

Ross opens today

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Two veterans will lead Ross as the Little Giants open the 1985 high school baseball season today at Bellevue.

Chris Simmons and Mark Miesle, both two-year lettermen, are the veterans that first-year Coach Dan Fought will form his team around.

Simmons will open at first base while Miesle will be at shortstop.

"We have a good attitude," Fought said about his first team, "but I would like to see more aggressiveness. I think the kids are too laid back when thinking about baseball.

"I want them to be on the attack (mentally)," Fought explained. "We have to go after people.

"I feel that we are inexperienced but I feel that we should improve as we get into the season."

With Simmons and Miesle, both seniors, in the lineup, Fought will go with senior Jim Kline at catcher, Mike Shoemaker at third and Scott Weber at second, both are juniors.

In the outfield, Brett Logan will be in left and John White in right. Lee Sanchez will anchor the outfield in center. Sanchez is a senior while the other two are juniors.

Kenny Henry, a senior, will open on the mound for the Little Giants in the season opener.

A trio of juniors — Alan Humbarger, Logan and Bill Taylor — are also in Fought's pitching plans.

Senior Tracy Turner is one of the infield utility men Fought will be using. He will play at any of the infield slots. The most versatile player, Fought says, is sophomore Mike Hrynciw.

"He will play in the outfield as well as the infield and he can catch," Fought said. "Plus he may be used as the designated hitter."

Fought, a graduate of Findlay College just last spring, says he got the head coaching job quicker than he expected but he feels no pressure to work any miracles with the Ross program.

"The only pressure I will have will come from within myself," he said.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

BRETT LOGAN of Ross slides safely across home plate during first-inning action at Bellevue Tuesday afternoon. Logan's run

turned out to be the only one the Little Giants would score in the entire game, which was the season opener for both ballclubs.

Little Giants nipped in opener; Old Fort gets by Calvert 11-10

News-Messenger Reports

A double play cut short a last-inning rally by Ross as Bellevue handed the Little Giants a 2-1 setback in the high school baseball opener for both schools Tuesday at the home of the Redmen.

The Little Giants stranded nine runners, including runners at second and third in the fifth and the bases loaded in the sixth, without scoring. In the last inning, Ross had runners at second and third with one out and clean-up hitter Chris Simmons at the plate.

Simmons hit a popup to short centerfield which Bellevue shortstop Scott Collins caught while backpeddling. Collins recovered to fire a one-hop strike to the Bellevue catcher who tagged out Ross runner Brett Logan attempting to score from third. That play ended the game and ruined first-year Coach Dan Fought's debut as boss of the Little Giants.

In other games around the area, Old Fort defeated Calvert 11-10, Genoa routed Lakota 16-2 and Norwalk edged Port Clinton 8-7.

Ross had taken a 1-0 lead in the first. Logan drew a leadoff walk, stole second, moved up to third on Simmons' long fly to left and scored on a passed ball.

Bellevue tied the game in the third on a walk to Steve Falter, a sacrifice by Brian Schubert and Chris Missler's RBI single. In the fifth, the Redmen scored the winning run on a walk to Mike Strayer, Mark Hansard's single, a sacrifice by Randy Drennen and Falter's sacrifice fly.

Ken Henry took the pitching loss for Ross while Collins picked up the win after pitching the first five innings.

Ross will host Perrysburg today at 4 at Anderson Field. Thursday, the Little Giants are to host Port Clinton at 4:15 p.m.

Old Fort.....11
Calvert.....10

The Stockaders blew a one-run lead in the top of the seventh but came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning to nip the Senecas in Old Fort.

Leading 9-8 after six innings, Old Fort surrendered a two-run homer to Calvert's Steve Peer in the top of the seventh to fall behind 10-9.

But the Stockaders redeemed themselves in the bottom of the frame. Dan Fry led off by getting on base on an error. After stealing second base, Fry scored the tying run when Calvert came up with a wild throw on Tim Omlor's bunt. Omlor moved to second base on the error, went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Sam Dandar and scored the game-winner on a wild pitch.

Omlor led the Stoackers' eight-hit attack with a double and a single and three RBIs. Fry was the winning pitcher.

Genoa.....16
Lakota.....2

The Comets erupted for 11 runs in the

third inning to bury the Raiders in a Suburban Lakes League opener at Genoa.

Genoa took a quick 1-0 lead in the first inning and then broke the game wide open with seven hits, four walks and two Lakota errors in the third frame.

The winners ended up with 15 hits, led by Eric Hanely with three and Scott Smith, Mark Nero, Mark Benadum, Tom Spasoff and Steve Cousino with two each. Cousino had a home run and four RBIs while Smith and Nero added to RBIs each.

Benadum worked the first four innings, allowing three hits while fanning 11, to gain the victory.

Chad Hollinger led Lakota with three hits.

Norwalk.....8
Port Clinton.....7

Norwalk took advantage of six Port Clinton errors in the first two innings to score all of its runs. The Truckers opened with a pair of first-inning runs and followed that up with six in the second.

Port Clinton countered with five in the fifth and two in the sixth.

Ken Moore and Woody Skiver doubled for Norwalk. Skiver had a two-run double in the second.

Port Clinton scored on five walks and hits by Jerry Mortus and Joe Ruiz in the fourth and picked up its final runs on a pair of walks and two errors in the sixth.

The game was the season opener for both teams.

Turner-Sanchez combination leads Ross to win in 7th inning

News-Messenger Reports

Tracy Turner scored all the way from first base on Lee Sanchez's bunt in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Ross Little Giants an 8-7 victory over Port Clinton at Anderson Field Thursday afternoon.

