

Little Giants seek repeat performance

By TIM HARMON

Staff writer

Fremont Ross baseball coach Dan Fought would like the 1989 season to unfold like the 1988 campaign did.

A year ago, Ross rode a solid defense, pressure offense and strong senior leadership to the Division I regional tournament.

It was a nice hand to gamble on. Fought hopes to draw the same kind of cards this season.

"We're going to play strong defense again, and we're going to create (on offense) more so than we have in the past," Fought said. "The major question mark is our pitching."

Which, considering the loss of right-hander Craig Raney, goes along with the Little Giants' leadership void. Raney, the ace of the staff last season as well as the team's top hitter, has taken

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his talents to Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Fought is banking on the team developing as the season progresses.

"We definitely need that," he said, "and we need the senior leadership to develop.

"I think the seniors know the work that went into where we were last year. They need to realize this is their ballclub."

The Little Giants' 19-man varsity roster includes 12 seniors. The squad was picked from among 75 players.

"We've got competition at four positions," Fought said. "We'll let them compete the rest of the way in."

It's not by chance that the positions not up for grabs are those

of the middle defense. Seniors Mark Gonzalez and Kevin Stevenson will play shortstop and second base, respectively, senior Don Dolweck is the catcher and sophomore Chris Benson will play center field. Incumbent senior Scott Mezinger has an edge at third base.

"The attitude is always good during tryouts," Fought said. "They made the team, now they all want a starting position so some tempers will probably flare before opening day."

Ross, 56-44 since Fought took over in 1985, will need a performance from its reserves like the one the bench provided last year.

"Some kids are going to have to be role players, Fought said. "The key to our team is how well they accept those roles.

"Last year, the kids did whatever we asked them to do. We're in trouble if we don't have kids who will fulfill those roles."

So Ross would then be able to

fulfill its goals.

"Our priorities are the sectional, district and then the (Buckeye Central Conference) league," Fought said. "I'm not a league man until we join the GLL (Great Lakes League)."

Ross will compete in the GLL beginning in 1992.

Meanwhile, the Little Giants will meet Findlay in a best-of-three series this season for the right to play the winner of a round-robin tournament between Zanesville, Newark and Lancaster for the BCC championship.

"We'll talk about (the league) more this year because if we beat Findlay, we'll host (the championship) at home."

Ross opens the season March 30 against Columbian in Tiffin.

"We've got a lot of hard work to do, but we'll be there," Fought said. "We'll show up on the 30th."



Ross staff is youthful

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

This is the first in a series of articles which preview the Fremont Ross High School baseball team

An old baseball axiom states that good pitching will beat good hitting anytime.

Three sophomores will determine if that holds true at Fremont Ross High School in 1989.

Right-handers Steve Fox and Ian Varydan and left-hander Mark Montes will form the core of the Ross pitching staff.

"It's out of necessity," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "We would like to go with juniors and seniors, but we're not blessed with real good arms in those two classes."

The staff won't be void of upperclassmen, though. Senior right-handers Ron Hamil and Chad Hickman and junior left-hander Brian Miller could be called upon. Hickman logged three innings on the mound last season, and Hamil pitched two.

"I hope that Chad Hickman becomes a big gun," Fought said. "Not only as a reliever but as a starter. He could step in and be the one that leads the group."

Craig Raney filled that job last year. Raney notched seven of Ross's 15 victories and pitched in 67½ innings in 1988.

"Ron (Hamil) has done a nice job leading the staff so far, but I don't know how much work he'll get," Fought said. "We need his bat more than we need his arm."

Fought said the young staff must develop as varsity pitchers if Ross is to be successful. The development will last throughout the season.

"It's going to occur that way," Fought said. "(Development) is going to be a gradual process. They don't know what they're facing ... what kind of hitting we face at the varsity level."

"They might face some

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rough weather early, and it may take them a while to get untracked. Once they get over the jitters, they'll be all right."

Fought assessed his sophomores Tuesday night.

□ Fox: "Steve is probably the best fundamental pitcher we have. He's not overpowering, but he's a pretty good finesse pitcher. He does a lot of thinking on the mound."

