

Fremont high schools falter in season debut in Bowling Green

BY MATT MILLS

News-Messenger correspondent

BOWLING GREEN — The St. Joseph Crimson Streaks and the Fremont Ross Little Giants struggled Monday as the high school boys golf season began for both teams Monday at the Toledo Central Catholic Invitational.

At Stone Ridge Country Club in Bowling Green, SJCC finished in a tie with Toledo Whitmer for 17th, two spots ahead of Ross, among 20 teams. The Crimson Streaks and Panthers used 363 strokes while the Little Giants needed 381 shots.

SJCC freshman Connor Dudley had the lone bright spot for either Fremont school Monday. He made a statement in his varsity debut by recording a 77 in his first 18 holes.

"This morning was the most nervous I have ever been on the first tee box," said Dudley. "I'm ecstatic with my round, especially considering it's my first high school match, and also because I was playing with a lot of

kids from Division I schools."

Crimson Streaks coach Tom Dudley agreed.

"Today was a good confidence-builder for Connor," Coach Dudley said. "It helped him a lot mentally. Playing with three top golfers from Division I schools and knowing he can shoot just as well, if not better than them, is going to go a long way for him."

Also scoring for SJCC was Brett Michael with a 90, Joe Steinle with a 90, Tom Spader with a 107 and Tom Auxier with a 114.

"It was very encouraging that Brett was our second lowest scorer," Coach Dudley said. "Knowing our top three scorers on average are very young, this is a good thing. We'll take a few lumps this year but, in the long run, these boys will succeed."

The results for the Little Giants were surprising. Ross, which went 11-1 in dual meets in 2008, ended up in 19th place — 18 shots behind SJCC.

"Coming off a successful

summer, this was a huge let-down for us," Ross coach Nick Rider said. "The conditions were tough — it was breezy and the pin placements were tough. But we shot about 20 strokes worse than I expected. With all five players returning from last year, there's no need to ever shoot a 340. We need to improve from today's scores, if we want to compete."

Ross's Clay Schwartz, the Lake Erie Junior Golf Association Player of the Year, found out firsthand how tough things were for the Little Giants on Monday.

"I played good on the back nine, but shot a 46 on the front side," said Schwartz, who finished with an 84.

Alex Chudzinski had an 81 for Ross while Brandon Hoelzer and Garrett Steinle turned in a pair of 88s before Ian Mowry chipped in a 91.

Toledo St. Francis Red edged Ashland 313-314 to win the tournament. Toledo St. Francis Blue finished third with 318 strokes.

Little Giants, show improvement finish 4th in invitational

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross boys golf team showed great improvement during the Maumee Invitational on Tuesday at Heatherdowns Country Club.

The Little Giants finished in fourth place after firing a 317 team score, 24 strokes less than the 341 Ross produced Monday during the Toledo Central Catholic Invitational at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green.

"It was cooler and this course was more playable," Ross coach Nick Rider said. "We didn't have as much trouble as we did Monday."

The Little Giants finished behind three

teams — Maumee Invitational champion Anthony Wayne (302), second-place finisher Toledo St. Francis DeSales (302) and third-place participant Toledo Central Catholic (314).

Anthony Wayne won the meet over St. Francis DeSales on a fifth-score tiebreaker.

Ross's Brandon Hoelzer recorded a 76 on the strength of five birdies. Clay Schwartz, who had two birdies, added a 78. Other Little Giants scorers were Alex Chudzynski (81), Garrett Steinle (82), Ian Mowery (83) and Dexter Foos (91). Steinle chipped in three birdies and Chudzynski posted two more.

"We played better overall because we hit fairways and kept the ball in play," Rider said. "That's one reason we were able to record 13 birdies."

Rider was happy for the quick turnaround, but would like for the Little Giants to take a few more strokes off their team score.

"If we want to compete with Anthony Wayne or Toledo St. Francis for a district championship or a state berth, we have to get our team score down into that 305-310 range," Rider said.

Ross returns to the golf course Thursday at the Swanton Invitational.

