as big a victory I have had since I have been at this school." — John Johnson after Clay defeated Ross 24-21 in 1992.

KEY TO THE GAME: Time of possession. Ross needs to get a lead and keep the clock running.

Ross wins 72-0

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

OREGON — Charles Woodson scored seven touchdowns and broke a pair of Fremont Ross records that had stood for more than 40 years in a 72-0 Little Giants' romp over Clay Friday night.

Woodson set a Ross single-game rushing record with 335 yards and set a Ross career scoring record in the process.

"I can't explain how I feel right now," Woodson said, holding his shoulder pads and helmet in his arms. "It is one of the greatest things I have ever done in my life."

But he had help.

"First of all," Woodson said, "I want to thank God for allowing me to do this. And second, the offensive line and the receivers...they do a heck of a job, and I could not have done it without them."

The line, comprised primarily of tight end Kyle Kusmer, tackles Brad Drake and Mike Byerly, guards Brandon Willer and Matt Gerner and center T.J. Wolfe continually tore holes in the mid-

HIGHLIGHTS

Charles Woodson's 335 yards rushing on 22 attempts Friday night broke the Ross single-game rushing record of John "Big Thunder" Lewis.

Lewis rushed for 315 yards in a game in 1949.

Woodson also broke Jim Tiller's career-scoring record, running his total to 398 with seven touchdowns against Oregon Clay.

Tiller scored 373 points from 1953 to 1956.

Clay.

Woodson also just missed the GLL single-game rushing record. Clay's Jim Harrell rushed for 342 yards on 42 carries against Port Clinton in 1972.

dle of the Clay defense.

When Woodson broke into the secondary, the downfield blocking of Jeremy Lozano, Gary Rakes and Jason Lather was equally devastating.

"I knew that sometime, I was going to have to let Charles have that opportunity to have that single-game record," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Radeloff had problems with

his decision.

"It was a dilemma for a few minutes on the sideline," he said. "He was deserving of it. The problem is, I am real close friends with (Clay) coach. But Charles deserved the opportunity."

After rolling up 253 yards on 16 carries, Woodson was given one final chance to break John Lewis' 45-year-old record.

Starting at the Ross 34 with 2:05 remaining in the third quarter, Woodson had rushes of 13, 1, 3, 34, 5 and 25 yards. A 15-yard clipping penalty set Ross back 15 yards in the drive, so Woodson totaled 81 yards.

"I told him if he did not get it on this drive, we were putting someone else in," Radeloff said.

Woodson's seven TDs were one better than his GLL record six, which he accomplished twice in 1993. He scored on runs of 6, 7, 54, 35, 8, 3 and 25 yards.

The Little Giants' 72 points erased the GLL mark of 69 set by Fostoria in a 69-0 win over Bedford in 1991. It was the fourth highest ever for a Ross team.

Ross, 6-2 and 3-1 in the Great

Lakes League, led 21-0 after one quarter and scored 30 points in the second. Woodson had three touchdowns in each quarter.

Shane Moran also passed 14 yards to tight end Kyle Kusmer, and Shane Heberling ran 1 yard for touchdowns in the first half. Ross came up with a safety when Mike Kuyken blocked a Clay punt and punter Andy Sondergeld recovered in the end zone for the other first-half points.

Woodson scored on a 3-yard run in the third quarter as Ross took a 58-0 lead into the final period. Nine seconds into the fourth quarter, his 25-yard run broke the single-game record and gave him his seventh TD.

Otis Martin's 9-yard run accounted for the final Ross touchdown.

Tim Rakes kicked all 10 extra points.

Ross had 521 yards of offense, and the Little Giants limited the Eagles to 74 total yards.

Ross 72, Clay 0

Ross	21	30	7	14	—	72
Clay	0	0	0	0	—	0

High School

Ross 72, Clay 0

Ross	21	30	7	14	—	72
Clay	0	0	0	0	—	0

Ross: Charles Woodson, 6 run (Tim Rakes kick), 9:14, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 7 run (Rakes kick), 5:43, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 54 run (Rakes kick), 3:39, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 35 run (Rakes kick), 8:56, 2nd.

Ross: Safety, 7:01, 2nd.

Ross: Kyle Kusmer, 14 kpass from Shane Moran (Rakes kick), 6:31, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 8 run (Rakes kick), 3:53, 2nd.

Ross: Shane Heberling, 1 run (Rakes kick), 1:11, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 3 run (Rakes kick), 9:02, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 25 run (Rakes kick), 11:51, 4th.

Ross: Otis Martin, 9 run (Rakes kick), 7:45, 4th.

	R	C
First downs	22	7
Rushes/yards	48/492	29/17
Passing yards	29	57
Passes/comp/int	6/2/1	21/7/1
Punts/average	0/0	6/33.0
Fumbles/lost	1/1	3/1
Penalties/yards	3/35	7/63

Rushing: Ross—Moran 2/10, Woodson 22/335, Jason Lather 5/77, Derek Thiessen 9/66, Harry Liggins 6/6, Travis Johnson 1/6, Heberling 1/1. Clay—Josh Common 6/4, David Little 11/59, John Kidd 6/5, Todd Smith 2/10, Andy Sondergeld 3/12.

Passing: Ross—Moran 6/2/1—29. Clay—Commons 6/2/0—27, Smith 5/1/0—9, Sondergeld 10/4/1—21.

Receiving: Ross—Kusmer 2/29. Clay—Little 3/19, Williams Groll 1/16, Steve Webb 2/16, Marc Berryman 1/6.

Records: Ross 6-2 (3-1), Clay 4-4 (1-



**CHARLES
WOODSON,**
Ross, rushed for
335 yards and
scored seven
touchdowns.

Ross hosts improved Napoleon

By BOB MARKER
Sports editor

Napoleon's lofty perch among the Great Lakes League football leaders is not a complete surprise to Ross coach Rex Radloff.

The Wildcats are 5-3 and 4-1 in the GLL after a 28-26 loss to Whitmer last Friday. The Little Giants, 6-2 and 3-1, host the Wildcats this Friday.

"Most coaches, I think, would say 'no,'" Radloff said when asked if he felt Napoleon would be contending for the league championship. "They had a new coach and that may have been a drawback.

"But when I looked at the personnel they had, I thought there was a possibility they could have something, and they certainly have proved that."

John Snoad took over a Napoleon football program which felt the effects of Ohio's longest teacher strike in 1993. The Wild-

cats were coached by coaches from the community last season.

"I felt all along they had excellent athletes," Radloff said.

"Maybe not the great ones, but good, solid kids who play hard. They are physically strong, and John has taken them and molded them into a good team."

Napoleon has six starters back on defense and three on offense. Five Wildcats play both ways.

Napoleon operates out of a basic full-house T-formation. Against Whitmer, Radloff said, Snoad had his team in several formations.

"They will give you a single split with a wing and a flanker," Radloff said. "And some one-back sets...but if they can buckle up and go at you and get 3, 4 yards at a crack, that is what they are going to do."

"Their key, as most teams against us, is holding the ball and not give us the opportunity for Charles (Woodson) to run the

distance."

Fullback Josh Behnfeldt and halfback Doug Brown are the chief running backs for the Wildcats.

"But they do throw the ball well on play-action," Radloff said. "They have kids who do not drop the ball."

"Really, they are solid. I do not see any weakness among the four backs. They are not big — they are all around 175 pounds — but they all can run and they are good hitters."

Off-tackle and the inside trapping games are Snoad's favorites, Radloff said.

"They will also turn and pitch to the halfback, bring the back-side guard, the quarterback, fullback and other halfback...they just bring everyone around the corner," he said.

Defensively, Ross will be looking at a "50" front led by tackle Shane Stoner, a 245-pound senior.

Charles Woodson, after erasing a pair of Fremont records last week, has a shot at another Friday when the Little Giants entertain Napoleon.

With 1,515 yards this season, Woodson needs 114 yards Friday to break Terry Bates' single season rushing mark of 1,628 yards. Bates set the record in 1976, surpassing Jim Tiller's 1956 total of 1,598.

Woodson, with 3,348 yards, is 407 yards shy of Tiller's career rushing mark of 3,755 yards from 1954-57.

Woodson's 335 yards rushing on 22 carries against Oregon Clay erased a single-game record that had stood for 45 years. John "Big Thunder" Lewis churned out 314 yards and six touchdowns in a 78-0 win over Tiffin Columbian on Oct. 21, 1949. He had a seventh TD run of 42 yards called back because of a clipping penalty.

Previously, it was thought that the record was 315 yards. Further research came up with 314 as the correct total. No number of carries were listed.

Woodson also needs 18 points to tie Tiller's season scoring record of 180 points set in 1956.

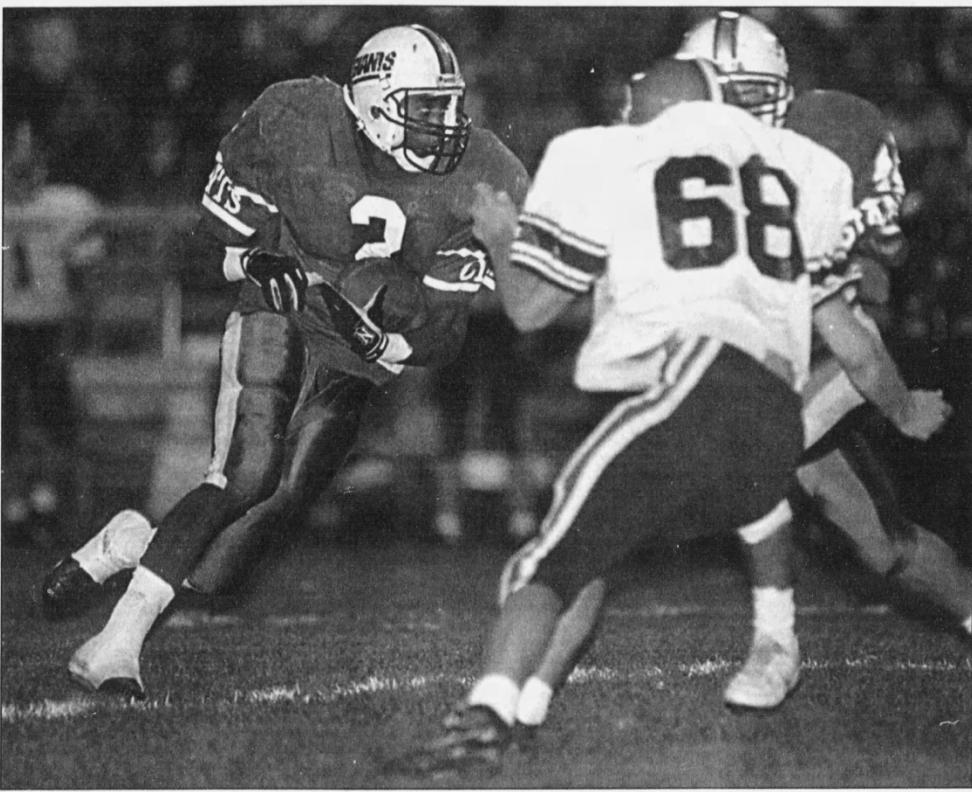
"He is a three-year starter and I thought, as a sophomore, he was one of the better players in the GLL," Radloff said. "...he is

having an excellent year.

