

2010 Season Review

Neighbors with same goals

SJCC, Ross want to win big in 2010 season

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Their offices are separated by a matter of about sixty or seventy yards on the west side of Don Paul Stadium.

But the goals of seventh-year Fremont Ross football coach Derek Kidwell and St. Joseph Central Catholic's new boss, Scott Knisely, are much closer than that.

"Fremont is a football town and if both of us can have a great season I think it'd be great," Kidwell said. "I thought it was great for coach (Todd) Drusback and for the St. Joe community what they were able to accomplish last year going 9-1. They needed a shot in the arm. We got a shot in the arm in 2006 when we went 10-0 and we're looking for it again this season after we under-achieved a year ago."

The two sideline generals for the Little Giants and Crimson Streaks started working towards that united goal Monday as two-a-day practices kicked off around Ohio and Sandusky county.

For Kidwell and Ross, the goal going into camp is to get back to being at the top of the Greater Buckeye Conference and being in contention to make it back to the Ohio High School Athletic Association playoffs. For Knisely and SJCC, it's about maintaining what they've accomplished and going after a second straight Midland Athletic League crown and trip to the OHSAA

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DEREK KIDWELL
Ross football coach



playoffs.

"The kids have been working hard because they realize the expectations here are high now," Knisely said.

MAL Offensive Player of the Year Zak Bowman returns to the Crimson Streaks backfield and the MAL's top receiver Brant Reardon returns on the outside. The two are just a few of the many skilled players back for SJCC this fall in need of replacing starting quarterback Garrett Walker and members of the offensive line.

"We have a lot of depth in our skill positions," Knisely said. "But up front we're lacking a little bit of depth, but that's something we're going to work on during two-a-days."

SJCC also expects to be strong on the opposite side of the ball.

"Defensively, we're very well established," Knisely said. "This is the fourth year we've been running this defense and for a lot of our kids this will be third second or third year starting."

Knisely takes over for Drusback, who left for Rossford in the spring. But to him, the only thing that has changed is his role. Knisely, an

SJCC alum, coached under Drusback the past three seasons.

"At the end of the day, the only difference is my title," he said. "I was prepared well for the move from the coaches before me that I coached under and I have a great staff that has been there with me."

Down the way from Knisely, Kidwell and the Little Giants are trying to re-establish themselves after a disappointing 5-5 season. It was a season filled with many expectations, but one that saw more setbacks. None of which were acceptable to Kidwell, who hails from a strong coaching pedigree.

"I didn't take this job seven years ago to come here and go 5-5," Kidwell said. "That's not what this coaching staff is about. That's not what these players deserve or what the community deserves."

Kidwell's attitude has been shared this summer by his players.

"We've been working hard and we want to get the team back to where we should be," Ross senior Adam Miranda said. "Everyone has been giving it everything they got and learning as they go."

And the learning hasn't been voluntary, as the this year's Ross team has been pushed like no other Little Giants' team Kidwell has coached.

"This group has been pushed and worked harder than any of them," he said. "But everyone has answered the call and they haven't quit on us."

Miranda mentioned the success of SJCC acting as a motivation for him and the Little Giants.

"It's made us realize I think that we need to get out there and do better," he said. "We consider ourselves the big dogs around here and we have to start acting like it and playing like it."

One way or characteristic Miranda has noticed a change in the make-up of the team is in the lack of individualism.

"There's a better unity this year," Miranda said. "Last year we had our problems with one another or we didn't play as a team. This year the coaches got us more together and we're starting to play and get it together again."

Gone from the offense is Cody Foos — a three-year starter at quarterback and Ross's all-time leader in passing yards with 4,750. Replacing the Foos as signal caller is sophomore Tyler Wolf.

"Tyler is extremely athletic, he has a nice arm and he's looked good throwing the ball all summer," Kidwell said. "He looked good in our 7-on-7 tournament and he's done a

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good job of picking up the new offense that we have put in.”

Ross will look to utilize seniors Greg Brown and Tylor Trautwein in the running game this season taking pressure off the new man under center. The tandem will make up what Kidwell calls “one of the best duos in Northwest Ohio.”

The two will also be integral parts of the Ross defense as Trautwein will be a linebacker and Brown, a University of Michigan recruit, will be moved to free safety from corner.

“We want to put him in a position where he can make plays,” Kidwell said of Brown. “At corner you can run away from him or you can throw away from him. We put him at free safety and he’ll be in the middle of the field and he

should be a great run supporter for us and he should be a great pass defender for us.”

Brown isn’t the only player on the move, though, as it has been the theme for many going into camp.

“We’re going to have a lot of new faces competing for positions,” Kidwell said. “We’re using a lot of kids in a lot of different positions now ... so we’re in a feeling out process with many of them. We got a lot of inexperience on offense so we’re using a lot of bodies, but they’re catching on and mentally they’re staying with us and physically they’re giving us 110 percent.

“Each day we just got to get better and we’ve been looking better each and everyday.”

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ WEEK 1

Quick start gives Ross win to open season

BY MIKE BAUMAN

News-Messenger correspondent

TOLEDO — On the shoulders of a stifling defense and a consistent running game, Fremont Ross capitalized on a young Start team's mistakes and jumped out to an early lead en route to a 17-0 shutout victory in their season opener.

"Anytime you can pitch a shutout, you've got to be happy for your defensive side of the

FREMONT ROSS 17
TOLEDO START 0

ball," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We've got a lot of returning lettermen on the defense, so we knew our defense would be a little more solid than our offense right away, and it held true tonight."

The Ross defense held the

Spartans' offense to just 125 total yards while forcing three turnovers, two of which led to touchdowns for the Little Giants.

"We have a young team, and it showed at times," first-year Start coach Tyson Harder said. "In the first game of the season you're always going to have mistakes on both sides of the ball, which we did and so did Fremont. The difference was that Fremont was able to capitalize on our mistakes, and we couldn't."

Both teams fumbled twice and threw an interception, though Ross only lost one of its fumbles and also outplayed Start offensively, largely due to the running game. The Little Giants had 325 yards of total offense — 143 of which came on the ground.

The Little Giants were led by senior running back Tyler Trautwein, who had 12 carries for 69 yards and one touchdown. Michigan-bound senior back Greg Brown finished with 45

yards on 19 carries, while junior fullback Trent Stout amassed 27 yards on nine carries with one touchdown. Sophomore quarterback Tyler Wolf also showed great poise and managed the game well in his first varsity appearance, completing six of his 11 passing attempts for 91 yards. Junior wideout Skylar Reffner led the Little Giants in receiving with 52 yards on three

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catches.

Ross took an early 10-0 lead in the first quarter after a series of Start mistakes. With 6:08 remaining in the first quarter, Start senior punter Trey Berry fumbled the snap in the end-zone and fell on the ball, giving the Little Giants a 2-0 advantage. After the safety, Trautwein returned the kick from the Little Giants' 41-yard line to the Spartans' 32.

Ross completed a fourth-down conversion on a seven-yard run from Brown and Trout punched

it in a few plays later to give the Little Giants an 8-0 lead with 2:45 remaining in the first quarter. After Start went offside during the extra point attempt, Ross decided to go for two and converted on a one-yard run from Brown for the 10-point lead.

The Little Giants got their final score of the game after senior linebacker Travis Maynard's interception gave them the ball back at the Spartans' 43. Nine plays later, Trautwein put the game away with a three-yard touchdown run with 16 seconds left on the clock.

Ross faces Whitmer Friday.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Fremont Ross in a must-win situation

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Fremont Ross listed making the playoffs as one of its goals for the 2010 football season.

If the Little Giants are going to do that for the first time since 2006, they'll need to win games like the one they have this week.

Ross (1-0) hosts Toledo Whitmer (1-0) Friday at Don Paul Stadium, in an early season non-conference test. Kickoff for the

Little Giants' home opener is set for 7:30 p.m.

"It's a very big game computer point-wise," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "It always has been, and it hasn't changed this year. We're going to have our hands full Friday night, but I think it'll be a fun night for our kids."

The Little Giants enter the game fresh off a 17-0 win over Toledo Start. The Ross defense more than made up for a struggling offense that tallied just 234 yards of total offense — 143 of

which came via the ground.

"We left a lot of opportunities out there," Kidwell said. "I graded our offensive performance as probably a D or C. But all the mistakes are correctable and hopefully we'll move on."

The young Ross offense will have a baptism by fire against Whitmer. The Panthers return nine starters on defense and dominated Tiffin Columbian 35-6 last week, holding the Tornadoes to 232 yards of total offense. Whitmer, on the other

hand, had 417 yards of offense, 288 on the ground.

"They're a very good football team," Kidwell said. "They're extremely sound on defense and offensively, they're a work in progress. But they have exceptional running backs speed."

Like the Little Giants, who have a new quarterback in Tyler Wolf, the Panthers have a new quarterback in Alex Palicki, who completed nine of 16 passes for 129 yards against Columbian. He had a touchdown and an interception.

Behind him are tailbacks Tre Sterritt and Joey Webb.

Whitmer runs a spread offense with lots of motion.

"We want to stop the run and make their inexperienced quarterback beat us with his arm," Kidwell said. "If he can do that and beat us in the air, then hats off. If he doesn't have to, he's not going to. If they can run the ball, they're going to run the ball."

Sterritt and Webb each topped

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Ross protects the house

Little Giants defense holds firm in win over Whitmer

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Fremont Ross made sure that Don Paul Stadium was a fortress from which Toledo Whitmer wouldn't escape victorious Friday night.

"We had this philosophy tonight that we were going to treat our field like a cage, and that we were going to put a lock on it and not let Whitmer out," Ross captain Adam Miranda said. "It was going to be a fight for four quarters and we were going to find a way to win."

Miranda and the Little Giants did their part on defense, allowing the Ross offense and Tyler Wolf to strike with the final blow in the fight with 6:45 remaining. Wolf hit Skylar Reffner for a 55-yard touchdown pass giving the Little Giants the lead, which they held onto for a big 22-16 non-conference win.

"I have complete trust in Tyler," Reffner said. "I know he'll always get me the ball when I'm open and he made a really good read on that play to find me in the open field."

Reffner caught the ball around the Whitmer 40-yard line and outran the Panthers' secondary on his way to the winning score. It was Reffner's sixth grab of the game as he led all receivers with 123 yards.

Wolf would finish 9-of-18 for 220 yards, throwing two touchdowns and one interception. Not too bad for a sophomore making his second career start.

"I was joking with my staff that I got to trust this skinny little sucker more," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said of his new signal caller. "He's a phenomenal athlete and we kept him under wraps a bit at Toledo Start. We knew we had to come out with guns blazing tonight though."

After Jordan Garcia gave Ross the ball on its own 43-yard line with an interception of Panther quarterback Alex Palicki, it was Wolf and Reffner who set up the Little Giants' first touchdown. Wolf found Reffner for a gain of 25 yards that got Ross down to the Whitmer 14. Six plays later Wolf kept the ball himself and barreled four yards into the end zone and the Little Giants led 7-0 with 3:17 left in the opening quarter.



Jennifer Young Bower | News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont's Tyler Trautwein gains yards during Friday's game with Whitmer.

Meanwhile, the Ross (2-0) defense didn't allow Whitmer (1-1) a single first-quarter first down as the Panthers had minus-14 yards in the quarter.

That changed in the second quarter, however, as Tre Sterritt

and Joey Webb started to open up the Whitmer offense. The Panthers gained 166 yards in the second stanza and led 13-7 at halftime. Palicki scored the tying touchdown run off a great fake to his running back,

then Sterritt scored the go-ahead score with on a four-yard run with 1:52 to go.

Sterritt rushed for 73 yards on 11 carries, Webb also had 11

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runs for 69 yards as Whitmer had 198 of its 273 total offense yards on the ground.

"We fell asleep a bit in that second quarter and forgot what we were doing," Miranda said. "But we stayed with the program and the defense played great."

Marquan McDonald's 42-yard touchdown grab gave Ross a 14-13 lead in the third quarter. But the Panthers responded in the fourth with a 32-yard field from Jared Kenczewicz.

Just when it looked like momentum might be with Whitmer, though, Ross drove the ball again using a heavy dose of running back Tylor Trautwein. Trautwein would carry the ball 27 times for 90 yards.

"Tylor is a tough kid and we've expected a lot out of him and gotten a lot out of him," Kidwell said. "His hard running setup a lot of things for us in the passing game, and our offensive line played pretty well tonight against a very, very good defense."

Ross rushed for a total of 112 yards, putting up 332 yards of

total offense.

Still most of the offense came from Wolf.

"You kind of got to throw the ball on this team," Kidwell said. "They didn't cover some of our wideouts we wanted, so we put the ball in our sophomore quarterbacks hands to make plays and he made them."

The Ross defense, led by players like Miranda, Donald Carter, Cory Campbell and Trent Stout responded when needed in the end.

Palicki and Whitmer had the ball and were driving in Ross territory with under two minutes to go, but his fourth down pass intended for Nigel Hayes was broken up as the Little Giants held tough.

Most of which Kidwell credited to the energy his team had.

"We're a very well-conditioned football team," Kidwell said. "We didn't get tired tonight. I hired Mike Lento in the off-season to be the strength coach and he's paid huge dividends already. I can't be more pleased than I am with this young team."

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Fremont Ross 22, Whitmer 16

Whitmer	0	13	0	3	—	16
Ross	7	0	7	8	—	22

■ **First Quarter:**

FR: Tyler Wolf 4 run, Gabe Taylor kick.

■ **Second Quarter:**

W: Alex Palicki 6 run, Jared Kenczewicz kick.

W: Tre Sterritt 4 run, 2-pt failed.

■ **Third Quarter:**

FR: Marquan McDonald 42 pass from Wolf, Taylor kick.

■ **Fourth Quarter:**

FR: Skylar Reffner 55 pass from Wolf, Greg Brown run.

TEAM STATSROSS WTMR

First downs.....	10	.....	16
Total Net Yards	332	.....	273
Rushes-yards.....	35-112	.....	37-198
Passing	220	.....	75
Comp-Att-Int	9-18-1	.....	9-21-1
Fumbles-Lost.....	4-0	.....	3-1
Penalties-Yards	6-45	.....	7-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** WTMR—Joey Webb 11-69, Tre Sterritt 11-73, Alex Palicki 12-57, Denzel Brown 1 (-11), Alonzo Lucas 2-10. ROSS—Tylor Trautwein 27-90, Trent Stout 2-0, Tyler Wolf 5-0, Jordan Garcia 1-22.

■ **Passing:** WTMR—Alex Palicki 9-21-75, int. ROSS—Wolf 9-18-220, int.

■ **Receiving:** WTMR—Steritt 3-25, Alonzo Lucas 4-29, Joey Webb 2-21. ROSS—Skylar Reffner 6-123, Greg Brown 1-42, Marquan McDonald 2-55.

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **Team A:** Ross 2-0 (0-0); at Tiffin Columbian.

Ross enjoying 2-0 start to season

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

FREMONT — When Ross football coach Derek Kidwell looks at game film, one thing in particular stands out about his Little Giant defense — they're having fun.

"They're playing football with emotion, and you can do that defensively," Kidwell said. "They're cutting loose and having fun and when they do that they've been playing relaxed and playing some of the best football they've played."

In two games, the Little Giants defense has limited its opponents to 398 total yards and 16 points. That included holding Whitmer to just 75 passing yards in a big 22-16 vic-

tory Friday.

It was a big non-league win for the Little Giants (2-0), complete with a playoff feel. And if Ross hopes to get into the Division I playoffs this year, they'll need to keep winning, including this week when they head down Ohio 53 to play at Tiffin Columbian (1-1).

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

"Every week brings a different test," Kidwell said. "Tiffin's system is a little different and is unique from most offenses we've seen. They got some speed and I think they're still feeling themselves out with the new coaching staff and the new philosophies, but they'll be confident coming in off a victory and we're the last big school they play."

