

1978 Season review...

The Ross High Little Giants



Front row (left to right): Dale Szymanowski, Frank Martinez, Tim Butcher, T.J. Brudzinski, John Almaguer, Bill Darling, Fred Vance, Willie Mercer, Randy Dilts; second row: Student trainer Paul Schmidt, Kevin Bradford, Tim Chambers, Bill

Swartzlander, Troy Amor, John Armentrout, Dave McGee, Scott Martin, Tim Oberst, Doug Bobay, Greg Brown; third row: Manager Dana Szymanowski, John Borer, Dave Thorbahn, Steve Stetz, Tom Woelslagel, Mark Johnson, Jerry

Walter, Dale Barr, Harry Kellogg, Mark Weaver, Jeff Swift; fourth row: Larry Lindsey, Jim Darr, Larry VonMaluski, Mike Martin, Jeff Hull, Shawn Alexander, Willie Gentry, Dale Jennings, Adam Caskey, Greg Long, Andre Parks. Fifth row: Head

Coach Pete Moore, equipment manager Joe Lotycz, Assistant coaches Tim Pettorini, Wayne Sieck, Mike Wetzel, Ed Platzer, Joe Siegel, Trainer Glen Foster, assistant coaches Dick Coleman, Rex Radloff, and Red Nugent.



TOM WOLESLAGEL, Ross quarterback, watches fullback Greg Brown come toward the ball as he prepares to handoff. Wolesslagel completed four of seven passes during the scrimmage Saturday with Cardinal Stritch. One of the tosses was a 40-yard TD strike to Mark Johnson.

Ross and Stritch tie 2-2, but Moore happy with results

Ross and Cardinal Stritch battled to a 2-2 deadlock in a Saturday morning football scrimmage.

The Little Giants scored on a 30-yard run by Larry Lindsey and a 40-yard touchdown pass from Tom Wolesslagel to Mark Johnson. Ross held a 2-0 lead until Stritch scored on a pair of TD passes late in the scrimmage.

Both of Stritch's scores were set up by Ross fumbles.

"I think our 'greenest' showed," Ross Coach Pete Moore said after the two and one-half hour scrimmage.

"I felt our offensive line did an adequate job," he continued, "it was their first time under fire."

"We also started to throw the ball a little more consistently," Moore offered.

"Really, I was not displeased with the scrimmage. Generally, I thought that Oberst (Tim)

did a good job at inside linebacker.

"Kevin Bradford did a great job at defensive tackle and he is a backup at that spot.

"Defensively, I felt that we hit real well. We only gave up two cheap scores," the Ross coach

said.

"I'm pleased. As green as we are, we saw just about what we expected to see."

Ross will host Cleveland Glenville Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in its final scrimmage of the preseason.

Game plan works

LEXINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Bill Whittington and Jim Busby stuck to their game plan and roared across the finish line more than a minute ahead the second place car to grab the G.T. championship at the Mid Ohio race course.

Whittington and Busby together averaged 90.058 mph in their turbo-charged Porsche 935 Sunday around the 2.4-mile circuit in Lexington.

David Hobbs, Roddington, England, and Tom Klausler, Livonia, Mich., finished second in

their BMW, while Clif Kearns, Elsinore, Calif., and Milt Minter, Fresno, Calif., were third in a Porsche. Rounding out the top five finishers were Gianpiero Monetti, Milan, Italy, in a Porsche, and Phil Curran, Gainesville, Fla., in a Corvette.

Whittington, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., drove the turbo-charged Porsche until the first fuel stop, "and then I took over," said Busby, of Laguna Beach, Calif. "We were able to turn down the turbo-charger boost which lowered the oil tem-

Moore smiling after final scrimmage

Ross football Coach Pete Moore was happy.

He finished wiping the rain off his forehead and hashed over his thoughts about the Little Giants' last preseason scrimmage with Cleveland Glenville Wednesday.

"I think it was good for both teams," he began. "They were good hitters — it was a good, hard hitting scrimmage all around — it was especially good for us."

Ross continued to be plagued by the fumble with most of the poor ball handling on the option play. The mud and rain also made the ball hard to handle but the feeling is Ross runners could protect the ball a bit better.

The Little Giants outscored Glenville 3-2 with Ross TDs being scored by fullback Greg Brown and tailback Bill Darling. Tom Wolesslagel got off a long touchdown toss to T.J. Brudzinski, who came up with the ball after it had been tipped several times.

Glenville scored on a 45-yard run in which Ross defenders missed three possible tackles and the other was on a sweep.

Despite the two TDs, Moore was pleased with his defense.

"I thought it looked good; the pass defense looked better," he said.

Continuing, Moore offered, "Considering the weather, I felt that we got a lot out of the scrimmage."

Ross will now have to wait until Sept. 8 for its next action when it hosts Cleveland Lincoln-West in the season opener.

ONE ROSS offensive line could look like this: left to right are Dale Szymanowski, Larry VonMaluski, Larry Thorbahn, Mark Weaver, Steve Stotz, Willie Mercer, and Jeff Hull.



More time to get things a bit better

(Cont. from page 6)

Ross (Radloff) says they have been saying this for three years) has put in a pass oriented offense. Last year's signal caller, T. J. Brudzinski, is this year's split end.

At quarterback junior Tom Wolessiagel is battling senior John Almaguer for the starting spot. Wolessiagel is the better passer of the two while Almaguer runs the option offense better.

At fullback will be either



LARRY LINDSEY
... Ross tailback

Shawn Alexander or Greg Brown.

Larry Lindsey and Bill Darling are the tailbacks. Darling, a returning senior letterman, has been nursing a pulled hamstring during the summer practices.

The wingback will be either senior Fred Vance or junior Mark Johnson. The latter can also spell Brudzinski at split end. Dale Szymanowski is another split end possible.

Ross will be inexperienced from the tackle to the tight end slot.

Dale Barr, junior, 6-0, 200, Bill Swartzlander, senior, 6-2, 220, and Willie Mercer, senior, 6-2, 190, are the tackles for Ross. Swartzlander and Mercer, out for football for the first time, are the only two seniors in the offensive interior for Ross.

Greg Long, junior, 175, Harry Kellogg, junior, 175, and Steve Stotz, a sophomore, 190-pounder and a converted end, are in the battle for the starting guard slots.

Kevin Bradford and Mark Weaver are the centers. Bradford is a 220-pound junior while Weaver is a 155-pound junior.

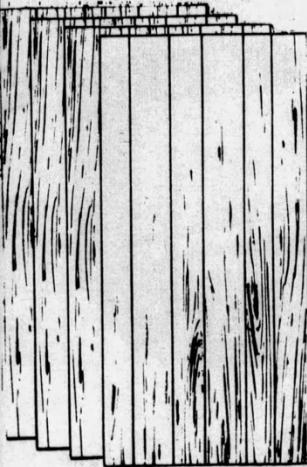
The tight end is Tim Chambers, possibly the only Little Giants playing both ways for at least the first part of the season.

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Ross almost lost it in '77

(Cont. from page 3)

However, we really did not have a true leader — the leadership had to come from the coaches.

"You got to have coaching leadership but you also need a player that

other players look up to — you got to have those."

Moore went over many things, one being that he hopes to cut down on two-way players this season. He felt that it hurt the Little Giants in latter

stages of games. Ross had as many as eight players going both ways at times during the '77 season.

BC champs

Year	Winner(s)
1955	Ross
1956	Ross
1957	Marion
1958	Elyria, Lorain, Marion
1959	Sandusky, Marion
1960	Ross, Marion
1961	Sandusky
1962	Sandusky
1963	Sandusky
1964	Elyria
1965	Sandusky
1966	Sandusky
1967	Sandusky
1968	Elyria
1969	Elyria
1970	Sandusky
1971	Ross, Elyria
1972	Ross
1973	Ross
1974	Findlay
1975	Ross
1976	Ross
1977	Sandusky

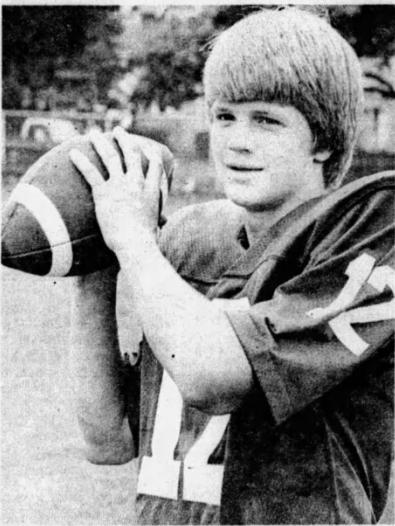
About the cover

The head coaches and the captains for the Ross and St. Joe football teams are pictured on the cover of the 1978 Pigskin Preview.

At the left in front is Tim Oberst of Ross and on the right is Mark Fisher of Fremont St. Joe. Standing in back are Ross Coach Pete Moore and St. Joe Coach Rick Wonderly.

Although the two players are no centers, both depict that the Fremont area's 11 high school football teams are ready to "snap" into the 1978 season.

JUNIOR TOM WOESLAGEL will likely draw the starting quarterback assignment for the Ross Little Giants when Ross opens the 1978 season Sept. 8 at Harmon Stadium against Cleveland Lincoln-West.



LETTERMEN

returning to the 1978 Ross team include, kneeling, left to right: T.J. Brudzinski, Bill Darling, John Almaguer; standing: Tim Oberst, John Armentrout, Troy Amor, and Randy Dilts.

B-W leads OC

Baldwin-Wallace has 13 returning senior starters and is expected to be the team to beat in the Ohio Conference this season. The returners could close their careers by hosting a third straight championship game.

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Speaking of Sports

A look at the season



By BOB MARKER

It was nice to find out what game I would be covering tonight.

It was more than nice for Pete Moore and his Ross coaching staff to know that Ross had a game tonight. Just so the shock of the on and off game situation is not too shocking to the Little Giants team is the main concern of the coaching staff.

The big realization, however, is that Euclid has been going through the same things that the Ross team, coaching staff, and administration have been experiencing.

Besides the hassle, the one thing that could hurt both schools is in the computer ratings. The game will be treated as an open date and a season average will have to be used.

Taking a look at the Little Giants for this season, I can see an improvement over the 1977 season. The 5-5 posted by Ross was the preseason prediction I made last year at this time.

This year I can see Ross going as well as 8-2 or as low as 6-4. The losses? Possibly Sandusky and Toledo St. John on the 8-2 with Sandusky, St. John, Findlay, and a long shot, Toledo Central Catholic on the 6-4 count.

The Ross passing attack will be the big surprise this season. Tom Woelslagel will be the passer Ross has been searching for and last season's signal caller, T.J. Brudzinski, has all the signs of being the best at his position — wide receiver — since Mike Matthes performed for the Little Giants five seasons ago.

Ross edges Euclid in 'pickup' game

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

It wasn't bad for a pickup game.

As a matter of fact, it bordered on one of the better opening games that Ross has played in recent years. "It was the best game, opening game, that we have had since I have been here," Ross Coach Pete Moore proclaimed minutes after his team had defeated Euclid 13-10.

It wasn't bad since Euclid and Ross were not scheduled prior to the season. A Cleveland teachers' strike had Ross on the edge of the seat with its regularly scheduled contest with Cleveland Lincoln West and eventually the strike pushed Ross off.

Lincoln West was forced to cancel out and Euclid stepped in to nearly cancel out Ross.

"They were a good ball club," Moore did not have to point out. "They had some hitters out there."

Ross, led by a passing attack that had the big opening game crowd smiling and clapping, scored on a second effort run by tailback Bill Darling with four and one-half minutes to play to turn back the Panthers. Darling charged in from seven yards out for the final score of the night.

The Little Giants then held their breath on the last play of the game. Bob Penicka, Euclid quarterback for the final play of the game, lofted a long pass from the Euclid 48 far down the left sidelines. The ball bounced off Ross defender Adam Caskey but slithered through the hands of Euclid's Rich Wiltrot who was

behind the Ross coverage.

Ross, after having a 12-yard touchdown run by Larry Lindsey wiped off the board midway through the first quarter, took the lead with 2:08 to go in the first half. Lindsey forced his way into the end zone off the tail of center Mark Weaver for the six-pointer.

The TD capped a 52-yard, 14 play drive for the Little Giants. The key play, on the drive was a 14-yard pass from quarterback Tom Wolessagel to Dale Szymanski for a first down at the Euclid 5. Lindsey had cut off a block by left tackle Kevin Bradford for five yards on a fourth and two at the Euclid 22 two plays before the long pass.

After the Little Giants' score, Euclid roared back to tie the game with 11 seconds left in the half. A 27-yard strike from quarterback George Newcombe to Carl Pungach was the scoring play. Newcombe eluded five Ross defenders to get the pass off.

A nine-yard pass from Newcombe to Wiltrot followed by a late Ross hit for a 15-yard penalty was the other big play in the six-play, 67-yard drive.

A minute into the third period, Greg Chiudioni bolted off left tackle 45 yards to the Ross 13. Three plays later, Jamie Sherman hit a 24-yard field goal to put the Panthers up 13-10.

The Little Giants did not mount the winning drive until there was 6:55 to play. Taking over at the Ross 34, Lindsey ran for two before Wolessagel hit T.J. Brudzinski for 19 yards to the Euclid 45. Two plays later, Wolessagel hit Brudzinski at the Panther 24 for

15 yards through the air and another 12 as a Panther was flagged for a late hit.

Two plays later, Darling bulled into the endzone.

"I don't think we were prepared," Euclid Coach Ron Seymour said after the game. "Cleveland South kept telling us they would be playing us and we kept working on the '50' but I am not alibing.

