

FREMONT ROSS

■ **Coach:** Jared King, fifth year.

■ **Last year:** 11-16, 3-11

■ **Top players:** Seniors Owen Wright, P-OF; Micah Olvera, P-OF-1B.
Juniors Alejandro Melchor, P-3B; Adam Hrynciw, SS-2B; Brayden Guhn, C.

■ **Outlook:** The Little Giants have six returning starters and a total of seven seniors on their roster as they pursue a climb in the conference standings. As he begins his fifth season as head coach, King will rely heavily on the pitching of workhorses Wright (5-5 record, 67 2/3 innings, 2.07 ERA) and Melchor (4-3, 43 2/3 innings, 4.97 ERA). The top returning hitters are Olvera (.320) and Guhn (.292). A lack of depth, and hitting with runners aboard are potential trouble areas.

“We should continue to compete and find ways to win more games this year,” King said. “Our pitching staff has multiple guys that can provide a lot of quality innings. If we take better approaches with guys in scoring position, and find ways to score more consistently this year, we have a chance to surprise some people.”

HOPING EXPERIENCE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE, INTRODUCING ROSS BASEBALL 2022

by Bill Bray | Mar 26, 2022 | Baseball



By Bill Bray

With spring comes the Fremont Ross Baseball season. Also, with spring comes snow, rain, and a transition in the weather that often causes spring sports to take a back seat in March and early April.

Spring sports took another hit two seasons back when COVID-19 cancelled the season. Then, last season, the Little Giant diamond kings were back. Under the direction of third-year head coach Jared King, the Little Giants have an ace on the mound and several key returners to have the hopes of a successful season dancing like diamonds in the sky.

Last season was successful for this year's senior Owen Wright. Wright, a left-handed pitcher, had a first-team all-TRAC season in 2021. He finished with 86 strikeouts as he threw 60-plus innings. His ERA was 2.07 over 67 2/3 innings. He finished 5-5 with a save. He began the 2021 campaign by no-hitting Fostoria over five innings.

"As a team, we should improve from last year's 11-16 campaign," coach King said.

"We feel strongly that we have the pitching to be able to compete with anyone on the schedule. We return a total of seven lettermen from last year. We were young and inexperienced last spring, but with more experience this year, we feel we can find more ways to win ball games. We have more athleticism this year and more speed as a team, King continued. "We feel we should be strong

GIANTS WIN IN EXTRA INNINGS 5-1

by Bill Bray | Apr 1, 2022 | Baseball

	R	H	E
LITTLE GIANTS	5	10	1
ST. JOHN'S	1	6	1

8 Innings

Owen Wright

By Bill Bray

TOLEDO – After being shut out through six innings and down 1-0, the Little Giants gave themselves life in the top of the seventh and went on to win the TRAC matchup in eight innings.

Down one run, Fremont’s Mason Durnwald reached base on an error. Dylan Wright, batting behind Durnwald, walked, sending Durnwald to second. With the two men on, the Giants’ utility man, Scout Mosser, pinch hit for “Hondo” Melcher and laid down a sacrifice bunt, advancing Durnwald and Wright. With that, Nick Pearson was the “man of the hour” as he singled to score Durnwald to send the game into an extra frame.

Melcher, relieving starter Owen Wright, faced eight Titan batters and threw 19 strikes of the 32 pitches thrown. Wright threw six innings, allowing five hits while striking out seven.

Ross’s hit parade exploded in the eighth inning. Melcher helped his own cause with two hits, while Micah Olvera and Brayden Guhn added two hits apiece. Adding one hit each during the win were Durnwald, Dylan Wright, Pearson, and Bryson Hammer.

“I’m very proud of the kids, coach Jared King said. “It was truly a team win. Multiple guys stepped up in various roles.”

The Giants are back in action Friday as they travel to Bellevue for a 4:45 pm start.



