

## 2008 Season Review

# Ross rolls over Perrysburg

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports Writer

**FREMONT** — Coming into the 2008 season, Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell wanted to kickstart the Little Giants' rushing attack.

On Friday night at Don Paul Stadium, sophomore Tylor Trautwein ran for four touchdowns and junior James Spencer added another TD on the ground as Ross defeated Perrysburg 52-25 in the season-opening football game for both schools.

"Minus the score, I thought our kids were in shape," Kidwell said. "They didn't get real tired or were wearing down. That is attributed to our conditioning that we started in June and the price these kids paid in the weight room all winter, spring and summer."

Spencer added an 83-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the third quarter.

The results of the conditioning were felt in an overall Ross attack that generated more yards rushing than passing.

Ross generated 468 yards of total offense with 279 yards rushing and 189 yards passing. In comparison, Perrysburg netted 341 total yards with 210 yards rushing and 131 yards passing.

Trautwein was excited to be a part of the Ross rushing attack. He credited offensive lineman Nate Halbeisen with opening up running lanes for the Little Giants.

"It was awesome," said Trautwein, who ran for touchdowns of 2, 77, 9 and 1 yards. The Little Giants' sophomore gained a game-high 135 yards on 18 carries.

The Little Giants, known for their spread offense, used quick-strike passing to take control before switching to a run-based attack that wore Perrysburg down.

"It was exciting to get the running game going, because we have a phenomenal quarterback and a lot of potential with the wideouts that we have."

"We knew that (Perrysburg) had a sophomore quarterback (Matt Slocum) and we wanted to," Kidwell said.

Mistakes plagued Perrysburg throughout the first half. Slocum threw two of his four interceptions and Taylor Dimmerling fumbled away the ball to Ross defenders. The Little Giants turned all of those miscues into points.

Ross quarterback Cody Foos hit Greg Brown with a 66-yard



Doug Hise/News-Messenger correspondent

**ROSS'S TYLOR TRAUTWEIN** runs past Tyler Boone of Perrysburg.

touchdown strike with 8:51 left in the first quarter after Dimmerling's fumble.

After Rueben Saldivar picked off Slocum's first interception on Perrysburg's next play from scrimmage, the Little Giants only needed five plays to score.

Foos hooked up with senior wideout Terence Davis for a 40-yard TD-scoring play as Ross took a 12-0 lead. The Little Giants' passer finished the game 10-of-19 for 189 yards.

Dimmerling scored on a 1-yard run in the second quarter after the Yellow Jackets gained possession after a fumble by Spencer. But the 12-7 deficit was the closest Perrysburg came in challenging Ross.

The Little Giants cashed in on a Perrysburg penalty for running over the center on fourth-11 from their own 30 by getting a new set

of downs at the Ross 45. Trautwein carried the ball for much of the rest of the way before scoring on a 2-yard run with 4:57 left in the first half.

After Slocum was intercepted for the second time about 2 minutes later by Ross defensive back Justin Hines, Trautwein ran 77 yards on the ensuing play from scrimmage.

"We were playing good defense, getting to the ball real fast and making plays," said Hines.

"I think the defense played a big part in setting up our offense, because if we don't score, we're not going to win," Hines said. "We had the momentum going on our side all night."

Tyler Boone hit 27-yard FG to pull Perrysburg within 27-10 with 1:09 left in the first half, but Spencer ran back the ensuing kickoff.

Slocum needed only 52 seconds to drive the Yellow Jackets into scoring position. He connected with Hayden Pryka on a 7-yard TD pass with 3 seconds to go before halftime. Slocum's two-point conversion pass to Rudy Wittmer cut the Little Giants' lead to 32-18 at halftime.

Trautwein and Spencer capped a pair of Ross drives in third-quarter with TDs. Trautwein rumbled in from 9 yards out and Spencer crossed the goal line after a 7-yard run as the Little Giants led 45-18.

In the fourth quarter, Brandon Butler's 5-yard run gave Perrysburg its final score before Trautwein walked into the end zone from 1 yard away with 3:50 left.

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## TEAM STATISTICS

	P	FR
First Downs .....	18	19
Total Net Yards .....	341	468
Rushes-Yards .....	39-210	39-279
Passing Yards .....	131	189
Comp.-Att.-Int.....	7-19-4	10-19-0
Punts-Avg.....	3-44.0	3-40.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards .....	5-50	5-27

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Perrysburg (Taylor Dimerling 8-33, T.J. Fatinikin 10-70, Brandon Butler 8-60, Matt Slocum 11-41, Matt Emsthausen 2-6); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 11-81, Tylor Trautwein 18-135, Cody Foos 10-63).

**PASSING** — Perrysburg (Matt Slocum 7-18-131-1-4, Dan Endicott 0-1-0-0-0); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 10-19-189-2-0).

**RECEIVING** — Perrysburg (Taylor Dimerling 1-1, Kyle Szczublewski 2-38, Hayden Pryka 3-80, Tyler Boone 1-12); Fremont Ross (Jordan Jones 2-26, James Spencer 1-13, Tylor Trautwein 1-10, Greg Brown 3-80, Terence Davis 2-50, Kyle Damman 1-10).

**FIELD GOALS** — Perrysburg (none); Fremont Ross (none).

**RECORDS** — Perrysburg 0-1; Fremont Ross 1-0.



# Ross confident entering Week 2



Doug Hise/News-Messenger correspondent

**JAMES SPENCER** runs for a score in the third quarter of Fremont Ross's victory over Perrysburg to open the season last week. The Little Giants host Toledo Whitmer on Friday.

## Little Giants preparing for multiple Whitmer weapons

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports Writer

**FREMONT** — When Fremont Ross meets Toledo Whitmer on Friday in Week 2 of the OHSAA football season, the Little Giants have to expect the unexpected.

That's because two key starting Panthers — running back Julian Nash and quarterback Joe Missler — were injured during the first half of Whitmer's 28-20 loss at Tiffin Columbian on Friday.

Neither Nash or Missler played during the second half, when the Tornados overcame a 20-7 halftime deficit to claim a Week 1 victory. Their status is uncertain for Friday's battle at Don Paul Stadium. Kickoff for the contest is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

"We feel pretty confident that if we play the game we're capable of playing on Friday that we will be pretty tough to beat when Whitmer comes to town," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We don't want to beat ourselves. If a team is going to beat us, they better be better than us, if we don't have any turnovers or penalties."

Kidwell was pleased with the way the Little Giants played during their 52-25 victory against Perrysburg at Don Paul Stadium on Friday.

"In the first week of the season, sometimes a team can play sloppy, and we didn't. It was nice to see," Kidwell said. "We had very few penalties and only one turnover. We'll take that every week. Every team gets better from Week 1 to Week 2, and I expect our team to get better too."

Sophomore running back Tylor Trautwein introduced himself to Ross fans in a huge way. He ran 18 times for 135 yards and scored four touchdowns as the Little Giants kickstarted a rushing attack that generated 279 yards. Junior running back James Spencer added 81 yards on 11 carries and broke free during an 83-yard kickoff return for a second-quarter touchdown.

The ability of Trautwein and Spencer to run the ball took pressure off quarterback Cody Foos, who was 10-of-19 for 189 yards with TD passes to wideouts Greg

Brown (66 yards) and Terence Brown (40 yards).

"We saw Perrysburg in a scrimmage and on film," Kidwell said. "I thought they had a pretty good defense inside the box. They have some nice linebackers and they were physical. I was surprised that we had as much running yardage as we did against them. I think we were able to get it because our kids are in such great shape. We didn't wear down, we kept a lineman on them and kept our legs moving."

Kidwell said he wants to put the Little Giants in the mindset of running the ball first.

"There were a lot of opportunities that we could have taken through the air," Kidwell said. "But there are some things that I still want us to work on that's going to make us better and more balanced down the road. And it was nice to reward our offensive line with the smash-mouth type of game that we had."

On the defensive side, Kidwell said allowing 25 points was too much for the Little Giants to give

up.

"Our defense needs to stick together as a unit," Kidwell said. "They're going to give a little as long as they don't break too often. And when there is an opportunity to make a big play, seize that moment and make a big play. We don't want to give up 25 points on a weekly basis because we're not going to score 52 points every week."

Justin Hines and Rueben Saldivar were among four Ross defenders who intercepted Perrysburg quarterback Matt Slocum.

The kicking game remains a concern for Ross, but Kidwell said his confidence is growing in a pair of first-year varsity players.

