

ROSS

Coach: Chuck Lindsey

Key graduation losses: P/3B Aaron Coonrod; P/1B Dan Cobb; 3B Kyle Gegorski; OF Spencer Root; OF Pryde Yost

Top hitters: C Josh Lozano; SS John Meggitt; 2B Dustin Shively; 1B Jered Kingsborough; 1B Jeremy Fitzgerald; 3B Adam Garcia; 3B Nick Lance, OF Pete Goetz, OF T.J. Hammer, Jamin Lozano, OF Aaron Hines, IF Gabe Sanchez, IF Dash Yost.

Pitching staff: Kyle Myers, Aaron Bates, Adam Garcia, Tony Aldrich.

Outlook: The Little Giants will rely heavily on senior Josh Lozano, a third-year starter, to provide both offense and leadership to a young pitching staff. The loss of Coonrod and Cobb, two of the better pitchers Ross has seen in awhile, will be felt. But Lindsey said his team should



LOZANO

have more depth on the mound. "Obviously you don't replace guys like that," Lindsey said of Coonrod and Cobb. "But we should be deeper, we have some guys that had good summers, and we're looking forward to seeing what they can do." The Little Giants infield will be led by Shively and Meggitt at second and shortstop respectively. Garcia will be the starting third baseman, Kingsborough and Fitzgerald will battle for time at first base. Lance will play some at third base and will catch when Lozano needs a breather; Yost and Gabe Sanchez will be reserve infielders. The biggest question is in the outfield, as Hammer, last year's starting left fielder may miss the season because of an ankle injury suffered in the basketball sectional final. Lindsey said Hammer's status will be known Wednesday. The rest of the outfield should provide some power, led by Jamin Lozano, Josh's younger brother, Hines and Goetz. Offensively, the Little Giants bats

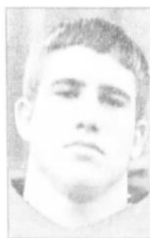
should have some pop, led by Josh Lozano, a two-time All-GLL pick. Lindsey also expects some power out of Hines, Goetz and Kingsborough. Lindsey said the main offensive weakness may be the lack of overall team speed.

ST. JOE

Coach: Rick Barbour

Key graduation losses: OF Nick Hasselbach, OF Tony Lenhart, 3B Greg Wagner

Top hitters: P/CF Matt Gabel, P/SS A.J. O'Neal, C Jake Burroughs, 1B Pete Lewton, P/OF Ross Reineck, 2B/RF Eric Palomo, IF/OF/P Zack Sanchez, IF/OF/P Roman Ruppert, P/IF/OF Dan Licursi, OF Brian Lenhart, 3B Travis Smith, C Pete Bush, OF Dan Szymanowski, OF Jimmy Haas, P/IF Dan Sanchez, OF Robin Lochert.



O'NEAL

Pitching staff: Gabel, O'Neal, Reineck, Zack Sanchez, Ruppert, Dan Licursi, Dan Sanchez

Outlook: St. Joe was picked sixth in the Midland Athletic League coaches poll, but that is more an indication of the league's toughness than it is of SJCC's abilities. Seneca East, with All-Ohio player Mike Breyman, should be one of the better Division IV teams in the state, and Tiffin Calvert will be led by many of the same athletes that have dominated the MAL on football and boys basketball over the last two years. So Barbour said third is a realistic goal for the Crimson Streaks. "We've got an awful lot of kids back with experience," said Barbour. "I'm pleased with that. We should have a solid starting team, I'm not sure how our depth is going to be. Offensively, SJCC will be led by O'Neal, a first team All-MAL pick last season. He will likely bat third in the order, but that's the only spot that has been solidified. Although the order is not set, several players are assured of a spot somewhere. Burroughs had a good 1999 as SJCC's starting catcher,

Ross drops baseball opener

Bellevue holds on after fast start

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

The Fremont Ross baseball team started its season a week later than most teams around the state.

That didn't prevent the Little Giants from showing up about two hours late for their opener Monday.

Bellevue jumped ahead 12-0 in the first three innings then held off the charging Little Giants 14-12 in a three-hour contest at Joe Lotycz Field.

Ross sent 14 batters to the plate and scored eight times in the fifth inning to get back in the game. The Little Giants brought the go-ahead batter to the plate on two occasions, and ended the game with the potential tying run, ninth-hitter John Meggitt, flying to deep right-center field for the final out.

"Our kids battled back. I'm just glad they didn't lie down," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "I saw some fight in them. That's the positive thing. The negative thing is we saw some mental mistakes. We've just got to play. The more games you play, the better you get."

