Ross, Elder Battle In State Baseball Finals

WINNING COMBINATION—Roger Mann, catcher, happy Coach Lawrence Doren and ace southpaw Doug Gallagher, left to right, pose with the game winning ball after the final out of Ross high's 2-1 victory over Barberton Friday. Gallagher pitched a three-hitter, Mann caught a bang-up game and Doren made the right moves.

News-Messenger Photos

BENCH STRENGTH—Watching as one of the Ross high hitters tries his skill at the plate are some of the members of the Little Giants' state tournament team. The dugout was brimming with confidence throughout the contest.

Fremont Trips Barberton, Cincy Measures Euclid; Gallagher Tosses 3-Hitter

By Hal Shanahan
News-Messenger Sports Editor

COLUMBUS — Another come-from-behind victory has landed Fremont Ross in the finals of the state Class AA baseball tournament.

Doug Gallagher, sensational Ross high lefthander, weathered an early Barberton assault and his mates came through with two runs in the fifth inning to provide the Little Giants a 2-1 triumph over the Magics on the Ohio State university Varsity diamond in Friday's semifinals.

The tall southpaw struck out 18 Barberton batters, getting seven on called third strikes as he fooled the enemy stickers with a darting curve ball.

The Walter's, Mark and Harry, produced two key singles in Ross high's fifth frame.

Cincinnati Elder, four times AA baseball champion, scored early, held off a late Euclid rally to win 4-3 on the adjacent field.

Ross and Elder square off at 2 p. m. today on the OSU Varsity diamond to decide the 1958 Class AA state baseball champion to succeed Reading, the 1957 titlist.

Fremont's record is 13-2 and Elder's 21-3.

Gallagher started auspiciously, setting down the first three Barberton hitters on strikes in the initial frame. He ran into trouble in the second, however, Barberton loading the bases with none out but failing to score.

Stop Barberton Bid

Hard hitting shortstop Bill Mucklerey, a .487 batsman, grounded to Ross third baseman Gary Bierly's left. Bierly fielded the ball cleanly but his throw sailed over first baseman John Level's head, Mucklerey reaching second on the error. Jerry Skraba, Barberton catcher, looped a double just inside the right field line, Mucklerey going to third (held up to see if Ross right fielder Chuck Houdeshell would make the catch). Gallagher then issued his only pass, Renny Romain, Magics' third sacker occupying first to load the bases. The Fremont speedballer then fanned the next two batters and Level reached low to grab Magics' Pitcher John Howe's liner to end the inning.

Barberton scored its lone run in the third on two hits and a stolen base.

With one out, left fielder Lee Smith singled over Gallagher's head into center field. He stole second. Gallagher got the next hitter on strikes but Mucklerey's hard grounder over the first base bag went for a double, Smith scoring. That was all for Barberton.

Gallagher retired the next 13 Barberton batters in order. He fanned eight in a row, got Mucklerey on a foul pop to Ross third baseman Denny Stine (who took over at third in the third inning, Bierly moving to left in place of Frank Walby), and caught Skraba's easy pop-up to the mound.

The final three Barberton batters in the seventh went down swinging as Gallagher blazed his fast ball and sharp-breaking curve past them.

Ross had only one base runner until the fifth. Gallagher walked to open the third, went to second on Mark Walter's sacrifice and to third on a ground out. He was stranded when Roger Mann tapped to the mound.

Howe, Barberton's curve-balling righthander, didn't allow a hit until the fifth.

Ross Scores Twice

With one out, Harry Walter grounded sharply between first and second for a single. He went to second when Barberton's third baseman Romain bobbled Gallagher's ground ball for an error. Mark Walter then lashed a line drive over the second baseman's head into right-center field, Harry Walter scoring the tying run and Gallagher racing to third. Mark Walter stole second on right hander Bill Orr who relieved Howe after the run tying hit. Stine grounded to Mucklerey at short who juggled the ball momentarily before nipping Stine at first, Gallagher crossing the plate with what proved to be the winning run.

Fremont threatened in the top of the seventh but failed to score.

Houdeshell led off with a single to right-center and Harry Walter walked. Gallagher laid down a perfect bunt sacrifice a little in front of the plate, both runners advancing. But Mark Walter was called out on strikes and Stine grounded to short to end the threat.

The Little Giants reached the state semifinals with a 6-3 victory over Rossford in the Regional finals last Saturday at Lima, coming from behind twice in the game. Deciding blow in that game was a long home run by freshman Stine.

News-Messenger Photo

THIS IS THE BAT THAT DID IT—Harry Walter, left, and Mark Walter, right, examine the bat that did some potent damage in Ross high's semifinal win Friday in the state baseball tourney. Harry cracked the first Fremont hit in the fifth inning and Mark followed with a ringing single over the second baseman's head to plate Harry.

