

Fremont Ross

Coach: Rob Schimmoeller, 1st year.

2002 record: 10-11 (4-6 GLL, 4th).

2002 tournament: Lost 5-2 to Ashland in sectional opener.

Key losses: P Josh Harnish, P Adam Garcia, 2B Dash Yost, C Jered Kingsborough, OF Nick Opre.

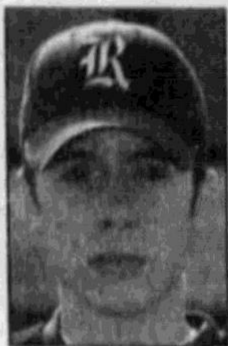
Key returnees: Senior — SS-P Kyle Hintze (.338 batting average, 14 runs, 8 runs batted in). Juniors — SS-3B-P Jonathan Franks (.373, 8 RBI), P-2B Doug Henkel (.280), CF-P Jared Dickman (.271 16 RBI). Sophomore — P-1B Joey Garza (.150).

Key newcomers: Juniors — C Cody Myers, INF Aurelio Ruiz, INF Kyle Spriggs, OF Jake Kingsborough, OF Derek Knapp, P Steve Smith. Sophomores — OF Garrett Stine, INF Brad Cobb.

Outlook: There will be several new faces on the diamond this year for the Little Giants. Ross graduated a slew of senior

talent and Schimmoeller, a five-year assistant, replaces seven-year head coach Chuck Lindsey. Schimmoeller helped lead the Little Giants to the state ACME baseball tournament last summer, and the team is banking on that experience this season with only one returning senior. Hintze and Franks are the team's top returning hitters and will lead the Little Giants at the plate. Ross lost most of its pitching in Harnish, Coonrod and Garcia. They combined for 122 innings and 88 strikeouts a year ago. Hintze, who pitched in the ACME state opener, will lead the pitching corps. The Little Giants open the season Monday at Bowling Green.

Coach's quote: "We're working toward continuing our successful summer. Our pitching will be the key to our success."



HINTZE

Ross teams split openers with BG

Girls softball squad rolls to 15-6 victory; boys baseball club falls 12-2

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — The Fremont Ross softball players were ready to start the season and showed it at the plate with 14 hits in a 15-6 romp over the Bowling Green.

Eight Little Giants tallied hits with Amy Reiter leading the way. She went 3-for-5 with a pair of runs. Kristen Hammer, Paige Kingsborough, Rachel Hammer and Tara McAfee each collected a pair of hits. Lydia Sandoval, Erica Wolfe and Nicole Marroquin each contributed a hit.

On the mound, Ross ace Miran-

da Steinberger surrendered only one earned run and fanned five batters.

Spring Roundup

The Little Giants travel to Oak Harbor on Wednesday.

Woodmore 15, H-L 2

BASCOM — Woodmore's Tarah Jacobs showed she was in midseason form on opening day, striking out 10 in seven innings to lead the Wildcats over Hopewell-Loudon.

Jacobs surrendered only two hits in the game, while her Wildcats dominated at the plate. Erin

Stoffan, Megan Brough, Betsy Dietmyer and Andrea Moenter registered two hits apiece.

Woodmore scored nine runs in the third and fourth innings to put away the Chieftains, who committed five errors.

Woodmore hosts Toledo Waite on Wednesday.

BASEBALL

Bowling Green 12, Ross 2

BOWLING GREEN — When the opening day curtains went up, the Fremont Ross baseball team suffered from stage fright.

The Little Giants mustered on-

ly two runs and committed five errors in a five-inning loss to Bowling Green on Monday in the season opener.

"For five of the nine starters it was their first game," Little Giants first-year head coach Rob Schimmoeller said. "A lot of it was first-game jitters. ... And Bowling Green was a very good club that hit the ball hard. I went through three pitchers and they hit them all. It didn't matter who we had out there."

Ross trailed 2-1 heading into the bottom of the third inning when the Bobcats scored six runs.



McGEE

"It all happened in the third inning," Schimmoeller said. "They had a couple of hits and we had a couple of errors and things compounded from there."

Ross's Doug Henkel pitched 2½ innings and took the loss. At the plate, he had a double, as did Robbie Hall. Kyle Hintze also added an RBI hit.

See McGEE, B2

McGee leads Wildcats to win over Chieftains

Continued From B1

Winning pitcher Andy Foster and Matt Emans each homered for Bowling Green.

The Little Giants travel to Anthony Wayne on Wednesday.

Schimmoeller gets first victory

Ray rallies Raiders in 12-1 romp over Stockaders

News-Messenger reports

WHITEHOUSE — The Fremont Ross baseball team scored four runs in the top of the first inning and held on for a 5-4 victory Wednesday at Anthony Wayne.

The Little Giants led 5-1 after freshman leftfielder Robbie Hall homered in the second inning.

But Ross (1-1) went silent thereafter and needed a diving catch by Hall to save the game in the bottom of the seventh. Hall chased down a liner on the line to leave the potential tying run stranded at third.

The catch gave first-year Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeller his first career victory.

"We were much more focused, more relaxed than we were in the opening game," Schimmoeller said. "It showed in that first inning."

Doug Henkel ripped a two-run double to highlight the four-run first. Cody Myers and Kyle Hintze each collected two hits for the Little Giants.

Hintze, a senior, made his first varsity start on the mound, going the distance and allowing only five hits and no earned runs. He struck out six and walked five.

Anthony Wayne fell to 0-2.

Ross enters Great Lakes League play against Clay on Friday in the home opener.

Lakota 12, Old Fort 1

KANSAS — Tim Ray went 3-for-3 and knocked in four runs as the Raiders closed out the Stockaders in five innings in Lakota's season opener.

Adam Johnson went the distance for Lakota, allowing three hits and one unearned run. He struck out seven and walked none.

Greg Thrasher and Chris Gangwer each had two hits and two RBI for the Raiders, who banged out 12 hits.

Freshman Adam Nye recorded two of Old Fort's three hits. Greg Burks took the loss on the mound. The Stockaders are 0-2.

Lakota hosts Clyde today. Old Fort is at Arlington today.

SOFTBALL

Waite 5, Woodmore 4

WOODVILLE — The Lady Indians scored the go-ahead run in the top of the seventh inning to hand the Wildcats their first loss.

Woodmore had scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game. Tarah

Jacobs took the loss in relief of freshman starter Jenna Beam.

"The girls played well," Woodmore head coach Michelle Baker said. "They never got down on themselves. This is a good game to build on."

Andrea Keller and Leah Garcia each went 2-for-4 for Woodmore (1-1). Garcia tripled and knocked in three runs.

The Wildcats visit St. Wendelin on Friday.

Lakota 4, Old Fort 3

RISINGSUN — Amy Hershey singled home Amber Ginnever with the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth as the Raiders won their season opener.