"Ross put us to the test. South is the type of team that usually ran out of the 'I' with basic plays," he said, "but Ross ran everything out of it."

Would Seymour like to face Ross again?

"Yes, but I would want it to be a home and home," he said. "We like to open at home, too. Don't get me wrong, this is a first class operation up here; they have really treated us well but we would like to open at home."

Wolessagel was 11 for 15 in the air for 133 yards. Brudzinski had five of the catches for 65 yards and Fred Vance hauled down three more for 40 yards.

Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff, however, credited Ross backup signal caller John Almaguer with playing a key part in the victory.

"He (Almaguer) was besides us all night," Radeloff said, "when Tom came off the field he was offering advice ... as a matter of fact, John called the play that Darling scored on."

Moore felt that his team could have scored one or two more times but penalties discounted those possibilities.

"That offensive line of ours is young but they did a good job tonight ... I'm just happy as heck with the way this game went for us tonight."

Greg Brown was Ross's leading ball carrier, picking up 58 yards on nine carries. Lindsey had 45 yards on 16 carries. Chiudioni led all rushers with 74 yards on eight rushes.

Ross will host Toledo Central Catholic next Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Rutigliano faces strange illness

By MIKE HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Browns hope to ward off a strange malady this week, an illness usually associated with the powerhouses of the National Football League — overconfidence.

The Browns, something of an unknown quantity despite a 24-7 opening victory over the young San Francisco 49ers, take on the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday at Cleveland Stadium in the first of six American Football Conference Central Division meetings for each team this year.

The Bengals, generally expected to battle the Pittsburgh Steelers for the division crown, got off to a rocky start with a 24-23 loss to unheralded Kansas City.

Cincinnati was manhandled by the Chiefs in that game, a fact not lost on the Browns as they viewed the films during their game preparations this week.

Cleveland Coach Sam Rutigliano realizes that the Kansas City game and the fact the Bengals still are without the services of starting quarterback Ken Anderson because of a broken finger could affect his



I'M GONNA THROW IT. Tom Wolessagel, Ross's junior quarterback circles left end while rolling out against Euclid Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Wolessagel threw the ball on this play but the pass

was incomplete. The Ross junior did hit 11 of 16 passes for the game for 133 yards. (N-M photo by Dan Borelli)

Little Giants rip TCC Irish 46-14

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Tom Wolesslagel passed for 257 yards and four touchdowns as Ross survived a leaky defense to roll over the fighting Irish of Toledo Central Catholic 46-14 Friday at Harmon Stadium.

The junior Ross quarterback completed 10 of 14 aerials while rushing for 48 more yards and a touchdown. The 257 total yards are believed to be a Ross record. Wolesslagel has now completed 21 of 30 passes for 390 yards in two games.

The yardage total surpasses Ross's entire 1977 passing output.

Wolesslagel hit Mark Johnson on scoring tosses of 25 and 38 yards; T.J. Brudzinski for 52 yards; and Fred Vance on a 41-yard scoring strike. Brudzinski hauled down six aerials for 106 yards during the contest that lasted over two and one-half hours.

"He's improving," Ross Coach Pete Moore hedged a little after the game while talking about Wolesslagel's passing.

"He hasn't improved 100 percent over last week but he has improved — he must keep on improving," the Ross coach said. "Then again, all our juniors must improve to go with our seniors who are playing steady ball right now."

The game was a statistician's delight.

It featured:

- 774 yards in total offense by both teams.

- 20 of 31 passing by Central quarterback Todd Nowicki and halfback Tom Shanahan;

- A total of 39 first downs in the game.

- 501 passing yards for both teams.

- And four touchdowns in the final three minutes of the first half.

"I did not expect them to pass that much," a shocked Central Coach Mike Beier said after the game in the steamy Irish locker room.

"I figured that they would come after us like they did last year in the second half (Ross scored 14 points in the second half for a 14-12 win)," he said quietly. "I also thought they would do that because of the way we played against St. John last week (a 20-0 loss)."

All Moore could say about that was: "I told you we were going to throw the ball before the game."

Moore also felt that Central would be throwing but neither coach figured that the defensive secondaries would be nonexistent.

"We did not have a pass rush and we did not have a secondary," Moore flatly declared. "I was very disappointed with that. Any time you give a quarterback that much time to throw the ball, he's going to complete them."

Nowicki cut loose 31 times and found the target 19 times. Shanahan lofted a 34-yard halfback pass to Rick Koralewski against Ross's sieve-like secondary. Koralewski hauled down nine passes for 132 yards. Central's Chris Shealy added seven more catches for 71 yards.

"Our defensive ends and cornerbacks did a poor job," Beier said. "Our containment broke down; we just generally played poor defense."

Beier said that his team stuck to its game plan.

"We moved the ball when we got it but we could not get it," the former Fremont St. Joe player said quietly.

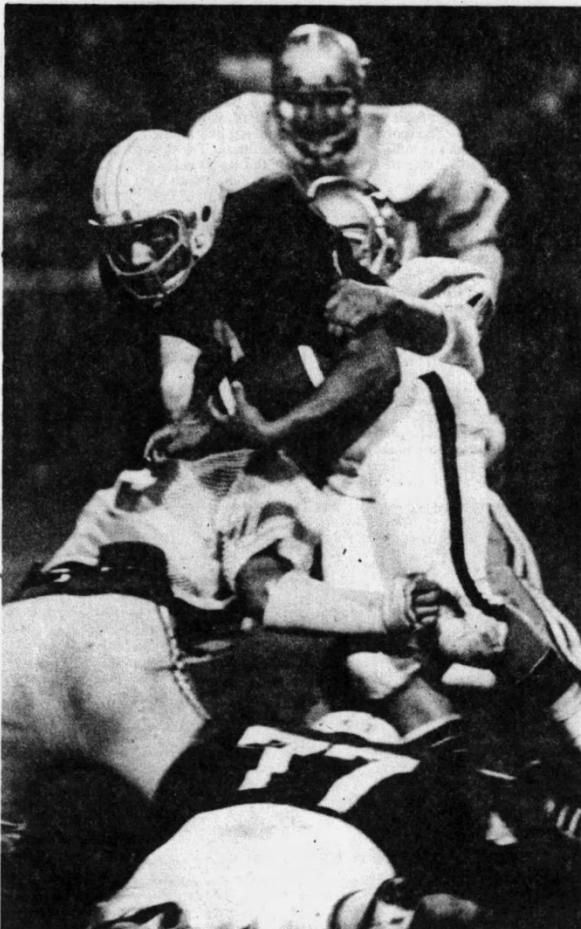
While Wolesslagel was moving the Little Giant through the air, Bill Darling was chewing out 113 yards on the ground in 16 carries. He scored the first Ross TD on a 44-yard run two and one-half minutes into the game. He also hauled down a Wolesslagel screen pass and lugged it 47 yards to the four shortly before the half.

Ross jumped ahead 20-0 in the first half but Brad Delp's eight-yard run with 2:52 to play in the second period cut Ross's lead to 13. The Little Giants bounded back to 26-7 on Larry Lindsey's four-yard run with 1:04 to play in the half.

The Ross lead mounted to 32-7 on Johnson's first TD with 37 seconds till intermission before Koralewski caught an 11-yard toss from Nowicki to cut the Ross margin to 32-14 five seconds before the second quarter ended.

The Irish helped beat themselves, coughing up the ball six times and losing it five times. Ross scored on four of the five fumble recoveries.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 1978, The News-Messenger, Fremont, O. B-3



BILL DARLING of Ross is in the clutches of a pair of Toledo Central Catholic tacklers. Darling scored the

first Ross TD while rushing for 113 yards. He also caught one pass for 47 yards. (N-M photos by Dan Bomel)

Bucyrus edges Clyde

BUCYRUS — Clyde fell victim to a pair of Bucyrus touchdowns in the final 12 minutes while absorbing its second loss in three football games.

The Redmen got a pair of touchdowns from Joe Teynor to edge the Fliers 13-10. Bucyrus is now 3-0 for the season.

Mark Rosenberger's 39-yard field

goal gave Clyde a 3-0 first period lead and Duane Willman's three-yard run in the second period gave the Fliers a 10-0 lead at the half.

Teynor, however, scored from 10 and eight yards out for the Redmen to take the win out of the Fliers' grasp.

Rob Farrar led the Clyde rushing attack with 77 yards on 14 carries.

Woodmore is DeVilbiss champ

TOLEDO — Woodmore shot a team total 314 to win the DeVilbiss Invitational Golf Meet Friday.

The Woodmore total is a new school record. The old mark was a 317.

Doug Schuster shot a 77 to pace the Wildcats. Brett Gilbert had a 78 with Rodger Jimison adding a 79. Brian Sampson and Steve Burner rounded out

the Wildcats' scoring with 80 and 82, respectively.

Oregon Clay was second in the tourney with Eastwood third. Bedford (Michigan) and Whitmer tied for fourth while DeVilbiss was sixth, Rogers seventh, and Genoa eighth.

Dave Seckinger of Clay was the tournament medalist with a 73.

Gibsonburg golfers stop Bettsville

Gibsonburg outdueled Bettsville Friday in a high school golf match at Sycamore Hills Golf Club.

The Golden Bears shot a 39 and Greg Sworden shot a 39 and Greg Sworden was one stroke off that pace to lead the Golden Bears.

Jeff Lynch had a 39 for the Bobcats.

Scoring

GIBSONBURG — Doug Sworden

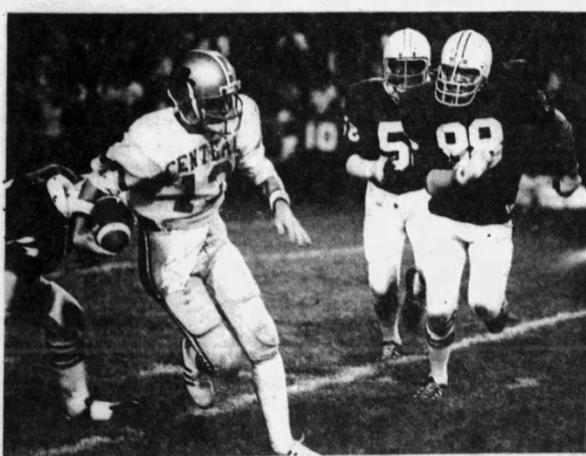
39. Greg Sworden 40, Jeff Jividen 44, Brian Schneider 44, Jim Hill 44;

BETTSVILLE — Jeff Lynch 39, Mark Dillon 43, Scott Robnett 40, Tony Dantorno 49;

Scoring record: Gibsonburg 2-1;

JV match: Gibsonburg 181-204;

JV medalist: Bill Bowser, Gibsonburg, 43.



TODD NOWICKI, Toledo Central Catholic quarterback, sneaks past a Ross tackler while eluding Tim

Chambers (88) and Kevin Bradford (background) during first quarter play Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Scores, area stats on page eight

A problem, but no panic at Ross

Joe Siesel knows what the word "panic" means but he is refusing to push any buttons labeled with that word.

Siesel, the Bowling Green State University star and former New York Giants linebacker, is the defensive coordinator for Pete Moore's Ross Little Giants football team. His job has not been that rewarding during Ross's first two games.

Although the Little Giants have surrendered only 24 points, the defensive alignment that has confused Little Giants' opponents in the past has not offered any real amount of confusion to either Euclid or, especially, Toledo Central Catholic.

The Little Giants, 2-0 despite giving up 527 total yards in the first game, were susceptible to the pass against Central last Friday but there was a two-fold reason for that.

"We are not pressing the panic button," Siesel reaffirmed as he began to talk about the defensive problems that have plagued the Little Giants.

"We have had a lot of mental mistakes," he said. "A lot of people have not been doing their own job — not reacting and not playing through to the ball."

"Our containment has broken down and we have not gotten a good pass rush."

The latter puts pressure on the secondary he offered.

In the secondary, Siesel said the backs appear to be content on letting the receiver make the play and then getting in on the tackle.

"We have not been as aggressive as we should be," he said. "We just have to get a bit more hungry."

While realizing the problems his unit faces, Siesel is not all negative. He talks positively about his defense.

"As bad as we have played, we have still kept them out of the end zone," he said. "The kids know how they have played — we had a long talk with them and I feel they showed that they want to work hard to improve."

Siesel also said that some of the blame for the lackluster defensive showings fall directly on the Ross coaching staff.

"I really think that we have not given them a good look in practice," he explained. "We want to avoid injuries so we have not run the first offensive team against the first team defense."

"Usually we have practiced against the sophomore offense and they really do not give us that much problem."

With Ross junior quarterback Tom Wolesslagel (21 of 29 passing in the first two Ross games), the Little Giants defense will get tested in practice both on the line and in the secondary.

That has prompted Siesel to make a prediction for Friday's rugged contest with Toledo St. John.

"I think you will see a different defensive club Friday."

St. John will bring a veteran squad into Harmon Stadium Friday in a one time only clash. The Little Giants were unsuccessful in luring the Titans back for another year.

The Titans are a power type of offensive team, running out of the power-I. Defensively, St. John will show Ross a "4-3."

While Ross has been primarily a two-platoon team so far, the Titans may be getting a bit tired in the latter stages of the game with seven two-way players in the lineup.

OTHER ROSS NOTES — Wolesslagel has now passed for more yardage this season than the Little Giants managed to pick up in the air in 1977. He needs to complete two passes to equal the 23 completions of last season.

T.J. Brudzinski has hauled down 12 Wolesslagel passes for 171 yards and a TD. Bill Darling is the Little Giants' leading rusher with 131 yards on 23 carries.