Monday's game was Bellevue's fourth. Lindsey said he didn't schedule any games last week because the first week of the season is usually rained out.

At the start, the Redmen (3-1) looked like a team with an advantage.

Sam Fisher highlighted a four-run first inning with a towering home run over the 375-foot sign in center field. In the second, the Redmen exploded for six more runs. Chad Dearth had a two-run

Ross rallies, falls short to Bellevue

Continued from B1

single, and Justin Journey blasted a two-run homer to straightaway left field.

Ross starter Kyle Myers, the team's projected ace, lasted just two innings and gave up 10 earned runs. The Redmen reached sophomore reliever Adam Garcia for two more runs in the third inning and appeared destined for a run-rule victory.

"We came ready to play and hit the ball," Bellevue coach Todd Brown said. "I'm very happy with that. That's something we can count on. Coming into the season, we thought we would hit the ball."

Said Lindsey: "Everybody we've faced in scrimmages has hit the ball like crazy. We must be throwing it right down the middle with not much movement."

Ross found an answer on the mound, though, in senior Tony Aldrich, who fanned the first four batters he faced

and held the Redmen to two runs over the final three innings. He struck out six in his stint.

Of course, it helped that Brown pulled most of his starters, including ace hurler Brad Snyder, after two innings. But they would return for the final two innings after the Little Giants came up with a run in the fourth and eight more in the fifth.

"Our intensity went way down," Brown said. "I give credit to Fremont."

Ross designated hitter Pete Goetz doubled in two runs to get the fifth-inning rally under way. Nick Lance doubled in another run and Jeremy Fitzgerald scored him with a single. Fitzgerald later scored on a wild pitch, Meggitt walked and Gabe Sanchez doubled him home. After the Giants loaded the bases, Aaron Hines and Goetz earned RBI walks.

All of a sudden, it was 12-9.

"I tell the kids to stay close because you never know what's going to happen," Lindsey said.

In the top of the sixth, Tony Fisher gave the Redmen some breathing room with a two-run single.

But Ross answered with three more runs in its half of the sixth and had clean-up hitter Hines and fifth-man Goetz up with two runners on base. But Hines flew to deep left, and Goetz popped to first.

In the bottom of the seventh, Bellevue's Ben Falknor came on to close the door. He surrendered a one-out double to Lance, but struck out Fitzgerald and got Meggitt on a long drive to right-center, which the rangy Snyder ran down for the final out.

Lance, a junior shortstop, led the 11-hit Little Giant attack by going 3-for-4 with two doubles and three runs scored. Sanchez, Fitzgerald, Dustin Shively and Josh Lozano added two hits apiece.

Tony Fisher went 4-for-4 to pace Bellevue's 14-hit output.

Ross hosts Sandusky Perkins on Thursday.

Baseball

Ross falls behind, can't catch Perkins

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**
Staff writer

Just like after every game, several Fremont Ross baseball players swept the field and handled some routine maintenance at Joe Lotycz Field following Thursday's contest with Sandusky Perkins.

Unfortunately, there was no rake big enough to patch up the biggest hole of the night, the 11-run lead the

Little Giants spotted the Pirates en route to a 12-5 loss in a non-league game.

"We're inconsistent pitching," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey, whose team fell behind 12-0 Monday before falling 14-12 to Bellevue. "We make a mistake in the field here and there; we give up a run here and there; we dig ourselves big holes."

See ROSS, B2

Ross falls to 0-2 with 11-5 loss to Perkins

Continued from B1

"And they're tough holes to come out of."

For the second time in four days, Ross had to rally offensively to avoid being run-ruled. The Pirates sent 11 batters to the plate and scored seven runs — on just three hits — in the third inning and then tacked on three more in the fourth to take a commanding 11-0 lead.

The Little Giants made just three errors, but they helped Perkins score five unearned runs.

"We're making mental mistakes," said Lindsey. "We have to go back and correct our mental mistakes. The physical ones will take care of themselves by playing more games, but I think mental mistakes are hard to take, because I'm a disciplinarian and I want kids to understand that you have to be

mental to play the game of baseball."

Ross starting pitcher Adam Garcia lasted 3-plus innings. He gave up 10 runs — six earned — on five hits. The sophomore right-hander struck out four and walked six batters — four of which came around to score. Tony Aldrich pitched one inning and gave up a run on three hits. He struck out one and walked another. Gabe Sanchez pitched three solid innings to close it out for Ross.