"Our PAT team left some point on the field, but that was with a junior long-snapper who had never played before and a kicker who had never kicked before," Kidwell said. "We came back to practice this week and we've gotten better in the special teams."

### Toledo Whitmer

Nash and Missler were pivotal

in giving the Panthers early leads against Columbian. Nash scored on a 12-yard touchdown run in the first quarter for a 7-0 Whitmer lead before Missler threw a 5-yard TD pass to Mike Pfaff in the second quarter to put the Panthers ahead 14-7.

When Missler was injured in the second quarter, backup Dalton Robinette replaced him en route to handing Whitmer a 20-7 lead on a 1-yard TD run before halftime.

But that was the last time the Panthers would score. And Robinette's third-quarter interception set up Columbian's final touchdown as the Tornados clung to a 21-20 second-half lead. Whitmer's backup QB led the Panthers on a 99-yard drive during the final minute of the game, but his 28-yard pass attempt to Tevin Boykin fell incomplete in the end zone as time expired.

Whitmer coach Joe Palka was not available for comment.

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Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S JAMES Spencer is tackled by a Whitmer player at Don Paul Stadium Friday night.

# Little Giants roll over Panthers

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — During a 34-14 non-conference win against Toledo Whitmer, Fremont Ross proved it can run for extra yards in the second half.

The Little Giants improved to 2-0 overall Friday night at Don

Paul Stadium

"We came out flat in the first half. So, we wanted to step it up in the second half, and that allowed me to get into the end zone," said James Spencer, who rushed for TDs of 8 and 1 yards and caught a 17-yard pass from Cody Foos for a first-quarter

touchdown.

Spencer finished the game with 151 yards on 18 carries, while Foos, who passed for three TDs, was 7-of-18 for 171 yards.

Behind an offensive line featuring Nate Halbeisen, Trevor Trimble, Nate Chudzinski, John Paxson and Andy Nicholson, the

Little Giants rushing attack gained 230 yards and had 401 total yards.

In comparison, the Ross defense allowed Whitmer to generate 340 yards in total offense and 194 yards passing, but pitched a

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# Ross rolls over Whitmer

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first-half shutout and only allowed a pair of second-half TDs.

"In the first half, we didn't do too well," Halbeisen said. "At halftime, we made some adjustments by going to a three-point stance. That allowed us to get lower (as offensive linemen), which help us to get better blocks and throw our opponents off their blocks."

Leading 6-0 at halftime, the Little Giants used a 37-yard TD-scoring pass from Foos to Greg Brown after taking the second-half kickoff and marching 69 yards to the end zone.

After forcing the Panthers to punt on Whitmer's first drive of the third quarter, Foos connected with Jordan Jones for a 34-yard gain that set up Spencer's 8-yard TD run at the 5:38 mark. Ken Hamilton's PAT gave Ross a 21-0 lead.

The Panthers, who were able to move the ball during the first half, had to wait until the 1:54 mark of the third quarter to find the end zone.

Quarterback Joe Missler, who rushed for 106 yards on 20 carries and added 194 yards through the air on 15-of-22 passing, guided a Whitmer drive that lasted 51 yards and was capped by his 25-yard TD pass to Jordan Brown, who made 10 receptions for 152 yards.

"We moved the ball at times, and I was happy with the way our defense was able to play in the first half," Palka said. "We still have a long way to go after turning the ball over a couple of times, but give Fremont Ross credit for having great athletes."

But overall, it was a much improved effort on defense by Ross.

"We played a lot better defensively," linebacker Brad Woleslagel said. "We did a lot better job of reading our keys this week, and that was a big problem against Perrysburg and why we gave up 25 points. We just read our keys and everybody contributed by flying to the ball."

Boston Beckley helped the Ross defenders by posting three sacks and Tyler Hull was one of two Little Giants to recover a fumble.

Spencer capped an 11-play, 62-yard drive by the Little Giants with 10 minutes left by scoring on a 1-yard run.

When Missler fumbled inside the red zone at the Panthers' 6 with 8:57 left, the

Ross offense all but sealed the game with a 94-yard drive that chewed up more than 5 minutes and ended with Foos hitting wideout Terence Davis with 39-yard TD pass. Hamilton's PAT lifted the Little Giants to a 34-7 lead as 3:34 remained.

Missler rallied Whitmer with 45 seconds left by scoring a TD on 4-yard run.

With less than 30 seconds left in the first quarter, Whitmer had Ross stopped on fourth-and-8 at the Little Giants' 22, but personal foul for roughing the kicker sent Fremont's offense back on the field.

In the opening moments of the second quarter, Ross overcame a holding penalty on second-and-18 when Trautwein ran for 17 and 4 yards on consecutive plays.

But it was Trautwein's fumble that gave the ball back to the Panthers. Corey Compton gobbled up the ball after it fell to the turf.

The Little Giants forced Whitmer to punt after three plays, including a personal foul on Nash for face masking as he ran the ball and after Woleslagel sacked Missler.

Foos and Ross running game came alive with about 8 minutes left in the first half. The Little Giants' quarterback ran for 27 yards and a pair of first downs on consecutive plays before Spencer tacked on 14 more rushing yards to the Panthers' 29.

Along the way, the Little Giants were aided by two Whitmer penalties for encroachment. The Panthers had eight penalties for 70 yards in the first half.

When Foos tried to throw the ball to Brett Mierke, Whitmer defensive back Addison Powell shoved the Ross receiver and was flagged for pass interference.

The penalty set up the Little Giants with a first down at the Whitmer 11, where Foos hit Spencer with a screen pass that covered the rest of the distance to the end to the end zone. Ross took a 6-0 lead with 5:23 left in the first half.

Missler moved Whitmer into scoring position before halftime after hitting Jordan Brown for a 23-yard gain to the Ross 14 on fourth-and-8. But two straight incomplete passes on third and fourth downs ended the Whitmer threat.

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# Football

## High School Boys

### Ross 34, Toledo Whitmer 14

Toledo Whitmer 0 0 7 7 — 14

Fremont Ross 0 6 15 13 — 34

#### SCORING SUMMARY

##### Second Quarter

FR — James Spencer 17 pass from Cody Foos (pass failed), 4:29.

##### Third Quarter

FR — Greg Brown 37 pass from Cody Foos (Justin Hines pass from Cody Foos), 8:17.

FR — James Spencer 8 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 5:38.

TW — Jordan Brown 25 pass from Joe Missler (Austin Sweeney), 1:54.

##### Fourth Quarter

FR — James Spencer 1 run (kick blocked), 10:00.

FR — Terence Davis 39 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 3:34.

FR — Joe Missler 4 run (Austin Sweeney kick), 0:45.

#### TEAM STATISTICS

	TW	FR
First Downs.....	12	22
Total Net Yards .....	330	401
Rushes-Yards .....	34-136	39-230
Passing Yards.....	194	171
Cmp.-Att.-Int. ....	15-22-0	7-18-0
Punts-Avg. ....	3-80.0	1-22.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-2	4-2
Penalties-Yards .....	8-70	5-55

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Toledo Whitmer (Jacob Noon 3-7, Joe Missler 20-106, Jamar Ridley 2-4, Julian Nash 7-10, Georgio Armour 2-9); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 18-151, Tylor Trautwein 3-18, Cody Foos 18-61).

**PASSING** — Toledo Whitmer (Joe Missler 15-22-194-1-0); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 7-18-171-2-0).

**RECEIVING** — Toledo Whitmer (Mike Pfaff 2-19, Jordan Brown 10-152, Georgio Armour 1-4, Addison Powell 2-19); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 1-17, Terence Davis 3-69, Jordan Jones 2-48, Greg Brown 1-37).

**FIELD GOALS MISSED** — Toledo Whitmer (Austin Sweeney, wide right); Fremont Ross (none).

**RECORDS** — Toledo Whitmer 0-2 overall; Fremont Ross 2-0 overall.



## Little Giants' QB Foos wins Player of the Week

Much like Fremont Ross's win over Whitmer, the vote in games covering Week 2 for last week's *News-Messenger* football player of the week wasn't even close.

Little Giants quarterback Cody Foos won the honor, taking a margin of 69.8



**FOOS**

percent of the 43 votes cast at [www.thenews-messenger.com](http://www.thenews-messenger.com).

Foos, a junior, threw for 171 yards and two touchdowns, leading Ross over the Panthers. Foos outpolled Gibsonburg's Tony Egbert, Woodmore's Michael Fahle and Bellevue's Curtis Watson.

