

Sectional Belongs to Fremont Ross

Ross gets timely no-hitter

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross pitcher Nicki Pelfrey said welcome back to her catcher by throwing a no hitter in the Little Giants' sectional championship win against Wapakoneta Monday at Celina.

"It's the best game I've ever played," said Pelfrey, who also hit the game's only home run.

The 9-0 win puts Ross into the district tournament. They will play at 6 p.m. May 21 at Tiffin. The opponent has not been determined, Ross coach Cheryl Schell said.

Monday's game was the first in three weeks for catcher Dusty Ruffing, who had injured her arm earlier in the season.

"(Ruffing's return) gave Nicki some of the confidence she needed to throw," Schell said.

Pelfrey said she was focused on the game and did not realize until after the game that she had thrown a no-hitter.

"Then there were hugs everywhere," Pelfrey said.

In other games:

3-run rally rescues Ross

News-Messenger reports

ELIDA — Fremont Ross waited until its last at-bat to defeat Celina in the first round of the Division I Sectional Softball Tournament Tuesday.

Ross scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh, capped by Nicki Pelfrey's two-run double off the fence in left field, and defeated the Bulldogs 4-3.

"We had been hitting all along ... just one hit at a time," Ross coach Cheryl Schell said.

"In the seventh, they stood up and forgot about the last six innings. I knew we were due soon to score some."

The Little Giants (7-4) meet top-seeded Wapakoneta at 11 a.m. Saturday for the sectional title.

A walk to pinch hitter Char Horn, who fell quickly into an 0-2 count, started the Ross seventh.

"I wanted someone on base to get to the top of the order with runner's in scoring position," Schell said.

After Emily Dowell nearly popped out trying to bunt, she delivered a single up the middle.

"We had the bunt on, but I wiped it off and went swinging," Schell said.

Leadoff batter Dawn Zerman then singled in a run. One out later, Pelfrey came through with the game-winner.

Jodi Kusmer did not walk or strike out a batter for the victory. "She's a put-it-in-play pitcher," Schell said.

"We executed (defensively). We had to make plays and we did."

Tuesday's Softball Sectional Game

Ross4
Celina3

Sectional Championship

Saturday vs.
Wapakoneta
at Elida
11 a.m.