

Coach Played At OSU

Little Giant Linksters Know 'Inside' Of Scarlet

By MARK CARLSON

News-Messenger Sports Editor

COLUMBUS — Fremont Ross' golfers played Ohio State University's Scarlet Course for the first time today, but the treacherous par 72 layout was not unfamiliar to the Little Giants.

Jim Decker, Bob Moll, Buck Baumann and Rob Hall, who will be the first Little Giant linksters to compete in the state competition, were thoroughly briefed on the Scarlet before ever leaving Fremont.

The teacher was Little Giant head coach Charlie Baker, who played for Ohio State head coach Bob Kepler as a freshman and sophomore.

"Coach Kepler made us keep a notebook and I still have it," Baker said Wednesday. "I got that out this week and reviewed my notes with the boys. I diagrammed the whole course.

"Wherever they are on the course Friday and Saturday, they should know how far they are from sand traps, water hazards and greens."

Admittedly, Baker does not know what to expect from his young quartet.

"I didn't expect to get quite this far this year," Baker said. "Anything we do at the state tournament is a bonus. I would be very happy with a finish of sixth place or better."

The number six position is the break-even point between the first and second division. A total of 12 teams are here after wading through district competition last week.

Ross will join Upper Arlington, Worthington, Cleveland Orange, Wadsworth, Warren Harding, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit, Cleveland St. Joseph, Sylvania, Middletown, Hamilton Taft and Kettering Fairmount East.

Upper Arlington, which has won three of the last seven

crowns, posted the low district score — 300. Cleveland Orange was the Northeastern District champion with a 308.

"I'm just playing everything as it comes," Baker said. "It's hard to determine who the favorites are going to be because I was unable to obtain any of the other team's qualifying scores.

"And, everything can't be gauged by the scores either. Some teams played a tougher district course than others."

One thing is definite — Ross, with two juniors and a pair of sophomores, will probably have the youngest squad in the Class AAA Tournament.

"I'm sure the kids are all looking forward to this," Baker said. "They are excited, but in the same vein they are not overconfident or depressed either.

"They know that to score well on the Scarlet they must strike the ball well. I think the tournament will be won on the greens. It won't be unusual for a lot of kids to have 70-foot putts.

"Some of the kids seem to think the Scarlet is a monster. I've told them it will only be if they let it become that way."

George Bates of the Ohio High School Athletic Association office said this morning that players will be bracketed in flights. Thus, Decker, who has played in the first position throughout the year for Ross, will play with three other number one golfers from AAA schools.

Decker and Baumann will be the first Little Giants off the tee Friday. They've both been assigned 11:12 a.m. tee times by the OHSA. Moll and Hall will tee off at 11:36 a.m.

Saturday, the tee times are earlier. Moll and Hall will get off at 7:46 while Decker and Baumann have been scheduled for 8:10 a.m.

Golfers will play 18 holes each day and total team strokes determine the team champion.

Dead Last After First Round **Ross Golfers Lose Touch In Columbus**

By MARK CARLSON

News-Messenger Sports Editor

COLUMBUS—It's supposed to be time for 'Hay Fever', but Ross High's golf squad succumbed to another type of illness.

The Little Giants had 'Scarlet Fever' in the first round of the 45th Ohio High School Athletic Association Golf Championship Friday and were lodged in last place in the 12-team Class AAA division entering today's final 18 holes.

Ross' young delegation, which has the Buckeye Conference and Northwest District titles to its credit this spring, couldn't cope with the vaunted Ohio State Scarlet course and zoomed to a score of 346, their highest 18-hole round of the spring.

For the first time, the Little Giants didn't have a golfer crack 80. Low was a nine-over-par 81 by junior Jim Decker.

Sophomore Buck Baumann, who opened with a 38 on the back nine, couldn't keep up the pace over his final nine holes and skied to a 45 for an 83, which was still good for second-low on the Ross scorecard.

Junior Bob Moll had his roughest round of the spring — 89 — while sophomore Rob Hall went for 93.

It would take a complete turnaround for the Little Giants and total collapse by the 11 teams ahead of them for the Purple and White to win the 1972 championship.

Upper Arlington, winner in three of the last seven title tests, led after the first 18 holes with a 322, 24 strokes ahead of the Little Giants.

