

2015 Season Preview.



The 2015 Fremont Ross High School football team and cheerleaders.

RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

FREMONT ROSS LITTLE GIANTS

RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

Coach: Craig Yeast (second season, 7-4 career)

Last season: 7-4 overall, (5-2 Three Rivers Athletic Conference)

Who's back: Tyler Schell (Sr., 6-2, LB); Russ Yeast (Jr., 5-11, WR/QB/DB); Tyler Grine (Jr., 5-9, WR/DB); Uriah Haun (Sr., 5-11, RB/LB); Jarren Hampton (Sr., 6-0, WR/QB/DB); Isaiah McDonald (Sr., 5-7, RB); Evan LeJeune (Sr., 6-2, OL/DL); Nate Mayle (Jr., 6-3, OL/DL); Tavarious Simms (Sr., 6-3, WR/TE); Cody Tyler (Sr., 5-11, WR/DB); Elijah Johnson (Sr., 6-0, WR/DB).

Who's gone: Jalen Slick (QB); Jeffery Barnett (WR/DB); Garrett Hausman (DL); Patrick Rusher (OL/P); Ben Root (LB/FB); Alec Carnicom (OL); Tray Richardson (OL).

Who's new: Elijah Burling (Jr., 6-3, TE/LB); Roger Burling (So., 6-2, WR/DB); Shawn'drae Koch (So., OL/LB).

2014 Season highlight: The Little Giants had several memorable moments a season ago. There was Ross winning its fifth game in a row over rival San-

dusky. The Little Giants' fourth-quarter, goal-line stand to preserve a win against Findlay and the play-off-clinching win over St. John's in Week 10 also come to mind. But the Little Giants' biggest win came in a Week 6 victory at home over Whitmer. Ross was coming off an 83-51 loss the week before against Toledo Central Catholic and knew another loss would effectively end its playoff hopes. The Little Giants upset the Panthers with nearly 500 yards of total offense and by holding firm defensively on Whitmer's go-ahead 2-point conversion with 93 seconds to play.

2014 Season lowlight: Scoring 51 points while still losing by 32 points to Central Catholic was nothing for the Little Giants to write home about, but Ross' low-point came the week before. The Little Giants' 41-17 trouncing at the hands of Lima Senior could have thrown the season into a downward spiral. The Spartans took a 14-0 lead before many found their seats at Don Paul Stadium — just 93 seconds in. Lima held a 27-0 lead and totaled 285 yards of offense by the end of the first quarter. The Spartans were the first to fully expose Ross' defensive short-comings — a battle the

Little Giants fought the rest of the season.

Outlook: If Fremont Ross is to follow-up its first postseason appearance since 2010 with another play-off berth, the Little Giants have some holes to fill, most notably under center. Jalen Slick set new records for a program entering its 120th year of play. Slick combined his record-setting 146 completions, 2,685 yards and 23 touchdowns with tremendous mobility inside and outside of the pocket and true leadership on and off the field. Whoever replaces Slick, either Russ Yeast or Jarren Hampton, will do so behind an offensive line that will also require several players stepping into larger roles. Gone are linemen Patrick Rusher, Alec Carnicom and Tray Richardson. Defensively, Ross needs to find a replacement for its most disruptive force, Garrett Hausman. A first team all-district honoree, Hausman totaled 25 tackles for loss and four sacks. Ben Root and his team-high 87 tackles, including 16 for loss, will also have to be replaced. Linebackers Tyler Schell (second team all-TRAC) and Uriah Haun and Yeast, at defensive back, return as Ross' most-proven defenders.

CAN ROSS PROVIDE A PLAYOFF ENCORE?

In Craig Yeast's second year, Little Giants try to duplicate 2014's postseason berth

RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

FREMONT — One year ago, one guess was as good as any other in knowing what to expect from the Fremont Ross football team.

The Little Giants were coming off their third-straight season of .500 or less and new coach Craig Yeast was bringing a bold voice and a new philosophy for the program.

What started as an unknown turned into an unquestioned success, as Ross won its last five regular season games to go 7-3 and make the playoffs for the first time since 2010. Though the Little Giants lost 58-26 to Nordon in the first round, few were left wanting more from Ross in 2014.

But what about 2015? With the success Ross enjoyed a season ago, how are expectations different for the Little Giants in Yeast's second year? They're not, according to the coach.

"Our expectations are not going to change," Yeast said. "They're still high. There are still a lot of plays that have to be made by our players. Expectations are still very high. Nothing has changed."

With such high expectations, from within and outside the program, comes pressure to meet them and to follow-up a successful campaign with more success. That is made more complicated by the fact the Little Giants won't be able to sneak up on anybody in the ultra-competitive Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"Last year we had the advantage of no one knowing what the potential was," senior linebacker Tyler Schell said. "This year, knowing the athletes we have and knowing the coaching we have, the level we compete at, we're going to be prepared for a lot better."

Perhaps the biggest difference from 2014 to 2015 is the familiarity between Yeast and his players. Yeast's mantra of working hard with toughness, discipline and attitude has seeped in over the last 18 months, dating back to his



Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast and his players, Tyler Schell, second from right in foreground; Tavarious Simms, right; and the rest of the Little Giants' senior class, look to follow up on the Little Giants' successful 2014 season with another trip to the playoffs.

RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

FREMONT ROSS SCHEDULE

8/28 vs. Holland Springfield
9/4 at Sylvania Southview
9/11 vs. Sandusky
9/18 at Toledo St. Johns
9/25 at Lima Senior
10/2 vs. Toledo Central Catholic
10/9 at Toledo Whitmer
10/16 vs. Oregon Clay
10/23 vs. Toledo St. Francis
10/30 at Findlay
All games at 7 p.m.

hiring in March of 2014.

And seeing the results of last season has only served as validation for the players in what they're doing.

"Last year was really all about coming in and really changing the culture. And that was it," Yeast said. "That was my No. 1 (goal), was to change the culture. Being here a full year, our kids having a full offseason, they know what the expectations levels are."

Junior Tyler Grine can also see a difference in the level of intensity in practice after a full year of Yeast's regime.

"We were made for this; we're working hard every day," Grine said. "We don't have to prove anything to anybody, we're here for ourselves. We have a swagger about us. We're here to win."

While a postseason appearance makes a team more confident heading into the ensuing season, Yeast is mindful to make sure his team doesn't feel too good about itself. Despite his confidence all year his team would make the

playoffs last season, he acknowledges the Little Giants overachieved. Though he doesn't want his players to be overconfident, he sees potential for greater things to come in 2015.

"This year I think we're in a much better place," Yeast said. "Now, it's more of, 'You're not as good as you think you are, now let's work on getting better.' We're not doing as much tear-down to build up because I think we have the foundation now."

"I think with this group, this could possibly be a better group than what we had last year," he added. "But you never know until you put the pads on, line them up against another team and see what they're going to do."

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LITTLE GIANT OFFENSE LOOKS TO RELOAD

Despite loss of QB Slick, Fremont Ross believes offense can be better in 2015

RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross offense was a lot of things in 2014. Boring was not one of them.

The Little Giant offense centered around multiple play-makers who led Ross to an average of 417 yards and 37.4 points per game.

While several of those essential skill position players have graduated, and others will be switching positions, Ross coach Craig Yeast believes his offense can still be just as potent.

"We have enough skill players, it's a matter of who is going to make the plays and that's what we're finding out right now," Yeast said. "Where does everybody fit? Do we need to shuffle some guys around?"

The Little Giants biggest hole from last season will be filled by one of their top returning assets.

Junior Russ Yeast and senior Jarren Hampton, Ross' leading receivers back from last season, are in competition to fill the shoes left by the graduation of quarterback Jalen Slick.

Whoever wins the job, Russ Yeast and Hampton know replacing Slick will be easier said than done.

