

FOR THE RECORD

FREMONT ROSS BOYS SOCCER — Mandatory practice for boys soccer at Fremont Ross begins Aug. 9 and will be held from 6-8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at Ross. Athletes must bring completed sports physical Aug. 9 to participate. For information, contact coach Phil Collision at (419) 307-1460.

BOYS SOCCER

ROSS 3, TOLEDO START 2

Fremont Ross got second half goals from Austin Wilhelm, Cole Bowers and Gabe Trayer in a non-league win Thursday over Toledo Start.

Trayer added an assist for the Little Giants (1-5), who also got a helper from Fabian Ramirez.

Stopping 12 shots in net for Ross was Kevin Harmon as Ross had 30 shots on goal.

BOYS SOCCER

FREMONT ROSS 3, TOLEDO START 2

■ 2nd half:

ROSS: Austin Wilhelm goal, Gabe Trayar assist, 58:00.

ROSS: Cole Bowers goal, unassisted, 63:00.

ROSS: Trayar goal, Fabian Ramirez assist, 72:00.

■ **game notes:** Ross goalie Kevin Harmon recorded 12 saves. Ross recorded 30 shots on goal.

■ **records:** Ross: 1-5 (0-2).

■ **next:** Ross at Lima Senior, Tuesday.

H.S. SOCCER ■ CLAY 4,
ROSS 3

Ross falls to Oregon Clay

BY MATT MILLS

News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross scored the only two goals in the second half but fell to Oregon Clay 4-3 at home on Wednesday.

Little Giants senior Austin Wilhelm and Jonathan Adams each scored after halftime.

"This was definitely a tale of two games," Wilhelm said. "We always have a slow first half, it's unfortunate. We came out after half and dominated just like we always do. It just wasn't enough."

Ryan Nelson opened the scoring early in the game for the Eagles as both teams played at a fast pace from the start. Jake Bedra scored two first-half goals for Clay.

Gabriel Tayar scored for Ross as the score was 4-1 at the half.

"(Clay) forced us to play their game in the first half," Little Giants coach Phil Collison said. "We played our game in the second half. We got to the ball more, we communicated more, we ran more combinations — we just played overall better soccer."

Ross goalkeeper Kevin Harman helped his team make it a one-goal game with a difficult save off a rebound early in the second half.

Cadan Goldstein and Ian Miller each netted one.

Tallying goals for the Redskins (9-1-2, 5-1-1) were Brandon Stubblefield and Garrett Howell.