□ Varydan: "Throws harder than anyone on the staff. He's having a follow-through problem right now. He'll be OK when he gets that worked out."

□ Montes: "He's got the natural break of a left-hander and that makes his good curveball that much tougher. He'll probably be the last of (the sophomores) to develop."

Miller became a pitcher almost by default.

"Brian's not a true pitcher," Fought said, "but being a lefty, he's adapted and is adjusting to that role."

"I'm not uneasy about throwing three sophomores," Fought said.

Ross stumbles in season opener at Perrysburg

News-Messenger reports

Kevin Wilhelm's two-hit pitching and six Fremont Ross errors helped Perrysburg to an 8-2 high school baseball victory Wednesday.

Wilhelm lost his bid for a no-hitter with two out in the seventh inning when John Mallia reached on an error and Tony Bryan followed with a single.

In one other game, Lake whipped Woodmore 14-4.

At Perrysburg, all 10 runs were unearned. Perrysburg, 2-3, plated two runs in the first inning and four in the third off Ross starter and loser Steve Fox. The Yellow Jackets added a pair of runs in the sixth off Ian Vardyan.

The Little Giants, who played

their first game after three rain-outs, committed six errors, including four throwing errors.

"I was disappointed in the defense because we work hard on that and it means a lot to us," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "Steve (Fox) gave us the outs on ground balls; we just didn't make the plays."

Ross scored a run in the second inning when Ron Hamil walked, went to third on a passed ball and a wild pitch and scored on Cory Lance's ground-out.

After Bryan's single in the seventh, Chad Hickman singled and Mallia scored when Perrysburg's center fielder bobbled the ball.

"I thought we would struggle offensively," Fought said. "We

hadn't seen much live pitching other than our own."

Wilhelm struck out seven and walked three.

Steve Sevits and Steve Lind each had two of Perrysburg's four hits.

Lake 14, Woodmore 4

The Flyers scored 10 runs with the help of four Woodmore errors in the second inning en route to the non-conference win over the Wildcats.

Woodmore starting pitcher Ron Taylor lasted 1½ innings. Taylor gave up 12 runs, including seven unearned, on five hits.

"He's going to do a lot better," said Woodmore Coach Vic Welch of Taylor. "He's a good pitcher, it was just one of those things."

Woodmore, 0-1, finished with

just three hits and committed seven errors.

The Wildcats' Nathan Overmyer pitched 3½ innings, giving up an unearned run and Jason Cecil pitched the sixth and allowed Lake's final run. The Flyers, 2-1, finished with eight hits and four errors.

Overmyer had two hits and walked twice and Greg Geers had a pair of walks and scored two runs for Woodmore.

"We needed to play," Welch said. "We hadn't been on a diamond in 10 days. We needed the work. Except for one inning, we did all right. We plan on being a lot better."

The Wildcats scored a run in the second inning, two in the third and one in the seventh.

Ross victory costly; Comets edge Fliers

News-Messenger reports

Ross won a ball game, but it was costly.

Two Ross pitchers were injured, one seriously, in an 11-10 victory over Sylvania Northview in a game that began in sunshine and finished under the lights more than four hours later Friday.

In other games, Genoa edged Clyde 2-1, Gibsonburg upended Margaretta 3-2, Fostoria stopped Lakota 4-3 and Norwalk downed Port Clinton 9-5.

Chad Hickman, the starting pitcher and the Little Giants regular third baseman, broke his right ankle while sliding into home plate in the first inning. The senior was taken to Flower Hospital where he underwent surgery. He is expected to be in the hospital for two to three days according to Ross Coach Dan Fought.

Steve Fox, who took over for Hickman, was the next pitcher to go down, taking a line drive on his right shin, forcing him to leave the game.

"Our play was much improved (over the 8-2 to Perrysburg earlier in the week)," Fought said, "even though

that is hard to say because we made six errors, the same as we had the other night, but in this game we played much harder and the balls they made errors on were hit hard."

Winning pitcher Rob Weiker started the Little Giants' winning rally in the seventh with a walk. Chris Benson followed with another walk and after one, the duo advanced on a wild pitch. Scott Mezinger hit into a fielder's choice to put Ross up 11-10.

