

2006 Season Review

Fremont Ross netters drop opener to Findlay

Fremont Ross dropped its volleyball opener, falling to Findlay in three games on the road.

Findlay won the match 25-8, 25-17, 25-23.

Karie Marroquin notched four kills and two blocks, Stephanie Schneider had seven digs and Jenni Hasselbach had two kills, a block and three digs. Stephanie Reed had two kills, a block and two digs.

Coach Krissy Lotycz said the girls were a little timid in the first game, but competed in the next two.

"Overall we did a fine job," she said. "We need to manage the ball more effectively."

News-Messenger reports

Clyde won the Norwalk volleyball tournament, defeating Shelby, 25-14, 25-16; Elyria Catholic 25-16, 27-25; and Amherst 25-21, 14-25, 26-24.

In the championship match, Stephanie Meyer scored the last six points for Clyde to win, as they came back from a 24-20 deficit.

"The girls showed an amazing amount of heart to come back and win," said coach Brian Miller.

Meyer scored a total of 30 points, while Jenny Miller and Erin Wax each scored 34.

Oak Harbor lost to Sandusky, 28-26, 25-23, and Western Reserve, 13-25, 25-19, 15-25.

Kristen DiMasso scored 10 points, had 19 digs and six blocks. Halie Bergman had 19 digs and 12 blocks.

Ross-Lima Senior

The Little Giants topped Lima in a Greater Buckeye Conference match, going four games.

Ross took the first two, 25-23, 25-15, but Lima Senior came back to win the third, 25-20, before the Little Giants (1-

1, 1-1 GBC) slammed the door, 25-15.

Karie Marroquin, who only played the first game, had four assists, a kill and an ace. Jenny Kim had eight digs, four kills and two aces.

The junior varsity and freshmen teams were also victorious in straight sets.

First-year Ross coach Krissy Lotycz said the Little Giants were more aggressive in their serving game, and passed well also.

"We had hitters that made great plays and put the ball away," she said.

Bettsville-Monclova-Vanlue

The Bobcats split a three-way meet, losing to Vanlue 25-19, 25-19, but beating Monclova, 18-25, 25-8, 25-20.

In the win, Emily Johnson had 18 points and five aces, while Caitlin Baker had nine points and four aces. Baker had three kills, while Lindsey Ginnever had five kills.

In the loss, Johnson had seven assists, while Ginnever had two kills and two digs. Katie Fay had three kills and eight blocks.

Little Giants knock off Blue Streaks

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

It's always good to be home. It's even better when you come out victorious against your archrivals, as the Fremont Ross volleyball team did Thursday in its 23-25, 25-19, 25-17, 25-23 defeat of Sandusky, handing the Blue Streaks their first Greater Buckeye Conference loss.

"Tonight was a huge game for the girls because it was their first home game," Fremont coach

Krissy Lotycz said. "They had to come out here and prove themselves and what they did tonight was just incredible."

"They made a huge statement not only to our coaches, but to their parents and most importantly, to themselves."

Sandusky coach Jordan Fahr was disappointed in the loss despite what she described a valiant effort.

"We're better than what we played today," Fahr said. "I think

our girls were tired.

"I still think they played a great game, but I've seen a lot better out of them."

The Blue Streaks (4-3, 3-1) took an early advantage in Thursday's match-up as seniors Shalice Montgomery and Chelsea Lyons led Sandusky to a win in the opening game.

In the second game, the Little Giants shifted their attention to their defense as they took control. Fremont jumped out to a large

lead in the second set midway through before eventually evening the game at 1-1 by outscoring the Blue Streaks 25-19.

"There is so much potential and talent out there," said Lotycz of her team. "Tonight felt great. They pulled together, they came together and they got their job done."

The Little Giants kept their momentum in the third game as they opened up a five-point advantage, but the Blue Streaks

roared back to take a four-point lead. Ross clawed their way back to a 25-17 win in the game and eventually winning the match.

