

## 2001 area baseball

### Ross

**Coach:** Chuck Lindsey, 4th year.

**2000 record:** 7-14 (6-6 GLL).

**2000 tournament:** Lost sectional semifinal to Mansfield Senior.

**Key losses:** C Josh Lozano, OF Pete Goetz, SS Josh Meggitt (transferred to Clyde), 2B Dusty Shively, 1B Jeremy Fitzgerald.

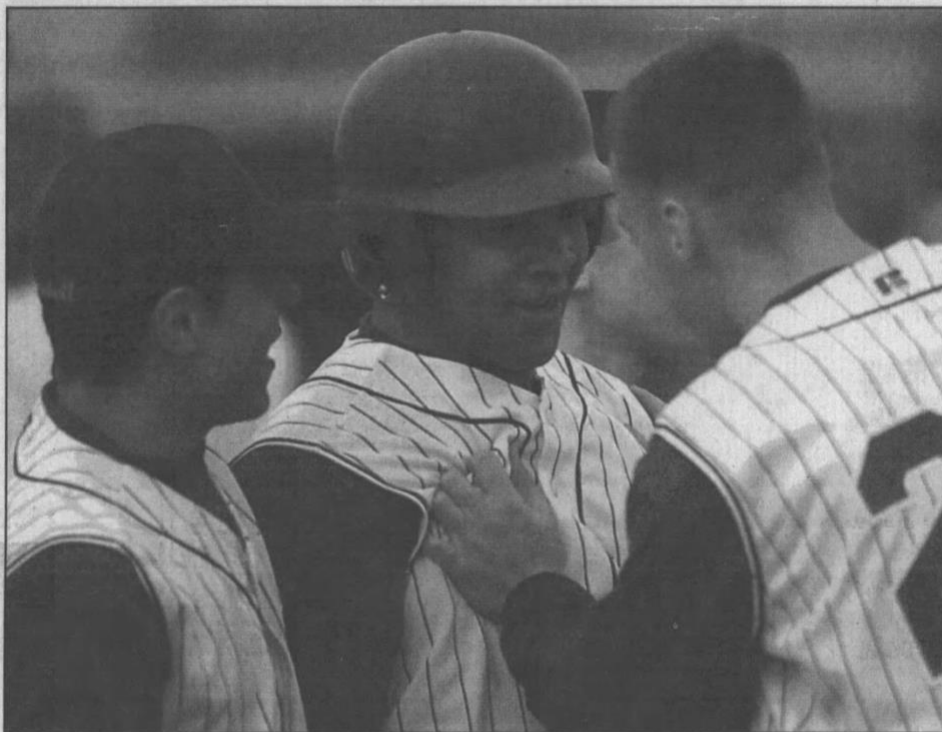
**Key returnees:** Seniors — OF T.J. Hammer, C Nick Lance, OF Aaron Hines. Juniors — P/SS Adam Garcia, 2B Dash Yost, 1B/C Jered Kingsborough; P/CF Gabe Sanchez. Sophomore — SS Kyle Hintze.

**Key newcomers:** Juniors — P/OF Mike Davis, P Clint Coonrod, P Josh Hamish, OF Nick Oprie. Freshmen 3B Jonathan Franks.

**Outlook:** The faster their young pitchers develop, the faster the Little Giants will be a major player in the Great Lakes League race. As of right now, Garcia is penciled as the team ace. Davis and Coonrod, younger brother of former Ross standout Aaron Coonrod, are the second and third men in the rotation. Offensively, Ross will turn to its outfield, where returnees Hammer (center), Sanchez (left) and Hines (right) will lead the team. Nick Lance will move to catcher, replacing two-time all-league player Josh Lozano. The infield will see Franks at third, Hintze at short, Yost at second and Kingsborough at first.

**Coach's quote:** "Pitching is our biggest concern. If we can get the ball across the plate, our defense is solid. Our infield is solid. For so long we've been hearing about next year. I told the kids it's right now. We're going to play hard, have fun and see what happens."

# Seniors rally Ross past Columbian, 6-5



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

**AARON HINES**, center, is greeted by T.J. Hammer, right, and Gabe Sanchez after scoring the go-ahead run Wednesday at Joe Lotycz Field. Hines hit a three-run double to tie the game, then scored the go-ahead run on a Nick Lance single as the Little Giants beat Tiffin Columbian in the season opener.

## Timely hitting a good sign for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Maybe this will be the season Fremont Ross comes up with timely hits.

Aaron Hines ripped a three-run double to tie the game, and Nick Lance followed with the go-ahead single as the Little Giants came from behind to beat Tiffin Columbian 6-5 Wednesday at Joe Lotycz Field.

The two seniors keyed a six-run fourth inning and provided the clutch offense Ross sorely missed during a 7-14 campaign in 2000.

"A couple of times early in the game, we had runners on with the guys up who I expect to be our leaders and we didn't get it done. I started thinking about last year a little bit," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "But we just told them to keep swinging.

**Inside:** Zuniga 1-hitter leads Ross softball. **Page B2**

Aaron Hines came up with a big hit, and T.J. Hammer and Nick Lance hit the ball hard. I expect the three seniors to be our leaders."

The Tornados scored five runs off Ross starter Adam Garcia in the first inning. Garcia went three innings, allowing four hits and walking eight.

But reliever Mike Davis came on to pick up the victory for the Little Giants. He pitched four scoreless innings, allowing five hits while striking out three.

All six Ross runs in the fourth came after there were two outs. Kyle Hintze singled in the first run, and Hammer reached on an error to load the

bases for Hines. Hines's double cleared the bases, and Lance followed with a single to plate the eventual game-winner.

Hines went 2-for-3, Hintze 2-for-4 and Davis 2-for-4.

Ross is at Bellevue on Monday.

**Genoa 12, St. Joe 2**

**GENOA** — The Comets needed only one hit to score six runs in the first inning and cruise to a non-league victory in a game shortened to five innings by the run rule.

The Crimson Streaks committed five errors in their opener. Coach Rick Barbour was surprised by the poor defense, especially on Genoa's well-manicured field.

"The funny thing was in the two scrimmages we had,



**DASH YOST** of Fremont Ross comes in from third base and waves his teammates in behind him after Aaron Hines's three-run double during Wednesday's game at Joe Lotycz field.

See ROSS, B2

# Bellevue comeb

## Meggitt homer powers Clyde; Ro

News-Messenger reports

BELLEVUE — Tom Artino's two-run single in the bottom of the seventh inning gave Bellevue a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Fremont Ross on Monday.

The Redmen scored four runs in the seventh off Ross pitcher Mike Davis. Davis relieved junior Clint Coonrod, who pitched 5 $\frac{1}{3}$  scoreless innings.

"Clint Coonrod pitching an outstanding game," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We made the change because his pitch count got up there and he ran into some trouble in the sixth."

Bellevue (3-1) got five of its eight hits in the final at-bat. Justin Journey picked up the victory for the Redmen.

Adam Garcia went 2-for-3 with a run batted in for the Little Giants (1-1). Davis had knocked in a run as well.

"Our kids played hard," Lindsey said. "It just happens that way in baseball."

Ross is at Perkins on Thursday.

### New Riegel 7, St. Joe 0

NEW RIEGEL — Five errors led to four unearned runs and the fourth straight defeat for the Crimson Streaks.