Ross led 4-0 before Northview scored seven in the fourth.

Mark Gonzales doubled and singled and drove in three runs for Ross. Don Dolweck had two hits and three RBI while Mezinger, Rom Hamil and Benson had two hits apiece.

Ross will host Lorain Admiral King today at Anderson Field. The doubleheader begins at 11 a.m.

Genoa 2, Clyde 1

Freshman Matt Kwiatkowski, making his first varsity start, held Clyde to one hit.

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AK overtakes Ross; Genoa's Kaylor tosses no-hitter

News-Messenger reports

Lorain Admiral King overcame a 4-2 Ross lead and went on to hand the Little Giants an 8-6 loss Saturday at Ross High School.

The second game of the scheduled doubleheader was canceled.

In other games Saturday, Genoa sophomore Mike Kaylor pitched a no-hitter as the Comets blanked Danbury 8-0 in the Ottawa County Tournament semifinals and Port Clinton nipped Woodmore 3-2 in eight innings in the other semifinal game.

The Little Giants committed five errors.

Ross scored two runs in both the first and second innings and added a run in the third but failed to hold on for the victory. Through three games, the Little Giants, 1-2, have now committed 17 errors.

"We can correct it," Ross coach Dan Fought said. "A big part of it is mental. They're going to the right spot, but upon fielding it they go flat-footed."

After spotting Admiral King a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, Ross tied it in the bottom of the

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frame on a run-scoring double by Scott Mezinger and a run-scoring single by Ron Hamil.

The Admirals chased starter Hamil from the mound in the third inning, scoring four runs to take a 6-4 lead. The Little Giants retaliated in the bottom of the inning when Cory Lance singled in Tate Young.

Admiral King added another run off reliever Ian Varydan, 0-1, in the fourth inning for a 7-5 lead. Ross pulled within one in

the fifth when Don Dolweck scored from third on an infield error.

Varydan worked five innings in relief of Hamil, gave up two unearned runs, walked four and fanned two.

Mezinger went 4-for-4, including a pair of doubles, to lead the Little Giants' nine-hit attack.

Genoa 8, Danbury 0

Mike Kaylor recorded 14 strikeouts and walked two in his first start of the season. The Comets raised their record to 3-1, while the Lakers dropped to 0-1.

Rain forced the Genoa-Port Clinton title, slated for Saturday afternoon, to be postponed to 10 a.m. Saturday at Genoa.

The time and site of the consolation finals between Woodmore and Danbury have yet to be determined.

"He did a nice job of mixing his pitches — curveball, fastball and change-up," Genoa coach Bob Baird said.

The Comets used a single, a walk and a double steal and loaded the bases on a dropped

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Ross takes advantage of Perkins

Port Clinton, Genoa meet in tourney final

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross jumped to a 5-0 lead and went on to a 8-3 high school baseball victory over Sandusky Perkins Friday.

"We took advantage of every scoring-position runner we had," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "We came up with a lot of key two-out hits."

In other games, Genoa edged Gibsonburg 2-1, Woodmore defeated Otsego 8-3, Port Clinton knocked off Danbury 9-4 and Bellevue beat Norwalk 10-4.

Friday's Suburban Lakes League game between Lakota and Northwood in Toledo was suspended after eight innings

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because of darkness. The Raiders and Rangers will complete the game, which is tied 3-3, May 1 at Lakota.

At Sandusky, Cory Lance had two doubles and drove in two runs for Ross, 3-2, and Tony Bryan had two hits including a double.

Winning pitcher Steve Fox, 1-1, surrendered Bryan Lippus' three-run home run in the fifth inning before giving way to Rob Weiker in the sixth. Weiker worked the final 1½ innings to earn the save.

Perkins, 0-2, got two hits from Jim Guerrero.

Genoa 2, Gibsonburg 1

Genoa scored two runs in the sixth inning off Scott Widmer to win the SLL opener for both teams.

With Gibsonburg on top 1-0, Mike Gose opened the Genoa sixth with a double and scored on Jim Plantz's single. Plantz then stole second and scored on Mike Kaylor's single.

"We weren't touching (Widmer) then we came to life," Genoa Coach Bob Baird said.



