

FREMONT ROSS CLAIMS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

Fremont double trouble for Sandusky



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

GRANT BECKLEY of Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic looks at Sandusky St. Mary's third baseman Andy Koelsch seconds after

he had been tagged out. Koelsch took the throw from right-fielder Mike Will.

SJCC beats Panthers 7-6 in 8 innings for Class A crown

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

OLD FORT — Restitution. St. Joseph Central Catholic got a pleasant share of it in the Class A District Baseball Tournament Friday at Old Fort High School.

The Streaks advanced to the Sweet 16 of the state tournament with a 7-6 eight-inning victory over Sandusky St. Mary's. The win rectified St. Joe's eight-inning loss to Fostoria St. Wendelin in last year's district final.

St. Joe, 19-2, will play the winner of today's Warren district final between Ashtabula St. John and Middlefield Cardinal at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Barbeton Stadium. St. Joe last advanced to the Sweet 16 in 1979.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life," said St. Joe Coach Mike Gabel after receiving a congratulatory kiss from his wife.

But happiness wasn't complete until Scott Radde's bouncer through the right side of the infield scored pinch-runner Brian Cronin with the winning run.

St. Mary's tied the score on Mike Will's solo home run to right in the top of the seventh.

"It's a shame one of us had to lose," said St. Mary's Coach Ty Roth. "Either team would have represented this district well (in the regional)."

"We didn't give the game away. (The Streaks) hit the ball and they earned it."

Jim Moore got the win in relief of Jeff Blanton and Mike Laser took the loss in relief of Brian Thompson. Blanton lasted just 1½ innings and Thompson just 2½.

"I just tried to work my pitches and stay on the corners and it worked out," said Moore. "I kept them off balance with my curveball early, but I had to

Genoa wins AA title, B-3

mix in the fastball and when I did, the defense came through for me."

It was a fastball that Will hit for the game-tying homer.

"I just wanted to get the rest of the outs (after the home run)," said Moore. "Get the outs, get the run and get out of here."

St. Joe took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Jeff Overmyer reached base on second baseman Trot Roth's error, moved to second on a passed ball, went to third on a fielder's choice and score on a passed ball.

St. Mary's, 22-2, used the long ball to chase Blanton in the second inning.

After Matt York opened the inning with a single, Thompson homered to right and one out later Matt Michel hammered a solo home run to left. The Panth-

ers tallied another run when Roth singled, moved to third on a fielder's choice and a passed ball and scored on Mike Kelley's error.

St. Joe got untracked in the third inning, scoring four runs on six hits. Jeff Overmyer and Radde started the inning with first-pitch base hits, Overmyer a single and Radde a double. Grant Beckley then doubled home two runs and consecutive singles by Blanton, Tim Meek and Moore and a couple of outfield errors plated the final two runs.

"We just beat the heck out of the ball in the third inning," said Gabel. "We hit the ball against two good pitchers."

St. Joe extended its lead to 6-4 on Brad Young's fourth-inning home run.

St. Mary's made it 6-5 in the

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Little Giants knock off Blue Streaks

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross is headed to the Sweet 16 of the state baseball tournament for the first time since 1958.

The Little Giants defeated Sandusky 7-5 in the Class AAA district final Friday at Anderson Field. The game was continued from Thursday when rain halted play.

Ross, 15-6, will play Westerville North in the regional tournament at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Otterbein College. The Warriors defeated defending state champ Upper Arlington 5-1 Friday in the championship game of the Dublin lower district.

Craig Rane, who pitched Ross to victory over Wapakoneta in the district semifinals, had three hits including a two-run home run and a double and picked up the win in relief of Bob Hrynyciw.

"We were very fortunate because (Thursday) we weren't ready to play," said Ross Coach Dan Fought. "I don't think there was any way we would have won if we would have played the game in its entirety."

"The kids knew they were given new life today and made the most of it."

Ross fell behind 1-0 Thursday and trailed 3-1 after four innings Friday. The Little Giants, though, scored four runs in the fifth inning. Rane's homer followed a run-scoring ground out by John Mallia and an RBI-double by Aaron Meade.

"We played our style of game," said Fought. "Once we got ahead I felt confident because Sandusky hasn't had to come from behind much this season."

Although Hrynyciw retired the first two men he faced (the second and third outs of the third inning), he loaded the bases in the fourth and the call went to Rane.

"We wanted Bobby (Hrynyciw) to be able to finish," said Fought, "but when we saw him struggling in the fourth we didn't hesitate."

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Ross

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Bob Worley, 7-0, or senior K.C. Gillum, 11-0.

The Warriors, who defeated Beechcroft, Marion-Franklin, Westland and defending state champ Upper Arlington in the tournament, have a team batting average of .402 with a lineup that sometimes includes six left-handed batters. "The Warriors are supposed to be a fastball hitting team, and they won't see the fastball," said Fought. "We'll see how well they can hit the breaking stuff."

The Little Giants, who defeated Mansfield Madison, Norwalk, Wapakoneta and Sandusky along the tournament trail, are hitting .264 as a team. Rane leads the squad with a .373 average.

"Everything I've heard about Westerville North has been good," said Fought. "They can hit with you and they can pitch with you."

But the money is on the table and the last card has been dealt.

"I know the kids are going to be enthused and excited," Fought said. "There is no other way they could be in a game of this magnitude."

"It's a privilege to represent a district such as ours. We're trying to see if we can make the most of it."

The winner of Thursday's game will play the winner of Thursday's other semifinal between Columbus Watterson and Toledo St. Francis at 1 p.m. Saturday at either Otterbein College or the Lucas County Recreation Center in Maumee.