

1986 Football Season



ROB EGBERT, Ross tailback, begins to cut as he watches a Bowsher defender in Saturday morning's scrimmage at Ross High School. Cardell Beachum (49) blocks for Egbert.

Area prep football teams begin scrimmage season

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was dress rehearsal without the trappings as 11 area high school football teams took part in scrimmage games Saturday.

The scrimmages marked the first of three for most of the teams as they prepared for the opening weekend of the season Aug. 29-30.

As in most cases, coaches were cautious in assessing the progress of their teams after one week of contact drills. Coaching staffs were, generally, looking at many players while searching for starting combinations.

At the Ross practice fields, the Little Giants waltzed through Bowsher, scoring five times. According to Ross boss Rex Radeloff, the "home cooking" satisfied him.

"We had a menu on what we wanted to do offensively and we followed that down the line," he said. "We were taking a strong evaluation of the offensive line."

"Defensively, they were aggressive; they hit very well and that is what we like to see."

Fremont St. Joe traveled to Holland to scrimmage Springfield Local. Both teams scored once with St. Joe's first unit scoring and Springfield's third team scoring against the Crimson Streaks' third team.

"We did pretty well," St. Joe Coach Tom Narducci said but noted that Springfield is rebuilding and "is not that strong of a team yet."

Narducci said he concentrated on the ground game, taking to the air sparingly. "We moved extremely well," he said. "We looked at our running game and that was the most pleasing thing. We have three kids who run the

ball well.

"Defensively, without a lot of preparation, we shut down their option offense."

Bellevue used its passing to set up a pair of scores against Clyde, according to Fliers' leader Bob Bishop.

"We could have done better," he said. "I was not pleased but I was not discouraged either."

"We tried to look at a lot of kids," he explained. "The defensive line is a big concern, but we got some good performances from a couple of kids in there."

Bellevue Coach Terry Adams said, "We were pleasantly surprised. Some of the kids who were question marks really came through."

Gibsonburg outscored Antwerp, but the exact count was not known.

"I was pleased with our offensive line," Coach Gary Wasielewski said. "We wanted to see if they (offensive line) could do it and they did. We are happy."

One thing that Wasielewski was not pleased with was offensive fumbles. "We have to fix that," he said.

Woodmore outscored Carey 3-1.

"We were looking at our defense," Coach Tom Peiffer said, "because it was a strong point last year and we wanted to see if it was there again, and it was pretty good."

"Offensively, we worked on ball control offense. The first time we did not move that well, but I think it was a case of the coach trying to get tricky," Peiffer laughed, "but the next two times we moved very well."

Lakota's varsity played even with Wynford's varsity until the last play when Wynford scored the lone TD of the scrimmage.

"We played pretty even with them," said Lakota Coach John McCallister. "Wynford is a good football team."

"Things went pretty much like we expected. We have some inexperienced offensive linemen. We were pretty much pleased with our quarterback and running backs. Defensively, we hit hard. They broke a couple big plays, but outside of that, we did pretty well."

Oak Harbor Coach Gary Quisno called it a "typical first scrimmage" as the Rockets and Bowling Green tied 2-2.

"We were basically looking for players," Quisno said. "We wanted to see if we had people who would go after others and I was satisfied with that. We played aggressively and that was an area of concern."

Port Clinton outscored New London 3-1.

"I was pleased with the running game," Coach Don Drusbacky said, "plus we found some depth we did know we had."

Drusbacky noted the Redskins "did not pass that much."

"Defensively, we need a lot of work," he admitted. "This is one of the first times that the offense has been ahead of the defense."

Both Genoa and Liberty Center scored once. "It was nothing great and nothing real bad," Coach John Boles said.

"We have made a lot of progress," he said, "but I have to be patient. Fundamentally, we are getting a lot better."

"I wanted to see if kids would be aggressive and they did OK, but they have to play with more emotion," Boles explained.

Ross rolls in second scrimmage

News-Messenger Reports

Act two was pretty much of a carbon copy of act one as Ross went through its second high school football scrimmage.

In the first scrimmage Saturday against Bowsher, Ross scored five times, the same as against Toledo DeVilbiss Tuesday evening at Harmon Stadium.

"We are still looking at a lot of kids," Coach Rex Radeloff.

"Overall, it was a good, hitting scrimmage. It was good to go up against a team with speed, and they definitely had speed."

DeVilbiss was in the state Division II playoffs last year, losing in the second round to eventual state champion Galion.

Offensively, the Ross varsity scored three times in "series" drives and once in a goal line situation. The defense added a score on a fumble recovery return and the Ross junior varsity defense collected a safety.

"The running game looked good at times," Radeloff said, "but we had a couple of fumbles and that has to be eliminated."

"Defensively, we contained them early in the scrimmage but later, they got outside," Radeloff continued, "but they were aggressive and hit very well."

Ross starting quarterback/safety John Stierwalt received a shin bruise early in the scrimmage and was forced to miss much of the action.

Ross's final preseason scrimmage will be Friday at 3 p.m., against Macomber in the University of Toledo Glass Bowl.

Ross, St. Joe football teams wind up scrimmage season

News-Messenger Reports

The Ross and St. Joe football teams completed their preseason scrimmage action Friday. Ross squared off against Toledo Macomber in the Glass Bowl and St. Joe traveled to Edgerton.

At Toledo, Ross's first unit scored a touchdown and both teams scored two TDs in goalline situations.

"We drove the ball well," Ross Coach Rex Radeloff said. "But we had difficulty getting it into the end zone. We have to work on our goalline offense.

"The defense played real well. We had pretty good team effort on defense."

Ross opens its regular season Friday, Aug. 29 against Tiffin Columbian at Harmon Stadium. Kickoff is 8 p.m.

At Edgerton, neither team was able to dent the scoreboard, according to St. Joe Coach Tom Narducci.

"We didn't play real well," said Narducci. "We just lacked the killer instinct. They moved the ball on us. We didn't play real solid defense. It wasn't a good day's work."

The Streaks will begin their season Saturday, Aug. 30 against Clyde at Harmon Stadium. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Demise of BC 'a sad thing'

The Buckeye Conference will die at the ripe old age of 30 and with it will go many friendships and hope of a rebirth.

After all of the athletic seasons are ended this school year, the conference will officially be laid to rest.

"I've been in the conference for 17 years and I hate to see it break up," Elyria football coach Bill Jones said. "It's a conference that has a good reputation around the state."

The demise of the BC began two years ago with the announcement that the Lorain schools — Senior and Admiral King — along with Elyria would be dropping out to join a new league being formed in the Lorain-Elyria area. That meant that only Fremont Ross, Sandusky, Findlay and Marion Harding would remain in the Buckeye Conference. But soon that number was reduced to three when Marion Harding withdrew.

"It's a sad thing," Lorain schools athletic director Fred Churchill said. "It is a class conference. Everyone treats each other very well; when we go to meetings, it is with friends, not rivals."

Churchill cited financial reasons which weighed on the decision of the eastern schools to drop out of the BC.

"Take away the almighty dollar, and we would still have it (Buckeye Conference)," Churchill said.

"This will be a tough final year," Ross football coach Rex Radloff said. "Everyone will want to win the last championship and they will be coming at the school that has won it the most."

That is Ross with 13 titles.

"I think if you polled the coaches," Radloff said, "you would find that the coaches do not want to get out of the Buckeye; it was strictly an

administrative decision."

Churchill, while noting the sadness of the conference's final year, ignited a spark of hope.

"I can look down the road," he said, "and see some realignment occurring for most of the old Buckeye Conference schools.

That could happen sooner than you think."

For now, however, the final days of the Buckeye Conference are dwindling away. Only memories will remain of a once formidable high school affiliation.

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Giants' new offensive coach sees more of 'whole picture'

It would not be far from being the truth if you described Les Hull as having tunnel vision the past several high school football seasons.

That's not true this year as Hull takes over a new assignment as offensive coordinator for Ross High School head coach Rex Radeloff. This season, Hull is seeing more of the "whole picture."

"Last year, I coached the running backs," Hull explained, "and I could concentrate on just them, but I cannot do that this year; I have to see the whole picture (of the offense)."

Hull admits that his new job has him more on his toes.

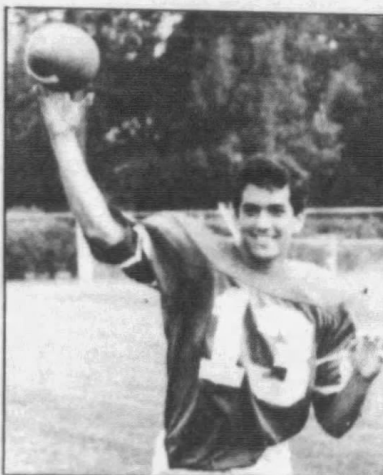
"I have to be more prepared and have more of a plan for practices," Hull said. "Rex and I decide how we want attack in a game and it is up to me to plan that attack."

"I like the addition of the responsibility and I do realize that it will take time to get used to the job," he continued, "but I am going out to our practices more intense; I am learning."

Hull said that Ross's offensive scheme will not show much change, citing that what a team can do reflects its personnel. One difference this year he feels will be evident is that Ross will be using the option play much more.

"Last year, Shawn (McCarthy) was more of a drop back quarterback while this year we have quarterbacks who can run a little more."

The most obvious physical difference in Ross's lineup this year is the height difference at quarterback. McCarthy pushed 6-foot-8 while likely '86 starter John Stierwalt pushes the



JOHN STIERWALT will handle the quarterbacking chores for the Little Giants this season.

measuring tape up to 6-1. The senior weighs 180.

Backup quarterbacks are 6-1, 180-pound junior Craig Raney and sophomore Jeff Draeger.

In back of Stierwalt at fullback will be Jim Carroll, 6-3, 210-pound senior, who runs the 40 in 4.8 seconds, three-tenths of a second quicker than last season. Other fullbacks in Hull's picture are senior Kirk Wilhelm, 190, and burly junior Cardell Beachum, 5-11, 200.

The tailback slot could be split evenly between Steve Letzring and Rob Egbert. Both seniors, Letzring carries 215 pounds on his 6-1 frame while Egbert is 6-0, 165. When Carroll and Letzring are in the backfield, it will be one of the biggest tandems of backs Ross has had in the past several years.

The passing targets for Ross signal-callers will be John Cahill, Jim Lemley, Ron Meyer and Tracy Hufford at split end. Cahill, a senior, 6-4, 200, is the

returning starter.

Senior Mike Hrynciw is listed as the tight end along with 6-5 senior Chris Mosser. Hrynciw is 6-1, 200 and Mosser is a 210-pounder.

The starting tackle slots are being contested between a quartet of players: Cory Reed, Jim Stull, Dean Van Ness and Israel Ysasi. Stull, a senior, is listed as 6-2, 275 while Reed, a junior, is 6-4, 230, and Van Ness, 6-5, 250. Ysasi, a senior, is the lightweight at 185.

Five players were vying for the starting guard slots in late August drills. Micah Jones, Brian Laird and Dan Ross are seniors and Matt Manbeck and Matt Wolf are juniors. Jones, 6-0, 230, could one of Ross's two-way performers. Laird is listed as the biggest of the five at 6-4, 230.

Mike Longanback, junior, 6-0, 180, is listed as the center with help from junior Steve Boonie, 6-2, 235, and 6-3, 225-pound junior Chad Overmyer.

Hull says the ability to run the option this season could possibly make the Ross attack more wide open.

"We can throw the ball — we have good receivers — and we can run inside and we have speed to the outside."

"Stierwalt can throw long and he can throw off the option," Hull said, "but we really don't want to throw long that much, just enough to keep the secondary honest."

GOOD LUCK



RETURNING BACKFIELD lettermen for Ross are, front row, from left to right: Jerry Palomo, Jim Carroll and John Stierwalt; back row, Rob Egbert, Kirk Wilhelm, Rick Egbert and Steve Letzring.



RETURNING LINEMEN lettermen for Ross are, front row, from left to right: Brian Laird and Chris Mosser; back row, John Cahill, Mike Hrynciw, Chad Hicks and Micah Jones.

Radeloff ready for new role as Ross grid boss

Rex Radeloff will have a new perspective this season; instead of seeing the back of heads, people will be looking at the back of his head.

Radeloff will officially begin his first year as the boss of the Ross High School Little Giants at 8 p.m., Friday, kickoff time for the opener at Harmon Stadium against Tiffin Columbian. The kickoff won't be new to Radeloff but from where he will watch it is: on the sidelines.

For a dozen years, Radeloff was in the "crow's nest" high atop the press box, a place where he could look out over the people. Now, it's the other way around.

"That, I believe, will be the biggest difference," grinned the former Little Giants offensive coordinator. "I have been up in that box where you have time to think. You have five or six guys up there with you but down on the field, you have the commotion of the players and the fan noise. That will be a big difference."

And pressure. Will that make it different in his new vantage point?

"Hey, I don't feel any pressure," Radeloff insisted. "Sure, people will naturally compare me to Pete (Moore), but I am going to do the best job as I can."

"I don't look at it as filling Pete's shoes; I am here to get this to be a successful season and to keep this a successful

Moore coached the Little Giants for 10 seasons, compiling a 70-28-4 record and winning six Buckeye Conference championships.

Radeloff had several chances at moving out of the Ross system and into the head coaching job at smaller schools, but he turned those opportunities down.

"I enjoy the people I coach with here," he explained, "plus, as offensive coordinator, I had enough to fulfill my desire to coach. I enjoy the competition in the Buckeye Conference; I have no regrets about not taking those other jobs."

Radeloff was also surprised when Moore resigned in December of 1985.

"It was a shock to me," he said, "but I had felt in the past that if the Ross job ever opened up, I would apply. But while I was working with Pete, that was never my goal."

"I discussed applying for the Ross job with Pete and he said it was up to me."

Now, he is finding life as the head coach a much different challenge.

"It's almost like a business,"

Radeloff smiled. "There is a lot of organizing. You can be involved with a lot of things and there is a lot more demand on your time."

Radeloff said there will be little visible difference in how the Little Giants are run. One change brought about by his promotion was the naming of a new offensive coordinator: Les Hull. Joe Siesel remains the defensive coordinator.

"No, I have not reverted back to my old job anytime," he responded to a question. "Les will make the calls offensively. I will talk with him during the games while Joe Siesel will make all the defensive calls."

Another aspect of the job that Radeloff enjoys is explaining his program and the community interest.

"I enjoy talking to groups," he said. "That's part of the job, and when you have the opportunity to talk to groups, it's because of the interest in the community."