Visit [www.thenews-messenger.com](http://www.thenews-messenger.com) to vote for this week's player of the week. Candidates are Ross's James Spencer, SJCC's Jake Kusmer, Lakota's Levi Peeler, Egbert and Bellevue's Joe DeBlase.

# Kagy could be best QB Ross sees this season

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — On Friday night, the Fremont Ross football team is focused upon stopping Tiffin Columbian at the root of the Tornadoes' offense.

Ethan Kagy, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior quarterback, is a multi-dimensional player who guides Columbian's attack as a thrower and as a runner. He is also the Tornadoes'

starter at strong safety and returns punts and kicks on special teams.



Ross at Tiffin Columbian, 7:30 p.m., Friday

"I told our kids that they will be facing one of the top two football players they will see all season," Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell said of Kagy. "He's their quarterback who is also their strong safety. Defensively, he's our focal point.

We have to take him out of the game because he throws the ball very well

and he runs it very well too."

This season, Kagy has tossed five touchdowns on 14-of-22 passing for 288 yards with one interception. He's rushed for two TDs on 33 carries for 207 yards. Of the nine touchdowns scored by Columbian, Kagy has played a role in seven of them.

The Tornadoes come into Friday night's game at 2-0 overall after a 28-20 come-from-behind win against Toledo Whitmer in Week 1 and a 35-7 victory over

"Defensively, he's our focal point. We have to take him out of the game because he throws the ball very well and he runs it very well too."

— Derek Kidwell, Fremont Ross football coach on Tiffin Columbian quarterback Ethan Kagy

Mansfield Madison in Week 2. Ross, also 2-0 overall, has defeated Perrysburg (52-25) in Week 1 and Toledo Whitmer (34-14) in Week 2.

Phil Chavez, a 5-7, 185-

pound senior running back, is another weapon Columbian employs on offense. With 31 carries for 170 yards and two rushing touchdowns, he averages 5.5

yards per ground attempt. Of the 720 yards gained by the Tornadoes' total offense, Kagy and Chavez account for 669 yards (93 percent).

Derek Kneeskern, a 6-3, 195-pound junior wide receiver, has caught nine passes for 228 yards, including three TD receptions from Kagy. Senior wide receivers Luke Shafer (5-11, 160) and Tony Hoover (5-9, 165) have hauled in one touchdown catch apiece.

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# ROSS: Giants aware of QB Kagy

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Special teams have also played a part in the series.

"Steve Gilbert has been a great special teams coach, and they've beaten a couple years in that area," Kidwell said. "Our coverage teams are going to have stay disciplined, stay in their keys and make tackles."

Kidwell would like to see the Little Giants stretch the field before attacking the Tornadoes with Ross's twin tandem at running back — junior James Spencer and sophomore Tylor Trautwein.

"Hopefully, our quarterback can come out early and be on his game," Kidwell said. "If that is the case, we'll be able to throw first to set up our rushing attack later in the game."

Gilbert said the Little Giants have the ability to strike first.

"(Ross is) impressive on film because they have established control in both games, especially against Perrysburg," Gilbert said. "They have a lot of weapons to set the tempo early on offense. On defense, they run to the ball very well."

Quarterback Cody Foos has thrown for 359 yards and five touchdowns and no interceptions on 17-of-37 passing. The Ross signal-caller has spread the ball around six different receivers, including wide-outs Terence Davis (five catches, 117

yards, two TDs), Greg Brown (four catches, 118 yards, two TDs), Jordan Jones (four catches, 73 yards) and Spencer (two catches, 32 yards, one TD).

On the ground, Trautwein burst onto the scene in Week 1 by scoring four touchdowns against Perrysburg. He has 21 carries for 156 yards this season. While Trautwein filled in for an injured Wyatt Harvey at outside linebacker in Week 2, Spencer took care of most of the rushing chores, scoring three TDs. He has 30 carries for 234 yards this season.

"Tylor played so well (at linebacker) that he's going to stay there," Kidwell said. "He had 11 first-contact hits. Because he's a natural athlete, I think he's going to succeed wherever we put him. But we're still going to need him on the offensive side because he brings a different dimension of running the ball."

Kickoff for the non-conference game at Columbian High School is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

**Notes:** A key matchup is the speed Little Giants' receivers against the Tornadoes' corps of linebackers ... According to Gilbert, Columbian's players this season are some of the most highly-conditioned players he's coached. A battle of stamina could ensue between the Tornadoes and a high-conditioned Ross squad, which has worn down both of its 2008 opponents.





Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S JAMES Spencer advances the ball against Tiff Columbian in Tiffin on Friday night.

# Ross rolls over Tornadoes

By JOSH ROMANOTTO  
News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — It was a rainy night as Fremont Ross and Tiffin Columbian met in a game that was expected to be an offensive slugfest.

However, it was not the case, as the Little Giants defeated the Tornadoes 28-6.

"Our defense was amazing tonight," said Ross coach Derek Kidwell. "I am very proud of this defense, we seem to be getting better every week."

Tornadoes (2-1) senior quarterback Ethan Kagy was intercepted on the first play from scrimmage by Tylor Trautwein, who returned the ball 10 yards, setting up the Ross offense with good

field position on the Tornadoes' 26-yard line.

The Little Giants (3-0) scored on the very next play, when Cody Foos connected with Jordan Jones for a touchdown pass.

Penalties and mistakes plagued both teams, as the Tornadoes started their next drive with a two-yard loss when Kagy slipped on the wet turf. Tiffin Columbian quickly gave up the ball to the Little Giants, who decided to use their running attack, led by James Spencer, who busted a 22-yard run for a touchdown, but was called back on a penalty.

The Tornadoes would force a punt by the Little Giants, and offsetting penalties of running into the kicker and interfering with the catch kept the ball in

Columbian's hands.

The two teams would continue a back-and-forth, but Foos and Spencer would continue to lead the Ross offense. Foos hit Jones in the end zone once again, putting the Little Giants up 14-0, which was the score at the end of the half.

The Tornadoes appeared determined in the second half, though. The Little Giants received the kickoff and returned it 26 yards. Senior Jordan Bishopp sacked Foos for a four-yard loss, followed by Mark Van Horn — who was all over the field Friday — forcing the Little Giants to punt.

Senior Phil Chavez blocked the punt, setting up the Tornadoes with great field position at the Ross 20-yard line. Big rushes by

Kagy and Chavez set the Tornadoes up in the endzone for the first time, but would miss the extra point making it a 14-6 game.

The Tornadoes would have another good defensive series, forcing a turnover on downs, but the Tornadoes could not pull together another scoring drive and were forced to punt.

As the fourth quarter began, the Little Giants would find the offensive ruse they were looking for as a reverse to Terence Davis on a fourth and five play, find themselves in the endzone putting the Little Giants up 21-6.

The Tornadoes would come on the field, but would soon be off as Kagy was intercepted by Greg

See ROSS, B2

# Ross pounds Columbian

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## Continued From B1

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Brown who would return it 32 yards all the way down to the Ross 20-yard line. Foos would then take over the game, as he ran and passed his offense down the field, finishing the drive himself with an 11-yard touchdown scramble putting the Little Giants up 28-6.

The Little Giants then surprised everyone in the stadium as they came out on the next kickoff and performed an on-side kick, recovering the ball and sealing the game.

Spencer would take his 24th rush of the night for a touchdown, but once

again mental mistakes called it back. At this point in the game without the penalties, Spencer would have 185 yards rushing, and four touchdowns.

The Tornadoes would get the ball back for a chance to try to take it in, but a fumble by Derek Kneeskern would be recovered by Brett Mierke and would all but end the game for the Tornadoes. Foos would then take a knee to run out the clock and end the game.

Coach Derek Kidwell could not be more proud of his still undefeated team.

"This was a hard-fought game," said Kidwell. "Our offensive line controlled the game tonight. We felt that on film we could control them, and we did."

# Benedictine's Urbania back to torment Ross

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Running back Anthony Urbania will make his return to the Cleveland Benedictine lineup when the Bengals meet Fremont Ross at Don Paul Stadium at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Urbania, who was one of 11 Cleveland-area football players selected this season to participate in *The Plain Dealer's* Gridiron Hero contest, has remained alive in the voting despite suffering an ankle injury after playing less than 12 minutes in 2006.

The Gridiron Hero with the least amount of votes is eliminated each week.

"His ankle is all healed and he'll be ready to go," Benedictine coach Art Bortnick said. "He's only played one quarter of football this

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season. The ankle sprain occurred near the end of the first quarter of our first game (versus Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin)."