St. Joe (0-4, 0-1 Midland Athletic League) collected just two hits, a double by Eric Beier and a single by Mike Hoffman.

"We're just scuffling right now," SJCC coach Rick Barbour said. "We're really pressing and it shows. Things just aren't going well. We

# Harnish hurls Ross to victory

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Josh Harnish helped the Fremont Ross baseball team rebound from a tough loss by shutting down powerful Perkins during a 4-2 Little Giants victory Thursday.

Harnish, a junior, went the distance, allowing seven hits and striking out four.

"Our pitching is holding together better than I thought it would," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "Our pitching coach, Rob Schimmoeller, deserves a lot of credit for that."

On Monday, the Little Gi-

## Roundup

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ants let a three-run slip away in the bottom of the seventh inning at Bellevue and lost 4-3.

Ross (2-1) scored twice in the sixth inning to break a 2-all tie. Nick Lance tripled to score Greg Krumnow with the go-ahead run. Then, Jered Kingsborough, whose bat had been silent through the first two games, ripped a solid single to score Lance.

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**See BEARS, B4**



# Comeback sends Giants to GLL sweep

## Streaks get first victories of year

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA — Dash Yost's two-run single in the top of the seventh inning handed Fremont Ross a comeback victory in the first game and propelled the Little Giants to a doubleheader sweep over Fostoria on Saturday.

Ross won the opener 12-11 and the nightcap 12-3 to begin the Great Lakes League campaign.

The Little Giants (4-1, 2-0 GLL) trailed 6-0 but battled back.



YOST

T.J. Hammer's two-run homer in the fifth inning got Ross within striking distance.

Gabe Sanchez got the victory in relief of Adam Garcia.

"Our kids didn't quit," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "I was real happy with the way the guys hit the ball and hung together as a team."

Jered Kingsborough and Nick Lance also homered for Ross in the first game. Kingsborough went 2-for-4 with four RBI. Lance went 3-for-4 with a pair of RBI. Garcia and Hammer each went 2-for-4.

In the second game, Ross leapt ahead with two three-run innings and never looked back. Mike Davis got the win in relief of Clint Coonrod, who left the game with a minor knee injury.

Davis helped his own cause with a grand slam. He went 2-for-5 with 5 RBI. Yost went 3-for-4, Aaron Hines was 2-for-4 with four RBI, Garcia went 2-for-3 with a homer and Nick Lance was 2-for-2.

Fostoria fell to 2-2, 0-2 in the GLL.

The Little Giants host Lorain Southview today.

## Baseball/Softball

ries as the Little Giants opened Great Lakes League play in impressive fashion at Alumni Field.

Fostoria got its only two hits in the opener after Zuniga left the game. She went the distance in the second game, allowing two runs and seven hits while striking out three.

The Little Giants (7-1, 2-0 GLL) used a six-run fourth inning to win the first game and erased all doubt with a seven-run first inning in the nightcap.



GARCIA

Amy Reiter went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI in the first game and stole three bases in the second game. Emily Bibler had two hits and scored twice in the first contest. Kristy Gabel connected for two hits in the second game and scored twice.

Ross is at Lorain Southview today.

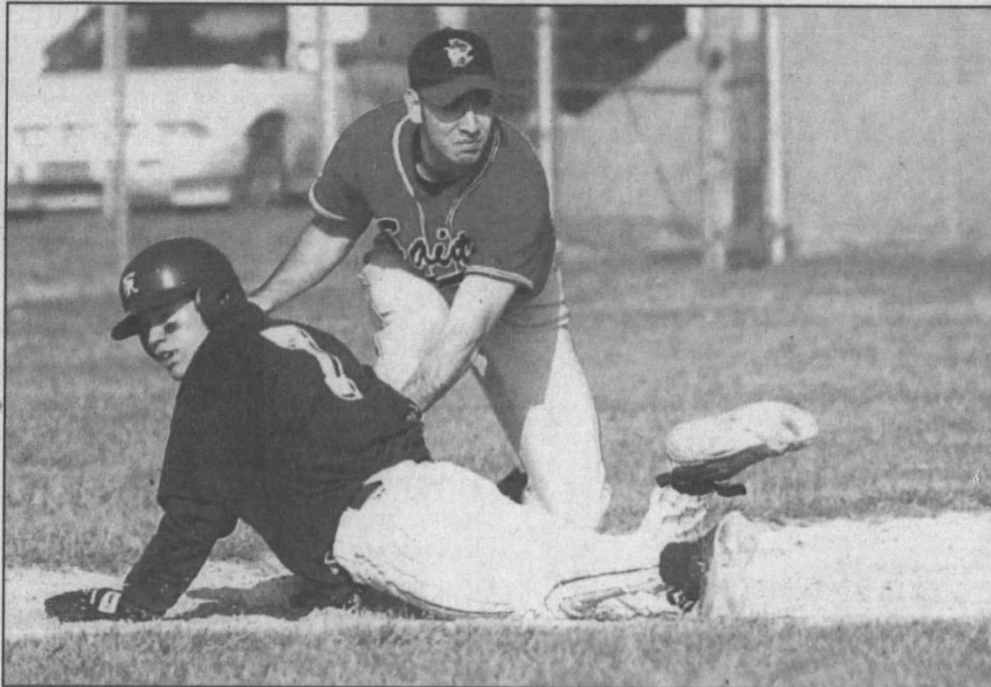
## St. Joe 8-9, Port Clinton 0-1

PORT CLINTON — Marianne Fox is carrying St. Joe's heaviest — and hottest — stick.

Using a big bat that's been in the Streaks' bag for years, Fox hit two home runs and a triple as St. Joe swept Port Clinton. She began using the old bat, which will be outlawed by state standards that call for lower-density equipment next year, at New Riegel on Monday.

"It's the oldest bat we have," St. Joe coach Bill Bork said. "She uses it all the time. It's probably a \$20 bat, compared to all the \$100 bats we have."

St. Joe pitcher Danielle Whisler shut out the Redskins in the opener Saturday for her first victory over the season. She allowed three hits while striking



News-Messenger/Ben French

**DASH YOST** of Fremont Ross slides safely into third base under the tag of Lorain Southview's Damian Aponte during Monday's game at Joe Lotycz Field.

# Dash the Daring

## Yost swings away, sends Ross past Saints

By **TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM**  
Sports editor

Aptly named Dash Yost has a simple directive at the top of the Fremont Ross batting order: Get on base and find the quickest route to home plate.

But with the game on the line Monday against Lorain Southview, Yost chose power over pluck.

The junior second baseman convinced coach Chuck Lindsey to disdain the squeeze bunt and let him hit away with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the seventh inning of a 5-all game.

Yost delivered. His sacrifice fly to medium right field scored pinch-runner Nick Oppie with the winning run in the Little Giants' 6-5 Great Lakes League victory.

"I knew I was going to drive it in," Yost said. "If he threw me a strike, I was going to hit it. I'm kind of mad. I didn't get all of it."

"You can't say I won't run through a fence for you, coach."

— **Aaron Hines, Ross outfielder, who crashed into the wall chasing a triple in the seventh inning**



Said Lindsey of Yost, who is the team's best bunter, "We went over and talked to him about squeezing, and he said, 'Coach, I'll get it in the outfield.'"

Ross (5-1, 3-0 GLL) won a roller-coaster contest that saw the lead change hands four times in the final three innings. It was the league opener for Southview (0-3).

