

Fremont Ross soccer turns 6

Little Giants join GLL for 1995 season

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

The Fremont Ross soccer team is like a lost family member that's found the way home.

Since Ross began soccer in 1989, the Little Giants have competed in the Northwest Ohio High School Soccer League. This season, they join Great Lakes League competition.

"Now, we feel like part of the family," Ross coach Jon Detwiler, who begins his second season as coach, said. "We can talk league with the other coaches, and we will be included in the all-sports championship."

With the addition of Findlay to the GLL, there are six schools competing in soccer. The only school without soccer is Fostoria, while Napoleon is just beginning its program. The Wildcats will join league competition next season.

"It will be tough," Detwiler

The schedule

Aug. 31	Maumee
Sept. 2	Firelands
Sept. 7	Findlay*
Sept. 12	At Whitmer*
Sept. 14	Clay*
Sept. 18	At Sandusky
Sept. 19	At Northview*
Sept. 21	At Bedford*
Sept. 23	Defiance
Sept. 26	At Findlay*
Sept. 28	Whitmer*
Sept. 30	At Ashland
Oct. 3	At Clay*
Oct. 5	Northview*
Oct. 10	Bedford*
Oct. 12	Columbian

*Great Lakes League games

said of the GLL race. "There are a few teams in there that gave us all we wanted last year. Findlay, mainly, whupped us.

"We have a little better ball control this year and hopefully, we can surprise them. Northview will be tough and

Bedford...teams which have had soccer longer than us (six years).

"I am shooting for second or third (place)."

Ross was 8-9 a year ago and finished 4-3 in the NWOSSL.

The Little Giants return 10 letterwinners, including leading scorer and captain Jason Strayer and sophomore goalie Mike Hickey, an honorable mention pick on the NOHSSL coaches' teams last season.

One foreign exchange student, Jorge Berenguer of Spain, will see action at midfield along with Strayer.

"He will be a contributor," Detwiler said. "That is all the surprises we have so far."

Other letterwinners include senior midfielders Matt Garlock, Neil Sachs and Heather Schnee; senior forward Matt McClory; and senior defensemen Nate Mortimer, Derek Smith and

Mike Straube. Sophomore forward Nik Wearsch is the other letterwinner.

"We will have a slower game with more midfield control," Detwiler said. "We will not punt and run like we have in the past. We want shorter passes while working the ball upfield slowly.

"We are getting better at it, but we have to change some of the upperclassmen's thinking. I have a strong group of sophomores who have played at a high level for a long time so they are helping a lot in that transition."

The Ross coach said his team is communicating well with no one attempting to take on "star" status.

"We have a lot of good teamwork and communication is the key to that," Detwiler said. "But we have to improve on our passing skills in order to make our control game work well."

Varsity

No.	Player	Gr.	Pos.
4	Jorge Berenguer	12	Midfielder
20	Matt McClory	12	Forward
38	Matt Garlock	12	Midfielder
5	Nathan Mortimer	12	Defense
16	Junior Ramirez	12	Forward
19	Neil Sachs	12	Midfielder
3	Heather Schnee	12	Midfielder
6	Derek Smith	12	Defense
33	Mike Straube	12	Sweeper
17	Jason Strayer	12	Midfielder
0	Helle Pedersen	12	Midfielder
23	Andrew Humberger	11	Forward
88	Scott White	11	Forward
18	Corey Sterling	11	Defense
1	Mike Hickey	10	Goalie
27	Michael Simonton	10	Forward
2	Andy Smith	10	Stopper
10	Nik Wearsch	10	Midfielder

Junior Varsity

No.	Player	Gr.	Pos.
13	Kevin Jackson	11	Midfielder
52	Hans Schmidlin	11	Forward
34	Owen Sorg	11	Defense
26	Adam Stainbrook	11	Midfielder
37	Jacob Sterling	11	Sweeper
1	Kris Myers	11	Goalie
25	Craig Copley	10	Defense
12	Kyle Fisher	10	Midfielder
8	Matt Holbrook	10	Sweeper
47	Tony House	10	Midfielder
4	Ben Huss	10	Forward
9	Amy Smith	10	Midfielder
11	Brian Thomson	10	Forward
10	Marshall Amor	9	Forward
42	John McCord	9	Stopper
31	Ryan Pocock	9	Defense
00	Brett Spicer	9	Forward
1	Matt Beckman	9	Goalie

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*Great Lakes League games

Ross upsets Maumee

News-Messenger reports

Scoreless ties in soccer are considered victories. Fremont Ross would have been thrilled with one against Maumee in its season opener at Ross High School.