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

MIKE GOSE of Genoa leaps for a throw as Gibsonburg's Kevin Keene slides safely into second base with a stolen base during Genoa's 2-1 victory at Gibsonburg Friday.

"(The Comets) got the runs when they needed to," Gibsonburg Coach Jeff Schwerer said.

Widmer, who has struck out 44 in 17½ innings this season, fanned 13 Genoa batters Friday. Brad Witt, meanwhile, struck out just three in going the distance for the win.

Genoa, 5-2, committed just

one error. Gibsonburg, 3-3, did not commit an error. The Golden Bears scored their run in the second inning.

Genoa will meet Port Clinton in the Ottawa County Tournament championship game this morning.

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Maumee's Elliott stops Ross; Clyde wins first game

News-Messenger reports

Jim Elliott struck out 13 and didn't walk a batter as Maumee defeated Fremont Ross 7-5 in a high school baseball game Thursday.

Ross fell even at 3-3 while Maumee improved to 9-1.

In other games, Clyde nipped Edison 5-3 in eight innings. Woodmore defeated Oak Harbor 7-3, Genoa got by Toledo Waite 7-5, Lakota topped Elmwood 9-6, Bellevue whipped Port Clinton 19-3 and St. Wendelin defeated Bettsville 7-3.

At Maumee, The Panthers scored four runs in the third inning. Losing pitcher Ian Vardyan walked the bases loaded and Maumee cleared them with a double and added another on a Ross throwing error.

Ross fell behind 7-1 before plating four unearned runs in the sixth inning, when Maumee committed all four of its errors.

"We put the ball in play finally," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "They gave us the game in the sixth and we didn't take it."

Scott Mezinger had two hits, including a home run, and drove in two runs for Ross and Mark Gonzalez also had two hits.

Baseball Roundup

Clyde 5, Edison 3

Steve Taylor's two-run double in the eighth inning at Edison gave Clyde its first win of the season.

The Fliers, 1-4 and 1-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference, scored two runs in the top of the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

Ryan Ray had two hits and drove in two runs for Clyde, which had just six hits to Edison's eight.

Woodmore 7, Oak Harbor 3

Host Woodmore collected 11 hits, including four doubles, en route to its third straight victory.

Woodmore, 3-3, used a three-run fourth inning to overtake the Rockets, who stranded 11 baserunners. On Wednesday, in an 8-4 loss at Edison, Oak Harbor left 13 men on base.

Roman Guerrero was the winning pitcher in relief of John Schwochow and Nathan Wittman took the loss.

Schwochow and Jason Cecil each had two hits to lead the Woodmore offense.

Genoa 7, Waite 5

At Toledo, the Comets broke out of their hitting slump by collecting 10 hits against the Indians.

Curt Counterman, a freshman right-hander, picked up the win for the Comets after going 3 1/4 innings. He gave up two runs on four hits, walked two and struck out three. Ron Kwiatkowski pitched two innings and Jim Plantz went the final 1 1/4 innings to pick up the save.

Genoa improved to 7-3.

Lakota 9, Elmwood 6

Alan Hunt had two hit, including a home run, drove in three runs and scored two runs and Larry DeBock went the distance for the win as the Raiders improved to 4-4 and won for the second time in as many tries in the Suburban Lakes League.

Elmwood jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but DeBock settled down and Lakota, which tied the score with a three-run second, took the lead for good with a solo run in the fourth inning.

Dan Mintz also had two hits for the Raiders.

Bellevue 19, Port Clinton 3

Troy Miller pitched a one-hitter and the Redmen used a four-run first inning to put the game away early. Bellevue had 13 hits in the game, which was stopped after five innings.

Miller allowed only Mike Claus' two-run single in the third inning.

Brian Johnson took the loss for Port Clinton, 2-5.

Steve Adkins homered for the Redmen, 8-0, who scored two runs in the second inning, seven in the third and six in the fifth.

St. Wendelin 7, Bettsville 3

St. Wendelin won for the first time in seven games and four Midland Athletic League contests.

The Mohawks never trailed after scoring two runs in each of the first two innings.

