

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ■ ALL-OHIO

Brown is a first-teamer

Ross senior was big weapon on Little Giants offense

BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

Fremont Ross' Greg Brown came into the season with a reputation as a big-play threat headed to Michigan.

And despite double teams, a switch in the offense and high expectations, Brown earned first-team all-Ohio status.

"They tried," Little Giants coach Derek Kidwell said of opponents scheming to take Brown away, "but to his credit — we put him at different spots on the field so it was hard to defend him and you had to be aware where he was. We took advantage of his athletic ability and with his football IQ that was easy because he's such a smart kid.

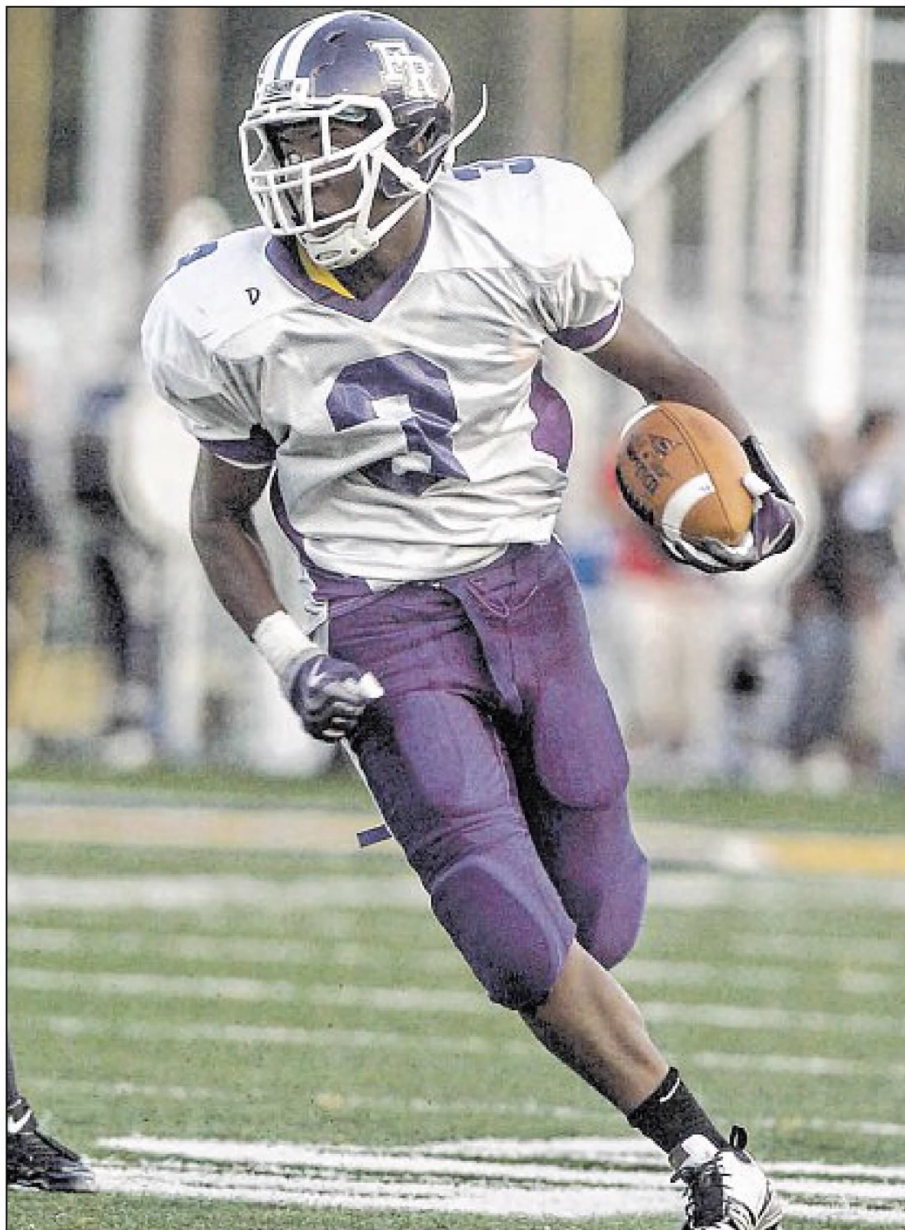
"There were times we used him as a decoy because of double teams. Other games people knew he was going to make plays and they couldn't stop him. When he had the opportunity to make plays he typically took advantage. That's what you want your great athletes to do."

Brown, who plans to graduate early to join the Wolverines' secondary at spring practice, had 20 catches for 460 yards and four touchdowns. He added 58 rushes for 450 yards and seven scores.

"It was probably something I took for granted knowing he can play multiple positions," Kidwell said of Brown's versatility. "Not every kid can do that. When you have a kid with that caliber of skills you need to take advantage and we tried to get him the ball in different positions on the field and in different ways."

Brown's role in the offense varied from week to week.

"We just went with the flow of the game and how teams were trying to defend us," Kidwell said. "Typically, we had a count of how many touches we wanted to get him and tried to get



News-Messenger file photo

Greg Brown, who will graduate from Fremont Ross early and head to the University of Michigan, was a first-team All-Ohioan this season.

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him that amount every game. Sometimes we were successful and sometimes not but each game we knew we wanted to get him the ball to make plays and he was able to do that.”

Ross running back Tylor Trautwein, who was recognized third-team all-state, helped create space for Brown. And vice-versa.

“They were a tandem,” Kidwell said. “They complemented each other extremely well. The offensive line did some things and the quarterback (Tyler Wolf). Us going to a different offense and putting a commitment into the running game allowed us to be successful. Teams loading up to stop Tylor gave us some one-on-ones with Greg and Skylar Reffner and we took advantage.”

Trautwein ran for 1,380 yards and 13 touchdowns on 258 carries. Trautwein is best described as tough, durable and strong.

“We went back to a power-formation I team and for him to carry the load and for people to

know he’d get the ball speaks to his toughness,” Kidwell said. “He ran behind (special mention all-Ohio selection) Adam (Miranda) all year and then he played a tough spot on defense. He rarely came off the field. He had the most snaps but that’s what he wanted to do.”

Nose guard Jared Walker was also third-team all-state for the Little Giants (9-2). He had 106 tackles, including eight for a loss and double digits in every Greater Buckeye Conference and postseason game.

“Walker was a pleasant surprise,” Kidwell said. “He hadn’t played in two years and came out and was dominant on defense. He demanded double teams and was hard to block. He made a lot of plays. It’s a tribute to his mental toughness and desire to play football.

“He’ll have lasting positive memories and this senior class can leave knowing they left the program in better shape than when they got to it as league champs and a playoff team.”

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2010**Greg Brown First Team**

Tyler Trautwein Third Team

Jared Walker Third Team

Adam Miranda Special Mention

2019**Dontrez Brown, First Team**