Stephanie Reed, Stephanie Schneider, Kailin Turner, Tiffany Esquivel, Melissa Schrickel and Karie Marroquin all contributed offensively and defensively throughout the game.

"(Schneider) did a great job in the defense," said Lotycz. "All of

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Ross picks up win over rival

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the defense did a great job of not letting the ball drop.

"When we can run our offense we take control of games."

Lotycz also complimented the play of Marroquin.

"She is one of the smartest girls as far as placing the ball," Lotycz said. "It's not how hard you hit it but it is where you place it."

Marroquin said the victory was satisfying to the Little Giants.

"It feels amazing," said Marroquin. "For the rest of the team, we all feel the same."

"We all did a great job. At first our defense was a little shaky, but after that our defense got amazing and we played as a team."

Fahr was also pleased with her team's effort despite the setback.

"We stayed strong," said Fahr. "It was just little errors that killed us. There's no excuse for it, we just didn't step it up today."

Lotycz said she was pleased with the effort Fremont displayed in the victory.

"I told them before the game that they can't take this game lightly," said Lotycz. "You can't tip-toe through the tulips or walk through the park because they are going to bring their A game."

"This year we've instilled in them to have confidence in themselves. They can do the jobs out there, but it is really up to them. The girls showed up, they were ready to play and they played with confidence."

Fremont will travel to Napoleon for another league match Tuesday.

Volleyball

High School Girls

Fremont 25-31-18-28,

Napoleon 22-29-25-26

Ross leaders: Stephanie Reed and
Carrie Marroquin top performers.

Record: Ross 3-1 (3-1 GBC).

Little Giants fend off Presidents

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

Ross senior Kaitlin Turner served six consecutive aces in Tuesday night's Greater Buckeye Conference volleyball match against Marion Harding and Jade Wetzel provided a spark for the Little Giants as they downed the Presidents 25-23, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19.

At various times throughout the contest, Wetzel would give the Little Giants small momentum boosts as she would finish

off points in a variety of ways.

"Jade Wetzel was on fire tonight," Fremont coach Krissy Lotycz said. "It seemed like if we were out of the system or behind the 10-foot line setting and we still threw the ball up to her, she would put it down. "She was smart attack-



WETZEL

ing the ball whether it was a hard hit or if it was just a tip. She found the hole."

Lotycz said Wetzel's play was instrumental in the Little Giants' win.

"It's nice when you can count on a player to go to every time or when it is a so-so pass, that you can just find someone to put it away," Lotycz said.



TURNER

Fremont opened the first contest by winning the first game 25-23, in which neither team led by more than two until the Little Giants moved ahead 22-18 behind two points from senior Stephanie Schneider including a help on a kill by Stephanie Reed.

The Little Giants and Presidents continued to battle back and forth in the Game 2 as Harding opened up a quick four-point lead behind the efforts of Lacey Hamon and Brittany Williams. Both Hamon and Williams accounted for two

points.

Fremont responded quickly and eventually fought their way ahead before taking the second set 25-21.

"Our serve-serve was there tonight," said Lotycz. "In order to do anything, to get your serve-serve there, you are able to run your offense. Tonight we were able to execute our offense."

The win, which moved Ross to 6-2 (4-1 GBC), seemed to be in order for the Little Giants before the Presidents rallied in the

third game, winning 25-21 to force a fourth game.

That's when Fremont's Turner provided a table-turning serving performance.

Harding took an early 4-1 advantage before Fremont evened the score at 7-7. A few moments later, and with the Presidents leading 12-9, Turner got the opportunity to put her team ahead for good as she took the line to serve.

That's when Turner fired six consecutive aces and when her serve was over,

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Ross powered by Turner's serving

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the Little Giants led 19-12 before capturing the final set 25-19.

"She's just on fire," Lotycz said. "She served four aces in a row, they called a timeout, and she came back and served two more. To come back after a timeout, that's hard just to let alone get your serve in, let alone to ace it. The kid is just wonderful serving."

