

2018 Season Review...

FREMONT ROSS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

# Little Giants return eight of their starters on defense

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross fell to Sandusky by one point in a game it had no business losing and Findlay by a touchdown in triple-overtime last season. It lost to Toledo Central Catholic and Toledo Whitmer in consecutive weeks late in the year.

The Little Giants closed the season with a disappointing home setback to Toledo St. Francis de Sales in Week 10. Ross missed out on playing in Week 11 by one spot in its region.

"The next step is getting into the playoffs," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "Winning some games in the playoffs. I'm sick of Fremont, with all the individuals over the years ... we've won one playoff game."

"That's unacceptable in my mind. This is the best team we've had since I've been here."

Ross struggled with leadership and inconsistent play, particularly late in games last season.

"Our players left too many games out there," Long said. "We underachieved. We were better ... 5-5 won't cut it. We should have been 9-2. We build off consistency in preparation. We have to be ready to go every down and don't lose the close ones."

Seniors Noah Hotz, Mike Thomas, Hayden Lehmann, Garrett Schneider and Caleb Wood are captains.

"We have an unbelievable senior group of leaders," Long said. "Kids who refuse to lose."

Schneider knows the value of trust and accountability.

"The biggest thing is don't make excuses and stick together," he said. "We can't be individuals. Individual behavior cost us a couple games last season."

The Three Rivers Athletic Conference always produces some outstanding linebackers. Wood and Schneider are one of its better pairs.

"We've got two of the best in the conference," Long

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Fremont Ross coach Chad Long has a talented team that hopes to make noise this season.

MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER



Fremont Ross quarterback Hayden Lehmann was first-team all-TRAC as a junior.

MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

## Ross has veteran starter under center

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross senior quarterback Hayden Lehmann passed for 2,170 yards and 16 touchdowns last season.

Lehmann earned first-team all-Three Rivers Athletic Conference as he wanted to make the big play on every down. He has that type of arm.

He sometimes tried to make throws off his back foot, often into areas populated by several defenders. Little Giants senior linebacker Garrett Schneider said

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## ON THE AIR

## Schedule subject to change and/or

## blackouts

Wednesday, Aug. 15

## GOLF

FSI – USA, U.S. Amateur Championship, round of 64, at Pebble Beach, Calif.

## MLB BASEBALL

2 p.m.

MLB – Regional coverage, Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs OR Pittsburgh at Minnesota (1 p.m.)

5 p.m.  
MLB – Seattle at Oakland (joined in progress)7 p.m.  
FSO/STO – Cleveland at Cincinnati  
ESPN – Boston at Philadelphia10 p.m.  
MLB – Regional coverage, San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers OR Washington at St. Louis (joined in progress)

## SOCCER

2 p.m.

TNT – 2018 UEFA Super Cup, Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid, at Tallinn, Estonia

10 p.m.  
ESPN2 – MLS, Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC

## SOFTBALL

10 p.m.

ESPN – Little League Softball World Series, championship game, at Portland, Ore.

## Defense

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said. "Garrett is gritty and old-school. He doesn't get the fame or glory but he's a key to the defense. Caleb has that will to win, that competitiveness. He's an explosive playmaker. He's a great tackler."

Ross returns eight starters overall on defense.

"A lot of experienced guys are back," Long said. "If you have a good defense, you'll have a good team."

Hotz, Raleigh Weaver, Marquan Cobbins and Ben Mosser are senior defensive backs. Defensive ends Dontrez Brown, Carson Brandon and Jason Burling are juniors.

Brown weighs 269 pounds after adding 24.

"He's a Division I kid," Long said. "He's going to be a nightmare for many offenses. He was unblockable in the scrimmage with Northview. His determination. The things you can't teach. He loves the game."

Defensive linemen Avery Franks, Lawrence Newland and Nicholas Mayle also have starting experience.

Long's brother, Ray Long, joins the coaching staff this season.

"Ray brings experience and knowledge from 20 years at Clyde as defensive coordinator," Long said. "Physical, tough, mean defense. I can focus on the offense and have total faith in the defensive side."

"This has always been a dream. We have the same mentality. We want to keep surrounding our kids with good people and he fits that."

Coaches Matt Guhn, Luke Seal and Greg Vasser are also new.

"We've made adjustments on both sides with Ray coming in," Schneider said. "I've never met a man who knows football like Ray Long. Eddie (Baptista) and Coach (Chad) Long are getting the offense in line. They spent the offseason on a new playbook."



**Caleb Wood was second-team all-TRAC as a junior.** PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER



**Defensive end Dontrez Brown returns for Ross this season.**

The Little Giants have plans to make their community proud.

"We're capable to make a run for the playoffs and shock a few teams," Schneider said. "Winning a playoff game would be huge for our town. That would change the view of the team in the league."

"The seniors have played together since the fourth or fifth grade. This is the year to do it."

mhorn@gannett.com

419-307-4892

Twitter: @MatthewHornNH

Instagram: @matthewhorn

## Offense

Continued from Page 5A

Lehmann has matured with his decision making, particularly a willingness to throw the ball away when there's nowhere to go with it.

"It's always nice to have a returning going-on-third-year letterman at quarterback," Ross coach Chad Long said. "He'll have a bigger year than last year. He's learned to read coverages. He can throw short."

"He doesn't have to go big. He understands the offense clearly. We'll go as far as he takes us, but Ethan Chumley and Deryante Hardin are back there too."

Lehmann worked on his footwork in the offseason.

"I feel better all-around than at this time last year," he said. "I have more knowledge and my fundamentals are better. We have a lot of returning starters. A lot of energy. A lot of expectations we can meet."

"We know we have the talent to be a winning team and a top contender in the TRAC. We know we can go to the playoffs and win a game or two. We're all hungry for that goal."

Chumley and Hardin are seniors, although Hardin has no varsity experience. Ross relied too heavily on the passing game last season.

"Nobody knows about Deryante, which is awesome," Long said. "He last played as a freshman. He's very quick. He can catch it out of the backfield. A linebacker can't cover him. Chumley will try to run you over with power."

"It's a great combo. Bruiser and the flash. You have to have depth. They both bring their special thing."

Schneider and classmate Caleb Wood have starting experience at full-

**"We know we have the talent to be a winning team and a top contender in the TRAC. We know we can go to the playoffs and win a game or two. We're all hungry for that goal."**

**Hayden Lehmann**  
Fremont Ross quarterback

back. Seniors Noah Hotz and Bryce McKinstry and junior Daniel Rusher are wide receivers and junior Jason Burling plays tight end.

"He's a ballplayer in all phases," Long said of Hotz. "He's a Friday night lights guy. He's 170 pounds soaking wet and he's a playmaker. Great catches. Great runs. He was second on the team in tackles."

"Bryce is a big target. He's 6-4. He's athletic. He shined against Lima and St. John's last season. He has a Division I body. He just hasn't broke through on a consistent level."

Seniors Mike Thomas, Daniel Gerwin, Seth Harder and Kevin Frey are offensive linemen. Thomas enters his third year as a starter.

"He's a quiet kid, but a giant," Long said of Thomas. "He had a 415 bench. He's consistent. He's a coach's dream who leads by example. People respect him. Or they're scared of him."

Hotz is the punter and Zach Frye snaps.

mhorn@gannett.com

419-307-4892

Twitter: @MatthewHornNH

Instagram: @matthewhorn



**Ethan Chumley hopes to help provide Ross with more balance on offense.**

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER



**Mike Thomas is a quiet leader along Ross' offensive line.**



Garrett Schneider makes a tackle Friday for Fremont Ross. PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Ross' Lehmann completes 20 passes for 311 yards

## Clock runs out as Little Giants lose to Springfield

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

HOLLAND — Fremont Ross lineman Nick Mayle pulled Springfield quarterback AJ Gucciardo down for a loss of eight yards on third down Friday late in the fourth quarter.

