

Familiar faces, some changes on Ross schedule

Radeloff is dean of BCC coaches

Fremont Ross will play the same 10 teams as in 1989 but at the same time, the Little Giants will face new teams.

Confusing? Rex Radeloff hopes not.

Radeloff, beginning his fifth season as head coach of the Little Giants, became the senior coach in the Buckeye Central Conference over the winter after guiding Ross to an 8-3 record and a spot in the state playoffs. Four of the five BCC schools have new head coaches and a fifth team on the Ross schedule, Lakewood, also has a new leader.

"That will definitely make it more interesting," Radeloff said while relaxing between August practices. "You go into the season thinking you have the same 10 opponents — which we do — but when I look at the first five games, the coaches are the same as last year and that makes it a little easier to prepare. There is not going to be a lot of changes or at least I don't anticipate that."

"But the last five games, all the teams have different coaches. Even though you know some of the personnel coming back, you really have no idea what they are going to be doing offensively and defensively and that is like playing five new opponents."

Zanesville, under Whit Parks, took advantage of outstanding tailbacks while running the antiquated single-wing. With new coach Clarence Perry, that offense is gone.

"I know he runs an 'I' offense and a 50 defense and that is completely different from what they did in the past," Radeloff said. At Newark, Tim Thimmes is



RETURNING LINEMEN who letter for the Little Giants in the 1989 are, front row, left to right: Jeff Green, Brian Moreno, Paul

Hostetter and Crispin Cook; back row: Chad Green, Dan Frederick, Cory Gammertsfelder and Joe Frederick.

gone and Paul Starr, who coached successfully at the school a few years ago, is back.

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Little Giants will keep teams guessing

There was little guess work for an opponent's defense when Ross was on offense last season.

When it came third-and-one or third-and-four — any tight situation — Terry Carter was going to get the ball some way. But Carter has moved on to Miami of Ohio and everyone else in the Little Giants offensive backfield was claimed by graduation or were scholastic victims.

Along with the backfield, Ross lost a couple of wide receivers.

Also lost was an offensive philosophy, Little Giants offensive coordinator Dan Fought said.

"It won't be a new philosophy as far as plays but you knew when we needed the tough yard last year, Terry Carter was going to get the ball in some manner," Fought said. "We'll stay in the 'I' but it will be a guessing game on the defense's part because we are going to anybody and everybody until

someone dominant comes out of the pack."

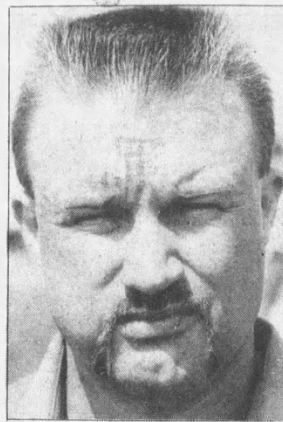
Carter, the second all-time rusher at Ross with more than 3,600 in three seasons, and quarterback Cory Lance gave Ross a 50-50 attack last season. Carter rushed for over 1,000 yards and Lance passed for better than 1,000.

"That is what we want to do again," Fought said.

A pair of juniors, Nick Wolf and Justin Perry, are vying for the quarterback slot.

"I think the quarterback situation is a good one," Fought said. "Nick has looked good all summer and Justin is just a step behind him. Both of them are throwing the ball well; it's a matter of if one gets hot, it's his job but both have to learn to relax."

Chris Benson, who finished the season as Lance's backup, is at split end this season.



DAN FOUGHT

"He was a split end before he was a quarterback," Fought pointed out. "We put him out

there because he can put pressure on the defense quickly."

Juniors Marcus Holbert and Alec Shawl are in the running for the fullback slot along with David Lopez and Cory Sewell.

Hector Rodriguez is at tailback. Rodriguez, a senior, did not play football last season while living in Florida but did two years ago in Medina.

"He has picked up things well the last few days," Fought said.

"Hector has breakaway speed." Sewell and Shawl are the backups at tailback.

"We have three good tailbacks and the public's view of young kids coming up, they do have some talent," Fought pointed out.

Chad Brown, a senior, returns at tight end. Stan Root and Ryan Zimmerman will also see action

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Ross defense strives to 'control the game'

Joe Siesel admits their are times when he doesn't mind watching the offensive phase of football.

"Yes," the defensive coordinator for the Ross Little Giants said, "I like to watch defense unless the offensive sticks someone — I like that."

Siesel has made a habit of turning out good defensive units for better than a decade and he knows how a good defense should work.

"It is one where everyone on the team plays as a unit and everyone does their job and reacts to the football," Siesel explained. "It has to get a lot of people to the ball and they have to like to hit people."

Siesel added, "You try to go out there and create turnovers and we always want to control the tempo of the game."

Five starters return for Siesel, leaving him with a substantial task of finding players for six positions.

Jeff Green, Chad Green and Brian Moreno are the returnees on the front four with Paul Rostetter the lone returning line-backer. Free safety Chris Benson is the fifth returning starter.

"The three big kids up front should be the strength," Siesel said, "if they turn it loose."

Jeff Green, 6-7, 260 pounds, has been moved from tackle to defensive end.

"He has to learn the position," Siesel said. "He will have pass rush and at the same time, still must shut off the off-tackle hole."

Chad Green, 6-2, 285, will be at one tackle slot with the other being filled by Joe Frederick or Dan Frederick. Other tackles include Cory Gammertsfelder and Lamar Jones.

Moreno is at the end opposite Jeff Green. The other ends are Crispin Cook, Damon Walker, Ryan Zimmerman, Brian Darr, Neil Boskovich and Jason Schenk.



JOE SIESEL

Rostetter missed the scrimmage season because of a broken thumb but he is being fitted

with a playing cast. Chad Brown, Dave Collins, Doug Siesel, Marcus Holbert, Doug Fitzgerald and Todd Desbin are other inside linebackers getting a look..

Jason Wilhelm, Stan Root, Dave Lopez and Mike Villarreal are in the outside linebacker picture.

With Benson leading the secondary, the other starters will come from Hector Rodriguez, Kenny Winters, Alec Shawl, Cory Sewell, Bill Barbarree or Chad Bruns.

Siesel, late last week, said "I am not super-satisfied with anything yet. We look great, look great, look great and then we have a big screw-up."

"I'd be very happy to see the defense come together as a unit and if it started the season with a bunch of three downs and out.



BACKS AND RECEIVERS earning letters at Ross are, front row, left to right: Chris Benson and

Kenny Winters; standing: Jason Wilhelm, Stan Root and Chad Brown.

Laird

Continued From Page 2

"It's hard," he said about recovery. "The first couple of semesters, it really tore me up thinking about the guys traveling and playing away games. Just standing on the sidelines with them, going to team meetings and practices and not being a real part of it, it bothers you."

Now two long scars on his left knee and long, hard hours of rehabilitation are vivid memories of his fight to get back into the BGSU defensive picture.

The technology major has passed physical tests during rehabilitation but flunked one keeping him out of last spring's practice.

Standing in the lounge, Laird was fresh from the first day's workout of summer practice and passing its first test. He had faltered briefly.

"We ran 110-yard sprints," he described, "and I caught myself limping on it; I was afraid of putting full pressure on it. I had to keep thinking: keep going 100 percent; put weight on the left foot."

"It turned out pretty good," Laird said, breathing a small sigh.

The next big test — taking the first hit in practice — is downplayed by the former high school All-Ohio offensive lineman.

"Sure, I worry about low blows," Laird said, "but the main thing I am worried about right now is working up the depth chart."

"I have to start from the bottom and work my way up. I am number three tackle but that is because I am just coming back."

Laird feels the hardest part of his recovery is behind him, calling the rehabilitation sessions of one to two hours a day brutal.

"I still have memories of what happened that day (when he was injured)," he said, "but then I remember what I have to do."

"I guess a lot of coming back has to come from the heart — a lot, definitely a lot," Laird said quietly.

Are there self-doubts?

"Once or twice I have had them" he admitted, "but I forget about 'em and keep going. It may be hard sometimes, but I'll keep going."

Of that, there is little doubt.

**Best of Luck to
all Area Teams
After the game**



Ross

Continued From Page 6

"I can't remember the years he (Starr) was there," Radeloff said, "but I think his record was 53-37 — so he was successful but I know very little of what he will be doing."

Lancaster probably will not be radically revamped.

"I look for very little change," Radeloff explained, "because the defensive coordinator, Tom McCurdy, has taken over. I think they will pretty much be the same offensively and defensively."

Jim Caserta is Findlay's third coach in as many years, moving over from Paulding.

"From what I know," the Ross coach said, "he is going to be an 'I' man and I think '50' defense. That will be somewhat similar to what they have done in the past — not so much as last year when they ran the run and shoot, a really a wide-open offense."

Lakewood has Kevin Fells at the helm. He moved up from Sidney after guiding the Yellow Jackets into the second round of the state playoffs last season.

"That will be a wide-open offense," Radeloff said.

Glancing at the other Ross opponents, Radeloff capsulized his expectations:

□ **Columbian.**

"I look for them to come out emotionally high for the game. We have struggled the last few years (losing three of four) against them. We are certainly going to come out and try to be in mid-season form because — the way I look at it — they come out that first game, execute very well ... it is like they are in mid-season form."

"They point to us as being one of the big games of the year," Radeloff said, "not to say that I don't point to them, I do, too, but I think overall, the way our schedule goes, every game is a big game."

□ **Macomber.**

"They always have one, two, or three outstanding players who can go on to Division I college football and it will be the same way this year," the Ross coach said. "They have a great tight end and their quarterback is back. They can run and defensively, they are strong and quick."

□ **Sandusky.**

"You know they are looking and pointing at us and Elyria — those were their two losses last year. I am sure they are looking at us as a must game. They have to come over here and perform," Radeloff said. "They were dis-

appointed in their loss to us but that was one of the keys to our season."

□ **Whitmer.**

"We had a good game against them last year and beat'em pretty good," Radeloff recalled, "but after that game, they changed some personnel and became a good football team, ending up 6-4."

"They ended up strong playing young kids. They had to bring them along slowly because they had a predominantly senior team the year before, but they finished on a strong note. I know they are looking at us because that defeat

was probably one of their worst in a few years."

□ **Madison.**

"It was probably the most exciting game we played last year (Madison won 33-32)," Radeloff said. "Madison was 1-3 coming in here but I knew they were not a 1-3 team; they should have beaten Fostoria; had an overtime win against Gallon and lost to Mt. Vernon."

"Those 3 losses, when I looked at them on film, I knew they were going to be a tough team."

"They have two of their running backs back and some other skilled people back," Radeloff

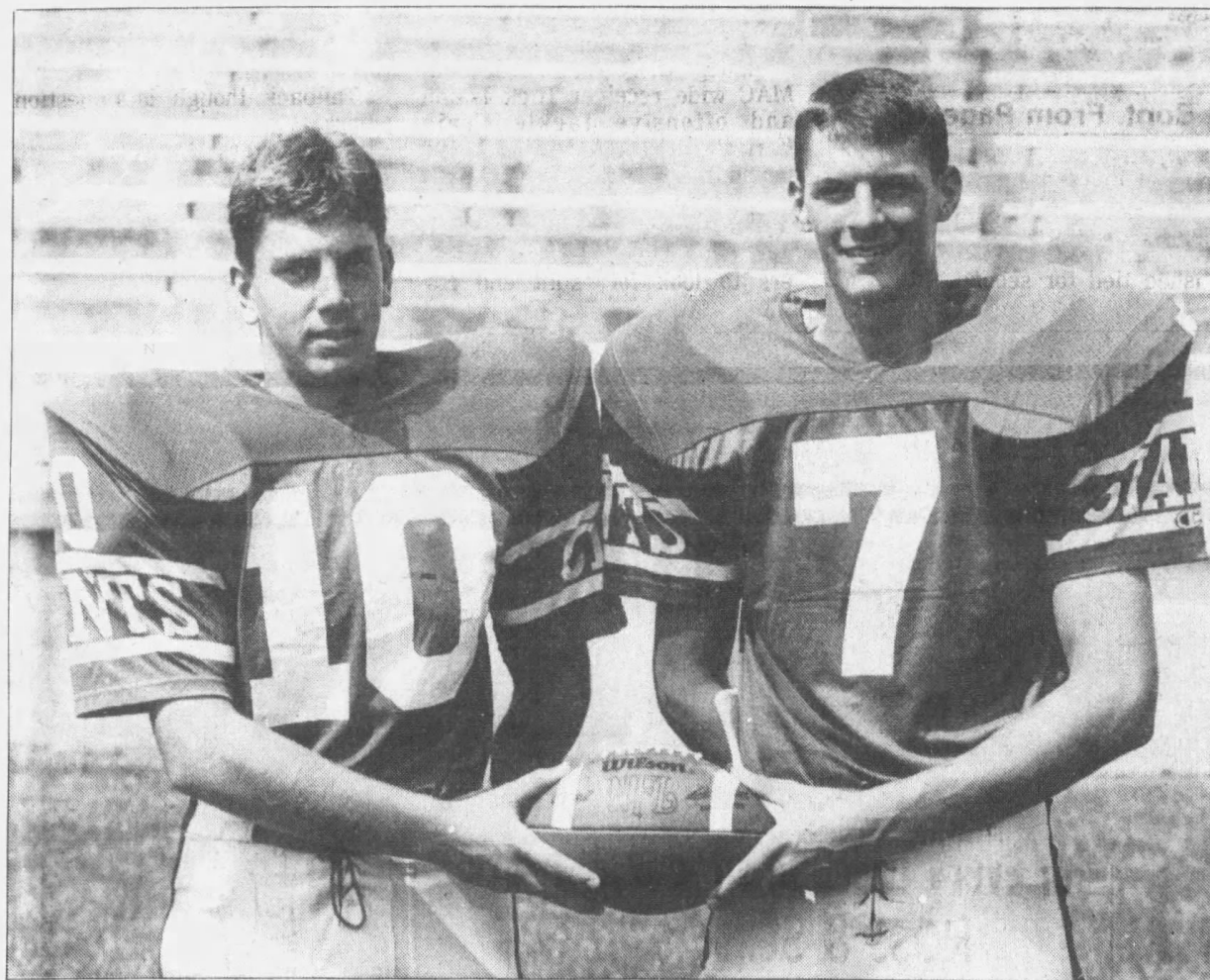
said, adding, "and they are well-coached. Dana Woodring does an excellent job."

