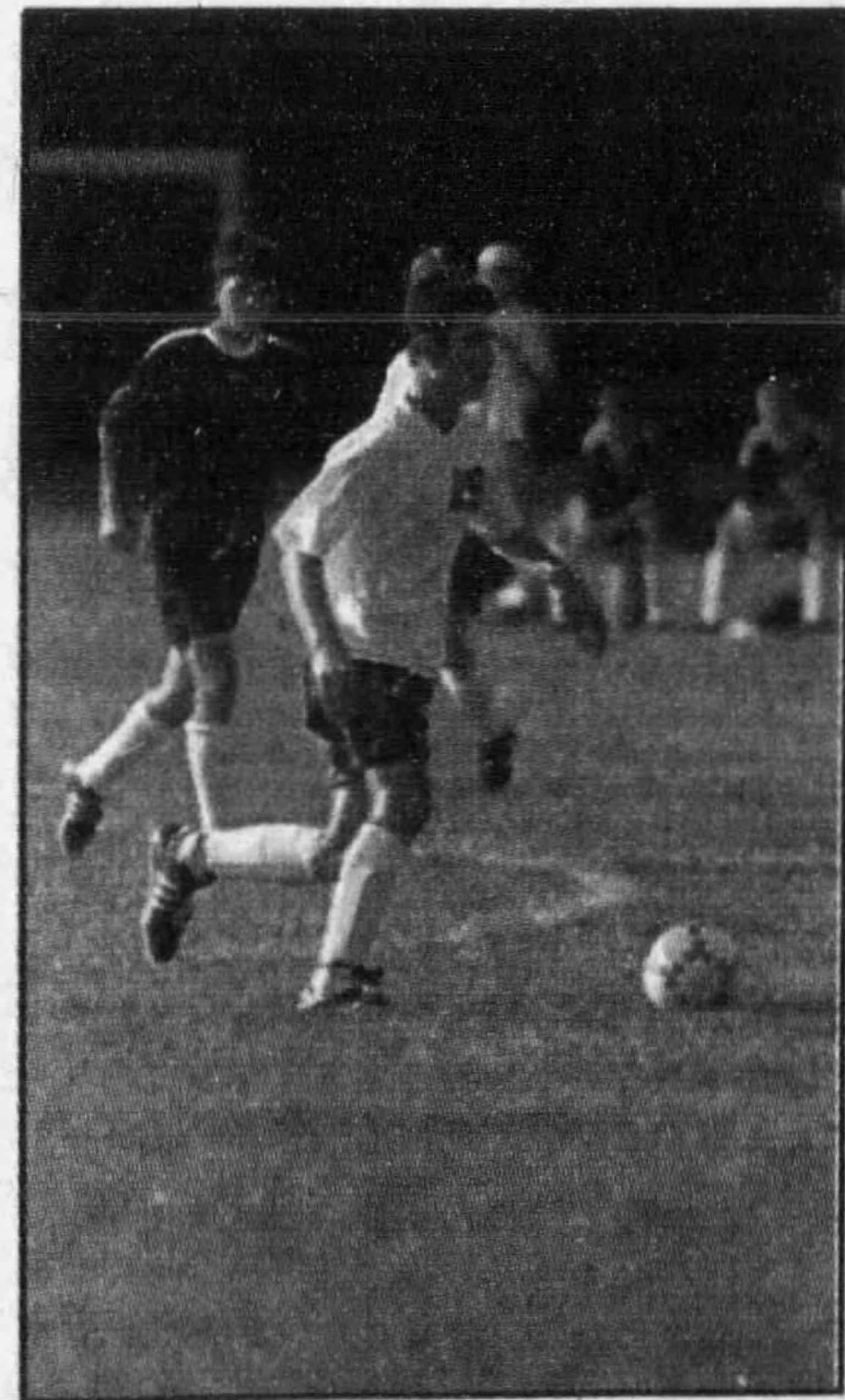




News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

COREY STERLING and the Ross soccer team begin their postseason today against Anthony Wayne.

Ross out to make a name for Fremont

By **MICHAEL BOSI**

Staff writer

Who's Fremont Ross?

The Little Giants will try to provide the high school soccer world with an answer to that question today (4:30 p.m.) when they clash with Anthony Wayne in the first round of the Northwest Division I sectional tournament at Sylvania.

"I would be disappointed if we lose (today)," said first-year coach Jeff Pendrey as his team ran through a penalty kick drill at the school Tuesday. "I feel like we should win."

Today's winner will play the winner of the Maumee/Toledo Central Catholic matchup.

After making its first postseason appearance a year ago, Ross finished 10-3-2, 6-2-2 in the Great

SOCCER

Lakes League, and is unbeaten in its last six games.