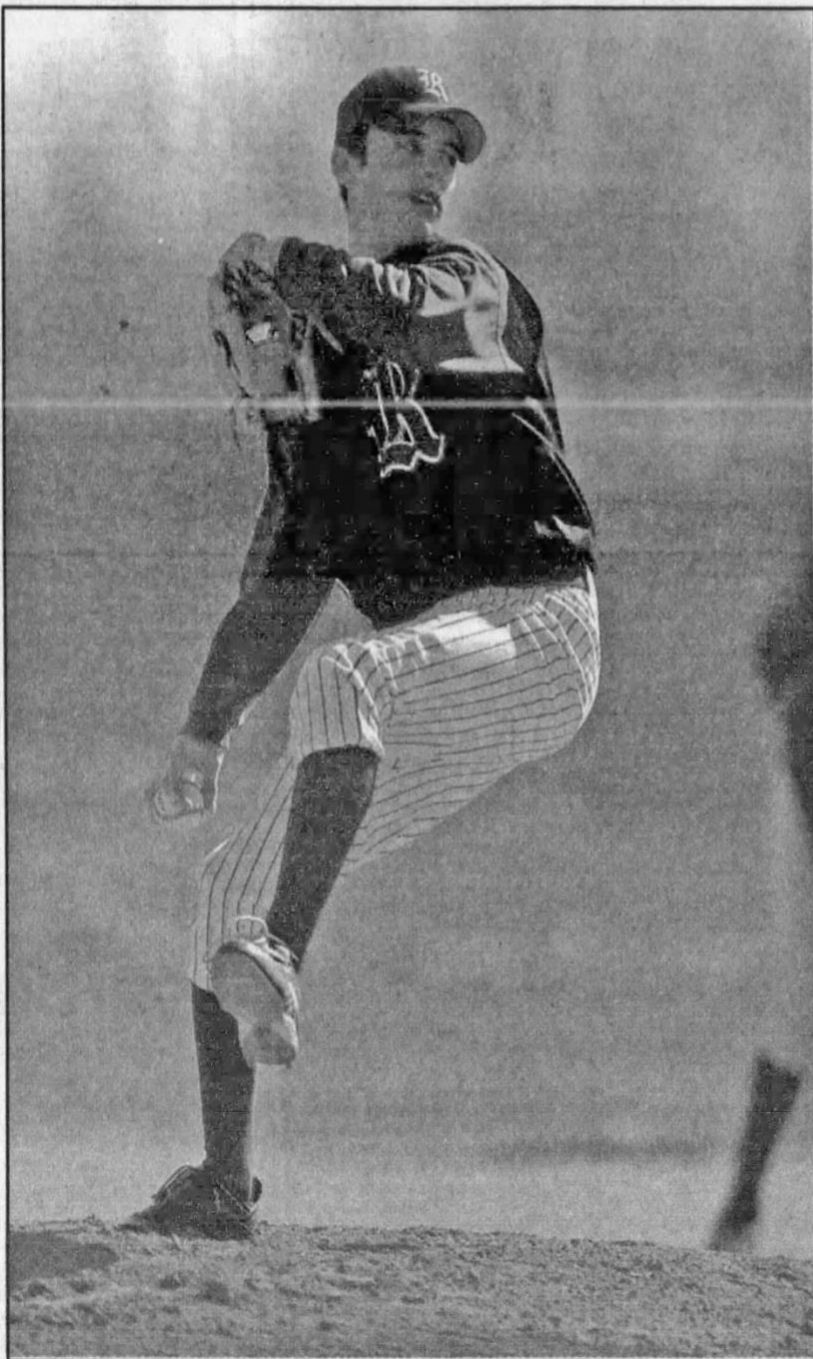
Hannah Bursiek collected the victory on the mound and went 2-for-3 in the leadoff spot for Lakota. Bursiek allowed three earned runs and eight hits in seven innings. She struck out four and walked three.

Old Fort pitcher Ashleigh Fry went 3-for-3 to lead the Stockaders, who also opened their season. Fry surrendered one earned run and four hits in a route-going performance.

Whitney Magers had two hits and two RBI for Old Fort, which travels to Arlington today.

High School Baseball

Ross rally falls short



Trojans eke out 6-5 win over Giants

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

Fremont Ross was encouraged to see someone other than Big Ten-bound Spencer Hahn take the mound for Findlay on Friday.

The way it turned out, the Little Giants might have preferred taking their chances against the flame-throwing left-hander from the opening pitch.

Ross scored four times in bottom of the seventh inning — all with Hahn on the hill in relief — before coming up just short in a 6-5 loss at Joe Lotycz Field.

"They should be confident, the way they played today," first-year Ross head coach Rob Schimmoller said of his charges. "That's one of the best two or three teams in northwest Ohio this year, and we played with them."

Hahn, who has committed to Michigan State, relieved Findlay starter Josh Widman with the bases loaded and no outs in the seventh. The Trojans led by a comfortable 6-1 margin when Findlay head coach Jack Foltz summoned Hahn from right field.

But the Little Giants (2-2) didn't wilt. With one

LITTLE GIANTS HURLER Kyle Hintze delivers a pitch during Friday's Great Lakes League opener against Findlay at Joe Lotycz Field. Ross lost 6-5.

News-Messenger/Ben French

See FINDLAY, B3

Findlay gets best of Ross

Continued From B1

out, freshman Robbie Hall drilled a fastball deep down the left-field line for a two-run double. Aurelio Ruiz later scored on a wild pitch, and Hall came in on a groundout by Jared Dickman.

All of a sudden, the Little Giants were within one.

But Hahn retired Ross's Kyle Hintze on a long drive to center to end the Great Lakes League opener for both teams.

"That's a credit to Fremont. They didn't quit. They battled," Foltz said. "We brought the big horse in, and they could have rolled over and didn't. They hit him pretty good. Luckily, we had enough runs."

Findlay (4-1), which boasts nine seniors, entered the season as the GLL favorite. But the Trojans struggled for five innings against Hintze, a senior who made just his second varsity start.

Hintze entered the sixth inning with a one-hitter and his team up 1-0. But Findlay took advantage of walks and an untimely Ross error to blow open the game with a six-run sixth. The Trojans had just two hits in the frame.

"We made our own mistakes, inning after inning," Foltz said. "But to his credit, when he needed to get tough, he did. He closed the door. We were fortunate enough to hang in there and luckily got a couple breaks in the sixth."

Hintze walked Will Toeppe and Widman to open the sixth. James Addington bunted for a single to load the bases.

With one out, Hintze threw a wild pitch that allowed Findlay to tie the score at 1. He then walked Cody Sonnett to reload the bases. The next batter, Matt Dillon, hit a slow grounder to shortstop, but the ball eluded Ross's Jon Franks to allow

the go-ahead run to score. Hintze walked leadoff batter Tyler Curlis to force in the third run, and he was replaced by sophomore Brad Cobb.

"He's our best, and we just thought we'd stay with him," Schimmoeller said of Hintze. "Then we brought Brad in because it's a little bit different speed and arm angle."

Ray Arreguin greeted Cobb with a two-run single, and Hahn's fielder's choice scored Curlis with the final tally of the inning.

