

Giants Get Easy Win in Sectional-Semi

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Sheets fans 15 in Ross win

Little Giants rout Toledo Libbey in sectional opener

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Staff writer

OREGON — Toledo Libbey opened the game with back-to-back hits and threatened to score early in its sectional baseball game against Fremont Ross.

Little Giants' pitcher Billy Sheets put a stop to that in a hurry.

The senior right-hander struck out the next three batters to end the threat and proceeded to dominate the contest, striking out 15 Cowboys in a four-hit shutout. Ross rolled to a 9-0 sectional semifinal win at the Oregon City Complex.

"I had everything working today," Sheets said. "My fastball was on, my breaking ball was good."

After giving up a two-out double in the third inning, Sheets retired the final 13 batters in order — 10 by strike out — as

BASEBALL

Ross advanced to the sectional final Wednesday against Perryburg.

"He threw the ball very well," said Ross coach Chuck Lindsey. "I'm real proud of the way he pitched."

Every Cowboys' starter struck out at least once and Sheets fanned at least one batter in every inning. After a pop-out to start the fourth inning, he struck out eight in a row.

The Ross offense was also impressive. The Little Giants rocked Libbey starting pitcher Tony Rodriguez for eight earned runs in four-plus innings of work.

Brett Hufford was 2-for-3 and scored three runs. Spencer Root was also 2-for-3 with an RBI. Mike Hickey was 2-for-5 with three stolen bases. Julian Domiray was 2-for-5 with two RBI and Josh Lozano drove in three runs.

"Everyone did a nice job of hitting the ball," Lindsey said. "We got the key hits and I'm

pretty satisfied with the overall performance."

Ross improved to 11-4 and Libbey dropped to 1-11.

"Libbey plays in the (Toledo) City League so you don't know if their record is indicative of how good they are," Lindsey said. "But we did what had to be done."

The Little Giants scored four runs in the top of the first to take control of the game. Sheets said that was a big help.

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Ross routs Libbey in sectional

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"It gave me a lot more confidence out there," Sheets said.

Mike Hickey opened the game with a double over the head of Libbey right fielder Ray Worthington. Brett Hufford followed with a single to right and then stole second. Josh Lozano drove in Hickey with a ground out.

After Spencer Root drew a walk, Julian Domiray came through with an RBI single to right. One out later, Aaron Coonrod drove in two more runs with a double.

Ross extended its lead in the third when Lozano drilled a pitch over the 300-foot sign in left field.

"It was the first pitch and I wanted to open up on it," said Lozano, who

finished with three RBI. "It drove it hard and it went over."

The Little Giants picked up another run in the fifth as Hufford scored on a double by Root. Ross put the game away in the sixth as Hickey opened with a single and stole second. Hufford followed with an RBI single that chased Rodriguez.

Mike Cousino came in for the Cowboys and threw two straight wild pitches to allow Hufford to get to third, where he scored on Lozano's RBI ground out.

Root followed with his second straight double and scored on a single by Domiray.

The Little Giants return to Great Lakes League action today as they host Bedford. Ross has won five in a row in the GLL.