

# Ross fights pressure with enthusiasm

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

Steve Ebert admits he feels the pressure of producing a winning baseball team at Fremont Ross this spring.

The first-year coach also admits the Ross players have high expectations for the season, which begins Tuesday at Toledo DeVilbiss.

The former is based on the presence of seven Little Giants who received letters last season. The latter is based on their collective enthusiasm to succeed.

"A lot of people keep referring to all the experience, and it makes me nervous because people are expecting a lot," Ebert said. "It will be nice to get that first win."

Seniors Steve Fox, Rob Weiker, Ian Vardyan, Chad Novitski, Chris Benson and juniors Nick Wolf and Justin Perry return from last year.

Fox, Weiker and Vardyan are two-year lettermen. Novitski, Benson, Wolf and Perry are returning starters.

"The biggest surprise all season has been Paul Rostetter,"

Ebert said. "He's really been a leader. He's very vocal and takes charge out there."

Rostetter, a senior who did not play as a junior, is the Little Giants' starting catcher. He will handle a pitching staff led by Fox and filled out by Vardyan, Weiker and juniors Allan Dorsey and Jon Hetrick.

Hetrick, who is just getting over a bout with mononucleosis

complicated by pneumonia, will begin throwing Monday.

"The biggest concern right now is Jon Hetrick," Ebert said. "He doesn't have a lot of speed, but he's got a lot of junk and he's a good reliever."

Fox (3-4, 3.43 ERA in 1990) is the top starter. Vardyan, a power pitcher, is apparently re-

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### Ross

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covered from an arm injury suffered last season. Dorsey, a control pitcher, and Weiker are the third and fourth starters.

Ebert said sophomore Shane

Willer may be promoted from the junior varsity team.

The Little Giants will rely on smart defense and aggressive baserunning until the hitting comes around, Ebert said.

"Early in the year, defense is going to win the close games," he said. "The hitting is not there, but you expect that early in the

season because we spend a lot of time on defense and situations.

"Teams get better with the stick. They usually do."

Novitski, who batted .333 and scored 25 runs a year ago, returns in center field. Chris Benson (.296, five HR) moves from right to left, while juniors Alec Shawl and Kurt Vardyan will

share time in right.

"We feel very comfortable with that outfield," said Ebert, who noted the Ross outfielders' speed and strong throwing arms.

Wolf (.306) and Perry (.162) return at first and third base, respectively. Dorsey will be the regular shortstop and junior Steve Wilson is the starter at

second base, although Fox can play either second or short and sophomore infielder Brian T. Wilson could be called up from the reserve team if needed.

Juniors Doug Fitzgerald and Fred Schnee will back up Wolf and Perry, and junior Tom Contreras is the back-up catcher.

Novitski, Shawl, Benson and

Kurt Vardyan are the keys to the offense, Ebert said.

"If we get them on base, we're going to make things happen," he said. "We want people to react to us."

"We want to put pressure on other teams."

Which could relieve the pressure on the Little Giants.

# Fox, Weiker combine on no-hitter

News-Messenger reports

Steve Fox and Rob Weiker combined on a no-hitter Thursday and Fremont Ross defeated Napoleon 12-3 in its high school baseball opener.

Fox pitched 4½ innings, allowing three unearned runs, and Weiker pitched the final 2½.

Control was Fox's undoing. The senior right-hander struck out seven but walked 11 before giving way to Weiker, another senior right-hander.

"(Fox) started to get in trouble in the fourth and fifth innings," Ross coach Steve Ebert



FOX



WEIKER

said. "We thought he would make it through the fifth, but he didn't."

"Rob Weiker came on and

pitched real well. He didn't get himself in any trouble."

Weiker struck out four and did not walk a batter.

The Little Giants led 7-0 when the Wildcats, 0-2, scored three runs in the fifth inning on two wild pitches and a throwing error.

"We told (Weiker) to go in and shoot strikes and that's what he did," Ebert said.

Alec Shawl scored the first Ross run of the season on a Napoleon balk in the first inning. The Little Giants broke the game open with a six-run third, capped

by Doug Fitzgerald's two-run double.

"We got the bases loaded with no outs and were hoping for a big inning," Ebert said. "It did happen."

Paul Rostetter had two hits for Ross, including a double, and Steve Wilson added two singles as the Little Giants collected 10 hits. Kurt Vardyan and Fred Schnee also doubled.

Shawl, Vardyan, Rostetter and Chad Novitski scored two runs apiece.

In one other game, Oak Harbor whipped Danbury 18-3 in its

season opener.

The Rockets sent 20 men to the plate in the first inning and scored 16 runs.

"We had a good night," first-year coach Tim Laderach said. "I'm happy with what we did, and I was glad with the enthusiasm. I just want to see better defensive play the next time out."

Oak Harbor collected eight hits in the first inning, including two each by John Striker, Mike Hubans and Brian Kersten. Striker drove in four runs on two singles and Hubans added three RBI.

# Columbian surges past Ross

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

An early Fremont Ross lead may have seemed like a comfortable advantage, but Tiffin Columbian didn't think it was insurmountable.

The Tornadoes overcame a 6-2 deficit Wednesday and went on to a 10-7 high school baseball victory over the Little Giants at Anderson Field.

"Tonight was the first time we really hit the ball," Columbian

coach Fred Neil said. "It was good for us to come back."

Ross, 1-1, left the door open for Columbian's six-run fifth inning when second baseman Steve Wilson failed to touch second base on an apparent double play ball.

After Jeff Sykes opened the inning with a walk off losing pitcher Ian Vardyan, Rob Reinbolt hit a ground ball to third that Justin Perry fielded and relayed to Wilson.

"It was just a simple mis-

take," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "Not turning the double play and not getting the lead runner."