Little Giants beat Crimson Streaks

BY JEFF ARENZ

Sports writer

FREMONT — When St. Joseph Central Catholic and Fremont Ross compete on the golf course, the rivalry is always friendly.

On Tuesday at Fremont Country Club, the Little Giants overcame the Crimson Streaks 321-344 despite a 3-over 74 from SJCC freshman Connor Dudley.

"I'm pretty happy with the way I've started (at the high school level), Dudley said. "Being a medalist twice last week has really boosted my confidence, and I've been playing pretty solid golf since then. My practice habits have been up lately."

Dudley won invitationals at Bettsville (Nature Trails Golf Course) and Willard (Willard Golf Club) on Thursday and Friday. After returning from Willard on Friday, he drove straight to Fremont Country Club to play another round for practice.

With three birdies — on the 6th, the 12th and the 17th — and 10 pars, Dudley had only five holes with a score of bogie or worse.

"I just got a brand-new driver and I hit that very well (Tuesday)," Dudley said. "The birdies were the result of good putting at No. 12 and No. 17 and because of a bunker-save at No. 6."

Ross golfer Brandon Hoelzer countered Dudley by recording a 7-over 78.

On the front nine, Hoelzer dropped in a birdie at the 6th and had a 1-over 36 at the turn. He ran into trouble at the 11th, where Hoelzer hit the ball into the water and finished with an eight. But with 12 pars in his round, the Ross golfer was able to rebound for a 6-over 42 on the back nine.

"After I drove (the ball) into the water, I tried to be aggressive and go for something good to make up for it," Hoelzer said. "I had to punch it through a couple of trees and it landed in the water. I just didn't hit many good shots on that hole."

Clay Schwartz, Alex Chudzinski and Garrett Steinle supported Hoelzer after the trio all carded 81s. Steinle, a senior who transferred from SJCC to Ross at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, was 4-over at the turn, while Schwartz and Chudzinski were both 5-over after nine holes.

"Brandon took an eight on a hole and did well to recover," Little Giants coach Nick Rider said. "Connor had a 74 and that's a great score on any day here at the country club. But it's always great to have a golfer like Brandon consistently shoot in the 70s and the rest of them were consistent with their scores in the 80s. If we can stay at 320 out here, we'll be

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competitive with anyone."

Dexter Foos added an 83 and Ian Mowry fired an 86 for Ross.

After hitting a 74 during the Calvert Invitational at the Mohawk Country Club in Tiffin on Monday, the Crimson Streaks' Aaron Staib rebounded with a 91 on Tuesday at Fremont Country Club. Brett Michael shot an 85 for SJCC, while Joe Steinle posted a 94, Tom Spader recorded a 101 and Sam Hossler had a 120.

"My top two (golfers) performed very well," Crimson Streaks coach Tom Dudley said. "I just need to have my Nos. 3-4-5 guys get a little more experience. The encouraging part for us is that our golfers are still young and can work on their games."

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Boys golf

Fremont Ross loses despite low scores

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — Brandon Hoelzer shot a 34 and Ian Mowry added a 38, but Fremont Ross dropped a 151-154 boys golf decision to Toledo St. Francis DeSales on Thursday at Fremont Country Club.

“Brandon stepped up and helped carry our team to a good score, but we all need to come together to get a ‘W’ versus St. Francis DeSales,” Ross coach Nick Rider said. “We have a great team that has potential. We just need to put it together. Ian’s 38 was also a solid score.”

Clay Schwartz and Alex Chudzinski had 41s for the Little Giants, who received 46s from Garrett Steinle and Michael Hall, a 49 from Dexter Foos, a 52 from Brock Mathias, a 55 from Scott Kosakowski and a 60 from Nate Garza.

Four St. Francis DeSales golfers — Ben Torchia (36), Dan White (38), David Torchia (38) and John Conley (39) — turned in sub-40 rounds.

BOYS GOLF

Fremont Ross 159, Napoleon 168

FREMONT — Clay Schwartz, Alex Chudzinski and Ian Mowry all had 39s as Fremont Ross defeated GBC rival Napoleon at Fremont Country Club on Thursday.

