

# Ross Wins Buckeye Baseball Championship

By DON FOGLESON  
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The Fremont Ross high school baseball team is the Buckeye Conference champion for 1971—but it wasn't easy.

The Little Giants earned the title by downing Lorain Senior, 2-0, Saturday at Sandusky's Soldier and Sailor field. Jim Fausey, the ace of the Ross pitching staff, hurled a smooth two-hitter in winning his seventh contest of the season. It also dropped his earned run average to 0.37 on the year.

Ross managed to score two runs in the bottom half of the second inning. It was the first time in Ross' baseball history that they have been able to win a conference championship. They earned the right to be in the title tilt by beating Mansfield and Findlay earlier in the month. Last year the Little Giants lost to Lorain Admiral King in the championship game, 5-0.

But they weren't to be denied this time.

Fausey was very, very fast and the Ross fielders were very, very alert throughout the nail-biting contest. Several times during the game it seemed like Lorain might mount a big rally, but Ross kept its cool and did in the boys from the steel town.

In that momentous second inning, Randy Arndt led off with a sharp single to right field. He was followed to the plate by Mike Lowery who rapped a ground ball to Lorain shortstop, Ed Camera, who threw the ball wildly to second base in an attempt to force Arndt.

Arndt took third and Lowery moved on to second on the wild throw, setting the stage for thought-provoking Chuck Lindsey, the perennial jabber and gabber on the Little Giant squad.

Roger Hetrick grounded out — runners holding — and Fausey struck out. With two outs, up stepped Lindsey with the greatest of ease.

On the third offering from the Lorain pitcher, John Contini, Lindsey rapped a ground ball down towards the second baseman. Dave Reed grabbed and threw wildly to first. Both Arndt and Lowery trotted home for scores. Al Davis flew out moments later to end the inning, but Ross had what it needed.

The rest was left up to Fausey, who took the challenge and won.

He was helped by two great double plays by Lowery and Lindsey, though. The first one came in the fourth inning with one out and a runner at first. Bob Humphrey, the Lorain number five batter who looked like he might punch a ball out of the park at any time, slapped a line shot towards Lowery at short, who scooped the ball on one hop, flipped to Lindsey for the force at second and watched as Lindsey fired to first baseman Denny Smith for the double play that ended the inning.

The fifth inning was almost identical. With one out and a runner at first, Ed Camera walked to the plate for the Steelmen and promptly shot a ground ball to Lowery who turned it into another double play.

Ross almost added an insurance run in the sixth frame, but Hetrick was thrown out at the plate when he tried to score from second base on a single off the bat of Lindsey.

Contini, the Lorain pitcher, also had a good day. He allowed only seven safeties, all but one being one-baggers. And he gave up no earned runs. He struck out five and walked none.

Ross' coach, Tom Dorman, gleamed with pride after the game and looked like he was on top of the world. He said that he was very pleased with his ball club throughout the year and that the win merely summed up their most-successful season.

He gave special credit to guys like Arndt, Davis, Lowery, Lindsey, Fausey, Butdorf and credit to the rest of the squad for an outstanding season.

"We won eighteen games out of thirty," said Dorman, "and I think that's pretty good for anybody's season."

Dorman is looking forward already to next year when Lee Winkle and Bob Brudzinski, both pitchers who saw quite a bit of action this past season, should come into their prime.

"Both Winkle and Brudzinski did a fine job this year and I'm looking for an even better season next year," commented Dorman, who is in only his second season as the Ross mentor.

"There are a lot of boys on this squad who will be coming back next year . . . it's been a sensational season's end and I'm hoping for the same beginning next year."

First stringers who will return next season include Davis, Fausey, Hetrick, Lindsey, Winkle, Shoemaker, and Brudzinski.

Graduating seniors are Arndt, Butdorf, Denny Shearon, Smith, Jim Blakeman, Jeff Parkinson, and Chuck Serfozo. Arndt goes on to play in the North-South All-Star game in Columbus June 13, 14, and 15.

In commenting on the championship victory, Dorman was eager to point out that his team beat a very tough and disciplined team in the Steelmen.