"Adam didn't do bad; they didn't hit Adam hard," Lindsey said. "I thought Gabe Sanchez came in and did a real nice job, when you think of the score being 12-5, you just can't give up that many runs."

Garcia hit Brian Bixler to start the third. Three straight singles by Jay Niell, Brian Printy and Chad Roll resulted in two more runs and two walks and a wild

pitch scored Perkins' fifth run. It looked like Ross was going to escape when Bixler's two-out grounder was fielded by Ross third baseman Nick Lance, who threw wildly to first, allowing three runs to score.

The Pirates plated four more runs against two Ross pitchers in the fourth to take an 11-0 lead.

Perkins starter Chad Reel started out effectively. He retired 12 of the first 14 batters he faced, before the Little Giants finally got to him with two outs in the fourth.

Back-to-back doubles by Pete Goetz and Lance resulted in Ross's first run. Jeremy Fitzgerald followed with an infield single and Lance came around to score when Perkins shortstop Brian Bixler's ill-advised throw to first sailed away. After an opposite field single by Kyle Hintze, John Meggitt delivered a two-run double that cut the gap to 11-4.

Ross tacked on another run in the fifth when Garcia walked and scored on a groundout.

"We scored some runs early and we got the big lead early," Perkins coach Ray Neill said. "After that, we didn't stay focused out on the mound, and Fremont started hitting the ball a lot better. I commend them for that. They got down 11-0 but they didn't give up. They came back and made it a good baseball game."

Reel pitched four-plus innings and gave up five earned runs and five hits. He fanned four and walked one.

Lance and Meggitt had two hits and two RBI apiece for the Little Giants. Printy and Roll were each 2-for-3 for the Pirates.

Ross will travel to Anthony Wayne for a doubleheader at 10 a.m. Saturday before opening up Great Lakes League play at home on Monday against Fostoria.

Baseball

Fostoria keeps Giants winless

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross left 12 runners on base and committed four errors in a 4-3 loss to Fostoria on Monday in its Great Lakes League opener at Joe Lotycz Field.

"We just can't come up with that key hit," said Little Giants coach Chuck Lindsey, whose team fell to 0-3. "Over the last three games, we've left over 30 runners on base. We're making mental mistakes in the field and running the bases."

Cory Magg was the winner for the Redmen, who also got a double from Alan Holman. Aaron Bates took the loss for Ross. He gave up four hits and one earned run and struck out four.

John Meggitt, Jeremy Fitzgerald and Aaron Hines were all 2-for-4 with a double for the Little Giants.

Ross will host Toledo Whitmer on Friday in another GLL game. Today's game at Tiffin Columbian has been cancelled because the Tornadoes had to make up a Northern Ohio League game.

Baseball

SBC games already this season, got home runs from Brian Bixler, Steve Seiler and Andy Spehr.

Clyde is at SBC-leading Oak Harbor on Monday.

Whitmer 12, Ross 3

Fremont Ross lost its fourth straight game to start the season, falling 12-3 to Toledo Whitmer in the Great Lakes League game at Joe Lotycz Field.

The Panthers (4-3, 1-2) used a six-run fifth inning to blow the game open. Whitmer collected 17 hits in the win.

Fremont Ross pitcher Aaron Bates was cruising along until the fifth, when Whitmer used five hits to blow the game open.

"Aaron, for the first four innings, was outstanding," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey. "Then one bad pitch does it."

The Little Giants, normally a contender for the GLL race, fell to 0-4, 0-2.

"The kids have to understand that it all comes to the fundamentals," Lindsey said. "I still think we're a good team, but it's important that all of understand what has to be accomplished. Adversity is life, but we can still build this back up."

Aaron Hines was 3-for-3 with

two RBI and Jeremy Fitzgerald homered for the Little Giants. Ross had 10 hits in the game.

The Little Giants will host Lorain Southview in a doubleheader, beginning at 11 a.m. today.

Lakota 16, Eastwood 12

PEMBERVILLE Steve

Adams and Tim Ray homered as Lakota belted 15 hits in a 16-12 Suburban Lakes Leagues win over Eastwood.

David Russell had three hits and Steve Adams and Ray added two hits in the win for Lakota (4-5, 1-2). Fred Keith was the winning pitcher.

Oak Harbor 16, Huron 1

HURON — The Rockets collected a season-high 18 hits in the SBC rout of the host Tigers.

Winning pitcher Tracy Gaines went 4-for-4, drove in six runs and scored twice. Troy Wittman was 3-for-3 with four runs scored and one RBI. Al Joseph was 3-for-5 and scored three runs. Dan Laughlin was 2-for-3 with three runs scored. Jason Tank had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs, and Adam Wood added three RBI for the Rockets.

