

# Little Giants face fundamental question marks

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

The pitching is untested. The hitting is suspect.

With those uncertainties, the Fremont Ross softball team opens the season today against Margaretta in a 4:30 p.m. game at Rodger Young Park.

"We need to find out how good

we're going to be," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We really don't know; we're going in blind... needless to say."

Ross, 7-8 last season, will send Debbie Hammond against the Polar Bears. Hammond replaces Debbie McClure, who walked just 12 batters while pitching

every inning of every game for the Little Giants a year ago.

"I'm hoping that Debbie (Hammond) can do the majority of the pitching," Wolf said. "There aren't a lot of kids that can throw fast pitch."

The Little Giants return just one .300 hitter, third baseman

Carrie Clark (.333). Rachel Ritter led the team with a .356 mark last year as a senior.

"We didn't hit well last year, and I don't know how much better we'll do this season," Wolf said.

Four starters return from last

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## Ross

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year's squad but only one of those, first baseman Shannell Moneghan, will play the same position.

Lisa Watts will move from center field to left field, Kim Borys will move from right field to center field and Kelly Gierhart will switch from left field to shortstop.

"Our strong point right now is defense," Wolf said. "The defense is good enough where we should be in the games."

Ginger Pasch is slated to take over in right field, Melany Merrill is the catcher and Betsy Parish will get the first chance to secure the second base slot.

"All 13 girls are going to play," Wolf said. "We're looking for a combination that is going to work for us.

"We're going to be tested in the early part of our schedule... we'll find out where we have to improve."

Amy Burmeister, Dina Contreras, Heidi Hinehine and Kelli Lance round out the Ross roster.

"We need to play," Wolf said. "This will be the first look we've had against another team."



**DEBBIE HAMMOND** (left) of Fremont Ross and Margareta pitcher Heather Brimingham wait the call of the umpire after Hammond

tried to score on a passed ball Tuesday during the Polar Bears' 17-0 victory over the Little Giants. Hammond was out.

News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

## Margaretta rips Ross

News-Messenger reports

Margaretta's 12-run fourth inning Tuesday lifted the Polar Bears to a 17-0 girls softball victory over Fremont Ross at Rodger Young Park.

Ross committed three errors, losing pitcher Debbie Hammond issued six of her 11 walks and hit two batters and Margaretta collected four of its seven hits in the fourth inning.

"We combined a few things," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "We had a few errors, (Hammond) walked a few and we got in big trouble."

Heather Birmingham picked up the victory, striking out five. Hammond struck out six.

Carrie Grimm and Jenny Greene had two hits apiece for Margaretta. Hammond had two including a double for the Little Giants.

The Polar Bears scored five runs in the fifth inning of the shortened game.

# Maumee jumps on Ross

News-Messenger reports

Maumee jumped out to a 5-0 advantage after two innings Monday night and went on to a 10-2 softball victory over visiting Ross.

In other games Monday, Port Clinton whipped Huron 19-11, Sandusky St. Mary's pounded Oak Harbor 9-1 and Edison defeated Clyde 9-1.

## Maumee 10, Ross 2

The Little Giants, 0-2, scored their only runs in the third inning to pull within 5-2, but the Panthers put the game away with a run in the fourth inning and four in the sixth.

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## Softball Roundup

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Maumee improved to 4-4.

Tara Hollenbeck went the distance for the winners and held Ross to just four hits.

Deb Hammond gave up five hits and walked three to suffer the loss. She also had five strikeouts.

## Port Clinton 19, Huron 11

The Redskins, 1-3 and 1-0 in the SBC, got six runs in the first and went on to score in every inning but the seventh. Jennifer Armstrong struck out seven and walked 13 to pick up the win.

## St. Mary's 9, Oak Harbor 1

At Oak Harbor, the Rockets dropped to 0-5 and 0-1 in the conference with the loss to the Panthers.

Janice Butzin gave up nine hits, with six strikeouts and three walks to take the loss. Oak Harbor committed 13 errors, all in the first four innings. Karrie Kaiser, Shelley Whitaker and Laurie Vogtsberger each had two hits for Oak Harbor.

## Edison 9, Clyde 1

Miki Miller had the only hit for the Fliers, 1-2 and 0-1 in the SBC. Jody Swicker was the winning pitcher for the Chargers, who improved to 4-1 and 1-0.