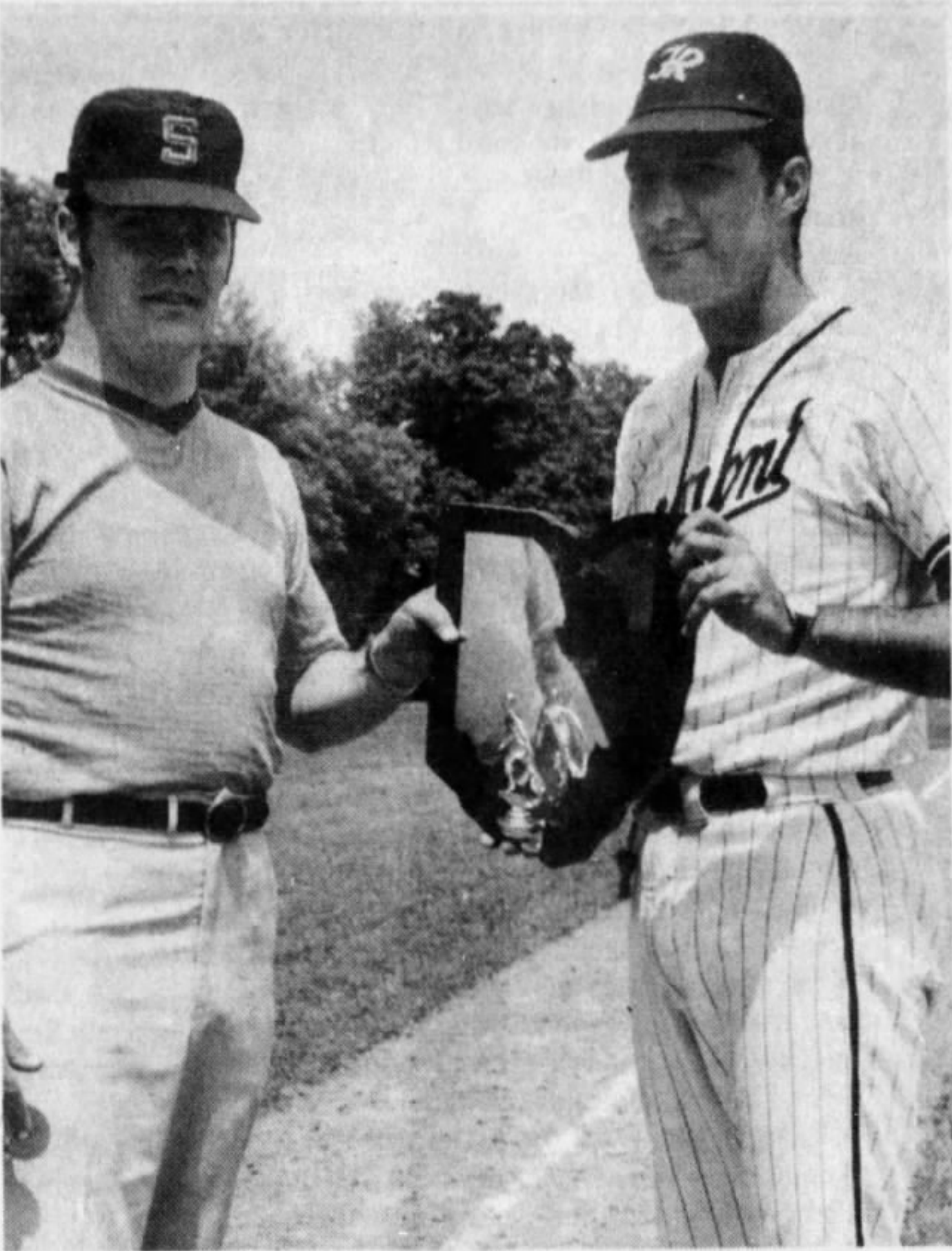
"They definitely came to play and gave us a real tough ball game. I'm sure glad our boys played as well as they did in the field," he said. "Fausey's performance was of his usual type, but our guys out there in the field played exceptionally well behind him.

"Our boys looked good before the ball game and I knew that they wouldn't let this chance get by them. I've always known that these guys were winners and I knew they wouldn't let

their school, their team, themselves and me down," he added.

Dorman was presented with a plaque following the game, honoring him and his team for being the Buckeye champs.

Next season's outlook is very bright. A trip to Columbus could be in the crystal ball for the 1972 club. Dorman thinks so — and whatever Dorman thinks shouldn't be taken lightly.



**TROPHY PRESENTATION** — Tom Dorman, Fremont Ross baseball coach, accepts championship trophy for Buckeye Conference from Gene Kidwell of Sandusky. Ross defeated Lorain Senior, 2-0, for the conference title Saturday afternoon. Kidwell, the Sandusky football coach, was in charge of the championship game. (News-Messenger Photo)

## Box Score

LORAIN	AB	R	H	Smith, 1b				3	0	0		
Livchak, rf	3	0	0	Butdorf, lf				3	0	2		
Fally, cf	2	0	0	Arndt, 3b				3	1	1		
Contini, p	3	0	1	Lowery, ss				3	1	0		
Svoboda, lf	3	0	0	Hetrick, c				3	0	0		
Humphrey, 1b	3	0	0	Fausey, p.				3	0	0		
Campana, c	2	0	1	Totals				28	2	7		
Osburn, 3b	3	0	0	Lorain	000	000	0-0	2	4			
Camera, ss	2	0	0	Ross	020	000	0-2	7	2			
Reed, 2b	1	0	0	2B-Butdorf, Campana. SB-Shoemaker.								
Totals	22	0	2	LOB-Lorain 6, Ross 7.								
ROSS	AB	R	H									
Lindsey, 2b	4	0	2					IP	R	H	BB	SO
Davis, cf	3	0	0	Fausey (W)				7	0	2	3	5
Shoemaker, rf	3	0	2	Contini (L)				6	2	7	0	5