The Blue Devils gave the Little Giants a safety on the next play for the final margin at 30-29 with 1 minute, 21 seconds left in the game.

Raleigh Weaver and Bryce McKinstry each caught a pass from Hayden Lehmann to start the ensuing drive. McKinstry's ball was deflected by a defensive back.

Ross misfired on three straight passes before a penalty pushed them inside Springfield territory to the 35 with 13.5 seconds left. Deryante Hardin scampered 22 yards with a catch to the 13.

The play clock ran out to push the Little Giants back to the 18 with 6.5 seconds left. McKinstry caught a 16-yard pass to the 2 with 1.6 seconds left.

Instead of one final snap for Ross, Lehmann spiked the ball. Rather than stopping the clock, it was ruled the attempt exhausted what remained.

McKinstry had six catches for 126 yards. He got behind the defense for a long throw covering 51 yards in the first quarter. Lehmann placed a throw where only McKinstry could reach it for a 25-yard score in the second quarter.



Deryante Hardin rushed for 82 yards on 13 carries Friday.

"He didn't ever want to come out," Ross coach Chad Long said of McKinstry. "You got a good glimpse of what he can do. He's a special player."

Lehmann completed 20 of 35 passes for 311 yards. He threw a bad interception that led to the go-ahead field goal and a 30-27 deficit.

Hardin rushed 13 times for 82 yards and one touchdown and Lehmann ran in from the 16. Hardin caught five passes for 36 yards and Noah Hotz had seven catches for 119 yards.

"We were able to run the ball," Long said. "Deryante gave us the best opportunities with his speed and coming out of the backfield making some catches."

Hotz helped set Hardin's touchdown up with a kickoff return to Springfield's 37 and a 38-yard catch to the 4-yard

line.

Garrett Schneider had two tackles for a loss in the first half and Dontrez Brown had three sacks in the game. Spencer Price forced a fumble recovered by Jason Burling on a kickoff to set up Lehmann's scoring run.

Ross scored twice within 22 seconds for a 19-7 lead at the half. It led 27-20 after Schneider caught the conversion pass following Hardin's touchdown late in the third quarter.

The Little Giants turned it over on downs at Springfield's 26 the possession following the field goal.

mhorn@gannett.com  
419-307-4892  
Twitter: @MatthewHornNH  
Instagram: @matthewhorn



# Chumley, Hardin help Ross run to victory

**Josh Morgret**

Special to Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Talk about lightning in a bottle.

Just moments after visiting Sylvania Southview drew within a touchdown of Fremont Ross late in the third quarter Friday, Andrew Born was there to shift the momentum back.

The 5-foot-10 junior took the ensuing kickoff 97 yards, catapulting the Little Giants to a 49-21 nonleague win.

"That brought us a lot of excitement after they had just scored," Ross coach Chad Long said. "It depleted them quite a bit, we could tell. It is a huge momentum swing. He is the fastest kid on the football team and if he has a spot of daylight, he is going to run."

"Once he got through that first little pile, we knew he was gone."

Born shifted his way and broke through a line of defenders and was off to the races to put Ross (1-1) ahead 35-21 with 1:28 left in the third quarter.

The next scoring drive belonged to Ross' Ethan Chumley. After just two rushes for two yards in the first half, Chumley picked up first downs with runs of 11, 17 and 17 yards.

He capped the drive with a rumble from a yard out. Alec Slemmer added one of his seven extra points for a 42-21 lead.

Ross' Dontrez Brown blocked a punt recovered by Carson Brandon. Chumley slammed the door on the Cougars (1-1) with a 15-yard scoring run.

"We did not play well in the second half and a couple of things did not go our way," Southview coach Jim Mayzes said. "Ross was more physical than us in the fourth quarter."

The Little Giants jumped on Southview early as Noah Hotz took the opening carry and scampered 42 yards to the 12-yard line. Four plays later, Garrett Schneider rumbled in from a yard away.

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## Ross

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Southview responded with a touchdown but Hayden Lehmann found Ben Mosser behind the defense for a 32-yard score. Ross increased the lead to 21-7 in the second quarter when Deryante Hardin broke free for a 49-yard touchdown.

It led 21-14 at the half.

"Our defense played well," Long said. "We had to make adjustments. Credit goes to the Southview coaching staff. They came in with a nice game plan and did things we did not see on film."

Bryce McKinstry recovered a fumbled punt and caught a 10-yard touchdown from Lehmann eight plays later on fourth-and-goal. The Little Giants led 28-14 with 4:04 left in the third quarter.

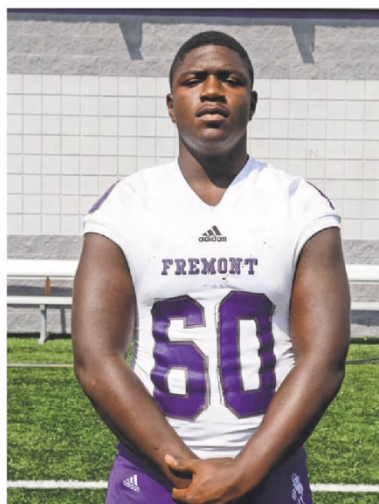
Hardin ran 16 times for 98 yards while Chumley had 11 carries for 80 yards.

"The great thing about being team players is Deryante did his thing in the first half," Long said. "The second half was a lot of Chumley. They root each other on and they are so proud of each other."

"It's good to have two good running backs and two different styles of running backs."

The win was Ross' 650th as a program. The Little Giants responded to last week's frustrating 30-29 setback to Holland Springfield.

"It was important," Long said. "Our kids wanted this game to make a statement that last week was a life lesson. We wanted to prove that we are a great team."



**Ross' Dontrez Brown blocked a punt against Southview.**

MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER



Fremont Ross linebacker Garrett Schneider doesn't pay attention to names when Sandusky is on the schedule. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Ross wants to end its skid against Sandusky

Little Giants defense to key on RB with 11 TDs in 2 games

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Terion Stewart wasn't a name Fremont Ross linebacker Garrett Schneider was familiar with early this week.

Schneider will be happy to meet him with stops Friday as the Little Giants visit Sandusky. They will certainly be acquainted.

"Sandusky is a running team," Ross coach Chad Long said. "They'll give it to him 35 times. I don't blame them. This is the best back we're going to see all year. Two-hundred-fifteen pounds of muscle.

"He's respected all over Ohio. Our Front 7 has to dial in — at any time he can break one. We're going to see where

we're at defensively."

Stewart rushed for 303 yards and five touchdowns in a 35-7 win over Huron last week. He had 313 all-purpose yards and six touchdowns, including 193 yards on the ground, in a 48-21 win over Port Clinton to start the season.

He has scoring runs covering 94, 80, 65 and 54 yards and returned a kickoff 69 yards. He rushed for 1,212 yards and 20 touchdowns on 136 carries as a sophomore, including 100 yards on 19 tries against Ross.

"He's another player," Schneider said. "Just another ballplayer. There's nothing special about him. Hit him at the knees and do what you're taught and they all go down the same."

Schneider certainly remembers last

year's setback to the Blue Streaks. Ross led 15-10 with 45 seconds left before Keith Williams caught a 20-yard touchdown pass from Ja'Vez Alexander.

Sandusky maintained possession for the drive after its punter was roughed in the end zone. Alexander and Williams graduated as Shonsai Aaron takes over at quarterback with Tevin Stewart back at receiver.