"And it may be the last time we ever play Tiffin Columbian, which in itself, adds another dimension to the game."

The two schools first met in 1907 and have met 55 times since that first meeting. Ross

leads the series 36-17-2, including a 49-35 victory last season at Don Paul Stadium.

Columbian last beat Ross in 2005, and the Little Giants are riding a four-game win streak.

But 2010 marks the last time Columbian is on the Ross schedule in the immediate future, leading many to wonder if Friday will be the final game between the two for a long time to come.

"Everytime we play them we know it's going to be a hard, physical football game," Kidwell said. "Their kids are extremely tough there. They live and breathe football and they have a great tradition of winning the Northern Ohio League and making the playoffs. We'll have to earn another win Friday."

Another side element to the game is the role the two sideline generals played in the development of another neighboring school.

Kidwell came to Ross in 2004

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KIDWELL

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after four years at Hopewell-Loudon, where he resurrected a program that hadn't experienced what winning had to offer. He went 25-17 in his four seasons, including back-to-back 8-3 campaigns that ended in the Division VI playoffs. It was the best two-year stretch in school history at the time.

Then Brian Colatruglio, Columbian's first-year coach, took the reins and went 72-9 over the next six years, including 57-3 in the regular season. Colatruglio's Chieftains won four league titles, made six straight playoff appearances, won three regional titles and made two appearances in the Division VI state championship game.

"Coach Kidwell works hard at what he does and his teams work very hard and are very disciplined," Colatruglio said. "We noticed that in our kids at Hopewell-Loudon when me and my staff took over and that's been a big key to success at Ross thus far."

Tiffin dropped a 35-6 week one decision to Whitmer, but

bounced back this past week with a 33-0 shutout win at Mansfield Madison.

"It was a good game for our team's confidence," Colatruglio said. "Our guys are doing a good job of adjusting to the new systems and it was good for everyone to have that positive experience Friday."

The Tornadoes' offense is designed to give teams multiple looks and make teams have to prepare for a lot of different personnel.

Quarterback Ryan Tittle passed for 209 yards and four touchdowns against Madison, with most of yardage coming from receivers Austin Bentz (2-112) and Jesse Hernandez (3-56). Tailback Derrick Goliday rushed for 118 yards on 14 carries, while Vince Kurtz added 47 yards on seven carries and had a rushing touchdown.

"Ross is a very good football team and last week was a huge win for coach Kidwell and that program," Colatruglio said. "It's the type of win we're looking for yet and Friday gives us a chance to accomplish that."

As for the Ross offense, it will continue to look to try and build upon the advances it made

against the Panthers. Tyler Wolf got the Little Giant passing game going, tossing for 220 yards and a pair of scores, while Tylor Trautwein was a battering ram in the backfield, accounting for 90 yards on 27 carries.

And the confidence in the new offense is building.

"Friday showed our team that even switching philosophies on offense, we still got a system that can work," Kidwell said. "Even in a close ballgame."

Still the focus for Ross will be defense and setting the tone on the other side of the ball early to allow the offense time to adjust.

"We knew going into the season that our defense would have to carry us a little bit because we had a little more experience there," Kidwell said. "And they're going to have to dictate the game early again like they did against Whitmer. It's going to take our offense a little bit of time to figure things out and gauge their fronts and blitz schemes, but once we do, we'll push the tempo again and hopefully break off big runs like we did."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ WEEK 3

Tornadoes win physical tussle, top Little Giants

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — All week long, Tiffin Columbian had been preaching that it needed to out-muscle Fremont Ross to have a chance to win their Ohio 53 rivalry match.

Mission accomplished.

After physically dominating Toledo Start and Toledo Whitmer, Ross had it turned on them in their final non-conference meeting with the Tornadoes.

Tornadoes quarterback Ryan Tittle accounted for 305 yards of total offense — passing for 210 and rushing for another 95 — as Columbian handed Ross its first loss with a 40-21 win.

COLUMBIAN 40
ROSS 21

"We got beat," Little Giants coach Derek Kidwell said. "We got beat as an offensive line. We got beat as defensive line, and we got beat on the linebacker level and secondary levels too."

Columbian tailback Derrick Goliday added 180 yards on the ground on 23 carries and Jesse Hernandez had five catches for 139 yards as the Tornadoes (2-1) tallied 514 yards of total offense. Ross (2-1) countered with 193 yards, rushing for 77 and passing for 116.

"I think our kids thought they'd come over here and Tiffin

would roll down," Kidwell said. "Brian (Colatruglio, Columbian coach) said in the paper that they had to match our physicalness. They didn't match it, they won the physical battle and they were the more physical team tonight."

Most onlookers wouldn't have thought that would be the case, however, as the Little Giants pounded away at the Columbian defense on the game's first drive. Tylor Trautwein carried four times on the opening drive, tallying 22 yards as Ross went 44 yards in 10 plays to take the lead on a 1-yard touchdown run by Trent Stout.

But Columbian came back and also used the ground game to drive the ball down the field.

Goliday shredded the Ross defense for 58 yards on seven carries as the Tornadoes answered the Little Giants back with 12-play, 75-yard scoring drive. The Columbian senior running back capped the drive with an 18-yard touchdown run on a fourth-and-one play, but the extra point failed leaving Ross with a 7-6 edge.

One possession later, a long 66-yard pass from Tittle to Hernandez on the first play, had the Tornadoes deep in Ross territory. Goliday capped the two-play strike with a 5-yard run, his second of four scoring runs on the night.

"Our offensive line did an outstanding job," Colatruglio said. "It was the key to the game. We

just man-handled them inside and that was huge for us."

Trautwein and Ross wouldn't give in, though, as he led them down the field again on 14-play scoring drive that covered 73 yards and gave Ross a 14-12 edge with 5:21 left until halftime.

But then a Tittle touchdown run from a yard out and crazy broken play on Columbian's first drive of the second half really swung the game in the Tornadoes' favor.

After a bad snap that sent the ball into his own territory, Tittle ran down the loose ball, looked around, and then found a wide-open Austin Bentz, who caught the pass at the Ross 30-yard line

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and ran the rest of the way as Columbian took a 26-14 lead.

"I don't know if the center saw me lift my leg or not, but I chased it down and rolled the one way," Tittle said. "I was thinking of getting rid of it and throwing it away, but then I decided to see what I could get. So I rolled back the other way and saw Bentz wide open so I threw it to him."

Greg Brown's big kick return put Ross at the Columbian 29-yard line on the next drive and Stout capped it with a 1-yard run to pull the Little Giants within five with 7:29 left in the third.

That would be as close as the Little Giants would get the rest of the way.

Two Goliday runs from 11 yards out capped the evening's scoring.

"(Ross's) offense is really



TRAUTWEIN

good," Colatruglio said. "They can pound you, the running backs run hard. And they got great speed at receiver. Our team possessing the ball was the plan coming in. We were going to try and establish the run and keep the ball out of their hands."

Trautwein led Ross with 85 yards on 21 carries. Wolf finished 13-of-22 with one interception.

Skylar Reffner led all the Little Giant receivers with five catches and 77 yards.

"What's disappointing is we didn't stay the course tonight, we didn't stick with our game plan," Kidwell said. "We got down and the kids started to doubt themselves. That's what happened last year when our season fell apart and I refuse to allow that to happen this year."

"We'll see what type of club leadership we have when we come back tomorrow and then have to go to Cleveland next weekend to play a tough Benedictine team."

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High School football

Fremont Ross 21, Tiffin Columbian 40

Ross	7	7	7	0	—	21
Columbian	6	14	6	14	—	40

■ First Quarter:

FR: Trent Stout 1 run (Gabe Tayar kick).

TC: Derrick Goliday 18 run (kick failed).

■ Second Quarter:

TC: Goliday 5 run (2-point failed).

FR: Tylor Trautwein 1 run (Tayar kick).

TC: Ryan Tittle 1 run (Tittle pass to Jesse Hernandez).

■ Third Quarter:

TC: Austin Bentz 41 pass from Tittle (2-point failed).

FR: Trautwein 1 run (Tayar kick).

■ Fourth Quarter:

TC: Goliday 11 run (Tittle pass to Hernandez).

TC: Goliday 11 run (2-point failed).

TEAM STATS	FR	TC
First downs.....	15	20
Total Net Yards	193	514
Rushes-yards	30-77	43-34
Passing	116	210
Comp-Att-Int	13-22-1	9-12-0
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	4-17	6-45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Tylor Trautwein 21-85, Tyler Wolf 4-(-27), Trent Stout 4-12. TC—Derrick Goliday 23-180, Vince Kurtz 2-19, Ryan Tittle 12-95, Derec Blodgett 5-17.

■ **Passing:** FR—Wolf 13-22-1-116. TC—Tittle 9-12-0-210.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Skylar Reffner 5-77, Marquan McDonald 4-21, Greg Brown 2-6, Trent Stout 1-9. TC—Hernandez 5-139, Kurtz 1-8, Daniel Wood 1-11, Austin Bentz 2-52.

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **Ross:** 2-1 (0-0); at Cleveland Benedictine, Saturday.

Little Giants hope to bounce back after loss

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

FREMONT — For two weeks, the Fremont Ross football team prided itself in being the better team on the field for most of the game's 48 minutes.

Even two weeks ago against a

Toledo Whitmer team, believed by most to have more talent than the Little Giants, Ross made sure it won the battle in the trenches. The Little Giants were the ones throwing the punches, instead of being the ones on the ground taking them.

Life was good around Don Paul Stadium. Ross had a signa-

ture win for the season with a 22-16 win over the Panthers — the defending Toledo City League champions — and most believed the Little Giants were on the way to a strong start in the 2010 campaign.

But then last Friday happened, and the tunes around the locker

room and the community changed a bit.

The Little Giants defense, which hadn't missed a beat in two games, had its armor stripped and was gashed and beaten up most of the night,

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surrendering 514 total yards of offense in what turned out to be a 40-21 defeat at the hands of Tiffin Columbian. The Tornadoes ran for 304 yards and passed for another 210, while they held Ross's offense to 193.

Instead of throwing the upercuts, Ross — who this time around was expected to win — was bullied, out-muscled and out-played for most of the game's four quarters.

"I think our kids thought they'd go in there and Tiffin would roll down," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "And like I told our kids, it was a collective loss. All of us put our hand in the middle and had a part in the loss. We all got to take credit and responsibility for it, and we need to get off the mat and come out swinging again."

While it was a blow to Kidwell, the loss hit the players just as hard. And after what transpired in last season's 5-5 season when the Little Giants lost four of their final five after an overtime loss to Findlay, they're determined not to let Friday's loss dictate the rest of the season.

"I told the captains that we can't have what we had last year," senior JJ Moreno said. "We need to bounce back from Friday's loss. We don't need to have the bickering back and forth. We just need to put it behind us and move on to week four."

But the road doesn't get any easier for Ross as Friday they'll visit Cleveland Benedictine for the first time. Kickoff between the Little Giants (2-1) and Bengals (1-2) is set for 7:30 p.m. at Bedford Bearcat Stadium.

It could be the final game of a series that started back in 1980 and ran up until 1988. The series picked up in 2003 again with the Bengals winning five of the last seven games.

Ross's lone wins in the last seven years came in overtime, winning 34-28 in 2006 and 28-21 last season.

"This program hasn't faired well against Benedictine in the past," Kidwell said. "We were fortunate enough to come back and beat them last year, so these guys at least have a familiarity with beating them, which I think will help us."

The Bengals come into the week having also found themselves on the losing end. They were topped 31-28 by winless Chardon in a game where Kidwell was in attendance.

"Like us, they looked kind of defeated at the end of that game," Kidwell said. "I'm sure they've had a similar week of practice."

"It's one of the smaller teams we've seen from Benedictine, number-wise and size-wise."

Kidwell pointed out 6-foot-4-inch tight end Mike Roberts as being a key guy the Little Giants will need to stop. The junior leads the Bengals with 14 catches for 154 yards.

Senior quarterback Tyler Wilcosky will be trying to get Roberts the ball as he's passed for 399 yards and a touchdown in three games. Junior tailback Bryan Lacey then leads the team on the ground with 270 yards on 40 carries.

"Offensively, they may be in shotgun a little bit more than they have been in the past, but they're still an off-tackle power team, and they want to run the ball," Kidwell said. "They got a big tight end in (Roberts) who is one of their go-to guys. If he's lined up at tight end, they're running towards him. If he's lined up as wing or slot guy, they're trying to throw the ball to him."

And stopping the other offense will be a key for the Ross success.

"For us to have success, we have to re-establish our energy defensively and control the line of scrimmage," Kidwell said. "We'll also have to play an aggressive style of football and not let the punch come to us, but instead take the punch to them."

Kidwell likes the continued development he sees from Tyler Wolf at quarterback and pointed to the play of Skylar Reffner as a positive from last Friday. Reffner led all Little Giant receivers with five catches for 77 yards.

He also liked the way his senior running back continues to run the ball.

"I thought Tylor Trautwein ran the ball extremely hard, but he didn't have the best blocking," Kidwell said. "There were times where we didn't have one out of five linemen blocking somebody."

Trautwein led Ross with 85 yards on 21 carries. Wolf finished 13-of-22, throwing for 116 yards and one interception.

"It's high school football and I told the kids they're going to make mistakes and we expect them to make mistakes," Kidwell said. "It's how we handle adversity and the tough times that will show this team's true character."

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Road trip suits Little Giants just fine

BY KEVIN YANIK
News-Messenger correspondent

BEDFORD — Turns out all Fremont Ross needed in its storied rivalry with Cleveland Benedictine was a change of scenery.

The Bengals have owned the rivalry, with 16 meetings and 13 beatings, all in Fremont.

But behind Tylor Trautwein's four touchdowns, Tyler Wolf's 235 passing yards and an impressive defensive effort Friday night, the Little Giants pummeled the Bengals, 47-7, in the final game of a rivalry that dates back to 1980.

"Ultimately, we know [Benedictine] is a struggling pro-



TRAUTWEIN

gram," said Fremont head coach Derek Kidwell, whose opponent dropped to 1-3. "We thought this was a game we should get. Our playmakers made plays. Tylor Trautwein ran extremely well, Greg Brown started the game off well for us. I thought Tyler Wolf played very well for us."

The Little Giants (3-1) particularly needed an offensive effort like the ones Trautwein, Brown, Wolf and the rest of the team delivered after their 19-point loss a week ago to Tiffin Columbian.

"I'm proud of our team," Kidwell said. "We won this game with our preparation on Saturday by coming in, watching film, understanding the mistakes we made and learning from them. Then, we had a great week of practice."

"The tempo was nice, and our

ROSS	47
BENEDICTINE	7

kids were mad. They should've been mad. We won this game Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. It was nice for our kids."

Trautwein saw improvement from last week, as well.

"It's pretty great we came back from a tough loss," Trautwein says. "The offensive line played so much better than last week. We all came together."

The Little Giants even came together early Friday night, racing to a 7-0 lead on Greg Brown's 85-yard touchdown reception on Ross's first offensive play. Wolf skied a pass to Benedictine's 45-yard line, Brown reeled it in and then raced to the end zone for the game's first points.

The Little Giants were just getting started.

Trautwein, who finished with 129 yards on 20 carries, led the Little Giants into the end zone later in the first quarter with a 30-yard burst up the middle. He then scored twice more in the second — once from 5 yards out and again from a yard out — to secure a 28-0 halftime lead.

Trautwein wasn't done there, though. He took the opening kickoff of the second half back for a 92-yard touchdown that immediately quashed any comeback inklings.

"We were pretty down after last week," Trautwein said. "This brings our confidence back up."

The Little Giants defense is feeling more confident after this win, as well. They nearly posted a shutout, but a 48-yard pass play late in the third set up

Benedictine's only touchdown.

Still, a 40-point win over a team that has defeated the Little Giants more than 75 percent of the time is a boost — for both Kidwell's offensive and defensive players.

