

Sports

6 lettermen at Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Six lettermen, led by senior Doug Gallagher, form the nucleus of the Ross High School baseball team this season.

The Little Giants are slated to open the season at Bellevue today at 4:15. Ross will host Perrysburg at 4:15 p.m., Wednesday at Ross Field and come back with a doubleheader against Admiral King, Saturday, at Anderson Field.

Gallagher, a second team all-Buckeye Conference performer and a first team all-district selection in 1982, will be Coach Chuck Lindsey's second basemen. Lindsey, in his second year after posting a 16-4 record in his initial season, said that Gallagher is the only definite starter at any position.

The rest of the positions could see several faces in the early season.

Gallagher is nursing a hairline fracture in his right hand but is expected to be able to play according to the Ross coach.

"We are deep in the infield," Lindsey pointed out, "and I think we will be able to hit the ball pretty good. I think we do have a little more power than we had last year."

Gallagher hit .353 last season with 10 RBI but the leading returning hitter is junior Jim Hufford. The second team all-conference selection as a designated hitter hit .524 in

21 appearances at the plate.

At first base, junior Jerry Manahan and sophomore Chris Simmons are vying for the spot while Jeff Nossaman will back up Gallagher at second. Kevin Wilhelm, a letterman, is listed as the shortstop with sophomore Mark Miesle also seeing action.

"Third base is a position that we are very deep at," Lindsey said. "Stacy Swaisgood and Hufford can play there."

Senior Dave Eicher along with sophomore Derek Isaman and junior Matt Hiser are the catching prospects.

In the outfield, Scott Link, Mike Hepp, Steve Ebert and Rod Logan are vying for the slots. Hepp and Ebert are senior lettermen.

The mound corps frontliners are Mark Estep, Paul Stout, Gallagher, Wilhelm, Greg Bender, brothers Larry and Lee Sanchez and Simmons. Larry Sanchez and Simmons are the only lefthanders. Gallagher is the only experienced pitcher, compiling a 2-1 record with a 1.16 earned run average a season ago.

"Pitching and defense up the middle were our strenghts last year," Lindsey pointed out. "Now we are inexperienced with the exception of Gallagher. We do have kids who have plated a lot of baseball but not on the varsity level."

High school

Ross 11

Perkins 5

Score by innings

					R-H-E
Ross	441	100	1-11	12	1
Perkins	000	221	0-5	6	4

WP: Paul Stout; LP: Chris Groover

2B: Chris Simmons, Terry Manahan, Matt Hiser, Dave Elcher, Ross: Roman, Perkins.

Season records: Ross 1-0, Perkins 0-3.

Seventh inning homer beats Ross

MARION — Tim Emmons' leadoff home run in the bottom of the seventh inning gave Marion Harding a 2-1 victory over Fremont Ross here Monday in high school baseball.

The homer spoiled the pitching effort of Ross right-hander Mark Estep and it was only the second hit off the Little Giants' pitcher. He had surrendered a third inning single by Chris Black which came back to haunt him.

"Mark pitched a good game," Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey

said. "He was not in trouble anytime."

Black's single led off the Harding third. A pair of sacrifices moved him to third and a wild pitch plated the run.

Ross tied the game in the sixth on Jim Hufford's single, a passed ball and Doug Gallagher's second hit of the game.

Ross managed just four hits off Harding right-hander Scott Flemming. The Little Giants had beaten Flemming twice last season but the Harding pitcher

fanned eight batters and walked only two. Estep struckout two and walked one.

The Little Giants are now 1-1 in the weather-plagued season while Harding climbed to 4-0.

Today, Ross was to host Tiffin Columbian at Anderson Field. Saturday, Ross will host Bowling Green in a twinbill, also slated for Anderson, beginning at 11 a.m. Both today's and the Saturday dates are doubtful because of the wet conditions of the Fremont playing facility.

Ross loses 2 to Bowling Green

Bowling Green set Ross back two steps in high school baseball action Saturday.

The Bobcats defeated the Little Giants 5-4 and 7-2 with both games going eight innings. The losses dropped Ross to 1-3 while Bowling Green climbed to 5-1.

In other Saturday games, Gibsonburg split with Van Buren, winning the first game 12-4 but losing the night cap 16-15. Genoa won two, taking Cardinal Stritch 7-6 before handing Toledo Central Catholic its first loss 11-4. Woodmore dropped a pair in Cleveland, losing to Central Catholic 4-3 and St. Edward 6-4. Port Clinton split with Fostoria, losing 7-1, and defeating Bellevue 9-6.

