

St. John's knocks out Ross

Giants fall in sectional semi

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PERRYSBURG — Fremont Ross showed it has a good boys soccer team Wednesday by creating several opportunities for itself.

Toledo St. John's showed it has a great soccer team, and the Titans turned their opportunities into goals and rolled to an 8-0 win over Ross in a Division I sectional semi-final game at Perrysburg

High School.

The Little Giants controlled a large portion of the first half, and trailed the shots on goal battle only 6-5, but found themselves in a 3-0 hole at the break.

"I honestly felt we outplayed them in the first half, the ball was in their defensive end more than our defensive end," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "But we couldn't clear the ball. We controlled the pace of play, then it would go down to the other end and wind up in the net."

Ross, which hadn't played since Oct. 9, came out slug-

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gish and surrendered two goals in a 56-second span in the opening minutes and found itself playing catch-up the rest of the night.

"Our biggest problem was not having anything to do in the last 10 days," Pendry said.

"We came out a little flat and it showed because they put those two in the first few minutes and that really deflated us. By the time we got into the flow of the game, and were able to control some of the tempo, we were down 2-0

and had to scramble."

Ryan Ehle scored his first of two goals for the Titans off a Ross turnover in the third minute and Justin Stone scored 56 seconds later on a direct kick to make it 2-0.

The Little Giants had several solid opportunities to close the gap. Ross forward Morten Eidner trickled a shot that nearly crossed the line before a Titans defender cleared it out of harms way. Several Ross fans thought the ball was in, but Pendry agreed with the call.

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"We didn't think it went in," Pendry said. "But it was close and if anybody had followed up, they would have put it in the net."

Eidner later hit the crossbar and a few minutes later when he just missed the goal on a bicycle kick. Eidner, who led Ross with 27 goals this year, recorded seven of the Little Giants' 12 shots.

"The coaches from St. John's came up and even acknowledged that he's a tremendous player," Pendry said. "Getting a player like that definitely helps you."

Finally the Titans gained some momentum and Robbie Wurth scored off a corner kick to make it 3-0 at halftime.

The Little Giants switched to a more aggressive offensive attack on the second

half and St. John's was able to put it away. Ehle's second goal, and goals by Matt Tucker, Robert Aouad, Nick Burtscher and Kory Yoder provided the margin of victory.

"In the second half we took some guys off the midfield line and put them up at forward because we had to score," said Pendry. "Being realistic, whether we lost 3-0 or 5-0 didn't really matter. So we put some guys up front and that took away on defense and they put more in. We didn't sustain anything on offense so we couldn't score."

The game was the final on the soccer field in a Little Giant uniform for Eidner, Aaron Copley, Pete Scranton, Dusty Shively, Adam Wagner, Otto Halland, Jon Clark, Dan Wise and Mark Thomson.

"Guys are leaving on a positive attitude," Pendry

said. "A lot of records were set this year. Our program is getting stronger and stronger."

"Now we need some good freshmen to come up. That's the biggest difference between us and some of the better teams in Northwest Ohio, every year they have nine or 10, maybe even 15 freshmen come in, whereas we're still hovering around 5-7 freshmen coming in. Until we get more that can impact us immediately, it's going to take us a while."

Perkins tops Old Fort PEMBERVILLE — Old Fort played strong defense, but dropped a tough 1-0 sectional final to Sandusky Perkins at Eastwood High School.

Zack Luginbill scored the game's only goal for the Pirates.