"They like to penetrate with man coverage...they will stunt and come after you."

WHAT'S NEXT

Woodson chases 2 more season marks



CHARLES WOODSON cuts upfield during the second quarter against Napoleon Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Woodson scored three touch-

downs and rushed for 111 yards in the Little Giants' 38-0 Great Lakes League victory.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

See ROSS, B3

Ross blanks Napoleon

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross used the big play to blank Napoleon 38-0 Friday night and set up a shot at winning a portion of the Great Lakes League football championship.

Ross, 7-2 and 4-1 in league play, hosts Sylvania Northview next Friday in the season finale. Ross is tied with Fostoria for the league lead after the Redmen defeated Whitmer 8-7 in overtime Friday.

Charles Woodson tied the Ross season scoring record with three touchdowns, and Jason Lather scored twice for the Little Giants.

"I think the first and third scores were the most important," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "The third one especially."

Shane Moran's 64-yard TD pass to Woodson gave Ross a 20-0 halftime lead.

Woodson also scored on runs of 30 and 12 yards and finished with 111 yards on 23 carries — leaving him 3 yards short of the Little Giants' season rushing record of 1,626 by Terry Bates in 1976.

The three TDs gave Woodson 30 for the season. The 180 points ties Jim Tiller's record set in 1956.

Ross plays for share of GLL title next week

Continued From B1

Woodson scored from 30 yards out with 2:11 remaining in the first quarter. An illegal block called on Napoleon on Moran's punt gave the ball to Ross on the Wildcats 30. The foul was committed before Napoleon had the ball allowing Ross to retain possession.

"I really didn't understand what happened," Napoleon coach John Snoad said.

Jason Lather matched Woodson in rushing but needed only two attempts to do it, scoring on runs of 39 and 72 yards. The 39-yard run came on a counter play over the middle and the 72-yard jaunt was on a handoff from Woodson on a reverse and concluded the Little Giants scoring midway through the final quarter.

"Our defense played well except for those long runs," Napoleon coach John Snoad said. "Lather got a ton on two runs."

Radeloff said his team took advantage of what the Napoleon defense allowed them.

"They were packing nine guys from tight end to tackle," Radeloff said, "and it was tough to run

inside. Then they were flowing to Charles so we went with the reverse. We had to take advantage of certain situations and we did."

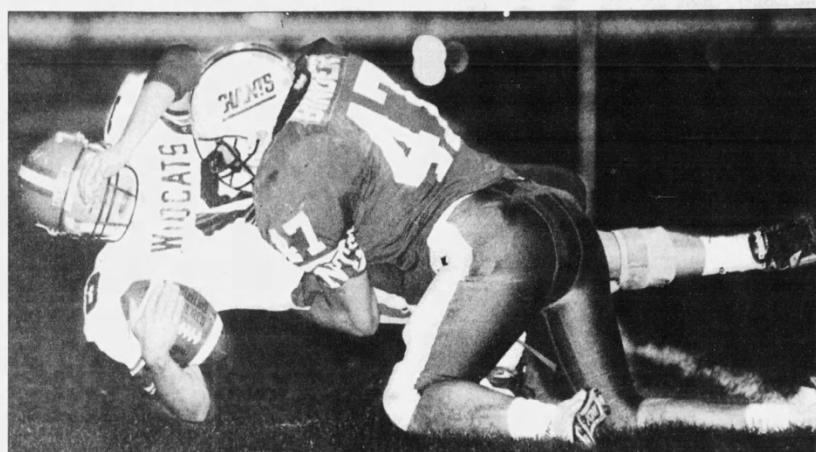
The shutout was the second straight for Ross and third this season.

"We have played great defense the last two weeks," defensive coordinator Chuck Lindsey said. "My defensive coaches had a great game plan tonight. We took away their dive and did not let them get outside. Tom Kiser and Mitch Curliss had the linebackers where they were supposed to be, and Bill Schell and Andre Purcell had the tackles and ends getting to the ball quickly."

Brian Reinbolt gave the defense a touchdown, returning an interception 55 yards to put Ross up 26-0 with 4:22 to play in the third quarter.

Napoleon had 106 yards, all on the ground. A pair of Wildcats quarterbacks, Joe Good and Kris Shepard did not complete a pass in eight attempts. Good left the game late in the first half after suffering a neck injury.

"Now we have to get ready for a championship game," Radeloff said.



JAKE BINDER of Fremont Ross sacks Napoleon quarterback Joe Good during the first quarter of the Little Giants' 38-0 win over the Wildcats Friday night at Harmon Stadium. The shutout was the third for the Ross defense this season.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Football

High School

Ross 38, Napoleon 0

Napoleon 0 0 0 0 — 0

Ross 7 13 6 12 — 38

Ross: Charles Woodson, 30 run (Tim Rakes kick), 2:11, 1st.

Ross: Jason Lather, 39 run (Rakes kick), 6:37, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 64 pass from Shane Moran (kick failed), 2:57, 2nd.

Ross: Brian Reinbolt, 55 interception return (run failed), 4:22, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 12 run (pass failed), 11:17, 4th.

Ross: Lather, 72 run (kick failed), 6:32, 4th.

	N	R
First downs	6	11
Rushes/yards.....	45/106	33/262
Passing yards.....	0	109
Passes/comp/int.....	8/0/1	8/4/1
Punts/avg.....	7/33.1	2/32.0
Fumbles/lost	0/0	2/1
Penalties/yards	5/34	6/47

Rushing: Napoleon—Joe Good 5-2, Mike Gerdeman 20/72, Josh VanAusdale 2/10, Kris Shepard 7/14, Doug Brown 8/20, Josh Behnfeld 2/5. Ross—Moran 2/0, Woodson 23/111, Lather 2/111, Derek Thiessen 4/24, Shane Heberling 1/5, Garyh Rakes 1/11.

Passing: Napoleon—Good 4/0/0, Shepard 4/0/1. Ross—Moran 8/4/1—109.

Receiving: Ross—Woodson 2/69, Kyle Kusmer 2/40.

Records: Ross 7-2 (4-1), Napoleon 5-4 (4-2).

Ross seeks peak performance

BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

The Fremont Ross football season could end this Friday, or, it could continue.

"I have kind of set my mind for both situations," coach Rex Radeloff said. "I'll be certainly overjoyed if we make it, and, yeah, disappointed if we don't."

"It" means the playoffs.

Ross, 7-2, has been to the playoffs in 1983 and 1989. The Little Giants have been close on several other occasions.

The most recent disappointment was last year when Ross was fifth in its region. The top four teams advance in the computer-generated ratings. The Little Giants would have qualified in any other region but its own.

Radeloff pointed out the playoffs are still secondary. Winning at least a share of the Great Lakes League football championship is primary.

Sylvania Northview, 2-7 and 0-5, stands in the way of that goal when it visits Harmon Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Ross is 4-1 in the GLL, a record matched by Fostoria. A Ross victory and a victory by the Redmen against Oregon Clay would give both teams a share of the title.

Northview's offense is the wing-T, and the Wildcats play defense out of a five-man front.

"They will bring a lot of people at us defensively," Radeloff said. "Fostoria had a lot of success doing that and Napoleon had some last week. They will

try to take away the outside game and either force us inside or force us to throw the football.

"Otherwise, they are going to be in for a long night."

Northview prefers a power running game and play-action passing.

"They have gotten better," Radeloff said, "but we are preparing for them. We are trying to tone our game up to the best it has been all year."

Radeloff admitted he is anticipating playing beyond this week.

"We are preparing for a GLL championship and going on for another week, two weeks, three weeks...whatever it's going to be," he said.

"I think we have elevated our play, especially defensively. I see us playing low and hard. The defensive line has been stopping the inside game...the secondary is doing a great job. The linebackers and defensive line has controlled the line. We are solid."

Radeloff said it has been a roller coaster season for the line.

"We struggled that sixth week (a 22-15 loss to Fostoria in which the Redmen had eight sacks) but the overall technique has improved," he said. "We have been getting great pass protection and the movement off the ball has been excellent."

"Hopefully, we will get another chance after this week to keep improving."

Friday, though, comes first.

"We have to win that game, before anything else happens," Radeloff said.

Ross single season rushing leaders

Rank	Player	Yards
1	Terry Bates	1,628
2	Charles Woodson	1,626
3	Jim Tiller	1,598
4	John Lewis	1,535
5	Charles Woodson	1,528
6	Terry Carter	1,384
7	Jeff Brown	1,349
8	Rob Lytle	1,253
9	Lester Franks	1,243
10	Greg Brown	1,213

NewsMessenger/Bob Marker

Ross career rushing leaders

Rank	Player	Yards
1	Jim Tiller	3,755
2	Terry Carter	3,516
3	Charles Woodson	3,459
4	John Lewis	2,787
5	Tyrone Price	2,684
6	Rob Lytle	2,593
7	Tom Liggins	2,579
8	Terry Bates	2,304

NewsMessenger/Bob Marker

Ross season scoring leaders

Rank	Player	Points
1	Jim Tiller, '56	180
2	C. Woodson, '94	180
3	C. Woodson, '93	164
4	Bob Demmel, '44	156
5	Bob Shaw, '39	148

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

ated season Fliers' goal

"One thing that might help us focus this week is the injuries. It becomes a learning week for a lot of them because we are changing some responsibilities, and that helps a lot with the focus."

—Bob Bishop

fered ligament damage in his right knee in practice Monday, and Paul broke his right thumb in last week's game.

"Against their sweep, that strong-side linebacker is a vital person," Bishop said. "Last year, when we didn't scrape just right they were successful against us with their sweep."

ing the season," Bishop said. "It's something that each week gets a little bit stronger. I think he's a little bit better this week than last week, but he still not where he was."

Oak Harbor isn't either. The Rockets, who could gain a playoff berth with an upset, no longer have the chance to gain a piece

"Obviously we have to play better. We have to attack them offensively and defensively."