Tickets for the game are on sale through the week at Tremper's.

Tim Oberst, inside linebacker, is expected to be ready to start for Ross. He missed last week's clash with Central due to a swollen knee.

All other Little Giants are healthy.

Honor ceremony

Ross High School will honor Dr. Edwin Swint and Dr. Ervin Koons before Friday's football game against Toledo St. John.

Ross Athletic Director Dick Sherman said the special ceremony will honor the local doctors for the years of service that the two have donated to the athletic teams at Ross.

Swint worked with the teams from 1938 to 1975 while Koons began in 1955 to the present.

The ceremony will begin at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Woleslagel, Ross dwarf Titans 27-8



TOM WOLESLAGEL
...18 of 21

Tribe stops Yanks

CLEVELAND (AP) — Disappointed New York Yankee Manager Bob Lemon said Cleveland was playing "like this was the seventh game of the World Series" after the Indians grabbed an 8-7, 10-inning victory Friday night on a two-out infield single by Rick Manning.

Despite the loss, the Yankees saw their magic number sliced to seven and retained their two-game edge over the second-place Boston Red Sox in the American League East as Boston dropped a 5-4 decision at Toronto.

The Yankees scored three times in the ninth inning to come back from a 7-4 deficit. But the Indians, who had beaten New York only three times in nine previous games this season, won it against reliever Rich Gossage on Manning's single in the 10th.

"It was just one of those games," Lemon said. "It would have been a hell of a lift."

Looking at the way the teams from the bottom of the division beat the leaders Friday night, the Yankee manager added, "They want to knock you off. They've got pride, too, and I guess they don't want us to clinch anything when we're playing in their city."

Manning said he "was just looking for a ball I could put in play. It got us down, them scoring three runs in the ninth, especially with two out. But that's a new ballgame and you just have to start all over. It feels good to win it."

Cleveland's Dan Briggs and New York's Chris Chambliss each pounded a solo homer in the game.

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Joe Siesel could have passed for Clarabelle the Clown.

"Run the divide ... run the divide," he shouted while frantically waving his arms moments after Ross had hauled down its third win of the football season.

"Run something," Siesel quickly added as he described a sideline scene between him and Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radloff.

"I told him okay," Radloff laughed as he talked about Siesel, the defensive coordinator.

"But I called the play," Siesel said amid more arm flapping and a thunderous clapping of hands.

The play typified Ross's evening: virtually everything worked. The particular play was a pass from Tom Woleslagel to T.J. Brudzinski midway through the third quarter.

It was fourth and 14 for the Little Giants when Woleslagel hit Brudzinski on a slant over the middle at the three. Brudzinski was hit and the ball squirted into the endzone where Fred Vance fell on it for a Ross TD.

"I was really hit," Brudzinski said. "I didn't know what to do."

Vance did and it made Siesel a pretender to being a genius at "supposed" play calling. It was 20-8 at that point.

It was a Ross night. Woleslagel turned in another torrid night with 18 of 21 passing for 270 yards and a touchdown. Brudzinski set a Ross record with 202 yards on 11 receptions.

"I don't just look for him

(Brudzinski)," Woleslagel said, "he just happens to be the primary receiver on a lot of the patterns."

The game was a family affair for Woleslagel and St. John's Brad Morse. The two cousins met too many times on the field according to the Ross junior signal caller. Morse was credited with both of St. John's sacks on Woleslagel.

In the three Ross wins, Woleslagel has completed 39 of 50 passes for 654 yards and five touchdowns. Brudzinski has now caught 23 passes for 373 yards.

"I think the most impressive thing," Ross Coach Pete Moore said as he savored his team's win, is not that Tommy is throwing the ball so well, but the fact that we are catching them."

The only dark mark of the night for Ross was during St. John's scoring drive late in the first half. An admitted misinterpretation of the rules by the officials ended up in what amounted to a 29-yard penalty against the Little Giants.

The official miscue came after Ross defensive tackle Troy Amor had sacked St. John quarterback Tim Graney for a 17-yard loss back to the Titan 18. On the play, Ross defensive back Mike Martin was flagged for a personal foul at the Titan 49.

Instead of marking the ball on the live ball foul from the spot of the end of Graney's run, officials marked off the foul from the St. John 49 down to the Ross 36. The original play had started from the St. John 35.

An interference penalty gave the Titans another first down at the Ross 10 later in the drive and

Graney's 13-yard pass to Al Mossing with 11 seconds to play in the half gave the Titans their only six-pointer of the game.

After that, it was Ross's offense and improved defense that held the Titans in check. The Little Giants gave up only a net 11 yards on the ground and surrendered 94 yards through the airways.

"I think the defense was improved," Moore and Siesel both agreed. "We had a better pass rush tonight."

Amor and Kevin Bradford, defensive tackles, John Armentrout and Tim Chambers, defensive ends, gave Ross its best pass rush in the three pre-Buckeye Conference games. The Little Giants also got standout performances from inside linebackers Randy Dills and Tim Oberst.

"I thought Dale (Jennings) did a heck of a job," Siesel added. Jennings is an outside linebacker.

The Little Giants took control early and moved easily to play dirt with the opening kickoff. A 10-play, 71-yard drive was climaxed by Woleslagel's 18-yard scoring strike to Vance.

Shawn Alexander's two-yard dash up the middle put Ross on top 13-0 midway through the second period. After Vance's second TD, Ross put the icing on the cake with a 11-play, 78-yard drive with Larry Lindsey carrying the final five shortly into the final period.

Lindsey and Bill Darling helped balance out the tosses of Woleslagel with strong running performances. Darling rambled for 77 yards on 11 carries and Lindsey added 52 on 16 carries.



T.J. BRUDZINSKI
...11 for 202 yards

Bosox miss chance

TORONTO (AP) — Rick Bosetti drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single in the ninth inning, giving the Toronto Blue Jays a 5-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox Friday night.

Pinch-hitter Bob Bailor opened the ninth with a single off Andy Hassler, 3-5. After Alan Ashby popped out, Dave McKay singled and Doug Ault walked to load the bases.

Campbell then relieved Hassler and Bosetti jumped on his first pitch, lining it to center field for the winning hit.

Tom Murphy, 6-9, the third Toronto pitcher, took over in the ninth and picked up the win in relief.

Boston's Bob Stanley, making only his second start of the season, left the game after Al Woods led off the eighth with a double. Hassler then retired Roy Howell on a grounder, and struck out John Mayberry and got Otto Velez on a fly to center to end the threat.

Reds win on Bench base hit

ATLANTA (AP) — Johnny Bench's two-run single and Dave Concepcion's RBI single keyed a three-run Cincinnati seventh-inning rally as the Reds rallied for a 6-4 victory over the Atlanta Braves Friday night.

Bench's hit scored Pete Rose and Ken Griffey, giving the Reds a 5-4 lead and making a loser of reliever Craig Sko, 3-2. Bench then stole second and came home on Concepcion's hit.

Relief pitcher Mario Soto, 1-0, was the beneficiary of the Reds' rally.



TIM CHAMBERS (88) and John Almaguer of Ross get together to stop St. John's Dan Cipriani on a Ross kickoff. Chambers was one of the key people

Radeloff: '... pass anytime, anyplace'

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

You have to be listening between the lines when Fremont Ross assistant football Coach Rex Radeloff says anything.

He has a smile on his face that could be

classified as deceitful, if not treacherous.

"It's been no different than it has been before," he said out of the corner of his mouth when asked about calling plays for the Little Giants, "except now we are concerned with the

defensive secondary (opponent's) more than before."

Being able to call a pass and not having second thoughts about it has not been a luxury the Ross offensive coordinator could afford in previous

seasons. Now, he's like a kid with a new toy.

"There is no doubt in my mind that I can call for a pass anytime and at anyplace on the field," he said while keeping that smile.

This time though,

Radeloff's eyes betrayed the smile, they were beaming like a senior citizen who had just won a date with Cheryl Ladd.

"Before this year," he suddenly turned serious, "we had to be concerned with finding weaknesses in the other team's defensive line... now we are looking for holes in the secondary."

Tom Wolesslagel, Ross's junior quarterback, and a quartet of Little Giants receivers have turned the normally ground hugging attack into one of the better balanced offensive machines in Ross history. At least it's that way after three games.

Wolesslagel, who looks more like a blond "Ken" doll than a football quarterback, has been nothing short of sensational with 39 of 50 passing for 654 yards during the Ross's three-game winning streak.

Some feel that the junior flinger could be as high as 44 of 50.

While Wolesslagel gets the ball to precise spots at the right times, the actual key to the Little Giants passing success may rest in that quartet of receivers. Headed by T.J. Brudzinski, Fred Vance, Mark Johnson, and Dale Szymanowski have turned into top notch pass catchers.

Brudzinski, last season's

quarterback, could throw the ball last season but no one could catch it. This year, Wolesslagel has found Brudzinski 23 times for 373 yards.

Vance has hauled down seven more for 138 yards. Johnson three for 72, Szymanowski one for 14, and a pair of backs, Bill Darling and Larry Lindsey, have caught three for 42 and two for 15 yards, respectively.

Vance and Johnson have both caught two touchdown passes apiece and Brudzinski one.

While the backs, Darling and Lindsey, have figured into the passing game, it's the wide receivers who have opened up Ross's game.

Brudzinski has been the major target of Wolesslagel for the simple reason many of the Ross patterns have him as the primary target. Radeloff offered another reason.

"He does a heck of a good job reading defenses," the Ross coach began, "he knows he can break out of the pattern and go to the open area."

"And Tommy (Wolesslagel) has the ability to see that and hit him," Radeloff added.

Radeloff has also picked up a bigger set of "ears" this season.

"I listen more to what the receivers say," he said, "they tell me what is

opening up."

Radeloff and head Coach Pete Moore will be listening to that advice Friday when the Little Giants host Admiral King in the opening Buckeye Conference football game. King, under new head coach Fred Churchill, is 1-2 in the preseason but ranks third in total defense, allowing 149 yards a game. The Admirals have surrendered only 16 points but have scored only nine while ranking seventh in total offense with 163.3 yards per outing.

Ross is leading the conference in preseason games in total offense with 374 yards a game. The Little Giants, however, are seventh in total defense, giving up 209 yards per game.

Individually, Wolesslagel is the conference's leading passer and Brudzinski is the leading receiver. Vance ranks third in the latter department while averaging 20.6 yards per catch. Brudzinski is also fourth in punting with a 35.9 average.

Darling ranks sixth in rushing with 22 yards on 35 carries for 6.3 per carry average. Lindsey ranks 14th in rushing with 117 yards on 40 carries.

Kelvin Lindsey of Sandusky leads the BC in scoring with 30 points. Lindsey and Vance are tied for fourth with 18.



ROSS'S PASSING MACHINE. Left to right are Mark Johnson, Dale Szymanowski, Tom Wolesslagel, T.J. Brudzinski, and Fred Vance.

Wolesslagel has completed passes to the quartet for more than 600 yards in three games this season.

Unique sweep waiting for Watson

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Tom Watson is seeking an accomplishment unique in golfing history this week in the prestigious World Series of Golf, the last major event on the year's pro tour schedule.

Watson, the heir apparent to Jack Nicklaus' longtime role as golf's leading performer, last season swept three major honors — Player of the Year, leading money-winner and the Vardon Trophy for the low stroke average on the tour.

Coming into the event that began today on the

sprawling 7,180-yard, par-70 South Course at the Firestone Country Club, Watson again led in all three categories. Should he win them all again, he'd be the first man ever to sweep all three in consecutive seasons.

"I'm not a specific, goal-oriented person," Watson said. "But I'd like to win the Vardon Trophy. That's important. That's the standard. Basically over the years, we've played the same courses, so the stroke average means something."

'Dipsy-doodle' and 'D'

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross's defense jelled when it had to as the Little Giants stumbled to a 23-6 win over Admiral King in the Buckeye Conference football opener for both teams Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Ross brought out its bag of tricks to shake up a lethargic offense to score a crushing touchdown with only 17 ticks of the clock left in the first half.

The tricky little twist to the Little Giants offense had two forward passes in it. Tom Woleslagel threw the ball across the field to T.J. Brudzinski, who had dropped about five yards back from the line of scrimmage at the Ross 35.

Brudzinski lobbed a strike to split end Mark Johnson behind a stunned Admiral King secondary for the six-pointer. Kevin Bradford's extra point kick gave Ross a 17-0 lead at the half.

"Yeah," Ross Coach Pete Moore said while describing the play, "we went to our grab bag and came up with the dipsy-doodle."

Moore admitted that he did not want to use the play but needed it to shake up his offense. It was successful but there was no shakeup. Admiral King's rugged defense took the thunder out of the Little Giants in the second half.

"I was very disappointed with our offensive line play," Moore said. "I think our offense may have taken Admiral King too lightly. I think that 1-2 record was taken for granted but I'll tell you that's one fine defensive team. They always play tough defense."

Moore was especially impressed with defensive tackle Kevin Blackman and middle guard Wardell Rodgers of the Admirals.

"They had a field day against our offensive line," Moore said sourly.

Ross's defense, led by inside linebacker Randy Dilts, defensive ends Tim Chambers and John Armentrout along with massive tackle Troy Amor, was credited with its best defensive effort of the season despite giving up 199 yards.

"We put their (defensive team) backs against the wall several times and they didn't break," Moore smiled.

Anthony Calhoun, Admiral King's pint-sized tailback, slipped through the Ross defense for 133 yards on 19 carries but when he had to be contained, Ross's "D" pulled off the clutch job.