"It will be tough," Hampton said. "He broke a lot of records and did everything he had to do. But whoever gets quarterback will have to step up and lead this team. He was a feisty player, he got after it. Nobody could hold him down."

Hampton split quarterback duties with Slick two years ago when Hampton was a sophomore. He completed 30 passes for 299 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Yeast hasn't played quarterback since middle school, but brings a high level of athleticism to the position.

"What I'm looking for is the guy the team is going to rally around and makes the least amount of mistakes," Craig Yeast said. "When a mistake gets made, I want to see that guy take ownership and a leadership role and say 'That's my responsibility and I'll take care of it.' That's what I'm looking for."

Whether Russ Yeast or Hampton is throwing the ball, he'll have plenty of options to throw to.

Senior tight end Tavarius Simms returns as a solid blocker with good



Fremont Ross players, from left, Tyler Schell, Tavarius Simms, Jarren Hampton and Uriah Haun look to lead the Little Giants to the playoffs for the second season in a row.

RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSANGER

FREMONT ROSS ROSTER

No.	Player	Yr.	Pos.				
3	Russ Yeast	11	QB/WR/FS	35	DeShawn Newsome	10	WR/DE
4	Tyler Grine	11	WR/DB	36	Teyon Cole	10	WR/CB
5	Roger Burling	10	WR/S	40	Hayden Abdoo	11	WR/LB
6	Elijah Burling	11	WR/LB	42	Myles Peters	11	WR/LB
7	Elijah Johnson	12	WR/DB	43	Garrett Barth	10	FB/LB
8	Dayvon Atkins	12	WR/DB	44	Brock Schultz	12	RB/DB
9	Uriah Haun	12	RB/OLB	45	Jamal Kindle	11	WR/LB
10	Devyn Jagodzinski	10	QB/S	46	Nash Miller	11	WR/CB
11	Jarren Hampton	12	QB/WR/LB	50	Cole Beckley	12	OL/LB
12	Boston Swaisgood	11	QB/DB	52	Shawndrae Koch	10	OL/LB
13	Cody Tyler	12	WR/DB	53	Evan LeJeune	12	OL/LB
14	Samuel Franco	12	WR/DB	54	Andrew Edmonds	10	OL/LB
15	Ben Rozzell	10	WR/DB	55	Kieler Foster	11	OL/LB
16	Jerardo Eckford	10	WR/CB	57	Clay Hetrick	11	OL/LB
18	Trey Ickes	10	QB/FS	58	Kyle Montgomery	11	OL/LB
19	Chrystian Mancini	10	WR/FS	59	Darriion Walker	12	OL/DE
20	Austin Busold	11	RB/DB	60	Matt Dupey	10	OL/LB
21	Michael Contreras	10	K	61	Jacob Schott	11	OL/LB
22	Kamryn Jones	10	WR/CB	62	Brian Garza	10	OL/LB
23	Isaiah McDonald	12	RB/LB	63	Tanner King	10	OL/LB
24	Trevon Alridge	11	RB/CB	65	Alijah Fuller	11	OL/LB
25	David Szymanowski	12	WR/DB	67	Isaac Spears	12	OL/LB
26	Remey Bulger	10	RB/FS	69	Charlie Clark	11	OL/LB
31	Tyler Schell	12	OL/LB	75	Nate Mayle	11	OL/LB
32	Sam Detwiler	12	RB/DL	78	David Heidelberg	10	OL/LB
33	Brentton Ollom	10	WR/CB	81	Tavarius Simms	12	WR/LB
34	Trey Beckley	10	RB/LB	88	Sean Thurston	10	TE/LB

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Offense

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hands capable of making plays down the field. Elijah and Roger Burling, a junior and sophomore, respectively, are joining the pass-catching corps along with returning Tyler Grine.

While Ross likes how its passing game is taking shape, Craig Yeast believes "the strength right now is probably going to be our running back position."

Senior Isaiah McDonald, who flourished in the second half of the season last year after recovering from an early injury, returns as the Little Giants' feature back.

He'll be joined in the backfield by bruiser Uriah Haun, Austin Bussold and Grine.

"The offense is going to look the same, I think," Russ Yeast said. "We might run a little more because we have a different athlete at quarterback, but I think our offense can actually be better than last year."

The Little Giants' biggest concern on offense comes up front where they only return two starting linemen, center Evan LeJeune and tackle Nate Mayle, both of whom are changing positions from last season.

Finding a cohesive group up front is one of Ross' biggest tasks in the preseason.

"It's definitely one of the priorities," Yeast



NEWS-MESSANGER FILE PHOTOS

Fremont Ross' Uriah Haun dives toward the end zone during the Little Giants' 42-20 win over Sandusky last season.



Teammates celebrate with Tavaris Simms (81) after blocking a punt for a touchdown during the first half against Toledo St. John's last season.



said. "Our guys are really buying in. We got quite a few guys helping out up front. It's going to take some time but we want the best five, it doesn't matter who they are, we're just looking for the best five and as soon as we find the best five, I think we're going to be fine."

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Fremont Ross' Tavarius Simms takes down Springfield's Bryant Koback on Friday night.

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Little Giants' defenses no match for Springfield



RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

FREMONT — Joe Louis said every boxer has a plan until they get hit. Fremont Ross had a plan entering its season-opening tilt against Holland Springfield. Then the Little Giants got hit.

Then again.

And again.

Springfield's combination of pinpoint passing rocked and staggered the Little Giants early and the Blue Devils' relentless rushing up the middle wore them down and knocked them out.

Ross' 42-21 loss Friday night wasn't a close decision. It was a one-sided affair which, had it been a boxing match, the referee would have stopped it long



Fremont Ross coaches react to Holland Springfield scoring a fourth quarter touchdown in the Little Giants' 42-21 loss Friday night.

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Giants

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The barrage gave Springfield a 28-7 lead at halftime and it never looked back.

ROSS HIGHLIGHTS

Bright spots were hard to find for the Little Giants but there were a few. The defense opened with a nice fourth-down stop of a run up the middle. On the ensuing possession, Ross moved the ball 66 yards and finished with a Tyler Grine 17-yard touchdown thanks to a terrific block by Uriah Haun. Haun got himself in the end zone on a 3-yard run late in the third quarter. Russ Yeast later connected on a 24-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Grine in the fourth quarter for the Little Giants' final score of the game.

SPRINGFIELD HIGHLIGHTS

Take your pick. Seymour connected on three touchdown strikes on three consecutive passes in the second quarter. The first went to Stephan Robinson on a nice flag route. The second went to D'Andre Hicks, who left the Ross secondary standing still, and the third found Bryant Koback down the Springfield sideline. Not to be forgotten, Robinson's kick return for a touchdown got Springfield on the board, zapping Ross' momentum from its first-quarter touchdown.



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER
Ross' Tyler Grine scores in the first quarter on Friday night.

Springfield (Holland) 42, Ross 21

Springfield (Holland)	7	21	7	7	—	42
Ross	7	0	7	7	—	21

First quarter

FR -- Tyler Grine 17 run (Michael Contreras kick), 5:34

HS -- Stephan Robinson 85 kick return (Logan Gorey kick), 5:12

Second quarter

HS -- Robinson 21 pass from Scottie Seymour (Gorey kick), 11:53

HS -- D'Andre Hicks 54 pass from Seymour (Gorey kick), 9:16

HS -- Bryant Koback 51 pass from Seymour (Gorey kick), 6:32

Third quarter

HS -- Seymour 14 run (Gorey kick), 10:34

FR -- Uriah Haun 3 run (Contreras kick), 4:57

Fourth quarter

HS -- Koback 3 run (Gorey kick), 10:43

FR -- Grine 24 pass from Russ Yeast (Contreras kick), 8:52

	S	R
First downs	18	17
Total Net Yards	433	347
Rushes-Yards	34-165	43-196
Passing	268	151
Comp-Att-Int	18-12-0	10-20-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	8-60	5-35



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross' Tavarius Simms scores a touchdown Friday night, as the Little Giants battled to defeat the Cougars.