Ross missed a chance to win the first game in the bottom of the seventh. Fred Hepp walked and was sacrificed to second by Jim Hufford. Doug Gallagher walked but on Chris Simmons's grounder into the hole between first and second, Gallagher was hit.

Bowling Green tied the game with two in the seventh before winning it in the eighth. In the bottom of the inning, Matt Hiser and Steve Ebert singled but after one out, Scott Link was out on the infield fly rule and the Ross runner was out at second while trying to advance when Link's fly was dropped.

In the second game, Bowling Green scored five runs in the top of the eighth on three hits, three Ross errors and two walks.

Ross tied the game in the seventh on Hepp's single, Hufford's sacrifice, a stolen base and Simmons's single.



DOUG GALLAGHER, left, talks with Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey, center, after the Ross hurler was touched for two runs in the second

(N-M photo by Rob Boukissen)
inning of the first game. Catcher Dave Eicher listens in on the conference.

In the second game, Woodmore beat the Eagles 10-3 but committed four errors and allowed some untimely walks to fail for the sixth time in eight games.

GENOA 7, STRITCH 6
GENOA 11, TOLEDO CC 4

The Comets pushed their record to 7-3 with a pair of big wins over two Toledo City League teams, one (Toledo CC) which was previously undefeated.

First, at Stritch, the Comets had to go eight innings before deciding it. Mark Benadum drove in Jim Witt with the game-winner with a double to right in the top of the eighth.

Lowe and Witt each had two hits for the winners. Witt also drove in two runs.

In the Toledo CC game at Genoa, the Comets scored in every inning to give the Irish their first blemish in nine games.

Lowe, Benadum, Dan Thompson and Doug Austin paced the Comets' 10-hit attack with two hits each. But it was a double suicide squeeze bunt by Paul Beamer that was the big hit. The latter hit came in the third inning and gave Genoa the lead for good.

FOSTORIA 7, PORT CLINTON 1

Fostoria scored four unearned runs after two were out in the first inning to deal Port Clinton a Saturday morning defeat. The Redskins scored their only run in the seventh.

Scott Appel doubled twice for Port Clinton.

PORT CLINTON 9, BELLEVUE 6

Tim Scott slapped a three-run double and Bob St. Clair a two-run single in a five-run sixth inning for Port Clinton. All of the runs scored after two outs.

Sectional baseball pairings are set

Fremont Ross drew a first round bye in the Class AAA Sectional Baseball Tournament at Galion.

Drawings for all three Ohio High School Athletic Association classifications were held Monday.

Ross (1-3) will play the winner of Saturday's 10 a.m. game between Mansfield Senior (0-4) and Galion (1-4). Ross will play the winner at 4:30 p.m., May 3.

In the other portion of the upper bracket, Shelby, seeded second with a 12-3 record, will play Mansfield Madison (6-5) at 4 p.m., April 30. The winners of the Ross vs. Mansfield Senior-Galion and Shelby-Madison game will play at 11 a.m., May 7.

In the lower bracket at Galion, Ashland (4-5) plays Vermilion at 1 p.m., April 30, with the winner going against Malabar (5-2) at 4:30 p.m., May 5. Top-seeded Marion Harding (7-1) plays Sandusky (3-3) at 4:30 p.m., May 2. The sectional finals will be 2 p.m., May 7.

In the Old Fort Class A tourney, St. Joe

(1-2) will play Old Fort (2-4-1) at 4 p.m., April 30 in the first game of the lower bracket. In the upper bracket, second seeded Danbury-Lakeside (3-2) plays Western Reserve (3-2-1) at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 30, while South Central (1-5) goes against Monroeville (0-6) at 1 p.m.

In the second game of the lower bracket, St. Paul (0-4) will play top-seeded Seneca East (4-4) at 4:30 p.m., May 2. The sectional finals are May 7 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

All times in the Old Fort sectional are approximate. The games will be played 30 minutes after the completion of the prior game.

In the Class A at Hopewell-Loudon in Bascom, Calvert plays Bettsville at 10:30 a.m., Saturday with Woodmore taking on Hopewell-Loudon at 1 p.m. New Riegel plays St. Wendelin at 3:30 in the lower bracket while Gibsonburg will face Carey at 4:30 p.m., May 2.

The upper bracket winners play at 10:30 a.m., May 7, with the lower

bracket winners playing at 1 p.m. for sectional titles.

