

Ross advances in sectional

Miller, Fox lead 5-3 win

By TIM HARMON
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SYLVANIA — Pitching and defense carried Fremont Ross to a 5-3 victory over Sylvania Northview Saturday in the Class AAA sectional baseball tournament.

Ross, 8-7, backed Steve Fox with steady play in the field and the Little Giants advanced to next Saturday's sectional final against the winner of today's game between Toledo Whitmer and Toledo Start.

Brian Miller gave Ross a 3-0 lead with a three-run home run in the first inning and Fox made it stand up with the help of single runs in the fifth and seventh.

"Steven was in the strike zone (Saturday)," Ross coach Dan Fought said. "We left too many baserunners on, but we played



MILLER



FOX

good defense ... I'll settle for that."

Ross, which stranded seven runners, committed two errors including a throwing error by right fielder Chris Benson in the fourth inning that helped Northview tie the score at 3-all.

Dan Lopez's run-scoring single in the fifth put Ross back on top, and the Little Giants added an insurance run in the seventh when pinch runner Jay Hartley stole home with the help of Justin Perry's bluff off first.

"The run that made me most comfortable was the one in the seventh," Fought said. "We haven't been in that many one-run games. That's why we needed that run in the seventh."

Northview stranded five runners over the final three innings.

"We thought we could come back, but we couldn't get out of our own way," Northview coach Jack Koch said. "Too many dumb mistakes; we missed a couple of signs, the kid gets picked off second and the pitcher made a mistake and they got the fifth run."

After the Wildcats scored their three runs in the fourth, Tom Wonnell got picked off second to end the threat.

In the seventh, Northview starter and loser George Maney failed to get an out on Perry — allowing Hartley to score. Hartley ran for Miller, who drew a two-out walk, and raced to third on Perry's wind-blown infield single.

Northview, 5-9, had the tying runs aboard in the seventh, but poor execution cost the Wildcats.

With one out, Mark Priestad reached on shortstop Scott Mezinger's error and Brian Koch followed with a single. Coach Koch called for Aaron Fetrow to bunt, but Fetrow popped up his sacrifice attempt.

"You can't do that in that situation," Jack Koch said. "I had kids behind him I know can hit."

Following Fetrow's blunder, Fox threw a called strike past Jeff Kalmbach.

"I thought Steven was real good (with runners on base)," Fought said. "Even when they scored three runs."

Miller's homer to left followed a lead-off double by Mezinger into the right-center field gap and Koch's error on Lopez's grounder.

In the fifth, Mezinger led off with a single and stole second before Lopez drove him in with a single to center.