"The defense played outstanding," Kidwell said. "We have two sophomore corners and a free safety all over the field, and that's awesome. It was a great defensive game plan by my dad and his staff."

Defensively, the Little Giants scored once. JJ Moreno picked up fumble and returned it 34 yards for another Ross touchdown. Drew Starks made the only interception of the game, and Trent Stout, who ran for 44 yards on seven carries, made two other big first-half plays for the Little Giants: a sack and a deflected pass.

Fremont Ross 47, Cleveland Benedictine

Ross	14	14	12	7	—	47
Benedictine	0	0	7	0	—	7

■ First Quarter:

FR: Greg Brown 85 pass from Tyler Wolf (Gabe Tayar kick), 8:36.

FR: Tylor Trautwein 30 run (Tayar kick), 2:16.

■ Second Quarter:

FR: Trautwein 5 run (Tayar kick), 8:35.

FR: Trautwein 1 run (Tayar kick), 3:23.

■ Third Quarter:

FR: Trautwein 92 kick return (kick failed), 11:47.

FR: Brown 21 pass from Wolf (kick failed), 6:05.

B: Ty Wilcosky 3 run (Justin Bonchek kick), 3:03.

■ Fourth Quarter:

FR: JJ Moreno 34 fumble return (Tayar kick), 8:13.

TEAM STATS	FR	BEN
First downs.....	18	7
Total Net Yards	434	128
Rushes-yards.....	42-199	21-34
Passing	235	94
Comp-Att-Int	13-15-0	7-24-1
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	8-57	5-42

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Trautwein 20-129, Trent Stout 7-44, Matthew Egbert 7-32. BEN—Bryan Lacey 14-48, Kelvin Blake 1-7.

■ **Passing:** FR—Tyler Wolf 13-15-235. BEN—Wilcosky 5-18-70, int.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Brown 5-168, Skylar Reffner 4-36, Marquan McDonald 1-9, Tre Rollins 2-16, Drew Starks 1-8. BEN—Mike Roberts 4-35, Marshall Howell 2-59..

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **Ross:** 3-1 vs. University School.

■ **Benedictine:** 1-3 at Cleveland Central Catholic.

**HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL**

■ FREMONT ROSS

Little Giants are heading into week 5 feeling good

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Fremont Ross football coach Derek Kidwell and his Little Giants were reunited with the win column again on Friday.

And as Peaches and Herb wrote in their hit song from the 1970s, it feels so good.

One week after feeling embarrassed in a 40-21 loss to Tiffin Columbian Ross earned a decisive 47-7 week 4 win in its first trip to Cleveland Benedictine.

In the process, the Little Giants showed the ability to overcome obstacles and showed a lot of intestinal fortitude.

But that came as no surprise to their coach, who has seen a new unity in his squad since the beginning of camp.

"We expected them to come back and play like they did," Kidwell said. "That loss to Columbian was disappointing, but I told my kids we're going to find out the true character of our team and our real leadership from how we respond. And they responded, they had a hard week of practice with a lot of hard work and a lot of focus."

Those will have to be some of the same attributes the Little Giants bring back home with them to Don Paul Stadium Saturday. Ross welcomes University School from Hunting Valley, a team averaging 36 points a game.

Kickoff for the Little Giants (3-1) and Preppers (3-1) is slated for 7 p.m.

"They're very potent on offense," Kidwell said of the Preppers, who come in off a 54-35 home loss to Willoughby South. "They're constantly putting pressure on you from an offensive standpoint. They're always attacking. They throw the ball about 35-40 times a game ... we're going to have our work cut out for us."

University School features a spread offense, which will force the Ross defense to cover sideline to sideline. Quarterback Tyler

SEE GIANTS | B2

GIANTS FROM B1

Eden is a big kid, standing at 6-foot-4-inches, and he has good mobility and arm strength.

According to Kidwell, one thing he doesn't like is pressure and Ross plans to apply plenty of it.

"We want to get pressure on their quarterback," Kidwell said. "He doesn't seem to feel real comfortable when people are coming at him. We want to make him as uncomfortable as we can all night."

This past week, Eden was 23 of 39 passing for 281 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in a losing effort.

He likes to distribute his throws to four different receivers. Running back John McKelvey is one, as are receivers Brooks Pinnick, Geoff Geppert and Jeff Reimann.

McKelvey does most of the team's scoring, as he had five touchdowns alone in the Preppers win in week 2 over Villa Angela-St. Joseph.

"(McKelvey) is a very physical runner," Kidwell said. "And he has plenty of speed too."

Good thing Kidwell has his defensive backfield back and

healthy. For the first time all season he has all his starting secondary at his disposal with the return of Dylan Starks from being out the first three weeks with a broken bone in his hand.

His return allowed his twin brother Drew Starks, as well as defensive backs Skylar Reffner and Greg Brown, to play a man-to-man defense against the Bengals.

And the defense responded, getting back to its old ways after giving up 514 yards of offense to Columbian.

"We just weren't in the same mood that game," Brown said. "But in the Benedictine game we really played strong defense. We ran to the ball and had a good time out there."

The return of Dylan Starks was another Peaches and Herb moment for Kidwell and the defensive coaches.

"It gave us an extra corner, and we had everybody go man all night and it freed everyone else up to play football," Kidwell said. "That's a nice luxury to have that, knowing you have four quality corners like that."

Brown was one of those defen-

sive backs in Kidwell's arsenal and also provided the offense with an explosive punch — catching a 85-yard touchdown pass to help Tyler Wolf throw for 235 yards.

"It was nice to get him off and running at the wideout position," Kidwell said. "He had a big game for us and we've been waiting for that to happen."

As for the rest of the offense, Tylor Trautwein continued to run hard, piling 129 yards up on the ground. But Kidwell says there's still room for improvement.

"Our grades have reflected it on offense," Kidwell said. "We're not grading out at a real high level right now. Once we came back and watched film, we still saw a lot of mistakes we're making."

The Little Giants hope those mistakes won't mean win No. 600 for University School, which comes in sitting at 599 all-time wins.

"Any school that gets 600 wins is pretty good," Kidwell said. "We just don't want them to get their 600th win on our field."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ FREMONT ROSS

Ross makes most of opportunities

Tops mistake-prone University School 38-10

BY KYLE SCHIMMING
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — After a penalty-plagued first quarter, Fremont Ross took over in the second quarter thanks to an opportunistic defense and earned a convincing 38-10 win over University School on Saturday night.

After falling behind 10-0 early in the second quarter and with their offense stalled, the Little Giants were given a kick-start when Adam Miranda recovered a Preppers fumble in the end zone for a touchdown.

The play was aided by some miscommunication between the Preppers offense.

"We had a disagreement, ap-

parently. Our line called one blocking scheme and our running back called another," Preppers coach Jim Stephens said. "It just opened up our middle and our quarterback should have thrown it out but he tried to make something happen and they picked up the touchdown."

After forcing a three-and-out, the Little Giants offense was given good field position, taking over on their own 49-yard line. Tylor Trautwein ripped off a 32-yard run down to the 14-yard line, and after they couldn't get into the end zone they were forced to settle for a field goal attempt.

However, Ross would benefit

SEE ROSS I 7



Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent

In a key first-half play, Ross's Travis Maynard sacked University School's Tyler Eden Saturday and forced a fumble in the end zone, which was recovered for a Ross touchdown. Fremont went on to win 38-10.

ROSS FROM 6

from an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty before the attempt and was given a new set of downs on the 3.

Two plays later Trent Stout plowed in from a yard out with 4:55 remaining in the half.

The Little Giants defense would force another turnover to stop the Preppers ensuing drive on Ross's own 38-yard line when Travis Maynard pounced on a loose football.

Drew Starks then took a short pass from Tyler Wolf and raced 41 yards down the sideline after breaking a tackle before being knocked out at the 6-yard line. Wolf capped the drive off by running in from there with just under two minutes remaining in the half

to give the Little Giants a 21-10 advantage.

"I told the defense at halftime, good job waking the offense up," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We struggled a little bit in the first quarter. Then the defense got us going with a big play and we got it going from there."

Ross would give themselves a comfortable lead in the third quarter by executing a 95-yard drive that was finished off by Trautwein diving over the goal line from one yard out.

The drive was highlighted by three catches from Skylar Reffnar totaling 70 yards, with the last bringing the Little Giants down to the 1 yard line that set up the TD run.

The Ross defense continued making big plays, as J.J. Moreno

recovered a fumble on the Preppers' next drive. After a 40-yard run from Greg Brown, Gabe Tayar knocked in a 32-yard field goal.

Trautwein, who finished with 22 carries for 187 yards, would put the exclamation point on the game with an 87-yard touchdown run in the fourth to finish off the scoring.

"Tyler's our energy on offense," Kidwell said.

"We're going to be as good as he runs the ball and when he's rolling it opens up our offense for the quick passing game."

Drew Starks would add an interception for the Little Giants on their own 28-yard line to end the Preppers' last scoring opportunity. Their only points came in the first quarter off a 17-yard touchdown reception by John McKelvey

and a 21-yard field goal in the second by Harry Reu.

"The big thing is to hold this team to 10 points when they've been averaging 35-40 regardless of who they've played," Kidwell said.

"I think it says a lot to our defensive staff and the game plan they put together."

"Then for the kids to go out and execute it, I couldn't be more proud of them."

Wolf finished 9-of-14 passing for 146 yards, with 100 of those yards going to Reffnar.

"I think Tyler Wolf's playing outstanding for us for a sophomore right now. He doesn't make any mistakes, he gets us into great plays, when our receivers are open he throws a very accurate ball," Kidwell said.

Records don't matter when Ross lines up with Findlay

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — As clichéd as it is, when Fremont Ross meets Findlay in a rivalry game Friday, records don't matter.

Last year's game is a perfect example.

The two teams had the same records when they played last fall at Don Paul Stadium as they will have when they play Friday. And Ross (4-1) came away with a 43-40 loss in triple-overtime to the one-win Trojans (1-4).

FRIDAY'S GAME

Fremont Ross (4-1) vs. Findlay (1-4)

■ **Where:** Donnell Stadium

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday

■ **Radio:** WFRO-FM 99.1

"You can throw those records right out the window," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "It's two schools that don't like each other. And the last two years we've gone

into the game with a better record and left defeated both times.

"These seniors haven't beat Findlay yet at the varsity level and I don't think that's something they want to graduate with."

Ross comes into the game on the heels of a 38-10 win over Hunting Valley University School.

Offensively, the Little Giants had a hard time getting things rolling in the first quarter. They trailed 10-0 early in the second quarter, until a fumble recovery in the end zone by senior captain Adam Miranda electrified every-

one on the Ross sideline.

"It woke the whole team up," Kidwell said. "Then once we got going offensively, they couldn't stop us."

If there's a battering ram the Ross offense puts to work, it's senior Tylor Trautwein. He had his best performance yet against the Peppers, going for 187 yards on 22 carries. The senior scored two touchdowns, including an 87-yard scoring run to put a cap on the win.

"If we can pound them (Findlay), we will," Kidwell said.

"They've had trouble stopping the run on film, and if we can run the ball on them, we're going to continue to run the ball."

While Trautwein and the offense stuffed the ball down the Peppers' throats, the defense continued to be an impenetrable force.

Kidwell credited the return of his secondary as a key in the win against Benedictine and said it was another factor last week. University S

SEE ROSS I B2

ROSS FROM B1

School had averaged more than 35 points per game.

"To hold them to 10 points is something to be proud of," Kidwell said. "It's a nice luxury to man-up a spread team and have confidence in doing it."

Guys up front on the line like senior Jared Walker have become much more dangerous with the added protection.

"I just try to get as much pressure as I can up front, so those guys can make the big plays," Walker said.

Ross's defense is allowing 14.6 points per game. Last year they surrendered 24.5 points per tilt and allowed 331.5 yards a game on average.

"We just want to hit everybody in the mouth," Walker said. "We want to play the most physical style of football we can."

And much like University School, Walker and the defense will see plenty of sideline-to-sideline action.

"They're in shotgun formation 99 percent of the time," Kidwell said. "And they'll give you three or four receivers, but they still like to run the ball and they're an off-

tackle team."

Findlay's lone win was a 62-8 week 3 victory over Greenville. The Trojans' defeats were a four-point loss (17-13) to Toledo St. Francis de Sales, a 39-30 loss to Brunswick, a 49-31 loss to Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller and a 13-7 loss this past week to Dayton Dunbar.

"We've kind of been in this boat before," Findlay coach Mark Ritzler said.

"The start of the league always kind of gives us a new life a little bit. It gives us a chance to refocus."

"The league is always a goal for us every year and with us coming up a little short the past couple weeks, this couldn't have come at a better time."

Ritzler's spread offense is led by senior signal-caller Matt Spragg. Spragg has split some time with sophomore quarterback Paul Cosiano. The two combined to go 6-for-19 passing for 41 yards against Dunbar.

Alex Henry and Vance Settlemire make a majority of the run game, with Dylan Blunk and Jim Orwick being the main threats downfield.

"Sporadic would be the best way to describe our offense,"

Ritzler said. "We got a little smaller line than we're used to and we haven't been able to run the ball effectively."

Ritzler has liked the play of outside linebackers D.J. Pullom and Devin Dennard on defense, who've made a lot of plays for him on defense, plays he knows his team will need to make on Friday.

"Ross has gotten better each week, and that's all you can ask for from a team," Ritzler said.

"The quarterback is starting to play much better as well and he's going to be a good one. He'll be the next in a long line of good Ross quarterbacks."

All in all, though, for Ritzler and Kidwell both, this week is one of those weeks where there is nothing more exciting than being a high school football coach.

"This is just another exciting week to be involved with high school football," Kidwell said. "And I wouldn't want to be in any other locker room right now. I wouldn't want to take any other team on a bus but the team we have right now."

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Ross aims to run ground attack against Harding

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Trent Stout never envisioned there would be many games this season where he'd be listed as a rusher in the box score — let alone as a 100-yard rusher.

A junior, Stout was thrown into the backfield mix because of a change in offensive philosophies during the off-season. And thus far the fullback has been an integral part of Ross coach Derek Kidwell's move from a spread offense back to the same power attack offense that he and his father, Dick Kidwell, ran at Fostoria.

"At first, I thought I was just going to be a blocker," Stout said. "They told me I might get the ball a couple times, but I never thought I'd get it as many times as I have."

With his ability to break off big runs and pick up the small chunks, Kidwell plans to put the ball in Stout's hands until an opposing defense can slow him down.

And who could blame him?

"We went over there last year in the mud and rain and got punched in the mouth. ... We need to make sure we don't get in that situation this year."

DEREK KIDWELL
Fremont Ross football coach

Stout carried the ball 12 times in the Little Giants' win last week at Findlay (43-35) and amassed 122 yards on the ground. It was a ground attack that racked up 435 rushing yards — with 164 coming from Greg Brown and another 159 coming from Tylor Trautwein — as Ross recorded its 12th-best single-game rushing performance of all time.

"We didn't realistically go into



NM file photo

Adam Miranda recovers a fumble in the end zone for a Fremont Ross touchdown in a win last month against University School.

Friday night thinking Trent would carry the ball as much as he did or that he'd get the yardage he got," Kidwell said. "It was just a situation where we were calling a trap play and they couldn't stop it. And if you aren't going to be able to stop something, we're going to

keep coming back to it."

Ross (5-1, 1-0) will look to keep that ground attack rolling when it hosts Marion Harding (1-5, 0-1) Friday at Don Paul Stadium. Kickoff for the Little Giants' home Greater Buckeye Conference opener and homecoming contest

is set for 7:30 p.m.

Thus far, the Little Giants have gained more than 200 yards per game rushing. Combine that with sophomore quarterback Tyler Wolf passing for an average of

SEE ROSS | B2

ROSS FROM B1

150 yards and you've got a dangerous package.

