

Dan Fought Returns as Head Coach

Pitching, defense keys for Ross baseball team

Little Giants' schedule

April 2.....	at Postoria*
April 5.....	Tiffin Columbian
April 6.....	Napoleon*
April 8.....	at Sandusky
April 12.....	at Whitmer*
April 14.....	at Bowling Green
April 16.....	Sylvania Northview*
April 17, 11 a.m. (2).....	Bellevue
April 20.....	Port Clinton
April 23.....	at Oregon Clay*
April 24, 11 a.m. (2).....	at Ashland
April 27.....	Bedford*
April 29, 4 p.m.	at Clyde
April 30.....	Postoria*
May 4.....	at Napoleon*
May 6.....	at Maumee
May 7.....	Whitmer*
May 11.....	at Sylvania Northview*
May 13.....	Findlay
May 18.....	Oregon Clay*
May 21.....	at Bedford*

NOTE: All games 4:30 p.m. unless noted

* Great Lakes League games

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

There are no stars on the 1993 Fremont Ross baseball team.

The Little Giants won't win games with three-run homers or fabulous defense.

If they win this season, it will be with pitching, defense and fundamental baseball.

"We have emphasized, and the kids understand, we must improve defensively," said Dan Fought, who replaces Steve Ebert as coach.

Meanwhile, a jumbled pitching rotation has cleared itself. Junior Aaron Smith has emerged as the team's No. 1 pitcher.

"Aaron has a nice breaking pitch," Fought said. "He's put himself into the number one spot by being able to throw the curve-

Offensive firepower needed for GLL race

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fremont Ross High School baseball coach Dan Fought says "Whitmer and Clay are on a collision course" in the Great Lakes League.

Fought says Toledo Whitmer and Oregon Clay have the pitching to go head-to-head for the league championship.

"If we hit, I think we'll stay in the race," Fought said. "You can't win a league title hitting .217 (the Little Giants' team average a year ago)."

Pitching, which earlier may have been a weakness, could leave Ross in contention.

"The biggest key is how fast our pitching staff comes along in league play," Fought said. "It can be a strength for us, but hitting will keep you in the race."

See ROSS, B3

Ross hitters must make contact says coach

Continued From B1

ball for strikes."

Fought said junior Ryan Smith has made the most strides as a pitcher, however.

"If everyone improves at his rate, we'll have a nice pitching staff," he said.

Sophomore Shane Moran is scheduled for the third spot in the rotation. Sophomore Kyle Kusmer, senior Shane Willer and senior Kurt Stevenson round out the staff.

The defense is solid up the middle with catcher Bryan Myers, second baseman Brian T. Wilson, shortstop Brian J. Wilson and center fielder Scott Root — all seniors. Brian J. Wilson used a strong second half in 1992 to finish as the top hitter on the team at .361.

Senior Jamie Reimer is the third baseman, while Kusmer is the regular first baseman.

"Brian T. and Brian J. are a stabilizing force," Fought said. "They are the least of my concerns. One of my biggest concerns is to get Moe (Myers) to play at the top of his game. Along with the pitchers, he's the key to stopping the running game."

Ross will sacrifice defense for offense with Moran and Ryan Smith playing regularly in left and right field, respectively.

"They have to put some numbers up because we're going with defense," Fought said. "They're (in the lineup) because they have shown they can swing the bat."

Root, a solid and at times spectacular center fielder, is

being counted on to help inexperienced outfielders Moran and Smith grow into the position.

Junior Jeremy Aldrich adds a capable glove to the mix when Moran or Ryan Smith is on the mound. To address a potential depth problem, Myers is capable of playing in the outfield or infield and Josh Hetrick is the back-up behind the plate.

Myers (.317 last year) is also the key to the offense, according to Fought.

"We don't have a power-hitting team; we probably don't have a very good hitting team," he said.

Since Fought says Ross has a lineup of "number two or number eight hitters," he hopes the Little Giants will feed off Myers' ability as a contact hitter.

"If we do, we can become a good hitting team," Fought said.