Genoa was named the top seed in the Lakota Class AA tourney. The Comets, (7-3) play the winner of the Fostoria (1-8)-Lakota (3-3) game at 1 p.m., May 7. The Fostoria-Lakota game is at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 30.

In the lower bracket, Elmwood (4-2) plays Oak Harbor (1-4) at 2 p.m., Saturday while second seeded Port Clinton (7-2) goes against Clyde at 5 p.m., Saturday.

The winners of the lower bracket games play at 4 p.m., May 7, for the sectional title.

Perkins will host a Class AA sectional. At 10 a.m., Saturday, Margaretta (2-3) will play Perkins (2-3) with the winner playing top-seeded Edison (11-2) at 4:30 p.m., May 2.

In the lower bracket, St. Mary's (3-4) goes against Huron (4-2) at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, while second-seeded Bellevue (7-3) plays Norwalk (2-4) at 3 p.m. The winners play at 4:30 p.m., May 3.

Ross bats pound Clyde 15-7, but St. Mary's outslugs St. Joe 12-10

Ross and St. Joe each got their bats going, but it was the Little Giants who had enough sticks to register a victory in high school baseball action Tuesday.

Ross pounded out 15 hits to storm past Clyde 15-7 while St. Joe failed to take complete advantage of a 13-hit attack in dropping a 12-10 decision to Sandusky St. Mary's.

In other action yesterday, Woodmore downed Gibsonburg 10-4, Genoa topped Lakota 9-3, Elmwood beat Oak Harbor 5-2, Old Fort dumped Tiffin Calvert 6-1 and Margaretta edged Plymouth 8-6.

At Clyde, Mike Hepp, Doug Gallagher and Jim Hufford each lashed out three hits to pace Ross to its second win in five games this season.

The Little Giants jumped on the Fliers early, scoring two runs in the first inning and five in the second for a commanding 7-0 lead. Ross hurler Paul Stout went the distance, allowing eight hits and fanning five, to gain the win.

Chuck Gent had two hits for the Fliers, who also got home runs from Bill Selvey, Mark Gill and Ted Davis. Clyde is 1-3.

Each team had four hits, but Elmwood's Ryan Buckingham outdueled Oak Harbor's Jerry Witt for the win. Witt fanned six and walked just one.

Chris Haley had a double for Oak Harbor, now 1-5 overall.

OLD FORT 6, CALVERT 1

Freshman Matt Hiestand pitched and hit the Stockaders to the upset win over previously undefeated Calvert in Tiffin.

On the mound, Hiestand fired a four-hitter, allowing just one unearned run while striking out six and walking three. It was his first pitching victory.

At the plate, Hiestand collected two hits, including a solo home run in the sixth inning.

Old Fort is now 5-4 and Calvert 4-1.

MARGARETTA 8, PLYMOUTH 6

The Polar Bears tallied four runs in the top of the seventh to register the come-from-behind win in Plymouth.

John Johnson had the game-winning hit for the Bears, a bases-loaded double in the big seventh inning. Matt Sullivan drove in Johnson with another

Ross falls short 13-9 to Whitmer

Toledo Whitmer scored early and then hung on to defeat Ross 13-9 in boys high school baseball action at Anderson Field Wednesday.

In other action yesterday, Clyde edged Fostoria 11-10, Huron downed Margaretta 4-1, Port Clinton blanked Perkins 4-0, Lakota toppled Hopewell-Loudon 15-7, St. Wendelin beat Oak Harbor 8-6, Clay tripped Genoa, 20-12, and Old Fort throttled Bettsville 22-12.

Ross fell behind 7-2 after three innings before charging back to within one, 10-9, on Jim Hufford's three-run homer in the sixth inning. But Whitmer tallied three insurance runs in the top of the seventh to preserve the win.

The Little Giants were out-hit 14-4 and also committed five errors. Six of Whitmer's runs were unearned. Mark Estep took the loss, Ross's fourth in six games. Whitmer is 9-3.

CLYDE 11, FOSTORIA 10

The Fliers tallied four runs in the bottom of the sixth and then cut off a seventh-inning rally by Fostoria for the narrow win.

Clyde scored its four late runs on a solo home run by Terry Miracle, a two-run triple by Mark Gill and a run-scoring single by Jim Andrews. Those efforts gave the Fliers an 11-7 lead heading into the final inning.

The Redmen loaded the bases and Scott Hare cleared them with a two-out triple. But Andrews ended the

PORT CLINTON 4, PERKINS 0

Scott Appell allowed just two infield hits and struck out 15 batters in lifting the Redskins to the SBC triumph over the Pirates at Perkins.

