

10 lettermen return to Ross diamond

By **BOB MARKER**
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Ten lettermen, including two of the top three hitters, return to Ross High School's baseball team this season.

The Little Giants were scheduled to open the season this afternoon against Port Clinton at Anderson Field, but it has been postponed. The first two games of the season against Bellevue and Perrysburg were also wiped out because of rain. The next scheduled date is Saturday in a doubleheader at Admiral King.

Senior Jim Hufford and junior Chris Simmons lead the Ross veterans. Hufford, a two-year letterman, hit .416 as a junior with two home runs, five doubles, three triples and 15 RBI. Simmons hit .363 with two homers, four doubles and 13 RBI.

In addition to Hufford, other senior lettermen include Tracy Swaisgood, Kevin Wilhelm, a two-year letterman, Matt Hiser, Jeff Nossaman, Scott Link and Paul Stout. Besides Simmons, Mark Miesle and

Greg Bender lettered as sophomores.

Coach Chuck Lindsey's team was 9-9 last season and went to the sectional finals. The year before, Lindsey's first, the Little Giants were 16-4 and claimed a Buckeye Conference title and made it to the sectional finals.

"That's one of our goals," Lindsey said, "to make it out of the sectionals. Another is to win the Buckeye Conference."

Lindsey tossed out a tentative lineup for the delayed opener. At catcher will be Hiser, the first basemen is Jerry Manahan with Jeff Nossaman at second. Hufford will be at third while either Kevin Wilhelm or Mark Miesle will be at shortstop.

Link will be in leftfield with Simmons in center and Swaisgood in right.

The starting pitcher will come out of five possibilities: Bender, Stout, Lee Sanchez, Ken Henry or lefthanded Larry Sanchez.

Utility men for Lindsey are juniors Thad Lee and Tracy Turner, both infielders and senior Noel Jaramillo, also an infielder. Lee is a speedster and will be used as a

pinch-runner and pinch-hitter.

Wilhelm, Simmons and Swaisgood could also see spot duty on the mound for the Little Giants.

Lindsey said that he will use a designated hitter at times but he said who it is will be dictated by the situation.

The outfield and shortstop position are the most competitive on the Ross team. Wilhelm and Miesle may alternate with Wilhelm drawing spot pitching and possible outfield duty.

"I have three guys who will be pushing those guys in the outfield," the Ross coach said. "Stout, Rod Logan and Lee Sanchez have looked good."

Defense is one of the Little Giants' strong points to go with the offensive attack. "Pitching is the questionable area," Lindsey admitted. "We are going to have to work hard in that area."

"The key for us this season," Lindsey said, "is the mental attitude of wanting to play together."

Ross wins debut; St. Joe now 3-0

After four postponements, the Ross Little Giants got to play their baseball season opener Tuesday.

And they took advantage of the rare early spring sunshine to defeat the Perkins Pirates 10-0 on a combined two-hit pitching effort from Paul Stout, Greg Bender and Kevin Wilhelm in Sandusky.

In other area baseball action Tuesday, St. Joe stopped St. Paul 6-1, Clyde edged Fostoria 5-3, Gibsonburg nipped Lakota 9-8, Woodmore toppled Eastwood 11-1, Genoa clipped Elmwood 9-5, Otsego trimmed Oak Harbor 3-2 and Bellevue defeated Port Clinton 15-9.

At Perkins, Ross scored the only run it needed in the first inning when Jim Hufford walked, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on a double by Chris Simmons.

Simmons finished with two hits and two RBI to pace Ross's eight-hit attack. Matt Hiser added two hits and Stacy Swaisgood two RBI.

Stout worked the first three innings, Bender the next two and Wilhelm the final two. Stout was credited with the win.

Kansas.

After working their way to an 8-4 lead after 5½ innings, the Bears let it slip away when Lakota rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth.

The Golden Bears blew their first opportunity to score in the seventh when Al Morelock was thrown out at the plate after trying to score from first base on a double by Dave Peck.

But they managed come up with the winning run later in the inning when Casey Reidling's wind-blown pop-up fell untouched in the infield to drive in Peck.

Craig Diekman, who came on in relief of David Kohler in the fifth inning, held Lakota scoreless in the bottom of the seventh to gain the win.