"I think offensively, we're developing into a complete package," Kidwell said. "And I think with the success of all three of our running backs, it just gives defensive staffs more things to worry about."

When he's not running, Stout is throwing blocks for Trautwein and Brown. Trautwein, who has gained 475 yards alone in the last three games, is the new GBC rushing leader. He has just two games this season where he hasn't eclipsed the century mark in rushing.

"Me and Trent have a connection for some reason," Trautwein said. "He knows where I'm going and I know where he's going to go. We just help each other out."

And like Trautwein, Stout has the ability to make people miss and punish opposing tacklers.

"He's a very good athlete with good speed," Kidwell said. "He's got nice, loose hips also, and he has good vision. He's a physical runner too like Tylor, but his runs hit you quicker than Tylor's."

"Sometimes he's behind the linebackers before they even see it."

Ross isn't the only GBC team that can rush it. The Presidents are leading the league with nearly 250 yards per game on the ground.

"You take away their red and black, they're kind of a mirror image of us offensively," Kidwell

said. "They don't have the passing threat like we have. But they're a power running team and they do a lot of the same things we like to do offensively."

In last week's 26-13 loss at Napoleon, Harding was without the services of leading rusher Marvin Owens. Yet the Presidents still nearly topped 200 yards rushing, as Alphonso Sims topped the team with 109 yards.

Owens, who led the league in rushing prior to week 6, will be a game-time decision against Ross.

"Our defense is going to have to come ready to tighten up their chin straps and play," Kidwell said.

"It's going to be a physical, smash-mouth game."

And if history has anything to show, the Little Giants can't take the Presidents lightly. Last season in Marion, Harding came away a 21-0 winner as they limited Ross to 240 yards of offense.

"We went over there last year in the mud and rain and got punched in the mouth, but we didn't punch back," Kidwell said. "There was no doubt about who wanted that game more. It was definitely Marion Harding and a lot of our kids remember that."

"We need to make sure we don't get in that situation this year. The GBC is going to be a five-step process for us and we got to concentrate on step two Friday."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ WEEK 6

Little Giants take rushing game duel

BY MIKE BAUMAN

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Two of the best rushing attacks in the Greater Buckeye Conference went at it when Marion Harding played Fremont Ross on Friday.

Something had to give, and in the end, the Little Giants came out on top 22-17 on homecoming night on the strength of great second half defense.

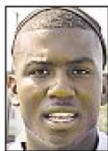
"You're not going to win pretty all the time," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We've got a painting inside our double doors that says, 'Defense Wins Championships,' and we told our kids at halftime that defense is going to win this. It doesn't matter how pretty it was."

"We came out flat tonight, we woke up a little bit and we

ROSS HOMECOMING

FREMONT ROSS 22
MARION 17

■ Because of technical difficulties, photos from the Fremont-Ross-Marion Harding game were not in by press time. The News-Messenger apologizes for the difficulties.



BROWN

played good enough to win."

In the fourth quarter, the Ross defense came up big on two different fourth down attempts by the Presidents. Senior Travis Maynard picked off Aaron Gabriel at the Ross 17-yard line midway through the fourth, while senior Jared Walker knocked down a pass on Harding's ensuing drive with 1:49 left to seal the victory.

"They did a good job of making adjustments in the second half," Harding coach Heath Hinton said. "Give our kids a lot of credit. They tried hard. They just weren't able to do it tonight."

The Presidents (1-6, 0-2 GBC), who entered Friday's contest as the GBC's rushing leader, finished with 284 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 53 carries against the Little Giants, totaling 319 yards of offense. Meanwhile, Ross's triple-threat backfield comprised of junior Trent Stout and seniors Greg Brown and Tylor Trautwein combined for 108 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries as the Little Giants (6-1, 2-0 GBC) amassed 125 yards rushing and a total of 235 offensive yards in the contest. Trautwein — the GBC's individual rushing leader through the first six weeks — ran 11 times for just 26 yards, limited by a sore ankle.

"He had a bum ankle, and we treated it all week," Kidwell said. "He tried to practice a little bit, but he was a little gimpy and we didn't want to keep pounding him tonight and set him back because ankles can last for a long time."

In the first quarter, Harding's

L.J. Scott broke several tackles en route to his 17-yard touchdown run at the 6:30 mark to give the Presidents a 7-0 lead. A late hit from Ross on a high snap to Gabriel gave Harding a first down with less than a minute to play in the quarter. Thomas Adamson kicked a 33-yard field goal to extend the Presidents' lead to 10-0 with 11:10 to go in the second. The Little Giants were held without much success offensively until the 4:25 mark, when sophomore quarterback Tyler Wolf hooked up with Brown on an 83-yard touchdown pass down the right sideline, and Brown ran in the two-point conversion to make the score 10-8.

Moments later, Josh Montgomery fumbled during his run on first down from Harding's own 31-yard line. Junior Skylar Reffner scooped up the ball and ran it back for a touchdown with 4:08 left in the half, and Wolf ran in the two-point conversion to make it 16-10. Minutes later, Sims redeemed his team when he gal-

loped for a 40-yard touchdown run with 1:36 on the clock to give the Presidents a 17-16 advantage. Wolf had a 46-yard run with less than a minute to play in the half, but Ross was again hampered by a penalty on a block in the back which negated Wolf's effort to just seven yards. Senior Tre Rollins fumbled on a 12-yard reception a few plays later, and his team headed into the locker room down by one at the half after the defense held.

Harding outgained the Little Giants 260-130 in the first half as Ross racked up 40 penalty yards and went without a first down. Sims ran for 126 yards and one touchdown on 14 carries for the Presidents by halftime, while the Little Giants' vaunted rushing attack mustered just 35 yards on 12 carries.

With 3:47 left on the clock in the third quarter, Brown ran 27 yards up the middle out of the shotgun to score, but Trautwein was

SEE ROSS | B2

ROSS FROM B1

stopped by the Presidents on the two-point conversion attempt to hold the Little Giants' lead to five for the final score of 22-17.

Brown led Ross with 138 yards of total offense and two touchdowns in the game, rushing for 58 yards on nine carries to go with his two receptions for 80 yards. Wolf went six-of-11 for 110 yards and one touchdown, also rushing for 18 yards on four carries.

Sims finished with 132 yards and one touchdown on 20 carries for the Presidents, while backfield teammate Scott ran for 62 yards and a touchdown and caught two balls for 36 yards.

Fremont Ross 22, Marion Harding 17

Marion Harding	7	10	0	0	—	17
Fremont Ross	0	16	6	0	—	22

■ First Quarter:

M: LJ Scott 17 run (Thomas Adamson kick).

■ Second Quarter:

M: Adamson 33 field goal.

FR: Greg Brown 84 pass from Tyler Wolf (Brown run), 4:25.

FR: Skylar Reffner 34 fumble return (Wolf run), 4:08.

M: Alphonso Sims 40 run (Adamson kick), 1:36.

■ Third Quarter:

FR: Brown 27 run (conversion no good), 3:50.^N

TEAM STATS	FR	M
First downs.....	14.....	4
Total Net Yards	319.....	235
Rushes-yards.....	53-284....	33-125
Passing	35.....	110
Comp-Att-Int	3-7-1.....	6-11-0
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-1.....	3-1
Penalties-Yards	4-41.....	6-70

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Brown 9-58, Tylor Trautwein 11-26, Stout 7-24, Wolf 4-18, Jordan Garcia 1-2. MAR—Sims 20-132, Aaron Gabriel 23-85, Scott 9-62, Montgomery 1-5.

■ **Passing:** FR—Wolf 6-11-110. MAR—Gabriel 3-7-1-35.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Brown 2-80, Tre Rollins 1-12, Drew Starks 1-9, Nick Streacker 1-6, Trautwein 1-3. M—Scott 2-36.

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **Ross:** 6-1 (2-0); at Napoleon.

■ **Marion Harding:** 1-6 (0-2); vs. Sandusky.

ROAD TO THE PLAYOFFS



A LOOK AT THE EIGHTH WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Computer Rankings

COLUMBUS — The fourth Ohio High School Athletic Association football computer ratings, with record and average points. The top eight teams in each region after Week 10 of the regular season qualify for the regional quarterfinals.

DIVISION I

■ **Region 1:** 1. Cleveland Glenville (7-0) 21.8674, 2. Solon (7-0) 18.9, 3. Austintown-Fitch (7-0) 17.3357, 4. Lakewood St. Edward (7-0) 16.4694, 5. Willoughby South (6-1) 14.9143, 6. Strongsville (5-2) 14.3929, 7. Mentor (4-3) 14.2286, 8. Boardman (5-2) 13.0318, 9. North Royalton (6-1) 11.65, 10. Brecksville-Broadview Heights (5-2) 10.0429, 11. Warren G. Harding (5-2) 9.7099, 12. Parma (6-1) 9.65.

■ **Region 2:** 1. Sylvania Southview (7-0) 18.5512, 2. Massillon Washington (6-1) 17.1252, 3. Twinsburg (7-0) 16.7357, 4. Toledo Whitmer (6-1) 15.329, 5. Canton McKinley (5-2) 15.1357, 6. Massillon Perry (5-2) 14.7071, 7. Fremont Ross (6-1) 13.1357, 8. Amherst Steele (7-0) 12.9929, 9. Medina (6-1) 12.5714, 10. Toledo St. John's (6-1) 12.5286, 11. North Canton Hoover (3-4) 9.4598, 12. Perrysburg (5-2) 9.0571.

■ **Region 3:** 1. Pickerington Central (6-0) 23.6133, 2. Springfield (6-1) 17.9214, 3. Westerville South (6-1) 17.9, 4. Dublin Coffman (6-1) 15.3714, 5. Hilliard Darby (6-1) 14.4214, 6. Hilliard Davidson (7-0) 14.3571, 7. Troy (6-1) 13.7071, 8. Groveport-Madison (5-2) 13.1032, 9. Upper Arlington (5-2) 11.8233, 10. Lancaster (5-2) 10.5779, 11. Pickerington North (4-3) 10.0918, 12. Columbus Northland (5-2) 9.9796.

■ **Region 4:** 1. Middletown (7-0) 21.7, 2. Cincinnati LaSalle (7-0) 18.0857, 3. Cincinnati Colerain (7-0) 17.6, 4. Centerville (6-1) 17.3786, 5. Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller (6-1) 17.2429, 6. Cincinnati St. Xavier (4-3) 14.1862, 7. Clayton Northmont (5-2) 11.7643, 8. Cincinnati Sycamore (5-2) 11.7357, 9. Hamilton (4-3) 11.1143, 10. Cincinnati Glen Este (4-3) 10.8143, 11. Cincinnati Anderson (6-1) 10.7214, 12. Cincinnati Western Hills (6-1) 10.5143.

DIVISION II

■ **Region 5:** 1. Ashland (6-1) 16.6571, 2. Warren Howland (7-0) 15.7193, 3. Aurora (6-1) 15.5357, 4. Copley (7-0) 15.5, 5. Tallmadge (7-0) 15.2, 6. Chesterland West Geauga (6-1) 15.0929, 7. Mentor Lake Catholic (6-1) 14.2929, 8. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (5-2) 13.5643.

■ **Region 6:** 1. Avon (7-0) 15.5857, 2. Toledo Central Catholic (7-0) 14.5909, 3. Maple Heights (7-0) 13.1571, 4. Avon Lake (6-1) 10.9794, 5. Westlake (5-2) 10.7286, 6. Lexington (4-3) 10.6643, 7. Olmsted Falls (4-3) 10.6357, 8. Maumee (5-2) 10.0571.

■ **Region 7:** 1. Columbus Marion-Franklin (7-0) 18.9071, 2. Sunbury Big Walnut (7-0) 17.3214, 3. New Albany (7-0) 16.9, 4. Columbus St. Charles (5-2) 14.6862, 5. Uniontown Lake (5-2) 14.6857, 6. Dresden Tri-Valley (6-1) 12.6714, 7. Canal Winchester (6-1) 12.1071, 8. Zanesville (6-1) 11.3305.

■ **Region 8:** 1. Kings Mills Kings (6-1) 15.5, 2. Cincinnati Winton Woods (6-1) 14.8571, 3. Cincinnati Turpin (7-0) 14.5, 4. Harrison (4-3) 12.4643, 5. New Carlisle Tecumseh (6-1) 12.4286, 6. Wapakoneta (6-1) 12.4214, 7. Trotwood-Madison (5-2) 11.4957, 8. Hamilton Ross (6-1) 10.2714.

DIVISION III

■ **Region 9:** 1. Parma Padua Franciscan (5-2) 13.8857, 2. Mogadore Field (5-2) 12.3214, 3. Hubbard (5-2) 12.1357, 4. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (4-2) 11.4456, 5. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (5-2) 11.0794, 6. Akron Buchtel (5-2) 10.8182, 7. Poland Seminary (4-3) 9.5071, 8. Hunting Valley University School (5-2) 8.4714, 9. Parma Heights Holy Name (4-3) 7.0857, 10. Ravenna Southeast (4-3) 5.9857, 11. Mantua Crestwood (3-4) 5.5429, 12. Streetsboro (3-4) 5.3571.

■ **Region 10:** 1. Tiffin Columbian (6-1) 15.6, 2. Clyde (7-0) 14.2, 3. Oak Harbor (6-1) 12.9, 4. Columbus Bishop Watterson (5-1) 12.5644, 5. Columbus St. Francis DeSales (4-3) 12.1328, 6. Columbus Eastmoor Acad. (4-2) 11.7222, 7. Tipp City Tipppecanoe (6-1) 11.6643, 8. Napoleon (6-1) 11.3786, 9. Elida (5-2) 10.3357, 10. Shelby (5-2) 10.2786, 11. Bellefontaine Benjamin Logan (5-2) 9.9643, 12. Celina (5-2) 9.4714.

■ **Region 11:** 1. Alliance Marlington (7-0) 17.5, 2. Steubenville (6-1) 17.1252, 3. East Liverpool (6-1) 13.4185, 4. Minerva (6-1) 12.4929, 5. Salem (6-1) 12.1286, 6. Thornville Sheridan (7-0) 11.6286, 7. Newark Licking Valley (5-2) 10.8571, 8. Richmond Edison (6-1) 10.5979, 9. Pataskala Licking Heights (5-2) 10.2714, 10. Granville (5-2) 9.8357, 11. Dover (5-2) 9.6929, 12. Alliance (4-3) 6.6286.

■ **Region 12:** 1. St. Bernard Roger Bacon (5-2) 15.25, 2. Springfield Shawnee (6-1) 13.3857, 3. Easton (7-0) 13.0071, 4. Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas (5-2) 12.8265, 5. Jackson (6-1) 11.9857, 6. Cincinnati Wyoming (6-1) 11.5286, 7. Washington C.H. Washington (6-1) 9.8714, 8. Gallipolis Gallia Acad. (5-2) 9.8143, 9. New Richmond

Little Giants have plenty of work left

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — He has the only 2-0 team in the Greater Buckeye Conference, but Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell doesn't want his team to think it's staying at the top without some work.

"We need to not feel too good about ourselves," Kidwell said. "We got to stay hungry, we got to stay the course and stay focused."

But if playing the eighth-ranked team in Division III doesn't get a team pumped up — it'd be hard to find other atmospheres that would.

That'll be the challenge ahead of the Little Giants (6-1, 2-0) when they hit the road for the final time in the regular-season Friday when they make the long trek down Route 6 to play Napoleon (6-1, 1-1). Game time is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

A win against the Wildcats, and Ross could improve upon its seventh-place spot in the Region 2 points. A loss, and the Little Giants' playoff dreams could come to an abrupt end.

One-loss Medina leads a pack of teams waiting for a slip up. The top eight teams in each region make the playoffs, with the top four hosting the bottom four in the first round.

"It's going to be tough to win over there, but luckily for us, we've won the last two times we've made the trip," Kidwell said. "But we need to clean some things up. Like us, Napoleon is fighting for their league and playoff lives."

