

# GIANTS MOVE ONTO DISTRICT

## Ross advances

**Ross 7, Bowling Green 1**  
**BOWLING GREEN** — Fremont Ross used its own key hitting and took advantage of six Bowling Green errors to win a Division I sectional title.

"Basically offensively we produced and defensively we outplayed them," said Ross coach Cheryl Schell.

Nicki Pelfrey ripped a double and a triple and Jenny Schaaf went 3-for-4 and scored three times in the win. Erin Lytle added two hits for Ross (14-2).

Jodi Fick and Tiffany Nitschke each drove in two runs. Jodi Kusmer was the winning pitcher for the 14th time this season.

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Sports Editor Brian Spies, 332-5511, ext. 142

Friday, May 6, 1998 B1

# Lytle, Kusmer put Ross in final

**Little Giants rout Napoleon in sectional opener**

By MICHAEL PIDANICK

Staff writer

**BOWLING GREEN** — Even a three-day wait and threatening clouds couldn't stop Erin Lytle and Jodi Kusmer Thursday from leading Fremont Ross into the Division I sectional final. In a slight drizzle, the Little

Giants cruised to a 9-0 win over the Wildcats at Bowling Green High School in a game originally scheduled to be played Monday.

"It's a good way to start the tournament," said Ross coach Cheryl Schell. "We got some clutch hitting and we played an overall nice game."

The easy victory for the Little Giants came as no surprise. Ross topped the Wildcats 14-2 April 22 at Napoleon.

The Little Giants improved to 13-2 on the year and will face host Bowling Green at noon Saturday

### SOFTBALL

in the sectional title game.

Lytle was the hitting star for the Little Giants, as she went 3-for-3, drove in three runs, scored three times and had two stolen bases.

"I just relaxed up there and didn't think about what I was doing," she said. "As a team we really came through with the hits we needed."

Catcher Nicki Pelfrey added two hits and scored twice for the Little Giants. Jennifer Melie

was 2-for-4 in the win.

Kusmer won her 12th game of the season as she threw a complete game two-hit shutout.

"I just relaxed and threw what I had to win the game," said Kusmer, who six and two in the game.

Added Schell: "I thought Jodi was a little faster today. She hit the corners and had her change-up going."

Napoleon (4-14) never had more than one base runner in an inning.

See ROSS, B2

### Sectional matchups

Fremont Ross: Saturday vs. Bowling Green

St. Joe: Saturday vs. Elmwood

Clyde: Saturday vs. Lake

Gibsonburg: Tuesday vs. Northwood

Lakota: Tuesday vs. Bellevue

Woodmore: Friday vs. Toledo

Christian

Old Fort: Monday vs. Bettsville/St. Wendelin winner

Oak Harbor: eliminated

Margaretta: Saturday vs. Fostoria

Bellevue: Tuesday vs. Lakota

Bellevue: Saturday vs. St. Wendelin

# Giants eliminate Napoleon

Continued from B1

The Little Giants began the scoring in the second inning. Pelfrey led off with a single and Tiffany Nitschke was hit by a pitch from losing pitcher Becky Baughman.

One out later, Lytle tagged a double to right-center to score both runners. Ashleigh Horn drew a walk and Kusmer followed with an RBI ground out.

Jenny Schaaf then lofted a fly ball to left that was dropped by Napoleon center fielder Erin Walker, allowing Horn to score.

The Little Giants tacked on three more runs in the third. Jodi Fick opened with a walk and Pelfrey followed with an RBI double. Two outs

later, Lytle cracked a triple to right-centerfield to score Pelfrey. Horn drove home Lytle with a double to left field.

Ross put the game out of reach in the sixth. Lytle opened with a single, stole second and took third on a ground out. One out later, Jenny Schaaf lined a triple to right to score Lytle. Melie closed out the scoring with an RBI single.

The Little Giants also made some key defensive plays. After Napoleon's Katherine Updegraff drew a one out walk, Pelfrey picked her off of first base from her catcher position. In the fourth, Lytle made a leaping catch to take an extra-base hit away from Updegraff.

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Sports Editor Brian Spies, 332-5511, ext. 142

Monday, May 4, 1998 B1

# Ross starts sectional play today

**10 area teams have tournament games this week**

By MICHAEL PIDANICK

Staff writer

Fremont Ross enters the sectional softball tournament as the top seed, facing a team it defeated by 12 runs just 12 days ago.

All of that means nothing to coach Cheryl Schell.

"We still have to play on the field," she said. "We know we can beat any team in the state and any team in the state can beat us."

The Little Giants will play

Napoleon, a team it beat 14-2 on April 22, at 5:15 today at Bowling Green.

"We just have to go out and play good softball on the field," Schell said.

Schell said being the top seed is not much of an advantage.

"If anything it can be used against you by opponents as motivation," she said.

Ross is one of 10 local teams scheduled to begin sectional play this week.

Five of those teams will play in the Division II bracket in Woodville. Margaretta will battle Fostoria Tuesday, top-seeded Bellevue plays Port Clinton and Lakota faces Oak Harbor Thurs-

day and Clyde plays Lake Saturday.

Top-seeded Woodmore and Gibsonburg compete in the Division III tournament at Genoa. The Golden Bears will take on Cardinal Stritch Tuesday and the Wildcats play Toledo Christian Friday.

In Division IV, St. Joseph Central Catholic faces Elmwood Saturday at Old Fort following the game between Bettsville and St. Wendelin. The host Stockaders

are the only area team that does not begin sectional play this week, as they will play the Bettsville/St. Wendelin winner May 11.

Despite a 6-13 record, St. Joe

### Softball sectionals

The sectional softball tournament begins this week for most area teams:

**Division I at Bowling Green**  
 Today: Fremont Ross vs. Napoleon, 5:15 p.m.

**Division II at Woodville**  
 Tuesday: Margaretta vs. Fostoria, 5 p.m.  
 Thursday: Bellevue vs. Port Clinton, 5 p.m.

Thursday: Lakota vs. Oak Harbor, 5 p.m.

coach Sandy Adelsperger feels her young team is capable of winning the sectional.

"We have been playing a lot better lately," she said. "If we play well we certainly have a

Saturday: Clyde vs. Lake, 11 a.m.

**Division III at Genoa**

Tuesday: Gibsonburg vs. Stritch, 5 p.m.

Friday: Woodmore vs. Tol. Christian, 5 p.m.

**Division IV at Old Fort**

Saturday: Bettsville vs. St. Wendelin, 2 p.m.

Saturday: St. Joe vs. Elmwood, 4 p.m.

May 11: Old Fort vs. Bettsville/St. Wendelin winner

■ Sectional Pairings, B2

chance to win the sectional."

If the Struiks get past Elmwood, they will play May 12

against the winner of Saturday's game between Hopewell-Loudon

and Carey.