That is another reason he wanted to get into the Ross driver's seat. Now, all that remains is his first test drive Friday night.

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News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

Tough beginning

Fremont Ross head football coach Rex Radeloff talks to his Fremont Ross Little Giants under the lights of the scoreboard after Friday night's open-

ing game defeat at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants were defeated by Tiffin Columbian 20-17. **Game story and photo, page B-1.**



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

THE YELLOW flag sails into the play as Ross's Rob Egbert (21) looks for an opening in the Tiffin Columbian defense Friday

night at Harmon Stadium. Egbert scored twice in the game while rushing for 89 yards on 13 carries for the Little Giants.

Columbian rallies from 14-0 deficit to defeat Ross 20-17

Little Giants lose season opener for the first time since 1970

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

In the end, Ross's smoke screen was as temporary as the smoke bomb that went off seconds before the opening kickoff.

Rob Egbert, twice in the first four minutes of the game, brought Tiffin Columbian to its knees. But when it came to delivering the knockout punch, the Little Giants did not have it.

Instead, it was a right, left, right combination by TC quarterback Dave Gardner and split end Dave Kin that wiped out a 14-0 Ross lead and bulled over the Little Giants 20-17 in a thriller not quite from Manilla in front of approximately 6,500 at Harmon Stadium Friday night.

The season-opening loss ended a string of 15 consecutive opening-game wins for Ross. The last time the Little Giants had turf rubbed in their faces this early in the season was a 29-14 loss to Toledo Rogers in 1970. And in 1986, it did not appear the string was going to end.

Egbert took the opening kickoff at the Ross 14, and 12 seconds and 86 yards later, the Little Giants led 6-0. John Stierwalt's left foot made it 7-0 and neither team had broken a sweat.

It was more Egbert 3½ minutes later. This time the slender senior tailback burst around left end on a 43-yard romp to paydirt. That was three plays after Ross linebacker Mike Hrynciw's 11-yard return of an interception to the Columbian 47. The Tornadoes were nothing but a gentle breeze.

"It was a nightmare ... a bad dream," Columbian Coach Ken Carmon was able to grin after the game. "Everything that could go wrong, went wrong. We put ourselves in a hole and had to dig out.

"Coming over here, I never would have thought that if we got 14 down, we could

come out on top ... I would not have believed it."

He might not have, but Carmon pointed out, his players believed they could.

"I looked them in their eyes," the Columbian coach said, "and just said it is not over yet. They started to chant 'we believe' on the sidelines."

And, just like the Miracle Mets of 1969, Columbian began to brew a Tornado.

Late in the first quarter, Gardner and Kin threw a right that landed. A pair of Ross defenders collided with Kin as he caught Gardner's bullet at the Ross 45. The Little Giants went down, Kin did not, and on a play that covered 61 yards, the Ross lead was halved.

One series later, Gardner and Kin came out throwing leather. Taking over at the Ross 47 on Brian McGowan's first of two interceptions of Stierwalt passes, Gardner hit Kin twice for five and 22 yards, the latter to the Ross 10.

Gardner took care of the rest, taking a step to his left before running up the guts to trim Ross's lead to 14-13. Adam Engle's kick was wide, allowing Ross to keep the lead with 8:24 to play in the first half.

Ross bounced back with a flurry, marching from its own 30 to the Columbian 12 before settling for a 27-yard Stierwalt field goal at the 4:14 mark of the second quarter. Stierwalt's 41-yard pass to Rick Egbert, with a 15-yard Tornado personal foul penalty tacked on, moved the ball to the 16 before the Columbian defense stiffened. Ross enjoyed a 17-13 lead at halftime.

On the first series of the second half, Ross was driving when Chris MacFarland stepped in front of a Stierwalt aerial at the Columbian 45 and returned it to the Ross 17.

Gardner tossed a six-yarder to Brian Heebsh to the Ross 12. Mitch Ranker was

tossed for a one-yard loss, but you could almost see the knockout punch coming as Kin was used as a decoy on the play.

On the next play, Kin feinted to the middle, cut toward the flag at the left corner of the end zone and outmaneuvered a Ross defender for Gardner's pass. Ross was called for interference on the play, but it meant little as Kin was celebrating in the Ross end zone. Engle's kick made it 20-17 midway through the third quarter.

After that, Columbian's defense took over. Ross's deepest penetration was to the 36 on the last series of plays but the drive died on McGowan's second pass theft on Stierwalt's desperation toss at the Columbian 14.

"One play does not make a game," Rex Radeloff, whose debut as head coach was spoiled, said in the glum Ross locker room.

"We had trouble controlling the line of scrimmage. They were not big but they were quick and I was concerned with that.

"We had a couple of big plays early, but they adjusted and shut us down," he continued.

"They forced us to pass and our passing game is not where we want it right now," Radeloff admitted. "We did throw well at times but they forced us to do things we did not want to do. Turnovers against that type of team, one that does not make mistakes, hurt."

Gardner was 13 of 20 for 205 yards. Kin hauled in eight passes for 137 yards. Egbert led all rushers with 89 yards on 13 carries. Steve Letzring, who doubled at fullback and tailback for the Little Giants, had 15 carries and 46 yards. Stierwalt was 10 of 17 passing for 117 yards but he was stung by the three interceptions.

Ross travels to Oregon Clay next Friday for a 7:30 p.m. game. Tickets go on sale today at Tremper's in Fremont.

High school

Columbian 20, Ross 17

Score by quarters

Columbian	7	6	7	0	—	20
Ross	14	3	0	0	—	17

Scoring

Ross: Rob Egbert, 86-yard kickoff return (John Stierwalt kick), 11:48, first quarter.

Ross: Rob Egbert, 43-yard run (Stierwalt kick), 8:23, first quarter.

Columbian: Dave Kin, 61-yard pass from Dave Gardner (Adam Engle kick), 0:51, first quarter.

Columbian: Gardner, 10-yard run (kick failed), 8:24, second quarter.

Ross: Stierwalt, 27-yard field goal, 4:14, second quarter.

Columbian: Kin, 12-yard pass from Gardner (Engle kick), 5:24, third quarter.

Team Stats

	TC	R
First Downs	13	12
Rushes/Yards	24/73	39/166
Passing Yards	205	117
Passes/Comp./Int.	20/13/1	17/10/3
Punts/Average	3/34.3	4/34.3
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	5/35	7/70

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Tiffin Columbian: Mitch Ranker 14/41, Gardner 4/14, Ben Fogel 5/20; Ross: Egbert 13/89, Steve Letzring 15/46, Jim Carroll 5/17, Kirk Wilhelm 2/8, Stierwalt 4/6.

Passing: Tiffin Columbian: Gardner 20/13/1-205; Ross: Stierwalt 17/10/3-117.

Receiving: Tiffin Columbian: Kin 8/137, Brian Heebsh 3/42, Brian McGowan 2/24; Ross: John Cahill 4/41, Rick Egbert 1/41, Carroll 1/-2, Tom Wolfe 1/14.

Records: Columbian 1-0, Ross 0-1.

Columbian quake jolts Giants

Can Ross bounce back from surprising loss to Tornadoes?

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It may not have registered on the Richter scale, but when Tiffin Columbian defeated Fremont Ross 20-17 last Friday night, it was an earth-shaking experience for the Little Giants. At least Rex Radeloff, the Little Giants boss, hopes that is the case.

"Hopefully," Radeloff said while preparing for Tuesday afternoon's practice session, "it will bring them down to earth. I think the kids finally realize they have to play the full game to win it."

The Ross coach alluded that through three preseason scrimmages and four minutes into the opening game, his team had not been tested enough. The scrimmages, particularly the first two against Bowsher and DeVilbiss, bordered on being too easy for his team. And the third, against Macomber, was only slightly better.

"In the past, our first scrimmage game was with Whitmer, and they usually brought us down to earth early," Radeloff said. "They were good, hard-hitting scrimmages, but Whitmer dropped us this year and I had to scramble to find another team."

As a result, he got Bowsher, which is on an apparent down year, and DeVilbiss, which, in spite of being in the state playoffs

last season, did not have that state quality punch.

Radeloff termed the scrimmage with Macomber "decent" because it was a "good hitting scrimmage."

That led to the torrid start against Columbian. Rob Egbert returned the season-opening kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown, and a scant 3½ minutes later, scored on a 43-yard run to put Ross up 14-0.

"Tiffin is a good team," Radeloff admitted. "They have a good quarterback, good receivers and a good defense. It's a team that you cannot make mistakes against."

"I don't think the kids were prepared to play Friday from the standpoint of having the three easy scrimmages and that it was Tiffin we played. In past years, we had good success against them and the kids may have felt they could just play and win."

"I know the staff did not feel that way," he continued. "The kids were devastated after the game, but they will bounce back. But they have to play the full game."

The hoped-for Ross rebound will be at Oregon Friday at 7:30 p.m., against Clay, a 22-0 winner over Bowsher last week.

"Clay has a lot of experience; they have

at least six back on both offense and defense," Radeloff described. "Size-wise and speed-wise, I would say they are average, but their quarterback is quick. They like to get him outside where he can either throw or run."

"It's going to be a hard battle, but they don't get any easier the rest of the way."

Radeloff said that he did not anticipate any major changes for his team. He said the Ross running attack looked good in spots against Columbian and that he was fairly satisfied with the passing of quarterback John Stierwalt.

"We had a tipped pass that was intercepted, another was a bad pass into coverage and the third, he was under a hard rush and threw it short."

ROSS NOTES: The loss to Columbian was the first since 1945 when the Tornadoes won 7-0.

Ross blanked Clay at Harmon Stadium last season 23-0. The Eagles' last win over the Little Giants was in 1982 when a 14-13 loss started Ross on a four-game losing streak.

Egbert's 86-yard kickoff return for a TD was the fourth longest in Ross history, matching that of Terry Bates against Admiral King in 1981.

Ross bounces back strong

Little Giants' defense keys 21-7 victory over Oregon Clay

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

OREGON — It was a victory that had been brewing for a week.

After swallowing a bitter pill in the form of a 20-17 opening-game loss to Tiffin Columbian a week ago, Ross sweetened the taste in its mouth with a 21-7 defensive demolition of Oregon Clay Friday night. The game mimicked an old sports cliché: it was not as close as the score indicated.

"That's a great feeling," Rex Radeloff said as he savored his first victory as a head coach. "It's always a great feeling."

"I said after last week's game, it was a sick feeling," Radeloff said. "They (the Ross players) have felt victory before and that loss was hard. They came in Saturday morning and they knew they did not play 48 minutes of football; they knew what they had to do and they worked hard on accomplishing that this week at practice."

The Ross defense took playing a full game to heart. Defensive coordinator Joe Siesel's crew plucked the Eagles repeatedly,

holding Clay to a minus-38 yards on 27 planned and aborted running attempts. Manoa Jones and Brian Laird, Ross defensive ends, sacked Eagles quarterback Don Walendzak eight times for 44 yards in losses. Both Little Giants had four sacks apiece.

A seven-for-15 passing performance by Walendzak for 52 yards gave the Eagles a net plus yardage tally of 14. The Eagles did not get a first down by rushing, instead settling for two via passing and four more on penalties as Ross was flagged 10 times for 105 yards.

After a stalled first series, Ross quarterback John Stierwalt sneaked in from one-yard out with 18 seconds remaining in the first quarter to climax a 10-play, 52-yard drive. His extra point kick made it 7-0.

After a 45-yard Doug Aman punt, Ross started an 11-play, 73-yard drive to its second TD. Rob Egbert, who recorded his first 100-yard rushing night with 105 on 21 carries, broke over the middle, picked up two, count'em, two blocks from tight end Chris

Mosser and covered the final 27 yards for the six-pointer. Stierwalt's kick put Ross up 14-0 with 4:35 to go in the half.

Clay's deepest offensive penetration followed. Aided by three penalties that gave the Eagles first downs, Clay marched to the Ross 36 only to have the drive stall when Jones sacked Walendzak on a fourth-and-eight play.

"We are very confident with our defense," Radeloff said. "We thought they could shut them out and they did. My only concern was whether the offense would bounce back."

The Ross defense was not on the field when Clay scored. Aman stepped in front of a Stierwalt pass at the Ross 44 and raced nearly unmolested to paydirt 3½ minutes into the second half. That was when Radeloff became concerned but his restlessness was for naught.

Ross drove 66 yards in a time-consuming 15 plays in its next series to score its final touchdown. Keyed by the running tandem of fullback Jim Carroll and tailback Steve

Letzring along with a pair of 14-yard keepers by Stierwalt, Ross sealed Clay's tomb at the 2:44 mark of the third quarter. Egbert scored from the one on a option around left end.

"The offensive line had a heck of a game," Radeloff praised. Comprising that unit was center Mike Longanbach, guards Jones and Laird, and tackles Cory Reed and Dean Van Ness.

After that TD march, the Little Giants' defense continued to feast on Eagle meat.

Carroll finished with 57 yards rushing on 17 carries, Letzring had 45 on 10 and Stierwalt 51 on nine attempts to go with Egbert's production. Ross had 259 yards rushing on 58 attempts.

While the victory was sweet, there was a touch of bitterness. Outside linebacker Mike Hrynciw, Ross's leading tackler last season, may be out for the season after injuring his left knee late in the game.

Another Little Giant, defensive back Rick Egbert, missed the game because of injuries sustained in the season opener.

Football

Ross 21, Clay 7

Score by quarters

Ross	7	7	7	0	—	21
Clay	0	0	7	0	—	7

Scoring

Ross: John Stierwalt, three-yard run (Stierwalt kick) 0:18, first quarter.

Ross: Rob Egbert, 27-yard run (Stierwalt kick) 4:35, second quarter.

Clay: Doug Aman, 44-yard interception return (Hiser kick) 9:37, third quarter.

Ross: Rob Egbert, one-yard run (Stierwalt kick) 2:44, third quarter.

Team Stats

	R	C
First Downs	17	6
Rushes/Yards	58/259	27/-38
Passing Yards	9	52
Passes/Comp./Int.	3/1/1	16/7/1
Punts/Average	1/40.0	5/36.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	10/110	8/63

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross: Egbert 21/105, Carroll 17/57, Stierwalt 9/51, Letzring 10/45; Clay: Turner 4/7, Walendzak 14/49.

Passing: Ross: Stierwalt 3/1/1-9 yards; Clay: Walendzak 16/7/1-52 yards.