Peck and Reidling each had two hits to lead the Bears while Diekman added two RBI and three stolen bases. Doug Baker and Kirk Mintz had two hits each for Lakota.

Woodmore.....11

Eastwood.....1

Jeff Rospert had three hits and three RBI to lead Woodmore's 10-

Defense defeats Giants

Maumee took advantage of a porous Ross defense to hand the Little Giants a 7-2 loss in high school baseball Thursday at Anderson Field.

The Little Giants committed five errors and stranded 15 runners as their record leveled at 1-1. Maumee is 4-1.

In other area games, Clyde defeated New Riegel 9-3, Toledo Woodward slipped past Woodmore 5-4, Lakota knocked off St. Wendelin 6-4, St. Francis bombed Genoa 22-3 and Port Clinton and Columbian had to settle for a 4-4 deadlock.

Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey was satisfied with his pitching, pointing out the errors and the fact that his team "could not get a key hit" when it needed it. The Little Giants left the bases loaded three times.

Lee and Larry Sanchez pitched for the Little Giants with Larry taking over in the fourth and allowing one run during his work.

Winning pitch Dean Wagner gave up three hits, struckout 10 and survived 10 walks.

Ross will host Lorain Senior in a doubleheader at Anderson Field Saturday. The first game will begin at 11 a.m.

High school baseball

Little Giants pound Bowling Green 13-9, then lose 5-1

It was a case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde for the Ross bats Saturday as the Little Giants split a doubleheader with Bowling Green.

The Giants exploded for 11 hits in the opener to defeat the Bobcats 13-9, but then they managed just three hits in the nightcap to lose 5-1 in BG.

In other area baseball action Saturday, St. Joe dropped its first game of the season 6-1 to St. Mary's and Genoa topped Toledo Scott 7-2.

In the Ottawa County Tournament semifinals, Genoa defeated Oak Harbor 5-1 and Port Clinton upended Woodmore 5-2.

At Bowling Green, Paul Stout, Stacy Swaisgood, Chris Simmons and Matt Hiser each had two hits to lead Ross's attack on the Bobcats. Stout and Swaisgood also drove in three runs each and Hiser drove in two.

Ross didn't get its bats going until the top of the fourth inning when they scored six runs on three hits and five walks to erase a 5-0 BG lead. Stout had the big hit in the inning, a bases-loaded double.

The Bobcats came back with two runs in the bottom of the fourth and another run in the fifth to go back on top 3-6.

But Ross tallied three times in the sixth frame to take the lead for good. Swaisgood drove in one of the runs and Hiser drove in the other two.

Ross then added four insurance runs in the seventh to seal the win. Simmons and Jim Hufford had the big hits in that frame.

Lee Sanchez, the second of three Ross pitchers, picked up the victory.

In the nightcap, BG pitcher Rick Tracy stifled the Little Giants on three hits to gain the win.

The Bobcats scored all the runs they needed with a three-run first inning. They did it with just one hit, three walks and two passed balls. Stout suffered the loss for Ross.

St. Mary's 6, St. Joe 1

The Streaks saw their five-game unbeaten streak end in Sandusky as the Panthers' Tom Kessler scattered seven hits and got out of a first-inning

jam to gain the win.

St. Joe was rolling early behind three straight hits from Tony Lupica, John Spader and Mark Miller. Miller's hit, a double, drove in Lupica, and left runners on second and third with nobody out.

The next batter, Scott Kuzma, hit a grounder to short, apparently scoring Spader. But Miller was ruled to have interfered the shortstop on the play and was called out. Spader had to return to third base.

Kessler then recorded a strikeout and a popout to get out of the inning trailing just 1-0.

St. Mary's then touched loser Spader with a run in the second frame and three more in the third for all the runs it needed.

St. Joe, which got two hits from Denny Furlong, dropped to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Genoa 7, Toledo Scott 2

Eric Hanely fired a three-hitter and the Comets

erupted for six runs in the second inni Buildogs in Genoa.

Hanely fanned 10 batters and walked the route-going performance.

Ottawa County tourney

It'll be Genoa and Port Clinton in the tournament, which is being played at title game will be played Saturday at 9.

