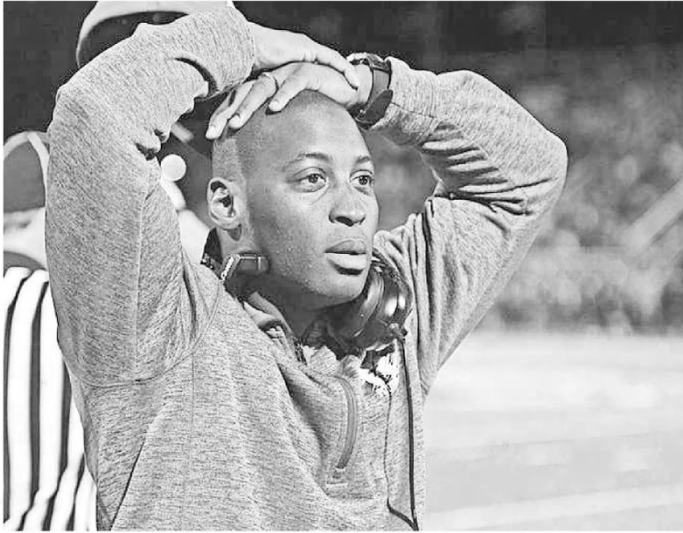


2016 Season Review...



N-M ARCHIVE

Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast reacts on the sideline during a game this season. Yeast told his team Wednesday afternoon he was resigning as coach of the Little Giants.

YEAST RESIGNS AS HEAD COACH

In first year at helm, he led the Little Giants to clinch their first postseason berth since 2010

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

FREMONT — Craig Yeast wasn't looking to leave his post as Fremont Ross football coach. But when a friend on the Franklin College coaching staff called and said the program needed an offensive coordinator, Yeast listened.

A month's worth of conversations culminated Tuesday when Yeast resigned as coach of the Little Giants and told his team of the decision in the Ross High School cafeteria Wednesday afternoon.

"It's not a job that I pursued or anything," Yeast said. "It wasn't something that I said 'Oh yeah' right away. It took a while. It took myself going there. It took my wife going up last week and looking at everything. Ultimately a decision was made after sitting down and speaking with my kids. My decision was made Monday morning."

Franklin College is a Division III program located in Franklin, Indiana, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis.

Yeast, who was hired in March of 2014 after serving as an assistant at Tiffin University, compiled an 11-10 overall record, including a playoff berth in 2014.

"It was very difficult," Yeast said. "I have a lot of respect for Chad (Berndt, athletic director) I have a lot of respect for Mrs. (Gracy Hinojosa-) Lloyd, who is our principal. I know how they've fought for me and I felt like I was letting them down. Then to come in here and look at those young men and tell them, that was pretty tough, too."

In his first season with Ross, Yeast led the Little Giants to five-straight wins to end the regular season to clinch the program's first postseason berth since 2010. Yeast's second year, however, the Little Giants regressed, going just 4-6 in a season marred by criticism from parents and fans unhappy with Yeast's loud coaching style and his playing his son, Russ, as quarterback to start the

season.

Despite those outside the program unhappy with the coach, Berndt maintained Ross' administration supported Yeast and his decision to leave was entirely his own.

"It was tumultuous, for both Craig and, I'm sure, for some members of the community in some regards, but I don't think anybody can deny when we hired Craig people were asking for discipline," Berndt said. "They wanted discipline restored within the program and I don't think anybody can say he didn't bring that to the table."

Yeast's players were sorry to see their coach go.

"I questioned it. I didn't believe it at first," junior quarterback Boston Swaisgood said. "Then I understood why, but I don't want him to leave. It was hard enough when (former coach Derek) Kidwell left and going through that but I think he's the best coach we've had."

Berndt said the school will form a committee to lead the search for Yeast's successor. While details of who would be on the committee are yet to be determined, he said it would include at least one student representative. He also said the committee will look at candidates both within and outside the program.

"In talking to Craig we've discussed some possible internal candidates, (defensive assistant coach) Chad Long being one of those, but I haven't had the opportunity to talk to Chad himself yet about the possibility," Berndt said. "But we will definitely be opening the search externally as well to see if there is anyone else out there that might have the qualifications and credentials that we're looking for."

Whoever is tabbed to be Yeast's replacement, Berndt said the coach will need to not only know how to coach football, but be able to do so in Fremont.

"The thing we're looking for is somebody that understands this community," Berndt said. "It's a

See YEAST, Page 7A

Yeast

Continued from Page 6A

very difficult community, possibly, to work in if you're not accepted or if you're not from here, I guess, sometimes it's hard to get a footing. So I think somebody who knows Fremont, knows the traditions of Fremont Ross football and is able to continue to instill the discipline that I think everybody desires."

Junior offensive lineman Nate Mayle said he hopes Yeast's successor possesses the same highly-intense, disciplined personality.

"(He needs to) definitely have high expectations," Mayle said. "We need another figure like coach Yeast, someone that's tough on us but he's going to be there to help us when we need it. He was a good coach, it's hard



N-M ARCHIVE

Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast speaks to Little Giant quarterback Boston Swaisgood last season.

to see him go."

Yeast said he hopes his years at Fremont Ross will be remembered as a positive era in the Little Giants' 120-year history.

"Hopefully they look at it and say I was a positive influence on the kids," Yeast said. "Hopefully I made a difference in some of the kids' lives. You can't

touch them all, but hopefully they view it as I was tough, because I am tough, but I was positive and hopefully the kids like me.

"I think, when it's all said and done, I hope that some of these kids feel like they can call and talk to me years down the road."

'IT'S THE BEST JOB IN NORTHWEST OHIO'



PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Chad Long, second from left, coaches wrestlers during practice Monday afternoon. Long will take the new position as football coach at Ross High School.

Clyde graduate Long hired as new Fremont Ross football coach

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

Certain future NFL Hall of Famer and Heisman Trophy-winner Charles Woodson, Rob Lytle and several members of the Liggins family played football at Fremont Ross.

The Little Giants, however, have never won a postseason game in program history.

Ross will continue to navigate in the uber-competitive Three Rivers Athletic Conference, but new coach Chad Long hopes to have an influence in making everything a team endeavor.

"It's the best job in northwest Ohio," said Long, who was approved Monday. "It's the biggest school with the most successful players to come out of a high school. Now, we need to stop developing individual players and focus on team success."

Long graduated from Clyde in 1997. He played on the state championship team in 1995 and the runner-up group in 1994. Long was a finalist with Craig Yeast before Yeast took the job two years ago.

"What you'll get is a level-headed, student-oriented coach who will hold students accountable and lift them up in a way that's important for our athletes," Ross athletics director Chad

Berndt said. "This is Chad's first opportunity to serve as the head coach."

"The passion is there and he's been longing for this. With his football background, his familiarity with Fremont and his knowledge of the game with Xs and Os — it was time for his opportunity," Long was defensive coordinator for Derek Kidwell and Yeast for one year each before serving in a part-time role with the defense last year after the arrival of Long's fourth child.

"It will be an easy transition," said Long, who has coached varsity wrestling at Ross the last two years.

"We have kids who have been in the system. They know what they're getting into defensively."

The Little Giants will continue to deploy a 3-4 defense with 4-3 sets mixed in.

The offense will depend on the staff, but Long will encourage balance with three of five starters returning along the line.

"Finding the play-caller will be the key moving forward," Long said.