Ross coach Derek Kidwell has prepared the Little Giants to defend the runs of either Urbania or his backup Romel Dismuke. Urbania, a senior, has run for 2,555 yards and 28 touchdowns in the last two seasons. In his absence, Dismuke rushed for 190 yards and five touchdowns on 26 carries Friday during the Bengals' 42-28 home win against Parma Heights Holy Name. Nick St. John is another option in the Benedictine backfield.

"We have to tackle their tailback, whoever it turns out to be," Kidwell said. "They have two very good tailbacks that our outside linebackers have to contain by funneling them in. Our defense knows that the pressure is on them. And when we play well, defensively, against Benedictine, we have a chance to win."

Quarterback John Hromulak attempted 10 passes with six completions for 112 yards and one TD versus Holy Name. His wide receivers included Steven Ball, Josh Lewis and Marty Sweeney.

Benedictine (2-1 overall) has preserved a 35-14 victory over Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin and suffered a 38-21 loss at Mentor Lake Catholic.

At 3-0 overall, Ross owns

wins over Perrysburg (52-25), Toledo Whitmer (34-14) and Tiffin Columbian (28-6). On Friday, the Little Giants will again put their undefeated

record on the line.

The Bengals hold a 12-2 advantage in the all-time series against the Little Giants, including two shutout wins in the past three years in Fremont. Ross's victories over Benedictine came in 1983 and 2006 — and the Little Giants made the playoffs both years.

Kidwell said ball control is a key for a Ross victory.

"We want to control the clock and the line of scrim-



**FOOTBALL**  
Cleveland Benedictine at Ross, 7:30 p.m., Friday

mage," Kidwell said. "Essentially, we want to play keep-away and with the battle in time of possession. Sometimes, your best defense is your offense because having your offense on the field gives your defense to rest."

Quarterback Cody Foos (30-of-56 passing, 538 yards, 7 TDs, 0 INTs) will have the chance to guide a quick-strike Ross offense that would like to build an early lead before turning to its running game. Jordan Jones (9 catches, 139 yards), Terence Davis (8 catches, 159 yards) and Greg Brown (6 catches, 151 yards) each have made two touchdown receptions this season.

James Spencer leads a rejuvenated Ross rushing attack with 327 yards and three TDs on 54 carries.

Foos has 136 yards and one TD on 42 rushing attempts, while Tylor Trautwein has 177 yards and four TDs on 27 carries.

"Fremont is difficult to defend because of the style of its offense," Bortnick said. "They can throw the ball and score a lot of points. The skill-level and speed of their receivers is very good, and they have balanced their offense with some quality running backs. We have our work cut out for us."

WFRO 99.1 FM will be providing live updates of the Ross-Benedictine game throughout Friday night. Because of a prior commitment to broadcast auto racing, the football game will not be aired live unless the race is delayed or canceled by rain.





Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

**FREMONT ROSS QUARTERBACK** Cody Foos runs the ball against Cleveland Benedictine Friday night at home.

# Bengals blank Little Giants

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports Writer

**FREMONT** - With Cleveland Benedictine clinging to a 6-0 lead with less than seven minutes left, Bengals defensive back Bob Conroy dealt Fremont Ross a crushing blow.

On second-and-9 at the Bengals 19, Conroy burst into the Little Giants' backfield and stole the ball away from wideout Terrence Davis and ran 75 yards for a momentum-changing touchdown.

It was the deciding play in a non-conference football game that resulted in a 12-0 Benedictine win over Ross on Friday night at Don Paul Stadium.

"We got a lucky break," said Benedictine coach Art Bortnick of Conroy's return. "It helped that we were able to get into their backfield because there were

times during their drives when they threw the ball that we able to get pressure and get to the quarterback.

"But we got a lucky break, and we were fortunate it turned out the way it did."

On the flip side, Ross coach Derek Kidwell praised the Little Giants' defense, blamed himself for the loss.

"I thought our defense played outstanding," Kidwell said. "To hold Benedictine to six (offensive) points and to give us a chance to win at the end of the ballgame is outstanding. If we get that effort for the rest of the season, we're going to be pretty good."

"I'll take credit for this loss because I didn't have our offense prepared and I made some bad calls down the stretch," Kidwell

said. "I'm not going to fault any of our kids because I thought we got a great effort for everybody."

After a scoreless first half, the Bengals used a 14-play, 80-yard drive that was capped by Anthony Urbania's 20-yard touchdown run at the 7:47 mark of the third quarter.

Urbania, who played less than 12 minutes this season after spraining an ankle in Week 1, returned to the Benedictine lineup to carry the ball 21 times for 136 yards.

The Little Giants countered Urbania with the running of tailback James Spencer, who gained 114 yards on 26 carries.

After Urbania put the Bengals ahead 6-0, Ross rallied behind Spencer and quarterback Cody Foos in the fourth quarter.

The Little Giants took over at

their own 20 and were stalled after running a trio of plays. But on fourth-and-12 from the Ross 18, Brad Woleslagel stepped in front of a snap intended for punter Mike Showman. With Jordan Jones running down the near sideline, Woleslagel stunned everyone in the stadium when he lofted a 26-yard pass that Jones hauled down.

Spencer and Greg Brown ran to get Ross across midfield before a penalty for a personal foul against the Bengals gave the Little Giants a first down at the Benedictine 20.

Two plays later, Foos pitched the ball to Davis on a reverse before Conroy stepped in and swiped the ball away from the

See **ROSS, B2**

# Ross gets shut out

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## Continued From B1

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Ross wideout.

“(Against Ross), we had to defend so many different weapons,” Bortnick said. “Spencer and Foos were very good this evening. We had no answer to stopping Ross’s running game, and they moved the ball up-and-down the field against us. When they got into the red zone, we were able to defend them a little better and keep them out (of the end zone).”

Foos, who added 42 yards on 14 carries, was 13-of-27 passing for 132 yards and no interceptions.

Benedictine, which improved to 3-1 overall, held a 213-160 edge in yards rushing, while Ross outgained the Bengals 321-245 in total yards.

After Ross (3-1 overall) began the 2008 season with three straight wins with an offense that averaged 38 points-per-game, a shutout in Week 4 — the second year in a row the Little Giants were blanked by the Bengals — was tough to swallow.

“(Our offense) didn’t take advantage of what was there,” Kidwell said. “Our playmakers have to make plays and we have to make good decisions. There were a lot of things out there for us, and

we didn’t capitalize on them.”

The first half was a scoreless battle.

Of Benedictine’s first four drives, the Bengals’ deepest penetration came at the Ross 20. On third-and-11 from the Little Giants’ 39, Urbania ran for 19 yards to put Benedictine on the edge of the red zone with about six minutes left in the first half.

But that’s where Benedictine’s offense stalled, partially because of penalties. After Romel Dismuke ran for a 1-yard loss, quarterback John Hromulak completed a pass to Marty Sweeney at the Ross 15, but the play was nullified by a holding penalty eight yards behind the line of scrimmage.

When game officials sorted it all out, Benedictine had a third-and-29 at the Little Giants’ 39. During the first half, the Bengals were flagged seven times for 40 yards.

Ross responded with a 10-play, 48 yard drive that began at its own 20 and found itself at the Benedictine 22 before Foos was sacked on third-and-8 for a loss of seven. On fourth down, Foos’ pass attempt to Davis in the left corner of the end zone was broken up by Dismuke.

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# Football

## High School

**Cleveland Benedictine 12,  
Fremont Ross 0**

Benedictine	0	0	6	6	—	12
Fremont Ross	0	0	0	0	—	0

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### Third Quarter

CB — Anthony Urbania 20 run (run failed), 7:47.

#### Fourth Quarter

CB — Bob Conroy 75 fumble return (run failed), 6:32.

### TEAM STATISTICS

	CB	FR
First Downs.....	12	21
Total Net Yards.....	245	321
Rushes-Yards.....	38-213	44-160
Passing Yards .....	32	158
Cmp.-Att.-Int.....	3-4-0	14-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost .....	0-0	4-22
Punt Returns .....	1-7	0-0
Kickoff Returns.....	1-18	0-0
Interception Returns.....	0-0	0-0
Punts-Avg.....	3-41.7	3-19.7
Fumbles-Lost .....	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards .....	12-100	8-65

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Cleveland Benedictine (Anthony Urbania 21-136, Romel Dismuke 10-53, Nick St. John 3-14, John Hromulak 3-7, Justin Kollie 1-3); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 26-114, Cody Foos 14-42, Greg Brown 1-5, Terrence Davis 3-(minus-1)).