Vardyan, who struck out seven and walked six in 4½ innings, dodged one bullet when Kurt Meilott grounded out to first after a wild pitch moved the runners up to second and third.

A walk to winning pitcher Chad Ward, who homered his first time up, was followed by Todd Drake's RBI single and a

two-run single by Dale Wurm chased Vardyan.

Reliever Rob Weiker gave up run-scoring singles to Eric Carter and Randy Drake before getting out of the jam.

The Tornadoes, who hurt themselves with four errors in the first four innings, sent 11 men to the plate in the fifth.

Chris Bowlin took over for Ward to start the fifth and al-

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# Ross

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lowed one run on two hits the rest of the way.

"Early in the year, we have a limit on how many pitches our pitchers throw," Neil said, "and (Ward) reached that limit."

Bowlin has walked only three batters in 10 innings, including two walks Wednesday, according to Neil. A walk to Allen Dorsey, the first man he faced, was wiped out by a 5-4-3 double play — Columbian's second double play of the game.

"I thought the second one was very big for us," Neil said. "That was a key play in the game."

The Tornadoes, 2-1, ended the third inning with a 4-6-3 double play after Perry reached base on an error with one out.

"(Double plays) always hurt," Ebert said, "but you have to fight back from them."

The Little Giants scored an unearned run in the first inning when Chad Novitski reached on an error, stole second, went to third on Alec Shawl's sacrifice bunt and scored on a passed ball.

Ward's home run and an unearned run made it 2-1 Colum-

bian after 1½ innings.

Chris Benson walked and scored on an error for Ross in the bottom of the second and with two outs Novitski drove in a run with a single past first base and Shawl drove in two runs with a triple to the gap in left-center.

"That was nice to see," Ebert said. "You don't expect to get runs with two outs."

Ross's Kurt Vardyan singled in the fourth, moved to third on an error and a balk and scored on Novitski's liner to center.

Leading 8-6 after five innings, Columbian added a run in the sixth and one in the seventh off Weiker before Jon Hetrick relieved and retired the only three batters he faced.

Novitski's lead-off triple to the fence in center and Alen Dorsey's single to right produced a run in the last of the seventh for Ross, but Dorsey was thrown out trying to stretch his hit into a double after Columbian right fielder Greg Melroy failed to come up with the ball cleanly.

"It was just the little things," Ebert said. "(The Little Giants) have to focus for the whole game. You can't lapse."

Ross and Columbian will play again today in Tiffin.

# Columbian wins second straight over Ross

News-Messenger reports

Jon Marsh's three-run home run in the third inning highlighted a nine-run outburst over two innings Thursday and Tiffin Columbian defeated Fremont Ross 11-6 in high school baseball.

The Tornadoes' victory was their second over the Little Giants in two days. Columbian, 3-1, defeated Ross 10-7 Wednesday in Fremont.

In other games reported, Hopewell-Loudon shut out Gibsonburg 2-0, Bellevue defeated Oak Harbor 8-1, Norwalk beat Margaretta 14-5 and Toledo Waite edged Genoa 8-7.

Ross, 1-2, had the bases loaded with one out and two runs home in the top of the seventh in Tiffin when the game was called because of darkness.

## Baseball Roundup

"I had no beef with that," Ross coach Steve Ebert said despite the fact the top of the Ross batting order was due up.

Steve Fox, who walked four in 3½ innings, took the loss after Columbian scored four runs in the second inning and five in the third.

Fox wasn't getting the calls on the corners of the plate and was forced to throw the ball across the middle, according to Ebert.

"There was nothing I could do to change things," Ebert said.

Kurt Vardyan had two of the Little Giants' seven hits, while Tom Contreras and Fred Schnee each scored two runs.

Scott McDole struck out eight

over 6½ innings to get the win.

Hopewell-Loudon 2, Gibsonburg 0

Hopewell-Loudon scored a run in the first and one in the seventh to make a loser of Chris Carper, who struck out 12 and walked only one for Gibsonburg.

A double by Carper was one of three Gibsonburg hits.

Brandyn Zoeller pitched the first four innings to get the win for the Chieftains.

Both teams are 1-2.

Bellevue 8, Oak Harbor 1

The Redmen remained undefeated in four games after handing the Rockets their first loss in three games.

The game was called after six innings because of darkness.

Bellevue scored all of its runs in the final three innings. The Redmen outhit the Rockets 7-4

and took advantage of five Oak Harbor errors.

Mike Hubans took the loss for the Rockets.

Norwalk 14, Margaretta 5

The Truckers broke up a 5-5 tie with a nine-run fifth inning as the Polar Bears fell to 1-3 in another game that was called after six innings.

Wally Dorobek took the loss after Margaretta starter Gary Barrett did not make it out of the second inning, when Norwalk scored five runs.

Margaretta, which was outhit 13-7 and committed five errors, scored a run in the first and four in the third.