Hintze (1-1) gave up only two hits but walked nine during his 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inning stint. He also hit a batter and struck out four.

Widman matched Hintze's effectiveness until the seventh, when he allowed the first three batters to reach base. Widman gave up four earned runs and four hits while striking out six and walking five over six innings of work.

Dickman, the lead-off hitter, paced the Little Giants' five-hit attack by going 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI. Sophomore first baseman Joey Garza gave Ross its 1-0 lead by dumping a single into left-center field to score Dickman in the fourth.

Although Friday's loss was disappointing, it gives Ross reason to look forward to the remainder of the GLL slate.

"They're not intimidated by anybody," Schimmoeller said. "We had two freshmen, two sophomores, four juniors and a senior. We're young. Eight of the 10 they started are seniors. A lot of them have played varsity for three years, and it showed."

Ross hosts Bryan at noon today for a doubleheader at the Field of Dreams near Vickery. The field is just off County Road 306, which intersects both U.S. 6 and Ohio 412. Saturday's junior varsity game will be at Ross High School.

Baseball Roundup

Ross wins pair; 'Cats claim title

News-Messenger reports

If you play here, wins will come.

The Fremont Ross baseball team played at the Field of Dreams near Vickery on Saturday and came away with a pair of wins over Bryan in non-league action.

The Little Giants, who improved to 4-2, edged the Golden Bears 3-2 in the first game and 6-3 in the second.

Ross outhit Bryan 10-3 in the first game as Jon Franks and Kyle Hintze each went 3-for-4, and Joey Garza added two hits and two RBI. Garza also notched the win, surrendering one earned run with five strikeouts.

The Little Giants overcame four errors in the second game with the help of Garza, who went 3-for-3 with two RBI. Franks, Jared Dickman and Kyle Spriggs each added an RBI hit.

Ross travels to Sandusky on Tuesday.

Woodmore 6, Genoa 5

GENOA — It wasn't the prettiest victory, but the Woodmore baseball team will take it as the Wildcats beat Genoa in nine innings in the Ottawa County Tournament championship game on Saturday.

The Wildcats won as Steve Zajac scored on a passed ball.

"It was a heck of a game," Woodmore coach Scott Smith said. "We're very excited about it especially since it came against a good team like Genoa. I'm proud of the kids."

It was the second time Woodmore (3-3) won the tournament. The last time the Wildcats won the tournament was 1985.

The winning pitcher was Marcus McGee as he hurled 4½ scoreless innings of relief. He allowed two hits and one walk while striking out two.

Genoa (4-2) made four errors during the contest.

Zajac reached on an error and stole second base. Next, Dana Wend was intentionally walked, and both runners moved up on a wild pitch. Adam Parton was intentionally walked to load the bases. That set up Chandler Shirer, who attempted a squeeze play, but the pitch was in the dirt and got away from the catcher allowing Zajac to score.

Wend went 2-for-3 and Parton was 2-for-4 with two RBI.

Brandon Hepler started for the Wildcats and he pitched 4½ innings giving up five runs on six hits and five walks.

Earlier on Saturday, Woodmore beat Port Clinton 7-4 to advance. Billy Dyer was the winning pitcher. He tossed six innings and allowed two earned runs with five walks and five strikeouts.

McGee, who earned the save, was 2-for-4 with two runs. Wend also was 2-for-4.

Woodmore travels to Lakota today.

St. Joe 9, New Riegel 1

NEW RIEGEL — The Crimson Streaks took a successful step in defending their Midland Athletic League title on Saturday, defeating the Blue Jackets.

SJCC outhit New Riegel 8-2 and didn't commit an error.

Jimmy Haas went 2-for-5 with a double to lead the victors. Nate Kerr and Kyle Szymanowski each chipped in a double.

Kevin Wammes recorded the win on the mound.

SJCC (3-2) hosts Lorain Catholic today at Conner Park.

Baseball Roundup

Ross rolls; Wammes leads SJCC

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — The Fremont Ross baseball team had all its bases covered against rival Sandusky on Tuesday.

The Little Giants had strong pitching, good hitting and perfect defense in a 7-0 shutout of the Blue Streaks in Great Lake League action.



HINTZE

"We fielded the ball well and we had no errors for the first time this season which really helps," Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeller said. "I'm really happy with how we played today."

Kyle Hintze (2-1) went 5½ innings to earn the win. He had seven walks and eight strikeouts. Teammate Brad Cobb earned the save.

At the plate, Ross outhit Sandusky 3-2. Joey Garza, Aurelio Ruiz and Jared Dickman each knocked two hits, while Jon Franks added a base hit.

The Little Giants (5-2, 1-1 GLL) travel to Toledo St. Francis on Thursday.

St. Joe 9, Genoa 8 (8)

GENOA — SJCC's Kevin Wammes provided heroics at the plate and on the mound.

The Crimson Streak sophomore smacked a two-run triple to score Jimmy Haas and Cory Miller in the top of the eighth inning. Wammes (3-0) then took the mound and retired the side with three strikeouts for the win.

SJCC had a 9-8 lead going into the bottom of the seventh inning, but Genoa used effective bunting to get home the tying run.

"Genoa's always a sound team. If you beat them, you did something right," SJCC coach Rick Barbour said. "We hit the ball well tonight. That's the first time we've reached double digits in hits, so I was pleased."

Haas went 3-for-5 to lead SJCC's 12-hit attack. Wammes and Ben Miller each went 2-for-3, and Cory Miller and Shaun Rusch each doubled.

Andrew Dunn was 3-for-4 to lead Genoa. Tyler Rohloff, Tim McWatters and Mike Dufendock added two hits apiece. Dufendock took the loss on the mound.

St. Joe (5-2) hosts St. Wendelin today at Conner Park.

St. Wendelin 12, Woodmore 2

FOSTORIA — The Woodmore baseball team fell back to .500 on Tuesday as the Wildcats fell to St. Wendelin in a make-up game.

Woodmore is now 4-4 overall.

Matt Henderly started and took the loss for the Wildcats as he only lasted two innings. He gave up five runs, four earned on four hits and three walks.

Adam Parton followed Henderly on the mound, going 2½ innings. He allowed six runs, five earned on four hits and two walks. He struck out three batters.

Steve Zajac went 2-for-2 for the Wildcats and Chris Pavlica doubled.

The Wildcats travel to Elmwood today.

Van Buren 14, Bettsville 1

VAN BUREN — The Knights caught fire for 10 runs in the first inning and cruised to a non-league win over Bettsville.

The Bobcat offense was kept in check for only five hits. Robert Tarris and Sean Harrison each went 2-for-2.

Adam Lawrence gave up 10 runs in ½ innings for the loss.

The Bobcats (1-5) travel to Otsego on Friday.

Monroeville 9, Old Fort 8

MONROEVILLE — The winless Stockaders couldn't hold on to an 8-6 lead and fell to 0-7.

Monroeville rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh to earn the win.