Receiving: Ross: Cahill 1/9; Clay: Burson 3/28, Schweizer 1/10.

Season records: Ross 1-1, Clay 1-1.

'Siesel's Stranglers' plan to repeat latest showing

But they'll have to do it without three injured players

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Sometimes, the good things come at a high price.

Joe Siesel knows the feeling. The defensive coordinator for the Ross High School Little Giants football team was a happy witness to a near-perfect defensive effort.

Against Clay, a 21-7 win for Ross, Siesel's Stranglers limited the Eagles to a minus-38 yards rushing and 52 yards passing for a net total of 14. Clay had no first downs rushing, just two passing and four via the penalty route, the only black mark for the Ross "D".

An effort like that against Toledo Central Catholic, 2-0, at the Glass Bowl in Toledo this Friday night would be more icing on the cake for Siesel.

"Yeah," Siesel, the ex-New York Giants linebacker, grinned while thinking back about last Friday night, "it (defense) was pretty dominating. I think they had something to prove."

So how do you top something like that?

"You have to come back and play well the next week but not get anyone injured," Siesel said.

That was the rub: the Little Giants' defensive effort was costly.

On one play, as time dwindled

out on the Eagles, Ross lost two linebackers. One, Mike Hrynciw is out indefinitely, and the other, Kirk Wilhelm, is out at least this week. Defensive back Jerry Palomo broke a bone in his left wrist earlier in the game and will also likely be out of the lineup this Friday.

"I never had a play where I lost two linebackers," Siesel said. "Wilhelm stayed in but took a step on the next play and went down."

Ironically, there was little or no contact on the injuries to the linebackers.

Gary McClure, a junior, will probably start in Hrynciw's outside slot while Steve Letzring and Mike Longanbach are the likely replacements for Wilhelm on the inside.

In the defensive secondary, Rick Egbert, who sat out last week's game because of an injury, is practicing again and will probably take Palomo's spot.

Both Siesel and head coach Rex Radeloff described this Friday's opponent as a basic, no-nonsense team.

"They run from tackle-to-tackle," Radeloff said of Toledo Central Catholic. "They are a power football team. They don't throw that much. They have a big offensive line."

The TCC tackles will go 245 and 250 and the guards line up at 235 and 215. That is the foursome that the Irish running backs like to follow.

"We anticipate that they will run tackle-to-tackle," Siesel offered. "When their quarterback (Scott Sneider) rolls out, he likes to run."

Jim Johnston, a 5-10, 190-pound senior, is the chief ball carrier for the Irish.

The Little Giants and Irish are similar in that both have at least five players playing both offense and defense. Sneider, like Ross quarterback John Stierwalt, also lines up in the defensive secondary.

Radeloff, while praising the play of both the Ross offensive and defensive lines against Clay, says that area has to be more consistent.

"We also have to throw the ball more effectively; not two or three times a game ... maybe five or six," he joked.

Stierwalt, who threw the ball just three times last week, has had his problems in the passing department, having been intercepted four times in the two games.

"What I expect," the Ross head coach said, "is a very close game. We just have to eliminate the mistakes."

Ross knocks off Irish 14-7

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

TOLEDO — John Cahill provided the main ingredient and it was sweet cooking served in a Glass Bowl as Ross outdueled Toledo Central Catholic 14-7 Friday night.

Riding another standout defensive effort which took away the Fighting Irish's bread and butter, the Little Giants outslugged TCC in the trenches for their second win in three games. The loss was the first after two victories for the Irish.

Cahill, a split end, turned acrobat to make a lunging grab of a 39-yard aerial from quarterback John Stierwalt early in the final quarter for the go-ahead touchdown. Stierwalt's kick at the 11:38 mark put the Little Giants on top by the final margin. The TD capped a four-play, 49-yard drive.

"It was a perfect pass," Cahill grinned while standing in the middle of the steamy jubilant Ross locker room at the University of Toledo facility. "I could not ask for anything more on that pass."

The first Ross touchdown was bizarre. Taking over at its own 37 late in the first quarter, Ross drove to the TCC three where it faced a third and goal situation.

Fullback Jim Carroll got the

call, bulled his way to the one, was hit and fumbled. The ball squirted toward the back of the end zone where 6-5, 250-pound Ross tackle Dean VanNess fell on the ball for the touchdown.

Stierwalt's boot gave the Little Giants the 7-0 lead with no time remaining in the quarter.

"Our size pretty much neutralized their's," Ross boss Rex Radeloff said. "I felt we controlled the line of scrimmage."

With tackles Cory Reed and VanNess, guards Brian Laird and Micah Jones, center Mike Loganbach and tight end Chris Mosser, Ross was able to open huge holes in the TCC defensive front. Rob Egbert rushed for 109 yards on 24 attempts, his second straight game over the century mark, as the Little Giants ground out 182 yards rushing.

Ross also picked up 103 yards in the air with Stierwalt hitting four of seven for 76 yards and the rest coming on passes from Egbert and Cahill. Egbert's tailback pass to Tom Wolfe for 22 yards to the TCC 22 keyed the first Ross scoring drive.

While Ross's offense was having its best game of the young season, the defense was going through an encore to a dominating job at Oregon Clay.

Going into the game, Radeloff

and Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel knew that the Irish were predominantly a tackle to tackle running team.

"We took that away from them," Radeloff said. "We forced them do something (pass) that they did not want to do."

The Ross defensive front of Laird and Jones at the ends and the robust tackle duo of 260-pound Chad Hicks and 275-pound Jim Stull, along with inside linebackers Carroll and Steve Letzring, held the Irish to 44 yards on 29 running attempts.

"That was fun," Siesel grinned, "I never had so much fun on the sidelines; this was a fun one."

Siesel's Stranglers allowed 126 yards in the air, but the Ross coach was satisfied with that effort. Stierwalt, Rick Egbert — back in the lineup after missing the Clay game with an injury — and twin brother Rob Egbert came up with key plays in the secondary.

Irish quarterback Scott Snider was sacked five times by the Ross defense for 27 yards in losses. Jones and Letzring had two sacks each and Hicks one.

After Ross had taken the lead on Cahill's catch, TCC drove from the Irish 40 to the Ross 35 where it faced a fourth and 10. Snider hit tight end Matt

Paskiet on slant toward the middle, but Stierwalt's tackle stopped Paskiet cold, three yards from the first down.

After Ross failed to move, TCC drove from its 43 to the Ross 28 before stalling again. Letzring's second sack for an eight-yard loss keyed the defensive stand.

TCC had another chance. Taking over at the Irish 17 after a 40-yard Stierwalt punt with 2:09 to play, Snider completed passes of 10, eight, 15 and 18 yards to get his team to the Ross 42. On his next pass, the ball slipped through Todd Peake's hands and into Stierwalt's grasp for an interception to snuff out the Irish's chances of a third straight win.

Radeloff and Siesel both agreed about the defensive effort: it was one of the better team efforts they had seen.

Radeloff summed up the win rather easily: "When you get in a game like this, you ask your young men to play their best, and tonight they did a super job both defensively and offensively."

"Now what we are working for is Admiral King and the Buckeye Conference."

Ross returns to Harmon Stadium Friday for the tiff with the Admirals, a 28-2 victor over the Little Giants last season in the opening conference game.

High school

Ross 14, Toledo CC 7

Score by quarters

Ross	7	0	0	7	—	14
Toledo CC	0	7	0	0	—	7

Scoring

Ross: Dean VanNess, recovered fumble in end zone (John Stierwalt kick), 0:00, first quarter.

Toledo Central: William Peterson, three-yard run (Andy Grombacher kick), 1:05 second quarter.

Ross: John Cahill, 39-yard pass from Stierwalt (Stierwalt kick), 11:38, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	TCC
First Downs	14	11
Rushes/Yards	51/182	29/44
Passing Yards	103	126
Passes/Comp./Int.	9/6/0	22/11/1
Punts/Average	5/31.4	5/40.6
Fumbles/Lost	2/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	7/73	6/30

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross: Rob Egbert 24/109, Jim Carroll 15/42; Central: William Peterson 11/21.

Passing: Ross: Stierwalt 7/4/76; Central: Sneider 22/11/126.

Receiving: Ross: John Cahill 4/76; Central Todd Peake 4/46.

Season records: Ross 2-1, Toledo Central 2-1.

Ross opens final BC season

Nemesis Admiral King invades Harmon Stadium Friday night

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Just because a team drills another 28-2, is that reason to hold a grudge?

No, according to Rex Radeloff.

Radeloff was the offensive coordinator for Ross when the Little Giants rolled smoothly into Lorain a year ago only to limp away on the short end of that score as Admiral King sailed proudly into the sunset.

"That was a memorable score," Radeloff, now the chief boss of the Little Ginats, admitted, "but I don't know how much that is going to play this week."

Ross entertains the Admirals Friday in the opening clash of the 32nd and final Buckeye Conference season.

"Most of the players are different and we are preparing for the game this week; not for what happened last year," Radeloff said.

But the memories are hard to erase.

"At the start of the game, we moved the ball," Radeloff recalled. "We got to the 10, but they intercepted a pass in the end zone."

The ball was brought out to the 20 and the rest is history.

"They went 80 yards on the first play," the Ross coach said.

Alex Perez broke four tackles and raced those 80 demoralizing yards into the Ross

end zone and the Little Giants never got back in the game. But, that was then, and it's a new beginning for the final chapter of the Buckeye Conference. Radeloff puts more stock in that aspect than he does the AK drilling of a year ago.

"It will probably be the last time that we play most of the teams in the Buckeye," Radeloff said. "It's not so much that it is the last year of the Buckeye, but winning the Buckeye Conference has been our primary goal every season."

The Admirals hold a 12-8-3 advantage in the series while winning four of the last five clashes. Ross has not beaten AK since 1983, a 14-13 decision that helped pave the way to the Little Giants' only appearance in the state playoffs.

Both the Admirals and Ross are 2-1. AK lost to Lima Senior 14-13 in week one but bounced back to defeat Avon Lake 16-12 and pulverize Cleveland John Adams 50-8.

After losing to Tiffin Columbian in the season opener, Ross has defeated Oregon Clay 21-7 and last week, in the team's best showing both defensively and offensively, recorded a 14-7 win over Toledo Central Catholic.

Although scoring just two touchdowns, the Ross offensive line ruled the trenches,

putting together the two scoring drives and another that covered nearly 90 yards but did not result in a score.

"We had that long drive and that took a load of time off the clock," Radeloff said.

"Defensively, we completely shut them down; we forced them to pass and that is not what they wanted to do."

On a lighter side, the Ross coach may have found the key to Ross success: play a lot of first halves.

"We have to play two first halves," he joked after the win over the Irish. "At halftime, we heard one of their coaches coming down from the booth say, 'They (the Little Giants) are tired; we'll get them the second half,' or words to that point."

"We told the kids that and they would have to go out and play the second half like it was the first half."

Now if all the games consisted of first halves, both first and second...

ROSS NOTES: Friday night is Parent's Night for the Little Giants.

Admiral King is first offensively in the pre-BC season, generating 749 yards on 128 rushing plays and another 256 on 10-of-38 passing for an average of 335 yards a game. Last year, Admiral King had 303 total yards against the Little Giants.

King nips Ross in 2 OTs

Little Giants blow 7-0 lead in final seconds of regulation

By ROB BOUKISSEN
Staff writer

You can dodge bullets only so long.

The Ross Little Giants found that out Friday night, falling to the Lorain Admiral King Admirals 21-14 in a double-overtime thriller at Harmon Stadium.

The Little Giants' defense, which managed to hold off four deep threats by the Admirals in the second half, finally broke with 30 seconds left in the game when King scored to tie it 7-7.

After Ross took control 14-7 with the first TD in the opening overtime session, King came back to score the next two TDs to put the game away.

"The kids gave a hell of an effort," said Ross Coach Rex Radeloff. "I'm not down on anyone's effort."

"But we made too many mistakes. In a game like this, it's usually mistakes, penalties and the kicking game that make the difference. We must've had 100 yards in penalties."

He was exactly right. The Giants committed 10 penalties for 100 yards, including a big 10-yard interference penalty that led to King's TD in the first overtime. It happened on a fourth-and-10 play from the 20-yard line.

Two plays later, Roy Kitts ran it in from the 10 and Mike Carrico added the extra point to tie the game again 14-14 and send it into the second overtime.

King had the first possession in the second OT and capitalized on it when Carrico found Gil Plesencia on a 14-yard TD pass over the middle. Carrico's kick made it 21-14.

Ross managed to get the ball down to the five on its next possession, but John Stierwalt's desperation pass on fourth-and-goal fell incomplete in the right corner of the end zone.

"The defense played great," said Radeloff. "We couldn't ask for any more out of the defense. But when the offense got the ball, we couldn't do anything with it."

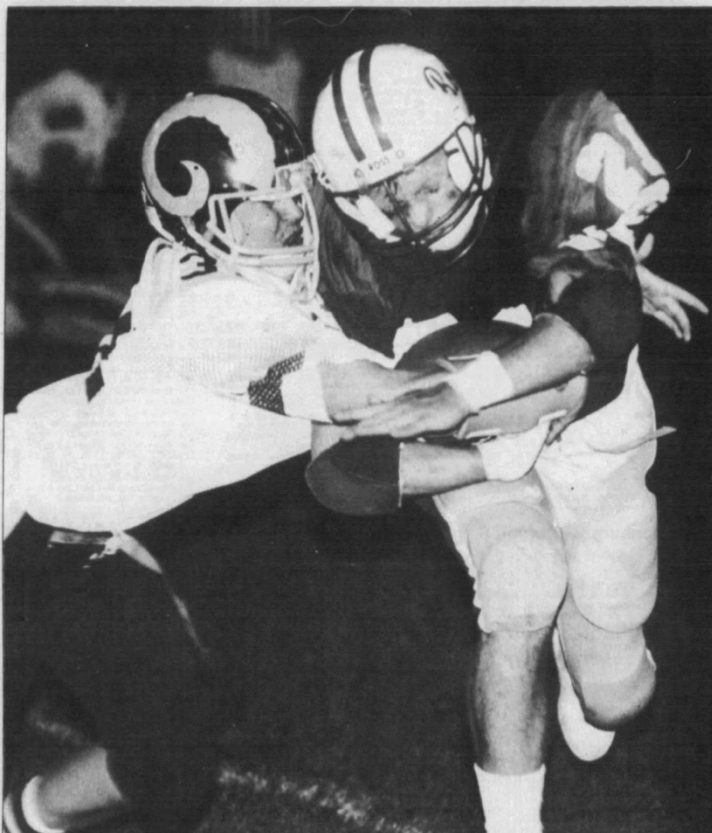
Ross's offense struggled all night. The Giants accumulated just five first downs in regulation, including two in the second half.

