

Little Giants fall short at Sectional Final

Perrysburg ousts Ross



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BRETT HUFFORD of Fremont Ross awaits the throw as Perrysburg's Derek Depriest dives back safely on a fourth inning pick-off play.

Mistakes cost Giants as Yellow Jackets advance

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Staff writer

OREGON — Teams which have already won 18 games don't afford their opponents too many mistakes.

Fremont Ross's baseball team learned the hard way.

The Little Giants made too many miscues and Perrysburg took advantage to win 6-3 in a Division I sectional title game at the Oregon City Complex.

"In the key situations we made mistakes," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey. "At this level you have to be better than that."

Perrysburg (19-5) advanced to the district semifinal against St. Francis Monday at the Lucas Rec Center in Toledo.

"Our players competed hard," said Yellow Jackets' coach Dave Hall. "We got the big hits at the crucial times. That (Ross) is a real good team."

Perrysburg was 7-for-12 with runners in scoring position and of the nine Yellow Jackets to

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reach at least second base, six of them scored.

The Little Giants (15-5) will close out their season with a Great Lakes League game Tuesday at Postoria.

That game will complete the high school careers of five Little Giants' seniors: first baseman Brett Hufford, shortstop Mike Hickey, catcher Julian Domuray, pitcher Billy Sheets and second baseman Roy Nine. "I'm just disappointed that we couldn't get it done for our seniors," Lindsey said. "They played hard for me every day and they made me proud."

Sheets (5-2) pitched six innings and yielded nine hits and six runs, three of which were earned. He struck out seven to bring his two-game sectional tournament total to 22.

"I'm surprised we hit him as well as we did," Hall said. "He's one of the best pitchers we will face all year. He

pitched pretty well, but we were able to capitalize on their mistakes."

Mike Nichter and Scott Ault each had two hits for the Yellow Jackets.

Josh Lozano was 2-for-3 and supplied the Giants with its only offense with a three-run home run in the sixth. Cody Franks was 2-for-3 for Ross.

Winning pitcher Jordan Schwind went 5-plus innings and gave up five hits and two earned runs while striking out three. Nichter pitched two innings to record the save.

The Little Giants made mistakes on the basepaths and in the field and Perrysburg took advantage.

In the top of the first Josh Lozano lined a two-out single to right center and then Spencer Root reached on an error.

Aaron Coonrod worked the count to 2-and-2 but Perrysburg catcher Chris Arquette picked Root off of first to end the inning.

Sheets fanned the first two batters to start the first inning, but then Coonrod mishandled a sharp ground ball by Brian Virost to extend the inning. Virost advanced to second on a passed ball and scored on a base hit to center by Brock Gankosky.

Franks got things going for Ross in the second with a one-out single. But he was caught too far off of first on Domuray's fly out to right and was doubled off to end the inning.

The Yellow Jackets broke the game open in the second. With one out, Schwind doubled. Jeff Hall reached when Coonrod made his second error of the game and Scott Ault followed with an RBI single up the middle.

Derek Depriest followed with a perfect suicide squeeze bunt to score Hall and Nichter tripled to right center to bring in Ault with Perrysburg's fourth run.

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Ross eliminated by Jackets

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Sheets hit Schwind with a pitch to start the fifth inning and the Yellow Jackets capitalized again. Hall sacrificed Schwind to second, and one out later Depriest delivered an RBI single to make it 5-0.

The Little Giants rallied in the fifth off of Schwind. Hickey opened by reaching on an error and then Hufford drew a walk. Josh Lozano followed with a long home run over the left field fence to bring Ross to within two runs.

But Nichter came on to relieve Schwind and closed the door. He pitched two innings and gave up no runs and just one single, and picked up the save.

"I just came in and threw strikes," Nichter said. "I wanted to get outs any way I could."