After Port Clinton tied the score 7-7 with a run in the top of the seventh, Turner came to bat for Ross in the bottom of the frame and walked.

Sanchez, attempting to just move his teammate to second base, got more than he expected when Port Clinton threw his perfect bunt past the first baseman and into right field, allowing Turner to race home with the winning run.

In other area baseball action Thursday, Woodmore trimmed Springfield 8-6, Lakota downed New Riegel 8-2, Toledo Waite beat Genoa 10-8, Cardinal Stritch topped Oak Harbor 11-3, and Arlington blanked Bettsville 7-0.

Ross fell behind 5-0 after 2½ innings in its game with Port Clinton. But the Little Giants got three runs back in the third on four walks, one error, one wild pitch and a sacrifice by Jim Kline.

The Giants then cut it to 5-4 in the fourth and took the lead 7-5 with three more runs in the fifth, two coming home on a double by Mike Hrynciw.

After PC scored once in the sixth and once in the seventh, Turner and Sanchez came up with their winning combination.

Kline and John White led Ross with two hits each and Alan Humbarger went all the way on the mound to gain the victory, the Little Giants' first in two games.

Port Clinton falls to 0-3.

an insurance run on a groundout by Brian DeVore.

Cecil was the key man for the winners with two hits and three RBIs, and he also went the distance on the mound, fanning seven batters. Rich McCarthy also had two hits for Woodmore, now 1-1.

Lakota8

New Riegel.....2

The Raiders got sterling performances from Kurt Brewer and Kirk Mintz to down the Blue Jackets in Kansas.

Brewer went four for four, including three doubles, and drove in two runs to lead Lakota's eight-hit attack.

Mintz, meanwhile, pitched five innings of hitless, scoreless ball before tiring and giving way to reliever Nester Hernandez.

Chris Chalfin added two hits for the winners, now 1-1.

Toledo Waite10

Genoa.....8

The Indians scored three runs in the top of the seventh inning to down the Comets in Genoa.

Genoa had taken an 8-7 lead in the bottom of the sixth on a three-run homer by Steve Cousino. But the Comets wasted that clutch effort in the seventh when Waite used two hits, two walks and a Genoa error to regain the lead.

The Comets failed to come back in the bottom of the seventh

to drop their first game in two tries. Waite is 2-0.

Cardinal Stritch11

Oak Harbor3

The Cardinals banged out 14 hits and played errorless defense to down the rockets in Oak Harbor.

Stritch had things its way from the outset, scoring four runs in the first inning and two in the second to take a 6-0 lead.

Jerry Witt had a triple to lead the Rockets' seven-hit attack.

Arlington.....7

Bettsville.....0

The Red Devils turned the tables on the Bobcats in capturing the victory at Arlington.

Last Wednesday, Bettsville had defeated Arlington by the same 7-0 score. In that contest, Paul Harrison and Frank Franco combined to pitch a no-hitter for the Bobcats.

Arlington didn't throw a no-hitter yesterday, but the Devils did hold Bettsville to three hits behind the combined efforts of Steve Rettig, Kevin Kliesch and Kevin Sheets. They fanned 11 batters.

Meanwhile, for Bettsville, pitcher Mike Wise allowed just five hits, but his defense committed six errors to waste that effort.

Harrison had two hits for the Bobcats, now 1-1.

Lady Giants scoot past Bowling Green 78-50

News-Messenger Reports

They played a wild one in Kansas Thursday afternoon, with the hometown Lakota Raiders pulling out a 15-14 victory over the Old Fort Stockaders in eight innings.

Lakota scored five runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to offset Old Fort's four runs in the top of the frame.

In other area baseball action yesterday, Maumee downed Ross 8-5, Gibsonburg edged St. Joe 3-2, Bettsville nipped Carey 2-1, Margaretta topped Norwalk 5-2, New Riegel trimmed Clyde 3-1, Toledo Woodward drilled Woodmore 14-1, Toledo St. Francis hammered Genoa 14-3, and Tiffin Columbian bombed Port Clinton 19-7.

At Kansas, Old Fort and Lakota exchanged leads several times. Old Fort led 2-0 early before Lakota scored four runs in each of the second and third innings to go ahead 8-2.

Old Fort came back with eight runs over the next three innings to regain the lead 10-8 before Lakota scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game 10-10.

Neither team scored in the seventh, so it went into extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Old Fort came up with four runs to take what seemed like an insurmountable 14-10 lead.

But the Raiders did not quit. Using three walks, two hit batsmen, a fielder's choice and an Old Fort error, the Raiders scored three runs to cut it to 14-13.

Then, with two outs and two men on, Jeff Bickford, who went four for six on the day, lashed a single to score both runners with the tying and winning runs.

Maumee 8, Ross 5

A five-run fifth inning broke open a close game to help the Panthers past the Little Giants in Maumee.

Ross trailed by just one run, 3-2, when Maumee erupted for its big inning. The Panthers used three hits, three Ross errors, one walk and a balk to score their five runs and take an 8-2 lead.

The Little Giants came back with three

runs in the top of the sixth inning to cut it to 8-5, but that's the way it ended.

Ross outhit Maumee 7-6 led by Tracy Turner with two singles and Mark Miesle with a two-run homer to centerfield in the second inning. Miesle finished with three RBIs.

Gibsonburg 3, St. Joe 2

The Golden Bears notched their second win without a loss by hanging on to edge the Streaks in Gibsonburg.

St. Joe opened the scoring on the first pitch of the game when Tony Lupica drilled a home run to rightfield. But Gibsonburg came back to tie it 1-1 in the bottom of the first when Kevin Diekman's groundout drove in Craig Diekman.

