

Ross opens season with victory

BY MASON LOWRY

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Fremont Ross golf coach Jim Scharer knows his team's competition will be much stronger as the season goes on.

But that takes nothing away from the Little Giants' season-opening tournament victory as they fired a stellar 307 to win by 39 strokes at the Golden Bear Invitational at Sycamore Hills Golf Club on Monday.

"Whenever you can win, it's a good thing," Scharer said. "And

when you win in the beginning of a season, it helps build confidence to carry forward."

Ross junior Brandon Hoelzer carded a 1-over 71 to take medalist honors.

"My putter was working well," Hoelzer said. "The greens were slow, so I left a few putts short, but I still made a lot of birdies.

"I tried to look at this as more of a fun round than anything else."

Hoelzer received quite a bit of help from fellow juniors Clay Schwartz and Ian Mowry, and

freshman Albert Baumann, who shot a 73, 80 and 83, respectively.

"It's nice to have cushion like that," Hoelzer said.

Scharer said his top four is capable of shooting in the mid-70s.

"That is a really nice feeling," he said.

Austin Schafer shot an 83 as host Gibsonburg carded a 353 for third place.

"For a first tournament of the season, I'm very pleased," Gibsonburg coach Sam Weigman said. "It was great to see all five

of our guys shoot so close together. This was a great starting point for us. But as I just told our seniors, we need to keep working and continue to build.

"We had a couple players who looked nervous because they bogeyed or double bogeyed early. We told them that it was in the past and to move on, and they bounced back pretty well."

In all, nine schools participated in the tournament. Lakota was eighth with a 437 while Danbury brought only three players.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

ROSS AT MAUMEE

PANTHER INVITATIONAL

Second banner day for Little Giants

BY MIKE BAUMAN

News-Messenger correspondent

TOLEDO — One day after winning the Golden Bear Invitational, the Fremont Ross boys golf team took second Tuesday at the 20-team Maumee Panther Invitational at Heather Downs Country Club.

The Little Giants finished with a team score of 309 — just one stroke shy of Ottawa Hills (308) and five strokes ahead of third-place Central Catholic (314).

“We would like to be right around 300-310,” Ross coach Jim Scharer said. “That would be a really nice score for us on a consistent basis.”

Individually, the Little Giants placed two golfers in the top five.

Juniors Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz came in tied for third with a three-over-par 74. Hoelzer won the tiebreaker for third place. Ben Silverman of Ottawa Hills fired a 72 to take first place.

“The thing I’m most happy about is the fact that I have two years with all these kids because there’s no seniors,” Scharer said. “We have a very, very solid group of juniors that I think are really good players. They really hit the ball well.”

Also competing for Ross in the invitational were freshman Albert Baumann, junior Ian Mowry and sophomores Michael Hall and Scott Kosakowski. Baumann shot an eight-over par 79, and Mowry finished with an 11-over par 82. Hall and Kosakowski shot 96 and 102, respectively.

From what Scharer has seen so far, there is definitely a good foundation for the Little Giants to build on as the season progresses.

“This is a game where they have to work at it on their own, too,” Scharer said. “Like anything else, it’s what you do in the offseason that makes the difference, and these kids are very committed to this.”

“They’ve been in a lot of tournaments, they prepared themselves well and hopefully it will pay off for them.”

Ross is in action again today, visiting Valleywood Golf Club in Swanton for the Bulldog Invitational.

High School Sports

BOYS GOLF

FREMONT ROSS GOLF INVITATIONAL

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Ottawa Hills, 328; 2. Fremont Ross, 332; 3. Lexington, 336; 4. Findlay 340; 5. Gibsonburg 375.

■ **Ross:** Brandon Hoelzer 78, Clay Schwartz 80, Ian Mowry 84, Michael Hall 90.

ROUNDUP^N

Ross golfers shoot 300, finish third

News-Messenger reports

Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz each carded a 72 as Fremont Ross's boys golf team finished four strokes back of St. Francis at 300 and fell to Anthony Wayne in a fifth-man tiebreaker Wednesday.

Ian Mowry and Albert Baumann each fired a 78 for the Little Giants.

Sweet 16 hitting top score

Ross wins, but SJCC's Dudley gets perfect gift

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Connor Dudley received the perfect gift for his birthday on Thursday.

And it wasn't the typical gift a 16-year-old might want.

All the St. Joseph Central Catholic sophomore wanted was to play golf with his teammates and friends from Fremont Ross.

"This is exactly what I'd want to be doing on my birthday," Dudley said. "Playing golf with my friends. It was a lot of fun today, and it helped that I played as well as I did."

Dudley tied his best round, shooting a 2-under 69 to earn top medalist honors, but SJCC lost 313-323 to the Little Giants in a match played at the Fremont Country Club.

Ross's Brandon Hoelzer led all Ross golfers carding a 74, Clay Schwartz and Ian Mowery each added a pair of 79s.