"It's always been a big rivalry for the program," Schneider said of the 113th meeting. "Especially coming up short on last minute mistakes last year, this is one I really want to win. We made some mistakes.

"After that loss, we were looked at as a

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# Football

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disappointment by fans. The game was so hyped and we blew it ourselves.”

Ross lost two straight to Sandusky.

“I want to go out on top as a senior,” Schneider said. “Ask any alumni, this is one of the biggest weeks they played. Except Findlay. It’s Sandusky Day. It’s still a big deal to us.”

Ross rebounded from a 30-29 setback to Holland Springfield in Week 1 with a 49-21 victory over Sylvania Southview. It allowed 100 yards on 33 carries in the opener and 85 yards on 27 tries last week.

“It was a statement game in a round-about way to fans,” Long said. “We won’t let one game hold us back from our goals. It was good. Our offense moved the ball. We have good momentum.”

Dontrez Brown had three sacks the first week and blocked a punt against Southview.

“He was upset at halftime,” Long said. “No action. They ran away from him. Every time they ran to him, he made stops. If they’re running away, let’s move him in. He’ll bounce around everywhere.”



**Fremont Ross defensive coordinator Ray Long prepares for Sandusky’s powerful run game this week.**

MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

“He’s a force. There isn’t a one-on-one kid that can block him. He’s special. Better yet, he’s a great kid with an amazing work ethic.”

Schneider, Deryante Hardin and Ethan Chumley (two) each rushed for a score as the Little Giants had 292 yards on the ground last week. Bryce McKinstry has three touchdown catches from Hayden Lehmann.

“The most credit has to go to the offensive line,” Schneider said.

*mhorn@gannett.com*

*419-307-4892*

*Twitter: @MatthewHornNH*

*Instagram: @matthewchorn*

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# Chumley scores touchdown in Ross setback

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross running back Ethan Chumley scored a touchdown from five yards out in the third quarter Friday, cutting the Little Giants' deficit to Sandusky 14-6. But that was all that Ross could score as the Little Giants lost for the third straight time in the rivalry series.

Sandusky's Terion Stewart scored his second touchdown of the game from one yard as the Blue Streaks established a 14-0 advantage midway through the third quarter. Deryante Hardin returned the ensuing kickoff to Sandusky's 37-yard line and Chumley scored six plays later.

Chumley's touchdown seemed to give the Little Giants a boost, particularly after they gathered on the field prior to the extra point. Officials had to re-

store order as tension heightened with the teams coming together in the end-zone after Chumley's touchdown with 3:34 left in the third quarter.

"We had a swing going," Little Giants coach Chad Long said of momentum. "Our defense played well all night, besides that one long run (Stewart's 89-yard TD). Our defense played their butts off."

The Little Giants turned it over on downs at the 10 on their next possession and the Blue Streaks then intercepted a pass with Ross in the red zone.

"Hayden (Lehman) wasn't on his passing game," Long said. "It was over kids' heads all night long. We're usually pretty potent (on offense). Hayden was off. Not trusting things in the pocket. He picked a bad day to have an off night."

"We count on Hayden. You can't have an off night. I still felt we were able to



Josh Adkins, left, and Carson Brandon of Fremont Ross take down Sandusky's Terion Stewart. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

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# Fremont Ross

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run the ball. We ended up passing more than I'd like. We wanted to come out and run. We did have success."

Lehmann completed 14 of 32 passes for 124 yards. Chumley couldn't stay on his feet as he fell at Sandusky's 10 on first down late in the third before three straight incomplete passes.

"We'd start doing something right ...," Long said.

Chumley converted with a two-yard run to the Blue Streaks' 17 on fourth-and-1 in the fourth quarter. A pass interference penalty extended the drive on fourth down before an interception on the next play.

"We have two running backs," Long said. "One's power and one's a bouncer (Hardin). (Chumley's) north/south and runs in punishment form. He's been quietly waiting his turn and he's producing."

Stewart scored from 89 yards out in the second quarter. Ross allowed 255 yards rushing as Jason Burling missed the game with an injury.

Stewart, who has 13 touchdowns in three games, was impressed with Ross' defense.

"They played their butts off," Stewart said. "They had energy. They didn't let up anything big all game."

Ross advanced to the 23 but lost a fumble on third down at Sandusky's 35 in the first quarter.

Caleb Wood and Josh Adkins made consecutive plays behind the line of scrimmage before Sandusky missed a 39-yard field goal in the second quarter. Wood added two more sacks to help force a punt in the fourth quarter but the Little Giants turned their final possession over on downs near midfield.

Noah Hotz had seven catches for 83 yards for Ross. He helped ignite the scoring drive with a pair of receptions.

"Throw it to Noah," Long said he told Lehmann. "Throw it to our game-maker."

Ross (1-2) also lost to Holland Springfield.

"We're not frustrated," Long said. "Stay the course. You never know what can happen. I'm disappointed but I'm not giving up on these kids."

# Late 2-point conversion propels Ross

## Coach's gamble pays off for Little Giants

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross coach Chad Long was vetoed at Findlay last season when none of the coaches on his staff wanted to try for the two-point conversion after a touchdown late in regulation.

Long had the only vote Friday at home. Little Giants running back Ethan Chumley scored on fourth-and-goal from three yards out with 31 seconds left for a one-point deficit.

Hayden Lehmann then rushed up the

**"We were going for two and going for the win. This time we knew we were going for two. There was no doubt about it."**

**Chad Long**  
Fremont Ross football coach

middle for the final margin in a 43-42 victory to open play in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

"I wanted to go for two last year," Long said of Ross' 55-49 setback in triple overtime. "We were going for two and going for the win. This time we knew we were going for two. There was no doubt about it."

Ross climbed within 42-41 last season and kicked the extra point to force

overtime. It trailed that game 42-21 in the fourth quarter as well.

Ross (2-2) took possession as Findlay quarterback Tanner Rickle fumbled without being hit on second down. The Trojans' notched a first down with 2:23 left to play with a chance to run out the clock.

Jason Burling recovered the fumble

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**Ethan Chumley carries the football Friday for Fremont Ross.**  
DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT



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# Ross

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at the 45. Deryante Hardin and Chumley each caught a pass for 21 yards sandwiched around a pass interference penalty.

Chumley caught a 5-yard pass to the 3 on third down.

“Everyone knew this was a must-win,” he said. “Being a must-win brought the fight out at the end. Everybody knew the stakes. We knew we can drive it. We weren’t going to give up and it went our way at the end.”

“I had a feeling my boys would get a push. It’s almost like it was meant to be with all the momentum we had back. It was a perfect end to the story.”

Ross trailed 42-21 with 6:29 left in the fourth quarter Friday. Garrett Schneider recovered a fumble the first play after the Little Giants lost one and Bryce McKinstry caught a 42-yard touchdown pass two plays later.

Marquan Cobbins intercepted a pass for Ross and Lehmann connected with Hardin for a 28-yard touchdown and 42-35 deficit three plays later.

“When we scored we went to the sideline and (Long) asked me,” Lehmann said. “I said two. There was no one over the center and history is made.”

*mhorn@gannett.com*

*419-307-4892*

*Twitter: @MatthewHornNH*

*Instagram: @matthewchorn*



Ross receiver Noah Hotz has the trust of his teammates and coaches. PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Ross receiver Hotz ties career receptions mark

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A hot read is when a quarterback beats a blitz with a short pass.