The Little Giants instead upset Maumee 3-0.

"I'm not surprised by the shutout, but I'm surprised by the victory," Ross coach Jon Detwiler said. "This team beat us 6-0 last year, and I was hoping for us to stay with them."

Soccer

"I think this sets a pretty good precedent for our year."

Ross scored all its goals in the second half after Little Giants goalkeeper Mike Hickey and Maumee goalie Ed Kisiel kept the game scoreless at half-time.

"We had a better selection of shots than them in the first half, but we had the ball in our half long enough (in the second) and were able to create good scoring opportunities," Detwiler said.

Mike Simonton scored in the 53rd minute, Jason Strayer scored five minutes later and Neil Sachs scored in the 74th minute. Scott White assisted on the goals by Simonton and Strayer, while Jorge Berenguer assisted on Sachs' goal.

Detwiler said the Little Giants caught the Panthers off guard with their style of play, which is more controlled in 1995.

"We're a young team but experienced because we have kids who have played this style before," he said. "We came up to their style of play."

Strayer, a senior, keyed the Ross effort.

"He handles the middle of the field and sets the pace of the game for us," Detwiler.

Hickey, meanwhile, made nine saves. Several of those were against breakaways.

"His play allows us to change our defense, which allows us to control our half," Detwiler said. "It allows us to push our defense up the field, but that leaves him alone a lot more."

Ross loses

Findlay scored the first three goals and went on to a 5-3 high school soccer victory over Fremont Ross Thursday.

Ross, 2-1 and 0-1 in the Great Lakes League, got goals from Junior Ramirez, Jason Strayer and Mike Simonton.

Soccer

High School

Ross 4, Whitmer 3

Ross	2	2	—	4
Whitmer	1	2	—	3

W: David Wachowiak (Nate Parker),
17:00

R: Jason Strayer (penalty kick), 35:00

R: Strayer (Matt McClory), 36:00

W: Parker (unassisted), 46:00

W: Parker (unassisted), 51:00

R: Junior Ramirez (Scott White),
73:00

R: Ramirez (Mike Simonton), 74:00

Shots on goal: Ross 12-11-23, Whit-
mer 7-10-17

Saves: Ross, Mike Hickey 12; Whit-
mer, Josh Metzger 11

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

Ramirez boots Ross past Whitmer

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Better late than never. Fremont Ross scored two goals in the last seven minutes against Toledo Whitmer Tuesday for a 4-3 Great Lakes League victory.

Soccer

Junior Ramirez scored his first two goals of the season on assists by Scott White and Mike Simonton.

Ironically, Ramirez had left the game for a time in the second half with Ross trailing 3-2. "I thought we better try to get some more

speed so we put Junior back up front," Ross coach Jon Detwiler said. "He's one of our faster players and was able to keep up with their speed and defense. He took a couple crossing passes and scored."

Ramirez left the game in a defensive adjustment as Detwiler tried to counter the quickness of David Wachowiak, Nate Parker and the Panthers.

"We tried to outman them on the defensive and create breakaways on the offensive end," said Detwiler, who inserted defenseman Neil

Sachs in place of Ramirez.

Whitmer (1-3-1 and 0-2) led 1-0 early on a goal by Wachowiak. Ross (3-1 and 1-1) got two goals a minute apart from Jason Strayer, his fourth and fifth of the season, and led 2-1 at halftime.

The lead didn't last long. Parker scored twice for Whitmer in the first 11 minutes of the second half.

"I think maybe we got a little too confident," Detwiler said. "They weren't ready to quit; they had a good crowd there."



RAMIREZ



STRAYER

Ross suffers soccer setback

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross suffered its second soccer loss of the season Monday, dropping a 2-1 non-league match to Sandusky.

Scott White scored an unassisted goal, his third, in the second half for Ross, 4-2. Sandusky improved to 2-2-1.

"It was frustrating, to say the least," Ross coach Jon Detwiler said. "We outshot them almost 2-to-1 (23-13) and we just couldn't seem to put the ball in the net. It was just one of those nights.

Ross keeper Mike Hickey had 10 saves in goal for the Little Giants, who travel to Sylvania Northview today.

Northview blanks Ross

News-Messenger reports

Kyle Hedges scored both goals in Sylvania Northview's 2-0 Great Lakes League victory over Fremont Ross Tuesday night.

"He's a big forward and very fast," Ross coach Jon Detwiler said.