Gaines, who ran his record to 3-0, gave up three hits, struck out seven and walked none.

Saturday's games

Ross 3, Lorain Southview 1

Ross 010 200 x — 3 3 3

Southview 010 000 0 — 1 4 3

WP—Tony Aldrich; Dash Yost 1-3, Josh Lozano 2-3, Nick Loner 1-2.

Lorain Southview 8, Ross 6

Southview 302 001 2 — 8 8 2

Ross 201 120 0 — 6 8 3

LP—Gabe Sanchez; Dash Yost 3-4, Aaron Hines 2-3, Nick Lance 2-4, TJ Hammer 1-4.

Ross bats come alive in big win

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross roughed up Sandusky ace Chad Cotton, collecting 14 hits in a 9-4 Great Lakes League win over the Blue Streaks Tuesday.

T.J. Hammer was 3-for-4, Josh Lozano was 2-for-4 with two RBI, Nick Lance was 2-for-3 with two RBI, Dash Yost and Jeremy Fitzgerald were both 2-for-3 and Aaron Hines was 2-for-4.

"We hit the ball hard," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey. "Our attitude is real positive right now. T.J. and Dash have really given us a spark coming back from injuries."

Kyle Myers improved to 1-1 on the mound, as he fanned eight and walked one.

The Little Giants now head into a brutal stretch in the schedule. Today GLL-power Findlay comes to town, on Thursday, Ross travels to Mansfield Madison, the No. 1 team in the state, and on Saturday, Ross travels to take on state-ranked Bryan in a doubleheader.

"We'll find out what kind of team we really are," said Lind-

Baseball

sey. "I wouldn't want it any other way."

Elmwood 7, Lakota 6

BLOOMDALE — State-ranked Elmwood scored twice in the fifth and held on for a 7-6 win over Lakota in the Suburban Lakes League.

Winning pitcher Kyle Blachuta tagged two home runs and drove in five runs to lift the Royals. Duncan Harman was 3-for-4 with an RBI, Steve Adams was 2-for-4 with three RBI and John Sander was 1-for-2 with two RBI.

Lakota is 5-7, 1-4.

Monroeville 20, Old Fort 10

OLD FORT — Monroeville scored 10 runs in the top of the sixth and beat Old Fort in a wild non-league game.

Matt Hoke had two doubles and two singles for the Stockaders. Nick Margraf singled and doubled and Ben Steyer, Aaron Burks and Kevin Kirlin had two singles apiece for the Stockaders.

News-Messenger reports

OLD FORT — St. Joseph Central Catholic bounced back from Monday's loss to Seneca East with an 18-0 thumping of Old Fort on Wednesday, in a five-inning game.

The Crimson Streaks scored at least three runs in every inning. Jake Burroughs was 3-for-3 with three RBI and a solo home run and A.J. O'Neal was 2-for-3 with a two-run home run. Roman Ruppert, Jimmy Haas and Zack Sanchez also had two hits for SJCC (6-5, 4-1).

O'Neal pitched all five innings for the win. He gave up three hits and fanned eight. Nate Cleveland took the loss for Old Fort (4-6, 3-3).

SJCC will host Bettsville next Wednesday. Old Fort is at Gibsonburg on Saturday.

Findlay 6, Ross 3

FINDLAY — J.P. Preston held Fremont Ross to four hits, as Findlay handed the Little Giants a 6-3 Great Lakes League loss.

John Meggitt was 2-for-3 to lead the Little Giants (2-6, 1-3). Josh Lozano had a hit and an RBI and Dusty Shively had

the other base hit for the Giants.^N

Findlay is 4-0 in the league.

Clyde 4, Edison 3

MILAN — Mike Nieset pitched seven strong innings and led the offensive assault as Clyde posted a 4-3 Sandusky Bay Conference win over Edison.

Nieset pitched seven innings and gave up one earned run, four hits and one walk. He struck out 12 and improved to 2-1 on the year.

At the plate, Nieset was 3-for-3. Brandon Bulkowski and Lyle Brown were both 2-for-3 and Tom Conley and Bulkowski cracked doubles for Clyde.

Clyde (7-4, 3-1) hosts Port Clinton today.

Genoa 5, Gibsonburg 3

GENOA — Genoa opened up a 5-0 lead and held off Gibsonburg in a Suburban Lakes League game.

Gibsonburg's Jason Runion went the distance and gave up five hits, with six strikeouts and three walks.