A Hotz read is when Fremont Ross quarterback Hayden Lehmann finds senior receiver Noah Hotz over the middle. Hotz tied the program career record for receptions with a 33-yard catch Friday in the third quarter in a 43-42 victory over Findlay in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Hotz matched Paul Hershey with 67 catches. He has 21 catches for 319 yards in four games this season.

"It's a well-deserved accomplishment through hard work and dedication to the game of football," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "It couldn't happen to a better kid. Noah's just a playmaker. Everybody loves Noah. He's a team-effort guy."

"He's a special kid. He's not the fastest. He has zero touchdowns, but he gets it down there. He's our clutch third-down receiver. If we need a big play, Hayden knows to go to him in crucial situations."

Hotz is ninth all-time with 859 yards on receptions. He had seven catches for 116 yards in a loss to Holland Springfield, seven for 83 yards in a setback to Sandusky, and five for 93 yards last week.

"Noah is just a very smart player," Lehmann said. "He understands game



Hotz is an all-Ohio punter.

situations and helps me read a defense. We have a nice connection. We tell each other what we see. We click."

Hotz doesn't hear footsteps when the ball's in the air and he doesn't have alligator arms.

"Most of the time I know I'll get hit," Hotz said. "You can't think about it. You have to just catch it and get as many yards as you can. If you pop up, the momentum they thought they had goes away."

Long compares Hotz to former Kent State quarterback and New England re-

ceiver Julian Edelman. Hotz is resilient and knows when and how to alter routes.

"The ability to just get open and catch the ball," Long said. "He's fearless. He'll sacrifice his body. He doesn't care about hits. He got crunched Friday and bounced right up. He was getting destroyed over the middle."

"Understanding why we run the route concepts we do. He knows what the defense gives to break off routes when necessary and find a window. We don't have to tell him. He knows the offense in and out."

Hotz worked on running crisp routes in the offseason.

"Experience helps you know what you have to do to help," Hotz said. "If I run a good route, Hayden will get me the ball. Listening to coaches and watching film. You have to know the coverages to get a clue where the linebackers will be."

Hotz is a fourth-year starter at punter with all-Ohio credentials.

"Last year, he really stepped up his game helping on offense and defense," Long said. "He can change the game with field position and put it inside the 20. Defensively, he laid some wood along the sideline against Findlay three times."

"He's an unbelievable all-around

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**FREMONT ROSS 43,  
FINDLAY 42**

## Chumley scores final touchdown in Ross win

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross trailed Findlay by three touchdowns on four occasions Friday.

It took the lead for the first time for good on a two-point conversion run by Hayden Lehmann with 31 seconds left in a 43-42 victory to open play in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

The Trojans' Tanner Rickle rushed in from two yards out for a 42-21 lead with 6:29 remaining in the game. Ross lost a fumble before Garrett Schneider took the ball back on the next play.

Bryce McKinstry caught a 42-yard touchdown pass from Hayden Lehmann with 5:18 left. Lehmann was frustrated after the fumble but responded.

"Great players make plays," Ross coach Chad Long said. "He has an unbelievable arm. He just has to trust the system."

Marquan Cobbins followed McKinstry's second touchdown with his second interception three plays later.

Lehmann wasn't rushed as he pump faked before hitting Deryante Hardin running across the field for a 28-yard touchdown pass and 42-35 deficit with 3:54 left. Findlay notched a first down with 2:23 left with a chance to run out the clock before Rickle fumbled without being hit two plays later.

"We knew they were going to blitz," Long said. "We kept bringing routes over the middle."

Ethan Chumley capped the ensuing drive with a touchdown run on fourth-

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Ross quarterback Hayden Lehmann completed 24 of 49 passes for 375 yards and four touchdowns against Findlay. DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

# Ross

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and-goal from the 3 with 31 seconds left. Lehmann then capped the scoring with his conversion run.

"The kids keep fighting and trusting the coaching staff," Long said. "We didn't drop our heads. Our kids have been in so many close games. At some point things have to go our way. Our kids work their butts off and it's great they made Fremont proud."

Long suggested the Little Giants might have received assistance after the team from 1983 was recognized before the game. It's the only group to win a post-season game in program history and Pete's Boys fundraiser wants to collect enough money to name the locker room at Don Paul Stadium after coach Pete Moore.

"The gods are helping us," Long said. "Trying to give us a break for once. It was a crazy game."

Ross (2-2) lost to Holland Springfield by one when Long wishes he could have run Chumley one last time. It fell 14-6 to Sandusky in Week 3.

Lehmann completed 24 of 49 passes for 375 yards and four touchdowns. He established program records with 427 yards and six scoring passes in last season's 55-49 setback in triple overtime.

Little Giants lineman Dontrez Brown told Lehmann at school it was going to be his night.

"This was the game to start doing what we do," Brown said.

Findlay (1-3) led 21-0 after several ugly breakdowns in Ross' secondary. Raleigh Weaver bobbled a touchdown catch with 5:40 left in the first half.

"We lost our entire secondary besides Noah (Hotz)," Long said. "We have to fine tune a lot of things in the secondary. We need kids who are assignment-oriented and don't break coverage."

Rickle threw for 383 yards to go with three interceptions.

The Trojans capped the first drive of the third quarter with a touchdown for a 28-7 margin. Lehmann accelerated through the line of scrimmage and raced 78 yards for a touchdown.

"It was speed option," Chumley said. "He saw an opening and took it. Hayden had a wonderful game."

Findlay finished the ensuing possession with a 15-



**Ross' Marquan Cobbins intercepted two passes against Findlay.** DOUG HISE/CORRESPONDENT

yard touchdown pass and 35-14 advantage. It took the Little Giants two plays to score as Hotz and McKinstry pulled in a pair of 33-yard passes.

Lehmann again had plenty of time before he found McKinstry in the end zone with 2:28 left in the third quarter.

"Hat's off to Findlay," Chumley said. "Findlay's a great team. It's an amazing feeling. Our backs were against the wall and we kept swinging."

*mhorn@gannett.com*

419-307-4892

Twitter: @MatthewHornNH

Instagram: @matthewchorn

# Hotz

Continued from Page 5A

player. He'll do whatever for the team. He'll be hard to replace. You don't find kids who impact all three phases like him."

Hotz and long snapper Zach Frye worked with Hershey in the offseason. Hershey, who also doubled as an elite punter at Ross, continued his special teams career at Ohio University.

"He's helped us both a lot," Hotz said. "He's helped me with fundamentals and to feel more comfortable."

Hotz doesn't care how many receptions he finishes



**Noah Hotz**

with. He wants the opportunity to catch a pass in Week 11 for the Little Giants (2-2).

"It's just cool to think about with all the people who went through Ross," Hotz said of the record. "From a future perspective, it would be cool to look back and say I have the most catches in history."

"Right now, I'm not focused on it. I'm focused on each game and hopefully making the playoffs."

*mhorn@gannett.com*

419-307-4892

Twitter: @MatthewHornNH

Instagram: @matthewchorn



## GAME CHANGER



Fremont Ross coach Chad Long likes having junior lineman Jason Burling, right, on the field. Burling made several big plays on defense in his return from injury against Findlay. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Little Giants thrilled to have Burling on line

Matthew Horn Fremont News Messenger | USA TODAY NETWORK

**F**remont Ross junior defensive lineman Jason Burling was in the right spot to collect a fumble Friday from Findlay quarterback Tanner Rickle in a 43-42 victory in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. ■ Little Giants coach Chad Long expects Burling to create his own good fortune. ■ “He reminds me of Shawn New-some,” Long said of last year’s senior. “Always around making plays and getting turnovers.”

Burling was missed in a 14-6 setback to run-heavy Sandusky in Week 3 because of a knee injury suffered in a win over Sylvania Southview. He watched practice last week before walking onto the field Thursday with the requisite doctor’s signature needed for clearance.