"We needed first downs in the second half, and we couldn't get them," said Radeloff. "They (the Admirals) gave us a lot of different looks on defense that gave us problems."

Ross's main offense came from the Stierwalt-to-John Cahill connection, which clicked seven times for 92 yards. The Little Giants had 120 yards rushing, but 43 came on one run by Steve Letzring.

In fact, it was the Little Giants' defense that scored the first touchdown of the game. Defensive back Rob Egbert did the honors by intercepting a Dave Fabian pass and racing 60 yards down the left sideline to paydirt. Stierwalt's kick made it 7-0 Ross with 6:06 left in the first quarter.

Ross's defense, led by Brian Laird, Jim Carroll, Manoh Jones, Chad Hicks and Letzring, continued to sparkle the rest of the way, with its best performances coming late in the game.



ROB EGBERT (21) of Ross gets stopped by an unidentified Admiral King defender.

On the final play of the third quarter, Laird, Carroll and Jones led a gang of Ross tacklers that stopped Ken Rivers short of a first down on a fourth-and-one from the Ross 11.

Then with less than nine minutes left and King at the Ross 10, Laird leveled Carrico, causing a fumble that Jones recovered and returned to the 38. It was the second time during the game that Laird caused a fumble and Jones recovered it.

King got the ball back and moved it to the Ross 37 before Jerry Palomo picked off a fourth-down pass by Carrico with 6:08 left.

Once again the Admirals got the ball back and once again the Ross defense rose to the occasion. This time it was Gary McClure picking off a Carrico pass and racing down the left sideline.

But McClure was hit at the King 24 and fumbled to ball back to the Admirals.

The fumble looked harmless enough since there was only 1:52 left and King had to go 76 yards to reach the end zone, but it turned out to be disastrous.

It took the Admirals eight plays to cover the distance. Carrico completed five of eight passes during the quick march, which culminated on a five-yard



JIM CARROLL ... seconds after the Little Giants' tough loss.

toss to Kitts with 30 seconds left.

Ross quickly regained the edge four plays into the first overtime when Stierwalt scored on a quarterback sneak from inside the one, but King came back with its two scores to pull out the dramatic victory.

The game was the Buckeye

Conference opener for both teams. Ross is 2-2 overall and King is 3-1.

"As far as the Buckeye is concerned, the team that will win it will have at least one loss," said Radeloff. "We're still in it and we're going to be in it before it's all over."

News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

Football

Adm. King 21 Ross 14

Score by quarters

Admiral King	0	0	0	7	7	7	— 21
Ross	7	0	0	0	7	0	— 14

Scoring

Ross: Rob Egbert, 60-yard interception return (John Stierwalt kick), 6:06, first quarter.

Admiral King: Ray Kitts, five-yard pass from Mike Carrico (Carrico kick), :30, fourth quarter.

Ross: Stierwalt, one-yard run (Stierwalt kick), first overtime.

Admiral King: Kitts, 10-yard run (Carrico kick), first overtime.

Admiral King: Gil Piesencia, 14-yard pass from Carrico (Carrico kick), second overtime.

Team Stats

	AK	R
First Downs	18	7
Rushes/Yards	40/92	39/120
Passing Yards	219	92
Passes/Comp./Int.	31/11/3	17/7/1
Punts/Average	4/38.0	6/36.8
Fumbles/Lost	4/3	2/2
Penalties/Yards	4/35	9/100

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Admiral King: Brian Amison 20/64; Ross: Steve Letzring 6/55, Jim Carroll 17/40, Egbert 12/22.

Passing: Admiral King: Carrico 27/10/2-172; Ross: Stierwalt 17/7/1-92.

Receiving: Admiral King: 6/119; Ross: John Cahill 7/92.

Season records: Admiral King 3-1 (1-0), Ross 2-2 (0-1).

No letup for the Little Giants

After losing tough one to King, Ross must now play Benedictine

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

For lack of a first down, a game was lost.

"We could have won the game," Rex Radeloff said while still feeling the sting of a double-overtime 21-14 loss to Admiral King in the Buckeye Conference opener at Harmon Stadium last Friday.

The first down that Ross needed and Radeloff was praying for was felt most in on the last series of downs. Get a first down and, with it, the Little Giants could have melted more time off the clock.

But "could haves" usually end up in the "L" column.

The Little Giants had only two second-half first downs against the multiple King defenses. It was the Ross defense that kept the Little Giants on top of the game until a half-minute remained when King scored to send the game into overtime, the first time a Ross team has been in an extra session.

"It was a great defensive game on both sides," Radeloff described. "We knew they were going to be a tough team and they created problems for us."

Radeloff pointed out that he had been concerned with the Admirals' speed.

"Their speed," Radeloff said, "and fatigue late in the game may have been the difference."

The disappointing loss sunk Ross to 2-2 and 0-1 in conference play, a BC beginning that is not an unusual position for the Little Giants. In the 1984 and 1985 seasons, Ross lost to Admiral King in the first conference game but came back to tie for the conference crown.

"I don't know how many years it has been that the conference winner has lost a game," the Ross coach recalled, "but it (losing a game and winning the title) makes it a lot tougher."

Speaking of tougher, enter this Friday's opponent: Cleveland Benedictine, a team Ross has been playing the last six years at the mid-point of the season. Four of those games have gone to the Bennies, but all five have been close, hard-fought contests.

"We are not taking a break," Radeloff answered. "This game definitely does not give us a break. They are just next in a season that gets tougher as it goes."

The Bennies are 4-0 and tied for eighth, along with Massillon, in the latest Associated Press high school poll. Being

ranked in the top 10 is common for the Bennies, and the way they play football is just as common: hard and basic.

"I think if you look at all the films of the games we have played against them, they have changed very little," Radeloff said. "You may have a good idea of what they are running but you have to stop it."

The Bennies are big on both the offensive and defensive lines. Offensively, the Bennies average 234 from tackle to tackle; defensively, the tackles are 250 apiece, one end is 240 and the other end, a shrimp-like 198.

Some of the Bennies' names may ring a bell for Ross fans. The quarterback is Preston Hrisko, brother of Pete who showed a good passing arm to the Little Giants a few seasons back. And the wide receiver is Bob Clark, who has plagued the Ross defenders for the last two seasons.

Other key players include linebacker/wingback Tom Zdanowicz, 6-3, 180, senior; tight end and inside linebacker Reggie Smith; defensive end Ricki Allen, 6-3, 240, senior; and tailback Ross Grosel, a 5-9, 180, junior, who started as a sophomore.



News Messenger/Bill Kennedy

ROB EGBERT of Ross is caught by Richard Allen of Benedictine during Friday's second-half action at Harmon Stadium. Chris Mosser (82) of Ross attempts to get into the action.

Bennies blank Giants 23-0

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Cleveland Benedictine flashed its own brand of lightning and then let Fremont Ross be its own worst enemy in a 23-0 high school football verdict over the Little Giants.

The game's start was delayed 25 minutes when lightning and thunder flashed and rumbled around Sandusky County and Harmon Stadium Friday night.

Benedictine, in spite of sweating out the delay in the cramped locker room, struck as quickly as the lightning. On the opening kickoff, Tim Zdanowicz took John Stierwalt's short kick at the 27 and weaved his way across the field 26 yards to the Ross 47.

As lightning flashed in the eastern skies, junior tailback Ron Grosel took a handoff from Preston Hrisiko, cut through right tackle, bounced outside and was not stopped until a shoestring tackle by Ross defensive back Rick Egebert upended him at the two. Grosel scored on the next play over left guard and Mike Garred's kick put Ross in the hole 7-0 just 31 seconds into the game.

"The first play, that guy was so fast, I did not see it right away," Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said. "After the first 30 seconds, we played better than adequate defense."

"The first play sort of set the tone," Benedictine Coach Augie Bossu said, "but they regrouped and it was not until much later that we got things going our way."

Bossu pointed out his team put the game away only with a shift of field position. After the

Two area games postponed

News-Messenger Reports

The Clyde-Port Clinton and Otsego-Woodmore football games were postponed Friday night due to the bad weather conditions.

The game at Port Clinton will be resumed today at 2 p.m., with Port Clinton in possession of the ball, first-and-10 at its own 20-yard line and 4:37 left in the first quarter. Admission will be free.

The Woodmore-Otsego game at Elmore was also called off and will be played tonight at 7:30.

Bennies scored in the first quarter, the Ross defense kept Benedictine bottled up in its territory most of the first half. Only once after scoring did the Bennies get into Ross territory, that on the next to last play of the second quarter.

During that time, Ross was, as Bossu said, regrouping. But at the same time, the Little Giants kept self-destructing.

After a 57-yard Stierwalt punt put the Bennies in the hole at their own five, the Bennies punted and Ross took over at the Benedictine 42. Rob Egbert rushed for 10 yards on two plays and a Stierwalt-to-John Cahill pass, one of six the senior wide receiver caught, netted 13 yards to the 19. On the next play, Stierwalt, aiming for Cahill, was intercepted in the end zone by Derrick Dent.

A series later, Ross drove to the Bennies' 20 before the drive stalled on downs a minute into the second quarter. But Ross got the ball back when Brian Laird recovered a Hrisiko fumble at the Bennies' 37. Four plays later, the drive was thwarted when Ross failed to pick up a first down on a fourth-and-one at the 28.

"It was an automatic," Ross

Coach Rex Radeloff said about the crucial play. "We had a quarterback sneak called but they jammed the middle. Stierwalt did what he was supposed to, calling an automatic, and it would have worked but we missed the block."

Egbert was hit for a two-yard loss and the Bennies had survived another threat.

Trailing 7-0, Ross drove to the Benedictine 39 after the second-half kickoff before stalling. Stierwalt's punt went out-of-bounds at the Bennies' eight. The Bennies were unable to move as the Little Giants' defense forced another punt, which squirted off the side of Rini Scott's right foot, going out-of-bounds at the Bennies' 32.

Again, Ross became the Bennies' 12th man. A clipping penalty on the first play put Ross back to the 50 and effectively killed the Little Giants' drive. Field position began to swing toward Benedictine.

The Bennies, taking over at the 27, drove to their 43 before punting. This time, Scott's punt sailed 48 yards to the Ross eight and the Bennies were set for the kill.

The Little Giants' offense

sputtered. Stierwalt, punting out of the end zone, got it out to the 42 where Bob Clark hauled it in, started to his left, cut back and raced untouched into the end zone for the touchdown with 1:57 remaining in the third quarter.

That return was just a preview of the next horror awaiting the Little Giants.

Ross began at the 23 after the kickoff, but a holding penalty on the first play put the Little Giants back to the eight. Four plays later, Stierwalt was forced to punt, but the ball went only a foot before Cliff Arrington, firing in from the right side, blocked the punt, followed it, and recovered at the Ross seven.

Grosel covered those yards in one play and Ross trailed 21-0 with 15 seconds left in the third quarter. That was it. A Ross clipping penalty while Stierwalt was attempting to pass from the end zone was declared a safety four minutes into the last quarter and the final nail was in the coffin.

It's the first time Ross has been shutout since the final game of the 1982 season, 22-0 by Sandusky.

"We are two and three in the first half," Radeloff said quietly. "We have five Buckeye games left, so now we have to work hard on Elyria. We have to move the ball."

Ross had just 67 yards on 34 attempts while Stierwalt was 11 of 25 with a pair of interceptions for 86 yards. Grosel had 115 yards rushing on 21 carries as the Bennies had 129 yards rushing to go with Hrisiko's five of 12 passing for 90 yards. Two of Hrisiko's passes were intercepted by Rob Egbert and Jerry Palomo.

Football

Benedictine 23, Ross 0

Score by quarters

Benedictine	7	0	14	2	—	23
Ross	0	0	0	0	—	0

Scoring

Benedictine: Ron Grosel, two-yard run (Mike Garred kick), 11:29, first quarter.

Benedictine: Bob Clark, 42-yard punt return (Garred kick), 1:57, third quarter.

Benedictine: Grosel, seven-yard run (Garred kick), 0:15, third quarter.

Benedictine: Safety, 8:29, fourth quarter

Team Stats

	B	R
First Downs	9	9
Rushes/Yards	39/129	34/67
Passing Yards	90	86
Passes/Comp./Int.	12/5/2	25/11/2
Punts/Average	7/39.6	6/40.2
Fumbles/Lost	4/1	1/0
Penalties/Yards	9/76	4/39

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Benedictine: Grosel 21/115, Arlan Hill 4/12; Ross: Rob Egbert 14/40, Jim Carroll 10/33, Steve Letzring 4/7.

Passing: Benedictine: Preston Hrisko 12/5/2—90; Ross: John Stierwalt 25/11/2—86.

Receiving: Benedictine: Tom Zdanowicz 4/79, Clark 1/11; Ross: John Cahill 6/62, Chris Mosser 2/18, Carroll 1/5, Letzring 1/3, Egbert 1/-2.

Season records: Benedictine 5-0, Ross 2-3.

Rain, rain, please don't go away

Ross coach thinks the wet stuff would help Giants' chances at Elyria

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Rain Friday night would not dampen the spirits of Rex Radeloff.

Hopefully, in Radeloff's thinking, a rainy Buckeye Conference football game at Elyria may work to the Little Giants' advantage.

"A wet (and muddy) field would have to slow them down a little," Radeloff, the Ross coach, said shortly before Wednesday's practice.

Ross, 2-3, travels to Elyria, 3-2, for an 8 p.m., Friday, clash in a resumption of conference play for the Little Giants.

It was rain that dampened the fortunes of both teams last Friday.

Lightning delayed the Benedictine-Ross clash 25 minutes before the Bennies handed the Little Giants a 23-0 setback.

And the Elyria-Admiral King game was stopped just after halftime because of lightning. Elyria had a 13-12 lead at that point, but the Admirals roared back Saturday for a 34-13 victory.

"The field at Elyria is supposed to be in bad shape," Radeloff said while citing another factor that may hinder the speedy Pioneers.

Tailback Lamar Jackson is the chief

Pioneer speedster. He leads the conference in rushing with 614 yards on 80 carries, a 7.7 average. Add Karl Armstrong and his six-yards-per-carry average as the other Elyria running back and you can see why Radeloff may be looking to the heavens for help Friday.