Long was a four-year starter at safety and returned punts at Bowling Green State University. His last year for the Falcons was Urban Meyer's first, and Long's taken lessons from several coaches.

"Urban taught us a lot about the

game," Long said. "I learned a lot from (Kidwell and Yeast). How to treat kids and how to respond to the community."

Long would like to change the current football culture in Fremont.

"They've been beaten down at Fremont for a few years with parents and the community and coaches," Long said. "This town has been about individuals and creating individual players. Fremont has been known for one-player teams."

"The challenge for our staff is to create 11 players to satisfy the ultimate goal to win games."

This will be a rebuild to get the numbers and confidence back up to play with a swagger again. The challenge I set forth for my staff is for the community, the players and the parents to support us and be positive moving forward."

Long, who will insist on maximum effort, is anxious to start with himself.

"I am a players' coach," he said. "That's someone the kids respect and enjoy playing for. It's important for the entire school to have somebody there for them. This is a time for the kids to get out and enjoy themselves and show their skills."

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Ross

Continued from Page 35

Dontrez Brown will be in the mix along the defensive line for the Little Giants.

"He's a phenomenal kid," Long said. "He'll play on Fridays as a freshman. That doesn't happen. He has the motor and attitude to be a special player."

Seniors Jacob Schott, Nate Mayle and Alijah Fullburg, as well as juniors Mike Thomas and David Heidelberg, are linemen for Ross. Seniors Trevon Alridge, Austin Busold and Keiler Foster, along with junior Remey Bulger, will carry the football.

"Our line averages 260," Long said. "It starts up front. A good offensive line makes it easier on the sophomore quarterback and running backs trying to step up in place of (Tyler) Grine."

Grine is out following knee surgery, but he is progressing in his recovery. It's not out of the question the Little Giants' top returning rusher will return to the field.

"He's a game-changer," Long said. "He's the spirit leader on this team. Nobody has more experience. It's sad he's missing out early in his senior year, but he's working his butt off to get back. To get him on the field would be special."

Seniors Taylor Drukenmiller and Boston Swaisgood; juniors Roger Burling, Chrystjan Mancini and Shawn Newsome; and senior burner Jaylen Spencer are the receivers. Drukenmiller played freshman football and didn't participate the next two years, focusing on basketball, and Newsome is a mismatch waiting to happen at tight end.

"He's a dynamic player who will make plays," Long said.

Swaisgood has demonstrated impressive leadership by handling a position switch in an unselfish fashion.

"He was the starting quarterback," Long said. "We



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER
Fremont Ross head football coach Chad Long.

asked him to change roles. He's a phenomenal athlete who can catch a lot of passes, and he's doing what's best for the team."

Mayle, Schott, Thomas and Newsome are defensive linemen. Busold and Bulger, and juniors Ben Rozzell and Andrew Edmonds, are linebackers.

"I feel really good with our front seven," Long said. "They didn't start, but they played a lot. In a 3-4 defense, we'll be aggressive, and youth in the secondary will get better as the year goes on."

As always, the Three Rivers Athletic Conference will be a tough league. Long, therefore, keeps the focus basic.

"We talk about staying healthy," he said. "At any point, anybody can be starting. If we don't work hard, we'll be at the bottom of the conference. There's no easy games, and you have to be ready mentally and physically."

"We need to get better every day. My goal is simple: Win and have fun. That's something that's been lost here the last few years — fun. I want to make these guys great athletes and better men. One thing about this staff: We have enthusiasm."

Long wants Ross to fly under the radar. The Little Giants won four games last season.

"We're moving in silence," he said. "We just want to get the job done. That's a goal as a staff and for the

players. People have forgotten us, but we'll show up and pop you in the mouth."

"There are no expectations. It's not clippings about how great we are as a team or individuals. We're all average Joes trying to win and make the school proud."

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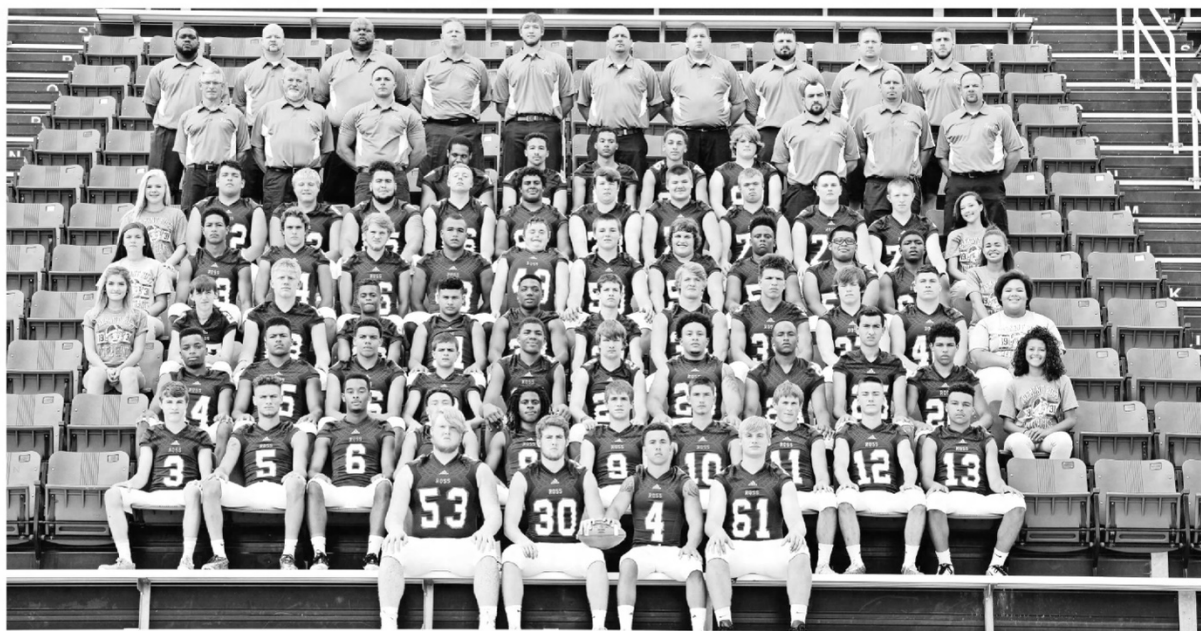
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FREMONT ROSS

New head coach sees bright future for team



Ross football

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Matthew Horn

Reporter

The roster at Fremont Ross will be infused with young talent in Chad Long's first season as head coach, led by sophomore Hayden Lehmann at quarterback.

"He studies the game," Long said of Lehmann. "He loves football and has a passion for football. He has all the intangibles. He gets better every day. His reads are good and he sure can run the ball."

"His progress has been great. He's itching to learn. He's going to be good. The future is bright there."

Lehmann is 6-foot-1, 178 pounds. He has long legs and long arms but already looks sturdy.

"It was kind of a shock, but I put my mind to it and it happened," Lehmann said of starting this season. "It was my

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26, Fremont at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Sept. 2, Southview at Fremont, 7 p.m.
Sept. 9, Fremont at Sandusky, 7 p.m.
Sept. 16, St. John's Jesuit at Fremont, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23, Lima Senior at Fremont, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30, Fremont at Central Catholic, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7, Whitmer at Fremont, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14, Fremont at Clay, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21, Fremont at St. Francis deSales, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28, Findlay at Fremont, 7 p.m.

goal. I'm trying to go big as a sophomore starter. That hasn't happened here in a long time.