The Bears went ahead 2-1 in the fourth frame when Tom Angelone walked, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and scored on a wild pitch.

In the next inning, Gibsonburg scored the eventual winning run when Rick Villarreal came home on a two-out single by Casey Reidling.

St. Joe scored once in the top of the seventh, but that's as close as the Streaks could get. They drop to 1-1. Lupica and Kevin Yeckley had two hits apiece for St. Joe.

Bettsville 2, Carey 1

Paul Harrison was the man of the day as the Bobcats edged the Blue Devils in Bettsville.

Harrison was a force on the mound, allowing just one hit while striking out 14 and walking just two. The only hit he allowed was an infield single in the sixth inning when Carey scored its lone run on a Bettsville error.

Offensively, Harrison figured in both Bettsville runs. In the first inning, his groundout scored Tony Cruz with the Bobcats' first run, and in the sixth inning, he reached first on an error, went all the way to third on a wild pickoff attempt and scored the eventual game-winner on Brett Lee's one-out single.

News-Messenger Reports

The Ross, St. Joe and Gibsonburg baseball teams pulled their vacuums out and swept away their respective opponents in three doubleheaders Saturday afternoon.

Ross traveled to Lorain Senior and clobbered the Steelmen 6-1 and 9-1; St. Joe visited Norwalk St. Paul and eked out a pair over the Flyers 7-6 in eight innings and 6-5; and Gibsonburg hosted Ottawa Hills and tamed the Green Bears 7-4 and 12-7.

Ross6-9

Lorain Senior1-1

Complete-game pitching performances by Alan Humbarger and Ken Henry highlighted the Little Giants' sweep of the Steelmen.

Humbarger scattered four hits, struck out six and didn't walk a batter in leading Ross to the first-game victory.

Then, Henry backed that up with a sterling one-hit, 10-strikeout, one-walk performance in the nightcap. The only hit and only walk Henry allowed came in the first inning and led to Lorain's lone run. After that, just one Lorain batter reached base, and that was by an error.

"He really had his knuckleball working," Ross Coach Dan Fought said about Henry. "And Humbarger really pitched well too."

Ross scored the only two runs it needed in the first game in the

fourth inning. The Little Giants didn't have any hits in that inning, but they took advantage of two walks and three Lorain errors.

They made it 6-0 with four more runs in the sixth inning. Mike Hrynciw and Mike Shoemaker each had doubles, Mark Miesle got on base via a throwing error which led to two runs and Tracy Turner had a sacrifice fly.

In the second game, the Little Giants pounded out 15 hits, led by John Lozano's three-for-three performance. Adding two hits each for Ross were Hrynciw, Miesle, Scott Weber and John White. Hrynciw had two RBIs.

Ross is now 3-2, Lorain 0-4.

St. Joe7-6

St. Paul6-5

The Crimson Streaks lived dangerously, but they were able to survive in both games of the twinbill against the Flyers.

In the opener, which went eight innings, St. Paul came back from a 6-2 deficit to tie it 6-6 with four runs in the bottom of the sixth. After neither team scored in the seventh, it went into the extra frame.

Tim Light led off the St. Joe eighth with a single and, after a strikeout, Dennis Hossler added another single to move pinch-runner Steve Gabel to third. Tim Lonsway then drove in Gabel with the eventual game-winner with a bloop single to rightfield.

Kevin Yeckley, who turned in an excellent pitching performance in relief of Jim

s in 9th; Harding tops Ross 7-6

Hernandez hurled the final five innings, striking out six, walking one and allowing only two hits.

Chris Chalfin doubled for the Raiders.

Marlon Harding 7, Ross 6

Ron Maugans scored on Ken Henry's wild pitch in the bottom of the final inning to give Harding the win over Ross, 3-3.

Henry had taken over for starting Ross pitcher Alan Humbarger in Harding's six-run third inning. That rally had wiped out a 4-0 Ross lead.

In the Harding seventh, Maugans walked leading off the inning. Reds Foreman, Harding's winning pitcher, and Rick Gherman singled to load the bases. Henry, on an 0-2 count, uncorked the wild pitch to allow Maugans to score.

Foreman had hit a grand slam home run in the Harding sixth to highlight that inning.

Jim Kline and Tracy Turner had three hits apiece and John White two for Ross. Mike

Shoemaker doubled fore the Little Giants.

Elmwood 5, Woodmore 2

Terry Adkins and Tino Miranda homered to lead the Royals' win.

Miranda's homer was a two-run shot in Elmwood- three-run first inning.

Todd Bringman doubled for Woodmore's only extra base hit.

Oak Harbor 1, Genoa 0

Oak Harbor scored the game's only run in the fourth. Miek Gezo led singled and advanced to third on a pair of wild pitches by Genoa pitcher Bil Hageman. Rick Ferguson's single scored Gezo.

Kyle Schiller was the winning pitcher, giving up four hits.

Tom Spasoff doubled for Genoa while Jerry Witt and Dave Rife doubles for Oak Harbor.

Clyde 4, Calvert 3

Clyde scored four times in the bottom of the fifth to wipe out a 3-0 Calvert lead.

A walk and a Alt followed by V two-run double Clyde's first r pitcher Ken Davi a double for the t groundout by Ste the game-winning plate.

Margaretta 7, Per

Margaretta sco runs in the fir plating five in the

Bob Guy and J two-runs doubles inning to pace the win.

Shawr willif winning pitcher against no losses.

Port Clinton 7, Hu

Port Clintonsco in the second ar times in the third

Randi Lorens Rakosky had two- the second in Redskins.

