

Ross rolls

Jake Pfothenhauer scored a hat trick and Miguel Layton and Bobby Gipe each chipped in two more goals as the Ross boys rolled over Edison 10-2 in the season opener.

Derek Drown, Josh Baker and Adam Gruber each scored for Ross, who will play next against Port Clinton on Thursday.

Alex Daugherty and Adam Loucks were each 1-for-2 in saves.

"It's a nice way to start the season," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry.

Little Giants rally by Redskins

By John J. Beier

News-Messenger correspondent

Port Clinton traveled to Fremont to take on the Fremont Ross Little Giants in a boys varsity soccer match Thursday.

But Ross managed to hang on for a 5-3 victory.

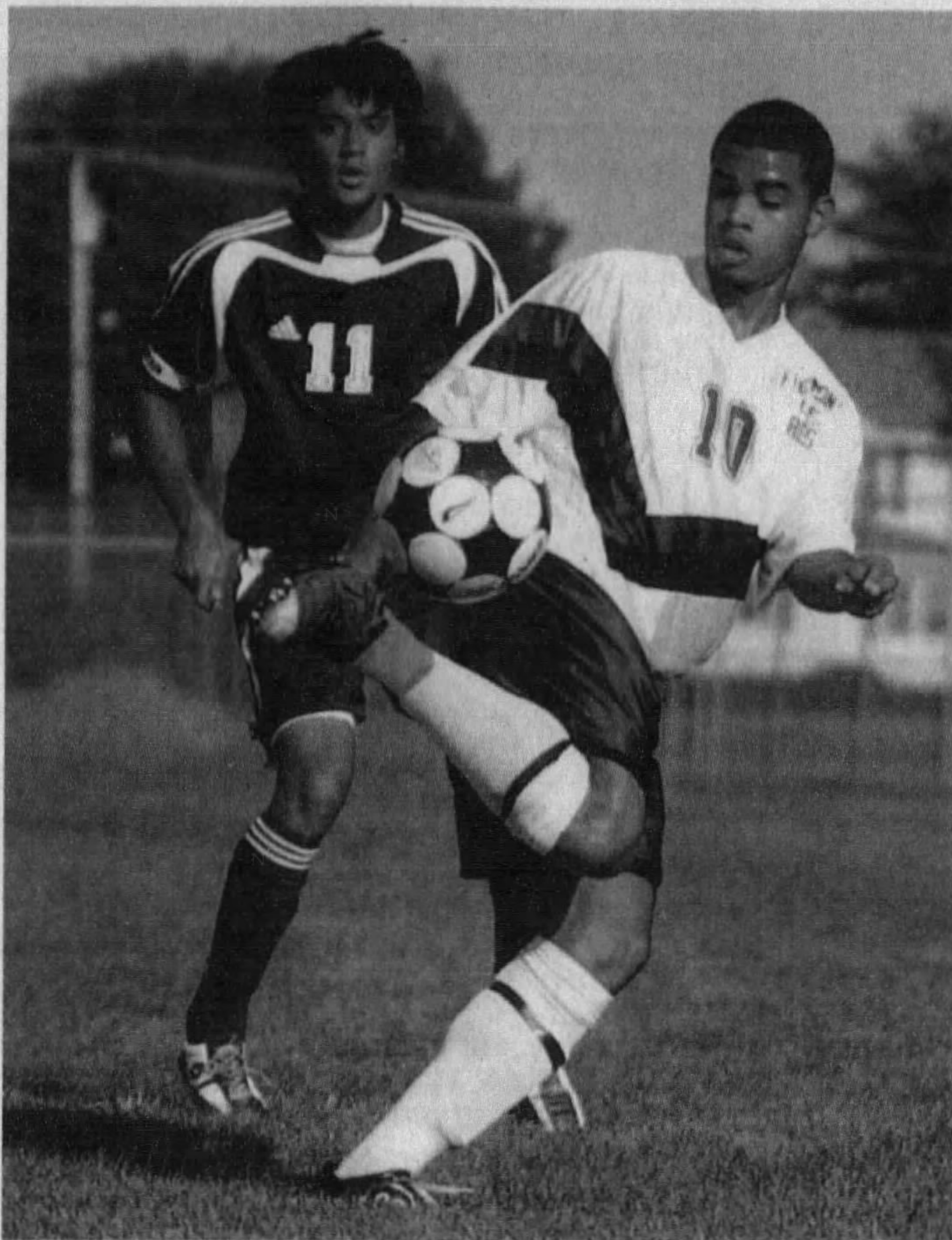
In the first half, Ross jumped out to a 2-0 lead. A goal by T.J. George at the 3:17 mark provided the Little Giants with the game's first goal. Then, Jake Pfothenhauer scored on an assist by Bobby Gipe at the 6:23 mark to extend the margin to two goals.

