

HIGH SCHOOL SECTIONAL SOCCER: PERRYSBURG 7, FREMONT ROSS 0

Gipe gives Ross chance in sectional loss

By KEVIN YANIK
Sports Writer

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross goalkeeper Bobby Gipe was again a brick wall when his team needed him most Monday.

Unfortunately for him, Perrysburg snuck a few goals past him and eliminated the Little Giants, whose season ended with a 7-0 loss in the Division I sectional opener at Graham Memorial Soccer Stadium.

"I knew coming in that this might possibly be my last game," said Gipe, one of four senior players. "I wanted to leave a little extra on the field."

Gipe did just that with several spectacular saves. Some required a dive, while other shots needed to be punched away from goal.

And Gipe was in perfect position on just about every Perrysburg shot.

"Bobby's the quintessential goalkeeper," Ross coach Jeff Pendry said. "He makes the saves you expect him to, and then the diving ones too."

Gipe was a big reason why the Little Giants only trailed by a goal 33 minutes into the game. Yellow Jackets freshman Karter Sell snuck one past him in the 14th minute to put Ross down 1-0, but Gipe made every possible save over the next 20 minutes.

Yellow Jackets junior Kyle King scored his team's second goal at the 34-minute mark. And that nearly stood as Perrysburg's last goal of the first half.

Yet then, with five seconds before halftime, the Yellow Jackets punched a third goal past Gipe. Yellow Jackets senior Jeff Kohler placed a corner kick right to senior Allan Falls, who

headed the ball into the right corner for a 3-0 advantage.

For Ross, the goal was the dagger. "The one with five seconds left kind of hurt mentally," Pendry said. "It was a big letdown."

Fremont's strategy against state-ranked Perrysburg was purely defensive: Keep the Yellow Jackets off the board, and hope for a goal.

The Little Giants never did score themselves, but Pendry's strategy worked during the first half because of Gipe's goalkeeping and the team's defense.

"[The defense] played well," Gipe said. "We just had a couple miscommunication problems and that's how they scored their first goals"

E-mail Kevin Yanik at
kyanik@gannett.com



Kevin Yanik/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS senior Gerritt Knutzen gets tangled with Perrysburg senior Allan Falls early in their Monday game.