Fremont Ross Athletics

April 2, 2022 · 🌐

Little Giant Baseball moves to 3-0 with a 17-0 win over Fostoria in their home opener. Ross pitcher, Mason Durnwald, gets the win.

BASEBALL ON 3-GAME WIN STREAK!

by Bill Bray | Apr 3, 2022 | Baseball



	R	H	E
FOSTORIA	0	2	1
LITTLE GIANTS	17	12	3

ole Von Eitzen

By Bill Bray

FREMONT – After defeating state power St. John’s 5-1 in extra innings Thursday to open their season, the Little Giants added two more wins to end the week unblemished at 3-0.

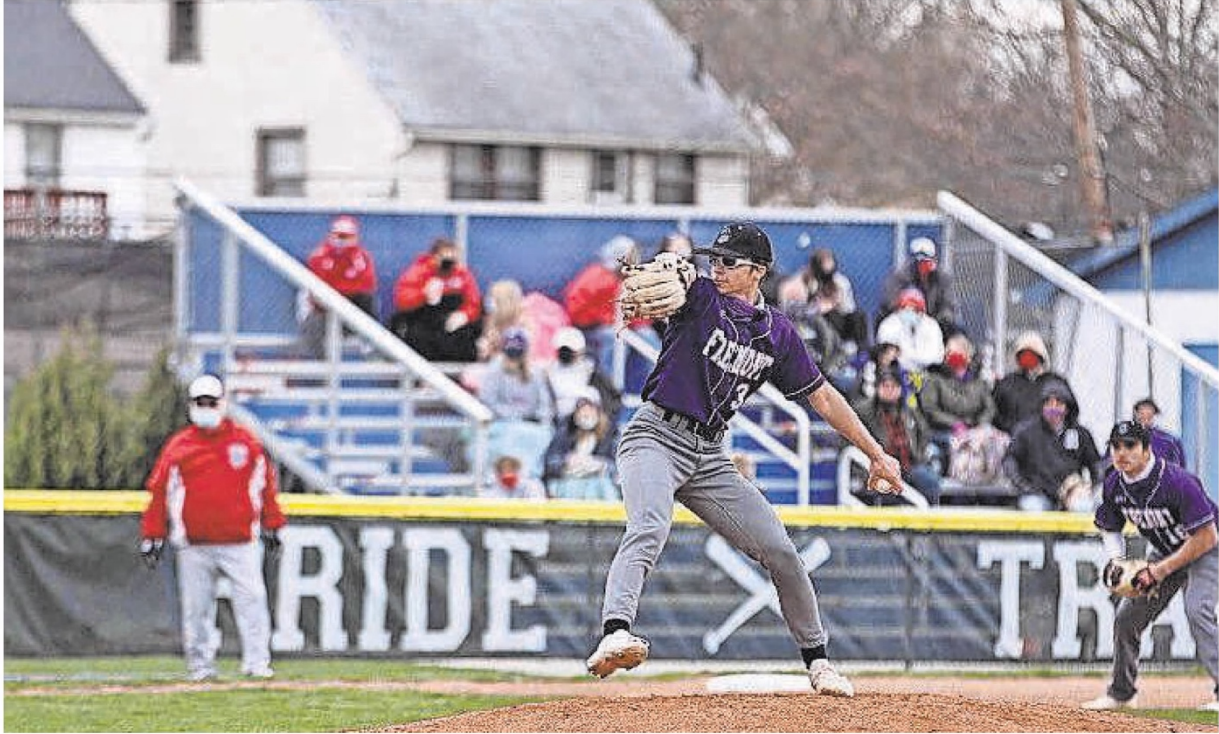
Bellevue was the second victim of the Giants, losing 2-1. Both teams scored three runs in the sixth inning of play. Designated hitter, Scout Mosser, had two hits, including one RBI. Freshman Karson Kayden had the other hit as he and Mosser each drove in runs to help the Giants to the win. Kayden was the winning pitcher, hurling 58 strikes on his 92 pitches. He allowed three hits, giving up one run while striking out six.

