



Front Row: Sophomore Adam Swope, junior Kyle Myers, senior Dan Wise, senior Dusty Shively, junior Brian Baacke **Middle Row:** sophomore Jared Stull, junior Mike Salas, senior Morten Eidner, junior Derek Dalton, sophomore Brian McCord, senior Adam Wagner **Back Row:** Coach Ben Hickey, senior Aaron Copley, senior Pete Scranton, senior Mark Thomson, sophomore Tim Holman, sophomore Craig Hickey, and Coach Jeff Pendry

Ross wins opener

Swope, Eidner, Shively, Holman score in shutout

News-Messenger reports

Soccer

SANDUSKY — The Fremont Ross boys soccer team opened its season with a resounding victory Tuesday, beating Sandusky 4-0 in a Great Lakes League match.

Adam Swope, Morten Eidner, Dustin Shively and Tim Holman scored goals for the Little Giants. Derek Dalton had two assists, and Swope chipped in with another.

Swope opened the scoring for Ross in the game's 20th minute, scoring on a feed from Dalton.

Eidner scored 25 seconds into the second half, dribbling around several Blue Streaks defenders to score from seven yards out. Shively scored in the half's 21st minute on a deflection off the Sandusky goalkeeper, with Swope picking up the assist.

Dalton set Holman up for the Little Giants' final goal. Ross outshot Sandusky 18-8.

Craig Hickey led the Ross

defense with 17 intercepts. Pete Scranton had 13 intercepts, and Kyle Myers and Adam Wagner had 10 apiece.

Goalkeeper Dan Wise had six saves to preserve the shutout.

Ross also won its junior varsity match Monday, defeating Danbury 6-4. Mike Price scored twice, and Dan Tin, Kyle Daugherty, Scott Fairall and Brian Kaltenbach added goals.

The Little Giants play powerful Toledo St. Francis tonight at Toledo DeVilbiss.

Ross boys fall to St. Francis in final minute

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross soccer team lost in the final minute of its game against Toledo St. Francis 3-2 Wednesday night at DeVilbiss Stadium.

Ross led the Knights 2-0 at the half on goals by Craig Hickey on a penalty kick at the eight-minute mark of the game and an unassisted goal by Morton Eidner at the 15-minute mark.

In the second half, P.J. Behan scored the first of his two goals in the second minute to

Soccer

narrow the score to 2-1. Behan scored his second goal at the 25 minute mark from about 20 yards out.

St. Francis forward Lee Robison scored the final goal of the game at the 39th minute to seal the victory. St. Francis outshot Ross 11-4, and Ross goalkeeper Dan Wise was credited with seven saves.

Defensively, Ross was led by Kyle Myers who had 20 intercepts. Hickey had 17, Adam Wagner had 16 and Pete

Scranton had 13.

Ross plays at Bedford (Mich) tonight.

In girls soccer action Wednesday:

Findlay 12, Ross 0

FINDLAY — Findlay bombarded Ross with 57 shots, and while Little Giants goalkeeper Christina Szymanowski stopped 45 of them, the Trojans pulled away for a 12-0 Great Lakes League win.

Ross coach Scott McVeigh said Brittany Werling played a good game. Ross (1-2) hosts Sandusky on Monday.

Soccer

Giants top Bedford

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — The Fremont Ross soccer team rebounded from a loss to St. Francis on Wednesday and defeated Bedford 5-2 Thursday in the Great Lakes League.

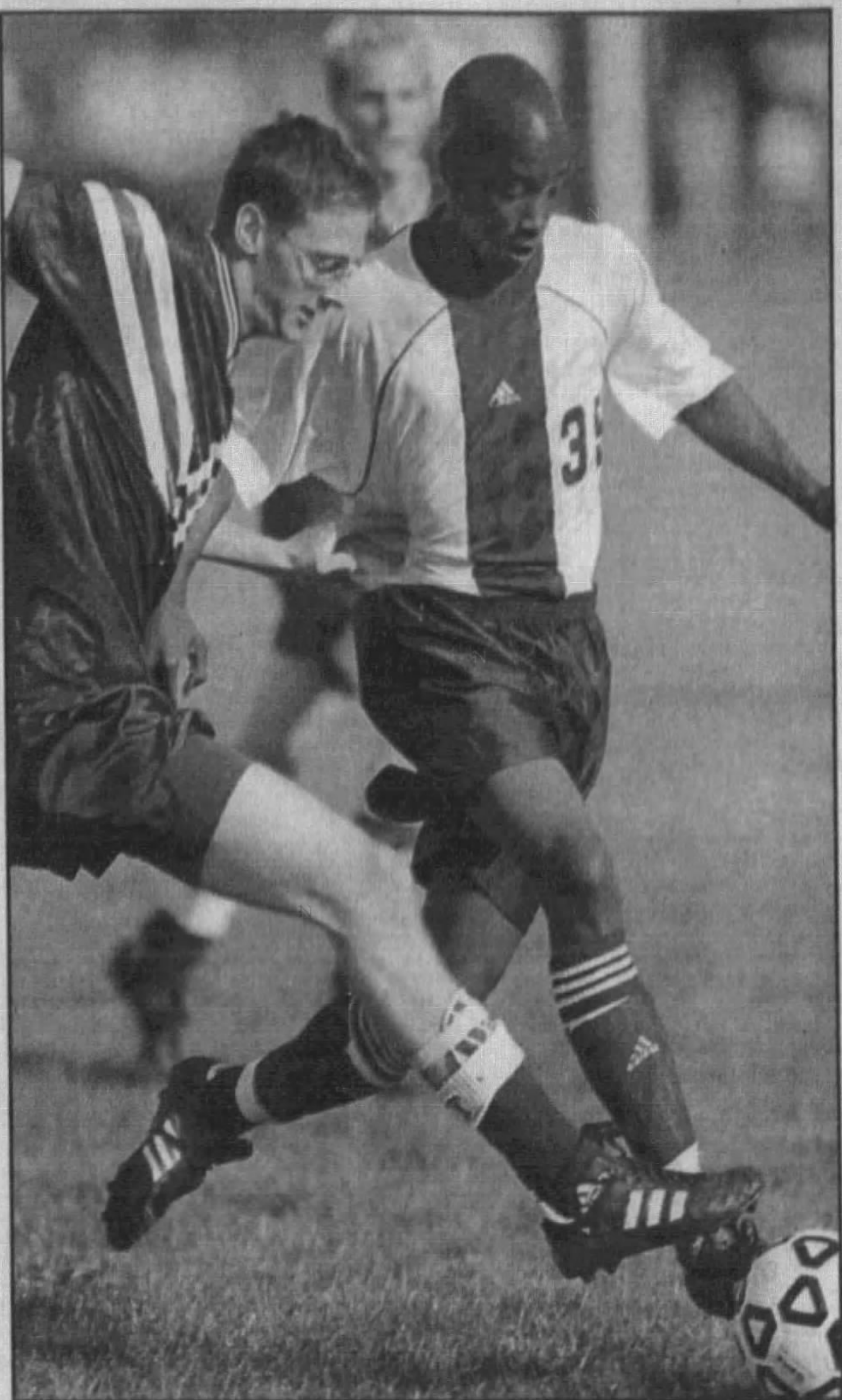
The Kicking Mules responded with two unanswered goals to lead 2-1 at halftime after Fremont's Derek Dalton scored at the 17th minute.

