

Ashley Duncan demonstrated strong leadership skills for Ross.

"She was voted one of the captains," Miller said. "She's stepped up to reiterate what we talk about at practice."

Miller was pleased with freshman Molly Kosanka.

"We saw a lot out of Kosanka," Miller said. "She took charge on defense and that was a pleasant surprise."

Ross boys lose

Jacob Relford scored a goal for the highlight reel, but Ross's boys soccer team fell to Port Clinton

8-2 to open its season.

Relford cut a deficit to 2-1 in the first half. He put in a perfect shot with his left foot from the right of the goal into the upper corner on the far side of the net.

Ben Morroney made numerous strong saves for the Little Giants as he was peppered with shots.

He showed a willingness to challenge opponents sacrificing his body.

Fabian Ramirez scored Ross's other goal on a long shot into the upper portion of the net.

Little Giants defender Aaron Hossler also prevented a goal.

A learning process



Little Giants are outshot 44-2 in loss to powerhouse team of St. John's Jesuit

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT — Athletically, Phil Collison's Ross soccer team is where it needs to be.

It's the schematical and mental aspects of the game where an inexperienced Little Giants squad is hurting, and where the veteran coach has his work cut out for him. St. John's Jesuit dominated both of those key components on Monday, handing Ross an 8-0 Three Rivers Athletic Conference setback at Alumni Fields. Nick Gramza and Andrew Peterson each had two goals to lead the Titans (2-1), who out-shot the Little Giants (0-3) 44-2.

"We're a young team, but we're a very athletic team and we'll learn," Collison said. "It's learning how to play at the next level, when to take space and learning to know when you mark your man or leave your man. But this group works hard and they'll get it."

St. John's was the third perennial power Ross played to open the season. The Little Giants opened with losses to Port Clinton (Aug. 20) and Anthony Wayne (Aug. 21).

The Titans were the inaugural TRAC champions, going through league play with an unblemished 7-0 record.

"(Ross) came out with a lot of class today and they played hard," St. John's coach Tim Concannon said. "Their goalie made a lot of nice saves. They certainly weren't giving us anything for free."

"I like what (the Little Giants) are doing in terms of growing their program and developing their players."

Despite the Titans' eight goals, Ross goalkeeper Ben Morroney made a bunch of strong saves, including a couple at point-blank range. The junior ended the match with 13 saves — 11 of which came

Fremont Ross's Nathan Domiray, right, battles for the ball with St. John's Jesuit's Ian Baird during their match Saturday in Fremont. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Learning

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in the opening half. Caleb Jackson added three saves in limited second-half action.

“He did a good job,” said Collison of Morroney. “He made a couple really nice saves and he also did a decent job of controlling the

central part of the defense.”

St. John’s built a 4-0 lead in the first 14 minutes. The Titans led 5-0 at halftime, before midfielder Cole Myers increased their advantage to 6-0, scoring just 1:50 into the second half.

“I think we learned a little bit more about the game of soccer tonight,” Collison said. “We did a really good job of holding our

space and compacting^N our defense. That was something we wanted to work on.

“Where we got beat was in the air. That’s to be expected, though, it comes with age and they’ll learn when to go to the ball.”

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BOYS SOCCER

LIMA SENIOR 2, FREMONT ROSS 1

LIMA — Fabian Ramirez scored an unassisted goal in a 2-1 loss to the Spartans Tuesday.

Lima Senior broke the stalemate at the 73:00 mark, scoring on a penalty kick.

"Those are tough ones to handle," said Ross coach Phil Collison. "But we are definitely progressing. Our kids are handling the ball better and working together on offense. Defense is certainly doing a great job controlling the match."

Goalie Ben Morroney recorded 10 saves for the Little Giants. Ross only attempted 5 shots on goal.

Next: Ross vs. Start, Thursday.

Boys Soccer

FREMONT ROSS 6, SANDUSKY 1

SANDUSKY — The Fremont Ross boys soccer team earned their first win of the season beating the Streaks in a non-conference match Tuesday afternoon.

Jake Relford had a hat trick and Fabian Ramirez scored two goals and recorded an assist for the Little Giants. Also scoring goals for Ross was Aaron Hossler and Michael Damschroder.

"Tonight we played a really good match," said Little Giants' coach Phil Collison.

"[The team] did a really good job coming together."

Ross' Nathan Domiray passed for two assists and teammate Ben Morroney recorded 2 saves in net. Sandusky had just 3 shots on goal.

Records: Ross 1-6 .

Next: Ross vs. St. Francis, Tuesday.

Little Giants look past losing score

By Yaneek Smith

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — It's all a work in progress.

That's the perspective Fremont Ross head coach Phil Collison takes when viewing his team's 5-0 loss to St. Francis.

"It's a vast improvement from last year," said Collison. "Last year, they beat us 17-0. There were parts of the match where I thought we did a good job. We set out today to hold our shape defensively and to contain them and I think our kids did a good job of that. This was a tough match — St. Francis is a skilled team. We set our goals and if they accomplish those goals, it's a positive."

