

'New look' for Ross nine

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

Ross opens its 1974 baseball season with a "new" look this spring. The Little Giants open the season Wednesday night at Anderson Field in a game against Port Clinton (4 p.m.).

New to the Little Giants this year is head coach Don Burgess. The new Ross coach is no stranger to the head baseball job though. Burgess will enter his fourth year as a head coach, having spent two years at St. Mary's Memorial High School and one at Sidney High School in the same position. At St. Mary's,

Burgess guided his team to a Western Buckeye League championship.

Also new to the Ross team will be the players themselves. Although several lettermen return, only three of them are returning starters. To top that off, two players that did not come out for baseball last spring may figure into the Ross pitching picture prominently before the season is over.

The three returnees, Dan Baker, Mike Mathes, and Brian Bliss all will start the first game against Port Clinton. After that, Burgess

contends, it will be a battle for all starting spots.

Baker and Mathes may be the hardest to replace however. Baker, a senior, will handle the catching chores with backup help from Dale Stout and Jerry Lance if it is needed. Mathes will be the man in centerfield for Burgess. The speedy little lefthander will see some duty on the mound this season just as he did last year.

Bliss, the other returning starter from last year's 9-9 squad, will begin the season at first base. However, waiting in the wings is senior

Keith Butdorf who is expected to push Bliss for his starting spot.

At the other infield spot, newcomers or lettermen are expected to fight it out. At third, Mark Lotycz returns and is expected to get the starting nod over Brad Borden. The latter did not play last year but is a capable performer. Borden is also expected to do some pitching.

At short, Mark Lohrbach figures to be a mainstay with Kerry Wingo his backup. At the other keystone position, Keith Pettiford and Roger Merritt are expected to be in the battle for the starting slot.

In left field Jim Paxson and Tom Carmack are battling for the starting slot. Mathes in center will be flanked by Rick Paxson in the season opener.

"Our pitching staff should be our strongest point," Burgess contends. "We have seven fairly decent pitchers on the staff."

"Reardon (Mike) did not play baseball last spring but he was impressive in American Legion ball and I think he could be the top pitcher on the staff."

Burgess also rattled off the names of Dave Ziemke, Mathes, and Borden for the brunt of the mound duty. Ziemke and Mathes hurled some games last season for the varsity.

The first year coach also pointed out the fact that three pitchers up for last season's junior varsity team figure to make the staff much stronger.

"The biggest problem now for us," Burgess said, "is filling out the positions. Graduation hit us hard last year."

Ross has at least 23 games scheduled for the season.

Burgess will be assisted this year by Hank Miesle, varsity assistant; Ed Platzer, JV coach, and Tim Pettorini, JV assistant.

All home games will be at Anderson Field.



MEMBERS OF THE FREMONT ROSS 1974 baseball team. Front row (left to right): Dennis Byers, Kerry Wingo, Keith Pettiford, Tom Carmack, Roger Merritt, Jim Paxson; Second row: Dick Hoffman, Lenard Johnson, Dan Baker, Dave Ziemke, Kim Kohlenberg, Rick Paxson, Mike Mathes, Mark Lotycz, Keith Butdorf; Back row: Ron Whitcomb, Jeff Foss, Mike

Reardon, Brian Bliss, Brad Borden, Mark Lohrbach, Chuck Merrill, Jerry Lance. Not in the photo were seven other members of the varsity team: Al Beard, Dale Stout, Steve Carmack, Larry Orndorff, Brian Spieldenner, Scott Stout, Dennis Szymanowski. (N-M photos by Bruce Crippen)

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Kowaleski hurls shutout

OLD FORT — Tom Kowaleski of Fremont St. Joe weathered a case of wildness in the early innings to post a 4-0 shutout over Old Fort in the first baseball test of the spring season for the two schools.

Kowaleski allowed only three hits, one a pop fly to left that fell between two players, in going the seven inning distance. The junior righthander also singled for the first St. Joe hit in the fourth inning to touch off a four-run rally.