Winning pitcher Jason Myers and Ryan Krupp each had two hits for the winners, and Jaron Justice homered.

Bryan Chapman, who had two hits, and Ryan Chapman homered for Bettsville, which remained winless in four games.

Ross drops twinbill; Streaks sweep

News-Messenger reports

Bowling Green handed Fremont Ross its worst loss in Dan Fought's five years as head coach, and then finished off the Little Giants in the second game of a doubleheader Saturday afternoon at BG.

The Bobcats defeated Ross 15-0 in the opener and came back to score three runs in the bottom of the seventh to win the nightcap 6-5.

In other games Saturday, St. Joe won a doubleheader from Gibsonburg 5-1 and 8-0, Lake whipped Genoa 12-1, Bellevue beat Clyde 10-2 and Eastwood edged Oak Harbor 4-3 in the first game of a doubleheader. The second game was suspended after seven innings and the two teams tied at 3-3.

St. Joe 5-8, Gibsonburg 1-0

St. Joe bounced back from Friday's 3-2 loss to Bettsville with a sweep of Gibsonburg Saturday at Anderson Field.

Jim Moore and Tim Meek pitched complete games, and Jeff Radde was 4-for-5 as the Crimson Streaks improved to 6-1.

Moore and Meek each walked just two batters and threw 97 and 71 pitches, respectively.

St. Joe scored three runs in the first inning of the first game then scored four and two runs in the first two innings of the second.

"We got off to a good start... felt good going into the second game," St. Joe Coach Mike Gabel said. "The six runs early in the second game took a lot out of them."

In the opener, Scott Radde's two-run triple and an RBI single

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gave St. Joe its early lead. Steve Kelbley and P.J. Szakovits later added RBI singles.

Jeff Radde, who had two hits in each game, had two RBIs in the second contest as did Szakovits. Jay Overmyer and Dan Lopez each scored two runs.

Gibsonburg, 3-7, got two hits each from losing pitcher Tom Busdeker and Jon Beaber in the opener but collected just three hits in the second game.

In a junior varsity doubleheader at Gibsonburg, St. Joe won 16-2 and 10-9.

Bellevue 10, Clyde 2

The Redmen ran their record to 10-0 with the non-league win over Clyde, 2-5.

Troy Miller, junior right-hander, went the distance for Bellevue, striking out seven and walking four.

Todd DeWitt doubled and drove in three runs and Terry George and Mark Lee both drove in two runs to pace the Redmen.

Lake 12, Genoa 1

Lake improved to 9-2 and Genoa fell to 8-4 after the Flyers' non-league win.

The Flyers, who scored in every inning but the second and third, collected 11 hits. The Comets had just five hits and committed four errors.

Bowling Green 15-6, Ross 0-5

The Bobcats mustered nine runs in the first inning and added six more in the sixth in the first game.

Ross starting pitcher Steve Fox did not get a batter out and was hampered by a porous defense.

"Our defense didn't help him out," Fought said. "We had four errors in the inning and seven for the game."

Cory Lance pitched 5½ innings, allowed six runs on six hits, walked nine and struck out three in relief of Fox.

In the second game, the Little Giants, 3-5, committed four errors in the bottom of the seventh en route to the loss. A two-run throwing error by Ross ended the game.

The Little Giants outhit the Bobcats 8-6 but were unable to hold on to a 5-3 lead after three innings. Sophomore Rob Weiker, 1-1, gave up all six hits — only one in the seventh — to take the loss.

Bowling Green is 8-2.

Eastwood 4-3, Oak Harbor 3-3

The Eagles made the most of four hits and four Oak Harbor errors to win the first game. Eastwood scored four runs in the third inning and hung on as the Rockets rallied for three runs, two on a single by Todd Banky, in the top of the seventh.

Dane Epling, 0-2, took the loss for Oak Harbor. The freshman right-hander struck out seven and walked three over six innings.

In the second game, which was suspended after seven innings, Mike Glusko, Jamie Rollheiser and Mark Rutherford combined to hold the Eagles to just one hit.

Glusko, who caught the first game, did not allow a hit over the first five innings.

The Rockets, 0-6, completed a triple play in the fourth inning.