"I'm happy I'm starting, but there's room to improve. I'll make mistakes, but they're telling me not to let my head go down. It has to be good energy."



Ross senior captains: from left, offensive and defensive lines, Jacob Schott; running and defensive backs, Tyler Grine and Nate Mayle; and running back and linebacker Austin Busold.

See ROSS, Page 45

'WET CHICKEN' IS BACK

Swaigood returns at QB

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

FREMONT - Catching a chicken is no easy pursuit.

A wet chicken, presumably, is even more difficult to stop. That's a good thing for Fremont Ross.

Sophomore quarterback Hayden Lehmann was set to begin the season as the starter, but he has two fractures in his foot. Senior Boston Swaisgood, who helped the Little Giants earn two victories in their final four games at quarterback last year, will be back behind center when Ross opens the season Friday at Springfield.

"He's a wet chicken," first-year Ross head coach Chad Long said. "He's slippery and fast."

Swaigood completed 18 of 32 passes for 161 yards in a loss to Whitmer in his

first start last season. He rushed for one score and threw a touchdown pass.

"He gave them fits," Long said. "The experience in those games will pay dividends entering the season. The speed of the game in our conference — with our conference and the athletes who come through — he performed at a pretty high level and was productive."

"The strength of the schedule mentally prepared him. This isn't a typical backup."

The Little Giants beat Clay in Week 8 and Toledo St. Francis DeSales the following game.

"When I got my chance, I was ready to show I could do it," said Swaisgood, who played quarterback in three games last season before his first start. "I've learned a lot. I'm seeing the field differently. It's helped me at the position."

Swaigood had been preparing to be an elusive receiver for Ross this year.

See QB, Page 7A



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Boston Swaisgood, right, started the final four games at quarterback for Ross last season.

QB

Continued from Page 6A

Withstanding the switch to Swaisgood is much less daunting to the Little Giants than the loss of running back Tyler Grine, who is recovering after knee surgery.

Lehmann earned the job because of his ability to identify the right decision. Swaisgood, however, might be more dangerous when a play breaks down.

"Boston knows the offense," Long said. "We can do anything with Boston same as we do with Hayden. Both are running quarterbacks who can throw. Losing Tyler was detrimental with his break-away speed. At quarterback, we have a kid with true experience, and he knows what to expect."

It hasn't been an easy offseason for Swaisgood mentally. He went from quarterback to receiver without complaining about the scenario. He returns to quarterback understanding the responsibilities on his shoulders.

"They believe in me," Swaisgood said. "They know what we can do. We'll continue to grow. I want to put the team in position to win and limit my mistakes. Trust my offen-

sive line.

"I love making plays and cheering on the team with everybody behind you. Putting receivers in the best positions to make plays."

Lehmann will have to learn his lessons as a spectator for at least a month.

"Pay attention," Long said of his message. "You're injured. You're out. Watch as we go. He studies the game with a passion. We'll keep him involved as much as possible next to Coach (Ryan) Ottney and motivate him. He sees it. He'll be all right."

"He's almost like a coach right now. He'll see things develop. We're staying positive. He's a sophomore. He has life left and a bright future with plenty of games left."

Long knows adversity is part of the equation with football.

"The biggest thing the coaches stressed with the offseason workouts was: 'Look around,' " he said. "You never know what can happen. They don't fear change. They've accepted it."

"Our seniors are awesome, and we haven't missed a beat with Tyler and Hayden out. It's next man up and a new opportunity for a kid to show what he's done to earn playing time."

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MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MSG

Ross' Trevon Alridge scores a touchdown in the first half of the game against Springfield on Friday night.

ROSS BATTLES, BUT FALLS TO SPRINGFIELD

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

HOLLAND - Fremont Ross forced two turnovers and scored 14 points within 1 minute, 33 seconds in the third quarter Friday but fell 51-32 to Springfield to open the season.

The Little Giants' Shawn Newsome collected a fumble and raced 45 yards for a touchdown before Jerardo Eckford intercepted a pass tipped at the line by Ben Rozzell two plays later. Boston Swaisgood connected with Roger Burling for a 22-yard touchdown to cap the ensuing possession and tie the game at 32-32 with 1:33 left in the third quarter.

"When I scoop it up I want to change the game for the team," Newsome said. "We scored a defensive touchdown. That's hard to do. The motivation is to not put your head down (going forward)."

"It pushes me to do better."

Newsome also recovered a fumble in the first quarter.

"He's always around the ball," Long said. "That kid makes plays. We preach to swarm around the ball."

Kentucky commit Bryant Koback rushed for 304 yards and three touchdowns for Springfield. He added a kick-off return for a score in the first quarter.

"They gave the ball to (Koback) and let him run," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "They had some big plays -

their first three touchdowns and the kickoff return. They want the ball in (Koback's) hands as many times as they can.

"We just have to tackle better."

Swaisgood opened the scoring with 44-yard touchdown run. Ross led 14-13 after Trevon Alridge's 5-yard touchdown run. Alridge rushed for 115 yards.

Michael Contreras made a 38-yard field goal for a 25-17 deficit late in the first half. Springfield's AJ Gucciardo, however, tossed his fourth scoring pass of the game for a 32-17 advantage early in the third quarter.

"We had a lot of momentum," Long said. "They made some exceptional plays. It wasn't broken coverage. We have a lot of first-year starters. Our effort was there. We can't have flaws on special teams."

Springfield scored the final 19 points on touchdowns from Koback. Ross was stopped on fourth-and-2 with the score tied 32-32 early in the fourth after Nate Mayle helped force a punt.

"The momentum kept switching back and forth," Long said. "That was a momentum switcher to their side. The scored three touchdowns in like three minutes. That's youth making a couple little mistakes."

"We don't know how to get over the hump yet when adversity occurs. It takes time."

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QB

Continued from Page 6A

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Springfield (Holland) 51, Ross 32

Ross	14	3	15	0	—	32
Springfield (Holland)	19	6	7	19	—	51

First quarter

Fremont Ross: Boston Swaisgood 44 run (Michael Contreras kick), 9:46

Springfield: Bryant Koback 84 kickoff return (blocked), 9:34

Springfield: AJ Gucciardo 67 pass to Lamar Witcher (kick), 6:24

Ross: Trevon Alridge 5 run (kick), 1:27

Springfield: Gucciardo 11 pass to Nate Stuckey (conversion stopped), :38

Second quarter

Springfield: Gucciardo 31 pass to LaKeith Jackson, 7:18

Ross: Contreras 38 field goal, 2:25

Third quarter

Springfield: Gucciardo 7 pass to Witcher (conversion pass broken up), 11:32

Ross: Shawn Newsome 45 fumble return (kick), 3:06

Ross: Swaisgood 22 pass to Roger Burling (successful conversion), 1:33

Fourth quarter

Springfield: Koback 9 run (kick), 6:15

Springfield: Koback 5 run (failed), 4:16

Springfield: Koback 10 run (failed), 1:26

	R	S
Passing	87	151
Comp-Att-Int	4-10-1	8-13-1

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 13-55, Trevon Alridge 28-115.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 4-10--87.



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Trevon Alridge breaks free off right tackle to score against Sylvania Southview at the 11:03 mark of the first quarter.

GROUND GAME GETS LONG FIRST WIN AT ROSS

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross senior Trevon Alridge said he didn't have that great of a first half. The running back ran the ball 10 times for 65 yards and a touchdown. What caught his eye was his fumble into the endzone that would've put the Little Giants up by three touchdowns on visiting Sylvania Southview.