The Little Giants (2-2) were excited, although they knew Long typically doesn’t allow two missed practices the week of a game.

“The kids wanted him to play,” Long said. “They didn’t have to twist Long’s arm, but the plan was for Burling to play sparingly. Potentially in an emergency situation only.”

“We needed him so we put him in,” Long said. “He’s a game changer. How well and how easy he was able to penetrate and get in the backfield ... I’m a firm believer that if we had Jason versus Sandusky he would have caused havoc.”

**“How well and how easy he was able to penetrate and get in the backfield ... I’m a firm believer that if we had Jason versus Sandusky he would have caused havoc.”**

**Chad Long**  
Fremont Ross football coach

“We know what he can do. He’s so explosive off the ball.”

Burling had a sack to help force a punt in the second quarter and another on the final play of the game near mid-field. He had a tackle for a loss before Marquan Cobbins’ interception in the fourth quarter.



**Burling**

“My knee felt really good,” said Burling, admitting the opponent and must-win vibe were factors in his vigor. “I had to make my comeback and move forward.”

Opponents often try to run plays where Ross lineman Dontrez Brown isn’t. They don’t want to see Burling, who started as a sophomore, in the vicinity either.

“Explosiveness up the middle,” Long said. “He brings a lot to the table. Put him in 3-tech and Dontrez can move to end. With those two, we can play with the defensive line. That’s two tough kids to stop.”

“Burling can slide over. The whole defensive line can play all four positions.”

Fighting the clock, Burling pounced when Rickle fumbled without being hit in the fourth quarter Friday. Ethan Chumley scored from three yards out on fourth-and-goal to cap the ensuing drive and quarterback Hayden Lehmann rushed for the go-ahead two-point conversion with 31 seconds left.

“It feels good,” Burling said of the win and the health of his knee.

*mhorn@gannett.com*  
419-307-4892  
Twitter: @MatthewHornNH  
Instagram: @matthewchorn

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Ross quarterback Hayden Lehmann is recognized as the Athlete of the Week. Lehmann tossed four touchdowns and ran for another against Findlay last week. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Lehmann leads Little Giants in comeback

Ross QB named Athlete of the Week with five touchdowns in 1-point win

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross coach Chad Long and quarterback Hayden Lehmann engaged in a heated exchange after Lehmann lost a fumble midway through the fourth quarter Friday.

The Little Giants (2-2) trailed by 21 points so Long couldn't have known Ross would complete its comeback in a 43-42 victory over Findlay in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. He did know how Lehmann, the News-Messenger/News Herald athlete of the week, would respond if provided an opportunity.

Caleb Wood stood a Trojans runner up on first down after Lehmann's fumble before Garrett Schneider popped the ball into the air and collected it.

"After that fumble, everybody got a little devastated," Lehmann said. "The defense struggled. I was down. As a leader, I can't do that. I have to make plays and get the team to follow for momentum."

"That's what happened. Focus on putting up points. The defense got a turnover and we started scoring. The defense came together."

Bryce McKinstry caught his second touchdown pass from 42 yards two plays after Schneider's strip.

"I have complete trust in Hayden and everybody that we could make the comeback," receiver Noah Hotz said. "Our offense is really good. The defense got off to a slow start. We showed what we could do at the end."

"It didn't surprise me because I have that trust in the team that we're capable of doing that."

Marquan Cobbins intercepted his second pass three plays after McKinstry's touchdown. Findlay lost another fumble two plays after collecting a big first down with 2:23 left.

"We got another turnover and the whole stadium wanted us to finish the comeback, not like last year," Lehmann said of a 55-49 setback to Findlay in triple overtime, in which the Little Giants erased the same 42-21 fourth-quarter

See LEHMANN, Page 2B

# Lehmann

Continued from Page 1B

deficit but kicked an extra point.

"We just went down the field. Maintain composure and act like you've been there. We can't give up more games. We want to go to the playoffs."

Lehmann actually took a 10-yard loss on first down to start the next drive. He responded with completions to Deryante Hardin and Ethan Chumley to advance to the 8.

"I knew it was going to happen," Long said of the final drive. "He's a competitive kid. He's an athlete. You have to make him mad to get what you need and he came through."

Lehmann ran toward the line of scrimmage but shoveled to Chumley for five more yards. Chumley ran in from three yards out on fourth-and-goal with 31 seconds left and Lehmann capped the scoring with a two-point conversion.

"I'm proud of the way he performed after I chewed him out," Long said. "That's when you know you have a good quarterback. Do you do that all the time? No. At that moment it needed to be done."

"Sometimes you have to get into him to get the best out of him. It doesn't matter who you are."

Lehmann completed 24 of 49 passes for 375 yards and four touchdowns last week. He added a 78-yard scoring run.

The 49 attempts established a single-game school record.

"He was able to utilize his feet," Long said. "We preached to sit in the pocket and set his feet to throw. Take a hit. For the most part, he did that. When he had to roll out with their blitz he was able to hit Bryce for two long touchdown passes."

In addition to Friday's in-game adversity, Lehmann struggled in his previous two starts. He completed 14 of 32 passes for 124 yards with an interception in a 14-6 setback to Sandusky.

Lehmann had a focused week at practice.

"Staying in the pocket, getting used to pressure in my face," he said. "I have a tendency to leave the pocket. When they blitz, they leave space and I can see that in the pocket. If you take a hit you can make a big play."

"I should have never played a game like (Sandusky). I wasn't expecting that. Everybody has a bad game. I knew I couldn't do that again."

Lehmann was more comfortable Friday.

"Against Sandusky, he overthrew targets and just wasn't on for some reason," Long said. "He missed open kids. It's not typically what we get. I don't know if he felt the pressure or not. He just didn't perform."

"We go as far as Hayden takes us. Hayden knows he played bad. I didn't have to say it. You can't beat a kid when he's down. I knew he could take the (outside) criticism and perform."

And Long was the first to greet Lehmann along the sideline Friday when he started making plays after the fumble. He's gotten used to it.

Lehmann's 3,277 career passing yards and 231 completions are fourth all-time for the program. He has 918 passing yards and eight touchdowns this season.

He knows the plays better this season, but has a tendency to give up on them too quickly.

"Last year, Hayden trusted the pocket and took the hit," Long said. "This year, he has happy feet. His knowledge is way better. He knows the offense in and out. He knows the offense well enough to make calls based on what the defense gives us."

Long wants him to trust the system.

"Trust what we're trying to do for him and protect the football," Long said. "Don't force it and let players make plays. He needs to get better reading the defense and don't lock in on kids. He's getting it, but not all the time."

Long will remind him of both.

*mhorn@gannett.com*

419-307-4892

Twitter: @MatthewHornNH



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## WEEK 5 PREVIEW

# Ross off big win will host angry St. John's

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross kicked a field goal midway through the fourth quarter for the go-ahead points in a 23-20 victory over Toledo St. John's Jesuit in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference last season.

"We beat them (four of the last five) years and they're probably a little (angry) losing to Whitmer in that fashion," Little Giants coach Chad Long said of St. John's setback last week.

Unbeaten Genoa, ranked first in Division V, plays host to Otsego. The Knights came back to beat the Comets in the fourth quarter last season.