In the third minute of the second half Mark Thomson evened the game at 2-2 on a goal from 10 yards out. Ross continued its assault on the Bedford goal as Morten Eidner scored at the 20th minute.

One minute later Thomson scored his second goal with Dalton recording the assist. Dustin Shively finished the Ross scoring on a shot from eight yards out, with Mike Salas getting the assist.

Defensively, the Ross full-backs helped shut out Bedford in the second half with Adam Wagner, Kyle Myers and Craig Hickey each recording 11 intercepts. Pete Scranton added nine intercepts and Dan Wise had 12 saves.

Ross (2-1, 2-0) outshot Bedford 18-13. Ross opens its home season at 5 p.m. Monday against Tiffin Columbian.



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

MIKE PRICE, right, gets around a Tiffin Columbian defender in Fremont Ross's win Monday.

Ross romps over Columbian 9-0

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross tuned up for today's showdown against Findlay with a 9-0 win over Tiffin Columbian Monday at Alumni Field.

"Tiffin is a very young team," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "They have a lot of freshmen and sophomores. They know where they're supposed to be, but speed and size-wise, they're not there yet."

Morten Eidner scored four goals and added an assist to lead the Little Giants, who improved to 3-1. Dusty Shively added two goals and Derek Daulton, Adam Swope and Mike Salas also found the net for the Giants. Adam Wagner, Brian McCord, Jared Stull and Dalton

added assists for Ross.

The Little Giants defense was solid, limiting the Tornadoes to three shots. Adam Wagner and Craig Hickey had 11 intercepts apiece and Kyle Myers and Pete Scranton added nine each. Dan Wise stopped all three Columbian shots for the shutout.

"We played some solid defense in front of Dan," said Pendry. "We have a solid starting 11, and we're starting to play well."

The Little Giants will have to play well today, as the Trojans, ranked No. 6 in the state coaches poll, will come to town for a 4:30 p.m. Great Lakes League contest. Findlay, the only Northwest Ohio team in the top 10, is 3-0-2 and the perennial GLL favorite.

Ross hangs with Findlay, can't convert

No. 6 Trojans pull away late

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

For the first 50 minutes on Tuesday, the Fremont Ross boys soccer team proved it could play with the big boys, but couldn't convert its opportunities.

For the final 30 minutes, Findlay showed what the big boys will do with opportunities.

The Trojans, a perennial Great Lakes League power, broke a scoreless tie with two

quick goals midway through the second half, and rolled to a 7-1 win over the Little Giants at Alumni Field, in a game that was much closer than the score indicated.

"Offensively, we didn't capitalize when had opportunities," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "Our defense played a wonderful first 50 to 55 minutes, they were stuffing those guys, but our offense wasn't capitalizing on our chances. In games like this, against state-ranked teams, when you don't capitalize, those are the teams that won't miss."

Findlay entered the game ranked sixth in the state

Soccer

coaches poll, but for much of the first half, the Little Giants looked like stronger team. Ross controlled much of the action, and frustrated Findlay with solid defense.

"I think we started to play with more intensity and accelerated to the ball better in the second half," said Findlay coach Albert Laux. "In the first half, we tried to do everything too deliberately, too slowly. We thought we could play just passing soccer. The Fremont players, I really give them a lot of credit for work-

ing hard and beating us to the ball in the first half."

Adam Wagner had 14 intercepts to lead Ross. Craig Hickey had 11, Kyle Myers had eight and Pete Scranton collected six for the Little Giants.

Ross had several chances — including one that banked off the goal post — but couldn't find the net until Dusty Shively scored with 14:40 to go, with Findlay already up 4-0. Dan Wise had three saves for the Little Giants.

"Our entire defense stood out," Pendry said. "My hat's off for all of them. Unfortunately, mistakes on offense

don't show up on the scoreboard, you have got to put them in the net."

Against Toledo St. Francis last week, the Little Giants put two quick goals on the board, and nearly pulled off an upset. But Tuesday's inability to score an early goal left the Trojans in position to show their strength.

"If we could have put some of those opportunities on the scoreboard that definitely would have made a difference," said Pendry. "Against St. Francis we did that, and they were definitely worried."

The game was scoreless until Findlay's Chris Dulaney

put home a pass from Clayton Acheson to put the Trojans on the board with 27:15 left in the game. Less than two minutes later, Dulaney netted his second of the contest with a long, low drive that trickled in.

The Little Giants went into more of an attack mode, and the Trojans took advantage. Three minutes later, Alex Arredondo's goal put Findlay up by three, and Acheson added Findlay's fourth goal with 16:22.

Shively got Ross on the board three minutes later, as he charged to the net and booted home a bad pass by Findlay's goalkeeper.