Brandon Hoelzer added a 42, Garrett Steinle shot a 44 and Dexter Foos carded a 51 for the Little Giants.

Ross topped Sandusky 162-217 at Fremont Country Club on Wednesday.

Fremont Ross wins Bellevue Invite

News-Messenger reports

BELLEVUE — Fremont Ross golfers Brandon Hoelzer and Alex Chudzinski finished among the top three as the Little Giants won the Bellevue Invitational on Saturday.

Hoelzer was the runner-up with a 75 while Chudzinski ended up third overall with a 78. The medalist was Isaac DelGarbino, who helped Clyde finish second to Ross, after firing a 71.

“Our four younger teammates worked together to put together a score that was respectable and good enough to win,” Ross coach Nick Rider said.

Ian Mowry added an 82 for Ross and Clay Schwartz had an 83.

Brock Mathias shot a 110 for the Little Giants.

Josh Driscoll contributed an 80 for Clyde, followed by Garret Rupert (88), Don Lamb (92) and Aaron Missler (93).

Trevor Miller carded an 80 to lead fourth-place Genoa, which received an 81 from Dustin TenEyck, an 88 from Jake Winters, an 88 from Andrew Goeckerman and a 93 from Kurt Nissen.

Cory Marvin turned in an 80 to top fifth-place Bellevue, followed by Taylor Radloff (86), Ryan Cook (86), Justin Schoen (86) and Sam Strayer (87).

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Boys Golf

Hoelzer paces Giants win

Brandon Hoelzer was medalist with a 35 as Fremont Ross's boys golf team beat Bowling Green 157-170 at Fremont Country Club.

Clay Schwartz had a 36 while Alex Chudzinski and Dexter Foos each added a 43 for the Little Giants.

Boys golf

Fremont Ross tops Marion Harding

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — Brandon Hoelzer (35) and Clay Schwartz (36) led Fremont Ross to a 154-183 Greater Buckeye Conference victory over Marion Harding on Tuesday at Fremont Country Club.

Alex Chudzinski added a 38 while Garrett Steinle had a 45, Ian Mowery shot a 46 and Dexter Foos carded a 48.

Boys golf

Fremont Ross wins Behrman Invite

News-Messenger roundup

NAPOLEON — Alex Chudzinski became the medalist after shooting a 71 to help Fremont Ross win the Walt Behrman Invitational on Saturday.

The Little Giants needed 301 strokes to hold off Bryan (304), Anthony Wayne (313) and Napoleon (319).

Clay Schwartz contributed a 74 for Ross. Other scores came from Garrett Steinle (77), Brandon Hoelzer (79) and Ian Mowry (83).

Boys golf

Fremont Ross slips past Calvert

TIFFIN — The Fremont Ross Little Giants received a consistent effort during a 160-164 victory against Calvert on Monday at Mohawk Country Club.

Brandon Hoelzer, Clay Schwartz and Alex Chudzinski all provided 39s for the Little Giants, who improved to 6-1 overall in dual meets this season.

Ian Mowry added a 43 for Ross while Garrett Steinle shot a 44, Dexter Foos chipped in a 45 and Scott Kosakowski contributed a 54.

Ross hosts Findlay in an 18-hole Greater Buckeye Conference dual meet today at Fremont Country Club.

FINDLAY 308,
FREMONT ROSS 312

■ **Site:** Fremont Country Club, Fremont.

■ **Fremont Ross:** Brandon Hoelzer 73, Clay Schwartz 76, Alex Chudzinski 82, Ian Mowry 81, Garrett Steinle 83, Dexter Foos 90.

Little Giants second

Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz each fired a 2-over 73 as Fremont Ross's boys golf team finished the Genoa Invitational at Chippewa Golf Club in second place at 301.

North Canton Hoover won with a 299.

Alex Chudzinski shot a 77 and Garrett Steinle a 78 for the

SEE ROUNDUP I B2