

2014 Season Review.

Yeast to help Little Giants rise

Former Bengals player taking over football program

By Matthew Horn
Sports writer

FREMONT — Growing up in a single-parent family and constantly being told he was too small to accomplish the things he dreamed of doing, new Fremont Ross head varsity football coach Craig Yeast could have a chip on his shoulder.

He doesn't look at things that way.

"When I was young, life wasn't easy," Yeast said. "I worked for what I had as a farm

boy. I was told by a lot of people that because I was so small, I couldn't do a lot of things and I used it as fuel to prove them wrong."

Yeast, who is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, was a wide receiver and kick returner at the University of Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference from 1995 to 1998. He was a first-team all-SEC and a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver in 1998.

Yeast, who is a member of the Wildcats' hall of fame,

played for the Cincinnati Bengals in the NFL from 1999 to 2001 after being drafted in the fourth round and the New York Jets the next season. He finished his career with the Hamilton Tiger Cats in the Canadian Football League, where he was second in all-purpose yardage in 2004.

Yeast holds Kentucky's career marks for yards, receptions and touchdowns. He is fifth all-time with 4,280 all-

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Craig Yeast speaks after he was introduced Monday as the new varsity football coach at Fremont Ross. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENDER

Yeast

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purpose yards and his 208 career receptions are sixth all-time in the SEC.

Yeast was head coach at Bryan Station High School in Kentucky and helped the football team improve from 1-10 to 7-5 and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. He was wide receivers coach at Tiffin University the last two years.

"The thing I like most is his upbeat attitude," said Jalen Santoro, who graduated from Bellevue and was one of Yeast's receivers at Tiffin. "He has a passion, and he's very knowledgeable. He's always up and ready to go. Whatever he did, he gave everything he had. He's vibrant.

"Going from quarterback to wide receiver, I had to learn the basics and the little things on punt return with technique that help in the long run. He taught me a lot."

Accustomed to the talent level and passion in the SEC, Yeast has been impressed with Big Ten country.

"The state of Ohio prepares kids for the next level," Yeast said. "It's great high school football. That's why I'm the head coach at Ross. Being here the last few years, there's talent in Ohio. It's one of the most recruited states in the nation. I enjoy it. It's a different kind of talent than the South with the skill-position athletes.

"Up here, you're dealing with big, physical guys who hit you in the mouth Big Ten style. That's what Ohio high school football is — my kind of physical football."

Yeast played in Hal Mumme's innovative passing attack at Kentucky with future Browns quarterback Tim Couch throwing the passes.

"You'll see similarities to the Air Raid," Yeast said. "We will run the ball. I believe in the run game. Air Raid is pass happy and we will throw the ball but I'm a little old school and you set up the pass with the run. We'll spread it out a little, but we'll be balanced."

Yeast and his son Russ, who will be a sophomore receiver next season, are excited about the future, and particularly thrilled with the big picture being together and extending their football family.

"One thing that has me excited is settling in in one spot with my sister," said Russ, who currently attends Tiffin Columbian, "and being able to play for my dad and win games with him. My dad's had a lot of success and I'd like to have half the success he did."

Little Giants junior receiver Jeffery Barnett is also enthusiastic about playing for an SEC legend.

"I'm glad he got the job," Barnett said. "He can play a big part in the community and with the football team. He's been in the NFL. He can help us get better."

Yeast, who plans to be an intervention specialist at the high school, intends for discipline, hard work, toughness and selflessness to be staples for his program.

"It's going to be tough. I'm going to push harder than they've been pushed," Yeast said.

"If they told me I couldn't do it, I'm going to tell you, you can do it and expect it. Life isn't easy. You have to work for everything."

Now that he is part of the community, he considers Fremont to be his family.

Yeast has been married to Tori Yeast for 14 years and they also have a daughter, Kiyah, 11.

"We are so excited," Yeast said. "I love football and I love kids. I want the kids in the program to understand that when they graduate, they're an ambassador for the community and their families. I will work tooth and nail to make this program successful and I will do everything that I can do."

"I'm a winner. I expect to win, but I expect the kids to win the right way. Our team will be tough, we will have discipline and we will work hard and have fun doing it. I have the opportunity to build the program back to a level of dominance in a great conference with great competition. When everybody is headed in the right direction, you can build something special."

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FREMONT ROSS

STRONG FINISHES VITAL FOR ROSS

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — When Craig Yeast reviewed the game films of Fremont Ross' 2013 season, he noticed a disturbing trend.

Too often the new coach of the Little Giants saw his team wear down in the second half. He saw mistakes pile up and when the ball bounced the other way he saw shoulders dip and a lack of fight.

Entering his first season at the helm, Yeast wants his team to be able to not only remain tough in a game's late stages, he wants them to fight through adversity.

"Our biggest challenge is having the toughness and the discipline to compete for four quarters," Yeast said. "From watching film one thing I noticed was our boys were in a lot of games last year and somewhere between midway through the third and the fourth quarter, something would happen. They'd get down on themselves and not have the toughness or mental discipline to finish games."

Yeast saw Ross' second-half let-downs in back-to-backs weeks last season. In Week 4, Lima Senior scored the game-winning touchdown of a 13-12 win over Ross with just 2:34 to play in the fourth quarter. The following week, Ross trailed Toledo Central Catholic 14-7 midway through the



Fremont Ross look to be a tougher team in the late stages of games in 2014. NEWS-MESSENGER
FILE PHOTO

third quarter and went on to lose 35-7.

"Last year, in the fourth quarter, we got tired," senior receiver Jeffrey Barnett said. "We got mentally soft, physically soft and died down and didn't play hard. Now we're not like that anymore. We play the whole

thing."

In the loss against Whitmer, and again in a Week 8 loss to St. Francis de Sales, Fremont Ross turned the ball over seven times.

"Everything we're doing is building the toughness, the discipline, the attitude and the hard work

part of it," Yeast said. "To me, what we've done by doing new things and attacking them differently than what they're used to and putting them in uncomfortable positions, is building their toughness."

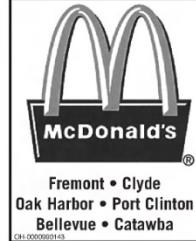
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FREMONT ROSS

Schedule

All games at 7 p.m.

Aug. 29 vs. Elyria
Sept. 5 vs. Maple Heights
Sept. 12 at Sandusky
Sept. 19 vs. Lima Senior
Sept. 26 at Toledo Catholic Central
Oct. 3 vs. Whitmer
Oct. 10 at Oregon Clay
Oct. 17 at St. Francis
Oct. 24 vs. Findlay
Oct. 31 vs. St. John's



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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

COVER STORY

YEAST IS FREMONT'S NEW VOICE

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

Despite the nearby rush of traffic on Ohio 20 running just beyond the Fremont Ross football practice field, Craig Yeast has no trouble making himself heard.

His voice isn't louder or harsher than any football coach, but it contains a quality that allows it to carry a great distance. Standing in the middle of the field, Yeast's howls of exasperation, wails of reproach and occasional cheers of acceptance, remain plainly heard in the parking lot a hundred yards away.

As Fremont Ross begins its team stretching on its third day of practice, the first day the Little Giants don their shoulder pads, Yeast perceives a lack of enthusiasm from his players.

"First day of pads and no one's excited!" he declares. "I guess that's what happens when you're soft!"

Soft. Few words carry as much weight and recrimination on a football field. Fewer still are the players who do not find motivation to disprove such a charge. It's a word with potential to bruise egos and make people feel uncomfortable.

But making people feel comfortable is not what Craig Yeast, a former wide receiver at the University of Kentucky who spent three seasons in the NFL and four more in the Canadian Football League, came to Fremont Ross to do.

"I think sometimes, when you come in and try to change the culture and perception of the program, somebody has to be the bad guy, not everybody can be the good guy," Yeast said. "So it's a matter of putting them in uncomfortable positions and seeing how they react to it."

Since being hired as head coach of the Little Giants in March, Yeast has systematically transformed the Ross football program. Focusing on the smallest of details and demanding the highest level of performance and dedication from his players, Yeast's vision for his team is one uncompromising



The Fremont Ross football team is forging a new identity under first-year head coach Craig Yeast, center. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSANGER

passion.

"The level of intensity is definitely a lot higher and it doesn't slide down at any time during practice," senior center Patrick Rushee said. "From stretching to the end of practice he expects perfection and if we don't give it to him, we're going to pay for it."