Calhoun tore off a 66-yard run to the Ross 19 early in the final period. Amor, a burly 250-pounder, hustled downfield to knock Calhoun off stride at the Ross 35 which enabled Mike Martin to make the tackle. Amor appeared to attempt to trip Calhoun on the play.

"My legs are longer than my arms," Amor managed to laugh about the play.

The Admirals failed to score on the drive, giving the ball up on downs at the 14.

Ross fumbled four times, losing three. The Little Giants gave the ball away on their own 36 twice, and on the 33 another time.

In between defensive stands, Ross generated enough offense to put points on the board.

Bradford's 24-yard field opened the scoring for Ross at the 5:27 mark of the first period. Ross drove 82 yards in seven plays to score again with 3:30 to go till the half.

Woleslagel hit Brudzinski for 31 yards to the Admirals' 25 during

the drive. Brudzinski took the ball away from two defenders on the play. Johnson got the TD on a 28-yard bomb from Woleslagel to give Ross a 10-0 lead.

Gary Krause bulled in from the one at the 5:36 mark of the third period to put the Admirals on the board. The TD was set up on a Woleslagel fumble at the Ross 36.

Ross's last TD was controversial. At least it was to AK Coach Fred Churchill.

After Ross's Dennis Murray recovered a fumbled punt attempt at the four with less than a minute to play, Ross's offensive team went after revenge for the rough handling the Admirals had dished out in the final half.

With four seconds to play, Ross took a timeout and on the final play of the game, Brudzinski made a one-handed grab of a Woleslagel pass for the final points of the night.

"I've been in the same situation before, too," Churchill offered about the final play. "I tell the kid to run a quarterback sneak and if he didn't, I'd break his arm."

Moore said that the coaching staff did not call for time. That he would have been content to just let the clock run out.

"I can't blame the kids, though," Moore said. "The offense was depressed and they wanted that score — I can't blame them for that."

Churchill, calling Ross a good football team, said that first half mistakes hurt his team.

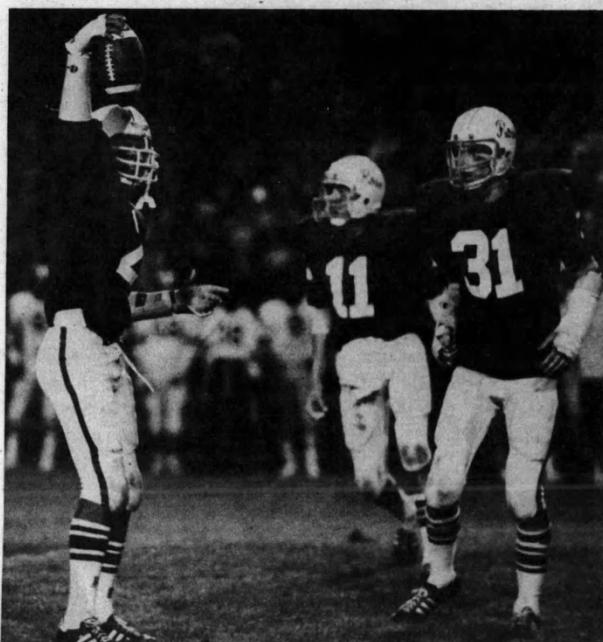
"We were taking it to them in the second half," he said.

Woleslagel was off a bit in passing but still threw for 126 yards on six of 13 passes. He had two intercepted, however. Ross's defense got its first two thefts of the season—interceptions by John Almaguer and Shawn Simms.



TOM WOLESLAGEL of Ross moves down the line while running an option play against Admiral King Friday night at Harmon Stadium. (N-M photos by Dan Borelli)

Pirates win two from Philadelphia



I GOT IT! I GOT IT! Shawn Sims of Ross holds up the ball that he had just intercepted. Scott Martin (31) and

John Amaguer (11) are the other Little Giants in the photo.

Karate exhibition Monday

A demonstration and explanation of the ancient Oriental art of Karate will be presented Mon., Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Sandusky County YMCA, North Street.

The demonstration, honoring the fourth anniversary of the Fremont YMCA Karate Club, will feature Karate history, techniques, self-defense, ancient formal exercises and breaking.

Mike Patton, a fourth degree black belt and operator of several Karate clubs in the area, will instruct the presentation. Patton, a student of Karate for 17 years, is a student of nationally known George Dillman of Reading, Pa.

Scores, stats on page seven

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A ballyhooed relief pitcher Warren Brusstar forced in the winning run in the ninth inning and gave the Pittsburgh Pirates a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies Friday night and a doubleheader sweep in their last-ditch fight for survival in the National League East.

The Pirates, who must sweep the four-game weekend set with the Phils to clinch at least a tie for the title, ran their home winning streak to 24 games.

They took the opener 5-4, getting the winning run in the ninth inning.

The sweep, which left the Pirates just two games shy of the all-time major league home winning streak set by the New York Giants in 1916, came before a crowd of 45,134 — the biggest and loudest home crowd in a Pirate season marked by sparse attendance.

Dave Parker led off the Pirates' ninth in the nightcap with a double to right off Phillies starter Steve Carlton. Parker took third as the ball was bobbled on the warning track by Maddox.

After Bill Robinson and Willie Stargell were intentionally walked to load the bases, Brusstar came in to pitch. He balked before delivering his second pitch to Phil Garner and Parker trotted home with the winning run as the stunned Phillies walked toward the dugout.

Rose and Reds roll

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose drove in five runs with a home run and a single and George Foster belted his 38th home run of the season to power the Cincinnati Reds to a 7-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves Friday night.

Foster's homer was a two-run shot in the first inning, giving him 117 runs batted in, tops in the National League.

Ross invades Mansfield

Top vs. bottom

By BOB DiBIASIO
N-M Sports Writer

It will be the top against the bottom Friday night when the undefeated Ross Little Giants invade winless Mansfield in a Buckeye Conference battle.

Not only will it be a battle between the top and bottom teams record-wise, with Ross at 4-0 and Mansfield at a hapless 0-4, statistically the teams bookend the Buckeye Conference.

Paced by Tom Wolesslagel's 71 percent passing accuracy for seven touchdowns and 821 yards, Ross dominates the offensive statistics with 1,364 total yards, an average of 341 per game.

On the other hand, the haggard Tygers rank in the cellar offensively with a paucity 389 total yards, an average of 97 yards per game.

Moreover, Mansfield ranks last in the most important statistic of all — scoring.

The Tygers have scored an anemic 15 points in their first four games, compared to the Little Giants' conference-leading 109 points, an average of 27.5 points per game.

Aware of the colossal odds, Mansfield coach William Lanier believes if his team has any kind of edge it will be psychological.

"We have nothing to lose. We'll just go out and play football. The pressure is on

them," Lanier said.

Lanier, in his rookie year as head mentor, inherited the unfortunate combination of youth and inexperience. And most fans know what results stem from that dubious combo — mistakes and turnovers.

"They have a tendency to make mistakes and commit turnovers," says Little Giant coach Pete Moore.

Perhaps the steepest hurdle the Little Giants will face will be their own lack of aggressiveness, as was evident in the first half last Friday night against Admiral King. Moore, however, disagrees.

"It's our first away game. A chance for a new attitude, playing in front of a new crowd. Our kids are looking forward to it," a confident Moore said.

"It will be a tough ballgame," agreed Lanier. "Ross' moral is high and Pete does a good job with his football squad."

When asked what Ross strength concerns him most, Lanier in what has the potential to be the understatement of the year, said, "their aerial attack will hurt us."

With only five or six seniors on the squad, a lot of Tygers are playing for the first time, prompting Lanier to add "we're improving each week."

"You don't pick-up football in one year," explained Lanier.

Ross aerial attack takes rest

Darling's dashes drops Mansfield 14-0

By BOB DiBIASIO
N-M Sports Writer

MANSFIELD — It was shades of old times past Friday night as the Ross Little Giants rambled for 224 yards on the ground, downing the feisty Mansfield Tygers 14-0 on a cold, damp fall evening.

Ross, the leading passing team in the Buckeye Conference with 826 yards before this game, decided to test their running game against the winless Tygers.

Gaining the 224 yards on 40 carries the Little Giants certainly proved they can move the ball on the ground, but it wasn't until the second half that the offense got rolling.

"We wanted to work on our running game this week," explained head mentor Pete Moore. "We were not pleased with the first half performance, but we were pleased with the second half."

In what can be considered an inartistic victory, the Ross grididers resembled the atmosphere which prevailed over the cold, empty stadium,

despite the debut of some flashy new away uniforms.

"The whole atmosphere was about how we played — dead," prophesized Moore, who was noting a bit sarcastically, that the victory was a "thing of beauty."

In fact, the atmosphere was so gloomy that if the Mansfield band were not sitting on their side, only a handful of hometown spectators would have been present.

The Ross contingent easily tripped the Tyger troops in number and spirit.

When Shawn Simms recovered a Paul Twyman fumble on the Mansfield 23 on the opening series of the game, it appeared the Little Giants would be off and running as expected.

But a Tom Woleslagel fumble on the two yard line after a five yard run on a broken pass play, lifted the Tygers and subdued the Little Giants.

"If we go in and score on that first drive, we're off..." Moore said as his voice trailed to his thoughts.

From then and there the Ross offense sputtered and stalled until Bill Darling exploded for 49 yards on five carries late in the third period.

Darling, the much needed spark plug, broke the scoring drought with 3:06 left in the third period on a six yard sweep around right end.

Darling danced and dodged around right end on runs of 14, 18, 6 and 6 yards during the touchdown drive. Guards Greg Long and Harry Kellogg and tackle Dale Barr led the offensive charge.

After an anemic 18-yard punt gave the Little Giants the ball back on the Mansfield 32, Darling picked up right where he left off. With a first and goal on the six, Darling needed two student-body right sweeps of five and one yards to give Ross a 12-0 lead. Darling added the two point conversion to end all the scoring.

In between the punt and Darling's score, junior quarterback Woleslagel, on a first and 10 at the Mansfield 19, fired a beautiful strike to Fred Vance at the six.

Darling, who had converted a fourth and one play earlier, took over from there.

Darling finished the game with 151 yards rushing on 17 carries, easily the most productive performance of the night.

The usually dynamic passing attack of the Little Giants could muster only 21 yards on two completions in six attempts.

"There secondary did the job most of the night," said offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff, who was displeased with the number of blocking mistakes and penalties.

"We were not mentally or emotionally ready for this game. We had difficulty with our continuity and that was because our execution was poor, especially in the first half," explained Radeloff.

"This starts the second half of the season and we have five tough ones in front of us. We'll be ready," promised the confident Radeloff.

The Little Giants of Ross travel to Elyria next Friday in a key Buckeye Conference clash.

Little Giants facing stiffest test

Ross will face its stiffest test of the football season Friday night when the Little Giants board the yellow greyhounds for a trip to Elyria.

The Little Giants, 5-0 overall, and sitting on top of the Buckeye Conference football standings along with Findlay and Friday's opponent with a 2-0 record, face an Elyria team that has changed little despite getting a new coach.

"They do practically the same things that they have done in past years," Ross Coach Pete Moore confirmed. "We have reviewed films of the past three or four years and they are doing the same things and they are doing them just as well."

Moore pointed out that the Pioneers, 4-1 overall, are not just a straight power type of football team but will mix an option and a sweep into the attack.

"Primarily," Moore offered, "they like to run off tackle or inside the tackles with isolation on the linebackers."

Elyria's passing attack lacks the magnitude of Ross's.

"We have seen them throw the ball not with

any consistency," the Ross coach said, "they have not hit the percentage passes."

Defensively, the Pioneers have traditionally been one of the better teams in the Buckeye Conference. Moore feels that he knows what the Pioneers will attempt to do to Ross when the Little Giants are on offense.

"They will give us the impression of a solid seven-man front with their '4-3' defense. They will challenge our running game right away and I feel they will try to force us to throw."

Bad thinking on the part of Elyria when you consider Ross's passing attack has generated more than 850 yards in the five games? Not really.

"They will force us to pass and then let the defensive backs try to pick off our passes," Moore said.

Elyria owns the two leading pass interceptors in the conference in Mike Appleby and Al Alkers. Ross's QB, Tom Wollenstagel, still leads the conference with 47 completions in 69 attempts.

"That wall of Elyria's (defense)," Moore added, "moves right and left and there are very few stunts — just good, hard football."

"It could be our passing game against people who like teams to throw — one thing for certain, someone's going to catch the ball," Moore said.

Terry Doan is the new Elyria leader. He took over for Bill Barton who resigned in a huff after 23 years of guiding the Pioneers. Doan is the son of Elyria Athletic Director Russ Doan.

Tailback Chester McCullough, the conference's third leading rusher, and fullback Tony Frye are the most dangerous offensive players for Elyria. Both are sub-10 second 100-yard dashmen.

The game will be the 45th in the series between the two high schools. Elyria holds a 24-18 lead with two games ending in ties.

Last year, the Pioneers upset the Little Giants 13-7, sending the Little Giants into a four-game losing skid.

This game will also mark the 10th anniversary of Ross's second worst defeat in high school football competition. The Pioneers turned back the Little Giants 72-0 back in 1968, the first year of Chuck Shuff's six-year reign as the Ross boss.

Injuries, bad break stop Little Giants

By BOB DIBIASIO

News-Messenger Sports Writer

ELYRIA — Injuries and a bad break combined to hand the Ross Little Giants their first defeat, as the Elyria Pioneers' Jon Burger booted a 25-yard field goal with five seconds remaining in the game to down Ross 24-21 at Ely Field Friday night.

