

1972 Sectional Tournament

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Ross Golfers Gain Final District Berth

By MARK CARLSON
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Charlie Baker only wanted a chance.
His Ross golf squad got it and today they're making plans for next week's Class AAA District Tournament after a thrilling sudden death playoff with arch-rival Sandusky at sunny Fremont Country Club Friday.

But, for a long time Friday, it didn't look like the Little Giants were going to receive their third consecutive ticket to district play.

Ross was stunned Thursday when it learned that Jim Decker, who has played in the No. 1 position throughout most of the spring, had sustained a hairline fracture of his small finger and would be lost to the squad for the sectional meet.

And, without Decker, who has been scoring in the mid-70s, Baker realized the Giants were in for some troubles.

"With Decker we would have been going for the championship," Baker said later, "but without him I knew that we were just shooting for a spot in the district."

Ross didn't get the championship. The trophy went to Ashland. The Arrow foursome had a 222 to win the sectional championship trophy and Port Clinton with a 235 was second.

That left only one spot open in the Fremont delegation going to the district. And, when all the scores were tabulated, Ross and Sandusky each had 331, which necessitated the heart-stopping playoff.

"I just wanted the chance," Baker repeated. "Even if it was Sandusky, I was glad to be just in the playoff for the third spot."

"In a way, I was glad to be playing Sandusky. If we would have lost, I knew we would be losing to a good team. But the kids on both clubs are also very good friends so that made it rough emotionally."

The playoff format included all four players from each team. The number one and two players from each club went in one

foursome and were followed by the three and four players. The teams were told that the total score of all four players on the first extra hole would determine the winner.

Bob Moll and Buck Baumann were in the first two slots for Ross while Jeff Mansuetta and Jim Kirner played for Sandusky.

In the third and fourth spots for Ross were Scott Young and Rob Hall, while the Boisoneault brothers, Scott and Bruce, played those positions for the Blue Stripes.

Moll and Baumann each had a par five on the 465-yard first hole at the Country Club while Mansuetta picked up a fine birdie four and Kirner took a bogey six after putting his second shot in the creek which runs through the fairway in front of the green.

In the second group, Hall came up with a five and Young a six while each of the Boisoneaults had six. Bruce reached the green in three but took three putts to get down from 18 feet. The Ross foursome had 21 and Sandusky 22 which gave the Purple and White the district berth.

Because of the tension which went with the playoff, all eight golfers were visibly nervous. Moll almost put Ross in a deep hole when he scuffed a wedge shot. But somehow the ball, which had neither height or power, managed to bounce over the creek and Moll was saved from a penalty stroke.

"The pressure was really on those fellows, especially the third and fourth players who didn't have any idea what the players in the first foursome had done," Baker said.

"I really thought we were through when Moll scuffed that shot. I still can't figure out how the ball got over the creek. I was sure it was going in the water."

Pressure was a frequent word in Baker's vocabulary as he reviewed the play of his 'Kiddle Korps' — Ross used three sophomores and a junior.

"If the injury to Jim would have happened three days earlier we might have been able to adjust mentally, but everything came so quickly we didn't have time to get our thoughts straightened out," Baker said.

"The pressure was really on Moll and Baumann. They knew that for us to get a district berth they had to shoot below 80. And, Hall knew that he would have to be close.

"Young had to have the most pressure. I can't even imagine what I would have been like if I would have been thrown into that type of situation. He had played varsity only one other time this year and had broken 80 at the Country Club just once.

Moll and Baumann each carried 77 while Hall had an 84 and Young after opening with a 48 cut three strokes off that in his final nine and totaled 93.

"Give Young a lot of credit," Baker continued. "He started with that 48 and could have given up. But he kept fighting and improved. He got through the pressure a lot better than most people would have in those conditions."

"Give Moll a lot of credit," Baker continued. "He started with that 48 and could have given up. But he kept fighting and improved. He got through the pressure a lot better than most people would have in those conditions."

Moll acted as the team leader while Decker was cheering from the sidelines.

"Moll kept the kids together and tried to keep them as loose as possible," Baker said. "That took a lot on his part because he really had a lot to think about."

Decker was injured while playing basketball in gym class Thursday. His status for the district meet (which will be

played at Glengary Country Club in Toledo) will not be known until sometime next week.

"I'm sure the kids realize they can win without Jim and that pleases them," Baker said. "But I also know they were very worried after we won the playoff. They realize another 331 won't get them to the state. The scores must go down if we're going to get to Columbus."

Ashland (182)
Dave Cantor, 40-37-77; Kevin Strick, 40-38-78; Jeff Leonard, 39-41-80; Lance Ferguson, 41-47-87.

Port Clinton (224)
Mark Hunsak, 38-37-79; Bob Gardner, 41-39-79; John Gill, 40-39-81; Mark Shubert, 41-49-90.

Ross (221)
Bob Moll, 38-39-77; Buck Baumann, 39-38-77; Rob Hall, 42-43-84; Scott Young, 40-49-93.

Sandusky (221)
Jeff Mansuetta, 39-38-78; Jim Kirner, 39-40-81; Scott Boisoneault, 41-49-81; Bruce Boisoneault, 44-49-81.

Rawling Green (221)
Dave Simon, 39-41-80; Far Rickerts, 38-40-82; Steve Wyatt, 38-47-85; Roger Schwen, 41-49-89.

Columbus (202)
Rod Hand, 41-41-82; Don Hand, 42-43-85; Tom Mowery, 40-43-87; Brett Buehrli, 40-43-88.

Maumee (181)
Terry Gibson, 40-41-81; Tom Frittsch, 42-43-85; Jim Reiberman, 41-48-89; George Gibson, 40-49-90.

Bellevue (182)
Dan Wright, 41-43-83; Jay Ball, 47-43-89; Craig Soule, 47-43-92; Tim Soule, 47-49-95.

Toledo Walco (186)
Tom Kitzler, 40-44-90; Steve Mohr, 40-49-95; Doug Richardson, 39-48-96; Tom McElfresh, 34-45-96.

Central Catholic (184)
Robert Nichols Jr., 47-43-90; Mark Young, 47-49-96; Stephen Meyer, 34-44-96; James McInerney, 40-41-100.

Ordway Clay (186)
Tim Lapp, 40-44-90; Don Halley, 32-43-87; Jim Hunt, 33-47-100; Kevin Dugan, 33-50-103.

Toledo Woodward (121)
Rob Zaada, 46-49-95; Gary Studenarski, 33-54-106; Gregg Hoffman, 33-55-108; Dave Petrichy, 33-58-112.