The Little Giants, 4-3 and 2-2, have a day off before traveling to Bedford (Mich.) for a GLL match Thursday.

Andy Kreinbrink assisted on Hedges' goal off a free kick early in the second half after Ross outshot Northview 10-4 in the first half.

"We really had a great first half," Detwiler said. "We got a little tired and frustrated that we didn't have any goals."

Soccer

Ross was penalized when it played the ball to goalie Mike Hickey, and Hickey picked it up. Rules say the ball can't go from a teammate's foot into the goalkeeper's hands.

The free kick came from 10 yards out, and Hedges went top shelf to beat Hickey.

Hedges took a long crossing pass from Aaron Grizaniuk for his second goal with seven minutes left in the match.

"The defense got out of position, and he was one-on-one with Hickey," Detwiler said.

Northview, 4-3 and 3-1, outshot Ross 15-5 in the second half.

"We're still having trouble scoring goals," Detwiler said. "We're creating good shots; we're just not getting the ball in the net."

Ross, Hickey shut out Mules

News-Messenger reports

TEMPERANCE, Mich. — Keeping your opponent from scoring goals is the best course of action when you're not doing so yourself.

Sophomore goalie Mike Hickey and the Fremont Ross defense set the tone Thursday in the Little Giants' 3-0 Great Lakes League victory over Bedford.

It was Hickey's second shutout this season and seventh of his career.

"Their offense was based on fast pushes to the goal," Ross



HICKEY



MCCLORY

coach Jon Detwiler said. "We tried to push them to the outside as much as possible...force them away from the goal.

"In the first half, they had two shots that went off the post. So we got a couple of breaks and I would have been worried had we got down early."

Ross, 5-3 and 3-2, broke a scoreless halftime tie when Jason Strayer scored on a penalty kick eight minutes into the second half. The goal was Strayer's seventh.

"We finally scored one, and that seemed to open things up a bit," Detwiler said. "Having played two frustrating games this week already, we needed a

boost and I think that was it.

"The offense was running a little slow in the first half. At half-time I told them to increase the speed of the passes to speed things up overall and that seemed to help."

Neil Sachs added a goal, his second, with an assist by Andrew Humberger 10 minutes later. Matt McClory assisted on Nik Wearsch's first goal with two minutes remaining.

McClory was switched from forward to midfielder for this game.

"That seemed to make a big difference in his game," Detwiler said. "That helped us offensively because he's a very good passer.

"Bedford was a very aggressive, attacking team. When we held on to the ball, that caused us some problems."

Ross, which was coming off losses to Sandusky and Sylvania Northview this week, handed the Mules, 3-3-1, their third loss in five GLL matches.

The Little Giants host Defiance at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Soccer

High School

Ross 3, Bedford 0

Ross	0	3	—	3
Bedford	0	0	—	0

R: Jason Strayer (penalty kick), 48:00

R: Neil Sachs (Andrew Humberger),
58:00

R: Nik Wearsch (Matt McClory), 78:00

Shots on goal: Ross 7-12-19; Bedford
6-6-12

Goalie saves: Ross, Mike Hickey 7;
Bedford, Matt Bushroe 7

Records: Ross 5-3 (3-2), Bedford 3-3-
1 (2-3)

Little Giants blank Defiance

FREMONT — Jason Strayer scored off an assist from Matt McClory 17 minutes into the second half Saturday, leading Fremont Ross to a 1-0 soccer victory over Defiance.

It was the second straight win for the Little Giants, 6-3. Defiance dropped to 4-5-2.

Ross outshot Defiance 29-6 as goalie Mike Hickey had four saves for the Little Giants.

Ross falls

FINDLAY — The Findlay Trojans remained undefeated in five Great Lakes League soccer matches with a 10-1 victory^N over Fremont Ross Tuesday night.

Scott White scored the Ross goal off an assist by Junior Ramirez.

The Little Giants fall to 6-4 and 3-3 in the GLL, while the Trojans are 7-3 in all matches.

Scoring spurts lift Ross

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

Toledo Whitmer came in flat and Fremont Ross deflated the Panthers even more with a 4-1 soccer win Thursday.

"We were flat, we came in flat and we played flat," Whitmer coach Walt Metzger said. "That's the bottom line."

Ross, 7-4 and 4-3 in the Great Lakes League, scored two goals in a six-minute span after a scoreless 28 minutes.