### Friday's games

#### Toledo St. John's Jesuit (2-2, 0-1) at Ross (2-2, 1-0)

Hayden Lehmann threw for 375 yards and four touchdowns and ran in from 78 yards out in last week's 43-42 victory over Findlay. Lehmann scored the go-ahead point with a two-point conversion with 31 seconds left after Ethan Chumley scored from three yards out on fourth-and-goal. Bryce McKinstry caught six passes for 122 yards and two touchdowns. Deryante Hardin had eight catches for 77 yards and a score and Noah Hotz had five catches for 93 yards. Raleigh Weaver caught a touchdown pass. Ross trailed by 21 points on

four occasions but outscored Findlay 22-7 in the fourth quarter. Ross forced five turnovers, including two interceptions for Marquan Cobbins and allowed 481 yards, including 134 yards on 47 carries. Sophomore Braydon Lichtenberg tossed two touchdown passes to Dmitri Mitsopoulos and one to Jack Ryder and rushed for a score in last week's 43-39 setback to Whitmer. Lichtenberg completed 29 of 42 passes for 372 yards. Carson Toth scored from 43 yards out. Whitmer scored with 19 seconds left. The Trojans outgained Whitmer 462 yards to 354. St. John's coach Larry McDaniel returns after a one-game suspension for being ejected the previous week.

#### Clyde (2-2) at Port Clinton (2-2)

Braydi Clark rushed for two scores and Carson Rieman caught a touchdown pass in Clyde's 49-3 victory last season. Clark had 130 yards and four scores in the Fliers' 43-14 win over Bowsher last week. Gunner Golden rushed 12 times for 86 yards and Cam Farrar scored once on the ground. Ryan Lozier completed 10 of 12 passes for 97 yards, including a touchdown to Evan Patynko. The Fliers had 409 yards of offense. Jared Flewelling and Adam Koviak each intercepted a pass. Clyde allowed 59 yards on 26 carries and 158 yards overall. Cooper Stine rushed for

See PREVIEW, Page 2B

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# Little Giants fall to St. John's in overtime

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross found itself in a rather envious position Friday.

Until St. John's Jesuit defensive back Dmitri Mitsopoulos intercepted a pass in the end zone on first down to complete the Little Giants 31-28 setback in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

The Trojans (3-2, 1-1) kicked a 25-yard field goal to cap the first overtime possession. Ross needed to score a touchdown with possession from the 20 to win the game.

"I thought that was a fumble but we had a chance to score a touchdown," Little Giants coach Chad Long said of the third-down play before the field goal, when Ross thought it stripped and recovered a fumble.

"I'm not blaming the refs. We had our opportunity to score and the game is over. We had our chances. We have to execute and finish. We had opportunities. That's all you can ask for."

Ross linebacker Caleb Wood stopped Carson Toth for a one-yard loss on fourth-and-1 from the Little Giants' 31. Ross took possession with 1:48 left and Hayden Lehmann connected with Noah Hotz for 28 yards.

Lehmann found Deryante Hardin for 13 yards on the next play. Hotz established a single-game program record with 12 catches and Hardin tied the old mark with 11.

Hotz had 123 yards receiving and Hardin 89 as Lehmann completed 28 of 45 passes for 311 yards.

"You've got Bryce (McKinstry)," Long said. "You've got Noah. You've got Deryante. We couldn't establish the run. We have to take what they give us."

"Deryante catching the ball out of the backfield is just like a run and I don't remember Noah dropping a ball. We've got weapons."

Lehmann rushed for 15 yards after Hardin's catch before taking consecutive sacks and throwing an incomplete pass. His pass to the end zone on fourth-and-24 from the 27 with 14 seconds left

was deflected by a defensive back into the arms of Raleigh Weaver.

Lehmann again scrambled to find Hardin with a high pass in the end zone for the two-point conversion and 28-28 tie.

Wood caught a seven-yard pass on fourth-and-4 from the St. John's 44 to extend a scoring drive early in the fourth quarter. McKinstry caught a pass for 32 yards and Hardin grabbed a five-yard touchdown pass on third down for a 28-20 deficit with 7:20 left.

Hardin opened the scoring with a 17-yard touchdown catch. Hotz had his 68th career reception on Ross' first offensive snap to establish a career program record and finished with 79.

Hardin caught a 10-yard pass on fourth-and-9 from the 28. He recovered a fumble and dove into the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 1 for a 14-7 advantage late in the first quarter.

St. John's scored the next three touchdowns, including a fumble re-

See ROSS, Page 8A



**Ross running back Deryante Hardin caught two touchdown passes and rushed for a score against St. John's.**

MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Continued from Page 7A

turned for a touchdown. It also took advantage of a muffed punt and led 28-14 with 4:15 left in the third quarter.

"The start to the second half," Long said. "They scoop and score. It doesn't usually happen where Noah fumbles. Our kids didn't give up."

Mitsopoulos had two touchdown catches from Braydon Lichtenberg, who added a score on the ground.

Ross (2-3, 1-1) lost three games by 12 points. The Little Giants erased a 21-point fourth-quarter deficit in a 43-42 victory over Findlay last week.

"We have not played a complete game yet this year and it's frustrating," Long said. "We have to eliminate big plays on defense and score when we have the opportunity. We're allowing teams to stay in the game and relying on making those magical plays."

"You can't keep doing that."

**Lima Senior (1-4, 0-2) at Ross (2-3, 1-1)**

Ross' three losses are by a combined 12 points and it beat Findlay with a two-point conversion in the final minute. Hayden Lehmann connected with Bryce McKinstry for the go-ahead touchdown with 21 seconds left in Ross' 28-24 victory over Lima Senior last season. Lehmann completed 14 of 27 passes for 323 yards, including two touchdowns and 66 yards on three catches for McKinstry. Noah Hotz had four catches for 96 yards. Hotz had 12 catches for 123 yards and Deryante Hardin 11 for 89 and two touchdowns as Lehmann completed 28 of 45 passes for 311 yards in Ross' 31-28 setback to Toledo St. John's Jesuit in overtime last week.

Hotz needed one catch to establish a program record for his career and finished with a single-game record 12 for 79 overall. Hotz is third all-time for career receiving yards with 1,082. Hardin tied the old single-game mark at 11. The Little Giants erased a 28-14 fourth quarter deficit. Ross had 58 yards on 26 carries as Hardin rushed for a score. Raleigh Weaver caught a touchdown. The Little Giants allowed 34 yards on 27 carries. St. John's scored a touchdown on defense. Jaleel King recovered a fumble in the end zone in the fourth quarter for Lima Senior's only touchdown in a 41-7 setback to Toledo Whitmer last week. The Spartans had 85 yards of offense.