Playing in unseasonably warm weather, Kowaleski and starting Old Fort hurler Dave Hoke hooked up in a pitcher's duel until the top of the fourth. Hoke retired the first 10 St. Joe batters he faced before Kowaleski touched him for a soft single to right in the fourth inning.

Bryan Ohm's slow roller to shortstop was bobbled to put two runners on with one out. After Hoke fanned Chris LeJeune, Bruce Frederick drew a base on balls to fill the bases. Tom Hoelzle's slow bouncer past the mound went for an infield single to give the Crimson Streaks a 1-0 lead. The bases were still loaded when Mike Brickner rapped a solid single to right to plate two runs. The final run of the inning scored on an error.

Kowaleski walked three men in the first inning but no Old Fort runners reached third base as the St. Joe hurlers picked off one runner at second after the second walk. Kowaleski picked off another Old Fort runner in the third inning to kill another Stockader effort.

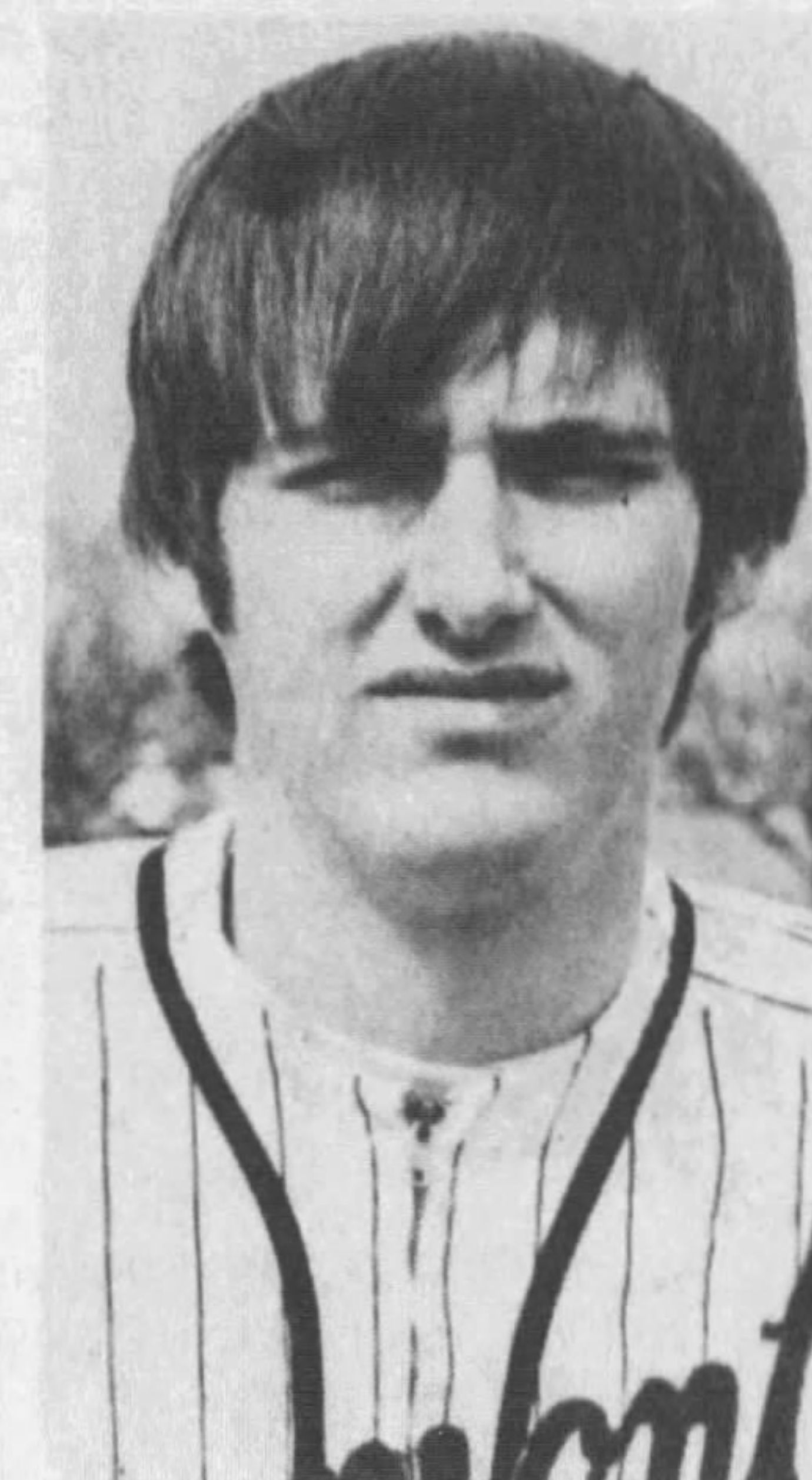
Brickner led the St. Joe hitting attack with two hits and two runs-batted-in. Kowaleski and Hoelzle had the only other hits off Hoke and Tom Burks, who relieved Hoke in the fifth inning.