Maumee and Findlay (twice) have handed the Little Giants their losses.

"Very well, to sum it up," said Pendrey of his rookie year. "I'm pleased."

Scott White (10 goals), Corey Sterling (9) and Brian Thomson (8) will lead Ross's attack against the Generals, who sport a solid midfield corps.

"They're good," acknowledged Pendrey.

"I think we have to play our butts off to beat these guys," said Thomson. "It's going to be tough. We don't face to many teams like that in the league."

Despite its second-place finish

in the GLL, Ross is mired in soccer anonymity.

"I would like to think we're a little more respected by teams this year," said Pendrey. "Part of the problem is we show up for the sectional meeting and nobody there has heard of us. Basically, we showed up and even though our record is as good as the No. 3 seed, they're like, 'Who's Fremont?'"

After being shut out in its first two games ("At the beginning of the season I didn't think we were going to do that well," said Thomson.), Ross has become a more physical team, an edge its coaches said they feel the team will have against the Generals.

"Obviously, we just want to be in the game as soon as the whistle starts, touch on," said Pen-

How to get there

DIRECTIONS TO SOUTHVIEW

Take Route 20 West to I-75 South to I-475/Route 23 North. Get off at the Central Avenue exit and proceed west off the exit to McCord Road. Take a right on McCord and take a left onto Sylvania Avenue. Follow Sylvania for three-quarters of a mile and the school will be on the left.

drey. "Just be loose and relaxed and ready to go immediately."

If that happens, Ross will be able answer any doubts.

"I guess if we lose I want it to be acceptable," said Pendrey. "I don't want to get knocked out of the tournament with people thinking 'Who's Fremont.'"

Devastated by defeat

Ross close, but unable to score in sectional game

By **MICHAEL BOSI**
Staff writer

SYLVANIA — Opportunity knocked, knocked and knocked some more for the Fremont Ross soccer team in Wednesday's 2-0 Division I Northwest District first-round loss to Anthony Wayne.

And it sounded an awful lot like "clang."

A pair of hit posts were all the Little Giants had to show for their valiant effort Wednesday, while Anthony Wayne scored twice in the final 17 minutes to advance to the quarterfinals.

"I definitely feel like the season ended too early," Ross coach Jeff Pendrey said.

"I think we should have won and I kind of feel depressed."

Ditto for his team, which came off the field yelling and bickering at one another in a vent of frustration.

"A lot of them were frustrated, they knew they had the game," said Pendrey, whose team outshot the Generals 20-17. "A lot of them were upset with each other because they knew they had the opportunities, and people didn't convert on the opportunities."

Junior Brian Thomson was perhaps the most flabbergasted, hitting posts in each half, while senior Scott White mishandled a sterling opportunity to tie the game late.

Meanwhile, Tim Seiwart set up the Generals' first goal and scored the clincher with 42 seconds left.

It stalled not only Ross's six-game unbeaten streak, but also its season at a 10-4-2 record.

Anthony Wayne (9-6-2) awaits the winner of Saturday's Maumee/Toledo Central

Catholic game for its quarterfinal opponent.

Behind several of goalie Michael Hickey's outstanding saves in the game, Ross emerged from a scoreless first half with more intensity and aggressiveness for the second 40 minutes.

With 9:40 gone in the second half, Hickey (8 saves) made a diving left-arm stop on John Mitchell, creating momentum that Ross used to muster a sparkling opportunity at the opposite end.

But on a 2-on-0 with Mike Simonton, Thomson shot right into the gut of Wayne goalie Arron Christy (10 saves).

"All year he has been our savior against everybody," Generals coach Dave Knapp said.

Just over four minutes later,

a Ross defensive lapse resulted in Anthony Wayne's first goal. Seiwart found Mike Lopez on a cross, and Lopez headed the ball into the right side of the net with 16:09 left.

With Ross pressing, Thomson took a lead from Nik Wearsch and beat Christy — but not the left post.

"I hate to use clichés, but it was a game of inches today," Knapp said.