But that wasn't all Lotycz had to say

about Turner as she complimented the rest of her play as well.

"I always can count on Kaitlyn in pressure situations to go back to her set line and she is in a totally different zone," Lotycz said. "She's in her element and when she gets back there, no one is stopping her."

The Little Giants will play in a tri-match Saturday against Oak Harbor and Maumee.

High School Volleyball

Ross sweeps Rockets

News-Messenger reports

Ross beat Oak Harbor but fell to Maumee in a tri-match Saturday at Maumee.

The Little Giants beat the Rockets 22-25, 25-18, 25-10. Kaitlin Turner had 12 assists and five digs, Karie Marroquin had 11 assists, 10 digs and six kills and Melissa Schrickel had eight kills and four digs.

Defensively, Stephanie Schneider had 18 digs and Tiffany Esquivel had 12.

Jenny Kim recorded three kills and



SCHNEIDER three digs in a two-game loss to Maumee, 25-18, 25-13.

Ross is now 7-3.

"I think we got off to a slow start," said Ross coach Krissy Lotycz. "It seems like some days were on a roller coaster and this was one of the days we were going down."

Clay outlasts Little Giants

Ross battles back, drops five-game match on road

By VINCE GUERRIERI
Sports Editor

OREGON — In the first game of their non-conference match against Fremont Ross on Monday, Clay scored 12 points before the Little Giants got on the board.

Ross, demonstrating a never-say-die attitude, rallied to take the game, 29-27, but a couple of momentum shifts and their own mistakes cost them, as they went the full five games but lost the match.

"We didn't execute at crucial points of the game," said first-year Ross coach Krissy Lotycz.

Down 12-0 in the first game, the Little Giants (7-4) forced a side-out, and Tiffany Esquivel served five straight points, getting Ross into the game.

Clay got a point, but promptly gave the serve back to the Little Giants, who then scored three more points, including an ace by Stephanie Schneider to shave the Eagles' lead to five, 13-8.