The adjustments at halftime by Alridge and coach Chad Long were efficient.

Alridge exploded for 165 yards on 11 carries in the second half as Ross ran away from the Cougars, 35-7, in non-league action on Friday night at Don Paul Stadium.

"I had a tough first half but I bounced back," said Alridge. "My coaches and teammates had confidence in me and that's a good thing to have."

In total, Alridge ran 21 times for 230 yards as the Little Giants (1-1) rolled up 350 yards on 46 rushes.

"I thought our offensive line pushed and made holes all night for our running backs," said Long. "It didn't matter who we put in there. They were running the ball and getting five or six yards each time."

After a 87-yard kickoff return by Taylor Druckenmiller to start the game, it took Alridge just two plays to cover the 11 yards. His 9-yard run, coupled with

See ROSS, Page 3B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

Michael Contreras' extra point put Ross up 7-0 just 57 seconds into the game.

Jerardo Eckford intercepted Southview quarterback Brayton Schmidt on the next possession, again giving the Little Giants great field position. Alridge and quarterback Boston Swaisgood combined for four rushes for the 32 yards needed for another touchdown. Swaisgood started the drive with a 16-yard run and finished it with a 9-yard touchdown run for a 14-0 lead.

"The offensive line did a tremendous job tonight," Alridge said. "They're the best offensive line in (our conference). They did a great job tonight for everyone."

Austin Busold recovered a fumble by the Cougars (0-2) on the next drive and Ross again drove deep into Southview territory before turning the ball on downs. After a punt and another great return, it took the Little Giants five rushes before they scored. Busold rumbled in from a yard out and Ross led, 21-0, with 27 seconds left in the first quarter.

"It starts with the guys up front and I'm sure Tre would be the first to say that as well," Long said. "Tre is a great player and he's paid his dues, waiting patiently to be at the running back spot. With an injury to Tyler Grine, Tre stepped up in and that's what we can get every week is new kids stepping in and making plays. Our philosophy is always next man up."

Southview got in the scoring column early in the second quarter. After a holding penalty brought up 1st-and-23 for the Cougars, tailback Gage Stoler broke through the right side and was off to the races for an 83-yard touchdown, cutting the Ross lead to 21-7.

Ross would get butter fingers on each of their next three offensive possessions. They fumbled at the Southview 34-yard line first, then Alridge fumbled into the endzone after a 22-yard run by Swaisgood set up the Little Giants at the 1-yard line. Later, Ross fumbled the ball away

inside the 25-yard line of the Cougars but maintained a 21-7 lead at halftime.

"We can't complain as coaches about the turnovers because the kids were fighting to get extra yards," Long said. "That's something we had to talk to the kids about at halftime - to get what they could and don't overdo it."

Southview punted out of halftime and Ross took over at its own 8-yard line. The Little Giants picked up chunks of yards at a time. Alridge sprinted off 16- and 30-yard pickups on the drive. After nine straight rushes, Swaisgood found Druckenmiller in the endzone for a 11-yard touchdown and a 28-7 lead.

"We didn't panic at halftime and the kids didn't panic," Long said. "We had a great game plan on both sides of the ball and I thought we executed it. If you take that one play away, they didn't really get anything else on us."

After another Cougars punt that just trickled into the endzone for a touch back, Alridge juke and jived his way for 50 yards before Busold got the Ross in scoring position with a 24-yard jaunt. Busold finished it off one play later from six yards out for a 35-7 advantage.

"We were very happy with our performance in the first half but it was better in the second half," said Long.

The Ross defense allowed just 263 yards, holding Schmidt to just 8-of-18 completions for 106 yards. Taking away the 83-yard rushing touchdown, Stoler tallied 21 rushes for 55 yards.

"Offensively, they put more kids in the box which opened our pass game up," Long said. "We'll take what the defense gives us on offense and execute it that way. There were some adjustments we made but overall, it wasn't a whole lot."

Swaisgood ran the ball 10 times for 73 yards while Busold had eight carries for 73 yards. Ross turns its attention to long-time rival, Sandusky, on the road next Friday.

"We're excited to come out of here with a victory," Long said. "We're 1-1 and we're playing Sandusky, who is 2-0. It's a rivalry game. We just have to keep our emotions in check and be ready to play hard, smash football."

Ross 35, Sylvania Southview 7

Sylvania Southview	0	7	0	0	—	7
Ross	21	0	14	0	—	35

First quarter

FR - Trevon Alridge 9 run (Michael Contreras kick), 11:03

FR - Boston Swaisgood 9 run (Contreras kick), 8:03

FR - Austin Busold 1 run (Contreras kick), 0:27

Second quarter

SS - Gage Stoler 83 run (Keenan Parsons kick), 10:31

Third quarter

FR - Taylor Druckenmiller 11 pass from Swaisgood (Contreras kick), 5:35

FR - Busold 6 run (Contreras kick), 1:38

	S	R
First downs	9	22
Total Net Yards	263	389
Rushes-Yards	32-157	46-350
Passing	106	39
Comp-Att-Int	8-18-1	3-8-0
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	5-1	3-3
Penalties-Yards	5-40	7-60

Individual statistics

Rushing — Sylvania Southview, Gage Stoler 22-138, Brayton Schmidt 9-19, Trevor Kruszynski 1-0. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 10-73, Austin Busold 8-73, Trevon Alridge 31-230, Remey Bulger 4-32, Kieler Foster 3-15.

Passing — Sylvania Southview, Brayton Schmidt 8-18-1-106. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 3-8-0-39.

Receiving — Sylvania Southview, Zech Miller 3-44, Devan Singleton 3-12, Colin Waldie 1-17. Ross, Roger Burling 1-17, Noah Hotz 1-11, Taylor Druckenmiller 1-11.

SANDUSKY 40, FREMONT ROSS 8

ROSS CAN'T STOP SANDUSKY



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Taylor Druckenmiller looks for yardage against the Sandusky defense.

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

SANDUSKY - Fremont Ross got the defensive stop it wanted to start the game. Then, the Little Giants marched down into Sandusky territory after picking up three first downs. Then, nothing could go right against the Blue Streaks.

Sandusky junior quarterback Javez Alexander scored on the ensuing possession and the lopsided game was on.

The Blue Streaks added two touchdowns and a safety in a 2 minute, 51 second span as they routed Fremont Ross, 40-8, in non-league rivalry action Friday at Strobel Field at Cedar Point Stadium.

The win snaps a six-game winning streak Ross had in the second oldest rivalry in all of Ohio. The Little Giants had won nine of the previous ten meetings while Sandusky now holds an all-time edge in the series, 54-49-8.

"Give credit to Sandusky. They beat us up on both sides of the line," said Ross coach Chad Long. "Give credit to them. They were well prepared and came out to play very well. They got a lot of pressure on (Ross quarterback) Boston (Swaigood). Boston scrambled a lot when we had to get out of the pocket. He just didn't hit the receivers down field."

The Ross (1-2) offense struggled all night, tallying just 117 yards of offense. Swaisgood was pressured relentlessly and running back Trevon Alridge was held to 10 yards on seven carries - one week after chopping up the Sylvania Southview defense to the tune of 230 yards.

"Trevon is a little banged up," said Long. "He's dealing with a hamstring injury now and we just cut him out as far as playing. We didn't want to jeopardize him. We have a long season ahead."