Linebacker Ty Milbrodt and defensive end Tony Ulery lead the Oak Harbor defense.

"We have to recognize the front on the defense and executing our blocking scheme," Bishop said. "If they're blitzing, make sure we

NORTHVIEW (2-7, 0-5) AT ROSS (7-2, 4-1)

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Harmon Stadium, Fremont

COACHES: Rod Achter, Northview; Rex Radeloff, Ross

LAST WEEK: The Little Giants shut out Napoleon 38-0; Bedford beat Northview 24-7

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 3-0.

LAST YEAR: Charles Woodson ran for 297 yards and Ross held the Wildcats to a net 6 yards in a 34-0 win.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Ross needs a win to earn at least a share of its first Great Lakes League title. The Little Giants and Fostoria, which hosts Clay, are tied for the lead with 4-1 records.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Ross "gimmick" plays vs. the Northview defense. The Wildcats will bring as many as eight men to the line of scrimmage.

The interior of the Ross offensive line vs. the middle threesome of the Northview defensive which averages 265 pounds, including 301-pound tackle Jason McClellan.

The outside running game of Ross vs. the Wildcats' defensive ends and cornerbacks.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Charles Woodson has scored 416 points in his high school career but only two have been points after touchdown.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Jason Lather of Ross average 55.5 yards per carry against Napoleon.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "Whether this is or isn't our last week, we want this to be our best week. The kids are approaching it this way." — Radeloff.

KEY TO THE GAME: Ball control. Northview wants to keep the ball away from the Ross offense. If the Little Giants don't have it, they can't score.

High School

Ross Stats

OFFENSE
Score by quarters
Ross 63 127 85 63 — 338
Opponents 7 9 14 50 — 80

RUSHING R O

Attempts 309 309
Yards gained 2467 1141
Yards lost 259 367
Net yards 2208 774
Avg. per attempt .6.7 2.4
Avg. per game 243.5 86

PASSING R O

Attempts 110 135
Completions 54 49
Completion percentage 49.1 36.3
Yards 868 491
Avg. per completion 16.1 10.0
Interceptions 6 10

TOTAL OFFENSE R O

Total plays 438 464
Total yards 3076 1265
Yard per game 341.8 140.6
Yards per play 7.0 2.7

INDIVIDUAL

Rushing
Att. Ga La Nt Avg TD
Woodson 176 1698 70 1628 9.2 25
J. Lather 389 359 7 328 8.2 3
Thiessen 32 97 7 97 9.1
Heberling 8 21 0 21 2.6 2
Martin 3 19 0 19 6.3 1
Liggins 16 57 43 14 0.9 0
Johnson 5 18 5 18 3.6 0
G. Rakes 11 11 11 11 11.0 0
Cooley 3 13 4 9 3.0 0
C. Root 1 2 0 2 2.0 0
M. Willer 1 0 0 0 0.0 0
Binder 5 4 9 5 1 -0.2 0
Moran 37 81103 22 -6 2

Passing

Att Cmp Pct. Yd Avg Int TD
Moran 101 51 50.5 753 7.3 6 7
Woodson 100 50 50.0 1300 13.0 0
Rakes 1 1 100 66 66.0 0 1
C. Root 1 1 33.3 8 8.0 0 0
Liggins 1 0 0 0 0.0 0 0

Receiving

No Yds Avg Lg TD
Lozano 10 221 22.1 66 2
Rakes 9 133 14.78 76 1
Kusmer 9 142 15.8 36 2
Woodson 8 138 17.3 64 2
J. Lather 7 156 22.3 56 1
Merrill 5 60 12.0 21 0
Ross 24 8.0 10 0
Moran 1 13 13.0 13 0
Reinbolt 1 15 15.0 15 0
Heberling 1 1 9.0 9 0
S. Root 1 26 26.0 26 0

Scoring

TD PAT FG Tot
Woodson 30 0 0 0 30
T. Rakes 0 36 2 42
Lather 4 0 0 24
Moran 2 2 0 0 14
Lozano 2 0 0 0 12
G. Rakes 2 0 0 0 12
Heberling 2 0 0 0 12
Kusmer 2 0 0 0 12
Reinbolt 1 0 0 0 6
Martin 1 0 0 0 6
Thiessen 1 0 0 0 6
Burkett 1 0 0 0 6
Merrill 0 2 0 0 2
Kuyken 0 0 0 0 2*
Burns 0 0 0 0 2*

*Safety

DEFENSE
Tackles
Solo Ass. Tot
Heberling 62 48 110
B. Willer 48 48 96
Sanchez 47 24 61
Woodson 45 14 59
Sprague 28 16 44
Burns 27 13 40
B. Willer 25 12 39
Lather 23 14 37
Lozano 23 6 29
Reinbolt 15 7 22
C. Root 14 10 14
G. Rakes 14 14 14
Holland 4 8 12
S. Root 10 5 15
Merrill 6 3 9
Decker 3 4 7
Cooley 6 7
Dunbar 5 2 7
Kusmer 4 3 7
Thiessen 3 3 6
Burkett 0 3 3
Corklin 1 1 2
Jones 0 2 2
T. Rakes 1 0 1
Liggins 1 0 1
Kuyken 1 0 1
Burns 0 0 1

Quarterback Sacks

No Yds
Sprague 4 62
Binder 2 40
Burns 2 14
S. Root 2 8

Interceptions

No Yds TD
Reinbolt 4 100 1
Woodson 2 53 0
Merrill 1 26 0
Cooley 1 20 0
Sanchez 1 9 0
Corklin 1 0 0

Fumbles Caused

No
Woodson 5
Binder 3
Lozano 2
Sprague 2
Lather 1
Heberling 1
G. Rakes 1
Corklin 1
Jones 1
Holland 1

Fumbles Recovered

No Rtn Yds
Binder 3 14
Lozano 1 28
G. Rakes 1 25
Liggins 1 0
Lather 1 0
Heberling 1 0
Sprague 1 0
B. Willer 1 0
Burns 1 0
Jones 1 0
Holland 1 0

Little Giants win big

■ **Two share GLL title:** Its win, and a 40-12 Fostoria victory over Oregon Clay, leaves Fremont Ross and Redmen tied.

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross claimed a share of the Great Lakes League football championship with a 56-12 win over Sylvania Northview Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

The Little Giants, 8-2, and Fostoria are 5-1 in the GLL. Fostoria beat Oregon Clay 40-0 Friday.

"It's great," Ross coach Rex Radloff said. "That is what we are here for and it is one of our primary goals to win a league championship. It's taken us four years but sometimes you have to be patient."

Ross must now wait to see if it will be in the state playoffs after Charles Woodson rushed for 171 yards on 14 carries and scored four touchdowns.

Woodson set a Ross season scoring record with 204 points. With 1,797 yards, Woodson also has eclipsed the Ross season rushing record of 1,628 yards set

by Terry Bates in 1976.

Ross led 35-3 at halftime, although it ran 15 plays and had the ball only six minutes and 48 seconds.

"We did not have the ball a whole lot," Radloff said. "I have to give Rod (Achter, Northview coach) a lot of credit because they held onto the ball. They wanted to keep the ball and they did."

A Northview punt for a minus-4 yards and a fumble recovery helped Ross score twice in the opening five minutes.

Jeremy Lozano hauled in Shane Moran's 19-yard pass on the first play after a punt by Jason Mattimoe went out of bounds at the Wildcats' 19.

