

Five in seventh stuns Little Giants

OREGON — Ross had it in the palm of its hand but St. Francis jerked it away like a lion going after a piece of meat in the Class AAA Sectional Baseball Tournament semifinals Thursday.

The Little Giants coasted into the bottom of the seventh with a 4-0 lead but limped back to Fremont, 10-6, saddled with a 5-4 setback.

"We played well," insisted Ross Coach Tim Pettorini, "it's a shame we had to let it get away from us. A couple of things happened that should not have.

"We just did not keep our cool when we should have," the Ross coach said.

St. Francis, 12-4, used three hits, three Ross errors, a pair of walks and a fielder's choice to snatch the game away from the Little Giants.

Ross starting pitcher Scott Logan sailed through the first six innings, allowing only four base hits.

"He was pitching a super game," Pettorini said. "St. Francis has a good team and he was blanking them."

An error at second followed by singles off the bats of Mark Conrad and Mike Mielcarek loaded the bases in the St. Francis seventh.

An error at shortstop on Tom Mielcarek's grounder brought in the first run of the rally. Scott Manahan replaced Logan at that point and walked Brian Young to force in another run.

Manahan fanned Steve Misko but on a squeeze play, Manahan mishandled the bunt and all hands were safe with the third St. Francis run in and the bases still loaded.

Dave Pizza of St. Francis hit into a force play at second but was safe at first on a close play. A run scored to tie the game.

"It was close," Pettorini admitted, "it could have gone either way but I think it was safe. We had good umpires and they did not miss

anything."

Mark Gill walked to load the bases and St. Francis' winning pitcher Steve Wachowiak won his own game with a bloop single over third.

"That ended that," the Ross coach said.

Ross had scored a run in the second on an error, Jay Bowers' double and a sacrifice fly by Andy Rodenhauser.

In the fifth, the Little Giants scored three times on RBI singles by Logan, Manahan and Tom Pena.

Logan had two hits for the Little Giants.

Saturday, Ross will host Marion Harding in a Buckeye Conference twinbill. The first game begins at 11 a.m. at Anderson Field.

SCORE BY INNINGS

				R	H	E
Ross	010	030	0-4	7	4	
St. Francis	000	000	5-5	8	3	
WP: Steve Wachowiak; LP: Scott Manahan.						

Season records: Ross 10-6, St. Francis 12-4.