

FREMONT ROSS
SANDUSKY10
7

Division I sectional final

Little Giants break late tie to win sectional

By Yaneek Smith

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FREMONT — In a dramatic back-and-forth affair that featured five ties and three lead changes, Fremont Ross scored three runs in the sixth inning to defeat rival Sandusky 10-7 in a Division I sectional final Saturday at Alumni Fields.

Little Giants coach Mike Gilbert earned his 200th victory.

Ross (15-9) plays the winner of Perrysburg and Bowling Green in the district semifinals at 5 p.m. May 15 at Tiffin University.

With one out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth, Ross catcher Kiera Hall hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Meghan Michael and advance the runners to second and third. The next hitter, senior leftfielder Kaylee Amor, came through in the clutch with a base hit up the middle to score Sara Gowitzka and Brina Hrynciw to cap the scoring.

"We played (Friday) against Clay (a 7-2 loss) and looked like the Bad News Bears," Little Giants coach Mike Gilbert said. "I talked to the kids last night about playing with focus and not getting down."

"We hit the ball really well (Saturday) — I think they really wanted to win the game. There was no quit in either team."

Hall followed graduated Casey Clark at catcher and is an important part of the team's chemistry. Hall was a bit discouraged after an error in the third inning but regrouped under pressure.

"Forget about it (and) help us win the game," Gilbert said. "She did that. Kiera is an amazing athlete. She didn't pick up a softball until her freshman year (and) she came out of nowhere to be a catcher."

"She has a positive attitude, the kids like her and she likes being part of the team."

Ross

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Amor doubled Friday and drove in the game-winning run against Notre Dame on April 25 in addition to her two-run single against Sandusky.

"That's the third time in a week when (Kaylee) has come through in a clutch situation," Gilbert said.

In the top of the seventh, the Blue Streaks put a runner on first with one out before Madison Hayberger hit a liner that was snagged by Ross shortstop Kelsey Ivy. Ivy threw to first to double up the runner and end the game.

Ross averaged a regular-season loss to the Blue Streaks.

"It was a great game, an exciting game," Sandusky coach Tom Garard said.

Sandusky trailed 7-6 entering

the sixth before freshman Kayla Hodgkinson tied it with a home run to left-center field.

In the previous inning, the Blue Streaks rallied from a three-run deficit by scoring via a wild throw, a base hit and a triple by Kiah Roldan. Roldan's triple, which scored Hayberger to tie it at 6-6, left the go-ahead run 60 feet away before McKenzie Gallagher got Kassidy Nemeth to pop out to third.

Gallagher (15-9) allowed seven runs (three earned) on 10 hits in seven innings. She struck out five and walked one. Gallagher, who has pitched every inning for the Little Giants this season, missed hitting for the cycle by a home run and reached base four times Saturday.

Michael had four hits and drove in two runs while Hall, Brina Hrynciw and Ally Hotz each finished with two hits for Ross.