

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

DIVISION I DISTRICT

Ross falters, sees season come to end

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

FINDLAY — Brandon Hoelzer's look told the whole story of the way his and his teammates' rounds went Wednesday in the Division I districts at Findlay's Red Hawk Run Golf Course.

Hoelzer, the No. 1 player on the Fremont Ross golf team, could only stand with his hands around his head as he described how his inconsistencies plagued him.

The junior carded a 5-over 77, missing a chance to go to state as an individual by two strokes. As a team, the Little Giants finished with a score of 332 to finish fifth out of 10 teams.

"It doesn't feel too good to come out and shoot that when you've practiced all season for this," Hoelzer said. "That's the second-highest score I've shot all season and the most doubles I've had all year.

"Just wasn't a solid day at all."

Ashland took the district crown with a new course record of 298. Avon Lake also qualified to state with a team tally of 314.

Going as individuals to state were St. Francis De Sales' Ben Torchia, who fired a par 72 and St. John's Jesuit's Michael Balear who carded a 3-over 75.

"When you average 310 and then you shoot 332 as a team in your biggest tournament, it's disappointing," Ross coach Jim Scharer said. "We were just very inconsistent, and this is one shot deal, make or break and we didn't get it done."

Red Hawk Run is also a links-style course, where instead of trees, tall grasses align the outer reaches. And it's a style of course that had suited Ross well.

"This is our kind of course," Scharer said. "We played Maumee Bay and shot 308, which is very similar, and we played Eagles' Landing and shot 300 earlier in the year."

But tall grasses aren't as forgiving as the normal rough aside the fairway, which was a problem when drives weren't staying on the fairway. It was common problem for Hoelzer in Wednesday's round, who is normally a better driver.

"I was pull-hooking everything," Hoelzer said. "It's tough to fix that while you're playing."

Those misfires cost Hoelzer down the stretch. After playing holes No. 9-14 at 2-under, he doubled 15 and 17, which more than canceled out his two birdies on 16 and 18.

"That's just not like

SEE ROSS I B2

ROSS FROM B1

Brandon,” Scharer said. “And the thing is, if he plays his normal game, he converts and goes to Columbus. But he had a couple bad holes down the stretch and that can happen when you’re hitting your driver a little a stray.”

Meanwhile, the Little Giant’s No. 2 man, Clay Schwartz was having trouble staying off the beach en route to a 9-over 81.

“There’s a lot of bunkers on this course and I was in a lot of them,” Schwartz said.

Adding an a pair of 87s for the

Little Giants were Ian Mowry and Albert Baumann. Scott Kosakowski fired a 96.

What’s good news for Ross, though, is it has a young and talented team that will return everyone next fall.

“We’re going to try to get some depth over the off-season, so there’s not so much pressure on each and every one of our kids,” Scharer said. “Right now they all know their scores count, so it’d be nice to solidify our final spots.”

E-mail Kevin Shields at kshields@gannett.com.

GOLF

DIVISION I ALL-DISTRICT TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Brandon Hoelzer (Ross)

SECOND TEAM

Clay Schwartz (Ross)

HONORABLE MENTION

Ian Mowry (Ross), Albert Baumann (Ross)

St. Joseph Central Catholic's Connor Dudley was named to the all-district golf first team.

Alex Chudzinski of the Crimson Streaks was given honorable mention.