After the two big wins during the week, the Giants came home to the friendly confines of Alumni Field on Saturday to demolish Fostoria.

The Giants used many varsity and junior varsity players in the 17-0, five-inning victory. Starters Adam Hrynciw, Brayden Guhn, Devin Wright, and “Hondo” Melchor had two hits apiece for the red-hot Giants. Melchor led in the RBI department with three. Hrynciw, Guhn, Devin Wright, and Owen Wright batted in two runs each. Mason Durnwald was on the mound and went the complete game with a two-hit shutout win.

“We couldn’t ask for a better way to start the season,” coach Jared King said. “The kids have had great attitudes and shown a lot of resilience. Multiple guys have stepped up to make plays defensively in key situations. The pitching has been outstanding. We need to keep working on squaring more pitches up with guys

THREE RIVERS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Owen Wright was first-team all-TRAC for Fremont Ross. SUBMITTED

Owen Wright returns to front strong staff for Ross

Matthew Horn
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

First, senior Owen Wright struck out seven and walked three while allowing five hits and one run in six innings as Fremont Ross topped Toledo St. John's 5-1 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Junior Hondo Melchor allowed one hit in two innings to notch the win in relief.

Next, freshman Karson Kayden struck out six and walked three while allowing three hits and one run in seven innings in a 2-1 victory over Bellevue.

Finally, junior Mason Durnwald struck out 10 and walked none while allowing two hits in a 17-0 shutout of Fostoria in five innings.

"I can't ask for anything more of our pitching staff," Ross coach Jared King said. "All three outings, especially with the quality of opponents. St. John's played in a [state] semifinal last season. They're ranked in the preseason Top 20.

"Bellevue always has a strong program and Fostoria is improving. When you give up two runs in three games against that quality of competition, it's an exciting start for the pitching staff."

Wright was first-team all-conference last season.

"Owen's a guy you trust on the mound nightly," King said. "He throws three pitches in and around the zone to pressure opponents. He struck out 86 last year. That's not a number I care much about, but he gives you an opportunity to win.

"He has the guys' trust on the mound

and we play better defense in quality starts."

Shortstop Adam Hrynciw was honorable mention all-league at second base last season. He'll bat atop the lineup for the second straight season.

Melchor returns with varsity experience at third base and shares time with Kayden.

"He's done an excellent job on defense attacking the baseball," King said. "His glove has been great and we're working on a quick release. It's different at second. We're excited."

Junior honorable mention all-conference catcher Brayden Guhn, classmate center fielder Dylan Wright and senior second-team all-league outfielder Micah Olvera are back. Owen

See BASEBALL, Page 7A



Owen Wright notched 86 strikeouts in his first varsity season for Ross. SUBMITTED

Baseball

Continued from Page 6A

Wright returns in right field.

"Micah is a great contact hitter," King said. "He's probably our most consistent hitter. He struck out less than 10 times. He finds a way to square the ball. He's third in the order. Brayden is a hard-nosed kid. He holds his teammates accountable, which is something I always look for in a catcher.

"He hit a key double in the St. John's game. He's driving in some runs. Most important is how he's handled the staff."

King, a catcher in college, ceded pitch-calling duties to Guhn.

"I might give him input," King said. "I haven't had to."

Ross scored four runs in the top of the eighth inning against St. John's. The Little Giants trailed 1-0 most of the game, before forcing extra inning with a run in the top of the seventh.

"It's been a great team effort where different guys step up on offense, make key plays on defense and the pitchers on the mound have been great," King said.

Durnwald scored twice and added an RBI. Kayden and senior Scout Mosser each drove in one run against Bellevue.

Melchor drove in three and Dylan Wright scored three runs against Fostoria.

"Last year, we finished 11-16," King

said. "We were inexperienced. Six or seven guys returning gave us confidence into the year. We thought we'd have a strong staff and be solid on defense. We have to take advantage of runners in scoring position.