**PASSING** — Cleveland Benedictine (John Hromulak 3-4-32-0-0); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 13-27-132-0-0, Brad Woleslagel 1-1-26-0-0).

**RECEIVING** — Cleveland Benedictine (Steven Bell 1-0, Marty Sweeney 2-32); Fremont Ross (Jordan Jones 3-43, Terrence Davis 5-73, Greg Brown 3-19, Justin Hines 2-16, Brett Mierke 1-7).

**MISSED FIELD GOALS** — Cleveland Benedictine (none); Fremont Ross (none).

**RECORDS** — Cleveland Benedictine 3-1 overall; Fremont Ross 3-1 overall.



# Southview is Ross's last non-league tuneup

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Despite losing 34 of its last 35 games, Lorain Southview has done something Fremont Ross football fans can appreciate.

The Saints' (1-3 overall) lone win over the past three and a half seasons the Little Giants' arch-rival Sandusky 14-12 in Week 1 this season.

On Friday night at Don Paul Stadium, Southview takes on another Greater Buckeye Conference foe as Ross (3-1 overall) attempts to bounce back from last Friday's heartbreaking 12-0 loss to Cleveland Benedictine.

Kickoff is scheduled for

7:30 p.m.

"We'll bounce back fine because we have good senior leadership," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We saw a lot of good things on film. Our defense played outstanding and the mistakes we made on offense are correctable. We just have to put points on the board."

Kidwell said his players are focused on Southview.

"They're fine," Kidwell said. "Obviously, they were upset Saturday and Monday we watched film with the team and showed them from the coaches eyes what we thought was wrong and why we didn't score. They took that to the practice field and they're excited to have a chance to get that



## Friday

Lorain  
Southview at  
Fremont Ross  
7:30 p.m.  
Radio:  
WFRO-FM

bad taste out of their mouths." After toppling the Blue Streaks, Southview has lost three straight games to Elyria (42-16), Cloverleaf (31-7) and Cleveland Heights (74-28). The Saints gave up 11 touchdowns last Friday. Southview has been outscored 161-63 in its first four games.

In 2007, the Little Giants slapped a 47-0 shutout on

the Saints at Don Paul Stadium in the first meeting between the teams. Ross has victories over Perrysburg (52-25), Toledo Whitmer (34-14) and Tiffin Columbian (28-6) this season.

"(Southview) has a very athletic quarterback (Ricky Earl) and they run a 4-2 on defense. I don't think their secondary is very good. This is a week that we have worry about making Fremont Ross better," Kidwell said.

The Saints feature formations guided by Earl, who is predominantly a runner with some passing ability, and Matt Andujar, who is used primarily in passing situations. Earl threw a 75-yard TD bomb to

Zeno Inchurregui and ran 17 yards for another TD against Cleveland Heights. Southview also scored on Aaron Serrano's 13-yard touchdown run and Andujar's 28-yard touchdown strike to Josh Biber.

With quarterback Cody Foos and a talented trio of receivers (Terence Davis, Jordan Jones and Greg Brown), the Ross offense will try to exploit Southview's secondary. Foos is 42-of-82 for 683 yards with seven touchdowns and without any interceptions. Davis (13 catches, 234 yards, 2 TDs), Jones (11 catches, 189 yards, 2 TDs) and Brown (9 catches, 170 yards, 2 TDs) have hauled in 33 of Foos' 42 completions and six of

his seven TD passes.

Running back James Spencer, the fourth-leading rusher in the GBC, will offset the Little Giants' passing game. He has 441 yards on 79 carries with three touchdowns this season. Foos adds 173 yards on 56 carries with one TD, while Tylor Trautwein, who has been filling in at outside linebacker for an injured Wyatt Harvey, has 177 yards on 27 carries and four touchdowns.

Southview coach Todd Auvil was unavailable for comment.

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FREMONT ROSS 41, LORAIN SOUTHVIEW 7

# Ross routs Saints



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger photos

**FREMONT ROSS QUARTERBACK CODY FOOS** runs with the ball during the Little Giants' non-conference football victory against Lorain Southview on Friday at Don Paul Stadium. Foos threw for 269 yards and four touchdowns in the game.

## Cody Foos throws for four touchdowns in 41-7 victory

By **MATT MILLS**  
News-Messenger correspondent

**FREMONT** — The Fremont Ross Little Giants defeated the Lorain Southview Saints 41-7 Friday night at Don Paul Stadium.

Lorain received the opening kickoff and proceeded to go three-and-out before punting the ball. That was a theme that the Little Giants defense made sure was going to happen early and often.

The Saints had eight offensive possessions in the first half. Four of them ended in three-and-outs and the Ross defense forced a turnover in two others.

Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell knows there's a lot his defense can improve on. "We didn't play close to our potential on the defensive side of the ball," Kidwell said. "Our defense gave up a lot more yards than they should have and were going to strive in practice to improve that."

Tyler Troutwein had a big first half for the Little Giants. He had two rushing touchdowns and intercepted a Lorain pass that led to a 1-yard TD run of his own. He also capped off a 26-yard drive with a 2-yard TD run that was set up by a Terrance Davis punt



**FREMONT ROSS WIDE RECEIVER GREG BROWN** runs after making a catch on Friday at Don Paul Stadium.

return.

Cody Foos also had a huge first half, connecting with three different receivers (James Spencer, Jordan Jones and Brent Murkey) for touchdown scores of 18, 31, and 44 yards. Matthew Andjuar hooked up with Anthony Browning on a 20-yard TD pass, the Saints only score of the game.

"We have a great quarterback in Cody Foos and we knew he was going to get us receivers the ball. Lorain's defensive backs weren't as strong as our

usual competition and we knew we had to take advantage of that," said senior receiver Jordan Jones.

The teams exchanged punts to start the second half. Midway through the third quarter, Foos found Terrance Davis on a 72-yard score. If Foos has a favorite receiver, he didn't show it tonight as he had four TD passes to four different receivers.

"Cody Foos played a great game for us. We knew they were going to run a lot of man free defense and he exploited that," said Kidwell.

Southview had a long drive in the fourth quarter, but it ended with a Little Giant interception by Michael Shoemaker.

Ross drove the ball downfield, but Cody Foos threw an interception around midfield.

Not to be outdone, the Little Giants recorded another turnover on a Brent Murkey interception in the end zone as Southview was driving.

Ross ran out the rest of the clock to secure the victory. Fremont Ross improves to 4-1 overall heading into Greater Buckeye Conference play, meanwhile, Lorain Southview falls to 1-4.

The Little Giants' defense forced four turnovers.

# Football

## High School

### Fremont Ross 41, Lorain 7

Fremont	7	27	7	0	—	41
Lorain	7	0	0	0	—	7

#### Scoring

##### First quarter

Fremont- Tyler Troutwein 1 yard TD run  
(Hamilton kick) 3:15

Lorain- Matthew Andjuar 20 yard TD  
pass to Anthony Browning (Holland kick)  
:28

##### Second quarter

Fremont- Tyler Troutwein 2 yard TD run  
6:15

Fremont- Cody Foos 18 yard TD pass  
to James Spencer (Davis conversion)  
5:32

Fremont- Cody Foos 44 yard TD pass  
to Brent Murkey (Hamilton kick) 3:41

Fremont- Cody Foos 31 yard TD pass  
to Jordan Jones 3:26

##### Third quarter

Fremont- Cody Foos 72-yard TD pass  
to Terrance Davis (Hamilton kick) 6:11

#### Team Statistics

	Fremont	Lorain
First downs .....	12	12
Rushing yards .....	94	
Passing yards .....	274	
Total yards.....	368	
Comp.-Att.-Int. ....	15-22-1	

#### Individual Statistics

RUSHING: Fremont- Spencer 6-29  
yards, Troutwein 13-22 yards and 2 TD

PASSING: Fremont- Foos 14-12 for 269  
yards, 4 TD and 1 int.

RECEIVING: Fremont- Terrance Davis  
5-112 yards and 1 TD

Records: Fremont 4-1, (0-0 SBC), Lo-  
rain 1-4



# Ross-Lima Senior matchup of friendly rivals

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — On Friday night at Don Paul Stadium, some friendly rivals will match wits as the Greater Buckeye Conference football season begins.

Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell and Lima Senior coach Darnell Collins were members of the same coaching staff for the Spartans in the late 1990s.