Red-hot Eidner lifts Ross to win

News-Messenger reports

Morten Eidner recorded his second four-goal game this week as Fremont Ross defeated Oregon Clay 10-2 Thursday at Alumni Field.

Eidner scored Ross' first two goals in the first and the 15th minute of the first half.

Fremont was never challenged by the Eagles as Ross led 7-0 at the half.

Derek Dalton and Dustin Shively both scored a goal in each half, and Jared Stull finished out the first half scoring.



EIDNER

Boys soccer

In the second half, Tim Holman scored a goal at the seven minute mark and the Little Giants kept on rolling.

Dalton scored his second goal at the 22nd minute and Shively scored his second goal five minutes later.

Adam Swope led the assist category recording three, and Eidner, Shively, Craig Hickey, and Mark Thomson each were credited with one.

Defensively, fullbacks Hickey, Adam Wagner, Pete Scranton, and Kyle Myers were credited with eight intercepts apiece.

Fremont outshot Clay 24-5. Ross is 2-1 in the GLL and 4-2 overall.

Eidner scores four | Ross wins at home

News-Messenger reports

LORAIN — Morten Eidner continued his incredible goal-scoring streak, netting four goals as the Fremont Ross boys soccer team beat Lorain Admiral King 4-1 on Saturday.

It was Eidner's third four-goal game of the week for the Little Giants (5-2, 2-1).

Eidner scored goals in the eighth, 19th and 30th minutes of the first half, with Jared Stull and Pete Scranton picking up assists.

In the second half, the teams played evenly until the Admirals' Kyle Junior scored from four yards out. Two minutes later, Eidner answered with his fourth goal, on an assist from Derek Dalton.

Kyle Myers led Ross with nine intercepts, Craig Hickey had eight, and Adam Wagner and Scranton had six apiece. Dan Wise made four saves in goal for the Little Giants.

Ross hosts Napoleon today.

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls soccer team got an exciting win in its first-ever home game, beating Toledo Whitmer 3-2 on a last-minute goal Saturday.

"It was nice to get a win in the first home game," said Ross coach Scott McVeigh, whose team improved to 4-2 overall, 2-1 in the Great Lakes League. "We played hard all 80 minutes. It was a great team win."

Johanna Wearsch had two goals, and Alison Clark had one for the Little Giants.

"It was really nice for Johanna to get in the scoring column," McVeigh said.

Marie Erchenbrecher, Brittney Werling and Marissa Rodriguez had assists in the win. Christina Szymanowski had eight saves in goal for Ross.

Ross plays a non-league game at Toledo Start today.

Swope leads Giants

News-Messenger reports

Adam Swope scored two goals as Fremont Ross scored four times in the second half and earned a 4-0 non-league win over Napoleon.

The Little Giants outshot Napoleon 17-2 in the game, but couldn't beat the Wildcats' goalkeeper in the first half. Swope finally got the Little Giants on the board, as he scored at the fourth and 29th minutes on the second half. Dusty Shively and Pete Scranton picked up the assists.

Mike Salas scored an unassisted goal from four yards out at the 30th minute. Derek Dalton scored on a cross from Brian McCord at the 37th minute.

Dan Wise had one save for Ross (6-2, 2-1). Craig Hickey had eight intercepts, Pete Scranton had seven and Kyle Myers and Adam Wagner had six apiece.

The Little Giants will travel tonight to Panther Stadium in Toledo for a 7 p.m. game against Great Lakes League foe Toledo Whitmer.

Ross blanks Whitmer behind strong defense

News-Messenger reports

WHITMER — Fremont Ross recorded its second shutout in as many days, blanking Toledo Whitmer 6-0 Tuesday in a Great Lakes League soccer game at Panther Stadium.

Pete Scranton and Craig Hickey led the defense with nine intercepts apiece. Kyle Myers collected eight intercepts and Adam Wagner added six.

Jared Stull scored the first Ross goal in the ninth minute of the first half. In the second half, Derek Dalton scored at the 12th minute, with an assist from Morten Eidner. Eidner scored a goal of his own at the 21st minute off of a direct free kick. Mark Thomson added a goal at the 35th minute, with Dusty Shively picking up an assist, and Adam Swope

Soccer

finished the Panthers with a pair of goals, coming at the 36th and 38th minutes of the final half. Shively and Eidner were each given an assist on Swope's goals.

The Little Giants (7-2, 4-1) host Sandusky at 5 p.m. Thursday.

In other high school soccer action Tuesday:

Perkins 2, Oak Harbor 1

SANDUSKY — Senior midfielder Ryan Babiuch scored on a penalty kick with 22 seconds left Tuesday night, sending Perkins to a 2-1 Sandusky Bay Conference soccer victory over Oak Harbor.

The Rockets' Robbie Walker scored with about eight minutes left on a penalty kick to tie the game.

Giant boys on a roll



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

MORTEN EIDNER, white jersey, scored a first half goal in Ross's 5-1 win over Sandusky on Thursday.

Ross dominates second half in win over Sandusky

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

The first half of Thursday's Great Lakes League game proved that the Fremont Ross boys soccer team has become a solid program.

Despite a subpar performance in the first half, the Little Giants held a one-goal halftime edge and then took control in the second 40 minutes and posted a 5-1 win over Sandusky at Alumni Field.

"The first half wasn't as good as we would have

liked," said Ross senior Morten Eidner. "It's nice to be able to play not your best and still be able to beat most of the teams."

The second half was a different story. The Little Giants controlled the majority of the action and put the game away with three goals.

"We've kind of been in a string of coming on strong late," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "We're keeping ourselves in games in the first half, we're just not putting the thing in the

Thursday

Ross.....	5
Sandusky	1

Saturday

Defiance at Ross, 3 p.m.

net. But we've been able to wear teams down in the second half."

The Little Giants defense was once again extremely effective, as Sandusky was able to get off just three shots. Kyle Myers had 10 intercepts, Pete Scranton and Craig Hickey added seven and Adam

Wagner had five.

