



- | Row | Position | Player/Coach | Jersey Number |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| Back Row | 1 | Player | 9 |
| Back Row | 2 | Player | 17 |
| Back Row | 3 | Player | 13 |
| Back Row | 4 | Player | 23 |
| Back Row | 5 | Player | 3 |
| Back Row | 6 | Player | 16 |
| Front Row | 1 | Player | 1 |
| Front Row | 2 | Player | 10 |
| Front Row | 3 | Coach | - |
| Front Row | 4 | Player | 19 |
| Front Row | 5 | Player | 7 |

Ross

COACH: Jeff Pendry, Eighth year

LAST YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS: The Little Giants finished the season 7-9-1. Ross had a chance at the GBC title heading into the final two games but finished third behind Napoleon and Findlay.

TOP RETURNERS: Tyrone George, Sr.; Blair Ellenberger, Jr; Danny Chavez, Sr; T.J. George, So.; Curt Munson, So.

TOP NEWCOMERS: Bobby Howard; Bobby Gipe, Fr.

OUTLOOK: Despite the loss Matt Salas, last year's GBC player of the year, Pendry feels the Little Giants should be strong offensively. He feels that the season will go as his defense goes. The group, consisting of E.J. Theller, Edison Blackford, Ben Baker, Tony Hoffman and Paul Overmyer will be playing together for the first time. If the defensive players can gel, Pendry thinks the Little Giants can make a serious run at the league title. Ross will be led by Tyrone George, a first-team all-league selection last year.

ROSS 1, MARION HARDING 1

Little Giants tie season opener

By **BOB PUTMAN**

Gannett News Service

MARION — It could have been worse for both Fremont Ross and Marion Harding in their soccer season opener.

It could have been better for both, too.

Harding scored the tying goal with just over three minutes left in the game and then held off a late Fremont charge for a 1-1 deadlock Monday in a Greater Buckeye Conference contest at Harding.

Brice Hall and Jonathan Smith worked a give-and-go for the Presidents' lone goal at the 3:17 mark of the second half.

Hall missed a chance to tie the game earlier in the half, hitting a penalty kick off the cross-

bar at the seven-minute mark.

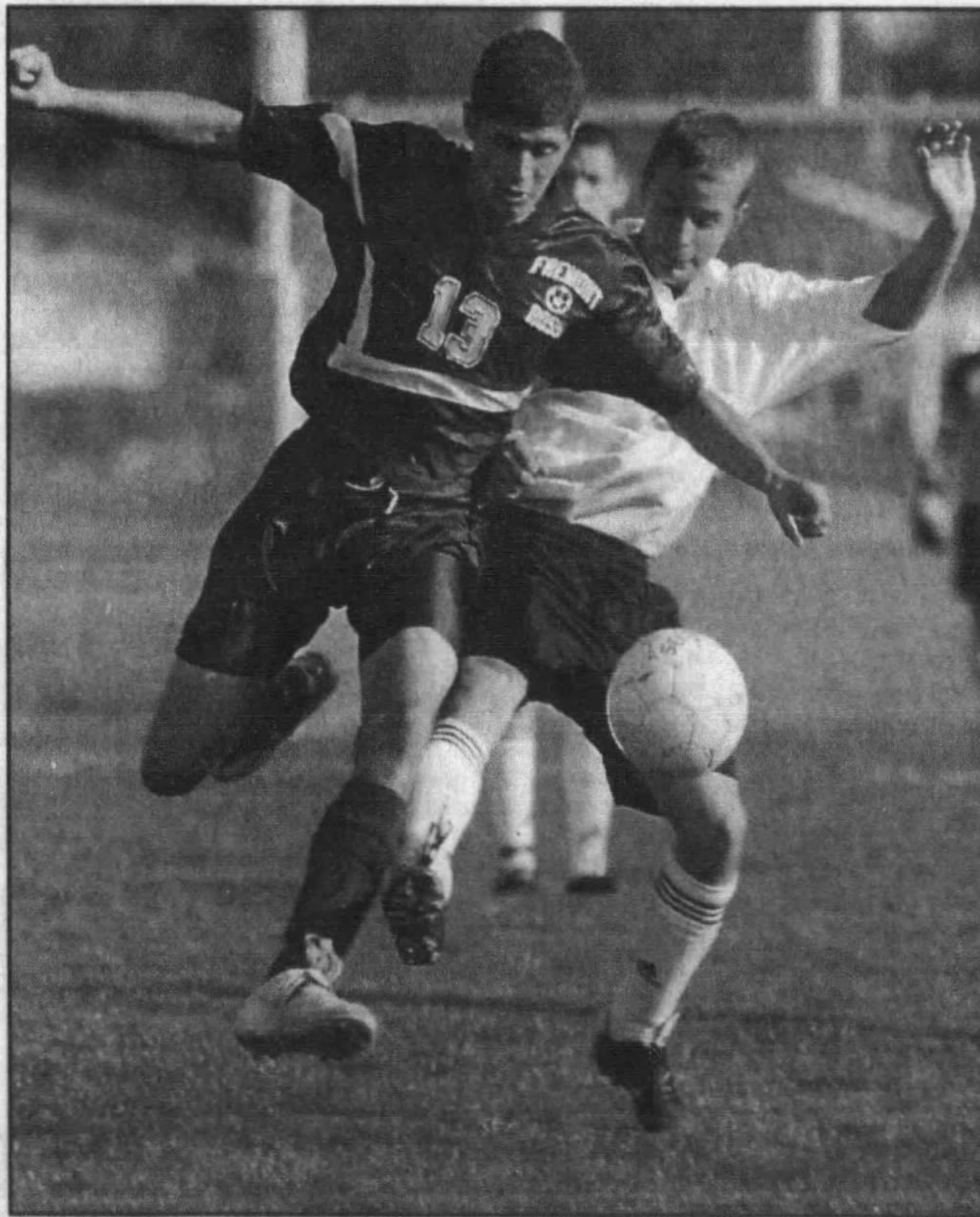
Harding goalkeeper Brock Blinn had a pair of saves in the final 1:14 to secure the tie. Blinn finished with 11 saves.