"(Darnell) was the freshman coach when I was on the varsity staff. I know him a little bit," Kidwell said. "(Lima Senior's) former quarterback (Nick Morris) is now the quarterbacks coach and helps call the offense. He played for me and we still keep in touch through e-mail. This is one

game that is tough for me because Lima holds a special place for me because they gave me my start."

Collins agreed. "It's competitive, but it's also a lot of fun," Collins said. "We coached together for a few years down here. So, we know what type of coach (Derek) is ... he's a quarterback guy and he's going to put the ball in the air. It makes the game fun, even if the games are long with all the passing that's going on."

The Little Giants (4-1) are the only team above .500 in the conference as league play begins. Ross responded Friday with a 41-7 victory over Lorain Southview after suffering its only loss in Week 4, a 12-0 decision to Cleve-



**Friday**  
Lima Senior at  
Ross  
7:30 p.m.  
Radio:  
WFRO-FM

No. 4-ranked Dublin Coffman in Week 2.

"Everybody in the league talks about Findlay's non-conference schedule, but ours is pretty tough too," Collins said. "We've played some games that we let get away

land Benedictine.

The Spartans are 2-3 overall with wins at Celina (14-10, Week 1) and at Dayton Meadowdale (30-0, Week 4) and homes losses to Middletown (69-21, Week 3) and Warren G. Harding (35-0, Friday). Lima Senior's other defeat was a 35-7 loss at Division I

from us. Dublin Coffman is a state power that we played a 14-7 game against for three quarters. On Friday, Harding had a 14-0 lead on us at halftime before we just couldn't get anything going in the second half."

After allowing 25 points in Week 1 to Perrysburg, Ross's scoring defense has improved. During the last four weeks, the Little Giants have allowed 39 points for an average of less than 10 points per game.

"We have had guys step into our defensive lineup that have made an impact, such as (defensive linemen) Boston Beckley and Tyler Hull," Kidwell said. "Coming into the season, we had to switch their positions. They had never put their hand on the

ground before. But (because of their play), their a big reason why our defense is playing so well.

"Tyler was our running back who scored a key touchdown at Sandusky last year," Kidwell said. "I felt that we had a lot good, quality running backs, and I told Tyler that his best chance to play would be to go to defensive line. He never batted an eye, stayed in the weight room to gain some extra weight so that he could take the pounding."

The Little Giants are yielding around 150 yards rushing a game, which ranks first in the GBC. One of the Spartans' top offensive

See SPARTANS, B2

## Spartans to meet Little Giants

### Continued From B1

weapons is running back Chaz Foster, who is third in the league rushing race with 604 yards on 101 carries. As the second-best rushing defense in the GBC, Lima Senior, with an average of 200 yards rushing allowed, is looking to stop Ross running back James Spencer, who has gained 470 yards on 85 carries.

After a 269-yard, four-touchdown performance, Little Giants' quarterback Cody Foos (54-of-86, 952 yards, 11 TDs, one interception) matches up against a Spartans defense that is last in the league (147 yards a game).

"The thing I like as the head coach and offensive coordinator is that (Cody) has thrown only thrown one interception," Kidwell said. "It was a bad read, and he saw it right away. We're getting yardage and he's given us good reads all season long. As long as he keeps us out of turnover situations, we'll be fine."

Foos went without an interception during the first four games this season.

Terence Davis leads Ross receivers with 18 catches and 346 yards. Greg Brown and Jordan Jones have also made an impact catching the ball for the Little Giants this season.

Jason Ward is the quarterback for Lima Senior. His top targets include experience wideouts Danyel Walton and Adrian Nichols. Ross's passing defense is fifth in the GBC in yards allowed (135 yards a game).

"We're a pretty balanced offense that tries to mix it up," Collins said. "We want to keep opposing defenses guessing a little bit. We use our run to set up the pass, but sometimes we can use pass to set up the run because we have some talented receivers. It all boils down to consistency."

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Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S CODY Foos moves the ball up field against Lima Senior in Fremont on Friday.

# Balanced attack wins for Ross

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — For Fremont Ross, every good thing came in three Friday night at Don Paul Stadium.

Quarterback Cody Foos threw three touchdown passes and James Spencer ran for three touchdowns as the Little Giants defeated Lima Senior 42-14 to open the Greater Buckeye Conference slate.

"We've tried all year to be balanced, keep being unpredictable and I thought we did that tonight," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "Our completion percentage wasn't real high, and I'd get that up a little bit. But I thought we ran the ball phenomenal."

Foos was 6-of-12 passing for 134 yards and Spencer added a game-high 219 yards on 22 carries. They

accounted for 353 of Ross's 495 yards.

On defense, the Little Giants allowed Lima Senior (2-4, 0-1 GBC) to gain 153 yards, of which 108 yards came on the ground.

Ross (5-1, 1-0) didn't need much time to score in the first half. Its quick-strike offense figured into three of the first four Little Giants' touchdowns.

After stopping Lima Senior's initial drive after three plays, the Little Giants took over at the Spartans' 33.

On Ross's first play from scrimmage, Foos hit wideout Greg Brown in stride for a 67-yard touchdown for a 7-0 Little Giants' lead less than 2 minutes into the game.

"We've big playmakers and we just try and get them the ball," Foos said. "(Coming into the game) we felt like we could run by (Lima Senior's) DBs. There is

no one that can guard our receivers one-on-one. You have to double-team one of them, and that opens up someone else."

When the Little Giants attempted to kick the ball back to the Spartans, chaos ensued. Cortey Edwards took Ken Hamilton's boot, but fumbled the ball on the 20-yard-line.

As the ball scooted ahead five yards, Chaz Walker picked up the loose pigskin and ran back the fumble 75 yards for a touchdown that tied the game at 7 just 12 seconds after the Little Giants gained their initial lead.

Ross responded near the end of the first quarter. Spencer carried the load, gaining 57 yards on five carries from the Little Giants' 34 to the Lima Senior 9.

On the next play, Foos connected with Brad Woelzel on the left side of the end zone as Ross had a 14-7 lead at the 2:01 mark.

The Little Giants went up by a pair of touchdowns after forcing the Spartans to punt three times in the first quarter. Ross defensive lineman Boston Beckley and linebacker Cody Evans forced Lima Senior to punt at the end of the first quarter, when they combined to sack Spartans' quarterback Jason Ward.

Then, on the first play from scrimmage in the second quarter, Spencer ran 63 yards for a touchdown and a 21-7 Ross lead with 11:40 left before halftime.

"We gave up some big plays, and we knew we couldn't allow that," Lima Senior coach Darnell Collins said. "They kind of took it to us up front, and Ross's tailback is a nice runner. He sees the cut-back lane really well. That's what he did in the first half to gain 160

See ROSS, B2

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# Ross opens GBC play with win

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## Continued From B1

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yards against us. A lot of that was because of his vision.”

The Spartans used a 7-play, 41-yard drive to cut Ross's lead 21-14. Running back Chaz Foster's 24-yard scamper to the Little Giants' 1 was the highlight before Ward snuck into the end zone for the touchdown.

Foster was the Spartans' leading gainer, carrying the ball 20 times for 46 yards. Ward was held to 3-of-11 passing for 44 yards and one interception that was picked off by Ross defensive back Justin Hines at the end of the first half.

Foos' third TD pass of the first half was a 38-yard strike to Terence Davis that put

Ross up 28-14 with 2:01 left before halftime. It capped Ross's longest scoring drive of the first 24 minutes — three plays and 37 yards — after the Spartans punted for the fourth time in five offensive series.

“We have special athletes at wideouts that we feel have speed with a very poised and experienced quarterback,” Kidwell said. “That really sets things up with play-action, and we can do some things. By formation, we can attack some (of Lima Senior's) weaknesses. We saw some things on film that we wanted to try to do.”

But Spencer owned the third quarter.

After Davis ran back the second-half kickoff 75 yards to the Lima Senior 13, the Little Giants gained 11 yards before Spencer inserted himself into the end zone after a 2-yard run at the 9:47 mark.



# Football

## High School

### Ross 42, Lima Senior 17

Lima Senior 7 7 0 3 — 17

Fremont Ross 14 14 14 0 — 42

#### SCORING SUMMARY

##### First Quarter

FR — Greg Brown 67 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 10:13.

LS — Chaz Walker 75 fumble return (Casey Reed kick), 10:01.

FR — Brad Woleslagel 9 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 2:01.

##### Second Quarter

FR — James Spencer 63 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 11:40.