"We have to continue to get better pushing runs across. We're more athletic. If we stay focused and believe, we could have a good year."

First baseman Durnwald and junior second baseman Bryson Hammer are newcomers. Senior Nick Pearson plays right field.

Olvera, senior Marcus Overmyer, classmate Tyler Binder and Dylan Wright are options to pitch.

Senior Cole Von Eitzen and sophomore Elijah Simms are in the varsity mix. Freshman Braylon Schneider is out for the season with an injury.

"It's probably been eight or 10 years since we beat St. John's," King said. "You have bad weather and early games canceled and you look across the diamond at St. John's. To find a way to win gives the kids all the confidence in the world.

"We have a tough schedule. Four teams in the Top 20. The TRAC is a gantlet. To start on a high note like that, we know we can compete. Last year, we lost some games by one run. We're learning to finish games."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Nick Pearson had the game-winning RBI against Toledo Central Catholic and drove in two runs to force extra innings in a victory against Toledo St. John's. SUBMITTED

Pearson invites next chance to hit in clutch for Ross

Matthew Horn
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many times, the bottom of the order is where a good pitcher can find a few outs.

They're likely to exhale a little when reminded any trouble to navigate is against the last third of the lineup.

Pitchers have been more likely to find a loss this season before the Little Giants' lineup turns over. That's where Nick Pearson lurks.

His two-run single forced extra innings in a victory over Toledo St. John's and he added a walk-off single against Toledo Central Catholic in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Hondo Melchor and Dylan Wright each singled in front of Pearson with no outs against Central Catholic.

"There was no pressure," he said. "Having Dylan on third base helped me clear my head and just think about a nice base hit. I just needed to put it in play. I was thinking aggressive with a pitcher throwing first-pitch strikes."

He fell behind in the count.

"I went down early and he threw a low-and-away pitch 1-2," Pearson said. "I took it to the right side and it all worked out. St. John's started me on a good track.

I was hitting strong. The guys gave me the confidence to go up like that.

"I came in comfortable to get a base hit at the end. We give each other confidence. It was the right place at the right time kind of feeling."

Timing can make you a hero.

"It felt nice to contribute a game win and bring in a win against a big team like Central," Pearson said. "It felt good. I don't think about those spots. I try to do the same job if it was another situation and a normal at-bat.

"It's built my confidence and I wouldn't mind a couple more to see what I'd do."

Scout Mosser moved runners to second and third base with a bunt for the first out in the top of the seventh against St. John's.

"I hit a nice line shot up the middle to bring in the tying runs," Pearson said.

Pearson, a corner outfielder, waited for his varsity turn.

"It's my first year after three years on junior varsity," he said. "It's made my year great so far. I'm hoping to have a good senior year and be a team player for Fremont Ross."

He trained with Mosser and Marcus Overmyer, who also lacked varsity experience. They had similar goals.

"We got together over the summer and we were in the weight room to get stronger," he said. "We were throwing at the Y in January to earn our spots. We put in the work and it worked out perfectly."

Even with a job secured, Pearson likes to prove himself.

"Earn that spot," he said. "We're all in a good place and we know our roles."

Owen Wright's is most obvious. He notched wins against St. John's and Central Catholic.

"One thing I like," Pearson said, "he's very reliable, whether he's at the plate or especially on the mound. He's one of our best players. He's a great player and person to be around. He does what he does and he does it good."

Melchor and freshman Karson Kayden took wins against Lima. Dylan Wright pitched in relief in the second game.

Owen Wright has 30 strikeouts and eight walks in 22 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, for a 1.25 ERA. Mason Durnwald has 16 strikeouts and only one walk in 12 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, for a 1.70 ERA.

Kayden has 12 strikeouts and seven walks in 17 innings, with a 1.65 ERA and three wins. Melchor struck out 15 and

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Ross

Continued from Page 6A

walked 10 in 12 innings.

"We have a strong staff," Pearson said.