Mike Simonton took a lead pass from Andy Smith and beat Whitmer goalie Pat Wishart in the left corner in the 28th minute. Nik Wearsch then scored the first of his two goals, beating Wishart on the right side in the 34th minute.

Ross used the same formula in the second half, scoring twice in three minutes.

Jason Strayer scored on a penalty kick in the 44th minute, and Wearsch followed with a goal off his corner kick when the ball bounced off a defender in the 47th minute.

The Ross defense, playing in front of Kris Myers, did not budge until the 69th minute when Little Giants' nemesis David Wachowiak scored. Moments after Myers made a diving deflection of David Gallop's shot from 8 yards out, Wachowiak emerged from a crowd in front of the Ross goal and beat Myers to his left.

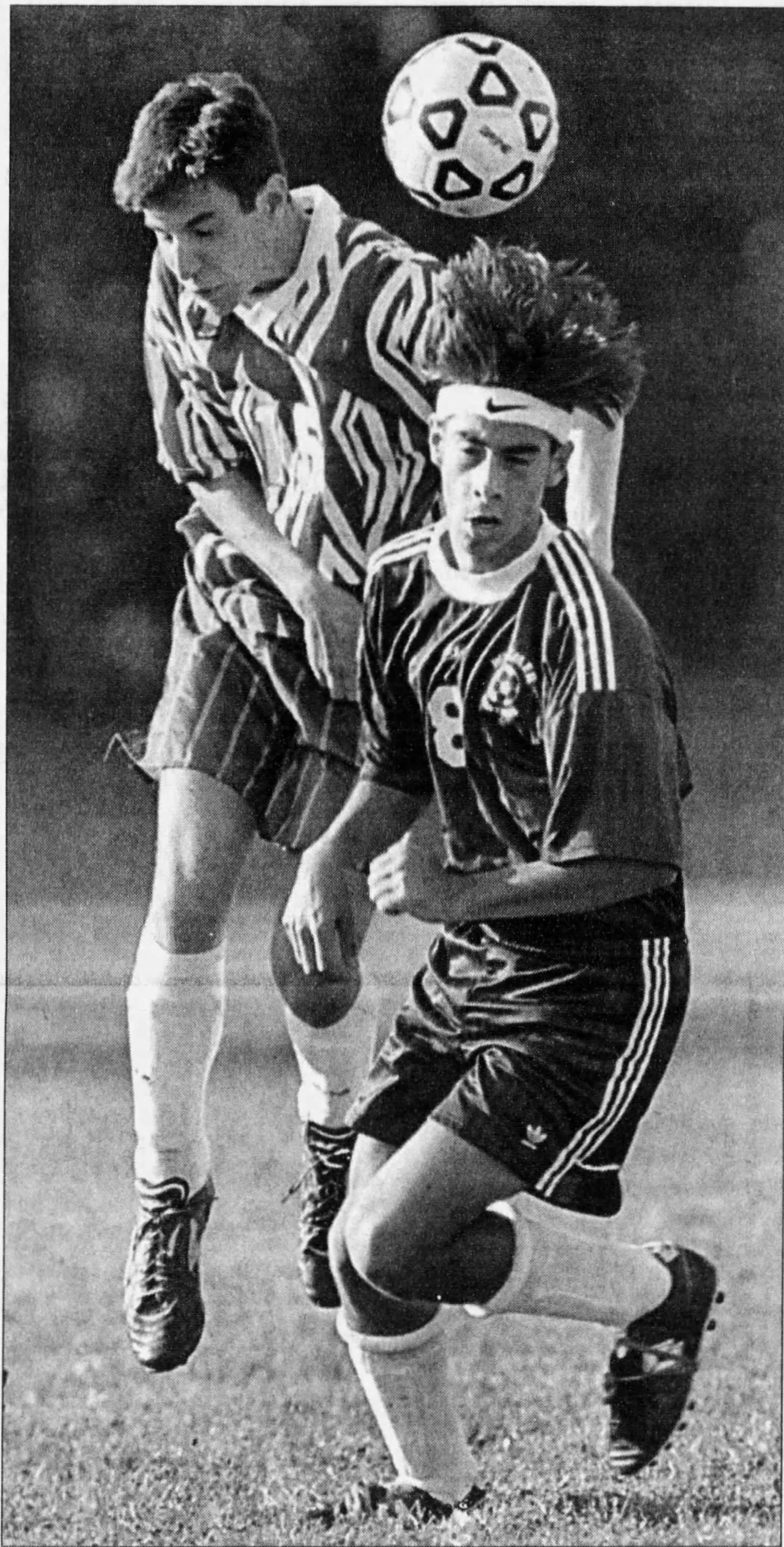
"Kris did a good job," Ross coach Jon Detwiler said, "but we were marking number 18 (Wachowiak). He is a fast forward and has given us a lot of trouble in the past."