# Ross shut out by Central Catholic

## **From Staff Reports**

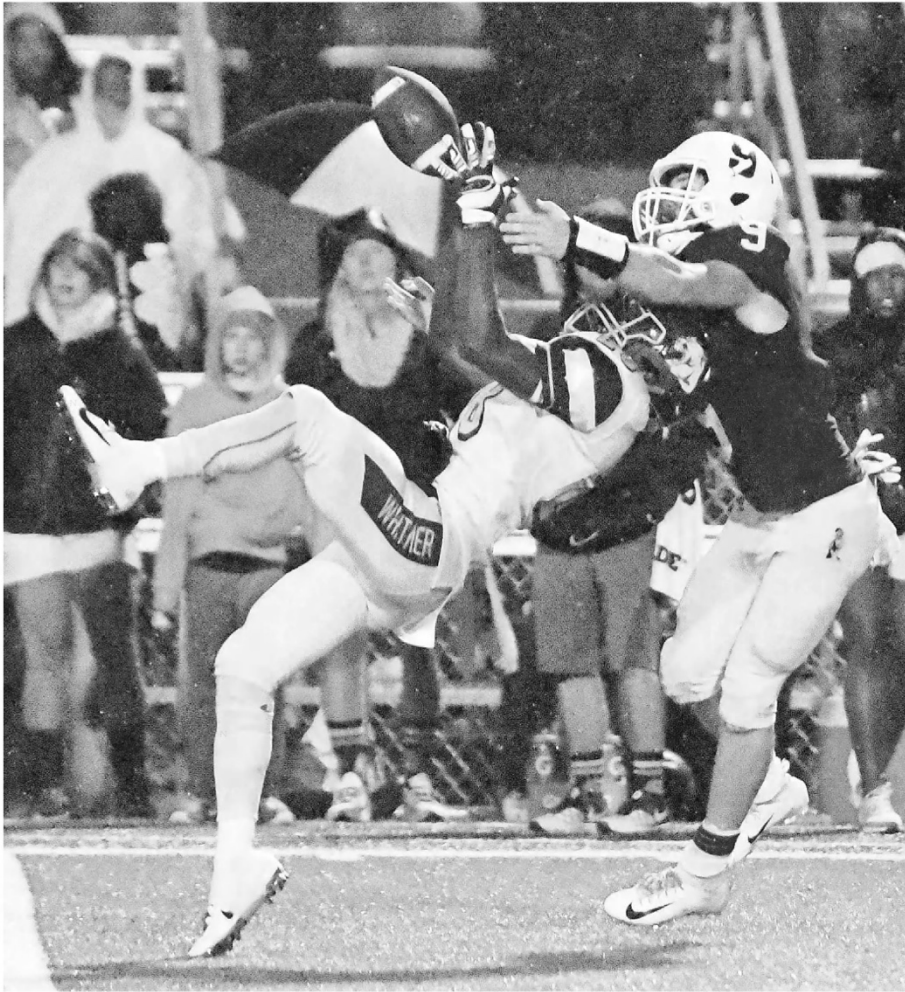
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

## **Toledo Central Catholic 49, Fremont Ross 0**

Central Catholic, which is ranked second in Division II, scored two defensive touchdowns, including a 99-yard interception return, and led 28-0 at the half.

Ross allowed only 68 yards of offense in the first half. The Little Giants turned the ball over five times and had 33 yards of offense overall.

Noah Hotz and Bryce McKinstry didn't play for Ross (3-4, 2-2).



Fremont Ross' Noah Hotz tries to make a play Friday at Whitmer. MOLLY CORFMAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

# Fremont Ross falls to Whitmer on road

## From Staff Reports

Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

### Toledo Whitmer 28, Fremont Ross 7

Hayden Lehmann rushed for a touchdown for Ross.

The Little Giants (3-5, 2-3) trailed 7-0 at the half as Caven Butler scored a touchdown on defense.

Ross allowed 92 yards on 39 carries and only 2 of 14 conversions on third down. Whitmer completed 11 of 20 passes for 201 yards and two touchdowns despite wet conditions.

Ross had 109 yards of offense, including minus-13 rushing. Lehmann completed 18 of 34 passes for 122 yards.

ing Carson Ehrhardt's 85-yard touchdown run.

Oak Harbor led 10-0 at the half and 10-7 after three quarters. The Rockets had 348 yards of offense.

### Genoa 51, Rossford 7

Daniel Novotney rushed for 217 yards and four touchdowns, including one from 39 yards out as top-ranked Genoa remained unbeaten.

Jacob Plantz rushed for one score, tossed a 31-yard touchdown to Ray Gomez and intercepted his seventh pass of the season for the Comets. Plantz completed 3 of 7 passes for 45 yards and hasn't thrown an interception.

Jacob Bradfield rushed six times for 53 yards and a score and returned two kickoffs for 74 yards. Gomez rushed

son Streaks (4-4, 2-3) had 320 yards of offense, including 220 yards and two touchdowns on 54 carries.

Lakota (3-5, 1-4) had 163 yards of offense, including 134 for Trevor Franks. Franks had 100 yards on 23 tries and 34 yards on three catches, as well as 50 yards on returns.

### Tiffin Columbian 38, Bellevue 6

Derek Raifsnider caught a touchdown pass from Keegan Ray for Bellevue.

The Redmen (2-6, 0-3) trailed 24-0 at the half.

### Eastwood 42, Woodmore 7

Nate Filgor rushed for a touchdown for Woodmore.



## FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

# Chumley, McKinstry help Ross top Clay

### From Staff Reports

Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

#### Fremont Ross 42, Oregon Clay 29

Ethan Chumley rushed for a touchdown to tie the game and scored another as Ross took the lead for good.

Chumley had 105 yards on 19 tries. The Little Giants (4-5, 3-3) had 385 yards of offense, including 208 on the ground.

Bryce McKinstry caught two touchdowns from Hayden Lehmann. Lehmann, who rushed for two scores, completed 18 of 26 passes for 177 yards, including eight for 108 yards for McKinstry.

Clay had 165 yards of offense, including minus-39 on 19 carries. Garrett Schneider intercepted a pass.

The game was tied 29-29 after three quarters. Ross led 23-14 at the half.

#### Port Clinton 12, Huron 7

Cooper Stine scored from four yards out for a 12-0 advantage Friday with 4:17 left in the third quarter for Port Clinton.

The Redskins' Hunter Nolan returned an interception 43 yards for a score in the second quarter.

Port Clinton (6-3, 3-0) plays at Oak Harbor (8-1, 3-0) next week for the outright Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division crown.

#### Gibsonburg 6, St. Joseph Central Catholic 2

Jesse Arriaga caught a five-yard touchdown pass from Addison Weaver with 7:02 left in the game for Gibsonburg.

SJCC (4-5, 2-4) notched a safety as a snap sailed over the punter's head in the third quarter.

Weaver rushed 12 times for 46 yards and completed 5 of 8 passes for 71 yards. Brad Mendoza was held to 11



Cooper Stine rushed for a touchdown in the second half in Port Clinton's win over Huron. MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

See ROUNDUP, Page 7A

# Ross' Long hopes Hotz adds to receiving legacy

**Matthew Horn** Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

You'll need at least 92 catches to reach Noah Hotz's career record for receptions at Fremont Ross.

Hotz needs 88 yards Friday to match Terence Davis' career mark for yards as well as 1,340 as the Little Giants visit Toledo St. Francis. Hotz has 50 catches for 607 yards and one touchdown this season.

"That's something I'd really like for him to achieve," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "He's a great kid. He's a great student-athlete. He's been everything to Fremont Ross football."

Hotz is also a defensive back, returns kicks and punts at an all-Ohio level.

He's quick and shifty after the catch, particularly in the middle of the field between the 20s, but surprisingly has only

three touchdown catches in his career. He takes his share of big hits.

"He doesn't complain," Long said. "He always gets caught. He has to score from 50 yards out."

Quarterback Hayden Lehmann's 4,063 career passing yards are third in program history. Aaron Opelt is second at 4,521.

The old record for receptions was 67.

## Friday's game

**Ross (4-5, 3-3) at St. Francis (4-5, 2-4)**

Lehmann rushed for a touchdown in Ross' 21-7 setback last season. Lehmann completed 11 of 32 passes for 161 yards. The Little Giants dropped from eighth to ninth in their region.

St. Francis had 200 yards on the ground. Ethan Chumley and Lehmann

rushed for two scores apiece in Ross' 42-29 victory over Oregon Clay last week. Chumley had 105 yards on 19 carries and Lehmann completed 18 of 26 passes for 177 yards, including eight catches for 105 yards and two scores for Bryce McKinstry.