"In the first couple innings we got to Runion and handcuffed us over the last three

Ross misses shot for big win

No. 1 Madison scores 3 in 7th

News-Messenger reports

MANSFIELD — The Ross baseball team got its biggest win of the season earlier this week when it upset rival Sandusky.

But the Little Giants nearly pulled off a more eye-popping victory Thursday against Mansfield Madison, the state's top-ranked Division I team.

Madison came off the mat to score three unearned runs in the bottom of the seventh inning and beat Ross 4-3.

The defeat ruined a well-pitched game by Ross hurler Aaron Bates, who went the distance and surrendered no earned runs. He allowed seven hits and struck out eight.

Ross is 2-7, Madison 9-1.

"Aaron Bates pitched an outstanding game," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "What an outstanding game it was. It was a tough one to lose.

"They had a great crowd, and we had some people down there with us. People couldn't believe our record with how hard we played."

Dustin Shively led the five-hit Ross attack by going 3-for-4 with a run batted in. Jared Kingsborough and Nick Lance had the other hits for the Little Giants.

Ross scored single runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings to grab a 3-0 lead. The Rams answered with a run in their half of the fifth.

It stayed that way until the bottom of the seventh. Bates retired the first batter on a grounder to first, but the Rams loaded the bases on a double, a walk and an error on the infield. A two-run single tied the game and a later sacrifice fly won it for Madison.

"I'm encouraged, but it was one little inning that did us in. I was very proud of the way our kids played for 6 1/2 innings. But I think we got tight in the bottom of the seventh," Lindsey said.

Ross returns to state-ranked competition Saturday when it travels to No. 3 Bryan (Division II) for a double-header.

Ross swept by state-ranked Bryan

News-Messenger reports

BRYAN — The state-ranked Bryan Golden Bears scored a run in the bottom of the seventh inning Saturday to secure a double-header sweep of Ross.

After dropping the first game 7-1, the Little Giants scored a run in the top of the seventh inning in the second game to tie the score at 4. But Bryan, 12-1 and ranked third in the latest Division II poll, pushed across the winning run.

Ross, now 2-9, suffered a late-inning defeat Friday against top-ranked Mansfield Madison.

Josh Lozano led the Ross offense by going 3-for-6 with a double and two runs batted in for the twin bill. Dustin Shively had two hits in the nightcap.

Kyle Myers absorbed the loss in

Baseball

the first game; Jeremy Fitzgerald took the defeat in the second game.

Ross hosts Clay today.

Gibsonburg 10, Old Fort 5

GIBSONBURG — The Golden Bears rallied for nine runs in their final three at-bats to corral the Stockaders on Saturday.

Gibsonburg (7-4) led 1-0 before scoring five times in the bottom of the fourth. The Bears put the game away with three more runs in the sixth.

Todd Enders picked up the victory. Nick Kerlin suffered the loss for Old Fort.

Gibsonburg is at Lakota today. Old Fort visits powerful Seneca East on Wednesday.

Ross makes clutch plays

Little Giants break 4-game losing skid by beating Clay 5-4

News-Messenger reports

A clutch double, a spectacular catch and more solid pitching propelled Fremont Ross to a thrilling 5-4 Great Lakes League win over Oregon Clay on Monday at Joe Lotycz Field.

"We fought back," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We didn't give up. We had talked about a lot of things and we visualized it tonight.

We were really excited. Some people might have been upset with how excited we got. But we haven't been winning and beating a good team like that, it's really exciting for us."

John Meggitt had two doubles for the Little Giants (3-0, 2-3), including a three-run drive with two-outs in the bottom of the sixth to give the Little Giants a 5-4 lead.

"There was a lot of pressure on him lately," Lindsey said of Meggitt, "and he really came through. That was a huge hit."

Ross pitcher Aaron Bates retired the first two Eagles routinely in the top of the seventh. Then Gabe Sanchez made a diving catch in cen-

ter field to end the game.

"That was an unbelievable catch," Lindsey said. "He saved a double, and they had their best hitter coming up next."

Bates pitched all seven innings for the win. He struck out four and yielded just four hits. His defense helped out, playing error-free ball.

"Aaron did a real nice job," Lindsey said. "That's a real good hitting team, and to hold them to four hits is real nice."

Dusty Shively was 2-for-4, Josh Lozano was 1-for-1 and Bates delivered a base hit in the sixth inning after persuading Lindsey to give him a chance at the plate.

Ross hosts Bowling Green today.



News-Messenger/Doug Hise

JOSH LOZANO of Ross dives safely back into first base during Monday's Great Lakes League game against Oregon Clay at Joe Lotycz Field.

