

Fremont Ross

Coach: Denny Ritchie and Denny Brudzinski, first-year coaches.

1995: qualified for districts, finishing fourth.

Key losses: Rob Hammer, Chad Donovan, Eric Brough.

Top returnees: Jim Straight, sr., and Jay Farrell, so., will compete for the top two spots. Other returning players are juniors Troy Ritchie and Mark Walter, sophomores Matt Bauer and Mack Cole, senior Geoff Bauer and sophomore Ian Steinert

Strengths: Team has been practicing at Fremont Country Club, one of the tougher courses the team will play on this year.

Weaknesses: Struggling to find a fifth and sixth player to shoot 44-46 consistently.

Outlook: Coach Ritchie says they will be competitive: "We want to win every match at home."

**GLL WARM-UP MATCH
SYCAMORE HILLS**

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Fremont Ross | 317 |
| Bedford | 327 |
| Clay | 359 |

Low Gross; Troy Ritchie 77, Mark Walter 78, Kyle Pasch 80, Ian Steinert and Jim Straight 82.

Medalist; Troy Ritchie 77

Runner-Up Medalist; Mark Walter and Jeremy Kirkant 78

High School

Golf

Swanton Invitational

SWANTON — Team scores and area individual results from Tuesday's Swanton Invitational at the par-71 Valleywood Golf Club.

TEAM SCORES

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1, Genoa | 309 |
| 2, Eastwood..... | 340 |
| 3, Wauseon | 342 |
| 4, *Springfield | 345 |
| 5, Fremont Ross | 345 |
| 6, Swanton..... | 345 |
| 7, Rossford | 347 |
| 8, Evergreen | 350 |
| 9, Otsego | 354 |
| 10, Start..... | 375 |

* Decided on fifth-man tiebreaker

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

GENOA: Mike Cicak 38-37—75, Curt Vogelpohl 39-37—76, Dan Stevens 40-38—78, Dana Vogelpohl 43-37—80, Nathan Tabbert 42-42—84, Bill Ashline 46-38—84.

ROSS: Mark Walter 46-40—86, Ian Steinert 43-43—86, Troy Ritchie 50-38—88, Jim Straight 44-41—85, Jay Farrell 50-45—95, Mack Cole 50-45—95.

Medalist: Mike Cicak, Genoa, 75.

Ross 308, Ottawa Hills 314 (18 holes)

Ottawa Park

Ross: Troy Ritchie 75, Jay Farrell 77, Mark Walter 78, Ian Steinert 78.

Ottawa Hills: Mike Hansen 74, David Roemer 78, Brett Frankel 79, Mike Minns 83.

Medalist: Hansen (OH) 74

Records: Ross 1-0, Ottawa Hills 0-1.

JV match: Ross 334, Ottawa Hills 353

Low scorer: Doug Garvey (R) 85

Madison hands Ross first loss

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross golf team's scores shot up with the temperatures Thursday as they were beaten by Mansfield Madison at Fremont Country Club.

The Little Giants (3-1) lost their first match of the season, 341-350, with both teams shooting higher than their season averages.

"It was just so and hot humid," Ross coach Denny Ritchie said.

Brian Hubert and David Miller each shot 84 for Madison (9-2), and Jay Farrell shot an 85 for the top Ross score.

Madison coach Don Thomas told Ritchie that his team typically shoot in the 70s.

Ross plays Findlay Tuesday at the Fremont Country Club.

Golf

Findlay 160, Ross 167

Fremont Country Club

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Findlay: Josh Premuda 38, Nate Ackerman 39, J. J. Rodeheffer 41, Ernie Chamberlain 42

Ross: Jay Farrell 40, Jim Straight 40, Kyle Pasch 43, Troy Ritchie 44

Records: Findlay 2-1, Ross 3-2

Next match: Ross at Napoleon Thursday, Aug. 29

JV results: Findlay 178, Ross 180

Medalist: Matt Bauer 42

Records: Ross 2-1

THE FREMONT ROSS golf team fell to 3-3, dropping a 164-167 decision to Great Lakes League rival Napoleon at Napoleon Golf Club.