Hanely and Bill Hagemann, who had two hits apiece. Hanely also drove in three runs.

Woodmore was led by Mike Giesler and Dean Epling with two hits each. Epling drove in a pair of runs.

Columbian.....13

Ross.....6

The Little Giants got the early jump on the Tornadoes, but they were unable to hang on while dropping the non-conference clash in Tiffin.

Mike Hrynciw gave Ross a 3-0 lead with a three-run home run over the 350-foot sign in centerfield in the first inning, but Columbian quickly tied it up 3-3 in the bottom of the first on a three-run homer of its own, a 380-foot blast over the right-centerfield fence by Tom Anway.

In the top of the second inning, Ross scored one run to go back up 4-3. But Columbian answered with four runs in the bottom of the second and three more in the third to take the lead for good 10-4.

Anway was the big man all the

way for the Tornadoes, cracking three hits and driving in six runs. He also was the winning pitcher for Columbian, now 7-2.

For Ross, now 3-4, John Lozano collected three hits and drove in a pair of runs. Bill Taylor suffered the loss for the Little Giants.

St. Mary's4

St. Joe.....2

The Panthers took advantage of nine St. Joe errors to come from behind and beat the Streaks in the Sandusky Bay Conference opener for both clubs at Anderson Field.

St. Joe moved out to a 2-0 lead after two innings on two errors, a balk, a single by Steve Widman and an RBI single by Tony Lupica.

But the Streaks were unable to hold that lead as St. Mary's used three St. Joe errors, two walks and just one hit to score three runs in the fourth inning to take the lead for good. The Panthers added an insurance run in the fifth for the final margin.

Both teams got complete-game performances out of their

Ross.....13

Old Fort2

Behind the power hitting of Mike Hrynciw and Mark Miesle and some errant pitching and fielding by Old Fort, the Little Giants disposed of the Stockaders early in Old Fort.

The first three Ross batters drew walks to load the bases in the first inning, setting the table for Hrynciw, who blasted a grand slam for his fourth home run of the season.

After another walk to the fifth Ross batter, Miesle drilled his second home run of the season for a quick 6-0 Little Giant lead.

Old Fort came back with a run in the bottom of the first, but the Little Giants made it 8-1 in the top of the second when a Ross batter reached base on an error and Miesle cracked his second home run of the game and third of the year.

Staked with that lead, Ross pitcher John Stierwalt went the distance, fanning six and walking two, to notch the victory. One of the six hits he surrendered was a home run by Matt Hiestand.

Both teams are now 4-4.

Mike Giesler added three hits and Todd Bringman, Dean Epling and Rich McCarthy added two each.

In the semifinal game, Epling and Bringman were the main men, each with two hits and three RBIs. Jack Cecil chipped in a pair of hits.

Meanwhile, pitching was also a strong point in both games for Woodmore.

Tracy Bodi threw just 61 pitches in going the distance against Oak Harbor and Cecil worked four innings of solid relief of Schmeltz to earn the victory over Genoa.

In other action Saturday, Ross split a doubleheader with Bowling Green. BG won the first game 9-6 and Ross won the nightcap 9-8.

Bowling Green9-8

Ross6-9

The Little Giants scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to edge the Bobcats 9-8 in the nightcap and gain a split of their twinbill at Anderson Field.

Jim Kline got the big rally going for Ross with a one-out single. After Mark Miesle walked, Chris Simmons tied the game at 8-8 with a three-run home run to centerfield.

The Little Giants finished things off when Tracy Turner walked, Lee Sanchez was hit by a pitch and John Lozano belted a

single to drive in Turner with the game-winning run.

Sanchez, who relieved Ken Henry in the sixth inning, captured the victory.

In the opener, BG's home-run power was too much for Ross. Rob Chambers hit two round-trippers, a three-run shot in the second inning and a solo blast in the sixth, and Rich Tracy added another solo homer in the sixth.

Mike Hrynciw had a home run for Ross, but it wasn't enough to keep the Little Giants from going down to defeat.

The doubleheader split keeps Ross's record even at 5-5. The Giants will host Clyde Tuesday at Anderson Field.

Lady Giants win 1, lose 2

News-Messenger Reports

PERRYSBURG — Ross was 1-2 in the Perrysburg Softball Tournament over the weekend.

The single Ross win was a 16-1, six-inning decision over Springfield Local. In the other games, Ross was defeated by Archbold 15-1 and Richmond (Mich.) 12-2.

Kim Schutt tossed a four-hitter in the Ross win. Aimee LeJeune had four hits in five at bats to lead the Lady Giants' 14-hit

Kline powers Little Giants past Fliers

News-Messenger Reports

Jim Kline went three for three, including a grand slam and six RBI, to lead the Ross Little Giants past the Clyde Fliers 15-2 in five innings at Anderson Field Tuesday.

Kline's potent performance led a 14-hit assault by the Little Giants. Lee Sanchez, John White and Mark Miesle each chipped in two hits.

Larry Sanchez was the winning pitcher for Ross, now 6-5.

Clyde, which dropped to 2-5, got two hits from Gary Davenport and a home run from Wendell Baker.

In other area action, Lakota edged Oak Harbor 6-5, Genoa defeated Gibsonburg 8-4, Otsego beat Woodmore 10-8 in eight innings, Margaretta trimmed Sandusky 8-7, and Hopewell-Loudon nipped Bettsville 6-4.

Lakota 6, Oak Harbor 5

The Raiders moved their overall record to 8-1 and their Suburban Lakes League mark to 3-1 with the narrow win in Oak Harbor.