"This is the best defense I've seen Fremont have in a while," said Scranton. "We just go after every dead ball and we don't let them get many shots."

"We have four great defensemen and we all play the entire game. The halfbacks check back and the defense doesn't let people get by."

The Little Giants offense was also effective Thursday.

See EIDNER, B3

Eidner scores again as Ross cruises

Continued from B1

Eidner got Ross on the board in the sixth minute, as he drilled a 25-footer into the upper left corner of the net. Ryan Parschauer answered for the Blue Streaks at the 29th minute. Dusty Shively put Ross back in front four minutes later, as he took a pass from Jared Stull, raced in and beat the goal-keeper with a low shot.

The second half was all Ross. Derek Dalton took a lead pass from Eidner and beat the goal-keeper in the 12th minute of the half. Mike Salas set up the Little Giants' final two goals, assisting on Adam Swope's tally in the 36th minute and setting up Shively's second of the game with 8:41 to go.

Eidner has on fire lately. The foreign exchange student from Denmark scored his 16th goal of the season Thursday, giving him 14 goals in the last seven games, including three four-goal performances.

"That's my job," Eidner said. "I've been lucky enough to rip in a few lately. I don't usually score that many goals. Now I'm kind of down to my normal rate of one per game."

Pendry said Eidner is among the top three players in the GLL, along with Sandusky's Ryan Parschauer and Findlay's Chris Dulaney.

"He's a very talented player," Pendry said of Eidner. "It's a privilege to coach a guy like that. He has tremendous skill and knowledge of the game. He's the type of player that brings up a whole team. Players like that can turn an even game into a one-sided game real quick."

With the win, the Little Giants stayed a game back of No. 5 Findlay in the GLL. The teams meet

next Thursday in Findlay, in what will undoubtedly be Ross's biggest challenge of the year.

"If we play like we have been, we don't think any team can beat us, except for Findlay," Scranton said. "With Findlay, you never know. Maybe we can keep them 0-0 until late and then Morty can pop one in."

Also looming for Ross is a tough sectional. As it stands now, the Little Giants will play in a Perrysburg bracket that features powerful Toledo St. John's, Anthony Wayne and Perrysburg teams.

"I wouldn't say any of those teams will flat-out beat us," Pendry said. "But we'll have a tough road."

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Defiance 'out-bullies' Ross in 3-2 soccer win

Little Giant girls shut out on the road

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys soccer team came close, but dropped a 3-2 non-league decision to Defiance at Alumni Field on Saturday.

"Defiance was very physical, and one of their players received a red card for taking out Morten Eidner in the first half," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "We were kind of outbullied."

Pete Scranton opened the scoring for Ross in the sixth minute of the first half, converting a direct free kick from 20 yards out. Defiance answered in the 19th minute with a goal by Christian Snavelly.

The Little Giants scored in the final minute of the first half, but the referee ruled that time had run out before the ball was in the goal. The discounted goal would prove crucial.

Josh Adams put the Bulldogs ahead 2-1 in the fifth minute of the second half on a header off a corner kick. Eidner tied things up six minutes later, scoring from seven yards out on a pass from Mike Salas.

But Snavelly scored the winning goal for Defiance in the 28th minute, beating the Ross defense.

"It was our ball control against their physical play," Pendry said. "Our guys weren't used to that kind of play."

With the loss, Ross completed a 14-day span in which the team

Soccer

played eight games, going 6-2. The Little Giants host Bedford in a Great Lakes League game Tuesday before traveling to Findlay for a rematch with the state-ranked Trojans.

In girls soccer action Saturday:

Defiance 5, Ross 0

DEFIANCE — Ross was shut out 5-0 by Defiance in a non-

league game Saturday.

"We were just flat, we had nothing," said Ross coach Scott McVeigh. "I don't know what it was, we just never got started. They scored in the seventh or eighth minute and it was just downhill from there."

Goalkeeper Christina Szymanowski made 15 saves for the Little Giants (5-4, 2-2), who were out-shot 20-8.

Ross returns to Great Lakes League action today, hosting Findlay.



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See page B11.

Ross earns wet win

Werling nets three

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls soccer improved to 6-5 overall and 3-3 in the Great Lakes League on Wednesday with an 8-1 victory over Sandusky at Alumni Field.

"They really battled the elements," said Ross coach Scott McVeigh, whose team played in a steady rain. "The girls focused well. That was their first time they played in that kind of weather."

Leading the Little Giants was Brittney Werling, who scored three goals. Nicki Straight added two goals, and Johanna Wearsch and Tiffany Howard added a goal apiece.

Wearsch and Howard each also added an assist for Ross, which outshot Sandusky 19-10. Christina Szymanowski made the lead stand up with seven saves in goal.

Ross travels to Toledo Whitmer next Saturday.