After Ross drove into Sandusky territory, the Little Giants opted to go for it on 4th-and-5 at the Sandusky 45-yard line to no avail. After a short run, Alexander sprinted 51 yards after a cut for the opening score of the game.

"No, I don't regret it," said Long of opting to go for it near midfield rather than punting. "We were just trying to be aggressive to continue to drove to try and get some momentum. We had no mo-



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross lineman Jacob Schott scoops up a fumble during second quarter action against Sandusky.

mentum the entire night. Hats off to the Sandusky coaching staff and players. They had us in trouble and scrambling all night."

Later, a punt by the Blue Streaks (3-0) pinned the Ross offense inside of its own 1-yard line. An incomplete pass and short rush by Swaisgood did little to help the deep field position. Swaisgood was sacked on the next play in the endzone as Sandusky went up 9-0.

A long return on a short free kick set up Sandusky with good position. Alexander went 41 yards this time on second down for a 16-0 lead.

On the second play of the second quarter, Ross fumbled the ball away and it was recovered by Quay Brown - who also sacked Swaisgood for the safety. Three plays later, Alexander hit Nathan Delk in stride for a 28-yard touchdown with 10:16 left in the second quarter.

"He's an exceptional quarterback," said Long of Alexander. "Tonight, he killed us passing and on his feet. That's the intangibles the kid has and this is his

See ROSS, Page 2B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

third year starting and he's only a junior. I can't imagine how much better he'll be next year. He's a special player."

Sandusky added a 28-yard touchdown from Alexander to Malachi Campbell as the Ross offense continued to sputter. Alridge was hampered by an injury and

didn't play in the second half as the Blue Streaks took a 30-0 lead into intermission.

Ross came out to open the second half and drove deep into Sandusky territory before fumbling the ball away for a second time. This time, Eian Sherman went 97 yards on first down to the end zone and a 37-0 lead.

The Little Giants scored their only touchdown when Shawn Newsome scooped up a fumble by Alexander on the

first play of the fourth quarter and returned it 57 yards for the score. Swaisgood ran in the two-point conversion to stop the running clock but a 29-yard field goal by Sandusky made it 40-8 and a long bus ride home for Ross.

"We're playing with a lot of kids playing with heart (and) not the best ability out there," Long said. "We have so many kids injured for the season... it's been a rough beginning of the year."

Sandusky 40, Ross 8

Ross	0	0	0	8	—	8
Sandusky	16	14	7	3	—	40

First quarter

S - Javez Alexander 51 run (Max Corso kick), 5:27

S - Safety, 1:06

S - Alexander 41 run (Corso kick), 0:14

Second quarter

S - Nathan Delk 28 pass from Alexander (Corso kick), 10:16

S - Malachi Campbell 28 pass from Alexander (Corso kick), 0:14

Third quarter

S - Eian Sherman 97 run (Corso kick), 7:54

Fourth quarter

FR - Shawn Newsome 57 fumble recover (Boston Swaisgood run good), 10:54

S - Cross 29 field goal, 5:14

	R	S
First downs	8	14
Total Net Yards	105	405
Rushes-Yards	30-89	33-304
Passing	16	101
Comp-Att-Int	3-13-1	5-10-0
Punts-Average	5-40.4	3-40.6
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-2
Penalties-Yards	6-65	3-20

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Roger Burling 1-3, Taylor Druckenmiller 4-30, Boston Swaisgood 8-3, Austin Busold 8-38, Trevon Alridge 7-11, Charles Chapman 1-2, Remey Bulger 1-2. Sandusky, Javez Alexander 13-149, Eian Sherman 10-159, Tarrance Reed 8-12, Tyron Pickens 1-3.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 3-13-1-16. Sandusky, Javez Alexander 5-10-0-99.

Receiving — Ross, Noah Hotz 1-7, Shawn Newsome 1-1, Kieler Foster 1-10. Sandusky, Caven Croom 2-36, Malachi Campbell 8-12, Nathan Delk 1-28, Keith Williams 1-7.

ROSS 38, ST. JOHN'S 29

Swaisgood stars for Ross in win

CORY CASTELAN

FREMONT - Fremont Ross head coach Chad Long said senior quarterback Boston Swaisgood had something to prove.

And prove something to everyone he did. Swaisgood led the Little Giants to a 38-29 win over St. John's Jesuit High School.

Ross came out swinging early versus St. John's. Helped in part by some timely SJJ defensive penalties, Ross was able to score on its first possession of the game.

Led by Swaisgood, the Little Giants marched down the field with a balanced run/pass attack, capped by a 1-yard touchdown run from senior halfback Trevor Alridge from a yard out.

Not to be outdone, the St. John's Titans matched the Ross score with an opening drive touchdown of their own. The Titans were able to overcome two fumbles on the drive, recovering both, to eventually punch it in from the 1 by St. John's senior Tyler Turner, knotting up the score at 7-7 with 2:17 left in the first.

On the following possession SJJ briefly took the lead when defensive back Tycent Anderson intercepted Swaisgood and returned the interception for a score. The play was brought back by penalty and the Little Giants were able to capitalize with a field goal after being unable to convert on third down from within their own 5 yard line.

Ross was able to overcome two fourth downs during the drive but had to settle for a short field goal, taking a 10-7 lead with 9:30 left in the first half.

After a short kickoff from the home team that gave the Titans good starting field position, senior quarterback Jakob Zigulis found wide receiver Joe Fretti from 32 yards out for the touchdown and the 13-10 lead with 8:09 remaining in the second quarter.

That proved to be SJJ's only lead of the game as Swaisgood took over from there. Fremont's signal caller was able to make plays through the air and with his feet to lead Ross's offense to a number of big plays.

"Tonight we were able to spread out the field, utilize his legs and then create some passes with what he can do," Long said of Swaisgood's offensive outbursts.

After a Ross punt, SJJ was moving the ball when the Little Giants forced and recovered a Titans' fumble. Two plays later on second-and-10 Swaisgood found Taylor Druckenmiller off of play action for a 27-yard touchdown score.

"Defensive takeaways; I give all the

See ROSS, Page 2B



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Boston Swaisgood breaks free from SJJ's Joe Fretti, in second quarter action.

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

credit to the kids, they stayed focused," Long said.

Both teams traded interceptions before Swaisgood took a knee to go into half with a 17-13 Little Giants lead.

But the home team wasted no time finding the end zone to start the second half; as Turner was met in the back field after the handoff and coughed up the ball to junior Shawn Newsome, who returned the fumble for a score pushing the lead 24-13 with just 10 seconds gone by in the third.

After a Little Giants turnover on downs the Titans cut the score to 24-21 with a quick rushing touchdown and two point conversion.

Ross never flinched as it put the ball back in the hands of Swaisgood and let him make plays. With the offense stalling around midfield, Swaisgood hit receiver Noah Hotz and convert a big third down. Three plays later, Swaisgood ran it in



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Taylor Druckenmiller pulls in the touchdown catch in second quarter action against Toledo St. John's Jesuit.

himself to extend the lead to 10 midway through the third quarter.

"This week we worried about Fremont Football we didn't worry about St. Johns. We had to work on ourselves first in order to open it up," Long said, speaking about his team's ability to overcome the diversity.

Swaisgood hit another

big pass down the seam late in the game that led to another touchdown pass for the senior quarterback.

St. John's rushed in a score from inside the 5-yard line late in the game to cut the lead to 38-29 but a failed onside kick stopped any hope for a comeback, as the ball went back into the hands of the Giants offense.