Summing up, Radeloff said, "We have a solid schedule of ten good football teams and to pinpoint one and say it is a definite win, you cannot do that."

"I am optimistic and the kids are optimistic," the Ross coach said, "but we know every game is going to be a football game, a close battle. I think we have the nucleus from last year's group — we lost a lot of seniors and they played a lot of time — but I still think we have a nucleus there to be an excellent football team."



**Hometown
football is
exciting!**



JUNIOR QUARTERBACKS Justin Perry (10) and Nick Wolf (7) are vying for the Ross job.



CHRIS BENSON intercepted five passes for Ross last season.

Guess

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in the position.

Ken Winters, who was a spot starter at wingback, will be in that position this season. Jason Wilhelm and Allan Dorsey will also see action in the slot.



RODRIGUEZ



HOLBERT



SHAWL



SEWELL

Jeff Green and Cory Gamertsfelder return at the tackle slots with Brian Moreno and Paul Rostetter at guard. Brian Hahn is the center, the only new face in the front five.

Green and Gamertsfelder, Moreno and Rostetter are also defensive players.

"We are going to have to rotate people in to rest them," Fought said.

Moreno and Rostetter rotated last year while playing defense.

"The tackles are the people we want to run behind," Fought said, "because we feel they are the strength of the football team right now."

Other tackles in the Ross picture are Jeremy Yarborough, Joe Frederick and Doug Whipple. Scott Aldrich, Dan Frederick and Damon Walker could be in the guard rotation.

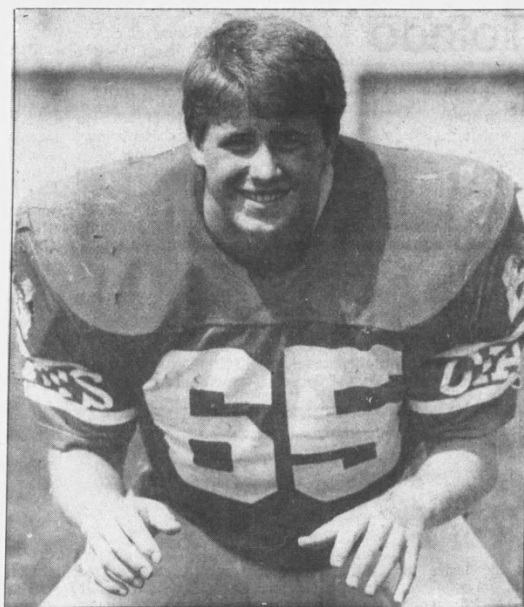
Chad Green is backing up Hahn.

"The pass protection could be a little bit better," Fought admitted, "but that is always the last thing on the offense that develops."

"We are hoping the defense does a good enough job the first couple of weeks to give us some experience," Fought said. "We want the ball in our hands quite a bit and hopefully our defense is 'three and out' giving us a lot of opportunities to get some experience."

Ross rushing leaders

Rank, Player	Yds. Career
1, Jim Tiller	3,755 1954-57
2, Terry Carter	3,516 1987-89
3, John Lewis	2,787 1949-51
4, Rob Lytle	2,593 1970-72
5, Tom Liggins	2,579 1969-71



**Best of Luck to
all area teams!**

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Little Giants want to avoid turnovers

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

As in most football games, turnovers are expected to play a big part in the outcome of tonight's season opener between Fremont Ross and Tiffin Columbian at Harmon Stadium.

"It's going to boil down to execution and turnovers," Columbian coach John Tomaszewski said. "And I would like to think the kicking game would figure into the outcome."

A year ago, Ross committed seven turnovers — three fumbles and four interceptions — and Columbian took advantage for a 26-20 victory.

"We've talked about last year... understanding why we lost," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "The upperclassmen know what that first loss felt like, but you

St. Joe, Clyde renew rivalry

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic and Clyde, two football teams that know each other well, renew their longstanding rivalry Saturday night at Harmon Stadium.

Although games between the Crimson Streaks and Fliers normally don't feature much more than basic football, both St. Joe coach Tom Narducci and Clyde Coach Bob Bishop said "anything can happen in an opener."

See ST. JOE, B-2

don't dwell on the past."

Both the Little Giants (8-2) and Tornadoes (7-3) went on to qualify for the Ohio High School Athletic Association playoffs last season, but each team will be without two of the players who were a big part of that success

when tonight's game begins at 8 p.m.

Ross, which leads the series 22-9 with one tie, lost quarterback Cory Lance and tailback Terry Carter to graduation. Columbian graduated quarterback Jim Newland and running back

Bryan Miller.

"(The Tornadoes) are very sound at what they do," Radeloff said. "We told the kids, 'do your assignment, be aggressive and get to the football.'"

Columbian operates out of an offense designed to spread the defense.

"Both their quarterbacks can throw the football consistently as far as being on target, and they will throw the football," Radeloff said. "Whenever you spread the defense, it creates a lot of man-to-man coverage."

Tomaszewski expressed an approach that could possibly be more conservative.

"We don't have time to be real sophisticated," he said. "We're going to have to be fairly simple and do the best we can."

"Our offense by very nature is

deceptive, and we hope that we'll be a factor. We're going to have to try and vary things up."

Ross, meanwhile, must contend with a blitzing Tornado defense.

"They like to stunt with their outside linebackers and their inside linebackers, and they will do a number of things in the secondary," Radeloff said. "We've worked hard on picking up when they are stunting."

"We want to attack the different type stunt with particular plays. Read the defense, pick up the stunt and make the correct call."

"We've worked with the quarterbacks (Nick Wolf and Justin Perry) and they understand what they need to do although it will be difficult under fire in their first varsity game."

Little Giants run past Tornadoes

Rodriguez gains 220

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Good things come to those who wait.

Fremont Ross coach Rex Radeloff apparently was in that frame of mind Friday night during the Little Giants' 14-7 victory over Tiffin Columbian at Harmon Stadium.

"We were going to do what we had to do to get a drive going and get the ball in the end zone," Radeloff said.

The Little Giants did just that. Trailing 7-6, Ross drove 83 yards in 12 plays and Hector Rodriguez plunged over from the 1 with 7:35 remaining.

Rodriguez, who rushed 32 times for 220 yards, scored Ross's first touchdown from 48 yards out with 3:31 left before halftime. Rodriguez carried the ball on every play of the five-play, 80-yard drive.

"It's hard to control a kid like that for the whole game," Columbian coach John Tomaszewski said. "You always know Fremont is going to have a speedy tailback."

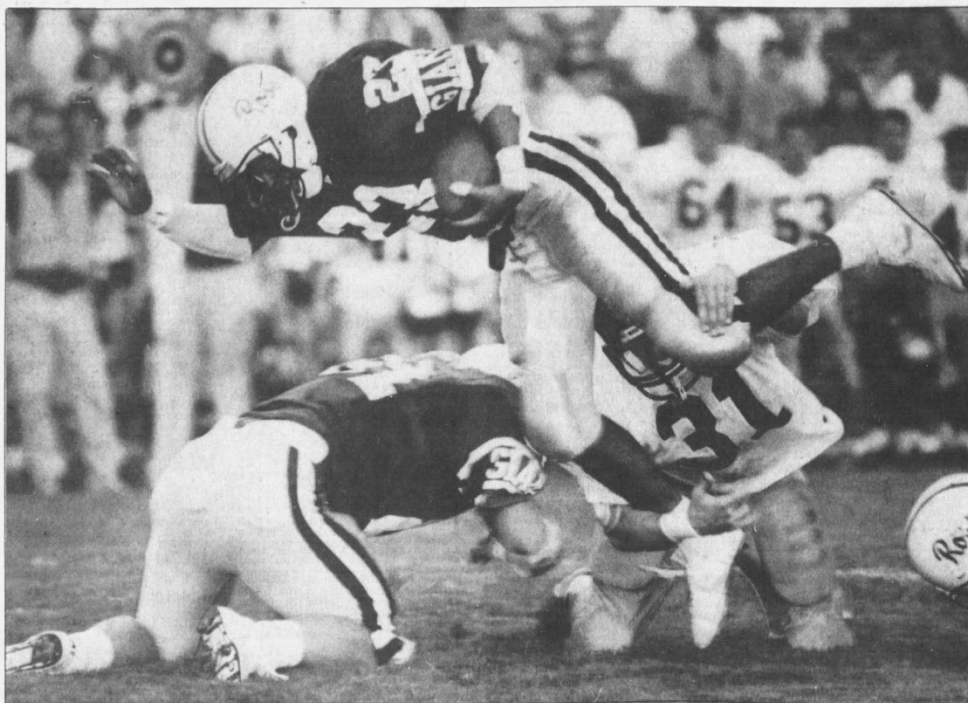
"Their size wore on us in the third quarter when they were moving the football."

The winning touchdown capped a 12-play, 83-yard drive which began after Kenny Winters intercepted a Jeff Bright pass at the Ross 10 and returned it to the 17.

"We knew (the Tornadoes) were going to complete some passes," Radeloff said. "Any team that works on their passing game as much as they do will."

"But we came up with some big defensive plays. That's going to happen. That has to happen."

Columbian drove from its 16 to



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ is tripped up by Columbian's Scott Kee-sey after a gain during the first quarter of the Little Giants' 14-7

the Ross 27 after Todd Drake recovered a Rodriguez fumble, but Winters stopped the threat.

"We need to score more points for the way we moved the football," Tomaszewski said.

Bright, who was spelled at

times by Vince Perrine, threw for 147 of the 179 yards Columbian gained passing. He was 6-of-8 for 95 yards in the first half and 4-of-15 for 52 yards in the second.

"I think our secondary got a

victory over the Tornadoes at Harmon Stadium Friday night. Rodriguez gained 220 yards on 32 carries.

little bit of confidence after halftime," Radeloff said. "They were so worried that they would get beat deep that they gave the receivers too big of a cushion in the first half."

Columbian drove 84 yards in 15

plays for its only score midway through the second quarter. Bright scored from the 1 after completing five straight passes for first downs in the drive.

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

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Rodriguez then gained 10, 16, 14 and 2 yards before sweeping right and cutting back against the defensive flow on his 48-yard touchdown.

Cory Sewell's interception gave Ross a chance to take the lead at halftime but Justin Perry's first-and-10 pass for Winters from the Columbian 31 was intercepted by Chad Ward at the 4.

Perry and Nick Wolf split time at quarterback and combined to complete just 3-of-15 passes for 55 yards.

Rodriguez, though, made up for the lack of a passing attack. Of Rodriguez's 32 rushes, he was tackled for a loss only once and was stopped for no gain twice.

"There was a block every time," he said.

Marcus Holbert added 73 yards on 11 carries for Ross, including 59 in the second half and 32 on the winning touchdown drive.

The Tornados failed to capitalize after Ross took a 23-yard loss in punt formation on the fourth play of the game. Little Giant punter Allen Dorsey was tackled on the Ross 26, but Curt Mellott missed a 22-yard field goal six plays later.

High School

Ross 14, Columbian 7

Score by quarters

Columbian	0	7	0	0-7
Ross	0	6	0	8-14

Scoring

Columbian: Jeff Bright, 1-yard run (Curt Mellott kick), 6:15, second quarter.

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 48-yard run (kick failed), 3:31, second quarter.

Ross: Rodriguez, 1-yard run (Chad Brown pass from Rodriguez), 7:35, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	C	R
First Downs	15	18
Rushes/Yards	32/76	46/283
Passing Yards	179	55
Passes/Comp./Int.	28/11/3	15/3/1
Punts/Average	2/22.5	2/21.5
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	1/1
Penalties/Yards	8/60	8/76

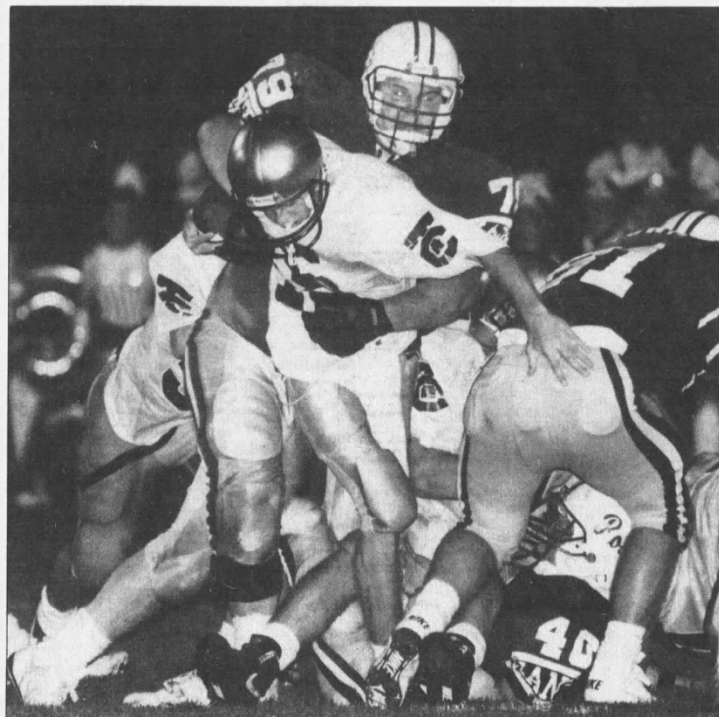
Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rodriguez 32/220, Marcus Holbert 11/73, Nick Wolf 1/7, Justin Perry 1/6; Columbian, Cory Blust 17/44, Bryon Kent 5/8, Mike Betz 1/0.

Passing: Ross, Wolf 10/1/0 — 39, Perry 5/2/1 — 16; Columbian, Bright 23/10/2 — 147, Vince Perrine 5/1/1 — 32.

Records: Ross 1-0, Columbian 0-1.

Ross will battle Macmen up front



CHAD GREEN, Fremont Ross defensive tackle, wraps up Tiffin Columbian quarterback Jeff Bright during the Little Giants' 14-7 victory over the Tornadoes last Friday night.

Line of scrimmage key to victory

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The team that controls the line of scrimmage will likely emerge victorious when Fremont Ross hosts Toledo Macomber Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

"I think (the Little Giants) might be able to outmuscle us," Macomber coach Brad Hathaway said. "We've got big kids, but we're not very physical."

Ross, which defeated Tiffin Columbian 14-7 last week, will try to duplicate last year's 34-16 victory over the Macmen.