BOYS SOCCER

Fremont Ross 3, Sandusky 2

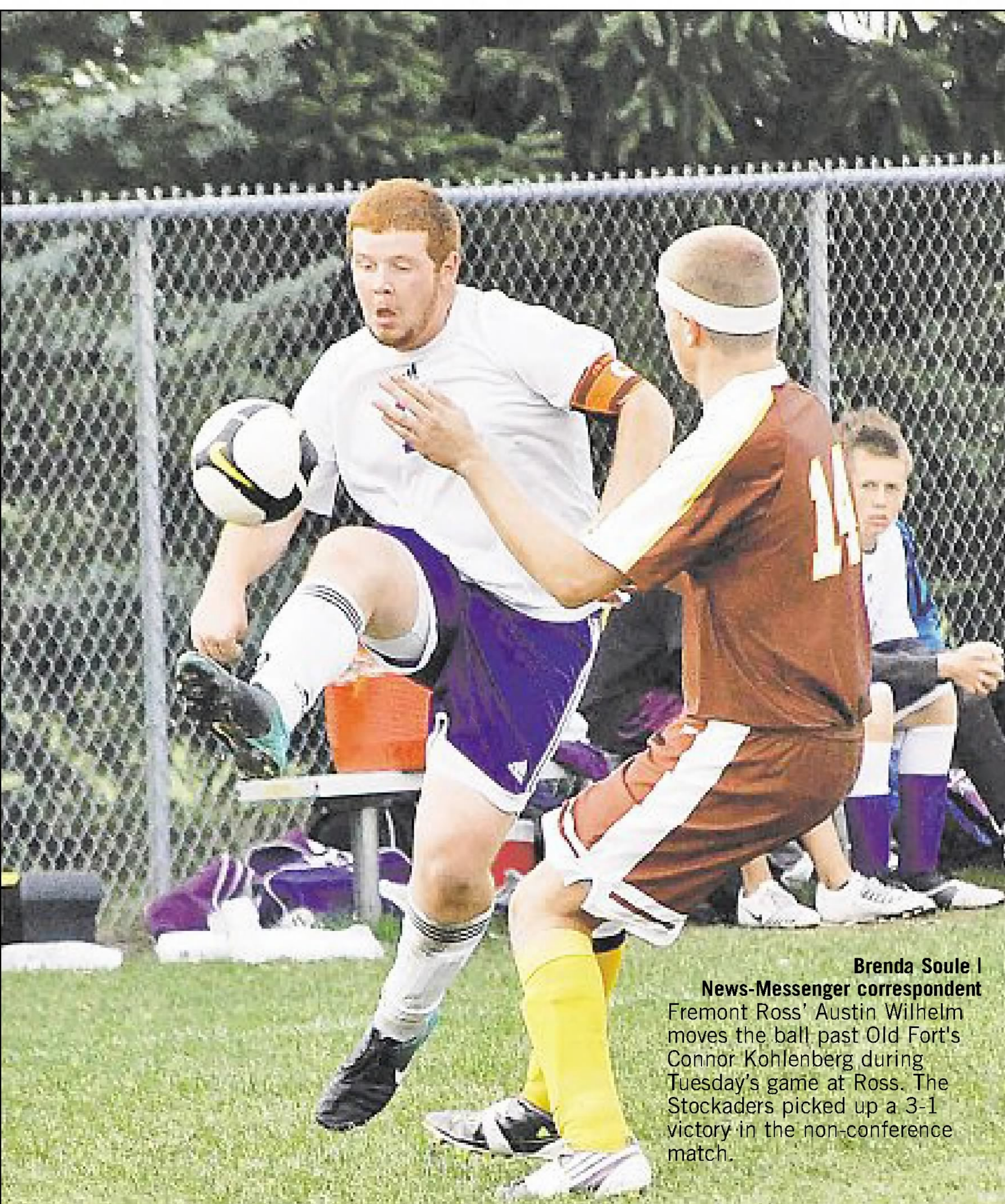
Fabian Ramirez, Lucas Wisehart

and Austin Wilhelm each scored a goal for Fremont Ross on Tuesday in its Greater Buckeye Conference win over arch-rival Sandusky.

Cole Bowers recorded two assists for the Little Giants (2-6-1, 2-2-1), and goalkeeper Kevin Hartman had 8 saves.

Ross out-shot Sandusky 40-8.

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Brenda Soule |

News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross' Austin Wilhelm moves the ball past Old Fort's Connor Kohlenberg during Tuesday's game at Ross. The Stockaders picked up a 3-1 victory in the non-conference match.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER ■ OLD FORT 3, FREMONT ROSS 1

High exchange rate

Old Fort's VanRooij making an impact in his year in America

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

FREMONT — In his short time in America, Dirk VanRooij has made a lasting impact on the soccer program at Old Fort.

An exchange student from the Netherlands, VanRooij has been tough for opposing defenders to contain. He's tallied close to 20 goals, and has helped the Stockaders raise their win total this season by four games already.

VanRooij tallied two more goals Tuesday, while Marc Salas added a goal and an assist as Old Fort topped Fremont Ross 3-1 in a non-conference match.

"Dirk has done this many times for us," Stockaders coach Tom Ackerman said. "He's been near unstoppable the past couple of games."

"He does what he can for us." And what VanRooij does well for the Stockaders (9-1-3) is find ways to get the ball in the net.

His abilities helped him draw an early penalty shot in the game's first 15 minutes after he was tackled from behind charging toward the Ross net.

His goal gave Old Fort a 2-1 lead with 29:50 remaining in

the first half.

"I just waited for the goalkeeper to move and then I put it in the other corner," VanRooij said.

Physical play dominated the match, as Ross and Old Fort each made sure the going wouldn't be easy.

"We knew coming in it was going to be physical, and it was the entire game," Ackerman said. "But our guys stepped up, and we made plays."

The Little Giants (4-7-1) would have a response, though, as Gabe Tayar found Lucas Wisheart to tie the game at one just eight minutes later. Tayar, who was working near the Old Fort net on the left side, set Wisheart up with a cross to the right side.

It was part of three first half shots on goal for the Ross, who surrendered seven on its own net. Goalkeeper Kevin Harman and the Little Giants' defense held strong.

"I didn't expect the off-side trap from them," Ackerman said. "We were a little ill-prepared, but we countered it with some good passes."

"We had chances to take the lead early, and it just didn't happen, but we grinded it out."

Towards the middle stages of the second half, the Stockaders started to control the play. And

when the Old Fort midfielders touched the ball, good things started happening.