ROSS OVERCOMES ADVERSITY FOR WIN



RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

SYLVANIA — Perfection is nice. Perseverance, however, might be even better.

While Fremont Ross wasn't perfect Friday night, the Little Giants showed more than just a little resiliency in taking a 37-28 victory over Sylvania Southview.

Ross appeared to have Southview on the canvas on multiple occasions only to see the Cougars rise up again. The Little Giants didn't panic. They didn't waiver. What they did do, however, was take Southview's best shot and come back with one of their own.

"All I wanted to see from our kids tonight was, I knew we were going to have adversity, and I wanted them to fight through it and continue to fight through it," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We had a lot of moments tonight where our kids got knocked down and had to get back up. And they did the job. I can't be more proud of them."

After Mikey Contreras drilled a 35-yard field goal through the center of the uprights, giving Ross a nine-point lead with barely more than six minutes to play, it looked as though the final result was in the books.

But much can change in 20 seconds.



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross' Uriah Haun, from right, celebrates his touchdown with Russ Yeast and Tavarius Simms on Friday night.

That's the time it took Southview's John Malak to return the ensuing kickoff 98 yards and bring the Cougars within 30-28 with 5:46 to play.

The Little Giants went from celebrating a victory, back to clawing just to hold on. Or so it seemed.

On the second play of Ross' ensuing possession, junior Trevon Al-dridge burst up the middle for 48

yards, taking the Little Giants into the Southview red zone. Three plays later, quarterback Russ Yeast ran in from 12 yards out to once again pull ahead by nine, 37-28.

Soon thereafter the Ross defense came up with its third interception of the night, thanks to Elijah Johnson, and the Little Giants, finally, had

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Ross

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their victory.

"It feels great," Russ Yeast said. "It puts the momentum in the right direction. Next week we can get another win and be 2-1 and start the TRAC off 2-1."

Ross' mettle was tested frequently Friday.

After Yeast opened the scoring on an 84-yard interception return for a touchdown, the Little Giants saw their momentum quickly vanish as Southview answered with a 70-yard touchdown on the first play of its next series.

Southview later took a 14-13 lead, taking advantage of Contreras losing his footing on Ross' previous extra-point attempt.

The Little Giants responded with a pair of 24-yard touchdown passes from Yeast to Uriah Haun and Tavarious Simms, respectively.

Though Ross took the lead into half-time, 27-14, Southview held the large edge in time of possession. The Cougars then started the third quarter on a march that would have made General Sherman proud.

Southview drove 73 yards on 20 plays, chewing up 9:27 of the third quarter and cut the Ross lead to 27-21.

On a hot, muggy night, one wondered how much more Ross' defense could take.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Ross 37, Sylvania Southview 28

Sylvania Southview	14	0	7	7	—	28
Ross	27	0	0	10	—	37

First quarter

FR -- Russ Yeast 84 interception return (Mikey Contreras kick), 8:04

SS -- John Malak 70 run (Keenan Parsons kick), 7:44

FR -- Jarren Hampton 76 pass from Yeast (kick fail), 6:51

SS -- Sam Stout 1 run (Parsons kick), 2:53

FR -- Uriah Haun 24 pass from Yeast (Contreras kick), 1:31

FR -- Tavarious Simms 24 pass from Yeast (Contreras kick), 18.5

Second quarter

No scoring

Third quarter

SS -- Stout 1 run (Parsons kick), 2:33

Fourth quarter

FR -- Contreras 35 field goal, 6:02

SS -- Malak 98 kick return (Parsons kick), 5:46

FR -- Yeast 12 run (Contreras kick), 2:51

	S	R
Total Net Yards	386	329
Rushes-Yards	44-295	28-150
Passing	91	179
Comp-Att-Int	9-16-3	7-9-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-20	9-65

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Trevon Alridge 2-51, Tyler Grine 1-7, Uriah Haun 3-20, Isaiah McDonald

8-28, Russ Yeast 13-44.

Passing — Ross, Russ Yeast 7-9-1-179.

Receiving — Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-126, Tyler Grine 1-5, Uriah Haun 1-24, Tavarious Simms 1-24.

8-28, Russ Yeast 13-44.

Passing — Ross, Russ Yeast 7-9-1-179.

Receiving — Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-126, Tyler Grine 1-5, Uriah Haun 1-24, Tavarious Simms 1-24.

LITTLE GIANTS BATTLE BACK

Team had to fight off food poisoning

JOSH MORGRET
GANNETT OHIO

FREMONT — Over the past five meetings, Ross had dominated the second-oldest rivalry in all of Ohio football, defeating Sandusky each time in convincing fashion.

Friday, the Little Giants continued to control the series, topping Sandusky, 34-7, in nonleague action at Don Paul Stadium.

"We're still trying to improve and get better," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We have a long way to go."

Ross (2-1) took a 14-7 lead into halftime when Isaiah McDonald scored with

30 seconds left in the second quarter. The Little Giants, who had numerous players battling food poisoning from a team dinner on Thursday night, wasted little time picking up where they left off in the first half, as Tyler Grine sprinted 54 yards just 44 seconds into the third quarter for a 21-7 lead. The Blue Streaks (1-2) looked to strike back later, taking over at the Ross 40-yard line. Five plays later, Sidney Hearvey rumbled in from the Ross 11-yard line but fumbled just before he reached the end zone. Ross recovered the fumble for a touchdown.

"That was probably one of the biggest

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DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT
Ross' sideline reacts to a fourth quarter touchdown against Sandusky.

Ross

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plays of the game," Yeast said. "That play ... was a huge play."

The score remained the same into the fourth quarter. Russ Yeast returned a punt 45 yards to the Sandusky red zone and five plays later, Uriah Haun scored a three-yard touchdown.

It was just 48 seconds later when Jarren Hampton stepped in front of a pass from Sandusky quarterback Javez Alexander and returned the interception 50 yards for the touchdown.

"We gave them too many big plays," Sandusky coach Mike Franklin said. "Every time we got the momentum, we found a way to make a mistake. They're too good of a football team to make that many mistakes."

Yeast opened the game's scoring with a 92-yard run in the first quarter before Jalen Gowdy tied the game for Sandusky with a 23-yard score with 2:32 left in the second quarter.

"We had a couple big plays but I thought we were stagnant on offense," coach Yeast said of the first



PHOTO BY DOUG HISE.

Ross' Russ Yeast is tripped up in the backfield by Sandusky's Tra Jones.

half. "We had a big run and we scored a touchdown later that was big for us."

Yeast completed 4-of-9 passes for 24 yards while running 13 times for 117 yards while Ross held Sandusky to just 50 yards of offense and three first downs in the second half.

"We have a lot of things we need to clean up," coach Yeast said. "We'll come back next week, work on those things, and try to get that cleaned up."

Ross (2-1) has now won the last six meetings by a combined score of 253-110 while Sandusky now leads the all-time series, 53-49-8.

Ross 34, Sandusky 7

Sandusky	0	7	0	0	—	7
Ross	7	7	7	13	—	34

First quarter

FR - Russ Yeast 92 run (Michael Contreras kick), 1:56

Second quarter

S - Jalen Gowdy 23 run (Max Corso kick), 2:32

FR - Isaiah McDonald 4 run (Contreras kick), 0:30

Third quarter

FR - Tyler Grine 54 run (Contreras kick), 11:16

Fourth quarter

FR - Uriah Haun 3 run (Contreras kick), 8:41

FR - Jarren Hampton 50 interception return (run no good), 7:53

NOWHERE TO RUN

Titans shut down rush, injuries mount for Little Giants in TRAC opener

RICH MCGOWAN
SPORTS REPORTER

TOLEDO — The sight has become all too common in just four short weeks.