Eric Papcun led the winners at the plate with a two-run homer in the third and a run-scoring double in the fifth. Duane Norman and Appell each added a pair of hits.

Port Clinton is now 8-2 overall and 4-0 in the SBC. Perkins is 2-6, 2-3.

LAKOTA 15, H-L 7

Kirt Mintz was the winning pitcher and the leading hitter in the Raiders' victory over the Chieftains in Kansas.

Mintz collected three singles and four RBI to pace Lakota. Tom Rouser added two hits and three RBI and Tim Tiell had two hits and four RBI. One of Tiell's hits was a home run.

Lakota is now 4-4.

ST. WENDELIN 8, OAK HARBOR 6

St. Wendelin took advantage of four hits and one OH error in the seventh inning to score five runs and leap past the Rockets in Oak Harbor.

Ron Mitchem was Oak Harbor's biggest nemesis, collecting two hits, including a bases-loaded triple in the seventh.

Jim Hungate lead OH with two hits.

CLAY 20, GENOA 12

A big 10-run third inning spelled doom for Genoa in its loss to Clay at Oregon.

The Eagles scored those 10 runs on five hits, six walks and one error to

Ross tops St. Francis; W'more wins

Jim Hufford hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning to pull Ross from a 2-1 deficit and lead the Little Giants to an 8-2 victory over Toledo St. Francis Saturday in the Oregon Clay Invitational Baseball Tournament.

The Little Giants, 5-6, will play host Clay, a 6-5 winner over Waite in the other semifinal game, for the championship. A date has not been set.

In other high school area games, Woodmore won a 10-inning, 17-16 decision over Eastwood in a Suburban Lakes League game while Lake scored twice in the top of the seventh to nudge Genoa 12-11 in a non-league clash.

Paul Stout scattered seven hits to pick up the pitching win for Ross. Mike Hepp, Doug Gallagher and Hufford had two hits apiece while Scott Link had three

singles in the 11-hit Little Giants attack.

Ross added four insurance runs in the sixth on singles by Hepp, Gallagher, Mark Miesle, Link and an error.

Ross will host Marion Harding Tuesday in a double-header at Anderson Field. The Buckeye Conference games begin at 2 p.m.

W'MORE 17, E'WOOD 16

Woodmore collected 21 hits including four apiece by Dean Sandwisch and winning pitcher Jeff Rospert. Sandwisch had five RBI while Rospert had four with a homer and two doubles.

Jeff Perkins and Tim Blake had three hits while Tom Rowan and Paul Obermyer had two apiece for Woodmore.

In the bottom of the 10th, Blake and Obermyer singled to lead off the inning. Blake was out at third on an attempted

sacrifice but Obermyer scored the winning run on Perkins' fourth hit.

LAKE 12, GENOA 11

Lake handed Genoa its sixth loss against 17 wins with a two-run rally in the top of the seventh.

Genoa had taken an 11-10 lead with seven runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Winning pitcher Brian Phelps homered and doubled twice to pace Lake. He homered in the seventh for the first run for Lake with the game winner scoring on two singles and a sacrifice.

Dan Thompson had three hits and Doug Austin two for the Comets. Jim Witt drove in two runs for Genoa.

Today, Genoa will host Otsego in the first game of the Class AA District Tournament. The game begins at 4:30 on the Genoa field.

Sports

Big 1st inning tops Ross win

Ross scored eight runs in the first inning without a hit and went on to defeat Clyde 9-4 in high school baseball Tuesday.

The Little Giants, 6-6, had seven walks in the inning.

In other games, Lakota defeated Elmwood 8-6 and Gibsonburg lost to Otsego 3-2 in a pair of Suburban Lakes League games.

Kevin Wilhelm, making his first pitching appearance of the season for Ross, limited Clyde to seven hits. He struck out five and walked five.

Clyde outhit Ross 7-4.

The Little Giants will host Sandusky at 4:39 today at Ross High School field.

LA KOTA 8, ELMWOOD 6

Lakota survived eight errors to pull even at 8-8 for the season. The Raiders are 4-7 in the SLL.

The Raiders scored four runs without a hit in the second to take a 4-0 lead. A three-run fourth, keyed by an RBI single by Ron Graber and another hit by Kirk Mintz, gave Lakota enough for the win.

Mintz ended up with a two for three day, including a double.