Fremont's missed chances at the end mirrored several other chances the Little Giants had to put the ball in the net earlier in the game.

"The biggest thing for us was we missed too many opportunities to score goals," Ross coach Jeff Pendry said. "We did not put the ball in the net when we should have. We left Harding in the game and us more vulnerable."

But, in the end, Pendry liked getting at least a tie.

See ROSS SOCCER, B5



Gannett News Service/Bill Sinden

FREMONT ROSS'S DANNY CHAVEZ, left, and Marion Harding's Ben Newsome battle for the ball during the second half of Monday's season opener for both squads. The teams tied 1-1.

Ross soccer team opens campaign with tie

Continued From B1

"In a nutshell, I am pleased with the tie on the road," he said. "Especially with missing two of our starters. We had some personnel on the field that were not used to playing."

Tyrone and T.J. George were unable to play because of a family commitment.

Fremont also was hampered in the

second half after Tony Hoffman suffered a leg injury and did not return to action.

Marion Harding coach Greg Winger was pleased his inexperienced team hung on until the end but also is looking for improvement.

"I saw a lot of nice little things, but we've got some work to do," Winger said. "With a young group, it takes a little while to get them more comfort-

able."

Neither team scored in the first half, but Fremont broke through at the 27:13 mark of the second half as Danny Chavez outraced a Harding defender to the ball and sent it past Blinn.

Naotoshi Nakamura assisted on the goal for the Little Giants.

"I think we got caught a little flat and it only takes a little mistake," Winger said.



Ross rolls to first win of season

News-Messenger reports

Tyrone George scored two goals and had an assist as the Fremont Ross boys soccer team cruised past rival Sandusky 8-3 on Monday for its first victory of the season.

George capped a five-goal second half with his first tally.

After Sandusky pulled within 5-2 in the second half, George scored again to start a three-goal outburst that sealed the win.

Adam Shearn, Kurt Munson, Danny Chavez, T.J. George, Tony Hoffman and Blair Ellenberger also scored for the Little Giants, who improved to 1-2-1.

■ **HANLEY NOT ENOUGH:** Eric Hanley scored the game's first goal, but that was all Oak Harbor mustered in a 3-1 setback to Genoa.

Girls soccer

■ **BRUGNONE, LIPSTRAW LEAD WAY:** Ashley Brugnone and Erica Lipstraw each scored two goals as Oak Harbor topped Genoa 4-2.

Brugnone's tallies put Oak Harbor up 2-1 at the half. After Genoa tied it at 2 early in the second half, Lipstraw sealed the victory with her goals.

Boys golf

■ **EDDINGS PACE-SETTER:** Derek Eddings won medalist honors with a 36 to lead Gibsonburg to a tri-meet victory on Monday at Sycamore Hills.

Gibsonburg shot a 155 to dominate Lake (177) and Lakota (178).