The Knights opened up the scoring early, taking a 1-0 lead just minutes into the match when Zach Lucas scored. St. Francis pushed the lead to 3-0 later in the half on two goals by Colin Clark, one at the 31:12 mark and the other with 24:05 remaining.

With the win, the Knights improved to 5-1-1 overall and 2-0-1 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. The Little Giants drop to 1-7 and 0-3 in the league.

Throughout the first half, the Knights were able to consistently push the ball through Ross' zone, creating a number of opportunities. Had it not been for some qual-

ity play from Little Giants goalkeeper Ben Morroney, the lead could've been a little higher.

"You've got to look beyond the final score," Collison said. "We're doing a much better job of settling the ball and distributing it. If they continue to play with their heads up, it can only get better."

In the second half, it was a different story. Ross was able to keep the Knights' offensive attack in check and allowed them fewer scoring opportunities. In fact, the Little Giants got the ball into the St. Francis zone several times, only to be turned away. The closest Ross came to scoring was on a free kick from about 35 yards out by Victor Navarro midway through the second half that sailed just high. As for Morroney, he continued to do a solid job in goal for Ross, save for a few goals the Knights scored with a few minutes remaining in the match.

"I thought it was a little scrappy," St. Francis assistant coach John Clarke said of the match. "We didn't play as well as we should. We didn't execute; we're a young team, though. Mostly sophomores, freshmen, a few seniors. So they're still learning. We'll get better as the season goes on. They're a young team as well. In a couple years time, I think they'll be back to being the force they were 10-15 years ago."

The Ohio State University's Gray Golf Course. Baer was a second-team all-Ohio selection as a sophomore and she earned first-team accolades last season.

Boys Soccer

Old Fort 2, Fremont Ross 1

Cole Davidson scored two goals as Old Fort won the non-conference matchup.

"Our defense did a really good job pushing up so we could get good looks at the goal," Davidson said. "The midfielders made good passes to give me opportunities to score."

Marc Salas had two assists and Ryan Balliett allowed only the one goal.

"He has good footwork and knows when to pass the ball,"

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Old Fort's Jose Carvalho runs to the ball in front of Jose Gonzalez of Fremont Ross on Monday. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Oak Harbor's David Birchall fights off Fremont Ross' Nathan Domiray during the first half of a soccer game on Thursday.

JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Oak Harbor wipes out Ross

By Yaneek Smith

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — After establishing a two-goal lead at halftime, Oak Harbor scored three goals in a four-minute span to break the game open in its 7-0 defeat of Fremont Ross on Thursday.

After 10 minutes passed in the second half, Oak Harbor built its lead to 5-0 on goals by David Birchall (29:59), Brandon Schimming (27:32) and Tate Haar (25:59) to put the game out of reach. Tyler Sievert and Greg Haar added one goal apiece later in the half.

For much of the second half, the Rockets were able to control the pace of the game and got a number of scoring opportunities. When the Little Giants did move the ball into Oak Harbor's zone, Greg Haar and the other defenders were able to thwart their opportunities and gain control of the ball.

"It was a great team effort," Oak Harbor coach Ken Filar said. "We'd really been struggling lately, we lost a starting

forward (Andy Burnette Thursday) to an injury. We've had a tough season, we're really young."

Oak Harbor (5-7-1) has had a tough season after winning the Sandusky Bay Conference title in 2008 and 2010, and finishing second in 2009 and 2011.

"The young guys are getting a lot of experience, and we're taking our lumps," Filar said of a group that lost 11 seniors from last year's squad. "We're losing a lot of close games.

"Defense, offense, we moved the kids all over the place because I wanted them to learn everything. We're struggling getting some cohesiveness with the guys missing and injuries, but we're getting better."

The Little Giants had opportunities to keep the game closer, missing out on a free kick by Fabian Ramirez with 33 minutes remaining in the second half. Ramirez's free kick from about 35 feet away was blocked by Rockets goalkeeper Kyle Draper and the Little Giants were unable to recover the loose ball.

Approximately five minutes later, Victor Navarro missed high on a kick that would've cut the deficit to 3-1.

"It's just a matter of, more than anything, of age and fitness level and learning to play the game at this pace," Ross coach Phil Collison said. "It was a close (match) for a long time and then I think our youth kicked in and (Oak Harbor's) experience showed.

"We're starting to learn how to break down defenses. And even though we're not putting the ball in the net or because the outcome's not promising, we're leaps and bounds from where we were earlier in the year. We were pressuring the ball in the second half and realizing that when we pressure the ball, it forces them to make mistakes."

Oak Harbor sophomore Andy Burnette put the Rockets ahead 1-0 when he scored at the 30:11 mark of the first half and Tim Poiry gave the Rockets some breathing room with a goal at 1:53 to provide momentum.