Pearson isn't the only one with a hot bat for the Little Giants. Owen Wright has eight RBIs, and Adam Hrynciw and Mosser have seven apiece.

Dylan Wright and Durnwald each have 12 runs and eight walks. Hrynciw stole six bases.

Melchor bats .368 and Dylan Wright .333.

"The first one that comes to mind is Brayden Guhn," he said. "He sits back and drives it. He's had some big hits. Another is Mason Durnwald. He's been connecting and getting us in position to win. Dylan and Hondo have been great at the plate.

"We're having fun."

Ross has nine wins in 10 games. It beat Lima Senior twice, with an extra-inning loss to Findlay in the TRAC.

The Little Giants led Findlay by two runs with two outs in the bottom of the

seventh inning.

They beat Springfield, Bellevue, Mohawk, Oak Harbor and Fostoria.

"We came out from that loss and got back on track," Pearson said. "Through the entire game, we battled. We got ahead and the defense was tight. We made a few mental mistakes. We wanted to come out as strong as we could, get some early wins and get our confidence up.

"It felt good. We were on a roll. Findlay humbled us and we buckled back down. We want to play good Fremont Ross baseball and contend in the TRAC."

THE 'WRIGHT' STUFF

by Bill Bray | Apr 27, 2022 | Baseball



By Bill Bray

FREMONT— One of Spring Sport's graduating seniors resides on the baseball diamond at Ross.

Senior Owen Wright has been the ace over the last two seasons for coach Jared King's Little Giant baseball team. Wright has supplied energy on the mound that other members of the pitching staff share.

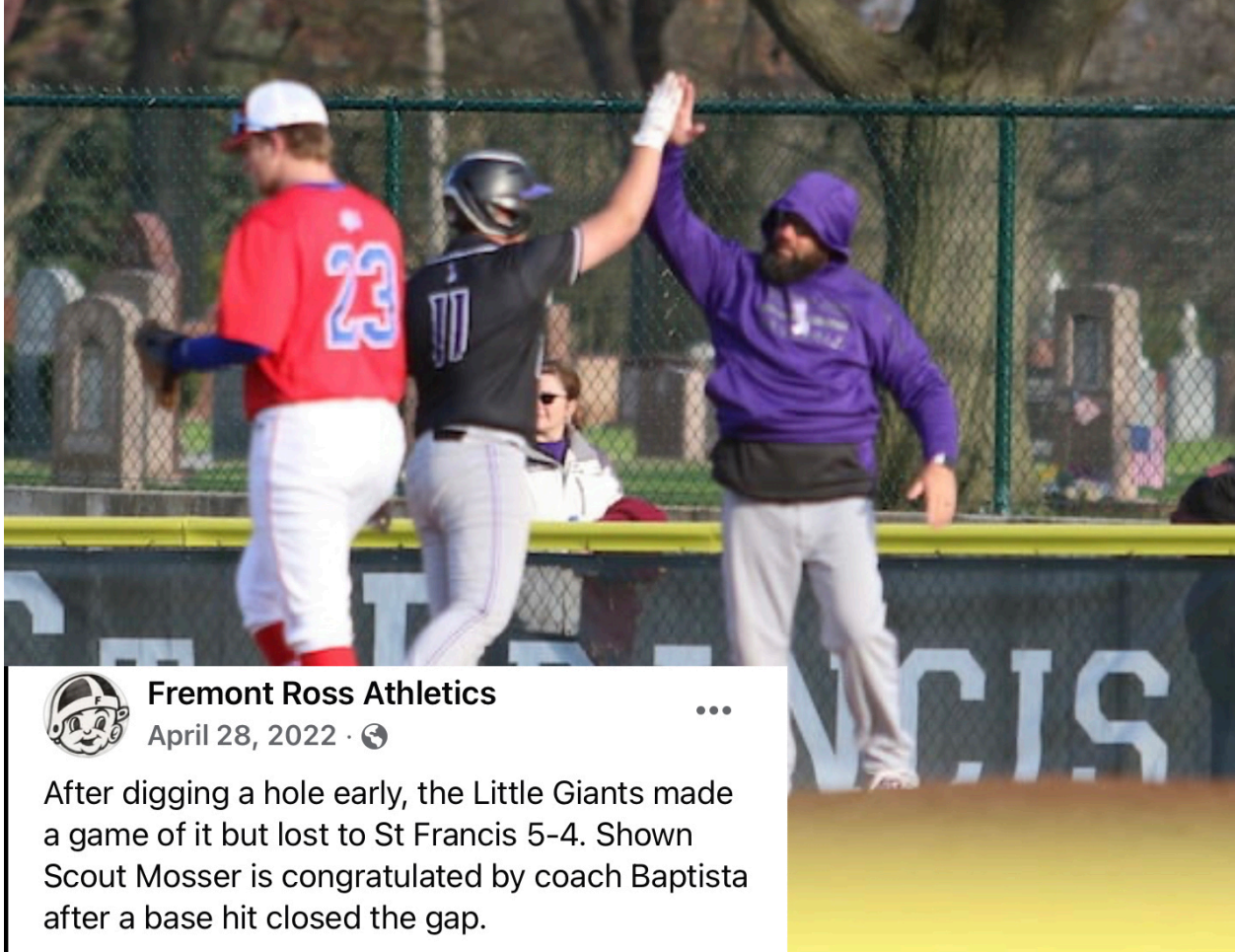
"He's a kid I always trust out on the mound," King said of Wright. "He's always going to be around the zone, two or three pitches consistently that always give us a chance to win ball games. He has a smart baseball IQ."