Brent Hiser shot a 37 and Anthony Shumaker and Andy

Gruner shot 40 and 42, respectively, for the Golden Bears (2-0).

Grant Wasserman shot a 42 to lead Lakota. Steve Dible (43), Erik Soncrant (44) and Nick Wasserman (49) completed the scorecard for Lakota (1-4).

■ **STREAKS FALL:** Lima Central Catholic beat St. Joseph Central Catholic 155-167.

Will Woodruff led the Crimson Streaks in a losing cause with a 40.

Cory Swaisgood shot a 41 and Kyle Horvath and Kevin Rusch each shot a 43 for SJCC.

■ **'CATS NIPPED:** Woodmore finished second to Genoa by just two shots in a tri-meet.

Alex Lowry fired a 37 to lead the Wildcats, who were edged 160-162.

Charles Wooten (40), Matt McGee (42) and Jordan Hepler

(43) also scored for Woodmore.

■ **BETTSVILLE STUMBLES:** Brittany Lynch and Matt Wilson each shot a 46, but Bettsville fell 175-193 to Danbury.

Austin Windau (49) and Jessica Lynch (52) also scored for Bettsville (1-5).

Girls golf

■ **RICKENBAUGH LIFTS MARGARETTA:** Lauren Rickenbaugh shot a 48 to lead Margaretta to a 218-310 victory over Danbury.

Volleyball

■ **BOBCATS DROP OPENER:** Tiffanie Kosta had six points, three aces and four kills, but Bettsville fell 25-11, 25-12, 25-13 to Toledo Christian in its season opener.

Soccer

High School

From Wednesday

Ross 8, Edison 2

Ross scores

First Half

Blair Ellenberger (T.J. George) 4:02

Tyrone George (N. Nakamure) 8:53

T.J. George (Blair Ellenberger) 15:35

Tyrone George (Blair Ellenberger) 21:46

Kurt Munson (T.J. George) 29:38

Kurt Munson (Tyrone George) 31:30

Second Half

T.J. George (unassisted) 5:22

Danny Chavez (unassisted) 32:00

Records — Ross 2-3-1 (1-1-1 GBC).

Ross JV def Edison 10-0

Boys soccer

■ **ELLENBERGER LEADS ROSS:** Blair Ellenberger scored two goals as Fremont Ross beat Lima Senior 4-2.

Ellenberger also assisted on a goal by Tyrone George.

T.J. George set up a goal by Kurt Munson for the Little Giants (3-3-1, 2-1-1).

High school boys

Napoleon 7, Ross 2

Ross	0	2	—	2
Napoleon	5	2	—	7

First half

Napoleon — Will Gilson, 12:30

Napoleon — Nick Fruchey, 13:15

Napoleon — Alex Burtcher (Gilson),
26:17

Napoleon — Nick Fruchey (Jeremy Evers), 32:50

Napoleon — Adam Burtcher (Alex Burtcher), 35:00

Second half

Napoleon — Adam Burtcher, 9:55

Ross — Tyrone George (Blair Ellenberger), 12:35

Napoleon — Alex Burtcher, 22:35

Ross — Paul Overmyer (31:15)

For Ross — Tony Hoffman 12 intercepts, E.J. Theller 8

Records — Ross 3-4-1 (2-2-1 GBC)

JV — Ross 2, Napoleon 0

JV scorers — Jeff Beier (Miguel Layton), Miguel Layton (Andy Brandt)

JV record — Ross 6-3

Soccer

■ **ROSS TIES POWER:** Fremont Ross and fifth-ranked Findlay played to a 2-2 tie.

Danny Chavez tied the game on a penalty shot midway through the second half.

Nau Nakamura scored the Little Giants' first goal off an assist from Paul Overmyer late in the first half.

Bobby Gipe made 11 saves for Ross (3-5-2, 2-2-2), which lost to Findlay 6-2 earlier in the season. Findlay is 6-0-2, 4-0-1.

Soccer

High School Boys

Ross 10, Marion Harding 1

Ross	5	5	—	10
M. Harding	1	0	—	1

First half

R — Blair Ellenberger goal (Adam Shearn assist) :20.

R — Kurt Munson goal (TJ George assist) 3:20.

R — Tony Hoffman goal 4:52.

MH — Zach Badisher goal 5:10.

R — George goal 17:03.

R — Ellenberger goal 22:50.

Second half

R — Danny Chavez (Paul Overmyer assist) 3:15.

R — Overmyer goal (Ellenberger assist) 14:04.

R — Chavez goal 22:18.