Ross had 208 yards on the ground and allowed minus-39 on 19 tries. TRAC leading rusher Malachi Wyse had 209 yards and three touchdowns on 28 carries, including a 75-yard scoring run in St. Francis' 42-35 loss to Toledo Whitmer last week. He has 1,424 yards on the ground. Jakiel Wells added two touchdowns runs. Lehmann completed 156 of 282 passes for 1,823 yards and 18 touchdowns this season. Chumley has seven touchdowns on the ground and Deryante Hardin has five scoring receptions and three rushing. McKinstry has eight touchdown catches.



**Ross receiver Noah Hotz has 50 catches for 607 yards this season.**  
MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

## Fremont Ross 26, Toledo St. Francis 14

Bryce McKinstry had two touchdown catches in the fourth quarter to establish a program record and Ethan Chumley rushed for two scores as Ross won the Three Rivers Athletic Conference matchup.

McKinstry had five catches for 74 yards, despite a cast on his wrist. He caught four touchdowns the last two weeks and a Ross record 10 for the season.

# Hotz headlines Ross' first-team all-TRAC selections

**From Staff Reports**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross senior Noah Hotz earned first-team all-Three Rivers Athletic Conference status at punter and was second-team at receiver and defensive back.

Hotz, who twice earned honorable mention all-Ohio, pinned 15 punts inside the 20. His 95 career catches are a program record by 38 and he finished second all-time in yards at 1,273.

Junior defensive lineman Dontrez Brown was first-team with 69 tackles, a conference-high 15.5 sacks and 27.5 tackles for a loss. He blocked three punts.

Senior linebackers Garrett Schneider and Caleb Wood were first-team. Schneider had 109 tackles and 13 tackles for a loss and Wood had 97 tackles, 13 tackles for a loss and five sacks.

Junior return specialist Andrew Born was first team. Senior running back Ethan Chumley, senior quarterback Hayden Lehmann, and junior defensive lineman Jason Burling were second-team.



**Fremont Ross senior Noah Hotz was first-team all-TRAC at punter and second-team at receiver and defensive back.**

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Lehmann had 1,921 yards passing and 20 touchdowns. His 4,158 career passing yards are third all-time in program history.

Senior receiver Bryce McKinstry and senior offensive lineman Mike Thomas were also second-team for the Little Giants. McKinstry had a single-season pro-



**Fremont Ross junior lineman Dontrez Brown was first-team all-TRAC on defense.**

gram record 10 touchdown catches, despite finishing the campaign with a cast on his wrist.

Ross' Josh Adkins, Carson Brandon, Charles Chapman, Marquan Cobbins, Seth Harder, Nick Mayle, Alec Slemmer and Raleigh Weaver were honorable mention.



**Fremont Ross senior Garrett Schneider was first-team all-TRAC at linebacker.**

Toledo St. John's sophomore quarterback Brody Lichtenberg and Toledo St. Francis senior running back Malachi Wyse earned co-player of the year status on offense. Toledo Whitmer end Caven Butler was defensive player of the year.

Toledo Central Catholic's Greg Dempsey was coach of the year.





Dontrez Brown (60) makes a tackle against Whitmer on Oct. 12. The Ross junior earned all-state defensive lineman honors. PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

# Coaches proud of the way Brown represents Ross

Junior with first-team honors set to be a defensive cornerstone

Matthew Horn Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Look at me when I'm tackling you. Fremont Ross junior first-team all-Ohio defensive lineman Dontrez Brown would rather ballcarriers see it coming.

It's more a violent collision and less an obliteration. That doesn't mean Brown was sympathetic either after any of his Three Rivers Athletic Conference-leading 15.5 sacks.

"My favorite thing is when he doesn't know I'm chasing him and I get him," Brown said. "He doesn't know it and I hit him harder. I'd rather face the run."

"I can hit harder with him coming at me and me at him. Maybe I can get a fumble. Chasing is fun, but you don't hit them as hard."

But while stuffing a running back can indeed be exhilarating, there are few feelings like collecting a sack.

"I feel great," Brown said of the occasions. "The coaches and my teammates were counting on me for a sack on third down or to stop the back. I'm feeling good contributing."

"Sacking is great. I like it. It makes me ecstatic with the crowd into it and getting a stop."

Brown sent an immediate reminder



Brown is part of a strong returning Little Giants defensive line next year.

this year he relentlessly hunts two things: quarterbacks and greatness.

"He totally destroyed Springfield's quarterback with a blindside hit from behind," Ross coach Chad Long said of Week 1. "I can't believe he got up. He made his presence known in Game 1 in northwest Ohio."

Brown had three sacks in the game.

"That was fun," he said.

## Teams know Brown disruptive

Opponents regularly run plays to the opposite side of the field from Brown. He tracks the ball down regardless.

"My job is to keep contain and don't let anybody outside," Brown said. "Pass

"The goal right now is to be better than 5-5 and play Division I football at the next level. I want to be a leader as a senior and lead the pack the way I should. I want to make the playoffs."

Dontrez Brown  
Fremont Ross junior, 2018 first-team all-Ohio defensive lineman

rush and put pressure on the quarterback every time."

There's no such thing as good enough.

"He can always get better with his hands," Long said. "Once he gets his hands like Jason Burling's, he'll be something. He will. (Burling's) undersized but extremely fast off the ball and is absolutely flawless using his hands."

Brown isn't alone as Ross returns a potent line overall. Burling, Nick Mayle and Carson Brandon are also juniors.

"They will be the cornerstone of our defense," Long said. "As a whole, our D-line will once again be a force to reckon with next year for all running backs and quarterbacks."

No offensive line wants to be tasked with stopping Brown and Burling. Brown prefers the double-teams be for

See BROWN, Page 28

# Brown

Continued from Page 1B

Burling.

"I'm not going to lie, I have to work on it," Brown said. "I don't like double-teams. If they put me in a double-team, I'll keep fighting. Jason is more aggressive. I might be a little stronger.

"What I didn't do last year — I wasn't low enough. I stood up high. I need to fix that. I need to get quicker and more vocal. Those are ways I can improve."

As much as Brown loves to hit, he wants his intensity to be more consistent.

"If coaches yell, I play hard," he said. "I need to do that every down and get that meanness and aggressiveness to get through those double-teams."

## Many strengths

Brown possesses size, strength and explosiveness, to go with determination.

"He'll sacrifice his body for the team," Long said. "He has integrity. He has an unbelievable work ethic. Those are the intangibles you want out of a player and it's what you get out of Don-trez.

"He does everything the right way so you can say you're proud he plays Ross football."

All-state recognition feels even better than catching a quarterback. Brown would like to do more of all of it.

"It makes me want to get better," Brown said. "I can't wait to get in the weight room to get better. I have to improve every year. It pushes me tremendously. I'm humble.

"I feel good about the honors but I can get more. It feels good, but I have to remember to stay focused."

Brown, a three-year starter who was part of the team's leadership corps as a junior, most wants to help the Little Giants improve and continue his career. Cincinnati and Toledo are among those to express interest.

"The goal right now is to be better than 5-5 and play Division I football at the next level," Brown said. "I want to be a leader as a senior and lead the pack the way I should. I want to make the play-offs."

A football seed was planted when Brown moved to Fremont.

"My dad (Tommy) put me in sports in sixth grade," Brown said. "He taught me to work hard and I want to be better and push harder."

Brown gained 30 pounds to 269 last offseason.

"The expectations can be even higher because I know he works so hard," Long said. "We'll push him to do even better. Show that you're not running on that side, no matter what it takes.

"I want to see a kid dominate from Play 1 to the end. He'll continue to work hard. I can't imagine what we'll see."

*mhorn@gannett.com*

*419-307-4892*

*Twitter: @MatthewHornNH*

*Instagram: @matthewchorn*