Genoa 8, Waite 7

Waite pitcher Mike Hoffman

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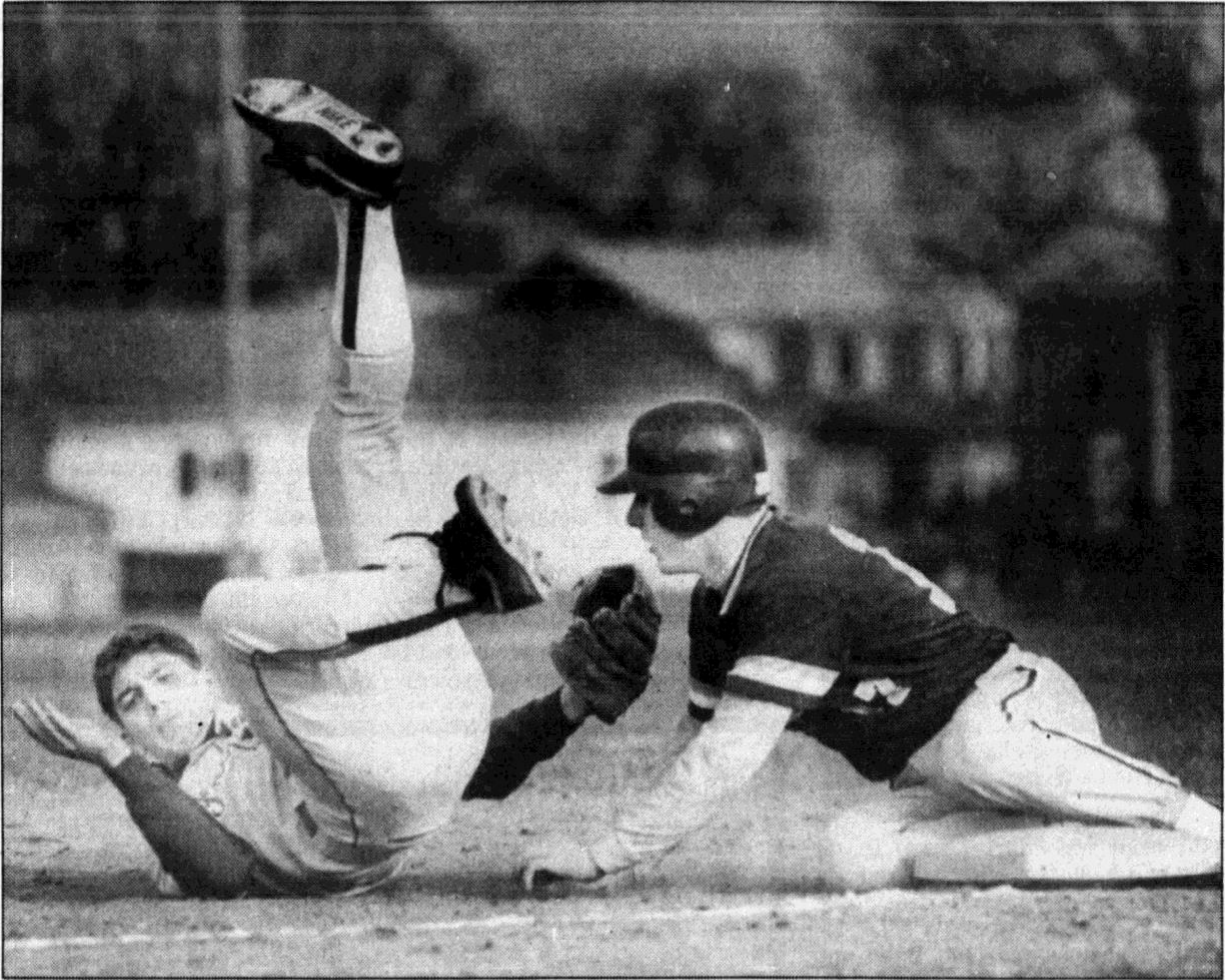
## Maumee 6, Ross 5

Ross scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning but it wasn't enough to overtake the Panthers, 3-1.

The Little Giants, 1-2, outhit Maumee 10-9 and appeared on their way to a victory after Paul Rostetter's pinch-hit double started a seventh-inning rally. Maumee, however, was able to hold on. Alec Shawl's three-run homer ended the scoring.

Allan Dorsey, 0-1, went five innings and took the loss. He gave up five runs on seven hits, with three strikeouts and four walks.

Nick Wolf went 3-for-3 and scored two runs and Fred Shnee added a pair of singles for Ross.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

**ROSS THIRD** baseman Justin Perry gets knocked down by Maumee base runner Gary Wulf during

high school baseball action Friday night at Anderson Field. The visiting Panthers posted a 6-5 win.



## Central 6, Ross 1

The host Irish broke the game open with four runs in the fifth inning and one in the sixth off loser Ian Vardyan, 0-2.

It was the third straight loss for the Little Giants, 1-3.

Vardyan pitched five complete innings and gave up all six runs on seven hits, with six strikeouts and two walks.

Ross scored its only run in the sixth inning, when Chris Benson singled in Allan Dorsey.

Fred Shnee tripled and singled as the Little Giants were outhit 10-4.

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio

Wednesday, April 10, 1991 **B1**

# Ross out-Foxes Northview

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

There couldn't have been a better time for the Fremont Ross baseball team to put good pitching, solid defense and timely hitting together.

Mixing those efforts in an 8-1 victory over Sylvania Northview Tuesday at Anderson Field, the Little Giants ended a four-game losing streak.

"In a streak like that, you

want to start something fresh and not continue it," Ross coach Steve Ebert said.

Ross, 2-4, had not won since opening the season with a 12-3 win over Napoleon March 28.

Steve Fox, who combined with Rob Weiker on a no-hitter in that game, and a three-run first inning got Ross back on track.

Fox (2-1) scattered five hits, struck out eight and walked four.

"It's an improvement," said

Fox, who walked 11 against Napoleon. "If you've got a lead, you're more relaxed."

After Kurt Vardyan (moved into the lead-off spot because Chad Novitski is out until Friday with a pulled abdominal muscle) struck out leading off, Fred Shnee doubled to the gap in right-center.

Following a walk to Alec Shawl, Northview starter and loser Jeff Sander fielded Paul

Rostetter's sacrifice bunt and threw wildly to first as Shnee scampered home.

Justin Perry followed with a two-run single to center.

"I told the guys they weren't coming through," Ebert said. "Tonight when guys were on, they came through."

Fox then went to work, pitching out of a two-on, one-out jam

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# Ross

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in the third and a two-on, no-out jam in the fourth.

"I focus a lot more in those," Fox said. "And when I get behind in the count. I feel I can throw my fastball or curveball in those situations."

# Baseball

## Continued From B1

trick drove in Young with the game-winner.