R — Nau Nakamura goal 28:12.

R — EJ Thellergoal (Ellenberger assist) 34:15.

Shots on goal — Ross 29, Marion Harding 1.

Record — Ross 4-5-2 (3-2-2 GBC).

No reason to gripe



**FREMONT
ROSS'S
ADAM
SHEARN,**
left, and
San-
dusky's
Daniel
McDuffie,
right,
battle for
the ball on
Monday.
Shearn
scored a
goal and
tallied an
assist in
the Little
Giants' 5-0
victory
over their
archrivals.
Ross
improved
to 5-5-2
overall and
4-2-2 in
the
Greater
Buckeye
Confer-
ence.

News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

Freshman goaltender nets his first shutout for Giants

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

A coaching staff starting a freshman goaltender could reasonably be compared to one using a freshman point guard, catcher or quarter-back.

Certain positions require leadership, communication and skills that many varsity players — especially freshmen — are still developing when they enter a program.

Fremont Ross goaltender Bobby Gipe is not really such a player.

Gipe has considerable experience with premiere and travel teams around Ohio and replaced Bobby Howard as the Little Giants' starting goalie

four games ago.

Gipe registered his first shutout as host Ross defeated Greater Buckeye Conference foe Sandusky 5-0 on Monday.

Gipe was not severely tested in the net but did come out to corral a few dangerous crosses and deny opportunities by challenging for balls at the outer edges of his box.

"Coach (Jeff Pendry) has confidence in him," said assistant coach Ben

Hickey, who was filling in while Pendry traveled to Missouri to meet a sister who recently completed nine months of service in Iraq. "Bobby played for the Ohio Premiere, one of the top teams in North Ohio, so I

don't think coach had any reservations.

"Goalkeeper is probably one of the most key positions on the field," Hickey continued. "The goalkeeper is supposed to be a leader. He sees the whole field. Bobby has the experience. Bobby knows where he needs to be as the goalkeeper to cut down the angles."

Ross (5-5-2, 4-2-2) has not used a freshman goalkeeper since 1996, but Hickey said Gipe's teammates have faith in him already.

"We knew he had a lot of potential," junior Blair Ellenberger said of Gipe. "He's a confident guy."

Gipe, who also played with the Northern Alliance Premiere and the Bay Blazers travel team this summer, should be a Ross

constant for the next three years. He also played with many of his current teammates during the summer.

"I have played in some pretty high level games," Gipe said. "I'm pretty comfortable."

Ellenberger, who kicked two field goals to help first-year Derek Kidwell register his first win as Ross's football coach on Friday, opened the scoring with a diving header in the first half. Adam Shearn found Ellenberger with a crossing pass for the game's only assist.

"I just tried to dive for it," Ellenberger said.

"Punishment at practice, especially when it's wet and muddy, is diving headers. I guess it worked perfectly."



GIPE

Gipe helps Ross blank rival Sandusky

Continued From B1

Ellenberger has been inconsistent in his performance the last two years.

"Ellen has club experience, too," Hicks said. "His knowledge and leadership on the field are tremendous, and he has the skill to back them up. The other kids look up to him."

Gipe said Ellenberger is a intelligent player.

"He's reliable," Gipe said. "When he gets the ball he knows what to do. He has tons of energy and never gives up."

Shearn carried the ball into the box

and beat the Sandusky keeper with a low shot inside the 5-yard post early in the second half. Nao Nakamura scored the next two goals for the Giants.

"We needed forwards. Defense is where we were strong the last few years," Ellenberger said of Japanese transfer student Nakamura. "He's a big asset up there with (Danny) Chavez and (Tyronne) George."

Jasen Damschode capped the scoring. Hindley, as has most often been the case in recent memory, currently leads the GEC. The Giants and Napoleon are battling for second, and the two teams meet at Ross on Oct. 4.