Two months behind

Never mind the normal obstacles that come when coach takes over a program: The installing of new schemes and terminology and the building of relationships with dozens of players who are no more than unfamiliar faces.

When he was hired on March 3, replacing former coach Derek Kidwell, Craig Yeast inherited a team he believed had been

physically undemanded playing in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Making matters worse, he saw his team as being two months behind its league rivals in its offseason program.

From April until the end of the school year, Yeast had his team arrive at the school every day by 6 a.m. for strength training. For 45 minutes to an hour before school, the Little Giants worked to catch up to their TRAC opponents.

"January and February, that's when you're supposed to start your offseason program and we were two months behind, so we had to hit it and go hard," Yeast said. "How you win football games, how you develop kids and how you build a



The Fremont Ross football team is forging a new identity under first-year head coach Craig Yeast, center. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSANGER

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CRAIG YEAST
New Fremont Ross head football coach

Yeast

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program, you got to prepare in January through the summer. I think we've closed the gap because we still have a little ways to go."

It was in those morning workouts the Little Giants learned their new coach's adherence to smallest details, such as demanding perfect synchronization on jumping jacks.

"It's all about the discipline aspect of it," Yeast said. "When we're doing jumping jacks, you need to have the toughness to do them. When you're tired, you need to have the discipline to make sure you're doing them right because that's your job."

"To be a good football team, you're only as good as your weakest link," he added. "When you're on the field, there are 11 guys and it only takes one guy to not do his job. If that one guy doesn't do his job, you put the other 10 in a situation where they can easily fail."

While Yeast's methods are exact he also introduced his team to the unorthodox. While Monday, Wednesday and Friday were dedicated to getting stronger in the weight room, Tuesday and Thursday the Little Giants took ballet lessons.

Yeast brought in a pair Ross graduates and ballet instructors and put his players through their paces with stretching and motion exercises to increase agility and flexibility. Though the thought of the Little Giants in tutus leaping through the air might draw snickers from those who weren't there, the players themselves saw it as no laughing matter.

"You definitely got a sweat out of it," senior linebacker Ben Root said. "It's not easy."

In July the team spent a weekend locked inside the school. There, Yeast and his staff implemented the Little Giants' new up-tempo spread offense. They spent more than three days with one another,



The Fremont Ross football team is forging a new identity under first-year head coach Craig Yeast. RICH MCGOWAN NEWS-MESSANGER

with no access to cell phones or social media, further establishing a new era and a new way of doing things at Fremont Ross.

"I think he did it by challenging us to the max," Root said. "With the morning liftings, June conditioning with how much we ran, the three-night, three-day lock-in. He made us tougher. He ran us a ton. He made us a lot mentally stronger."

Four staples

A dropped pass. A misread by the quarterback. The right route run by a receiver but at a slightly wrong angle. All missteps during practice which

draw Yeast's ire.

Every command barked, every jumping jack and every early-morning work-out serves its purpose.

Having players learn new, difficult, and sometimes painful, methods of training builds toughness Yeast requires.

Accepting nothing but perfect execution on every snap of every 7-on-7 passing scrimmage, every practice rep and every play on Fridays leads to a steely discipline Yeast demands.

Running conditioning and doing up-downs at 11 p.m. during the team's three-day school

lock-in underscores to his players no team will have a greater work ethic.

Slowly, the Little Giants are transforming themselves. A swagger is taking hold of the program, one that belies a team whose season last year ended in mediocrity, a 5-5 overall record and a 3-4 mark in TRAC play.

"The kids have great attitudes because we have great kids," Yeast said. "But now, what I tell them is some of that attitude has to turn into a nasty attitude. That attitude that says 'I'm going to hit you in the mouth when I step on the field.'"

Toughness. Discipline. Work

ethic. Attitude. They're the staples that helped Yeast become a successful player. He wants the Little Giants to follow that lead.

"If you put all those things together, when we go out there on Friday nights, the hope and the goal is for the product we put out there on the field is a tough, disciplined, nasty, great-attitude football team that plays four quarters and, when the clock says zero, we have wins," Yeast said.

"I'm looking to take this program to another level and get it back to the days when we walked out on the field and people feared Fremont Ross."



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENDER

Fremont Ross' Jeffrey Barnett returns an interception for a touchdown during the first half of a football game against Elyria on Friday, Aug 29, 2014.

Fremont Ross' bid for rally falls short

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — One yard. The distance Fremont Ross' football came from potentially making a comeback a reality fell just a yard short.

Trailing by double digits with less than four minutes to play, the Little Giants drove the field and were knocking on the door of a touchdown. But a fumble on the 1-yard line ended any hopes of narrowing the deficit and pulling off a comeback as the Elyria defense pounced on the loose ball and nailed down a 28-19 victory at Don Paul stadium Friday.

The fumble was Ross' fourth turnover of the game and third of the second half.

"We moved the ball well at

"We moved the ball well at times but our biggest issue is shooting ourselves in the foot."

CRAIG YEAST
Fremont Ross head coach

times but our biggest issue is shooting ourselves in the foot," first-year Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "Right now we're just refusing to be as good as we can possibly be."

Despite the missed opportunities to score, the Little Giants held a 19-14 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Just over a minute into the final period, Elyria took the lead on a four-yard touch-



JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENDER

Fremont Ross' Isaiah McDonald fights for extra yardage during the first half of a football game against Elyria on Friday, Aug 29, 2014.

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ROSS

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down run by running back Chris Atkinson. The Pioneers then added to their lead with another Atkinson touchdown to take a 28-19 advantage.

Ross then drove from its own 48 to the Elyria 1-yard with 1:36 to play until a goal line fumble put the game out of reach.

"Most of the turnovers we forced," Elyria coach Kevin Fell said. "We got a couple good licks on them."

"I think they're going to be real good if they stay healthy. We feel fortunate to get out of here alive."

Ross' offense moved the ball effectively early in the game. The Little Giants drove inside Pioneer territory on their first two drives, and had the ball first-and-goal at the 1-yard line until a penalty stalled the drive and Ross settled for a 23-yard field goal by Nate Domiray with 1:31 to play in

the first quarter.

The Ross defense struck moments later. On Elyria's first play after Ross' field goal, Hunter Parsh's pass was intercepted by Jeffrey Barnett and returned 30 yards for a touchdown, giving the Little Giants a 10-0 lead.

Elyria answered in the second quarter on a 39-yard touchdown pass from Parsh who found Brad Schneider who snuck behind the Ross secondary for to trim the deficit to 10-7.

Early in the third quarter Ross quarterback Jalen Slick connected on a bomb down the Elyria sideline with Russ Yeast for a 69-yard touchdown.

Slick finished 14-of-35 passing for 234 yards with two interceptions and a touchdown.

"I think it's a flash. Jalen is our guy," coach Yeast said. "We have to continue to coach him up and he did some good things tonight."

Willie Arrington led Ross in rushing with 75 yards on 17 carries.

Elyria 28, Ross 19

Elyria	0	7	7	14	—	28
Ross	10	3	6	0	—	19

First quarter

FR - Nate Domiray 23 field goal, 1:31

FR - Jeffrey Barnett 30 interception return (Domiray kick), 1:14

Second quarter

Second quarter

E - Brad Schneider 39 pass from Hunter Parsh (Scott Peggs kick), 5:05

FR - Domiray 22 field goal, 0:55

Third quarter

Third quarter

FR -- Russ Yeast 69 pass from Jalen Slick (kick fail), 7:35

E -- Brad Schneider 43 pass from Parsh (Peggs kick), 3:42

Fourth quarter

Fourth quarter

E -- Chris Atkinson 4 run (Kyle Ringer pass from Parsh), 10:55

E -- Atkinson 6 run (kick fail), 3:50

	E	R
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	427	351
Rushes-Yards	40-129	35-117
Passing	298	234
Comp-Att-Int	20-35-1	14-35-2
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	3-2
Penalties-Yards	7-62	9-74

MAPLE HEIGHTS AT FREMONT ROSS



BARB GLASPY/NEWS-MESSANGER CORRESPONDENT

Fremont Ross' Willie Arrington runs through the Maple Heights' defense Friday. Ross led 21-0 at halftime before the game was halted due to lightning.

Ross half-way to first win

By **Josh Morgret**
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Fremont Ross football coach Craig Yeast had to be pleased with how his team played and the momentum it had in the first half Friday against Maple Heights. Then lightning struck.