Zak Magers was 3-for-3 for Old Fort, while Kevin Kerlin was 3-for-4. Neal Anderson contributed two hits.

Scott Rathfelder absorbed the loss, going 2½ innings.

The Stockaders host Carey in league action today.

with the bases loaded. Her single tied the score and paved the way for the Raiders to put three more runs on the board.

Heidi Brose, who knocked in the final run of the game for Lakota, went 3-for-4.

Hannah Bursiek (4-3) picked up a pair of victories. She went the distance in the first game, striking out eight and allowing two earned runs and six hits. In the second game, Bursiek pitched three innings in relief of starter Amy Hershey.

Alyssia Moroschan led the Lakota attack in Game 1. She went 3-for-4 and scored three runs. Amber Ginner went 2-for-3 and knocked in four runs in the opener. She hit an inside-the-park home run and knocked in two runs in the nightcap.

Hopewell-Loudon fell to 2-9.

The Raiders visit Otsego today.

Otsego 1, Oak Harbor 0

Oak Harbor 2, Wauseon 1

TONTOGANY — Once again, Stephanie Damschroder gave Oak Harbor two solid outings during a doubleheader, but she was a tough-luck loser in one game as the Rockets split on Saturday.

The first game pitted Oak Harbor against Otsego. Damschroder only allowed one run, but that was too much as the Knights shut out the Rockets.

Damschroder pitched four innings and allowed five hits. The one run scored on an groundout after a double and a sacrifice.

In the second game, Damschroder again only gave up one run, but this time in a winning effort. The Rocket hurler tossed five innings and gave up three hits and one walk. Damschroder struck out five batters.

Oak Harbor picked up its runs in the fourth inning. Liz Perry led off with a double. Then, pinch-runner Carli Wittman stole second base before Jennifer Short was walked. Both runners moved up a base after a Michelle Druckenmiller sacrifice and scored on a Sarah Diefenthaler double.

"Sarah had a really good day," Oak Harbor coach Tracy Donnelly said. "She did exactly what we needed her to do."

The split moved Oak Harbor's record to 7-4. The Rockets travel to Clyde today for an important Sandusky Bay Conference game.

BASEBALL

Defiance 4, Ross 3

Columbian 5, Ross 1

The Little Giants dropped a pair of games in a three-way doubleheader at Alumni Field.

In the first game, Defiance (7-3) scored three runs in the top of the sixth inning to erase a two-run deficit and escape with the victory.

Ross (5-4) got a 3-for-4 performance from Jared Dickman. Dickman blasted two doubles and a home run and scored twice. Joey Garza added two hits against the Bulldogs.

In the second game, the Little Giants managed just four hits — two after the first inning — against Columbian pitcher Wes Reinbolt.

"We just hit the ball right at them in the second game, and they made the plays," Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeiller said. "We pitched and played well in the field, we just couldn't get the big hits."

Brad Cobb took the loss on the mound in relief of starter Kyle Hintze in the first game. Steve Smith absorbed the defeat in Game 2.

Ross hosts Napoleon on Tuesday.

Northwood 11-6, Gibsonburg 4-9

NORTHWOOD — Wes Milleson went 5-for-5 and stole five bases in the doubleheader as the Golden Bears gained a split with the Rangers.

Northwood (3-6) put away the first game with a six-run bottom of the sixth inning.

Milleson finished the opener 4-for-4 with a pair of RBI, and Austin Davidson added a double and triple as Gibsonburg outhit the Rangers 9-6.

In the second game, Fought pitched the final 3½ innings to earn his first victory of the season. Davidson and Smith each had two hits. Milleson went 1-for-1 but reached base four times and stole four bases.

"I thought we could have had two," Gibsonburg head coach Brent Liskai said. "We had a bad inning and left too many runners on base in the first game. It was nice to see us come up with some clutch hits in the second game."

Gibsonburg visits Cardinal Stritch today in a makeup game.

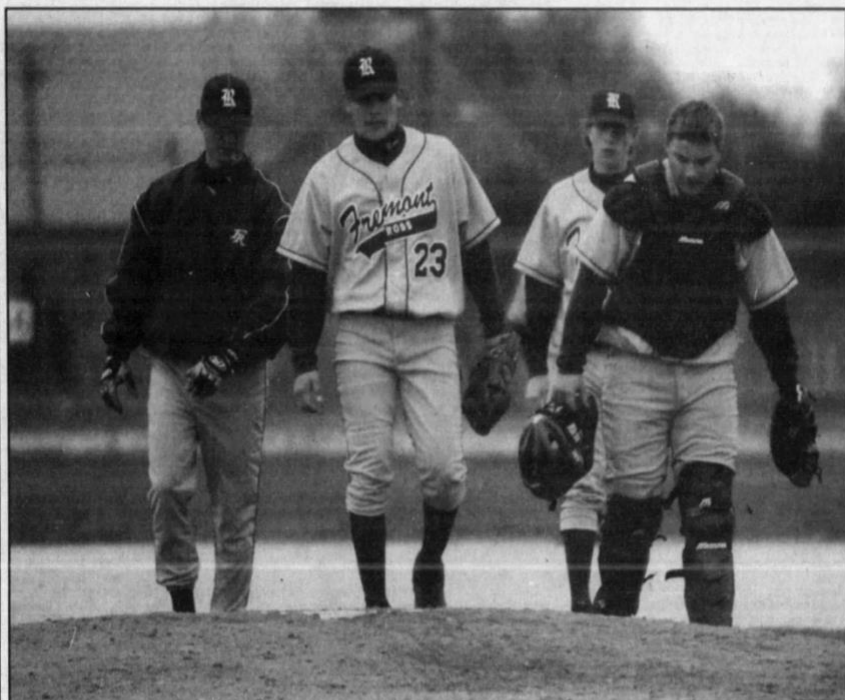
Bowling Green 11-15, Woodmore 0-2

BOWLING GREEN — The Bobcats ripped the Wildcats in two games shortened to five innings by the run rule.

Bowling Green outhit Woodmore 25-9, and the Wildcats committed seven errors to the Bobcats' one.

Dana Wend led the Woodmore offense by going 2-for-2 in the first game and doubling in the second game. Brett Golightley went 2-for-2 in the second game.

The Wildcats (4-7) visit Eastwood on Wednesday.



ROSS STARTER Joey Garza (23) walks back toward the mound after a conference with head coach Rob Schimmoe, left; catcher Cody Myers; and first baseman Kyle Spriggs during Tuesday's Great Lakes League game at Joe Lotycz Field.

News-Messenger photos/Ben French

Ross arms go awry

Napoleon rips 14 hits, gets first GLL win

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

The Fremont Ross baseball team wore road uniforms for Tuesday's home game against Napoleon.

Head coach Rob Schimmoe said the away grays are warmer than the white vests his team sports at home, an important consideration on a breezy 50-degree day.