Soccer^N

High school boys

Sylvania Northview 3, Ross 0

Ross	0	0	—	0
Northview	2	1	—	3

First half

N — Kevin Brown 23:53

N — Brown 28:19

Second half

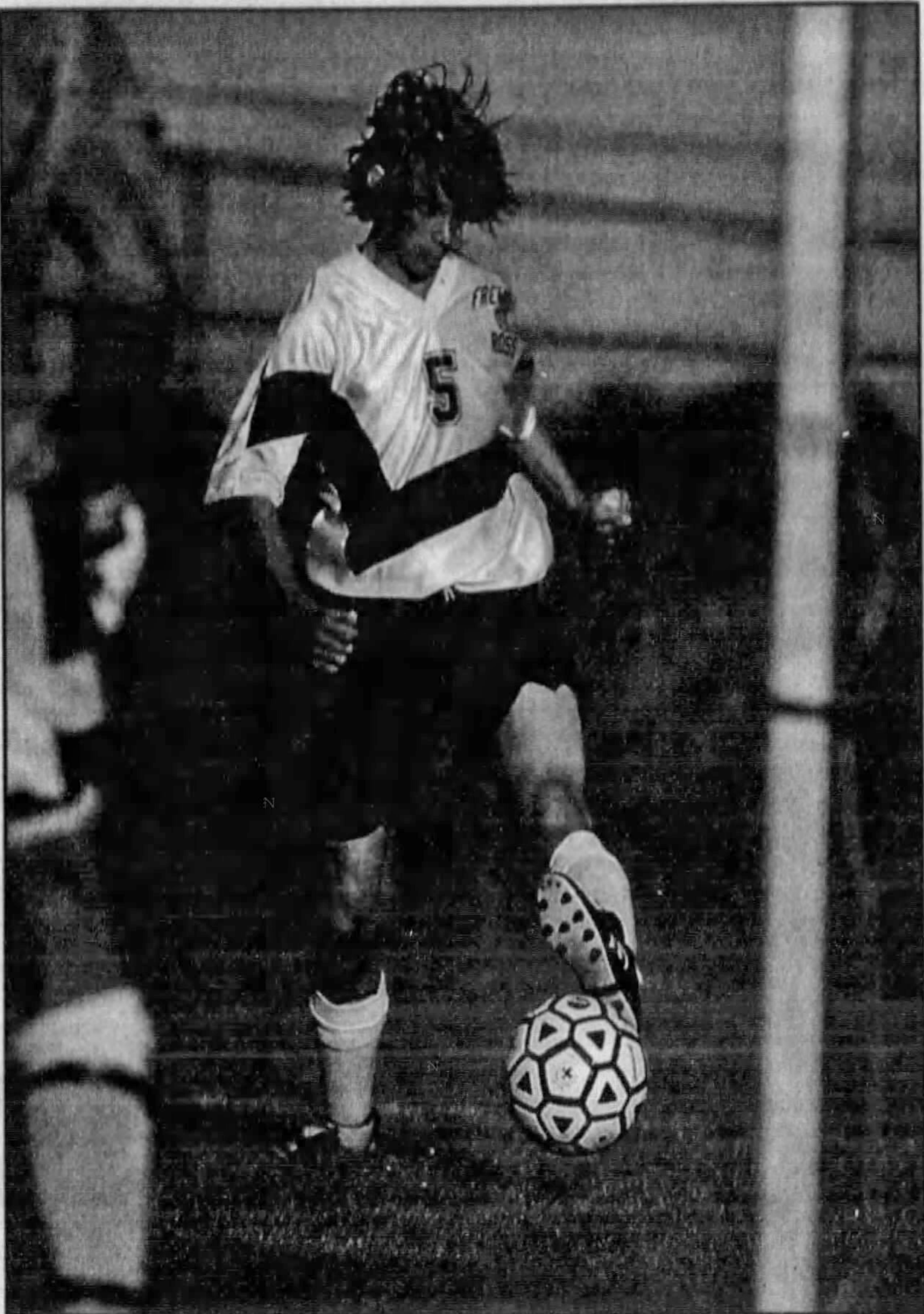
N — Neal Nanez (Chad Tyler) 2:25

Shots — Northview 17, Ross 0

For Ross — Bobby Gipe 12 saves;
Danny Chavez 10 intercepts, Tony Hoffman 10 intercepts; Ben Baker 8 intercepts

Records — Ross 5-6-2

N — Northview 2-0-0



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S ADAM SHEARN fires a shot during the Little Giants' match with Napoleon on Monday. The host Little Giants fell 2-0.

Ross stumbles, looks ahead

News-Messenger reports

Any designs on a second-place finish in the Greater Buckeye Conference were canceled out by Fremont Ross's 2-0 loss to Napoleon on Monday.

So the Little Giants' focus will immediately turn to the state tournament.

Ross will face Findlay (9-0-1 GBC) on Oct. 19 at Findlay.

The Little Giants (5-7-2, 4-3-2) lost to Findlay 6-2 at Ross and tied it 2-2 on the road earlier this season.

"We match up well with them and know what to expect," Little Giant coach Jeff Pendry said. "We know the style of game they play. They play a tra-

ditional style, and we know who they like to feed the ball to."