Fremont Ross snaps the ball (and Friday night that snap was usually low) and in short order the quarterback or the running back is met in the backfield by a swarm of defenders.

It's a hard way to play offense and sooner or later, it will catch up to you and hurt you.

It caught up to the Little Giants on Friday night at St. John's Jesuit. With little time to survey options quarterback Russ Yeast and, after Yeast got injured late in the second quarter, his back-up Jarren Hampton, found themselves frequently swarmed by Titans in Ross' 45-28 loss.

"It's the same old song," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We've been stressing the same things all year. If our guys don't play with heart and they don't play with effort, there is nothing we can do."

Ross' offensive line, already a rough spot for the Little Giants this season, was playing as a short-handed patchwork unit without injured center Evan LeJeune. With the 6-foot-2, 285-pound LeJeune — who only moved to center himself due to another injury — not playing, the Little Giants had to shuffle the line and were down to third-string at center. The result was repeated low snaps, some of which merely slowed the play, others derailed it completely. A couple resulted in turnovers.

"My thing is 'It's the next man up' and when you have the next man up and you've been working all week you've got to go out and do the job and we're not doing that," Yeast said. "Anywhere."

Being under such constant pressure, it felt as though it was only a matter of time before the inevitable happened and, sure enough, late in the second quarter, it did. Quarterback Russ Yeast, the University of Kentucky recruit, was tackled behind the line of scrimmage and emerged from halftime on the



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Ross' Jarren Hampton is pushed out of bounds by St. John's Tycen Anderson.

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Ross

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sideline and on crutches.

Filling in for Yeast, Hampton faced similar rushes from the defense and left the game himself, though he later returned for a series. Running back Isaiah McDonald also left the game with an injury.

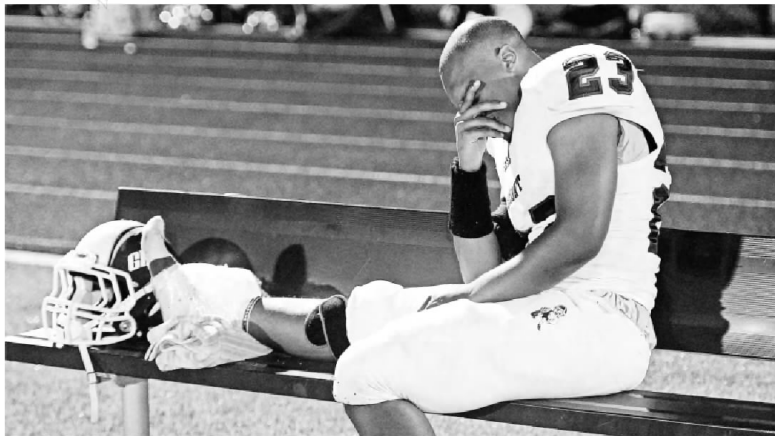
"We have yet to sustain a drive because we are not very physical up front, we will not do what we're coached to do," Craig Yeast said. "As a result, our quarterback is hurt, our backup quarterback is hurt, we're on to our third string quarterback and now our starting running back is hurt."

Ross (2-2 overall, 0-1 Three Rivers Athletic Conference) declined to punt on fourth down five times Friday, three of which only a yard was required to continue to drive. The Little Giants converted on just one. A low snap resulted in a turnover on downs. Another bad snap was recovered by the Titans (3-1, 1-0). Yeast got sacked on another play and then a run failed to pick up a yard and a half for a fresh set of downs.

In all, Ross was just 2-for-19 in converting third- and fourth-downs.

That's a hard way to win.

But this loss wasn't all on the offense or the line up front. The secondary once again allowed receivers go free and streak down the sideline. The Little Giants have long been



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross' Isaiah McDonald was injured Friday night in the Little Giants' 45-28 loss to St. John's Jesuit.

susceptible to the deep ball and fell victim to it again Friday. Scoring plays of 60, 53 and 43 yards lit up Ross' defense in a manner which has become a frequent sight this season and last.

In all, St. John's totaled 506 yards of offense, 305 coming through the air on 19 pass attempts.

"Our defense, they played with great effort, but, again I'm not very happy with the secondary," Yeast said. "It's one of those things where, as a coach, you prepare them very well, and you know it's coming and the execution is not there. I'm very happy with the effort on the defensive side of the ball, we still need to do something to erase the big plays."

Ross finished the night with 371 yards, including a pair of long touchdown runs by Tyler Grine in the second half. His scoring runs of 66 and 45 yards kept the Little Giants within



Ross' Dayvon Atkins is taken down by St. John's Tylen Anderson.

shouting distance of the Titans but St. John's 21 unanswered points over a six-minute stretch spanning the late first and early second quarter put the Little Giants in too deep a hole.

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St. John's Jesuit 45, Ross 28

Ross	14	0	7	7	—	28
St. John's Jesuit	24	7	7	7	—	45

First quarter

SJJ -- Peter McIntyre 39 field goal, 5:47

SJJ -- McIntyre 26 interception return (McIntyre kick), 4:53

FR -- Jarren Hampton 67 pass from Russ Yeast (Mikey Contreras kick), 3:59

FR -- Yeast 3 run (Contreras kick), 2:39

SJJ -- Tyler Turner 29 run (McIntyre kick), 1:45

SJJ -- Bennett Miller 60 pass from Matthew Winzeler (McIntyre kick), 0:03

Second quarter

SJJ -- McIntyre 53 pass from Winzeler (McIntyre kick), 8:03

Third quarter

SJJ -- Wyatt Johnoff 43 pass from Winzeler (McIntyre kick), 8:17

FR -- Tyler Grine 66 run (Contreras kick), 7:40

Fourth quarter

SJJ -- McIntyre 9 pass from Winzeler (McIntyre kick), 10:15

FR -- Grine 45 run (Contreras kick), 9:10

	R	S
First downs	11	19
Total Net Yards	371	506
Rushes-Yards	44-225	40-201
Passing	146	305
Comp-Att-Int	10-21-1	13-19-1
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	0-0	5-45

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Jarren Hampton 6-5, Tyler Grine 7-117, Uriah Haun 8-42, Isaiah McDonald 9-23, Russ Yeast 14-36. St. John's Jesuit, Tyler Turner 14-78, Matt Winzeler 4-8, Peter McIntyre 1-13, Wyatt Johnoff 1-11, Jacques Jackson 7-51, Darius Calhoun 9-35, Phil Shook 4-16.

Passing — Ross, Jarren Hampton 3-5-0-26, Boston Swaisgood 0-1-0-0, Russ Yeast 7-15-1-120. St. John's Jesuit, Matt Winzeler 11-16-1-258, Jacob Zigulis 2-3-47.

Receiving — Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-95, Elijah Johnson 2-16, Tyler Grine 1-5, Uriah Haun 1-4, Dayvon Atkins 2-16. St. John's Jesuit, Peter McIntyre 6-122, Wyatt Johnoff 3-52, Darius Calhoun 1-16, Bennett Miller 2-106.

Turnovers not enough for Ross vs. Lima

STAFF REPORT

LIMA – Six turnovers forced by a defense will win a lot of football games.

Just not on Fremont Ross' trip to Lima Senior Friday night.

Despite recovering five Spartan fumbles and coming up with an interception, the Little Giants' offense struggled to consistently move the ball in suffering a 35-17 loss.

"Our defense played really well," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We gave up a few plays but we had six turnovers on defense, one of them for a touchdown (a fumble removed in the end zone by DeSahwn Newsome). I'm very pleased with the defense."