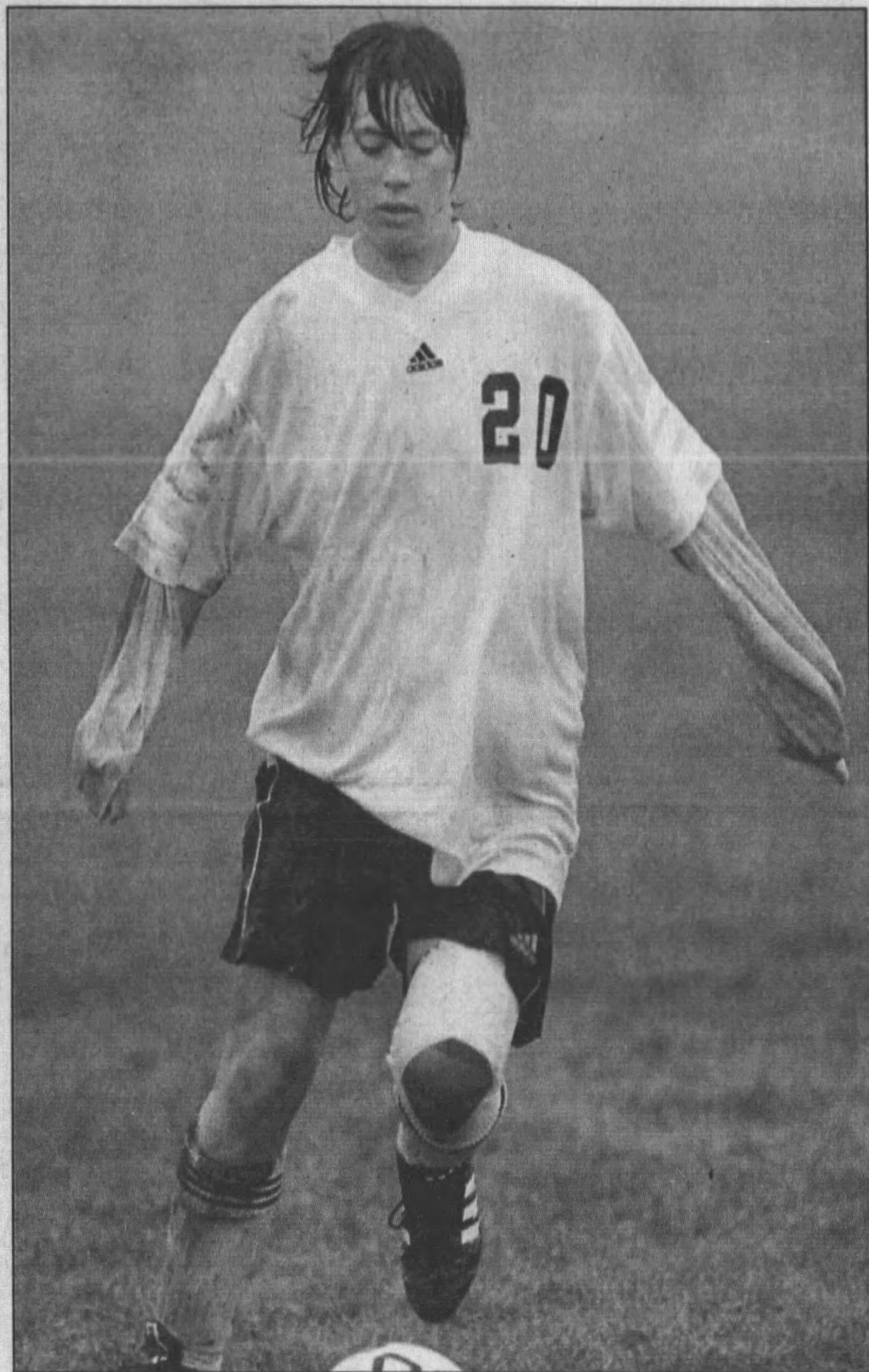
In boys soccer action Tuesday:

Ross 2, Bedford 1

The Ross boys won their ninth match of the season with a 2-1 victory over Bedford on Tuesday at Verity Kelsey Hayes field.

Ross scored first at the third minute of the match as Derek Dalton scored from eight yards out after a corner kick. Travis Jones of Bedford evened the score at the eighth minute on a 25-yard shot.

In the second half, the two teams played evenly until the 15th minute, when Morten Eidner scored on a cross from Dusty Shively



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

MARIE ERCHENBRECHER dribbles in space in Ross's 8-1 win over Sandusky Wednesday.

to give Ross the lead.

The Ross defense limited the Kicking Mules to four total shots, and just one in the second half. Ross outshot Bedford 10-4 for the game.

Craig Hickey led the

Ross defense with nine interceptions. Mike Salas had eight interceptions, Kyle Myers had seven interceptions, and Adam Wagner and Pete Scranton added six interceptions apiece.

Dan Wise had one save,

and Myers, who replaced Wise when he was injured, also recorded one save.

Ross improved to 9-3 overall and 5-1 in the GLL. The Little Giants travel to face sixth-ranked Findlay today.

Findlay tops Ross

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Findlay scored goals at the 17th and 30th of the first half and made it stand up as the sixth-ranked Trojans defeated the Ross boys 2-0 Thursday in Findlay.

Alex Arredondo scored Findlay's first goal on a shot from 25 yards out into the upper right corner of the net. Jani Heikari, an exchange student from Finland, scored the second goal on a shot from eight yards out.

Ross had several chances to score with many of them coming in the last 15 minutes of the game.

Findlay outshot Ross 11-9. Kyle Myers recorded five saves for the Little Giants.

Ross fullbacks Pete Scranton, Mike Salas, Adam Wagner, and Craig Hickey were recorded 11 intercepts each, and all four recorded numerous shot blocks.

Soccer

Giants net lucky 13 in win over Clay

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — The Fremont Ross soccer team needed just one goal Tuesday night to set a new school record for goals in a season. They got the record — and then some.

The Little Giants scored 13 goals, tying another school record, and whipped Oregon Clay 13-1 in a Great Lakes League game.

Ross now has 67 goals this season, topping the mark of 54 set by the 1997 team. The 13 goals ties a mark set in 1997.

Morten Eidner recorded his fourth four-goal game of the season. He needs just four more goals to set the Little Giants team record for goals by an individual in a season, set in 1993 by Francisco Rosito.

Derek Dalton and Dusty Shively added two goals apiece and Craig Hickey, Dan Wise, Pete Scranton, Mike Salas and Kyle Daugherty also scored for the Little Giants. Salas and Adam Swope had two assists and Brian McCord had another for Ross.

Chris George scored Clay's goal on a penalty kick.

Ross led 7-0 at halftime and out-shot the Eagles 20-2 in the game. Scranton and Hickey recorded 10 interceptions apiece, Mike Salas had seven and Kyle Myers added six apiece.

The Little Giants improved to 10-4 overall and 7-2 in the league. They play Toledo Whitmer at 5 p.m. Thursday at Verity Kelsey Hayes Field.

Ross rolls in GLL

Eidner sets, ties records in 12-0 win

News-Messenger reports

Morton Eidner scored four goals to tie a Fremont Ross team record, as the Little Giants whipped Toledo Whitmer 12-0 Thursday.