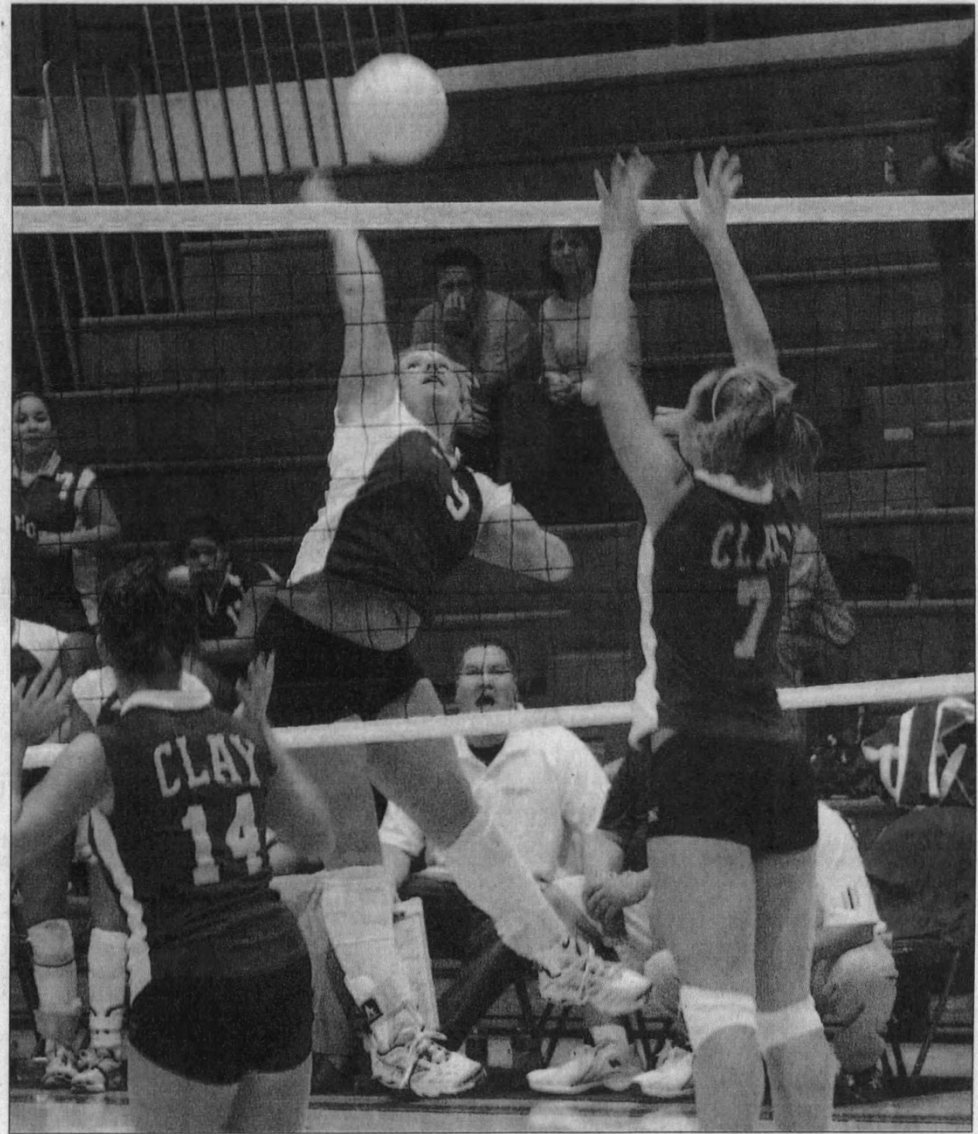
Eagles coach Stacey Cromer called a time out to regroup, but little by little, Ross chipped away at the Eagles' lead.

The Eagles (5-7) managed to maintain a cushion, but a kill by the Little Giants' Melissa Schrickel tied the game at 22.

Clay gave up a point after four hits, and Ross had their first lead of the game. After that, the teams traded points until the Little Giants strung together a two-point lead for the 29-27 win.

"Most teams would have folded," Lotycz said. "As a player, as a coach, I have never been down 12 points and come back — especially not on their court."

Ross came out a little flat in the second game, spotting them three points. However, they rallied to tie the game at 9, but after that, Clay got three straight points, and ultimately pulled away for a



Lee Welch/News-Messenger correspondent

JADE WETZEL of Fremont Ross hit the ball over the net in a non-league match at Oregon Clay on Monday.

25-18 win in the second game.

The Eagles jumped to another early lead in the third game, scoring the first five points of the game. The Little Giants battled back, closing a four-point gap and tying

the game at 11, including two aces by Kaitlin Turner.

However, the Eagles scored the next five points and Ross never got closer than four points in the 25-21 loss.

In the fourth game, Ross took an early lead

and never looked back, cruising to a 25-14 win over Clay.

Cromer said his inexperienced team has struggled with unforced errors all year, and made 21 in that game.

"That doesn't mean

[Ross] they're not doing anything to score," he said. "We're just making it easier."

The team returns just one person — senior setter Kristen Gyori — from a

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Ross takes Clay to five games

eam that went to regionals last year.

"Every other kid played freshman and JV last year," Cromer said.

The fifth game started with a kill by Ross's Stephanie Reed — the only game of the five where the Little Giants got on the board first. Ross rolled up a 9-6 lead, but Clay scored five straight points before two kills by Reed gave the lead back to the Little Giants.

After a Clay time out, they scored three straight points before another kill by Reed pulled the Little Giants within one.

But a Ross net foul sealed the game and the match for Clay.

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News-Messenger reports

The Little Giants, in the inverse of their performance Tuesday, started strong but had trouble finishing, falling in three games to Whitmer, 25-23, 25-13, 25-17, in an out-of-conference matchup.