In Genoa's win over Oak Harbor, came up with all five of their runs in the first inning to erase a 1-0 OH lead. Scott two-run single in the inning and Mark one-run single. The Comets scored the on wild pitches.

Brian Dickinson picked up the win in relief of Mark Benadum.

In the other semifinal, Woodmore 1 runs in both the first and second inn came back with a three-run third fran to the win.

Sectional baseball tourney pairings

Even though some high school baseball teams have played as few as one or two games during this rain-plagued spring season, it's time for them to start thinking about tournaments.

Sectional draws were held Tuesday evening for the tournaments which are scheuled to begin as early as this coming Monday.

Following are the results of the draws that involved area teams.

rolls 800

the 20-year league history at Mel-O-Dee.

Brown had 28 strikes in the series, including the first 10 in a row in the second game. In the 11th frame of that second game, he left the 10-pin and then missed it for a 288.

In the final game, he opened with three strikes, converted a spare and then reeled off seven more strikes before facing his final frame needing eight pins for the 800. He left the 4-7 to reach the magic number.

Brown is not the only member of his family who has made bowling headlines this season. His 14-year-old son Aaron had a 654 earlier this year.

"AAA" AT ASHLAND COLLEGE Top bracket

Monday, April 30 — Galion (0-1) vs. Ashland (1-3), 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1 — Marion Harding (4-0, #1 seed) vs. PORT CLINTON (3-2), 2 p.m.; ROSS (2-2) vs. Galion-Ashland winner, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, May 7 — Final, 2 p.m.

Bottom bracket

Monday, April 30 — Mansfield Senior (2-2) vs. Vermilion (3-2), 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2 — Shelby (5-0, #2 seed) vs. Mansfield Madison (4-2), 2 p.m.; Sandusky (4-0) vs. Mansfield Senior-Vermilion winner, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8 — Final, 4:30 p.m.

"AA" AT LAKOTA

Top bracket

Monday, April 30 — Elmwood (2-1) vs. GENOA (4-5), 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 — Final, CLYDE (3-0, #1 seed) vs. Elmwood-Genoa winner, 11 a.m.

Bottom bracket

Tuesday, May 1 — MARGARETTA (3-2) vs. Fostoria (0-3), 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2 — OAK HARBOR (0-8) vs. LAKOTA (3-1, #2 seed), 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 — Final, 2 p.m.

"A" AT OLD FORT

Top bracket

Monday, April 30 — ST. JOE (5-1, #1 seed) vs. OLD FORT (4-2-1), 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1 — Monroeville (2-2) vs. Norwalk St. Paul (2-4), 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 — Final, 2:30 p.m.

Bottom bracket

Friday, May 4 — Seneca East (4-1, #2 seed) vs. Danbury-Lakeside (0-2), 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 — South Central (1-3) vs. Western Reserve (3-2), 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8 — Final, 4:30 p.m.

"A" AT HOPEWELL-LOUDON

Top bracket

Tuesday, May 1 — St. Wendelin (1-2) vs. Vanlue (0-3), 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2 — WOODMORE (3-4, #2 seed) vs. BETTSVILLE (0-3), 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9 — Final, 4:30 p.m.

Bottom bracket

Monday, April 30 — New Riegel (1-4) vs. Tiffin Calvert (1-1), 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 3 — GIBSONBURG (6-2, #1 seed) vs. Arcadia (0-2), 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 4 — Hopewell-Loudon (1-2) vs. New Riegel-Tiffin Calvert winner, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10 — Final, 4:30 p.m.

St. Francis buries Ross 17-8; St. Joe rolls to sixth victory

Toledo St. Francis belted out 12 base hits and took advantage of 11 walks and four Ross errors to drill the Little Giants 17-8 in the first round of the Clay Invitational in Oregon Thursday.

The victory was the eighth in nine games for St. Francis while the loss was the third in five games for Ross. The Little Giants will now play Toledo Waite in a losers bracket game Saturday at 1 p.m., in Oregon.

St. Francis got on the scoreboard early with three runs in the first inning and was never headed. Making the most noise for Ross, which had eight hits, was Chris Simmons with a triple and double.

In other baseball action yesterday, St. Joe romped past Margaretta 11-4, Clyde hung on to beat St. Mary's 10-8, Perkins defeated Port Clinton 8-4, Lakota edged Oak Harbor 2-1, Woodmore

outlasted Old Fort 12-10, Bettsville upset Gibsonburg 12-6 and Toledo DeVilbiss beat Genoa 18-9.