OTSEGO 3, GIBSONBURG 2

Otsego scored two runs in the top of the fifth to defeat the Golden Bears.

Gibsonburg had taken a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the second on singles by Brian Nagy, Pat Payne and Alan Mortensen. The latter scored run. Doug Maxwell doubled in the second Gibsonburg run.

Otsego scored on two hits, two walks and a hit batter.

Maxwell was two for three for the Golden Bears.



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

KEVIN WILHELM OF ROSS DELIVERS A PITCH

Sandusky stops Ross with 6-run seventh

Sandusky scored six runs in the top of the seventh inning to edge Ross 10-9 in high school baseball Wednesday.

Winning pitcher Scott Kane hit a sacrifice fly to score the winning run for the Blue Streaks. The inning began with a walk to Ken Gast which was followed by singles by Randy Wantz and Milt Prit for one run. A walk to Joe Young, fielder's choice, a walk to Greg Manner and Jeff Broski's single tied the game before Kane lofted his game winning sacrifice.

In other games, Port Clinton was blanked 2-0 by Calvert in a Sandusky Bay Conference game, Clyde defeated Margaretta 6-3 in another SBC tilt, Wood-

more nipped Eastwood 7-7 in a Suburban Lakes League contest and Seneca East got past Old Fort 3-1 in the Seneca County League.

Ross threatened the bottom of the seventh. Pinch-hitter Stacy Swaisgood walked but was out at second on an attempted sacrifice by Ken Wilhelm. A balk moved Wilhelm to second and he went to third when Mike Hepp grounded to the pitcher. Doug Gallagher grounded out to end the game.

Today, weather permitting, Ross is to host Marion Harding at 4:30 in a Buckeye Conference game at Anderson Field.

Clay edges Little Giants 5-4

OREGON — Clay pushed across a pair of runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat Ross 5-4 and win the Clay Invitational Baseball Tournament Friday.

A hit batter, a walk, fielder's choice and a two-base error gave the Eagles, 19-2, the win.

"We played our best game of the year," Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey said.

"Bender (Greg) is throwing good ball for us, but we just cannot score for him."

Bender took the loss.

The Little Giants scored twice in both the first and sixth innings. Jim Hufford tripled in the first run and Chris Simmons' sacrificed scored Hufford in the first.

In the sixth, Stacy Swaisgood walked went

to second on a passed ball and scored on Hufford's double. Kevin Wilhelm doubled in Hufford.

Today, Ross will host Findlay in a double-header at Anderson Field. The first game begins at 11 a.m.

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Sports

Comets in district; Ross takes two

Genoa defeated Port Clinton 4-2 in the Class AA District Baseball Tournament finals at Genoa Saturday.

The Comets, 20-7, will play Lexington, the Colonel Crawford district winner, at 3:30 p.m., Friday, in the Lima Bath Regional Tournament. It will be the fourth appearance in the regionals for Coach Bob Baird's team.

Genoa has won the district in 1971, 74, 76 and this year. The Comets have been in the district finals the last three years. In 1974, Genoa made it to the state tourney.

In other weekend games, Ross kept itself in contention for the Western Division title of the Buckeye Conference by sweeping two from Findlay 4-0 and 2-1. St. Joe lost in eight to Huron 4-2 and St. Mary's 4-3 in Sandusky Bay Conference play. Clyde upset SBC leader Calvert 3-2 and Woodmore clinched second in the Suburban Lakes League with a 9-4, eight-inning win over Oak Harbor.

Rob Lowe of Genoa and Scott Appel of Port Clinton hooked up in a pitcher's duel with both striking out 13. The Comets touched the Port Clinton ace for single runs in the first, third, fifth and sixth innings. Lowe is now 10-0 for the season.

Brian Dickinson was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to plate Genoa's first run. In the third, with two outs, Jim Witt singled for the Comets. Witt stole second and scored on Dickinson's single.

In the fourth, Gary Stansbury was safe at first after striking out on a wild pitch. Dan Thompson went to third on a pair of errors on the same play but Stansbury was thrown out at the plate. With Thompson at third and Lowe at bat, Appel uncorked another wild pitch for the run. Thompson's double scored the sixth inning run.

Tim Scott's grounder scored Port Clinton's first run in the third and a triple by Scott and Eric Papcun's single produced the second run in the sixth.

ROSS 4-2, FINDLAY 0-1

Doug Gallagher pitched a three-hitter in the first game for the Little Giants. He used just 59 pitches in the one hour and 15-minute game. He fanned six and walked three. Losing pitcher Bruce Porter struck out 11.