Elyria remains unbeaten in the Buckeye Conference, capturing first place with Lorain's win over Findlay, while stretching its winning streak over Ross to three games.

Ross was stricken with a rash of ankle injuries, most notably to halfback Larry Lindsey and split end T.J. Brudzinski. And it was Brudzinski's injury which, ironically directly led to Ross' misfortune.

With 10:50 remaining in the game and Ross ahead 21-14, Brudzinski recovered a Pioneer fumble on Ross' one yard line, halting an apparent score-tying drive. However, the Little Giant offense had little running room to work with, and were forced to punt.

But Brudzinski who finished with 10 receptions for 128 yards, suffered an ankle injury and couldn't handle his regular punting duties. Thus the Little Giants were forced to use Jerry Walter, who was making his punting debut.

Walter's punt was blocked and Elyria recovered the loose ball on their own five yard line.

Three plays later the Pioneers' Chester McCullough plunged in from the one to tie the game at 21 apiece. McCullough was the Pioneer workhorse, gaining 111 yards on 38 carries and scoring three touchdowns.

It was a sudden turn of events as just one series earlier Ross looked as if it had started to get untracted after a slow first half.

Elyria broke out of the starting gates like gangbusters, driving 72 yards in 16 plays for a touchdown. McCullough, who ran the ball eight times during the drive, capped the march with a five-yard dash over right tackle.

After an anemic 10-yard Brudzinski punt, the Pioneers rambled 48 yards in 10 plays to go ahead 14-0. Again McCullough dove in from the one for the score.

Down 14-0, it was time for the potent Little Giant aerial attack to go to work. And did they ever.

On the ensuing series, Wolesslagel and Brudzinski teamed up for passes of 20, 16 and 20 yards en route to a 67-yard drive in six plays. A 20-yard TD strike to Brudzinski capped the scoring march, giving Ross a much needed lift.

The momentum seemed to switch as the Ross defense stopped Elyria cold on the next series and forced a punt.

With 1:18 left in the half, Wolesslagel and Brudzinski combined for three passes, including a last second across the grain rifle. Brudzinski made a one-handed grab with a defensive man draped all over him in the play. The half ended with Brudzinski swarmed in red around the five.

But the last second effort did not seem to drain the Little Giant attack as they drove 60 yards in seven plays with the second half kickoff for a touchdown.

A 14-yard pass from Wolesslagel to Fred Vance capped the scoring march, tying the game at 14.

After a couple of series, John Armentrout recovered an Elyria fumble on the Elyria 24, and four plays later the Little Giants had the lead 21-14. Wolesslagel connected on his third TD strike of the game, this time a five-yarder to Brudzinski. Wolesslagel finished the game with 13 of 19 attempts for 166 yards.

It appeared as if Ross had finally gained control of the game, but McCullough stunned the Little Giants with a 78-yard TD run on the ensuing kickoff. However, a clipping penalty on Elyria at the five yard line nullified the score and

sent the Pioneers back to the 23.

Four plays later Elyria was knocking on the door again, but Brudzinski came up with a key fumble recovery to maintain the seven point lead.

But when the offense sputtered, and the rookie punter was faced with a eight-man rush, Elyria capitalized on the break and three plays later tied the game at 21. McCullough scored the touchdown from one yard out.

On the ensuing kickoff, Ross mishandled the kick leaving them with poor field position once again in the fourth period. After an incomplete pass, a quarterback sack, an QB scramble for eight yards, the Little Giants were faced with a fourth and 10 on their own 12 yard line.

After a 32-yard Wolesslagel punt, the Pioneers used the remaining 3:32 to grind out field position for a field goal. Perhaps the biggest play of the series was a fourth and two on the Ross 16. The Ross defensive line jumped offside giving Elyria a first down at the 11.

After three McCullough running plays, the Pioneers elected to let the clock wind down from 36 seconds to nine seconds before calling a time out.

Elyria's Burger split the uprights, handing Ross its first loss of the season.

T.J. doubtful, Ross seeks healer

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

T.J. Brudzinski is the main casualty as Ross attempts to tape itself back together after suffering a heart-breaking 24-21 loss to Elyria Friday night.

The loss, the first after five wins for the Little Giants, put five Little Giants on the sidelines with injuries and possibly knocked Ross's premier pass catcher out of Friday's game with Lorain and made his return to the Ross lineup doubtful for the remainder of the season.

Ironically, Brudzinski did not get injured in the game — he tore the ligament in his knee while celebrating his second touchdown pass reception of the night.

"He was coming back to the bench," Ross assistant Coach Rex Radloff recalled, "jumped up, came down on his ankle crooked, and twisted his knee doing that."

The preliminary diagnosis was the ligament tear but a final diagnosis on the severity of the injury was not made until Monday afternoon.

Other injuries during the game included a mild concussion to quarterback Tom Wolesslagel; an ankle sprain to tailback Larry Lindsey; a neck injury to tackle Bill Swartzlander; and fullback Shawn Alexander, an injury to the neck and jaw area.

All are expected to play Friday at Lorain with the exception of Brudzinski.

Brudzinski, up to the time of the disastrous freak injury, had hauled down 10 passes in the game for 128 yards and two touchdowns. For the season, the senior wide receiver has been on the receiving end of 37 passes for 554 yards and four TDs.

"It was a very physical game," Ross Head Coach Pete Moore offered, "I think they had some injuries, too, but we took the bulk of them."

The loss of Brudzinski, although a blow to the Ross offensive machine, is not expected to hurt the Little Giants' passing game that much.

"We still have the receivers," Moore insisted. "Vance (Fred), Johnson (Mark), and 'Ski' (Dale Szymanowski) can all catch the ball."

"Sure, we got banged up, but we are going to be alright."

As far as the first loss against two wins, in the Buckeye Conference, Moore recalls the race of two years ago — a year where Ross surprised the whole conference and won it all with an overall 7-1-2 season and a 5-1-1 BC mark.

Elyria is the only unbeaten team in the conference (3-1, 5-1 overall) with Ross, Findlay, Sandusky, and Lorain, all sharing second with a single loss this season.

"It's (conference race) been like this for the last three years," Moore said. "I think it will boil down to the last game of the season again."

Moore says Lorain is just like Elyria: "They run the same power plays and sweeps and they have a good quarterback (Pat Harrington) who hurt us last year."

Moore feels his team will not be hurt, morale-wise by the loss to Elyria.

"Sure," he admits, "it was sad in the locker room because of the defeat but I think the kids realize that we are still in the conference race. It's the same situation we faces two years ago."

Moore referred to Ross bouncing back after a 14-12 loss to Elyria to defeat Lorain, Marion Harding, tied Findlay, and defeated Sandusky to win the conference crown.

The Ross coach called the game with Elyria a good game for the fans in view of the action and the hard hitting on the field. He also said it was a fun game to coach. The end result was the only sour note.

"We had three breakdowns in our specialty teams," he said. "This is the first time in 10 years that I can remember of having a kickoff returned all the way or getting a punt blocked."

Ross did not get beyond its own 20 in the final period as Elyria wiped out a 21-14 Little Giant lead. Ross had regained the lead after falling behind 14-0.

"When it got to 14-0 in the first quarter, I had visions of a 72-0 game," Moore said. Elyria blanked Ross by that score in 1968.

"But after that, we played good, solid football."

Ross vs. Lorain

Resurgent Lorain will test Ross's top ranked (overall) offense with its second ranked (also overall) defense Friday night in a key Buckeye Conference football game.

The Little Giants have been grinding out 312 yards a game in total offense while the Steelmen have been limiting opponents to an average of 166.7.

Ross's passing attack, led by quarterback Tom Wolesslagel and wide receiver T. J. Brudzinski has clicked for an average of 168 yards per game while the rushing attack generates another 144 yards.

Brudzinski, however, will miss the Lorain game due to ligament damage in a knee. He is the Buckeye Conference's leading receiver with 37 catches for 554 yards.

Lorain, led by quarterback Pat Harrington and running backs Terry Wohlever and Cory Coates will test Ross's fourth ranked defense. Harrington is the conference's fifth leading scorer and ninth best rusher. Wohlever has six TDs for the season and Coates is ranked 11th in rushing.

Ross's defense has been the most porous against the pass in the BC, yielding 506 yards but Harrington is known more for his running than passing. He has hit only 10 of 31 for 91 yards.

In other stats concerning the game and the BC, Lorain is 4-2 overall and one of four teams in the log jam for second place in the BC with a 2-1 mark. The Steelmen are coming off a 22-7 win over Findlay after losing the week before to Sandusky 24-6.

Ross trails in the season series with Lorain 20-17 with one game ending in a tie. The Steelmen won last year 20-0 — the only time Ross has been shutout in the past three seasons.

Biggest margin of victory for either school was a 53-12 win by Lorain back in 1959. Ross defeated the Steelmen 36-0 in 1972 and has won six of the past seven games.

In BC individual stats, Ross tailback Bill Darling is ninth in scoring with 26 points. Receivers Mark Johnson, Fred Vance, and Brudzinski are tied for 10th with 24 points each.

Darling is fifth in rushing with 434 yards on 69 carries — 6.3 per carry. Larry Lindsey is 12th in this department. Wolesslagel is the leading passer with 60 of 88 for a 68 percent completion figure.

Vance is fifth in receiving with 11 catches for 224 yards. Devensive back Willie Gentry is fifth in both kickoff and punt returns.

DIRECTIONS to the stadium in Lorain: route six to route two east to Huron. East of Huron, take the new route two by-pass to Lorain to route 58. Go north on route 58 to 611. Turn right on 611 to Oberlin Ave. — go right and the stadium is on Oberlin.

High school football

	BUCKEYE CONFERENCE						GRE			
	Conf.		Overall							
	W	L	T	PF	PA	W	L	T	PF	PA
Elyria	3	0	0	51	36	5	1	0	93	26
Ross	2	1	0	58	30	5	1	0	144	62
Findlay	2	1	0	48	29	4	2	0	125	69
Sandusky	2	1	0	51	51	5	1	0	134	72
Lorain	2	1	0	42	31	4	2	0	110	46
Adm. King	1	2	0	41	51	2	4	0	50	67
M. Harding	0	3	0	31	54	2	4	0	95	67
Mansfield	0	3	0	14	54	0	6	0	29	129

Friday's games

Ross at Lorain*
Findlay at Mansfield*
Elyria at Sandusky*
Admiral King at Marion Harding*

Eastwood

Lakota

Otsego

Woodmore

Gibsonburg at E

Otsego at Wood

Oak Harbor at E

Lakota at Genoa

GRE

Oregon Clay

Bedford

Fostoria

Pt Clinton

Napoleon

Lorain's iron defense prevails

By BOB DIBIASIO
News-Messenger Sports Writer

LORAIN — There's an old football adage that states the best defense against the pass is an aggressive pass rush.

And the Lorain Steelmen executed that old adage to perfection Friday night as the Ross Little Giants were handed their second straight loss, a 13-0 blanking in a key Buckeye Conference clash.

The loss drops Ross to 2-2 in conference action and 5-2 overall. Meanwhile Lorain, coupled with Elyria's 12-7 loss to Sandusky, is tied for first place in the BC with Elyria, Sandusky and perhaps even Findlay. Findlay battles the haggard Mansfield Tygers tonight.

"Our best shot now is for a co-championship with two losses. I told the kids that one loss would win the conference and two would get a co-championship," said a solemn Ross head mentor Pete Moore.

Despite quarterback Tom Wolesslagel's 12 of 25 for 194 passing yards, the Little Giant offense was virtually handcuffed by an aggressive Steelmen defensive line and a rash of penalties.

After the opening kickoff, Ross drove from their own 36 to the Lorain seven, before Bill Darling was thrown for a three yard loss on second and three. With a third and seven at

the Lorain 10, Wolesslagel was dropped for a 15-yard loss, the first of many for the Steelmen, forcing the Little Giants to attempt a 45-yard field goal. The kick was on line, but short, ending what turned out to be Ross' only scoring attempt of the night.

Lorain quickly capitalized on their defensive stand, driving 80 yards in 11 plays for a touchdown. Senior fullback Terry Wohlever capped the scoring march with a three-yard plunge at the 2:48 mark in the first quarter.

"That first series of ours set the whole stage for us," said Moore, leaning against the locker room wall. "We haven't gotten the breaks."

After another Little Giant offensive series was stifled, the Steelmen, who are touted as having a good running game, completed a third and seven pass play for 46 yards, setting up their second and final score of the evening.

With a first down on the Ross five, it took Lorain only two plays to score with quarterback Pat Harrington sneaking in for the TD with 9:28 remaining in the half.

From the first offensive series, Ross' scoring attempts were few and far between. And when the Little Giants began to make a move, it seemed either a quarterback sack or penalty would hamper the drive.

After a pair of punts at the start of the second half, Ross began another long march.

Sparked by an 81-yard bomb over the middle to Fred Vance, Ross moved the ball from their own 13 to Lorain's six.

But once again, penalties and QB sacks resulted in the Little Giant offense regressing a minus-34 yards, setting up a fourth and goal at the 40. Typifying the Little Giant night offensively, Ross selected to punt with 2:36 remaining in the third period.

After another punting exchange, Lorain took command with 9:39 remaining in the game at their own 20-yard line. Twenty plays, and more importantly, more than eight minutes later, Lorain finally relinquished the ball with 1:44 remaining on the Ross 22-yard line.

The steelmen connected on four third down situations during the late-game drive, frustrating any and all chances of a Ross comeback.