Bobcats upend Little Giants, 5-4

Ross blows three-run lead

By **TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM**
Sports editor

On Monday, the Ross baseball team appeared to turn around a season of missed opportunities with a come-from-behind victory over Clay.

On Tuesday, the Little Giants regressed.

Bowling Green scored five runs in its final two at-bats to erase a three-run deficit and defeat Ross 5-4 at Joe Lotczyk Field.

The Bobcats (11-3) are the third winning team in less than a week to beat the Little Giants (3-10) with late-inning runs. Top-ranked Madison scored three times in the bottom of the seventh to beat Ross 4-3 on Thursday, and third-ranked Bryan completed a doubleheader sweep of the Giants by scoring a run in the bottom of the seventh for a 5-4 win on Saturday.

"We just battle everybody, but we're not making the plays at the time that we have to," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said.

Ross had the Bobcats on the ropes after five innings, leading 3-0 thanks to the pitching of Adam Garcia and

Sectional tourney pairings announced

The Ross softball team and St. Joseph Central Catholic baseball team each picked up a No. 2 seed Tuesday as pairings for area sectional tournaments were released.

Sectional tournament action begins Saturday at most sites.

See sectional pairings for all area teams, B2.

the power of Josh Lozano. Garcia held Bowling Green scoreless on three hits through five, and Lozano accounted for all of the runs with a three-run home run, his second of the season.

But BG erupted for four unearned runs off Garcia in the top of the sixth with the help of the Ross defense.

Spencer Schmitz and Tim Campisi reached on errors to open the inning, Nate Henschen walked and Drew Cheetwood followed with a two-run single. Mark Wolford sacrificed Henschen and Cheetwood into scoring position. Henschen later scored on a wild pitch, Cheetwood on a sacrifice fly by Tyler Dohoney.

See ROSS, B3

Ross loses lat

Continued from B1

Just like that, Ross trailed 4-3.

"I feel for Chuck because they actually were outplaying us," Bowling Green coach Mike Lanseer said. "The kid (Garcia) pitched very well. The inning before we scored, we hit the ball pretty well, but they caught the balls in the gap. Once we got a couple of guys on, we were able to do some things. Coach said they hadn't been fielding the ball well, and it kinda showed."

Ross rebounded to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth. Kyle Hintze singled with one out, stole second and scored on a single by Dusty Shively.

In the top of the seventh, Tony Aldrich relieved Garcia for Ross. He struck out the first batter, but the next four Bobcats reached base. Eric Curtiss singled, Schmitz was hit by a pitch and Campisi singled to right to load the bases. A bloop single by Henschen gave Bowling Green the lead for good.

Ross left the tying run on third in the bottom half of the seventh. Aaron Hines reached on an error by the BG right fielder and stole second and third. But Gabe Sanchez grounded to pitcher Nick Marten to end the game.

Marten went the distance for Bowling Green to pick up the victory. Aldrich was saddled with the loss.

Hintze and Shively led the six-hit Ross attack with two hits apiece.

Ross is at Bedford (Mich.) today.

Fliers slip past Margaretta 5-3

Bedford nips Ross;
Haas leads St. Joe

News-Messenger reports

CASTALIA — Mike Nieset pitched seven strong innings as Clyde beat Margaretta 5-3 in a Sandusky Bay Conference game.

Nieset fanned five and did not give up an earned run, as the Fliers remained atop the SBC at 11-4, 6-1.

Derek Schneider was 2-for-3 with two RBI. Jason Beard doubled, singled and drove in a run and Richie Funk tagged a solo home run for Clyde.

Clyde will host Port Clinton today in a make-up game.

St. Joe 12, Bettsville 8

Freshman Jimmy Haas homered twice and drove in eight runs as St. Joe outslugged Bettsville 12-8 in a Midland Athletic League game Wednesday at Conner Park.

Haas hit a two-run shot in the fourth and then highlighted a seven-run sixth inning with a grand slam for the Crimson Streaks (7-5, 5-1).

"He's really been playing well," SJCC coach Rick Barbour said of Haas. "He sure saved us tonight."

Brian Lenhart was 2-for-4 and Jake Burroughs doubled for SJCC, in support of winning pitcher Matt Gabel.

Nick Baker was 2-for-3 with a three-run home run that gave the Bobcats the lead in the sixth. Josh Schumm added a two-run homer and Eddie Sisco and Joe Kizer were both 2-for-4 for Bettsville. Jason Lee took the loss on the mound.

