

# Pitching is Ross concern

By BOB MARKER

Reporting for The News-Messenger

Pitching in fast pitch softball is the key ingredient.

Ross High School had that ingredient last season and it carried the Little Giants to the Class AAA district tournament finals. This year, it's an ingredient still missing on Coach Christy Holland's team.

Six letter winners return to the Little Giants, but gone via graduation is Kim Schutt, whose right arm helped carry the Little Giants to an 18-6 record.

"Pitching is one of my major concerns," Holland said. "We have three people who can throw, but if they had as much control as they have speed, we would be set."

The three hurlers are seniors Lora Almaguer and Taunya Downing and sophomore Kim White, all returning letter winners.

While Holland is concerned with his pitching, the Ross defense is a bright point.

"We have everyone back, except at third base," the Ross coach said.

Aimee LeJeune, a junior, will be at first with Downing at second when she is not pitching. Almaguer will be at shortstop, also when not pitching.

Stepping into the third base slot will be Sue Tousignant, Holland said. Julie Schaaf will be the utility person in the infield.

In the outfield, Shannon Watts, a sophomore, will be in left with junior Heidi Lehmann in center. Carol Tousignant will be in right when White is pitching. Also in the outfield is letter winner Angie Flores.

Flores, however, and senior Shelly Leggett, also a returning letter winner, are in the catching picture.

"Defensively, we are in good shape," Holland said.

"We have a versatile team," the Ross coach continued, "and we do have a lot of experience, which makes it nice."

"If the pitching comes around, I am optimistic we will have a good season."

Ross opens the season Friday, hosting Bellevue in a 4:30 p.m. game.

# Ross, St. Joe girls fall

## News-Messenger Reports

The Ross and St. Joe softball teams both suffered defeats in the bitter cold weather Wednesday afternoon.

Ross lost its season opener 6-3 to Maumee in a game that was shortened to five innings due to the frigid conditions. And St. Joe dropped an 8-2 decision to Bellevue.

At Ross, the Lady Giants staked Maumee to a 4-0 lead after 2½ innings and were unable to come back. Tanya Dickerson had a pair of triples for the winners, who collected

eight hits off losing pitcher Kim White.

The Giants, meanwhile, had four hits, two by Angie Flores.

At Bellevue, the Redmen cruised to the victory over St. Joe, scoring once in the first inning, five times in the third and twice in the fifth to take an 8-0 lead. The Redmen tallied all five of its third-inning runs with two outs.

St. Joe managed to score two runs in the seventh. Michelle McGrath had a pair of hits for the Streaks, now 1-3.

# Girls fall; Ross, St. Joe prevail

Ross.....7  
Bellevue.....3

Kim White scattered seven Bellevue hits, fanned a pair of batters and walked five to pick up the pitching win for the Little Giants. She, along with Angie Flores, had two hits in the game.

The win leveled Ross's season mark at 1-1.

Taunya Downing had Ross's only extra base hit, a double.

The Little Giants trailed 2-1 after one inning but tied it in the third and went ahead with two more in the fifth. A three-run

sixth inning iced the game on the chilly afternoon for Ross.

Ross will play Bettsville at 4:15 today in a game at Rodger Young Park.

St. Joe.....11  
Bettsville.....5

St. Joe rolled to a 6-2 lead after two innings and put the game out of reach with a five-run explosion in the fifth.

Winning pitcher Michelle McGrath pitched a four-hitter, striking out seven and surviving 10 walks.

St. Joe's 12-hit attack was

paced by a four-for-four performance by Maureen Barry. Nikki Binder added three singles and Denise Coleman had three RBI for the Streaks. McGrath and Peggy Underwood drove in a pair runs.

Underwood cut off a pair of runs in the Bettsville fourth. With two on, two out and a run in, Underwood made a running catch in leftfield to cut off a potential extra base hit.

Saturday, St. Joe will play Norwalk St. Paul in a doubleheader at Rodger Young Park. The first game begins at 11 a.m.

## Ross girls prevail 19-4

The Ross Lady Giants used a 13-hit attack to defeat Bettsville 19-4 in five innings in girls high school softball action at Rodger Young Park Friday.

Kim White and Lora Almaguer led the Lady Giants with three hits and three RBI each. Angie Flores added two hits and three RBI.

The Lady Giants scored two runs in the first inning, three in the second and then nine in the third to blow the game wide open.

White was also the winning pitcher for Ross, now 2-1.

Barb Phelps led Bettsville with a pair of hits.

# Clyde stops St. Peter's, Ross buries New Riegel

## News-Messenger Reports

Clyde used a nine-run sixth inning and 19 hits to defeat Mansfield St. Peter's 17-13 and Ross flattened New Riegel 30-12 in high school softball games played Monday.

Clyde and St. Peter's were deadlocked at 8-8 when the Fliers erupted in the sixth inning. In the top of the seventh, St. Peter scored five times but it was too little too late.

Ann Fultz doubled and singled three times to drive in four Clyde runs. Kris Sherman and Pam Meyer had three hits apiece and winning pitcher Joely Andrews drove in four runs with a double and a single. Amy Myers doubled and singled, also for Clyde.