Sylvania, which finished second to Ross in the district competition at Toledo Glengary Country Club, and Warren Harding appeared to be the only teams with a chance of overtaking the leader. Sylvania checked in with a 326 while Harding had a 328.

After the first three schools, it was Cuyahoga Heights Walsh Jesuit and Middletown (332), Cleveland Orange (334), Cleveland St. Joseph (335), Worthington (338), Hamilton Taft (340), Wadsworth and Kettering Fairmont West (341) and Ross.

Decker started out with a 41 and then picked up a 40 on the testy backside. He had a chance at a 37 on the back but bogeyed the final three holes. He got off to a very slow

start on the front side, bogeying five of the first six holes before notching three consecutive pars.

Moll's round included just three pars — at nine, 12 and 14. He started with a 44 on the front side and came back with a 45 which included a double-bogey at the par-three 17th hole (153 yards) and bogey five at 18.

Baumann started like he was going to bring the fabled Scarlet to its knees. He birdied the 10th hole and followed with pars at 12 and 13. But he bogeyed 14 and 15 before finishing with par, bogey and birdie for 38.

The talented sophomore also started out well on the next nine, picking up two pars and a bogey over the first three holes. But disaster struck at the 486-yard par-five fourth hole. He laced his second shot out of bounds and also put a ball in the creek, finishing with a nine at the hole. He followed by three-putting the next three greens, going eight-over-par on four holes before recovering with pars on the final two holes.

"That one hole did it to me," Baumann said. "Going to number four I was only three over and had a good round going."

Hall played the back first and notched pars on four of the first five holes before collapsing. The next two holes are par fours and he took a seven on each, ruining what looked like a good nine. Hall, a sophomore, was never able to recover until he carded a par on the next to the last hole of the round.

Ross wasn't the only Northwest District team having its problems. In the Class A category, Sandusky St. Mary's was also last in a five-team field.

Mogadore, the defending champion, led the Class A field with a 318, the lowest team score of the day. The leader was trailed by Columbus Academy (339), Sidney Lehman (341), Ottawa Hills (345) and St. Mary's (367).

Columbus Bishop Watterson was the Class AA leader at 320. Watterson was followed by Hudson (330), Aurora (336), Napoleon (339), Coshocton (340), Canton Lehman (347), Bryan (349) and Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas (349).

Play today began at 7:30 a.m. Champions in all classes were expected to be determined by noon.



CARLSON

Ross track and field coach, Ron Brant came here hoping to have at least one contestant score a point and worm his way into the top six of his specialty. It didn't happen.

Still, Brant was not unhappy. He brought three athletes and two will be back on the Ross squad next fall.

"Things look promising for next year — I think you'll see us score," Brant said as he took a look into the future. "I'm sure you'll see Rob Lytle and Jeff Opelt back here and we've got high

Bob Moll, Buck Baumann and Rob Hall.

And, if they do return, the Little Giants will undoubtedly be cast as one of the favorites.

"The kids are already talking about coming back," Baker said. "Next year, if everything goes right, it could be our year."

One thing is for certain, Baker will not be as relaxed next spring.

"I can never remember being like this," Baker said Friday. "I'm relaxed and haven't worried about a thing all year. I guess it's because I don't know what to expect."

The Little Giant linksters are dreaming today... we've got

least get one or two points."

Dreams, yes, but everyone who makes it here as an athlete or coach has the right to dream. They deserve that right.

Ross tennis coach Pete Michaelis was in the stands for the track and field meet Saturday and we imagine he might have taken a trip to the tennis courts where the state championships were being contested.

And, Michaelis was also thinking about next year. Already, there are many who believe Ross is on the verge of becoming a power in the Buckeye Conference. The freshman class has five or six players who are destined for stardom in the next three years and it appears Ross will make an appearance in the state competition.



JIM DECKER follows through after hitting his second shot on the ninth fairway Saturday during Ohio High School Athletic Association golf championships. Decker, a junior, finished his round with an 81. (News-Messenger Photo)

Giant Linksters Plan For 'Next Year'

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor
COLUMBUS — Next Year.

It wasn't a battle cry, but it was the theme of conversation for Jim Decker, Bob Moll, Buck Baumann and Rob Hall after Ross completed play in the 44th Annual Ohio High School Golf Tournament.