"We did some things we had to do to get those runs home in the fifth," Gabel said. "We needed the clutch hits."

**Gibsonburg 3, Calvert 2**

Jon Beaber's two-run homer in the sixth inning and Chris Carper's bases-loaded double in the seventh gave Gibsonburg its third win against two losses.

Calvert led 1-0 after scoring in the fourth inning off Jim Bateson, who went the distance with six strikeouts and

The Ross defense did its part as well.

Rostetter threw out Chad Dillion trying to steal second after a lead-off walk in the first inning, and center fielder Alec Shawl threw out Northview's Nick Sneider trying to score from second on a base hit by Mike Busch — ending the third.

"My defense is playing really well," Fox said. "I let them hit the ball, and the defense came through."

The Wildcats' offense couldn't say the same thing.

"We had opportunities early and couldn't move the runners up," Northview coach Jack Koch said. "We're having a hard time figuring out who can do what and when."

With lightning and rain threatening to end the game before it was official, Fox retired six straight batters after an error and Steve Wolfe's single put two Wildcats on to open the fourth.

"Once I get ahead of batters, I'm more comfortable," said Fox, who threw 105 pitches.

The Little Giants knocked out Sander with a five-run sixth. Sander recently completed rehabilitation from a knee injury suffered last football season,

according to Koch.

"He didn't have much preseason work," Koch said. "He's just not sharp yet. He's nervous and jittery. When he relaxes and throws, he's alright."

Sander allowed one hit after the first until Nick Wolf's triple to center scored Allan Doresy, who walked leading off the sixth.

Brian Myers and Kurt Vardyan sandwiched walks around Scott Root's strikeout, and Schnee greeted reliever Jim Lyons with a bases-clearing triple to the identical spot of his first-inning double.

"I usually pull the ball," said Schnee, who golfed a low fastball that went for a ground-rule double and hit an 0-2 pitch for the triple.

Shawl capped the scoring with a RBI single.

Fox struck out Matt Sperling to start the seventh, but Mark Priestap singled and moved to second on a passed ball. Sneider walked, and a fielder's choice moved the runners up.

Bill Eicholtz ruined Fox's shut-out with a single to right, but Vardyan put the finishing touches on the victory by throwing out Sneider at the plate.

# Ross lacks offense in latest loss

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross bats were silent Thursday in the Little Giants' 5-2 loss to Toledo Macomber at Anderson Field.

Ross wasted a complete-game pitching performance by Rob Weiker, collecting just four hits as the Macmen won their first game of the season against three losses.

"Rob pitched a fantastic ballgame, but we didn't help him out," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "We're just not getting runners in the way we should."

"Basically, we're not hitting the ball the way we need to."

In other games reported, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic edged Margaretta 7-5, Clyde defeated Genoa 5-2, Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic topped Gibsonburg 6-4, Lake edged Lakota 2-1, New Riegel nipped Woodmore 5-4 in eight innings and Mansfield Madison shut out Port Clinton 5-0.

Macomber scored three runs in the first inning, when it col-

## Baseball Roundup

lected half of its 10 hits, and added two runs in the seventh.

Ross, 2-5, scored a run in the fourth and one in the seventh.

Weiker, 0-1, struck out four and walked two.

St. Joe 7, Margaretta 5

Kevin Furlong was the winning pitcher in relief for the second straight day, pitching 2½ innings of hitless ball after Margaretta knocked out St. Joe starter Aaron Pfeiffer in the fifth inning.

"I wanted Pfeiffer to get us far enough along so we could use Furlong for a couple of innings," St. Joe coach Mike Gabel said. "I wanted him to get through five innings, but I couldn't wait any longer."

The reason for the urgent pitching change was a double by Ron Koelsch, a triple by Matt Brunner and a double by Mike Setzler on consecutive at bats. The three hits produced two Polar Bear runs and tied the

score 5-5.

St. Joe, 4-1, won the game in the top of the seventh with two runs.

P.J. Szakovits doubled, A.J. Young singled and Mike Sheets scored Szakovits with a sacrifice fly as Young took second.

The Crimson Streaks then added an insurance run. After Hans Hetrick moved Young to third with a groundout to second, Steve Kelbley doubled.

Furlong struck out four and walked two after Pfeiffer allowed all five Margaretta runs, including three unearned runs.

Young had three hits, Szakovits scored three runs and Sheets drove in a pair for St. Joe, which also got a home run from Jay Overmyer.

Koelsch added a home run for Margaretta.

Clyde 5, Genoa 2

Clyde scored four runs in the sixth inning for its third straight victory behind the complete-game pitching of Ryan Patrick.

Patrick pitched a three-hitter

and both Genoa runs were unearned as the Fliers committed four errors.

Damon Runyon had three of Clyde's eight hits, and Nick Baker drove in two runs.

Chris Mathews had two of Genoa's three hits as the Comets fell to 1-3.

Scott Sander, who followed Mathews and Todd Bullock to the mound for Genoa, took the loss.

St. Mary's 6, Gibsonburg 4

The Panthers broke a 3-3 tie with two runs in the fifth inning to improve to 3-1.

Gibsonburg, 3-3, outhit St. Mary's 7-4 but committed eight errors. Only two of the Panthers' runs were earned.

Chris Carper struck out 10 and walked three in the complete-game loss.

Eric Davis had two hits for the Golden Bears.

Lake 2, Lakota 1

Sy Killey bested Ryan Tyson in

See BASEBALL, B3

## **Start 8, Ross 7**

Toledo Start scored an unearned run in the last of the seventh inning after Ross tied the game with a run in the top of the inning.

The Little Giants, 2-6, committed a season-high six errors in the game.

“Costly,” Ross coach Steve Ebert said. “Every one of them.”

Ross outhit Start 8-5 as Justin Perry and Scott had two hits apiece.

