

Ross advances in tournament

By **TIM HARMON**
Staff writer

NORWALK — The Fremont Ross baseball team has kicked its share of games away this season with poor defense.

In Thursday's 5-1 Division I sectional victory over Sandusky at Bill Baines Park, the Little Giants received restitution.

Four of the five runs Ross scored in the fifth inning were unearned as Sandusky's defense faltered.

The big play in the inning was a two-base error on Blue Streak right fielder Chad Taylor, which allowed three runs to score. In a game that had been scoreless until the fifth, it was the break Ross needed to win as Jon Hetrick checked the Streaks on four hits.

"You don't expect it like that because I know J.P. (Ross right fielder Justin Perry) had a tough time in right field with a couple of balls," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "Right field, in high school, that's the toughest position to play I think."

Sandusky coach Bill Deming said Taylor lost the ball in the sun.

Ross, 4-8, will play the winner of today's semifinal between Mansfield Senior and

Division I Sectional

At Norwalk
Upper bracket
Mansfield Madison vs. Tiffin Columbian, 4 p.m. May 13
Lower bracket
Mansfield Senior vs. Ashland, 4 p.m. today
Ross vs. Mansfield-Ashland winner, 4:30 p.m. May 12
Seeds: 1-Madison, 2-Sandusky

Ashland at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"We made a lot of contact," Ebert said. "I wanted to go fielding (Wednesday in practice) because we made some stupid errors Tuesday (a 6-1 loss to Napoleon) that upset me."

"Roger (Ross assistant coach Hetrick) wanted to go hitting. We went with hitting, and I'm glad we went with that. They picked a helluva time to get consistent with the bats."

The Little Giants, who avenged an earlier loss to Sandusky, collected five hits but made the most of them.

Scott Root got the Ross fifth started with a one-out single. He moved to second on Brian T. Wilson's fielder's choice bouncer back to the mound, and Wilson was safe at first when Sandusky pitcher Randall Ad-

kins threw wildly.

Root and Wilson moved up on a passed ball, and Root scored on Jamie Reimer's single as Wilson stopped at third. Brian Myers followed with a bouncer to third, and Wilson beat Dasha Jones' throw to the plate.

After an infield single by Brian J. Wilson and a strikeout, Doug Fitzgerald lofted a flyball to right. The ball bounced off Taylor's glove and cleared the bases.

Hetrick allowed a run in the sixth but that was it as he picked up his first win in his third start of the season.

"They were looking fastball, I threw the curveball and this wind helped alot," said Hetrick, who walked one and struck out five. "I was mostly afraid to throw the fastball."

Hetrick, who spotted his fastball and used his curveball at any time in the count, credited Myers' work behind the plate.

"He knows how I think; we work good together now," Hetrick said. "I changed one pitch the whole game, and that ended up to be a hit so it was a mistake. (Myers) called a great game. I listened to him; he

knows what he's doing. It helps a lot."

Adkins walked one and struck out seven. "We had four conference (Erie Shores Conference) games this week, and our championship game was last night (Wednesday) so we threw our best pitcher then," Deming said. "You get stuck playing conference games and tournament all together; you've got to make a decision ..."

Taylor got the call Wednesday against Elyria, and Sandusky lost 12-2.

"The kid that pitched for me today did a great job," Deming said after the Streaks fell to 13-4. "We just made some mental mistakes in the field and didn't hit the ball as well as we have."

"We've hit the ball better. Today, anything we hit they fielded."

Ross, which committed six errors in its Greats Lakes League loss to Napoleon, committed two Thursday.

"We feel we beat the number one team in the sectional," Ebert said. "We thought they should have been seeded number one when we came to the (tournament draw)."

"This is going to pick (the Little Giants) up. I know it picked me up."

Arrows shoot straight against Ross

By **TIM HARMON**
Staff writer

NORWALK — Defense won another high school sectional baseball game Tuesday.

Ashland made the plays — several of the outstanding variety — this time in a 4-2 Division I sectional championship victory over Ross at Bill Baines Park.

"That's the way we've been playing defense recently," Ashland coach Jeff Burnett said after the Arrows advanced to the district tournament at Findlay.

The two errors the Arrows made were harmless — one by shortstop Tim Seder to open the game and a throwing error by winning pitcher Randy Harding

with two outs in the fourth.

Ashland catcher Jack Windsor threw out Alec Shawl trying to steal following Harding's error. The throw came on the second of two straight pitchouts.

Seder made up for his miscue by throwing out Brian Myers from the hole to open the Ross third and making a diving stop and throw on Doug Fitzgerald's grounder up the middle in the sixth.

Fitzgerald's groundout came an inning and a half after Ashland first baseman Doug Burns went into the hole to rob Nick Wolf of a hit in the fourth.

"When you see two in a row like that, you get a feeling that

things are going the other team's way," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "Right now, that's what it takes is outstanding plays, and they had more than we did."

Harding limited Ross to five hits, including one by Wolf leading off the seventh, before Bryan Murvine came on to pick up a save. Harding struck out six and did not walk a batter.

"He's a great control pitcher, and that's the key," Burnett said.

Murvine struck out two Little Giants in the seventh.

"We've been striking out a lot the last three or four games," said Ebert after the Little Giants' three-game winning streak

was stopped. "It showed a little bit today. We've got to put the ball in play more."

Which was something Ashland did.

Three straight hits and an error by Ross shortstop Brian J. Wilson produced two runs in the first.

After Ross, 6-9, tied it in the second on an RBI single by Scott Root and a run-scoring double by Brian T. Wilson, the Arrows got a single by No. 9 hitter Mark Hall leading off. Following another error by Brian J. Wilson, Murvine's second RBI single and a run-scoring single by Burns made it 4-2.

"The top of our order has been

slumping a little bit, but they came around a little early on, and the bottom of the order really came through for us today," Burnett said.

Jon Hetrick took the loss, allowing one earned run, striking out three and walking two.

"The pitching was a little bit sloppier than it was last week (in a sectional win over Sandusky)," Ebert said. "(Hetrick) got behind then he had to shoot for strikes."

Ashland, 12-5, won its third straight sectional title.

"We've surprised a lot of people this year," Burnett said. "We're really playing well right now."