Lakota scored the eventual game-winning run in the sixth inning when Jeff Bickford's groundball scored Mike Miller to make it 6-2.

Oak Harbor tallied once in the bottom of the sixth and twice in the bottom of the seventh before winning pitcher Kirk Mintz fanned the last two batters to end the game. Mintz is now 5-1.

Miller had a pair of doubles and Bryan Lippert added two singles to lead Lakota. Mike Gezo had two doubles and Jerry Witt had a home run to pace Oak Harbor.

Genoa 8, Gibsonburg 4

The Comets scored five times in the top of the seventh inning to stun the Golden Bears in Gibsonburg.

Genoa had the early advantage 3-0 before Gibsonburg scored two runs in both the fifth and sixth innings to take a 4-3 lead.

But the Comets used singles by Brooks Baird, Scott Smith, Eric Hanely and Mark Benadum and a two-run homer by Eric Teel to score five runs, all with two outs, in the last inning.

Smith finished with three hits and Hanely and Benadum two each to lead Genoa.

Allen Morelock had a two-run homer for Gibsonburg, now 7-3, 3-3.

Otsego 10, Woodmore 8

The Knights scored two runs in the top of

the eighth inning to cap their comeback against the Wildcats in Woodville.

Otsego trailed 8-5 after a six-run fourth inning by Woodmore. But the Knights scored two runs in the fifth and one run in the sixth to tie the game 8-8.

After neither team scored in the seventh, Otsego used a walk, a double by Kurt Vollmar and an error in the Woodmore outfield to score two runs in the top of the eighth.

Woodmore, 5-8, 2-4, got three hits from Mike Giesler and two each from Dean Epling and Rich Tracy.

Margaretta 8, Sandusky 7

The Polar Bears used a three-run fifth inning to edge the Blue Streaks in Castalia.

Trailing 6-5 after Sandusky scored four runs in the top of the fifth, Margaretta came back to take an 8-6 lead on an RBI double by Scott Sessler, a sacrifice fly by Mark Tyler and an error by Sandusky.

Hopewell-Loudon 6, Bettsville 4

The Bobcats suffered their second straight late-inning loss when the Chieftains got a two-out, three-run homer by Randy Feathers in the seventh inning at Bettsville.

Whitmer 6, Ross 3

The Panthers broke a 3-3 tie with three runs in the bottom of the sixth to slip past the Little Giants in Toledo.

Whitmer scored its big runs in the sixth with the help of two Ross errors and one walk. The Panthers had just one hit in the inning.

Ross outhit Whitmer 10-7, led by Mark Miesle's three hits and John White's two. The Little Giants left 12 runners on base.

Ross is now 6-6, Whitmer 9-4.

Ross knocks off St. Francis 18-8

News-Messenger Reports

The Ross Little Giants upset previously undefeated Toledo St. Francis 18-8 in the Clay Baseball Tournament at Oregon Thursday.

The Little Giants collected 14 hits and used a nine-run third inning to key the big victory. They will now play the host Clay team in the tournament finals Wednesday, May 8, in Oregon at a time to be determined.

In other area baseball action yesterday, Port Clinton outdueled Oak Harbor 1-0 in 10 innings, Lakota blasted Carey 16-0, Woodmore outlasted Old Fort 16-13, Gibsonburg downed Bettsville 22-7, and Toledo Start edged Genoa 3-1.

At the Clay tourney, Ross fell behind 5-0 before scoring three runs in the second inning and nine runs in the third to take a commanding 12-6 lead.

Mark Miesle provided the big hit of the third inning with a grand slam home run over the centerfield fence.

Overall, the Little Giants got four hits and five RBI from Mike Hrynciw, three hits and two RBI from Jim Kline, two hits and two RBI from Scott Webber and two hits from Lee Sanchez.

Ross is now 7-6 while St. Francis has lost for the first time in 12 games.

Port Clinton 1, Oak Harbor 0

Jim Rakosky beat Jerry Witt in a classic

pitchers duel over 10 innings in Oak Harbor.

Both pitchers went the distance. Rakosky allowed just four hits, struck out 14 and walked three. Witt allowed nine hits, fanned seven and walked seven.

And it was a walk that led to Witt's undoing in the top of the 10th. After giving up a single to Rakosky, a double to Steve Gutkoski and an intentional pass to Jim Wadzinski to load the bases, Witt threw a wild pitch on a 3-2 count to Mike Williamson to walk in PC's lone run with two out.

Gutkoski finished with two doubles to lead PC, now 4-7. Oak Harbor is 5-10.

Lakota 16, Carey 0

Nestor Hernandez and Chris Chalfin combined on a two-hitter to lead the Raiders past the Blue Devils in Carey.

Hernandez worked the first six innings to gain the victory. He allowed just one hit while striking out 12 and walking six. Chalfin then struck out the side in the seventh.

Lakota banged out 11 hits, led by Jeff Bickford with three and Kirk Mintz and Chad Hollinger with two each. Mintz and Mike Miller each drove in four runs while Holling drove in three and Tim Krupp drove in one. Miller and Hollinger homered for the Raiders, now 9-1.

Woodmore 16, Old Fort 13

The Wildcats opened up a 13-2 lead after

three innings and then hung on to trim the Stockaders in Woodville.

Steve Schmeltz led Woodmore's 13-hit attack with three while Mike Giesler, Todd Bringman, Jack Cecil and John Suydam chipped in two each. Bringman and Suydam each had three RBI for the Wildcats, now 6-8.

Old Fort, now 6-5, was paced by Dave Shelton with three hits and Mark Miller with two.