St. Joe 11, Margaretta 4

The Streaks used a big, six-run third inning to defeat the Polar Bears and end a modest two-game losing skid at Anderson Field.

Getting key hits in St. Joe's big inning were Phil Mosser with a two-run single and Mark Miller with a one-run single.

For the game, Joe Foos led the winners with two hits and four RBI while Kevin Yeckley and Tony Lupica added two hits each.

John Spader picked up the win for the Streaks, now 6-2 overall and 2-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Clyde 10, St. Mary's 8

The Fliers almost blew a nine-run lead in the final inning but hung on to nip the Panthers in

Clyde and remain unbeaten overall and 3-0 in the SBC.

Clyde was sailing along with a 10-1 lead and a combined no-hit effort by three pitchers — Jim Anderson, Alan Perry and Ted Davis — when St. Mary's erupted for seven runs on four hits, three walks and errors in the seventh inning, finally being retired.

Brian Crum led the winners with three hits while Davis, Fish and Paul Fiser added two each. Joe Burkett also had a hit for Clyde, a grand slam home run in the first inning.

Perkins 8, Port Clinton 4

Port Clinton outhit Perkins but the Redskins also "errored" the Pirates 5-0 in favor of Sandusky.

Two PC errors were especially costly, those being two dropped fly balls in Perkins' two fourth inning. Those two proved to be the game winners.

Lakota 2, Oak Harbor 1

Ross takes third in Clay tourney

The Gibsonburg Golden Bears went from the valley of the high school baseball world to the peak in just two days.

The Bears, who became Bettsville's first victim Thursday, reversed their fortunes Saturday by handing the Clyde Fliers their first loss of the season, a 4-2 decision at Clyde.

In other area baseball action Saturday, Ross defeated Toledo Waite, Woodmore defeated Lakewood St. Edward 5-4 and Cleveland Central Catholic 5-3, and Port Clinton beat Genoa 8-3 and St. Joe 8-0.

At Clyde, Gibsonburg got on the scoreboard early with two runs in the first inning. Kevin Diekman singled, Dave Peck doubled and Jim Cantrell brought them both home with a single.

The Bears then scored what proved to be the game-winner in the fourth when Craig Diekman drove Casey Reidling home with a single.

Clyde tallied two runs in the sixth frame on a two-run single by Mike Taylor, but Gibsonburg added an insurance run in the seventh and hung on for the win.

Reidling scattered eight Clyde hits to notch the victory while Taylor took the loss. Gibsonburg moved to 7-3 and Clyde is now 5-1.

Ross 8, Toledo Waite 3

A four-run second inning proved to be all Ross needed, as the Little Giants defeated the Indians in the consolation game of the Clay tournament in Oregon.

Ross belted out nine hits in the game, led by Kevin Wilhelm's triple and double and Jim Hufford's two singles. Both players also drove in two runs.

Chris Simmons worked the first

four innings to gain the win. He allowed two earned runs on three hits, seven strikeouts and one walk. Paul Stout finished up for Simmons, allowing no earned runs on four hits while walking one and striking out one.

Ross is now 3-3.

Toledo St. Francis won the tournament by shelling Clay 16-5.

Today at 4, the Little Giants will host Marion Harding at Anderson Field in a Buckeye Conference clash.

Woodmore 5, St. Edward 4

Woodmore 5, Cleveland CC 3

The Wildcats picked up a pair of big victories over a couple highly regarded foes, with the first clash being the most exciting.

In that opener at Woodville, the Wildcats trailed 4-1 entering the bottom of the seventh inning. But they came up with four big runs to hand the Eagles their second loss in 12 games.

Steve Smeltz led off the Woodmore seventh with a walk, Carl Palmer followed with a double and Rudy Ramirez also walked to load the bases. Jeff Rospert grounded into a forceout, scoring Smeltz with the first run.

With runners on first and third, the Wildcats pulled a double steal to score Palmer and move Rospert to second with one out. Dean Sandwisch then doubled to drive in Rospert with the tying run.

