

Defense Ross strong point

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

"Deeeefense" may be the rallying cry of Ross High School's girls softball team this season.

"I think the defense will be strong," Coach Christy Holland conjectured. "Most of the girls have played and really have learned how to handle the ball. They know what they are going to do with it when they get it. There should not be too many mixups this year."

Five seniors and a junior letter winner are back from the 8-10 team of a season ago.

Kathy Brandt, Carol Falquette, Angie Gierhart, Sandy Long and Celenea Simmons are the seniors with Brenda Sleek the underclassman.

"We also have a lot of juniors who show some promise," the Ross coach said.

Wet grounds or rain have wiped out the Lady Little Giants' first three games. The next game on the slate is Ross's home opener against Margareta Wednesday.

Holland has a lineup established. At first base will be Simmons with Gierhart at second. Sharon

Karlovetz, a senior out for the first time, will be at third with veteran two-year letter winner Long at shortstop.

Promising sophomores Sue Gahn and Kim Schutt will be in leftfield and centerfield, respectively, while Sleek will be in right.

Hitting, Christy says, is another strong point.

"We do not have just one or two decent hitters," he said, "instead we have five or six."

Brandt is the top pitcher with Schutt and Gahn the backups. Mary Ann Kistler will be a spot starter for Holland.

The catcher is Falquette with Simmons the backup.

A pair of juniors, Sharon Schneider and Leslie Brooks will also see action. Schneider is an infielder/outfielder while Brooks will be at first when Simmons is catching.

Holland has his lineup ready to go but the weather has put the season on the back burner.

"You can practice and practice," he said, "but if you do not play, it's hard to keep your mind on the game."

Ross, St. Joe chalk up chilly wins

Brandt tosses one-hitter for Giants

Fighting off unseasonably cold and snowy weather, the Ross girls softball team finally got in its first game of the season Tuesday night.

And the Lady Little Giants made their debut a smashing success by pummeling New Riegel 20-4 at Rodger Young.

In two other area softball games, St. Joe scored seven runs in the last two innings to win a big one over Tiffin Calvert 10-9 and Margaretta tallied three runs in the final inning to sneak past Old Fort 8-7.

At Rodger Young, senior Kathy Brandt tossed a one-hitter to lead the Lady Little Giants to the win. Brandt fanned three batters and walked just two. None of New Riegel's runs were earned.

Brenda Sleek paced Ross at the plate with three hits and two RBI. Sandy Long added two hits and two RBI and Angie Gierhart had two RBI. Sharon Karlovetz also had a triple for the winners.

Ross had 12 hits in the game, which was stopped after five innings.

ST. JOE 10, CALVERT 9

It was the battle between the two teams predicted to be the front-runners in the Sandusky Bay Conference this season, and the Lady Streaks barely came out on top at Rodger Young.

The Lady Streaks, who had only three hits in the game, had to rally from a 9-3 deficit to gain the win.

First, they scored six runs on one hit, four walks and seven Calvert errors in the sixth inning to tie it 9-9. And then, they took advantage of three walks and a Calvert mental error in the seventh to win it.

The mental error occurred when St. Joe's Reenie House slapped a ground ball to the third baseman with one out and the bases loaded. Instead of throwing home to stop Wendy Wolf from scoring the winning run, Calvert's third baseman threw to first base to get House. That play ended the game.

St. Joe is now 3-0 overall and 1-0 in the SBC. Calvert is 1-1, 0-1.

MARGARETTA 8, OLD FORT 7

Tammy Studer drove in Michelle Herring with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh to lift the Lady Polar Bears past the Lady Stockaders in Castalia.

Studer's hit capped a three-run seventh inning for Margaretta. The Lady Bears had fallen behind 7-5 when Old Fort scored four runs in the top half of the seventh.

Terri Bunch, Andrea Bath and Shelly Pesaka led Margaretta with two hits each. One of Bunch's hits was a home run.

For Old Fort, Betty Terry, Barb Gabel, Lori Curns and Tina Bish each had two hits.

Margaretta is now 2-0 and Old Fort 1-4.



KATHY BRANDT of Ross watches the ball go toward home plate after she released a pitch during the Lady Little Giants' game Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

St. Joe, Ross girls roll to easy softball victories

St. Joe rolled to its fifth win and Ross carved out its second victory in high school softball Friday. Both teams have yet to lose.

The Lady Streaks routed New Riegel 23-8 behind the four-hit pitching of Reenie House. St. Joe had 19 hits to go with nine New Riegel errors.

House hit a grand slam homer in St. Joe seven-run, second inning. Wendy Wolf and Bev Brandt had three hits while Mary Hammer had a double and two singles for the Lady Streaks. Sue Hettermann, Amy Stotz, Amy Hershey and Lori Sweeney had two hits apiece, also for St. Joe.

The 15-run rule ended Ross's 19-2 win over Bettsville in the fifth inning. Pitchers Kathy Brandt and Kim Schutt combined to pitch a one-hitter.