After a 25-minute delay due to lightning, the game was postponed until 1 p.m. Saturday. The game will resume with Ross leading 21-0 at halftime. The Little Giants will be set to receive the second-half kickoff when play resumes.

"The lightning is a little frustrating but you can only control what you can control and the weather isn't some-

POSTPONEMENTS

A quick look at Saturday's resumption schedule of postponed football games

- » Oak Harbor at Genoa: resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. in the 3rd quarter. Comets lead 17-12.
- » Bellevue at Huron: resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. Huron up 13-7 in 4th quarter.
- » Gibsonburg at Lakota: resumes at 10 a.m. with four minutes left in the 2nd quarter. Gibsonburg leads 29-6.
- » Maple Heights at Fremont Ross: resumes 1 p.m. with one half played. Ross leads 21-0.
- » Toledo Christian at Woodmore: resumes at 7 p.m. at the 1:30 mark in the 2nd quarter. TC leads 18-13.
- » Margaretta at Western Reserve: resumes at 7 p.m. with nine minutes left in 3rd quarter. Margaretta leads 30-12.

thing you can control," Yeast said. "Hopefully we come back (today) with the same intensi-

ty we had in the first half and be in the same frame of mind."

A steady of balance of Jalen

Slick through the air and Willie Arlington on the ground led the Ross offense. Slick threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Jarren Hampton in the first quarter and connected with Jeffery Barnett for an 88-yard score in the second quarter. The score to Barnett came on the heels of a fumble recovery by Alonzo McGhee.

"Jalen played well," Yeast said. "There's some mistakes we will have to fix in the second half. I'm not happy with how we finished the first half but we will make some adjustments."

Slick completed nine of his first 10 passes before

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ROSS

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struggling a bit on Ross' last possession. He finished 11-of-17 for 181 yards with the two touchdowns. Uriah Haun added a 3-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

The Mustangs racked up nearly 200

yards of offense but couldn't find the end zone. Despite 184 yards rushing and 22 plays in Fremont Ross territory, the Little Giants came up with big plays when needed.

"Overall, I think we did a good job on defense," Yeast said. "We got beat a little bit but effort plays kept them out of the end zone. Thankfully, we have some speedy players that were able to make big tackles when they made a big play."

Ross 21, Maple Heights 0

Maple Heights	0	0	0	0	—	0
Ross	7	14	0	0	—	21

First quarter

R - Jarren Hampton 14 pass from Jalen Slick (Nathan Domiray kick), 4:12.

Second quarter

R - Uriah Haun 3 run (Domiray kick), 11:19.

R - Jeffrey Barnett 88 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 7:31.

	M	R
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	199	287
Rushes-Yards	28-184	16-105
Passing	15	182
Comp-Att-Int	1-2-0	11-17-0
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-10	2-5

FREMONT ROSS 35, MAPLE HEIGHTS 22

Senior captains lead Ross victory over Mustangs

Slick, Bennett post 201 yards in big win

By **Josh Morgret**

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — In one of the more unique situations you will see in high school football, it was a connection between senior captains that was the key for Ross.

Quarterback Jalen Slick completed six passes to Jeffery Barnett for 201 yards as Ross topped Maple Heights, 35-22 in non-league action Saturday. The game was a continuation from Friday in which the Little Giants (1-1) led 21-0 at halftime but was halted due to lightning.

"We came out flat (Saturday)



BARB GLASPY/NEWS-MESSENDER

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Fremont Ross quarterback Jalen Slick runs through the Maple Heights defense on Friday.

Ross

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and Maple Heights came out excited,” Ross coach Craig Yeast said. “They moved the ball and they were ready to play. We warned the team that we couldn’t come out flat but thankfully we got the win.”

Slick and Barnett connected on a 88-yard score Friday and added touchdowns of 30 and 35 in the third quarter Saturday. Slick completed 20-of-30 passes for 288 yards overall.

“We came out with intensity and used the momentum from (Friday) to get the win,” Barnett said. “Jalen and I had a good connection and we felt good. We made some nice plays.”

The Mustangs (1-1) didn’t go down without a fight despite making the near-two hour trek for a second consecutive day. After a 24-yard touchdown run by quarterback Lamar Smith and a successful 2-point conversion, Maple Heights recovered an onside kick.

The Ross defense came alive just in time though, stopping the Mustangs on 4th down. The ensuing possession saw Slick complete four straight passes, culminating in the 30-yard score to Barnett.

“I like my team,” Yeast said. “We’re still learning how to finish. We are a work in progress. This is a good win.”

Maple Heights added two scores in the fourth quarter and finished with 446 yards of offense, but it still wasn’t enough. The Mustangs racked up 52 points in last week’s opening night win.

“I think if we score (Friday), we probably win the game (Saturday),” Maple Heights coach Delvin Culliver said. “We got down in the red zone three or four times (Friday) but can’t score.”

The Mustangs put up 199 yards in the first half and 247 in the second half, which frustrated Culliver.

“I’m pissed off to be honest,” he said. “It’s frustrating to see us do well (Saturday) and struggle (Friday).”

Ross put up 459 yards of offense but turns its attention to its biggest rival on

FREMONT ROSS 35, MAPLE HEIGHTS 22

Maple Heights 0-0-8-14 - 22

Fremont Ross 7-14-14-0 - 35

FIRST QUARTER

FR: Jarren Hampton 14 pass from Jalen Slick (Nathan Domiray kick), 4:12.

SECOND QUARTER

FR: Uriah Haun 3 run (Domiray kick), 11:19.

FR: Jeffery Barnett 88 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 7:31.

THIRD QUARTER

MH: Lamar Smith 24 run (Smith run), 8:35.

FR: Barnett 30 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 4:50.

FR: Barnett 35 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 0:20.

FOURTH QUARTER

MH: Kierre Hawkins 31 pass from Smith (pass no good), 7:35.

MH: Smith 1 run (Javaughnte Richardson run), 5:16.

Maple Heights Fremont Ross

Total yards 446 459

Rushes-yards 45-288 32-171

Passing 158 288

Comp-Att-INT 8-16-0 20-30-1

Fumbles-lost 2-1 0-0

Penalties-yards 3-15 4-20

RUSHING: MH- Curtis Brown 10-95, Smith 19-85, Gino Hinton 10-80, Hawkins 4-21, Tony Thompson 2-7. FR- Willie Arlington 18-111, Haun 6-40, Slick 7-15, Russ Yeast 1-5.

PASSING: MH- Smith 8-16-158. FR- Slick 20-30-288.

RECEIVING: MH- Richardson 4-56, Quartz Long 2-59, Hawkins 2-43. FR- Barnett 6-201, Yeast 5-34, Hampton 4-24, Tyler Grine 1-7, Tanner Albert 1-6.

the schedule - a game at Sandusky on Friday night.

“We have got to be focused,” Yeast said. “We have to be focused on our responsibilities. We are going to have to pay attention to detail all week.”

FREMONT ROSS 42, SANDUSKY 20

Little Giants in command of rivalry

Fremont Ross wins fifth in a row over rival Sandusky

By Rich McGowan

Assistant editor/sports reporter

SANDUSKY — A 21-point second-quarter outburst didn't just lift Fremont Ross to a win over rival Sandusky Friday. It also gave the Little Giants a piece of history.

For the first time in the 109-year rivalry between the teams, Ross' 42-20 win over Sandusky gave the Little Giants their first five-game winning streak in the series.

"We wanted to set history," said senior defensive lineman Garrett Hausman. "We wanted to win five in a row and put our names in the books. It's amazing. I gives me flutters

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Fremont Ross' Uriah Haun dives toward the end zone during the Little Giants' 42-20 win over Sandusky.
Photo by Barb Glaspy.

Giants

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in my stomach.

"Our names, as a family, will be in the history books. Until we beat them next year, then it will be six years."

Ross took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter before Sandusky looked to make things interesting with a 37-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter.

Then the Little Giants exploded.

A nice kick return by Russ Yeast gave Ross excellent field position inside Sandusky territory. Six plays later, Willie Arrington scored his second touchdown of the night on a 1-yard run.

Ross' defense then forced a Sandusky three-and-out on its ensuing possession, giving the ball back to the offense, which wasted little time. On the first play of the drive Ross quarterback Jalen Slick found Jeffrey Barnett on a slant. Barnett avoided a tackle and sped away from the Blue Streaks for a 65-yard touchdown.

