

2003 District Tournament...

Learning experience for Ross

Inexperienced Little Giants flat at districts

By NICK MATHEWS
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FINDLAY — Andrew Aseltine learned the tough lesson last year.

On Thursday, it was his Ross golf team-mates' turn.

"This is completely different here," Ross coach Dessie Morehart said at the Division I Northwest District Tournament. "It's a whole new level. You can just feel it. There is no goofing around,

More preps

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— Ross sophomore Andrew Aseltine

no joking around. Everyone is concentrating. This is serious."

Aseltine, the only Ross golfer with previous district experience, shot a 77 at Findlay's Red Hawk Run Golf Course to lead the Little Giants on Thursday.

Aseltine's teammates, however, struggled as Ross finished with a team score of 338, tied for last in the nine-team district.

"I think for most of them, it was the pressure," Aseltine said.

Bowling Green and Findlay finished first and second, respectively, with scores of 306 and 307 to qualify for next week's state tournament.

St. John's Eric Schoen earned medalist honors with a 71.

Aseltine finished three shots out of a playoff that determined the second qualifying individual.

His solid score was a far cry from his performance last year, when he qualified for districts as an individual.

As a freshman, Aseltine shot a 91.

On Thursday, though, he had four birdies in his 5-over par round.

"He played super," Morehart said.

Spencer Schabel shot an 86 and Kevin Vasser and Scott King added an 87 and an 88 for Ross, which qualified to districts as a team for the first time in 10 years.

Wes Eckhardt added a 91, which did not go toward the Little Giants' scorecard.

Eckhardt is the lone senior on the team.

"This will help our whole team for next year," Aseltine said of the district experience. "We will only get better. We definitely needed this."

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Lessons not lost on Ross

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Aseltine certainly got better after last year's experience.

He won the season-opening Gibsonburg Invitational this year and continued to improve from there.

"He is fun to watch," Morehart said of Aseltine, whose dad, Chris, is the professional at the Fremont Country Club. "He is very methodical. His dad works with him a lot. He taught him a lot of self-discipline. Rarely will he show any emotion."

He did get a little excited on Thursday,

though.

At the par-3 No. 5, Aseltine came a foot short of his first hole-in-one.

"I thought it was going in," he said. "It was the perfect line. It just came up a little short."

Aseltine also hit his tee shot at the par-3 No. 8 within a foot.

He showed off his ability on the green with a 25-foot birdie putt on No. 15.

"It seems like under pressure, he does really well," Morehart said. "Now, we just have to get the others so they play well under pressure, too."

"They can do it," Morehart continued. "They have the talent."