Ross .....30  
New Riegel.....12

Ross used 22 hits to rock the Blue Jackets.

The LittleGiants, 3-1, rolled to a 16-1 lead after three innings while coasting to the lopsided win. Taunya Downing and Shelly Leggett homered and Sue Tousignant tripled, doubled and singled for Ross.

Leggett had three hits and Julie Schaaf doubled, also for Ross.

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# Lady Giants 1-2 in tourney

News-Messenger Reports

PERRYSBURG — Fremont Ross was 1-2 in the Perrysburg Softball Invitational Tournament over the weekend.

The Little Giants girls won their only game Saturday 5-4 in eight innings over Springfield Local. Friday, Ross was beaten 19-4 by Archbold and 5-4 by Richmond, Mich.

In the bottom of the eighth against Springfield, Angie Flores walked to start the winning rally. Flores stole second base and scored on Sue Tousignant's single to center.

Lora Almaguer was the winning pitcher for Ross with Aimee LeJeune and Shelly Leggett getting two hits apiece for the Little Giants.

Against Archbold, LeJeune tripled and singled and Taunya Downing doubled to go with a pair of hits each from Kim White and Almaguer. Against Richmond, Almaguer had two hits. Ross lost when the Michigan team scored twice in the bottom of both the fourth and fifth innings to wipe out a 4-1 Ross lead.

Ross is 4-3 for the season with the next game slated for today at 4:15 at Maumee.

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## Maumee blanks Ross 16-0

MAUMEE — Jill Oswald of Maumee tossed a no-hitter to lead Maumee to a 16-0 win over Ross in a high school softball game Monday.

The game was called at the end of five innings.

Oswald struckout six and walked three.

The loss dropped Ross to 4-4 for the season.

**Ross .....15**

**Bettsville .....6**

The Lady Giants erased a 5-4 deficit with seven runs in the fourth inning and four in the fifth to down the Bobcats in Bettsville.

Angie Flores led a nine-hit attack for Ross with two singles. Winning pitcher Taunya Downing and Julie Schaaf each added a double.

## Norwalk 7, Ross 4

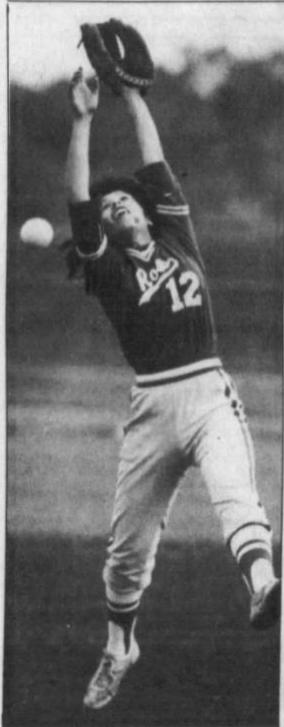
Score by innings

				R	H	E
Ross	010	120	0-4	9	2	
Norwalk	150	001	x-7	6	1	

WP: Marta Motter, LP: Lora Almaguer.

3B: Carol Foster (N).

Season record: Ross 5-5.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

IT WAS hot potato time for these Ross softball players against the Lake Flyers at Rodger Young Park Wednesday afternoon. At the



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

left, pitcher Lora Almaguer has trouble with a pop fly, and at the right, shortstop Julie Schaaf misplays a ground ball.

## Andrews fires no-hitter at St. Joe

### News-Messenger Reports

The St. Joe Lady Streaks saw too much Joely Andrews Wednesday afternoon.

Andrews fired a no-hitter and belted two extra-base hits to lead the Clyde Lady Fliers past the Streaks 19-0 in five innings in high school softball action at Rodger Young Park.

Andrews, now 4-1 on the

mound, struck out 12 Streaks and walked just two. She added a triple, double and three RBI at the plate.

Also keying Clyde's 13-hit attack were Amy Myers with two doubles, Angie Maines with a double, single and four RBI, and Julie Sherman with a double, single and three RBI.

### Softball

Clyde is now 6-2 overall and 2-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference. St. Joe drops to 5-7 overall and 0-3 in the SBC.

In one other game, Ross dropped an 11-3 decision to Lake, also at Rodger Young.

The Flyers jumped on top 5-0 after 2½ innings and breezed to their 11th win in 12 games. Ross scored single runs in the third, fourth and fifth frames.

Ross managed seven hits, led by Angie Flores and Sue Tousignant with two each. Tousignant, Lora Almaguer and Julie Schaaf had doubles for the Lady Giants, now 5-7.

**Findlay.....13**

**Ross.....7**

The Lady Giants had a 5-4 lead after three innings but couldn't hang on while dropping the decision to the Trojans in Fremont.

The loss, Ross's eighth in 13 games, wasted an outstanding performance by Taunya Downing, who went four for four with a whopping nine stolen bases and three runs scored.

Aimee LeJeune added two hits for the Lady Giants.

