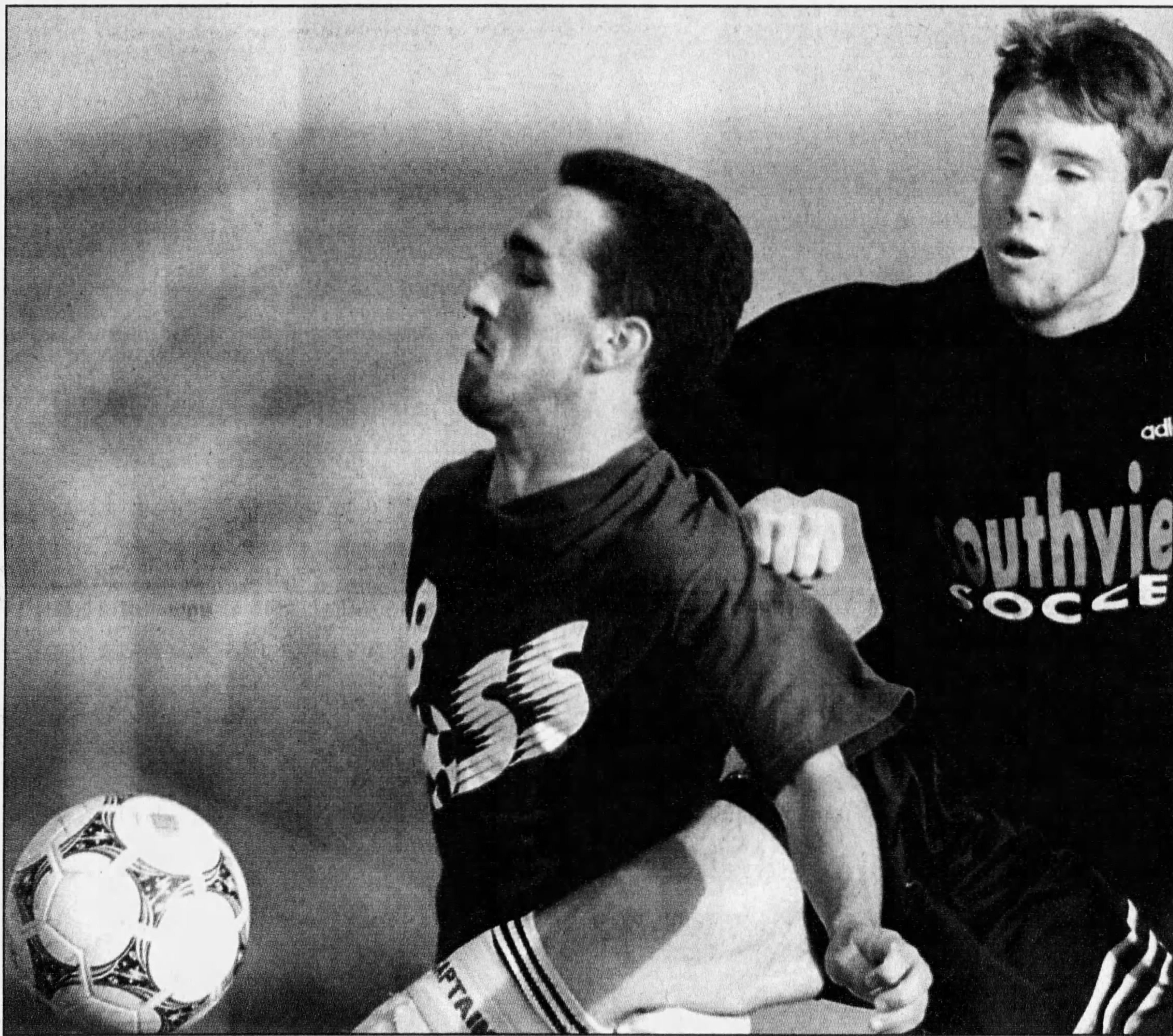


Ross rallies in sectional soccer



News-Messenger/Steven Garner

MARSHALL AMOR of Fremont Ross battles with a Sylvania Southview opponent during the Little Giants 2-1 sectional win Wednesday in Perrysburg.

Copley kicks Giant goal in game's final minute

By **CHUCK KRUMEL**
News-Messenger correspondent

PERRYSBURG — With less than a minute to play in regulation of Wednesday's Division I Sectional Soccer Tournament, it appeared Fremont Ross and Sylvania Southview were content to play more soccer.

But Fremont Ross senior Craig Copley broke a tie when he scored with 35 seconds to play to give the Little Giants a

2-1 win and berth in Saturday's semifinals.

"To be quite honest I was thinking overtime," Fremont Ross head coach Jeffrey Pendry said. "I was rotating the halfbacks with less than 10 minutes to go (in the game) about every three minutes to keep them fresh if we went into the overtime."

Copley's goal came after Ross aggressively attacked the

ball deep in Southview territory in the game's final two minutes. Sophomore Pete Scranton and senior Nik Wearsch both attempted to set up a final kick attempt in front of the Southview goal and the ball was deflected into the sights of Copley.

The senior hit a hard shot to the right of the net just out of reach of the Sylvania sophomore goalie Chad Cody.

The game, which began at 5 on a chilly evening, was one of two distinct halves. Southview controlled much of the first half, keeping Ross on the defensive as the Cougars kept the ball in play on the Fremont side of the field.

At the 15:37 mark of the first half, Southview sophomore Scott Meyer broke between two

See **ROSS**, B2

Ross soccer team brings home first sectional title

News-Messenger reports

PERRYSBURG — Fremont Ross senior Nik Wersch kicked the go-ahead goal and teammate Kyle Fisher made sure Woodward's star player could not retaliate Saturday as the Little Giants won the first sectional championship in school history.

The Little Giants got goals from Marshall Amor, Mike Simonton and Wersch and limited Woodward standout Rudy Ledesma to one goal in a 3-2 win.

Ross (11-6) advances to play state-ranked Toledo St. Francis at

SOCCER

7 p.m. Tuesday at Perrysburg.

"I'm excited because it's my senior year and I'm glad we could achieve this," Wersch said.

Amor got the Little Giants on the board first when he took a Simonton pass and scored 12 minutes into play.

But Woodward scored at the 23-minute mark and again three minutes later to take a 2-1 edge. Rudy Ledesma, who had scored seven times in the Polar Bears' semifinal

win against Oregon Clay, scored the first goal. Eric Baldwin gave Woodward its final goal.

"(Fisher) played unbelievably tough," Wersch said of his senior teammate assigned to dog Ledesma. "When Ledesma was open, Kyle was there also. It's hard to mark somebody up a whole game like that."

Fisher finished with 10 intercepts, second on the team to Andy Smith's 13. Ross goalie Michael Hickey made nine saves.



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Ross tied the score at 2-2 with two minutes left in the first half on an unassisted goal by Simonton, who scored the team's first goal in Wednesday's semifinal win against Sylvania Southview.

Ross took the lead for good with 15:00 to play in the second half. Brennan Willis lobbed the ball to the center of the field, where Wersch, a left-footer, drilled it into the left side of the net for a 3-2 lead.

"I saw Amy Smith coming from

the left flank calling for the ball, but there was a defender coming out," Wersch recalled. "I kicked and the goalie got a finger on it, but I had kicked it too hard.

"It was good as (in) when it was going," Wersch said of his 10th goal this season.

The win means a rematch with St. Francis, which beat Ross 6-0 on Sept. 13.

"We'll need to change our strategy and mark up on their players that are stronger," Wersch said. "We need to learn from the last game."