"I caught the ball and I thought I was going to get hit, so I turned around, he was right there, so I stopped moved and I just took off," Barnett said. "It's amazing. Once I get open, I'm gone. I don't think about anybody behind me, I'm just gone."

Ross then slammed the door shut four plays later. Tyler Grine intercept-

ed a pass by Sandusky quarterback Brady McKillips and returned it 90 yards for a touchdown and, after a 2-point conversion, a 35-7 lead, putting the game away before halftime.

"I was happy with the way our kids responded," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "Our kids played hard, they had a little adversity and I thought they handled it well, responded well and made big plays."

Over the course of Ross' five-game win streak over Sandusky, the Little Giants have outscored the Blue Streaks 209-103.

Ross continued to pour it on in the third quarter. The Little Giants took the second half's opening possession and marched 65 yards. Arrington pounded the Blue Streak between the tackles, totaling 60 of the drive's 65 yards on five carries. Though he did the hard-running on the drive, fullback Ben Root scored the touchdown on a 1-yard run for a 42-7 lead.

Arrington finished the night with 107 yards and two touchdowns on 14 carries.

"Willie is coming along, he's getting better and better every game," Yeast said. "The more he plays, the better I think he's going to get. He's built well, he runs hard and has good speed."

Quarterback Jalen Slick completed 7-of-12 passes for 130 yards as the Little Giants totaled 367 yards of offense.

Ross 42, Sandusky 13

Ross	14	21	7	0	—	42
Sandusky	0	7	0	6	—	13

First quarter

FR -- Willie Arrington 12 run (Nathan Domiray kick), 6:34

FR -- Jalen Slick 7 run (Domiray kick), 0:25

Second quarter

S -- Korey Harper 37 pass from Brady McKil-lips (Evan McGory kick), 10:48

FR -- Arrington 1 run (Domiray kick), 8:12

FR -- Jeffrey Barnett 65 pass from Slick (kick blocked), 6:40

FR -- Tyler Grine 90 interception return (Tavarius Simms pass from Slick), 4:53

Third quarter

FR -- Ben Root 1 run (Domiray kick), 8:12

Fourth quarter

S -- Ben Fuller 14 run (run fail), 8:21

S -- Fuller 6 run (McGory kick), 6:05

	R	S
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	377	219
Rushes-Yards	41-237	20-65
Passing	140	154
Comp-Att-Int	9-16-0	9-23-1
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-96	6-35

LIMA SENIOR 41, FREMONT ROSS 17



JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSANGER

Fremont Ross' Garrett Hausman stops the Lima Senior ball carrier for a loss during a football game on Friday, Sept 19, 2014.

BOMBS AWAY

Lima Senior passing attack too much for Fremont Ross

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — Lima Senior's football team came out firing Friday night and the Spartans didn't stop until the chamber was out of bullets.

Unfortunately, for Fremont Ross, the Spartans' weaponry left the Little Giants' secondary tattered and torn.

Lima Senior's passing game

ripped through Fremont Ross to the tune of more than 400 first-half yards en route to a 41-17 victory at Don Paul Stadium.

"We've had some difficulties in the secondary, trying to get guys to do their job," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "I'm sure (Lima Senior) saw that on film. It was an area of weakness and they exploited it. They're a good team. They made plays and we didn't."

The Spartans went to the air early and connected right away. Quarterback Darius Gordon found Ruben Flowers for a 39-yard touchdown strike just 83 seconds into the first quarter.

Lima then recovered an on-side and put its offense back on the field — albeit for just one play. That's all the Spartans needed to add to their lead.

See ROSS, Page 2B



JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSANGER
Fremont Ross' Russ Yeast is swarmed by the Lima Senior defense during the first half of a football game on Friday, Sept 19, 2014.

ROSS

Continued from Page 1B

Marquis Graham ran past the Ross secondary and found himself wide open on the receiving end of a 50-yard touchdown pass from Gordon, giving the Spartans their second touchdown in 10 seconds and a 14-0 lead with 10:27 yet to play in the opening quarter.

Running back Juniel Liles added a 2-yard touchdown before Gordon and Rico Stafford connected on a 39-yard touchdown for a 27-0 lead with 1:21 to go in the first quarter.

"Our quarterback is healthy and he can throw the ball deep when he's healthy," Lima coach Mike Fell said. "We thought all week we could go deep and we thought we could get Rico Stafford deep, people kind of ignore him, with Ruben and Marquis."

The onslaught continued as Gordon found Flowers early in the second quarter on a swing pass. Flowers then made his way through the Ross defense on his way to a 92-yard touchdown and a 34-0 lead.

Lima outgained Ross 285-92 in the

first quarter and 455-147 in the first half. Gordon finished the first half 14-of-18 passing for 420 yards.

Flowers (6-foot-4) and Stafford (6-5) enjoyed large height advantage over the shorter Ross defensive backs.

"Their receiving corp was pretty decent, but a lot of it was blown coverages on our part," said Ross defensive back Russ Yeast. "There was a couple plays they got big plays because they were a lot taller than we were, but a lot of those plays were our faults. We made them look better than they were."

While the Lime offense scored at will, Ross never found its rhythm and never threatened to climb back into the game. N

Jalen Slick completed 12-of-27 passes for 198 yards with two interceptions.

Willie Arrington provided Ross with its best source of offense. He scored two rushing touchdowns and finished with 85 yards on the ground. He also led the Little Giants in receiving with four catches for 89 yards. N

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lima 41, Ross 17

Lima	27	7	7	0 —	41
Ross	N	0	7	3	7 — 17

First quarter

LS -- Ruben Flowers 39 pass from Darius Gordon (Alex Ehora kick), 10:37

LS -- Marquis Graham 50 pass from Gordon (Ehora kick), 10:27

LS -- Juniel Liles 2 run (Ehora kick), 3:39

LS -- Rico Stafford 39 pass from Gordon (kick fail), 1:21

Second quarter

LS -- Flowers 92 pass from Gordon (Ehora kick), 9:19

FR -- Willie Arrington 15 run (Nate Domiray kick), 2:22

Third quarter

FR -- Domiray 19 field goal, 9:42

LS -- Liles 1 run (Ehora kick), 6:54

Fourth quarter

FR -- Arrington 5 run (Domiray kick), 5:11

Individual statistics

Rushing — Lima, Juniel Liles 20-97, Demontay Liles 1-10, Darius Gordon 1-3. Ross, Willie Arrington 22-85, Tyler Grine 1-4, Jalen Slick 12-35.

Passing — Lima, Darius Gordon 27-18-0-443. Ross, Jalen Slick 12-27-2-198.

Receiving — Lima, Marquis Graham 3-62, Ruben Flowers 8-241, Rico Stafford 3-81.

Ross, Willie Arrington 4-89, Jarren Hampton 2-72, Russ Yeast 3-18.

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC 83, FREMONT ROSS 51



JONATHON BIRD/STAFF PHOTO

Fremont Ross' Jeffrey Barnett is driven out of bounds by a Toledo Central Catholic defender during the first half of a football game on Friday, Sept. 26, 2014.

Little Giants fall short in defeat

By Rich McGowan
Assistant editor/sports reporter

TOLEDO — Fifty-one points will win a football team a lot of games. But when that team also struggles to make defensive stops, 51 points sometimes isn't enough.

Fremont Ross found itself in a track meet with a heavily-favored Toledo Central Catholic squad and used a pair of second half turnovers to climb within four points. But the Little Giants could not get a defensive stop when it needed one and the Fighting Irish pulled away with several late touchdowns in defeating Ross 83-51 Friday night.

"We're just not there yet,"

Fremont Ross scores 51 points, loses to TRAC power Irish

Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast said, "Our kids fought hard. That's one thing I'll say. My kids fought and we put up 51 points. But we gave up 83."

Central Catholic scored touchdowns on 11 of 17 possessions, one of which was a one-play kneel-down at the end of the first half.

Fighting Irish running backs Michael Warren and Tre'Von Wade combined for 389 rushing yards and eight touchdowns.

Fremont Ross quarterback Jalen Slick completed 23-of-47

passes for 505 yards with two touchdown passes and another two rushing touchdowns. Slick's scoring throws were both to receiver Jeffrey Barnett who also scored on an 80-yard kick return late in the first half.