"We lucked out, they outplayed us," said Barbour. "But sometimes you have to get wins like that."

The Crimson Streaks will play Tiffin Calvert on Monday. The game against Port Clinton, scheduled for Saturday, has been canceled because the Redskins have a tournament game.

Bedford 2, Ross 1

BEDFORD — Fremont Ross suffered yet another close loss, dropping a 2-1 decision to Bedford in the Great Lakes League.

The Kicking Mules scored on a pinch-hit double in the bottom of the seventh to win the game. The Little Giants had tied it in the top of the sixth when Pete Goetz sin-

Baseball

gled and scored on an error.

Tony Aldrich pitched seven innings for Ross, allowing three hits and one earned run. He struck out four and fell to 1-2 on the year.

"Tony pitched very well," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey.

John Meggitt was 2-for-3, and Aaron Hines and Gabe Sanchez added doubles for Ross (3-11, 2-4).

Chuck Brown was the winning pitcher for Bedford, which improved to 2-4 in the GLL.

The Little Giants will travel to Fostoria today.

Elmwood 19, Gibsonburg 3
GIBSONBURG — Elmwood is ranked ninth in the state and Gibsonburg learned why Wednesday. The Royals pounded out 18 hits and handed the Golden Bears a 19-3 loss in the Suburban Lakes League.

Cory Kaemming was 3-for-3 with a double for the Golden Bears (8-6, 4-4). Kyle Blachuta was the winner for Elmwood.

Lake 13, Lakota 12
MILLBURY — Lakota rallied to tie the game with a nine-run seventh inning, but Lake scored one in the bottom of the inning for a 13-12 SLL win.

Fred Keith took the loss for Lakota. Steve Adams cracked a double for the Raiders (7-10, 2-6).

Eastwood 12, Woodmore 10
WOODVILLE — Eastwood collected 14 hits to overcome five errors and hand the Wildcats the Suburban Lakes League loss.

Jon Blechinger went 2-for-4 with a home run, two stolen bases and three RBI. Scott Harsanje doubled and singled and A.J. Schlea and Andrew Greenley both went 2-for-4 for Woodmore (7-9, 3-4 SLL).

Luke Speck went 4-for-4 and doubled for the Eagles.

Oak Harbor 7, Port Clinton 0
OAK HARBOR — Junior left-hander Tracy Gaines and Oak Harbor blanked Port Clinton for the second time this season on Wednesday, handing the visiting Redskins a 7-0 Sandusky Bay Conference loss.

Gaines (5-0) gave up two hits, walked three and struck out seven as the Rockets improved to 7-2 and 5-1 in the SBC.

Baseball

Myers pitches Ross to victory

News-Messenger reports

Kyle Myers pitched seven innings as Fremont Ross beat Fostoria 4-1 in the Great Lakes League Thursday.

Myers fanned six and walked none for the Little Giants (4-11, 3-4).

Aaron Hines was 3-for-3, Josh Lozano was 2-for-4, Nick Lance was 2-for-2 with two RBI and John Meggitt and T.J. Hammer added base hits for the Little Giants.

Ross opened the scoring with two

runs in the top of the first inning. The Little Giants added another run in the fifth and the fourth tally in the top of the seventh. Fostoria managed its only run in the bottom of the fifth.

The Little Giants will play Mansfield Senior at 3 p.m. Saturday in a Division I sectional semifinal at Mansfield's Arlin Field.

Wynford 11, Old Fort 5
OLD FORT — Six errors

proved costly for Old Fort, as the Stockaders dropped an 11-5 decision to Wynford in a non-league game.

Matt Hoke had three singles, Chad DeMonte had two hits and two RBI, and Nate Cleveland and Jason Stallard added two hits each.

Old Fort (5-9) will play Bettsville at 5 p.m. Monday in a sectional semifinal at Old Fort.

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Perkins scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to come from behind and beat Oak Harbor 5-3 in the Division II sectional final Tuesday at Perkins High School.

"We had an error to allow them to get their leadoff man on," Oak Harbor coach Tim Harbal said. "They got a couple of hits and got back in it. You can't quit on them because they keep coming at you."

Austin Fogle doubled and singled for Oak Harbor (7-6), which outhit the Pirates 7-6. Tracy Gaines took the loss.

Perkins advances to meet Bellevue in the district opener Tuesday at Perkins.

Ross 13, Whitmer 11

TOLEDO — Nick Lance had three hits and drove in four runs as the Little Giants won a Great Lakes League game in eight innings.

