

## **Fremont Ross**

**Coach:** Mike Gilbert

**Last year:** 12-12, lost to Sandusky in sectionals

**Returns:** Sophomore Suzanne Chudzinski, SS; senior Jessica White, C; junior Beth Shaffer, P; seniors Reegan Koppelman, 1B; Megan Wasserman, RF; Mindy Meggitt, 3B; juniors Erin Hiestand, P; Ashley Long, CF.

**Outlook:** Two-year Greater Buckeye Conference champion Findlay is probably the league favorite, but Sandusky should be tough. The league is likely to be well balanced and very competitive. Gilbert said the campaign will be a cooperative effort as the team has collective talent but no standout star. "I hope it's everybody. We don't have a standout player. We can't rely on any one person. We'll have to do it as a team. We have a lot of speed. We'll play a lot of small ball. We have turned quite a few girls around to bat left. We're trying to make the other team move when we hit. We'll use speed to get on base and force mistakes. I think the defense will be a strong point. We're very strong up the middle. We have experience at catcher and shortstop, Britta Barron and Ashley Long are great athletes in center field. We have an athletic team." Junior Tiffany Esquivel will play second base. "Shaffer is a very good athlete. She brings athletic ability to the mound and could probably play any position on the field."

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL: FREMONT ROSS 4,  
BOWLING GREEN 3

# Father is victorious in opener

By JOHN TURNER

News-Messenger correspondent

As parents packed the stands for a chilly season opener between Fremont Ross and Bowling Green, there was likely only one parent who preferred his daughter didn't win - Ross coach Mike Gilbert.

Along the third base line, in her first game as a varsity head coach, was Bowling Green head coach and Gilbert's daughter, Erin Gilbert.

"I thought coming in that if I can hang with him as far as coaching goes I'll consider it a success, and I thought I did," Erin said.

Although the first-year coach was able to hang with her father's team, they weren't able to get the win as Ross came away with a 4-3 victory.

Bowling Green (0-1) struck first with two runs in the second inning, both of which were aided by errors in the infield. Ross (1-0) then tightened down on defense and only allowed two Bowling Green runners to make it past first base.

Ross wasted no time in answering Bowling Green with three runs of its own in the top half of the third. Jessica White led off the inning with a single and Beth Shaffer followed with a hit of her own.

Then it was Bowling Green's turn to be sloppy on defense as it made two critical errors and handed Ross a one run lead.

"I told the girls we have to play at our level and not theirs, but for a split second we gave in," Erin said.

The Little Giants extended their lead by a run in the fifth when Shaffer made it around the bases after a single, a stolen base, a sacrifice bunt and a groundout.

Bowling Green added another run in the sixth, but it wouldn't be enough as the team's offense was shut down by Ross in the final frame.

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See FATHER, B2

# Father defeats his daughter

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Continued from B1

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"I liked the desire of both teams," said Ross coach Mike Gilbert. "I think they are pretty fundamental and play well."

Ross was led both offensively and defensively by Shaffer, who went 3-for-4 with two runs. She also earned the win from the mound, going seven innings with four strikeouts and allowing only four hits and no earned runs.

"She threw strikes and kept us in the game," Mike said.

For the home team, Liz Irick is cred-

ited with the loss despite striking out two, walking none and allowing only one earned run.

"We'll learn from it, adjust, and come back tomorrow," Erin said.

\* As for the father-daughter match-up, the elder Gilbert was less concerned with beating her daughter than he was with just getting the opportunity to coach against her.

"I'm very proud of her," Mike said. "The connection Erin and I have is through softball so I'm glad she was able to become a coach."

# Ross shut out by Perkins

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**Continued From B1**

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## **Softball**

### **Little Giants blanked**

Fremont Ross could manage just one hit — by Megan Wasserman — in a shutout loss to Perkins, 8-0.

Beth Shaffer took the loss, her first of the season, pitching a complete game. She gave up eight runs (six earned) and 10 hits. She walked five and struck out four.

scoring three runs and knocking in two more as St. Joseph Central Catholic trounced Sandusky St. Mary 12-1.