After two walks and a sacrifice, Jack Cecil came to the plate with two out and the bases loaded. He responded with a single to left center to score Sandwisch with the game-winner.

Cecil and Palmer led Woodmore with two hits each. Palmer also was the winning

pitcher, firing three scoreless

innings in relief of Jeff Perkins. In the second game, Wood didn't wait as long to register a win. This time the 'Cats scored two runs in the bottom of the inning to provide the victory margin.

Perkins had the game-winning RBI when he singled to Sandwisch. A Cecil grounder then drove in Ramirez with the insurance run.

Cecil hurled the first three innings to notch the win, receiving relief help from Miller and Rospert. Sandwisch finished with two hits to lead Woodmore.

The Wildcats are now 6-4 overall and Cleveland CC fell to 7-6.

Port Clinton 8, Genoa 3

Port Clinton 8, St. Joe 0

It was a very big day for the Redskins, who beat Genoa for the Ottawa County Tournament title and St. Joe for a Sandusky Conference victory. Both games were on the road for the 'Skinners.

In the Genoa game, Port Clinton broke the 3-3 tie with a run in the bottom of the fifth inning and then broke the game open with four more runs in the sixth.

Craig Carr homered for the winning run while Dave Williams and Eric Hanely had two hits each to lead Port Clinton.

In the St. Joe game, Rich Blum blanked the Streaks on four strikeouts and no walks.

The game was scoreless through the fourth inning when Port Clinton scored the only run it needed with a sacrifice fly by Jim Rakowski. The 'Skins broke the game open with six runs in the fifth.

Port Clinton is now 4-4 overall and the SBC while St. Joe fell to 3-3.

Bind gets Celtics flying



PAUL STOUT of Fremont Ross lays down a sacrifice bunt in the second inning of Monday's game at Anderson Field. The bunt led to Ross's first run.

Marion tops Ross; Clyde wins

Marion scored seven runs in the fourth inning to erase a 3-0 Ross lead and pave its way to an 8-4 Buckeye Conference victory at windy Anderson Field Monday.

The game was one of two played in the blustery weather Monday. In the other, Clyde defeated Margaretta 8-3 in a Sandusky Bay Conference clash.

Ross pitcher Greg Bender, was cruising along on a one-hitter until the fourth when after two were out, the Presidents caught fire.

A strikeout, a walk and a groundout preceded the scoring onslaught. Two hit batters and doubles by Mike Emmans, Roger Arnold and Kevin Queen then accounted for the bulk of the scoring. Queen's two-run double scored the tying and winning runs.

Ross had grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second on a walk to Chris Simmons, a passed ball and Matt Hiser's wind blown single to right. In the second, the Little Giants scored twice on a walk to shortstop Kevin Wilhelm, Paul Stout's sacrifice bunt, a single by Jim Hufford, an intentional walk to Simmons, wild pitch and Bender's line single to left.

Marion pitcher Matt Bayles survived eight walks with 13 strikeouts. He survived a bases loaded, one-out jam in the bottom of the seventh by getting Ross's Stacy Swaisgood to pop to short. Stout was picked off third base to end the game.

Hufford had two hits to pace Ross, 3-4. Marion is 8-0.

Today, Ross hosts Sandusky at Anderson Field. The Little Giants' sectional tournament game at Ashland was moved back to Wednesday. Ross will play the winner of today's Galion-Ashland game.

Briefs

Jack and Jill Fun Night May 4

The Jack and Jill Fun Night, sponsored by the Fremont Ross Boosters, will be Friday night, May 4 at the American Legion on Buckland Ave., Fremont.

The menu for the night features all the roast beef and pork, with side dishes, that you can eat. There will be free refreshments throughout the evening.

Tickets for the event are \$6 per person.

Dinner will be from 6 to 9 p.m. with sandwiches after 9. Entertainment will be until midnight.

Persons must be 21 to attend the event.

Junior High Invitational

Sandusky 14, Ross 5

Sandusky wiped out a 3-0 Ross lead with two runs in the fourth inning and nine more in the fifth to blow past the Little Giants at Anderson Field.

The Blue Streaks had just four hits in their big fifth inning, but they also took advantage of four walks and two Ross errors.

Chris Simmons took the loss for the Little Giants, who dropped to 3-5.

Paul Stout, Jim Hufford and Greg Bender each had two hits for Ross.