Eidner scored his record-tying 27th goal of the year also recorded his 57th point this season, breaking another

Soccer

mark set by
Francisco

Rosito.

Ross dominated the Panthers, outshooting them 18-2.

Adam Swope opened the scoring in the second minute of the game. Derek Dalton scored the first of his three goals in the 17th minute, and Mark Thomson and Eidner finished the first half scoring. Eidner assisted on on Dalton's goal.

In the second half the Little Giants continued their assault on the Whitmer goal with Dalton scoring in the second minute and the ninth minute with assists going to Jared Stull and Mike Salas. Eidner scored at the 15th minute.

Dusty Shively scored at the 16th minute. Eidner scored again at the 19th minute, and Swope scored at the 20th minute. Assists were given to Swope, Jon Clark, Kyle Daugherty, and Salas.

Mike Salas then scored at the 30th minute unassisted, and Eidner tied the goal scoring record at the 37th minute on a header into the net off of a corner kick by Adam Wagner who was given the assist.

The Little Giant defense recorded its sixth shutout of the season with Craig Hickey and Salas leading the way with 10 intercepts apiece, and Wagner and Pete Scranton recording eight intercepts apiece. Goalkeeper Kyle Myers had two saves.

The Ross defense has surrendered 21 goals this season, a 1.4 goal per game average.

Ross is 11-4 overall and 8-2 in the GLL and will end its regular season on Saturday as they travel to Norwalk to meet the undefeated Truckers.

Little Giants shut out Whitmer in GLL

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross girls soccer team posted a Great Lakes League shutout on Saturday, beating Toledo Whitmer 3-0.

"We played a lot better than the last time (against Whitmer)," said Ross coach Scott McVeigh, whose team beat the Panthers 3-2 on Sept. 18. "We controlled the game for the whole 80 minutes."

McVeigh had high praise for the play of stopper Sashay Price, sweeper Allyson Hickey and goalkeeper Christina Szymanowski, who helped keep Whitmer scoreless.

"Sashay Price had by far her best game of the year," he said. "She controlled the whole middle of the field."

"Allyson Hickey saved a couple of goal chances, and Szymanowski, she probably had three or four saves that could easily have been goals that she knocked away."

Alison Clark, Johanna Wearsch and Brittney Werling had goals for Ross (9-5, 4-3), and Wearsch added an assist. Szymanowski made nine saves in goal.

Ross hosts Oregon Clay in a GLL game at Alumni Field today, and could move into second place in the league with a win.

"The girls are pumped,"

Soccer

McVeigh said. "Whitmer played twice as physical as the first game, and the refs weren't calling a thing, but it never got us out of our game plan. We kept our composure."

After closing out the regular season, Ross plays Mansfield Madison in first round sectional play on Oct. 19 at Findlay. Madison is the second seed in the sectional, behind Ashland.

In boys soccer action Saturday:

Norwalk 1, Ross 0

NORWALK — The Ross boys team dropped its final regular season game, losing to unbeaten Norwalk 1-0.

Ross dominated the action, controlling the ball in Norwalk territory, but a penalty kick goal from Joe Babcanec in the 21st minute gave the Truckers the only goal.

Adam Wagner led Ross with 10 intercepts, Mike Salas had seven, and Pete Scranton and Tim Holman had five apiece.

Ross ends the regular season 11-5, 8-2 in the Great Lakes League. The Little Giants are off until Oct. 20, when they play Toledo St. John's at Perysburg in the first round of the state tournament.

Goal-oriented

Eidner lights up the nets

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**
Staff writer

Many terms have been used to describe the play of Fremont Ross senior Morten Eidner this season: "incredible," "exciting," "fun to watch," "very skilled."

Yet the foreign exchange student from Denmark claims that in his homeland he is merely "average."

"I'm a decent player back home," Eidner said. "I've made some select teams, but you'll see a lot better players than me there. I'm just another soccer player back home."

Must be some competition.

Eidner's play this season has been a lot better than decent. He has 27 goals, tying the school mark set by Francisco Rosito in 1993, and has 57 points, breaking another record held by Rosito.

"It's amazing to just sit back there and watch him with the ball," said Ross goalkeeper Dan Wise. "It's phenomenal what he can do with the ball because no one around here can do it. It's great fun to watch him."