LS — Jason Ward 1 run (Casey Reed kick), 7:18.

FR — Terence Davis 38 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 1:44.

##### Third Quarter

FR — James Spencer 2 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 9:47.

FR — James Spencer 3 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 1:29.

##### Fourth Quarter

LS — Casey Reed 41 field goal, 7:56.

#### TEAM STATISTICS

	LS	FR
First Downs .....	7	18
Total Net Yards .....	153	495
Rushes-Yards .....	33-108	32-361
Passing Yards.....	45	134
Cmp.-Att.-Int. ....	3-13-1	6-12-0
Punt Returns.....	0-0	3-38
Fumble Returns .....	1-75	0-0
Kickoff Returns .....	3-32	4-114
Interception Returns .....	0-0	1-15
Punts-Avg. ....	7-46.3	2-34.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards .....	4-39	7-62

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Lima Senior (Chaz Foster 20-46, Cortey Edwards 4-38, Zane Allen 2-10, Desmond Harvey 3-5, Jason Ward 4-9); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 22-219, Cody Foos 8-28, Devonte Woods 4-34, Tylor Trautwein 7-36, Greg Brown 1-0).

**PASSING** — Lima Senior (Jason Ward 3-11-44-0-1, Adrian Hutchins 0-1-0-0-0); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 6-12-134-3-0).

**RECEIVING** — Lima Senior (David Desenberg 2-15, Elijah Ricks 1-30); Fremont Ross (Greg Brown 1-67, Terence Davis 1-38, Brett Mierke 1-9, Brad Woleslagel 1-9, James Spencer 1-8, Rueben Saldivar 1-4).

**MISSED FIELD GOALS** — Lima Senior (Casey Reed, 37, hit left upright, 9:39); Fremont Ross (none).

**RECORDS** — Lima Senior 2-4 overall, 0-1 GBC; Fremont Ross 5-1 overall, 1-0 GBC.

# Little Giants face test Friday at Findlay

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross Little Giants have an interesting test Friday night at Donnell Stadium in Findlay.

Ross (5-1, 1-0 Greater Buckeye Conference) comes into the football game as the league leader in total offense (388.8 yards) and total defense (252.8 yards). Although Findlay (2-4, 1-0) is second in total offense (377.5 yards), the Trojans are dead last in total defense (380.0 yards).

The interesting part is that Ross and Findlay have scored the same amount of

points (197) through six games, even though the Little Giants have three more wins than the Trojans. Findlay has defeated Marion Harding (45-0) and Toledo St. Francis (45-8) and lost to Toledo St. John's (47-34), Upper Arlington (41-34), Cincinnati Moeller (45-32) and Columbus St. Francis DeSales (38-7).

"The points that we have scored have not been at the end of games when the other team has its reserves in," said Findlay coach Mark Ritzler. "The points we've scored have been against the first units of our opponents."

Ross coach Derek Kid-



FRIDAY  
Ross at  
Findlay.  
Radio:  
WFRO-FM

sional. I think our defense will do that with our defensive tackles and inside linebackers," Kidwell said. "We want to make them have to throw the football. If we do that, we feel it's to our advantage."

well would like to see the Little Giants shut down Findlay's rushing attack.

"Our first goal is to stop the run, take it away and make them one-dimen-

One way the Little Giants expect to employ their strategy is bring a lot of pressure into the Findlay backfield.

"We can put in some more blitz packages and be real aggressive against (Trojans' quarterback Eric) Gilbert," Kidwell said. "I don't know how healthy he is because he's been nursing a bad throwing shoulder. He didn't play last week against Marion Harding. We want to get some hats on him and try to rattle him."

In Gilbert's absence, Matt Spragg was 18-of-33 passing for 159 yards with two touchdowns and no in-

terceptions during a 45-0 home victory against Harding on Friday. Gilbert has guided the Trojans with 78-of-125 passing for 1,241 yards with 12 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Findlay's passing attack ranks first in the GBC at 234.2 yards.

Ritzler said Gilbert could be a game-time decision.

"He was out with a shoulder injury last week to his throwing arm. It's obviously not 100 percent and we'll have to wait-and-see on Friday. If it feels like it will be safe for him to play, he'll go," Ritzler said.

Quarterback Cody Foos

guides the Ross aerial attack on 61-of-114 passing for 1,088 yards with 14 touchdowns and one interception. Kidwell said Friday's game will be a good opportunity for Foos to be an effective manager of the Little Giants' offense.

Gilbert and Foos rank Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, in the GBC. Although, Foos has a better efficiency rating than Gilbert (172.45-166.28). Spragg's rating is 115.02.

One area of difference between the Little Giants and Trojans is in the receiving ranks.

See ROSS, B2

# Ross to face road test

## Little Giants travel to Findlay for GBC matchup

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### Continued from B1

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Ross has thrown the ball to 11 different targets with Terence Davis (18 catches, 384 yards, 4 TDs), Jordan Jones (15 catches, 254 yards, 3 TDs) and Greg Brown (12 catches, 246 yards, 3 TDs) leading the way. Findlay has employed six different wideouts with Brandon Crawford (36 catches, 429 yards, 3 TDs), Mandela Shaeffer (26 catches, 468 yards, 4 TDs), Ryan Wolfe (22 catches, 381 yards, 5 TDs) and Wade Arredondo (11 catches, 115 yards, 1 TDs) as its primary weapons.

The Little Giants should have an advantage in running the ball. James Spencer is Ross's tailback who ranks second in the GBC rushing race with 105 carries for 687 yards and six touchdowns. Arredondo is fifth in the GBC with 88 carries for 382 yards and two touchdowns. Foos (215) and Tylor Trautwein (266) have more rushing yards than any of the rest Findlay's running backs.

Ritzler said he would like to present

a balanced offensive attack and realizes the Little Giants can attack the Trojans with many different weapons.

Kidwell knows Findlay's defense has yielded a lot of points (179 in six games) and yards, but still will present a tough test because of the person running it.

"Their defensive coordinator (Brad Burrows) knows me pretty well. He's a good friend of mine and he was the defensive coordinator here for my first two years. He runs a similar defense to what my dad (Dick Kidwell) is running here," Kidwell said.

"I don't know how he's going to defend us because there's some different things he could do — like trying to protect his secondary or he could be aggressive. We've prepared for a couple of different looks, we just don't know what he's going to do. We'll have to see what he's going to do during the first couple of series during the game and make adjustments from that," he added.

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Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

**FREMONT ROSS'S GREG** Brown runs the ball in for a touchdown with no time left on the clock at the end of the first half against Findlay Friday night in Findlay.

# Little Giants fall to Trojans

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports Writer

**FINDLAY** - The playoff chances of the Fremont Ross Little Giants may have been severely damaged after a 37-34 loss at Findlay on Friday night.

Skyler Roberts hit a 21-yard field goal with 1:33 left to hand the Trojans (3-4 overall, 1-1 Greater Buckeye Conference) a vital league win.

Coming into the game, Ross (5-2 overall, 1-1 GBC) was ranked sixth in the Division I, Region 2 standings. But the loss to Findlay will drop the Little Giants on the playoff ladder.

The top eight teams in each of four Division I regions make the playoffs.

Leading 26-21 at the start of the third quarter, Mandela Sheaffer

returned the second-half kickoff 84 yards to help the Trojans take a 28-26 advantage.

"The difference in this game was special teams," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We totally had meltdowns tonight in our special teams. Our kickers choked, our coverage wasn't good on the kickoff to the second half. And we didn't win the defensive battle, either."

The Little Giants were trailing 21-14 with 8:55 left in the first half, when Ross embarked on a 12-play, 80-yard drive that was aided by the running of Ross rusher James Spencer and a Findlay penalty for roughing the passer, which put the ball at the Trojans' 17-yard line.

Ross quarterback Cody Foos thought he had a 17-yard TD run

on the next play, but the attempt was nullified by a holding penalty. Two plays later, Foos rolled out to the right side and found Brett Mierke wide open in the middle of the end zone as the Little Giants pulled within one point of Findlay's 21-20 lead.

Ross failed to tie the game when Ken Hamilton's PAT attempt went wide left with 3:52 remaining before halftime.

But Ross would get another chance before the break.

As the Trojans were driving in the final seconds of the first half, Brown intercepted Gilbert and ran 87 yards to the end zone. Ross had a 26-21 lead after Foos's conversion run failed as no time remained.

That was erased by Sheaffer at the start of the second half.

