

Jared King is the new Ross Boss



Fremont Ross catcher Noah Cook tries to block the plate Monday against Tiffin Columbian.

PHOTOS BY MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Baseball stamped in hearts of Ross' Kings

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Fremont Ross has grown accustomed to royalty in its baseball dugout.

That's because there's always a King. Jared King steps in as head coach for his father, Mark King, this season.

Jared was Mark's assistant last season. Mark is on Jared's staff this season.

"Growing up around the baseball field with my grandpa and my dad with the Legion program and being an assistant under my father, it's been in my blood since I was a kid," Jared said.

"It's something I've always looked forward to trying to do. When you stop playing, you have that itch. It keeps me involved with the game and makes me feel like a kid again."

King remembers maturing as the Little Giants' catcher.

"The first point is to develop young men," he said. "Baseball is great and fun, but it's a gateway to develop character. That's what I look forward to most, seeing kids grow for four years."

"Baseball-wise, we won't venture far from what we've done. Maybe a little more small-ball, but it's about having fun."

King's excited his father's retirement didn't mean he wouldn't be in the dugout.

"Having my dad around is a dream," he said. "It's something we've bonded over our entire life. I pick his brain and it's a special bond — father/son and



Fremont Ross second baseman Luke O'Brien scores Monday against Tiffin Columbian.

baseball minds."

King has three seniors, including catcher Josiah Cook and pitcher Trey Ickes. Center fielder Noah Hotz, shortstop Cole Druckenmiller and right fielder Garrett Schneider are among 13 juniors.

Third baseman Brandon Schneider and first basemen Karson Wojdyla and Gabe Witt are also returning juniors.

"I expect them all to hold each other accountable and push each other," King said.

Juniors Braxton White (third base/designated hitter), Caleb Bennison (left field) and Luke O'Brien (second

base) are varsity newcomers. Junior infielder/outfielder Tim Mosser joins the group as a super-utility option.

Druckenmiller, Brandon Schneider, Wojdyla, Witt and Bennison are also pitchers.

"The last few years we've been young and going through growing pains," King said. "We can't use that as an excuse. I'm excited for the maturity and experience coming back and we should know how to finish games."

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