Jackson, in Elyria's 29-21 loss to Willoughby South, had 205 yards on 10 carries in the first half but finished with just 214 in the game.

"Defensively, we have to contain them, not let them get outside. If they do, we don't have anyone to catch them," Radeloff commented.

"They also have a couple of fast wide receivers in Rod Moore and Cory Williams," the Ross coach continued to describe Elyria, "and the tight end, Eric Bush, can also run."

"They also have a good quarterback to get the ball to those receivers."

The QB is Ken Jones, son of Elyria head coach Bill Jones. The Elyria signal-caller is the leading passer in the BC, completing 27 of 55 for 499 yards and seven TDs.

Moore is second to Ross's John Cahill in receiving with 12 catches for a 17.2 average and four touchdowns. Bush has hauled in 10

passes for nearly a 20-yard average per catch.

The Elyria offensive tackles, Radeloff said, tip the scales at around 240 pounds apiece.

"Our defense has played consistently all season," Radeloff described. "We just have to continue that this Friday."

"Elyria's defense is a little like our's; they will use a '50' look and use a '4-4' like us," Radeloff said.

"Offensively, we have to eliminate the mistakes. We have been working on the basics and our techniques this week."

Ross, in spite of being shut out by Benedictine, moved the ball well between the 20s, but each time a mistake usually stopped the drive.

With five games under their belts, the clash with the Pioneers could be considered as the beginning of the "second season."

"Yeah, it's season two," Radeloff agreed. "This is nothing new to us."

The latter statement was in reference to Ross being 0-1 in conference play the past two seasons when they went up against Elyria. Each season, Ross bounced back to win the five remaining games and tie for the Buckeye Conference title.

Ross beats Elyria

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

ELYRIA — The bottom line was Elyria had the yardage but Ross had the points and Rex Radeloff's wish was answered.

Ross came home happy and Elyria went home sad as the Little Giants made a second-quarter touchdown hold up for a 7-0 victory in the Sloss Bowl Friday night.

"This was ideal," Radeloff grinned after his team leveled its season mark at 3-3 and 1-1 in the football battles of the Buckeye Conference.

The "ideal" was a water-laden turf that bogged down the Elyria speed, helping the Little Giants' defense record its first shutout of '86 season.

"We talked about the weather we wanted to play them in," Radeloff recalled a mid-week conversation, "and I felt if it was a muddy field, it would help us." Did he pray for rain?

"No, I prayed for a win for us," Radeloff laughed, "I'm not greedy."

The field, ravaged by a week of rain and a pair of junior high games played on it Thursday, hampered but did not completely restrict play. Still, that was enough for Ross.

Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel's crew gave up 238 total yards, repulsed two drives deep into Ross territory and survived a last-quarter pass deflection that slipped through a Pioneer receiver's hands who was behind the last Ross defender. It also contained the person it had targeted — Lamar Jackson — and shut down Elyria's inside game.

Jackson finished with 122 yards — he got 68 of those on a pair of 34-yard runs in the first quarter — on 19 carries.

Siesel admitted the wet condition may have stolen some of Jackson's speed but said, "He still looked pretty darn quick on a wet field."

Ross defensive tackles Israel Ysasi, Chad Hicks and Jim Stull, after bending a bit at the beginning, clogged up the middle of the Elyria offense and ends Micah Jones and Brian Laird along with outside linebackers Cardell Beachum, Gary McClure and Jason Schultz helped string out the attempted sweeps by the speedy Elyria backs. In the second half, Pioneer quarterback Kent Jones got outside to pick up a pair of key first downs, but each time Ross held.

Elyria got inside the Ross 20 twice, once on the opening drive of the game when Jackson broke off a 34-yard run to the Ross 27 and again late in the third quarter as Jones passed 20 yards to tight end Eric Bush and came back on the next play by rolling out left for 21 yards to the Ross 24.

On the first drive, with Elyria facing a second and 10 at the Ross 17, Ysasi recovered a Jones fumble at the 21 and returned it to the 33. The second excursion into Ross territory faltered when Ross defensive back Jerry Palomo made a juggling

Ross

Continued From B-1

interception at the 10 and brought it back out to the 18.

Elyria got to the Ross 38 on its next to last possession of the game but on a fourth and seven, Jackson was cut down by Hicks and defensive back Rick Egbert for a two yard loss.

Elyria had one last breath. Facing a fourth and 20 at the Pioneer 29, Jones fired a pass toward flanker Corey Williams at the Ross 40. Rob Egbert, running with Williams, went up for the ball, grabbed for it but it slipped through his hands and into the hands of the startled Williams. Egbert's deflection was just enough to force it through the Pioneer receiver's hands who would have had nothing but grass, mud and water between him and the Ross goal line. Three plays later, a fourth and three pass to Jackson fell two inches short and Ross had it wrapped up.

While the defense was carrying the load, the Little Giants' offense had enough when it counted with a boost from Siesel's crew. Jim Carroll and Steve Letzring, playing at the inside linebacker slots, helped force a fumble at the Pioneer 20 by Elyria fulback Karl Armstrong. Letzring pounced on the ball to set up the only score of the game.

Letzring, running at tailback, got nothing on the first play but quarterback John Stierwalt hooked up with wide receiver John Cahill for a 19-yard gain to the one.

"It was a mis-direction play," Radeloff explained the only pass of the game by Stierwalt. "They went with the fake and we went to our best receiver."

Two plays later, Stierwalt sneaked in, kicked the extra point, and Ross had the points it needed 32 seconds into the second quarter.

While the Elyria offense out-gained Ross 238 to 117 in total yardage, it hurt itself with nine illegal procedure penalties.

Letzring led the Ross rushers with 56 yards on 15 carries.

High school

Ross 7, Elyria 0

Score by quarters

Ross	0	7	0	0	—	7
Elyria	0	0	0	0	—	0

Scoring

Ross: John Stierwalt, one-yard run, (Stierwalt kick), 11:28, second quarter.

Team Stats

	R	E
First Downs	7	11
Rushes/Yards	39/98	43/177
Passing Yards	19	61
Passes/Comp./Int.	1/1/0	12/6/1
Punts/Average	5/34.0	3/32.3
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	3/2
Penalties/Yards	3/15	9/45

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Steve Letzring 15/56, Rob Egbert 5/36; Elyria, Lamar Jackson 19/122, Kent Jones 9/39.

Passing: Ross, Stierwalt 1/1/0-19; Elyria, Jones 12/6/1-61.

Receiving: Ross, John Cahill 1/19; Elyria, Eric Bush 3/34.

Season records: Ross 3-3 (1-1), Elyria 3-3 (1-2).

Encore time for Little Giants

Ross football team prepares for Lorain's power offensive scheme

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was a great "pick-me-up" but now it is time for an encore.

Rex Radeloff felt that way last Friday after his Ross High School football team blanked Elyria 7-0 to stop a two-game losing streak.

"We needed a win," he said, "that was a great pick-me-up for the team."

Friday, Ross, 3-3 and 1-1 in the Buckeye Conference, will travel to Lorain to take on the Steelman and their version of the Cincinnati Bengals 260-pound fullback Larry Kinnebrew.

"They are basically a power football team; they are not fancy," Radeloff described Ross's next opponent. "They usually line up with two tight ends, a full house backfield or the wishbone. They just run power football with the dives and off tackle."

That's where Lorain's version of Kinnebrew comes into focus.

Occupying that position for the Steelmen is 6-2, 258-pound Tom Pruitt, a monster of a blocker who is also nimble afoot according to the Ross coach. Pruitt makes a nice cushion for the other Lorain running backs — Dennis Washington and Jim Klingshirm — to follow.

"Washington is probably their best back," Radeloff said, "But Klingshirm is a good one, too."

Washington is the second leading rusher in the conference with 458 yards on 95 carries, a 4.8 average. Klingshirm ranks seventh in the BC with 332 yards on 63 carries, a 5.1 average. Pruitt, although not figuring in the top echelons of the conference rushing stats, is the man for the Ross defense to keep its eyes on should Lorain get close to the goal line. He has three TDs this season.

"Lorain has not optioned much that we have seen," Radeloff said, "but I would imagine, after

watching the Elyria game, they will try to get outside on us because we can stop the inside stuff."

Lorain is 2-4 and winless in two conference games. After winning its first two games, Lorain has lost to Brunswick 24-0, North Ridgeville 20-19, Sandusky 14-13 and Findlay 24-7.

"They seem to have a problem with the kicking game," Radeloff pointed out.

In one kicking area, punter Phil Trinter is averaging under 30 yards on 21 punts.

Defensively, Radeloff said Lorain has been running a "6-2" and it will be the first time Ross has faced that type of alignment this season.

"It is predominantly a run defense," Radeloff said, "but we have had to change some of our blocking schemes this week."

Taking a look back at the Elyria game, Radeloff is able to laugh at the statistics. The

Pioneers outgained the Little Giants 238-117 but defensively, it was a good game for Ross.

"The stats are misleading," the Ross coach pointed out. "Even though Elyria had more yardage than us, our defense played a very strong game."

"Offensively, we did not move the ball consistently but in the second half, we had two drives stopped by fumbles."

Naturally, Radeloff's formula for this week is another strong defensive effort and hopefully, a more consistent offensive effort.

BC STATS: Ironically, although yielding just 21 points in conference play, Ross ranks last in defense, allowing 275 yards per game. Offensively, Ross is sixth with 155-yard average for the conference schedule. Lorain is sixth defensively, allowing 254 yards a game and 30 points and ranks third on offense with 254 yards per game.

Egbert's 42-yard run ices Little Giants' 26-23 victory

By MARK WEISTEIN
News-Messenger correspondent

LORAIN — The defenses were left at home as Fremont Ross and Lorain Senior put the offenses on exhibit Friday at George Daniel Field.

The Little Giants rolled up 349 yards to Lorain's 267 but had to have a 42-yard scoring run by Rob Egbert with 6:29 remaining in the contest to cut down the Steelmen 26-23 in a thrilling Buckeye Conference encounter.

"This was a super game because it was a win," said an elated Rex Radeloff following the game. "A win is hard to come by, no matter what people may think. Tonight, we moved the ball well on offense, and the defense played hard."

On this particular evening, which saw the Little Giants improve their season record to 4-3 and its BC slate to 2-1, it appeared as though the team with control of the football at the end of the game would win. Neither team was able to stop the other all evening until a swarming Ross defense late in the game stopped Lorain on three consecutive possessions.

The contest was close throughout although the Steelmen jumped out to an early 10-0 in

the first period. After that, both teams see-sawed back and forth until Egbert's clinching TD.

Ross, leading 19-17 at the start of the final quarter, saw Lorain's offense barely blink an eye as it marched downfield on a willing Little Giant defense. The Steelmen moved 64 yards in 10 plays to capture their final lead of the night, 23-19, with 7:51 remaining. Lorain's attempt for the two-point conversion failed, which in the outcome, meant nothing.

Then Ross moved towards its winning touchdown.

Opening up shop at its 37, the Little Giants used little time, one minute and fifteen seconds to be exact, to reach paydirt.

After a John Stierwalt to John Cahill pass connection put the ball on Lorain's 42, Egbert, who ended the evening with 134 yards rushing on 18 attempts, broke several Steelman tackles, dashed towards Lorain's sidelines and literally tight-roped his way into the end zone. Stierwalt's point after touchdown sailed through the uprights giving the Little Giants their 26-23 margin.

"This was a big game for our offense," added Radeloff. "We needed to move the ball and gain confidence in ourselves. We did that tonight."

Then Ross' defense woke up and took charge of the final six minutes of the game.

The Little Giants stopped the Steelmen on three plays, the final being Egbert's second interception of the evening. But Lorain still had a slight chance to pull out the game as on the very next play, Stierwalt's pass intended for Cahill was picked off by Lorain.

But the Ross defense, behind the spirited play of Micah Jones, Rick Egbert, Jerry Palomo and Israel Ysasi, stopped Lorain's potent offense on downs. The group of Little Giants penetrated through Lorain's interior line and stopped the Steelmen on short gains. Rob Egbert closed out the evening with his third interception of the game with 15 seconds left.

The Steelmen seemed to be on the verge of blowing the Little Giants out in the opening stanza when they scored on their first two possessions.

Steve Ebbitt provided the first points for Lorain, a 24-yard field goal. But the Steelmen didn't stop there. Al McConihe's one-yard plunge capped a 60-yard, nine-play drive that gave the hosts a 10-0 lead after one period.

But a Stierwalt seven-yard TD scamper and 32-yard field goal provided Ross with a 10-point second quarter and a 10-10 tie at the half.

The Little Giants wasted little time, again, as the third quarter unfolded. On the initial play from scrimmage, Stierwalt hooked up with Cahill, who was streaking down the sideline, for a 51-yard completion. Three plays later, Stierwalt followed the block of center Mike Longanbach into the end zone. Ross's attempt for two failed as the Little Giants were whistled for an illegal receiver down field. Despite Cahill's pass completion to Chris Mosser on the fake kick, the attempt failed.

Ross added another score in the period, a 20-yard Stierwalt field goal, before the dramatic fourth period unfolded.

Besides Egbert's heroics, Stierwalt chipped in with impressive statistics. The senior signal-caller netted 66 yards on the ground on 11 carries while picking up 95 yards through the air, all to Cahill. Stierwalt had two passes intercepted.

The Steelmen were paced by Dennis Washington's 110 yards rushing.

Football

Ross 26, Lorain 23

Score by quarters

Ross	0	10	9	7	—	26
Lorain	10	0	7	6	—	23

Scoring

Lorain: Steve Ebbitt, 24-yard field goal, 7:28, first quarter.

Lorain: Al McConihe, one-yard run (Ebbitt kick), 1:48, first quarter.

Fremont: John Stierwalt, seven-yard run (Stierwalt kick), 10:44, second quarter.

Fremont: Stierwalt, 32-yard field goal, 0:21, second quarter.

Fremont: Stierwalt, four-yard run (pass failed), 10:34, third quarter.

Lorain: Dennis Washington, 70-yard run (Ebbitt kick), 5:31, third quarter.

Fremont: Stierwalt, 20-yard field goal, 0:20, third quarter.

Lorain: Tom Pruitt, two-yard run (run failed), 7:51, fourth quarter.

Fremont: Rob Egbert, 42-yard run (Stierwalt kick), 6:29, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	L
First Downs	11	15
Rushes/Yards	45/254	41/242
Passing Yards	95	25
Passes/Comp./Int.	9/4/2	10/3/3
Punts/Average	2/40.5	2/32.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/0
Penalties/Yards	5/35	2/9

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross: Egbert 18/134, Stierwalt 11/66; Lorain: Washington 14/110, Jim Klingshirn 10/50.

