

Eagles scream past Little Giants 13-8

Oregon Clay unleashed the lumber and slammed three home runs to overtake Ross while rolling to a 13-8 win in the Class AAA Sectional Baseball finals Monday at Anderson Field.

The Eagles started out anything but like the majestic denizens of the sky as Ross hammered Clay pitcher Doug Cousino for eight runs and eight hits in the first three innings. After two frames, Ross's bats had pounded Cousino for a 7-1 lead and the Little Giants' machine was running smoothly.

In the top of the third, however, the Eagles began to ruffle their feathers and sink their claws into Ross starting pitcher John Kiser. Phil Martinez slammed a three-run wind blown homer to key a four-run inning, cutting Ross's lead to 7-5.

Karl Kanerim had the big bat for Clay in the fourth with a two-run circuit blast and Ross's lead evaporated to an 8-8 deadlock.

Keith Taylor had the honors for Clay in the big, five-run sixth inning with a three-run homer that broke the back of the Little Giants.

Ross, with Kim Stout slamming a single and triple for four RBIs in the first two innings, had Cousino on the ropes in the early innings. Roger Berger's two

singles, Tony Ruiz's single and double, along with RBI singles by Ray Long and Jerry White made the game miserable for the Eagles' flinger.

That attitude changed drastically in the final four innings. After getting the eight hits in the first three innings, Ross touched Cousino for only two hits and four base runners over the last four.

"We got up on him and then we could not score any more," Ross Coach Ed Platzer said glumly. "He got a little tougher but he did nothing that we should not have been able to handle."

Dave Ballenger, who relieved Kiser in the fourth, absorbed the loss, after giving way to Pat Belch in the sixth.

Clay raked the Ross mound corps for 13 hits, including two doubles and single by catcher Jim TenEyck.

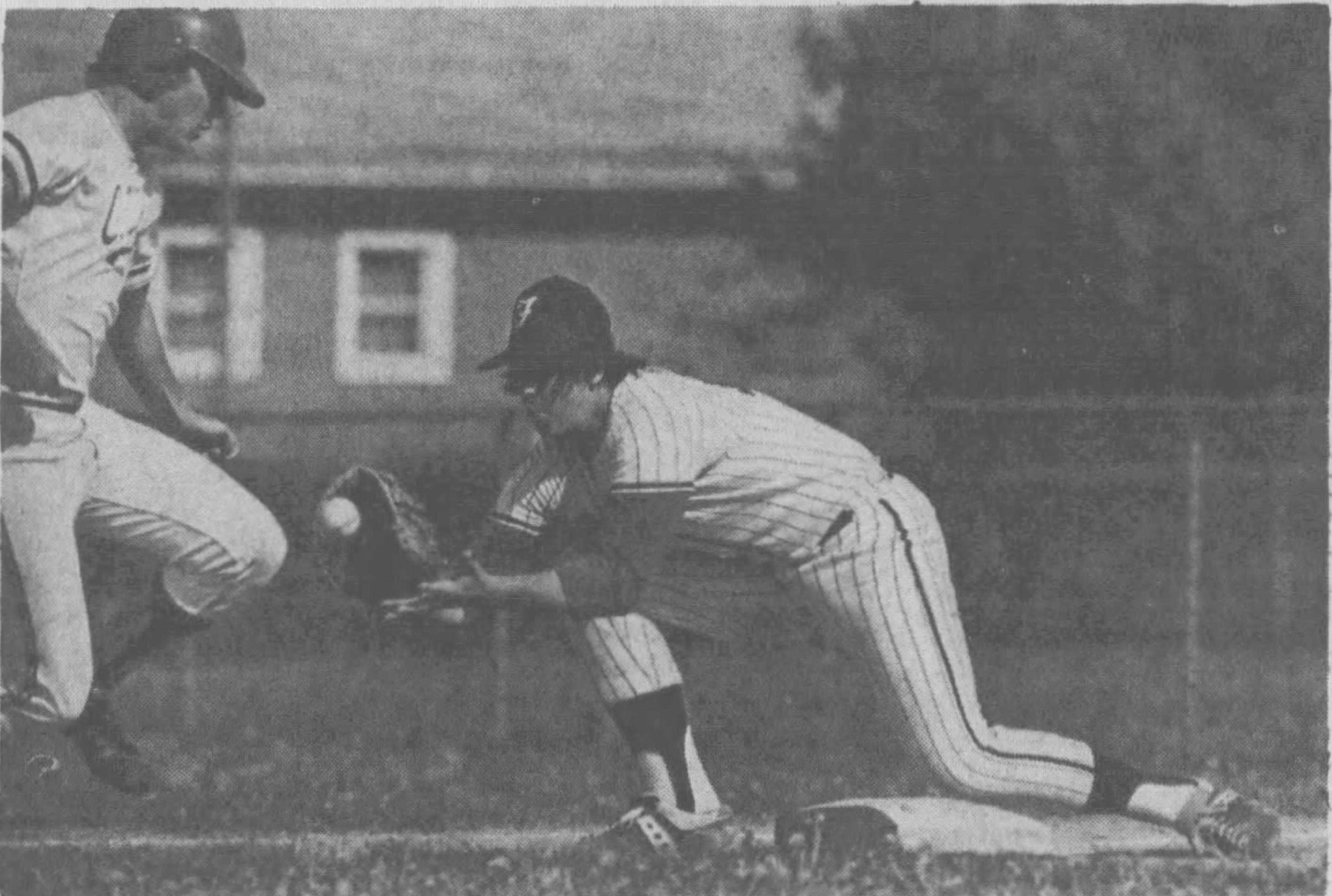
The loss dropped Ross to 6-14 for the year. The Little Giants will host Sandusky this afternoon in a game that has been shifted from Anderson Field to the Ross High School field.

SCORE BY INNINGS

			R	H	E
Clay	014	305	0-13	13	3
Ross	341	000	0-8	10	3

BATTERIES: Doug Cousino and Jim TenEyck; John Kiser, Dave Ballenger (4), Pat Belch (6), and Mike McGilton

WP: Cousino; LP: Ballenger



RAY LONG, Ross's first baseman, stretches for a throw from pitcher John Kiser in early action Monday at Anderson Field. The play came on an

attempted pickoff but the Clay runner was safe. (News-Messenger photos by Bruce Crippen)