Gibsonburg 22, Bettsville 7

Kevin Diekman had five hits, including three doubles, and four RBI to lead the Golden Bears past the Bobcats in Bettsville.

Diekman's output led a 22-hit display by Gibsonburg. His brother Criag Diekman and teammates Dave Peck and Ted Rodriguez added three hits apiece. One of Rodriguez's hits was a two-run homer. Norm Van Ness added two hits for the Bears, now 8-3.

Dan Kissell led Bettsville, 3-7, with three hits and Frank Franco and Bill Nye added two each.

Start 3, Genoa 1

Start's Matt Slowinski held the Comets to just two hits to notch the victory in Toledo.

Slowinski fanned 11 batters and walked three. He outdueled Genoa pitcher Gary Nissen, who permitted four hits, struck out seven and walked five.

Genoa falls to 6-9 on the year.

Sandusky 7, Ross 4

Sandusky runners stole 11 bases to defeat Ross. With the score deadlocked at 4-4 in the bottom of the fifth, Sandusky scored the winning run on a two hits and a pair of stolen bases.

The Blue Streaks added two insurance runs in the sixth on a single, walk, wild pitch and a throwing error that allowed both runners to score.

Ross outhit Sandusky 11-8. Mark Miesle had two singles and a double with Lee Sanchez, Chris Simmons and Tracy Turner getting two hits apiece. Turner drove in two runs.

Key error helps Ross slip past Port Clinton

News-Messenger Reports

The Ross Little Giants used the help of a key Port Clinton error to score a run in the bottom of the seventh inning and edge the Redskins 9-8 in high school baseball action at the Ross High School diamond Thursday.

In other area action, St. Joe trimmed Tiffin Calvert 3-1, Lakota outscored Lake 19-13, Genoa defeated Toledo Woodward 10-6, and Cardinal Stritch nipped Woodmore 5-4.

At Ross, the Little Giants and the Redskins went into the seventh tied 8-8. Port Clinton failed to score in the top of the inning, but Ross didn't in the bottom of the frame.

Scott Weber led off the Ross seventh with a single and Lee Sanchez moved him to second with a sacrifice bunt. After John Stierwall was intentionally

walked, Mark Miesle singled to loaded the bases.

After a strikeout, Chris Simmons hit a routine groundball to the second baseman, but he had trouble handling it and then threw it past the first baseman, allowing Simmons to be safe and Weber to score the winning run.

Both teams finished with 11 hits in the game. Stierwall, Miesle, Weber and Mike Hrynciw led Ross with two each while Mike Williamson, Randi Lorensen, John Gluth and Mike Riddle did the same for Port Clinton.

Ken Henry, who relieved Bill Taylor in the fifth inning, picked up the win for Ross, now 8-8. Port Clinton is 4-10.

St. Joe 3, Tiffin Calvert 1

The Streaks scored three runs in the first inning and Ryan Gabel made them stand up in a Sandusky Bay Conference

victory over the Senecas at Anderson Field.

Tony Lupica started St. Joe's first-inning rally with a walk and was followed by a Kevin Yeckley single. Mark Miller then nailed a double to left-centerfield to score both Lupica and Yeckley.

Ryan Hetrick followed with a single to move Miller to third, and then Steve Gabel hit into a fielder's choice to score Miller.

The Streaks were unable to dent the scoreboard after that, but it didn't matter as Ryan Gabel scattered six hits, struck out six and walked three to gain the victory.

The Streaks are now 8-5 overall and 4-4 in the SBC and will play in the Class A sectional finals today at Old Fort at 4:30 p.m., against Norwalk St. Paul.

Lakota 19, Lake 13

The Raiders banged out 17 hits to outscore the Flyers in Millbury.

Nick Gabel led the way with three hits and three RBI while Brian Lippert, Jeff Bickford, Kurt Brewer and Steve Hovis added two hits each. Bickford, Hovis and Greg Richards had three RBI each and Lippert had two.

Lakota is now 12-2.

Genoa 10, Toledo Woodward 6

A seven-run fourth inning broke open a 3-3 game and keyed the Comets' victory over the Polar Bears in Genoa.

Tom Spasoff doubled and Bill Hagemann, Steve Cousino and Eric Hanely singled during Genoa's big inning. The Comets also took advantage of three errors and three walks in the fourth.

Hanely, Hagemann, Mark Benadum and Scott Smith led Genoa's 10-hit attack with two each. The Comets are now 9-10. Cardinal Stritch 5, Woodmore 4
Woodmore came back from a

4-0 deficit to tie the game in the top of the seventh only to see the Cardinals score once in the bottom of the seventh to notch the victory in Oregon.

The Wildcats began their comeback with three runs in the sixth inning. Todd Bringman had a two-run single and Dean Epling a one-run single.

In the seventh, the 'Cats tied it up 4-4 when pinch-runner Jim Reed scored from third base on a groundout by Tracy Bodi.

But Woodmore's resurgence all went for naught when a Stritch runner scored from second base on a two-out single. A throw by Woodmore leftfielder John Suydam was headed for the plate but took a bad hop over the catcher's head.

Woodmore outhit Stritch 9-8, led by Rich McCarthy with three and Bringman and Suydam with two each. Woodmore is now 7-12.

Ross captures twinbill; Lakota, OF win titles

News-Messenger Reports

Ross swept a doubleheader from Marion Harding Saturday to vault into a tie for the Western Division lead in the Buckeye Conference baseball standing.

Mark Miesle hammered a one-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning to give Ross a 10-9 win in the first game. Scott Weber and Mike Hrynciw had three hits apiece and Tracy Turner and John Lozano drove in two runs apiece in the game for Ross. Jerry Carter of Harding had hit a three-run homer in the top of the inning to put Ross down 9-8.