Ellison Graham pitched the final two innings for thw win. Jon Hetrick took the loss in relief of Allan Dorsey, who pitched the first three innings.



## **Baseball roundup**

blowing out," said Old Fort coach Jack Kaemming after his team improved to 3-4 and 1-1 in the Midland Athletic League.

The Stockaders scored a run in the first when Brian Miller tripled off loser Andy Shock and later scored on a fielder's choice. Shock, a senior left-hander, went on to give up just four more hits and finished with 13 strikeouts and five walks.

Old Fort added another run in the third inning, when Miller singled and Adelsperger hit a triple one out later.

### **Perrysburg 8, Ross 7**

Host Perrysburg scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, sending the Little Giants

to their seventh loss in nine games.

Ross outhit the Yellow Jackets 14-6, but three walks and a two-run error led to Ross's undoing in the final inning.

Loser Steve Fox, 2-1, went 6 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings and gave up five hits and all eight runs. He had five strikeouts and walked three.

Alec Shawl hit a three-run homer in the Little Giants' four-run third inning. Ross added two more runs in the sixth and one in the seventh.

Nick Wolf had three hits and Chad Novitski tripled for the visitors, who also got two hits each from Shawl, Paul Rostetter and Brian Myers.

Ross travels to Sandusky Perkins this afternoon.

# Ross outlasts Clyde

News-Messenger reports

A 12-inning marathon between Fremont Ross and Clyde ended Thursday night when Chad Novitski scored on a passed ball after a swinging third strike, giving Ross a 7-6 victory.

Novitski, who walked leading off the 12th and moved to third on a passed ball and a

## Baseball Roundup

stolen base, scored despite the closeness of the backstop to home plate at Ross High School.

"We took a risk and it worked," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "I've never been involved in such a long game. It was uplifting to come back and win.

"Few things went our way. The kids were pumped up when Chad came across the plate. They showed some unity."

In other games reported, Old Fort handed Bellevue its first loss of the season 10-9, Oak Harbor topped Danbury 5-1, Toledo St. Francis beat Genoa 10-4 and Margaretta defeated Port Clinton 10-7.

Ross, 4-7, trailed 6-4 after four innings but scored a run in the sixth and an unearned run in the seventh to force the extra innings.

"We got a break for a change," Ebert said of the seventh-inning run.

Steve Fox took over from there. Fox relieved Ross starter Jon Hetrick in the fourth inning after Clyde opened up a 6-2 lead. He retired the side in the fourth and went on to pitch eight more scoreless innings.

"I didn't realize it until I got home ... he shut us out," Clyde coach Doug Ottney said. "We just couldn't get anything going."

Fox scattered three hits and six walks over the final eight

See BASEBALL, B4

# Baseball

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innings while striking out eight.

John Montgomery, who followed Kip Noss and Ryan Patrick to the mound, held Ross without a run for four innings until the 12th. Montgomery allowed four hits, struck out four and walked three, including two intentional.

Paul Rostetter, who scored twice, and Brian Myers had three hits apiece for Ross, Allan Dorsey and Kurt Vardyan each drove in two runs.

Noss had three hits for Clyde, 4-5.

Each team committed seven errors.

# Wolf helps Ross beat Port Clinton

## Little Giant hits in clutch

By TIM HARMON  
Staff writer

Fremont Ross first baseman Nick Wolf atoned for an embarrassing fifth-inning error Tuesday by driving in the winning runs as Ross defeated Port Clinton 6-3 at Anderson Field.

Wolf, who drove in a career-high four runs, stroked a two-out, two-run single in the bottom of the fifth after dropping a throw and opening the door to three Port Clinton runs in the top of the inning.

"Not catching the ball on the defensive side let me down because the run scored," Wolf said. "It felt good to get the lead back the next inning."

"If there is two strikes, I'm looking for something to hit because you have to protect (the plate). I'm just looking to hit it on the green to score the runs."

Wolf bounced a two-out, two-run single through the middle in the first, giving Ross a 3-0 lead.

"Nick has really been coming around in the last week and a half," Ross coach Steve Ebert said.

Wolf's single in the first, which scored Chad Novitski and Paul Rostetter, also drove in Kurt Vardyan from first base when the ball got past PC center fielder Matt Zetzer. "That was the first time I ever did that (cleared the bases)," Wolf said.

Port Clinton starter Matt Quayle walked Novitski, Rostetter and Vardyan.

"We wanted to see if (Quayle) would be able to pitch league (Sandusky Bay Conference) for us," Port Clinton coach Dan Timmons said. "We wanted to give him the opportunity to prove himself."

After Wolf's single, Quayle got out of the inning without allowing any more runs. Timmons, though, called on Tony Meek to start the second.

Meek, who allowed six hits, struck out three and walked one in four innings, pitched three scoreless frames before Wolf's

single in the fifth.

"A couple times (Meek) hit them right on the hands and chopped them off," Timmons said. "A time or to, though, they got a bloop hit."

The Redskins (2-7) scored a run in the third on Craig Thomas' RBI single and two in the fifth on Shawn Pasch's RBI single and Shane Pasch's fielder's choice grounder.

Winning pitcher Rob Weiker, who struck out seven and walked three, allowed nothing else.

"Once he gets going in a groove he pitches excellent," Ebert said. "When I go out there on the mound to talk to him, I don't even know if he's listening because he is so intense."

The PC fifth started when Zetzer grounded to short, but Wolf dropped Allan Dorsey's throw.

Paul Rostetter singled and Vardyan doubled in front of Wolf's game-winner in the fifth.

Port Clinton loaded the bases with one out in the sixth but failed to score. Jon Hetrick relieved Weiker after Glenn Hemminger reached on a fielder's choice and struck out Brian Williamson and Shawn Pasch to end the inning.