Little Giants coach Rex Radeloff likes to talk of "controlling defensive down people."

He likes his own down people to avoid being controlled.

"Our down people played well last week, especially (defensive tackles) Chad Green and Joe Frederick," Radeloff said. "Joe really had an outstanding game."

After Tiffin Columbian gained 76 yards on 32 carries (just over two yards per rush), Tornado coach John Tomaszewski said "it's hard to control them."

That's where it starts against Macomber's explosive offense led by quarterback Mike Moore, a returning starter, and tailback James White.

"They do have speed ... in the backfield and the two wideouts, and they can power you," Radeloff said. "They're going to test the defense."

"They like to trap inside with the fullback (Remel Madden) then turn and pitch. Somehow get the ball to White on the out-

side and go."

White scored all Macomber's points in a 15-14 loss to Anthony Wayne last week. The Macmen scored on their first possession of that game and had a touchdown called back because of a penalty the second time they had the ball.

"After that, we were a different team," Hathaway said.

Moore will throw to wide receivers Brian Kemp and Fred Smith as well as tight end Monte Monifetchurs.

Tackles Vincent Tisdale (5-11, 275) and Charlie Blair (5-9, 245) anchor the offensive line.

Macomber lost five fumbles against the Generals.

"We have to hold onto the ball," Hathaway said, "and we can't make mistakes on defense and give up the big plays like in past years against Ross."

Two of Ross's touchdowns last year against Macomber came on a 38-yard Cory Lance to Darnell McDonald pass and a 41-yard run by Terry Carter.

Macomber's base defense features a five-man front, but the Macmen will use a four-man front in passing situations.

"Their tackles like to penetrate hard, and the secondary will dare us; they line up anywhere from 5 to 7 yards off the ball," said Radeloff, who added that the Little Giants spent more time on their passing game this week in practice.

Quarterbacks Nick Wolf and Justin Perry, who both played against Columbian, shared practice time this week as well.

Rodriguez and Co. continue Ross running back tradition

Hector Rodriguez's performance last Friday made him another drop in the bucket in Fremont Ross High School football lore.

The senior tailback got a toe-hold on taking his place in the long line of Ross running back greats.

The transplanted Medina player via Florida, Rodriguez is the gleam that tops a shining list of current Ross running backs waiting in the wings.

Running back, a.k.a. tailback/fullback in Coach Rex Radeloff's I-formation, is one position the Little Giants are deep in this season.

The nice thing about Rodriguez's supporting cast is that they are all underclassmen.

The players seeing the most action are interchangeable. Junior's Alec Shawl and Cory Sewell can step in at either fullback or tailback. Both are strong runners who do not have the quick-

On The Mark

Bob
Marker



ness of Rodriguez but may be a bit more physical.

Junior Marcus Holbert is the starting fullback who helped clear the holes for Rodriguez last week. After seeing Holbert grind out 73 yards up the middle, I feel he could also play tailback.

That cast has relegated a pair of standout sophomores to junior varsity status: Adam Knipp and Tyrone "Toddy" Williams. Knipp is strictly a tailback and Williams could play at either backfield spot.

Add another pair of sophomores, fullbacks David Heidelberg and Juan Gonzalez, and the running back future at Ross is very rosy.

The group may not be cast from the molds of a Big Thunder (Lewis) or a Little Thunder (Surratt); a Level, Lytle or Liggins; the Bates and the Browns; Smith or Tiller; Demmel, Franks, Miller or Shaw, or for that matter, a Carter.

But one thing is clear: before their Ross careers end, they may join that cast of stars from the past.

The only problem is, because of the positions they play, there may not be room for all of them.

Ross fans take note: In the home football programs, there are nomination forms for the Ross Athletic Hall of Fame. Should you need more than one nomination form, they are also available at the Ross High

School athletic department office.

Please nominate the athletes, coaches or people you feel have been instrumental in athletics at Ross and are deserving of Hall of Fame induction. The qualifications and requirements for inductees are on the form.

True, the form does ask you to do a little work, but please fill it out as completely as you can. The research group of the committee can delve further into the nominations but it must have a base from which to begin.

Remember, the Hall of Fame selection committee relies on nominations from the public and for a person to be elected to the Hall of Fame, he, naturally, has to be nominated. It is up to you.

Currently, there are 26 persons or teams left from last year's nomination list. Surely, with your help, that list should double this year.

Please note ... if you nomi-

nated someone last year and that person did not get elected, his nomination will remain on file. You do not have to renominate that particular person.

The next class of inductees will be selected in November.

I'll take on the Perfect Ten people this time around.

Ross will nip Macomber but the passing game will have to work. 20-18; Eastwood will top Clyde 22-14; Oak Harbor will drain Lake 24-12; Bellevue over Port Clinton 21-20; Gibsonburg will nip St. Wendelin 14-13; Margaretta over Keystone 31-12; Seneca East over Woodmore 22-8; and Maumee over Findlay 18-14.

My upset special of the week: Lakota 12, Hopewell-Loudon 11.

On Saturday night, St. Joe will break the St. Mary's jinx: 19-15.

Bob Marker is sports editor of The News-Messenger.



News-Messenger/Linda D. Epstein

MARCUS HOLBERT of Fremont Ross runs past two Toledo Macomber defenders during the Little

Giants' 25-0 victory over the Macmen Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Area

Continued From B-1

yards as a team, attempted just one pass.

Rossford.....18

Genoa.....16

Rossford's Jeremy Lenhardt hauled in a 13-yard pass from Troy Clayton with just over eight

Ross

Continued From B-1

— in two losses, also set themselves back several times because of penalties.

"Every time we come (to Fremont), we put ourselves in a hole," Hathaway said. "There are no excuses for the interceptions, but the penalties are nor-

mal for us."

Macomber outgained Ross 113-105 in the first half, but netted negative yardage on six plays after halftime.

"There was just nothing inside," Hathaway said. "We thought we could pass a little more than we did, and we knew we had to keep trying to run outside but there was nothing there."

The result was a shutout.

Ross 25, Macomber 0

Score by quarters

Macomber	0	0	0	0—0
Ross	12	0	0	13—25

Scoring

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 5-yard run (run failed), 1:04, first quarter.

Ross: Jason Wilhelm, 19-yard pass from Justin Perry (pass failed), 0:03, first quarter.

Ross: Wilhelm, 26-yard pass from Perry (pass failed), 4:16, fourth quarter.

Ross: Alec Shawl, 2-yard run (Chris Benson kick), 0:43, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	M	R
First Downs	9	12
Rushes/Yards	31/84	42/174
Passing Yards	48	73
Passes/Comp./Int.	23/7/4	18/4/2
Punts/Average	3/24.3	4/24.8
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	1/0
Penalties/Yards	7/55	10/80

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross: Rodriguez 27/131, Marcus Holbert 5/13, Tyrone Williams 4/20, Perry 3/19, Shawl 1/2; Macomber: James White 15/36, Remel Madden 3/18, Michael Moore 11/28.

Passing: Ross: Perry 11/3/2 — 58, Nick Wolf 7/1/0 — 15; Macomber: Michael Moore 23/7/4 — 48.

Receiving: Ross: Wilhelm 2/45, Holbert 1/15, Bobby Kadlubowski 1/13; Macomber: Fred Smith 3/22, Brian Kemp 2/6.

Records: Ross 2-0, Macomber 0-2.

Ross, Sandusky clash Friday

By TIM HARMON

Staff writer

Leave the hoopla to the fans.

That's the attitude the Fremont Ross and Sandusky football teams are taking as they prepare for Friday night's game at Harmon Stadium.

"Our kids know what the game is all about, and I'm sure Fremont's kids know that to," Sandusky coach Larry Cook said.

The Fremont rivalry with Sandusky dates back to 1895. Sandusky leads the all-time series 45-30 with eight ties.

The Little Giants defeated the Blue Streaks 21-17 at Stroebel Field in Sandusky

***"I certainly think it's
one of the top rivalries
in the state of Ohio."***

Larry Cook, Sandusky coach

last year.

"I certainly think it's one of the top rivalries in the state of Ohio," Cook said. "At least it is to the people in Fremont and the people in Sandusky."

Motivation is unnecessary.

"The kids are excited about playing, but

they were in these kind of games last year," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "Going into a game like this, you concentrate on what your opponent is going to do."

"The intensity of preparation is the key, and we've had good intensity at practice."

Both teams are 2-0 entering Friday's game. Ross defeated Tiffin Columbian 14-7 and shut out Toledo Macomber 25-0, while Sandusky topped Cleveland Benedictine 21-7 and routed Cleveland West Tech 51-0.

Ross has been most effective running the ball, and Sandusky's potent rushing attack is led by fullback Shon Grant.

The key to the game, however, could lie

in the ability of either team to move the football via the pass.

"(The Streaks) are going to throw on any down," Radeloff said. "They have the ability to stretch the defense because they can run upfield."

Sandusky quarterback Mike Franklin will look for wide receivers Kemmes Keys and Jamie Lazzara, but Grant and Matthews are also targets.

"(The Little Giants') tremendous size on the defensive front is certainly a concern of ours, and we are very much concerned

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued from B-1

about the Benson boy at free safety," Cook said, "they play very good team defense; I don't think there is one standout."

Benson intercepted three Macomber passes last week.

Benson's Sandusky counterpart is free safety Andrew Johnson, whose two interception returns for touchdowns was the difference in the win over Benedictine.

"When we throw the ball, it has to be in the right position and we have to catch it," Radeloff said. "We can't have any tipped passes because they can go up in the air and intercept it."

While Ross will try to stop Grant and Matthews, Sandusky is concerned with Little Giant tailback Hector Rodriguez.

"We hope to contain him and keep him from breaking the long gainer," Cook said, "and I don't think you can look past the young man at fullback (Marcus Holbert)."

Radeloff said Sandusky's offensive line features a "trapping technique that is sound."

"They trap everywhere along the line," Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said.

Said Radeloff, "They have the speed to get outside. We can't let them break contain; we have to turn them in so we can make the play on the inside."



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Sandusky powers way past Ross

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The fallout from Sandusky's 31-0 victory over Fremont Ross Friday night at Harmon Stadium isn't known yet.

How Ross bounces back, spirals or stumbles from here will mark the end result of its 84th meeting with Sandusky.

"One game does not make a season," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "I knew (the Blue Streaks) were a good football team, but I don't think they are 31 points better than us."

"They played as well as they can play,

and I don't think we played as well as we are capable of playing."

Sandusky, 3-0, dominated from the first drive — an 11-play, 76-yard display of power football.

After tailback Joe Matthews and fullback Shon Grant battered the Ross defense, quarterback Mike Franklin sneaked over from the 1.

Franklin, who completed 8-of-12 passes for 158 yards, also ran in from 26 yards out midway through the second quarter and completed touchdown passes of 65 yards to Andrew Johnson and 12 yards to Bill

Knupke.

"We felt if we were going to play with them, we had to go after them," Sandusky coach Larry Cook said. "We challenged our offensive line to see if it could do a job, and it did a job."

The Streaks rushed for 264 yards, including 113 on 20 carries by Matthews.

"They took control," Radeloff said. "I thought we could shut their trapping game down, but they overpowered us."

Franklin's second score came one play after Ross defensive end Brian Moreno left the game with a leg injury. Franklin kept

the ball on an option left and ran through a hole that Moreno might have filled.

"We wanted to use the option to stretch the defense from sideline to sideline," Cook said. "We like to play sideline to sideline so we can utilize our speed."

Ross was limited to 133 yards, with 36 of those coming in the first half.

"We got behind 19-0, and we were forced to put the ball in the air," Radeloff said. "We have to be more consistent throwing the ball, but you can't do it without the

See ROSS, B-3



News-Messenger/Linda D. Epstein

JOE MATTHEWS of Sandusky runs through the Ross defense en route to a gain Friday night. Dan

Frederick (61), Stan Root (87) and Paul Rostetter (65) of the Little Giants give chase.

Ross

Continued From B-1

running game."

Justin Perry and Nick Wolf combined to complete 7-of-20 passes for 63 yards with two interceptions. Perry connected on 6-of-11 throws for 52 yards.

Ross gained 70 yards rushing, including 76 on 16 carries by Hector Rodriguez.

"We wanted to take the running game away from them," Cook said. "We felt they couldn't beat us strictly by passing."

Radeloff noted the play of Sandusky tackle David Irby.

"He was one of three individuals (along with Grant at nose guard and linebacker Damon Rice) we had to control, and we didn't do it," he said.

Grant, who rushed for 56 yards, plugged the middle effectively before leaving the game with a leg injury in the second half; and Rice made several tackles and an interception which set up Franklin's second touchdown.

"The defense played as well as we could have expected it to,"

Cook said.

A 7-yard touchdown run by Matthews with 2:35 left in the second quarter made it 19-0 Sandusky at halftime.

The Streaks used their running game to set up Johnson's catch-and-run midway through the third quarter.

"Once we hammered them with the running game, it certainly opened up the passing game," Cook said.

Knupke scored one play after Lamond Carter scampered 44 yards to the Ross 15 with 7:03 left to play.

Football

Sandusky 31, Ross 0

Score by quarters

Sandusky	6	13	6	6—31
Ross	0	0	0	0—0

Scoring

Sandusky: Mike Franklin, 1-yard run (kick failed), 6:48, first quarter.

Sandusky: Franklin, 26-yard run (run failed), 7:54, second quarter.

Sandusky: Joe Matthews, 7-yard run (Mike Miller kick), 2:35, second quarter.

Sandusky: Andrew Johnson, 65-yard pass from Franklin (pass failed), 7:26, third quarter.

Sandusky: Bill Knupke, 12-yard pass from Franklin (kick failed), 7:03, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	S	R
First Downs	19	8
Rushes/Yards	41/264	23/70
Passing Yards	158	63
Passes/Comp./Int.	12/8/0	20/7/2
Punts/Average	2/31.5	6/30.1
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	9/55	4/32

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Hector Rodriguez 16/76, Marcus Holbert 2/10, Nick Wolf 2/5, Justin Perry 3/(-21); Sandusky, Matthews 20/113, Shon Grant 8/56, Franklin 5/29, Lamond Carter 4/48.

Passing: Ross, Perry 11/6/1 — 52, Wolf 9/1/1 — 11; Sandusky, Franklin 12/8/0 — 158.

