

Senior trio leads softball team

This will be the first year for girls softball at Ross but Coach Christy Holland feels that he has a small nucleus of experience on his otherwise young squad.

"I've got three seniors," he said as he described his team, "who have played rather extensive amounts of softball. I'm expecting them to be the backbone of the team."

The three — Deb Link, Lori Lawrence and Shriley Long — played for the Fremont Merchants last season. The only catch with the experience offered by the trio is that they gained it in the slo-pitch ranks.

"This is fast pitch," Holland pointed out, "and a lot of the girls aren't familiar with it — not even the girls that have played before."

The Ross girls are slated to open today at Maumee in a 4 p.m. game. Thursday the team will be at Upper Sandusky while on Friday the Little Giant ladies will be at Bellevue.

The first home game for Ross will be Wednesday, April 18 with Sylvania Southview.

Holland was happy to see softball brought into Ross's athletic fold but was disappointed with his first turnout of players.

"We had only 18 show up with 16 sticking it out," he said.

The Ross team has the three seniors, junior Lorilee Mitchell while the rest are sophomores.

The Ross diamond coach listed his lineup for early in the season but said that all girls will play.

Lawrence and Link will handle the bulk of the pitching with sophomore Jody Frampton seeing some action. Holland said that he expected Frampton to develop into a good pitcher next season adding that it takes "about 18 months" to develop as a fast pitch hurler.

Long will be the catcher with Dana Michaels the backup.

When Link is not pitching, she will be at first base. Sue Yingling will be at first base when Link is toeing the platter.

Cindy Gilson and Sue Merrill will be switching between second and shortstop until either settles into a particular position.

Also in the second base-shortstop picture are several sophomores according to Holland.

Sophomore Lisa Pfeiffer is at third. Holland said that Pfeiffer has an excellent throwing arm.

Diane Borys is expected to be in leftfield with Rhea Paulson in center. A trio of players are vying for the outfield spot — Lisa Riehl, Laura Gnepper and Laura Boedeker. All of the outfield possibles are sophomores with Lawrence also seeing some action in either of the outfield slots.

Sports in Brief

PRO FOOTBALL

ATLANTA — Andy Spiva, a middle linebacker with the Atlanta Falcons, was killed when his car ran off a rain-slick road north of here and struck a tree, Fulton County police said. Teammate Garth Ten Napel was critically injured.

Spiva died of massive head and chest injuries at Northside Hospital.

Ten Napel was listed in critical but stable condition with head, chest and pelvis injuries.

Spiva, who was obtained by the Falcons after being released by the Cardinals in the final preseason cut in 1977, was listed as the Falcons' No. 1 middle linebacker in preseason camp last year before injuring a knee.

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — Bjorn Borg of Sweden and Vitas Gerulaitis and John McEnroe scored victories in the first round of a World Championship Tennis tournament.

The top-seeded Borg downed Britain's Mark Cox 6-4, 6-2; Gerulaitis beat Peter Feigl of Austria 6-1, 6-4, and McEnroe defeated Switzerland's Heinz Guenthard 6-2, 6-1.

In other first-round action, Gene Mayer beat Dutchman Tom Okker 6-3, 7-5; Peter Fleming defeated Anand Armitraj of India 6-3, 7-6 and Brian Teacher fell to Australia's Geoff Masters, 6-2, 6-4.

Poland's Wojtek Fibak downed Ulrich Binner of West Germany 6-1, 6-2; Jose Luis Clerc of Argentina advanced with a 7-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Robert Reiniger, and Vijay Armitraj of India beat Andrew Pattison of Rhodesia 7-5, 6-2.

NICE, France — Italy's Corrado Barazzutti defeated Vladimir Zednik of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-4, to advance to the men's singles quarter-finals of the Nice Open Tennis Tournament.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Pancho Gonzalez beat Australian Mal An-

Ross girls lose debut

NEW RIEGEL — Ross came close but had to settle for an 11-10 setback by New Riegel in the school's first high school girls softball game Tuesday.

New Riegel scored a run in the bottom of the seventh to shade the Little Giant girls. The Blue Jackets did not have a hit in the inning, scoring on a walk, stolen base and two passed balls.

Ross committed 11 errors in the contest.

"The errors caught up to us," Coach Christy Holland admitted, "and the girls were a little slow responding to passed balls."

Lori Lawrence and Cindy Gilson paced Ross's 11-hit attack. Lawrence doubled and singled twice with Gilson getting three singles.

This afternoon, Ross will host Sylvania Southview in a 4:15 game at Rodger Young Park.

Ross girls win first

Ross's softball team took advantage of 21 errors by Bettsville to claim an easy 20-4 victory over the Bobcats Thursday.

The game was called after five innings on the 15 run rule.