The Little Giants scored all of their runs in the sixth at Anderson Field. Gallagher was safe on a bunt single and both runners were safe as Jim Hufford hit into a fielder's choice. Chris Simmons was walked intentionally to load the bases. Mark Miesle was out on a squeeze bunt to score the first run and after Scott Link was walked to load the bases again, Stacy Swaisgood singled to score Hufford.

Kevin Wilhelm singled in Simmons and the fourth run scored on the play as Swaisgood was caught in a rundown at third.

In the second game, Ross took a 1-0 lead when Wilhelm was hit by a pitch, stole second and went to third as the ball went into center. He scored on Mike Hepp's grounder.

Findlay tied it with a run in the sixth but Ross scored again in the bottom of the inning. Gallagher singled, stole second and went to third as the ball went into center. Hufford singled in the run.

Winning pitcher Paul Stout, a junior, is 4-0.

Ross is now 2-2 in the conference and will host Marion today at 4:30 at Anderson Field. Marion is 3-1 in the BC and a win today by Ross would deadlock the standings. Ross is slated to host Marion again later this week.

HURON 4, ST. JOE 2

Greg Mascarel hit his second homer, a two-run shot, in the bottom of the eighth inning for Huron. Mascarel had homered in the sixth to give his team a temporary 2-1 lead.

Mark Coleman had homered in the top of the sixth to tie the game for St. Joe at 1-1. In the St. Joe seventh, a single by

Phil Mosser, stolen base and an error on Tony Lupica's grounder tied the game.

ST. MARY'S 4, ST. JOE 3

St. Mary's scored a run in the bottom of the seventh on Steve Ruthsatz's RBI single.

John Spader doubled in the second for a run and Phil Mosser drove in Spader, after his second double, to give St. Joe a 2-0 lead after four innings.

St. Mary's tied it at 2-2 in the fifth but Lupica's run scoring single gave St. Joe a 3-2 lead in the sixth. St. Mary's tied it in the sixth to set up Ruthsatz's hit.

CLYDE 3, CALVERT 2

Clyde dropped Calvert back into a virtual tie with Port Clinton for the SBC lead. The Senecas are 10-2 while PC is 8-2 in the conference race.

Mark Gill slammed a two-run homer to tie the game for Clyde in the bottom of the second.

In the bottom of the seventh, Joe Burkett led off with a triple for the Fliers. After a groundout back to the pitcher, Mike Strausbaugh singled off the pitcher Tom Ritzler's glove to score a winning run.

WOODMORE 9, OAK HARBOR 4

Woodmore scored five times in the top of the eighth inning to win its 10th SLL game against three losses. The victory assured the Wildcats of a second place finish behind league champ Genoa.

Singles by Jeff Rospert, Steve Har-sanje and Tom Rowan produced the first eighth inning run. Tim Blake's bunt single loaded the bases and two runs scored as Todd Miller hit into a fielder's choice on which an error was committed.

Paul Overmyer walked and Tracy Bodi singled for a run and Jeff Perkins' single scored the fifth run.

Perkins was the winning pitcher, taking over for starter Rospert with one out in the four-run Oak Harbor third. Dean Sandwich pitched the final inning for Oak Harbor.

Ross stops Harding to keep BC title hopes alive

Ross kept its hopes alive for the Western Division title in the Buckeye Conference baseball race Monday with a 10-5 victory over Marion Harding at Anderson Field.

The Little Giants will host the Presidents, 15-3, again today at 3:30 with the division title at stake. Both Ross and Harding are 3-2 in the conference race.

Ross, 9-8, scored twice in both the first and second innings to grab a 4-0 lead against Harding. It was 5-0 after four innings.

In other high school games, Clyde lost to St. Mary's 6-5. St. Joe defeated Perkins 9-8 and Huron downed Port Clinton 9-8 in 13 innings in Sandusky Bay Conference games while Lakota topped Gibsonburg 16-4 in the Suburban Lakes League and Genoa defeated DeVilbiss 7-1 in a non-league contest.

Mike Hepp, Jim Hufford and Mark Miesle had two hits apiece for Ross. Sophomore Chris Simmons added to the Little Giants 10-hit attack with one of the longest home runs hit at Anderson field.

The ball carried over the houses beyond the fence in right field and onto Elmhurst Lane. "At least I never got the ball back," Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey laughed about the sixth inning homer.

