

SOCCKER PREVIEW

Ross set for postseason tests

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

For many years, Fremont Ross essentially feared Findlay.

The Little Giants hated playing the powerhouse Trojans. Their soccer matches were always one-sided in favor of Findlay.

But one game three years ago changed the Ross players' thoughts on the rivalry.

Findlay scored with just six second left to earn a 1-0 victory in the district semifinals.

"From that moment on, we clearly knew that we could play with them," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry, now in his eighth year at the helm. "(The Little Giants) are definitely more confident when they play them. We know we can beat them. It's not the case where we know we are in trouble anymore."

Last year, Ross edged Findlay 2-1 in the regular season.

This year, the Little Giants tied the Trojans 2-2 in Findlay. It was the only blemish on the Greater Buckeye Conference season for the Trojans.

Ross (6-8-2, 4-4-2 GBC) hopes to continue its progress against Findlay (9-0-1 GBC) today as the postseason begins.

The squads meet at 7 p.m. at Findlay.

"It has gotten to the point now that we feel that we are even with them if we play through to the final minutes," Pendry said.

The Ross girls soccer team, meanwhile, is hoping to make history on Wednesday.

The Little Giants, who face Celina at 5 p.m. in Findlay, are searching for their first postseason victory in their sixth year of existence.

"The seniors really want to win this game, so they can leave a little bit of a legacy," Ross coach Ron Huss said.

Offensive standouts Abby Werling and Rachael Daugherty and standout goalkeeper Stephanie White help lead that senior class.

But a freshman leads the offensive attack.

Suzanne Chudzinski has a team-high 12 goals.

"I wish we could clone her about 10 times," Huss said of Chudzinski.

The Little Giants finished tied for second in the GBC with Napoleon at 5-4-1. They dropped their last three games of the regular season to finish 5-10-1 overall.

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Ross girls soccer season is over

Fremont Ross tallied just one shot in a 4-0 loss to Celina in a Division I sectional game on Wednesday in Findlay.

Celina's Rachel Schollmeier and Allison Hoing each scored in the final two minutes of the first half, and Lindsey Schitmeyer and Amy Niekamp scored in the second half.

"Celina controlled the tempo of the game as a result of them being first to the ball throughout the game," Ross coach Ron Huss said. "The first half, we seemed to be flat and unable to get a run going.

"The second half, the girls seemed to play hard," he continued. "However, we just couldn't put together a sustained run to net. Our offensive push always seemed to break down after we crossed mid-field."

Ross's Ashley Long suffered a leg injury in the setback.

She was taken to the hospital and found out that she has a severe bone bruise.

Stephanie White had 18 saves for Ross, which finished the season 5-10-1.