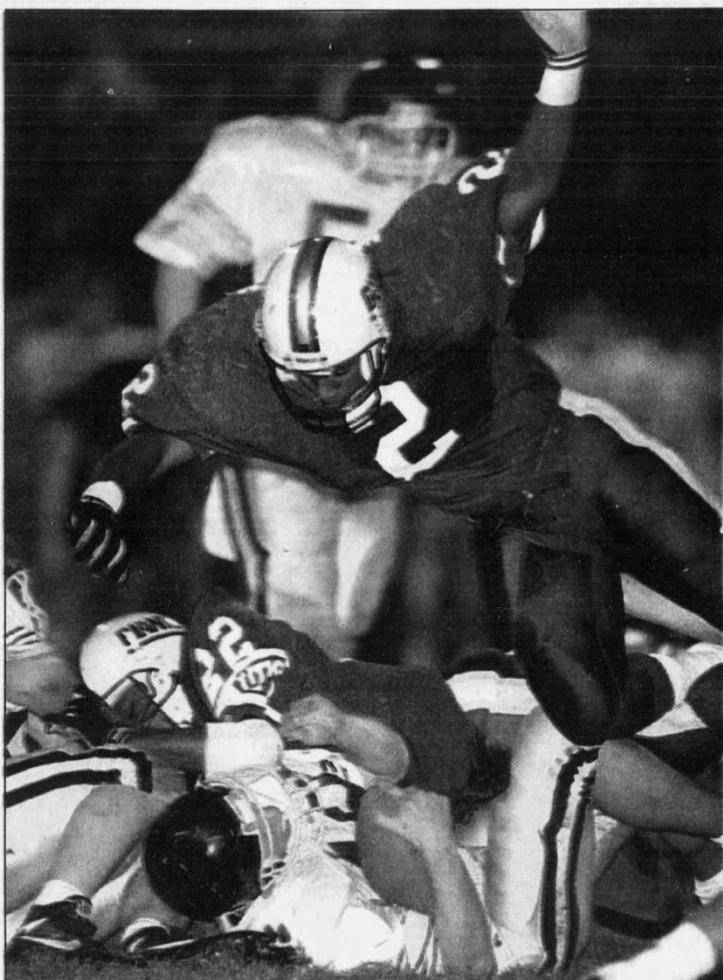
See ROSS, B3

Ross 56, Northview 12

Northview	0	3	3	6	—	12
Ross	14	21	7	14	—	56

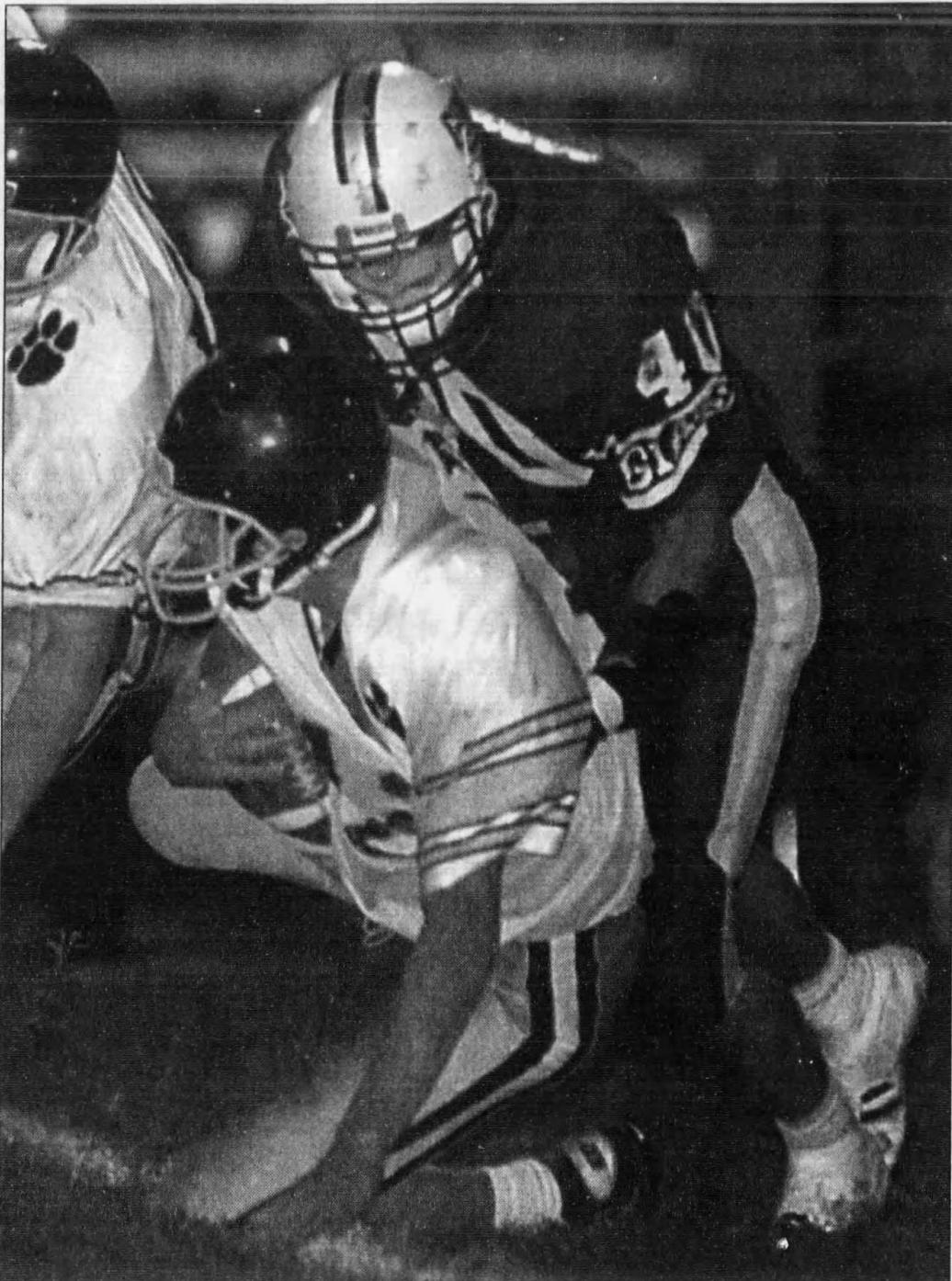
CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross flies into the pile after teammate Jason Lather (22) tackled Sylvania

Northview running back Chad Collins during the first quarter of the Little Giants' 56-12 victory Friday night.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Sack time



News-Messenger/Andrews Morrison

Sean Sprouse (40) of Fremont Ross sacks Sylvania Northview quarterback Mike Radzinski during the second quarter of the game at Harmon Stadium Friday

night. The Little Giants defeated the Wildcats 56-12 to claim a portion of the Great Lakes League championship. Fostoria defeated Clay 40-0 to share the title.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross sprints upfield on his way to an 80-yard touchdown run during the second quarter against Great Lakes League foe

Sylvania Northview Friday night at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants routed the Wildcats 56-12 in the last regular season game of the year.

Ross beats Northview

Continued From B1

Brandon Willer recovered Chad Collins' fumble at the Wildcats' 15 on the next Northview series, and Woodson scored two plays later on a 12-yard run.

Curtis McKee's 31-yard field goal cut the Ross lead to 14-3 four seconds into the second quarter, but Ross linebacker Jason Lather intercepted a Mike Radzinski pass and returned it 77 yards for a score and Woodson ran 80 yards for

another with six minutes remaining the first half.

Moran's 6-yard touchdown pass to Woodson with 31 seconds remaining closed out the scoring in the first half.

Woodson ran 18 yards for his fourth TD in the third quarter. Lather scored from 28 yards out and Derek Thiessen from 5 yards away in the fourth quarter.

"In the second half, we generated offense when we had to and scored when we had to," Radeloff said.

"I am happy for Charles and his effort this year and the yards he gained. It was a great overall effort. Most of all for the team, it was a championship."

Now the waiting begins. Although the general feeling is the Little Giants will qualify for the playoffs, nothing is definite.

"It's a wait and see situation," Radeloff said.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association will officially notify teams qualifying for the playoffs on Sunday.

High School

Ross 56, Northview 12

Northview 0 3 3 6 — 12

Ross 14 21 7 14 — 56

Ross: Jeremy Lozano, 19 pass from Shane Moran (Tim Rakes kick), 9:36, 1st.

Ross: Charles Woodson, 12 run (T. Rakes kick), 7:37, 1st.

Northview: Curtis McKee, 31 field goal, 11:56, 2nd.

Ross: Jason Lather, 77 interception return (Matt Merrill pass from Moran), 9:46, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 80 run (T. Rakes kick), 6:07, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 6 pass from Moran (T. Rakes kick), 0:31, 2nd.

Northview: McKee, 23 field goal, 5:08, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 18 run (T. Rakes kick), 2:45, 3rd.

Northview: Ryan Porter, 9 pass from Chad Collins (run failed), 10:10, 4th.

Ross: Lather, 28 run (T. Rakes kick), 7:10, 4th.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 5 run (T. Rakes kick), 2:38, 4th.

	N	R
First downs	14	15
Rushes/Yards	43/136	32/280
Passing yards	81	54
Passes/Comp/Int	13/4/2	6/5/0
Punts/Avg.	5/24.0	0/0
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	2/1
Penalties/yards	7/65	5/45

Rushing: Northview—Mike Radzinski 4/7, Collins 10/16, Kimbal Urrutia 3/4, Matt Lewis 20/99, Porter 1/15, Jon Keblesh 3/23, Dan Swaqde 1/2, Mike Ray 1/8. Ross—Woodson 14/171, Lather 3/33, Gary Rakes 1/11, Matt Merrill 1/6, Thiessen 6/24, Otis Martin 5/25, Sean Sprouse 1/22.

Passing: Northview—Radzinski 10/3/2—72jk, Collins 1/1/0—9, Ryan Ocock 2/0/0. Ross—Moran 6/5/0—54.

Receiving: Northview—Matt White 2/28, Case Carstensen 1/44, Porter sd1/9. Ross—Woodson 1/6, Lozano 1/19, Merrill 1/16, Jamie Ross 1/10, Chad Root 1/3.

Records: Ross 8-2 (5-1), Northview 2-8 (0-6).

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS

Massillon just wins

By BOB MARKER

Sports Editor

The 1994 Massillon Washington football team is a plowhorse compared to last year.

"We are not as flashy as we were a year ago," third-year head coach Jack Rose said. "All we have done this year is keep plugging along and finding a way to win."

The Tigers scored 504 points in 1993, went 10-2 and lost in the second round of the playoffs. This season, they have scored 246.

Finding a way to win, flashy or not, has always been the Tigers' way.

According to Ohio high school

Tigers game-by-game

Opponent.....	MW	O
Youngstown Rayen...(W)	41	6
Trotwood Madison(W)	39	18
Akron Garfield(L)	6	21
Mansfield.....(W)	21	13
Austintown Fitch.....(W)	10	7
Barberton	15	0
Cuhahoga Falls.....(W)	21	11
Alliance	20	0
Akron St. V-St. M	31	15
Canton McKinley.....(W)	42	41
Season	246	132

historian Jim Baker of North Olmsted, Washington is the second all-time winningest high school team in the nation.

See TRADITIONAL, B3

Traditional power awaits Little Giants

Continued From B1

With 680 wins going into this season, the Tigers ranked behind the 708 of Valdosta, Ga.

Washington (9-1) enters the playoffs for the ninth time Saturday when it takes on Fremont Ross in a Division I, Region 2 semifinal at 7 p.m. at Byers Field in Parma.

"The team we had last year had most of the players back from the year before (5-5 in 1992)," Rose said. "This year, we have one starter back on offense and one on defense."

The returnee on defense, Willie Spencer, doesn't play full time. For good reason, though. Ross coach Rex Radeloff says Spencer is an outstanding option quarterback.

"He is a pretty special player," Rose said. "He has gotten better each week."

"Anyone who has seen us knows our quarterback. You have to contain him, but our tailback has rushed for 1,200 yards."

Leon Ashcraft, a 5-foot-7, 190-pound senior, is Spencer's main pitch man. He has carried the ball 177 times for 1,110 yards and nine touchdowns.

But the Little Giants must defend more than the option.

"We have made some big players throwing the ball," Rose said. "Willie can get it

deep. But, by and large, we play control ball...kind of chip away at the defense."

Victor Redrick, a 5-10, 155-pound sprinter for the Tigers' track team, uses that speed from a flanker spot. He caught a 62-yard scoring strike against Canton McKinley and scored the Tigers' touchdown in overtime of the 42-41 victory.

Defensively, Washington had surrendered 90 points before the McKinley uprising.

"Our defense bends, but doesn't break," Rose said. "At least it was that way until last week."

Inside linebacker Courtney Herring, a 6-1, 180-pound senior, and 6-4, 260-pound defensive tackle Ben Mast lead the Tigers' defense. Mast, a sophomore, also starts at offensive tackle.

Rose said Ross is more than Charles Woodson, an All-Ohio candidate again.

"The quarterback (Shane Moran) has gotten better as the season has gone on," Rose said, "and 22 (Jason Lather) is not very big but he appears to be fast. We match up pretty well in size and we both run well."

"The problem we have this week is getting back down to our feet after the McKinley game."

FREMONT ROSS (8-2) VS. MASSILLON WASHINGTON (9-1)

WHAT: Division I, Region 2 semifinal playoff game

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Byers Field, Parma

COACHES: Rex Radeloff, Ross; Jack Rose, Washington

LAST WEEK: Ross defeated Sylvania Northview 56-10; Washington outlasted Canton McKinley 42-41 in overtime.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Tied 1-1. Washington beat Ross 40-7 in 1953, the lone loss for the Little Giants that year, and Ross edged the Tigers 8-7 in the 1962 season opener.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: How well Ross handles the pressure of appearing in the playoffs against a team annually recognized as a state high school power.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Ross tailback Charles Woodson vs. the read and attack defense of the Tigers. Woodson doesn't allow teams to "read" for too long.