Receiving: Ross, Jason Wilhelm 2/27, Chris Benson 2/15, Kenny Winters 1/7, Holbert 1/3, Rodriguez 1/1; Sandusky, Johnson 2/73, Knupke 3/32, Grant 1/16, Jamie Lazzara 1/13, Isaac Poole 1/15.

Records: Sandusky 3-0, Ross 2-1.

Whitmer is first Ross road test

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Teams set back by disappointing losses last week meet Friday night when Fremont Ross visits Toledo Whitmer.

Whitmer blew a 14-3 lead in a 17-14 loss to Toledo Central Catholic, while Ross took its lumps in a 31-0 loss to Sandusky.

"Nothing I said at halftime could convince the kids that the game was going to be close," Whitmer coach Pat Gucciardo said. "The kids just thought we were going to win the game."

"In that regard, we were undoing ourselves. That's why it was a disappointing loss."

Ross, 2-1, was outgained 422-133 by the Blue Streaks.

"We've got to give a little bit more," Ross coach Rex Radeloff

Rockets host Panthers

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

St. Mary's and bad memories are one and the same for Oak Harbor coach Gary Quisno.

Quisno, six victories shy of his 100th win as a high school football coach, has had three consecutive years of bad memories playing the Sandusky parochial school.

See AREA, B-3

said. "Play with a little more effort on every down."

Radeloff said the loss has been evaluated and forgotten.

"One (point) or 31, a loss is a loss," he said. "It's going to be a battle this week, and the kids understand that."

Ross shut out Whitmer 35-0 last season.

"We've matured a little bit," Gucciardo said. "We're a little bit better team, but I think everybody else around us in the area is also better."

The Panthers, 2-1, shut out Toledo Start 21-0 and edged Toledo

St. Francis 14-10 before last week's loss.

Whitmer utilizes multiple offensive sets, including the wishbone, I-formation, stacked I-formation and the run-and-shoot.

The Panthers' attack is predicated on the quarterback option and play-action passing game, according to Radeloff.

Quarterback Aaron Bunker triggers the option; tailback Eric Willis and wingback Eric Fritz are the main offensive threats.

"Like with any option game, it's a matter of assignment," Radeloff said. "You have to play a good, disciplined defense."

That was also part of the game plan against Sandusky.

"We were in position to make the play, but (the Streaks) were also at the point of attack,"

Radeloff said. "They sustained the block and it doesn't take much for their backs to get through a hole."

"We've got to get off blocks and make the play."

Ross will also try to get its offense back on track behind quarterback Justin Perry.

"We have to control the line of scrimmage, create some running lanes and knock people off the ball," Radeloff said. "We didn't do a good job up front last week."

Whitmer's 4-4 defense is led by tackles Jerry Bell and Jim Auld and linebackers Kurt Kinker and Brian Gardner.

"It's not a read defense ... they come after you," Radeloff said. "It's strictly man-to-man coverage in the secondary."

Ross offense still sputtering

Whitmer posts 27-7 victory

By TIM HARMON

Staff writer

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross offense continues to sputter.

Ross amassed 119 yards Friday night and mustered six first downs in Toledo Whitmer's 27-7 victory at Memorial Stadium.

Whitmer, 3-1, got 147 yards rushing and two touchdowns from tailback Eric Willis. Quarterback Aaron Bunker and wingback Eric Fritz added short scoring runs for the Panthers.

"We were concerned with (Ross's) size up front ... we didn't know if we could block them," Whitmer coach Pat Gucciardo said after the Panthers rushed for 249 yards. "We tried to find a crack for our running backs, and they only had cracks; they didn't have holes."

Ross, 2-2, has been outscored 58-7 in its past two games.

"Third-and-long situations killed us," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We couldn't make the big play."

The Little Giants converted just one of 11 third-down plays and were one of three on fourth down. Both conversions came on their final possession.

"We've got to be able to sustain drives to keep the defense off the field," Radeloff said. "We knocked (the Panthers) off the ball on one play, and Hector (Rodriguez) went the distance."

Rodriguez, who rushed for 74 yards on 18 carries, dashed 53 yards after a pitch right with 2:54 left in the first half.

If the Little Giants needed a jump start, Rodriguez tried to give it to them. His touchdown cut Whitmer's lead to 20-7.

Justin Perry completed 2-of-20 passes with three interceptions. To Perry's credit, though, eight passes were dropped.

Another pass was stolen away from Kenny Winters in the first quarter by Brian Miscikowski, who had all three interceptions.

The lack of a passing game and an inconsistent running game was most evident on the Little Giants' second possession of the second half.

From the Ross 19, Rodriguez rushed for two first downs and fullback Marcus Holbert ripped off a 12-yard gain. Perry followed with an incompletion on first down.

The pass appeared to be an ill-timed one.

"We had them sucked up after running the ball like we were," Ross offensive coordinator Dan Fought said. "We had the route open. If we catch the ball, we're all right."

Rodriguez gained two yards on a dive play following Perry's misfire before Whitmer's Todd

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Barabash dragged him down for a 13-yard loss on a sweep left.

Barabash also made another big play — one that Gucciardo and Radeloff agreed was the biggest of the game.

Whitmer, which was stopped on its first possession after Kurt Kinker returned the opening kickoff to the Ross 45, faced a fourth down midway through the first quarter.

Barabash flipped a screen pass from punt formation to Matt Wilson, who gained 32 yards.

Two plays later, Willis ran 24 yards for a touchdown.

"The crucial play of the game was the fake punt," Radeloff said. "It was a great call on their part. They converted, went down and scored."

Bunker capped the Panthers' next drive on the first play of the second quarter, scoring untouched from 5 yards out on a quarterback option keeper.

Willis' 3-yard run with 3:26 left before halftime made it 20-0.

"We didn't know if we could outrun their kids," Gucciardo said, "but we felt if they were concerned with the outside, the middle would open up."

Nothing opened up for Ross.

"They closed us down inside, and the linebackers were active," Radeloff said. "When it's a stalemate on the line of scrimmage and the linebackers step up, they've got you."

Fritz's 2-yard run with 8:06 left to play finished the scoring.

High School

Whitmer 27, Ross 7

Score by quarters

Ross	0	7	0	0	—7
Whitmer	6	14	0	7	—27

Scoring

First quarter

Whitmer: Eric Willis, 24-yard run (kick failed), 5:15.

Second quarter

Whitmer: Aaron Bunker, 5-yard run (Eric Fritz kick), 11:57.

Whitmer: Willis, 3-yard run (pass failed), 3:26.

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 53-yard run (Chris Benson kick), 2:54.

Fourth quarter

Whitmer: Fritz, 2-yard run (Fritz kick), 8:06.

Team Stats

	R	W
First Downs	6	16
Rushes/Yards	22/94	54/249
Passing Yards	25	32
Passes/Comp./Int.	20/2/3	7/3/0
Punts/Average	6/32.3	4/32
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	4/1
Penalties/Yards	2/20	2/10

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rodriguez 18/84, Marcus Holbert 3/27, Justin Perry 1/(-7); Whitmer, Willis 22/147, Kurt Kinker 6/15, Fritz 6/21, Jamie Young 6/26, Bunker 9/16.

Passing: Ross, Perry 20/2/3 — 25; Whitmer, Bunker 6/2/0, Todd Barabash 1/1/0 — 32.

Receiving: Ross, Jason Wilhelm 2/25; Whitmer, Fritz 2/0, Matt Wilson 1/32.

Records: Ross 2-2, Whitmer 3-1.

Ross aims for target with passing game

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The problems surrounding the Fremont Ross passing game are rooted in mental mistakes, according to Little Giants' flanker Jason Wilhelm.

"We're on the same page in practice, so we should be in the games," Wilhelm said. "You get mad ... frustrated with yourself because you know you can do better."

Ross quarterbacks have completed 16-of-73 passes with eight interceptions.

"We've had too many missed assignments," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Justin Perry has completed 13-



WILHELM



PERRY

of-47 passes for 151 yards with seven interceptions.

"We catch the ball in practice, and I have confidence in every one of my receivers," he said.

"This has probably been our best

week of practice, and we're going to turn it around."

Perry and Wilhelm connected for touchdown passes of 19 and 26 yards in the Little Giants' 25-0 victory over Toledo Macomber Aug. 31.

"It seemed easy then," Perry said, "but Macomber wasn't quite the same team Sandusky was."

Perry was 6-of-11 for 52 yards against the Blue Streaks.

In last week's 27-7 loss to Toledo Macomber, Ross receivers dropped numerous passes. Wilhelm had the Little Giants' only two receptions, for 25 yards, but both came in the final minutes.

"I took it upon myself," Wil-

helm said. "I wanted the ball."

Wilhelm believes getting the passing game untracked will help the entire offense.

"Once we start hooking up on the passing game, we'll be able to bust the run," he said. "Right now, no one thinks we can catch the ball so they're keying on stopping the run."

Said Perry, "(An improved passing game) will take pressure off Hector (tailback Rodriguez) and Marcus (fullback Holbert)."

Perry added that he has put pressure on himself to do better.

"I'm my own worst enemy," he said. "I'm too hard on myself. I get down on myself when I make a mistake."

Rams slow down Ross in 30-14 win

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

MANSFIELD — Madison's adjustment to a resurgent Fremont Ross offense turned the tide in a 30-14 victory over the Little Giants Friday night.

"Until the half, we had trouble stopping them," Madison coach Dana Woodring said. "They're so big up front, and the mud neutralized our quickness."

Ross, 2-3, led 14-13 at halftime after falling behind 7-0 and 13-7 in rain that began minutes before the start of the game.

"The offensive line was coming off the ball," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We would have knocked them off the ball on a dry field."

Maybe that's why the Rams made the

adjustment they did.

"At halftime, we went to a goal-line defense," Woodring said. "We had to do something because we couldn't stop them. I would say we pretty much shut them down in the second half."

"They came out and tried to play power football, and it just wasn't enough."

The Little Giants rushed for 130 yards in the first half, including 52 by Alec Shawl, who started at fullback in place of Marcus Holbert.

Hector Rodriguez rushed for 55 yards before halftime. Rodriguez, who finished with 83 yards, scored from 24 yards out on a fourth-and-one play that tied the score at 7-7 late in the first quarter.

Madison, which opened the scoring on a

27-yard pass from Mike Nikolaus to Jason Kiley, went up 13-7 on Nikolaus' 7-yard run with 9:58 left in the half.

The Little Giants gained their halftime edge after recovering a Madison fumble midway through the second quarter.

Justin Perry, who completed a third-down pass to Shawl during the 50-play drive, sneaked over from the 1 after running 22 yards on a second-and-six play.

Ross gained just 34 yards rushing in the second half.

"(The Rams) had to take away the inside game, which they did," Radeloff said. "We had to get outside, and we didn't."

After Ross failed to move the ball on its first possession of the second half, Nikolaus hit Kiley for a 24-yard score on a

fourth-and-four play.

"On third and fourth down, they made the big plays," Radeloff said.

Steve Whitfield, who rushed for 77 yards, ran in a two-point conversion, and Brad Moore's 23-yard field goal on the Ram's next possession made it 24-14.

"The first series (of the half) was important because that's when you have to make something happen," Radeloff said. "We were up 14-13."

Moore's field goal came seven plays after Ross punter Allen Dorsey was downed for a 19-yard loss after a low snap.

Rob Whitfield's 45-yard interception return with 46 seconds left to play finished the scoring.

Football

Madison 30, Ross 14

Score by quarters

Ross	7	7	0	0-14
Madison	7	6	11	6-30

Scoring

First quarter

Madison: Jason Kiley, 27-yard pass from Mike Nikolaus (Brad Moore kick), 5:38.

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 24-yard run (Chris Benson kick), 1:47.

Second quarter

Madison: Nikolas, 7-yard run (kick failed), 9:58.

Ross: Justin Perry, 1-yard run (Benson kick), 1:52.

Third quarter

Madison: Kiley, 24-yard pass from Nikolaus (Steve Whitfield run) 7:38.

Madison: Moore, 23-yard field goal, 2:30.

Fourth quarter

Madison: Rob Whitfield, 45-yard pass interception return (kick blocked), 0:46.

Team Stats

	R	M
First Downs	8	13
Rushes/Yards	35/164	42/169
Passing Yards	51	94
Passes/Comp./Int.	14/5/1	9/7/0
Punts/Average	4/29.7	4/36
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	4/1
Penalties/Yards	5/35	9/65

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rodriguez 18/83, Alec Shawl 9/58, Justin Perry 5/17, Tyrone Williams 2/25. Madison, S. Whitfield 20/77, Obie Stillwell 11/69, Nikolaus 8/2, Chris Laugherty 3/21.

Passing: Ross, Perry 14/5/1 — 51. Madison, Nikolaus 9/7/0 — 94.

Receiving: Ross, Chad Brown 2/29, Shawl 1/10, Kenny Winters 1/4, Ryan Zimmerman 1/8. Madison, Kiley 3/59, Stillwell 1/9, Laugherty 1/0, Jason Hunt 1/15, Paul Burton 1/11.

Records: Madison 5-0, Ross 2-3.

Ross out to end loss skid

Little Giants meet improved Newark

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The Buckeye Central Conference opens for Fremont Ross and Newark Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

The Little Giants, defending BCC champs, whipped Newark 44-7 last year as the Wildcats struggled through a 1-9 season.

"They're much improved," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "They've gotten steadily better."

"They look like a good football team. They have good technique, and they know what they want to get done offensively and defensively."

Newark, 3-2, has won two straight games, while the Little Giants have lost three straight. Newark edged Marion Harding 15-14 last Friday, and Mansfield Madison defeated Ross 30-14.

The Little Giants, 2-3, will focus on Newark running back Scott Kennedy, who handles the ball the majority of the time from I-formation, the wishbone or a broken wishbone formation.

"We've got to be able to stop Kennedy and beware of the option," Radeloff said.

New coach Paul Starr has changed Newark's defensive philosophy from a 6-2 look that featured blitzing linebackers to an angle defense with a five-man front.

"We've got to be able to control the angle, and take care of the nose," Radeloff said. "Any time you play against a 50 defense, you have to control the nose guard."

Brian Shaw is the Wildcats' nose man.

"They're going to run to the football," Radeloff said. "So far, they have prevented the big play."

"We've got to have some (big plays), but we've got to be able to grind it out."