The Wildcats' Brian Gurke was the low-scorer with a 37.

Troy Ritchie shot a 39 to lead the Little Giants. Mark Walter (40), Jim Straight (44) and Jay Farrell (44) followed.

"Really, the consistency out of our 4-through-6 players (is what Ross needs)," said first-year Ross coach Denny Ritchie. "One time they'll play a match and shoot 40 and the next they shoot 47 or 48. We had a reserve today (Matt Bauer) shoot a 41 and if he was on the varsity and was our sixth man we'd have tied these guys."

The Ross JV team downed Napoleon, 183-189.

High School

Golf

Bellevue Invitational

CLYDE — Team scores and area individual results from the Bellevue Invitational held Saturday at the par 71 Green Hills Golf Course.

TEAM SCORES

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1, Genoa | 309 |
| 2, Fremont Ross | 325 |
| 3, Bucyrus | 334 |
| 4, Bellevue | 340 |
| 5, Eastwood | 351 |
| 6, Willard | 352 |
| 7, Columbian | 356 |
| 8, Vermilion | 357 |
| 9, Margaretta | 361 |
| 10, Carey | 363 |
| 11, Norwalk | 375 |
| 12, Edison | 398 |

AREA INDIVIDUAL SCORES

GENOA: Dan Stevens 40-36—76, Mike Cicak 38-38—76, Curt Vogelpohl 37-41—78, Dana Vogelpohl 37-42—79, Nate Tabbert 41-40—81.

ROSS: Troy Ritchie 37-39—76, Mark Walter 41-40—81, Jm Straight 46-38—84, Jay Farrell 42-42—84, Bauer 45-45—90.

MARGARETTA: Bob Day 44-43—87, Scott Coffman 43-41—84, Dustin Howard 49-47—96, Dustin Cullen 49-45—94, Andy Klemer 55-50—105.

Medalists: *Dan Stevens and Mike Cicak (Genoa) and Troy Ritchie (Ross).

* Won on second playoff hole

■ Fremont Ross played well enough to win its golf match with Sandusky Wednesday, but coach Denny Ritchie is still waiting for his team to find a putting stroke. The Little Giants won 164-204 at Fremont Country Club.

"They shot pretty well with the windy conditions," Ritchie said. "If they could learn to putt they'd shoot even better."

Jay Farrell was the medalist for the match, firing a 37. Teammates Troy Ritchie, Mark Walter and Jim Straight all shot lower rounds than Sandusky' tops golfer, Eric Scott (51).

Ross (4-3, 1-2 Great Lakes League) plays at home against Clay today.

156-168 by Kalida at Country Acres Golf Course.

Kalida's Jason Unverferth (36) and Kevin Stechschoote (37) shot the only sub-40 rounds, as the Crimson Streaks shot their highest round for the season. Their previous high was 162.

Kevin Cooney's 40 was the lowest individual round for St. Joe, which dropped to 6-1. Kalida is 8-1 this year.

■ Fremont Ross beat Clay 160-186 at Fremont Country Club Thursday, as Troy Ritchie fired a match-best 38. Clay's top golfer, Don Poulson, shot a 44.

The Little Giants fourth man, Mack Cole, was playing varsity after medaling in the junior varsity match earlier in the week.

"He played real consistent for us. He showed he can do it on varsity," coach Troy Ritchie said of Cole's 42. The coach said the team also putted better than in past matches. Ross is 5-3 this

season, splitting four Great Lakes League matches.

Ross plays at Bedford Tuesday.

■ Preparing to host Saturday's 14-team Old Fort Invitational, Old Fort was beaten 161-180 by Elmwood at Briar Hills Golf Course in North Baltimore.

Matt Overmeyer's 38 and Brent Williamson's 39 led Elmwood past visiting Old Fort, which got 42s from Kyle Ryman and Derek Huber.