Napoleon sits in the No. 8 spot in a region that includes both Clyde (No. 2) and Oak Harbor (No. 3). The Wildcats have two wins over teams with winning records and could use a third after a 27-20 overtime loss to Lima Senior.

"They got a lot of things they're trying to figure out over there," Kidwell said. "Plus it'll be Senior Night, so they'll be ready for us."

Ross is coming off an effort it knows wasn't its best, despite beating Marion Harding 22-17. If it weren't for the Little Giants' defense stepping in and saving the offense's tails at times, though, the outcome could have differed.



Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent

Greg Brown of Fremont Ross runs away from the Marion Harding defense during last week's homecoming game at Don Paul Stadium. Currently seventh in Division I, Region 2, the Little Giants meet Napoleon, which sits eighth in Division III, Region 10, in a big game for both teams' playoff aspirations.

Harding outgained the Little Giants 260-130 in the first half, as Ross went without a first down. Only Greg Brown's 83-yard touchdown reception kept the offense from being shut out.

The defense scored the other Little Giant's touchdown in the first half as Ross trailed 17-16 at the break.

Brown then scored on a 27-yard rush, while the defense did the rest.

"We made an adjustment that we hadn't practiced all week," he said. "We came in here on the grease board,

showed them what we wanted to do and they went out and executed it.

"That's just an example of our kid's football intelligence and their trust in this coaching staff."

To senior captain Adam Miranda, however, it's just another example of the attitude change from a year ago.

"It's been a leadership-thing this year," Miranda said. "Last year we didn't have that. It was easier to go in that locker room and get them motivated."

E-mail Kevin Shields at kshields@gannett.com.

Ross beats Napoleon in OT

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

NAPOLEON — He doesn't get too many plays in a game, but Drew Starks came up with two of the biggest for Fremont Ross in a thrilling 21-14 Greater Buckeye Conference overtime win Friday at Napoleon.

The Ross sophomore returned an interception 22 yards for a score in the second quarter to give Ross the lead, then had the play of game in the extra period. With the Little Giants facing a third and 15 at the Wildcats' 25, Starks grabbed Tyler Wolf's pass and took the ball down to the 5-yard line.

Two plays later, Tylor Trautwein pounded the ball into the end zone from a yard out for only the Little Giants' second offensive score.

"Tyler made an outstanding play just by getting out of the pocket, and then Drew made another huge play with that conversion," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "Those are two sophomores that made huge plays."

Starks then helped the Ross (7-1, 3-0) defense get the Wildcats (6-2, 1-2) to go three-and-out, as Jacob Plassman's desperation fourth-down pass hit the turf well short of his intended receiver.

It was a rare four-down stop for the Little Giants, who didn't score and racked up just 78 yards in the second half. Napoleon had well over 100 yards in the half, but Ross stopped them on downs twice and Travis Maynard ended another long Wildcats drive into Little Giants' territory with an interception.

"It's the GBC," Kidwell said. "I think everybody's pretty balanced this year and you're going to get this every week."

"I think some of our kids thought it'd be easy tonight after scoring on our first drive, but it's never going to be easy."

Ross made it look easy early, taking the opening kickoff and going 61 yards in seven plays to grab the early 7-0 lead. Trautwein accounted for 50 of it on the ground, before Greg Brown capped it with a 5-yard scamper out of the wildcat formation.

For Trautwein, that Little Giants drive accounted for nearly half of his 105 yards on seven carries.

"I thought he ran hard tonight," Kidwell said. "He's still limping a bit with his ankle injury."

Wolf would throw just 10 times for Ross on night, going 4-of-10 for 69 yards.

Even with the lack of success at times, the Little Giants kept to their power-run game, as did Napoleon.

"Both teams stuck to their running game, and both had some successes with it," Wildcats coach Tory Strock said. "But I thought both defenses showed pretty big and it wasn't quite the shootout a lot of people like to see."

Napoleon had the most success with the ground attack as Devon Sonnenberg tied the game up early in the second quarter with a 1-yard scoring run, part of his game-high 167 yards on 31 attempts. The Wildcats had 231 yards total via the rush with Ross gaining 151.

Starks' interception return for a score before halftime would be the only other score until Sonnenberg again ran in to tie the game with 5:41 left in regulation.

Ross, who had 18 yards in the second half until that point, somehow found a way to get the ball down to Napoleon's 5-yard line. However, with 1:34 left, Gabe Tayar's 22-yard field goal attempt was blocked.

SEE ROSS | B2

ROSS FROM B1

It meant the second straight overtime for Napoleon who lost in overtime a week ago to Lima Senior (27-20, 2 OT).

"We felt good about overtime this week," Strock said. "We felt like maybe we had a little bit of momentum and had them backed up. But that's where I got to give them credit for making a play."

With two weeks remaining, Ross is the lone unbeaten GBC team. They host Lima Senior and Sandusky to finish the season.

Friday's win was also big because it kept the Little Giants in the hunt to make the playoffs in Division I, Region 2.

"It's nice to leave Napoleon with a victory," Kidwell said. "We've beaten them the last three times we've been over here now and it's the last time we're going to play them."

"I told our kids it doesn't matter how you win, as long as you win and survive and we'll correct mistakes and get ready for Lima."

E-mail Kevin Shields
at kshields@gannett.com.

Fremont Ross 21, Napoleon 14 OT

Napoleon	0	7	0	7	0	—	14
Ross	7	7	0	0	7	—	21

■ First Quarter:

FR: Greg Brown 5 run (Gabe Tayar kick).

■ Second Quarter:

N: Devon Sonnenberg 1 run (Tyler Lawrence kick).

FR: Drew Starks 22 interception return (Tayar kick).

■ Fourth Quarter:

N: Sonnenberg 1 run (Lawrence kick).

■ Overtime:

FR: Tylor Trautwein 1 run (Tayar kick).

TEAM STATS	FR	N
First downs.....	8.....	15
Total Net Yards	220.....	279
Rushes-yards.....	40-151....	50-231
Passing	69.....	48
Comp-Att-Int	4-10-03-11-1	
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0.....	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-49.....	5-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Brown 6-20, Trautwein 27-105, Trent Stout 6-24. N—Sonnenberg 31-167, Drew Gerken 3-5, Skyler Anderson 15-61.

■ **Passing:** FR—Tyler Wolf 4-10-69-0. N—Jacob Plassman 3-11-48-1.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Skylar Reffner 1-16, Trautwein 1-1, Brown 1-32, Starks 1-20. N—Sonnenberg 1-11, Gerken 1-28, Tyler Miller 1-9.

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **ROSS:** 7-1 (3-0 GBC); vs. Lima Senior.

■ **NAPOLEON:** 6-2 (1-2 GBC); at Sandusky.

ROAD TO THE PLAYOFFS



A LOOK AT THE NINTH WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Computer Rankings

COLUMBUS — The fourth Ohio High School Athletic Association football computer ratings, with record and average points. The top eight teams in each region after Week 10 of the regular season qualify for the regional quarterfinals.

DIVISION I

Region 1: 1. Cleveland Glenview (8-0) 25.8801, 2. Solon (8-0) 23.3, Austintown-Fitch (8-0) 21.7525, 4. Lakewood St. Edward (8-0) 20.8718, 5. Willoughby South (7-1) 18.975, 6. Mentor (5-3) 16.8, 7. Strongsville (5-3) 15.675, 8. Boardman (6-2) 15.5485, 9. Warren G. Harding (6-2) 14.6327, 10. North Royalton (7-1) 13.425, 11. Parma (7-1) 12.525, 12. Brecksville-Broadview Heights (5-3) 10.725.

Region 2: 1. Toledo Whitmer (7-1) 21.5562, 2. Sylvania Southview (8-0) 21.1951, 3. Massillon Washington (6-2) 18.3222, 4. Twinsburg (7-1) 18.2125, 5. Fremont Ross (7-1) 17.8125, 6. Canton McKinley (6-2) 17.65, 7. Toledo St. John's (7-1) 16.625, 8. Amherst Steele (8-0) 16.5375, 9. Medina (7-1) 15.1875, 10. Massillon Perry (5-3) 15.975, 11. Brunswick (5-3) 12.95, 12. Perrysburg (6-2) 11.7625.

Region 3: 1. Pickerington Central (7-0) 27.614, 2. Springfield (7-1) 19.8375, 3. Westerville South (7-1) 19.175, 4. Hilliard Davidson (8-0) 19.075, 5. Hilliard Darby (7-1) 16.8875, 6. Groveport-Madison (6-2) 16.1547, 7. Dublin Coffman (6-2) 15.3375, 8. Pickerington North (5-3) 14.6059, 9. Troy (6-2) 14.25, 10. Upper Arlington (6-2) 13.7049, 11. Columbus Northland (6-2) 12.2258, 12. Lancaster (5-3) 10.6572.

Region 4: 1. Middletown (8-0) 24.65, 2. Cincinnati LaSalle (8-0) 22.125, 3. Cincinnati Colerain (8-0) 20.7475, 4. Cincinnati Moeller (6-2) 19.1465, 5. Centerville (6-2) 18.9625, 6. Hamilton (5-3) 15.6625, 7. Huber Heights Wayne (5-3) 15.2875, 8. Cincinnati St. Xavier (4-4) 15.0918, 9. Cincinnati Anderson (7-1) 14.7875, 10. Clayton Northmont (6-2) 13.7375, 11. Cincinnati Sycamore (5-3) 13.0, 12. Mason (5-3) 11.5.

DIVISION II

Region 5: 1. Aurora (7-1) 19.7625, 2. Copley (8-0) 19.4625, 3. Warren Howland (8-0) 19.3794, 4. Tallmadge (8-0) 18.5125, 5. Mentor Lake Catholic (7-1) 18.0375, 6. Ashland (6-2) 17.6625, 7. Kent Roosevelt (6-2) 15.65, 8. Chesterland West Geauga (6-2) 15.5125, 9. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (6-2) 15.225, 10. Wooster (6-2) 15.1625, 11. Ravenna (6-2) 14.3125, 12. Chagrin Falls Kenston (6-2) 12.775.

Region 6: 1. Avon (8-0) 18.6625, 2. Maple Heights (8-0) 15.7625, 3. Toledo Central Catholic (7-1) 15.5196, 4. Avon Lake (7-1) 15.0625, 5. Lexington (5-3) 12.4875, 6. Maumee (6-2) 12.2125, 7. Westlake (5-3) 11.8375, 8. Olmsted Falls (5-3) 11.4625, 9. Sandusky (5-3) 10.8617, 10. North Ridgeville (6-2) 10.525, 11. Cleveland John F. Kennedy (5-3) 10.0947, 12. Cleveland Rhodes (6-2) 9.7576.

Region 7: 1. Columbus Marion-Franklin (8-0) 23.4943, 2. New Albany (8-0) 21.75, 3. Sunbury Big Walnut (7-1) 18.375, 4. Uniontown Lake (6-2) 17.85, 5. Columbus St. Charles (5-2) 17.805, 6. Canal Winchester (7-1) 16.3687, 7. Lewis Center Olentangy (5-3) 14.125, 8. Dresden Tri-Valley (6-2) 13.6125, 9. Zanesville (7-1) 13.4994, 10. Louisville (6-2) 13.3625, 11. Columbus Hamilton Township (6-2) 11.9, 12. Columbus Beechcroft (6-2) 11.602.

Region 8: 1. Cincinnati Winton Woods (7-1) 18.5204, 2. Cincinnati Turpin (8-0) 18.05, 3. Trotwood-Madison (6-2) 17.8625, 4. Kings Mills Kings (7-1) 17.2125, 5. Wapakoneta (7-1) 14.4875, 6. Harrison (4-4) 13.7625, 7. New Carlisle Tecumseh (6-2) 12.325, 8. Dayton Carroll (6-2) 10.9125, 9. Wilmington (6-2) 10.6375, 10. Cincinnati Mount Healthy (6-2) 10.4875, 11. Hamilton Ross (7-1) 10.325, 12. Ashville Teays Valley (5-3) 9.3875.

DIVISION III

Region 9: 1. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (5-2) 16.0072, 2. Parma Padua (5-3) 15.5125, 3. Mogadore Field (6-2) 15.45, 4. Hubbard (6-2) 13.8375, 5. Akron Buchtel (6-2) 12.5208, 6. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (5-3) 12.3546, 7. Poland Seminary (5-3) 11.6875, 8. Hunting Valley University School (6-2) 9.3321, 9. Parma Heights Holy Name (4-4) 7.2375, 10. Mantua Crestwood (4-4) 6.9, 11. Jefferson Area (3-5) 6.6625, 12. Streetsboro (3-5) 5.925.

Region 10: 1. Tiffin Columbian (7-1) 19.4125, 2. Columbus Bishop Watterson (6-1) 17.612, 3. Clyde (7-1) 15.7875, 4. Oak Harbor (6-2) 14.1, 5. Elida (6-2) 13.85, 6. Columbus St. Francis DeSales (4-4) 13.6263, 7. Tipp City Tippecanoe (7-1) 13.425, 8. Shelby (6-2) 12.8375, 9. Columbus Eastmoor Academy (4-3) 11.9069, 10. Napoleon (6-2) 11.225, 11. Bellefontaine Benjamin Logan (5-3) 10.5125, 12. Celina (5-3) 10.025.

Region 11: 1. Alliance Marlington (8-0) 20.4167, 2. Steubenville (6-2) 18.3222, 3. East Liverpool (7-1) 17.2153, 4. Thornville Sheridan (8-0) 16.55, 5. Newark Licking Valley (6-2) 14.725, 6. Minerva (7-1) 14, 7. Salem (7-1) 13.6625, 8. Richmond Edison (7-1) 13.5986, 9. Dover (6-2) 11.25, 10. Patsaskala Licking Heights (6-2) 11.225, 11. Granville (5-3) 10.425, 12. New Concord John Glenn (5-3) 8.9375.

Well-conditioned Ross wins games with new attitude

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — In his playing days as quarterback at St. Joseph Central Catholic, Mike Lento was always well-respected as a tough guy.

His first play from scrimmage as a freshman was a quarterback option sweep. After gaining a few yards, Lento was driven out of bounds by a North Baltimore player. A couple seconds later, another Tiger delivered a late hit and slammed his helmet into the ground.

That was just the start of the respect he earned on his way to earning every SJCC passing record. He later played wide receiver at Tiffin University, before returning to his alma mater as a strength coach in 2009 under Todd Drusback.

Now the former Crimson Streaks star is helping Fremont Ross earn some toughness.

That's because Lento, in his first year as the Little Giants strength coach, is part of the new attitude that coach Derek Kidwell wanted to start after going 5-5 in 2009 — one that focused on team and that was going to get the Little Giants in shape.

"We told the kids all summer we're going to run you as hard as we've ever run a group," Kidwell said. "But we wouldn't have to run a lot in the season and we

LIMA SENIOR AT FREMONT ROSS

■ When: 7:30 p.m.
Friday
■ Where: Don Paul Stadium

haven't had to because of the work the kids put in."

Ross (7-1, 3-0) hosts Lima Senior (2-6, 1-2) this Friday in Greater Buckeye Conference play.

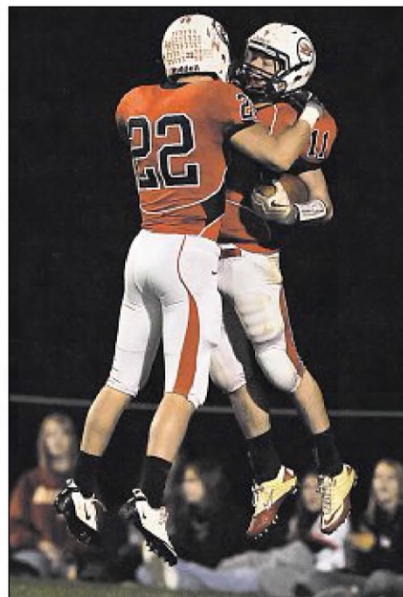
The Little Giants currently sit at the top of the GBC standings as the league's lone unbeaten team with two games to play. Ross is also right in the thick of the Division 1, Region 2 playoff race, currently sitting in the fifth position. The top eight teams in each region make the playoffs, with the top four hosting the bottom four in the first round.