The Little Giants have made a habit of winning close games, a proclivity that eluded them last season. Ross opened the season with a 6-5 victory over Tiffin Columbian and has won two other one-run games since.

"It's good because we're

getting comfortable with close games," Yost said.

The Little Giants appeared to have the game in hand in the bottom of the sixth inning after senior rightfielder Aaron Hines rifled a two-out double to the left-field fence to score Yost. The run gave Ross a 5-4 lead.

But after Ross reliever Clint Coonrod retired the first two Southview batters in the top of the seventh, the Saints mounted a final charge.

Jason DiMacchia drove a long shot to right field, where Hines crashed into the fence as he tried to make the grab. The ball bounced away, and DiMac-

chia chugged into third with a triple.

Hines cut his lip on the play and was forced to leave the game.

"That's what we want. We want them to go out and compete," Lindsey said of Hines's effort. "I thought he had it, and he thought he had it."

"You can't say I won't run through a fence for you, coach," Hines told Lindsey after the game.

Southview's next batter, John Cozart, hit a soft liner that eluded Coonrod for an infield single. DiMacchia scored to tie the game.

But Ross got to Saints reliever Dominic Cruz in the bottom of the seventh. After Cruz retired Mike Davis on a fly to center, Jered Kingsborough, Adam Garcia and Gabe Sanchez worked consecutive walks to set up Yost for the game-winner. Garcia

See **ROSS, B2**

News-Messenger reports

Carey broke a 4-all tie with three runs in the fifth inning and held on for a 7-6 Midland Athletic League victory over St. Joe on Wednesday at Conner Park.

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**Inside:** St. Joe, Gibsonburg, Old Fort run in Fostoria. **Page B3**

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Ross Reineck went 2-for-4 with a pair of runs batted in for the Crimson Streaks, who fell to 2-7 and 0-2 in the MAL. Jimmy Haas doubled.

Kyle Eshleman took the loss on the mound.

The Streaks are at Lorain Catholic today.

**Marion Harding 5, Ross 0**

MARION — The Little Giants managed only two hits as they fi-

## Baseball/Tennis

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nally got their Columbus-area spring break swing under way.

Nick Lance recorded both of Ross's hits, one of them a double. Mike Davis suffered the defeat on the mound.

The Little Giants are 5-2. Harding improves to 11-2.

Ross is at Westerville South today.

**Oak Harbor 6, Clyde 0**

OAK HARBOR — Sophomore Andrew Hemminger struck out 15 Fliers and allowed only four hits as the Rockets improved to 6-2, 2-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Jason Tank's two-run double in the third inning gave Hemminger all the run support he would need. Tank finished 2-for-3.

## Baseball/Softball Roundup

# Ross celebrates return with victory

## Giants softball team sweeps Norwalk

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross baseball team returned from its spring break trip to Columbus with an 0-3 record.

But the Little Giants hope they're a more cohesive unit after the trip. They showed evidence of that by nearly sweeping a Bryan team that was 11-1 entering Saturday's doubleheader in Bryan.

Ross won the first game 7-6 Saturday and led 6-1 after three innings in the nightcap before falling 10-7.

The Little Giants are 6-5 on the season after dropping games to Marion Harding, Columbus Watterson and Westerville South during the spring swing. The Ross players also made visits to workouts by the Columbus Clippers and Ohio State University.

"The Columbus trip was outstanding," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "Our kids played hard. They came together. I was happy with the way we performed. We just didn't get the wins like would have liked."

After Harding blanked Ross on two hits Wednesday, the Little Giants managed only seven hits and three runs during losses to Watterson and Westerville South on Thursday.

Watterson (13-4) beat Ross 2-1 in the first game. Neither team scored after the first inning. Mike Davis, Kyle Hintze and Nick Lance got the only hits for the Little Giants. Adam Garcia was the hard-luck loser after holding Watterson to four hits.

Ross scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning but fell short in a 3-2 loss to Westerville South. T.J. Hammer went 2-for-3 with two runs batted in, and Clint Coonrod was saddled with the defeat.

At Bryan on Saturday, Lance went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles, and Adam Garcia had two doubles and two RBI in the first game as Ross made a winner of Davis. Hammer went 2-for-4 as did Davis.

In the second game, Bryan scored four runs in the fifth and sixth innings to pull out a victory. Davis and Jered Kingsborough each had three hits for the Little Giants, and Lance added two hits. Garcia took the defeat.

Ross is at Sandusky today.

Margaretta 3-10, Lakota 1-8

KANSAS — Dan McGory shut down the Raiders in the first game, and Brandon Wadding out-hit them in the second game of the Polar Bears' sweep.

McGory limited Lakota (8-5) to four hits and won the opener. Ryan Arnold led the seven-hit Margaretta offensive attack by going 2-for-3 with two RBI.

In the second game, Wadding went 3-for-3 with a double, a home run and three RBI. He also picked up the pitching victory.

Tim Ray went 3-for-4 with an RBI for the Raiders. Greg Thrasher was 2-for-4 with two RBI.

The Polar Bears are 7-4.

Lakota is at Otsego today. Margaretta visits St. Mary today.

### SOFTBALL

Ross 6-9, Norwalk 3-1

Jen Mielke went 4-for-5, and Ashley Zuniga recorded two pitching victories as the Little Giants upped their record to 11-1 with a sweep of the Truckers.

Mielke, Ross's senior shortstop, was 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI in the first game. Her bases-loaded single in the bottom of the fourth gave the Little Giants a 5-1 lead. Amy Reiter and Janelle Kingsborough also knocked in runs for Ross.

Zuniga went the distance in the first game, allowing three runs and four hits and striking out eight.

In the nightcap, Zuniga surrendered only one run and two hits. She struck out seven.

Mielke went 2-for-2 with two stolen bases. Reiter stole three bases. Kingsborough had a two-run triple.

Ross hosts Sandusky today.

Lakota 5-3, Margaretta 0-2

RISINGSUN — The Raiders improved to 9-1 with a pair of victories over Margaretta.

Ashley Lockmiller fired a one-hitter in the first game. Maria Lowery led Lakota by going 2-for-3.

In the second game, the Raiders scored single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh to overcome a 2-0 deficit. Amber Ginn-ever and Jamie Ray each had two hits. Kim Wells picked up the victory on the mound.

Margaretta is 6-4.

The Raiders host Otsego today. The Polar Bears are at St. Mary.



# Garcia stops Sandusky

Clyde's Brown no-hits 'Skins; Lockmiller fires 6th straight shutout

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross baseball team exploded for five runs in the third inning Monday and stayed perfect in the Great Lakes League with a 5-1 victory over Sandusky at Joe Lotycz Field.

The game was moved to Fremont because of wet grounds in Sandusky.

The Little Giants' big inning made a winner of Adam Garcia, who went the distance and limited the Blue Streaks to four hits. He struck out seven and walked seven.

Garcia gave up four hits to Columbus Watterson on Thursday but lost a 2-1 decision.

"Adam has pitched real well the last two times out. He's just got to stay fo-

## Spring Roundup

cused on what he's got to do," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said.

Aaron Hines doubled in two runs in the third inning for Ross (7-5, 4-0 GLL). T.J. Hammer went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Sandusky is 7-8, 0-4 in the GLL.