Lisa Pieffer and Shirley Long both belted three hits and drove in three runs as Ross, 1-1, scored 11 runs in the first inning and coasted from there.

Bettsville scored three runs in the fourth and one in the fifth, not enough to prevent the game to be stopped.

Ross girls cage Bobcats

Ross's girls softball team scored in every inning but one and took advantage of Bettsville's 16 errors to coast to an easy victory over the Bobcats 19-6 Wednesday.

Deb Link drove in five runs and Lisa Pieffer banged out three hits for Ross, now 2-1.

Ross led 8-1 after just two innings to allow Jodie Frampton to pick up the win with relief help from Diane Borys and Shirley Long.

Score by innings

				R	H	E
Bettsville	102	111	0-6	7	16	
Ross	352	504	x-19	12	10	

Susan McKinney (LP) and Tracy Arman. Jodie Frampton (WP), Diane Borys (6) and Shirley Long, Dana Michaels (6).

Ross girls win

The Ross girls' softball team took advantage of 20 walks by Perrysburg pitchers to coast to a 28-20 victory Wednesday.

Lori Lawrence and Lisa Pfeiffer each had three hits for Ross, who scored 13 runs in the sixth inning to take the lead away from Perrysburg.

It was Perrysburg's first loss in six outings. Ross is now 3-1.



LORI LAWRENCE of Fremont Ross sets her lips as she delivers a low fast one to an Old Fort hitter Friday in a high school girls softball game at Fort Seneca. Lawrence allowed only four

hits while helping Ross win its fourth game of the season against three losses. (News-Messenger photo by Dan Bomeli)

Ross girls climb to 4-3

FORT SENECA — Ross inched a game above the .500 mark with a 20-4 victory over Old Fort in a high school girls softball game Friday.

The Little Giant ladies took advantage of several Old Fort walks and a 10-hit attack to jump to 4-3 for the season.

Diane Borys drilled a grand slam homer to highlight an eight-run fourth

inning for the Little Giants. Deb Link added a triple to the Ross attack.

Lori Lawrence was the winning pitcher for Ross, allowing only three hits.

SCORE BY INNINGS

	R H E					
Ross	132	812	3-20	10	7	
Old Fort	010	110	1-4	3	4	

WP: Lori Lawrence; LP: Lisa Burks.

Little Giant girls triumph

Ross scored 15 runs in the second inning and then held on for a 21-16 victory over Norwalk in girls high school softball Wednesday.

Norwalk fought back with 10 runs but couldn't catch the Little Giants, now 5-3 for the season.

Sue Yingling had a triple and three RBI's for Ross.



Findlay girls defeat Ross

Sue Yingling of Ross hits the dirt to score against Findlay during a second inning play at the plate Wednesday in a high school girls softball game at Rodger Young Park. Findlay catcher Sherry Shengler looks for the ball as it falls in front of Ying-

ling. Findlay won 16-9 to drop Ross's record to 5-4. The Trojans scored seven runs in the second inning. Seven different Ross girls had singles in the contest.

Little Giants win

Ross's girls softball team scored seven runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to race to a 19-13 lead, then held off determined New Riegel 19-17 in girls softball Thursday.

The Little Giants got three walks and three hits in the seven run innings, with Sue Yengling doubling and Diane Bores and Sue Merrill each getting a single.

Yengling had two doubles on the game, while

Debby Link smashed a triple and Bores also had a double.

Yengling had four RBI's for the game.

Ross is now 6-4, while New Riegel dropped to 10-2.

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Little Giants ladies lose

Old Fort avenged an early season 20-4 loss to Ross with a 13-10 high school girls softball victory Monday.

The Stockaders scored 10 runs in the final three innings to erase a 6-3 Ross lead after four innings.

Wendy Miller homered in the fifth and Cindy Ahle tripled for Old Fort.

Deb Link had two hits and Shirley Long tripled for Ross. The Little Giant ladies are now 6-5.

Score by innings

				R	H	E
Old Fort	012	042	4—13	8	5	
Ross	020	404	0—10	6	10	

WP: Willis; LP: Diane Borys

Season records: Ross 6-5.

Norwalk trips Ross

Norwalk grouped all ten of its runs in the middle three innings to post a 10-7 girls softball victory over Ross Wednesday.

Neither team scored in the first three innings, but both teams scored three in the fourth and Norwalk added three more in the fifth and was never headed.

Shirley Long had a pair of hits for Ross, who scored seven runs on just three hits, taking advantage of ten Trucker errors.

Lori Lawrence had the other Ross hit. The Little Giants are now 7-7.

Ross plays its final game of the season next Tuesday against Toledo Waite at Rodger Young Park.

Norwalk 10, Ross 7

SCORE BY INNINGS

	R	H	E
Norwalk	000	334,0-10	8 12
Ross	000	310 3-7	3 9