A big reason for the turnaround, Kidwell said, has been the Little Giants' new commitment to conditioning under Lento.

"I think eight times we've been the best-conditioned team on the field," Kidwell said. "I think that's why we've been able to separate ourselves in some of the close games we've had."

Last year, Lento helped the Crimson Streaks to their best season in well over a decade, as SJCC went 9-1 and shared the league title.

Kidwell was one of many onlookers and after doing a self-evaluation of his pro-



NM file photo

Connor Johnson helps Christian Ross celebrate Ross's touchdown during Fremont Ross's football game against Lucas on Oct. 8.

gram in the off-season, there was no way he was going to let the former SJCC signal caller get away.

"I thought we needed some change and some new energy in our weight room," Kidwell said. "I knew Mike was very good at what he was doing. And our kids bought into him right away."

"They didn't like it at first," Lento said. "Sometimes they didn't understand why we conditioned so much. But now toward the end of the season, they've seen how much it pays off."

Ross won a tough, physi-

cal contest in overtime last week at Napoleon (21-14 win).

In Week 2, they were down a Whitmer team, which is now their region's top seed.

To Lento, seeing the kids learn through experience has been what it's all about.

"The kids put the work in," he said. "They work hard and it's their attitude that makes it rewarding. When you see the kids finally learn to push themselves, that's the gratifying part."

E-mail Kevin Shields at kshields@gannett.com.



Brenda Soule
News-Messenger correspondent
Fremont Ross quarterback Tyler Wolf looks for a receiver Friday at Don Paul Stadium in Fremont.

Little Giants come up big

BY KYLE SCHIMMING

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — With a showdown for the outright conference championship looming next week, there was no letdown for Fremont Ross, as the Little Giants defeated Lima Senior 28-3 in their Greater Buckeye Conference matchup on Friday night.

The Little Giants (8-1, 4-0) clinched at least a share of the GBC crown, but will play Sandusky, which defeated Napoleon on Friday, to win the crown outright next week.

With so much on the line next week, it would have been easy for the Little Giants to overlook the Spartans, but thanks to a big fourth quarter, they came away with a comfortable win.

"We ask our kids to live in the

now, and just worry about Lima Senior," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "I think our defense won this game for us, we got a huge turnover to go up 14 and from there we got in our comfort zone."

Lima Senior (2-7, 1-3) only trailed 7-3 entering the fourth, but Tylor Trautwein broke a 44-yard run in the first minute of the fourth quarter for a touchdown.

Trent Stout would then get Fremont Ross the ball right back, recovering a Spartans fumble on their next possession.

Six plays later, Trautwein would find the end zone again, this time from 2 yards out.

Ross would get the ball back once again, as Kori Campbell would recover a fumble, and the Little Giants would cap the scoring with a 21-yard touchdown pass from Tyler Wolf to Greg

Brown to put the game away.

"In the second half we stuck with it and he (Trautwein) busted some plays open," Kidwell said. "With him in our offense, if he gets going it opens up our passing game and makes us a double threat."

The Little Giants opened the scoring on their second drive of the game. Wolf connected on a perfectly thrown ball to Skylar Reffner on a 21-yard touchdown pass in the back right of the end zone.

The pass capped an 11-play, 76-yard drive that lasted 4:38 and ended on the final play of the first quarter. The drive was kept alive on a 20-yard completion from Wolf to Marquan McDonald on third down.

The Spartans would march down the field on the ensuing drive, before ultimately settling for a 29-yard field goal from Casey Reed.

Trautwein finished with 150 yards on 29 carries. Wolfe completed 11-of-17 passes for 160 yards and the two touchdowns.

"They hit us with a couple big plays in the fourth," Spartans coach Darnell Collins said. "Like I told my guys at the end of the game, they made plays and we didn't."

The Little Giants will take on the Blue Streaks next week, and after falling 30-0 a season ago and a potential playoff berth on the line, they will be highly motivated.

"Our kids remember last year when they beat us and threw the grenade in the end zone and got an excessive celebration," Kidwell said. "All that stuff will come back this week, we'll keep reminding our kids."

"This is going to be a big week — I hope our fans come out in mass amounts and pack this place."

Fremont Ross 28, Lima Senior 3

Lima Senior	0	3	0	0	—	3
Fremont Ross	7	0	0	21	—	28

■ First Quarter:

FR: Skylar Reffner 21 pass from Tyler Wolf (Gabe Tayar kick).

■ Second Quarter:

LS: Casey Reed 29 field goal.

■ Fourth Quarter:

FR: Tylor Trautwein 44 run (Tayar kick).

FR: Trautwein 2 run (Tayar kick).

FR: Greg Brown 21 pass from Wolf (Tayar kick).

TEAM STATS FR LS

First downs.....17.....9

Total Net Yards356.....162

Rushes-yards.....41-196....31-119

Passing16043

Comp-Att-Int.....11-17-0.....5-13-0

Fumbles-Lost.....1-1.....2-2

Penalties-Yards5-35.....5-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Trautwein 29-150, Trent Stout 3-17, Brown 3-32. LS—Keithie Lasenby 23-99, Devonne Johnson 3-28.

■ **Passing:** FR—Wolf 11-17-160-0. LS—Adrian Hutchins 4-10-33-0.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Brown 5-64, Marquan McDonald 1-20, Skylar Reffner 3-38, Tre Rollins 1-9, Dylan Starks 1-23. LS—David Desenberg 3-24, Shawn Devon Allen 1-9, Michael Fisher 1-10.

RECORDS | UP NEXT

■ **Ross:** 8-1 (4-0 GBC); vs. Sandusky.

■ **Lima Senior:** 2-7 (1-3 GBC); at Marion Harding.

ROAD TO THE PLAYOFFS



A LOOK AT THE TENTH WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



COMPUTER RANKINGS

DIVISION I

■ Region 1: 1. Cle. Glenville (9-0) 30.8571, 2. Solon (9-0) 28.95, 3. Lakewood St. Edward (9-0) 28.0853, 4. Willoughby South (8-1) 23.6, 5. Austintown-Fitch (8-1) 23.4167, 6. Mentor (6-3) 21.15, 7. North Royalton (8-1) 19.3722, 8. Strongsville (6-3) 18.7389, 9. Warren G. Harding (7-2) 18.2154, 10. Boardman (6-3) 16.4147, 11. Brecksville-Broadview Hts. (6-3) 16.1333, 12. Mayfield (5-4) 14.8222.

■ Region 2: 1. Tol. Whitmer (8-1) 25.7374, 2. Sylvania Southview (9-0) 25.3434, 3. Canton McKinley (7-2) 23.7167, 4. Massillon Washington (7-2) 23.559, 5. Twinsburg (8-1) 21.2167, 6. Fremont Ross (8-1) 21.0444, 7. Tol. St. John's (8-1) 20.6222, 8. Amherst Steele (8-1) 18.7056, 9. Massillon Perry (6-3) 18.4167, 10. Medina (7-2) 17.3611, 11. Brunswick (5-4) 14.8333, 12. Perrysburg (7-2) 13.4222.

■ Region 3: 1. Pickerington Central (8-0) 32.342, 2. Hilliard Davidson (9-0) 24.7389, 3. Westerville South (8-1) 23.8667, 4. Springfield (7-2) 21.0111, 5. Dublin Coffman (7-2) 19.6111, 6. Hilliard Darby (8-1) 19.1278, 7. Troy (7-2) 17.7944, 8. Pickerington North (6-3) 17.6689, 9. Groveport-Madison (6-3) 17.3788, 10. Lancaster (6-3) 16.1667, 11. Mount Vernon (6-3) 15.8722, 12. Upper Arlington (6-3) 14.9198.

■ Region 4: 1. Middletown (9-0) 28.85, 2. Cin. Colerain (9-0) 26.202, 3. Cin. LaSalle (9-0) 26.0722, 4. Centerville (7-2) 24.4, 5. Cin. Archbishop Moeller (6-3) 21.6768, 6. Huber Hts. Wayne (6-3) 20.8444, 7. Hamilton (6-3) 20.7333, 8. Cin. St. Xavier (5-4) 20.1701, 9. Cin. Anderson (7-2) 16.4611, 10. Cin. Elder (3-5) 15.8403, 11. Cin. Sycamore (5-4) 14.9333, 12. Cin. Withrow (5-4) 14.6056.

DIVISION II

■ Region 5: 1. Tallmadge (9-0) 25.1556, 2. Aurora (8-1) 22.6444, 3. Warren Howland (9-0) 21.9293, 4. Mentor Lake Cath. (8-1) 21.3222, 5. Copley (8-1) 21.0944, 6. Ashland (7-2) 20.9, 7. Kent Roosevelt (7-2) 19.8611, 8. Ravenna (7-2) 18.7944, 9. Chagrin Falls Kenston (7-2) 17.8056, 10. Wooster (7-2) 16.8667, 11. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (6-3) 16.3232, 12. Chesterland West Geauga (6-3) 16.0611.

■ Region 6: 1. Avon (9-0) 22.0722, 2. Tol. Central Cath. (8-1) 20.4899, 3. Olmsted Falls (6-3) 18.0333, 4. Maple Hts. (9-0) 17.8333, 5. Avon Lake (7-2) 16.9227, 6. Sandusky (6-3) 15.0758, 7. Maumee (7-2) 14.9222, 8. Westlake (6-3) 14.3222, 9. Lexington (5-4) 13.1056, 10. Rocky River (6-3) 11.5833, 11. Cin. John F. Kennedy (6-3) 11.4501, 12. North Ridgeville (6-3) 11.1444.

■ Region 7: 1. Cols. Marion-Franklin (9-0) 28.7677, 2. Uniontown Lake (7-2) 25.0167, 3. New Albany (9-0) 25.0056, 4. Cols. St. Charles (5-3) 19.858, 5. Sunbury Big Walnut (7-2) 18.9833, 6. Canal Winchester (8-1) 18.798, 7. Dresden Tri-Valley (7-2) 16.1222, 8. Zanesville (8-1) 15.9495, 9. Cols. Hamilton Township (7-2) 15.8444, 10. Cols. Beechcroft (7-2) 15.043, 11. Lewis Center Olentangy (5-4) 14.8722, 12. Louisville (6-3) 14.4389.

■ Region 8: 1. Cin. Winton Woods (8-1) 25.7744, 2. Cin. Turpin (9-0) 22.35, 3. Kings Mills Kings (8-1) 21.5611, 4. Trotwood-Madison (7-2) 19.1944, 5. Harrison (5-4) 17.5167, 6. Cin. Mount Healthy (7-2) 15.9833, 7. Wapakoneta (7-2) 14.9722, 8. New Carlisle Tecumseh (6-3) 14.4444, 9. Day, Carroll (6-3) 11.9889, 10. Wilmington (6-3) 11.8, 11. Hamilton Ross (7-2) 11.2111, 12. Ashville Teays Valley (5-4) 9.9111.

DIVISION III

■ Region 9: 1. Parma Padua Franciscan (6-3) 20.1, 2. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (5-3) 17.8195, 3. Hubbard (7-2) 17.3111, 4. Mogadore Field (6-3) 16.5333, 5. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (6-3) 16.0556, 6. Poland Seminary (6-3) 13.8889, 7. Akron Buchtel (6-3) 13.7727, 8. Hunting Valley University School (6-3) 9.4343, 9. Jefferson Area (4-5) 9.2667, 10. Parma Hts. Holy Name (4-5) 7.8667, 11. Mantua Crestwood (4-5) 7.4722, 12. Ravenna Southeast (5-4) 9.9111.

Ross has to beat Sandusky first

Once it does it can think playoffs

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — During the off-season, members of the Fremont Ross football team had to pass a poster in the weight room that was addressed to them from former players.

The meaning was simple: Always remember what you're representing and respect those that came before you.

Ross coaches wanted to make that message clear after watching the Little Giants quit in a 30-0 loss at Sandusky last season. The loss gave the Blue Streaks a share of the Greater Buckeye Conference title and cost Ross its chance to share.

"There were a lot of people upset at the 30-0 outcome last year," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "Not so much that we lost, but how we quit and how we gave up. It was very uncharacteristic of a Fremont Ross football team."

"Our kids had to see that poster and it really has spearheaded and motivated us since we started lifting in December."

But not everyone quit in last year's game. For those players, there were no holes around deep enough for them to crawl into.

"It was just embarrassing all around," senior captain

SANDUSKY AT FREMONT ROSS

■ When: 7:30 p.m.

Friday

■ Where: Don Paul Stadium

■ Radio: WFRO-FM 99.1, WLEC-AM 1450

Adam Miranda said. "The way we performed as a team, and they way we held ourselves that night — it was embarrassing to be a part of it."

"But it was a wake-up call too and we've built off that all year."

The chance at redemption is at hand.

Ross (8-1, 4-0) and Sandusky (6-3, 3-1) will meet for the 105th time Friday at Don Paul Stadium, in Ohio's second-oldest rivalry.

"I don't think you're going to have to get these kids excited to play," Kidwell said. "For these seniors, this will be a game they remember for the rest of their lives with all the implications and the importance of it."

With a win, Ross would win the final GBC title outright and earn a spot in the Division I playoffs in region 2. A loss, and it's a split title with Sandusky, and possibly Findlay, if the Trojans



NM file photo

Fremont Ross's Spencer Conklin and Tylor Trautwein race to down a punt during a game Oct. 22 against Lima Senior in Fremont.

beat Napoleon.

The Blue Streaks are also playing for the playoffs, though, as they sit sixth in Division II, Region 6. And for Sandusky, that hasn't been a possibility for a long time.

"This is probably the biggest Ross-Sandusky game since 1983," Kidwell said. "Both teams were good in 1997 and 1998, but I don't think there were both playoff and championship aspects tied to the game."

That year, Ross (9-0-1) defeated the Blue Streaks on the road 7-0, earning the Buckeye Conference championship.

"We want to worry about Sandusky first," Miranda said. "Everyone is looking forward to the playoffs and they want the playoffs, but Sandusky is our main focus and we have to get after them, and we got to beat them."

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Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger

Fremont Ross football players get pumped up during a pep rally at the fairgrounds on Thursday.

Little Giants get pumped up for big game

BY VINCE GUERRIERI
Staff writer

FREMONT — This one's for all the marbles.

Ross and Sandusky will meet for the last time in the Greater Buckeye Conference on the football field tonight. The Lit-

PHOTO GALLERY
For more photos, see our online gallery at www.TheNews-Messenger.com

tle Giants will go to the new Three Rivers Athletic Confer-

ence, and the Blue Streaks will move to the Northern Ohio League next year.

Tonight's game has a Greater Buckeye Conference championship and a playoff berth on the line.

But at a pep rally Thursday night at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds, some Ross football

alumni reminded this year's team and fans that there's more riding on the game than play-off positioning and league titles.

There's 115 years of tradition. "That rivalry will mean everything to you," said former Ross quarterback Aaron Opelt. "It's

SEE GAME | A4

GAME FROM A1

where legends are made."

Opelt secured his own legend in his last game against Sandusky in 2005, throwing four touchdown passes — three to his friend and teammate Kyle Cook — against the Blue Streaks in a 42-20 win in the 100th meeting between the two teams.

Ross-Sandusky is the second-longest rivalry in the state, behind Canton McKinley-Massillon, and the second most-played, behind Troy-Piqua.

"You're playing in the greatest rivalry in the state of Ohio," said Ross alumnus Rob Lytle, who knows a little about football rivalries.