Passing: Ross: Stierwalt 9/4/2-95; Lorain: McConihe 10/3/3-25.

Receiving: Ross: John Cahill 4/95, Lorain: John Repko 1/16.

Season records: Ross 4-3, Lorain 2-5.

Ross' Radeloff wary of Marion Harding

President's big win over Admiral King last week has Little Giants coach uneasy

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

If you look quick, you could catch Rex Radeloff casting a wary glance over his shoulder.

The Ross football coach has a good reason for his wariness: Marion Harding is rolling into town ... and the Presidents are rolling off a big win last Friday. The 8 p.m., Friday game at Harmon Stadium will be Ross's homecoming.

The Presidents were Ross's best friend a week ago, defeating Admiral King 21-0, the first Buckeye Conference loss for the Admirals. In a perverse way, the Little Giants could smile after hearing of that...it was ointment for a 21-14 double overtime loss inflicted by the Admirals on Ross earlier this season.

The Harding win also put Ross back into the Buckeye

Conference title hunt. The Little Giants can now determine their own fate with the Presidents, Findlay and Sandusky waiting down the road. A Ross sweep would assure a tie for its 14th conference title. A loss and Ross can kiss a conference crown goodbye.

Harding, is, some would say "only," 2-5 but it is a deceptive 2-5. The Presidents' other win was 9-6 over Findlay which has a 4-3 mark. The Harding losses have been 22-17 to Columbus St. Charles, 21-7 to Galion, 26-13 to Elyria and 10-0 to Sandusky which is currently 6-1 and 4-0 in conference play.

A patsey? Ross will not face one this Friday.

"Marion is getting better every week," Radeloff said while acknowledging the problems the Presidents have given the Little

Giants in recent years.

In the last five games, all Ross wins, the Little Giants have prevailed 16-6, 14-7, 18-13 and 17-10, not exactly routs. The only wide margin was 23-0. In those years, Harding has a combined record of 11-39 and Ross 37-14-1.

"It's tough to put a finger on it (why Harding gives Ross problems)," Radeloff said.

"Supposedly, in the last few years they have been down. Sometimes I wonder if our players, with Findlay and Sandusky after the Marion game, look past them.

"But this year, after the way they handled Admiral King, the kids should be looking at them."

Radeloff said that offensively, Harding will present a number of different looks to Ross and that will cause problems.

"He (Coach Dick Hill) will

have them in so many different sets that you wonder if he has all his offense in yet. Against Admiral King, he did some things we had not seen them do before," Radeloff said. "They ran a lot of counters against King and threw just a couple of passes.

"I only hope that he has all his offense in," the Ross coach said.

"Defensively, they will put a lot of pressure on the quarterback while presenting a look like our defense. They stunt a lot and we have to be prepared for that."

Ross is coming off a 26-23 win over Lorain in which, for the first time this season, the offense outshone the defense. The defense, Radeloff pointed out, responded when it was needed.

The 26 points is the most Ross has scored in one game this

season. Twenty of the points were scored by quarterback John Stierwalt on two TDs, two field goals and a pair of extra points. Tailback Rob Egbert had 134 yards on 16 carries including a 42-yard burst for the final Ross score.

Ross, 4-3, will going after its third consecutive victory.

BC NOTES: Wide Receiver John Cahill and Egbert are leaders in conference statistics. Cahill is the leading receiver with 27 for 394 yards, a 14.6 average per catch. Egbert is the leading punt returner with 12 for 102 yards and the leading kickoff returner with four for a 35.2 average. He is also tied for the lead in interceptions with five.

Egbert is second in rushing with 535 on 107 attempts for a 5-yard average.

Little Giants rout Presidents 27-8



JOHN CAHILL (85) of Ross stretches to make a fingertip grab of a pass from quarterback John Stierwalt in second-quarter

action. Cahill came down with the ball for a 29-yard gain. Harding defensive back Mitch Harville (27) trails the play.



KYLE MAYSE (20) of Marion Harding is just about to be brought down for a four-yard loss by Ross defensive back

Jerry Palomo (9) and linebacker Cardell Beachum during third-quarter action Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Ross mixes potent offense with strong defense for BC win

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

This time, Ross got its acts together.

Combining a strong offensive show with an equally strong defensive effort, the Little Giants walked away from Marion Harding 27-8 Friday night to make homecoming ceremonies sweet.

In previous games, the Little Giants had failed to assemble that combination, but the Presidents got a good view of the Ross show which produced the Little Giants' first home victory of the season.

"We played with more emotion, especially at the beginning," Ross Coach Rex Radeloff said. "The offense played very well and the defense was super."

Rob Egbert scored twice and John Stierwalt clicked on a 30-yard field goal as Ross rolled to a 17-0 halftime lead. After faltering briefly in the third quarter, Ross put 10 final-quarter points on the board to comfortably chalk up win number five against three losses.

The victory keeps Ross on line for a possible 14th Buckeye Conference crown with a 3-1 BC slate. The Little Giants travel to Findlay next Friday before closing out the season by hosting conference leader Sandusky in the 1986 season finale on Halloween night.

Harding, coming off a 21-0 upset over Admiral King a week ago, slipped to 2-6 overall and 2-3 in the BC.

Ross scored on its first series of plays, taking over at its own 36 after a 43-yard punt by Harding's Leroy Blanton. A 22-yard Stierwalt pass to Rick Egbert on a third-and-seven and fullback Jim Carroll's 11-yard run to the 28 set up Rob Egbert's 25-yard dash to the end zone.

The Ross tailback broke off the blocks of guard Dave Carroll and tackle Cory Reed into the secondary and raced untouched into the end zone at the 6:57 mark. Stierwalt hit the first of three straight conversion kicks for 7-0 lead.

"You could have driven a truck through that hole," Rob Egbert said of the wide open spaces he ran through.

"We caught them in a stunt and Rob hit the hole and cut back into the clear," Ross offensive coordinator Les Hull described.

Later in the quarter, Ross defensive tackle Israel Ysasi recovered Harding quarterback Pat Scott's fumble at the Ross 47 to set up a nine-play, 53-yard Little Giants' scoring drive.

Rob Egbert, who had 93 yards on 16 first-half carries, had 37 of the 53 yards on five rushes, including a 17-yard run to the 21 off an option play from Stierwalt. Egbert rambled off right tackle the final eight yards with 1:42 remaining in the quarter.

Stierwalt hit the first of his two field goals from 30 yards out at the 4:59 mark of the second quarter. That was the only

disappointing drive of the first half, Radeloff said.

"We had to settle for the field goal on that one when I thought we should have been able to get the touchdown," he said.

That drive stalled at the 13, but Stierwalt's left-footed kick snaked its way through the right corner of the goal post.

The Ross offense stalled in the third quarter as the Presidents' defense stiffened. The Little Giants did not get a first down in the second half until 40 seconds into the final quarter. Ross picked that up two plays after Rob Egbert had recovered Harding running back Alan Jones' fumble at the Presidents' 36.

That Little Giants' drive stalled at the 19, but Stierwalt's field goal from 36 yards out made it 20-0.

Harding had scored on a 66-yard, 10-play drive in the third quarter. The key play was a 51-yard pass from Scott to Kyle Mayse to the Ross 15. Scott scored on an eight-yard run on a third-and-goal.

Jim Carroll's 12-yard run capped off the Ross scoring at the 7:27 mark of the final quarter. Carroll carried two Harding tacklers into the end zone for the six-pointer.

"This was a lot better defense than last week," Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said while recalling Ross's 26-23 win over Lorain. "It was a good effort by the whole squad."

"We had good pressure on the quarterback all night and we controlled the line of scrimmage most of the time."

"Still," Siesel added, "we have room to improve."

Linebackers Cardell Beachum, Jim Carroll and Gary McClure and defensive backs Rick Egbert and Jerry Palomo turned in several key plays for Siesel's defense. McClure's interception and four-yard return to the Harding 15 set up Carroll's TD. On the line, Brian Laird, Chad Hicks, Micah Jones and Ysasi continually knifed into the Harding backfield.

Ross surrendered just four first downs as Harding had just 57 yards on 31 rushing attempts. The Presidents got another 88 in the air.

Like Siesel, Hull, after watching the offense struggle the first six weeks of the season, liked what he saw Friday but pointed out that room remained for improvement.

"Offense takes time," he said, "but the kids have been working on it very hard the past few weeks. I think they can see the possibility of a Buckeye Conference title."

Egbert finished with 113 yards on 21 carries and Carroll 59 on 12. Ross had 163 yards rushing and 51 in the air. Radeloff pointed out that Harding bottled up the Little Giants' leading receiver, John Cahill, most of the game. Cahill, who had 28 catches entering the game, faced double and, at times, triple coverage. He caught one pass but it was a fingertip beauty for 29 yards.

Football

Ross 27, Mar. Harding 8

Score by quarters

Marion Harding	0	0	8	0	—	8
Ross	14	3	0	10	—	27

Scoring

Ross: Rob Egbert, 25-yard run (John Stierwalt kick), 6:57, first quarter.

Ross: Egbert, eight-yard run (Stierwalt kick), 1:42, first quarter.

Ross: Stierwalt, 30-yard field goal, 4:59, second quarter.

Ross: Stierwalt, 36-yard field goal, 9:56, fourth quarter.

Marion: Pat Scott, eight-yard run (Jones, pass from Scott), 2:45, third quarter.

Ross: Jim Carroll, 12-yard run (Stierwalt kick), 7:27, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	MH	R
First Downs	4	13
Rushes/Yards	31/57	47/163
Passing Yards	88	51
Passes/Comp./Int.	10/5/1	10/2/0
Punts/Average	5/28.0	4/32.3
Fumbles/Lost	5/2	1/1
Penalties/Yards	11/95	5/22

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Marion Harding: Scott 3/8, Kyle Mayse 7/32, Alan Jones 10/0, Rick Howell 11/17; Ross, Stierwalt 7/-17, Egbert 21/113, Carroll 12/59, Cardell Beachum 1/1, Rick May 4/0, Osbardo Flecha 1/7.

Passing: Marion Harding, Scott 10/4/1 — 88; Ross, Stierwalt 10/2/0 — 51.

Receiving: Marion Harding, Jones 1/23, Mayse 1/51, Howell 1/3, Keith Blair 1/11; Ross, John Cahill 1/29, Rick Egbert 1/22.

Season records: Ross 5-3 (3-1), Marion Harding 2-6 (2-3).

Ross set to meet Findlay 'spoilers'

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Findlay could hold the key to the Buckeye Conference football title. At least it looks that way from Ross's viewpoint.

The Little Giants, on a three-game winning streak that has elevated their conference record to 3-1 with a 5-3 season mark, visits Findlay Friday in a key clash. Another clash Friday will have Sandusky, the BC leader with a 4-0 conference slate, traveling to Lorain to battle Admiral King, which is tied with Ross for second in the conference.

Findlay plays Admiral King the final week of the season while Sandusky closes at Ross.

"Findlay does not have a shot at the title," Ross Coach Rex Radeloff pointed out, "but they have to be going into our game thinking about being a spoiler."

Findlay is level for the season at 4-4, with a 1-3 conference record. Last Friday, Elyria dominated the Trojans in a 20-0 victory. Findlay's conference win is over Lorain 24-7, a team Ross slipped pass 26-23 two weeks ago.

"Findlay has improved a lot since the beginning of the year," Radeloff said. "The quarterback situation was the problem at the beginning of the year."

It may still be.

John Babcock and Brad Burrows have been sharing the signal-calling duties for the Trojans this season. Babcock has passed for slightly more than 300

yards and Burrows for approximately 250. Burrows, however, is probably the quarterback the Little Giants will see because he is rated as the better of the two at running the option, and Radeloff expects Findlay to use the option a great deal of the time.

"They run out of the 'I' with a lot of power and they have shown the option," Radeloff said. "I expect they will try to get outside on us with the option. Their passing game is not that bad either."

"Defensively, they use a '50' and the middle guard — Colin Walker — is a good one. He is not large (5-9, 165 pounds) but he is quick."

"They are going to be ready for us because Cromwell (Dick, coach of the Trojans) likes to play the Little Giants," Radeloff continued, "but our kids like to play Findlay, too."

ROSS NOTES: Steve Letzring suffered a broken right hand last week. He was being fitted with a plastic cast Tuesday and the inside linebacker is listed as probable for the Findlay game.

Rob Egbert, who rushed for 113 yards against Harding, is being held out of contact drills this week because of a mild concussion suffered against the Presidents. He is expected to be ready to play Friday.

Another possible starter is linebacker Mike Hrynciw, out with a knee injury since the second game of the season.

Ross beats Findlay, showdown is set

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

FINDLAY — Artistic appreciation is definitely not Ross's forte. Winning football games is.

"No, it wasn't pretty," Rex Radeloff, Ross coach, agreed, "but it got us a showdown."

The Little Giants overcame an early 8-0 deficit to post a slightly ugly 15-8 victory over Findlay Friday night at Donnell Stadium. The victory was the sixth in nine games for Ross while Findlay slipped to 4-6 and 1-4 in the Buckeye Conference football wars.

Ross will take on Sandusky next Friday in a battle for a portion of its 14th BC crown. Sandusky was upset by Admiral King 16-6 Friday, dropping the Blue Streaks, AK and Ross into a

tie for the lead, all with 4-1 conference records. Admiral King hosts Findlay in its final game.

"Findlay played with a lot of intensity," Radeloff complimented his rivals. "He (Coach Dick Cromwell) had them very well prepared."

"We knew they did not have that much size but they were slanting defensively and they were quick and that was causing us problems. They played great defensively, but so did we."

"So did we" is the key phrase.

The swarming Ross defense limited Findlay to four first downs, three in the first half — the final one not until 2:55 remained in the game — and 55 total yards of offense. The Trojans had 22 yards on 22 rushes and another 33 passing.

Couple that with the Little Giants' 311 total yards — Ross's most productive offensive show of the season — and the old cliché pops up: the game was not as close as the score indicates.

The Trojans took advantage of a Ross gift in the first quarter when Rob Egbert fumbled a Findlay punt at the Little Giants' 35. Andy Maines, a one-man gang defensively throughout the game for Findlay, fell on the ball followed by a Little Giant landing late on him. That penalty moved the ball 15 yards closer and Findlay was in business at the 21.