Jamie Bork went 4-for-4 for the Streaks (1-1), scoring once and driving in two runs. Megan Boukissen was 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI and Abby Crockett got two hits and two runs. Melissa Taylor also scored twice.

### **Golden Bears win**

Kristen Dix knocked in three runs as Gibsonburg beat Tiffin Calvert 4-0.

Miranda Milleson pitched a complete game shutout for the Golden Bears,

# Ross drops twin bill

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

Mental errors can drive a coach crazy.

Fremont Ross softball coach Mike Gilbert encountered numerous defensive mistakes Saturday as the Little Giants dropped both games of a double header to Maumee, 6-2 and 9-1.

In the first contest, Fremont pitcher Beth Shaffer seemed to be in control after retiring the Panthers' first six batters before Maumee's leadoff hitter lined a double into left field.

Following the double, the Little Giants committed two straight errors, accounting for three unearned runs as the Panthers took a 3-0 lead.

In the bottom half of the third inning, Maumee pitcher Meredith Stanford forced two groundouts before Fremont's Suzanne Chudzinski picked up her team's first hit with an infield single.

Chudzinski stole second and eventually scored as Jessica White reached first on an error by Maumee's second baseman.

But the Panthers regained their three run lead the very next inning as leadoff hitter Bridgett Kelbow singled and eventually scored on Fremont's third error of the contest, taking a 4-1 lead.

Chudzinski fueled the Little Giants' second run of the game as she led off the

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See ROSS, B2

# Ross drops doubleheader to Maumee

## Continued From B1

fifth with a single and eventually came home on a fielder's choice by Megan Wasserman.

But that was the end of Fremont's offense during the game as Stanford cruised the remainder of the way.

"(Stanford) is a freshman and it was her third start of the year," Panther coach Tom Robinson said. "She's improved a lot and is good enough to pitch varsity."

Maumee would add single runs in the final two innings as the Little Giants totaled five errors in the opening contest.

"We played horribly and weren't in the game at all," Gilbert said. "The truth is we were never really here."

Fremont was led offensively by Chudzinski, who finished 2-of-4, scored two runs and stole a base.

White, along with Cassie Steinberger, added the Little Giants' other base hits in the first game.

Shaffer tossed all seven innings and tallied six strikeouts.

Things didn't improve much defensively for the Little Giants in the second game of the contest as they committed four more runs accounting for four of Maumee's runs.

Maumee jumped out of the gate in the

first inning as Katie Huddleston and Lindsay Diegel led off the game with back-to-back singles and came home with the help of a two-out error.

With a 2-0 lead, the Panthers knocked in three more runs in the second inning on three consecutive hits by Alison Robinson, Huddleston and Diegel.

Chudzinski provided the Little Giants' (2-3) only run support as she picked up a sacrifice grounder in the third inning.

Chudzinski also added a single and a stolen base in the second game.

Reegan Koppelman and White had the only other hits in the contest as both singled off Robinson.

"(Robinson) keeps the ball low and she's pretty accurate," Robinson said.

The Panthers (3-2) also received help defensively as Diegel proved solid at shortstop and the rest of her team only committed two errors during the contest.

"That's our cup of tea," said Robinson. "We're strong (defensively), especially up the middle."

Gilbert said his team needs to refocus before today's game against Elmwood.

"We didn't hit well (today) and didn't get our bunts down," Gilbert said. "We had decent pitching but the errors hurt."

"We'll have to improve or Elmwood will beat us 15-0."

# **Softball**

## **Little Giants blanked**

Ross was shut out by Anthony Wayne, 5-0.

Beth Shaffer took the complete game loss, walking three and giving up 10 hits. She's now 2-3, and the Little Giants are 2-4.

Shaffer, Megan Wasserman and Cassie Steinberger tallied the Little Giants' only hits.



**HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP**

# **Ross blanks Waite**

**News-Messenger reports**

Erin Hiestand pitched six innings of shutout ball as Ross beat Waite 10-0.