Katie Hush took the loss, with the help of eight Clyde errors.

# Oak Harbor is Little Giants' first softball victim

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross jumped to a 6-2 lead then held on for a 7-5 high school softball victory at Oak Harbor Tuesday.

The Little Giants, who won for the first time in three games,

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committed just one error.

"We had a couple of good plays," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It was an improvement; we had been kicking the ball

around."

In other games, St. Joe defeated New Riegel 7-4 and Bettsville edged Seneca East 3-2.

Carrie Clark had three hits, including a double, for Ross. Shannell Moneghan drove in two runs, while Kim Borys and Clark each scored twice.

Oak Harbor's Heather Miller had two hits, including a triple.

Deb Hammond earned the win, overcoming seven walks while striking out four.

Jenny Almendinger took the loss for the Rockets, 0-6.

St. Joe 7, New Riegel 4

St. Joe collected just three hits in its first win of the season.

"The hits came at the right times," St. Joe coach Lou Kuhlman said.

The Crimson Streaks, 1-2 in the Midland Athletic League, erased a 3-1 deficit with a four-run fifth inning.

Lisa Whitaker, who struck out eight and walked three, earned the decision over Kim Steyer.

Kelly Peters and Mandy Eberly each scored two runs for St. Joe.

Bettsville 3, Seneca East 2

A three-run third inning helped

Bettsville remain undefeated in five games, including two MAL contests.

Seneca East, which collected just two hits, took a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Kara Wohlgamuth's first of two doubles drove in two runs in the third and Pam Little followed with a single that scored Charlene Lynch.

Carrie Windau, who struck out six and walked only one, was the winner while Gwen Perkins took the loss.

"We weren't hitting the ball like we usually do, but we played good defense," Bettsville coach Sue Eastman said.

## Tribe

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lead runs.

Dion James doubled leading off the game for Cleveland, took third on a groundout and scored

second, Brook Jacoby tripled with one out and scored on Sandy Alomar's single.

Steve Farr (1-0) faced one batter in relief of Richard Dotson and got the victory by retiring Alomar on a bases-loaded pop-up in the sixth. Jeff Montgomery pitched two innings and Mark Davis pitched the ninth for his

# St. Wendelin outscores Ross 23-20

News-Messenger reports

Both teams scored in every inning as Fostoria St. Wendelin outscored Fremont Ross 23-20 in a high school softball game Wednesday.

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The Mohawks outhit the Little Giants 21-15 and overcame eight errors.

In other games, Bettsville pounded Woodmore 23-6 and Edison topped Oak Harbor 12-2.

St. Wendelin's Veronica Roberge and Ross's Lisa Watts were the pitchers of record as the Mohawks remained undefeated in six games and the Little Giants fell to 1-3.

"We need to play a low-scoring type of game," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "That sounds dumb because we scored 20 runs, but that's not the type of game I want to play."

Watts, who took over for starter Deb Hammond in the fourth inning, had three hits for Ross as did Kim Borys, Carrie

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See **SOFTBALL, C-4**

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# Softball

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## Continued From C-3

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Clark and Shanell Moneghan.  
Two of Clark's hits were doubles.

Moneghan drove in three runs,  
while Jenny Hoover collected  
five hits and drove in eight runs  
for St. Wendelin.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

## Clay runner advances

Fremont Ross shortstop Kim Borys covers third base as the ball gets away and an Oregon Clay

baserunner approaches. The Eagles beat the Little Giants 21-0 Thursday. **See Roundup, B-3.**

# Ross wins 1 at Perrysburg

News-Messenger reports

Perrysburg's Jenny Nauman and Hannah Simpson combined to hold Ross to one hit Sunday en route to a 6-0 victory over the Little Giants at the eight-team Perrysburg Softball Tournament.

On Saturday, Ross lost a 7-3 decision to Oregon Clay but came back to beat Findlay 9-6 in the second game. Also, Margaretta was handed a 4-3 loss by Sandusky.

On Saturday, Ross got two hits each from Kim Borys and Carrie Clark in the loss to Clay. Deb Hammond **Softball** took the loss despite giving up just eight hits.

In the second game, Ross won its second game in seven decisions by beating Findlay.

Hammond was the winner for Ross, which got doubles from Clark and Hammond and two singles from Shanell Moneghan.