Ross hosts Lorain Admiral King on Wednesday.

Seneca East 7, St. Joe 5

ATTICA — The Crimson Streaks rallied with three runs in the seventh inning but came up short in Midland Athletic League play.

Zack Sanchez went 3-for-3 for St. Joe (2-9, 0-3 MAL). Jimmy Haas was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI.

Mike Burkholder led the Tigers by going 3-for-4 with two RBI.

St. Joe is at Oak Harbor today.

Clyde 10, Port Clinton 0

PORT CLINTON — Junior James Brown made his first varsity start a memorable one, throwing a five-inning no-hitter with a little help from his Flier friends.

Leftfielder Kevin Snyder made a diving catch in the fifth inning to preserve the gem, and first baseman

See ROCKETS, B2



**ADAM GARCIA** of Fremont Ross delivers a pitch during Monday's 5-1 victory over Sandusky at Joe Lotycz Field. Garcia went the distance as the Little Giants stayed perfect in Great Lakes League play.

News-Messenger/Ben French

for-3 for the Bears (9-3, 1-3 SLL).

"Our pitching and defense have been incredible," Gibsonburg coach Erika Foster said. "We just had to get the bats going."

Gibsonburg is at Eastwood today.

**Margaretta 4, Port Clinton 0**

PORT CLINTON — Ashlee Cullen fired a two-hit shutout as the Polar Bears improved to 5-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Cullen struck out six and walked none for Margaretta (9-4). Port Clinton fell to 4-10, 1-4 in the SBC.

The Polar Bears host Oak Harbor today.

## **BASEBALL**

**Bowling Green 8, Ross 6**

**BOWLING GREEN —** The Bobcats scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning and

made it stand up for a non-league victory.

**T.J. Hammer led the Little Giants' offense by going 3-for-3 with a double. Jered Kingsborough had a two-run double.**

**Gabe Sanchez took the pitching defeat.**

**Ross (7-7) hosts Admiral King today.**

**Margaretta 3, Port Clinton 2**

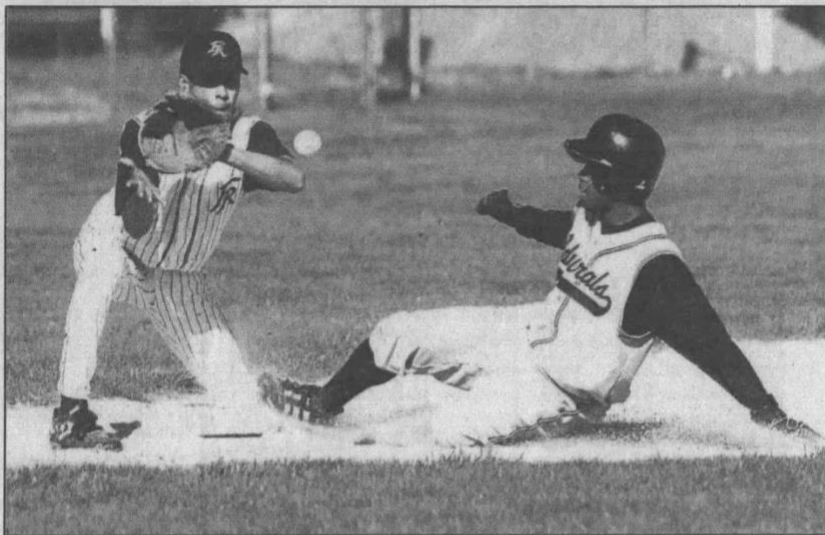
PORT CLINTON — The Redskins scored both of their runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but Margaretta stranded the tying run at second to win the SBC contest.

Rob Lewis doubled and homered to lead the six-hit Polar Bears attack. Margaretta is 9-4, 4-1 in the SBC.

Jacob Smith and Jimmy Baumer had two hits apiece for the Redskins (4-12, 1-4).

Margaretta hosts Oak Harbor today.

## Baseball Roundup



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

**ADAM GARCIA** of Fremont Ross takes a late throw as **Wes Rice** of Admiral King slides into third base during Wednesday's Great Lakes League game at Joe Lotycz Field.

# Ross remains perfect in GLL

## St. Joe comes back to win tourney tune-up

News-Messenger reports

Mike Davis rapped a two-run double to ignite a six-run fourth inning Wednesday at Joe Lotycz Field as Fremont Ross beat Admiral King 11-4 to stay perfect in Great Lakes League baseball action.

Davis was one of three Little Giants who went 3-for-4. Dash Yost and Nick Lance were the others. Ross collected 11 hits.

"Our kids have been struggling at the plate," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We need to relax a little bit and just swing the bats. If we can get everybody hitting, we'll do some damage."

Josh Harnish went the distance to pick up his third victory in as many decisions. He allowed no earned runs and five hits while striking out four and walking one.

Ross (8-5, 5-0 GLL) took advantage of seven Admiral King errors. The Admirals are 0-5 in the GLL.

The Little Giants enter tournament play Saturday at Mansfield Senior. Ross meets Mansfield at 3 p.m. Saturday in a Division I sectional opener.

### St. Joe 9, Old Fort 8

Ross Reineck's one-out single scored Zack Sanchez with the win-



**ROSS CATCHER** Nick Lance cocks his arm to throw during Wednesday's 11-4 victory over Lorain Admiral King.

ning run, keying a four-run Crimson Streaks rally at Conner Park.

"I'd like to think we played very well against good pitching," St. Joe coach Rick Barbour said. "We came from behind twice, so the boys didn't give up."

Jimmy Haas hit a pair of solo home runs for the Crimson Streaks (3-9, 1-3 Midland Athletic League).

Eric Beier added another homer. Sanchez, Reineck and Pete Bush each collected two hits.

Nick Kerlin slammed two home runs for Old Fort (4-10). Jason Stallard added another one.

Aaron Peter collected his first victory for the Streaks. He pitched seven innings, giving up nine hits and striking out six.

St. Joe meets Gibsonburg in a Division IV sectional game at noon Saturday in Old Fort.

### Huron 6, Clyde 1

**CLYDE** — The Tigers blew the game open with three runs in the sixth inning and cruised to the Sandusky Bay Conference victory.

John Meggitt and Tom Conley led the Fliers offense with two hits apiece. Clyde is 6-7, 2-4 in the SBC.

Matt Maloney had two hits for Huron (8-2, 5-1 SBC).

Clyde hosts Margaretta on Friday.

### Gibsonburg 5, Eastwood 4

**GIBSONBURG** — Steve Fought's two-run double was the big hit during a four-run fourth inning as the Golden Bears held on for a Suburban Lakes League victory.

See **GREENLEY, B2**

## Softball Roundup

# Lance leads Little Giants on winning campaign



ROSS CATCHER Nick Lance is hitting .500 and leads the Little Giants in several offensive categories.

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM  
Sports editor

There was a time when Nick Lance's bat kept him from what he felt was his rightful place behind the plate for Fremont Ross.

Now the Little Giants are anticipating the heights to which Lance's offense can lead them.

Lance, a senior, is batting a team-best .500 (23-for-46) and leads Ross in several offensive categories, including hits (23), doubles (7), on-base percentage (.558) and slugging percentage (.761).

But it took patience and hard work for Lance to go from Josh Lozano's frustrated backup to a senior catcher and captain.