Hiestand rises to 1-1, while Ross improves to 3-4 on the season.

Ross, leading 1-0, rallied for five runs in the fourth, as Jessica White, Beth Shaffer and Reegan Koppelman singled to load the bases. Megan Wasserman doubled, scoring White and Shaffer. Cassie Steinberger slashed a single, scoring Koppelman and Wasserman. Steinberger was then plated by Britta Barron.

Ross scored another two in the fifth, and two more in the sixth. Wasserman finished the game with four RBI.



## **Shafer, White lead to split with Central Catholic**

Beth Shaffer allowed only two runs in seven innings and Jessica White drove in two runs as Fremont Ross defeated Toledo Central Catholic 3-2 in the first game of a double-header.

The Little Giants lost Game 2 13-4.

White singled twice and scored once, Megan Wasserman singled three times in three trips and drove in a run, and Britta Barron singled once in the win.

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## **Little Giants fall**

Jessica White tripled and scored but Fremont Ross fell to St. Ursula 7-1.

Beth Shaffer (3-4) drove in a run but took the loss for the Little Giants.

Megan Wasserman and Ashley Long each singled once for Ross (4-6).

## **Ross falls in GBC**

Jessica White and Mindy Meggitt each drove in one run but Fremont Ross fell to Marion Harding 4-2 to open its Greater Buckeye Conference season.

The Little Giants (4-7, 0-1) scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth as Ashley Long reached on an error and scored on a Meggitt single. Meggitt scored on an RBI single from White.

Each team had four hits but Ross committed five errors.

Beth Shaffer (3-5) took the loss allowing one earned run. She walked only one batter.

Megan Wasserman and Cassie Steinberger each had one hit for the Little Giants.

## **Little Giants fall**

Megan Wasserman singled, doubled and scored two runs but Fremont Ross fell to Whitmer 4-2.

Erin Hiestand (1-3) took the loss.

Jessica White singled twice, Cassie Steinberger singled and drove in a run, and Beth Shaffer drove in a run for the Little Giants (4-8).

# Softball

## High School Girls

Lima Sr. 10, Fremont Ross 7

Thursday

Ross	010	140	1	—	7	10	3
Lima	200	161	x	—	10	8	4

LP — Erin Hiestand (1-4) 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> IP, 9 runs, 8 ERs, 7 hits, 4 walks, 0 Ks.

Ross hitting: Jessica White 2-5, RBI; Ashley Long 2-2, RBI; Tiffany Esquivel 1-2; Cassie Steinberger 1-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Beth Shaffer 1-3, 2 runs, RBI.

Record: Ross 4-9 (0-2 GBC).

### Little Giants salvage split

Fremont Ross scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh to salvage a split in a doubleheader at home against Tiffin Columbian.

Erin Hiestand got the win in the second game, pitching a complete game to bring her record to 2-4. Beth Shaffer got two hits, and Megan Wasserman had two RBI.

In the first game, the Little Giants were shut out 4-0 by the Tornadoes, managing just three hits. Beth Shaffer, who got one of Ross's hits, took the loss, going the distance and striking out five. They're now 5-10.

# **Softball**

## **Findlay blanks Ross**

Beth Shaffer gave up four runs on five hits but got no run support as the Little Giants were shut out by Findlay in a GBC game.

Shaffer got one of Ross's four hits and struck out four.

The game leaves Ross winless in three conference matchups.

## **Little Giants suffer GBC setback to rival Sandusky**

Jessica White, Suzanne Chudzinski and Mindy Meggitt each singled once but Fremont Ross lost to Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky 9-0 on Friday.

Beth Shaffer (3-8) took the loss. She walked none in seven innings for the Little Giants (5-12, 0-4).

beaten Perkins 4-2 in the SBC.

Freshman Morgan Gray took the loss for the Fliers (6-5, 4-1).

Perkins had four hits in the sixth.

"They were able to string some hits together in the sixth inning," said Clyde coach Marc Marshall. "We got our gloves on them, we just couldn't make the plays. Everything else was equal."