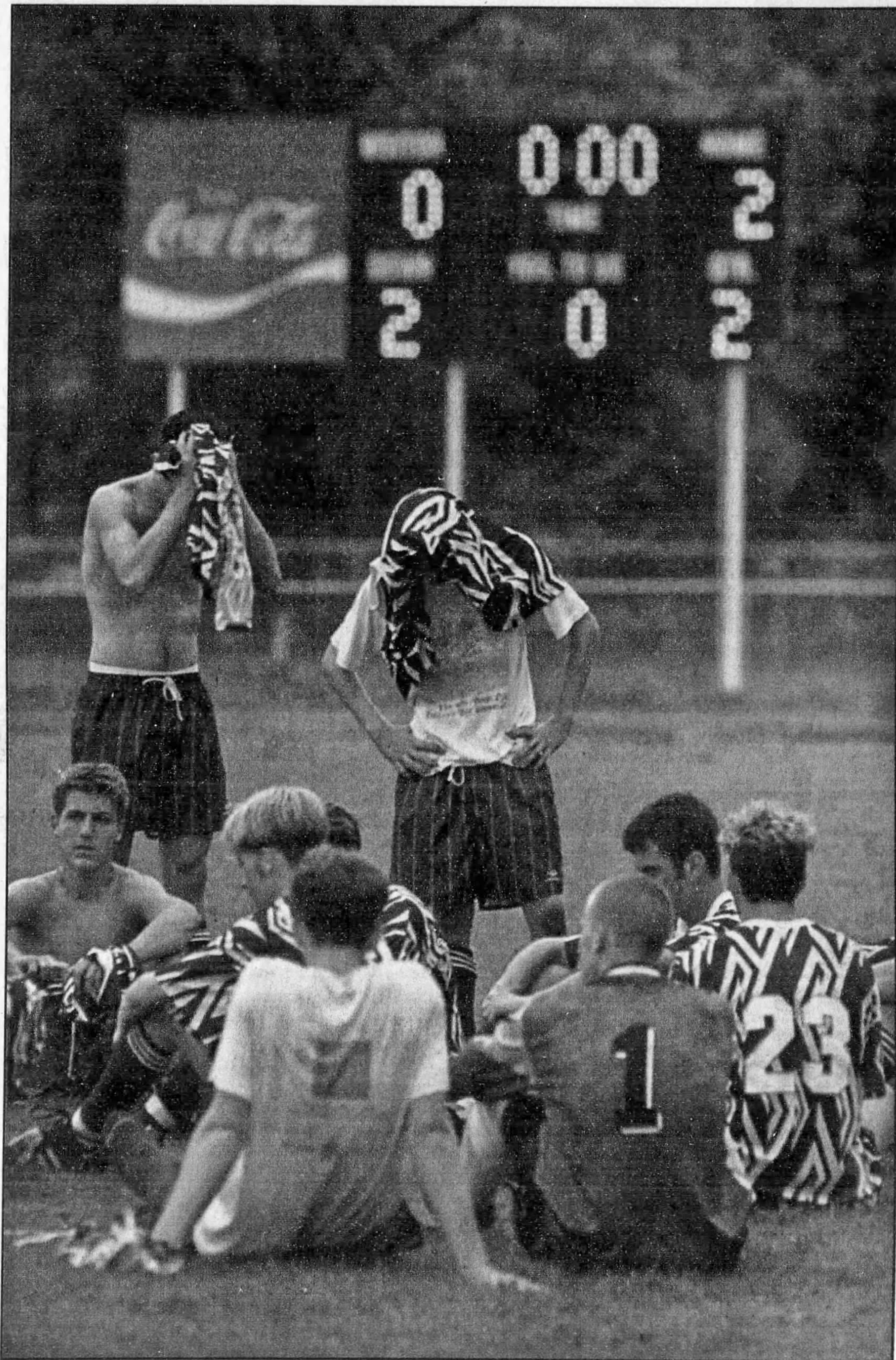
Five minutes later, White was about 10 yards in front of the goal when his attempted redirect of an Andrew Humberger shot caught more dirt than ball.

"The offense can make 50 mistakes in the game and we're still in the game, but if the defense makes one we end up going home the loser," Pendrey said.

"And the situation was the offense had the opportunities and didn't convert, and that makes it very frustrating for



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
HAND SCHMIDLIN of Fremont Ross heads the ball over Matt Boggess of Anthony Wayne during the first half of the Little Giants 2-0 loss Wednesday at Sylvania Southview.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THE SCOREBOARD and the dejected Fremont Ross players' expressions tell the story Wednesday after the Little Giants 2-0 loss to Anthony Wayne at Sylvania Southview. The loss ends Ross's 10-win season.

the defense."

So does giving up another goal.

Yes, opportunity knocked for the Generals, too, and they found the back of the net. Seiwart sped past a trio of Ross defenders and roofed a 35-yard

blast past Hickey to seal the Little Giants season.

"He's one that kind of hangs back, hangs back and hangs back, and he can bite you as soon as he gets an opening," Knapp said of his senior midfielder.

"The second goal was just one of those things where a lot of guys were frustrated with under a minute to go," said Pendrey. "Maybe they felt the end of the season was coming."

"And it came."
Much too soon.