Big 10 Baseball Data

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan State and Minnesota clash at Minneapolis today in a Big Ten baseball doubleheader to determine the conference title. Ohio State still hopes to gain a share of the championship.

Michigan State (10-2) maintained its one-half game lead over Minnesota (9-3) by defeating last place Iowa, 5-2, Friday. Minnesota kept pace with a 7-4 triumph over Michigan 5-8 and Ohio State (8-4) took a 7-1 decision from Purdue (5-7).

AAA Softball Results

Fenske Contractors topped the Merchants 10-8 and Helena Lumber whipped the Lindsey Hornets 8-7 in AAA softball games Friday in Rodger Young Park.

Dutch Arndt of the Hornets hit two home run, one with the bases full, and drove in six of Lindsey's seven runs but in vain, Allen Tille was the winner and Bill Shull, in relief, the loser.

Roger Chambers and Archie Biggs homered for the Contractors. Merchants led 5-0 after an inning and a half but the Fenske hustlers rammed home five runs in the last of the second and three in the fourth to cop the decision.

Fenske Contractors (10)	ab	r	h	Merchants (8)	ab	r	h
T. Baumert, ss	5	1	1	Scull, c	3	1	1
L. Smith, cf	5	1	1	L. Price, 1b	3	1	1
D. Biggs, cf	3	1	1	D. Brown, ss	3	0	0
C. Chambers, c	3	1	1	G. Walker, cf	3	0	0
J. Swisher, lf	3	1	1	J. Tracy, c	3	1	1
M. Fenske, 2b	3	1	1	J. Wardlow, 2b	3	0	0
J. Richard, 3b	3	1	1	Barnes, rf	3	0	0
D. Baumert, 1b	3	1	1	C. Price, 3b	3	0	0
B. Hoffman, p	3	1	1	Johnson, lf	3	0	0
				Lee, p	3	0	0
Totals	31	10	8	Totals	30	4	4

Score by Innings:
Merchants ..... 020 000 2—4
Fenske Contractors ..... 020 311 x—10

Home runs—Roger Chambers, Archie Biggs. Strick out—Hoffman 5, Walford 4. Walked by—Hoffman 3. Winning pitcher—Hoffman. Losing pitcher—Wardlow. Umpires—Morey and Reed.

Sports Scan

By HAL SHANAHAN

Level Probable Ross Pitcher

COLUMBUS—Jubilant Lawrence Doren, Ross high baseball coach, was congratulating his ace lefty Doug Gallagher immediately after the speedballer and his Little Giant mates had halted Barberton 2-1 in the Class AA state baseball finals here Friday. Win put Fremont in the finals against Cincinnati Elder this afternoon.

"Who's pitching tomorrow?" reporters queried the veteran Fremont pilot.

"It'll probably be Level," the beaming Doren said.

John Level, the "Big Moose," who pitched brilliantly in relief in Ross high's win over Rossford last Saturday in the Regional finals at Lima was the No. one choice of Coach Doren for the Saturday clash with Elder.

However, Doren could fall back on righthander Gary Bierly or even Gallagher.

"I'll use 'em all if I have to," Doren asserted. (That would also include freshman lefty Dick Dundore, no record thus far).

Righthander Level, a rugged competitor, is 1-2 for the season. Bierly is 5-0 but was not effective in a short starting stint against Rossford last week.

Gallagher upped his record to 7-0 with yesterday's superior performance. The portsider, again watched by several major league scouts, had a rocky start against Barberton but was brilliant from the third inning on. He didn't allow a base runner from the fourth through the final, seventh frame.

"How does the arm feel," this scribe asked Gallagher during and after Friday's contest. The answer was favorable in both cases. "I could throw tomorrow if needed" the tall lefty announced.

Gallagher was bothered all week with a sore finger on his pitching hand but kept it in parafin most of the day Thursday. The finger didn't trouble him at all in the Barberton game, he declared.

"I had difficulty with my fast ball today," Doug said, "especially in the early innings. It just went up there straight with no hop on it. I relied mainly on a curve most of the game."

Pitching choice of Cincy Elder baseball coach Don Ruberg is not certain. A strong possibility is Scott Seger who played right field yesterday. Big John Huber, Elder's Friday hurler, allowed four hits and struck out eight.

ADDED NOTES — For Barberton baseball coach Lester Scarr, Friday was another state tournament disappointment. Scarr, in 12 years as Barberton baseball coach, has taken the Magics to the state tournament four times. In every case, the team has lost out in the semifinals. Last year, Reading eliminated Barberton in the semis and went on to win the crown.