Ross 38, St. John's Jesuit 29

St. John's Jesuit	7	6	8	8	—	29
Ross	7	10	14	7	—	38

	S	R
First downs	20	18
Total Net Yards	261	318
Rushes-Yards	43-138	35-123
Passing	123	195
Comp-Att-Int	19-10-2	20-9-1
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-45	6-60

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 25-116.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 9-20-1-195.

Receiving — Ross, Noah Hotz 1-45, Taylor Druckenmiller 3-98.

LIMA SENIOR 33,
FREMONT ROSS 14

Spartans run away from Ross in fourth

BY JOSH MORCRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross was facing third-and-4 from its own 42-yard line when quarterback Boston Swaisgood took the snap and attempted to pick up the yards needed for a first down.

Unfortunately for Ross, he was nudged in the backfield and fell short of the first down, forcing the Little Giants to punt.

It took Lima Senior just three plays to capitalize on the small miscue and what seemed like a miniscule mistake opened the floodgates for the Spartans.

Lima Senior scored three touchdowns in 3:32 — all off of errors by the Little Giants in picking up a 33-14 win on Friday in Three Rivers Athletic Conference play at Don Paul Stadium.

"We just played sloppy, really sloppy tonight," Ross coach Chad Long said. "It wasn't Fremont football that we played tonight. We didn't execute when we needed to. We had opportunities out there and we had some good drives and they stalled out. Hats off to Lima for making those stops when they needed to."

Jaden Walker scored on a 36-yard rushing touchdown for Lima Senior (3-2 overall, 1-1 TRAC) after the Ross punt. The two-point conversion try was no good but the Spartans led, 19-7.

The Little Giants (2-3, 1-1) were forced to punt again but this time it was blocked and returned inside the 20-yard line. It was 20 yards that a pass from Adrine Mitchell to Jaleel King covered for a touchdown and a 26-7 lead for Lima Senior with 8:19 left in the game.

Ross moved quicker on its next possession with a three-score deficit but with the ball at the Spartans' 25-yard line, Swaisgood was sacked and fumbled. Tyree Mays scooped the ball and rumbled 61 yards for the touchdown to send even more fans scrambling to the

See ROSS, Page 2B



DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Boston Swaisgood looks for running room against Lima Senior's Cordell McDonald.

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

exits. The extra point was good and Lima Senior led, 33-7.

"We've been good in the fourth quarter. Our thing has been getting started," Spartans' coach Andre Griffin said. "The kids played good but it just takes us a while to get warmed up unfortunately. We had to keep fighting until the end."

The Little Giants scored on their next possession. Swaisgood connected with Shawn Newsome for a 35-yard pass and Trevon Alridge burst through the line and picked up 31 yards. Alridge scored from a yard out to cut the lead to 33-14 with 4:23 left. It was too little, too late for Ross, who looked to start 2-0 in TRAC play for the first time ever.

"I don't think the score really shows how close the game really was," Long said. "You can't have a blocked punt and we can't fumble the ball so they scoop and score. You take away 14 points and we have a bit of a ballgame. Hats off to Lima but we didn't come ready to play and we left too many points out there that we wish we would've had."

The Little Giants controlled the first quarter. The game's opening kickoff by Ross drilled directly into a Lima Senior defender and was recovered by the Little Giants. They drove inside the Spartans' 10-yard line before turning the ball over on downs.

Lima Senior was forced to punt on the ensuing possession and the short punt gave Ross great field position again. This time, the Little Giants took advantage. Two runs by Swaisgood covered 29 yards to the Lima Senior 16-yard line. Two plays later, Alridge scored a seven-yard touchdown and Ross led, 7-0, with 2:12 left in the first quarter.

The Spartans tied the game early in the second quarter with an eight-play,

60-yard drive. Walker covered the final four yards with 10:47 left in the second quarter to knot the game at 7.

Lima Senior took the lead for good after an odd series of events near the end of the second quarter. At its own 33-yard line, Ross threw a lateral that the Spartans recovered and returned inside the 20-yard line. The officials convened and ruled that there was an inadvertent whistle and the play would not stand.

Ross eventually punted but Lima Senior took advantage. Mitchell connected with Keaton Upshaw for a 31-yard pass to start the drive and three plays later, Mitchell found a streaking King for a 40-yard touchdown with 1:32 left in the second quarter. The extra point was no good but the Spartans led, 13-7, at halftime — a score that would remain into the fourth quarter.

"I thought defensively we played well, given many of the situations," Long said. "That was one of the big plays that made on us and I think throughout the game, they had to earn everything they got."

After Ross held Lima Senior to 18 yards rushing in the first half on 16 carries, the Spartans ran the ball 15 times for 112 yards in the second half. Walker finished with 13 rushes for 94 yards.

"That running back is one of the best running backs in the conference," Long said of Walker. "He's probably the second best behind (Toledo Central Catholic senior Michael) Warren. He's the fastest kid in the conference and we were able to bottle him up a little bit. But, we had a lot of missed tackles and we got a little sloppy at the end."

Swaisgood finished by completing 16-of-28 passes for 229 yards while running 18 times for 80 yards. Alridge rushed 24 times for 121 yards. Ross outgained the Spartans, 446-300.

The schedule doesn't get any easier with a trip to Toledo Central Catholic (4-1, 2-0) — the defending Division III state championship runners-up — next week.

Lima 33, Ross 14

Lima	0	13	0	20	—	33
Ross	7	0	0	7	—	14

First quarter

FR - Trevon Alridge 7 run (Michael Contreras kick good), 2:12

Second quarter

LS - Jaden Walker 4 run (Cole Mericle kick good), 10:47

LS - Jaleel King 40 pass from Adrine Mitchell (Mericle kick no good), 1:32

Fourth quarter

LS - Walker 36 run (pass no good), 10:16

LS - King 20 pass from Mitchell (Mericle kick good), 8:16

LS - Tyree Mays 61 fumble recovery (Mericle kick good), 6:44

FR - Alridge 1 run (Contreras kick good), 4:23

	L	R
First downs	14	25
Total Net Yards	297	433
Rushes-Yards	32-127	47-204
Passing	170	229
Comp-Att-Int	8-11-1	15-28-0
Punts-Average	3-26	4-20.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	4-25	2-20

Individual statistics

Rushing — Lima, Jaden Walker 13-94, Xavier Nichols 4-24, Adrian Mitchell 14-12. Ross, Taylor Druckenmiller 1-0, Boston Swaisgood 19-65, Trevon Alridge 24-123, Charles Chapman 2-11, Shawn Newsome 1-5.

Passing — Lima, Adrian Mitchell 8-11-0-170. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 15-27-0-229, Shawn Newsome 0-1-0-0.

Receiving — Lima, Jaden Walker 1-4, Jaleel King 5-114, Keaton Upshaw 2-52. Ross, Roger Burling 2-6, Taylor Druckenmiller 2-16, Charles Chapman 2-29, Shawn Newsome 7-132.

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC 35, FREMONT ROSS 18

Little Giants can't capitalize on turnovers

MATTHEW HORN

REPORTER

Austin Busold returned a fumble inside the 10-yard line and Shawn Newsome blocked a punt Friday but Fremont Ross fell 35-18 to No. 2-ranked Toledo Central Catholic in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"Central Catholic is very good," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "They dominated up front and we missed

tackles on defense."

Dontrez Brown also recovered a fumble for Ross (2-4, 1-2). The Little Giants couldn't capitalize on Busold's recovery.