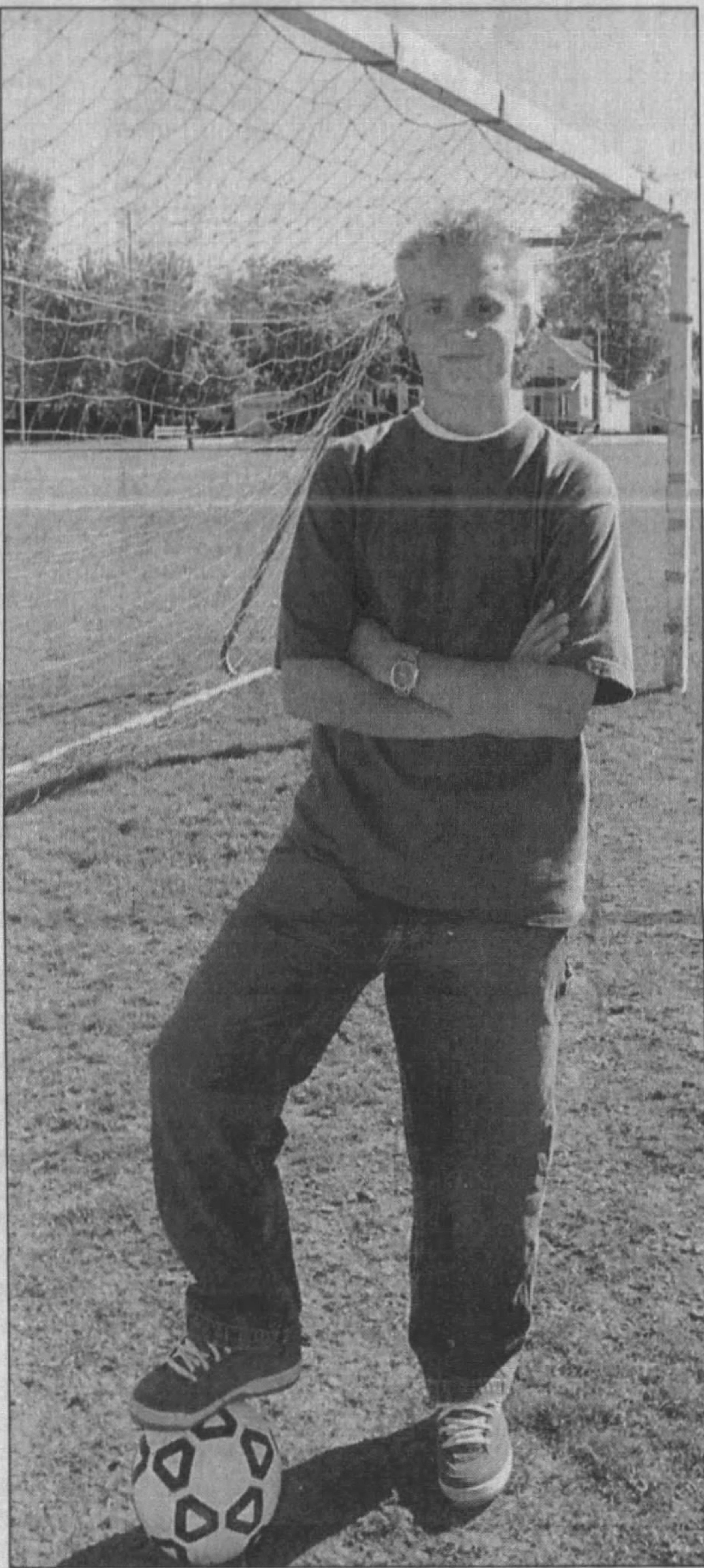
"It's great to have somebody that can generate offense, and we have the confidence that we can go out and win games."

One reason for the disparity in opinions is the level of soccer's popularity in the two countries. Eidner, who has been playing soccer since he was very young, said soccer in Denmark parallels in popularity with football at Fremont Ross. That, in itself, brings the higher level of play in Denmark.

"In Denmark, everyone plays soccer," Eidner said. "Soccer hasn't been in America as long as Europe, so naturally it's different. It's great that it's getting more popular here. It's great to get it rolling."

Another reason, according to Ross coach Jeff Pendry, is Eidner's modesty.

"He is definitely very modest, but he is very confi-



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

MORTEN EIDNER has scored a school-record 27 goals for the Fremont Ross soccer team this season.

dent about his game," said Pendry. "He'll come off the field frustrated, even when he scores and we win, saying that he should have had one or two more goals, or that there's more that he could have done. He's modest but he knows what he is capable of doing."

Eidner came to Fremont in early August, and is living with host parents Mike and Dessie Morehart. After spending several months in the U.S., soccer is just one of several differences he has noticed between the two nations.

See **EIDNER, B2**

Athlete of the week

Morten Eidner profile

School: Ross

Grade: Senior

Sport: Soccer

Family: Parents: Mette Nielsen and Per Eidner, Brothers: Anders, 21, Thomas, 11; Sister: Maj, 15.

Host family: Mike and Dessie Morehart

Hobbies: Soccer, listening to music, spending time with friends.

Giants battle Clay to draw

Ross finishes third in GLL

By **SCOTT TAPPA**
Sports editor

What's the difference between a second- and third-place finish?

The width of a goalpost, apparently.

Two scoring opportunities for the Fremont Ross girls soccer team glanced off the goalpost, one in each half, as the Little Giants tied Oregon Clay 0-0 in a Great Lakes League contest at Alumni Field.

The tie, which marked the end of the regular season for Ross, gave Clay second place in the GLL, while Ross took third, by virtue of the Eagles' win in the teams' meeting on Sept. 22.

"They had opportunities, but I think we had more," said Ross coach Scott McVeigh. "We put two off the post, that's the game if we put one of those in."

Johanna Wearsch nearly got Ross on the board early in the first half, but her shot hit the crossbar. Later in the

first half, Wearsch's shot rebounded to Brittney Werling, but Werling's shot sailed over the crossbar.

Then, early in the second half, Alison Clark took a pass from Werling in the Clay box, but Clark's shot hit the post.