Central Catholic took a 49-31 lead midway through the third quarter on a 1-yard run by quarterback Marcus Winters. Central Catholic's next two possessions ended on Winters fumbles that Ross recovered in Irish territory. The Little Giants converted both

"Our kids fought hard. That's one thing I'll say. My kids fought and we put up 51 points. But we gave up 83."

CRAIG YEAST
Fremont Ross head coach

turnovers into touchdowns. The first was a 2-yard Willie Arrington run, the second a 30-yard bubble screen pass to Barnett that closed the Little Giants to within 49-45 in the

See POINTS, Page 2B

Points

Continued from Page 1B

final minute of the third quarter.

The Fighting Irish, as they did throughout the night, had an answer to halt Ross' momentum. They traveled 80 yards in 35 seconds and scored on a 32-yard run by Warren to take a 56-45 lead into the fourth.

Central Catholic added three more touchdowns in the final quarter, including an interception return from midfield for a touchdown, to break the game open at the end.

"We just didn't have enough tonight," Yeast said.

The second quarter saw both teams trade blows back and forth, as they combined for six touchdowns and 45 points with four touchdowns, two for each team, in the last 2:41.

Barnett kicked things off with 4:04 remaining when he caught a 22-yard toss on a post route from Slick to trim the Central Catholic lead to 28-16. The

Fighting Irish wasted no time answering, as Wade scored from 47 yards out just 83 seconds later.

Ross responded with a quick strike of its own. A 56-yard screen pass play to Arrington took the Little Giants to the 1-yard line where Slick scored one play later. Slick connected with Tanner Albert for a 2-point conversion.

But Central Catholic had an answer, driving 50 yards in a little over a minute, capped by a 14-yard touchdown pass from Winter to Darion Greer with 30 seconds to play in the half.

Just when it looked like the Little Giants were about to enter halftime trailing by 18, Barnett, who had already had a terrific night returning kicks into Fighting Irish territory, took it to the house. After bobbling the reception of the kickoff, he found a seam and took off, returning the kick for an 80-yard touchdown. His return sent Ross into halftime still in the game, trailing 42-31.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Central Catholic 83, Ross 51

Ross	7	24	14	6	—	51
Central Catholic	21	21	14	27	—	83

First quarter

CC Jermiah Braswell 29 pass from Marcus Winters (Brock Quinlan), 10:29
FR -- Jalen Slick 20 run (Nate Domiray kick), 6:31
CC-- Michael Warren 27 run (Quinlan kick), 6:05
Cc-- Warren 7 run (Quinlan kick), 1:50

Second quarter

FR -- Patrick Rusher 37 field goal, 11:44
CC -- Tre'Von Wade 17 run (Quinlan kick), 6:15
FR -- Jeffrey Barnett 22 pass from Slick (kick blocked), 4:04
CC -- Wade 47 run (Quinlan kick), 2:41
FR -- Slick 1 run (Tanner Albert pass from Slick), 1:58
CC-- Daron Greer 14 pass from Winters (Quinlan kick), :30.1
FR -- Barnett 80 kick return (Domiray kick), 15.

Third quarter

CC -- Winters 1 run (Quinlan kick), 7:43
FR -- Willie Arrington 2 run (Domiray kick), 3:08
FR -- Barnett 30 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 50.3
CC -- Warren 32 run (Quinlan kick), 10.2

Fourth quarter

FR -- Arrington 1 run (pass fail), 10:16
CC -- Warren 7 run (Quinlan kick), 7:05
CC -- Wade 14 run (Quinlan kick), 6:52
CC -- Wade 26 run (kick fail), 2:42
CC -- Daron Greer 50 interception return (Quinlan kick), 2:20

	R	C
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	545	475
Rushes-Yards	16-40	54-390
Passing	505	85
Comp-Att-Int	23-47-2	5-11-0
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	5-45	4-35

Individual statistics

Rushing — Central Catholic, Tre'von Wade 24-166, Michael Warren 21-223, Marcus Winters 10-1.

Passing — Central Catholic, Marcus Winters 5-11-0-85.

Receiving — Central Catholic, Michael Warren 1-2, Daron Greer 2-32.

FREMONT ROSS 41, TOLEDO WHITMER 40

Fremont Ross wins thriller

Little Giants deny Whitmer conversion to pull out major win

By **Josh Morget**
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Despite giving up 40 or more points for the third week in a row, it was one defensive play on a 2-point conversion that was key for Fremont Ross on Friday night against Toledo Whitmer.

Chase Bodeman's pass attempt was batted down incomplete as the Little Giants topped Whitmer in a thriller, 41-40, in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.

"It's a great win for our program," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "Anytime you have the chance to beat a program like Toledo Whitmer, it's a fantastic day for us. This is big for our kids."

In a game that featured zero turnovers, Whitmer's Larry Patterson scampered, broke tackles, and scored from 34 yards out with 1:33 left in the game to cut the lead to one. Rather than attempt a game-ty-

ing extra point, Panthers coach Jerry Bell opted for the win or go home strategy. The incomplete pass, followed by an on-side kick recovery by Ross' Jarren Hampton allowed the Little Giants faithful to breathe a sigh of relief.

"There was no doubt about it that we were going for two if we scored," Bell said. "We were going for the win. We ran a play-action pass and it just didn't work out."

Quarterback Jalen Slick was key in the Little Giants (3-3 overall, 1-2 TRAC) offense. He completed 30-of-37 passes for

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BARB GLASPY/CORRESPONDENT
Fremont Ross' Jeffrey Barnett runs up the field during the Little Giants' 41-40 win over Toledo Whitmer Friday.

ROSS

Continued from Page 1B

327 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 57 yards and a touchdown.

“This was a huge win going into the rest of conference play,” Slick said. “The defense got some big stops and was able to get the offense back out there pumped up.”

Ross got the win despite a big night from Whitmer running back Malik Moore.

He scored five touchdowns for the Panthers (3-3, 1-2) and finished with 14 rushes for 90 yards. His touchdown runs of 12, 3, and 15 yards put Whitmer ahead 20-6 after one quarter.

“We were a little upset because we were playing like last week (83-51 loss at Toledo Central Catholic),” Yeast said. “We were missing tackles and making silly mistakes. Give credit to our kids though. Our kids fought all night, all the way to the last play of the game.”

Willie Arrington cut the deficit in half with a 1-yard run after an 11-play drive. Moore scored again, this time on a 5-yard score for a 27-13 lead.

Ross wasted little time getting back on the scoreboard. Slick hit Jeffery Barnett for a short screen and Barnett

did the rest of the work. Juking and jiving his way through the Whitmer defense, Barnett didn’t stop until he reached the endzone. Whitmer maintained a 27-20 lead at halftime.

“We knew it was going to be a battle that probably would come down to the last possession,” Bell said. “We knew we were going to have to make more plays than them but we didn’t.”

Isaiah McDonald scored for Ross on its first possession of the second half. Slick was 4-of-5 on the drive for 40 yards and McDonald’s 2-yard touchdown tied the game, 27-27.

After a Whitmer punt, Arrington scored again, this time from two yards out and a 34-27 lead after three quarters.

Whitmer quickly tied it early in the fourth quarter on a 10-yard score by Moore. Ross took the lead for good on a 12-play drive, capped by a 5-yard touchdown from McDonald.

Russ Yeast led the Ross receivers with nine catches for 95 yards when Barnett had six receptions for 118 yards.

Craig Yeast gave a lot of credit to Slick.

“Jalen has played great football,” Yeast said of the 6-foot, 175-pound senior. “I’m proud of how he played. He got the ball to play-makers. When he’s on, he has potential to do big things.”

Ross 41, Whitmer 40

Whitmer	20	7	0	13	—	40
Ross	6	14	14	7	—	41

First quarter

TW - Malik Moore 12 run (Cory Baker kick), 9:29

FR - Russ Yeast 2 pass from Jalen Slick (kick failed), 5:09

TW - Moore 3 run (Baker kick), 3:56

TW - Moore 15 run (kick failed), 1:29

Second quarter

FR - Willie Arrington 1 run (Nathan Domiray kick), 8:47

TW - Moore 5 run (Baker kick), 7:24

FR - Jeffery Barnett 74 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 7:03

Third quarter

FR - Isaiah McDonald 2 run (Domiray kick), 7:41

FR - Arrington 2 run (Domiray kick), 1:09

Fourth quarter

TW - Moore 34 run (Baker kick), 10:04

FR - McDonald 5 run (Domiray kick), 6:29

TW - Larry Patterson 34 run (pass failed), 1:33

	W	R
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	430	494
Rushes-Yards	42-334	37-167
Passing	96	327
Comp-Att-Int	3-5-0	30-37-0
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-35	1-10

Individual statistics

Rushing — Whitmer, Larry Patterson 8-101, Chase Bodeman 16-146, Malik Moore 14-90, Keenan Baker 4-7. Ross, Jeffrey Barnett 2-3, Willie Arrington 10-29, Isaiah McDonald 11-80, Jalen Slick 10-57, Russ Yeast 4-2.