Williams leads Ross



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

TYRONE WILLIAMS (44) of Ross is grabbed **Scott Priest** (11) and **Dwayne Bonham** (35) of Newark during third quarter action at Har-

mon Stadium Friday. **Marcus Holbert** (33) of Ross and **Lamar Shepherd** (12) of Ross move in to try to help Williams.

Little Giants open BCC play with 42-21 win

By **TIM HARMON**
Staff writer

The backfield depth of the Fremont Ross football team showed at the forefront of a 42-21 victory over Newark Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Sophomore **Tyrone Williams**, filling in for regular starting tailback **Hector Rodriguez**, rushed for 215 yards on 29 carries as Ross amassed 376 yards in the Buckeye Central Conference opener for both teams.

"It felt great to win a game coming off three losses," said Williams, who is known as **Toddy** around the football field. "We

had a good week of practice, and I was confident we could win."

Rodriguez was out with a slightly separated shoulder.

"The doctor gave **Hector** the OK, but he didn't have any contact all week," Ross coach **Rex Radeloff** said. "We wanted to start **Toddy** and see how he did."

"If we didn't need **Hector**, and **Hector** understood that, he wasn't going to play."

He wasn't needed.

Williams rushed for 56 yards on Ross's first drive, which **Alec Shawl** capped off with a 3-yard run, and ran 61 yards for a touchdown the next time he

touched the ball.

"The line blocked really well," **Williams** said. "They had holes the whole game, and I was hitting them great."

Newark, 3-3, made things interesting late in the first half, driving 70 yards before **Brian Jeffries** threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to **Paul Chapman**.

"They were gaining confidence," **Radeloff** said. "We had to generate something and get the ball in the end zone."

Williams ran nine times for 52 yards on a 68-yard drive, including a 9-yard touchdown run.

"That was an important touch-

down," **Radeloff** said.

Justin Perry's 14-yard touchdown run capped a 60-yard Ross drive at the outset of the second half. The Little Giants then drove 85 yards in 10 plays before **Perry** eluded Newark's pass rush and hit **Allen Dorsey** for a 29-yard touchdown.

Ross, 3-3, made it 42-7 on **Marcus Holbert's** 1-yard run midway through the fourth quarter.

"We wanted to get possession and score in the first, second, third and fourth quarters — especially the first and third,"

See **ROSS**, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

Radeloff said.

The Wildcats had not allowed any points in the first and third quarters of any of its game so far this season.

"I was hoping no one would be able to run the ball that way on us," Newark coach Paul Starr said. "They just blew us off the line of scrimmage.

"Give credit where credit is due; their backs ran real well... that's all there is to it."

Alec Shawl rushed for 30 yards, all on the opening drive, Holbert gained 56 on 10 carries and Adam Knipp added 40 on nine carries for the Little Giants.

"We knew we had to block the angle one-on-one," Radeloff said. "Against a 50 angle defense, you have to block the nose guard and the tackles. That's the way we feel because we knew we could (block) the linebackers.

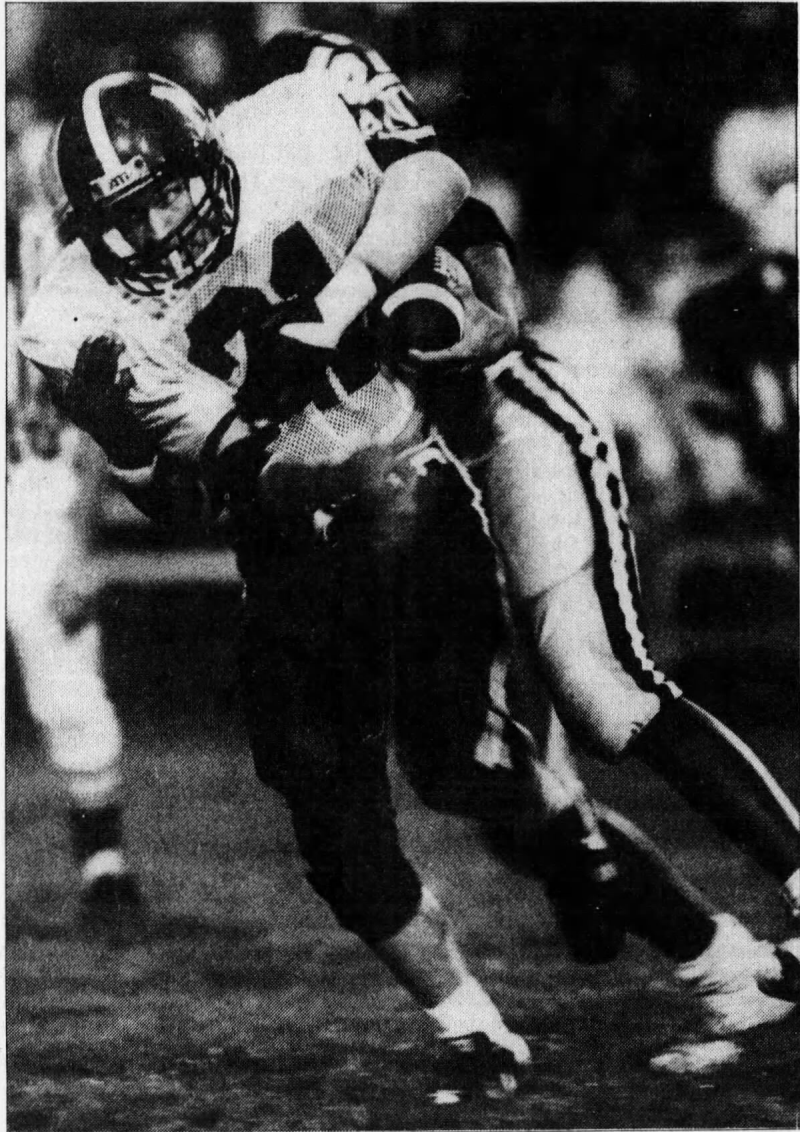
"By far, this was the best game by the offensive line."

The Ross defense, meanwhile, limited the Wildcats to 143 yards until the fourth quarter.

"We knew (Newark quarterback Brian Jeffries) would throw the ball, but our primary (goal) is to shut down the run," Radeloff said.

Jeffries completed 7-of-14 passes for 73 yards with two interceptions.

Aaron Fink, who finished with 112 yards, scored on runs of 6 and 66 yards in the final period.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

AARON FINK (21) of Newark is grabbed from behind by Ross defender **Damon Walker** during second half action at Harmon Stadium Friday.

Ross 42, Newark 21

Score by quarters

Newark	0	7	0	14—21
Ross	14	7	14	7—42

Scoring

First quarter

Ross: Alec Shawl, 3-yard run (kick failed), 4:31.

Ross: Tyrone Williams, 61-yard run (Kenny Winters pass from Justin Perry), 2:31.

Second quarter

Newark: Paul Chapman, 13-yard pass from Brian Jeffries (Jason Hand kick), 4:18.

Ross: Williams, 9-yard run (Ryan Zimmerman kick), 0:10.

Third quarter

Ross: Perry, 14-yard run (pass failed), 7:45.

Ross: Allen Dorsey, 29-yard pass from Perry (Jason wilhelm passs from Willams), 2:33.

Fourth quarter

Ross: Marcus Holbert, 1-yard run (Zimmerman kick), 8:17.

Newark: Aaron Fink, 6-yard run (Hand kick), 4:05.

Newark: Fink, 66-yard run (Hand kick), 0:30.

Team Stats

	N	R
First Downs	13	21
Rushes/Yards	31/191	55/376
Passing Yards	73	91
Passes/Comp./Int.	14/7/2	14/6/0
Punts/Average	4/37	3/40.2
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	2/30	7/67

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Williams 29/215, Shawl 4/30, Holbert 10/56, Adam Knipp 9/40, Perry 3/33, Tony Franks 1/2. Newark, Scott Kennedy 11/25, Fink 12/118, Jefferies 7/48.

Passing: Ross, Perry 12/5/0 —71, Brian Wilson 2/1/0 — 20. Newark: Jefferies 14/7/2 — 73.

Receiving: Ross, Chad Brown 1/7, Holbert 1/15, Nick Wolf 1/9, Dorsey 1/29, Chad Bruns 1/11, Bobby Kadlubowski 1/20. Newark, Chapman 4/63, Fink 2/9, Mike Sandbrink 1/1.

Records: Ross 3-3 (1-0), Newark 3-3 (0-1).

Green turns things around

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Jeff Green might have felt the pressure of the Fremont Ross Little Giants' recent three-game losing streak more than anyone.

Sure, the Ross pass offense was struggling and the Little Giants' defense possibly wasn't playing as well as it is capable, but Green was supposed to be the anchor of an offensive line



GREEN that was counted on to open holes for Hector Rodriguez and the other Ross running backs.

"I knew I should perform because a lot of people were count-

See GREEN, B-3

Ross takes advantage of extra day

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fremont Ross took advantage of an extra day of practice this week for some self-improvement.

The Little Giants, 3-3, play their only Saturday game of the season this week when they visit Zanesville for a Buckeye Central Conference game against the Blue, 3-3. Both teams won their BCC openers last week.

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

"We took advantage early in the week," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We used the extra time to prepare ourselves.

"Technique-wise, there were things we weren't doing as well as we were early in the season. A lot of things you overlook during the season because normally you're preparing for the opponent.

"I think it will pay off in the end product ... the game."

Zanesville, under first-year coach Clarence Pery, defeated Findlay 21-14 a week ago. Ross whipped Newark 42-21.

"We want to build on what we did last week," Radeloff said. "That was our best performance so far offensively and defensively ... on both sides of the ball."

Radeloff said Zanesville, which shelved the single wing offense in favor of I-formation and switched its defense from a six-man front to a five-man, is similar to Newark.

"We've got to attack them, control them and wear them down," Radeloff said. "We've got to run at them and make them work all night."

Hector Rodriguez, who sat out last week with a partially separated shoulder, returns for the Little Giants.

"He's fine," Radeloff said.

"He's ready to go. He might be more than ready to go; he had a great practice last night (Wednesday).

"With the way Toddy (Williams) ran last week, we have two pretty good weapons."

Williams rushed for 215 yards and two touchdowns against Newark. Rodriguez has rushed for 584 yards and five touchdowns.

Ross must control Zanesville's defensive tackles, Steve Steffey and Trent Reid, who also anchor the offensive line.

The Blue Devils run a simple offense, according to Radeloff.

"(Perry) is going with a few things, and they're building on that," Radeloff said. "They trap with the fullback (Pete Matthews), run the sprint draw and the sweep and use the sprint-out pass and the play-action pass.

"They don't run the option, but we're preparing for it because the quarterback (Chris Curtis) can run."

□

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 53 south to Route 23 south. At Delaware, take Route 37 east to Interstate 71. Travel south on I-71 to 270 east then to Interstate 70 east. Exit on State Street in Zanesville. Take a left and travel north on State, which turns into Blue Ave. Zanesville High School is located on the left of Blue. The address is 1701 Blue Ave.

An alternative route is to follow Route 37 to I-70.

Green

Continued From B-1

ing on me," Green said last Friday after Ross beat Newark 42-21 at Harmon Stadium. "I was getting frustrated on an individual level.

"The coaches told me 'you have to get in gear because there are a lot of people (colleges) looking at you.'"

Green, a 6-foot-7, 270-pound senior, realized part of his problem during the second half of Ross's 27-7 loss to Toledo Whitmer Sept. 14 — he was not an effective football player while playing both offense and defense.

"I had to make up my mind," Green said. "I came in Saturday morning after the Whitmer game and told coach (Ross offensive coordinator Dan) Fought I wanted to go one way."

One way — offensive tackle — as opposed to playing both tackle and defensive end.

Green played perhaps his best half of football during the first half Sept. 21 during a 30-14 loss to Mansfield Madison.

"(Playing only offense) helped because I was getting tired (going both ways)," he said. "I think it helped the offensive line because they knew there wasn't that many people going both ways."

The line played its best game last Friday, controlling the line of scrimmage as Ross amassed 376 yards rushing.

"Brian Moreno (Ross co-captain who shares time with Paul Rostetter at right guard) and I sat down as captains with the rest of the seniors and we asked ourselves 'what can we do to help motivate the team?'

"We decided it was our job to help get everybody ready to play."

They did it last week in preparation for the Wildcats.

Ross, which travels to Zanesville Saturday night, has four games left this season. Green, though, most likely has a college career in front of him.

"At the beginning of the year, I was thinking about my future," The Ross co-captain said. "I put pressure on myself, but it was nothing I couldn't handle. I knew I had to perform being a three-year starter."

Green said he has been approached by the University of Toledo, which would like to make him "a pulling guard" as well as several other colleges.

"I could fit into the (Mid-American Conference)," he said. "If I work hard, I could fit into the Big Ten."

"It depends on preparation and attitude."

Right now, Green's attitude is pretty good.

Little Giants' defense, offense, rips Zanesville

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

ZANESVILLE — A third column on the scoreboard would have been appropriate.

"Hey, we got 12 of those points," a jubilant Joe Siesel exclaimed after Fremont Ross dealt Zanesville a 39-0 setback Saturday night at the Blue Devils' home.

In Siesel's eyes, the scoreboard should have read: Ross offense 27, Ross defense 12, and in both cases, Zanesville a fat zero.

"It's a shutout — that's something to talk about," Siesel, the Ross defensive coordinator, said after his team's second shutout of the season. "The defense got six points and the punt team got six."

Ross, 4-3 after its second straight win, took over first place in the Buckeye Central Conference race at 2-0. Zanesville slipped to 3-4 and 1-1.

Defensive end Brian Moreno delivered the straw that broke Zanesville's back, plucking a fumble out of the air and running 74 yards for the touchdown, putting the Little Giants up 20-0 with 3½ minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"That ball looked huge," Moreno said as he relived the play. "I saw it up in the air — that's mine ... I'm going."

"I pictured this in my sophomore, junior years — the whole time. It was a dream come true," Moreno said.

Moreno added to his dream game with two sacks, a tackle

for a loss and a knocked down pass.

"That's what you hope for," Ross head coach Rex Radeloff said about Moreno's TD run.

"That doesn't happen too often in a career to anyone in high school, college or pro; he happened to be in the right spot at the right time."

The defensive end was a standout among many for the Little Giants.

Chris Benson picked off four Zanesville passes to run his season interception tally to nine. His first theft was in the end zone and another killed a Blue Devil drive at the Ross 1.

Joe Frederick had two quarterback sacks and another tackle for a loss while Ryan Zimmerman had two late QB sacks and

Paul Rostetter had a seventh sack for the Little Giants.