Baseball

Ross (5-1, 4-4 GLL) scored three times in the top of the eighth and held on behind the pitching of Kyle Myers, who picked up the victory.

T.J. Hammer went 3-for-5 with three RBI, Kyle Hintze went 3-for-4 and John Meggitt and Jerod Kingsborough had two hits apiece.

The Little Giants fell behind 5-0 after four innings but erupted for nine runs in the fifth. Whitmer responded with four runs in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game. Both teams scored a single run in the seventh.

Ross hosts Sandusky on Friday.

St. Joe 7, North Baltimore 1

NORTH BALTIMORE — A.J. O'Neal pitched a six-hitter and doubled as the Crimson Streaks improved to 8-5, 6-1 in the Midland Athletic League.

Giants topple Sandusky 5-1

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross used a four-run second inning in a 5-1 Great Lakes League win over Sandusky at Joe Lotycz Field on Monday.

Jeremy Fitzgerald's two-run single highlighted the big inning for the Little Giants (6-12). Josh Lozano added a solo home run in the third. Nick Lance, Pete Goetz and Gabe Sacher added singles for Ross.

Kyle Myers pitched seven innings, striking out five and walking one.

Chad Cotton took the loss for Sandusky (5-4).

Ross hosts Findlay on Monday.

Baseball

Funk hit two solo home runs, one in the second and another in the third — for Clyde (6-12). Krofton Montgomery added a three-run shot and Tomlinson added a two-run blast in the third. Fliers.

Brandon Bulkowski added a double for Clyde.

Lyle Brown pitched six innings of relief and did not give up an earned run. He fanned three and gave up two walks and two hits.

Oak Harbor
St. Mary's

OAK HARBOR — In

Findlay 5, Ross 1

Findlay scored four times in the top of the sixth and handed Fremont Ross a 5-1 Great Lakes League loss at Joe Lotycz Field.

Dustin Shively was 2-for-3 and Kyle Hintze, Aaron Hines, T.J. Hammer and Jeremy Fitzgerald added base hits for the Little Giants (6-13, 5-5).

Adam Bates took the loss on the mound.

Ross devours Kicking Mules in GLL

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross dominated Bedford from start to finish and crushed the Kicking Mules 11-1 in a five-inning Great Lakes League game at Joe Lotycz Field.

Josh Lozano was 3-for-4, with an RBI, Aaron Hines was 2-for-3 with an RBI, Nick Lance was 2-for-3 with three RBI, T.J. Hammer was 1-for-3 with three RBI, Dusty Shively was 2-for-3 with an RBI and Pete Goetz was 2-for-3 with an RB.

Kyle Myers improved to 5-0 in the

GLL. He threw five innings, striking out six and walking one.

St. Joe 11, Port Clinton 5

The Crimson Streaks scored five runs in the fourth inning and three in the fifth to break open a close non-conference game.

Winning pitcher Zack Sanchez went 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings and gave up five runs (two earned) on seven hits, with six strikeouts and four walks.

A.J. O'Neal doubled, singled and drove in three runs, while Sanchez

went 3-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBI and Pete Lewton was 2-for-2 for the Crimson Streaks (10-7).

Lakota 6, Otsego 5

TONTOGANY — John Sander was 2-for-4 for the Raiders and his third RBI was the game-winner in the top of the ninth.

Sander also homered in the win. Duncan Harman was the winning pitcher, as he pitched all nine innings, giving up two earned runs and struck out eight for the Raiders.

Clay drops Giants

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — A Clay grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning Wednesday eliminated Ross from the Great Lakes League baseball title chase.

The Little Giants, who finished the season at 7-14 and 6-6 in the GLL, led 7-2 after two innings but fell 11-7.

Baseball

Clay earned a tie for the GLL championship with Sandusky. Both teams had 7-5 league marks.

"We just didn't keep scoring," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey, whose team missed out on a title chance for the third year in a row.

Dustin Shively led the 10-hit Ross attack by going 3-for-4 with a double. T.J. Hammer went 2-for-4, including a two out single that scored two runs in the second inning. Nick Lance also had two hits and a double.

Kyle Myers gave up Branyan's home run and took the loss in relief of starter Aaron Bates. It was Myers's first loss in the GLL. He finished 5-1 in the league and 5-3 overall.

Ross center fielder Gabe Sanchez saved the game momentarily in the sixth inning when, with the bases loaded, he threw a runner out at the plate on a bloop single.

Lindsey praised the contributions of his seven seniors.

"I thought the leadership was outstanding," he said. "We might not have won many games, but I'm proud to have them on my team. The left a lot for the program to build on."