Whitmer beats Ross

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross pitching yielded nine walks and Toledo Whitmer took advantage for an 11-2 victory in a high school baseball game in Toledo Wednesday.

Whitmer, 9-3, scored in every inning but the first to make a loser of Rob Weiker, who walked four before giving way to Cory Lance.

In other games, Oak Harbor defeated Clyde 7-4, Genoa whipped Woodmore 20-4, Port Clinton topped Sandusky Perkins 6-2, Margaretta beat Huron 13-2 and Seneca East stopped Bettsville 8-3.

At Toledo, Don Dolweck had two of Ross's seven hits as the Little Giants fell to 3-6.

"We're just not playing good baseball," Ross Coach Dan Fought said.

Strange no-hitter by Fox boosts Little Giants

Ross whips Macmen 18-5

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Steve Fox's no-hitter was overshadowed by the resurgence of the Fremont Ross offense in an 18-5 rout over Toledo Macomber Thursday at Anderson Field.

Fox, a sophomore right-hander, walked eight and hit two batters but settled when his teammates took a 9-3 lead after three innings.

"It was a very unbelievable no-hitter," Fox said. "I had a lot of control problems. The strike zone was very small, and I didn't have good control of my fastball."

"I just relied on the breaking ball, letting up on my fastball and trying not to aim the ball."

It worked, as did some fine defense by the Little Giants.



FOX

Ross, 4-6, collected a season-high 13 hits while snapping a four-game losing streak.

"Tonight was a big game from

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News-Messenger/Scott Lightfoot

RON HAMIL of Fremont Ross slides safely into third base as Toledo Macomber's Ron Szabo tries to block an errant throw during

the first inning of the Little Giants' 18-5 victory over the Macmen Thursday at Anderson Field.

Ross

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that standpoint alone," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "They needed their confidence back."

Macomber, 0-9, scored an unearned run in the first inning, but Ross came right back with three in the home half of the first. The Little Giants scored an unearned run on two Macomber throwing errors before an RBI single by Ron Hamil and a run-scoring ground out by Cory Lance.

The Macmen then plated an unearned run in the second and added a run in the third.

"I was worried when it got to be 3-3, and Steven was still struggling," Fought said.

Fought's worries were lessened considerably when Ross scored six runs in the third.

Don Dolweck, Young and Mark Gonzalez each drove in two runs in the inning. Gonzalez capped the inning with a two-run double to the base of the fence in left.

"After that, I felt I could make a mistake and it wouldn't hurt me," Fox said. "It wasn't a one- or two-run ballgame."

Ross scored three runs in the fourth on RBI singles by Lance, Nick Wolf and Chris Benson before Macomber touched Fox for an unearned run in the fifth.

The Little Giants led 14-4 after Scott Mezinger scored on Matt Gnepper's pinch-hit, RBI double and Gnepper later scored on a passed ball in the fifth.

An RBI single by Gonzalez, a sacrifice fly by Tony Bryan, Gnepper's run-scoring ground out and an unearned run which scored on a wild pitch finished the Ross scoring in the sixth.

Macomber added its fourth unearned run of the game in the seventh before Fox struck out losing pitcher Kyle Marsh to end the game.

"That's probably the funniest no-hitter I have ever seen," Fought said. "I'm happy he got it but there is a lot of room for improvement, and that's what I told Steve."

Fox struck out eight, including the side in the sixth.

Marsh, who worked six innings before giving way to Aaron Bezuchalski with two men on in the seventh, gave up 16 runs on 11 hits while walking six. He was also hurt by five errors.

Central five-hits Ross; PC loses

News-Messenger reports

Kurt Snyder pitched complete-game, five-hitter and Toledo Central Catholic defeated Fremont Ross 4-0 in a high school baseball game Friday.

Central, 6-7, scored solo runs in the first, second, fourth and sixth innings. Snyder struck out six and walked only one.

In other games, Sandusky St. Mary's edged Port Clinton 4-3 and Otsego nipped Genoa 2-1.

At Toledo, Ross fell to 4-7 although starter Ian Vardyan and reliever Ron Hamil yielded just two earned runs.