Ross defensive ends Jake Binder and Sean Sprouse along with outside linebackers Jason Lather and Carlos Sanchez vs. Washington's option attack directed by quarterback Willie Spencer. The Little Giants can't let Spencer get out on the corners of the defense.

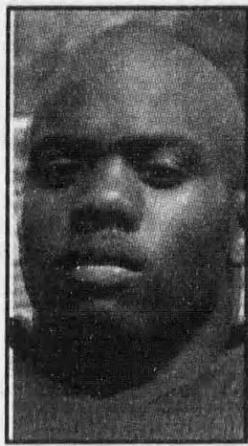
The Ross offensive line vs. Washington's defensive line. The Tigers are big, but tackle Brad Drake and company must be able to move them.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Washington has won 24 state Associated Press or United Press International poll championships but has not won any state titles on the field since the playoffs began in 1972.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Woodson needs 125 yards to tie Jim Tiller's all-time Ross rushing record of 3,755.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "If you become concerned with the name Massillon and become intimidated by the name then it is difficult to go and win a ballgame." — Radeloff.

KEY TO THE GAME: Turnovers. They hurt the Little Giants in losses to Tiffin Columbian and Fostoria. There's no room for them in this game.



LATHER



SANCHEZ

Ross drops 35-28 heartbreaker

■ Playoff loss: Massillon Washington holds off Little Giants in Division I shootout.

By BOB MARKER
Sports editor

It was a fitting end to the way Massillon Washington has been winning all season.

Washington linebacker Matt Robinson intercepted Ross quarterback Shane Moran's pass into the Tiger end zone as time ran out, preserving a 35-28 Washington win in the Division I, Region 2 semifinal football game Saturday night.

"The defense has been bending a lot here lately," Washington coach Jack Rose said, "but it's the type of team that's been doing that all the way up since freshman year."

"They found a way to win."

Washington, 10-1, had allowed 41 points to Canton McKinley (42-41 overtime win) in its season finale.

"Certainly one play cannot be remembered — I certainly hope not — as an indication of the outcome of the game," Ross coach Rex Radloff said.

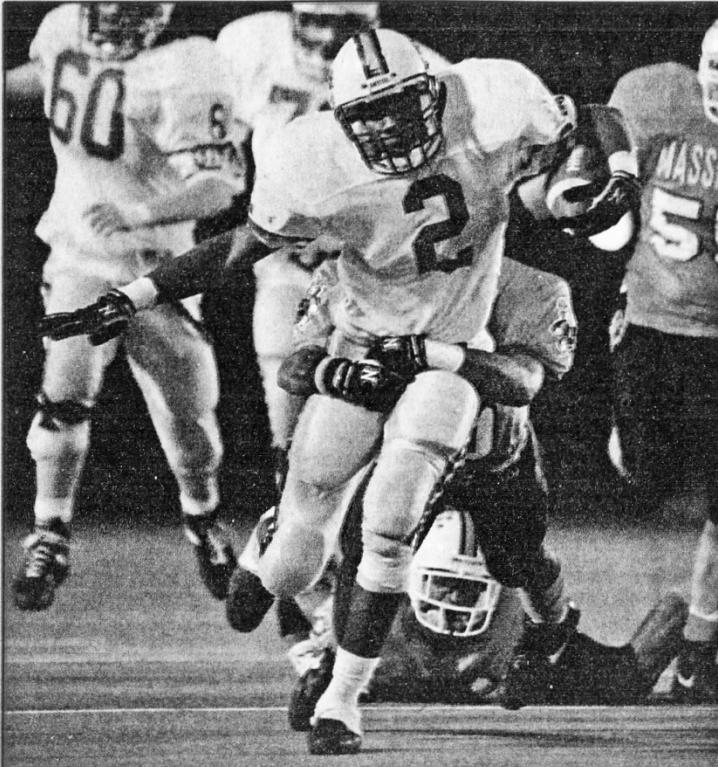
Robinson's theft dulled a night when Ross running back Charles Woodson scored 26 of the Little Giants' points while rushing for 231 yards on 28 carries. Late in the first half, Woodson broke Jim Tiller's career rushing record that had stood since 1956.

Woodson finished his 29-game career with 3,861 yards to Tiller's 3,755.

Washington used two long drives to score touchdowns and eat 16 minutes, 41 seconds off the second-half clock. The Tigers drove 76 yards in 17 plays after the second-half kickoff, scoring on Leon Ashcraft's 1-yard run with 3:07 left in the third quarter and breaking a 21-21 deadlock.

Woodson's fourth touchdown, a 13-yard run over tackle Brad Drake, and Tim Rakes' kick pulled Ross even at 28 at the 10:53 mark of the final quarter.

"It was pretty evident after that first half," Radloff said,



ROSS RUNNING back Charles Woodson is tackled by Massillon Washington's Courtney Herring during the Little Giants' final drive of Saturday night's Division I state playoff game in Parma.

"they realized they had to hold onto the ball and keep it out of ours...they did a great job of that."

Washington's next series covered 79 yards in 13 plays, taking 7:48 off the clock. Washington quarterback Willie Spencer, scrambling to avoid Ross defenders, passed 7 yards to Vaughn Mohler in the back of the end zone for the touchdown. Nick Pribich's fourth extra point kick put the Tigers up 35-28 with 3:02 to play.

"We put a guy in the back of the end zone that's always the safety valve," Rose said. "We're trying to get the ball to the tailback coming out of the backfield and if he's not there, then he goes to a secondary receiver in the corner."

"It that guy's not there, he looks for the goal post."

Ross started at its 21 after Jeremy Lozano fell on Chad Weirich's squibbed kickoff.

Woodson ran 15, 7 and 39 yards

as Ross drove to the Washington 18 where the Little Giants faced a fourth-and-six after Steve Griffith stopped Woodson for a 4-yard loss.

An encroachment penalty on Washington and Woodson's 2-yard run gave Ross a first down at the 11. But, during the drive, Ross has used its final two timeouts.

With 29 seconds left, Jason Lather made a diving catch at

See ROSS, B3

■ Big theft: Ross had some confusion on offense prior to final play.

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

PARMA — Defensive tip drills date back to the beginning of high school football practice in August. Clock management is something that evolves as the season goes along.

Those two things were intertwined Saturday night in Massillon Washington's 35-28 first-round playoff victory over Fremont Ross at Byers Field.

With time running out, Washington linebacker Matt Robinson tipped a Shane Moran pass and intercepted it at the goal line to preserve the Division I, Region 2 semifinal victory.

"We had a play called but there was confusion," Ross offensive coordinator Dan Fought said. "We would have liked to see it thrown out of bounds to give us one more play."

"We were trying to throw it out of bounds on an outcut — either hit the out or throw it away. He saw somebody open in the end zone and he threw it; I'm not going to doubt that."

Said Moran: "Jason Lather and Jeremy Lozano were down there...there were orange shirts..."

Moran put the play in motion with nine seconds remaining, and Robinson ran out the clock after the interception.

"What I was thinking, and I think this goes for the rest of the defense, is make them take another snap," said Robinson, a 6-foot-1, 176-pound senior. "That's what our coaches teach us."

Ross also was hoping for one more play.

"That was the whole point," Moran said. "We tried to do it."

The play came on third-and-one after Lather's rolling reception after the 2-yard line.

"Certainly we wanted to throw

See MASSILLON, B3

Ross loses heartbreaker

Continued From B1

the Tiger 2, setting up the ill-fated final pass.

"It was whoever had the ball last and made the fewest mistakes...we had the ball in our hands at the last and just did not make it happen," Radeloff said.

Washington took the lead in the first quarter, driving 21 yards after Mark Lightfoot recovered Moran's fumble. Spencer sneaked in from the 1 on a fourth-down play. Ross closed to 7-6 as Woodson scored on fourth-and-one from 3 yards out. Tim Rakes' kick into a strong crosswind sailed wide to the left.

Spencer passed 51 yards to Devin Williams to give Washington a 14-6 lead after one quarter. Ross tied it on Woodson's 44-yard run and Moran's pass to Woodson for the two points.

With 3:46 to play in the first half, Spencer ran 5 yards for a 21-14 Tiger lead. Ross tied it at the half, driving 65 yards in eight plays. Woodson scored on a 3-yard run with 1:15 remaining in the half.

Massillon holds on for 35-28 win

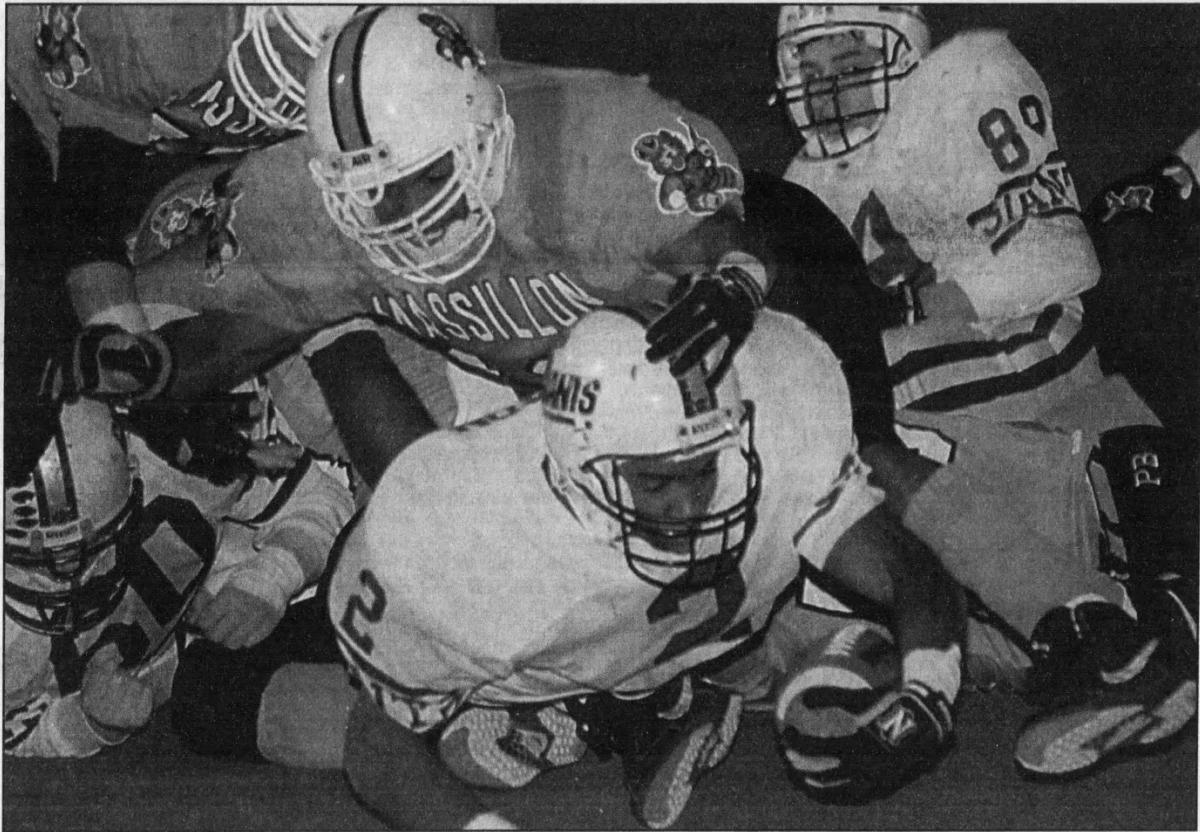
Continued From B1



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS QUARTERBACK Shane Moran tries to turn the corner as Donnie Young (99) and Heath Manson (48) come up to make the stop during the third-quarter play Saturday night in Parma.