Despite the defense creating opportunities for momentum, the offense

struggled to keep the good feelings going.

"Offensively, we're not blocking, we're not executing and we're not doing anything on offense," Yeast said. "It's more of the same song every week, different colored jersey that we're playing."

The Little Giants found some running room after halftime. As Lima led 21-3 starting the second half, the Spartans defended the pass and allowed Ross to get what it could on the ground. Tyler Grine led the effort with 126 yards while Isiah McDonald gained 68. Uriah Haun scored a 4-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter for the offense' only touchdown of the night.

"They gave up some running lanes so we ran the ball," Yeast said. "There was

a couple opportunities to make some bigger plays and get some scores, and we're just not making them."

Quarterback Russ Yeast completed 6-of-13 passes for 48 yards before Boston Swaisgood came on in relief. The junior completed 5-of-9 passes for 65 yards.

Lima Senior totaled 549 yards of offense, including 343 passing yards.

"Any time you get six turnovers in a game, you would think the score would be lopsided in your favor. But it really wasn't, obviously," Yeast said.

"You go three-and-out here and three-and-out here, you can't get first downs...before you know it, the defense is tired and they do give up a few plays. That's pretty much what happened tonight."

Lima 35, Ross 17

Ross	0	3	7	7	—	17
Lima	0	21	0	14	—	35

	R	L
First downs	20	22
Total Net Yards	338	549
Rushes-Yards	47-225	33-206
Passing	113	343
Comp-Att-Int	11-22-1	20-29-0
Punts-Average	7-29.1	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	5-5
Penalties-Yards	5-45	6-50

Individual statistics

Rushing — Ross, Trevon Alridge 1-7, Tyler Grine 16-126, Uriah Haun 6-30, Isiah McDonald 11-68, Russ Yeast 10-17, Boston Swaisgood 3-11.

Passing — Ross, Russ Yeast 6-13-0-48, Boston Swaisgood 5-9-1-65.

Receiving — Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-53, Elijah Johnson 1-2, Tyler Grine 3-26, Tavarious Simms 2-38, Dayvon Atkins 1-6.



TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC 69, FREMONT ROSS 7

LITTLE GIANTS 'EMBARRASSED' AT HOME BY FIGHTING IRISH

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

FREMONT — Maybe the best thing that can be said about Friday night's meeting with Toledo Central Catholic is that Fremont Ross won't have to play the Fighting Irish again until next season.

Central Catholic made itself right at home in Don Paul Stadium. The defending Division III state champions scored early and scored often as every first-half possession wound up in the end zone. The Fighting Irish totaled over 400 yards before halftime as they cruised to a 69-7 win over the Little Giants.

Central Catholic ended the night with 614 total yards of offense, including 513 rushing yards.

"Toledo Central Catholic is a championship-caliber team but I'm a little embarrassed by my team to-

night," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "We did not put up a fight at all. It's pretty much proved with the scoreboard, 69-7.

"This is probably as embarrassed as I've been in my life, as a football coach."

Ross' defense stuffed running back Tre-Von Wade for a 5-yard loss on the first play of the game, but that was the high-water mark for the Little Giant defense. The next play saw Michael Warren go off right tackle for an 88-yard touchdown run and a 7-0 lead just 57 seconds into the game.

The Little Giants (2-4 overall, 0-3 Three Rivers Athletic Conference) went three-and-out on its opening possession then lost control of the snap on its punt on fourth down, giving Central Catholic (4-2, 3-0) the ball

See **GIANTS**, Page 3B

■ ■ ■



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER
Ross' Shawndrae Koch takes down Toledo Central Catholic's Michael Warren II on Friday night.

Giants

Continued from Page 1B

at Ross' 21.

Five plays later, Warren scored from a yard out to give the Irish their second touchdown before the game was five minutes old.

Ross responded by driving into field goal range but kicker Mikey Contreras' 33-yard attempt was partially blocked, turning the ball over the Irish at their own 20.

Four plays later, after a 39-yard run by quarterback Simeon Washington, Wade scored for a 21-0 lead with 2:03 to play in the opening quarter.

"We didn't do anything right. We didn't tackle," Yeast said. "It's very frustrating to know we have talent but yet the talent we have will not come out here and play as a team. It's just frustrating."

Ross got its only score with 1:17 to play in the first quarter. With good blocking from his offensive line, Tyler Grine burst through up the middle untouched and took off for a 68-yard touchdown to narrow the gap to 21-7. Grine finished the night with 84 yards on 10 carries. Ross totaled 211 yards of offense.

Any momentum generated by Grine's touchdown run dissipated quickly. The Irish an-



Fremont Ross' Russ Yeast is brought down by Central Catholic's Dejhon Dunlap-Truss on Friday night.

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

swered with a five-play, 64-yard drive capped by a 10-yard run by Washington.

Ross' next offensive play saw quarterback Jarren Hampton's pass intercepted which, soon thereafter, led to another Irish touchdown. Central Catholic led 48-7 at halftime.

Hampton and Boston Swaisgood split quarterbacking duties, with quarterback Ethan Chumley and other junior varsity players seeing action late. Ross went 10-for-15 passing for 78 yards.

"I am pleased with Boston," Yeast said when asked if he saw anything he liked Friday. "I think he did a good job for what he had to work with."

Swaisgood finished 5-for-7 for 67 yards and ran the ball seven times for 10 yards.

"If you look at the whole situation, it's not the quarterbacks," Yeast said. "We have three guys that have played all year and it's not them. It's not one guy back there. Boston did a good job and Jarren did a good job when he was in there."



Fremont Ross' Russ Yeast misses a catch Friday night.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

FRIDAY'S BOXES

Central Catholic (Toledo) 69, Ross 7						
Central Catholic	21	27	7	14	—	69
(Toledo)						
Ross	7	0	0	0	—	7

First quarter

TCC -- Michael Warren 88 run (Zachary Hoover kick), 11:03

TCC -- Warren 1 run (Hoover kick), 7:02

TCC -- Tre'Von Wade 13 run (Hoover kick), 2:03

FR -- Tyler Grine 68 run (Mikey Contreras kick), 1:17

Second quarter

TCC -- Simeon Washington 10 run (Hoover kick), 11:28

TCC -- Warren 1 run (kick fail), 8:27

TCC -- Deion Greer 66 pass from Washington (Hoover kick), 5:29

TCC -- Warren 8 run (Hoover kick), 0:12

Third quarter

TCC -- Dallas Fields 20 run (Bryce Quinlan kick), 5:38

Fourth quarter

TCC -- Devon Rivers 56 run (Quinlan kick), 10:32

TCC -- Jerryn Allen 85 run (Quinlan kick), 6:46

	C	R
First downs	10	9
Total Net Yards	614	211
Rushes-Yards	39-513	36-133
Passing	101	78
Comp-Att-Int	2-2-0	10-15-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0

Individual statistics

Rushing — Central Catholic (Toledo), Tre'von Wade 10-42, Michael Warren 12-211, Dallas Fields 5-33, Simeon Washington 5-51, Jerryn Allen 1-85, Devon Rivers 2-64, Justin Schiets 3-4, Torrin Campbell 2-23. Ross, Trevon Alridge 1-2, Jarren Hampton 1-10, Tyler Grine 10-84, Uriah Haun 5-30, Isaiah McDonald 5-12, Boston Swaisgood 7-10, Remy Bulger 1--2, Ethan Chumley 3--3, Kieler Foster 1-2, Noah Hotz 2--12.

Passing — Central Catholic (Toledo), Simeon Washington 2-2-0-101. Ross, Jarren Hampton 4-6-1-11, Boston Swaisgood 5-7-0-67, Ethan Chumley 0-2-0-0.