On Sunday, the Little Giants mustered just one hit — a single off Simpson in the seventh inning — against the Yellow Jackets, 11-0.

"We really improved our play this weekend," Ross coach Sue Wolf said. "It was a good tournament. Hopefully, we'll turn our season around with this tournament."

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### Whitmer 5, Ross 2

Whitmer took a 4-1 lead after two innings and made it stand up against the Little Giants, who committed four errors.

The Panthers, 5-3, outhit Ross 8-6.

Carrie Clark and losing pitcher Deb Hammond had two hits apiece for the Little Giants, 2-7.

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Jennie Ewanski, who homered, Stephanie Seilheimer, Amy Wilhelm and Micki Schmidt drove in three runs apiece for St. Joe. Tara Rodenhauser also homered.

### Norwalk 5, Ross 4

Ross left 10 runners stranded, including three in the fourth inning and two in the eighth.

Norwalk, 4-4, scored the deciding run with the help of two Ross errors.

Ross, 2-8, tied the game in the

seventh when Amy Burmeister singled, moved to third on a single by Ginger Pasch and scored on Lisa Watts' base hit.

Shanell Moneghan, Carrie Clark, Hammond and Watts each had two of Ross's 11 hits.

### Bettsville 25, Old Fort 7

Winning pitcher Carrie Windau homered and Lisa Heilman collected four of Bettsville's 18 hits as the Bobcats improved to 8-1 and 4-1 in the MAL.

Windau and Heilman each drove in five runs, and Bettsville scored in every inning.

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a single by Veronica Underwood as Schneider took third. Schneider then scored on losing pitcher Carrie Windau's error.

"The runs were very important," St. Joe coach Lou Kuhlman said. "We definitely needed them.

"Lisa (winning pitcher Whitaker) was getting tired, and we knew we had to get the insurance runs."

Whittaker struck out 11 and walked one.

Underwood, who finished with two RBIs, and Tara Rodenhauser each collected two of St. Joe's six hits. Ewanski scored two runs.

The Crimson Streaks improved to 4-3 and 4-2 in the MAL, while the Bobcats fell to 8-2 and 4-2.

**Ross 19, Old Fort 10**

Carrie Clark's fifth-inning grand slam helped Ross break open a close game as the Little

Giants improved to 3-8.

Clark finished with four hits and drove in six runs, Lisa Watts had three of Ross's 15 hits and Amy Burmeister added two hits, and Ross took advantage of 10 Old Fort errors.

Losing pitcher Julie Sanford, Amy Brueggemeier and Jolena Schubach homered in Old Fort's 11-hit attack.

Deb Hammond was the winning pitcher as the Stockaders remained winless in six games.

**Woodmore 24, Arlington 23**

The Wildcats scored seven runs in the seventh inning to overtake the Red Devils.

Shawna Crispin struck out seven of the 10 batters she faced to get the win in relief of Tammi Sandwisch.

April Bringman had three hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs for Woodmore, 6-3. Peggy Romine and Kristy Krebs also homered for the Wildcats.

Arlington slipped to 3-7.

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pitcher Carrie Windau's balk.

Stephanie Seilheimer, who drove in two runs, Jill Schneider, Rodenhauser and Schmidt each had two of St. Joe's 11 hits. Jennie Ewanski added a home run.

Lisa Heilman and Shelly Lanning each had two of the Bobcats' seven hits.

**Ross 5, Findlay 4**

Ross took the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning and closed out the win with a game-ending double play.

In the Findlay seventh, Ross shortstop Kelly Gerhardt caught a short fly in the outfield and

threw out a Findlay runner trying to go from second to third.

The game also began with a fine defensive play, by Ross third baseman Carrie Clark, who ended a Findlay threat with an unassisted double play in the first inning.

Both Ross runs in the sixth inning were unearned.

Deb Hammond was the winning pitcher and Melanie Myers took the loss as the Little Giants

improved to 4-8 and the Trojans fell to 6-6.

The Little Giants will travel to Findlay next Thursday for the second game of a best-of-three series against the Trojans. The winner of the series will play either Newark, Lancaster or Zanesville later this spring for the Buckeye Central Conference championship.