Ross comes up just short in playoff loss to Massillon



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON (2) scores one of his four touchdowns in the Little Giants' 35-28 loss to the Massillon Tigers Saturday night at Byers Field in Parma. Woodson closed out his outstanding football career at

Ross with 231 yards on 28 carries. He also broke Jim Tiller's career rushing record that had stood since 1956. Woodson finished his 29-game career with 3,861 yards to Tiller's 3,755. **More on the game, B1-3.**

Massillon holds on for 35-28 win

Continued From B1

he ball out of bounds and stop the clock," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We would have gone into our power-I set and ran the ball in for the touchdown."

The final Ross drive started at its 17 after a squib kick by Washington and followed Vaughn Mohler's go-ahead touchdown reception from Willie Spencer with 3:02 remaining.

Charles Woodson, who scored four touchdowns and rushed for 231 yards on 28 carries, picked up first downs on the drive with runs of 15, 39 and 2 yards.

But the Little Giants used their final two timeouts along the way.

High School

Washington 35, Ross 28

Ross	6	15	0	7	—	28
Washington	7	14	7	7	—	35

Washington: Willie Spencer, 1 run (Nick Pribich kick), 8:35, 1st.

Ross: Charles Woodson, 3 run (kick failed), 4:40, 1st.

Washington: Devin Williams, 51 pass (Pribich kick), 1:44, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 44 run (Woodson pass from Shane Moran), 7:06, 2nd.

Washington: Spencer, 5 run (Pribich kick), 3:46, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 3 run (Tim Rakes kick), 1:15, 2nd.

Washington: Leon Ashcraft, 1 run (Pribich kick), 3:07, 3rd.

Ross: Woodson, 13 run (T. Rakes kick), 10:53, 4th.

Washington: Vaughn Mohler, 7 pass from Spencer (Pribich kick), 3:02, 4th.

	R	W
First downs:	14	20
Rushes/yards	36/271	48/238
Passing yards	35	131
Passes/comp/int	7/4/2	11/7/0
Punts/avg.	2/27.0	1/34.0
Fumbles/lost	1/1	1/1
Penalties/yards	3/15	7/45

Rushing: Ross—Moran 2/0, Woodson 28/231, Jason Lather 6/40. Washington—Spencer 15/64, Ashcraft 28/139, Mohler 1/26, Jeremy Fraelich 1/0, Nate Lewis 2/8, Victor Redrick 1/1.

Passing: Ross—Moran 6/4/1—35, Gary Rakes 1/0/1. Washington—Spencer 11/7/0—131.

Receiving: Ross—Woodson 1/16, Lather 1/9, Kyle Kusmer 1/10, G. Rakes 1/0. Washington—Mohler 1/7, Ashcraft 1/11, Williams 3/89, Ryan Shanor 2/24.

Records: Washington 10-1, Ross 8-3.

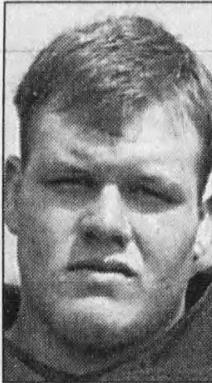
All-Great Lakes League teams



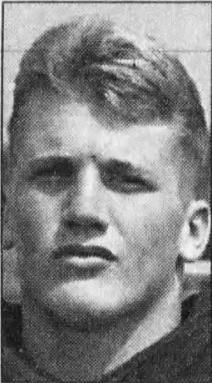
WOODSON



MORAN



DRAKE



REINBOLT



SPROUSE

The All-Great Lakes League football teams selected by the seven league coaches:

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Charles Woodson, Fremont Ross; Shane Moran and Brad Drake, Fremont Ross; Gabe Wedge and Chip Dawson, Fostoria; Kevin Zurawski and Chris Cutcher, Whitmer; John Hansen and David Little, Oregon Clay; Dave William and Brian Widman, Bedford.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Kyle Kusmer, Fremont Ross; Ryan Russell and Walter Talley, Fostoria; Mark Schumaker, Whitmer; Joe Tood, Ryan McGhee and Nathan Glick, Napoleon; Joe Zogaib, Bedford; Kimbal Urcutia, Northview, John West and John Kidd, Oregon Clay.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Brian Reinbolt and Sean Sprouse, Fremont Ross; Shawn Doogs and Scot Mora, Fostoria; Scott Reighard, Whitmer; Shane Stoner, Doug Brown and Shawn Tompson, Napoleon; Mike Burzynski, Bedford.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

ford; Matt Lewis, Northview; Tony LaPoint, Whitmer.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Jason Lather, Jake Binder, Carlos Sanchez and Shane Heberling, Ross; Jerry Dessausure, Leo Frierson and Richard Newsome, Whitmer; Trevor Toney and LaCharles Smith, Whitmer; Jon Miller, Bedford; Chad Olszewski, Northview.

Offensive back of the year: Woodson, Ross.

Offensive lineman of the year: Drake, Ross.

Defensive back of the year: Brown, Napoleon.

Defensive lineman of the year: Stoner, Napoleon.

Kicker: Chad Stock, Bedford.

Punter: Ryan Hines, Napoleon.

Coach of the year: Dick Kidwell, Fostoria.

Ross honorable mention

Brandon Willer, Rob Burns, T.J. Wolfe, Jeremy Lozano, Gary Rakes, Matt Merrill, Tim Rakes, Mike Byerly.

Players on top teams head all-district teams

Woodson, Hamilton, Karchner, Lee earn special awards

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

FINDLAY — Area playoff teams Fremont Ross, Clyde, Oak Harbor and Woodmore are well-represented on the Associated Press Northwest All-District High School Football team announced today.

Charles Woodson of Ross was named the Offensive Player of the Year in Division I after rushing for over 2,028 yards and scoring 38 touchdowns.

Woodson finished his Ross career holding every game, season and career rushing and record at the school.

Other special award winners from The News-Messenger area were Woodmore coach Mike Lee and Wildcats guard Josh Karchner as well as Oak Harbor running back Roger Hamilton.

Lee was named the top coach in Division V, Karchner was named Lineman of the Year and Hamilton was tabbed the Offensive Player of the Year in Division III.

Clyde, meanwhile, landed four players on the first-team defense in Division III and tackle Brian Musser on the first-team offense.

The team was picked by a media panel in the district.

Woodson, an All-Ohio selection as a junior, repeated as the top offensive player in the big school division.

Lee led Woodmore to a 9-2 record in his third season at the school. The Wildcats made the playoffs for the first time since 1986.

After it finished 4-6 two years ago and 7-3 last year, Woodmore's lone losses this season were to Suburban Lakes League champion Genoa and Midland Athletic League champion Genoa in the playoffs.

Karchner was a big part of Woodmore's success, leading a balanced offense and helping to anchor a solid defense. A three-year starter, Karchner switched from tackle to

guard this season and played through shoulder and ankle injuries without missing any time.

Hamilton amassed 1,466 total yards and scored 140 points for Oak Harbor. He was also a first-team, all-district selection in 1993.

Woodson had to have some help to accomplish what he did. Ross tackle Brad Drake, who he did with his selection to the first team as an offensive lineman.

The Ross defense played a big role in its Great Lakes League co-championship and first playoff appearance since 1989, and end Sean Sprouse represented the Little Giants' defense on the all-district squad. Sprouse had 10 sacks and 30 solo tackles for Ross, which had three shutouts this season.

Clyde's defense, which allowed 41 points and posted five shutouts during the regular season, had at least one player from the line, its linebacker corps and its secondary on the first team.

Linebacker Dan Crockett was a repeat selection after making the first team in Division II a year ago.

Jeff Paul, with 11½ sacks from his defensive end slot, and tackle Ryan Carter joined Crockett on the team along with sophomore safety Chad Long, who had eight interceptions and returned two punts for touchdowns.

Musser was the leader of Clyde's offensive line, which helped the Fliers win their third straight Sandusky Bay Conference championship. Another all-district offensive lineman in Division III was Oak Harbor guard Dave Thayer.

Bellevue, which finished 9-1 and won its fourth straight Northern Ohio League championship, had three players make the all-district first team.

Quarterback Ed Baptista, a sophomore, was named after completing 59 percent of his passes for 1,317 yards and 11 touchdowns. Defensively, Brent Zimmerman's five interceptions earned him a spot.

Baptista and Zimmerman were joined on the team by kicker Kevin McDonnell.

Karchner had company from teammates Jared Overmyer and Wade Weaver on the all-district team in Division V.

Overmyer had 14 tackles for loss, six sacks

and caused four fumbles from his nose guard position.

Weaver, the Player of the Year in the Suburban Lakes League, made it in the secondary after intercepting eight passes.

Several area players received second-team recognition, including Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic sophomore running back Kyle Kayden in Division V.

Kayden led the Midland Athletic League with 1,248 yards and had three games of more than 200 yards. He rushed for 203 against Fostoria St. Wendelin, 245 against Mohawk and 255 against Seneca East.

Brian Reinbolt and Shane Heberling were second-team picks on the Division I defense.

In Division III, Bellevue running back Ryan Irons was a second-team choice after earning Offensive Player of the Year honors in the district and All-Ohio honors a year ago in Division II.