Receiving — Central Catholic (Toledo), Deion Greer 2-101. Ross, Jarren Hampton 2-18, Tyler Grine 1--1, Tavarius Simms 1-5, Russ Yeast 6-56.

SWAISGOOD, LITTLE GIANTS SHOW FIGHT IN SETBACK



RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

TOLEDO — It wasn't the final result Boston Swaisgood wanted in his first varsity start.

And the team-wide execution wasn't always what coach Craig Yeast wanted it to be.

But both the junior quarterback and the coach could take some solace from Fremont Ross' 42-18 loss to Toledo Whitmer. Because while the Little Giants were short-handed and out-gunned by the Panthers Friday night, Ross at least showed something that had been lacking in previous weeks: Fight.

"Like I told my team, sometimes you're just out-manned," Yeast said. "Tonight, this loss, this is the first night, and I told them, that I am extremely

proud of the way they played and the effort they gave. Win or lose."

Ross found itself in an early hole, 21-0 after the first quarter. Things got worse on the first play of the second quarter when Swaisgood was sacked and lost the ball. Whitmer's Ricky Estis scooped up the ball and returned it for a touchdown and a 28-0 lead.

Making his first varsity start in less-than-ideal circumstances — receiver Russ Yeast and center Evan LeJeune out due to injuries and facing a powerful opponent like Whitmer on its homecoming — it'd have been easy for Swaisgood and the Little Giants to fold the tents and go home. Already trailing by 28, the prospect of a second-half running clock could have had appeal.

Instead, Swaisgood and the offense did something that hadn't been seen in a while at Ross games. They put together a

drive.

The Little Giants drove 81 yards in 10 plays, aided by a pair of Whitmer personal fouls, capped by a Uriah Haun 3-yard touchdown run.

"I don't hold anything behind me," Swaisgood said of bouncing back after the fumble. "I just keep going forward and give it as much as I've got to keep making plays and doing what I can to make the team better."

The defense then forced a Panthers punt and missed field goal on Whitmer's next two drives, giving the offense the ball at the Ross 20-yard line with 1:20 to go in the first half. Swaisgood found Jarren Hampton with a terrific pass down the Ross sideline for a 40-yard play, setting up the Little Giants inside the 10. One play later, Swaisgood scored

See ROSS, Page 2B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

from eight yards out, bringing Ross to within 28-12 at halftime.

"I thought Boston played well," Yeast said. "He did some good things. Boston will tell you, early in the year, he wasn't ready. He's a kid that, I think he is a good quarterback, but he needed time to develop. He got a chance to play in the last three games and start tonight.

I thought he did a fine job. I'm proud of him."

Whitmer squashed Ross' hopes for a comeback on the second play of the third quarter as Chase Bodeman hit Zachary Smith for a 53-yard touchdown pass. The duo struck again from 37 yards out on the Panthers' next possession.

Despite the writing on the wall, once again, Ross didn't just wait for time to expire. The Little Giants moved the ball 77 yards in 14 plays, capped by Swaisgood's first varsity touchdown

pass from 10 yards out to Hampton, who made a stunning acrobatic play to come down with the ball.

The junior finished the night completing 18-of-32 passes for 161 yards, he also ran for 22 yards. As an offense, the Little Giants (2-5 overall, 0-4 TRAC) totaled 256 yards. Hampton caught seven passes for 105 yards.

"He was able to make some plays tonight," Yeast said. "I'm very happy for him. This is a step in the right direction for him."

Whitmer 42, Ross 18

Ross	0	12	0	6	—	18
Whitmer	21	7	14	0	—	42

First quarter

WHS -- Larry Patterson 8 run (Eric Filby kick), 7:48

WHS -- Chase Bodeman 3 run (Filby kick), 5:38

WHS -- Malik Moore 4 run (Filby kick), 0:12

Second quarter

WHS -- Ricky Estis 26 fumble return (Filby kick), 11:47

FR -- Uriah Haun 3 run (kick fail), 8:25

FR -- Boston Swaisgood 8 run (run fail), 0:17

Third quarter

WHS -- Zachary Smith 53 pass from Bodeman (run fail), 11:29

WHS -- Smith 37 pass from Bodeman (Patterson run), 5:31

Fourth quarter

FR -- Jarren Hampton 10 pass from Swaisgood (pass fail), 9:00

	R	W
Total Net Yards	256	339
Rushes-Yards	37-95	28-136
Passing	161	203
Comp-Att-Int	18-32-0	11-17-0
Penalties-Yards	10-105	8-95



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER
Fremont Ross' Jarren Hampton catches an interception Friday night.

Sweet win for Ross on special evening

Four-game losing streak ends on homecoming

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

FREMONT — The celebration that engulfed that Fremont Ross football team and its fellow students Friday night was four long weeks in the making.

It was a mixture of joy and accomplishment with a good dose of relief thrown in.

The Little Giants' four-game losing streak is over, thanks to Ross' 28-14 homecoming win over Oregon Clay.

"It's amazing, it's an awesome feeling," senior running back Uriah Haun said. "We've been working our tails off for it. I'm glad our team and everybody can just enjoy this win."

It was the kind of performance everyone wearing purple could take pride in. The defense refrained from giving up big plays and created four turnovers, including a pair of Jarren Hampton interceptions. The Little Giants forced the Eagles to drive the length of the field mistake-free which, for the most part, they failed to do.

The offense got a tremendous performance out of its running backs, Haun and Tyler Grine, who combined for four touchdowns and 340 yards of total offense, all but 70 of Ross' yards.

Junior quarterback Boston Swaisgood, again showed a combination of elusiveness and sandlot creativity. The offensive line showed another week of improvement, particularly in the second half, opening lanes for Haun who rushed for 131 of his 143 rushing yards after half-time.

See ROSS, Page 28

ROSS RECALLS ITS NFL ALUMNI



Shawn McCarthy speaks during the Ross High School homecoming pep rally Friday afternoon.

RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

Players, families return as guests for homecoming

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

FREMONT — The college accolades, the all-pro honors and Super Bowl appearances came later.

But before Bob Brudzinski, Rob Lytle, Charles Woodson and Shawn McCarthy gained national fame in the NFL, they were Little Giants.

They also made Fremont Ross' 2015 homecoming a unique one as they, or their loved ones on their behalf, returned to Ross Friday.

Brudzinski, Lytle's widow Tracy and son Kelly, and Woodson's brother Terry Carter, were on hand as part of the NFL's Super Bowl 50th anniversary celebration, as the school received golden footballs for each player's Super Bowl appearances which will be placed in a trophy case in the school.

"Fremont is in a unique situation where we are a smaller community

and for us to have three individuals who not only went on to play in the NFL but also play in the Super Bowl, and to be able to be recognized and to come back and be represented, is just incredible for the community," Ross athletic director Chad Berndt said. "It's a testament to the athletic programs Fremont has produced as well as the athletes."

The alumni were the guests of honor at an afternoon pep rally in the gymnasium and took part in a pre-game ceremony recognizing their careers and Super Bowl games appearances.

"It's neat how things are the same but they've changed," said Brudzinski who went on to play in three Super Bowls with the Los Angeles Rams and Miami Dolphins after starring at Ohio State. "...the astroturf, the new stadium, the new practice facilities and stuff they have, the weight room. It brings back great memories."

For the Lytles, representing Rob, who died from a heart attack in 2010 at the age of 56, Friday was another chance to honor their husband and father in a year where his memory has been at the forefront.

Rob Lytle was elected in January to the College Football Hall of Fame, an achievement for which he was recognized by the University of Michigan last month. He'll be inducted in the College Hall of Fame in December.

"When we heard the NFL was doing this because of the Super Bowl, it was equally as special," Tracy Lytle said. "At Homecoming (in 1972) Rob and I were on the court together, as was Bob Brudzinski and his girlfriend. Standing out there in the hallway (before the pep rally), I remember walking in and sort of déjà vu."