■ In tennis, Andi Andrews dropped just three games in her No. 1 singles win and Courtney LaBenne nearly blanked her No. 3 singles opponent as Fremont Ross beat Toledo Whitmer 4-1.

Andrews defeated Angie Riedling 6-3, 6-0, and LaBenne beat Katie Maier 6-1, 6-0. At second singles, Alissa Brickner beat Mandy Black 6-3, 6-3. The Little Giants (8-1 overall, 3-0 Great Lakes League) split the two dou-

Fremont Ross took a 2-stroke decision over Great Lakes League foe **Bedford**, 167-169, to win its sixth match.

Jay Ferrell sparked the Little Giants (6-3, 3-2 GLL) with a 40, tying Bedford's Jeremy Dirkmunt for medalist honors.

Jim Straight had a 41 for Ross, while Mark Walter followed with a 42 and Troy Ritchie had a 44.

GOLF

Troy Ritchie medaled by shooting a 39 in leading **Fremont Ross** (9-1) to a 169-188 Great Lakes League victory over **Whitmer**. Jim Straight shot a 41 for the Little Giants, while Jay Ferrell (44) and Mark Walter (45) followed.

Fremont schools will tee it up

Ross, St. Joe announce matchup as Streaks win Invitational

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Fremont Ross and Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic will play unusual golf opponents this week: each other.

Despite being located less than two miles apart — Ross on North Street and St. Joe on Croghan Street — the high schools rarely compete in athletic events. That will change Wednesday at the Fremont Country Club with a golf match set up by first-year Ross coaches Denny Brudzinski and Denny Ritchie and longtime St. Joe coach Charlie Baker.

"What's extra special is you have two fine sports programs within the same community that

can get together and enjoy the day," Baker said. "And the competition goes up a notch."

The announcement came Saturday at the Fremont Country Club, where both teams were competing in the eight-team Ross Invitational won by St. Joe.

But Wednesday will be a head-to-head match, last played in golf "about 10 years ago," Baker said.

"We won that one, I remember that," said Baker, admitting he could not recall the exact year or players from that time. "But I remember we won."

The Little Giants and Crimson Streaks met about five years ago in volleyball, estimated Ross Athletic Director Art Bucci.

Since then, according to St. Joe AD Mike Gabel, the schools have scrimmaged in girls basketball.

"It's great that we can get together and compete against each other," Gabel said when he learned of the golf match.

The match was not originally on the schedule and a contract still has to be signed for it to be official. If no contract is signed, the match will be played as a scrimmage.

"But there's no such thing as a scrimmage between these schools," Baker said.

"It will be sort of a rivalry because I know a lot of those guys," Ross's Jay Farrell said.

On Saturday, four of "those

guys" outshot Ross by 25 strokes for 18 holes. In this season's nine-hole matches, St. Joe has shot an average four-man round of 160.4, compared to 165.7 for Ross.

Teams count the top four individual scores for the team total.

Saturday's 331 by the Crimson Streaks placed them in a tie with Genoa. On the 18th hole, Kevin Cooney sank a 30-yard chip to help force the 331-331 tie.

As a tiebreaker, the scores of the fifth-best finishers were tallied. Wally Walarszak (St. Joe) and Nathan Tabbert (Genoa) each had an 88, forcing a four-man playoff on hole No. 1.



News-Messenger/Brian Spiess
JAY FARRELL of Fremont Ross tees off on the first hole at the Fremont Country Club Saturday during the Fremont Ross Invitational.

See STREAKS, B3

Streaks win Ross Invitational

Continued from B1

St. Joe's foursome shot par-par-bogey-bogey. Genoa went par-bogey-bogey-double-bogey.

Another championship for St. Joe.

"We were about 10 strokes behind at the turn," Baker said. "To make up 10 strokes is very, very unusual under the weather conditions. It was a classic finish in regards to you never, never give up."