In the second game, Hrynciw tripled and Chris Simmons and Lozano doubled for the Little Giants in the 9-6 victory. Ross held a 6-1 lead after fourth inning but Harding scored four times in the fifth. Ross added three in the bottom of the inning to build up a cushion.

Hrynciw and Weber had two hits each, Jim Kline and Simmons drove in two runs apiece for Ross in the second game win.

Ross is 10-8 and 2-1 in the Buckeye. Findlay is also 2-1 in the conference race.

Benadum for 4½ innings until the Raiders dented the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth inning on an RBI single by Mike Miller.

Genoa came back to tie the game 1-1 on an RBI double by Eric Teel, but Lakota scored the eventual game-winner in the bottom of the sixth on Brian Lippert's RBI double.

Lakota, now 13-3, will play in the Class AA district at Genoa Monday afternoon against a yet-to-be-determined opponent.

Old Fort 14, Seneca East 13

The Stockaders scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to overtake the Tigers at Old Fort.

Matt Hiestand went three for three with a home run and three RBI, Sam Dandar had two home runs and Dave Shelton had two hits to lead Old Fort.

New Riegel 10, Woodmore 5

New Riegel took advantage of eight Woodmore errors to down the Wildcats for the sectional crown at New Riegel.

The Blue Jackets had just three hits to Woodmore's nine but they didn't commit any errors. A big hit for New Riegel came in the first inning on

Little Giants game away from BC division crown

News-Messenger Reports

Fremont Ross moved within a game of winning the Western Division of the Buckeye Conference high school baseball race Thursday with a 4-2 win over Findlay.

The Little Giants, 12-9, are 3-1 in the conference race while the loss dropped Findlay's record to 2-2. Marion Harding, the third team in the division, has already lost three conference games.

Ross can clinch the title Saturday by winning one game of the twinbill with Findlay at Anderson Field.

In other area games, Jeff Bickford fired a one-hitter to lead the Lakota Raiders past the Clyde Fliers 3-0 at Clyde, Gibsonburg dumped New Riegel 12-7, Genoa beat Fostoria 7-1 and Port Clinton, rolled over Bettsville 19-1.

Ross spotted Findlay a 2-0 lead after two innings before beginning to chip away at that lead. Singles by John Lozano, Scott Weber and Lee Sanchez coupled with an error accounted for Ross's first run in the third.

In the fourth, Mike Hrynciw was hit by a pitch, took third on a fielder's choice, went to third on Jim Kline's single and scored on Tracy Turner's sacrifice fly. Chris Simmons homered over the 390-foot mark in centerfield to give Ross its winning run in the sixth. Sanchez's single, an error and two fielder's choice gave the Little Giants's an insurance run in the seventh.

John Stierwalt was the winning pitcher, hurling a four-hitter, striking out four and not allowing a walk. The Ross sophomore faced only 24 batters, three over the minimum.

Lakota 3, Clyde 0

Bickford, a junior righthander, allowed only a bad-hop single to Clyde's first batter of the game,

John Alt. After that, Bickford fanned six batters, walked one and didn't allow another Flier to get a hit.

Bickford also helped his own cause at the plate by going three for four and driving in the only run he needed with an RBI single in the third inning.

The Raiders added two insurance runs in the sixth frame when Kurt Brewer, Kirk Mintz, Dave Watkins and Brian Lippert hit consecutive singles.

Genoa 7, Fostoria 1

Eric Teel tossed a two-hitter and also drove in two runs to lead the Comets past the Redmen in Fostoria.

Teel, a junior righthander, walked the first batter of the game but then retired the next 15 batters in a row. The Redmen finally got a hit in the sixth inning, but by then they were already behind 7-0.

Gibsonburg 12, New Riegel 7

Gibsonburg survived eight errors to win the game. The Golden Bears, 12-8, scored five times in the first, added two more in the second and had a 10-6 lead after four innings.

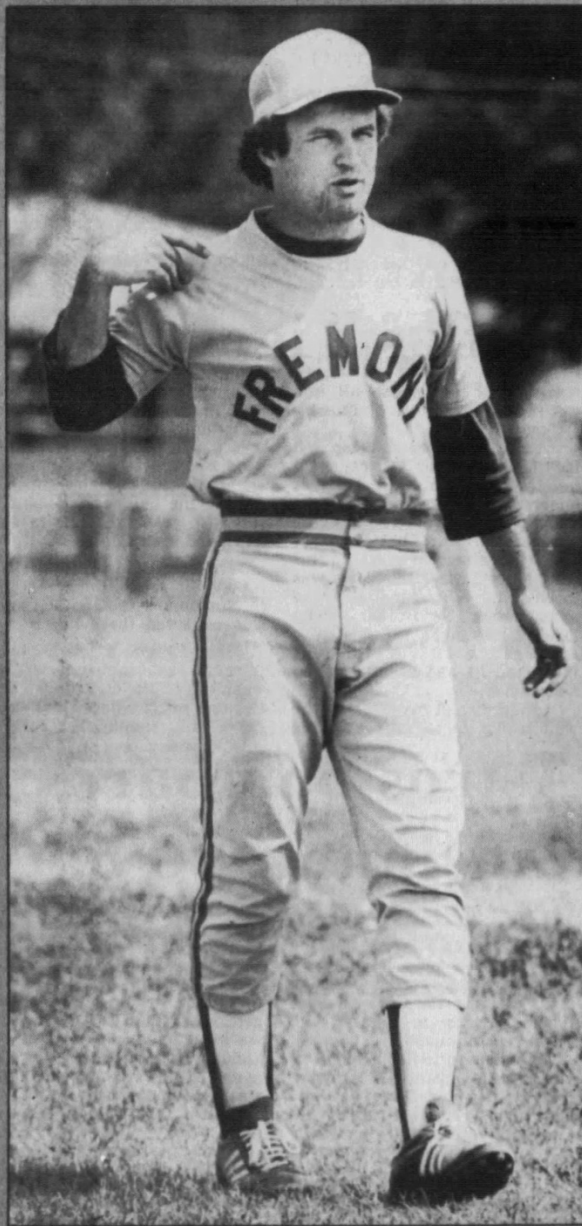
Winning pitcher Kevin Diekman walked, David Kohler singled, Dave Peck was safe on a fielder's choice and error to load the bases and set up Gibsonburg's first inning. A wild pitcher scored one run and Craig Diekman's single loaded the base again. A walk to Pat Payne made it 2-0 and Allen Morelock smacked a bases clearing double to score the final three runs of the inning.