While Lytle went on to a Hall of

See ALUMNI, Page 28



Fremont Ross football celebrates a touchdown against Clay on Friday night. MOLLY CORMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Ross

Continued from Page 18

"It feels good to come off a streak of losing," Grine said. "To come out here and win one in front of our home crowd, on homecoming, it's a great feeling."

Despite Ross' overall play, the Little Giants found themselves in a 7-7 tie entering the fourth quarter. Ross took the lead when Swaisgood found Grine in the flat. Grine then slipped through tacklers on his way to a 27-yard touchdown.

Clay's first play of its next possession resulted in an interception at the Ross 35-yard line by Elijah Johnson. On Ross' first play, Swaisgood and Grine did it again, as Grine took off with a terrific run after the catch for his second touchdown in 28 seconds.

Grine finished with 120 yards receiving and 31 yards rushing while Swaisgood completed 10-of-20 passes for 207 yards and three touchdowns.

"Boston made a couple plays," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "He was specif-

ically told to do one thing on both of those plays and he didn't do it but, all of a sudden, he's taught to find the low player, which is the check down, and two times he found the low player."

Then came, perhaps, Ross' best moment of the night. After Clay scored a touchdown to trim the deficit to 21-14 with 6:48 to play, the Little Giants allowed the Eagles to come no closer. The offense did what Yeast has been wanting it to do all season: assert itself.

The Little Giants took possession at their own 41 and pounded their way down the field riding the strength of Haun between the tackles. The 5-foot-10, 200-pounder ground out tough yards to keep the chains moving and the clock ticking. He carried the ball on six of Ross' seven plays on the drive and capped it with a 22-yard run up the middle for the game-sealing touchdown, his second score of the night.

Haun carried the ball 11 times in the second half, averaged 11.9 yards per carry and had just two runs of less than five yards.

"They couldn't stop him. Not at all," Hampton said of Haun. "He ran like a man tonight, for sure."



Tracy Lytle, left, and her son, Kelly, walk through lines of Fremont Ross football players at the school's homecoming pep rally Friday. Tracy and Kelly Lytle were representing their late husband and father, Rob, for the school's homecoming festivities. RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

Alumni

Continued from Page 18

Fame career at the University of Michigan and played nine years with the Denver Broncos, Kelly Lytle said nothing meant more to his father than being a Little Giant.

"Fridays, and high school football, for Dad, was football in its purest form," Kelly said. "To be out there again, on the field in Harmon Stadium, for this type of recognition and to remember a little bit of Dad's legacy and what he achieved, to have that all come together is pretty emotional time. It's pretty special."

Woodson, still playing in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders, was unable to return to Fremont for the celebration, was represented by his brother, Terry Carter, himself a Ross graduate of 1990 who went on to play at the Uni-

versity of Miami (Ohio).

"It's a very neat thing," Carter said. "I think it gives some kids something to look at and say, 'This is what happened before me, and look at what they achieved, I can do it too.' I think this is special."

The event also served as an opportunity for Shawn McCarthy, a Purdue University quarterback and punter with the New England Patriots, to return to Fremont. He now lives in Flagstaff, Arizona.

"This is the first time I've been back for something football-related and it couldn't been a better opportunity," said McCarthy, a member of the Class of 1986. "Walking in the gym through the football players, I got goosebumps because it brought back all these memories of playing football here."

"These were the greatest four years of my life, playing my freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years," McCarthy added. "A lot of great memories and it all comes flowing back at once."

Ross 28, Oregon Clay MS 14

Oregon Clay MS	0	0	7	7	—	14
Ross	0	7	0	21	—	28

First quarter

No scoring

Second quarter

FR -- Uriah Haun 35 pass from Boston Swaisgood (Mikey Contreras kick), 4:35

Third quarter

OC -- Skylar Musselman 9 pass from Josh Kiss (Palmer Yenrick kick), 8:55

Fourth quarter

FR -- Tyler Grine 27 pass from Swaisgood (Contreras kick), 9:18

FR -- Grine 65 pass from Swaisgood (Contreras kick), 8:50

OC -- Mason Baker 25 pass from Kiss (Yenrick kick), 6:48

FR -- Haun 22 run (Contreras kick), 3:16

	O	R
First downs	17	14
Total Net Yards	287	410
Rushes-Yards	34-127	40-203
Passing	160	207
Comp-Att-Int	10-23-3	10-20-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-40	8-90

Individual statistics

Rushing — Oregon Clay MS, Josh Kiss 17-52, Skylar Musselman 1-7, Mason Ensign 14-74, Mason Baker 2-6. Ross, Jarren Hampton 1-9, Tyler Grine 8-31, Uriah Haun 15-143, Isaiah McDonald 7-12, Boston Swaisgood 9-8.

Passing — Oregon Clay MS, Josh Kiss 10-23-3-160. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 10-20-0-207.

Receiving — Oregon Clay MS, Skylar Musselman 2-42, Mason Baker 2-21, Kevin Curry 2-10, Grant Wend 1-38, Lorenzo Levally 2-9, Jacob Novak 1-12. Ross, Jarren Hampton 1-6, Tyler Grine 5-120, Uriah Haun 3-46, Tavarius Simms 1-35.

FREMONT ROSS 41, ST. FRANCIS 0

Giants' defense perfect in shutout

BY JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Ross senior Jarren Hampton said getting into Little Giants history books was great but the fact his team shut out Toledo St. Francis on Senior Night was even better.

Hampton returned an interception 98 yards for the longest in school history and Ross forced six turnovers in a 41-0 thrashing at Don Paul Stadium on Friday night in Three Rivers Athletic Conference action.



Jarren
Hampton

"The win and the shutout are big," Hampton said. "To have the seniors go out on senior night with a shutout is cool. To be in the record

books is great but it's better for the seniors to go out with a win."

The Little Giants improve to 4-5 overall and 2-4 in TRAC play while St. Francis falls to 1-8 and 0-5. Despite the win, Ross is officially eliminated from playoff contention.

"I thought we played really well in the first quarter," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "I don't think the offense was as good as it could have been in the second quarter but I was really pleased with the defense, especially the turnover on the first series."

That turnover was actually the first play of the game for the Knights. In a bit of trickery, St. Francis receiver Sean Blue threw a deep pass but it was intercepted by Elijah Johnson, his first of two on the night. That helped propel the Little Giants to a 21-0 lead after one quarter on the strength of their running game. Isaiah McDonald (5 yards), Uriah Haun (2 yards) and Tyler Grine (6 yards) each scored for Ross in the first quarter while the Knights couldn't muster much offense.

"We struggled," said St. Francis coach Scott Knisely, who coached St.

See GIANTS, Page 2B

Giants

Continued from Page 1B

Joseph Central Catholic from 2010 to 2012. "Fremont Ross played well. They do a great job of executing and they had a good game plan. We couldn't get things going and we've been battling that all year."

Michael Contreras added field goals of 28 and 34 yards in the second quarter for the Little Giants, who led, 27-0, at halftime.

"It's a great night for our kids and our program," Yeast said. "Our defense has been a struggle all year. It's a step in the right direction."

Grine added a second touchdown in the third quarter, this one from four yards out to put the game in a running clock

situation with Ross leading, 34-0. Looking to quickly end the running clock, Mike Swanson broke through the Ross line and appeared to be headed to the end zone. Grine had other ideas and used his speed to chase down Swanson and pop the ball loose while Haun recovered.

Ross wasn't able to use the momentum and punted. A few plays later, St. Francis quarterback Ethan Hertzfield hit Lonnie Wyse with a 30-yard pass, but again the Ross defense forced the fumble and this time it was recovered by Hampton.

