

2007 Sectional Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL SECTIONALS

Little Giants shut out Presidents

By JOHN J. BEIER

News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — Ross pitcher Jordyn Gallagher outdueled Harding's Danni Feldman, giving up two hits as the Little Giants beat their Greater Buckeye Conference rivals, 1-0, in a sectional opener at Tiffin University on Saturday.

Feldmann gave up only six hits in the loss.

Gallagher also drove in the only run of the game, in the top of the first. Leadoff hitter Britta Barron was safe on an error by Feldmann. She was

then sacrificed to second by Ashley Long. Gallagher helped her own game by smacking a double to deep left field which allowed Barron to score. Feldmann then retired the next two Ross batters of the inning.

Feldmann, leading off the home half of the first, pitched first with a bunt single. Gallagher then settled down to retire the next eight batters before giving up another bunt single to Feldmann with two out in the third. Gallagher then got Taguel Byrd to foul out to Long at first to end the inning.

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With two out in the fourth, Shawna Gartrell got on with an error by Ross's left fielder. She was stranded as the next batter, Laken Bending, grounded out to end the inning.

Gallagher settled down again to retire the next four batters before hitting Byrd with a pitch. She then got the next five batters to end Harding's offensive opportunities and playoff hopes.

Ross had another scoring opportunity in the sixth with two out as Cassie Steinberger singled to right field. She was replaced by courtesy runner Amanda Glaspy who tried to score on Bethany Shaffer's single to right. Glaspy was thrown out at the plate on a good throw by right fielder Alicia Atkinson.

In addition to going the distance, Feldman was 2-for-3 for the Presidents, getting Marion's only two hits.

"It was a real good game. We have been in a slump lately. We only had two bunt single hits for the game. Also, Fremont made the plays when they had to and we didn't," reflected Marion Harding's coach Mike Lindsey following the game. "We'll see what happens when we play them in a make-up on Wednesday."

Ross coach Mike Gilbert was pleased, saying, "We have played two good games back to back."

The Little Giants will play Sandusky today at 5 p.m. in a sectional final at Tiffin University.

SANDUSKY 2
FREMONT ROSS 0

Division I softball sectional

Third one goes to Sandusky

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt

Staff writer

FREMONT — McKenzie Gallagher against Ashley Gilbert.

Many knew Saturday's Division I sectional softball game between Fremont Ross and Sandusky would come down to the starting pitchers.

Little Giants starter Gallagher allowed eight hits, struck out five and did not walk a batter or give up any earned runs. But that line didn't bring a win as Gilbert was the winning pitcher in a 2-0 Blue Streaks victory — the first time Sandusky beat Ross this year.

"Ironically, of the three games she's pitched (against Sandusky) this year, this was McKenzie's best," Ross coach Mike Gilbert said. "It was the same kind of game we played against them the last two times, and this time they just won."

The year's first matchup between the pitchers resulted in a 1-0 Ross win, where Gallagher gave up 13 hits.

Ashley Gilbert gave up just five hits for Sandusky (12-12), while striking out 11.

"(Ashley) is a great pitcher," Sandusky coach Tom Garard said. "There's no doubt about it. Recently she's either been hot or cold. But over the last three games, she has been working the ball very well."

The game was delayed twice by lightning, once in the bottom of the first and once in the top of the fifth. Ashley Gilbert told Garard the delays affected her momentum in the circle, but it was not evident to Ross hitters.

Offensively, Ross (10-7) just couldn't get things rolling — with the exception of a rolling aluminum barrel from a bat that Casey Clark sawed off from its handle on a swing in the bottom of the first inning. Kelsey Ivy was an offensive bright spot for Ross, going 2-for-3 with a triple.

Coach Gilbert pointed at the third inning, when two Ross errors led to Sandusky runs, as the key.

"Errors undid us," he said. "In the two games previous to (Saturday), we didn't have any, and we were able to win."