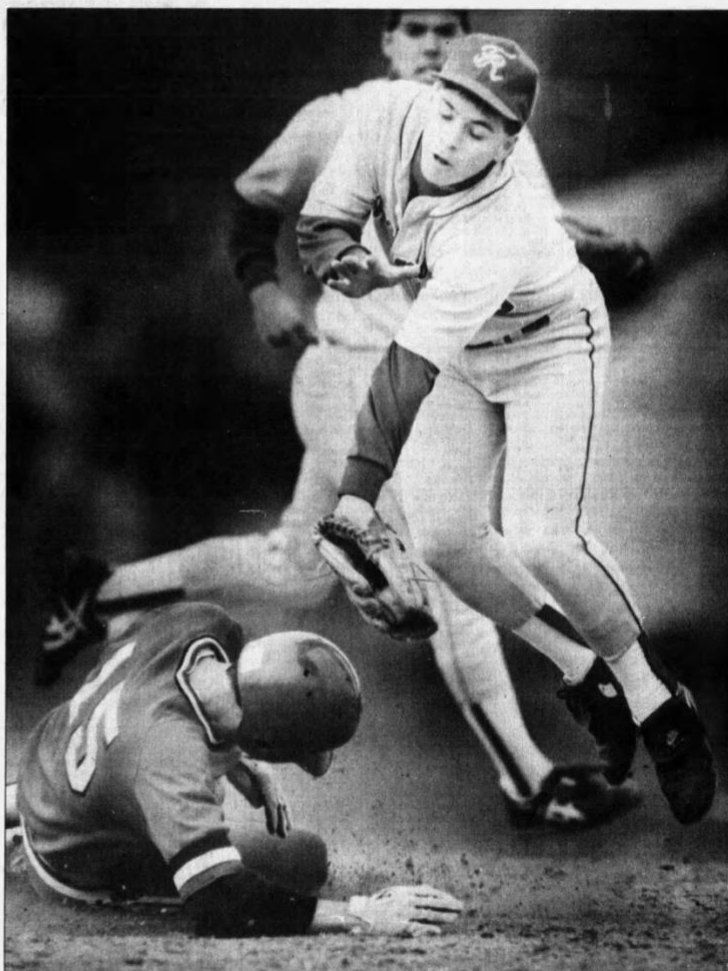
"We had bases loaded with our two-three hitters up and they didn't come through," Timmons said. "You expect them to come through. We needed a hit to tie it up and didn't get it."

Ross (5-7) added a run in the bottom of the sixth.

Dorsey reached on an error and went to second on a balk. After a walk to Novitski, Timmons brought Shane Pasch in to pitch. Two outs later, Rostetter's third hit of the game scored Steve Wilson, who came on as a pinch runner for Dorsey.

Dorsey left after getting hit in the jaw by a pick-off attempt at second.

Hetrick allowed a lead-off single to Thomas in the seventh before retiring the next three batters for the save.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS second baseman Brian Myers just misses tagging Port Clinton's Matt Zetzer as

Zetzer slides in with a stolen base. Allan Dorsey backs up the play for Ross.

# Little Giants sweep Bowling Green

News-Messenger reports

**BOWLING GREEN** — Fremont Ross lashed out 28 hits, including a season-high 17 in the first game, and swept Bowling Green in a high school baseball doubleheader Saturday.

Ross scored a run in the top of the seventh for a 12-11 victory in the opener and three runs in the sixth of an 8-6 victory in the nightcap.

Jon Hetrick and Rob Weiker got the wins, Hetrick in relief of Ian Vardyan and Weiker in relief of Steve Fox.

The Little Giants' 17 hits eclipsed their previous season-high of 14, which they accomplished twice.

"The bats were alive in that

game," Ross coach Steve Ebert said.

In the seventh, Chad Novitski and Alec Shawl walked and Tom Contreras reached on an error. Novitski beat a throw to the plate after Paul Rostetter's groundout to first.

Scott Root, who scored three runs, and Brian Myers homered in the game for Ross. Shawl contributed three hits.

"I was disappointed (the Bobcats) scored 11 runs because they had only five hits," Ebert said.

Vardyan walked six before leaving, and the Little Giants compounded things by committing seven errors.

Fox left the second game after

4½ innings and the score tied 5-5. Ross, 7-7, made a winner of Weiker with its three-run sixth.

Weiker allowed one run on one hit with one walk and four strikeouts. He struck out the side in the seventh.

"He was throwing heat," Ebert said. "They were all strikes he was shooting."

Novitski had three of the Little Giants' 11 hits in the nightcap and Shawl and Myers each drove in two runs.

Ross also cut down its errors to four.

"We played good defense in the second game," Ebert said. "Our outfielders got a workout. They made a lot of plays and only one error."

## Baseball roundup

Mike Gabel said. "He's pitching really well for us right now."

The Crimson Streaks collected 12 hits. A four-run sixth inning broke the game open.

"We've been hitting the ball well all year," Gabel said, "and our defense is starting to come around."

St. Joe was charged with one error.

New Riegel is 9-3 and 1-3 in the MAL.

### Ross 7, Napoleon 6

The Little Giants offset six errors with 10 hits, including a home run by Chad Novitski, en route to their sixth straight victory.

Novitski also singled, scored twice and drove in three runs in support of John Hetrick, who went 2½ innings in relief to pick up the win. Hetrick allowed one hit, with four walks and two strikeouts.

Alan Dorsey pitched the first four in-

nings before giving way to Hetrick. Rob Weiker got the final out to get credit for the save.

"It was a sloppy win. We didn't deserve to win," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "Our defense didn't help Dorsey. He gave up five runs, but only three were earned. If he would have had support, he could have gone the whole way."