He played for the University of Michigan against Ohio State, and he played in the NFL for the Denver Broncos against the Oakland Raiders.

Ross football coach Derek Kidwell was grateful for the lineup of speakers — former Little Giants



Photos by Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger
Members of the Fremont Ross football team make their way along North Street as they head to the fairgrounds for a pep rally Thursday.

Tony Gant, Tom Woelzel, Scott Logan, Shawn Simms, John "Big Thunder" Lewis, Lytle and Opelt — and challenged the fans at the pep rally to come out tonight to Don Paul Stadium.

"It means a lot to hear from our living legends," he said. "And (tonight), I want you all to wear your purple and white and pack the stadium so we can

have a real home field advantage."

The Little Giants beat Lima Senior last week to clinch at least a share of the last Greater Buckeye Conference crown. A win against Sandusky would give them the league title outright. A Blue Streaks win would give them a share of the crown.

Ross and Sandusky are both fighting for a playoff



A large bonfire is lit as members of the Fremont Ross football team, family and friends gather during a pep rally at the fairgrounds Thursday.

spot as well, and the winner would be all but assured of an 11th game this season.

"You don't get many chances to be a champion," Woelzel said. "(Tonight) you get one."

The pep rally also recognized the Ross volleyball team, which beat the Blue Streaks in a district semifinal Tuesday and will play

"You're playing in the greatest rivalry in the state of Ohio."

ROB LYTLE
Ross alumnus

Findlay for a district championship Saturday afternoon.

"We took care of the girls," said volleyball play-

er Christy Meggitt. "It's your turn."

E-mail Vince Guerrieri at vguerrie@gannett.com.



Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent

Ross running back Tylor Trautwein finds plenty of space during Friday's Greater Buckeye Conference finale with Sandusky. Ross won the final conference title with a 21-7 victory and likely earned a playoff spot. The rivals meet again as nonconference foes in the season opener in 2011. See more photos at TheNews-Messenger.com.

Last one belongs to Ross

Win over Sandusky gives Little Giants the final GBC football title

BY SEAN SHAPIRO
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — The Little Giants waited all year for this, and they were ready to celebrate.

One season after a disappointing shutout loss to rival Sandusky ended a 5-5 season, Fremont Ross clinched the last Greater Buckeye Conference title outright with a 21-7 victory over its rival Friday night.

At 9-1 (5-0 GBC), the Little Giants are likely to continue their season next week in the first round of the Division I, Region II playoffs.

After the 30-0 loss last season, alumni put together a bulletin board with clippings from the game to serve as a constant reminder throughout this season and during practices coach Derek Kidwell just had to say the words "30-to-nothing" if his team ever had a bad day at practice.

"They waited 365 days for this redemption game and we threw it in their faces," Kidwell said. "Every time they didn't want to

FREMONT ROSS	21
SANDUSKY	7

do an extra squat or extra sprint, all we would say was '30-to-nothing' and they knew what we meant."

It all paid off as with less than five minutes remaining in the game fans were already wearing brand new GBC Championship T-shirts.

Leading the way for Ross, Tylor Trautwein had 271 yards including a backbreaking 76-yard touchdown run with 8:44 remaining to push the lead to 14 points.

"I knew we had to get the job done," Trautwein said. "I followed one of my linemen to the backside and then it just broke open."

Prior to Trautwein's score, the Ross defense came up big, as defensive lineman Adam Miranda sacked Sandusky quarterback Lucas Poggiali for an 11-yard loss on fourth and goal.

"Our defense won this game

for us and Tylor Trautwein proved himself as one of the best running backs in the league," Kidwell said.

Before Ross pulled away in the second half, neither team could take an advantage through the first two quarters.

The teams traded interceptions in the first quarter, as Tristen Jeffries picked off a Little Giant pass by Tyler Wolf, putting the Blue Streaks in good field position. However, a third-down heave to the end zone by Poggiali was picked off by Drew Starks.

Just like the first, the second quarter featured interceptions by Jeffries and Starks as neither team found the end zone. Both teams had the ball deep in opposing territory, but Sandusky was stopped on a fourth-and-one from the 28-yard line and Fremont Ross threw an interception on a half-back pass with 11 seconds left in the half.

After neither team could capitalize on the five first-half turnovers, Sandusky scored on their first takeaway of the sec-

ond half. A Ross fumble gave Sandusky the ball at the 40-yard line and while they couldn't gain a yard on both first and second down, on third down, Cordney Strickland ran up the middle for a 40-yard touchdown.

The Little Giants responded with touchdown drive of their own, tying the game on a 2-yard plunge from Trautwein. While Trautwein's dive tied the score, it was a 30-yard reception by Skylar Reffner that got the ball to the 2-yard line after personal foul had set up a long first down.

Just 2:08 later, Fremont Ross would take its first lead of the night when Greg Brown took a reverse 20 yards for the score. The score was set up by another Sandusky turnover, a fumble that was recovered at the 33-yard line.

The playoffs aren't out of the picture for Sandusky (6-4, 3-2 GBC), but the Blue Streaks will have to wait until Sunday to learn their fate.

"If there is a week 11, there will be a week 11," Sandusky coach Mike Franklin said.

Ross 21, Sandusky 7

Sandusky	0	0	7	0	—	7
Ross	0	0	14	7	—	21

■ Third Quarter:

S: Cordney Strickland 40 run (Brock Cremean kick), 8:45.

FR: Tylor Trautwein 2 run (Gabe Tayar kick), 4:11.

FR: Greg Brown 20 run (Tayar kick), 2:03.

■ Fourth Quarter:

FR: Trautwein 76 run (Tayar kick), 8:44.

TEAM STATS	FR	SAN
First downs.....	17	9
Total Net Yards	360	247
Rushes-yards	44	32633-164
Passing	34	83
Comp-Att-Int	2-7-3	9-15-2
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-50	7-60

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

■ **Rushing:** FR—Brown 5-26, Nick Parrish 3-23, Tyler Wolf 1-1, Trent Stout 2-6, Trautwein 33-271. SAN—Strickland 28-141, Lucas Poggiali 5-23.

■ **Passing:** FR—Wolf 2-6-34-2. SAN—Poggiali 9-15-83-2.

■ **Receiving:** FR—Skylar Reffner 2-34. SAN—Strickland 1-1, Tristen Jeffries 3-35, Dameyion Smith 4-40, Brock Fuqua 1-5.

RECORDS

■ **Ross:** 9-1 (5-0 GBC).

■ **Sandusky:** 6-4 (3-2 GBC).



Taylor Trautwein, of Fremont Ross, rushes for a first down last month.

Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Little Giants headline Northwest District team

News-Messenger reports

Four Fremont Ross players were named to the first team of The Associated Press all-Northwest District team announced Thursday.

Greg Brown, Adam Miranda, Tylor Trautwein and Jared Walker were big contributors to the Little Giants' 9-2 season and Greater Buckeye Conference championship this year. Trautwein was named GBC offensive back of the year and Walker was named GBC defensive lineman of the year.

Ross wide receiver Skylar Reffner and defensive back Drew Starks were named to the second team.

"I'm extremely proud," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "They're all very deserving of their honor."

"Without those individuals being our leaders in the offseason and the regular season, we're not the team we are. Every last one of them gave us 110 percent."

Linebacker Nate Long was St. Joseph Central Catholic's repre-

sentative on the D-VI first team.

Long was a three-year starter and a vocal leader for the team, said his coach, Scott Knisely.

"He did an excellent job for us this year," Knisely said.

Wide receiver Brant Reardon, running back Zak Bowman, defensive lineman Jeremy Durbin and defensive back Matt Mehalko were named to the second team.

"All four guys who made the second team, obviously they're first teamers in my book," Knisely said. "You just can't express enough what these seniors meant to St. Joe's the last couple years. All great leaders, all great football players and most importantly, great kids."

Clyde had three players named to the Division III first team: Kicker Jordan Colson, defensive lineman Trevor Strickland and linebacker Bennett Brown.

"Trevor Strickland didn't even play football last year," Clyde coach Marc Gibson said. "He's a dominant

force. He's a phenomenal pickup for us, and one of the reasons our defense was dominating."

"And you look at the guy behind him (Brown), we'll have him back for two more years."

Receiver Mac Wilkerson and offensive lineman Alex Jess were named to the second team.

"Mac Wilkerson was a jack-of-all-trades," Gibson said. "He led us in interception and receptions."

"And I think Alex Jess did a lot of the same things that Jarad Branski did for us a couple years."

Branski was an all-state lineman for two years for the Fliers. Clyde went 10-2 this year, winning the Sandusky Bay Conference. Gibson said the all-district selections proved themselves.

"That's why we had a good year, we had producers in all three phases," he said.

Oak Harbor running back Jake Scott and offensive lineman Jake Grzymkowski were named to the first team in Division III. Joey

Mallernee and Davey Burkett were named to the second team.

"Those guys did a great job," said coach Mike May. "Jake Scott was our workhorse this year. Our offense revolved around him. Jake Grzymkowski anchored our line. Mallernee's a junior and came on strong. Burkett was our leading receiver."

Bellevue wide receiver Miles Foos was named to the D-III second team.

Margaretta's Devin Jones, the Sandusky Bay Conference's most outstanding player this year, was named to the first team in Division V as a defensive back. Polar Bear teammate Corey Yontz was named to the second team.

"I'm really happy for both of them," Margaretta coach Rock Farlow said.

Jones was an all-state selection last year.

"Corey's numbers stood out," Farlow said. "He had a really good year."

Northwest District Team

COLUMBUS — The 2010 Associated Press Northwest All-District football teams based on the recommendations of a media panel:

DIVISION I

■ **Offensive player of the year:** Cheatham Norrils, Toledo St. Johns.

■ **Defensive player of the year:** Chris Wormley, Toledo Whitmer.

■ **Lineman of the year:** Jack Miller, Toledo St. Johns.

■ **Coach of the year:** Doug Pearson, Toledo St. Johns.

■ **First team offense:** Ends—Cheatham Norrils, Tol. St. Johns, 6-0, 187, sr.; Steve Slocum, Perrysburg, 6-1, 185, soph.; Greg Brown, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 190, sr. Linemen—Chris Reaper, Tol. Whitmer, 6-4, 230, sr.; Jack Miller, Tol. St. Johns, 6-4, 270, sr.; Ray Okdie, Sylvania Southview, 6-4, 325, sr.; Andy Kujawa, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne, 6-2, 230, sr.; Adam Miranda, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 215, sr. Backs—Jody Webb, Tol. Whitmer, 5-7, 160, jr.; Nate White, Tol. St. Johns, 6-1, 196, sr.; Tylor Trautwein, Fremont Ross, 6-0, 200, sr. Quarterback—Brogan, Roback, Tol. St. Johns, 6-4, 163, soph.; Kicker—Brandon Smith, Tol. St. Johns, 5-11, 183, jr.

■ **First team defense:** Linemen—Chris Wormley, Tol. Whitmer, 6-6, 250, jr.; Kenny Hayes, Tol. Whitmer, 6-5, 245, jr.; Micah Carter, Perrysburg, 5-9, 235, jr.; Jared Walker, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 195, jr. Linebackers—Kent Kern, Tol. St. Johns, 6-1, 215, jr.; Jake Pennese, Tol. St. Johns, 6-0, 220, jr.; Jamar Ridley, Tol. Whitmer, 5-11, 225, jr.; D.J. Pullom, Findlay, 6-2, 188, jr. Backs—Mark Meyers, Tol. Whitmer, 6-1, 175, jr.; Allen Gant, Sylvania Southview, 6-2, 208, jr.; Dashon Bates, Lima Senior, 6-1, 185, sr.; De Nard Pinckney, Sylvania Southview, 6-2, 195, sr. Punter—Joseph Davidson, Findlay, 6-6, 175, soph.

■ **Second team offense:** Ends—Skylar Reffner, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 170, jr.; Dylan Bunk, Findlay, 5-11, 175, jr. Linemen—Nick Brunner, Tol. St. Johns, 6-5, 260, jr.; Jake Eckel, Perrysburg, 6-2, 230, sr.; Storm Norton, Tol. Whitmer, 6-7, 240, jr.; Eric Blume, 6-2, 225, sr.; Joey Gajewicz, Sylvania Southview, 6-0, 292, sr. Backs—Tre Sterritt, Tol. Whitmer, 5-11, 170, soph.; Keithie Lasenby, Lima Senior, 5-8, 185, jr.; Marvin Owens, Marion Harding, 5-9, 165, sr. Quarterback—Matt Slocum, Perrysburg, 6-1, 185, sr.; Matt Spragg, Findlay, 6-3, 225, sr. Kicker—Jared Kenczewicz, Tol. Whitmer, 6-1, 165, sr.

■ **Second team defense:** Linemen—Andrew Maciolek, Tol. Whitmer, 6-1, 240, sr.; Miles Ashleman, Tol. St. Johns, 6-2, 242, jr.; Kenny Reau, Sylvania Southview 6-0, 230, sr.; Tayo Osinowo, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne, 5-9, 185, sr. Linebackers—Mike Gross, Sylvania Southview, 5-11, 185, jr.; Mike Bodi, Tol. Whitmer, 6-2, 210, jr.; Isaiah Stinson, Lima Senior, 6-2, 215, jr.; Gene Rucker, Marion Harding, 6-0, 205, sr. Backs—Alex Henry, Findlay, 5-11, 181, sr.; Drew Starks, Fremont Ross, 5-10, 140, soph. Punter—Steve Pavelko, Perrysburg, 6-1, 180, sr.

■ **Special mention:** Zach Grohowski, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; Matt Green, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; Alex Bridges, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; Jack Henry, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; Zach Kolvey, Perrysburg; Ryan Pierson, Perrysburg; Alec Gaston, Perrysburg; Nigel Hayes, Tol. Whitmer; Alex Palicki, Tol. Whitmer; Konnor Chuba, Sylvania Southview; Troy Favorite, Tol. St. John's; Nate Pearson, Tol. St. John's; Aaron Gabriel, Marion Harding; Cody Ramsey, Findlay; Tyler Campbell, Findlay; Dillon Boes, Findlay; Alonzo Lucas, Tol. Whitmer; Zach Steinmetz, Tol. St. Johns; JaDarian Bowers, Sylvania Southview; Tyler Wolf, Fremont Ross; Trent Stout, Fremont Ross; Cody Kish, Oregon Clay; Bobby Hoffman, Oregon Clay.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Little Giants' Trautwein, Walker earn GBC honors

Fremont Ross lands 8 players on first team, with 4 coming from each side of the football

News-Messenger reports

One was unstoppable, the other was unblockable.

And each week in the Greater Buckeye Conference, opposing coaches had to plan around both.

But in the end, most teams couldn't stop Fremont Ross's Tylor Trautwein or Jared Walker. The two were big contributors to the Little Giants' 9-2 season and Greater Buckeye Conference championship this year.

Trautwein was named GBC offensive back of the year and Walker was named GBC defensive lineman of the year as the GBC announced its last all-league teams.

Next year, Ross, Findlay and Lima Senior will join the new Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Sandusky is headed to the Northern Ohio League and Napoleon is going to the Northern Lakes League. Marion Harding will try to make a go of it as an independent.

In total, Ross landed eight players on the first team, with four coming from each side of the football.

Kicker Gabe Tayar was named kicker of the year.

"I thought they were all deserving of their honors," said Little Giants coach Derek Kidwell, who was named GBC coach of the year. "Without them, we weren't the team we are. And the future is bright with the kids that were recognized that we'll have back."

Trautwein, Walker and Tayar will be gone, though, as will first-team offensive players Greg Brown and Adam Miranda and



NM file photo

Fremont Ross's Kori Campbell and Jared Walker take down a Toledo Whitmer ball carrier during a football game in September.

first-team defensive player Travis Maynard. Kidwell, however, will return first-team defensive players Trent Stout and Drew Starks.