"It all started with my sophomore year," Lance remembered after Tuesday's practice at Joe

## Arrows up next

■ **What:** Division I sectional final — Ashland vs. Ross.

■ **When:** 5 p.m. Thursday.

■ **Where:** Mansfield's Arlin Field.

■ **Cost:** \$5 for adults, \$4 for students.

Lotycz Field. "Mr. (coach Chuck) Lindsey noticed my hitting wasn't too great. He gave me some tapes to look over. I just started picking at my swing and started making corrections."

Although Lance took the instruction to heart, he wasn't exactly the most cooperative bench player for the Ross varsity back then.

Lance was stuck behind Lozano, a three-time All-Great Lakes League catcher who graduated after last season. Lance hit .250 and failed to drive in a run in limited duty during his sophomore campaign.

"He was a very good defensive catcher," Lindsey said of Lance. "Josh was a very good defensive catcher and a better offensive player, so we had to have Josh in the lineup. At an earlier age, Nick was not hitting the ball the way he is now. Nick has worked really hard at making himself a pretty good hitter."

Said Lance, "I really wanted to play behind the plate, and there were some upperclassmen ahead of me who had been on the team

See LANCE, B3

# Lance finally catching on at Ross

## Continued From B1

for a while. I wasn't used to sitting the bench because when I was little I was always playing. It just took some getting used to. I was just really frustrated because I wasn't getting to play. It's just something I had to deal with."

And that's where the hitting videotapes came in. Lindsey used them to salve the wounds created by Lance sitting on the bench.

Lance moved to third base in his junior season and hit .319 and drove in 20 runs in a starting role.

"I just thought he had to have more confidence," Lindsey said. "And if he didn't want to hear it from me, take it from somewhere else. That's one of the things I believe in in coaching. I don't claim to know everything baseball or any sport I coach. But the one

thing I do is I work as hard as anybody about finding out about it and talking to the best people in the country."

Now, with the catching position finally his, Lance has taken the opportunity to showcase his defensive skills. He has committed only one error and has brought along a young Ross pitching staff that has surpassed expectations by posting a 3.67 earned-run average.

"We feel more comfortable throwing what pitches we want because Nick always blocks the ball," Ross ace Adam Garcia said. "He doesn't let anything get past."

Lindsey credits Lance for spurring the Little Giants to the successful season they're enjoying.

Ross is 9-6 and is the Great Lakes League's only unbeaten team at 5-0 heading into important games with Findlay, Oregon Clay and Toledo Whitmer. On

"We feel more comfortable throwing what pitches we want because Nick always blocks the ball. He doesn't let anything get past."

— Adam Garcia,  
Fremont Ross pitcher

Thursday, Ross will meet Ashland in a Division I sectional final at Arlin Field in Mansfield.

"Your senior leadership is so important," Lindsey said. "Everyone thinks everything starts with the pitcher, but I think it's the catcher that runs the team. That individual needs to make sure everybody is where they need to be, know the defense we're in and what pitch we're going to call."

"Nicks a fiery guy. I think he gets everybody else fired up."

Lance said all the Ross players share the credit.

"We're all a pretty close-knit team," he said. "I think we all just want to play for each other. We don't have any enemies on the team. We're more comfortable playing with each other. Last year, a few people just wanted to play by themselves and stand out."

Home Equit

Picture

# Ross bounces back, takes down Findlay

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross baseball team took a devastating blow to its season with Thursday's loss in the sectional tournament.

But the Little Giants didn't stay down for long.

Ross got a home run and a double from Adam Garcia and held on to defeat Findlay 7-5 Friday in an important Great Lakes League game at Joe Lotycz Field.

The Little Giants (10-7, 6-0 GLL) remain alone atop the GLL. Findlay falls to 13-3, 8-2 in the league.

"Coming back from last night, our players were down and so

## Baseball

was I," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "I'm just really proud of the way the kids played."

"Our philosophy was to try to get this one, win the next three and then we can split the final six against tough competition."

Garcia went 2-for-3 with three runs batted in. His homer got the scoring under way in the second, and his two-run double in the fourth handed Ross a 5-1 advantage.

Garcia got out of a jam in the final inning to earn his first save.

Josh Harnish got the victory by going 5 innings and allowing just two earned runs and four hits.

Dash Yost and Mike Davis each had two hits and an RBI for the Little Giants.

Ross is at Lorain Southview on Monday.

St. Joe 15, Lorain Cath. 11

Ross Reineck went 3-for-4 and blasted a home run as St. Joe won a slugfest at Conner Park.

Roman Ruppert and Brett Wilhelm each went 3-for-3 for the Crimson Streaks (5-12). Zack Sanchez and Jimmy Haas had

two hits apiece.

Dan Licursi got the victory by pitching four innings and striking out four.

Lorain Catholic fell to 9-10.

St. Joe hosts North Baltimore on Monday.

Clyde 6, Oak Harbor 2

OAK HARBOR — John Meggitt hit his eighth home run of the year, and James Brown continued piling up pitching victories as the Fliers upended Oak Harbor.

See GIBSONBURG, B3



## Spring Roundup

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# Little Giants rally for another GLL victory

News-Messenger reports

LORAIN — The Fremont Ross baseball team scored twice in the top of the sixth inning Monday to come from behind and beat Lorain Southview 4-3 to stay unbeaten in the Great Lakes League.

Dash Yost's infield single drove in Kyle Hintze with the go-ahead run. A Hintze single had scored Mike Davis with the tying tally earlier in the inning.

The Little Giants improved to 11-7, 7-0 in the GLL. They lead Oregon

Clay by one game in the loss column.

"All I tell the kids is I want to be playing for something at the end of the season," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We seem to play better at the end of the year anyway."

Adam Garcia went the distance to get the victory for Ross. He struck out eight and walked four.

Ross is at Sandusky on Wednesday.

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**See ENDERS, B2**

# Harnish, Davis hurl Ross past Sandusky, 7-2

## Lakota takes SLL softball lead

News-Messenger reports

### Roundup

**SANDUSKY** — Fremont Ross scored three runs in the top of the first inning, and pitchers Josh Harnish and Mike Davis made it stand up as the Little Giants stayed unblemished in the Great Lakes League with a 7-2 victory over Sandusky.

Harnish started and went four innings to pick up his fourth victory in as many decisions. Davis pitched the final three innings for the save. Neither pitcher surrendered an earned run.

"The key was getting on them early and making some good defensive plays at the right time," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "Harnish did a real nice job of keeping them off balance."

Adam Garcia led the Ross offense by going 4-for-4. Aaron Hines went 3-for-4 with three runs batted in. Jered Kingsborough homered.

The Little Giants are 12-7, 8-0 in the GLL. They are at Lorain Admiral King on Friday before a showdown with second-place Oregon Clay on Monday at home.

Frazier went 3-for-4 with a home run and five RBI; Jake Keegan went 3-for-3 with two doubles and three RBI; and Justin Wiedle went 2-for-4 with a double and 4 RBI.

Derick Schneider, who also homered, was the beneficiary of all the offense. He got his first victory of the season, allowing three earned runs and three hits while striking out six.

Steve Woods and Geoff Dartt doubled for Port Clinton (4-21, 1-12 SBC).

The Fliers are at Huron on Friday.

### Lakota 11, Otsego 8

**KANSAS** — The Raiders scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to break a 6-all tie on the way to a Suburban Lakes League triumph.