The Little Giants failed to capitalize on a two on, one out situation in the sixth inning and left two men stranded in the seventh.

"I thought we were going to have a big inning in the sixth," Ross Coach Dan

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Fought said. "We put the ball in play but not at the right times."

Chris Jasweicki had a pair of doubles for the Irish.

St. Mary's 4, Port Clinton 3

At Sandusky, St. Mary's remained in sole possession of first place in the Sandusky Bay Conference. The Redskins outhit the Panthers 9-8 but committed five errors.

Port Clinton fell to 4-7 and 2-2 in the SBC. St. Mary's is 7-1 and 4-0 in the conference.

Scott Calton took the loss for Port Clinton after pitching 4⅓ innings of five-hit ball.

Otsego 2, Genoa 1

At Genoa, the Comets fell to 11-5 and 4-2 in the Suburban Lakes League after the upset loss. Otsego is now 3-10 after winning its first SLL game against three losses.

Punchless Ross falls at Sandusky

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross failed to generate much offense Tuesday in a 6-3 loss to Sandusky at Charlie Wright Field.

Ross collected just five hits and left 10 runners on base.

"I thought we would put the ball in play a little bit more

□ Baseball Roundup, B-3

than we did," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "We didn't make anything happen."

Sandusky pitchers Mike Franklin and Brian Dise retired four Ross batters on pop-ups and fly balls while recording 12 strikeouts.

Franklin, who gave up John Mallia's RBI single in the fourth and Brian Miller's pinch-hit, run-scoring double in the fifth, pitched five innings for the win.

"I thought (the fifth) was the inning we would get something going," Fought said. "(Franklin) didn't have great stuff. If you get to him early, you can knock him out of the box."

Dise worked a perfect sixth before striking out Ross's Nick Wolf with the bases loaded in the seventh. The Little Giants plated a run in the seventh when Scott Meizinger scored on a wild pitch.

Sandusky, 11-1, scored two runs in the first on Mike Delk's two-run double, added two unearned runs in the second and one in the third off Ross starter Ron Hamil.

The Blue Streaks tallied a run in the fourth on Troy Keegan's solo home run to left off Rob Weiker.

Ross, 4-8, hurt its cause with six errors, including five throwing errors.

"Those kinds of errors are the ones we have been making all season," Fought said. "We keep making the same mistakes."

Ian Vardyan finished for Ross, working out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh.

Ross hurt by errors in 7-4 loss

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Steve Fox didn't have no-hit stuff, but Fremont Ross wasted a solid effort by the sophomore right-hander in a 7-4 loss to Toledo Whitmer Wednesday at Anderson Field.

Six of the runs scored off Fox were unearned as Ross committed eight errors.

"That is Steve's best outing" Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "Better than the no-hitter because he faced better talent."

Fox pitched a no-hitter last Thursday against winless Toledo Macomber.

Ross was trailing 3-1 when the wheels fell off in the sixth inning.

After two were out, Whitmer's Mark Szymkowiak walked and Pat Murphy followed with a fly ball to right that Ron Hamil misplayed for a three-base error. Mike Haack then walked and stole second in front of Bill Semier's two-run single.

Semier took second on an error by Ross left fielder Tate Young and moved to third on Don Dolweck's throwing error before scoring on Dan Trost's double, which chased Fox.

Rob Weiker came on and got Chad Whitting to bounce back to the mound, but the damage had been done.

"We may have stayed too long with Fox, but he was throwing well and getting people out," Fought said. "If we make the play in the sixth, he's out of the inning."

Ross, 4-9, scored a pair of unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth to cut Whitmer's lead to 7-3. The Little Giants added a run in the seventh when Scott Stalker walked Hamil with the bases loaded, but Stalker struck out Cory Lance to end the game.

"If we didn't have that big inning, just by doing what we did we could have lost," Whitmer Coach Rob Rose said after the

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Ross snaps loss skid; Genoa wins sectional

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross snapped a five-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory over Oregon Clay Wednesday, while Genoa won a Class AA sectional championship.

Ross's Ian Vardyan had a no-hitter through 5½ innings before settling for a five-hit, complete-game victory. Genoa's Brad Witt shut out Sandusky Perkins 4-0 on three hits at Eastwood High School.