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# Lady Giants, Streaks win

## News-Messenger Reports

Lora Almaguer pitched a three-hitter as Ross rolled to a 26-1 high school softball victory over New Riegel Tuesday.

In another game, St. Joe got a one-hitter from Michelle McGrath while defeating Old Fort 10-8.

Almaguer homered and tripled in the five-inning contest. Shelly Leggett doubled four times and drove in three runs for Ross. Tammy Dumbroff and Angie Flores tripled with Taunya Downing, Carol Tousignant and Aimee LeJeune doubling for the Little Giants.

Kim White and Almaguer had three hits apiece, Flores, LeJeune and Julie Schaaf had two hits each for Ross.

The Little Giants are 7-7.

**Perrysburg.....17**

**Ross.....6**

The Yellow Jackets banged out 20 hits to down the Lady Giants in Perrysburg.

Ross finished with 10 hits, led by Aimee LeJeune, Shelly Leggett and Heidi Lehmann with two each.

Ross is now 7-8 while Perrysburg moves to 11-3.

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**Findlay .....6**

**Ross.....3**

The Lady Giants took a 3-1 lead after two innings but failed to hang on while falling to the Trojans at Rodger Young Park.

Findlay scored three runs in the third inning to go ahead for good.

Ross is now 7-9.

out but scored just once.

The Mohawks' lead grew to 7-1 in the fourth, but St. Joe scored twice in the fifth. In the seventh, singles by Peggy Underwood and Dawn Peters drove Mohawk starting pitcher Sara Steyer out of the game. Joni Peluso came in and immediately surrendered a single to Michelle McGrath to load the bases.

Peluso came back with two strikeouts before walking in a run. She got the game-ending out on a grounder.

St. Joe, 9-11, had nine hits with Denise Coleman getting the only extra base hit of the game, a double.

Earlier this season, St. Joe had lost 27-5 to the Mohawks.

**Ross .....16**

**Margaretta .....15**

Shelly Leggett's two-out single drove in the winning run in the

bottom of the ninth inning.

Margaretta sent the game into extra innings with a run in the top of the seventh. Each team then scored a run in the eighth inning to make it 15-15.

In the bottom of the ninth, Ross loaded the bases on a walk to Taunya Downing, a single by Angie Flores and a walk to Lora Almaguer. With two outs, Leggett laced her game-winning single.

Flores and Aimee LeJeune led the Lady Giants with three hits each. Leggett, Downing and Almaguer added two hits each.

Ross evened its record at 10-10 with the victory.

**Old Fort .....6**

**Clay .....3**

Lori Curns scattered six Clay hits and had two hits in as many at-bats to lead Old Fort.

Old Fort is 8-6 while Clay

Sherman drove in another.

Clyde is now 8-7 overall, 4-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

In other action, Ross outscored Findlay 23-19 and Old Fort bombed Bettsville 20-5.

**Ross .....23**

**Findlay .....19**

Angie Flores' three hits led a 12-hit Ross attack at Findlay.

Taunya Downing, Aimee LeJeune and Shelly Leggett added two hits each. Downing had a home run and drove in five runs while LeJeune drove in three runs and Leggett drove in two.

Ross trailed 4-2 after three

innings and 11-5 after four but came roaring back with six runs in the fifth inning, eight in the sixth and four in the seventh to gain the victory.

The Lady Giants are now 11-10.

**Old Fort .....20**

**Bettsville .....5**

Lori Curns had three hits and three RBI to lead the Stockaders past the Bobcats in Bettsville.

Kelli Brueggemeier, Deb Hoerig and Tina Bish added two hits apiece. Brueggemeier had five RBI.

Old Fort jumped out early, scoring four runs in the first inning and nine in the second for a 13-0 lead.

## White keys Lady Giants' twinbill sweep

### News-Messenger Reports

MARION — Ross, Kim White and the defense were two-for-two Saturday in a high school softball double-header against Harding.

White pitched both games as Ross won 5-4 and 8-7, and the Little Giants' defense did not commit an error in the twinbill.

"They were both good games," Ross Coach Christy Holland said quietly.

White's feat, although not that unusual in softball, was the first time in several years that it has happened at Ross.

"It was warm," Holland described

Saturday, "and Kim said she felt pretty good and that she could pitch the second game."

She did and the twin wins raised Ross's season to 12-10 and took them a game over .500 in the Buckeye Conference at 3-2. White scattered 11 hits in the first game and held the Presidents to seven in the nightcap.

Lora Almaguer's two-run single in the first inning of the opener gave Ross a lead it never lost. Ross had nine hits, all singles, one by each of the nine starters.

The Little Giants scored single runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Harding

scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to close to within a run at 5-4.

Ross scored five runs in the first inning of the second game and led 6-0 after two. The Little Giants added single runs in the fifth and sixth. Harding plated four in the third, one in the sixth and two in the bottom of the seventh.

Shelly Leggett tripled and singled twice to pace Ross's 12-hit attack. Julie Schaaf tripled and singled for a Ross run. Aimee LeJeune doubled and drove in a pair of runs. Almaguer and Sue Tousignant drove in two runs apiece.