Meanwhile, the Ross JV team was able to avenge the varsity's loss by scoring five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to clip the Sandusky JVs 7-6. Ross had five hits and two walks in the seventh. The game-winner came home when Eric Gilbert successfully pulled off a squeeze bunt to score Allan Humbarger from third base. Humbarger led Ross with three hits at the plate and he also fanned 12 batters to notch the win on the mound.

Rain puts a damper on baseball tourney

Bids to win sectional championships by the Woodmore and Gibsonburg baseball teams were postponed for the second and third days in a row this weekend.

Both teams are playing in the Class A sectional at Hopewell-Loudon High School — Woodmore vs. Fostoria St. Wendelin and Gibsonburg vs. New Riegel.

Woodmore got in 2½ innings Friday before the rains came, nothing on Saturday due to wet conditions and one more inning Sunday before the skies opened up once again. The Wildcats lead that contest 3-1.

"The White Sox and Brewers have nothing on us," joked Woodmore Coach Vic Welch, referring to last week's 25-inning major league game between Chicago and Milwaukee that was spread out over two days.

Woodmore and St. Wendelin are scheduled to resume their game today beginning at 4 p.m. It will then be followed by the other sectional final between Gibsonburg and New Riegel, who haven't played any innings so far.

"This is discouraging," said Gibsonburg Coach Keith Boedicker. "We should've had this tournament done by now."

Also postponed Saturday because of wet conditions was St. Joe's doubleheader with Calvert and St. Mary's at Anderson Field.

But there were three area teams who managed to play Saturday. In those games, Ross was beaten 19-8 and 8-2 by Marion Harding, Port Clinton defeated Huron 8-3 and Lake topped Genoa 14-5.

Marion 19-8, Ross 8-2

The Presidents kept their sparkling season record unblemished at 14-0 by easily defeating the Little Giants twice in Marion.

In the opener, Harding belted out 15 hits, including three home runs, to gain the win. After Ross scored once in the top of the first inning, the Prexies tallied two runs in the bottom of the first, four in the third and then nine in the fourth to blow it open.

Jim Hufford homered for the Little Giants.

In the nightcap, Ross again took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning, but this time Marion scored four in the second and two runs in both the third and fourth frames to move into a comfortable lead.

The Presidents only managed three hits in this game, but two of those hits were home runs. Jim Arnold hit a three-run shot in the second inning and Mark Fleming,

who had one of the homers in the first game, cracked a two-run job in the third.

Ross is now 3-8 and will host Clyde Tuesday and Findlay Thursday.

Port Clinton 8, Huron 3

The Redskins tallied four times in the first inning and then went on to defeat the Tigers in Port Clinton.

In the big PC first, Jim Wadzinski and Mike Riddle had key hits and the Redskins took advantage of three walks. Riddle finished with two hits and three RBI to lead the winners.

Lake 14, Genoa 5

Lake combined a 13-hit attack with seven Genoa errors to down the Comets in Genoa.

Kevin Marble provided a key hit for Lake with a grand slam in the Flyers' five-run second inning. That gave Lake a 6-2 lead, and Genoa was never able to get back into it.

Lady Streaks reach Class A district finals

St. Joe gave up a whopping total of 29 hits in two games but still was able to win both times in Class A sectional/district tournament action at Bettsville Saturday.

The Lady Streaks allowed 12 hits to New Riegel but won 15-5 in their first game and then gave up 17 more to Tiffin Calvert only to win 7-5 in their second game.

In both games, St. Joe's opponent was guilty of leaving several runners on base. In the first game, New Riegel stranded 10 runners, and in the second game, Calvert left an incredible 18 on base.

St. Joe will now play for the district title at Bettsville Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., against Fostoria St. Wendelin.

One other area girls softball team was in tournament action at Bettsville Saturday. In that game, Old Fort was eliminated by Calvert 13-12.

In St. Joe's opener Saturday, the Lady Streaks spread out 10 unanswered runs in the first three innings to scoot out to the early lead. New Riegel was unable to mount a serious threat after that despite its 12-hit attack.

