

# Little Giants return to regional tournament

By **BOB MARKER**  
Sports Editor

**FINDLAY** — Fremont Ross will make its second consecutive appearance in the Division I regional softball tournament after defeating Anthony Wayne 4-2 in a district championship game Friday.

The Little Giants (17-2) will play at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in Ashland.

To get there, Ross needed pitcher Jessica Rollins to survive a rocky start. Rollins pitched a four-hitter and was backed by strong defense, led by shortstop Dawn Zerman.

Zerman made a diving catch of Katie Wessendorf's popup in the

hole between short and third to end the Generals' third inning. In the fifth, Zerman went to her knees to cut off Jessica McCollum's bid for a base hit to center — stranding a runner at second.

The game ended with Zerman spearing Lisa Mich's liner up the middle.

"I don't know what to say," Zerman said. "I guess thank God."

Said Anthony Wayne coach Carolyn Vogtsberger: "Anything close, she fielded it and got us out."

Ross second baseman Emily Dowell's running catch of Stephanie Lopez's line drive ended the Anthony Wayne fourth.

Ross scored a run in the top of the first as Zerman never stopped on an infield groundout while scoring from second, but Anthony Wayne (17-7) retaliated with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

"I thought that was good sign — scoring runs early," Vogtsberger said. "Usually, we don't score runs early."

Ross coach Cheryl Schell said: "I told the kids 'don't freak if they hit us, and don't freak if they score.' And they didn't. That was a big key because we stayed in the game and played defense."

"I was concerned if our defense made a mistake, because they are such a good hitting team, we

## How they scored

### ROSS FIRST

Dawn Zerman singled to center and went to second on Donna Steinberger's sacrifice bunt. Holly Peltrey grounded out to second base, but Zerman scored from second. Jessica Rollins grounded out to third. 1 run, 1 hit.

### ANTHONY WAYNE FIRST

Stacy Wetzel and Jessica McCollum singled, and both moved up on a wild pitch. Kim Miller struck out. Wetzel scored on a wild pitch. Katie Wessendorf singled to left-center to score McCollum. Amy Kemmer grounded out to third. Miriam Pesick grounded out to shortstop. 2 runs, 3 hits.

### ROSS FIFTH

Steinberger was safe on third baseman Amy Nelson's error. Peltrey singled. Rollins doubled to left-center scoring Steinberger. Nikki Peltrey grounded to Nelson, who threw to the shortstop to get Holly Peltrey at third. Rollins was forced out at third on Casey Schepf's grounder. Jamie Hinkle singled to center scoring Nikki Peltrey, but Schepf out at the plate. 2 runs, 3 hits.

### ROSS SEVENTH

Hinkle grounded out to second. Michelle Smith walked and moved to second as Emily Dowell grounded out to second. Zerman was walked intentionally. Steinberger was safe on Nelson's throwing error with Smith scoring. Zerman was out at third in a rundown. 1 run, 0 hits.

would go down."

Rollins, who began the game while battling a touch of stomach flu, surrendered three hits and committed two wild pitches before getting out of the first inning. The only other hit she allowed was in the third inning.

She faced 14 batters, two over the minimum, in the final four innings.

"It's nice when you are not feeling well to have a good defense behind you," Schell said.

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## Ross wins district title

### Continued From B1

The Little Giants took a 3-2 lead in the fifth, scoring two runs on three hits. Ross added an insurance run in the seventh without the benefit of a hit.

"I knew if we got another run, we could hold them," Zerman said, "but I was not too secure with three runs."

Ross had only five hits off

Anthony Wayne starter Melissa Moser and reliever Julie Skolmowski, who took over for Moser with a runner on and no outs in the fifth. Moser took the loss.

Ross will host Great Lakes League foe Oregon Clay at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Rodger Young Park.

The Little Giants, 8-0 in the GLL, lead the Eagles by a game with two league games left — both with Clay.

## PREP SOFTBALL

# Rollins tosses a gem

By **BOB MARKER**  
Sports Editor

**FINDLAY** — Jessica Rollins tossed a no-hitter, and Fremont Ross took advantage of a defensive lapse by Springfield for a 4-0 victory in the Division I district tournament semifinals Monday.

The Little Giants (15-2) will play Anthony Wayne (18-6) in the district finals at 5 p.m. Wednesday. Anthony Wayne defeated Findlay 7-0 in the other semifinal.

"Anthony Wayne is a good hitting team with sound defense," Ross coach Cheryl Schell said. "They are really aggressive and they will put pressure on us."

Springfield (6-9) could not put any pressure on the Little Giants.

Rollins faced 22 batters — one over the minimum — in her second no-hitter of the season. The other no-hitter was in a five-inning win over Toledo Whitmer.

Monday, the Ross senior struck out nine, walked one and retired the last 15 Springfield batters in order.

Rollins relied primarily on her speed after a couple of long fouls off her change-up early in the game.

"Every time I tried to throw the changeup, they crushed it," Rollins said. "But my high speed pitches were working. My coach said this team (Springfield) was probably not used to seeing faster pitchers. She said that as long as I could go out there, throw hard and throw strikes, I should be OK."

Said Schell, "Her velocity was good but I think she can throw harder. She will probably get stronger the longer we go."

A first-inning error and a third-inning walk accounted for the only Springfield runners. Fresh-

## How they scored

**Rollins' gem**  
Nikki Peltrey led off with an infield single and was scored by Jamie Hinkle's sacrifice bunt. Michelle Smith then out to right, with Peltrey moving to third. Peltrey scored on Emily Dowell's infield single along the third base line. Dawn Zerman was safe on a dropped popup. The game ended seventh inning and Zerman took first when second baseman Amy Adams misplayed Donna Steinberger's grounder. Steinberger stole second. Zerman and Schepfberger scored when Adams dropped Holly Peltrey's popup. Jessica Rollins fielded out center. 4 runs, 2 hits, 3 errors.

man catcher Nikki Peltrey threw out pinch-runner Stacy Hartman trying to steal second in the third inning.

Ross had its problems at the plate, too, managing only four infield singles off Jamie Howe.

Two of the Ross hits were blended with three Springfield errors in the fifth, and the Little Giants scored four times after two were out. Freshman Emily Dowell drove in the first run, the only earned run of the inning.

"We seem to go along pretty good," Springfield coach Lee Hill said, "and then all of a sudden we will have an inning where one thing leads to another and everyone starts to press too hard. We were trying to make the big play and with two outs, all we had to do was field the ball and get it to first."

"We figured we would have to play almost perfect defense to stick around and have a chance to win, but we had that one bad inning."

Nikki Peltrey had two of the Ross hits. Dowell and Holly Peltrey had the others.

"We are going to have to hit better to beat Anthony Wayne," Schell said. "Much better than tonight."

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