"We had a couple kids on defense make ridiculously good plays," Yeast said. "They were great effort plays. We had seniors play with leadership and this win is all about the kids."

Another Ross punt

followed and St. Francis again drove, but were faced with 4th and goal from the Ross 7-yard line. That's when Hampton stepped in front of the Hertzfield pass and returned it for a touchdown.

"They ran the same exact play the play before," said Hampton. "I seen (Wyse) motion to the coaches to run the same play so we kind of knew what was coming. Their quarterback had nowhere to throw it to and I just stepped in and took it."

McDonald, Haun and Grine combined for 29 rushes for 208 yards and four touchdowns.

"We couldn't finish or execute," Knisely said. "We can't finish after we have nice drives. It's football but hats off to Coach Yeast and his team."

Ross 41, St. Francis De Sales (Toledo) 0

St. Francis De Sales (Toledo)	0	0	0	0	—	0
Ross	21	6	7	7	—	41

First quarter

F: Isaiah McDonald 5-yard run (Contreras kick), 8:14.

F: Uriah Haun 2-yard run (Contreras kick), 4:19.

F: Tyler Grine 6-yard run (Contreras kick), 1:21.

Second quarter

F: Michael Contreras 28-yard field goal, 7:31.

F: Contreras 34-yard field goal, 0:59.

Third quarter

F: Grine 4-yard run (Contreras kick), 10:59.

Fourth quarter

F: Jarren Hampton 98-yard interception return (Contreras kick), 8:57.

	S	R
First downs	0	0
Total Net Yards	181	280
Rushes-Yards	14-66	39-211
Passing	115	69
Comp-Att-Int	8-28-4	8-13-1
Punts-Average	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-55	7-50

Individual statistics

Rushing — St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Mike Swanson 8-68, Lonnie Wyse 1-10, Ethan Herzfield 1-4. Ross, Tyler Grine 7-69, Uriah Haun 11-59, Isaiah McDonald 11-80, Boston Swaisgood 4-3.

Passing — St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Mike Swanson 8-25-2-115. Ross, Boston Swaisgood 7-12-1-66.

Receiving — St. Francis De Sales (Toledo), Lonnie Wyse 2-43, Garrett Culkowski 1-40, Adam Bihn 1-19. Ross, Uriah Haun 2-4, Tavarious Simms 2-28, Dayvon Atkins 2-25.

FINDLAY 59, FREMONT ROSS 35

Defensive TDs not enough for Ross

Little Giants coach: 'Our kids really, really fought'

RICH MCGOWAN

REPORTER

FINDLAY — A pair of defensive touchdowns brought Fremont Ross back within shouting distance but the Findlay Trojans pulled away late Friday night in handing the Little Giants a season-closing 59-35 loss.

An Elijah Johnson interception return for a touchdown followed 35 seconds later by a Jarren Hampton fumble return for a touchdown lifted the Little Giants to within 10 points, 38-28, midway through the third quarter.

Findlay, however, scored a pair of touchdowns just 24 seconds apart early in the fourth quarter and added another a few minutes later to put the game away.

"In the first half, early, we played hard but special teams and some turnovers really hurt us there," Ross coach Craig Yeast said. "I think when we came out in the second half, our kids really, really fought. We fought back and got to within 10."

The Little Giants, who opened the scoring on a 17-yard Boston Swaisgood pass to Jarren Hampton, scored their final touchdown of the season with 2:13 to go on a Swaisgood toss to Uriah Haun from eight

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NEWS-MESSENGER FILE PHOTO
Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast reacts during the Little Giants' game at Toledo Whitmer.

On the record with Yeast

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

Monday afternoon, News-Messenger sports reporter Rich McGowan had a wide-ranging conversation with Fremont Ross coach Craig Yeast for nearly 40 minutes.

The interview covered what has been a tumultuous season for the Little Giants, both on the field and in the locker room. Topics ranged from his vocal coaching style, his relationship with his

players, criticism of playing his son at quarterback and much more. All of that cannot fit in our print product.

Below is a very small sampling of the interview. For the full transcript, go online to www.thenews-messenger.com/SPORTS

Q: Obviously you'd much rather be at practice today rather than doing equipment return and I talked to the guys about that. So big picture, appraise for me the total of this season. When you look back on this season, a

week, two weeks, five months from now, what is going to be the thing that jumps out at you about this season? What's your big take-away?

A: I think the biggest thing I'm going to take away from it is that I felt like we had the talent to be better than what we were and that we greatly underachieved. That, to me, is what I'm going to take away more than anything is that we underachieved.

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Yeast

Continued from Page 1B

Q: Is that something that is going to eat you or, as you often say, it is what it is? How do you personally feel about that? Is there something you could have done different or are you content in the knowledge that you and your coaches did what you could?

A: First of all, I would not change anything because the decisions that I made and that we made as a coaching staff were the right decisions for our football team to give us an opportunity to win. Unfortunately, somewhere along the line everything got skewed. I think our team, early, lost the focus that we were requiring from them and, as a coaching staff, you try to do everything you can to try to right the ship but it was one of those years where the more you try to right the ship, the more the ship tosses and turns.

Q: So how do you get that focus back? What

needs to happen between now and Aug. 1 for this program to get back to where it was or at least where you want to be?

A: What do you mean by where it was?

Q: This time a year ago you guys were practicing, now you're turning in (equipment)

A: That's the thing, last year, and I don't like to compare too much, but last year we over-achieved. This year we underachieved. ...

Q: In that vein, is there something yourself, as a coaching staff, is there something you can tweak or say 'This didn't work, we shouldn't do this.' Or 'Let's try that.' Do you have any thoughts about tweaks in the off-season?

A: It's not a matter of tweaking. I'll give you an example: The prior class never missed a workout. They never missed a summer workout. They worked hard. I pushed them as hard as I could and they continued to work. The class that we had this year — and I'm not just blaming it on one class, but you need lead-

ership from your senior class — the class we had this year, multiple guys missed multiple workouts in the weight room and in the summer. We had guys come in from the summer out of shape. We had guys walk out of the weight room, we had guys just not show up because 'I didn't want to get up.' When you start doing things like that in the off-season everybody else sees that. That sets a bad standard. I can only fight that so much because it's the offseason.

Where I need help with that is from the parents in the community, to say it should be an expectation to get in the weight room and get better. I thought, having come in and our kids overachieving and making the playoffs, more kids would want to join in with football. But what I'm finding here in Fremont, right now, and I'm trying to figure out a way to fix it, or combat it or whatever you want to call it, is kids don't want to work. Won't put the work in. And that might not be a Fremont thing, it might be an across-the-board thing these days.

ROSS' HAMPTON TOPS THE LIST

Little Giant earns first team recognition as DB, second team as wideout

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

The Three Rivers Athletic Conference released its all-conference football honors and a handful of Little Giants

were recognized for their seasons.

Senior Jarren Hampton was named first team as a defensive back and also garnered second team status as a wide receiver.

Hampton had six interceptions, three of which he returned for touchdowns, including a school-record 98-yard return. He also returned a fumble for a touchdown. Offensively, the 6-foot, 185-pounder also caught 32 passes for 545 yards and four touchdowns as receiver.



Jarren
Hampton

running back Tyler Grine, junior offensive lineman Nate Mayle and senior defensive lineman Cole Beckley earned second team honors.

Mikey Contreras, Uriah Haun, Elijah

While Hampton was the Little Giants' only first team selection, junior

Johnson, Isaiah McDonald, Tyler Schell, Jacob Schott and Russ Yeast each received honorable mentions from the TRAC coaches.

Toledo Central Catholic's Michael Warren was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year, while Lima Senior's Jaylin Thomas was Defensive Player of the Year. St. John's Jesuit coach Doug Pearson was named the league's Coach of the Year.