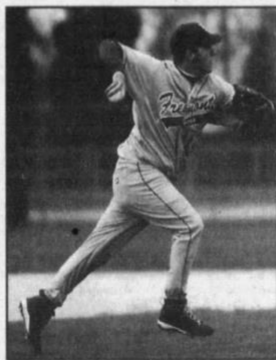
But the away jerseys may have had an adverse effect on the Ross pitchers. All four hurlers the Little Giants tried acted as if they were on enemy territory when they toed the Joe Lotycz Field rubber.

The pitchers allowed 21 baserunners — 14 hits, five walks and two hit batsmen — during Napoleon's 11-6 Great Lakes League victory.

"They're young, and they're learning," Schimmoe said of his pitchers. "We only had six or eight returning innings coming back from last year."

"(Starter) Joey (Garza) never looked like he got loose today. I think the cold really affected him. He throws the ball 78 or 79 miles per hour, but he was probably throwing it 65 today."

Every Wildcat in the batting order got a hit as Napoleon (7-5) earned its first GLL victory in three tries. Ross fell to 5-5, 1-2 in the league.



JON FRANKS of Ross prepares to fire to first after picking up a ground ball at third base Tuesday at Joe Lotycz Field.

Jason Plassman led the way by reaching base all four times. He had two hits, drew two walks and scored twice. Ninth hitter Scott Bockelman added two hits, three runs batted in and two runs scored.

"It's been the first time all season that we actually got the bats going," Napoleon head coach Mike Hummer said. "We left a lot of runners in scoring position. We've received great

pitching, and for the most part we've had pretty darn good defense. But we haven't been scoring runs. As a coaching staff, we're very pleased all the kids hit throughout the order and with runners in scoring position."

The Wildcats could have scored more runs, but Ross catcher Cody Myers kept his team relatively close for most of the game by gunning down four baserunners. Myers picked runners off second and third and threw out two would-be base-stealers.

"That was embarrassing," Hummer said. "It looked like freshman baseball on the basepaths."

Napoleon reached Garza for three unearned runs in the third inning and knocked him out of the game. The Wildcats scored their final eight runs off Ross relievers Jon Franks, Brad Cobb and Myers.

Myers suffered a tough fate. He gave up five runs in the top of the seventh, but only one was earned. Ross committed three errors in the frame.

See LITTLE GIANTS, B3

Little Giants struggle on mound, fall to Napoleon

Continued From B1

Ross trailed 11-2 but refused to go down without a fight. In their half of the seventh, the Little Giants ripped three doubles and scored four runs to knock Napoleon starter Brett Bostelman from the game.

Ross loaded the bases with one out, bringing the tying run to the on-deck circle. But Jake Kingsborough struck out after fouling off six two-strike pitches, and Jared Dickman popped to the shortstop to end the game.

"They finally loosened up and went out and swung the bats," Schimmoeller said of the seventh inning. "They've been really uptight lately. I wish I could figure it out."

Garza led the offense by going 3-for-3 with a walk, two RBI and two stolen bases. Myers and freshman Aaron Opelt contributed two hits apiece.

Ross is at Toledo Start for a 1:30 p.m. game today. The Little Giants visit Oregon Clay on Friday and travel to Oak Harbor for a 10 a.m. makeup game on Saturday.



Baseball Roundup

Ross can't finish off Start, 8-2

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross baseball team kept things close with perennial state power Toledo Start, but ended up losing 8-2 in non-league action on Wednesday.

The Little Giants trailed by only two runs after three innings until Start rattled off four runs in the fourth inning.

Steve Smith was tagged with the loss, going $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings giving up eight hits, four earned runs with three walks and four strikeouts. Doug Henkel came in and pitched two strikeouts in $2\frac{1}{3}$ innings of work.

Jon Franks went 2-for-4 at the plate with a home run for Ross.

The Little Giants (5-6) travel to Oregon Clay on Friday.

Franks douses fire, lifts Ross past Clay

Lalonde's four hits keep Clyde girls perfect in SBC

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Jon Franks came on to quell two Oregon Clay rallies as the Ross baseball team upset the Eagles, 5-3, Friday in a Great Lakes League game.

Franks, who relieved Ross starter Kyle Hintze, struck out a Clay batter with the bases loaded to end the fifth and induced a flyout to rightfielder Doug Henkel for the final out with the tying runs in scoring position in the seventh.

Aurelio Ruiz and Cody Myers each had two hits to lead the Little Giants' attack. Ruiz drove in a pair of runs.

The Eagles fell to 9-3, 2-2 in the GLL. Ross is 6-6, 2-2 in the league.

"It was a team effort today," Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeller said. "It's a big win. The game wasn't much different from the last few. Today, our hits found holes. We finally got some breaks."

Hintze earned the victory by going 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings and allowing two earned runs and three hits. He struck out five and walked six. Franks got the save with 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings of relief. He surrendered one run on two hits while striking out three and walking two.

Ross led 3-2 entering the top of the seventh. Jared Dickman tripled in a run and later scored on a Hintze single to give the Little Giants some breathing room.

The Little Giants visit Oak Harbor at 10 a.m. today for a single makeup game.



FRANKS



LALONDE

Dyer allowed two earned runs and six hits over six innings. He struck out 10 and walked four. Marcus McGee mopped up by throwing a scoreless seventh inning.

"We played excellent baseball today," Woodmore head coach Scott Smith. "Billy pitched another good game, and our offense came alive."

Pavlica drove in five runs. McGee went 3-for-4 at the plate, and J.R. Ribe and Dana Wend contributed two hits apiece.

Woodmore hosts Port Clinton today.

Oak Harbor 4, Perkins 1

SANDUSKY — Not only did Oak Harbor hand Perkins its first SBC loss of the season, but the Rockets jumped into a first-place tie with the Pirates as result.

Andrew Hemminger was in total control for Oak Harbor (8-1, 4-1 SBC). He hurled seven innings and scattered four hits and two walks. He struck out six Pirate batters.

"He did a nice job of mixing up his pitched," Oak Harbor coach Tim Harbal said. "He got a lot of ground balls."

Oak Harbor scored a run in the first inning and three in the second.

Justin Radsick started the second inning with a single. Eric Dusseau sacrificed him over to second before Cory Cantu singled him home. Bryan Gerber singled and stole second base. The catcher's throw sailed into center field and Cantu scored. Eventually Gerber

Ashley Micketti and Kim Zura led Danbury (3-5) with two hits apiece.

St. Joe travels to Port Clinton today for an 11 a.m. doubleheader.

Clyde 11, Port Clinton 3

PORT CLINTON — Karly Lalonde went 4-for-5 and scored three times as the Fliers stayed perfect in SBC play.

Hailey Andrews and Heather Kwiatkowski each added two hits to bolster Clyde's 14-hit attack. Sarah Pearson tripled and knocked in three runs.

The Fliers (11-1, 5-0 SBC) got a pitching victory from Angie Powell, who allowed six hits and three runs over seven innings. She struck out three and walked five.

Sara Savu took the loss for Port Clinton. She went the distance, striking out four and walking three.