Simmons shot started a five-run rally. Jim Hufford doubled in the first inning runs. In the second, Mark Miesle doubled, Kevin Wilhelm walked and both eventually scored on wild pitches. Walks to Matt Hiser and Miesle followed by Hepp's single made it 5-0 in the fourth.

In the Ross sixth, following Simmons' homer,

Scott Link singled, Hiser doubled and Miesle tripled. Wilhelm was safe on an error and Hepp tripled to account for the scoring.

Harding scored four runs on three hits, a walk and an error in the seventh. Greg Bender was the winning pitcher.

ST. JOE 9, PERKINS 8

St. Joe scored four runs in the top of the seventh and then held off a Perkins rally to notch the Sandusky Bay Conference victory at Perkins.

Mark Gabel started the late streak rally with a single. Mark Coleman followed with a two-run homer to give his team a 7-6 lead. The next three batters — John Spader, Phil Moser and Mike Brandt — all reached base on errors, with Spader scoring on the third error. Tim Lonsway followed with a run-scoring single to close out the scoring for St. Joe.

In the bottom of the seventh, Perkins scored twice before reliever Jim Fos retired the last batter on a groundout with the potential tying run on second base.

The victory pushed St. Joe's overall record to 7-9

and its SBC mark to 4-8.

Gabel finished with three hits, including a home run, and Coleman had two to lead the Streaks. Coleman, who worked the first six innings, gained the victory.

ST. MARY'S 6, CLYDE 5

Dave Ulmer drove in Rick Claar with a base hit in the bottom of the seventh inning to lift St. Mary's past SBC rival Clyde in Sandusky.

The Panthers had tied the game 5-5 with two runs in the fifth inning.

Ulmer led the winners, now 9-10 overall and 5-6 in the SBC, with three hits. Terry Miracle, Rob Palieka and Joe Burkett had two hits each for Clyde, now 6-10, 4-7.

LAKOTA 16, GIBSONBURG 6

The Raiders erased a 2-0 Gibsonburg lead with five runs in the second inning and then never looked back in registering the lopsided Suburban League win in Kansas.

The other big inning for Lakota was the fifth when it scored six runs. Brian Sams had a grand slam home run in that inning.

Lakota is now 10-8 overall and 6-7 in the SL.

HURON 9, PC 8

Huron came up with the big hits in three different innings to edge Port Clinton in a 13-inning affair at Huron.

First, the Tigers scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to tie the game 7-7. Second, after PC's Scott Appell homered in the top of the 12th, Huron's Dan Wieber did the same in the bottom of the inning. And third, the Tigers scored the game-winning on another big hit by Wieber in the 13th.

Wieber finished with two home runs to lead the Tigers, now 13-6 overall and 7-4 in the SBC.

PC, which out-hit Huron 16-7, was led by Appell's two home runs and one double. Duane Norman also homered for the Redskins, now 14-7, 8-3.

GENOA 7, DEVILBISS 1

Dan Thompson limited DeVilbiss to five hits to lead the Comets to the non-league win in Toledo.

Laurence St. John, Rob Lowe and Brian Dickinson backed Thompson's pitching with two hits each. St. John also drove in two runs. Genoa is now 21-7 and DeVilbiss is 11-12.

Leal shuts out Tigers

TORONTO (AP) — Now it's Mike Morgan's turn to show what he can do.

The Toronto Blue Jays' starting trio of Dave Stieb, Jim Clancy and Luis Leal was spectacular the last three games, posting three shutouts, a Club record 27 scoreless innings.

Victoria Day crowd of 35,001, it was Leal's turn.

The portly Venezuelan right-hander, nicknamed Taco by his teammates, held Detroit scoreless through eight innings on two singles and a double — the first extra-base hit by an opponent in three games.



MATT HISER, Ross catcher, grimaces seconds after Ross pitcher Paul Stout was called for a

walk during Marion's four-run sixth inning Tuesday at Anderson Field.

(N-M photos by Bill Kennedy)

Ross leaves title on base paths

By ROB BOUKISSEN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

L.O.B. Those are three letters every baseball manager hates. They stand for Left On Base, as Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey knows all too well today.

Lindsey watched his youthful Little Giant club leave a whopping 13 runners on base, including three in a near-successful rally in the last inning, in dropping an 8-6 decision to Marion Harding in Tuesday's battle for the Buckeye Conference Western Division title at Anderson Field.

The victory for the Presidents gave them the division flag with a 4-2 conference mark. They are 16-4 overall. Meanwhile, the loss for Ross dropped its final season marks to 3-3 in the BC and 9-9 overall.