Doug Fitzgerald had two hits and Kurt Vardyan doubled as Ross improved to 8-7. Lakota 7, Eastwood 3

The visiting Raiders finished with 10 hits and improved to 6-6 and 3-1 in the Suburban Lakes League.

Greg Prenzlin went the distance and did not allow an earned run to get the win. He gave up three hits and struck out four, with three walks. Prenzlin also had two hits and drove in a run.

Mike Tyson homered, singled twice and had four RBI, and James Welch added a pair of singles to lead Lakota's attack.

run among his three hits for the Wildcats, 2-14, and Harman scored three runs.

**Bedford 10, Ross 0**

Bob Gladieux pitched a three-hitter with 13 strikeouts and no walks, and Bedford scored seven runs in the fifth inning.

Chad Novitski had two hits for the Little Giants, 8-8.

The Mules, 7-4, played errorless ball and collected nine hits off three Ross pitchers. Ross

**starter Rob Weiker took the loss.**

**Clyde 7, Port Clinton 4**

The Fliers survived the Redskins' two-run seventh inning and snapped PC's three-game winning streak.

Wade Noftz pitched 6¾ innings for the win. He allowed all nine Port Clinton hits, with one walk and six strikeouts.

Losing pitcher Tony Meek gave up five runs on four hits in



# Whitmer slugs Little Giants; Clyde outlasts Edison in SBC

News-Messenger reports

Toledo Whitmer christened Fremont Ross freshman Ryan Smith into varsity baseball Wednesday by scoring 10 runs in the first two innings en route to a 14-6 victory.

Smith, pressed into duty by a tired and sore-armed Ross pitching staff, allowed five hits and walked four in 1½ innings.

The Panthers, 13-4, scored eight runs in the second inning.

In other games reported, Clyde outscored Edison 12-10, Sandusky Perkins topped Margaretta 6-3, Huron knocked off Port Clinton 7-6, Lakota thumped Woodmore 16-1, Genoa defeated Otsego 9-4, Mohawk beat Bettsville 10-3 and Hopewell-Loudon defeated Old Fort 4-2.

Ross fell to 8-9 despite four shutout innings of relief by Paul Rostetter, normally a catcher. Rostetter took over after Whitmer scored four runs off Fred Schnee in the third.

"If we would have had a healthy pitching staff, it would have been a game," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "We stung the ball and played well defensively."

The Little Giants committed just one error, slowing a recent trend of defensive miscues.

"That was a bright spot for all the balls that were flying around," Ebert said.

Nick Wolf, who drove in two runs, and Kurt Vardyan each had two of Ross's eight hits and Justin Perry scored two runs.

## Baseball Roundup

Clyde 12, Edison 10

Clyde scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to improve to 9-7 and 3-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Ryan Patrick got the win in relief of Kip Noss, who pitched the first 4⅓ innings.

Wade Noftz drove in six Flier runs with a fourth-inning grand slam, a single and a sacrifice fly, and Damon Runion collected three of the Fliers' 11 hits.

Edison, which tied the game 10-10 with four runs in the top of the sixth, slipped to 4-9 and 1-5.

Perkins 6, Margaretta 3

Perkins scored all of its runs in the second inning and Chad Dubbert pitched a three-hitter with 14 strikeouts and one walk.

Dubbert had two of the Pirates' 10 hits, including a three-run homer.

Margaretta is 5-9 and 4-2 in the SBC, while Perkins upped its record to 4-5 and 3-1.

Huron 7, Port Clinton 6

The Tigers scored the winning run on an error by PC in the bottom of the seventh.

PC lost for the 10th time in 15 decisions. The Redskins are 2-4 in the SBC. Huron improved to 2-7 and 1-2 in the conference.

Craig Thomas' two-run double in the top of the seventh gave PC its final lead of the game.

Scott Kidd picked up the win and Shane Pasch took the loss.

Lakota 16, Woodmore 1

The Raiders outhit Woodmore

13-4 and took advantage of six Wildcat errors to run their record to 7-6 and 4-1 in the Suburban Lakes League.

Nathan Nye was the winning pitcher and Jonathon Cook suffered the loss.

Genoa 9, Otsego 4

Sy Gladden had a home run among his three hits, drove in four runs and scored twice for Genoa, 5-8 and 2-2 in the SLL.

Genoa scored five runs in the second inning and four more in the sixth in support of Chris Mathews, who scattered five hits for the complet-game victory.

Mohawk 10, Bettsville 3

Bren Konkel and Tony Flood combined to limit Bettsville to four hits, while five of the seven men Bettsville pitchers walked came around to score. Three of the walks led off an inning.

Damian Wise's two-run double in the sixth inning was the Bobcats' offensive highlight. Defensively, Bettsville played its best game of the year, committing just one error.

Hopewell-Loudon 4, Old Fort 2

Jon Cantu's two-run homer in the top of the first gave the Stockaders' the early lead, but the Chieftains scored four runs in the fourth to make a winner of Scott Sendelbach and a loser of Steve Adelsperger.

Adelsperger, who walked two and struck out six, had two of Old Fort's four hits.

Sendelbach struck out eight and walked one.

Old Fort fell to 7-10 and 3-4.

# Little Giants nip Whitmer 1-0

News-Messenger reports

Ian Vardyan, Rob Weiker and Jon Hetrick scattered seven hits Wednesday and Fremont Ross defeated Toledo Whitmer 1-0 in a high school baseball game at Anderson Field.

Ross, 9-10, scored in the fourth when Alec Shawl doubled to right and Fred Schnee singled to right-center.

In other games reported, Sandusky Perkins defeated Clyde 4-2, Margaretta beat Edison 14-7, Woodmore outscored Gibsonburg 13-12, Genoa edged Lakota 8-7 and Old Fort topped Carey 7-3.

The Ross defense committed no errors and snuffed out Whitmer rallies in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth.