Passing — Whitmer, Chase Bodeman 3-5-0-96. Ross, Jalen Slick 30-37-0-327.

Receiving — Whitmer, Malik Moore 1-31, Chase Stacker 2-65. Ross, Tanner Albert 3-28, Jeffrey Barnett 6-118, Willie Arrington 3-39, Tyler Grine 1-4, Jarren Hampton 4-21, Isaiah McDonald 1-1, Tavarious Simms 3-21, Russ Yeast 9-95.

FREMONT ROSS 49, OREGON CLAY 26

McDonald's 4 TDs lead Ross

Win improves Ross to 4-3 overall, 2-2 in conference play

By Josh Morgret
News-Messenger correspondent

OREGON — Through six weeks, Isaiah McDonald wasn't exactly what you would call a Fremont Ross' feature back. But he was patiently waiting his time.

McDonald exploded for 200 yards and four touchdowns as the Little Giants topped Oregon Clay, 49-26 in a Three Rivers Athletic Conference matchup.

"I'm not worried about the stats," McDonald said. "We just wanted to get the win. I'm humbled to get 200 yards and four touchdowns, but I'm very blessed. I thank God and I thank all my teammates."

McDonald's touchdown runs of 17, 57 yards a pair of 1-yarders helped Ross im-



Isaiah McDonald

prove to 4-3 overall and 2-2 in the tough TRAC.

"We were sleep-walking early on," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We just don't know how to put teams away. I'm happy with the win but we've got to be more disciplined."

The Eagles (1-6, 0-4) scored the game's opening touchdown as Aaron Seymour scored from 15 yards out. A 55-yard pass from Jalen Slick to Jarren Hampton set up McDonald's first touchdown to tie the ball game.

The Little Giants added a 62-yard touchdown pass from Slick to Jeffery Barnett for a 13-7 lead after one quarter.

After Clay's drive to open the second quarter faltered, McDonald rumbled for 26 yards and later broke through the middle for 57 yards for his second touchdown. After an Eagles punt, Slick connected with Russ Yeast on a 53-yard score and a 28-7 lead.

"There's no doubt we can score points," Craig Yeast said. "Jalen

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Ross

Continued from Page 1B

distributed the ball well and we've got guys that can make big plays."

Clay kept the game within striking distance as Seymour scored from three yards out and Josh Kiss threw a 32-yard touchdown pass on fourth down to cut the lead to 28-20.

The Little Giants offense struck quickly to end the second quarter. Slick threw eight consecutive passes, the last a 3-yarder to Barnett, to help Ross take a 35-20 halftime lead.

The Eagles' opening drive of the third quarter was 13 plays long and took more than half of the quarter but it ended in a Tyler Grine interception. Ross responded with a 15-play drive of its own, capped by a 1-yard score from McDonald with just 12 seconds left in the third quarter.

"We've got confidence in our-

selves," McDonald said. "We know if we have any shot at the playoffs, we have to win out. But we're taking it one game at a time because it's tough competition every week."

Ross finished its second consecutive game with no turnovers and just two penalties - a week after committing one in a 41-40 win over Toledo Whitmer.

"Anytime you don't turn it over, that helps," Yeast said.

Seymour added a 6-yard score midway through the fourth quarter before McDonald's final score.

Slick quietly connected on 13-of-20 passes for 232 yards. Hampton led the Ross receivers with four catches for 84 yards while Russ Yeast had four receptions for 60 yards.

Seymour ran 29 times for 161 yards.

"We feel pretty good where we are right now," Craig Yeast said. "We have some mistakes we need to fix but we've got to continue to play hard and get some minor mistakes taken care of."

Ross 49, Oregon Clay MS 26

Ross	13	22	7	7	—	49
Oregon Clay MS	7	13	0	6	—	26

First quarter

C - Aaron Seymour 1 run (Blaze Okey kick), 7:18

FR - Isaiah McDonald 17 run (Nathan Domiray kick), 6:04

FR - Jeffery Barnett 62 pass from Jalen Slick (kick failed), 3:07

Second quarter

FR - McDonald 57 run (Slick run), 8:35

FR - Russ Yeast 53 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 6:174

C - Seymour 3 run (Okey kick), 4:59

C - Izaac Bonilla 32 pass from Josh Kiss (kick blocked), 0:58

FR - Barnett 3 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 0:03

Third quarter

FR - McDonald 1 run (Domiray kick), 0:12

N

Fourth quarter

C - Seymour 6 run (Okey kick), 6:23

FR - McDonald 1 run (Domiray kick), 1:02

	R	O
First downs	23	21
Total Net Yards	484	439
Rushes-Yards	30-252	48-243
Passing	232	196
Comp-Att-Int	13-20-0	10-20-1
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	2-23	5-37

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Tyler Grine 4-8, Isaiah McDonald 20-200, Jalen Slick 6-44. Oregon Clay MS, Aaron Seymour 29-161, Ryan Fournier 9-59, Tyler Mildenberger 4-21, Nick Stevenson 1-5, Josh Kiss 5--3.

Passing — Ross, Jalen Slick 13-20-0-232. Oregon Clay MS, Josh Kiss 9-17-1-189, Brandon Gyori 1-3-0-7.

Receiving — Ross, Tanner Albert 2-46, Jeffrey Barnett 3-62, Jarren Hampton 4-84, Russ Yeast 4-60. Oregon Clay MS, Ryan Fournier 2-29, Tyler Mildenberger 4-76, Dalton Dudley 1-37, Izaac Bonilla 1-32, Blaze Okey 1-15, Jaret Whitt 1-7.

FREMONT ROSS 53, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES 27



BARB GLASPY

Fremont Ross' Russ Yeast scores one of his four touchdowns in the Little Giants' 53-27 triumph over St. Francis de Sales. He had 70 yards rushing and four receptions for 68 yards.

EVERWHERE MAN

Russ Yeast scores 4 TDs in Little Giants win

Rich McGowan
Asst. editor/sports reporter

TOLEDO—Russ Yeast may be making some unwelcome appearances in the dreams of the St. Francis de Sales football team.

The Little Giants' sophomore was everywhere Friday night, making one big play after another and frequently finding himself in the end zone as Ross

defeated St. Francis 53-27.

He caught three touchdown passes and also scored on a 64-yard run.

"It feels great, but it's all about the team and we got the win," Yeast said. "That's most important."

Yeast's biggest play arguably came in the waning mo-

ments of the first half. After St. Francis scored a pair of touchdowns just over two minutes apart, the Little Giants appeared to be heading into half-time tied 13-13.

The Little Giants marched 65 yards in 57 seconds, re-taking the lead on a 24-yard pass over the middle from Jalen Slick to

Yeast. The late score gave the Little Giants momentum heading into the locker room which they continued into the third quarter.

On the opening possession of the second half, Yeast caught his third touchdown of the game, this on a curl route, followed by a nice run after the

catch for a 26-yard score and a 26-13 lead.

"Scoring at the end of the half and getting the ball back the next half and going out and scoring again really gave us the edge," Slick said. "That was extremely important to give us confidence and motivation."

Yeast wasn't done. On the Little Giants' next possession,

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Little Giants

Continued from Page 1B

Yeast lined up in the backfield as the quarterback in the wildcat formation. Taking the direct snap he moved around the end of the line and down the sideline for a 64-yard scamper and a 33-13 lead.

"Tonight we threw it (the wildcat) in there, we've been working on it and the kids executed it well," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "And Russ made some nice plays."

Russ Yeast finished with 70 yards rushing and four receptions for 68 yards.

Ross built its early two-touchdown lead on a 13-yard touchdown strike from Slick to Yeast and on a 2-yard run by Isaiah McDonald. Then the St. Francis offense, which had been held to three consecutive three-and-outs, came alive.