Port Clinton came back and scored at the 21:20 mark on a goal by Tristan Nighswander. The Redskins then tied the game at the 31:28 mark with a goal by Kyle Millinger.

Port Clinton took the lead in the second half on another goal by Millinger at the 3:05 mark. But that was its final goal of the game.

Ross mounted a comeback, tying the game at the 14:05 mark as Shawn Kluck scored on an assist by George. At the 31:59 mark, Miguel Layton had an assist that enabled George to score another goal. George gave Pfothenhauer an assist on an insurance goal at 34:29. This was Pfothenhauer's second goal of the game.

Ross coach Jeff Pendry said, "We had no give up tonight. (It was a) nice comeback. Next Wednesday, we open up our league play against Findlay, so we are still trying to figure out where the guys are going to play. We only have four starters back and seven new bodies."



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: FREMONT ROSS 5, SANDUSKY 1

Gipe leads Little Giants

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross soccer coach Jeff Pendry likened his soccer squad to a platoon of military officers as the Little Giants stormed Sandusky Tuesday 5-1.

The Blue Streaks fired shot after shot toward Little Giant goalie, Bobby Gipe, and Gipe responded by shutting out Sandusky until the 5:23 mark in the second half when Jake Turner scored the only Blue Streak goal on a penalty kick.

"I was just playing soccer," Gipe said. "It feels good to do it for my seniors."

Pendry said Gipe's ability to be a commander defensively has given the Little Giants (3-2, 1-1 GBC) a boost this season.

"Bobby is, for a lack of a better word, a 'god-send,'" Pendry said. "He is your prototypical goalie because he will do anything you would want him to do."

"Not only does he lead vocally, he leads by action. He reads the game well and he is commanding a very inexperienced defense. That is also helping the defense in

terms of learning the game and instilling more confidence in them on defense."

Gipe stopped 22 of Sandusky's 23 shots on goal.

While Gipe was busy playing Commander, Miguel Layton and T.J. George took charge of the team ranks in combining for all five goals.

Layton gave the Little Giants a 1-0 lead at the half as he blasted a penalty kick into the net at the 15:04 mark in the opening half.

"It felt pretty good to play up forward," Layton said. "I usually play forward but I've been playing sweeper a lot this year."

Ross's 1-0 lead at the half came on just three shots on goal while the Blue Streaks took aim on Gipe nine different times.

"We take a lot of shots on goal," Sandusky coach Tom Sample said. "We seem to have this fear of scoring."

"We have two fears. We have a fear of attacking and we have a fear of the outside of the field. We actually attacked well (Tuesday) but we just didn't finish well."

Sandusky's Eric Hille account-

ed for five of his team's shot attempts.

Things began to open up a little more for Ross in the second half as T.J. George scored the first of his two goals with 21:38 remaining in the game. George scored his second goal 11:30 later following a second goal from Layton.

Layton completed a hat trick by tallying his third goal with 7:06 left as the Little Giants opened a 5-0 lead.

"(Miguel and T.J.) are our two on-the-field generals," Pendry said. "They are the main focus."

"The emphasis is to involve them as much as possible. A lot of it is because they have the most soccer experience and soccer knowledge."

Pendry said he was also impressed with the play of his younger athletes.

"A lot of the other guys are new to varsity this year," Pendry said.

"They have come along quite well and the effort they are putting out is tremendous."

Jordan McMurray, Alex Daugherty and Jake Pfothauer each added shots on goal for Ross.

T.J. GEORGE plays the ball forward for Fremont Ross on Tuesday.