Myers played in place of regular goalie Mike Hickey, who sat out the game while recovering from an arm injury suffered Tuesday at Findlay.

The Sterling brothers, Corey and Jacob, drew the assignment of hounding Wachowiak.

"Corey had him first, but then we switched to Jacob who we brought up from the JV team for this game," Detwiler said.

Soccer



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

COREY STERKING (left) of Fremont Ross heads the ball away from Derek Ochoa of Toledo Whitmer during the first half of the Little Giants' 4-1 victory over the Panthers at Ross Thursday.

Ashland slips past Ross

News-Messenger reports

It's tough to score when an opponent's skilled players control the ball.

"We never had the ball very long," Fremont Ross soccer coach Jon Detwiler said after a 2-0 loss to Ashland Saturday.

But Ross, 7-5, kept the game close despite being outshot 24-14. Goalkeeper Mike Hickey made 17 saves.

"It would have been a lot worse without him," Detwiler said. "He had an especially tough save in the first half. It was the hardest shot I've seen all season, and he stopped it without a bobble."

Ashland, 6-4-2, scored with eight minutes left in the first half

Soccer

and midway through the second. Both goals were unassisted.

Jorge Berenguer came closest to scoring for Ross, putting a left-footed shot on goal in the opening 10 minutes.

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Soccer

Little Giants blank Clay 3-0

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Fremont Ross blanked Clay 3-0 in a Great Lakes League soccer match Tuesday.

Nik Wearsch assisted on a pair of Ross goal. In the first half half, Matt McClory took a pass from Wearsch for a goal, putting Ross up 1-0 in the 21st minute.

Nathan Mortimer scored on a penalty kick in the 76th minute and Scott White scored off another Wearsch pass a minute later to cap the scoring. Ross outshot the Eagles 23-11.

Ross 3, Clay 0

Ross.....	1	2	—	3
Clay.....	0	0	—	0

Ross: Matt McClory (Nik Wearsch), 21st minute

Ross: Nathan Mortimer, penalty kick, 76th minute

Ross: Scott White (Wearsch), 77th minute

Shots on goal: Ross 10-13—23, Clay 5-6—11

Goalie saves: Mike Hickey (R) 7, Monte Bandeen (C) 8

Records: Ross 8-5 (5-3), Clay 1-8-4 (0-7-1).

Little Giants continue making steady progress

News-Messenger reports

A 3-1 win over Great Lakes League foe Bedford Tuesday assures Fremont Ross its first winning record in the six-year history of soccer at the school.

Soccer

The Little Giants, 9-5 and 6-3, were 9-9 under Victor Huntley, their first coach, in 1993.

Jon Detwiler, now in his second year as coach, says it's time to set higher goals — mainly Findlay and a GLL championship.

"We need to play better defense and try to finish some of the opportunities we make on offense," Detwiler said.

Ross played through the deficiencies this year. "It's a good team that could have been better," Detwiler said.

Neil Sachs scored his second and third goals of the season against Bedford, 6-6-2 and 4-5-1, and Scott White added his third goal.

Sachs took a pass from White and scored from 20 yards out to give the Little Giants a 1-0 halftime lead and scored on a breakaway in the first minute of the second half.

White took a corner pass from Nik Wersch and scored into an empty net. "The pass made that play," Detwiler said.

Ross outshot the Mules 23-15.

"It's a shame we lost Mike Hickey's shutout," Detwiler said, "but we were subbing quite a bit on defense and gave up an ugly goal."

Bedford's Christian Schachter scored unassisted with 10 minutes left to play.

The Little Giants play home matches today and Thursday against, Sylvania Northview and Tiffin Columbian.

Tournament play begins for Ross Oct. 19 against Toledo Bowsher at the Lucas County Recreation Center.



SACHS

Prep soccer

Fremont Ross won its fifth straight match on Saturday, closing the regular season with a 5-1 Great Lakes League victory over Sylvania Northview.

The Little Giants open play in the sectional tournament at 5 p.m. Thursday against Toledo Bowsher at the Lucas County Recreation center.

Ross, 11-5 and 7-3, got goals Saturday from Mike Simonton, Matt McClory, Andrew Humberger, Heather Schnee and foreign exchange student Helle Pedersen.