"It's always a fun time playing this match with SJCC," Hoelzer said. "It's a fun rivalry between guys like me and Connor, and it's that way down the whole team on both sides. Lots of us are friends, and we grew up playing together."

SEE ROSS | B5



Photos by Jennifer Young Bower | News-Messenger correspondent

Connor Dudley watches the ball after a swing on the fairway during a match against Fremont Ross at Fremont Country Club. Dudley earned top medalist honors with a 2-under 69.



Fremont Ross's Brandon Hoelzer hits the ball onto the green during Thursday's match. Hoelzer led his team with a 74 as the Little Giants won 313-323.

ROSS FROM B1

Hoelzer picked up four birdies in his round as he played right alongside of Dudley. The two were joined by Schwartz and SJCC's lone senior, Alex Chudzinski.

Chudzinski, who transferred from Ross in the off-season, was the Crimson Streaks' third-highest finisher, he shot an 83 to finish seventh.

"It was awesome to be out playing with all my friends again," Chudzinski said. "I was close to those guys when I played with them, and I'm just as close to them now even though I'm playing for St. Joe now."

Like the other three in the group, however, Chudzinski was chasing Dudley who seemed to meet every obstacle he faced head on.

Even a barking dog next to the tee at No. 16 couldn't break his focus.

"I played really consistent all day and hit the driver well," Dudley said. "Then my putting saved me. I made everything pretty much within 10 feet."

For Hoelzer, it was his mid-range game and play around the greens that allowed him to shoot a low score.

"My wedge game was good today," Hoelzer said. "I hit a lot of good wedge shots and made some birdie putts."

One birdie putt stuck out to the Ross junior.

"After bogeying No. 17, I came back and made a really good wedge shot from about 120 yards out to about five feet of the hole and made the putt for birdie," he said.

Others scoring for



Jennifer Young Bower | News-Messenger correspondent

St. Joseph Central Catholic's Alex Chudzinski works the ball on the green during Thursday's match with Fremont Ross. Chudzinski is the Crimson Streaks' lone senior and transferred from Ross in the offseason. He carded an 83.

"It was awesome to be out playing with all my friends again. I was close to those guys when I played with them, and I'm just as close to them now even though I'm playing for St. Joe now."

ALEX CHUDZINSKI

St. Joseph Central Catholic senior

Ross were Albert Baumann who carded an 81, Michael Hall a 99 and Scott Kosakowski who shot a 94.

"We got a pretty solid

team this year," Hoelzer said. "We just need to find some cushion with our No. 5 man."

Joe Steinle shot a 91 for the Crimson

Streaks, Aaron Stiab a 94, Brett Michael an 80 and Aaron Burns a 104.

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FREMONT ROSS 162, SANDUSKY 208

Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz each shared co-medalist honors on Tuesday when Fremont Ross topped Sandusky in a Greater Buckeye Conference match played at the Fremont Country Club.

Albert Baumann shot 39, and Nate Garza had a 53.

FREMONT ROSS 171,

SANDUSKY 181

■ **Ross:** Brandon Hoelzer 39, Nate Garza
39, Albert Baumann 45, Jared Hutton 48.

GOLF

Ross 158, Marion Harding 198

Clay Schwartz was medalist for Fremont Ross, which defeated Marion Harding Tuesday at the Marion Country Club.

Schwartz fired a 37 for the Little Giants. Brandon Hoelzer and Albert Baumann both shot 40, and Scott Kosakowski chipped in with a 41.

Ross 149, Bowling Green 170 (Monday)

Co-medalists Clay Schwartz and Ian Mowry each carded a 36 as Fremont Ross beat Bowling Green on Monday.

Brandon Hoelzer added a 37 for the Little Giants, and Albert Baumann a 40.

BOYS GOLF

Napoleon Invitational

Fremont Ross was third at Napoleon Municipal Golf Course.

Brandon Hoelzer shot a 75, Clay Schwartz a 77, Albert Baumann an 80 and Ian Mowry an 81 for the Little Giants.

Ross has finished in the top three in six of seven invites this season with two victories, two second-place finishes and two thirds. It finished fourth in the remaining event on a fifth-man playoff.

"It has been an outstanding year thus far," Little Giants coach Jim Scharer said.

GOLF

Toledo St. Francis 151, Fremont Ross 160

The Ross golf team lost to St. Francis, 151-160, Tuesday at Fremont Country Club.

Ben Torchia led all golfers with a 35.

Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz led the Little Giants with 37, followed by Ian Mowry with 41 and Scott Kosakowski with a 45.

GOLF

Genoa Invitational

Brandon Hoelzer and Clay Schwartz both earned all-tournament team honors, shooting a pair of 76s Saturday as the Fremont Ross golf team was runner-up at the Genoa Invitational played at Chippewa Golf Course.

The Little Giants shot 314 as a group, finishing eight shots behind winner Toledo St. Francis de Sales' 306. With a team tally of 325, Clyde was third.

Ian Mowry added a 77 for Ross and Albert Baumann rounded out the scoring with an 85.