

FOCUS: *FIELDS OF FREMONT*

Alumni Field has room to grow

Little Giants know lay of the land

By TIM HARMON

Staff writer

The new home field of the Fremont Ross baseball team, Alumni Field, has the unique distinction of being both a pitcher's and a hitter's park at the same time.

"It's a pitcher's park because there's not too many things (balls) that are going to get out, and there is more foul territory than at Anderson Field," Ross coach Dan Fought said. "From a hitter's aspect, there's a lot of (power) alley to work with."

Alumni Field is 325 feet down the lines, 345 feet in the power alleys and 375 to straightaway center field.

"The biggest reason I like it is because we practice there every day," Fought said. "We know all the bumps; we know all the hops. We know how to play our ballpark."

The Little Giants lack a true power hitter and aren't blessed with great team speed. They are 3-1 at Alumni Field, though.

"It suits this team real well," Fought said.

"There's a special feeling when we play here. They are excited to be out here, and they should be."

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Alumni Field is a new but sparse-looking baseball diamond at Fremont Ross High School.

But the Ross Little Giants have played games there this season on days when they otherwise might have been unable to play.

The field, which replaces Anderson Field as the Little Giants' home, is relatively maintenance free thanks to its sandy mix and drainage tile underneath it every 40 feet.

There was a time this winter, however, when it looked like the Little Giants might play a complete away schedule.

"With the guys I had working on it, we wanted to make sure that didn't happen

because we all have sons that play and we'd rather stay home and watch our boys," said Bob Kusmer, the head of B.U.I.L.D.

Boosters United In Land Development is a group of Fremont Ross Athletic Boosters organized to develop a baseball and softball complex on land north of the high school football practice field and the track.

It's all due to the work of local contractors, who were helpful donating time, equipment and materials.

Plans have been in the works for three years. "We wanted to build it a year ago," Kusmer said.

The plans include a concession stand, restrooms, scoreboards, trees to border the four fields scheduled to be built and parking

for 130 cars along Fangboner Road.

"We wanted to do something that would be first class," Kusmer said.

In addition to the varsity baseball diamond already in place, a diamond for junior varsity baseball as well as varsity and JV softball fields will be built.

The first ballfield lacks a setting, Kusmer admits, but his primary concern at present is getting the grass to grow.

"To put in a field and get the grass growing it takes a good growing season," he said. "We really didn't get it planted and going until September last year."

"Considering that it was just seeded in September and they're playing on it already, that's pretty good so far."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THE FREMONT ROSS Little Giants junior varsity baseball team prepares to play a game on Alumni Field Wednesday afternoon.