Greg Thrasher went 2-for-2 with two runs and two RBI for Lakota (11-12, 5-7 SLL). Tim Ray added two hits and two RBI.

Adam Johnson earned the pitching victory. David Rus-

# Giants win, set up GLL showdown

News-Messenger reports

## Roundup

**LORAIN** — The Fremont Ross baseball team is right where it wants to be heading into Monday's Great Lakes League showdown with Oregon Clay.

But the Little Giants had to use pitching ace Adam Garcia more than they wanted to get there.

Garcia filled in for injured hurler Mike Davis on Friday and led Ross to a 5-1 victory over Lorain Admiral King. The win keeps the Little Giants (13-7, 9-0 GLL) perfect in the GLL, a game ahead of second-place Clay.

"It sets a great stage for our program," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We have a big, big week ahead of us. They want to go out and prove they're a good baseball program."

Ross scored all five of its runs in the fifth inning. Kyle Hintze drove in two runs with a single, Nick Lance had a bases-loaded walk and Aaron Hines knocked in two when he reached on an error.

The Admirals fell to 6-14.

John Franks and Hintze each had two hits for the Little Giants, who host Clay at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Joe Lotycz Field. Unbeaten pitcher Josh Harnish will likely throw for the Little Giants.

**Clyde 5, Huron 4**

**HURON** — The Fliers only had six hits to Huron's nine but managed to come out on top.

James Brown (4-0) went the full seven innings for the Fliers. He gave up nine hits, four runs, three walks and had five strikeouts.

Justin Wiedle went 2-for-3 for the Fliers. Fellow teammate, Bill Waugaman, also went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Brown added a home run for the Fliers (14-9, 8-5 SBC).

The Fliers will face Sandusky St. Mary on Monday.

**Oak Harbor 6, Margaretta 2**

**OAK HARBOR** — Jordan Diekman pitched a complete game for a Rocket win.

Diekman gave up two earned runs, four hits, and two walks. He also fired 11 strikeouts. Dan McGory took the loss for the Polar Bears.

Dominick Lochotzki, Diekman, Tracy Gaines, and Jeremy Potridge all doubled for the Rockets. Potridge also homered. Brandon Wadding had two solo home runs for the Polar Bears.

Potridge went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and three RBI's. Lochotzki went 2-for-4 with an RBI. The Rockets

# Clay catches Ross in GLL race

## Phillips stops Giants, creates tie for 1st place

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM  
Sports editor

With every rainout and tournament postponement, the Fremont Ross baseball team watched the toughest opponents on its Great Lakes League schedule pile up at the end of the season.

But the Little Giants took consolation in the cushion they built by compiling a perfect GLL campaign. Meanwhile, the other league titans were knocking each other off.

On Monday, Oregon Clay's Jim Phillips stuck a pin in that cushion.

Phillips scattered eight hits on the mound and scored two runs as the Eagles knocked off Ross 3-0 in a well-played game before about 125 fans at Joe Lotycz Field.

The victory pulls Clay (20-4) into a first-place tie with the Little Giants (13-8) with another game to be played at Oregon. Both teams are 9-1 in the GLL.

Meanwhile, Ross was to visit Findlay today, but it was postponed due to rain. The Little Giants still have a doubleheader with powerful Toledo Whitmer on the schedule.

"The only thing it is is a loss," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "We're still all right. We still control our own destiny. If we beat everybody else, we still win the league. ... The kids are pretty down right now, and they should be. That's why we keep score; we play hard to win. But they've got to come back."

Phillips outdueled Ross junior pitcher Josh Harnish, who held the high-scoring Eagles to a single run through six innings before, giving up two runs in the

seventh.

Harnish, a right-hander who has a side-arm delivery, suffered his first loss in five decisions. He allowed seven hits and struck out five while walking one.

"He's a little unorthodox," Clay coach Karl Knierim said. "He comes from down low, so his pitches break on a different plane. It makes a difference to our hitters. He had us out on our front foot a lot today. He pitched a good game."

Phillips played a key role in each of the Eagles' scoring innings.

He singled with one out in the third inning, moved to third on a single by Nick Branyon and scored when Ross failed to turn a double play on a Justin Thomas grounder.

In the seventh, Josh Johnson opened with an infield single and moved to second on a Tyler Wasserman sacrifice bunt. Ross elected to walk Phillips intentionally and pitch to Branyon, who slammed a run-scoring single to left. Phillips later scored on a fielder's choice.

"We just have to make sure we're focused all the time," Lindsey said. "Every time we have a little lapse, we give up a couple runs."

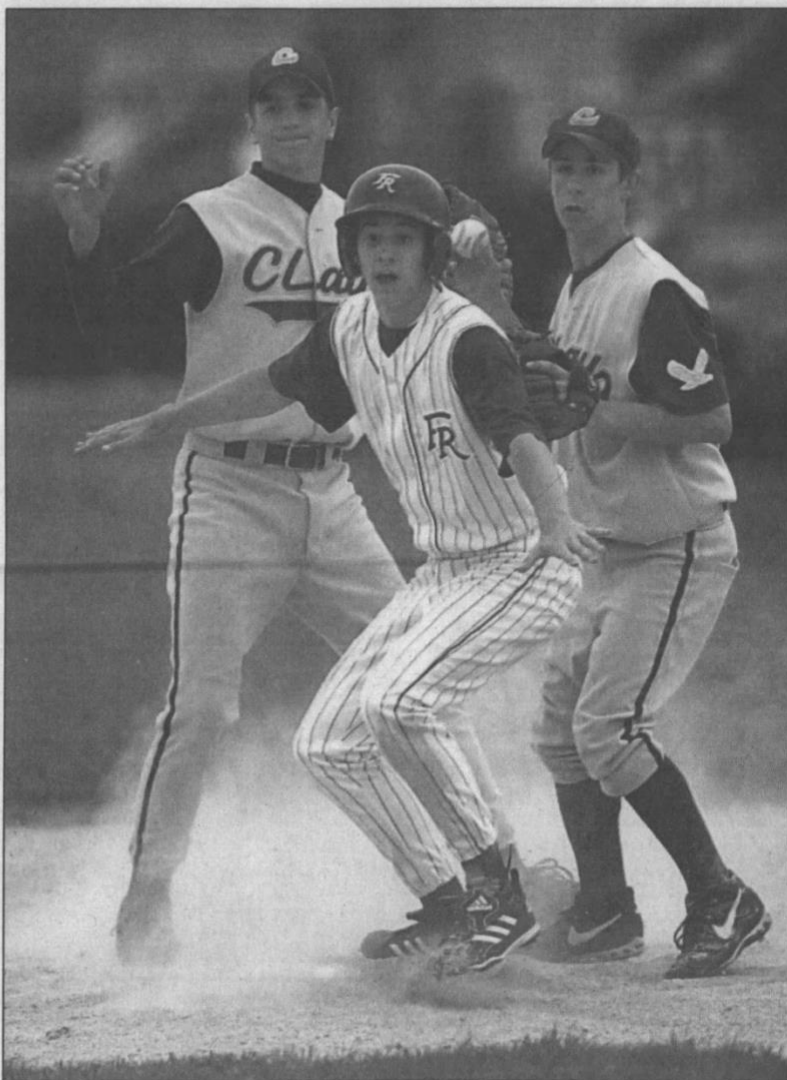
On the mound, Phillips kept the Little Giants scoreless despite surrendering a hit in every inning. He struck out six batters but saved his best pitches for pressure situations.