### **White doubles in loss**

Jessica White and Megan Wasserman each had two hits but Fremont Ross fell to Lexington 4-1.

Erica Hiestand (2-5) walked only one but took the loss for the Little Giants (5-13).

White doubled and scored, Wasserman singled twice and Ashley Long added a single for Ross.

### **Milleson earns win**

Gibsonburg scored four runs in the first inning and Miranda Milleson notched the win as the Golden Bears shut out Lake 5-0 in the SLL.

Milleson doubled once and singled at the plate.

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**See LAKOTA, B2**



## **Softball**

### **Little Giants win big**

Fremont Ross scored four runs in the first inning on the way to a 10-1 rout of Lima Senior.

Suzanne Chudzinski finished the game with two runs, two hits and two stolen bases for Ross.

Beth Shaffer, who went 3-for-4 with three runs and an RBI, went the distance in the circle, giving up just five hits and striking out five to move to 4-8 on the season. The Little Giants are 6-13, and Friday's win was their first in the Greater Buckeye Conference in five tries.

### **Giants suffer setback**

Reegan Koppelman singled twice but Fremont Ross was shut out by rival Sandusky 7-0.

Megan Wasserman and Jessica White each singled once for the Little Giants (5-16, 1-7).

Beth Shafer (4-11) took the loss.

run, and Abby Crockett added an RBI for the Crimson Streaks (14-5, 5-1). Melissa Taylor drove in two runs.

### **Ross splits**

Beth Shaffer pitched a complete game and drove in three runs in the second game of a doubleheader as Ross beat Ashland 6-1 after falling 10-0.

Jessica White singles twice, score a run and drove one in, Katelynn Ruiz scored, and Megan Wasserman tripled, scored and drove in a run in Game 2. Stephanie Stout and Tiffany Esquivel each scored a run, and Mindy Meggitt singled three times in three trips and scored a run for Ross

(7-16, 1-6).

Erin Hiestand took the loss in the first game. White doubled.

## **Tennis**

### **Giants third**

Findlay captured the overall Greater Buckeye Conference tennis championship Saturday.

Jordan Will lost in the finals at No. 2 singles while Jacob Laurer did the same at No. 3 as Ross finished the event in third.

Eliot Parker took third place at No. 1 singles for the Little Giants.

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**See PENDLETON, B2**

## **Little Giants fall**

Beth Shaffer went the distance for Fremont Ross in a Greater Buckeye Conference loss, 8-1, to Napoleon.

Shaffer (5-12) allowed three earned runs, walking four and striking out three.

Ross's only run scored in the fourth when Stephanie Stout singled to score Megan Wasserman. Suzanne Chudzinski went 3-for-3 for the Little Giants (7-17, 1-7 GBC).

#### News-Messenger reports

Alyssa Dickman went the distance, giving up just one run as the SJCC softball team got a 6-1 Midland Athletic League win over North Baltimore on the road.

Dickman also hit a double and scored in the make-up game. Jamie Bork went 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBI. Heather Blake also knocked in two runs, going 2-for-4.

The win brings Dickman's record to 15-4, while the Crimson Streaks improved to 18-5 (8-1 MAL).

#### **Little Giants shut out**

Megan Wasserman went 3-for-4, but the Fremont Ross softball team couldn't push a run across, falling 7-0 in a Greater Buckeye Conference contest with Findlay.

Beth Shaffer gave up seven runs in a complete game, four earned. Shaffer (5-12) also got a hit for Ross (7-18, 1-8 GBC).

Cassie Steinberger, Stephanie Stout, Mindy Meggitt and Britta Barron also got hits for the Little Giants.

#### **Fliers win SBC matchup**

Ashley Kern and Jessica Waterfield each doubled as Clyde beat Edison 5-3.

Freshman Liz Drown (7-5) went the distance, giving up eight hits, striking out two and walking one.

Erica Bennett went 2-for-4 for the Fliers (15-8, 10-2 SBC).

## **Tennis**

#### **Little Giants waxed**

Fremont Ross took on Elida, ranked third in the latest