Sandra Wozniak clubbed three hits to lead the Redskins (4-10, 3-2 SBC).

Clyde hosts Huron on Monday.

Otsego 3, Woodmore 0

TONTOGANY — Erin Limes limited the Wildcats to three hits as the Knights claimed an SLL victory.

Limes struck out six Woodmore batters and walked just two to lift Otsego to 9-4, 3-1 in the league.

Leah Garcia, Caitlin Kasson and Andrea Schneider got the three hits for Woodmore (3-8, 1-3 SLL). Tarah Jacobs allowed six hits and struck out five. The Wildcats committed four errors.

Kacey Smith paced the Knights with two hits.

Woodmore visits Genoa on Monday.

Northwood 7, Old Fort 4

NORTHWOOD — The Stockaders committed seven errors and dropped a non-league contest.

The Rangers came up with five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to overcome a 4-1 deficit.

Lauren Lee and Breana McCool led the Old Fort offense with two hits

Naufel went 5-for-5 in the nightcap and finished the day 7-for-8 with three runs and four runs batted in.

Bork went 6-for-8 with four runs and four RBI in the twin bill. Dickman added a 6-for-8 performance with four runs and eight RBI.

St. Joe is 7-10.

Brittany Albright won the first game on the mound. She allowed just two earned runs and seven hits in a route-going performance. She struck out four and walked two. Dickman claimed the second game.

Sara Savu paced Port Clinton (3-9) by going 6-for-9 for the day.

St. Joe travels to Seneca East today.

Lakota 14, Margaretta 6

RISINGSUN — Terica Lowery and Hannah Bursiek each had four hits as the Raiders rolled over the Polar Bears.

Lakota (5-9) outhit Margaretta 19-10. Bursiek scored three times and knocked in three runs.

Amy Hershey, Amber Ginnever and Heidi Brose each had two hits for the Raiders. Hershey earned the win on the mound.

Lakota is at Eastwood today.

BASEBALL

Ross 11, Oak Harbor 3

OAK HARBOR — The Little Giants banged out 12 hits and rode the pitching of Doug Henkel to a non-league rout of the Rockets.

Jon Franks had two hits and drove in four runs to lead the Little Giants' attack. Aurelio Ruiz, Henkel, Kyle Hintze and Jared Dickman each had two hits. Henkel scored three times, and Jake Kingsborough and Joey Garza each knocked in a pair of runs.

Ross improved to 7-6, while Oak Harbor fell to 8-2.

Henkel went the distance on the mound, allowing six hits and one earned run. He struck out six and walked one.

Bryan Gerber led the Rockets by going 2-for-3. Justin Radsick knocked in two runs.

Ross hosts Whitmer on Tuesday. Oak Harbor visits Margaretta today.

St. Paul 6-7, St. Joe 3-19

NORWALK — The Crimson Streaks blasted four home runs, including David Miller's grand slam, in the second game to salvage a split with the Flyers.

Ben Miller, Jeremiah Miller and Jimmy Haas also hit home runs for St. Joe (10-5). Kyle Szymanowski went 3-for-4 in the second game as the Streaks pounded out 16 hits.

The second game was shortened to five innings by the run rule.

Robbie Roth was the beneficiary of all the run support. He went all the way and allowed seven runs. He struck out four and walked two.

St. Paul (6-9) owned the first game. Pitcher Brad Mutchler allowed St. Joe just three runs and five hits.

Matt Stein, Alan Rospert and Todd Colette homered for the Flyers in the first game.

The Streaks are at Seneca East today.

Gibsonburg 8, Old Fort 3

OLD FORT — The Golden Bears ripped off a seven-run top of the seventh inning and won a non-league game going away.

Wes Milleson and Josh Kerbel drove in three and two runs, respectively, for Gibsonburg (5-9). Andy Gruner picked up the victory in relief.

Old Fort outhit the Golden Bears 9-7. Kevin Kerlin, Marcus Hoke and Nick Mellott each had two hits for

Pitcher regroup, carries Panthers by Little Giants

Bad first inning fails to curtail junior Rachuba

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

Whitmer pitcher Brian Rachuba survived an interminable first inning and a spat with his coach to beat Fremont Ross in a Great Lakes League battle Tuesday.

The junior righty was nearly pulled from the game after surrendering three runs and throwing 43 pitches in the first inning.

But after a spirited discussion with head coach Gary O'Connor, Rachuba

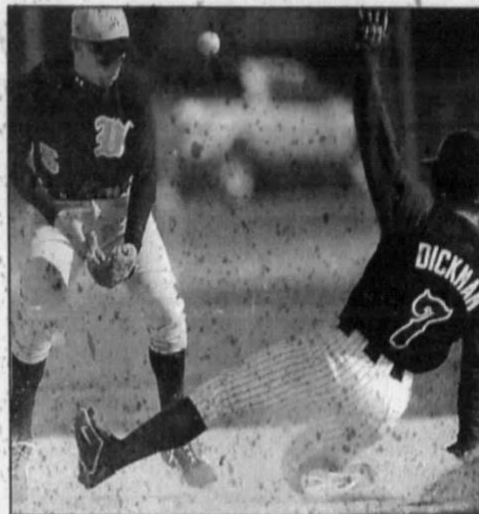
gave up just two hits and an unearned run the rest of the way as Whitmer claimed a 6-4 victory at Joe Lotycz Field.

Rachuba entered the season as the Panthers' ace but has suffered through a bad start, adding to his frustration in the first inning.

"He was down on himself," O'Connor said. "I said something to him, and he got a little mad and walked away. I chased him down, and we talked a little bit. He

settled down and pitched like he should. He's struggled all year. He started with that mentality today."

After Whitmer (8-4, 3-2 GLL) scored three runs in the top of the first against Ross starter Jon Franks, the Little Giants (7-7, 2-3 GLL) loaded the bases with no outs against Rachuba. Jared Dickman and Jon Franks walked, and Aurelio Ruiz singled up the middle.



News-Messenger/Ben French

JARED DICKMAN, right, of Ross slides safely into second base with a stolen base as Whitmer's Alex Duhaime tries to control the ball Tuesday at Joe Lotycz Field.

See ROSS, B3

Ross falls to 7-7 overall after defeat to Panthers

Continued From B1

Joey Garza then knocked in a run with a groundout to third, and Kyle Spriggs brought home a pair of runs with a two-out single.

After that, Ross managed only infield singles by Cody Myers and Ruiz.

Derek Knapp scored a fourth-inning run when he walked, moved to third when Rachuba threw away a pickoff attempt and came home on Ruiz's infield hit.

Rachuba gave up five hits, walked five and struck out five during a yeoman's 140-pitch outing.

"He kept saying, 'I want to stay in; I want to stay in.' He throws mid-80s, and he's a solid pitcher, strong," O'Connor said. "We had him a lot higher (in pitch count) than I normally go. ... But that was by far the best pitching performance he's had this year."

Ross played without starters Kyle Hintze and Doug Henkel and bench player Aaron Opelt. Opelt has an injured foot, and Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeller refused comment about the absences of Hintze and Henkel.