Wright has been involved in baseball since the age of 3. "He's been around the game and has played long enough that you know you're going to get that leadership out of him on the baseball diamond," King said. Wright's coach shared that his southpaw has one important trait. "He has a fun-loving personality that keeps his teammates relaxed. The game should be fun, and he brings that childhood playfulness to the game. It's contagious to the other guys. It helps the team relax and with relaxing, they play better," King concluded.

Wright began improving when he was three years old. "I started by playing T-Ball," Wright said. "I got started with pitching in 'kid pitch' and have stuck with it ever since."

"I started getting serious and liking the game when I was in 10U. "I played with the Ohio Hit Men (out of Fremont) twice until 12U, then 13 and 14 was with 'Bay Area' out of Sandusky, where I mainly played with guys from Perkins." Then I moved on to high school." Wright said.

With that history of the game already behind him, his love for the sport and pitching continued to grow for the talented senior. "A pitcher gets to control the game," Wright said. There is no secret about which pitch the South Paw uses most. "I love the fastball," Wright said. "I throw a



Fremont Ross Athletics

April 28, 2022 · 🌐



After digging a hole early, the Little Giants made a game of it but lost to St Francis 5-4. Shown Scout Mosser is congratulated by coach Baptista after a base hit closed the gap.

Ross Little Giants Varsity 2 - 3 Findlay (OH)

📍 Away 📅 Thursday May 19, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
ROSS	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0
FNDL	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	8	3

BATTING

Ross	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
D Wright (CF)	3	2	1	0	1	1
A Hrynciw (SS)	3	0	0	0	0	2
M Olvera (LF)	2	0	0	0	1	2
B Guhn (C)	3	0	1	1	0	0
M Durnwald (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
A Melchor (3B, P)	3	0	1	0	0	0
J Ross	0	0	0	0	0	0
O Wright (P, RF)	3	0	0	0	0	2
S Mosser (DH, 3B)	2	0	0	0	1	0
B Hammer (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	25	2	3	1	3	11