Ross has one game remaining in the GBC against Lima Senior.

Napoleon is 8-2 in the GBC with each loss coming to Findlay.

■ **LOWRY IN LOW:** Alex Lowry was event medalist with a 37 as Woodmore defeated Liberty-Benton 165-168.

Charles Wooten (42), Jordan Hepler (43) and Matt McGee (43) completed the Wildcat scorecard.

Woodmore (7-4) will play in the Division III district tournament as a team on Thursday in Bowling Green. Hepler was the medalist at sectionals.

SOCCER PREVIEW

Ross set for postseason tests

By **NICK MATHEWS**
Sports Editor

For many years, Fremont Ross essentially feared Findlay.

The Little Giants hated playing the powerhouse Trojans. Their soccer matches were always one-sided in favor of Findlay.

But one game three years ago changed the Ross players' thoughts on the rivalry.

Findlay scored with just six seconds left to earn a 1-0 victory in the district semifinals.

"From that moment on, we clearly knew that we could play with them," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry, now in his eighth year at the helm. "(The Little Giants) are definitely more confident when they play them. We know we can beat them. It's not the case where we know we are in trouble anymore."

Last year, Ross edged Findlay 2-1 in the regular season.

This year, the Little Giants tied the Trojans 2-2 in Findlay. It was the only blemish on the Greater Buckeye Conference season for the Trojans.

Ross (6-8-2, 4-4-2 GBC) hopes to continue its progress against Findlay (9-0-1 GBC) today as the postseason begins.

The squads meet at 7 p.m. at Findlay.

"It has gotten to the point now that we feel that we are even with them if we play through to the final minutes," Pendry said.

The Ross girls soccer team, meanwhile, is hoping to make history on Wednesday.

The Little Giants, who face Celina at 5 p.m. in Findlay, are searching for their first postseason victory in their sixth year of existence.

"The seniors really want to win this game, so they can leave a little bit of a legacy," Ross coach Ron Huss said.

Offensive standouts Abby Werling and Rachael Daugherty and standout goalkeeper Stephanie White help lead that senior class.

But a freshman leads the offensive attack.

Suzanne Chudzinski has a team-high 12 goals.

"I wish we could clone her about 10 times," Huss said of Chudzinski.

The Little Giants finished tied for second in the GBC with Napoleon at 5-4-1. They dropped their last three games of the regular season to finish 5-10-1 overall.

See **FRESHMEN, B2**

Freshmen help lead Little Giants

Continued From B1

At the seeding meeting, Huss talked briefly with Dean Liggett, whose Celina squad was 4-5-3 at that time.

Huss asked Liggett to characterize his team.

"We are very inconsistent this year," Liggett said.

"Ditto," Huss simply replied.

Ditto again, for the Ross boys.

"We have been a little bit inconsistent at times," senior captain Adam Shearn said,

"but I think it is starting to shape up."

Ross lost 6-2 at home against Findlay early in the season.

But Danny Chavez and Nao Nakamura scored goals in the tie at Findlay.

Busy Blair Ellenberger, who is also in the band and is the kicker on the Ross football team, leads the Little Giants' balanced scoring attack. Another freshman, goaltender Bobby Gipe, also shines for the boys.

"We are pretty confident," Shearn said. "We are looking for the win. I think we will be able to pull it off."

High School Soccer

All-Greater Buckeye Conference Boys

Co-Players of the Year — Tony Briggs (Lima Senior), Logan Anderson (Findlay).

Co-Coaches of the Year — Albert Laux (Findlay), Tom Sample (Sandusky).

First Team

Zach Badetscher	Marion Harding
Blair Ellenberger	Ross
Andrew Snook	Findlay
Adam Grzybowski	Findlay
Alex Birtcher	Napoleon
Danny Chavez	Ross
Tyrone George	Ross
Zach Burke	Findlay
Tristan Sample	Sandusky
Adam Birtcher	Napoleon

Goalie — Ben Pflum (Napoleon).

Second Team

Zac Estes	Marion Harding
Zach Marshall	Lima Senior
Ben Mercer	Findlay
Nathan Snyder	Findlay
Brian Murray	Napoleon
T.J. George	Ross
Justin Williams	Lima Senior
Jordan Bohnlein	Findlay
Ben Hixson	Sandusky
Nick Fruchey	Napoleon

Goalie — Brock Blinn (Marion Harding).

Honorable Mention

Ross — Kirt Munson, Tony Hoffman, Adam Shearn.