Kohler and Craig Diekman had two hits apiece for Gibsonburg.

Port Clinton 19, Bettsville 1

The Redskins collected 22 hits including three each by Mike Williamson, Jerry Mortus, Scott Brewer, Matt Mueller and Gary Shook.

Ross snares BC baseball title



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

DAN FOUGHT, coach of the Ross High School baseball team, flashes a signal to a batter during the first game Saturday.

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Call it a perfect ending to a rookie season. Dan Fought would probably accept any description of it because he could not ask for too much more.

Fought, the first year coach of the Ross High School baseball team, watched his team win the Western Division of the Buckeye Conference baseball race Saturday by sweeping Findlay in a doubleheader at Anderson Field.

Ross needed to win just one of the two to clinch the title but after winning the first game 9-4, the Little Giants added lustre to the division crown with a 4-3 nightcap victory.

The two wins raised Ross's BC record to 5-1. Findlay, which had to win both games to take the division title, finished conference play with a 2-4 mark.

"At the start of the season," Fought said after the wins on a hot, muggy afternoon, "I never thought we would hit the ball the way we have this season."

Findlay, 9-10, felt the brunt of that Ross hitting attack when the Little Giants exploded for five runs in the fourth inning of the first game to wipe out a 3-3 deadlock.

John Lozano walked after one out to start the winning rally. Scott Weber flied to center but the ball was dropped for the first of two consecutive Findlay errors. With runners at first and second, Lee Sanchez was safe when the Findlay third baseman threw wildly to first on Sanchez's bunt. Lozano scored on a head first slide on the play with Weber moving to third and Sanchez to second.

John White, after getting an 0-2 count, doubled to left center for two runs. Mark Miesle singled and went to second when the throw to the plate held the Ross runner at third. Chris Simmons brought both runners in with a pop-fly single to left centerfield.

Ken Henry, with help from John Stierwalt, was the winning pitcher.

Mike Hrynciw homered for Ross in the third while Larry Helms and Barry Pry homered for Findlay. Sanchez, Miesle and Tracy Turner had two hits apiece for Ross with Sanchez driving in three runs.

Ross managed just five hits in the second game as Fought put many of his regulars on the bench. Stierwalt had two hits for Ross and picked up another save after taking over for Henry, who had pitched to one batter after relieving starter Alan Humbarger.

The Little Giants had a 4-0 lead after five innings. Stierwalt's single, which got through the centerfielder for a three-base error, accounted for the final two Ross runs in the fifth.

Sanchez doubled for the Little Giants while Mike Roywon homered and Helms and Mark Ritzler doubled for Findlay.

Stierwalt is 5-1 for the season with three wins and two saves in conference play.

Ross, 14-9, has one remaining game with Clyde at the Fliers home at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

In two other area games Saturday, Port Clinton downed Huron 10-7 and Toledo Central Catholic beat Genoa 11-5.

Port Clinton 10, Huron 7

Jim Rakosky went three for three and drove in the eventual winning run to key the Redskins' victory over the Tigers in Port Clinton.

With the Redskins leading 7-6 in the bottom of the fifth inning, Rakosky nailed a two-out bases-loaded single to drive in two runs. Jeff Miller followed with an RBI single for PC's final run of the game.

Those key hits helped the Redskins even their Sandusky Bay Conference record at 5-5 and up their overall mark to 8-13.

Toledo CC 11, Genoa 5

The Irish jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the second inning and never looked back in handling the Comets in Genoa.

Toledo CC banged out 13 hits to seven for Genoa. Mark Nero and Tom Wojciechowski led the Comets with two hits each.

Little Giants top Clyde

News-Messenger Reports

CLYDE — Fremont Ross closed out its high school baseball season Tuesday with a 6-4 win over Clyde.

The Little Giants, under first year Coach Dan Fought, finished the season with a 14-9 record which included winning the Buckeye Conference Western Division title. Ross defeated Findlay twice in a Saturday doubleheader to win the division crown.

At Clyde, Ross scored three times in the second inning and added single runs in the third, fifth and seventh innings.

Chris Simmons walked to start the three-run rally. Simmons stole second while Jim Kline was drawing a walk. Tracy Turner followed with a single for the first run and another run scored when John Lozano was safe on an error. Scott Weber's sacrifice fly plated the third run.

The Little Giants scored what proved to be the winning run in the fifth when Kline tripled to drive in Andy Chambers who had walked.

Turner finished with two hits and three RBI while Kline was two for three. Wendall Baker homered and John Alt tripled for the Fliers.