Spicing up the defensive effort was Dave Lopez's blocked punt that set up another Ross TD.

Kenny Winters gave Siesel's special team its six-pointer, returning a fourth-quarter punt 36 yards, putting Ross ahead 32-0.

The Ross offense, which put 42 points on the board a week earlier against Newark, took cues from the defense.

After a sluggish first quarter, Benson's end zone interception set up an eight-play, 80-yard drive. Alec Shawl capped the drive, cutting up the middle off center Brian Hahn's block for 7-0 lead four minutes into the second quarter. Tailback Hector Rodriguez, back in the lineup after sitting out a game with a shoulder

injury, started the drive with a 28-yard sprint up the middle. Rodriguez finished with 164 yards on 19 carries.

Jason Wilhelm caught his third touchdown pass of the season, a 4-yard snag off his shootups, from Justin Perry, with nine seconds left in the half, putting Ross up 14-0 at the half. Perry completed 5-of-8 passes for 34 yards in the game.

After Moreno's gallop, Lopez blocked Brian Blanton's punt and Crispin Cook returned it three yards to the Zanesville 17. Two plays later, Perry rolled around left end from 12 yards out for a 26-0 lead late in the third quarter.

Winters tacked on his punt re-

See ROUT, B-2

Rout

Continued From B-1

turn two minutes into the final quarter.

Winter's TD brought a flood of subs off the Ross bench. Brian T. Wilson, taking over for Perry, lobbed a 25-yard pass into the end zone where Bobby Kadlubowski gathered it in to complete the scoring midway through the final quarter.

Radeloff was happy that every Little Giant played but was apprehensive about the final touchdown.

"I stuck in Brian Wilson," he said. "I was going to keep J.P. (Perry) in for another series, but I did not want to take the chance," Radeloff said. "I was kind of reluctant to call the pass, but those kids want to score and I want to see what Brian could do under pressure."

Radeloff continued, "It was a great defensive effort. The first quarter — who knows why you go out and don't play with a lot of emotion but Zaneville was fired up and I knew they would be because it was for the conference lead.

"They did a nice job driving it down, but we created the turnovers," Radeloff said, "That was the key. Then we settled down and shut them down."

Like 27-12-0.

High School

Ross 39, Zanesville 0

Score by quarters

Ross	0	14	12	13—39
Zanesville	0	0	0	0—0

Scoring

Second quarter

Ross: Alec Shawl, 11-yard run (Chris Benson kick), 7:53.

Ross: Jason Wilhelm, 4-yard pass from Justin Perry (Benson kick), 0:09.

Third quarter

Ross: Brian Moreno, 74-yard fumble return (kick failed), 3:37.

Ross: Perry, 12-yard run (kick blocked), 0:53.

Fourth quarter

Ross: Kenny Winters, 36-yard punt return (kick failed), 10:19.

Ross: Bobby Kadlubowski, 25-yard pass from Brian T. Wilson (Ryan Zimmerman kick), 5:44.

Team Stats

	R	Z
First Downs	15	13
Rushes/Yards	33/246	32/79
Passing Yards	59	132
Passes/Comp./Int.	10/6/1	23/13/4
Punts/Average	3/26.0	3/28.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/1
Penalties/Yards	5/40	4/20

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Perry 3/22, Hector Rodriguez 19/164, Shawl 5/20, Marcus Holbert 1/3, Tyrone Williams 3/23, Brian Myers 1/(-1), Adam Knipp 1/15. Zanesville, Chris Curtis 12/18, Kris Hale 10/49, Pete Matthews 7/21, Mike Lucas 1/6, Matt Perry 2/(-15).

Passing: Ross, Perry 10/5/1 — 34, Rodriguez 1/0/0, Wilson 1/1/0 — 25. Zanesville, Curtis 20/11/4 — 119, Perry 3/2/0 — 13.

Receiving: Ross, Rodriguez 3/21, Wilhelm 1/4, Nick Wolf 1/9, Kadlubowski 1/25. Zanesville, Kane 2/6, Matthews 5/56, Lucas 3/41, Todd Ritchey 2/22, Todd Arnold 1/7.

Records: Ross 4-3 (2-0), Zanesville 3-4 (1-1).

Little Giants seek 3rd straight victory

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Two straight victories have put the excitement back in Fremont Ross football.

The Little Giants, 4-3 after a 39-0 victory over Zanesville last Saturday, take a week off from their Buckeye Central Conference schedule Friday when they travel to Lakewood for a game against the Rangers, who have lost once in seven games.

"I can't see a letdown," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. I think

it's a challenge. Lakewood is 6-1 and a good football team."

The Rangers, whose only loss was a 21-6 setback against Cleveland Heights three weeks ago, defeated Shaker Heights 18-12 last Saturday.

"Going to Cleveland, and having a 4-3 record, we want to show those people what kind of football we have over here," Radeloff said. "We're representing Northwest Ohio; that's the way we're looking at it."

The Ross players are in the

right frame of mind for carrying such a burden, Radeloff said.

"They're excited," he said. "We're starting to gel."

"Being on top of the Buckeye ... at this point, and on our way to (a 5-0 record in the second half of the season), that's where we want to be."

Ross put together its best team effort of the season against Zanesville, according to Radeloff.

"We talk in terms of team ef-

See ROSS, C-2

Ross

Continued From C-1

fort," he said. "That's what you strive for.

"Offense, defense and special teams; those are the parts of the ballgame you work on, and we put them together."

Lakewood's offense features multiple sets and numerous misdirection plays.

"They divide the running between the tailback (Brian Foster), fullback (Ross Harris) and wingback (Matt Volle)," Radeloff said. "The quarterback (Cory Rossen) has a strong arm; they like to throw to the tight end (Joe Armstrong), and (Rossen) can throw deep."

Radeloff said the Rangers penchant is toward the sustained drive as opposed to the big play.

"They like the control passing game," Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said.

Offensively, Ross wants to turn its backs loose on the perimeter.

"Cleveland Heights hurt them to the outside," Radeloff said.

The Ross offensive line, with Scott Aldrich filling in for Brian Hahn at center while Hahn rests a sprained knee, will try to con-

trol the interior linemen in Lakewood's 5-3 defense.

"It's a penetrating defense," Radeloff said. "They try to break the line of scrimmage.

"The front five people have been tough; they create problems. If we can control them, we should be in pretty good shape."

The Lakewood defense is anchored by tackles Jim McCullough and Julio Swift, nose guard Jim Guddy and linebackers Jamie Browning and Tom Kne.

□

DIRECTIONS: Take either the Turnpike or Route 6 to Route 2 East. Stay on Route 2, which merges with Interstate 90), to Lakewood. Exit at Bunts Road and travel to the third light and take a left on Bunts Road. The stadium is on Bunts. Travel time is approximately 90 minutes. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Fremont Athletic Supply. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

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Tandem Carrier Bike Rack

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SANTANA

Ross quick start clips Lakewood

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

LAKEWOOD — A 27-21 Fremont Ross victory over Lakewood Friday night began with a flurry and ended with a clutch display of ball-control offense.

In the interim, a commendable comeback attempt from a 27-point deficit by the Rangers was just that — commendable.

It was a long strange trip for

both teams.

"We put ourselves in too deep a hole," Lakewood coach Kevin Fell said. "You can't get that down that far."

Hector Rodriguez returned the opening kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown to start the Little Giants' ball rolling. The return matches Jeff Brown's 89-yard return against Cleveland Lincoln-West in 1976 for the third longest

in Ross history.

"We saw a weakness in the middle," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We felt we could pop it, and I didn't think they had anyone who could catch Hector."

Rodriguez, who rushed for 109 yards and finished with four touchdowns, followed his opening statement by running 42 yards with a screen pass for a 14-0 Ross lead with less than three

minutes elapsed.

"We want to put Hector in one-on-one situations," Radeloff said.

Ross set up shop for that score when Paul Rostetter intercepted Corey Rossen on Lakewood's first offensive play of the night.

"That's what I look for every game," Radeloff said of the Little Giants' fast start.

Ross, 5-3, stretched its' lead on short scoring runs of 2 and 3 yards by Rodriguez.

A roughing the kicker penalty against Lakewood on a Ross punt kept alive a 12-play drive, which ended with Rodriguez's third TD, and a fumble recovery by Ross defensive end Crispin Cook set up a nine-play, 63-yard drive as Ross took a 27-0 lead with 6:02 left before halftime.

Lakewood, 6-2, began its' comeback attempt when John

See ROSS, B-3

Ross 27, Lakewood 21

Score by quarters

Ross	21	6	0	0—27
Lakewood	0	7	0	14—21

Scoring

First quarter

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 89-yard kickoff return (Chris Benson kick), 11:49.

Ross: Rodriguez, 42-yard pass from Justin Perry (Benson kick), 9:45.

Ross: Rodriguez, 2-yard run (Benson kick), 1:05.

Second quarter

Ross: Rodriguez, 3-yard run (kick failed), 6:02.

Lakewood: John Crawford, 5-yard run (John Stalzer kick), 0:58.

Fourth quarter

Lakewood: Brian Foster, 25-yard pass from Corey Rossen (Stalzer kick), 10:35.

Lakewood: Tom Kovatch recovered fumble in end zone (Stalzer kick), 9:31.

Team Stats

	R	L
First Downs	15	16
Rushes/Yards	45/163	40/180
Passing Yards	60	72
Passes/Comp./Int.	5/2/0	18/4/4
Punts/Average	1/40	1/33
Fumbles/Lost	4/3	3/1
Penalties/Yards	2/30	9/65

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rodriguez 28/109, Tyrone Williams 6/23, Alex Shawl 6/34, Marcus Holbert 1/3, Justin Perry 9/(-2). Lakewood, Brad Shank 9/50, Ross Harris 9/24, Brian Foster 3/13, John Crawford 3/18, Jeff Crawford 4/8, Rossen 9/49.

Passing: Ross, Perry 5/2/0 — 60. Lakewood, Rossen 18/4/4 — 72.

Receiving: Ross, Rodriguez 1/42, Nick Wolf 1/18. Lakewood, Joe Armstrong 2/33, Foster 1/25, Je. Crawford 1/14.

Records: Ross 5-3, Lakewood 6-2.

FREMONT ROSS (5-3, 2-0)	
Opponent	Score
Columbian	14- 7
Macomber	25- 0
Sandusky	0-31
at Whitmer	7-27
at Madison	14-30
Newark	42-21
at Zanesville	39- 0
at Lakewood	27-21

Ross eyes BCC title

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Fremont Ross is in a position to win its second straight Buckeye Central Conference football championship.

Ross, 5-3 and 2-0 in the BCC, can wrap up the title Friday

night when Lancaster visits Harmon Stadium — assuming Findlay defeats Newark.

"I never assume anything," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "Who knows what causes you to win or lose a ballgame."

"After we played Newark (a

42-21 victory), and they turn around and play like they did against Lancaster (Newark defeated the Golden Gales 21-12 two weeks ago) ... that's hard to believe."

See ROSS, B-2

LANCASTER (6-2, 2-1)	
Opponent	Score
Marion Franklin	59- 0
at Groveport Madison	24-15
at Col. Watterson	21- 7
Day, Meadowdale	9-12
Findlay	27- 6
Eastmoor	14- 7
at Newark	12-21
Zanesville	47- 0

FREMONT ROSS VS. LANCASTER

DATEOct. 19
STARTING TIME8 p.m.
SITEHarmon Stadium
SERIES RECORDLancaster leads 3-1
LAST MEETINGNov. 4, 1989

The Golden Gales blitzed Ross quarterback Cory Lance from every possible angle. They parlayed the defensive effort and an efficient offense into a 42-7 victory in the first round of the Ohio High School Athletic Association playoffs.

STRANGE BUT TRUE — Lancaster has had three head coaches — Lee Owens, Phil Mauro and Tom McCurdy — in the four years Ross has been a member of the Buckeye Central Conference.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH — The Lancaster defense against Ross tailback Hector Rodriguez:

The Gales have allowed 68 points this season, but Rodriguez is capable of scoring anytime he touches the football. Rodriguez has scored nine touchdowns, and the Gales need to contain him.

The Little Giants' secondary vs. Lancaster quarterback Nick McCoy or Scott Burre: The Gales like to set up for the big play with a ball-control passing game and improved running game. The Ross secondary has accounted for 15 of the team's 17 interceptions, including 10 by free safety Chris Benson.

The Little Giants' offensive line vs. the Gales' defensive line: If Ross tackle Jeff Green and company control the line of scrimmage, the Little Giants' chances of winning increase.

STAT OF THE WEEK — Ross is 7-3 in its final

home game over the last 10 years.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER — Ross coach Rex Radeloff after the Little Giants defeated Lancaster 18-13 to win the BCC championship last season: "We have a lot of tradition at Fremont Ross. The goal has always been to win a conference championship."

KEY TO THE GAME — Turnovers. Big plays that result in fumbles and interceptions could decide the outcome. In Ross's regular-season victory over the Gales last year, the teams combined for 11 turnovers. The Little Giants intercepted four passes and recovered two fumbles, and the Golden Gales intercepted three passes and recovered two fumbles. Dan Lopez's fumble recovery for Ross set up the game-winning touchdown.

Ross

Continued From B-1

Little Giant victories over the Gales and Findlay next week, however, will bring the BCC crown back to Fremont.

"The kids know the meaning of the game," Radeloff said. "This is the position we wanted to be in after our losing streak."

Ross has developed a rivalry with Lancaster in the four years it has belonged to the BCC. To some, the rivalry is intense.

"I think it's become an excellent rivalry," Radeloff said. "I don't know if you want to call it

bad blood, but the games have been good ones with the exception of the last one."

The Gales routed Ross 42-7 in the playoffs last year.

Lancaster, 6-2 and 2-1 in the BCC, bounced back from its loss to Newark with a 47-0 thumping of Zanesville a week ago.

The Gales have scored 213 points and yielded a BCC-low 68.

"They're a good, solid defensive club," Radeloff said. "They might not be as quick overall (as last season) but fundamentally, they're sound."

Defensive tackle Mike O'Rourke leads the Gales' defense, which was formulated under Lancaster head coach

Tom McCurdy while McCurdy served as defensive coordinator under Phil Mauro.

"We're going to stay with what we've been doing," Radeloff said, "but we want to get outside more than we have been."