In other games, Sandusky St. Mary's defeated Old Fort 9-6 in a Class A sectional championship game at Old Fort, Gibsonburg edged Lakota 5-3 and Eastwood defeated Woodmore 5-1 at Genoa.

At Oregon, Vardyan struck out one and walked only two.

"He had real good stuff," Ross Coach Dan Fought said. "We played good defense behind him and once he saw that, he put the ball in play."

Chris Benson drove in two of the Little Giants' three runs with a single and a sacrifice fly.

Ross, which broke a one-all tie with a two-run seventh, committed just one error.

"This is the way I like to play all the games," Fought said.

Ross improved to 5-11 and Clay fell to 12-8.

Genoa 4, Perkins 0

At Eastwood, Witt struck out seven and walked only one as did losing pitcher Jim Guerrera.

Jim Plantz, who had two hits, stole home in the fourth inning for the Cornets' first run. Plantz later drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Genoa, 16-8, also scored an unearned run in the sixth when Steve Smith scored on an over-throw after Plantz's fly ball and

Baseball Roundup

finished the scoring when pinch runner Chris Mathews scored from second on Witt's sacrifice bunt.

Jeff Benavides also had two hits for Genoa, which played errorless ball.

The Cornets advance to district play at Bellevue.

St. Mary's 9, Old Fort 6

At Old Fort, the Stockaders scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning and the game ended with the tying runs on base.

Winning pitcher Mike Will homered, doubled and drove in four runs for the panthers.

Joe Hull and Steve Adelsperger each had a double among their two hits for Old Fort, 14-8. Hull scored twice and Adelsperger had two RBI.

Gibsonburg 5, Lakota 3

At Kansas, Gibsonburg led 5-1 after 6½ innings then held on for the Suburban Lakes League win.

Tom Busdeker pitched 5½ innings for the win and got relief help from Lupe Arriaga and Jason Swartzlander, who worked ⅓ of an inning for the save.

Jon Beaber scored twice for Gibsonburg, 9-9 and 4-4 in the SLL.

Brian Boze had two hits and Larry DeBock took the loss for Lakota, 8-12 and 5-7 in league play.

Eastwood 5, Woodmore 1

Wayne Knitz got the win over Nathan Overmyer as the Eagles improved to 6-4 in the SLL.

Woodmore, 9-8 and 6-4 in the SLL, scored its only run in the fifth inning.



Baseball Roundup

Witt finished with one strikeout and six walks.

Kaylor, Steve Smith and Jeff Benavides all had doubles and Mike Gose had two hits, scored two runs and stole two bases.

"We scored about every way we could," Baird said.

St. Joe 5, Bettsville 0

At Bettsville, Tim Meek hurled a two-hitter and struck out 10 as the Crimson Streaks raised their record to 12-4 and 7-3 in the Midland Athletic League.

Meek, 3-1, walked two to send the the Bobcats, 3-11 in the MAL, to their 14th loss in 17 games.

Jim Moore hit a two-run homer and Scott Radde had two hits, including a double, and drove in two runs.

Findlay 10-8, Ross 9-4

At Fremont, Ross ended its season after dropping the two-day double-header as Findlay earned the right to play Lancaster for the Buckeye Central Conference championship.

The Little Giants, 5-13, led 9-7 after

six innings when rain forced a suspension of the first game Monday at Findlay.

The Trojans, 11-7, scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh Tuesday on two infield singles, a flyball that Ross right fielder Ron Hamil lost in the sun and a double by Dave Breitigham.

"That's about the toughest luck you could have," Ross Coach Dan Fought said.

Rob Weiker, who also took the loss in the second game, was the losing pitcher and Scott Garlock got the win.

Ross had scored eight runs in the sixth inning Monday after Findlay plated four in the fifth. The Trojans added three in the fifth.

In Tuesday's nightcap, Weiker pitched four shutout innings before giving up four runs in the fourth. Findlay added three in the sixth and one in the seventh.

The Little Giants left eight men on base.

Northwood 4, Woodmore 1

At Elmore, the winners scored all of their runs in the top of the second in-