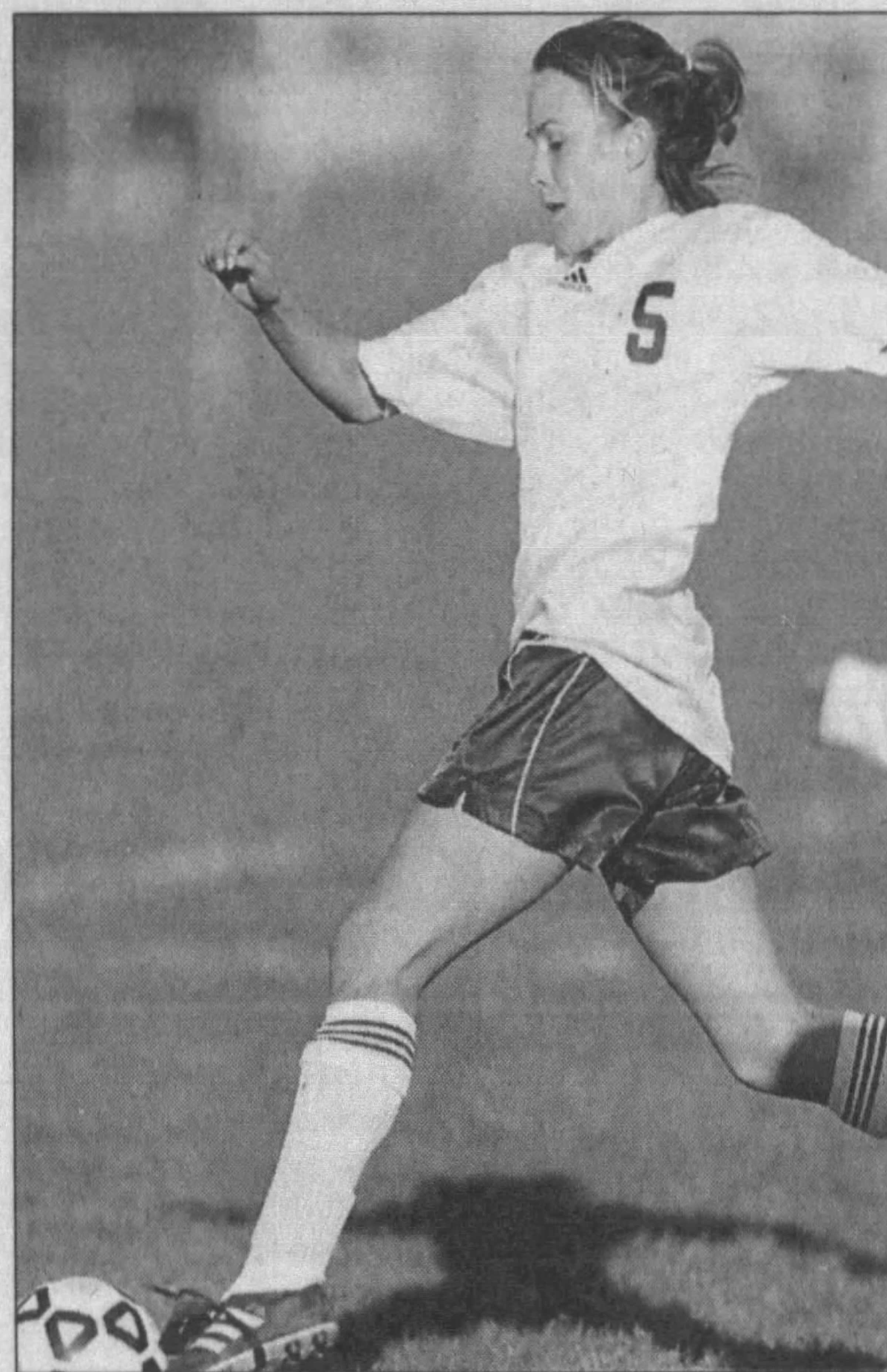
Still, after losing 3-2 to Clay earlier this season, Ross showed improvement against an evenly-matched opponent.

"We played really well tonight, I'm really proud," said Ross defender Allyson Hickey. "We definitely played 80 minutes."

Hickey spearheaded a defense that bent, but never broke in front of goalkeeper Christina Szymanowski, who recorded her fourth shutout of the season.

"They seemed to hang with it, they're pretty good under pressure," Szymanowski said of her defense.

See **ROSS, B2**



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

JOHANNA WEARSCH pushes the ball upfield in Ross's 0-0 tie with Oregon Clay on Monday.

Eidner has five 'Mortys' for Ross this season

Continued from B1

"In Denmark, sports aren't played in high school, so we play in clubs," he said. "It's different, but I like it the way it is here, with school spirit and everything, it's a real nice thing."

Eidner said he decided to use the foreign exchange program as a challenge. He was randomly placed in Fremont.

"I just wanted to try something new," he said. "It was the opportunity to try different stuff. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In couple of couple of years, I'll be busy with my job, my education, starting a family. This is the time of my life when I had a chance to do stuff like this. It was kind of like now or never."

Although he is a senior at Ross, he still has two more years of high school-level education in Denmark. He will not graduate until he is almost 20 years old.

"School here, it's not as hard as it is in Denmark," Eidner said.

"I still feel I need that education to finish off. Of course, it

would nice to be done sooner."

He hasn't had time to see much outside of Fremont, since soccer practice started a few days after his arrival. But he has noticed a few other differences in the countries.

"Everyone drives here, which is cool," he said. "In Denmark, when you're 18 you're pretty much grown up. You can vote, you can drink, you can do anything."

Eidner has been able to do pretty much anything on the soccer field for the Little Giants this season. With Eidner leading the offense, the Little Giants have blown out weak opponents and stayed competitive with tough ones. Ross finished its regular season at 11-5 overall and 8-2, good for second place in the Great Lakes League.

"He's a tremendous asset to our program," said Pendry. "He brings up the overall performance of everyone. The 10 players around him are very skilled, but he brings the other players to an even higher level."

"He's helped us take control of the ball up the middle," said defenseman Adam Wagner.

High-scoring

Fremont Ross set a school record with 79 goals this season, topping the mark set by the 1997 team. A breakdown of the scorers:

Player	Goals
Morten Eidner	27
Derek Dalton	13
Dusty Shively	12
Adam Swope	8
Mark Thomson	4
Mike Salas	4
Tim Holman	2
Craig Hickey	2
Jared Stull	2
Pete Scranton	2
Kyle Daugherty	1
Adam Wagner	1
Dan Wise	1

"He's taking a lot of shots and putting a lot of goals in. Having him out there brings our confidence up. He helps the defense because now we can just worry about playing defense, we don't need to worry about scoring. We just worry about keeping the ball out of the net."

In the Little Giants' final two GLL games, Eidner and the Little Giants could do no wrong, outscoring Oregon Clay and Toledo Whitmer 25-1. Eid-

ner scored four goals in each game, bringing his four-goal game total to five, and prompting the Little Giants to name such an effort a "Morty."

"I don't know how we started that, but he's got a bunch of them," said Wise. "The team is a lot better with him around."

Eidner said he'd trade all the goals for a pair of victories over GLL-rival and state-ranked Findlay. He said he is not used to star status on the field.

"I didn't expect it, because back home I didn't score as much," he said. "I have to admit it's a good feeling, but that's not why I play the game. I play for the fun of it, because I love soccer."

The Little Giants have had several good foreign exchange students on the soccer team — including Rosito, and most recently Marcus Yamamoto of Brazil in 1997. Pendry said the exchange students have had the tools needed to make a great soccer player.

"The best soccer players, they possess the intensity, the skill, the knowledge," Pendry said. "They have everything you need."