A relay throw from Kurt Vardyan to Nick Wolf to Paul Rostetter, who blocked the plate, ended the Whitmer second; Rostetter picked a Whitmer runner off second in the fourth; Wolf caught an attempted suicide squeeze bunt in the air and

## Baseball Roundup

doubled the runner off third to end the fifth; and Shawl went to the fence in left to grab a fly ball to end the sixth.

Vardyan, Weiker and Hetrick did the rest with Weiker getting the win after relieving Vardyan in the fourth.

"(Vardyan's) arm was sore," Ross coach Steve Ebert said. "Him and I had a goal of four innings. I talked to him in the fourth, and he said he started to feel a tingle."

Steve Mitchell took the complete-game loss. The Little Giants' only other hit was Rostetter's single in the second. Perkins 4, Clyde 2

Perkins broke a 2-2 tie with two runs in the fifth off Clyde starter and loser Ryan Patrick.

The Pirates, 9-5 and 7-1 in the Sandusky Bay Conference, outhit Clyde 9-3 as the Fliers fell to 10-10 and 4-4.

Jeff Lippus got the win, pitching the first 5½ innings. Chad Dubbert finished for the save.

Margaretta 14, Edison 7

Margaretta scored five runs in the second inning and Todd Riley settled down after allowing four runs in the first as Margaretta improved to 7-11 and 6-5 in the SBC.

Riley, who walked four and struck out four in 4½ innings, got relief help from Chuck Beaver.

The Polar Bears outhit the Chargers 14-10 as Riley led the way with three hits. Mike Setzler hit a two-run homer and scored three runs, while Keith Chadwell and Matt Brunner drove in two runs apiece.

Edison is 5-11 and 1-7.

Woodmore 13, Gibsonburg 12

Woodmore snapped an 11-game losing streak and won its first Suburban Lakes League game in nine decisions.

"We finally got that first league win. I feel good for the kids," Woodmore coach Mike

Lee said. "We always hoped it would (come around). We kept believing we could do it. Sure enough, it came."

The Wildcats, 3-18 and 1-8 in the SLL, scored seven runs in the first inning and led 8-1 after two. Gibsonburg, 6-10 and 3-6, battled back with eight runs in the third.

Woodmore tied it 9-9 with a run in the bottom of the third, the Golden Bears went up 12-9 with three unearned runs in the fifth but the Wildcats answered with four runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Matt Lieske was the winning pitcher. He pitched the first 2½ innings before being relieved by Perry Rickard, who finished the third inning. Lieske returned to the mound in the fourth.

"We got him out of there and he relaxed a little bit," Lee said. "I went back with him because I

See BASEBALL, B3

# Ross topples Fostoria

News-Messenger reports

Justin Perry had two hits, including a double, and Brian Myers drove in two runs as Fremont Ross defeated Fostoria 5-3 Thursday in a high school baseball game at Fostoria.

Ross starter Allan Dorsey pitched 5½ innings, and Jon Hetrick finished for the save.

## Baseball Roundup

In one Sandusky Bay Conference game played Thursday, Clyde shut out Port Clinton 4-0 as Wade Noftz scattered six hits.

Noftz, who struck out six and walked one, and Ryan Patrick each had two of Clyde's nine hits.

The Fliers, 11-10 and 5-4 in the SBC, scored a run in the second, two in the third and one in the fourth.

Shawn Pasch took the loss for Port Clinton, 8-12 and 4-5.

## **Findlay 8, Ross 6**

The two teams combined for 25 hits in the Buckeye Central Conference contest.

Kurt Vardyan and Brian Myers each had three hits and Chad Novitsky added two hits and drove in two runs for Ross, 10-12 and 0-1 in the BCC.

Findlay improved to 14-6 and 1-0 in the conference after banging out 13 hits.

Jon Hetrick, who replaced starting pitcher Steve Fox in the third inning, suffered the loss for Ross. Hetrick went  $3\frac{2}{3}$  innings and allowed four runs on six hits, with one strikeout and no walks.

## **Ross splits twinbill with Findlay**

News-Messenger reports

John Hetrick pitched a six-hitter and Fremont Ross collected nine hits, including four doubles Saturday en route to a 9-3 victory over Findlay in the first game of a doubleheader at Anderson Field.

Findlay won the second game 8-3.

In the opener, Hetrick went the distance and finished with four strikeouts and one walk. Chad Novitski doubled and singled, scored twice and drove in two runs to power the Little Giants. Alec Shawl and Alan Dorsey

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### **Baseball Roundup**

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both added two hits.

Dorsey took the loss in the second game. He allowed seven runs (three unearned) on four hits in  $1\frac{2}{3}$  innings of work.

Margaretta 12, Oak Harbor 11

At Castalia, the Polar Bears collected nine hits and recorded 14 stolen bases to set a school record for steals in a season.

Margaretta, 10-13 and 8-6 in the SBC, now has 125 steals this season, one more than the previous school record.

Oak Harbor had 11 hits.

# **Little Giants close season with a victory**

**News-Messenger reports**

Fremont Ross never trailed after scoring two runs in the first inning while defeating Bedford (Mich.) 7-2 in its final high school baseball game of the season Tuesday.

Jon Hetrick and Steve Fox combined on a two-hitter as Ross finished the season 12-13.

Alec Shawl, Nick Wolf, Justin Perry, Chad Novitski and Paul Rostetter each had two of the Little Giants' 10 hits. Wolf drove in two runs, and Rostetter and Shawl each scored twice.

Hetrick pitched no-hit ball for four innings, striking out four and walking four. Fox finished, allowing two runs on two hits with five walks and three strikeouts.

Bedford is 17-9.

## **Ross stars**

Catcher Paul Rostetter, pitcher Steve Fox and outfielders Chad Novitski and Alec Shawl have been named to the Buckeye Central Conference North Division All-Star baseball team.