TB: A Melchor, D Wright, B Guhn, **SB:** D Wright, **LOB:** 5

Findlay	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Guthrie (SS)	3	0	1	0	0	2
Ritzler (2B)	2	0	0	0	2	1
Reimer	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sertell (RF)	4	0	2	1	0	1
Weihrauch (CF)	2	1	1	0	1	0
Best (P)	4	0	2	1	0	0
Oliver (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Layne (1B)	2	0	0	0	1	1
Robinson (3B)	3	0	1	0	0	0
Harris (DH)	3	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	26	3	8	2	4	6

3B: Weihrauch, **TB:** Guthrie, Harris, Weihrauch 3, Robinson, Best 2, Sertell 2, **CS:** Guthrie, **HBP:** Guthrie, Weihrauch, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Ross	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
O Wright	6.0	6	2	1	3	5	0
A Melchor	0.1	2	1	1	1	1	0
Totals	6.1	8	3	2	4	6	0

L: A Melchor, **P-S:** A Melchor 19-10, O Wright 118-75, **HBP:** A Melchor, O Wright, **BF:** A Melchor 5, O Wright 27

Findlay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Best	7.0	3	2	1	3	11	0
Totals	7.0	3	2	1	3	11	0

W: Best, **P-S:** Best 109-73, **BF:** Best 28



Fremont Ross Athletics

May 19, 2022 · 🌐



Findlay put a run across the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning to sneak past our Little Giants. The tournament road has ended, but there are a few games left. [See less](#)

GAMECHANGER



MASON DURNWALD
HONORABLE MENTION

OWEN WRIGHT
FIRST TEAM

ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
HONORABLE MENTION

DYLAN WRIGHT
FIRST TEAM

BRAYDEN GUHN
SECOND TEAM



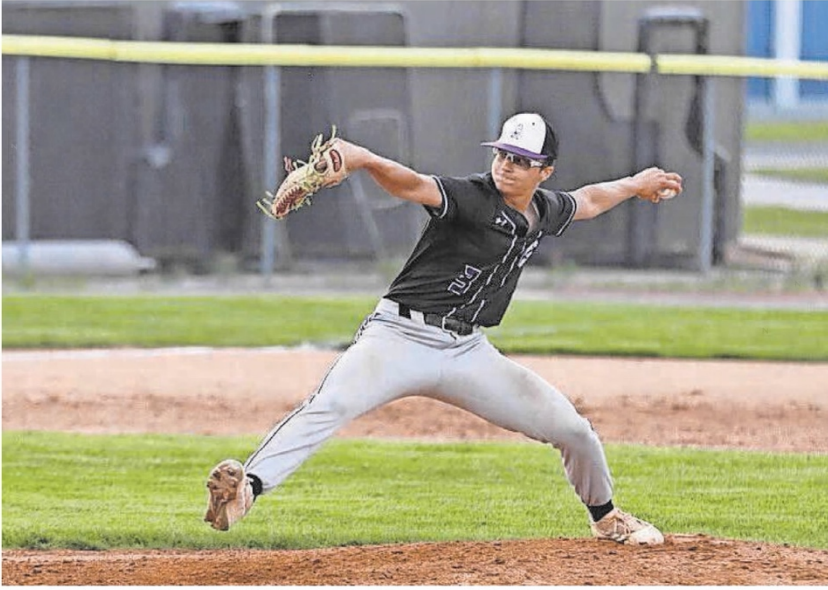
Fremont Ross Athletics

May 26, 2022 · 🌐



District 9 Honors for our Little Giants

Owen Wright, Dylan Wright. (First team)
Brayden Guhn (Second-team)
Mason Durnwald, Alejandro Melchor (Honorable mention)



Ross pitcher Owen Wright delivers a pitch. SUBMITTED

Despite injuries, Ross pitching remains strength behind Owen Wright

Matthew Horn

Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

This is not a story of what could have been, but one of what almost was.

Fremont Ross was eliminated by Findlay via a sectional walk-off.

It was one strike away from beating Findlay in seven innings in the regular season, before falling in extra innings. The Little Giants beat Toledo St. John's once and Toledo Central Catholic in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

They topped Bellevue and Holland Springfield.