"We took control of the game from the start," said coach Krissy Lotycz. "But then I think we got too relaxed, too comfortable with our play, and we'd start to play too timid when they came back."

The loss drops Ross to 8-5. The Little Giants have a key matchup Saturday against Greater Buckeye Conference-leading Findlay.

Trojans win GBC showdown over Ross

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

A battle between the top two Greater Buckeye Conference volleyball teams took place Saturday in Fremont as league leader Findlay stayed perfect in GBC action by defeating Fremont Ross 25-21, 25-10, 25-18.

The Little Giants entered the contest fired and basically stayed even with the Trojans (12-2, 7-0) for the first portion of the opening game.

Trailing 7-5, Findlay responded with a fury as sophomore Maddi Kurjan earned five consecutive service points, aces two of them while being aided by two kills from junior Alli Hook.

"Alli has come a long way from her sophomore year to her junior year," said Findlay coach Lindsey Beckstedt. "She does a great job and she is very fundamentally sound.

"She talks to the setter and that helps with our communication. We have her running all over the court which makes it difficult for other teams to block us."

Moments later, the Trojans extended their lead to 17-10 before the Little Giants evened the set at 19-19 and later at 21-21.

But Kurjan spoiled Fremont's bid at an opening set win by firing two more aces as Findlay took the set 25-21.

"I think (Findlay) executed on a few of our mistakes," Little Giant coach Krissy Lotycz said. "After that, it's hard to get pumped up."

In the second game, Fremont fell behind 14-10, then Findlay erupted for the set's final 11 points. Rachael Hammond served 10 of the 11 points.

Schrickel tallied three more points during Game 2, finishing with 12.

"Findlay has always been a tough program," said Lotycz. "They've always been a team to compete with and always have a target on their back. They are a tough ball team."

The Trojans finished off the sweep in the final set.

Falling behind 17-16, Findlay evened the score on a kill by Brittney Bills and the Trojans never looked back finishing the score at 25-18.

"Our number one goal was to win the GBC," said Beckstedt. "We took that to heart and our focus was to go out there and run our offense and I think we did a good job of that."

Ross will travel to Sandusky on Tuesday.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Ross tops Sandusky in GBC match

News-Messenger reports

The Little Giants took it to the limit, but beat Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky in five games, 25-14, 25-27, 28-26, 11-25, 15-12.

Coach Kris-sy Lotycz said that Ross won the games in which it played strong — including the deciding game, when the Little Giants scored the first five points.

"In the first game, we came out strong," Lotycz said. "We were aggressive, the communication was there, the consistency was there."

However, she said, the Little Giants couldn't execute when needed in the second game, and couldn't pass in the fourth.

The Little Giants are now 9-5 (6-2 GBC), with both conference losses coming to league leader Findlay.



LOTYCZ

the first five points.

serving with nine kills and nine digs but Port Clinton fell to Clyde 25-13, 25-27, 25-16, 25-16 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Abby Skrbina had 11 kills and seven digs, Bethany Buchanan was 9-for-10 serving with six kills and 13 digs, and Mindy Belden was 13-for-14 serving and 59-for-60 setting with 12 assists for the Redskins (6-9, 2-8). Kim Adkins added 11 assists.

"The girls were tough (Tuesday)," Port Clinton coach Seth Benner said. "They really played hard and overcame some tough situations. Clyde is a good team."

The Fliers have only one loss in the conference.

Oak Harbor-Perkins

Dani Glass had eight digs, five kills and four points but Oak Harbor lost to Perkins 26-24, 25-11, 25-17 in the SBC.

Marisa Bergman had six points, six digs and five kills, Annie DeTray had five digs, three points and three kills, and Mackenzie Platzke added 15 assists, six blocks and three kills

Amy Benz had 11 kills and Melissa Goodman had another seven as the Stockaders beat New Riegel in three games, 25-7, 25-13, 25-19, in Midland Athletic League play.