The Little Giants stranded eight runners as its modest two-game winning streak came to an end.

"We left runners on base again," Schimmoeller said. "We left the bases loaded once and left two guys on a couple times. We were in position to do what we needed to do."

After both teams scored three in the first, the Panthers answered with two more in the second to take the lead for good.

J.J. Fought, Whitmer's sophomore leadoff hitter, tripled in a run in the second and later scored on an infield single by Rachuba.

"That's a tribute to our team this year," O'Connor said of the second-inning rally. "They don't get down. If a team scores on them, it's no big deal. Last week, we had three come-from-behind wins in the seventh inning."

Fought, the son of former Ross baseball coach Dan Fought, went 2-for-3 with a pair of stolen bases and scored three times. Alex Duhaime and Greg Schermbeck added two hits apiece.

Franks settled down nicely after a rough two innings. He re-



News-Messenger/Ben French

ROSS CATCHER Cody Myers makes a play at home plate as Toledo Whitmer's Alex Duhaime is out during Great Lakes League action on Tuesday at Joe Lotycz Field. The Little Giants lost 6-4.

tired nine of 10 batters in innings three through five. Franks gave up five earned runs and 10 hits in six innings. He struck out six and walked three.

Sophomore Brad Cobb pitched a perfect seventh inning, striking out one.

Ruiz led the Ross offense by going 2-for-4.

"We came out a little slow today," Schimmoeller said. "A couple errors and everything compounded. They pulled it back together. We were on a little bit of a roll coming in here, but we just couldn't keep it going. I don't know what it is; we can't play at home."

Ross visits Findlay on Friday.

Ross cages 'Cats

News-Messenger reports

NAPOLEON — Napoleon's drop was Ross's gain.

The Little Giants baseball team scored the tying and go-ahead runs on a Wildcat error, capping a three-run seventh inning and a 5-4 Great Lakes League triumph on Friday.

Ross, which improved to 3-3 in the Great Lakes League, trailed by two runs entering the final frame. Doug Henkel led off the seventh with a single, and Aurelio Ruiz followed with a base hit. Kyle Spriggs reached base on a fielder's choice, and Kyle Hintze smacked a single to score Derek Knapp, who was pinch-running for Ruiz.

Jon Franks came to the plate and crushed a shot to the fence and the Napoleon outfielder dropped the ball as

he was falling to make the catch, bringing home Spriggs and Hintze.

"We had a good day at the plate," Little Giants skipper Rob Schimmoeller said. "And it was nice to see Brad Cobb come in and close the door."

Cobb came in relief of Henkel in the fifth and gave up two hits for the win.

Schimmoeller said his players hit the ball hard, perhaps none harder than Jared Dickman's 420-foot solo homer in the fourth inning. Hintze was 3-for-4 with two RBI, and Spriggs went 2-for-3, as did Henkel.

Ross (9-8) plays a doubleheader today at Ashland.

Clyde 5, Edison 1

MILAN — It was a victory in more ways than one. The Fliers defeated Edison in Sandusky Bay Conference play, earning their first triumph since assistant coach Mick Gooding passed away on April 27.

plate with a 2-for-3 effort with a double. The Flyers meet Evergreen at 5 p.m. May 19 in a district semifinal at Genoa.

Woodmore resumes league action today at Otsego.

DIVISION II

Oak Harbor 4, Port Clinton 2

SANDUSKY — After letting Port Clinton tag two runs on him, Andrew Hemminger settled in and shut down PC.

The Rockets hurler gave up two runs on six hits with four strikeouts to lead his team to a Division II sectional title on Saturday.

"Hemminger is a real good pitcher," Redskins head coach Greg Scalf said. "We were able to touch him early. We played a great game. But there's always been a bad-luck inning. It's been that way all year. For six innings, we did what we wanted. It was the fourth that hurt us."

The Rockets (11-3) advance to face Perkins at 5 p.m. May 19th in a district semifinal at Perkins.

Oak Harbor had a slim hitting advantage, 7-5, but capitalized on the Redskins' lone error with four runs in the fourth inning. Dave Bensch lead Oak Harbor at the plate with a 2-for-3 effort.

Tom Estep was tagged with the loss for Port Clinton, while Chris Mazur had an RBI double and scored a run.

Oak Harbor hosts Perkins today.

REGULAR SEASON

Ashland 9-6, Ross 5-3

ASHLAND — Eleven of Ashland's 15 runs were unearned during a doubleheader sweep of the Little Giants.

"That's how we lost both games,"

Ross head coach Rob Schimmoeller said of his team's errors.

Ross committed two errors in the fourth inning and two more in the fifth of the first game, when the Arrows (16-5) scored all nine of their runs.

Doug Henkel led the Little Giants by going 3-for-4 with two RBI. Kyle Hintze added two hits.

In the nightcap, Joey Garza was the hard-luck loser for Ross. He went the distance, giving up only one earned run and eight hits. He struck out five and walked one.

Freshman Robbie Hall went 3-for-3, and Jon Franks went 2-for-4 for Ross (9-10).

Ross hosts Clay today.

SOFTBALL

DIVISION IV

Calvert 10, St. Joe 4

OLD FORT — One bad inning continues to haunt SJCC.

Calvert took advantage of Crimson Streak errors for a six-run fourth inning to earn a Division IV sectional title on Saturday.

SJCC (10-14) trailed 4-2 until being beset by errors.

"We played decent and they played better," SJCC coach Bill Bork said. "Again, one bad inning hurt us. We had four throwing errors in the fifth."

Katy Hasselbach went 2-for-3 with two runs for SJCC, while Mandy Hensley (triple), Kristen Pietrykowski (double) and Ali Kusmer added a hit apiece.

Brittany Albright absorbed the loss for the Crimson Streaks, allowed six earned runs on 12 hits with two strikeouts.

Calvert outhit SJCC 12-5. Elizabeth Stover went 3-for-4 for the

Trojans trounce Little Giants

Clyde baseball stays in thick of SBC race; Woodmore girls stun Genoa

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — The Findlay baseball team showed Fremont Ross why it's ranked third in the state by pasting the Little Giants, 10-1, Wednesday in a Great Lakes League game.

Josh Widman homered to lead a 10-hit Trojan attack. Widman went 2-for-3 with a pair of runs and two runs batted in. Brian Almond added a 3-for-3 performance with two runs scored for Findlay (21-1, 9-0 GLL).

Ross (9-12, 3-5 GLL) managed just five hits off Findlay starter Tyler Curliss and a reliever. Kyle Hintze doubled to lead the way.

Starter Jon Franks took the loss for the Little Giants.

Ross is at Whitmer today. The Little Giants will take on Sandusky on Friday in a doubleheader at the Field of Dreams near Castalia. The junior varsity game begins at 5 p.m. with the varsity game to follow under the lights.

Genoa 8, Woodmore 4

GENOA — The Comets doubled up the Wildcats for an SLL win.