"The kids fought hard in the second half and we moved the ball," Long said. "We wanted to attack their secondary but it just poured. We came away with three scores in the second half. We had a tough night."

Boston Swaisgood rushed for one

touchdown and tossed another to Newsome. Remey Bulger added a touchdown run.

"Keiler Foster ran for some hard yards," Long said. "The kids kept fighting until the end. We moved the ball but didn't really have opportunities to score against their 1s. That's the best team we've faced."

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WHITMER 49, FREMONT ROSS 0

Little Giants can't get on track

Panthers pounce on Ross early, do not look back

CORY CASTELAN
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Division I Toledo Whitmer Panthers got off to a fast start Friday Night at Don Paul Stadium and never looked back.

The Panther offense came out scoring on three of their four first half offensive possessions. The Whitmer defense got in on the action as well and the total team ef-

fort ended with a 49-0 shutout over the Fremont Ross Little Giants.

The Panthers employed a balanced attack that relied heavily on freshman quarterback Riley Keller, sophomore running back Kobe Myers, and senior wide receiver Nick Witcher.

Witcher kicked off the scoring frenzy with a deep touchdown along the right sideline on just the fourth play of the game.

After the Fremont Ross Little Giants opened the game with a three and out, Whitmer's Myers took advantage on a 2-yard touchdown run with 6:06 left in the

first quarter.

Ross found success on its next drive on a deep post completion from quarterback Boston Swaisgood to wide receiver Roger Burling but the Ross junior fumbled after the completion. The Panthers recovered and Ross' defense was forced back on the field but was able to answer with a stop at the 49 yard line.

After a fake punt attempt was snuffed out by the Little Giants, Fremont's offense took over on its own 43 yard line.

Unfortunately for Ross, the first half

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DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Ross' Noah Hotz steps in front of Whitmer's Shoe Sanders, for the late second quarter interception.

Whitmer 49, Ross 0

Whitmer	14	21	6	8	—	49
Ross	0	0	0	0	—	0

First quarter

W: Riley Keller pass complete to #88 for 57 yards. Touchdown! (Point after kick by #10 good) 10:21

W: #34 runs for 2 yards. Touchdown! (Point after kick by #18 good) 6:06

Second quarter

W: #14 Riley Keller pass complete to #88 for 71 yards. Touchdown! (Point after kick by #18 good) 10:30

W: #12 Boston Swaisgood pass intended for #35 Shawn Newsome. Intercepted by #53 . (Point after kick by #18 good) 10:15

W: #12 Boston Swaisgood pass intended for #5 Roger Burling. Intercepted by #23 . (Point after kick by #18 good) 6:03

Third quarter

W: #30 runs for 18 yards. Touchdown! (Point after kick by #18 no good) 1:07

Fourth quarter

W: #16 Hayden Lehmann runs for -9 yards. Safety! Fumble! Recovered by #53 . (Two point conversion run by #4 good) 11:44

	W	R
First downs	13	7
Total Net Yards	379	47
Rushes-Yards	24-137	21--29
Passing	242 ^N	76
Comp-Att-Int	12-22-1	6-22-3
Punts-Average	2-29.5	5-27.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-70	3-35

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 5-10, Hayden Lehmann 4--43, Trevon Alridge 8--3, Charles Chapman 1-0, Ethan Chumley 2-7, Remey Bulger 1-0.

Passing — Whitmer, Riley Keller 11-21-1-239. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 4-13-0-65, Hayden Lehmann 2-8-0-11, Shawn Newsome 0-1-0-0.

Receiving — Ross, Roger Burling 1-22, Taylor Druckenmiller 2-34.

CLAY 20, FREMONT ROSS 13

Mistakes cost Little Giants in TRAC matchup

MATTHEW HORN

REPORTER

Trevon Alridge scored a touchdown and Mikey Contreras kicked two field goals Friday but Fremont Ross fell 20-13 to Clay in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"We'd shoot ourselves in the foot," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "We break off a big play for a touchdown and it comes back for a penalty. We had penalties on crucial downs to

change momentum."

Clay capped the scoring with a 65-yard touchdown pass midway through the fourth quarter.

"Our defense played very well minus one big play," Long said. "It was a hard-hitting game."

Roger Burling intercepted a pass and Remy Bulger forced a fumble for Ross (2-6, 1-4).

Alridge scored from 25 yards out and Contreras was good from 41 and 28 yards.

"Austin Busold was over 100 yards on 19 carries and (Taylor) Druckenmiller had an acrobatic catch," Long said.

Ross finishes at Toledo St. Francis de Sales and hosting Findlay.

"The message is to be consistent and finish," Long said. "That's the big thing right now – we have to finish drives."

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Oregon Clay MS 20, Ross 13

Ross	0	10	3	0	—	13
Oregon Clay MS	3	10	0	7	—	20

First quarter

C: 27 yard field goal 9:32

Second quarter

FR: Trevon Alridge runs for 25 yards. Touch-down! (Contreras kick) 11:46

C: 17 yard pass (kick good) 8:31

FR: Contreras 28 yard field goal 3:50

C: 30 yard field goal 1:41

Third quarter

FR: Contreras 41 yard field goal 1:55

Fourth quarter

C: 66 yard pass (kick good) 10:22

	R	O
First downs	14	14
Total Net Yards	219	354
Rushes-Yards	38-158	35-191
Passing	61	163
Comp-Att-Int	7-21-0	13-25-2
Punts-Average	7-41.1	5-26.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-30	0-0

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Roger Burling 1-13, Taylor Druckenmiller 2-0, Boston Swaisgood 4-22, Hayden Lehmann 5--18, Austin Busold 19-103, Trevon Alridge 6-37, Kieler Foster 1-1.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 1-5-0-12, Hayden Lehmann 6-16-0-49.

Receiving — Ross, Chrystjan Mancini 1-7, Noah Hotz 2-21, Devyn Jagodzinski 2-9, Taylor Druckenmiller 2-24.

FREMONT ROSS 21, ST. FRANCIS 20

Little Giants lean on defense

Ross forces 7 turnovers,
key miss of extra point

JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

TOLEDO - Fremont Ross wasn't able to move the ball much at all in the second half against Toledo St. Francis but it was the defense that paced the Little Giants to a win.

Ross forced seven turnovers by the Knights and forced St. Francis into a key missed extra point as the Little Giants picked up a 21-20 Three Rivers Athletic Conference win on Friday at the University of Toledo's Glass Bowl.

Despite the win, Ross is now mathematically eliminated from any playoff contention.

"We had to make some adjustments with them going empty so much and trying to throw the ball," Ross coach Chad Long said. "We just put an extra guy in there and played nickel and I think we confused them a bit in the second half."

Ross (3-6, 2-4 TRAC) led, 21-14 when Lonnie Wyse threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Kory Schaefer with 1:46 remaining. The extra point by Caleb Meister was no good as the Little Giants clung to a one-point lead.

Ross attempted to run out the clock after recovering the short kickoff by the Knights (0-9, 0-6). St. Francis used its timeouts wisely and got the ball back with 45 seconds left at its own 39-yard line. However, Roger Burling went high for his second interception of the night off the arm of Wyse to seal the win.

"We had enough guys back there to pick off some balls," Long said. "Our front four guys did a nice job getting pressure on the quarterback and that's what we went with."

With the score knotted at 14-all after three quarters, it was the Little Giants' defense that got on the scoreboard. A snap on a punt by St. Francis sailed high but initially, the Knights recovered. Shawn Newsome stripped the ball away

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MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Ross celebrates scoring a touchdown after a bad snap on a St. Francis punt.