Ross loaded the bases with two outs in the seventh inning when pinch-hitter Mike Davis was hit by a pitch. Adam Garcia walked and Nick Lance got the last of his three singles.

But Phillips responded by striking out Aaron Hines and Jered Kingsborough to end the game.



LINDSEY



News-Messenger/Ben French

NICK OPRIE of Fremont Ross successfully lobbies the umpire for a safe call after beating Clay second baseman Mark Souliar, right, to the bag after a second-inning grounder. Clay shortstop Tyler Wasserman is on the left.

See EAGLES, B2

# Eagles take down Giants

Continued From B1

Nick Opre doubled to deep left field with two outs in the sixth inning and moved to third on a bad throw from the outfield. But Phillips struck out T.J. Hammer.

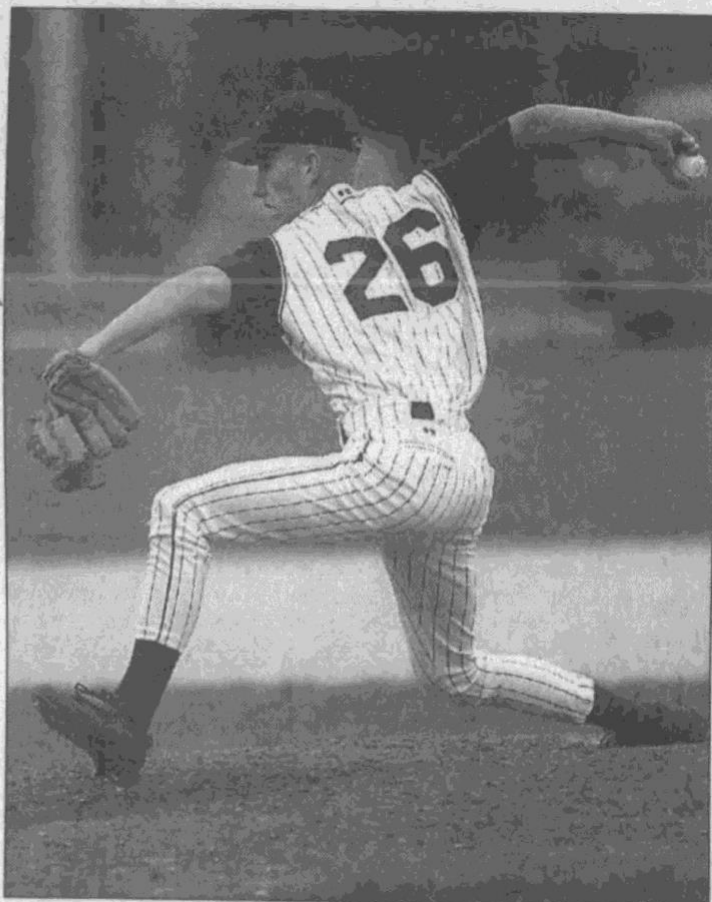
In the first inning, Dash Yost and Garcia got back-to-back singles to open the frame before Phillips fanned the side.

"Jim Phillips threw a real strong game," Knierim said. "They had some baserunners, but he got outs when he needed to and struck some people out in key situations."

The Eagles didn't put any extra emphasis on their first meeting with Ross, even though the game was for first place.

"Every day in this league you don't know what's going to happen," Knierim said.

"There's a lot of parity. ... I don't think you can get too terribly pumped up to play one team as opposed to another one. Every one means the same. It's a league game."



News-Messenger/Ben French

**ROSS PITCHER** Josh Harnish kept Oregon Clay off balance Monday at Joe Lotycz Field.



# Ruling costs Ross in GLL

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — The Fremont Ross baseball team fell out of the top spot in the Great Lakes League on Wednesday due, in part, to the home run that wasn't.

The Little Giants were shut out for the second time in three days by Oregon Clay, 1-0, even though Ross freshman John Franks hit a ball over the fence in the top of the third inning.

Franks stumbled as he rounded first base. He was later called out for missing the bag after he crossed home plate. It would have been Franks' first varsity home run.

The missed opportunity allowed Clay pitcher Justin Thomas to complete a four-hit shutout. The Eagles (21-4, 10-1 GLL) scored an unearned run in the bottom of the third to take over first place in the GLL. The Little Giants are 13-9, 9-2 in the GLL.

"Our kids went up there and played hard. It just didn't happen," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "What a game. What a week."

Ross junior pitcher Adam Garcia held Clay to five hits. He struck out four and walked two.

Ross hosts Toledo Whitmer at 10 a.m. Saturday for a twin bill. The game postponed Tuesday at Findlay will be made up next week.

# Giants fall out of GLL chase

## Ross tennis bows in district

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross baseball team fell out of Great Lakes League contention with a pair of losses to Toledo Whitmer on Saturday at Joe Lotycz Field.

## Roundup

Whitmer claimed 8-2 and 4-3 victories over the Little Giants to send Ross (13-12, 9-4 GLL) to its fourth consecutive league defeat.

Nick Lance went 2-for-4 in the opener for Ross. Josh Harnish suffered the pitching defeat.

In the nightcap, Adam Garcia and Jered Kingsborough had two hits apiece, but the Little Giants came up short. Kingsborough took the defeat on the mound.

Ross will make up a game at Findlay this week to round out the campaign.

# Ross wraps up season with loss

**FINDLAY** — The Fremont Ross baseball team finished up its season with a 6-2 loss to Findlay on Tuesday.

It was the fifth consecutive league defeat for the Little Giants, who finish 13-13 and 9-5 in the Great Lakes League. Ross is third in the final league standings behind the Trojans and first-place Oregon Clay.

Nick Lance went 2-for-2 with a run batted in the lead the Ross offensive attack. Josh Harnish absorbed the defeat.

Richie VanHoose went 4-for-4 and got the victory on the mound for Findlay, which finished 10-4 in the GLL.

"I thought our seniors brought along our younger kids really well," Ross coach Chuck Lindsey said. "Our kids played a lot of baseball this year and saw some good teams. We're on the right path."

## Rec League

### Little League

#### Al Baumann 19

#### Wonderly-Horvath 10

Al Baumann 304 15x — 19 15

Wonderly-Horvath 330 40x — 10 7

WP—Logan Wolf

2B—Kyle Miller (AB), Tony Estrada

(AB), Sean Elswick (AB), Josh Bowen

(WH), Daniel Boyd (WH)

3B—Miller (AB), Estrada (AB), Lo-

gan Wolf (AB), Jon Hart (WH)

Al Baumann hitters: Miller 3-4, 3 runs,

5 RBI; Estrada 2-3, 3 runs, 3 RBI; Estrada

2-4, 1 RBI; Wolf 1-4, 2 runs, 3 RBI;

Cory Wilhelm 2-3, 2 runs, 2 RBI; Elswick

2-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI

Wonderly-Horvath hitters: Bowen 2-3,

1 RBI, 2 runs; Boyd 2-3, 3 RBI, 2 runs;

Hart 1-2, 2 RBI

FFCU 10, Exchange 9

FFCU 000 154 — 10 9

Exchange 700 002 — 9 6

2B—Matt Kowalski (F), Philip

Miller (F), Kyle Rando (C), Matt Hassel-

bach (E)