Stout was one of the leaders of the front seven, while Starks was a young, promising defensive back that graded out at a 92 percent for the year, recording 65 tackles and four interceptions.

Juniors Skylar Reffner and Jordan Garcia were named second-team defense, along with senior JJ Moreno. Senior Brad Beck was the lone upperclassman on the second-team offense that featured sophomores Tyler Wolf and Nick Streaker.

This past season, few had the impact of Trautwein. The Little Giants' main tailback rushed for 1,380 yards — seventh all-time on the Ross single-season list — on 258 attempts, scoring 13 touchdowns. His top perform-

ance came in the season finale against Sandusky where Ross clinched the league with a 21-7 victory.

"Tylor proved throughout the year he was the best back in the league," Kidwell said. "His success was vital to us all year."

Against the Blue Streaks, Trautwein had 271 yards and two scores.

"He proved in that game he was a better back than (Cordney) Strickland," Kidwell said.

Strickland led the GBC with 1,483 yards and tallied 17 touchdowns as he was named to the first team. Sandusky's Michael Brown was the GBC offensive lineman of the year.

Brown was one of many linemen during the year who had to attempt to hold back Ross's

SEE GBC | B2

GBC FROM B1

Walker. The 5-foot, 11-inch, 195-pound lineman had double-digit tackles in each of the Little Giants' five league games en route to 106 tackles on the campaign. Of those tackles, eight went for a loss as he added one forced fumble and a recovery.

"Walker was just about unblockable this year," Kidwell said. "He averaged around 15 tackles a game and was just flying to the ball."

Tayar, an exchange student,

was as consistent a kicker as you'd find in the region.

"We got a lot of him," Kidwell said. "Our kickoffs and kick coverage were solid. And he was as consistent as could be at extra points."

As for Brown in his final season as a Little Giant before heading to the University of Michigan, he could have easily been where Trautwein was.

"Greg Brown had an outstanding year," Kidwell said. "He could have easily been the offensive player of the year, too. We at-

tacked people all over the field with him."

Brown had 20 catches as a receiver for 460 yards and four scores. His yardage was 10th all-time on the Ross single-season receiving list. He added 450 yards on the ground rushing on 58 attempts, adding seven more scores.

Receiving honorable mention recognition for the Little Giants were seniors Eric Hogle and Nick Parish, along with juniors Donald Carter, Jerome Conley, Matt King and sophomore Dylan Starks.

AP All-Ohio

DIVISION I

First Team

■ **OFFENSE:** Ends—Cheatham Norrils, Tol. St. John's, 6-0, 187, senior; Jake Green, Grove City, 6-3, 175, sr.; Rodriguez Coleman, Cin. La Salle, 6-3, 180, sr.; **Greg Brown, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 190, sr.;** Devin Smith, Massillon Washington, 6-3, 185, sr.; Ray Hamilton, Strongsville, 6-5, 248, sr. Linemen—Ray Ball, Westerville South, 6-7, 310, sr.; Michael Bennett, Centerville, 6-3, 275, sr.; Jack Miller, Tol. St. John's, 6-4, 270, sr.; Steve Zaborsky, Austintown-Fitch, 6-2, 225, sr.; Aundrey Walker, Cle. Glenville, 6-5, 310, sr. Quarterbacks—Braxton Miller, Huber Hts. Wayne, 6-2, 200, sr.; Ray Russ, Willoughby South, 6-0, 170, sr.; Demetrius Davis, Austintown-Fitch, 5-9, 175, jr. Backs—Jayshon Jackson, Westerville South, 5-7, 202, sr.; Conor Hundley, Cin. St. Xavier, 5-10, 190, jr.; Jody Webb, Tol. Whitmer, 5-7, 160, jr.; Bri'onte Dunn, Canton GlenOak, 6-1, 210, jr. Kicker—JD Detmer, Hilliard Davidson, 5-10, 169, sr.

■ **DEFENSE:** Linemen—Keith Heitzman, Hilliard Davidson, 6-4, 240, sr.; Chase Farris, Elyria, 6-6, 267, sr.; Chris Wormley, Tol. Whitmer, 6-6, 250, jr.; Se'Von Pittman, Canton McKinley, 6-5, 235, jr. Linebackers—Trey DePriest, Springfield, 6-1, 237, sr.; Steven Daniels, Cin. St. Xavier, 6-1, 235, sr.; Jarrett Grace, Cin. Colerain, 6-4, 240, sr.; Andre Sturdivant, Cle. Glenville, 6-3, 256, sr. Backs—Eilar Hardy, Pickerington Central, 6-2, 190, sr.; Mike Svetina, Cle. St. Ignatius, 6-2, 210, jr.; Chris Humphrey, Solon, 6-1, 175, sr.; Scott Suren, Brunswick, 6-4, 175, jr. Punter—Marshall Newsome, Huber Hts. Wayne, 6-1, 210, sr.

Offensive player of the year: Braxton Miller, Huber Hts. Wayne.

Defensive player of the year: Trey DePriest, Springfield.

Coaches of the year: Rick Finotti, Lakewood St. Edward; Bob Jacoby, Hamilton.

Second Team

■ **OFFENSE:** Ends—Garry Abfalter Scott, Cols. West, 6-3, 190, sr.; Ben Coffaro, Cin. Elder, 5-9, 180, sr.; Dayne Hammond, Youngs. Boardman, 6-5, 185, jr.; Devyn Woods, Willoughby South, 6-0, 170, sr. Linemen—Alex Huettel, Pickerington North, 6-4, 280, sr.; Andrew Neely, Cin. Colerain, 6-3, 270, sr.; Chris Reaper, Tol. Whitmer, 6-4, 230, sr.; Joe Hans, Medina, 6-5, 253, sr.; Tyler Orlosky, Lakewood St. Edward, 6-4, 295, jr. Quarterback—Cole Stoudt, Dublin Coffman, 6-4, 200, sr. Backs—Jason Suggs, Medina, 5-10, 185, sr.; Mike Korecz, Mentor, 5-10, 200, sr. Kickers—Sean Duggan, Cin. St. Xavier, 6-3, 220, sr.; Brandon Smith, Tol. St. John's, 5-11, 183, jr.

■ **DEFENSE:** Linemen—Jesse Hayes, Cin. Moeller, 6-3, 230, sr.; Kenny Hayes, Tol. Whitmer, 6-5, 245, sr.; Steve Miller, Canton McKinley, 6-4, 242, sr.; Deonte Gibson, Lakewood St. Edward, 6-3, 225, sr. Linebackers—Matt Casey, Powell Olentangy Liberty, 6-1, 220, sr.; Kyle Schwarber, Middletown, 6-2, 220, sr.; Kent Kern, Tol. St. John's, 6-1, 215, jr.; Will Mahone, Austintown-Fitch, 6-0, 205, jr.; Kurt Laseak, Mentor, 6-3, 210, jr. Backs—Tamani Carter, Pickerington Central, 5-11, 185, sr.; Marcus Foster, Troy, 6-0, 195, jr.; Darius Hillary, Cin. Sycamore, 5-11, 180, sr.; Mark Meyers, Tol. Whitmer, 6-1, 175, jr. Punter—Frank Epitropoulos, Upper Arlington, 6-3, 185, jr.

Third Team

■ **OFFENSE:** Ends—Nick Vannett, Westerville Central, 6-6, 235, sr.; Justin Olack, Massillon Washington, 6-4, 200, sr.; Aaron Lindgren, Willoughby South, 5-10, 185, sr.; Tyler Parrish, Amherst Steele, 6-0, 170, sr. Linemen—Dylan Brumbaugh, Green, 6-5, 265, sr.; Ryan Kelly, West Chester Lakota West, 6-5, 285, sr.; Geoff Mogus, Lakewood St. Edward, 6-5, 285, sr.; Kyle Annis, Hilliard Davidson, 5-10, 255, sr.; Lovell Peterson, Huber Hts. Wayne, 6-3, 280, soph. Quarterback—Cardale Jones, Cle. Glenville, 6-5, 225, sr. Backs—**Tyler Trautwein, Fremont Ross, 6-0, 200, sr.;** Jon Miller, Massillon Perry, 5-10, 190, jr.; Kyle Hammonds, Solon, 5-10, 175, sr. Kicker—Jake Russell, Twinsburg, 6-1, 170, sr.

■ **DEFENSE:** Linemen—Brandon Mitchell, Cin. Withrow, 6-2, 300, sr.; **Jared Walker, Fremont Ross, 5-11, 195, sr.;** Tom Strobel, Mentor, 6-6, 250, jr.; Greg Kuhar, Lakewood St. Edward, jr., 6-3, 280. Linebackers—Jamar Ridley, Tol. Whitmer, 5-11, 225, jr.; Ben Gedeon, Hudson, 6-3, 216, soph.; Freddie Burton, Canton McKinley, 5-8, 192, sr.; Nick Davidson, Solon, 5-8, 180, jr.; Marty Thomas, Amherst Steele, 5-10, 190, sr. Backs—Allen Gant, Sylvania Southview, 6-2, 208, jr.; Dashon Bates, Lima Senior, 6-1, 185, sr.; Mat Malloy, Amherst Steele, 6-0, 185, sr.; Shane Wynn, Cle. Glenville, 5-8, 160, sr. Punter—Joseph Davidson, Findlay, 6-6, 175, soph.

Special Mention

Blake Clowes, Hilliard Darby; Anthony Pruitt, Groveport Madison; Speedy Hammond, Pickerington Central; Alex Mickley, Hilliard Davidson; Darien Bryant, Pickerington North; Matt Skura, Worthington Kilbourne; Aaron Woosley, Lancaster; Alex Lambert, Mount Vernon; Nick Porter, Worthington Kilbourne; Luke Roberts, Lancaster; Miguel Alicea, Westerville South; Jerrod Bierbower, Dublin Coffman;

Logan Pearce, North Royalton; Nathan Hoff, Solon; Dave Kaminski, Strongsville; Mario Palmisano, Willoughby South; Mike DiNunzio, Lakewood St. Edward; DeAndre Brown, Cle. John Marshall; Treyvon Robinson, Garfield Hts.; Devon Bogard, Cle. Glenville; Rob Coury, Lakewood St. Edward; Eric Dornin, Garfield Hts.;

Tyler Burton, Troy; Joe Tull, Cin. Moeller; Trayon Durham, Cin. Colerain; George Walker, Springfield; Zach Davis, Middletown; Kyle Rose, Centerville; Ben Ingle, Cin. La Salle;

Joey Housos, North Canton Hoover; Warren Parks, Massillon Perry; Skyler Parks, Canton McKinley; Kyle Ohradzansky, Canton McKinley; Demond Hymes, Warren Harding; Nick Tavanello, Wadsworth; Luke Merrell, Canton GlenOak; Aaron Wilson, Medina; Nico Gagne-Cross, Twinsburg; Shane Stevens, Austintown-Fitch; Carmen Tarantino, Youngs. Boardman; Anthony Wise, Massillon Perry; Cam Patterson, Austintown-Fitch; Tony Magnacca, Massillon Perry; Tyler Allman, Massillon Washington; Will Logan, Massillon Jackson;

Steve Slocum, Perrysburg; Ray Okdie, Sylvania Southview; Andy Kujawa, Whitehouse Anthony Wayne; **Adam Miranda, Fremont Ross;** Nate White, Tol. St. John's; Brogan, Roback, Tol. St. John's; Micah Carter, Perrysburg; Jake Pennese, Tol. St. John's; D.J. Pullom, Findlay; De'Nard Pinckney.

DIVISION II

First Team

■ **OFFENSE:** Ends—Andre Stubbs, Maple Hts., 5-6, 160, sr.; Kyle Nowlin, Harrison, 6-0, 200, jr.; Austin Traylor, Cols. Walnut Ridge, 6-4, 211, sr. Linemen—Tommy Brown, Akron Firestone, 6-4, 315, sr.; Donovan Garner, Maple Hts., 6-3, 280, sr.; Vinnie Cordova, New Albany, 6-5, 285, sr.; Joe Londergan, Day, Carroll, 6-2, 240, sr.; Ryan Anderson, Kent Roosevelt, 6-4, 300, jr.; Kyle Cameron, Tol. Cent. Cath., 6-2, 280, sr. Quarterbacks—Marcus Fuller, Ashland, 6-0, 200, sr.; Evan Shimensky, Kent Roosevelt, 5-11, 180, sr. Backs—Richie Sanders, Mentor Lake Cath., 5-10, 185, sr.; Kaleb Coffee, Painesville Harvey, 6-0, 180, soph.; Aaron Kemper, Cin. Winton Woods, 5-6, 190, jr.; Alex Hake, New Albany, 6-0, 215, sr. Kickers—Ross Martin, Cuya. Falls Walsh Jesuit, 5-9, 180, jr.; Kresimir Ivkovic, Mentor Lake Cath., 6-1, 190, sr.

■ **DEFENSE:** Linemen—Joel Heath, Cin. Mt. Healthy, 6-6, 255, sr.; Chase Hounshell, Mentor Lake Cath., 6-7, 245, sr.; Kevin Williams, Holland Springfield, 6-2, 275, sr.; Cody Reesman, Warren Howland, 6-0, 280, sr. Linebackers—Nicholas Grigsby, Trotwood-Madison, 6-2, 210, sr.; Antonio Poole, Cin. Winton Woods, 6-1, 215, sr.; Julian Blakey, Cols. Marion-Franklin, 6-0, 215, sr.; Evan Karchner, Maumee, 5-11, 220, jr.; Corey Paulino, Uniontown Lake, 6-2, 205, jr.; Sam Wheeler, Copley, 5-9, 197, sr. Backs—Devante Strickland, Cols. Marion-Franklin, 6-3, 205, sr.; Braily Blair, Zanesville, 6-0, 195, sr.; Corey Webber, Cin. Winton Woods, 6-2, 190, sr.; Stephen Wilmington, Ravenna, 6-0, 190, sr. Punter—Chris McClean, Warren Howland, 5-10, 170, sr.

Offensive player of the year: Aaron Kemper, Cin. Winton Woods.

Defensive players of the year: Joel Heath, Cin. Mt. Healthy; Chase Hounshell, Mentor Lake Cath.; Kevin Williams, Holland Springfield.

Coaches of the year: Nate Hillerich, Cols. Hamilton Township; Andre Parker, Cin. Winton Woods; Mike Franklin, Sandusky; Doug Frye, Wapakoneta.

Second Team

■ **OFFENSE:** Ends—Jeremy White, Louisville, 6-0, 166, jr.; Chris Thomas, Ashland, 6-0, 183, sr.; Melvin Hunter, Cin. Northwest, 6-2, 215, sr.; Cameron Wilson, Dublin Jerome, 6-0, 190, jr. Linemen—Jacob Masterson, Zanesville, 6-4, 255, sr.; Chris Boles, Tol. Cent. Cath., 6-4, 340, sr.; Anthony Stanko, Warren Howland, 6-5, 290, jr.; Bill Budosch, Olmsted Falls, 6-3, 315, sr. Quarterbacks—Shaq Washington, Maple Hts., 5-9, 170, sr.; Connor Cook, Cuya. Falls, Walsh Jesuit, 6-5, 205, sr. Backs—Josh Frakes, Cols. Hamilton Twp., 5-10, 194, sr.; Jamire Westbrook, Kings Mills Kings, 5-9, 190, jr.; Antwan Gilbert, Trotwood-Madison, 5-10, 170, sr.; Cordney Strickland, Sandusky, 6-1, 185, sr.; Jim Luther, Uniontown Lake, 6-1, 181, sr.; Devonte Ransom, Maple Hts., 5-10, 170, sr. Kickers—A.J. Fleak, Sunbury Big Walnut, 6-2, 204, sr.; Ryan Adams, Day, Carroll, 6-1, 200, sr.

■ **DEFENSE:** Linemen—Brian Mihalik, Avon Lake, 6-7, 245, sr.; Rashawn Thorpe, Cols.