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

and fell on it in the end zone for a touchdown. Michael Contreras made his third PAT in as many tries for a 21-14 lead with 10:50 left.

Knights' quarterback Ethan Hertzfield threw his fourth interception of the night on the ensuing possession but Ross couldn't capitalize. The Little Giants gained just 25 yards of offense in the second half.

"We switched quarterbacks and went from a senior (Boston Swaisgood) playing to a freshman (Jaedyn McKinstry)," Long said. "We have a lot of things we need to correct and things we need to get better at."

St. Francis opened the scoring in the first quarter when Hertzfield hit Romeo Taylor in stride for a 31-yard score. The Little Giants responded with a 10-play (nine runs), 76-yard drive that was capped by Remey Bulger going two yards for a score to tie the game.

"The defense was pretty big," Long said. "We've been playing pretty good defensively for the most part all year. Sometimes we give up big plays and we did tonight as well. The kids kept their composure and we came up big on special teams. It was a whole team effort tonight."



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER
Fremont scores a touchdown after a bad snap on a St. Francis punt.

The Knights jumped ahead again in the second quarter when Wyse connected with Adam Bihn on a 41-yard score.

That's when Long inserted McKinstry into the lineup. He went 5-of-6 for 63 yards on his first drive, including a 10-yard touchdown pass to Burling to tie the game at halftime.

The Little Giants held St. Francis to 43 yards rushing on 31 attempts and will attempt to finish their season on a high note when they host Findlay (6-3, 3-3) next Friday.

"We're happy to get the win and we have to continue to get better," Long said. "We have a big rival game against Findlay and we want to take these seniors out with a win."

Ross 21, St. Francis De Sales (Toledo) 20

Ross	7	7	0	7	—	21
St. Francis De Sales (Toledo)	7	7	0	6	—	20

First quarter

SF - Romeo Taylor 31 pass from Ethan Hertzfield (Caleb Meister kick), 9:36

FR - Remey Bulger 2 run (Michael Contreras kick), 5:40

Second quarter

SF - Adam Bihn 41 pass from Lonnie Wyse (Meister kick), 3:13

FR - Roger Burling 10 pass from Jaedyn McKinstry (Contreras kick), 0:20

Fourth quarter

FR - Shawn Newsome 1 fumble recovery (Contreras kick), 10:22

SF - Kory Schaefer 41 pass from Wyse (kick failed), 1:46

	R	S
First downs	12	18
Total Net Yards	234	319
Rushes-Yards	32-97	35-41
Passing	137	278
Comp-Att-Int	12-21-1	19-34-5
Punts-Average	7-41.8	2-48
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	8-90	4-50

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Roger Burling 1-5, Devyn Jagodzinski 1-7, Taylor Druckenmiller 3-5, Boston Swaisgood 5-28, Austin Busold 1--2, Jaedyn McKinstry 1--4, Trevon Alridge 5-9, Remey Bulger 13-46, Kieler Foster 2-3. St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Ethan Hertzfield 12-5, Lonnie Wyse 3-15, Ryan Midlenberger 12-5, Romeo Taylor 5-4, Carter Pavain 3-3.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 4-6-1-60, Jaedyn McKinstry 8-15-0-77. St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Ethan Hertzfield 16-28-4-191, Lonnie Wyse 3-7-1-86.

Receiving — Ross, Roger Burling 4-34, Noah Hotz 3-23, Taylor Druckenmiller 4-78, Shawn Newsome 1-2. St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Lonnie Wyse 5-64, Ryan Midlenberger 3-15, Romeo Taylor 1-31, Carter Pavain 4-20, Adam Bihn 5-106, Kory Schaefer 1-41.

Turnovers doom Little Giants

Disappointing season comes to end for Ross

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

Boston Swaisgood caught an 83-yard touchdown pass from Jaedyn McKinstry and added a score on the ground in Fremont Ross's 34-14 setback Friday to Findlay in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"I'm going to miss the people I grew up playing with," said Swaisgood, a senior. "It's a special thing to grow up playing with your best friends and finishing with them. Friday night lights are special. We fought to the finish. I'm proud of everybody."

The Little Giants (3-7, 2-5) trailed 28-7 after Kyle Nunn's 45-yard interception return for a score. Findlay (7-3, 4-3) also opened the scoring with a pick-six less than a minute into the game.

"We have a really good defense," said Nunn, a Pittsburgh commit. "We have a

lot of seniors and good depth. The coaches put us in position."

Ross stopped Findlay its four possessions in the second half, including a fumble recovery from Dontrez Brown. Swaisgood then scored from 21 yards out on fourth-and-4.

"The interception by Kyle for that score at the end of the half separated things a little," Findlay coach Mark Ritzler said. "For his size, to be such an athlete — he's 6-foot-3 and almost 200 pounds — to be able to run like that. A guy that big in the middle who can take it

back. He has the size and speed and athletic ability."

Ross used three quarterbacks Friday as McKinstry, who dropped a long pass on Swaisgood along the sideline for the touchdown, left with an injury. Hayden Lehmann and Swaisgood also took snaps.

"Turnovers," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "Findlay did an awesome job taking it away. We have to take care of the ball."

"This offseason we'll see who com-

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Ross

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petes (at quarterback). We haven't seen a healthy Lehmann. He's been limited. It will be an unbelievable competition and hopefully somebody steps up."

Ross threw five interceptions Friday, including another on its second possession. Ben Rozzell and Taylor Druckenmiller intercepted passes for the Little Giants.

"I'm proud of the defense and the way they played," Long said. "That late score was a backbreaker. The kids didn't blink an eye (early). We

had to make adjustments and we did. They've played from behind before but you don't want to start with a pick-six. These kids don't quit. They keep fighting.

"With all the young kids it's a good cornerstone... but it's better to be up and maintain a lead."

The Little Giants had two drives stall in the red zone in the second half.

"That's been the story all year," Long said "We get down to the red zone and can't score down there. We have to make adjustments and get better."

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Findlay 34, Ross 14

Findlay	14	14	0	6	—	34
Ross	7	0	0	7	—	14

First quarter

F: McKinstry pass intended for Druckenmiller intercepted (kick good) 11:02

F: 7 yard run (kick good) 3:20

FR: McKinstry 83 yd pass to Swaisgood (Contreras kick good) 2:29

Second quarter

F: 1 yd run (kick good) 11:31

FR: Lehmann pass intended for Burling intercepted (kick good) 00:34

Fourth quarter

FR: Swaisgood 21 yd run (Contreras kick good) 9:38

F: 9 yd run (2 pt attempt no good) 3:55

	F	R
First downs	14	11
Total Net Yards	256	195
Rushes-Yards	38-133	32-46
Passing	123	149
Comp-Att-Int	13-22-2	9-24-5
Punts-Average	4-24.5	4-39.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	2-20	2-15

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Chrystjan Mancini 2-3, Taylor Druckenmiller 1--4, Boston Swaisgood 15-50, Jaedyn McKinstry 1--5, Trevon Alridge 2-2, Remey Bulger 11-0.

Passing — Ross, Boston Swaisgood 2-8-0-25, Hayden Lehmann 1-5-1-5, Jaedyn McKinstry 6-11-1-25.

Receiving — Ross, Noah Hotz 2-13, Devyn Jagodzinski 1-6, Boston Swaisgood 1-83.