

Little Giants fall to Redskins

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

PORT CLINTON — With only three returning players among 20 on the roster, it's going to take a while for the boys soccer team at Fremont Ross to get acclimated to the varsity level.

Only junior Shawn Kluck, and seniors Bobby Gipe and Derek Drown are back from last year's varsity group. Gipe has three letters, Drown two and Kluck one.

Kluck provided a bright spot Thursday with a second-half goal as the Little Giants fell to Port Clinton 8-1 to open the season. Kluck made a run to the corner before sending a shot off the goalkeeper's hands and under the crossbar from the middle of the field.

"The center was open so I cut in and went straight at the goal," Kluck said.

Ross coach Jeff Pendry was impressed with Kluck.

"He played hard the whole game," Pendry said. "He earned the goal he scored. He was the one bright spot in the middle of the field."

Port Clinton (1-0) led 2-0 at the half.

Sean Kubicek scored three goals for the Redskins while Sean Riley added two in a span of three minutes in the second half. Port Clinton had a marked advantage in scoring opportunities and controlled play on Ross' side of the field.



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

PORT CLINTON'S KYLE Millinger fights for the ball against Fremont Ross' Austin Wilhelm in a game Thursday.

"The defense did well to get balls up front," Redskins coach Paco Romero said. "We distributed well

from the back."

Pendry said it will take time for a young group to grow comfortable and develop.

"Lots of inexperience," he said. "At practice, we're worried about fundamentals as opposed to tactics."

Matthew Horn can be reached at mhorn@gannett.com

Ross opens season in grand fashion

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — Mike Smith scored a whopping 13 goals over the weekend for Fremont Ross at the Tam-O-Shanter Hockey Tournament, which the Little Giants won with four victories.

The team is now 4-0 on the season after outscoring its opponents 37-2 at the tournament.

Trevor Langel had five goals and 10 assists for Ross while Matt Hershey had two shutouts and a 97 percent save rate throughout the event.

Ross beat Ottawa Hills, 6-1, behind two goals from Tyler Hull and Tommy Smith. Hull had six assists in an 11-0 win over Toledo Start, while Mike Smith scored a team-high four times that game.

Mike Smith again led Ross with three goals against Lake in a 9-0 win, and he scored five times as Ross beat Springfield 11-1.