Other Division III second-teamers are Clyde guard Nate Morrison, Oak Harbor tackle Jeff Beier and Bellevue receiver Andy Lawrie and lineman Brian Farris on offense, and Clyde defensive back Brian Farrar and Bellevue guard Ryan Branco on defense.

Lakota had two players honored in Division IV — running back Steve Bishop and offensive tackle Dustin Bowman. Margareta linebacker Ben Brunner was a second-team pick on defense.

Another second-teamer in Division V was Woodmore receiver Eric Fegley.

Wauseon's Cory Griggs, who led his team to a state championship last year in Division III, is the top offensive player in Division IV. Coach of the Year in the division was New London's Rocky Farlow.

Aaron Putnam of Carey took defensive honors in Division V.

Lima Senior's Doug West was the top defender in Division III, and Ashland's Dick James was picked as the coach of the year.

In Division II, Bowling Green's Mike Saneholtz was the choice on offense after catching 80 passes for 1,140 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Tiffin Columbian's Steve Gilbert was the coach of the year in Division II. Honored as the coach of the year in Division III was Napoleon's John Snoad.



WOODSON



HAMILTON



KARCHNER



DRAKE



SPROUSE



MUSSER



CROCKETT



PAUL



OVERMYER



WEAVER



CARTER



LONG



THAYER



BAPTISTA



ZIMMERMAN



MCDONNELL

High School

Associated Press Northwest All-District

DIVISION I

Offense

First Team: Ends—Scott Swan, Toledo Waite, 6-foot-3, 190 pounds, Junior; D.J. Eckhart, Toledo Start, 6-0, 165, Sr. Linemen—**BRAD DRAKE, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 250, Sr.**; Ian Selmon, Mansfield Senior, 6-0, 210, Jr.; Chad McCarthy, Toledo Central Catholic, 6-4, 230, Sr.; Matt Dennis, Toledo St. John's, 6-2, 245, Sr.; Rick Hardesty, Toledo St. Francis, 6-3, 235, Sr. Quarterback—Steve Luda, Toledo Start, 6-2, 200, Sr. Backs—**CHARLES WOODSON, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 190, Sr.**; Ken Jones, Toledo St. John's, 5-11, 187, Sr.; Gerald Taylor, Toledo Bowsher, 5-11, 185, Sr. Kicker—Jason Strasser, Toledo St. Francis, 6-3, 160, Sr.

Defense

First Team: Linemen—Steve Remmer, Mansfield Senior, 6-0, 190, Sr.; Stanley Files, Toledo Woodward, 6-0, 180, Sr.; Chad Miller, Lima Senior, 6-4, 255, Sr.; **SEAN SPROUSE, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 175, Sr.** Linebackers—Eric Jones, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 206, Sr.; JoJuan Armour, Toledo Central Catholic, 6-1, 201, Sr.; Doug West, Lima Senior, 6-0, 240, Sr.; Brett Forney, Sandusky, 6-1, 212, Sr. Backs—LaCharles Smith, Toledo Whitmer, 6-0, 175, Sr.; Ben Durant, Toledo Waite, 5-8, 170, Sr.; Jason Johnson, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 180, Sr. Punter—Jason Bloodhart, 5-9, 150, Sr.

Offensive player of the year: **Charles Woodson, Fremont Ross.**

Defensive player of the year: **Doug West, Lima Senior.**

Lineman of the year: **Chad McCarthy, Toledo Central Catholic.**

Coach of the year: **Dick James, Ashland.**

Offense

Second Team: Ends—Mike Montgomery, Findlay, 6-2, 200, Jr.; Dan Norris, Mansfield Madison, 6-3, 180, Jr. Linemen—Matt Beal, Mansfield Madison, 6-3, 202, Sr.; Toby Kerschner, Ashland, 6-0, 245, Sr.; Shawn Mason, Toledo St. John's, 6-5, 250, Jr.; Brad Jordan, Toledo St. John's, 6-2, 230, Sr.; Matt Schag, Mansfield Madison, 6-1, 240, Sr. Quarterback—Larry Smith, Toledo Central Catholic, 5-10, 156, Sr. Backs—Torrez Rollison, Sandusky, 5-8, 188, Sr.; Marc Wood, Ashland, 5-7, 170, Jr.; Alloyious Walker, Lima Senior, 5-11, 185, Sr.

Defense

Second Team: Linemen—Scott Flores, Findlay, 6-1, 250, Sr.; Billy Bays, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 178, Sr.; Bob Vargas, Toledo Start, 6-4, 270, Sr.; Scott Reighard, Toledo Whitmer, 6-2, 195, Sr. Linebackers—Tony LaPoint, Toledo Whitmer, 5-8, 195, Sr.; Shane Fox, Sandusky, 6-1, 215, Sr.; Rick Pina, Findlay, 5-8, 180, Sr.; **SHANE HEBERLING, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 180, Sr.** Backs—**BRIAN REINBOLT, Fremont Ross, 5-8, 170, Sr.**; Ali Grose, Mansfield Senior, 5-10, 175, Sr.; Jeff McClellan, Toledo St. Francis, 5-10, 160, Sr.

AREA HONORABLE MENTION

Jake Binder, Fremont Ross.

Woodson AP's top offensive player

By RUSTY MILLER
Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Charles Woodson of Fremont Ross and Akron Garfield's Antoine Winfield grabbed the top honors on the 1994 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio high school football team announced today.

Woodson was chosen as offensive player of the year, while Winfield was selected as the top defender based on the recommendations of a state panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

The coach of the year in the big-school division was Hamilton's Ed Mignery.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound Woodson gained 2,028 yards on 218 carries and scored 38 touchdowns. He had two touchdowns on punt returns and three more on pass receptions while totaling 2,596 all-purpose yards.

Joining Woodson in the first-team backfield are Strongsville's Chad Davies (1,468 yards and 13 touchdowns) and Dublin's Nick Goings (1,319 yards, 26 TDs), along with three quarterbacks. Sharing the signal-calling duties are Reggie Johnson of Huber Heights Wayne (2,380 passing yards, 16 TDs), Eastlake North's Craig Kantz (1,875 passing yards, 61 percent completion rate and 16 TDs with seven interceptions) and Massillon Washington's Willie Spencer (621 yards rushing, 719 passing in nine games).

The receivers are Hilliard's Mike Furrey (31 catches, 20.2-yard average, seven TDs for a 10-0 team), Harrison's Ryan Grubbs (1,118 yards on 56 catches, 17 TDs) and tight end Dan O'Leary of Cleveland St. Ignatius (37 catches, 599 yards).

Up front are Toledo Central Catholic's Chad McCarthy (6-4, 230), Cincinnati Colerain's Jefferson Kelly (6-6, 206), Gabe Tincher of Cincinnati Moeller (6-3, 290), Canton McKinley's Tim Hawk (6-0, 246) and Massillon Washington's Kevin Bouder (6-0, 200).

Winfield intercepted three passes, caused two fumbles and had 48 tackles on defense, in addition to rushing for more than 1,000 yards and starring as a kick returner.

The front wall on defense includes Pat Kratus of Cleveland St. Ignatius (6-3, 235), Shaker

See AP, B2

Football

High School

Division I All-Ohio

COLUMBUS (AP) — The 1994 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio high school football team, selected on the recommendations of a state panel of sports writers and broadcasters:

OFFENSE

First Team: Ends—Mike Furrey, Hilliard, 6-foot, 160 pounds, Senior; Ryan Grubbs, Harrison, 6-1, 185, Sr.; Dan O'Leary, Cle. St. Ignatius, 6-5, 220, Jr. Linemen—Chad McCarthy, Tol. Central Catholic, 6-4, 230, Sr.; Jefferson Kelly, Cin. Colerain, 6-6, 306, Jr.; Gabe Tincher, Cin. Moeller, 6-3, 290, Sr.; Tim Hawk, Canton McKinley, 6-0, 246, Sr.; Kevin Bouder, Massillon Washington, 6-0, 200, Sr. Quarterback—Willie Spencer, Massillon Washington, 6-3, 200, Sr.; Reggie Johnson, Huber Hts. Wayne, 6-2, 213, Sr.; Craig Kantz, Eastlake N., 6-3, 195, Sr. Backs—**Charles Woodson, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 190, Sr.**; Chad Davies, Strongsville, 5-9, 175, Sr.; Nick Goings, Dublin, 5-11, 197, Jr. Kicker—Brendon Rauh, Dublin, 5-9, 175, Soph.; Andy Stamp, W. Chester Lakota, 6-1, 180, Sr.

DEFENSE

First Team: Linemen—Pat Kratus, Cle. St. Ignatius, 6-3, 235, Sr.; Courtney Leddy, Shaker Hts., 6-3, 235, Sr.; Sam Gilene, Cin. St. Xavier, 6-3, 230, Sr.; Erich Hopkins, Hilliard, 6-2, 260, Sr.; Stanley Files, Tol. Woodward, 6-0, 180, Sr.; Dan King, Lakewood St. Edward, 6-1, 265, Sr. Linebackers—Andy Katzenmoyer, Westerville S., 6-5, 235, Jr.; Doug West, Lima Sr., 6-0, 240, Sr.; Kinta Mitchell, Canton McKinley, 6-2, 211, Sr.; Ken Walker, Hamilton, 6-1, 195, Sr.; Bob Birt, Lakewood St. Edward, 6-0, 205, Sr.; Backs—Antoine Winfield, Akron Garfield, 5-11, 180, Sr.; Lamar Marshall, Cin. St. Xavier, 6-3, 200, Sr.; Todd Burch, Warren Harding, 6-0, 175, Sr.; Matt McNally, Pickerington, 6-3, 185, Sr. Punter—Chris Ferencik, Strongsville, 5-10, 175, Sr.

Offensive player of the year: **Charles Woodson, Fremont Ross.**

Defensive player of the year: **Antoine Winfield, Akron Garfield.**

Coach of the year: **Ed Mignery, Hamilton.**

OFFENSE

Second Team: Ends—Peerless Price, Day, Meadowdale, 6-3, 184, Sr.; Scott Swan, Tol. Waite, 6-3, 190, Jr.; Steve Wisniewski, Eastlake North, 6-5, 240, Sr. Linemen—Matt Dennis, Tol. St. John's, 6-2, 245, Sr.; Brad Gunlock, Centerville, 6-2, 210, Sr.; Shawn Billker, Zanesville, 6-6, 250, Sr. Quarterback—Josh McDaniels, Canton McKinley, 5-10, 143, Sr. Backs—Ronnie Alexander, Cin. Colerain, 5-6, 190, Jr.; Ken Jones, Tol. St. John's, 5-11, 185, Sr.; B.J. Harrison, Euclid, 5-11, 195, Sr. Kicker—Jason Strasser, Tol. St. Francis, 6-3, 160, Jr.

