

Ross fights pressure with enthusiasm

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Steve Ebert admits he feels the pressure of producing a winning baseball team at Fremont Ross this spring.

The first-year coach also admits the Ross players have high expectations for the season, which begins Tuesday at Toledo DeVilbiss.

The former is based on the presence of seven Little Giants who received letters last season. The latter is based on their collective enthusiasm to succeed.

"A lot of people keep referring to all the experience, and it makes me nervous because people are expecting a lot," Ebert said. "It will be nice to get that first win."

Seniors Steve Fox, Rob Weiker, Ian Vardyan, Chad Novitski, Chris Benson and juniors Nick Wolf and Justin Perry return from last year.

Fox, Weiker and Vardyan are two-year lettermen. Novitski, Benson, Wolf and Perry are returning starters.

"The biggest surprise all season has been Paul Rostetter,"

Ebert said. "He's really been a leader. He's very vocal and takes charge out there."

Rostetter, a senior who did not play as a junior, is the Little Giants' starting catcher. He will handle a pitching staff led by Fox and filled out by Vardyan, Weiker and juniors Allan Dorsey and Jon Hetrick.

Hetrick, who is just getting over a bout with mononucleosis

complicated by pneumonia, will begin throwing Monday.

"The biggest concern right now is Jon Hetrick," Ebert said. "He doesn't have a lot of speed, but he's got a lot of junk and he's a good reliever."

Fox (3-4, 3.43 ERA in 1990) is the top starter. Vardyan, a power pitcher, is apparently re-

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