Lamar Carswell scored on a 9-yard run with 3:26 remaining in the second quarter. Then, after the Knights suc-

cessfully executed an onside kick, St. Francis scored just over two minutes later on a fourth-and-inches at the goal line to tie the game at 13.

Carswell was dynamic all night, despite playing hobbled having taken several big hits from the Ross defense. Carswell ran the ball 37 times for 279 yards and three touchdowns. He accounted for 73 percent of St. Francis' 406 yards of total offense.

"We did make him earn it tonight," Craig Yeast said. "He did take some licks. Our defense, this is the first night, I believe, all year our defense came in and actually hit some people today. I was very pleased to see that."

McDonald finished with 107 yards rushing while Slick completed 15 of 21 passes for 243 yards. Tyler Grine added a 70-yard kick return for a touchdown and James Wright scored the game's final touchdown on a 50-yard pass play from Slick.

"Jalen is very efficient," Craig Yeast said. "I'm very excited and I'm happy about where Jalen is as far as what's he's doing. He's doing a very good job for us."

Ross 53, St. Francis De Sales 27

Ross	0	19	27	7	—	53
St. Francis De	0	13	7	7	—	27
Sales						

Second quarter

FR -- Russ Yeast 13 pass from Jalen Slick (kick fail), 9:29

FR -- Isaiah McDonald 2 run (Nate Domiray kick), 6:01

SF -- Lamar Carswell 9 run (Drew Stark kick), 3:26

SF -- Nick Lankard 1 run (kick fail), 1:16

FR -- Yeast 24 pass from Slick (kick fail), 0:15

Third quarter

FR -- Yeast 26 pass from Slick (Mikey Contreras kick), 10:30

FR -- Yeast 64 run (Contreras kick), 7:20

FR -- McDonald 20 run (Contreras kick), 3:54^N

SF -- Carswell 27 run (Stark kick), 3:12

FR -- Tyler Grine 70 kick return (kick fail), 2:53

Fourth quarter

SF -- Carswell 1 run (Stark kick), 6:30

FR -- James Wright 50 pass from Slick (Contreras kick), 4:41

	R	S
First downs	11	19
Total Net Yards	459	406
Rushes-Yards	28-216	51-291
Passing	243	115
Comp-Att-Int	15-21-0	7-20-1
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	8-71	7-45

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Austin Busold 1-2, Isaiah McDonald 17-107, Jalen Slick 4-39, Boston Swaisgood 2-2, Russ Yeast 4-70. St. Francis De Sales, Lamar Carswell 37-279, Mike Swanson 8-18, Nick Lankard 5-9.

Passing — Ross, Jalen Slick 15-21-0-243. St. Francis De Sales, Nick Lankard 7-20-1-115.

Receiving — Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-18, Tavarious Simms 2-23, James Wright 4-132, Russ Yeast 4-68. St. Francis De Sales, Lamar Carswell 3-18, Lonnie Wyse 3-81, Chris Gill 1-16.

FREMONT ROSS 41, FINDLAY 34



JONATHON BIRD/STAFF PHOTO

Fremont Ross' Jalen Slick holds onto the ball during the first half of the Little Giants' game against Findlay on Friday.

A GAME OF INCHES

Rich McGowan
Asst. editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — Tyler Grine knew he had no room for error.

As soon as Findlay's Chandler Stillings caught the ball, the Fremont Ross sophomore corner back had to bring him down immediately. With Findlay knocking on the door of the end zone on fourth down at the 4-yard line, Grine tackled Stillings inches from the goal line as the Little Giants' defense held firm on a dramatic goal line stand to preserve a 41-34 win in a crucial game for both teams' playoff hopes.

Little Giants' defense makes game-saving goal line stand

Grine's game-saving tackle brought Stillings down about six inches from the end zone.

"It was real close," Grine said. "I seen him coming, and I had to get him. I knew I had to make sure he didn't get it."

Grine's game-saving tackle gave the Little Giants their fourth-straight win and improved their record to 6-3 overall and 4-2 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Both Ross and Findlay (5-4, 2-4) entered the game on the

outside of the playoffs in their respective regions, but the winner would see its playoff hopes still very much alive with a win.

"Playoff atmosphere," Grine said. "It feels good. We have some bad blood in between us. It feels real good to get a win against them."

Ross scored the go-ahead touchdown on the third play of the fourth quarter. Running back Isaiah McDonald plunged into the end zone from two yards out before

Jalen Slick found Russ Yeast for a two-point conversion pass to take a 41-34 lead with 11:37 to play.

The Little Giants defense then kept the Trojans under wraps in the fourth quarter. Findlay managed just 45 yards of offense on its next three possessions, 41 of which came on a play the Trojans turned the ball over.

Findlay, however, forced a turnover of its own as Sam Siampaus intercepted Slick's screen pass and returned the ball to the Little Giant 10-yard line with 2:30 to play. Four plays later, with 1:15 re-

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Fremont

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maining on the clock, Grine made his game-saving tackle.

"You can't ask for more than that," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "Tonight I think our defense played as well as they've played since earlier in the year. We got stops when we needed stops, none bigger than that stop by Tyler Grine on the goal line. That was a great play and great effort."

Despite his late interception, Slick had an outstanding game under center for the Little Giants. Slick completed 23-of-34 passes for 241 yards and a touchdown. He also ran the ball 15 times for 159 yards with two touchdowns, including a 63-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter to give Ross a 33-27 lead. Slick kept numerous plays alive with his mobility in and outside of the pocket.

"He played great tonight. He was in scramble



JONATHON BIRD/STAFF PHOTO

Fremont Ross' Isaiah McDonald breaks free from the Findlay defense. He amassed 134 yards rushing on 29 carries.

N

mode but his eyes were down the field and he was hitting guys down the field," Yeast said. "The kids were making plays in the run game and I called (Slick's) number several times tonight. He really played well tonight."

McDonald rushed for three touchdowns as he totaled 134 yards on the ground on 29 carries.

Russ Yeast caught eight passes for 92 yards and a touchdown.

"It feels great," Slick said. "Nothing like beating Findlay, on the way to the playoffs, with your brothers. The guys you practiced with all summer. It's amazing."

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FREMONT ROSS 37, TOLEDO ST. JOHN'S 6



JONATHON BIRD/STAFF PHOTO

Fremont Ross' Russ Yeast shakes off a tackle after recovering a blocked punt early in the first half against Toledo St. John's on Friday.

No tricks, just a playoff treat

By Rich McGowan
Asst. editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — On a wet and windy Halloween night, Fremont Ross' special teams gave the Little Giants a special treat.

Blocked punts and a terrific punt return by Jeffrey Barnett led directly to first-half touchdowns as Ross took a 37-6 win over St. John's Jesuit Friday night.

While the official playoff points and postseason brackets won't be announced until Sunday afternoon, the win should be enough to send the Little Giants to their first playoff berth since 2010.

"I really can't put it in words right now, how happy I am," first-year Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "I'm not necessarily really happy for me,

Fremont Ross' win over St. John's likely to get team into postseason

I'm happy for our kids. I'm happy for our program. This is a real step in the right direction."

The win is the Little Giants' fifth in a row, improving their record to 7-3 overall and 5-2 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. To keep its postseason hopes alive, Ross found itself needing to win every game since its loss to Toledo Central Catholic in Week 5.

"It's feels so amazing," Barnett said. "Our seniors are going out with a bang, going to the playoffs, it feels so amazing. I love my team. Since Day 1, I've loved my brothers."

Ross' defense enjoyed its best showing of the season,

limiting St. John's to just 24 rushing yards and 185 yards of total offense, including just 29 in the second half.

After Ross' defense forced its third St. John's punt of the night, the Little Giants made their first break-out play of the night. Garrett Hausman blocked the Titans' punt and Russ Yeast recovered the ball and returned it inside St. John's 10-yard line. One play later, Isaiah McDonald scored from seven yards out for the game's first touchdown.

Ross added to its lead on its next possession after Barnett, who initially mishandled the



JONATHON BIRD/STAFF PHOTO
Teammates celebrate with Tavarious Simms, left, after he blocked a punt for a touchdown against Toledo St. John's.

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Little Giants

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ball on a punt return, took off from his own 10-yard line and returned the kick down to the Titans' 25. Shortly thereafter Uriah Haun scored on a 1-yard run to give the Little Giants a 15-0 lead.

"When I looked up the rain got in my eyes and I lost (the ball)," Barnett said. "I made sure I picked it up and when I turned around I saw green field and I just took off."