Andrew Dunn (4-2) was the winning pitcher for Genoa (11-8, 6-2 SLL). He only gave up one earned run on five hits and four walks. Dunn punched out 10 Wildcat batters.

Woodmore's (11-14, 4-7 SLL) Marcus McGee went six innings for the loss. He was knocked for eight runs, six earned, on 11 hits and two walks with five strikeouts.

Mike Dufendock of Genoa went 4-for-4 with a double and two runs. Kevin Dunn went 2-for-3 with three RBI. Chris Pavlica doubled for Woodmore.

The Wildcats host Gibsonburg on Friday.

Eastwood 9, Lakota 8

PEMBERVILLE — The Raiders fell to 4-16, 2-8 in the SLL with a tough loss to the Eagles.

Tony Brown led Lakota's attack by going 3-for-4. Tim Ray and Andy Brough added two hits apiece.

Adam Johnson absorbed the loss for the Raiders.

Oak Harbor 1, Margaretta 0

OAK HARBOR — What a difference a day — not to mention an ace pitcher — makes.

Woodmore 4, Genoa 3

WOODVILLE — The Wildcats upset the Comets despite getting only one hit.

Several fielding gaffes hurt Genoa (19-4, 8-3 SLL). Woodmore (6-14, 4-8 SLL) scored its first run when Andrea Moenter led off with a walk and came around on a passed ball, fielder's choice and an error.

Then the Wildcats scored three runs in the fourth inning. Megan Brough doubled for Woodmore's only hit to start the inning. Brough scored on a fielder's choice and an error. Ashley Diemyer, who reached on a fielder's choice eventually scored after another fielder's choice. Tiffany Kovach, who was a courtesy runner, scored on an error for the third run of the inning.

"The girls played well. The defense was great. A lot of girls made great plays when we needed them," Woodmore coach Michelle Baker said.

"Megan Brough stepped up and started things off in the fourth with a huge hit. Overall, the girls did a great job of putting the ball in play and forcing Genoa to make some uncharacteristic errors.

"Tarah (Jacobs) did a great job on the mound keeping their hitters off-balance. They hit a lot of shots, but luckily those shots were nothing more than flyballs. Genoa's Kestel has

"I was really pleased to see our girls hit the ball," Oak Harbor coach Tracy Donnelly said. "We didn't hit just singles, but we got extra base hits as well."

Stephanie Damschroder (13-8) went three innings for the win for Oak Harbor (13-8, 7-2 SBC).

Oak Harbor travels to Port Clinton for its final game of the season Friday.

Mohawk 9, Old Fort 0

OLD FORT — The Stockaders managed just one hit and fell in a Midland Athletic League contest.

Aleigh Adelsperger collected Old Fort's lone safety. Mohawk, meanwhile, ripped 14 hits.

Old Fort fell to 9-9, 4-3 in the MAL. The Stockaders host Van Buren on Friday.

TENNIS

Lexington 5, Ross 0

LEXINGTON — The fifth-ranked Minutemen allowed Ross just eight games during a non-league sweep.

Ty Schaub, Steve Webster and Dan Piper claimed singles victories for Lexington (15-1). Schaub took out David Albrecht 6-0, 6-1; Webster slid by Rattapoom Mitikki 6-0, 6-0; and Piper won a 6-2, 6-1 decision over Brian Gibbs.

The Lexington doubles team of Drew Balesky and Josh Adams

Continued From B1

Tarah Jacobs (4-12) struck out six as the losing pitcher for the Wildcats.

Erin Limes was the winning pitcher for Otsego (12-7, 6-2 SLL) as she went four innings with three strikeouts.

Andrea Moenter, Betsy and Ashley Deitemyer and Megan Brough each got one hit for Woodmore.

Jenny Shultz and Kacey Smith both went 2-for-4 for Otsego. Smith added four RBI.

Woodmore travels to Genoa at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

BASEBALL

Clay 6, Ross 2

Oregon Clay jumped out to a four-run lead after three innings and never trailed in a Great Lakes League triumph over Ross at Joe Lotycz Field.

Fremont used four different pitchers, with Kyle Hintze absorbing the loss. He went three innings, allowing three earned runs on five hits with three walks and three strikeouts. Steve Smith ($\frac{2}{3}$ innings), Brad Cobb ($\frac{2}{3}$ inning) and Jared Dickman (1 inning) also con-



McGEE

tributed to the pitching rotation.

At the plate, Doug Henkel went 1-for-3 with an RBI for Ross.

The Little Giants (9-11), who fell a game below .500 in the GLL (3-4), mustered only four hits.

Fremont travels to Whitmer today for a

make-up game.

Woodmore 8, Otsego 6 (8)

TONTOGANY — Woodmore picked up some key hits in the eighth inning to beat Otsego 8-6 in extra innings.

Billy Dyer started the inning with a single before J.R. Ribe pinch ran and stole second base. Brett Golightley doubled home Ribe for a 7-6 lead, and Marcus McGee singled home Golightley for the final margin of 8-6.

"Our offense finally came through, we got the key hits at the right time," Woodmore coach Scott Smith said. "I'm proud of the way we played today."

Adam Parton (3-2) got the win in relief. He went $\frac{1}{3}$ innings of scoreless baseball.

High School Boys

Whitmer 2, Ross 1

Ross 010 000 0 — 1 3 1

Whitmer 101 000 x — 2 5 1

WP — Kozłowski, LP — Joey Garza (1-2).

HR — Wainscott (W).

Ross pitching: Garza 6 inns, 2 runs, 2 ERs, 5 hits, 2 walks, 2 Ks.

Whitmer pitching: Kozłowski 7 inns, 1 run, 1 ER, 3 hits, 1 walk, 5 Ks.

Ross hitting: Kyle Spriggs 1-3, 1 run, 1 stolen base.

Whitmer hitting: Wainscott 2-3, 2 RBIs.

Records: Ross 9-13 (3-6 GLL), Whitmer (6-3 GLL).

Ross 3, Sandusky 2

VICKERY — The Little Giants closed the season with a positive, a Great Lakes League triumph over rival Sandusky on Friday at the Field of Dreams.

Ross ended the year 10-13 overall and 4-6 in the GLL.

"It's been an interesting year," Ross first-year head baseball coach Rob Schimoeller said. "It was fun. We have solid nucleus of eight seniors coming back. We only lose two. If we develop some pitching, we could be a good team next year."

Ross scored a pair of runs in the fifth and played solid defense the rest of the way. Jake Kingsborough led off the inning with a walk, and Kyle Hintze doubled. Doug Henkel reached base on a Sandusky error, which allowed Kingsborough to score. Hintze crossed home on the next at bat on Jon Franks' suicide squeeze play.

Hintze was the winning pitcher, allowing two earned runs on five hits with eight strikeouts in the route-going effort. He was recently named to play in the District 9 All-Star game at 11 a.m. on May 31st.

John Heath was the losing pitcher for the Blue Streaks, and Matt Harris went 2-for-2 with a double and three RBI.
