

## 1972 District Tournament

10 Fremont News-Messenger Saturday, May 20, 1972

# Little Giant Golfers Columbus Bound

## Decker, Moll, Baumann & Hall Take AAA District Title

TOLEDO — Jim Decker, Bob Moll, Buck Baumann and Rob Hall sliced a full year off Charlie Baker's timetable.

The Little Giants, who I'm not talking about, are the state high school tournament winners this year.

They'll be in Columbus next Friday and Saturday for this year's edition, however, after streaking to first place in the Northwest District Class AAA meet at Glenary Country Club Friday.

"I never believed we could do this year," Baker said. "I thought we were too young and didn't think the kids had the maturity to go — I underestimated them."

The Little Giants, who only got into the district field by defeating Sandusky in a sudden death playoff for the third position in the sectional meet, totaled 324 and had a five-stroke edge over Sylvania, which will also be in the state field.

Ross pocketed its state credentials after firing a horrendous 172 over the front nine holes.

"That was our highest total of the year for nine holes," Baker said. "I couldn't see how any of the other teams would shoot that but, but we were ready to go sit in the bus after winning our kids had done that."

But somewhere between the ninth green and 10th tee all of the Ross players found the right combination. They carded a brilliant 152 over the back which was the lowest aggregate round of the day for any team.

"Since I've been coach at Ross, the golfers have had a

continuing history of folding in the stretch," Baker said. "This has got to be the greatest come-from-behind effort I've ever seen on the golf course.

"You figure that each of our kids averaged 43 on the front side and then stuck to average 38 on the back — that's quite an improvement."

Junior Bob Moll was low for the Little Giants with a 40-38-78. Next in line was Jim Decker, who missed the sectional tournament. The junior putting specialist carded a 42-37-79.

Sophomore Buck Baumann, who has been consistent throughout the spring, had the high nine hole score of the day — 46 — over the front side but came back in with a one over par 36 to finish with 82. Another sophomore, Bob Hall, fired a 44-41-85.

"It was a total team effort," Baker said. "That's the beautiful thing about it. It was a total team effort in the sectional when we were without Decker. Today Jim was back and he knew he had to shoot under 80 for us."

Hall was singled out by Baker for being able to handle the pressure in extremely good fashion for a sophomore.

"He's been able to take off the pressure and the pressure was with him more than with our other kids," Baker said. "We have various hand signals and the fellas have a way of knowing what's going on all the time."

"After the 16th hole Rob knew it was up to him. And, he just played tremendously over the last two holes. He had a

brilliant par on the 17th and followed it with another outstanding par at 18."

Hall's tee shot on the 270-yard par four 17th only went about 120 yards. His second shot was within pitching wedge range of the green and he holed out within four feet of the cup after hitting to an elevated green.

Then at 18 with a large gallery surrounding the green, Hall got off a good tee shot but put into a second in a trap behind the green. He blasted to within the foot of the cup from 50 feet away hitting to an elevated green.

"When Rob came to 18 he could tell by the emotionalism that there was a chance we could get second," Baker said. "Our kids never knew we were in the lead or even had a chance."

Decker, who was plagued with a case of shanks, had a triple bogey seven on the par four fourth hole which contributed to his 42 on the front. He also bogeyed 16, 12 and 14 on the back, but also had a birdie at 11.

Moll, who had the second low round of the day, carded 11 pars and a few bogeys.

"He was extremely consistent," Baker said. "Bob has made tremendous improvement from last year, not only with his golf but also his degree of maturity and strength."

Baumann got off to a wrong start with a double bogey on the first hole. Then he took a quadruple bogey eight on the eighth hole.

"After that 46 his 82 has got to be good," Baker said. "Earlier in the season I said 'Buck doesn't bind' (tighten up). Today I had to change that to 'Buck doesn't bind often'."

Baumann had eight pars and a bogey on the back side. He parred the final four holes.

"The course played like it did during our practice round Tuesday," Baker said. "The only difference today was that there was a wind which was a slight factor and the players were hitting from the back of all the tees. This possibly added a maximum of two shots but the pins were very fair placed."

Sylvania had the tournament medalist — Alan Fadel (74).

The Wildcats also received an 81 from Jeff Poole and 87s from Paul Hiltner and Steve Burke.

Marion with a 331 was third in the team standings. Toledo Rogers, Findlay and Mansfield Malabar tied for the next shot at 33. They were followed by Toledo St. John's (334) and Ashland (337).

Port Clinton was disqualified after one of the Redskins signed an incorrect scorecard.

The 44th Annual State Tournament will be played Friday and Saturday at Ohio State University. Each team that qualified for the state meet will play 18 holes Friday and 18 more Saturday.

First tee off time Friday is 10 a.m. Tee times begin Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

## 'Cats Take League Title

By MARK CARLSON  
N-M Sports Editor

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Woodbine's Nicks

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