Ross' defense took the special teams' lead and set up the offense in terrific field position. Elijah Johnson intercepted a pass from St. John's quarterback Matt Winzeler, giving the Little Giant offense the ball near midfield.

Ross added to its lead when quarterback Jalen Slick escaped pressure in the pocket, used his mobility to buy himself time and found Barnett. Barnett then skirted around a couple Titan defenders and scampered for a 20-yard touchdown and a 21-0 lead.

The Little Giants scored just 55 seconds later after the special teams struck again. With St. John's punting from its own 17-yard line, Tavarious Simms broke through the line of scrimmage, blocked the kick and fell on the loose ball in the end zone for a touchdown and a 27-0 lead.

"It was nice to see (the defense and special teams) finally be the strength

and pick up the offense for once," senior linebacker Ben Root said. "We had a good week of practice and we came together and did what we had to do."

St. John's answered with its best drive and only score of the night. The Titans marched 80 yards in 15 plays capped by a 6-yard touchdown pass from Winzeler to Wyatt Johnoff.

Any thoughts St. John's had of tricking the Little Giants out of the playoffs did not last long. Ross responded in 13 seconds. On the first play of the ensuing possession, Slick threw a bomb down the St. John's sideline and hit Barnett perfectly in stride for a 69-yard touchdown and a 34-6 halftime lead.

Patrick Rusher scored the only points of the second half early in the third quarter. His 28-yard field goal started a running clock that did not stop until the game was over and Ross was heading for a postseason appearance.

"It's amazing," Slick said. "We came a long way. From the beginning of the seasons, not being able to do anything right, not being able to do jumping jacks, now to be playing in Week 11. It's a crazy change."

Due to playing with short fields for most of the night, Ross' offense totaled 310 yards of offense with Slick completing 9-of-12 passes for 177 yards. Barnett caught three passes for 113 yards and Yeast caught four for 51.

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Ross 37, St. John's Jesuit 6

St. John's Jesuit	0	6	0	0	—	6
Ross	7	27	3	0	—	37

First quarter

FR -- Isaiah McDonald 7 run (Nate Domiray kick), 2:24

Second quarter

FR -- Uriah Haun 1 run (Jalen Slick run), 10:26

FR -- Jeffrey Barnett 20 pass from Slick (kick fail), 7:20

FR -- Tavarious block punt recovery in end zone (pass fail), 6:25

SJ -- Wyatt Johnoff 6 pass from Matt Winzeler (kick fail), 2:40

FR -- Barnett 69 pass from Slick (Domiray kick), 2:27

Third quarter

FR -- Patrick Rusher 28 field goal, 8:16

	S	R
First downs	12	10
Total Net Yards	185	310
Rushes-Yards	25-24	30-133
Passing	161	177
Comp-Att-Int	15-39-1	9-13-0
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-45	5-45

Individual statistics

Rushing — St. John's Jesuit, Tyler Turner 10-29, Christian King 5-11, Frank Duran 3-9, Matt Winzeler 7-25. Ross, Jeffrey Barnett 1-6, Austin Busold 5-17, Uriah Haun 6-23, Isaiah McDonald 12-57, Jalen Slick 4-26, Russ Yeast 1-4.

Passing — St. John's Jesuit, Matt Winzeler 15-39-1-161. Ross, Jalen Slick 9-12-0-177, Boston Swaisgood 0-1-0-0.

Receiving — St. John's Jesuit, Jonathan Friesner 3-45, Peter McIntyre 3-54, Wyatt Johnoff 2-17, Jacob Wymer 2-16, Max McCormick 3-10. Ross, Tanner Albert 2-13, Jeffrey Barnett 3-113, Russ Yeast 4-51.

Special Mention

Tevin Stuart, Holland Springfield; Tre Simms, Sylvania Southview; Austin Sample, jr., Sylvania Northview; Alec Carnicom, Fremont Ross; Grant Denbow, Ashland; Myles Magnus, Sylvania Southview; Stephen Poll, Perrysburg; Evan Conley, Perrysburg; Scott Freeman, Perrysburg; Zach Honsberger, Perrysburg; Trevor Hafner, Perrysburg; Scott Seymour, Holland Springfield; Jesse Ochoa, Holland Springfield; Trashawn Jones, Holland Springfield; A.J. Harrison, Holland Springfield; Kelsey Brown, Holland Springfield; Alex Engelhart, Holland Springfield; Steph Robinson, Holland Springfield; Sam Stout, Sylvania Southview; Jacob Vassar, Sylvania Southview; John Malak, Sylvania Southview; Sterling Tyler, Sylvania Southview; Matt Winzeler, Tol. St. John's; Aaron Seymour, Oregon Clay; Chris Sudduth, Tol. Bowsher; Travon Mack, Tol. Bowsher; Doniven Clark, Tol. Bowsher; Vince Hill, Tol. Bowsher; Terrill Minor, Lima Senior; Rico Stafford, Lima Senior; Alex Ehora, Lima Senior; Jaylin Thomas, Lima Senior; Russ Yeast, Fremont Ross; Ben Root, Fremont Ross.

SIX-PACK OF SINEES

Rivalry commences as Fremont Ross football players sign on with colleges

By Rich McGowan
Ast. editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — When Tiffin and Findlay universities meet on the football field the next four years, plenty of Fremont bragging rights will be at stake.

Six Fremont Ross football players signed their national letters of intent to play college football Wednesday. Five of those six will suit up as either Tiffin Dragons or Findlay Oilers, rivals in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Even before the ink had dried on their signatures, making their choices official, the chirping began.

"Right there at the table, we were talking trash," said quarterback Jalen Slick, heading to



Fremont Ross High School had six football players sign their national letters of intent to play college football. Left to right, Ross football coach Craig Yeast; Alec Carnicom, Tiffin University; Jalen Slick, Tiffin; Garrett Hausman, Tiffin; Ben Root, University of Findlay; Patrick Rusher, Findlay; and Tralin Richardson, Trine University.

Tiffin. Slick will be joined in Tiffin by offensive lineman Alec Carnicom and defensive lineman Garrett Hausman.

Linebacker/fullback Ben Root and punter Patrick Rusher signed to Findlay. Defensive tackle Tralin Richardson will continue his career at Trine

University in Angola, Indiana. Though they've worn their Little Giants uniforms for the last time, Ross' six-pack of college signees sat united one last

"I've been dreaming about this since I was a little boy. I can't wait to start being a college athlete."

GARRETT HAUSMAN,
defensive lineman

time as they celebrated their day with family, friends and teammates.

"It's kind of surreal," Hausman said. "It's a dream come true. I've been dreaming about this since I was a little boy. I can't wait to start being a college athlete."

Hausman, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound lineman named first-team all-district and all-Three Rivers Athletic Conference, has promised Rusher, 5-9, 235 pounds, the two will meet on special teams plays in the future.

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Signees

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“Garrett told me if he’s on the punt-return team, he’s taking me out, no matter what,” Rusher laughed. “I said I’ll be waiting for him. I’ll take a hit.”

Ross coach Craig Yeast said his players each found schools that will fit their talents, give them opportunities to play and succeed. While Richardson is the lone Little Giant striking out on his own to Trine, Yeast believes Richardson found a good home for his football future.

“Tray will translate well,” Yeast said. “I think he’ll end up either an offensive guard or, what I think he’ll be much better at, a defensive tackle, either a one-technique or a nose guard. I think he’s going into a good situation where he feels comfortable and where he’ll have the opportunity to grow as a football player.”

Slick, who set passing records this season for Ross in completions (148), yards (2,685) and touchdowns (23), will

be switching positions at Tiffin as he moves to receiver.

Yeast coached at Tiffin for two years before arriving in Fremont a year ago. His familiarity with the Dragons’ coaching staff, and implementing Tiffin’s offense at Ross, helped Carnicom feel comfortable with his decision to become a Dragon.

“That’s one of the biggest things for me, the coaches,” Carnicom said. “I couldn’t find another college that I felt as comfortable with, from a coaching standpoint, as I did at Tiffin.”

Carnicom, who expects to be lined up as an interior offensive lineman, may find himself face-to-face with Root, who’ll be coming at him one day as an Oiler linebacker.

“It’s going to be a good game, no doubt about it,” Root said. “It’ll be weird playing against the brothers I’ve played with for the last four-plus years. It’s going to be a fun experience, but I think Findlay is going to come out on top.”

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