"I like what Marc Salas and Zach Armstrong did in the midfield," Ackerman said. "They controlled the ball in the middle and made some plays to get the ball up to Dirk and Cole Davidson to keep the pressure on Ross."

Salas set up VanRooij's second goal and eventual game-winner with 22 minutes remaining in the game. He then gave the Stockaders some an insurance goal with 14:27 left when Davidson found him alone in front of the Ross net.

Salas' initial kick was saved by Harman who had no chance at making the save on the rebound kick.

The Stockaders went on to out-shoot the Little Giants 21-18, including an 11-6 margin in shots on goal.

Harman made nine saves.

"Kevin did a really good job in front of the net," Ross coach Phil Collison said. "Old Fort came out and played its game, and we didn't do anything to counter it."

Dalton Perry countered Harman with five saves for Old Fort.

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Wildcats snap losing streak with win over Giants

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

FREMONT — You won't see Woodmore's Derek Benner finding too many ways to be unhappy this fall.

He's back playing a sport he's been away from for five years, and he's having plenty of fun doing it as he and the Wildcats have their greatest season in school history.

Benner scored a goal for Woodmore Tuesday in a 2-1 win over Fremont Ross.

It was a win that snapped a three-game losing streak for the Wildcats (10-4-1).

"I'm just enjoying everything," Benner said. "I like my coaches. I like the team. For me, it's just go

out there and have fun every day. You win or you lose, whatever, you're having fun playing the sport."

After tough losses in big Suburban Lakes League games to Eastwood and Lake, added with a surprising defeat at the hands of Genoa, it would be hard to find too many smiles on the Wildcats' faces.

"This is definitely a big self-esteem booster for our team," Benner said. "A game like this goes a long way toward getting us ready for the tournament."

Woodmore earned the second-seed in the Division III sectional draws this past Sunday. They'll face St. Joseph Central Catholic at Huron next Tuesday.

As for Tuesday, though, the Wildcats didn't exactly put together an effort that would win them a beauty contest. But they still found a way to get the job done despite being called for 21 off-side infractions.

"It was one of the worst games we've played all year," Pocino said. "Ross managed to frustrate us on every attack we had on goal. They play a very good off-side trap."

But much of the frustration for the Wildcats came from their inability to get a rhythm going as the officials called a tight game.

"They just weren't letting the game go, and they were calling us off-sides sometimes when it wasn't there," Pocino said. "That frustrates not only me, but the kids

out on the field. As the time went on, you could see the frustrations on the field on both sides building up."

Woodmore got on the board first when Ryan Sandwisch scored on a first-half penalty kick.

Benner's goal then gave the Wildcats a 2-0 lead at the break as goalkeeper Ryan Paul assisted.

Ross wasn't without its chances, though, and much to their coaches' delight, the Little Giants (4-10-1) didn't let the deficit change their game plan.

"Even when we got behind 2-0, we didn't change how we played, and that's a good thing to me," Little Giants coach Phil Collison said. "They kept moving the ball. They kept passing the ball and kept our

combinations."

Austin Wilhelm netted the lone Ross goal with 12 minutes left in the match. His rebound bounced in high on the left-side of the net after Paul made the initial save for Woodmore, but couldn't recover in time to stop Wilhelm's attempt.

With momentum clearly on the Little Giants' side, the Wildcats were just trying to survive the final minutes. But a late attempt off the crossbar, along with numerous



WILHELM

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other final Ross attacks failed.

“We just kept going and eventually the doors just opened up,” Collison said. “We just kept moving the ball wide and knocking it inside. But again, we didn’t finish when we needed to.”

The defeat for Ross was its sixth loss by a single goal.

The Little Giants will have a shot at a sectional crown when they meet Mansfield Senior next Wednesday in Lexington.

As for Pocino, he expected good things this season with a majority of his roster returning. He just didn’t know what he’d get from Benner, who was a wild card in the group, along with Matthew Haar and Anthony Paul who came over from different sports.

Benner played baseball in the spring.

“He doesn’t give up,” Pocino said of the junior. “He’s always there, and for guys who are trying to defend him, they can’t leave him alone. They have to be constantly next to him otherwise he’ll just take off and go.”

Benner said his coach played a big part in him joining the team and is a major reason why the Wildcats are where they’re at. Making school history and looking forward to achieving some larger goals.

“He likes playing the whole team, spreading it around and mixing it up,” Benner said. “He wants to find the team that plays the best with each other. He’s great, and I like playing for him.”

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