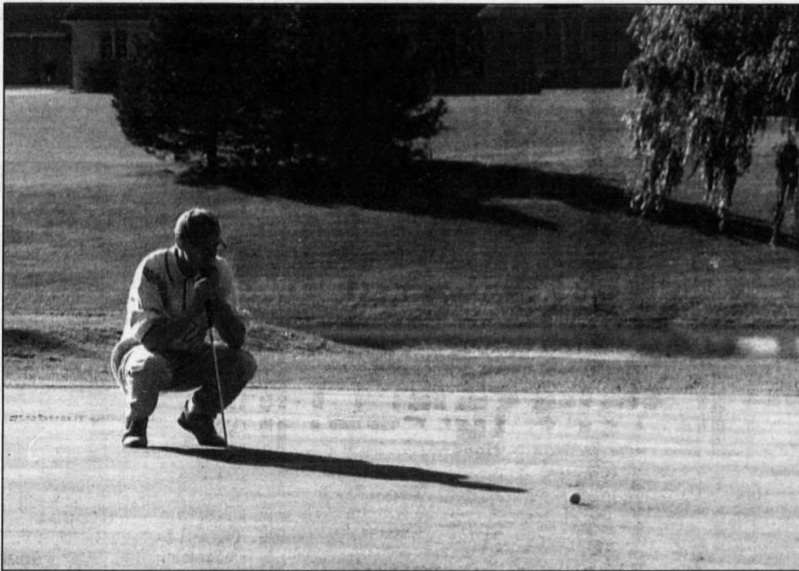
"It was not necessarily the most

exciting match I've been involved with, but it taught us a lot of lessons that couldn't be learned unless you are in a particular situation. Hopefully it was a turning point for the rest of the season, and we're not doing badly."

Not bad. And yet, Baker cannot help but think of the Fremont golf team that could be assembled if players from both schools were combined.

"We would be very hard to handle throughout the whole state — in everything," Baker said.

Streaks slip past Little Giants



News-Messenger/Michael Bosi
JAY FARRELL of Fremont Ross (left) lines up a putt on hole No. 8 Wednesday at the Fremont Country Club in a dual match with Fremont St. Joe. **Dustin Dewey** of St. Joe (above) hits a shot on No. 18 after his shot nearly landed in the clubhouse of the East State Street course.

St. Joe nips Ross by two shots in rare matchup of Fremont high

By **MICHAEL BOSI**
Staff writer

As far as the golfers from St. Joseph Central Catholic and Fremont Ross are concerned, a tee-off between the schools is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

That meeting took place Wednesday.

And as far as the golfers from St. Joe and Ross are concerned, their scores from Wednesday should be a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

In their first match in 10 years, the Crimson Streaks took a 2-stroke victory, 167-169, seven strokes above their season average.

The happenings-to-hype score: bogey.

"I think the coaches thought it was more of a match than we did. I think we were just playing for fun," said Ross's Troy Ritchie, who led his team with a 41, aided by a pair of birdies.

Echoed St. Joe's Dustin Dewey: "I think the coaches were kind of putting a lot of pressure on the players to play good today because coach (Charlie) Baker used to be the coach for Ross and now he's against them so he wants to beat them."

With gusting breezes biting at the players' tee shots, Dewey, calling his performance

"absolutely terrible," medaled with a 40 out of the No. 4 slot.

For St. Joe, Ben Sorenson and Aaron Zimmerman shot 42s, and Nate Waleryszak had a 43.

Making up for the struggles of No. 1 man Mark Walter (46) and third seed Jay Farrell (45) were Jim Straight and Mack Cole, who had 42s, and Ian Steinart, who carded a 44.

"This seems pretty pathetic to me," Dewey said. "I thought there would be scores like 35s or 36s. I know I'm pretty upset at the score I got."

The Crimson Streaks won for the 12th time in 13 dual matches, prompting Baker to take his win

and run.

"Both these teams are much better golf teams than they played today," he said. "They were a little uptight, which was understandable under the circumstances the match was initiated."

"We take the 'W' any time we can get the 'W.'"

Frustration was the order of the day on the fifth, sixth and ninth holes.

