

Ross struggles in sectionals defeat

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Then, the Trojans capitalized on their first offensive opportunity.

Snook lofted a ball over Weiker, who went out toward Snook, to give Findlay a 1-0 lead just 3:28 into the game.

"I think that deflated us, because at about the same time, we found out that Matt Salas was pretty much unplayable," Pendry said. "That really set the tone."

Weiker cited the poor conditions for the initial goal.

"That was my fault," he said. "I wasn't adjusted to the ground yet. When the ground is that wet, the ball doesn't roll like it usually does. I came out and stopped before I could get to it."

"That was me coming out at the wrong time pretty much."

Down 1-0 at halftime, Pendry knew he needed an offensive spark. So, he moved Tyrone George from the mid-field to an attacking forward position.

The strategy helped and hurt Ross.

"Tyrone did get us a goal when we moved him up, but Findlay put two in on us, too," Pendry said.

Just 1:57 into the second half, Fiumedora beat two Ross defenders, moved in to about 10 yards and sliced the ball past Weiker.

George quickly answered, however, tallying a left-footed goal past Findlay keeper Logan Anderson 3:04 later.

Findlay, though, regained the two-goal advantage just 2:36 later after a Ross penalty.

With a free kick just in front of the 18-yard box, Findlay's Jordan Bohnlein tapped the ball away from Ross's wall to Snook. The senior, who had 21 regular-season goals, fired the shot past Weiker.

Weiker, who had 16 saves, withstood the second-half onslaught and made a handful of stellar stops to prevent the deficit from increasing.

"I think we did about all we could tonight," Pendry said.

FINDLAY 3, ROSS 1

Dreary day



News-Messenger/Ben French

ABOVE, ROSS'S Tyrone George fights for the ball with Findlay's Jordan Bohnlein during the Little Giants' 3-1 season-ending loss in Tuesday's sectional semifinal. Below, Ross's Adam Shearn and Findlay's Nathan Snyder tussle for control.

Findlay hands Ross season-ending loss

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Disheartened and drenched, Jeff Pendry walked off the muddy Graham Memorial Soccer Stadium field with a Fremont Ross supporter.

"I'm sorry you drove all the way here for that," the Little Giants coach said.

Ross was dominated by host Findlay in Tuesday's sectional semifinal and suffered a 3-1 season-ending loss.

The Little Giants also suffered through two hours of miserable conditions — a steady rain and constant winds.

"That was not pretty," senior goalkeeper Anthony Weiker said, acknowledging both Ross's play and the weather. "It was pretty bad."

Ross ended its season with a 6-10-1 record.

Andrew Snook scored two goals and Bobby Fiumedora added another for Findlay, which improved to 9-6-2 and advanced to play the Perrysburg-Bowling Green winner in Thursday's final.

Tuesday's meeting was the season's rubber-match as each team notched a 2-1

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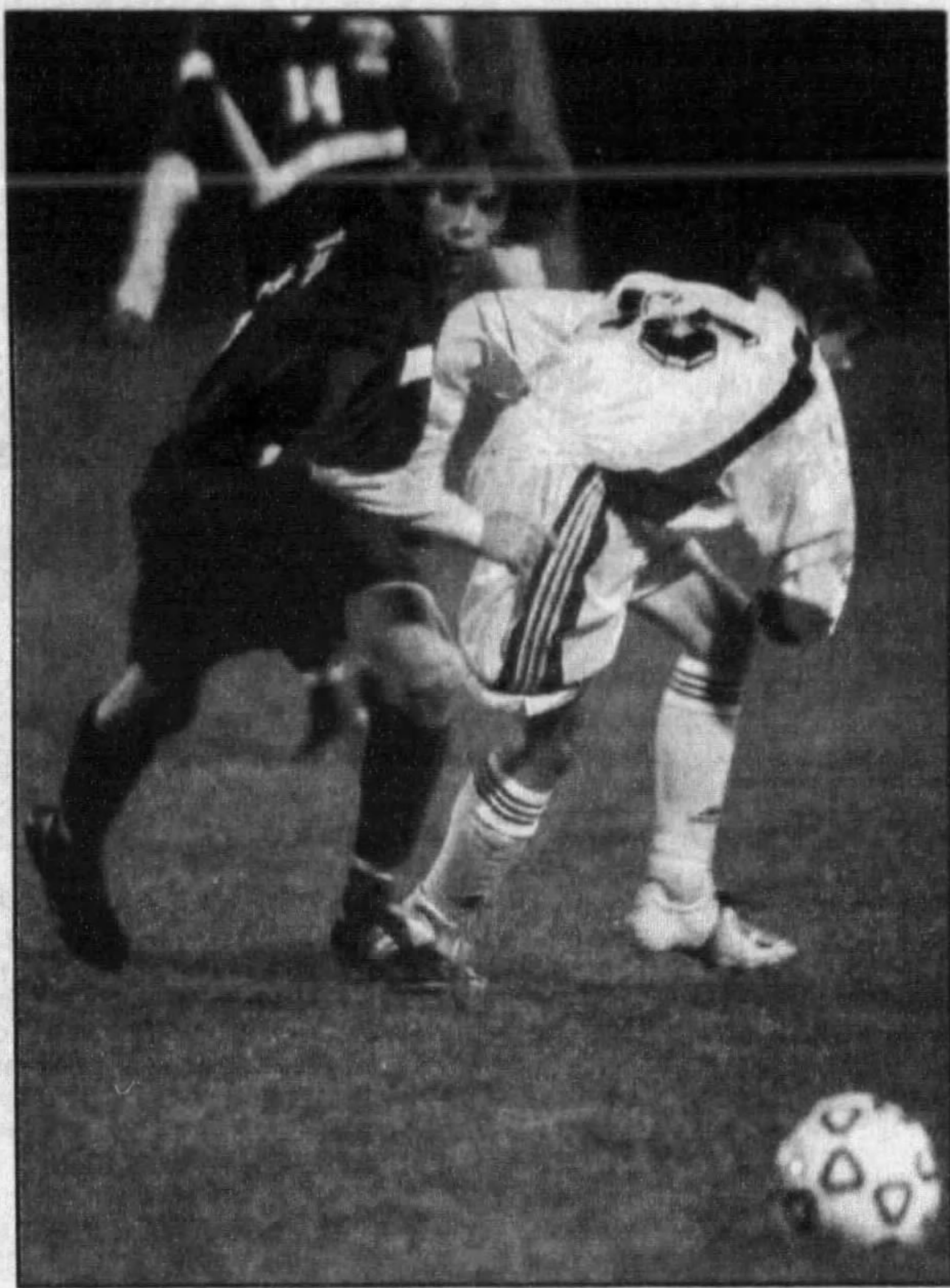
— Ross coach Jeff Pendry on the absence of star Matt Salas

victory earlier in the year.

Tuesday's match, though, was almost completely one-sided.

Ross had just four shots on goal — the only second-half shot was a beautiful goal by Tyrone George. That's compared to Findlay 19 shots, including 13 in the second half.

The main reason behind Findlay's surprising dominance was that Ross was playing without senior standout Matt Salas.



Salas — a defensive specialist, but also Ross's best all-around player — missed the last four practices with a foot injury. He was a game-time decision on Tuesday.

He played about five minutes but left the game because of pain.

"We weren't able to create enough opportunities on offense, and, with Matt not in there, they were able to cre-

ate more opportunities for their offense," Pendry said.

Pendry knew his Little Giants were in trouble early.

Ross controlled play for the first couple of minutes, keeping the ball in Findlay's end. The Little Giants had a shot and another scoring chance in the span, but they couldn't score a goal.

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