**Otsego 16, Oak Harbor 1**

The winless Rockets scored



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# Unbeaten Perrysburg tops Ross

News-Messenger reports

Perrysburg remained undefeated in 19 high school softball games Wednesday with an 11-7

victory over **Softball**  
F r e m o n t  
Ross.

In other games, Clyde nipped Edison 2-1, Huron beat Port Clinton 14-3 and Sandusky St. Mary's defeated

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**See SOFTBALL, B-4**

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# Softball

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**Continued From B-1**

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Oak Harbor 11-9.

The Yellow Jackets jumped to a 7-0 lead after one inning and led 9-1 after three innings before holding off the Little Giants, who scored a run in the fourth, two in the fifth and three in the sixth.

Hannah Simpson was the winning pitcher and Deb Hammond took the loss.

Carrie Clark had three of Ross's seven hits and drove in three runs. Shannel Moneghan added two hits for the Little Giants, 5-10.

### **Clay 6, Ross 1**

Oregon Clay led 1-0 when it parlayed three walks, three hits and the only Ross error of the game into a five-run fifth inning.

Ross, 5-11, avoided a shut-out in the seventh when Kelli Lance scored on Kim Borys' single.

The Little Giants left eight runners on base, including seven through the first five innings.

Kelly McKeen pitched a two-hitter, and Deb Hammond took the loss as Clay improved to 15-3. McKeen struck out eight, while Hammond walked eight.

Shannell Moneghan had the only other hit for Ross.

# Calvert beats St. Joe 7-0 in sectional

News-Messenger reports

Kara McDonald bounced Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic from the Class A sectional softball tournament Tuesday, pitching a two-hitter in Tiffin Calvert's 7-0 victory.

McDonald struck out 14 and walked only three, while the **Softball** Senecas played errorless softball behind her.

In regular season action, Fremont Ross whipped Old Fort 24-3 and Sandusky Perkins outscored Oak Harbor 19-18.

Calvert scored a run in the first, one in the fourth and five in the sixth.

Lisa Whittaker took the loss for St. Joe, 7-5. The Crimson Streaks committed four errors.

**Ross 24, Old Fort 3**

Ross outhit Old Fort 14-4, and the Little Giants scored in all four innings they batted.

Lisa Watts, who drove in two

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See **SOFTBALL, B-2**

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runs, and Kelly Gierhart had three hits apiece for Ross, which also got two hits from Kim Borys and Carrie Clark. One of Watts' hits was a home run.

Deb Hammond was the winning pitcher and Amy Bruegge-meier took the loss as Ross improved to 6-11 and Old Fort remained winless in 15 games.

# Findlay defeats Ross 17-8

News-Messenger reports

Findlay's 17-8 high school softball victory over Fremont Ross Wednesday evened the teams at one win apiece in the fight for the right to play for the Buckeye Central Conference championship.

The Trojans took leads of 5-2 and 9-6 after the first two innings. The Little Giants scored twice in the fifth to make it 9-8, but Findlay put the game away with a seven-run seventh.

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In other games, Clyde beat Sandusky Perkins 28-1 and Oak Harbor upset Lake 5-4.

Findlay outhit Ross 16-10. The Little Giants committed a season-high 10 errors to five for the Trojans.

Melanie Meyers was the winning pitcher and Deb Hammond took the loss.

# Findlay topples Ross; Clyde beats Rockets

News-Messenger reports

Findlay scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and made them stand up Friday afternoon in a 10-8 victory over visiting Ross.

In other games, Clyde beat Oak Harbor 5-2 and Port Clinton downed Sandusky Perkins 10-9 in eight innings.

Ross scored a run in the seventh, but it wasn't enough to keep the Little Giants from falling to 6-13 and 1-2 in the Buckeye Central Conference.

The Trojans, who banged out 11 hits and had the help of seven Ross errors, improved to 10-8 and 2-1 in the conference.

Winnig pitcher Melanie Meyers held Ross to seven hits.

**Clyde 5, Oak Harbor 2**

At Clyde, the Fliers had just

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five hits off loser Jen Almen-dinger but made them stand up in the SBC victory. Clyde is 10-4 and 8-2 in the conference while the Rockets dipped to 2-16 and 0-8 in the SBC.

**Port Clinton 10, Perkins 9**

Port Clinton's Laurie Mann held Sandusky Perkins to eight hits Friday as the Redskins rolled to a 10-9 victory over the visiting Pirates in eight innings.

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