The Steelmen gained 285 total yards, including 185 on the ground — compared to Ross' negative-six rushing. Lorain also netted 10 first downs rushing to Ross' none.

Ross, after a dismal 1-2 road trip, is hoping a return to the friendly confines of Harmon Stadium for their homecoming matchup with conference-foe Marion Harding will be the right prescription to get them back on the winning track.

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Harding is homecoming foe

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross may have or may not have a psychological boost for Friday's game with Marion Harding.

The little Giants, smarting from back-to-back losses to Elyria and Lorain after opening the season with five consecutive victories, have a big problem to face first.

"I don't think the kids are down," Ross Coach Pete Moore answered the question about the problem. "Sure, they are disappointed with the losses but I feel their morale is up."

After that, Ross has the problem of an inspired Harding team that has been improving steadily over the past two seasons. The Presidents are rolling off a

39-14 whipping of Admiral King while holding a 3-4 record this season.

Moore, however, is not being lulled by the Presidents below .500 record.

"They could have won at least two other games," he contended while referring to Harding's 13-7 loss to Elyria and a 14-7 verdict at the hands of Findlay.

Moore and his coaching staff are reminding the Little Giants of last season's game with Harding . . . a 14-12 loss.

"Last year," Moore recalled, "we gave them the turning point of the season — so we have something to work for this game."

Ross will also be performing in front of its homecoming crowd for another

possible boost.

The negative factors for Ross are nagging injuries to pass receivers T.J. Brudzinski and Fred Vance. Both are questionable for the game.

Brudzinski hurt a knee in the Elyria game while Vance severely sprained an ankle in last Friday's 13-0 loss to Lorain. Vance was injured before he and quarterback Tom Wolesslagel hooked up on an 81-yard pass-run play to the Lorain seven.

"He did a heck of a job running on that ankle," Moore praised Vance, "if he had not been injured, he would have scored."

Taking another look at Harding, Moore said, "The thing about Marion is that they have an all senior ball club except for one tackle. They are a good

football team but they just have not been on the winning side.

"They have a good back in Owens (Marvin, 235 yards rushing against Admiral King) who averages about eight yards a carry," the Ross coach continued. "Their fullback (Richard Jackson) is averaging six yards a carry, and the wingback (Dennis Winters) is averaging seven yards a carry, so they have a good rushing ball club."

Moore said that Harding used two quarterbacks. one, Dave Wink is primarily the passer while John Brady, who doubles as a defensive back, is the "runner" of the duo.

The game will be the 34th in the series that dates back to 1924. Ross holds a commanding 25-8 lead in that span.



WORRIED
... Ross's Pete Moore

Area football scoreboard

BUCKEYE CONFERENCE

Marion Harding 27 Ross 0
Elyria 20, Findlay 14
Sandusky 16, Mansfield 0

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE

Huron 7, Perkins 0

SUBURBAN LAKES LEAGUE

Gibsonburg 30, Oak Harbor 21
Elmwood 21, Woodmore 6
Eastwood 7, Lakota 2

Genoa 28, Olmsted 7

GREAT LAKES LEAGUE

Napoleon 14, Port Clinton 13
Oregon Clay 23, Fostoria 9
Whitman 49, Bedford 30

NORTHERN OHIO LEAGUE

Upper Sandusky 7, Bellevue 3
Columbian 34, Norwalk 22
Shelby 9, Willard 6

Gallion 22, Bucyrus 21

Harding slays Giants 27-0

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross could not find Marvin Owens let alone a hole to crawl in after Marion Harding stunned the Little Giants and a homecoming crowd 27-0 Friday night in a Buckeye Conference football game.

Owens scored twice while ripping through a porous Ross defense for 264 yards on 27 carries. The lightning quick tailback raced 15 yards on a pitchout from quarterback Dave Wink at the 3:25 mark of the third period to give the Presidents all the points they needed.

Five minutes later, Owens raced 85 yards to knock the wind out of the Little Giants.

"If you would have told me before the game what the score would be, I'd have said no way," John Reed, leader of the Harding crew said as he savored his team's fourth win of the season. "I thought it would be more like 7-6 or something like that."

Ross Coach Pete Moore was shocked ... maybe even numb from the battering his team, now 5-3, took.

"At the last, it was embarrassing," he admitted quietly while gazing across the green expanses of Harmon Stadium.

"It was right out there," he pointed at a spot around the 20-yard line at the south end of the field. "I feel that the team that scores first has the edge ... it could have been different but it's the same thing that we did last week."

Ross fumbled on an opening

drive against Lorain in a 13-0 loss and saw history repeat itself against Harding. The fumble on a drive in the first quarter was preceded by a pass interception against the Presidents.

Ross took the opening kickoff to the Harding 37 before a hotly pursued Tom Wolessagel lofted a pass that was picked off by John Brady at the 21 and returned to the 34. Harding turned the ball back over three plays later when Ross linebacker Randy Dilts recovered a Wink fumble at the Ross 42.

The Little Giants mounted a short-lived drive to the 30 where fullback Shawn Alexander fumbled at the end of a 14-yard run to the 16. Rob Maugens fell on the ball for the Presidents and Ross was stopped for the second time on a scoring opportunity.

Ross reached the Harding 14 late in the first half but failed to convert on third and one and fourth and two situations.

Harding, too, was having its troubles. Harding drove to the Ross five and nine in the first half only to cough up the ball on a fumble by Owens at the five and John Weidemann's 31-yard field goal fell short on the drive to the nine.

"The first half is what I expected the game to be like," Reed said, "back and forth, back and forth."

Reed did praise his offensive line and the running of Owens in the second half.

"(He Owens) knew the line was doing the job in the first half," the second year Harding coach explained, "and he knew it was up to him in the second half. In the first half, he had reverted back to old

form and was running straight up ... in the second half, he started to level off."

That leveled Ross.

The Little Giants drove to the Harding eight midway through the third period but a 25-yard field goal attempt by Dilts was blocked by Lamar Ross. The drive was set up by Shawn Simms' blocked punt at the Ross 46.

Harding took over at the Presidents' 24 and marched 76-yard in seven plays for the first and winning touchdown of the game. Owens rambled 36, six, and the final 15.

Owens hurled the stone that killed the Little Giants at the 10:14 mark of the final period. On a third and six at the Harding 15, Owens cut off right tackle on a counter trap and bolted untouched 85 yards.

Harding wrapped it up by driving 37 yards in 10 plays in the final quarter. Mike Lindsey's 26-yard punt return to the Ross 37 set up the TD. Wink rolled in from three yards with 2:57 to play. That made it 20-0.

Then Harding embarrassed Ross.

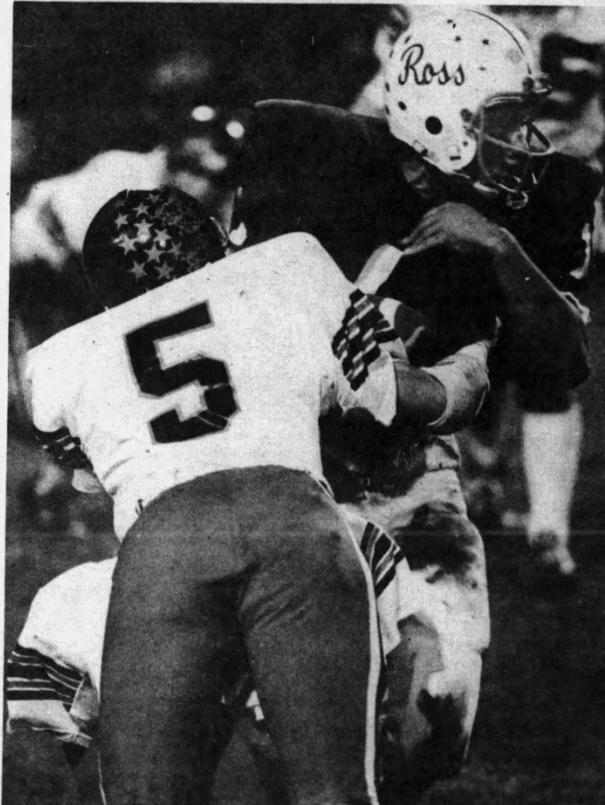
Rob Workman grabbed a deflected Wolessagel pass at the Ross 29 and ran through a cluster of Little Giants for the TD 19 seconds after the third President six-pointer.

Ross's thin-skinned defense gave up 373 yards on the ground and another 13 in the air. Richard Jackson had 66 yards on the ground with Greg Brown, who ran fullback and tailback, leading Ross with 49 yards on six carries.



GRIM
... MH's John Reed

St. Joe homecoming
St. Joe will entertain inter-county rival Clyde tonight in the Crimson Streaks' homecoming. The Streaks, smarting from two consecutive losses, have dropped virtually out of the Sandusky Bay Conference race but have an outside shot at getting into the state playoffs. To do the latter, St. Joe will have to win the final three games of the season. St. Joe is now 5-2 while Clyde is 1-7.



JOHN BRADY (5) of Marion Harding was a too familiar person for the Ross ball carriers and would be pass receivers. At the left, Brady goes over the top of a teammate to stick Ross tailback Bill Darling in early game action. At the top, Little Giants' quarterback Tom Wolessagel gets some attention from Ross trainer Glen Foster. Wolessagel was slightly injured on a play along the sidelines during early first period play. (News-Messenger photos by Dan Bonnell)

Fremont area gridirons statistics and Ohio high school results on page 7

Different strokes for Ross, Findlay Friday

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ross will be battling to save "some face" while Findlay will be attempting to keep its slim hopes of a Buckeye Conference football title alive during Friday's showdown between the shaky gridiron powers.

Both teams will be trying to keep the stretcher and the Red Cross wagon from playing a predominant role.

Findlay could adopt the crutch as its mascot this season. No fewer than seven Trojans have been or are hobbled with knee injuries this season. All seven face the possibility of going under the knife or have already faced the scalpel.

"If we win the final two, that would give us a 7-3 season," Ross Coach Pete Moore offered while sorting through his thoughts. Moore added that his squad has had good practices this week — a situation that was also evident before last

Friday's shocking 27-0 loss to Marion Harding. "The kids are not down," Moore maintained and he indicated that Ross's top two receivers, T.J. Brudzinski and Fred Vance, are ready to go — although it may not be at full speed.

Brudzinski, suffering from a knee injury sustained during a joyous jump after touchdown reception in Ross's 24-21 loss to Elyria three weeks ago, played against Harding but did not have good mobility.

Vance sprained an ankle against Lorain and did not see any action against the Presidents. Findlay's top rusher, tailback Bill Beach, has been nursing a bothersome knee most of the season but has racked up 651 yards on 112 carries — 5.8 per carry.

The game pits the top two passers in the conference — Ross's Tom Wolesslagel and Findlay's John Kidd. Both have tossed 10 scoring passes this season but the Ross junior leads the Findlay junior by nearly 400 yards in passing.

Wolesslagel has also hit 59 percent of his tosses on 80 of 136 while Kidd has connected on 61 of 132 attempts for 46 percent. Kidd has been intercepted six times, Wolesslagel one less than his Friday opponent.

Brudzinski has pulled down 40 of Wolesslagel's passes for 576 yards while Findlay's Rick Maroney ranks second behind the Ross wide receiver in the conference with 27 receptions for 460 yards. Vance has 13 catches good for 319 yards and a 24.5 per catch average.

Findlay will have the edge on Ross in the rushing game, picking up 1,443 yards to Ross's 980 this season.

Defensively, both teams are suffering this season. Ross ranks sixth in total defense, allowing 223 yards per game while the Trojans are seventh, giving up 231 per game.

"It will be like looking into a mirror," Moore said about the Friday clash at Donnell Stadium in Findlay. "We both run the same offense and

the same defenses."

Both teams are 5-3 but Findlay is 3-2 in the BC and has a slight chance at a conference tie. Sandusky, Elyria, and Lorain Senior share the lead with 4-1 conference records. Ross is 2-3 in the conference after dropping the last three games.

Walter Schramm, a 6-3, 225-pound tackle, anchors Findlay's offensive line and the majority of the Trojan's running plays are to whatever side the burly senior plays.

The Little Giants are facing a glaring fact . . . after starting the season with five consecutive victories, a 5-5 season is a possibility with the always tough Trojans Friday and a season closing clash with Sandusky at Harmon Stadium on Nov. 10.

While the Little Giants are out of the running for the conference crown; the old sports adage of the "spoiler" could rest on the shoulders of the Little Giants.

Pox and Findlay subdue Little Giants

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — The pox fell on Ross first, Findlay fell on Ross second, and the number 13 hurt and helped Ross Friday in a Buckeye Conference football clash here at Donnell Stadium.

The Trojans, capitalizing on big plays — both offensively and defensively — handed the Little Giants their fourth consecutive loss 20-0. Ross has now struggled through 13 straight quarters of scoreless football while being outpointed 60-0 in that span.

"It's getting monotonous," Ross Coach Pete Moore said in the gloom of the Little Giants locker room while talking about his team's scoring drought.

"It seems when we get inside the 10-yard line, we stop executing like we do outside of the 10," he added.

Ross played without the services of Tom Wolessagel, the junior quarterback who has collected nearly 1,300 yards passing this season.

"We learned that he had chicken pox at 10:30 this morning," Moore disclosed. "He had a little rash yesterday, but came up with a fever today."

Adam Caskey, the Little Giant that carries the number 13 on his jersey, stepped into Wolessagel's position and performed well, if not excellent at times. However, it was the unfamiliarity of the left-handed Caskey and the Ross backs that helped set up Findlay's first TD.