Four plays later, Trojans quarterback John Babcock found tight end Joe Johnson all alone in the left corner of the end zone for the six-pointer at the 7:54

mark. Findlay got the extra points on Jon Wauford's run from a spread formation.

Ross wasted little time in retaliating, covering 62 yards in seven plays for the TD at the 4:46 mark. Egbert, making up for his bobble, broke off a 29-yard jaunt to the Findlay 33 on the first Ross play. The key play in the drive was fullback Jim Carroll's four-yard run on a fourth and three at the 26. Egbert topped off the march with a 15-yard sprint off the tail of center Mike Longanbach.

Confusion getting the right team on the field for an attempt at the two-point conversion cost Ross a delay of game penalty. Quarterback John Stierwalt's pass to tight end Chris Mosser was batted down by Brad Fife to preserve the Trojans' two-point

lead.

That was it, except for a few close calls for Ross and a self-destructive 55 yards on five penalties, for the first half. Findlay got to the Ross 28 early in the second quarter before Wauford's fumble was scooped up by Micah Jones and returned 26 yards to the 50. The Trojans got to the Ross 43 two plays later when Maines stepped in front of Stierwalt's pass and returned it 11 yards. It was Maines' seventh pass theft this season.

After that, Ross gave a preview of the second half, a half that had the Little Giants dictating field position. A half in which the Ross defense was dominant and the Ross offense came up with two big plays to wipe out the Trojans' lead.

"That was it, we got the big

plays when we needed them," Radeloff said.

Ross got the go-ahead TD on its second series, driving 46 yards in six plays. The key play was a 36-yard pass from Stierwalt to John Cahill.

"It was a slant pattern," Ross offensive coordinator Les Hall described. "We had noticed the safety dropped back deep and Cahill just split the backs."

With a first and 10 just outside the 10, Ross needed three plays to score. Mosser, near the end line, caught Stierwalt's pass, lofted over a wall of Trojans, for the TD at the 3:15 mark. Ross, going for two points again, failed on a halfback pass from Rob Egbert to Rick Egbert as the

See ROSS, Page B-3

Ross

Continued From B-1

pass was just a bit too long.

That was not costly as Ross did not allow the Trojans past their own 38 the remainder of the game.

Stierwalt's 21-yard field goal at the 6:46 mark of the final quarter put the game on shaky ice, allowing Ross to slide into the showdown game with Sandusky.

"We have come back a long way since we were two and three," Radeloff said while recalling the season's low point. "We were two and three with five Buckeye Conference games to go; it was almost like it had been the last two years. The kids didn't count themselves out (of the running for the conference title) and now we have the showdown."

Egbert finished with 107 yards on 26 carries and Carroll had 65 on 16. Stierwalt had his best game passing, completing nine of 14 for 107 yards.

High school

Ross 15, Findlay 8

Score by quarters

Ross	6	0	6	3	—	15
Findlay	8	0	0	0	—	8

Scoring

Findlay: Joe Johnson, nine-yard pass from John Babcock (Jon Wauford run), 7:54, first quarter.

Ross: Rob Egbert, 15-yard run (pass failed), 4:46, first quarter.

Ross: Chris Mosser, five-yard pass from John Stierwalt (pass failed), 3:15, third quarter.

Ross: Stierwalt, 21-yard field goal, 6:46, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	F
First Downs	16	4
Rushes/Yards	50/204	22/22
Passing Yards	107	33
Passes/Comp./Int.	14/9/1	13/4/0
Punts/Average	3/35.6	7/33.4
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	2/1
Penalties/Yards	6/60	6/60

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, Rob Egbert 26/107, Jim Carroll 16/65; Findlay, John Babcock 4/17.

Passing: Ross, John Stierwalt 14/9/1/1 —107; Findlay, John Babcock 13/4/0 —33.

Receiving: Ross, John Cahill 2/45, Rob Egbert 2/24; Findlay, Joe Johnson 2/18.

Season records: Ross 6-3 (4-1), Findlay 4-5 (1-4).

It's Sandusky time again!

Little Giants, Blue Streaks meet in big BC farewell game

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It will be the end of an era but not the end of a rivalry as Fremont Ross hosts archrival Sandusky Friday at Harmon Stadium.

It will be the finale of the Buckeye Conference, as Ross, along with Findlay, will begin competition in the Buckeye Central Conference next season. Sandusky will play an independent schedule in 1987. The BC breakup began when the Lorain schools — Admiral King and Senior — along with Elyria withdrew to be part of the Lakeshore Conference, an eight-team affiliation centered in the Lorain-Elyria area. Later, Marion Harding announced that it was withdrawing to join a newly formed league in that area.

The Buckeye Conference began with six teams — Ross, Sandusky, Elyria, Lorain, Marion Harding and Findlay — in 1964. Sandusky was the champ that year and Ross took the crown in 1965. In 1962, Admiral King and Mansfield were added. That alignment remained until Mansfield left in 1979. The Buckeye Conference has maintained a seven-team alignment since that time.

And now, the final three games of the 33 Buckeye Conference football seasons are on tap this Friday. In addition to Sandusky visiting Ross in a game to see which team will win or share the title, Findlay will be in Lorain to play Admiral King and Lorain Senior will be at Elyria. Admiral King, with

a win over Findlay, would have a share of the title.

Ross, Sandusky and the Admirals have identical 4-1 conference marks. AK has beaten both Ross — 21-14 in two overtimes — and Sandusky 16-6.

Should Ross win, it will be the fourth straight title for the Little Giants and the first BC crown for Coach Rex Radeloff. Ross won it outright in 1983 before sharing the crown with Findlay and Admiral King in 1984 and Admiral King in 1985.

Also looming in the background, a Ross win could put the Little Giants into the state playoffs. But that aspect, although Radeloff knows the possibilities, is not the goal this week. The goal is to beat Sandusky and win the conference crown, and the possible playoff berth would come with it.

A victory would give Ross its 13th conference crown since 1956. Count in the one title for the six-team alignment in 1955 and Ross will have won 14.

"This is always a game in which the community is involved very much," Radeloff said Tuesday while preparing for a Little Giants practice. "It's always an exciting week because the coaches and players like to play the game."

"Plus, it is more exciting because the Buckeye Conference title is on the line."

Sandusky, like Ross, is 6-3 and the Blue Streaks are right where Radeloff expected them to be.

"I had them rated as a contender before

the season," the Ross coach reminded. "This is Cook's (Larry, Sandusky coach) third year up there and they are pretty well indoctrinated to his system."

"The only thing they are doing differently this year is they are throwing the ball more and they are running out of the 'T' quite a bit."

Radeloff said that Cook has his team employing a "run and shoot."

"They can put three receivers in one area very quickly," Radeloff said while alluding to the Blue Streaks' speed. "They throw the ball well; their passing game had improved a whole lot since the beginning of the season."

"This is always an emotional game," Radeloff pointed out. "It's Spirit Week and there are a lot of activities, but the players are aware of what the primary goal is."

Offensively, Ross will have to contend with a strong "30" defense that features quickness and strength rather than size.

"Their whole defense will come at you right away," said Radeloff. "They like to get into the backfield right away and foul up the blocking schemes. It is not a reading defense... they will just come right at you very quickly."

While the game will bring down the curtains on the Buckeye Conference, the rivalry between Ross and Sandusky will continue in 1987. But there will be a change next year: it will be the eighth game of the season and not the finale.

Ross-Sandusky rivalry dates back a long way

News-Messenger Reports

The first recorded game between Fremont High School, later to be named Ross, and Sandusky was Nov. 2, 1866.

The Sand Towners, as the city was called then and still is referred to by many in those words, won that game 6-0. Since that time, high school teams from Fremont (Ross) and Sandusky high schools have played 80 times. Friday's clash at Harmon Stadium will be the 81st.

Since 1918, when area newspapers began to cover the games on a regular basis, Sandusky has beaten Ross 32 times while losing 28. Another seven games have been ties.

Ross has won 12 out of the last 16 games, including twice in 1983 when Ross defeated the Blue Streaks 7-0 in the season finale and came back a week later to stop Sandusky by the same score in the first round of the state playoffs.

After the 1926 game, Ross held a 4-2-2 edge, but the Little Giants did not win again until 1941. That 14-game Sandusky dominance was interrupted only by a scoreless tie in 1937.

The biggest winning margin in the series was a 74-0 thrashing by Sandusky in 1966. Ross's biggest win was 47-7 in 1960.

The 74-0 win was the culmination of four consecutive Sandusky shutouts from 1963 through 1966 in which the Blue Streaks outscored Ross 178-0. The Little Giants' longest shutout streak against Sandusky is three, beginning in 1963 with the two wins followed by a 14-0 victory in 1964.

Sandusky had a 21-0 conference mark while winning the conference title in 1963, '66 and '67. Ross won 15 consecutive BC games in 1955, '56 and '57.

Ross has won the last four games in the series.

Ross has won or tied for 13 conference titles and Sandusky 11. They have tied for the crown twice in 1981 and 1961 when Marion Harding joined the two teams as tri-champs.

In the all-time standings in the conference through 1985, Sandusky is first with a 128-58-6 record and Elyria second with 119-69-5. Ross is third with 107-79-5. The Little Giants have played one less game because a teacher's strike in 1979 wiped out the game with Admiral King.

Sandusky blocks Ross comeback 16-15

Blue Streaks gain share of BC title with Admirals

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

It was a little Streak turned giant that did Ross in Friday in a game of halves.

Ross in a questionable non-measurement, a possible quick whistle and it added up to a 16-15 Sandusky win over Ross in the finale of the Buckeye Conference football battles at Harmon Stadium.

The win, coupled with Lorain Admiral King's 14-0 win over Findlay, gave the Blue Streaks a share of the final conference title with the Admirals. Both finished with 5-1 BC records and 7-3 for the season. Ross finished 6-4 and 4-2.

The title was the 13th that Sandusky has shared or won outright, matching that of Ross in the Buckeye Conference's 30-year existence. The loss also eliminated Ross's hopes of a berth in the state Division I playoffs.

Pint-sized Keith Aaron, a 5-6, 155-pound senior nose guard for Sandusky was at least 10-feet tall in the eyes of the Little Giants. Aaron sneaked through the middle of the line to block Ross kicker John Stierwalt's attempt at the tying point with 1:17 to play in the game.

The block preserved the win that Sandusky desperately hung onto after rolling to a 16-0 halftime lead.

"I have never seen a game that was completely night and day," Ross Coach Rex Radeloff said. "We could not stop the option in the first half but we completely dominated them in the second half."

Not quite, the Blue Streaks won their half by a point, thanks to the little giant Streak.

Radeloff and his team may have had a sense of impending doom when they were slapped with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty before the opening kickoff. The delay of game, caused by pregame festivities honoring senior band members and introduction of the Little

Giants' senior football players, cost Ross 15 yards.

"The 15-yard penalty was actually a delay of game," Radeloff said. "The game was not started on time, so it was a delay. I kept looking at my watch while the seniors were being introduced and I knew it was going to be a delay."

After the kickoff, Sandusky began at the Ross 45 and a dozen plays later, Charlie McGowan split the uprights from 23 yards out for a 3-0 Sandusky lead at the 6:56 mark.

It got worse for Ross after that. With Ross unable to stop the option play, Sandusky tailback Paul Smoot scored on a three-yard run late in the first period. The run ended a 31-yard, nine-play drive that was set up by a 26-yard pass interception return by Brian Curtis.

Smoot scored again with 25 seconds remaining in the half on a fourth and goal at the one, climaxing a 77-yard, 15-play drive. Smoot finished the game with 105 yards on 20 carries, all in the first half.

"We did just what we wanted to do, run the ball," Sandusky Coach Larry Cook said about the first half. "We had used the option on a spotty basis this season but we felt we had to use it against their defense because we felt we were quicker."

The Streaks' ball control offense and defense limited Ross to 15 first-half plays, two first downs and 67 yards. Sandusky had 10 first downs, 155 yards and more importantly, 16 points.

Ross did make it to the Sandusky 25 in the second quarter, but on a fourth and five, tailback Steve Letzring, taking a pitch from Stierwalt, was hit, fumbled and Sandusky's Steve Walker came up with the ball.

The second half was a story of a valiant Ross comeback soured by a pair of controversial calls and the blocked PAT.

Ross took the second-half kickoff 68 yards to the one in 15



STEVE LETZRING (34) of Ross followed fullback Jim Carroll (39) during second half action. Dimitries Jenkins of Sandusky attempts

to make the tackle. Letzring had 119 yards rushing on 24 carries in the narrow loss to the Blue Streaks.

plays but could not get the final yard on two attempts. The final attempt at cracking into the Sandusky end zone was a sneak by quarterback Stierwalt that came up short but appeared, from the Ross viewpoint, close enough for a measurement for the first down. That was not the viewpoint of referee Gordon Schutt.

"He just would not measure it," Radeloff said while trying to control his temper after the game. "He said it was that far (the Ross coach had his fingers two inches apart) from being a first down. He just would not measure it."

Sandusky took over but was

unable to move two inches in three tries. On the fourth play, Letzring broke through and blocked Ronnie Charlton's punt for a Ross safety. Dimitries Jenkins kept Ross from getting a touchdown by recovering the ball.

After Sandusky's free kick, Ross took over at the 45 but the drive was killed when Charlton intercepted Stierwalt's long pass in the end zone.

With the Ross defense manhandling the Streaks, the Little Giants took over at the Sandusky 32 after Charlton's 14-yard punt. Letzring picked up 20 of the yards in four carries, including the final five for the

TD at the 8:40 mark of the final quarter.

Ross went back to work again, taking over on its own 40, but with 5:39 to play, the Giants had to punt the ball away. Stierwalt's kick sailed 33 yards to the end zone. Starting from the 20, Dimitrios Brown ran three yards, was hit, fumbled and Ross recovered at the Sandusky 23. But again the boys in the striped shirts saw it another way, signalling that Brown was down before coughing up the ball.

"I thought it was a quick whistle; he was not down," contended Radeloff.

With 3:31 remaining, Ross got

the ball at the Streaks' 37 after a 23-yard Charlton punt. It took seven plays to score but only after Stierwalt hit John Cahill for 10 yards on a fourth and eight at the 23. Two plays later, Cahill picked a Stierwalt pass off the grass for a 13-yard scoring pass but then the little Streak turned giant took over.

Ross, after being unable to come up with the ball on an onside kick, did not get the ball again until two seconds were left but the Little Giants never got a play off.