A slick green on No. 5 kept putts rolling wildly. On a wide-open No. 6, it was anyone's guess where the wind would force drives.

And the ninth-hole dogleg left

players, well, scratching behind their ears.

"It was just weird out there today, one of the weirdest matches I've played in a long time," said Dewey.

Both teams' coaches indicated their desire to continue the rivalry. Wednesday's match especially benefited the Little Giants (7-4).

"I think it was a lot of fun, I'm glad they played," Ross coach Denny Brudzinski said. "Our team needs a little boost and I thought playing this kind of competition will help us in the Great Lakes League tournament and the sectionals coming up in the next two weeks."

GOLF

Fremont Ross's Troy Ritchie shot a 36 to lead the Little Giants (8-4, 4-2 Great Lakes League) to a 159-160 victory over Fostoria (6-6, 3-3). Jay Farrell and Mack Cole each shot 40s, while Ian Steinart had a 43.

High School

WHITMER INVITATIONAL At Whiteford Valley, Toledo

TEAM SCORES — 1-Perrysburg
318; 2-Ross 329; 3-Eastwood 335; 4-
Rossford 339; 5-Whitmer 340; 6-Bedford
342; 7-Toledo St. Francis 343; 8-Clay
361

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Medalist: Justin Gillhan (P) 74
Ross: Troy Ritchie 80, Jay Farrell 82,
Mark Walter 82, Ian Steinert 85

Jenkins earns medal honors at Northwest Ohio Classic II

News-Messenger reports

Oak Harbor, behind medalist Andy Jenkins, took fourth place Saturday at the 25-team Northwest Ohio Classic II golf tournament at South Toledo Golf Course.

The tournament was shortened to nine holes because of rain.

Jenkins, a senior, shot a 34 to lead the Rockets, who tied Lima Shawnee with 157 points. Shawnee was awarded third place based on the fifth-man tiebreaker.

Gahanna Lincoln won the tournament with a 147, Genoa was eighth with 161 and Fremont Ross had 167 to take 10th.

Steve Seeger shot 37 for Oak Harbor.

Troy Ritchie shot a 41 and

GOLF

Jack Cole, Jay Farrell and Jim Straight all shot 42 to lead Ross.

In other action Saturday:

Fostoria Invitational

At Loudon Meadows, Sandusky St. Mary's shot 310 to win the Black Division, while Bettsville was second with 325 and Woodmore was fourth with 339.

Nick Steffanni and Brent Weyant both shot 79 for Bettsville.

Brian Losey shot 81 and Chad Wagner had an 84 for Woodmore.

Nick Jurski and Kevin Kirwen shot 86 and 89, respectively, for Gibsonburg. Kyle Ryman had an 81 for Old Fort and Trent Tucker led Lakota with an 83.

Fremont Ross lost its second straight match, 156-168 to Bowling Green, to finish its regular season 8-6. No Ross player shot less than a 41, while the Bobcats' Zack Moore and Nick Whitaker each had 38s.

Golf

Genoa Invitational

ELMORE — Team scores and individual results from Saturday's Genoa Invitational at the par-71 Sugar Creek Golf Course.

TEAM STANDINGS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1, Genoa | 315 |
| 2, Perkins | 320 |
| 3, Bowsher | 335 |
| 4, Ross | 336 |
| 5, Bellevue | 338 |
| 6, Bucyrus | 339 |
| 7, Ontario | 341 |
| 8, Clyde | 347 |
| 9, Ottawa Hills | 362 |
| 10, Otsego | 362 |
| 11, Start | 376 |
| 12, Van Buren | 395 |

ROSS: Mark Walter 82, Jay Farrell 83, Troy Ritchie 85, Mack Cole 86.

BELLEVUE: Justin Pagnard 81, Joe Sanchez 82, Mike Artino 87, Jay Haughawout 88.

CLYDE: Brad Kinnear 80, Doug Wilkinson 82, Brett Newsome 90, John Mayes 95.

Medalist: Matt Wilkinson (Ontario) 72.