"Our conference is stacked with talent," coach Jared King said. "We competed. We had opportunities to beat Findlay in two of the three games. With St. Francis, we were right there. We played with Central Catholic both times. St. John's.

"Out of conference, we lost to Perkins 2-0 in extra innings. They [were] in a regional semifinal. We competed with some top-notch talent teams. We have top-notch talent, but we have to string hits together on the days we pitch well."

"Hopefully, with experience and added maturity, we'll be able to figure out how to win games."

The Little Giants (11-12, 4-10) won nine of their first 10 games.

"We were one pitch away from that 10th win," King said of Findlay. "We hit well early in the season. We hit well later too, but right at people. St. John's was coming off the final four last year. We beat them at their place

"First game of the year. Extra innings. We haven't beat St. John's in seven years. That was a great way to start."

Nick Pearson helped Ross beat St. John's and added a walk-off single of his own against Central Catholic.

"Owen [Wright] was in a pitcher's duel," King said. "Dylan [Wright] was aggressive to third on a bunt. Central Catholic is another [opponent] it's been a long time [since Ross defeated]."

Ross shifts to the Northern Lakes League after one last season in the TRAC.

"We should have nine guys returning," King said. "A lot of them played as sophomores. We had guys come up as juniors this year from junior varsity last year and step up. Beating quality opponents with some top guys back builds that confidence and experience to have the mindset we can compete and get to the top half of the league, instead of the middle of the pack."

Senior Owen Wright struck out 61 and walked 19 in 52⅓ innings. His ERA was below 1.00.

He was named first-team all-conference and District 9. He's the third Little Giants player since Aaron Opelt in 2006 and King in 2008 on the roster for the Augusta All-Ohio Series.

For the top 100 in the state, players are nominated by their district. Wright was initially an alternate, before taking one of two spots for the Northwest area.

The game is June 22 at Ohio State.

Freshman Karson Kayden, Mason Durnwald and Hondo Melchor stood out at times. Freshman Braylon Schneider would have contributed but missed the season with an injury.

Dylan Wright and Josh Ross are also in the mix of arms. Dylan was second-team all-conference and first-team District 9.

"Guys stepped up, but it's hard to juggle all those pieces," King said. "The pitching staff did a good job getting ahead early in counts and trusting the defense to make plays. Owen strikes out 60 batters a season.

"That doesn't mean the rest of the staff have to be the same type of pitcher. They understand their strengths."

Kayden was out the second half of the season with an injury. Senior Micah Olvera, who bats third, missed three weeks and Melchor missed time as well.

Brayden Guhn, Durnwald and Melchor were honorable mention all-conference. Guhn was second-team District

9 and Durnwald and Melchor were honorable mention.

Scout Mosser, Marcus Overmyer, Tyler Binder, Cole Von Eitzen and Pearson are also seniors.

"We thought our pitching staff would be our strength," King said. "It was. We hit enough to be competitive, not put teams away. We played a lot of one-run and three-run games. We want to improve, not taking our foot off the pedal to put teams away."

"We need to be more consistent. We did better with runners in scoring position early in the season but it was taking longer into games to get guys in scoring position. We started swinging at bad pitches early in counts.

"We need to have a better approach, even after a loss."

There's also confidence on defense.

"It was a roller coaster," King said. "The first half we were going down the hill full of momentum, enjoying the ride. The next half, we were going up the hill and you're never making it back to the top. We'll try to learn from what made us successful in the first half and build."

"We need to have a better approach. Don't let errors pile up. If we stay healthy and get back to work in the off-season, we have a great chance to be successful."

Could have and almost often go together. Not always.

Ross almost finished with eight wins or more in the TRAC. Almost is a better building block because it demonstrates achievement, especially if you learn from it rather than let it beat you up.

"It was one of the more mentally tough groups we've had," King said. "They're more mentally resilient than I am. I was up at night thinking about it and they were there the next day ready to play. That makes the game fun."

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