All of the boys felt they could have played a better brand of golf," Little Giant head coach Charlie Baker said. "They weren't talking about 'if we come back next year' but rather

"what we're going to do when we come back."

The young and talented Ross foursome rebounded from a horrendous 346 Friday to shoot 332 Saturday and vault from last in the team standings to eighth among the 12 teams entered.

The 322 was the third best score posted on Ohio State University's Scarlet Course Saturday. Upper Arlington, the team champion, and Middletown, which finished second 10 strokes in back of the champions (302), each had

330 while Cleveland Orange checked in at 331.

Baumann, a sophomore, was low for Ross Saturday with a 41-37-79. Combined with an 83 Friday that gave him medalist honors (161) for the Little Giants.

Decker, who carded 81 Friday, came back with the same total (39-42) Saturday for a 162 total. Moll recovered from an 89 Friday to card 46-45-83 for a 172 while Hall added 43-47-90 to his 83 of Friday for a 183.

"With the exception of Decker,

Everyone improved Saturday and that was very pleasing," Baker said. "After shooting their worst team round of the year Friday, the kids could have folded. The tournament is going to be a tremendous experience for all the fellows."

Although none of the players will probably ever admit it, Baker felt the Little Giants were too conscious of other members of their foursome during Friday's round. Each of the Ross players were in a group that

included an Upper Arlington player.

"Being paired with Upper Arlington players could have worked two ways for us," Baker said. "It could have made us play better or worse."

"It's my own opinion the fellows were concentrating too much on what the Upper Arlington players were doing and not about the course. That got us in trouble."

Baker was not displeased with the overall showing of the Little Giants.

"Look at the cards," Baker said. "We had seven sevens, three eights and one nine. That's a lot of strokes that were taken on par four and five holes."

"We had to have a lot of pars in between. There are no pickup (easy birdie) holes on the Scarlet. A golfer must hit the ball at a premium and hope for the best to score well."

Baumann completed his tournament with a neat one-over-par 37 on the back side. He started with a birdie three at the par four 406 yard 18th hole and carded pars on the next five holes before going two over par on the final three holes.

"It was just a tremendous round of golf for Buck," Baker said. "He probably played his best nine holes of golf from tee to green on the spring. He had several makeable birdie putts but they wouldn't drop for him."

"I planned on only watching him for a couple of holes, but after he carded that 17-foot birdie on number 18 I decided to walk with him until he got a bogey. The bogey never came until the 16th and there was no one leaving him there."

Decker played the back nine first Saturday before rolling home in a 39 over the front nine holes. The 39 included a double bogey seven at the 515-yard fourth hole and bogey five at No. 7.

Moll also played the back first and ran into trouble on 13, 14 and



BUCK BAUMANN WATCHES PUTT DROP
Ross Sophomore Had 79 Saturday

Title Belongs To Opperman

JENNERSTOWN, Pa. — Jan Opperman, who won the feature event at Fremont Speedway Friday night, finished with 111 points to make a runaway of the six-track Super-Modified Spring Championship.

The Harrisburg, Pa., speedster concluded with a 44-point margin over runnerup Ralph Quarteron of Sharon, Pa., (67 points).

The six-track championship involved dirt tracks in Orrville, Fremont, Findlay, Stewart, Franklin, Pa., and Jennerstown, Pa.

Tom Dickson of Toledo won the feature event at Skyline

Speedway (Stewart) Saturday night. Finishing second was Fremont's Harold McGilton with Steve Unger of Toledo third and Opperman fourth.

Opperman nailed down the title Sunday night at Franklin, Pa., when he crossed the line first in the feature race. Lou Blaney of Hartford was second, Quarteron third and Dave Cochran of Toledo fourth.

Bob Adamson won the main event at Jennerstown, Pa., edging Bobby Allen of Miami, Fla., Johnny Crum of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Opperman.

Allen was third in the final point standings with 56 tallies followed by Kenny Wells of Mechanicsburg, Pa., (53); Blaney (52); Bob Ward, Conway, Arkansas, (52); Rick Perkel, Fostoria (50); Lynn Paxton, Toledo (49); Harold McGilton, Fremont (49) and Al Liskai, Fremont (41).

Opperman received an additional \$800 for his point advantage.

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