

SANDUSKY
FREMONT ROSS

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Division I softball sectional

Third one goes to Sandusky

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt

Staff writer

FREMONT — McKenzie Gallagher against Ashley Gilbert.

Many knew Saturday's Division I sectional softball game between Fremont Ross and Sandusky would come down to the starting pitchers.

Little Giants starter Gallagher allowed eight hits, struck out five and did not walk a batter or give up any earned runs. But that line didn't bring a win as Gilbert was the winning pitcher in a 2-0 Blue Streaks victory — the first time Sandusky beat Ross this year.

"Ironically, of the three games she's pitched (against Sandusky) this year, this was McKenzie's best," Ross coach Mike Gilbert said. "It was the same kind of game we played against them the last two times, and this time they just won."

The year's first matchup between the pitchers resulted in a 1-0 Ross win, where Gallagher gave up 13 hits.

Ashley Gilbert gave up just five hits for Sandusky (12-12), while striking out 11.

"(Ashley) is a great pitcher," Sandusky coach Tom Garard said. "There's no doubt about it. Recently she's either been hot or cold. But over the last three games, she has been working the ball very well."

The game was delayed twice by lightning, once in the bottom of the first and once in the top of the fifth. Ashley Gilbert told Garard the delays affected her momentum in the circle, but it was not evident to Ross hitters.

Offensively, Ross (10-7) just couldn't get things rolling — with the exception of a rolling aluminum barrel from a bat that Casey Clark sawed off from its handle on a swing in the bottom of the first inning. Kelsey Ivy was an offensive bright spot for Ross, going 2-for-3 with a triple.

Coach Gilbert pointed at the third inning, when two Ross errors led to Sandusky runs, as the key.

"Errors undid us," he said. "In the two games previous to (Saturday), we didn't have any, and we were able to win."