Little Giants fall to Irish, 2-0

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

The soccer contest between Fremont Ross and Toledo Central Catholic on Tuesday appeared to be headed toward a scoreless tie as the Little Giants fended off several Irish attacks throughout the game.

But sophomore halfback Patrick Rodiger took advantage of a missed Fremont opportunity on their end of the field and notched the go-ahead point with 3:13 remaining as Central Catholic scored a 2-0 victory.

"It's frustrating that it happens late in the game," Little Giant coach Jeff Pendry said. "What's most frustrating is that we had the ball in their end and didn't generate a shot and they had a quick counter attack and caught us off guard."

Irish coach Joe Hoppe said things could have gone either way but he felt that his team's persistency paid off in the end.

"We earned a lot of goal scoring opportunities throughout the game and nothing happened for seventy-seven minutes," said Hoppe, whose team improved to 3-3-1. "Then, we got two in a couple of minutes where the end result was luck but the effort ahead of (the goals) is what earned them."

"The first goal was a result of the effort ahead of the play and then it was the lucky breaks that helped us out at the end."

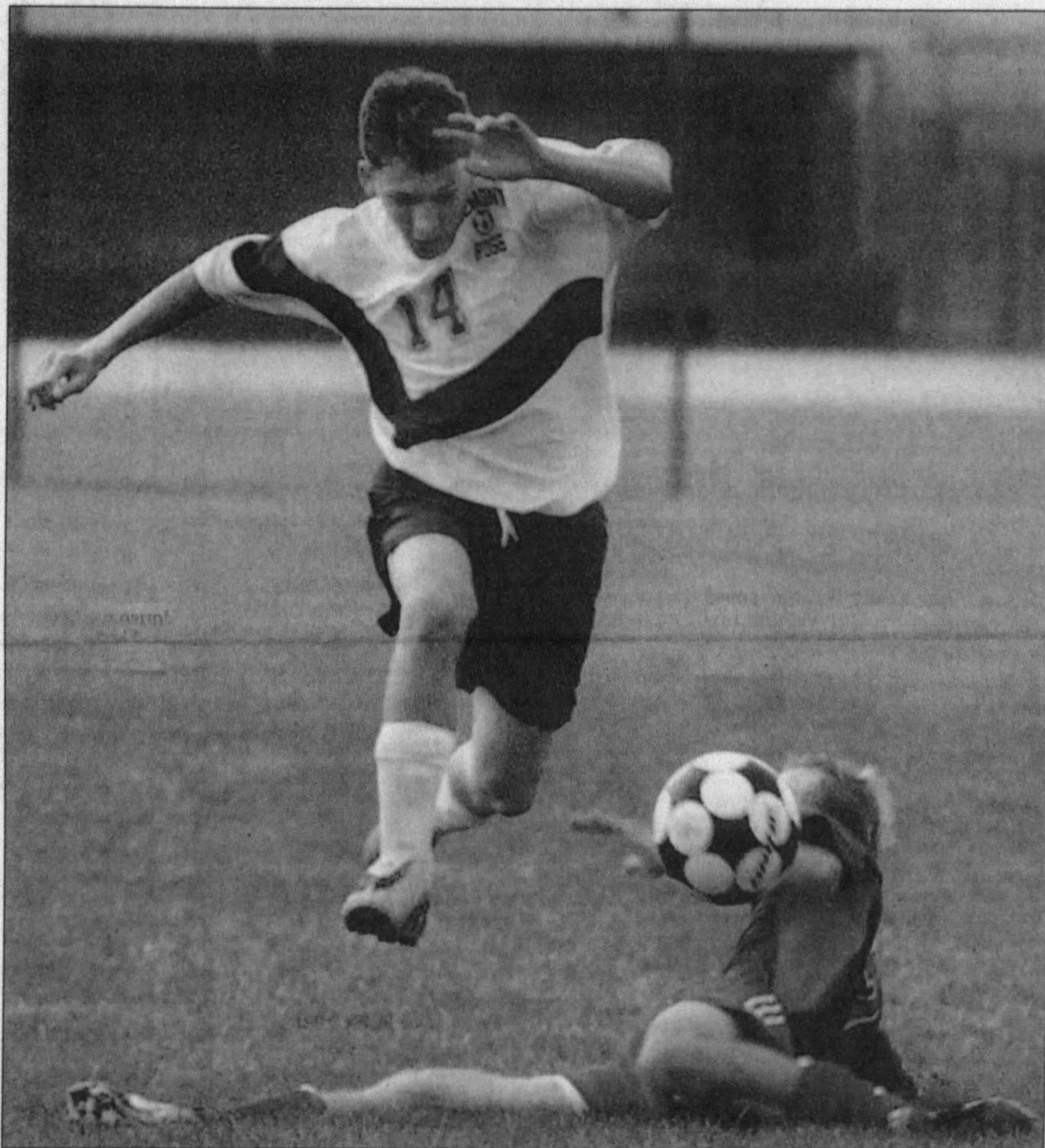
Central Catholic's second goal came with 2:42 left in the game as Jordan Duckett dropped a bouncing ball over the head of Fremont goalie Bobby Gipe.