Shannon Nye had two aces, seven digs and three kills. Defensively, Goodman had three blocks and Benz had three. Setter Emily Cleveland had four aces, a kill and 27 assists.

SJCC-Carey

Stephanie Golamb had 26 digs to lead St. Joseph Central Catholic over Carey in four games, 25-23, 25-12, 16-25, 25-20, in MAL play.

Jenny Kusmer had 24 digs, Molly Wise had 13, Leigh Ann Swaisgood had 15 and Chelsea Paradiso 10.

Offensively, Ashley Overmyer had 13 kills, Kusmer had 10 and Justine Rhoad had eight kills.

St. Wendelin-Bettsville

Emily Johnson and Caitlin Baker each had five digs, but Bettsville fell to Fostoria St.

NOTEWORTHY

Clyde wins, Ross loses at quad volleyball match

Clyde won both matches in a quad meet Saturday at home, while Ross lost both in that meet.

The Fliers beat the Little Giants 25-14, 25-11, and also beat Bowsher 25-21, 25-21.

Stephanie Meyer had 21 points, Tayla Meade had 18 and Jamie Hoppe had 16 for Clyde (15-4).

Ross lost to Bowling Green, 25-16, 25-23.

"We played two very competitive teams," said coach Krissy Lotycz. "They just outsized us with their height and jumping ability."

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Napoleon rules Ross

Little Giants swept in GBC match

By JOHN J. BEIER
News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross honored their seniors with a pregame ceremony on Tuesday night. The seniors playing in their last home match were Tiffany Esquivel, Jenny Kim, Jennie Hasselbach, Stephanie Schneider, Stacy Smith, Jade Wetzel, Kaitlin Turner, and Melissa Schrickel.

That turned out to be the highlight of the evening for the Lady Giants, as they lost in three straight to Greater Buckeye Conference rival Napoleon.

"It was a dynamic performance by the team,"

said Wildcats coach Peg Funchion. "We kept them off balance, and we played a complete game. The last time (we played), it took them four games to beat us."

In the first game, both teams started slowly before Napoleon's Bethany Behnfeldt ran off six straight points to put the Wildcats in front. Napoleon was also helped by Haley Baden's four kills, Sabrina Ryan's two kills and Marlea Rolander's two kills en route to a 25-10 victory.

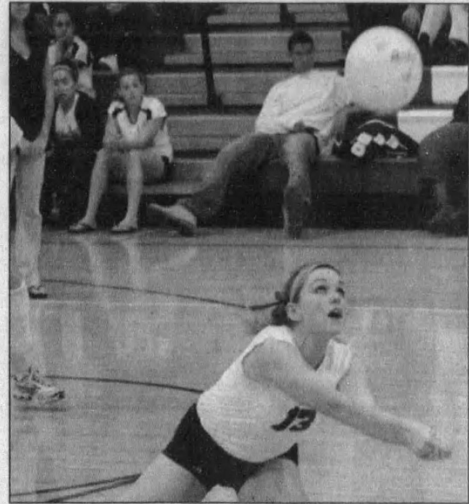
In the second game, the defense was much better for Ross. There were several good rallies, and the play

was even between both teams. But in the end, the Lady Cats held on for a 25-20 victory.

In the third game, Ross started out with a small lead. But Napoleon forged ahead and never looked back in posting a 25-7 victory.

Napoleon is now 8-9 overall and 5-5 in the GBC. Ross is now 9-10 overall and 6-4 in the GBC.

Fremont Ross coach Krissy Lotycz said, "We beat ourselves. Our fundamentals were not there. We couldn't pass the ball. The setting wasn't there. We couldn't manage the ball."



Doug Hise/News-Messenger correspondent

SENIOR KAITLINTURNER of Fremont Ross records a dig in a match with Napoleon on Tuesday night in Fremont. Napoleon won the Greater Buckeye Conference match in three games.