Sue Gahn homered for Ross with Sandy Long adding a triple and Schutt a double. Brenda Sleek, Celenea Simmons, Long, Sharon Karlovetz, Gahn, Carol Falquette all had two hits in the contest.

Ross held a 12-2 lead after three innings and put the game away with seven runs in the fourth.

Today, Ross will host Marion Harding in a doubleheader at Rodger Young Park. The first game begins at 11 this morning with the second at approximately 1 p.m.

In another softball game, Northwood defeated Old Fort 13-4. The winners held a 7-0 lead after three innings.

Ingrid Tenteris doubled and singled and Brenda Miekis had two hits to pace Northwood, 3-1.

Lori Curns homered and Barb Gabel tripled for Old Fort.

Ross girls sweep twinbill

Fremont Ross ran its softball record to 4-0 this spring by sweeping a double-header from Marion Harding at Rodger Young Park Saturday.

In the first game, Ross collected 20 hits while pounding the Lady Presidents 20-6. The Lady Little Giants used a seven-run third inning to cruise to a 13-4 triumph in the second game.

"The girls looked very good," Ross Coach Christy Holland said. "Harding had some ex-

perience on use but I told the girls if they kept their heads and played, there was no reason why we could not beat them. That's what they did."

Harding was 5-4 before the twinbill.

Sandy Long, Celenea Simmons and Sue Gahn accounted for 10 RBIs between them in the first game. All three, along with Carol Falquette, were three for five at the plate. Long and Karlovetz doubled while Long,

Simmons, Karlovetz and Falquette doubled.

Kathy Brandt pitched a three-hitter for her third victory of the season.

In the second game, Simmons and Gahn drove in two runs apiece on two for four performances. Gahn had the only extra base hit in Ross's eight-hit offense, a double.

Kim Schutt was the winning pitcher, giving up six hits.

19 errors but Ross girls win

In a wild and wooly game that saw both teams combine to make a whopping 40 errors, the Ross girls softball squad outlasted Norwalk 20-19 at Rodger Young Park here Tuesday.

"We had a super bad night," Ross Coach Christy Holland said of his team's 19 errors. But he added, "So did they (Norwalk)."

The Lady Little Giants, now 5-0, had to score three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to gain the win. Carol Falquette had a two-run single to tie it and Sharon Schneider followed with a run-scoring single to win it.

Pitcher Kathy Brandt then held

Norwalk scoreless in the final inning to clinch it.

Celenea Simmons and Schneider each finished with two hits to pace Ross. Norwalk is now 1-8.

In one other girls softball game yesterday, Calvert downed Old Fort 13-7 in Tiffin.

The Lady Senecas took a commanding 9-1 lead after three innings and never looked back in gaining their second win in six games. Laurie Goetz and Sue Hemminger had two hits each for the winners.

Barb Gabel led Old Fort with a triple and two doubles.

Old Fort is now 2-6.

10 The News-Messenger, Fremont, O., Friday, May 6, 1983

Sports

First loss for Ross girls

The Findlay Lady Trojans handed Ross its first loss of the season 10-8 at Findlay Thursday evening.

Ross scored once in each of the first three innings, but Findlay still led 5-3. The Lady Trojans then tallied twice in each of the next two innings to virtually put the game out of reach 9-3.

"We were a little bit sluggish tonight," Ross Coach Christy Holland said of his club's first loss in six games. "We just couldn't bunch our hits together, plus we committed six errors."

The Lady Little Giants managed to

get seven hits, led by Sharon Karlovetz and Sue Gahn, each with two.

In one other area girls softball game yesterday, Old Fort lashed out 16 hits to pound Seneca East 15-6 in Attica.

Sara Cleveland led the winners' attack with a perfect four-for-four performance. Barb Gabel, Tammy Hull, Deb Hoerig and Margaret Burke each added two hits. Gabel and Hull each homered for Old Fort.

Old Fort is now 5-7.

FINDLAY 15, ROSS 4

The Lady Trojans tallied in every inning on their way to beating Ross for the second time in six days.

Findlay collected 15 hits while Ross managed just five.

NORWALK 13, ROSS 6

Since winning their first five games of the season, the Lady Little Giants have hit the skids. And it continued yesterday as Norwalk sent Ross down to defeat for the fourth game in a row.

The host Lady Truckers scored four times in the first inning and were never threatened. They collected 11 hits off losing pitcher Kathy Brandt.

Ross had nine hits, led by LuAnn Baskey, Sandy Long, Brandt and Angie Gierhart, each with two.

MARION 13, ROSS 3

Ross pitcher Kathy Brandt allowed only four hits but Ross committed 12 errors as its record dropped to 5-5.

The loss negated a seven-hit Ross attack. Sue Gahn homered, Sandy Long and Celenea Simmons tripled and Luann Baskey doubled, all for Ross.

Marion, 10-10, had a 7-1 lead after three innings.