Elder tallied on three unearned runs yesterday. Center fielder Paul Umberg scored the winning run after singling, going to second on a sacrifice and scoring on a two-base error.

Cincinnati Elder won the state baseball title in 1940, 1952, 1953 and 1956. It was runnerup in 1948 and 1954. Tom Weber and Ray Ruehl, in this year's starting line-up for Elder, were members of the state championship team of 1956.

Coach Doren of Ross is resigning after the current season. Even if Ross loses today, the veteran pilot is bowing out in glory. In three previous years as head coach since the sport was actually put on a firm basis at Fremont Ross, Doren and the Little Giants had never advanced past the sectionals.

Gallagher has now hurled in nine games, won seven, lost none; pitched 50 1-3 innings, allowed 7 runs, 9 hits, struck out 132, walked only 16.

THOSE FREMONT FANS

A splendid turnout of Fremont backers followed the Little Giants to Columbus yesterday. There were an estimated 150 students on hand and a total Fremont crowd of at least 200. They really yelled too. It was simply wonderful. Coach Doren was all smiles when he popped out of the Ross dugout to view the Fremont fan following. There'll probably be a lot more Fremonters in the audience today.

Pete Michaels, Ross high assistant coach, commenting on Mark Walter's solid smash for a single in the fifth inning to drive in the first Fremont run, said "Wasn't that a beautiful poke?" Pete exudes confidence on the bench and at the third base coaching slot.

Fred Taylor, OSU freshman basketball coach who is a top candidate for the vacated Varsity cage job at the Columbus school, is tournament manager.

Ross Ex-Swimming Stars To Gather

Ross high swimmers of the past 25 years will gather at 8:30 tonight in Serwin's restaurant. Some 25 ex-swimmers are expected to be on hand. Included will be ex-Coaches Ron Stultz, George Gruse, Don Hirschberger and John Tinsworth.

Fremont has had seven state 6-inning champions and numerous individual state swim titlists.

Gruse retired this year after 15 years as head coach.

MID-AM LEADERS

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Host Western Michigan and Ohio University led Mid-American Conference teams into final round competition for track, tennis and golf titles today.

Fremont Box Score

Ross (2)	ab	r	h
Mann, c	3	0	0
Kelly, cf	3	0	0
Bierly, 3b, lf	3	0	0
Level, 1b	3	0	0
Houdeshell, rf	3	0	1
H. Walter, 2b	2	1	1
Gallagher, p	1	1	0
M. Walter, ss	2	0	1
Walby, lf	1	0	0
Stine, 3b	2	0	0
Totals	25	2	3

Barberton (1)	ab	r	h
Mobley, cf	3	0	0
Smith, lf	3	1	1
Velloney, rf	3	0	0
Mucklerey, ss	3	0	1
Skraba, c	3	0	1
Romain, 3b	2	0	0
Gabera, 1b	3	0	0
August, 2b	3	0	0
Howe, p	1	0	0
Orr, p	1	0	0
Totals	25	1	3

Score by innings:
Fremont ..... 000 020 0—2 3 1
Barberton ..... 001 000 0—1 3 1

Errors — Bierly, Romain. Runs batted in—M. Walter, Stine, Mucklerey. Doubles — Skraba, Mucklerey. Stolen bases — M. Walter, Smith. Struck out by—Gallagher 18, Howe 4, Orr 2. Walked by — Gallagher 1, Howe 1, Orr 1. Hits off Gallagher—3 for 1 run in 7 innings. Hits off Howe—2 for 2 runs in 4⅓ innings. Hits off Orr —1 for 0 runs in 2⅔ innings. Winning pitcher—Gallagher (7-0). Losing pitcher—Howe (6-1). Umpires—Martin (P), Callahan (B).

Euclid (3)	ab	r	h	Elder (4)	ab	r	h
Bloom, ss	4	0	1	Walter, 2b	3	1	1
Kuschmann, cf	3	0	1	Hoefle, ss	3	1	1
Nemeth, cf	3	0	1	Umberg, cf	3	1	1
Wainwright, c	3	1	1	Seger, c	3	1	1
Dworkin, 2b	3	1	1	Engel, rf	3	0	0
Burger, 2b	1	1	0	Niehaus, 3b	3	0	0
Brown, rf	3	0	1	Bartmann, lf	3	0	1
Turkovich, 3b	3	0	0	Combs, 1b	3	0	0
Kostopulos, p	2	0	0	Huber, p	3	0	0
Jubilean, p	1	0	0				
Totals	31	3	6	Totals	30	4	6

Score by innings:
Euclid ..... 000 002 001—3 6 1
Elder ..... 101 000 x—4 6 1

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