"If we want to get anything accomplished, we have to do a good job (blocking) on the defensive ends (Todd Plantz and Bill Westcamp)."

The Gales' offense is led by all-purpose player Colin Foote, who lines up in the backfield, at tight end and at a wideout.

"Their offense hasn't changed much," Radeloff said. "They're going to run the short and intermediate routes and when you

least expect it, they're going to go for the big (play)."

"They do a nice job mixing up the plays."

Lancaster has tried to increase the impact of its running game.

"They've got a pretty good size offensive line and feel they can power people a little more this year," Radeloff said. "They rarely run outside."

Ross would like to duplicate last week's defensive effort in a 27-21 victory over Lakewood.

"We generated five turnovers last week," Radeloff said. "That's what we're hoping to do this week."

"We've got to intercept passes and cause fumbles."

Footie, Lancaster beat Ross



Gales clinch BCC title tie

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Football may be spelled a little differently in Lancaster after the Golden Gales did everything but lose to Fremont Ross Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Spell it "Footie-ball." Punctuate it with defense and you would get no objection from coach Tom McCurdy after Lancaster defeated the Little Giants 14-9, assuring themselves of a share of the Buckeye Central Conference crown and depriving Ross of an outright title.

Colin Foote scored both Lancaster touchdowns — one on a 47-yard run and the other on a 14-yard run a few seconds after McCurdy had his Golden Gales make an early third-quarter statement.

"One of the key plays was when Colin broke the 40-yarder, or whatever it was," McCurdy, in his first year as the Lancaster boss said. "That got us back in the ball game and got our confidence back. At that point in time, Fremont was moving the ball."

He could have said Ross was moving the ball at will.

"Seventy-six plays," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, his eyes riveted to a chart after the game. "You should win a game with that many plays."

Ross, with Hector Rodriguez running for 151 yards on 38 carries, rolled up 307 total yards while Lancaster had 172 on 37 plays.

Still, McCurdy felt his defense played a "helluva game."

"It bent a little bit, but we made the stops when we had to," he said.

The last "had to" stop erased the Little Giants' chances of clinching their second consecutive BCC title.

On the 14th play of a drive that started at the Ross 15 with eight minutes remaining, the Little Giants faced a fourth-and-inches at the Lancaster 20. Earlier in the drive, Rodriguez and bulled his way four yards on a fourth-and-three to keep the drive alive.

A few inches seemed a sure

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ of Ross cuts through a hole on his way to a 17-yard gain in the fourth quarter. The Ross senior had 151 yards rushing on 38 carries.

News-Messenger/Chris Walker

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

thing. McCurdy's Gales didn't get that message as the left side of the defensive line stopped Rodriguez in his tracks, killing the Little Giants' hopes with 1:45 remaining in the game.

It was the second time the Golden Gales dashed out a potential Ross scoring drive. The Little Giants drove to the Lancaster 18 late in the first half before the Golden Gale defense refused to bend further. A bad pitch that was recovered by Rodriguez moved Ross back to the 21, facing a third-and-13.

"We felt that if we were going to get beat, we were going to make them throw the ball to beat us," McCurdy said. "We were going to try to take the running game away — I don't know how many yards they ended up with — but we forced them to throw in throwing situations and I don't think they felt comfortable with it."

McCurdy's plan worked. Lancaster defensive back Steve Poston stepped in from of Justin Perry's pass at the Golden Gales 6 and returned it to the 38, preserving Lancaster's 7-3 lead.

Ross struck first, taking a 3-0 lead on Chris Benson's 27-yard field goal three minutes into the second quarter.

Lancaster retaliated, pinning Ross deep in its own territory before Steve Harris' 10-yard return on Nick Wolf's 41-yard punt put the Golden Gales at the Ross 49. Foote carried for two yards and then broke a counter play over the middles, broke to the sideline, avoiding Benson at the 15 and pranced into the end zone with 4:20 remaining in the half.

Lancaster took the second half kickoff and drove 80 yards in seven plays. Quarterback Nick McCoy hooked up with Chris Fauth on a hitch-and-go for 47 yards to the Ross 14 to set up Foote's second TD.

"The opening drive of the third period, you have to make a statement," McCurdy said. "I felt we had to take it in for a score and make a statement that this was our ballgame and we did."

Ross came back, driving 64 yards in 11 plays with a 23-yard Perry pass to Wolf for the TD



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

COLIN FOOTE (10) pulls away from Cory Sewell of Ross on his way to a 47-yard touchdown run

Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Foote scored both Lancaster touchdowns.

with 5:13 left in the third quarter. Trying to cut the deficit to within a field goal, Radeloff had his team go for two points but Perry's pass was batted down by linebacker Kirk Smith.

"Long pass and a run — big plays," Radeloff said quietly. "Except for the big play, we shut down the running game; we played that real solid.

"When they came out (in the third quarter) just dinkin' and dinkin' it — you know, short, short, deep. That was inevitable. It was a great pass, a great catch.

"They didn't let us get outside; they kept funneling us back into their linebackers but we kept biting at it — were getting three to

four yards each time but they did a good job of keeping us inside."

Ross, 5-4, must defeat Findlay next week to tie Lancaster for the BCC crown. Lancaster is 3-1 in the BCC and Ross 2-1.

"We wanted to win both of them," Radeloff said, "but now we can come back next week and get a share of it at least."

High School

Lancaster 14, Ross 9

Score by quarters

Lancaster	0	7	7	0—14
Ross	0	3	6	0—9

Scoring

Second quarter

Ross: Chris Benson, 27-yard field goal, 9:13.

Lancaster: Colin Foote, 47-yard run (Bill Bosworth kick), 4:20.

Third quarter

Lancaster: Foote, 14-yard run (Bosworth kick), 10:26.

Ross: Nick Wolf, 23-yard pass from Justin Perry (pass failed), 5:13.

Team Stats

	L	R
First Downs	7	20
Rushes/Yards	18/88	56/191
Passing Yards	84	116
Passes/Comp./Int.	19/8/1	16/11/1
Punts/Average	6/24.8	4/27.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	3/0
Penalties/Yards	3/14	5/45

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Lancaster, Nick McCoy 4/1, Foote 9/82, Mike Rosser 3/5, Mike Wheeler 2/0. Ross, Perry 6/14, Hector Rodriguez 38/151, Alex Shawl 7/26, Ken Winters 1/(-12), Marcus Holbert 4/12.

Passing: Lancaster, McCoy 19/8/1 — 84. Ross, Perry 16/11/1 — 116.

Receiving: Lancaster, Tyler Brown 3/14, Chris Fauth 4/71, Tim Henwood 1/(-1). Ross, Rodriguez 1/14, Winters 3/15, Wolfe 2/32, Allen Dorsey 2/14, Chad Brown 2/31, Jason Wilhelm 1/10.

Records: Lancaster 7-2 (3-1), Ross 5-4 (2-1).

Ross vs. Findlay still important

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The complete unveiling of the Fremont Ross passing game might take place Friday night when the Little Giants travel to Findlay seeking a share of the Buckeye Central Conference championship.

At least, the improvement of the Ross pass attack mixed with a "suspect" Findlay defense against the pass warrants it. "I think we're going to put it up," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Radeloff's revelation came after a short

discussion of the pros and cons of the matchup between the Little Giants' offense and the Trojan defense.

"The (defensive) front five (of Findlay) is pretty good," Radeloff said. "They've been doing a good job against the run. "If anything, they have been suspect against the pass."

Tackle George Williams, who was returned from an injury, anchors Findlay's defense, which has allowed 173 points.

Meanwhile, Ross quarterback Justin Perry is coming of his finest passing per-

formance of the season. Perry completed 11-of-16 passes for 116 yards and one touchdown with one interception in a 14-9 loss to Lancaster last Friday.

"The passing game is starting to come around," Radeloff said. "They (Perry and his receivers) recognize the coverage real well right now."

Hector Rodriguez, who went over the 1,000-yard mark in rushing last week with 1,008, might be a popular target for Perry.

"(Toledo) Bowsher was able to get the ball to their backs," Radeloff said. "It's a

lot of man coverage, one-on-one, and that's good. You have to like that."

Bowsher defeated Findlay 9-7 three weeks ago.

Findlay, 3-6 and 1-2 in the BCC, features an offense with an interchangeable tailback and quarterback.

Chris Ireland is a running threat and potential passer from the tailback spot and also has switched positions at times with starting quarterback Glen Bair.

See ROSS, B-3

Ross

Continued from B-1

"We're preparing for almost anything," Radeloff said. "They're trying to knock us off and end the season on a positive note."

"We've got to recognize ... be able to see where certain people are at all times."

In addition to Ireland and Bair, wide receiver Aaron Gralak will be a focal point for the Ross defense, which includes free safety Chris Benson.

Benson has 11 interceptions this season — a Ross record which was previously held by Jim Hufford, who had eight interceptions in 1983.

The Little Giants, 5-4 and 2-1 in the BCC, played their best defensive game of the year against the Lancaster a week ago, according to Radeloff.

Of the Golden Gales' 172 yards

of total offense, 47 came on a touchdown run by Colin Foote and 47 came on a pass play which set up a 14-yard touchdown run by Foote.

"We stopped them all night long except for three plays," Radeloff said. "You look at the stats (Ross amassed 307 total yards) and say 'how could you lose a game like that.'"

"It was frustrating, that's what it was ... for players, coaches and fans."

So, Ross must defeat Findlay to share its second straight BCC title with Lancaster.

"I'm still happy to be in that position," Radeloff said. "Someone said 'unfortunately we'll be playing for a co-championship.'"

"I said, 'it's fortunate that

we're playing for a share of the championship."

Ross leads the all-time series with Findlay 42-19 with three ties. The Little Giants defeated the Trojans 27-20 at Harmon Stadium last year.

"(The players) are ready," Radeloff said. "Ever since I've been at Ross, it's always been a rivalry for the players."



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WALLPAPER

Ross blanks Findlay 28-0

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

FINDLAY — Proper preparation and solid effort by Findlay couldn't keep Fremont Ross from sharing the Buckeye Central Conference championship.

Ross limited Findlay to 47 yards and two first downs and Hector Rodriguez rushed for 189 yards in a 28-0 victory Friday night at Donnell Stadium.

"This shows the character of the team," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "They went into the conference with a two-and-three record and wanted to prove they were better than that."

The Little Giants, 6-4, share the title with Lancaster after winning it outright a year ago.

Rodriguez, who finished the season with 1,197 yards, broke the game open with a 41-yard touchdown run on the Little Giants' first play of the second half. Rodriguez got two good blocks on the corner of the defense and sprinted untouched down the sideline.

"We were just going full tilt,"

Rodriguez said. "We came out in the second half and finally figured out this was our last game.

"We went out with a bang."

The Ross defense went out with its third shutout of the season. Defensive tackle Chad Green said the third was the same as the other two.

"We all worked together as a team," Green said while passing out congratulatory hugs. "We were confident in each other; it all worked out fine and dandy."

Findlay, 3-7 and 1-3 in the BCC, ventured into Ross territory twice — on its first possession of the game and once in the fourth quarter."

The Trojans had 19 yards rushing at halftime and finished the game with 10 passing yards.

"We felt we could move it better on the ground and in the air, and we were unable to do either," Findlay coach Jim Caserta said. "They played a great defensive game."

Said Radeloff, "The defense played solid the whole game.

See ROSS, B-3

High School

Ross 28, Findlay 0

Score by quarters

Ross	0	7	14	7-28
Findlay	0	0	0	0-0

Scoring

Second quarter

Ross: Tyrone Williams, 4-yard run (Chris Benson kick), 1:26.

Third quarter

Ross: Hector Rodriguez, 41-yard run (Benson kick), 9:27.

Ross: Justin Perry, 1-yard run (Benson kick), 9:04.

Fourth quarter

Ross: Rodriguez, 3-yard run (Benson kick), 2:51.

Team Stats

	R	F
First Downs	15	2
Rushes/Yards	48/229	24/37
Passing Yards	68	10
Passes/Comp./Int.	13/3/4	14/2/2
Punts/Average	1/45.0	8/31.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	5/1
Penalties/Yards	5/35	7/51

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rodriguez 26/189, Alex Shawl 7/17, Williams 7/10, Perry 6/9, Marcus Holbert 2/4. Findlay, Harlon Berry 12/35, Ryan Cutright 5/14.

Passing: Ross, Perry 13/3/4 — 68. Findlay, Chris Ireland 11/2/0 — 10.

Receiving: Ross, Kenny Winters 3/68. Findlay, Aaron Cralak 2/10.

Records: Ross 6-4 (3-1), Findlay 3-7 (1-3).

Ross lands three on first team

Staff, wire reports

COLUMBUS — Jeff Green, Hector Rodriguez and Chris Benson of Fremont Ross were selected to the 1990 Associated Press Northwest All-District high school football team.

The first team as well as special mention and honorable mention selections in five divisions, according to the recommendations of a panel of sports writers and broadcasters in the district, were announced today.

In Division IV, Genoa linebacker Mike Kaylor was named lineman of the year. Kaylor made 167 tackles for the Comets.



Green is a

two-time selection to the Division I offense, Rodriguez was named after rushing for 1,195 yards in nine games for the Little Giants and Benson was selected after intercepting a school record 11 passes this season.

The top big-school honorees were Chris Jaquillard of Toledo Woodward, who rushed for 1,993 yards to be named back of the year, and teammate Keary Sarabia, who was named lineman of the year.

Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic landed five players on the Division V squad, including defensive end Steve Szymanowski, who was selected lineman of the year.

Linebacker A.J. Young joined Szymanowski on the first-team defense for the second straight year.