DEFENSE

Second Team: Linemen—Tywan January, Spring, South, 6-0, 240, Sr.; Cameron Monroe, Huber Hts. Wayne, 6-4, 205, Sr.; Chad Miller, Lima Sr., 6-4, 255, Sr.; Mike Gantous, Shaker Hts., 6-2, 275, Sr. Linebackers—JoJuan Armour, Tol. Central Catholic, 6-1, 201, Sr.; Mike Stancic, Austintown Fitch, 6-3, 210, Sr.; Derrick Beckwith, Warren Harding, 5-11, 180, Sr.; Adam Marinello, Westerville N., 6-3, 220, Sr.; Chuck Della Vella, Cle. St. Ignatius, 6-4, 215, Sr.; Bill Burke, Lancaster, 6-1, 220, Sr. Backs—LaCharles Smith, Tol. Whitmer, 6-0, 175, Sr.; Jason Johnson, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 180, Sr.; Cory Newman, Zanesville, 6-0, 180, Sr.; Brady Tesner, Upper Arlington, 6-0, 195, Sr.; Jeff Haase, Eastlake N., 6-2, 165, Jr. Punter—Jeff Mt. Joy, Westerville N., 6-2, 200, Sr.; Jason Bloodhart, Ashland, 5-9, 150, Sr.

Special Mention

Ryan Conners, Cin. Elder; T.J. Upshaw, Huber Hts. Wayne; Shawn Reid, Day, Patterson; Steve Derrickson, Kettering Fairmont; Matt Keller, Cin. Moeller; Debron Betts, Cin. Withrow; Mike Marshall, Cin. St. Xavier; Brett Hebenstreit, Cin. Colerain; Aaron Jackson, Day, Meadowdale; Mario Strayhorn, Cin. Princeton; Fred Rodgers, Hamilton; Charlie Gourley, Cin. Western Hills;

Royce Workman, Zanesville; Rob Dougherty, Zanesville; Brad Gearhart, Zanesville;

Koreh LeValle, Westerville S.; Josh Elliott, Mt. Vernon; Jeremy Henson, Dublin; Dameon Hunt, Gahanna; Marc Kielmeyer, Westerville S.; Matt Leider, Westerville N.; Cliff Reece, Hilliard; Geoff Bowman, Reynoldsburg; Tony Terry, Westerville S.; Calvin Johnson, Galloway Westland; Steve Orsak, Dublin; Matt Cottrel, Hilliard; Chris Kirk, Westerville S.; Bill Mankins, Mount Vernon; Orlando Rogers, Marion Harding; Tremaine Roland, Col. South;

D.J. Eckhart, Tol. Start; **Brad Drake, Fremont Ross;** Ian Selmon, Mansfield Sr.; Rick Hardesty, Tol. St. Francis; Gerald Taylor, Tol. Bowsher; Steve Luda, Tol. Start; Steve Remmer, Mansfield Sr.; **Sean Sprouse, Fremont Ross;** Eric Jones, Mansfield Madison; Brett Forney, Sandusky; Ben Durant, Tol. Waite;

Benji Gilbert, Lancaster; Todd Valentine, Chillicothe; Jimmy Grilli, Lancaster; Jason Lytle, Chillicothe; Chris Knight, Marietta; Rhett Young, Lancaster; Antonio Suderth, Chillicothe; Rod Blanton, Lancaster; Nate MacCarter, Chillicothe; Brad Kroft, Marietta;

Gary Dwyer, Euclid; Alex Green, Shaker Hts.; Andy Comer, Strongsville; Dan Wessman, Mayfield Hts.; Olen Steelman, Euclid; Antwan Carson, Cle. Glenville; Steve Rick, Cle. St. Ignatius; Chris Kalafatis, Shaker Hts.; Marty Cannon, Cle. St. Ignatius; Sean Grady, Cle. St. Ignatius; Gerrell Madison, Elyria; Donald Church, Lorain Sr.; John Hall, Cle. Hay; Ryan Rustad, Lakewood; John Ticak, Lakewood; Josh Green, Elyria; DeJuan Goude, Euclid; Tom Germano, Mentor; Matt Staton, Eastlake N.; Keith Boyle, Mentor; Gerald Harrison, E. Cleveland Shaw; Greg Williams, Lorain Sr.; Neil Currie, Elyria; Bill Haney, Strongsville; Derrick Davis, Cle. Glenville;

Vanness Provit, Warren Harding; Jesse Gable, Stow; Todd Chase, Brunswick; Mark Thewes, Canton McKinley; Brian Coleman, Cuyahoga Falls; Frank Caydo, Austintown Fitch; Mark Starner, Akron Garfield; Adrian Brown, Canton McKinley; Kevin Hyatt, Cuyahoga Falls; Desmond Bell, Akron Garfield; Demetrius Harris, Brunswick; Craig Vasil, Massillon Perry; Brian Mihock, Boardman; Damon Turner, Akron Garfield; Josh Steward, Massillon Jackson; Mark Wells, Massillon Washington; Ben Lamielle, Massillon Perry; Courtney Herring, Massillon Washington; Nick Roberts, Boardman; Eric Muzi, Canton GlenOak; Julius Lancaster, Canton McKinley; Steve Rovnak, Boardman.

He's Mr. Football



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross is the winner of Ohio's Mr. Football Award, presented by The Associated Press. Here, Woodson takes off on a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown against Sandusky.

Woodson garners Ohio's top award

By BOB MARKER

Sports

Charles Woodson has been an enigma to followers of Fremont Ross football.

Today, he is the 1994 Associated Press Mr. Football.

Woodson amazed fans with his tackle-defying touchdown runs — 38 of them this past season — and baffled them sideline outbursts of unprintable language.

His talent spoke for his play on the field; his deep, burning desire to win accounted for the latter episodes.

"I just hate to lose," Woodson said. "When I lose, the team loses. It's a feeling you never want to feel. Sometimes you let your emotions run or you might throw your helmet but it wears off after awhile."

In the final game of the regular season, Ross was winning big when Woodson was removed from the game short of Jim Tiller's 40-year-old Ross career rushing record. His helmet went flying.

"I wanted to get the record in front of our home crowd," Woodson said. "That's why I was upset."

Same goes for the helmet-tossing following a 35-28 playoff loss to Massillon Washington.

But in that game, Woodson showed why he is being honored — running for 201 yards and scoring four touchdowns.

"It's a great honor," Woodson said after being told he was Mr. Football. "Man, I just can't find

the words right now."

Woodson finished 1994 with 2,020 yards of offense. And he broke Tiller's record anyway, finishing his three-year Ross career with 3,861 yards to go with 466 points.

He also caught 10 passes for 160 yards, returned 15 punts for a 20-yard average and accounted for 2,596 all-purpose yards.

That was just his offense. On defense, he was in on 62 tackles, intercepted three passes and returned a fumble 28 yards for a TD.

"In my 27 years of coaching, I had not coached against or coached an athlete of that ability," Ross coach Rex Radloff said. "It was pretty evident since his sophomore year he had all the tools you like to see — aggressiveness, quickness — all those qualities and they carried on through his senior year."

"I certainly am glad he played for us for three years; I would have had to defend him."

Woodson (6-1, 190) said he never heard whispers about his attitude.

"I knew what I could go out and do," he said. "I could only ask myself to go out and try my best, work hard. What other people expect of me, they don't expect as much as I expect of myself."

His teammates knew where he was coming from, however. He appreciated it, like he appreciated the work of his offensive line.

See WOODSON, B3

Woodson receives top award

Continued From B1

He believed center T.J. Wolfe, guards Matt Gerner and Brandon Willer, tackles Brad Drake and Mike Byerly and tight end Kyle Kusmer deserved credit.

"They started doing things a lot better and that helped me a great deal," Woodson said.

A panel of sports writers and broadcasters from around the state selected Woodson.

Woodson follows in the footsteps of some other illustrious Mr. Football winners: 1988-89 recipient Robert Smith (now in the NFL) of Euclid; Ohio State quarterback Bob Hoying from St. Henry (1990); Norwood's Marc Edwards (now at Notre Dame) in 1992; Zanesville's Buster Howe (1987); Fostoria's Derek Kidwell (now at Bowling Green).

Last year's winner, Curtis Enis of Union City Mississinawa Valley, rushed for more than 1,600 yards at a prep school in Pennsylvania this fall.

Woodson carries a 2.9 grade-point average and has met all of the NCAA freshman eligibility requirements.

He keeps the hundreds of recruiting letters he has received in "a bunch of shoeboxes" in his bedroom. So far, the only official visits he has planned are to Notre Dame, Michigan and Miami of Florida.



WOODSON

Woodson named to All-USA team

News-Messenger reports

The honors continue to pour in for Fremont Ross High School football player Charles Woodson.

The record-breaking Ross running back was named a first-team defensive back on the 1994 nationwide prep football all-star team selected and announced today by USA TODAY.

The All-USA TODAY team annually honors what the national newspaper considers to be the best high school football players in the country.

Woodson, who earlier this month was named Ohio's Mr. Football by the Associated Press, is the lone Ohio player to be



He's going north

Ross star Charles Woodson announced today that he has verbally committed to accept a football scholarship from the University of Michigan. **Story, B1.**

named to the first team of the USA TODAY national all-star team.

The Ross High senior is the first Sandusky County athlete to be so honored by USA TODAY, which has been selecting national

high school all-star teams in several sports for more than a decade.

"He's very intense and a great hitter," Ross head football coach Rex Radeloff said.

A 6-foot-2, 190-pounder, Wood-

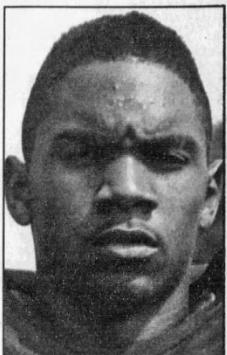
son made 78 solo tackles and assists on 35 others for the Little Giants this past season. He also had four interceptions and caused two fumbles.

Woodson, the all-time leading rusher at Ross, combined his abilities on the Ross kickoff and punt return teams.

His all-purpose yardage — running, receiving and returning kicks — for his career topped 5,000 yards.

The All-USA TODAY honor comes on the heels of yet another award.

Monday, Woodson was named the top player in Ohio by the Gatorade Circle of Champions.



CHARLES WOODSON: First-team All-USA TODAY defense.