The two teams took different approaches in the first half as Fremont tried to rely more on their defensive abilities while the Irish were focused on getting an early advantage.

"We don't always come out going strong right away," Hoppe said. "We knew we had a short and wide field and we wanted to pressure up at all three levels."

"We wanted it at the attackers, the midfield and the fullbacks and wanted to put some pressure on them and earn some opportunities."

Central Catholic took five shots on goal in the opening 20 minutes of the game to Fremont's three.



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

JOSH BAKER of Fremont Ross leaps over a Toledo Central Catholic soccer player at home on Tuesday.

The Little Giants countered with just three more shots in the final 20 minutes.

Five of Fremont's six shots on goal in the opening half were attempted by T.J. George.

Pendry said his team's focus was on defense, which he says is his team's best asset.

"The one thing we've realized is that we're much stronger on de-

fense," said Pendry. "It is difficult for us to generate more offense just because we have more skill on defense."

"That is just a case of our lack of varsity experience on offense."

While George accounted for six of his team's eight shots on goal, the Little Giants also showed impressive speed in the form of Jake Pfothauer.

"Jake is probably one of our quicker players," Pendry said. "He's one that I would have liked to have seen come out three years ago as a freshman and develop his talent even more."

The Little Giants, 3-4 overall, will play their third Greater Buckeye Conference contest Saturday as they travel to Lima Senior. Fremont is currently 1-1 in the GBC.

High School Soccer Wildcats score 9 in victory over Ross

News-Messenger reports

Chris Maye and Chris Bonnett each had a hat trick for Woodmore as the Wildcats beat Fremont Ross 9-3 in boys varsity soccer Monday.

Josh Baker, Pedro Lopez and Victor Layton scored for the Little Giants, with Elliott Layton providing an assist.

Gavin Camp also scored twice and got an assist, and Ben Berfield scored as well for the Wildcats (3-5-1).

Josh Wolfe had eight saves in goal for Woodmore, while Tino Lopez had 12 for Ross.

Little Giants blank Harding

By John J. Beier

News-Messenger correspondent

Marion Harding came into Fremont with hopes of taking over sole possession of third place in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

But the Little Giants spoiled their hopes with a 2-0 victory Tuesday.

Ross improved to 5-6-1 overall and 2-2 in the GBC. Marion Harding dropped to 2-3 in the league and 3-7 overall.

The match was pretty much a defensive struggle with both sides keeping the ball in the middle of the field the majority of the game. With 32:59 gone in the first half, Little Giant Derek Drown had a corner kick that Miguel Layton put into the net for the first goal of the game. That was all the first-half scoring.

