

Port Clinton nips Ross

By BOB MARKER

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OREGON — Ross's rally grounded to a halt and sophomore left-hander Jim Wildman had just enough stuff to launch Port Clinton to a shakey 4-3 win over the Little Giants in the opening game of the Class AAA Sectional Baseball Tournament here Saturday.

Basking in the crisp sun of the 50-plus degree day, Wildman's left-handed slants had the right degree of effectiveness. The chunky sophomore choked off a bases loaded, no out situation, in the Ross fifth to preserve the Redskins' victory.

Ross stacked the bases on Andy Rodenhauser's single and pinch-hitter Shawn Simms one-base rap followed by an error by Port Clinton shortstop Greg Scalf on Mark King's grounder.

A run scored on another PC miscue as Gary Paxson's grounder to third sacker Steve Carnicom got loose. Mark Johnson's groundout scored another Ross and the bases were jammed again when losing pitcher Tom Woleslagel was walked intentionally.

Gary Harms' grounder to short scored another run but Wildman, after watching Steve Stotz spoil several pitches with foul pops, fanned the Ross catcher with a pitch at the eyes.

Wildman sailed smoothly through the sixth and was pumped up for the kill with a doubleplay in the seventh.

King was safe on a Carnicom error opening the bottom of the final inning for Ross but Fred Foos, running for King, was doubled off first on a soft liner behind second by Paxson. Port Clinton second baseman Mike Drusbacky caught the liner and flipped to Mark Haberman at first to snuff out Ross's hopes.

The play had Ross coach Tim Pettorini second guessing.

"We had him (Foos) stealing," he said while talking about the fateful seventh inning play. "Paxson had two strikes at

the time and because we had been able to tell what he (Wildman) was going to throw all day, we sent Foos. Wildman was going to throw a curve.

"Sometimes," Pettorini grimaced, "coaches get too smart. We probably should have sacrificed."

Dan Timmons, Port Clintons' leader, disclosed that Wildman would have been yanked if the winning run had gotten on in the seventh.

"I was going to bring in a faster pitcher," he said.

Wildman got all the runs he needed in one clump. The Redskins touched Woleslagel for four runs on three hits, a walk, a hit batter, three stolen bases and a couple of wild pitches in the third inning.

Wildman started the rally with a looping single to right. Carnicom walked and Woleslagel grazed the helmet of Scalf to load the bases. Woleslagel fanned Jeff Johnson and enticed Drusbacky to pop to second. That was the end of the string for the Ross hurler, Bill Kohbarger ripped a single to center for two runs, sending Scalf to third.

Timmons had his team pull off a double steal with Scalf sliding under the tag of Stotz at home. On the play, Pettorini argued but no one player called time and the alert Kohbarger swiped third in the process. He easily scored on a single by Haberman.

Gary Harms took over for Woleslagel in the fourth and handcuffed the Redskins the rest of the way.

Harms doubled in the fourth for Ross for the Little Giants only extra base hit. All of Port Clinton's hits were singles.

The Redskins will play Toledo Scott Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the tourney's second round.

SCORE BY INNINGS

	R H E				
Port Clinton	004	000	0-4	5	3
Ross	000	003	0-3	5	2
Jim Wildman and Jeff Johnson; Tom Woleslagel, Gary Harms (4) and Steve Stotz.					
WP: Wildman; LP: Woleslagel					