Letzring finished with 119 yards on 24 carries and Stierwalt was eight of 13 for 87 yards with all of the completions to Cahill.

News-Messenger/Chris Walker

High school

Sandusky 16, Ross 15

Score by quarters

Sandusky	9	7	0	0	—	16
Ross	0	0	2	13	—	15

Scoring

Sandusky: Charlie McGowan, 23-yard field goal, 6:56, first quarter.

Sandusky: Paul Smoot, three-yard run (kick failed), 1:39, second quarter.

Sandusky: Smoot, one-yard run (McGowan kick), :25, second quarter.

Ross: Safety, Steve Letzring blocked punt in end zone, 4:36, third quarter.

Ross: Letzring, five-yard run (John Stierwalt kick), 8:40, fourth quarter.

Ross: John Cahill, 13-yard pass from Stierwalt (kick blocked), 1:17, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	S	R
First Downs	10	14
Rushes/Yards	44/123	37/145
Passing Yards	21	87
Passes/Comp./Int.	8/3/0	13/8/2
Punts/Average	4/26.3	2/51.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/1
Penalties/Yards	3/11	/3/25

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Sandusky, Smoot 20/105; Ross, Letzring 24/119, Jim Carroll 11/25.

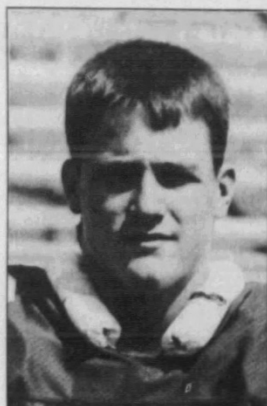
Passing: Sandusky, Steve Walker 8/3/0 — 21; Ross, Stierwalt 13/8/2 — 87.

Receiving: Sandusky, Tracy Shoemo 1/7, Jason Rollison 1/13; Ross, Cahill 8/87.

Season records: Sandusky 7-3 (5-1), Ross 6-4 (4-2).



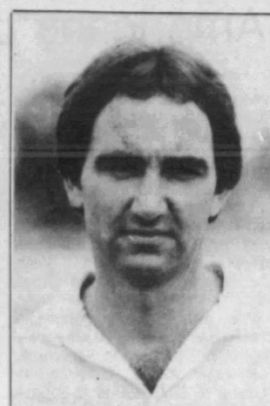
ROB EGBERT
...Ross



DOUG YOUNG
...St. Joe



STEVE SCHMELTZ
...Woodmore



TOM PEIFFER
...Woodmore

Peiffer named district coach of the year

Seven area prep football players make first team AP All-Northwest Ohio

News-Messenger Reports

Seven area players and one area coach received top honors on the Associated Press All-Northwest Ohio District football team released today.

The players earning first-team honors were: Rob Egbert of Ross in Class AAA; Darrin Wobser and Mark Ambros of Margaretta, Duane Weirich of Oak Harbor and Chris Missler of Bellevue in Class AA; and Doug Young of St. Joe and Steve Schmeltz of Woodmore in Class A.

Earning Class A Coach of the Year honors in the district was Woodmore's rookie mentor Tom Peiffer.

The all-district teams were selected by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from all over northwest Ohio.

Egbert made the first team as a defensive back. He had five interceptions this season, including one returned 64 yards for a touchdown. The 6-0, 170-pound senior also rushed for 759 yards and scored 54 points for the Little Giants.

Wobser and Ambros earned Class AA first-team honors as an offensive tackle and punter, respectively. Wobser, a 5-10, 220-pound senior, anchored the Polar Bears' line this season while Ambros, a 6-0, 180-pound senior, had a 40.93 punting average.

Weirich earned one of the three first-team running back positions after leading Oak Harbor to an 8-2 record this year. The 6-1, 215-pound senior workhorse carried the ball 212 times for 1,076 yards and 16 TDs.

Missler, a 6-4, 205-pound senior, was named first-team tight end. The Bellevue star caught 28 passes for 472 yards and five TDs.

Young was voted to the Class A first team as a linebacker. The 6-1, 190-pound St. Joe senior was in on 160 tackles this season and had two interceptions, two recovered fumbles and one caused fumble.

Schmeltz, Woodmore's all-purpose star, made the first unit as a defensive back. The 5-10, 180-pound senior had 97 tackles, two interceptions and six sacks in addition to

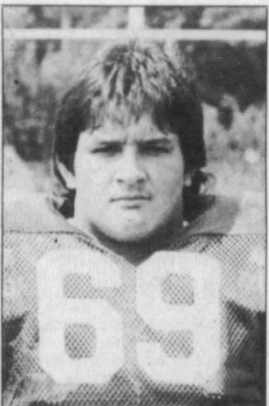
doing just about everything else for the Wildcats before breaking his clavicle in an automobile accident last week.

Schmeltz's efforts helped Peiffer earn the top coaching award in Class A in his first year as a head coach. Peiffer, who replaced Vic Welch this season after several years as an assistant in the Woodmore system, led the Wildcats to an 8-2 record, a share of the Suburban Lakes League crown and the school's first-ever state playoff appearance.

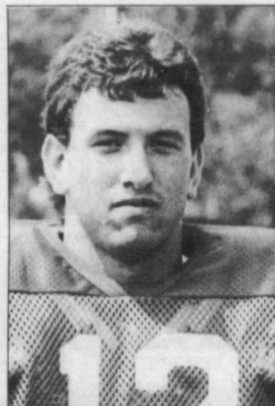
Six area players earned second-team honors, including John Stierwalt, Brian Laird and Jim Carroll of Ross, Terry Warwick of Clyde, Ferd Miller of Oak Harbor and Andy Roe of Woodmore.

Stierwalt made it as a placekicker, Laird as a defensive end, Carroll as a linebacker, Warwick as a linebacker, Miller as a defensive tackle and Roe as a linebacker.

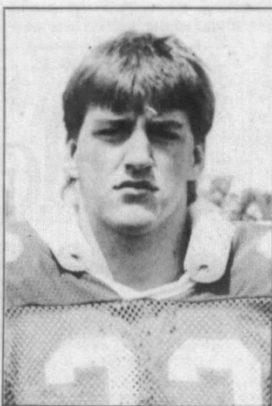
The complete list of all-district teams, including area players earning special and honorable mention, appears on Page B-2.



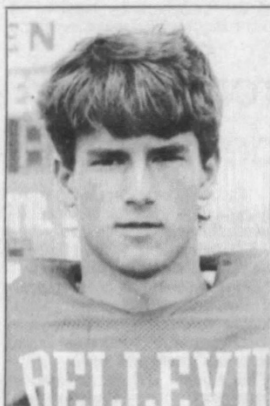
DARRIN WOBSE
...Margaretta



MARK AMBROS
...Margaretta



DUANE WEIRICH
...Oak Harbor



CHRIS MISSLER
...Bellevue

High school

All-BC

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback: Kent Jones, Elyria, 6-1, 175, sr.
Running backs: Lamar Jackson, Elyria, 5-9, 170, sr.; Dennis Washington, Lorain Senior, 5-9, 185, jr.; Rob Egbert, Ross, 6-0, 170, sr.; Ken Rivers, Admiral King, 5-9, 165, sr.
Wide receiver: John Cahill, Ross, 6-3, 185, sr.
Tight end: Eric Bush, Elyria, 6-4, 220, sr.
Tackles: Phil Trinter, Lorain Senior, 6-6, 230, sr.; Terry Kachur, Admiral King, 5-10, 225, sr.
Guards: Darryll Whitfield, Sandusky, 5-11, 180, sr.; Brian Laird, Ross, 6-4, 225, sr.; Tony Freda, Admiral King, 6-0, 210, sr.
Center: Matt Duffield, Lorain Senior, 5-11, 180, sr.
Punter and placekicker: John Stierwalt, Ross, 6-0, 180, sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen: Chad Hicks, Ross, 6-2, 265, sr.; Keith Aaron, Sandusky, 5-6, 155, sr.; Jeff Lyons, Elyria, 5-7, 155, sr.
Ends: Cevin Bryant, Lorain Senior, 5-10, 180, sr.; Tim Alexander, Sandusky, 6-1, 185, sr.
Linebackers: Andy Mains, Findlay, 6-2, 195, sr.; Jim Carroll, Ross, 6-2, 215, sr.; Brian Kurtz, Admiral King, 6-1, 215, sr.; Tony Burke, Marion Harding, 6-0, 208, sr.
Backs: Jerry Palomo, Ross, 5-11, 165, sr.; Mike Carrico, Admiral King, 6-3, 175, sr.; Steve Walker, Sandusky, 5-8, 165, sr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback: Mike Carrico, Admiral King, 6-3, 175, sr.
Running backs: Jon Wauford, Findlay, 6-2, 225, jr.; Paul Smoot, Sandusky, 5-8, 170, sr.; Ricky Howell, Marion Harding, 6-0, 205, jr.
Wide receiver: Nick Urban, Admiral King, 5-10, 160, jr.
Tight end: Gil Plasencia, Admiral King, 5-10, 175, sr.
Tackles: Cory Reed, Ross, 6-3, 235, jr.; Bill Kimberlein, Sandusky, 6-4, 248, sr.
Guards: Earl Smith, Lorain Senior, 5-10, 190, sr.; Bill Cikalo, Admiral King, 5-11, 183, sr.
Center: Shannon Sharp, Sandusky, 5-9, 195, sr.
Punter: Phil Trinter, Lorain Senior, 6-6, 230, sr.
Placekicker: Mike Carrico, Admiral King, 6-3, 175, sr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen: Colin Walker, Findlay, 5-9, 175, sr.; Trevor Williams, Admiral King, 5-9, 155, sr.; Bob Bane, Elyria, 6-1, 250, sr.
Ends: Cedric Whitfield, Admiral King, 5-10, 198, sr.; Brian Laird, Ross, 6-4, 225, sr.; Micah Jones, Ross, 5-10, 205, sr.
Linebackers: Brad Burrows, Findlay, 6-0, 180, sr.; Steve Letzring, Ross, 6-1, 205, sr.; Marco Roberts, Sandusky, 6-0, 180, sr.; Craig Owens, Marion Harding, 6-0, 186, sr.
Backs: Frank Leyva, Lorain Senior, 6-0, 150, sr.; Geoff Klepzig, Marion Harding, 6-2, 180, sr.; Corey Williams, Elyria, 6-2, 175, sr.

ROSS HONORABLE MENTION

Chris Mosser, Dean VanNess, Dave Carroll, Mike Longanbach, Israel Ysasi, Cardell Beachum, Mike Hrynciw, Gary McClure, Rick Egbert.

CO-OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Mike Carrico, Admiral King; Lamar Jackson, Elyria.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Keith Aaron, Sandusky.

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR

Bill Provident, Admiral King; Larry Cook, Sandusky.

Egbert is 3rd team All-Ohio

Associated Press

Fremont Ross's two-way star Rob Egbert has been named third-team defensive back on the Associated Press Class AAA All-Ohio football team released today.

Egbert starred for the Little Giants as both a running back and a defensive back this season. He also returned punts and kickoffs.

No other area players made the first three teams, but three of Egbert's teammates earned honorable mention. They were John Stierwalt, Brian Laird and Jim Carroll.

Meanwhile, a junior running back from Toledo who rushed for more than a mile of yardage this season headlines the Class AAA All-Ohio team.

Chuck Webb of Toledo Macomber was named back of the year, while Perry Bell of Alliance and Jay Koch of Cincinnati Purcell Marian shared the lineman of the year honors. Bob Gregg of state champion Centerville was tabbed as the coach of the year on the recommendations of a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from around the state.

Webb, a 5-10, 190-pound junior tailback, missed one game with an illness and was limited to 31 yards in another, but still gained 1,795 yards for the season, while averaging 9.5 yards per carry. He scored 15 touchdowns and rushed for more than 200 yards in six games.

Bell, a 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior, caught 58 passes in 10 games for 1,282 yards, an average of 22.1 yards per catch. He also pulled in 13 touchdown receptions. In one game this fall, Bell had 11 catches for 311 yards and three touchdowns.

Koch, a 6-3, 195-pound senior tight end, caught 50 passes for 737 yards, 14.7 yards per catch, and had five touchdowns.

Gregg led his team to a 10-0 record and the No. 1 ranking in the final AP poll. He also guided the Elks to their 12th consecutive Western Ohio League championship, running his record to 120-24 in his 14 years at Centerville.



ROB EGBERT
...Ross senior

SPORTS



ROSS FOOTBALL award winners are, left to right, front row: Rob Egbert, Micah Jones, Dean

VanNess, John Cahill; back row: Gary McClure, Jim Carroll and Dave Carroll.

Egbert wins 3 most valuable honors

News-Messenger Reports

Rob Egbert won three "most valuable" awards during the Ross High School Football Awards Program at the high school Monday.

Egbert, who doubled as an offensive and defensive back, won the team most valuable player honor along with the top offensive and defensive back honors.

The senior had five interceptions this season and on offense rushed for 759 yards on 156 attempts for a 4.9 average. The rushing and the interception totals ranked second in Buckeye Conference statistics. He also ranked second to John Stierwalt

in scoring for the Little Giants with 54, 10 behind the Ross quarterback.

Other most valuable honors went to split end John Cahill, linebacker/fullback Jim Carroll, defensive end Micah Jones and sophomore Dave Carroll.

Cahill, who hauled down 40 passes for 568 yards and three touchdowns, was named the most valuable offensive lineman.

Carroll and Jones tied for the most valuable defensive lineman award. Jim Carroll had 47 tackles and 49 assists while Jones had 12 tackles and 40 assists. Included in Jones' totals were five trapping the pass five times and recovering three

fumbles. Jim Carroll knocked down a pass and trapped the passer once to go with causing one fumble and recovering a fumble.

Dave Carroll, who, along with Jason Schultz, one of two sophomores to letter, won the most valuable player honor for sophomore.

Other special honors went to Deam VanNess and Gary McClure as the most improved senior and junior, respectively, and senior Lincoln Flahiff, the True Grit winners, an award sponsored by the YMCA Y's Men Club.

Captain's trophies went to Jim Carroll, Jones and Stierwalt.

Two Little Giants on 2nd team

Two Fremont Ross High School football seniors were named to the second team, All-Ohio United Press International team.

The selections are by a vote of high school coaches.

Brian Laird was named to the offensive team at a guard slot and tackle Chad Hicks was named to the defensive team.

Rob Egbert, an offensive and defensive back for Ross, was given special mention and wide receiver John Cahill was honorable mention. Both are seniors.