Tailback Tim Dondero, wide receiver Jay Overmyer and center Brian Fox were members of the first-team offense along with Gibsonburg tackle Dan Whetsel. Dondero rushed for 1,102 yards and scored 124 points, while Overmyer caught 44 passes for 630 yards and averaged 15.1

KAYLOR



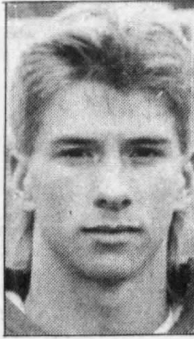
GREEN



RODRIGUEZ



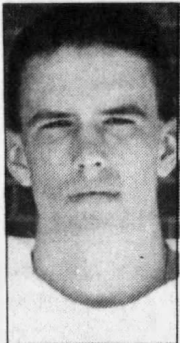
BENSON



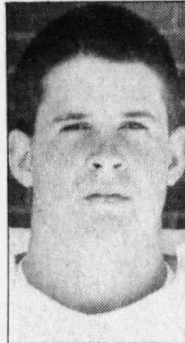
KOONCE



YOUNG



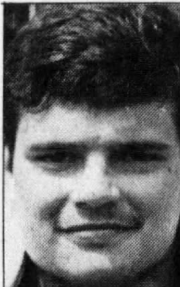
OVERMYER



DONDERO



FOX



Football

High School

Northwest All-District

COLUMBUS — The 1990 Associated Press Northwest All-District high school football team, as selected by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from the district:

Division I First Team

Offense: Ends—Aaron Gralak, Findlay, 6-foot-3, 185 pounds, Junior; Alonzo Gilmore, Mansfield Senior, 5-5, 140, Sr. Linemen—Greg Scheele, Lima Senior, 5-11, 210, Sr.; Jeff Green, Fremont Ross, 6-7, 270, Sr.; Larry Shears, Mansfield Senior, 6-2, 230, Jr.; Paul Maggiano, Toledo St. John's, 6-0, 200, Sr.; Jon Gulch, Toledo Woodward, 6-4, 245, Sr. Quarterback—Mike Franklin, Sandusky, 6-1, 180, Sr. Backs—Chris Jaquillard, Toledo Woodward, 6-1, 200, Jr.; Hector Rodriguez, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 170, Sr.; Steve Whitfield, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 185, Sr. Placekicker—Adam Haines, Toledo Woodward, 5-10, 175, Sr.

Defense: Linemen—Shon Grant, Sandusky, 5-7, 212, Sr.; Keary Sarabia, Toledo Woodward, 6-5, 283, Sr.; Jeff Duty, Toledo Waite, 6-3, 190, Sr.; Josh Wagner, Toledo St. Francis, 6-0, 245, Jr.; Derreck Shaw, Toledo St. John's, 6-4, 232, Sr. Linebackers—Obie Stillwell, Mansfield Madison, 6-1, 185, Sr.; Ward Lemke, Toledo Bowsher, 6-0, 195, Sr.; Kurt Kinker, Toledo Whitmer, 6-0, 185, Sr.; Sean Glover, Lima Senior, 5-11, 215, Sr. Backs—Chris Reynolds, Toledo Woodward, 6-2, 185, Sr.; Chris Benson, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 170, Sr.; Alonzo Vance, Mansfield Senior, 6-0, 170, Sr. Punter—Dan Maidlow, Toledo St. John's, 6-2, 180, Jr.

Back of the year: Chris Jaquillard, Toledo Woodward.

Lineman of the year: Keary Sarabia, Toledo Woodward.

Coach of the year: Fred Beier, Toledo St. John's.

Area Special Mention

Joe Frederick, Brian Moreno and Paul Rossetter, Fremont Ross.

Area Honorable Mention

Dan Frederick, Fremont Ross.

Ross's Benson, Rodriguez top All-BCC team



RODRIGUEZ



BENSON

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross safety Chris Benson has been named the defensive Player of the Year in the Buckeye Central Conference, and Little Giant tailback Hector Rodriguez has been named the BCC offensive Player of the Year along with Lancaster's

Colin Foote.

Benson, a 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior, intercepted a school record 11 passes this season.

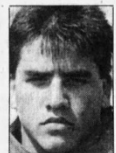
Rodriguez, a 5-foot-11, 170-pound senior, rushed for 1,195 yards in nine games.

Other first-team selections for Ross are tackle Jeff Green, guard Paul Rostetter and center Brian Hahn on offense and Rostetter, a linebacker, and end Brian Moreno on defense.

Tight end Chad Brown, defensive tackles Chad Green and Joe Frederick, linebackers Doug Siesel and Stan Root and defensive back Kenny Winters were named to the second team.



GREEN



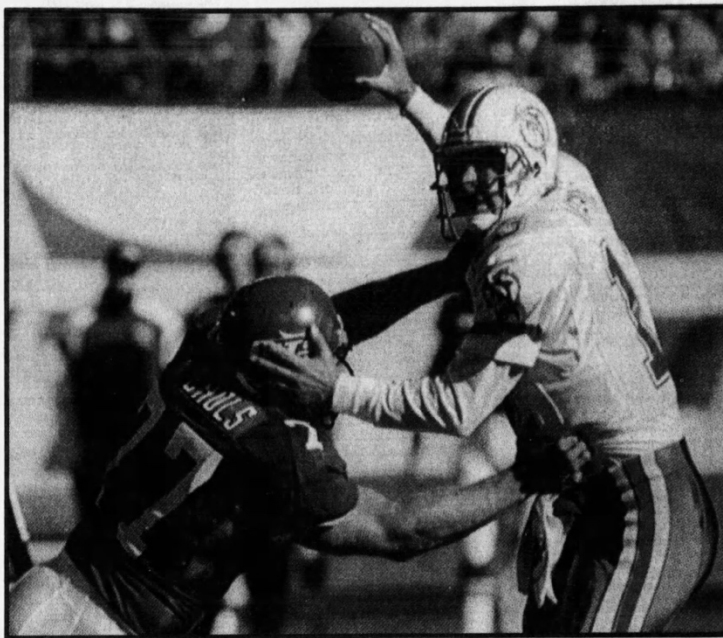
MORENO



ROSTETTER



HAHN



Associated Press

DAN MARION of the Miami Dolphins tries to avoid the rush of New York Jets' linemen Gerald Nichols during the first quarter of a NFL game at

East Rutherford, N.J., Sunday. Marino eluded the rush but threw an incomplete pass. The Dolphins defeated the Jets 17-3.

High School

All-BCC Team

The All-Buckeye Central Conference football team as selected by conference coaches:

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Wide Receivers: Chris Fauth, Lancaster; Aaron Gralak, Findlay.

Tight End: Tim Henwood, Lancaster.

Tackles: Jeff Green, Ross; Jim Butts, Lancaster.

Guards: Rick Ritzler, Findlay; Paul Rostetter, Ross.

Center: Brian Hahn, Ross.

Quarterback: Nick McCoy, Lancaster.

Backs: Colin Foote, Lancaster; Pete Matthews, Zanesville; Hector Rodriguez, Ross.

Players of the Year: Rodriguez and Foote.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Wide Receiver: Mike Lucas, Zanesville.

Tight End: Mike Sandbrink, Newark; Chad Brown, Ross.

Tackles: George Williams, Findlay; Trent Reid, Zanesville.

Guards: Tyler Ridella, Newark; Steve Steffey, Zanesville; Darren Beatty, Lancaster.

Center: Todd Miller, Findlay.

Quarterback: Chris Ireland, Findlay.

Backs: Ryan Cutright, Findlay; Scott Kennedy, Newark; Aaron Fink, Newark.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Ends: Brian Moreno, Ross; Scott Kennedy, Newark.

Tackles: Brian Wauford, Findlay; Mike O'Rourke, Lancaster.

Linebackers: Herk Kashner, Newark; Paul Rostetter, Ross; Pete Matthews, Zanesville; Don Frear, Lancaster.

Backs: Steve Poston, Lancaster; Chris Benson, Ross; Jamie Kinder, Newark.

Punter: Tim Henwood, Lancaster.

Player of the Year: Benson.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Ends: George Williams, Findlay; Rick Ritzler, Findlay.

Tackles: Joe Frederick, Ross; Chad Green, Ross.

Linebackers: Doug Siesel, Ross; Stan Root, Ross; Brian Blanton, Zanesville; Steve Harris, Lancaster.

Backs: Glenn Bair, Findlay; Bill Dilley, Lancaster; Kenny Winters, Ross.

Punter: Jamie Kinder, Newark.

Coach of the Year: Tom McCurdy, Lancaster.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTION: Dan Fredrick, Cory Gammertsfelder, Justin Perry and Crispin Cook.

Division I All-Ohio

COLUMBUS — The 1990 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio high school football team, selected on the recommendations of a statewide panel of sports writers and broadcasters (with school, height, weight and grade):

FIRST TEAM

Offense: Ends—Ben Anderson, Xenia, 6-foot-1, 185 pounds, Senior; Tyrone Brown, Cincinnati Withrow, 5-10, 147, Sr.; Leo Congeni, Cleveland St. Ignatius, 5-9, 170, Sr.; Andy Gralak, Findlay, 6-3, 185, Jr. Linemen—Scott Stratton, West Chester Lakota, 6-7, 320, Sr.; Paul Barry, Cincinnati Moeller, 6-4, 289, Sr.; JEFF GREEN, Fremont Ross, 6-7, 270, Sr.; Korey Stringer, Warren Harding, 6-5, 285, Sr. Quarterbacks—John Ryan, Boardman, 6-3, 195, Sr.; Eric Boykin, Dayton Meadowdale, 6-3, 185, Jr.; Mark DeFranco, Cleveland St. Ignatius, 6-1, 190, Sr. Backs—Louis Willard, Grove City, 5-11, 200, Jr.; Chris Jaquillard, Toledo Woodward, 6-1, 200, Jr.; Carlos Collins, Cincinnati Moeller, 6-0, 181, Sr.; Shannon Ragland, Springfield North, 6-0, 180, Sr. Kicker—David Merrick, Worthington, 6-0, 165, Sr.

Defense: Linemen—Trent Zenkewicz, Cleveland St. Ignatius, 6-5, 260, Sr.; Troy Brandt, Grove City, 6-3, 230, Sr.; Keary Sarabia, Toledo Woodward, 6-5, 283, Sr.; Ron Stokes, Canton McKinley, 6-4, 285, Sr. Linebackers—Matt Fitzgerald, Pickerington, 6-3, 215, Sr.; Chris Wells, Middletown, 5-11, 200, Sr.; Brent McCracken, Brunswick, 6-3, 220, Sr.; Obie Stilwell, Mansfield Madison, 6-1, 185, Sr.; Jeff Smith, Marietta, 6-2, 200, Sr. Backs—Tom Powell, Warren Harding, 6-0, 160, Sr.; Alonzo Vance, Mansfield, 6-0, 170, Sr.; Dale Jackson, East Cleveland Shaw, 6-1, 180, Sr.; CHRIS BENSON, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 170, Sr. Punter—T.D. Denney, Westerville North, 5-9, 175, Sr.

Back of the year: Chris Jaquillard, Toledo Woodward.

Lineman of the year: Trent Zenkewicz, Cleveland St. Ignatius.

Coaches of the year: John Sines, Chillicothe; Steve Magoteaux, Piqua.

SECOND TEAM

Offense: Ends—Colin Foote, Lancaster, 6-3, 195, Sr.; Shawn Lutz, Massillon Jackson, 6-6, 203, Sr.; Ron Burr, Canton McKinley, 6-0, 184, Jr.; Jerry Barnes, East Liverpool, 6-1, 190, Sr. Linemen—Marty Hobgood, Westerville North, 6-5, 275, Sr.; Jon O'Meara, Worthington, 6-1, 223, Sr.; Trent Reid, Zanesville, 6-0, 248, Sr. Quarterbacks—Mike Franklin, Sandusky, 6-1, 180, Sr.; Andy Puffer, Chillicothe, 6-3, 175, Sr. Backs—KiJana Carter, Westerville South, 6-0, 215, Sr.; Brian Fitzgerald, Cincinnati St. Xavier, 5-11, 190, Sr.; Eric Hunt, Bedford, 5-11, 185, Sr.; Shawn Smith, Chillicothe, 6-3, 190, Sr.; Steve Whitfield, Mansfield Madison, 6-0, 185, Sr.

Defense: Linemen—Mark Robinson, Worthington, 6-0, 195, Sr.; Mike Stallmeyer, Cincinnati Elder, 6-4, 240, Sr.; Matt Dix, New Carlisle Tecumseh, 6-3, 230, Sr.; Lanny Ash, Hamilton, 6-2, 197, Sr.; Shon Grant, Sandusky, 5-7, 212, Sr. Linebackers—Pete Matthews, Zanesville, 6-2, 215, Jr.; J.J. Bevan, Westerville South, 6-1, 200, Sr.; Jermaine Daniels, Huber Heights Wayne, 6-1, 215, Sr.; Andre Hines, Elyria, 6-1, 185, Sr.; Allen Moore, East Cleveland Shaw, 5-11, 205, Sr. Backs—Steve Ayers, Columbus Brookhaven, 5-9, 170, Sr.; Chris Ryals, Cincinnati Moeller, 6-0, 183, Sr.; Robin Southern, Sidney, 6-2, 180, Sr. Punter—Tim Kraus, Cincinnati Coletrain, 6-1, 170, Sr.

Area honorable mention: Hector Rodriguez, Fremont Ross.

Rodriguez is most valuable player at Ross

News-Messenger reports

Hector Rodriguez was named the most valuable player of the Fremont Ross football team during an awards program in the high school cafeteria Tuesday.

Rodriguez rushed for 1,195 yards in nine games, helping the Little Giants tie Lancaster for the Buckeye Central Conference championship. In addition to the team MVP, the senior was named the team's outstanding offensive back.

Rodriguez also received plaques for being named to the first team, All-BCC squad and earning the conference offensive player of the year.

Coach Rex Radeloff also handed out several other special awards to players deemed the best at their positions.

Paul Rostetter was tabbed the best offensive linemen, while the defensive lineman honor went to Brian Moreno. Chris Benson won the top defensive back award.

Benson intercepted a school record 11 passes and was named the BCC's defensive player of the year.

Other special awards went to Tyronne Williams as the team's outstanding sophomore while the most improved senior was center Brian Hahn and quarterback Justin Perry won the most improved junior award.

Brian Darr won the team's "True Grit" honor given to the player who may not be a starter but who exemplifies team spirit



RODRIGUEZ



BENSON



MORENO



ROSTETTER

through hard work.

Tackle Jeff Green and Moreno were awarded captain trophies.

Radeloff awarded All-BCC plaques to Green, Rostetter, Hahn and Rodriguez for being named to the first team offense and to Moreno, Benson and Rostetter for first-team defensive honors.

Second-team All-BCC awards went to Chad Brown (offense), and to Chad Green, Joe Frederick, Stan Root, Kenny Winters and Doug Siesel for defensive.

The Ross Booster Club also awarded plaques and photos to the All-BCC performers.

There were four three-year lettermen: Benson, Brown, Jeff Green and Winters.

