

Crazy hairstyles can't shoot Ross past Ashland

BY MATTHEW HORN
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LEXINGTON — Several Fremont Ross players had their numbers shaved into their hair at the start of the postseason and even coach Phil Collison adopted a frohawk look.

But the Little Giants couldn't carve out enough scoring chances in an 8-3 setback to Ashland in a Division I district semifinal Thursday.

Ashland scored two goals early in the game and Ross trailed 3-0



WILHELM

at the half. Multiple Little Giants defenders combined to prevent a ball rolling straight for the center of a vacated net from going in about a minute before Ashland made it 4-0 just less than six minutes into the second half.

"We've done it all year," Collison said of overcoming deficits. "We've been behind by as much as three. It's very difficult to come back from 4-0 against a team like that that maintains possession.

"It's difficult to come back from a two-goal deficit 10 minutes in. It was an unfortunate night to not play well."

Ashland scored three goals in barely more than three minutes for a 7-0 advantage with 24:29 remaining.

ASHLAND	8
FREMONT ROSS	3

"They moved and hustled to the ball," Collison said. "They have a fast team and they spread the ball out. They're quick. They went to the ball hard. They beat us to the ball."

Austin Wilhelm then scored Ross's first goal about midway through the second half.

Wilhelm led the Little Giants with 14 goals this season.

"He did a good job providing leadership," Collison said. "He goes to the ball hard. He has a hard shot. He has a knack for finding himself with the ball at

the right time."

Gabriel Tayar made it 7-2 as he took a pass on the ground from Lucas Wisehart to his right and one-touched a high shot past the goaltender from the middle of the field.

"They kept playing and trying to move the ball around," Collison said.

Ashland answered with its final goal before Wisehart made a slick individual play to cap the game's scoring with 2:39 left. He touched the ball ahead into the air with a defender between him and the goal before running around the defender to get to the ball first and volley it in.

Collison said the program made progress this season as the

Little Giants finish 6-11-1 with a sectional championship.

"We've grown with possession and patience," Collison said. "Defensively, we did improve. Patience is the biggest thing — controlling the ball and our emotions."

Tayar, Wilhelm, Wisehart, Brandon Pridemore, Jonathan Adams, Mike Miller, Bret Paul and Samuel Anttila are seniors for Ross.

"This group of seniors has taken the program from 14 or 15 kids to 30-plus," Collison said. "They did a good job providing leadership and getting the program going."

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