

DIVISION I SECTIONAL GOLF

Little Giants capture historic crown

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross golf team was one of the first squads to complete its round at the Division I sectional tournament at Arlington on Friday.

The Little Giants were forced to sit and wait as team after team tried to knock them from the top of the standings.

"It was a grueling process," Ross's Kevin Vassar said.

It was also worth the wait.

Ross shot a 320 at Westbrook Country Club to capture its first sectional title since 1973 and easily advance to next Thursday's district tournament.

The tournament director told Ross coach Mark Miesle that the 12-team Arlington sectional had perhaps the most overall talent in the state.

Sectional golf title the first since 1973

"He said to win this was quite an accomplishment," Miesle said.

Junior ace Andrew Aseltine shot a 78 to lead the Little Giants' scorecard.

Ross edged runner-up Lexington by two shots. Norwalk, which shot a 324, beat Findlay in a scorecard playoff to earn the third and final district qualifying spot.

Findlay upset Ross for the Greater Buckeye Conference title last month.

Norwalk's Todd Brown won medalist honors with a 3-over-par 75.

Ross next travels to Red Hawk Golf Course in Findlay for districts. The top two teams will advance to the state tournament.

Ross's score on Friday was nowhere near its best of the season. But with windy conditions and a difficult course, the tally was enough to make history.

"This is awesome," Grant Hilty said. "We are so pumped."

The Little Giants said that they were going to celebrate by having dinner at Outback Steakhouse.

"A nice reward for ourselves," said Hilty, who shot a 79.

Vassar (81) and Scott King (82) completed Ross's winning score.

"We came into it with high expectations," Vassar said. "We did all right, but we could

have played a lot better."

Hilty made seven bogeys and 11 pars in his round to continue his clutch play for the Little Giants.

"In our big tournaments," Miesle said, "Grant always seems to come up with a good score. It's nice to be able to count on him."

Vassar, who said he was the only Ross player who putted well on Friday, made a breaking, 20-footer for birdie on No. 8.

Miesle, who graduated from Ross in 1985, wasn't too nervous while waiting for other teams to finish their rounds.

"This is a very difficult course and with the way the wind was blowing, I thought 320 was a good score," he said.

Added Hilty: "We figured we would be in the top three (to advance). But we wanted to win it. And we did that."