FFCU hitters: Kowalski 2-4, Miller

1-2, Jon Kankarant 1-2

Exchange hitters: Cory Clayton 3-3,

Mike Berryman 2-4, Rando 1-2

Exchange 9, Swint Reineck 1

Swint Reineck 100 000 — 1 0

Exchange 420 02x — 9 8 2

WP—Jordan Wolf

3B—Jacob Baskley (SR)

HRT—Matt Franks (E)

Exchange hitters: Nick Berryman 3

hits

NCB 9, PMT 4

NCB 531 000 — 9 4

PMT 200 011 — 4 3

WP—Paul Hershey, LP—Miguel

Naveerz

2B—Preston Eibling (NCB), Bryce

Huffman (PMT)

NCB hitters: Paul Hershey 2-4, 2 RBI, 2

runs; Adam Gantiga 2 runs; Eibling 2

runs; Zack Twig 2 RBI

PMT hitters: Bryce Huffman 2-4

Knothole League

KOT 12, Rotary 5

Rotary 103 000 1 — 5 6 3

KOT 440 400 x — 12 6 2

WP—Zack Leming, LP—Tony Tay-

lor

2B—Scott Bartlett (K), Derek Knapp

(K)

3B—Nate Kerr (R)

KOT hitters: Bartlett 2-4, Jim Ryan 2-4,

3 RBI

Rotary hitters: Kerr 3-4, 3 RBI

Softball

Rec League

Wildcats 15, Blue Jays 5

Wildcats 300 012 8 — 15 10

Blue Jays 003 010 1 — 5 9

WP—Tara McAfee, LP—Jaynelee

Glaspy

2B—Erica Franks 2 (BJ), Shannon

Hickey (W)

Blue Jays hitters: Franks 2-3, 2 runs, 2

RBI

Wildcats hitters: Jamie Weller 2-4, 2

runs, 2 RBI; McAfee 3-5, 3 RBI

Awards

High School

All-GLL Teams

Baseball

League Overall

W L W L

Clay 13 1 24 4

Findlay 10 4 16 6

Whitmer 9 5 21 9

Ross 9 5 13 12

Lorain Southview 5 9 14 14

Sandusky 4 10 10 16

Fostoria 3 11 12 14

Admiral King 3 11 6 17

Player of the Year: Jim Phillips, Clay

Co-Coaches of the Year: Karl Kniaren,

Clay

## First Team All-GLL

Name School Grade

Emily Ochs Clay 12

Becky Gehring Whitmer 12

Monica Gerasse Admiral King 10

Shannon McDougall Clay 12

Tracy Lee Fostoria 12

Jennifer Mielke Ross 12

Melissa Bowe Clay 10

Tiffany Garcia Ross 12

Angelique Santiago Lorain S View 12

Katie Brokamp Findlay 12

Eva Burnett Fostoria 11

Nazza Knowles Lorain S View 12

Second Team: Jessica Russell, Admir-

al King; Ashley Zungo, Ross; Michelle

Graham, Whitmer; Jolene Garro, Whit-

mer; Ashley Seybold, Whitmer; Jessica

St. John, Clay; Emily Boler, Ross; Kath-

rina Parker, Sandusky; Heather Harmon,

Fostoria; Stacy Goubling, Whitmer; Kri-

sty Gabel, Findlay; Tiffany Gudeus, Clay;

Kira Wopysla, Ross

Honorable Mention: Dedford, Heather

Salvo, Madory Donaldson, Clay; Jenni

Sommers; Shelly Andrzejewski, Whitney

Shelhammer, Findlay; Katie Nemyer,

Fostoria; Ashley Connel, Brittany Snyder,

Ross; Amy Reiter, Sandusky; Katie

Hombberger, Donna Theissen, Donna Web-

ster, Southview; Jessica Tomasz, Whit-

mer; Krysten Moore; Karl Boekbrader

Tennis

Record Points

Findlay 7-0 35

Ross 6-1 30

Admiral King 5-2 23.5

Southview 3-4 19.5

Clay 4-3 17.5

Whitmer 1-6 8

Sandusky 1-6 5

Fostoria 1-6 2

First Team

First Singles: Nick Catalano, Findlay

Second Singles: Ian Sparkman, Find-

lay

Third Singles: Matt Culver, Findlay

First Doubles: Ben Hannah-Doug John-

son, Findlay

Second Doubles: Neil Acharya-Adam

Shingler, Findlay

Second Team

First Singles: Ryan McCartney, Lorain

Admiral King

Second Singles: Paul Eckert, Ross

Third Singles: David Albrechts, Ross

First Doubles: Matt Taylor-Craig Scha-

bel, Clay

Second Doubles: Brad Vogelbacher-Al-

Abou-Ab, Clay

Tennis

French Open

Tuesday's Results

Men

Singles

Quarterfinals

Gustavo Kuerten (1), Brazil, def. Yevgeny

Katsenkov (7), Russia, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4

Juan Carlos Ferrero (4), Spain, def. Lley-

ton Hewitt (5), Australia, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1

Doubles

Quarterfinals

Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes, In-

dia, def. Tomas Ciolek and Leo Friedl,

Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4

Michael Hill, Australia, and Jeff Tarango

(11), United States, def. Jonas Bjorkman,

Sweden, and Todd Woodbridge (1), Australia,

6-4, 3-6, 6-1

Women

Singles

Quarterfinals

Justine Henin (14), Belgium, def. Lina

Krasnoroutskaya, Russia, 6-1, 6-2

Martina Hingis (1), Switzerland, def.

Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-1, 6-4

Jennifer Capriati (4), United States, def.

Serena Williams (5), United States, 6-2, 5-7,

6-2

Kim Clijsters (12), Belgium, def. Petra

Mandula, Hungary, 6-1, 6-3

## Basketball

### NBA Finals

#### (Best-of-7)

#### Today's Game

Philadelphia at Los Angeles Lakers, 9

p.m.

#### Friday's Game

Philadelphia at Los Angeles Lakers, 9

p.m.

#### Sunday's Game

Los Angeles Lakers at Philadelphia,

7:30 p.m.

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Miami 2 0 1.000 —

Washington 2 1 .667 1

Orlando 1 1 .500 1

Cleveland 1 2 .333 1 1/2

New York 1 2 .333 1 1/2

Charlotte 0 2 .000 2

Detroit 0 2 .000 2

Indiana 0 4 .000 3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Los Angeles 4 0 1.000 —

Houston 3 1 .750 1

Portland 2 1 .667 1

Sacramento 2 1 .667 1 1/2

Seattle 2 1 .667 1 1/2

Minnesota 1 1 .500 2

Phoenix 2 3 .400 2 1/2

Utah 2 3 .400 2 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Miami 63, Indiana 61

Washington 75, Sacramento 72

Orlando 92, Detroit 71

Houston 72, Utah 68

Phoenix 76, Charlotte 69

Los Angeles 84, Cleveland 50

Today's Games

No games scheduled

Thursday's Games

New York at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Orlando at Utah, 9 p.m.

Miami at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Charlotte at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

## Hockey

### NHL

#### Stanley Cup Finals

#### (Best-of-7)

#### Thursday's Game

Colorado at New Jersey, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Game

New Jersey at Colorado, 8 p.m., if nec-

essary