St. Joe had 18 hits of its own, led by Lynn Setzler's four-for-four performance. Pam Hotz added three hits while Patty Ronski, Sue Hettermann, Coco Foisy and Amy Hershev had two each. Cindy

Ross 9, Clyde 3

Ross broke a five-game losing skid by jumping on the Fliers early at Anderson Field.

The Little Giants, now 4-8, scored four runs in the first inning and three more in the third to go ahead 7-3. They rode the three-hit pitching of Paul Stout from there to take the win.

Stout and Greg Bender led the winners offensively with two hits and two RBI apiece.

Clyde fell to 8-6.

The Ross JVs were also victorious yesterday, beating Margareta 4-2. Chris Corthell went three for three for the winners and John Cahill got the win.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

JIM HUFFORD third baseball for the Ross High School baseball team, watches a ball bounce off

his glove. Hufford was attempting to make a play in the hole between third and short.

High school baseball

Findlay slips past Ross 3-2

The Ross Little Giants came up with what their coach called "our best ball game all year," but it still wasn't good enough as the Findlay Trojans edged the Giants 3-2 at Anderson Field Thursday.

It was the final game of the year for the Giants, who ended the rain-plagued season with a 4-10 record. A total of 14 Ross games were cancelled due to the dismal weather this spring.

"Things never fell into place this year," said Ross Coach Chuck Lindsey. "But the kids played well yesterday. It was more of a good game than any other game all season."

The Little Giants got on the scoreboard first with a run in the opening frame. Kevin Wilhelm singled and scored on Jim Hufford's double. Hufford was cut down attempting to stretch his hit into a triple.

In the top of the first, Findlay runner Dave Kutschhoch was thrown out at the plate while trying to score on Mark Menges double. Ross rightfielder Thad Lee took the carom off the fence, relayed to second baseman Jeff Nossaman who threw to catcher Matt Hiser for the putout.

Findlay came back to take a 3-1 lead by using the long ball. Mark Ritzler hit a solo home run in the third inning and C.J. Borsani hit a two-run shot in the fourth.

Ross narrowed the gap to 3-2 with a run in the fifth. Wilhelm scored it again by getting a base hit, stealing second and coming home on a single by Paul Stout.

The Little Giants threatened in the bottom of the seventh inning with men on second and third and one out, but Wilhelm fanned and Stout flew out to end the game and the season.

Greg Bender suffered the loss for Ross. He went the distance, allowing five hits and three walks while fanning six.

Things went better for the Ross JVs yesterday as Alan Humbarger tossed a one-hitter to lead the Little Giants reserves past Findlay 7-1 in their season finale. Humbarger, who faced just 24 batters, had eight strikeouts and three walks and was supported by a seven-hit attack, led by Mike Hrynciw's two. Ross's JVs finished the season at 7-2.

ended the game with his homer over the 275-foot sign in rightfield.

The blast wasted a good performance by Perry, who allowed just three hits and struck out 11 in going the distance.

Fiser finished with three hits and Burkett two for Clyde.

Woodmore 6, Genoa 0

Tracy Bodi tossed a three-hitter and received flawless play from his defense as the Wildcats blanked the Comets in Woodville.

Bodi struck out three and walked three in going the distance for the 'Cats, now 9-7 overall and 3-2 in the Suburban Lakes League.

Woodmore did most of its damage early, scoring one run in the first inning and four more in the second.

In the first, Jeff Perkins scored without the aid of a hit. With one out, he walked, went to second on a ground ball, went to third on a passed ball and then scored on a passed ball.

In the second, Carl Palmer came up with a two-run double and Perkins had a one-run single to highlight the inning. Perkins scored the final run of the frame on a Genoa error. All four runs scored with two out.

Woodmore added another run in the sixth when Perkins scored his third run of the game on an RBI single by Dean Sandwisch.

The loss for the Comets was their sixth in a row and dropped their record to 9-15 overall and 5-3 in the SLL.

Lakota 9-9, Old Fort 6-3

The Raiders evened their record at 8-8 by first winning a suspended game from early in the season and then taking the regularly scheduled game in Kansas.

In the suspended game, the teams picked up the action with Lakota batting in the top of the eighth inning and the score tied 6-6.

The Raiders made their move right away, scoring three times in the eighth. Chris Chalfin scored the first run on an Old Fort error, and then Dan Baker and Chad Hollinger drove in two insurance runs with