Four of the first five times Ross handled the ball in the game ended up in fumbles. The fourth time, Findlay's Todd VanGunter fell on the ball at the Ross 35.

On the first offensive play of the game for the Trojans, tailback Bill Beach picked up the first 35 of his 154 yards for the game and Findlay led 7-0 with only 2:34 gone in the contest.

"Adam had just three hours to really get ready," Moore said about the junior who normally plays safety

for the Little Giants. "He was jittery on that first series and I was jittery for him."

Caskey settled down enough to hoist a 48-yard strike to T.J. Brudzinski to the Findlay two on the next Ross series.

A fumble by Caskey put Ross on the four; Larry Lindsey was pushed back to the seven; a Caskey pass fell incomplete; and Cloyce Wolfe threw Caskey for a seven-yard loss on a pass attempt to stop Ross's scoring effort.

Ross got the ball back quickly when Tim Oberst fell on the first of his two fumble recoveries at the Findlay 26. Shawn Alexander charged up the middle to the 14 on the first play.

Caskey rifled a ball into the end zone but the pass was a shade behind Fred Vance who got a hand on the ball and nearly came up with it. Three more running plays and Ross had to give up the ball at the 12.

The failure to execute had caught Ross again.

Findlay launched itself on a 16-play, 87-yard march to the game's second TD after Ross's second deepest penetration. VanGunter bulldoed into the end zone through the middle of the Ross defense from six-yards away for the score.

Ross's running attack jelled in the second half but the Little Giants were never able to get any deeper than the Trojan 21. Alexander darted 27 yards to the Findlay 40 on one run and Greg Brown clicked off 31 yards to the Trojan 26 on another.

Caskey rolled out for 34 yards to Findlay 32 midway through the final period.

After each long run, however, the Little Giants could not take advantage.

Findlay, with two pass interceptions and two fumble recoveries made the most of the big plays. Quarterback John Kidd kept the second TD drive alive with an 11-yard pass to tight end Jim Geyer on a fourth and three at the Ross 25.

Kidd tossed 18 yards to Jim Iliff on a fourth and two at the Ross 18 for the final TD of the game.

In what was expected to be a passing duel between Kidd and Wolessagel, the Trojans never really had to go to the air and the chicken pox took care of the Ross passing whiz. The Trojans QB was three of five passing for 45 yards while the ground game churned out 248 yards.

"I am really disappointed that Wolessagel did not play," Findlay Coach Bill Jones insisted after the game. "I think it would have been a heck of a game with him in there."

"But that young quarterback that played did a remarkable job," the Findlay coach added.

Despite the loss and the sudden absence of Wolessagel, Moore said he did not feel his team was "down".

"I think we stung them a few times on defense," he countered, "offensively we did all right except for down in close but the kids did not play 'down' at all."

Ross, with Alexander picking up 58 yards, Caskey 43, and Brown 42, had 161 yards on the ground. Caskey finished with five of 19 for 90 yards.



ADAM CASKEY, quarterback for Ross, rolls right while looking for a receiver. Caskey did not find one but scrambled for 34 yards on the play. He ended up

the night with 43 yards rushing in his first start as the Ross signal caller.

Winning season: McClain's goal

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Coach Dave McClain, as familiar as almost anyone with the tradition of excellence that is Ohio State's football program, is realistic about his Wisconsin team's chances against the Buckeyes here Saturday.

The Badgers have been outscored 97-2 the past two weeks by Michigan and Michigan State and are halfway through one of the most demanding four-game stretches on any collegiate schedule in the country. After outrushing Ohio State, Wisconsin plays Big Ten leader Purdue here next week.

"We went into these four games taking the approach that what we want to do is keep improving," McClain said Friday. "We hope we can win one or two of them, but the big thing is to keep improving. Our goal is to have that winning season."

The Badgers would be 4-4-1 if they lose, as expected, to Ohio State and Purdue. Injuries and illness have depleted their defense, diminishing chances for the improvement they figure to need to close with victories over Iowa and Minnesota.

UW defensive backs Lawrence Johnson and Greg Gordon have shoulder injuries and star defensive tackle Tom Schremp has a strep throat. Schremp, fifth Badger to become ill within the past week, was said to be responding to medication, but McClain doesn't expect any of the three to play more than a half Saturday.

Ohio State under veteran Coach Woody Hayes is 24-1-2 against Wisconsin, having lost to the Badgers in that period only in 1959. Two of those victories came in 1966 and 1970, when McClain was an assistant coach under Hayes. McClain grew up in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, about 50 miles from the Ohio State campus.

"We had great football teams when I was coaching there, with players like John Brockington and Tex Kern, but this Ohio State team physically is every bit as good," McClain said. "It's bigger and faster. Ron Springs is a great back and Art Schlichter is probably the outstanding young quarterback in the United

States.

"Schlichter throws as well as runs. That's what worries me," McClain said. "If we gang up on them to try to stop them, we'll be vulnerable to the pass."



THERE HE GOES. Ross fullback Greg Brown has the ball and is on his way to a 31-yard game during third period play at Findlay Friday. Jeff Essinger

(79) of Findlay looks out of the corner of his eye at the Little Giants runner.

BC first says Sandusky coach

Sandusky is riding high — not as high as a year ago, but still high.

One year ago Friday night, the Blue Streaks were sitting atop the Class AAA region two computer ratings while anticipating their initial visit to state football playoff fortunes. Then came Ross and down went Sandusky.

The Little Giants, struggling along a year ago with four straight losses, shocked the Blue Streaks 14-0 while limiting Sandusky to a minus-four yards on the ground.

This year the Little Giants are limping along with four straight losses again while Sandusky is sitting pretty in third spot in the computer ratings. The Blue Streaks, however, trail leader Hilliard by a little over 10 points and second place Groveport Madison by less than one. A win over Ross could put Sandusky on top because the two leaders' seasons have ended.

Last year, reports out of Sandusky had the Blue Streaks more worried about their possible playoff foe rather than about the game with Ross. That's changed this year.

"I think the kids were extremely tight last year,"

Sandusky Coach Jim Colwell said during a phone conversation Wednesday. "We have not said a word this week — we are not talking about the computer. We want to win the Buckeye Conference first and if anything comes with it (playoff berth), that's fine."

Colwell was also concerned over the health of Ross's conference leading passer Tom Woelslagel. The Ross junior came up with chicken pox last Friday morning and had to sit out the game with Findlay Friday night.

"We have talked to our school nurses about chicken pox," the Sandusky coach admitted, "and they say he should be able to be back, but he could be weak."

"So, as far as we know, he will be back," Colwell said.

Sandusky possesses a more balanced attack than a year ago with DeHenning passing and the running of tailback Kelvin Lindsey.

Lindsey is the conference's leading scorer with 84 points and is running away with the rushing title with 1,303 yards on 193 carries. The latter department had been dominated by

Fremont Ross runners the last four years.

While Lindsey is the man that most people notice, Colwell credits the remainder of the offensive backfield and an improved offensive line for the Blue Streaks' offensive success this season. Sandusky is first overall in the conference

While Lindsey is the man that most people notice, Colwell credits the remainder of the offensive backfield and an improved offensive line for the Blue Streaks' offensive success this season. Sandusky is first overall in the conference offensive stats.

"Our fullback Bob Oglesby and wingback Brian McPhillamy are fine blockers," the Sandusky coach said, "and they have really opened it (running game) up for us."

On the line, Colwell points out John Liebenthal, presently an offensive guard after also operating at tight end, at being one of the keyfigures in the running game. Elijah Wooten, tight end, tackle John Schneider, guard Mitch Burns, and center Phil Keegan are other key Blue Streak offensive linemen.

Lindsey gains 286 yards in Streak win

BY BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Pete Moore didn't see any great blocks but Kelvin Lindsey saw something as he scored four touchdowns and ripped through Ross for 286 yards while powering Sandusky to a 34-16 triumph.

The win clinched a tie with Elyria, a 12-7 winner over Lorain Senior, for the Buckeye Conference title, but now more importantly, could put Sandusky in the state playoffs.

"We're in, we're in," Sandusky Coach Jim Colwell said through a grin that rivaled a Cheshire cat, but then he hedged, "we think."

Just a year ago, Colwell's Blue Streaks were almost in, but Ross jerked them out with a 14-0 season closing upset.

This year, the jerking was all Sandusky.

Lindsey, held to 28 yards on his first six carries, ripped 73 yards on his seventh carry for the game's first TD on the first play of the second period. Three times after that, Lindsey rolled into the Ross endzone from 31, 61, and 10 yards in raising his season touchdown total to 18 and his rushing yardage to 1,590.

"He's (Colwell) got the right idea for a back," Moore, Ross's shell-shocked coach, said in awe after the game. "He (Lindsey) runs north and south—that's the way the field is laid out."

"He's amazing," the Sandusky coach said about the Blue Streaks' Mr. Amazing, "we give him the football and we really don't know what he is going to do with it."

Lindsey knew all the time Friday night as he helped Ross skid to its fifth consecutive loss after beginning the season with five straight victories. He knew what he was going to do on all 25 carries. "You know," the Ross coach said, "I didn't really see any great blocks out there by Sandusky tonight. I did see a lot of good broken field running. Maybe the films will show some."

"I'm not taking anything away from Sandusky, but Lindsey is their football team."

Ross was its worst enemy in the first half, losing the ball on fumbles three times. One, by Adam Caskey who started in place of Tom Wolesslagel, was picked up by Blue Streak linebacker Joe Roesch and returned 27 yards for the second TD of the game, dropping Ross into a 14-0 hole. That fumble came on the end of a 10-yard run by the Ross QB.

On the next series, Greg Brown fumbled on the end of a 12-yard gain to the Ross 44. Six plays later, Lindsey rolled in from 31 yards out and Ross's back was broken.

"If there is a better back in Ohio, I'd like to see him," Colwell beamed.

Then the coach jumped into the computer. "We figure that we will pick up 24 or more points this week and that should do it."

"We've been studying it (computer) all week and we even called Columbus (Ohio High School Athletic Association) to check things out."

Now he must wait till Monday to see if his math is correct. That's when all

semifinalists for all classifications get the good word.

Ross did not score until early in the final period and that was exciting for Moore and his team. It had been 17 quarters since the Little Giants made the scoreboard flicker. Wolesslagel, who had chicken pox and did not practice this week, took over for Caskey early in the third period.

Taking advantage of a Sandusky fumble that was recovered by Troy Amor at the Sandusky 11, Wolesslagel connected with T.J. Brudzinski on the second play for the 11 yards and the TD. The same combination worked for the extra points but all Ross could shout about was the end of the scoring draught.

The same combination clicked from 20

yards out for Ross's final six-pointer of the season with 1:22 to play in the game.

"It was real exciting just to get the points," Moore admitted, "I told the kids it would be a reward and it was."

Sandusky ended up with 326 total yards, all on the ground. Ross had 117 rushing and another 89 through the air. Brown was Ross's leading rusher with 46 yards on nine carries and Larry Lindsey added 30 on 12.

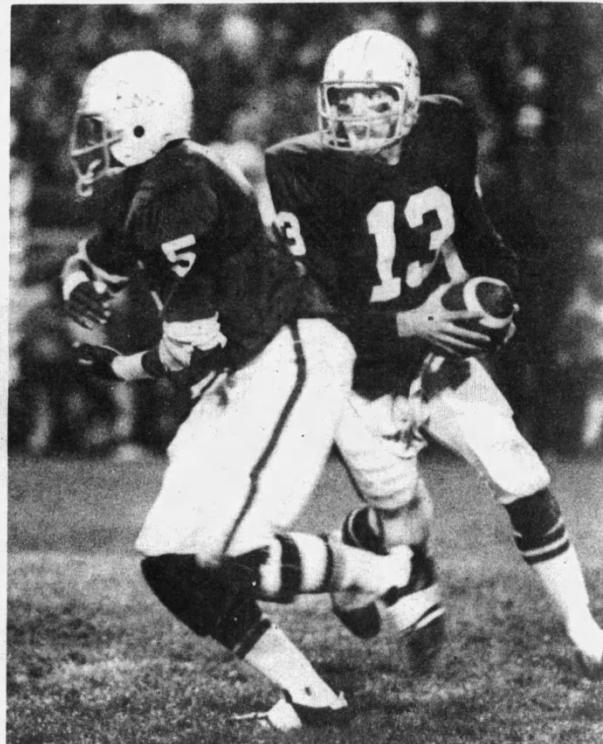
Ross's rushing total suffered when Wolesslagel was sacked four consecutive times for a minus-28 yards late in the final quarter.

Should Sandusky, now 9-1 and 6-1 in the conference, reach the playoffs, Cincinnati Princeton will be the opponent next Friday at Dayton's Welcome Stadium. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



ROSS COACHES Pete Moore, left, and Joe Siesel voice their opinion on a play in which Ross was charged with

roughing the kicker. The Little Giants coaches lost the argument during the season finale.

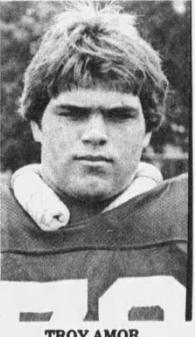


ADAM CASKEY (13) has just faked a handoff to Ross running back Greg Brown during second quarter action.

The Ross QB kept the ball for a short gain. (N-M photos by Dan Borelli)



T.J. BRUDZINSKI
... BC pass receiving leader



TROY AMOR



in Brief

U.S. NCCAA all-stars on the second day of the annual competition. The Americans hold a 16-8 overall point lead going into Friday's final round.