St. Joe					Old Fort				
Pos.	AB	R	H		Pos.	AB	R	H	
Miesle	Cf	3	0	0	Hiestand	2b	4	0	1
Kowaleski	P	3	1	1	Hielman	Cf	2	0	0
Ohm	Lf	3	1	0	Hoke	P/SS	1	0	1
Boukissen	Lf	0	0	0	Fortney	1b	2	0	0
LeJeune	Rf	4	0	0	Hoover	C	2	0	0
Oprie	Rf	0	0	0	Swickard	3b	3	0	1
Frederick	2b	3	1	0	Burks	SS/P	2	0	0
Laterza	2b	0	0	0	DeMonte	Lf	3	0	0
T. Hoelzle	C	3	1	1	Cleveland	Rf	3	0	0
Brickner	3b	3	0	2	Blue	Rf	0	0	0
Molyet	1b	3	0	0	Totals		22	0	3
Kaminski	1b	0	0	0					
Wagner	SS	2	0	0					
Guyer	SS	1	0	0					
Totals		28	4	4					

Score by innings				
St. Joe	000	301	0	4-4-0
Old Fort	000	000	0	0-3-3
				R-H-E
Winning pitcher: Kowaleski Losing Pitcher: Hoke				
Hits off: Kowaleski 3; Hoke 3; Burks 1				
Struck out by: Kowaleski 5; Hoke 3; Burks 1				
Base on balls: Kowaleski 7; Hoke 1; Burks 2				
Innings pitched: Kowaleski 7; Hoke 4; Burks 3				
Left on base: St. Joe 5; Old Fort 5				



MIKE MATHES



BRIAN BLISS



DAN BAKER

Oak Harbor winter sports banquet

By JON DONNAN
N-M Staff Writer

OAK HARBOR — Like the classic goes: "Nobody told the durn fool it couldn't be done, so he went out and did it," so goes coach Dennis Kersten and the 1973-74 edition of the Oak Harbor Rocket wrestling team.

place in the top ten in the state," Kersten said. "We were all surprised and happy by doing a little bit better."

Biggert was awarded for winning the most pins in his 29-1 season (16) and Rich Rickner was honored for scoring the most takedowns

the Rocket team this season went to Tim Laderach.

Dick Wood's 50 of 59 foul shots this past season earned him recognition as the team's best foul shooter.

Speaker for the evening was the head wrestling coach from Ohio University, Harry Hunsaker, himself a Mid-

Sports in Brief

BASKETBALL
SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Stars of the American Basketball Association were sold to a Salt Lake City corporation which will offer 80 percent of Stars stock for public ownership.

FOOTBALL
NEW YORK — Dave Herman, 33, a 10-year veteran offensive lineman, announced his retirement from the New York Jets.

BASEBALL
PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Pirates traded righthanded pitcher Tom Dettore to the Chicago Cubs for switchhitting infielder Paul Popovich and an undisclosed amount of cash.

TENNIS
MUNICH — Jim McManus of the United States and Nikki Pilic of Yugoslavia won firstround matches in the World Championship Tennis "Red Group" tournament.

SPEED SKATING
MOSCOW — Soviet speedskater Tatyana Averina set a world record in the