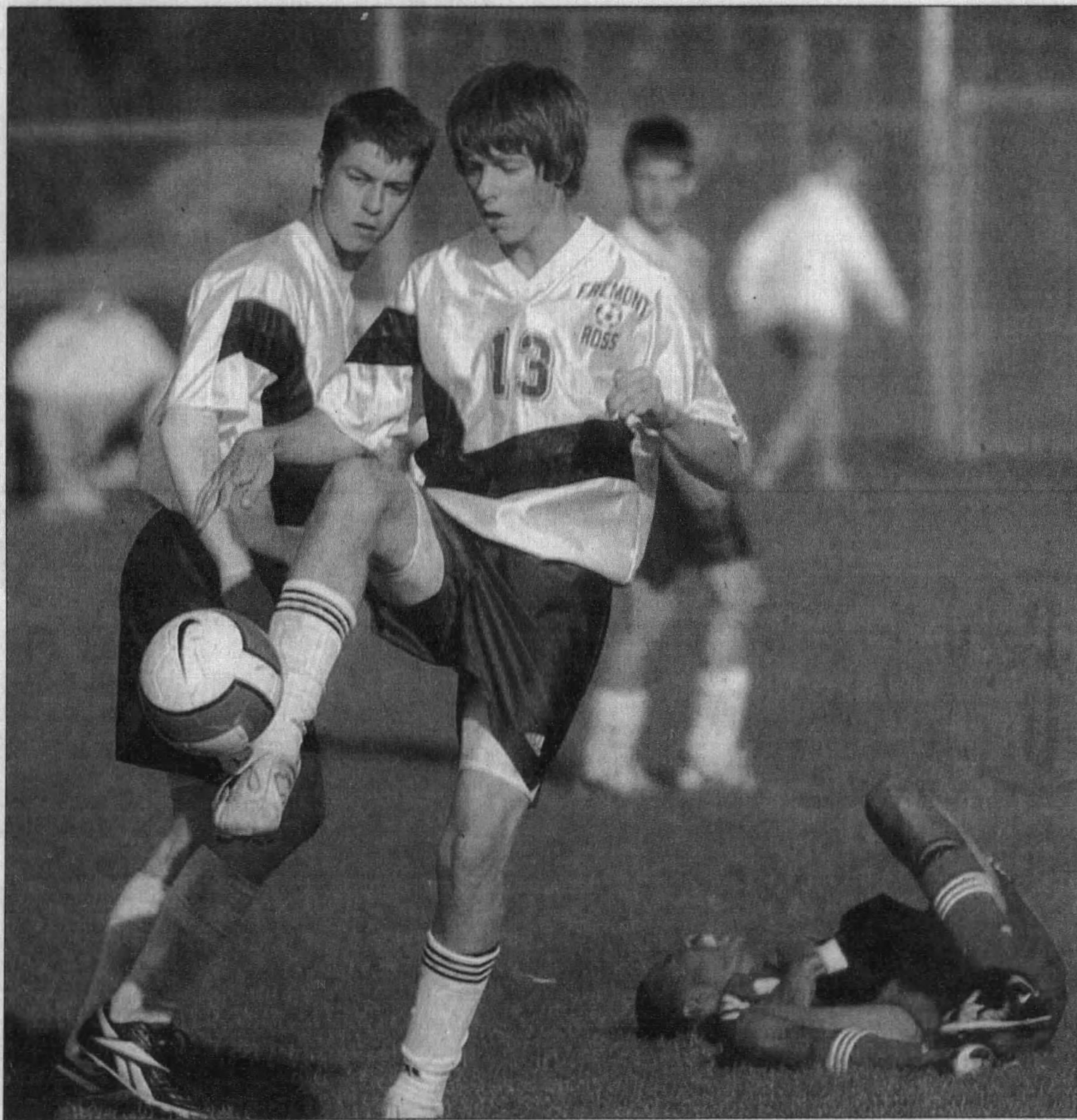
At the 37:41 mark of the second half, Layton scored his ninth goal of the season for the Little Giants on an assist by Andy Brandt. Layton's nine goals make him the leading scorer for Ross this year.

Ross keeper Bobby Gipe recorded his first shutout of the season.

Ross took 19 shots on goal with Harding's Arthur Brad stopping 10. Harding had 11 shots on goal, with Gipe saving 6 of them.

"Our forwards played well tonight, they made the shots that were needed," Ross senior sweeper Jon Hart said,

"I'm thankful for the defensive play," said Ross coach Jeff Pendry. "There was a lot of apathy tonight. Both teams didn't capitalize on the opportunities



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS' Sam Sloma does some fancy footwork against Marion Harding in a soccer match at Ross on Tuesday.

that presented themselves tonight."

"No quit tonight. We kept

trying. We kept fighting, but Ross got the shots that they needed," said Marion

Harding coach Gary Kleptach. "We came up short tonight. Our captain Rich

Rice kept the team in the game both offensively and defensively."