SYDNEY, Australia — Graham Marsh fired a 5-under par 67 to take a two-stroke lead over Bruce Devlin after the first round of the Australian Open Golf Championship.

PRO FOOTBALL

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson Jr. was fined by National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle for his protest of officials' calls at last Sunday's game between Buffalo and the Miami Dolphins.

GENERAL

LOS ANGELES — Two University of Southern California football players have been ordered to stand trial for allegedly assaulting four people following a

All-BC selections

Little Giants have three

T.J. Brudzinski and Tom Wolesslagel, the main sparks in Ross's offensive football spark this fall, were named to the first offensive team in the coaches' voting for the All-Buckeye Conference football squads.

The Wolesslagel to Brudzinski passing combo were the only Little Giants to make either the first team offense or defense. Troy Amor, the Little Giants massive defensive tackle, was named to the second team defense in an end capacity.

Elyria and Sandusky, the conference co-champions, along with Ross, Lorain Senior, and Marion Harding placed two players apiece on the first offensive unit.

Wolesslagel, the conference's leading passer, was the only junior selected for the top offensive team. The Ross quarterback fired 143 passes this fall while guiding Ross to its second consecutive 5-5 season. He connected on 84 of the

tosses for 59 percent completions and 1,298 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Brudzinski, a senior, hauled in 47 passes for 699 yards, a 14.9 yard per catch average, and six TDs.

Sandusky running back Kelvin Lindsey, the conference's leading rusher with 1,589 yards on 218 carries, led the offensive team. He was named the conference's back of the year.

Lindsey scored 18 touchdowns to lead the conference in scoring with 108 points.

Brad Mullins of Lorain Senior was tabbed as the lineman of the year. Mullins, a tackle, led his team with 88 first hit tackles and 12 quarterback sacks. He was named the Buckeye Conference's lineman of the week twice.

Terry Doan, who took over the Elyria post under a siege of fire, was named the coach of the year. Doan, son of Elyria Athletic Director Russ Doan, had to weather severe preseas

criticism of his selection before guiding the Pioneers to an 8-2 record and a share of the conference crown.

This was his first year as a head coach after spending 12 years as an Elyria assistant.

In final conference stats, Ross's Bill Darling ended up ninth in rushing with 481 yards on 88 carries. Fred Vance finished fifth in pass receiving with 16 for 363 yards, a 22.7 per catch average, and three touchdowns. Mark Johnson was 12th in receiving with nine receptions for 179 yards and four TDs.

Brudzinski was the conference's third best punter with a 35.2 average on 19 punts. Wolesslagel finished eighth punting with a 33.6 on 18 boots.

Brudzinski also finished eighth in scoring with 38 points.

Larry Lindsey was fourth in kickoff returns with 144 yards on six returns for a 24.0 average.

Buckeye stars

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Split end: T.J. Brudzinski, Ross senior, 6-0, 175;
Tight end: Matt Leibas, Lorain Senior, senior, 6-0, 225;
Tackles: Walt Schramm, Findlay, senior, 6-3, 230; Greg Clem, Elyria, senior, 5-10, 190;
Guard: Steve DeJennings, Sandusky, senior, 6-2, 225; Pete Phinney, Lorain Senior, 6-0, 180;
Center: Kevin Short, Marion Harding, senior, 6-3, 180;
Quarterback: Tom Wolesslagel, Ross, junior, 5-10, 150;
Running backs: Kelvin Lindsey, senior, 6-4, 185; Chester McCullough, Elyria, senior, 5-11, 180; Marvin Owens, Marion Harding, senior, 6-0, 185;

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Split end: Eric Cole, Admiral King, senior, 6-0, 165;
Tight end: Ray Baus, Mansfield, senior, 6-3, 190;
Tackles: Mike Essex, Mansfield, senior, 6-0, 180; Tony Price, Marion Harding, senior, 6-2, 220;
Guards: Ken Hoge, Elyria, senior, 6-0, 175; Kevin Selbert, Marion Harding, senior, 6-0, 180;
Center: Matt Thompson, Lorain Senior, junior, 6-0, 190;
Quarterback: Steve DeJennings, Sandusky, senior, 6-0, 190;
Running backs: Bill Beach, Findlay, junior, 6-2, 190; Anthony Calhoun, Admiral King, senior, 5-8, 155; Tony Frye, Elyria, senior, 6-1, 190; Charlie Mastin, Lorain Senior, senior, 6-1, 175;

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Ends: Tom Williamson, Sandusky, senior, 5-11, 200; Dennis Carpenter, Elyria, junior, 6-0, 225;
Tackles: LaMar Ross, Marion Harding, senior, 6-3, 190; Brad Mullins, Lorain Senior, senior, 6-2, 190;
Linebackers: Al Terrenzi, Sandusky, senior, 5-11, 205; Frank Mazaj, Admiral King, senior, 6-0, 225; Paul Stallings, Marion Harding, senior, 6-0, 190;
Backs: Brian McPhillamy, Sandusky, senior, 5-11, 187; Mike Apulby, Elyria, junior, 6-2, 175; Rob Workman, Marion Harding, senior, 5-11, 180; Cory Coates, Lorain Senior, senior, 5-11, 160;

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Ends: Troy Amor, Ross, senior, 6-0, 260; Elijah Wooten, Sandusky, senior, 5-11, 187;
Tackles: Daniel Glover, Elyria, junior 6-2, 185; Terry Mullins, Marion Harding, senior, 6-2, 205;
Linebackers: Jon Burger, Elyria, junior, 5-10, 196; Steve Bush, Elyria, junior, 5-11, 190; Dan Bradley, Lorain Senior, senior, 5-8, 150;
Backs: Paul Twyman, Mansfield, senior, 6-0, 180; Mike Love, Elyria, senior, 6-0, 160; John Brady, Marion Harding, senior, 6-0, 178; Al Aker, Lorain, junior, 5-10, 165; Mike Gilliam, Admiral King, senior, 5-11, 160;

Punter of the year: John Kidd, Findlay;

Kicker of the year: Jeff Strohm, Sandusky.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTIONS

Fred Vance, Bill Swartzlander, Harry Kellogg, and Dale Barr

Oops! Ref's goof cost Cleveland

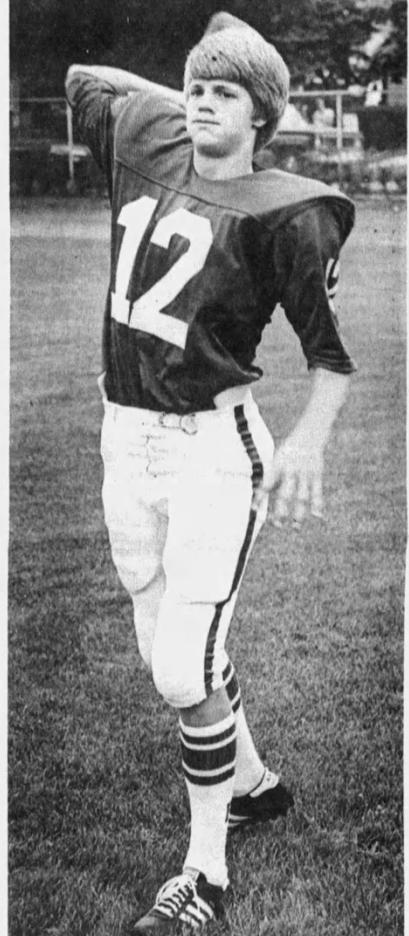
BEREA, Ohio (AP) — For what it's worth, the Cleveland Browns have for the second time this season received confirmation from the National Football League that an official's call which may have cost them a game was wrong.

Rookie Keith Wright, who fumbled a punt in the final minutes of last Sunday's 19-7 loss to Denver, Thursday received a message from Art McNally, supervisor of officials for the NFL.

The critical fumble came late in the fourth quarter with the Browns trailing by six points. The Broncos took over on the play at Cleveland's 24 and went in for their second touchdown of the game to wrap up the victory.

Wright claimed at the time that, though he signalled for a fair catch, he wasn't given opportunity by the defense to catch the ball. Field judge Jack Vaughn ruled otherwise and the Broncos were given possession.

on offense:
Tim Oberst, Dale Jennings, Willie Gentry, Mike Martin, John Armentrout, and Randy Dilts on defense.



TOM WOLESSLAGEL
... Top Buckeye passer

AP all-district picks

Gottron tops area



MIKE CHAMBERS



DAVE SANCHEZ



ANDY SZYPKA



TIM SCHULTE

Five area players on 1st teams

Jeff Gottron of Fremont St. Joe was tabbed as the Northwestern Ohio Class A "back of the year" in voting by a panel of Associated Press sports writers and broadcasters.

Gottron is one of two Crimson Street players to make the first team units. Mike Hoffman was selected as the first team offensive guard.

Gottron, 6-0, 180, was named to the first team defense but in voting, was also selected as a second team running back on offense. Selection to the first team defense caused his name to be dropped from the offense according to the rules of the voting panel at St. Joe.

The St. Joe senior also averaged 10 tackles per game from his defensive back slot.

Chambers, a 5-11, 180-pound senior, was a near unanimous choice at offensive guard. It was chambers who helped supply the bulk of the blocking in St. Joe's rushing game.

Other Fremont area small school players honored were Gibsonburg's Dave Sanchez. Only a junior, linebacker Sanchez made the first team defense. Gibsonburg teammate Mark Diels, a senior, gained second team offensive honors.

In Class AA, a pair of Lakota defensive players gained second team honors . . .

linebacker Mike Hoffman, a junior, and senior defensive back Don Saalman.

Andy Szypka, a 6-2, 223-pounder of Genoa, was named to the first team offense. Szypka as a running back and Schulte as tackle, Szypka, a junior, set a Genoa rushing record with more than 1,400 yards this season.

Making second team offense was guard Jeff Rutherford of Clyde. On the second team defense were Mark Rosenerberger of Clyde in the defensive backfield, and defensive tackle Jim Latimore of Oak Harbor.

In Class AAA — Toledo Woodstock of Fremont Ross was named to the second team offense at quarterback. Ross's premier wide receiver, T. J. Brudzinski received only special mention despite having the best pass receiving statistics in the area for AAA schools.

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Other Fremont area small school players honored were Gibsonburg's Dave Sanchez. Only a junior, linebacker Sanchez made the first team defense. Gibsonburg teammate Mark Diels, a senior, gained second team offensive honors.

In Class AA, a pair of Lakota defensive players gained second team honors . . .

Lindsey is AAA leader

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — "Kelvin Lindsey is the linemen," Brad Kaminiski may have been named The Associated Press' Northwestern Class AAA prep football Players of the Year.

Lindsey, a Sandusky tailback, and Lineman of the year, Brad Kaminiski may have been named The Associated Press' Northwestern Class AAA prep football Players of the Year.

Lindsey, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior, posted 1,580 points and 18 touchdowns in leading the Blue Streaks to a 9-1 regular season and a spot in the playoffs.

Kaminiski, a 6-3, 200-pound senior, had six interceptions and averaged 10 solo and 12 team tackles this season.

Lindsey and Kaminiski are highly recruited for different sports. Michigan, Ohio State and other major football powers covet the Sandusky star. Such college baseball standouts as Southern California and Arizona State are after the Lima Shawnee athlete.

The Class AAA Northwestern coaching honors were shared by Jim Colwell of Sandusky and Pete Benedict, who led Toledo Start to its first Toledo Red Division title ever with 5-0-0 league record and 7-3-0 overall mark.

Colwell directed Sandusky to the Buckeye Conference crown in his second

year. The Blue Streaks lost in the semifinals against top-ranked Cincinnati Princeton.

Defensive back, Rick Langhals of Lima Central Catholic and Jim Smith of Millbury Lake earned the major area Class AAA awards from a district panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Langhals, a 6-2, 170-pound senior, intercepted 11 passes and knocked down 15 more aerials. He figured in 94 tackles and, on offense, caught 44 passes for 608 yards, 11 of his receptions coming in one game.

Corbin, a 6-4, 225-pound senior, runs a 4.7 second 40-yard dash, graded 90 percent on his pass protection and 88 percent on rush blocking. Ohio State, Notre Dame and Indiana are seeking his services.

Smith directed Lake to 10 straight victories in his fourth season, including five shutouts. The school was 1-19 in two seasons before Smith assumed the coaching job.

Christman, a 6-3, 186-pound senior and two-time all-district selection, was in on 15 tackles a game this fall. He also intercepted a pass.

DiPietro led Crestline to its first unbeaten season in 39 years, 10-0-0. Marquette went from 4-6-0 last year to 9-1-0 for Liberty-Benton.

No Cincy money, so it's Phils for Rose

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Since the money's not in Cincinnati, free agent Pete Rose will sign a three-year contract with

from an exhibition

According to Bodley, a

meeting with the Phillies will be arranged. "The

will be worth nearly \$2

million, and that only an

be examined, then ac-



JEFF GOTTRON

. . . Class A back of the year

Leach needs one more

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Rick Leach, at the peak of an outstanding four-year college football career, needs one more great performance to cap things off.

He's guided Michigan to more victories (37) than any other Wolverine quarterback, Patrick Henry in the early days of Maize and Blue followers.

But without one more triumph — Saturday in Columbus against Michigan's archrival, Ohio State — Leach's regular season career would end on a sour note that might tarnish his achievements in the eyes of critics.

The Wolverines need to win the game to wrap up a share of the Big Ten title and earn their third consecutive trip to the Rose Bowl.

If Ohio State wins, the Buckeyes will go to Pasadena, Calif., for the New Year's Day game.

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