"We sure messed up a couple times when we had guys in scoring position," said Lindsey. "But I thought we played well. We have a lot of young kids. They played a good game."

The Little Giants, who out-hit the Prexies 13-9, took the early lead with two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Three consecutive singles by Doug Gallagher, Jim Hufford and Chris Simmons brought one run home while a fielder's choice by Stacy Swaisgood drove in the other.

Marion came back with a run in the second on a solo home run by Dan Sipes before the Little Giants repeated their

first-inning act with two more runs in the second.

With two outs, Kevin Wilhelm drew a walk. Mike Hepp and Gallagher then followed with back-to-back triples to put Ross on top 4-1 after two.

After starting pitcher Gallagher held Marion scoreless in the top of the third, the Little Giants began to experience their L.O.B. problems.

In the bottom of the third, they loaded the bases with one out but failed to score, in the fourth, they had two on with two outs and came up empty, and in the fifth, they put two more runners aboard but could not bring anybody home.

Meantime, Marion was busy scoring once in the fourth and twice in the fifth to tie the game 4-4.

Then, in the sixth inning, the Prexies took the lead for good with four big runs. They had only two hits in the inning but took advantage of two walks, one error, one wild pitch, one balk and one sacrifice fly.

Gallagher pitched to only one batter in the sixth. He was relieved by Paul Stout after walking that first batter.

Marion also changed pitchers in the sixth inning, opting for hard-throwing Mark Fleming over starter Kevin Queen.

But the change did not rattle the Little Giants, who responded with two runs in the bottom of the sixth to close the gap to 8-6. Swaisgood had the big hit in the inning, driving Gallagher and Hufford

with a hard-hit single up the middle.

After Stout retired the side in order in the top of the seventh, the stage was set for Ross's ever-so-close rally.

Mark Miesle opened the seventh with a clean single to left. After Wilhelm popped out to second, Hepp hit a bouncer to the third baseman, who threw wide to first. The first baseman tried to tag Hepp, but the Ross runner side-stepped the tag to reach base safely. Gallagher followed with a walk and the bases were loaded with one out.

Up stepped Hufford, who has been hitting at a better-than-500 clip.

"We couldn't have asked for a better guy to be up," said Lindsey. "He has won four games in the bottom of the seventh inning for us this year."

Hufford proved his coach right, smashing a hard line shot towards shortstop Dave Sprague. But right when all the Ross fans were ready to cheer the base hit, Sprague leaped out of his shoes to spear the ball. He then casually jogged over to second base to complete the easy double play and end the ball game.

"Hufford hit that one hard," said Lindsey. "The shortstop just made a great play on it. It was a tough way to lose."

Hepp, Gallagher, Hufford, Simmons and Matt Hiser each finished with two hits to lead the Ross attack. Fritz Wink and Calvin Keuchler did the same for Marion.

Clyde's bats beat St. Joe

The Clyde Fliers banged out 16 hits, including 15 singles, on their way to a 10-6 triumph over St. Joe at the Ross High School diamond Tuesday.

Jim Fish and Terry Miracle led the way for the Fliers with three hits apiece. Fish also drove in three runs. Joe Burkett and Mark Gill added two hits each.

Clyde, now 7-10 overall and 5-7 in the Sandusky Bay Con-

ference, won its first game since losing to St. Joe last week.

Sandenburgh finished with two hits to lead PC, now 15-7 overall.

Scott Ellithorpe, the middleman of three Redskin pitchers, gained the win.

Genoa 5, Rossford 4

Gary Stansbury's base hit scored Brian Dickinson with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh



MARION HARDING'S Bill Black (16) gets tagged out by Ross shortstop Mark Miesle in between se-

cond and third bases during fifth-inning action Tuesday at Anderson Field.

Buckeye All-star games

Four members of the Fremont Ross High School baseball team will start for the Western Division in the Buckeye Conference All-Star Baseball Games at Elyria June 4.

Sophomore Chris Simmons will be at first base and senior Doug Gallagher is at second. Jim Hufford will be at third with Mike Hepp in the outfield.

The remainder of the starting squad will have Dave Sprague of Marion Harding at Shortstop, Tim Sipes of Harding catching, Bill Black of Harding and John Wadding of Findlay in the outfield. Mark Fleming of Harding will be the starting pitcher.

Another Ross player, Matt Hiser, is the backup catcher.

The All-Star doubleheader will begin at 5:30 p.m.