The Little Giants rallied with 2 minutes left in the third quarter after completing a 12-play, 64-yard drive that was capped by Foos on a 15-yard TD run. When Spencer ran for a 2-point conversion, Ross built a 34-28 lead.

Findlay tied the game in the fourth quarter as 6:49 remained on Wade Arredondo's second TD run - this one of 4 yards - in the game. He finished with 155 yards on 28 carries.

But when the Trojans attempted to take the lead on Roberts' PAT try, Little Giants defensive back Justin Hines blocked the kick.

Findlay stopped Ross on its next possession, and after punter Michael Showman delivered a 16-

See **ROSS, B2**

# Ross falls to Findlay

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**Continued from B1**

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yard punt on fourth-and-10 from the Little Giants' 20, the Trojans took over with 5:24 left and drove to set up Roberts' game-sealing field goal.

The Little Giants had one last chance to either tie the game with a field goal or win it with a touchdown with 1:23 left. Spencer, who rushed 28 times for 152 yards with one TD, returned a Findlay kickoff 41 yards to the Trojans' 47-yard line.

Foos, who was 12-of-26 for 155 yards with two TDs and two interceptions, picked up a first down on a 15-yard toss to Mierke. And Spencer added a first down with a 3-yard run on third-and-1 from the Trojans' 43. But after an incomplete pass, Foos was picked off for the second time by Sheaffer.

As the Ross sideline screamed for a penalty for roughing the passer to be called against Findlay, Kidwell approached the referee at midfield to voice his opinion and was promptly flagged from the game as 32.1 seconds remained.

"We gave up a lot of yards and a lot of points, and offensively, I think we tied that battle," Kidwell said. "But if you're going to win (the defensive and special teams battles), you're not going to win a big football game."

Findlay held a 383-345 edge in total yards.

"We did not play great and we made a lot of mistakes," Findlay coach Mark Ritzler said. "But we overcame everything. We did enough against a great offense to make enough plays. And we got some plays on special teams as well. It was back-and-forth."

Ross capitalized on a huge Findlay mistake to take a 7-0 first-quarter lead. After the Trojans stopped the Little Giants' initial drive, Ryan Wolfe fumbled away Showman's punt at the Findlay 36-yard line.

Four plays later, Foos' pass to Ter-

ence Davis was complete for a 17-yard touchdown after the Little Giants' wideout made the grab on a dive into the left corner of the end zone at the 8:51 mark.

But the Trojans responded right away. Less than 2 minutes later, Eric Gilbert's pass to Sheaffer on first-and-10 from the Findlay 44 became a 56-yard touchdown after Little Giants' defensive back Hines fell down on the play.

Ross clung to a 7-6 lead with 7:07 left in the first quarter after Roberts' missed his PAT attempt.

As time wound down in the first quarter, Spencer established himself on a 14-play, 80-yard TD drive that ended with the Ross running back scoring on a 3-yard run to the end zone. Spencer carried the ball for 52 yards on the Little Giants' possession and set up his touchdown run by catching a 13-yard screen pass from Foos that put Ross at the Findlay 3.

Hamilton's PAT kick handed the Little Giants a 14-6 lead at the 1:18 mark of the first quarter.

But Findlay struck quickly again.

The Trojans drove to the Ross 25, where Gilbert heaved a pass to Wolfe, who was wide open in the end zone. But after the Findlay wideout dropped the potential TD-strike, the Trojans turned to the running of Arredondo, broke multiple tackles as he tip-toed down the right sideline for 25-yard touchdown.

Gilbert's 2-point conversion pass to Sheaffer tied the game at 14 as 11:45 remained before halftime. He finished the game with 4-of-9 passing for 140 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Findlay grabbed its first lead of the game after converting a Foos interception into a touchdown after a 3-play, 80-yard drive. Gilbert's pass split the Ross defense in half to Wolfe who ran the final 48 yards to the end zone.

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# High School

## Findlay 37, Fremont Ross 34

Fremont Ross 14 12 8 0 — 34  
Findlay 6 15 7 9 — 37

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### First Quarter

FR — Terence Davis 34 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton), 8:51.

F — Mandela Sheaffer 56 pass from Eric Gilbert (kick failed), 7:07.

FR — James Spencer 3 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 1:18.

#### Second Quarter

F — Wade Arredondo 25 run (Mandela Sheaffer pass from Eric Gilbert), 11:45.

F — Ryan Wolfe 80 pass from Eric Gilbert (Skyler Roberts kick), 8:55.

FR — Brett Mierke 17 pass from Cody Foos (kick failed), 3:52.

FR — Greg Brown 87 interception return (run failed), 0:00.

#### Third Quarter

F — Mandela Sheaffer 84 kickoff return (Skyler Roberts kick), 11:49

FR — Cody Foos 15 run (James Spencer run), 2:05.

#### Fourth Quarter

F — Wade Arredondo 4 run (kick blocked), 6:49.

F — Skyler Roberts 21 FG, 1:33.

### TEAM STATISTICS

	FR	F
First Downs .....	19	18
Total Net Yards .....	345	383
Rushes-Yards .....	38-190	37-243
Passing Yards .....	155	140
Cmp.-Att.-Int. ....	12-26-2	4-9-1
Punts-Avg. ....	4-27.5	1-24.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	2-0	2-2
• Penalties-Yards .....	5-65	4-40
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### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Fremont Ross (James Spencer 28-152, Cody Foos 10-38); Findlay (Wade Arredondo 22-155, Eric Gilbert 9-57, Nate Kupferberg 3-21, Michael Alexander 3-10).

**PASSING** — Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 12-26-155-2-2); Findlay (Eric Gilbert 4-9-140-1-1).

**RECEIVING** — Fremont Ross (Brett Mierke 4-40, Terence Davis 3-57, Greg Brown 3-22, Jordan Jones 1-23, James Spencer 1-13); Findlay (Mandela Sheaffer 2-60, Ryan Wolfe 1-80, Zach Crawford 1-0).

**MISSED FIELD GOALS** — Fremont Ross (none); Findlay (none).

**RECORDS** — Fremont Ross 5-2 overall, 1-1 GBC; Findlay 3-4 overall, 1-1 GBC.



# Little Giants hanging on to eighth playoff spot

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Despite a tough 37-34 loss at Findlay on Friday, the Fremont Ross Little Giants are still in the thick of the football playoff race.

With 12,692 points in Division 1, Region 2, Ross dropped in the computer rankings from sixth to eighth, where the Little Giants are holding on to a postseason spot by 0.0571 points in front of ninth-place Akron Garfield. The top eight teams in each region advance to the playoffs.

But in order to make the playoffs, Ross will have to win its final three games, and might even need help from some of the teams it beat this year.

On Friday, the Little Giants will meet Greater

Buckeye Conference opponent Marion Harding at Don Paul Stadium.

"It's been fine," Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell said about the mood of the Little Giants during practice this week. "Obviously, we were disappointed Friday and Saturday. But, I told them to watch the game film on Saturday and to critique themselves and their mistakes."

"We can't worry about the past, but we can learn from it," he said. "I think we're going to find out what kind of leadership and character we have on this team during the next three weeks."

On paper, the Ross-Harding battle is a mismatch.

The Little Giants (5-2 overall, 1-1 GBC) have scored 231 points and allowed 118 with, statistically,

the best offense and defense in the league. The Presidents (0-7, 0-2), who have scored 57 points and allowed 254, are fifth in total offense and fourth in total defense in the conference this season. Harding has gone 2-15 since the start of the 2007 campaign.

However, football games are played on fields and not on paper.

"The kids are doing the right things and showing good effort," Marion Harding coach Heath Hinton said. "We are expressing to them to strive to be the best team on the field that night. We want our players to continue striving to do the little things right and things may bounce our way. As coaches we are being as positive as possible with our players."

Of late, an area of con-

cern for Ross has been stopping the run. The Little Giants allowed Findlay to gain 243 yards rushing in Week 6. Harding's ground game is second in the GBC with a 170.7-yard average and is led by Mason Lindsey with 642 and five touchdowns on 92 carries.

"(Harding) is a power-running team that has only completed 27 passes this season," Kidwell said. "They're going to run inside the tackles. Our defense is going to have a challenge because we couldn't off the field last week, especially on third down. We need to have stops on third down."

Ross's run defense still



**Friday  
Harding  
at Ross  
7:30 p.m.  
(WFRO-FM)**

leads the league at 145.7 yards a game.

The Little Giants counter Lindsey with tailback James Spencer (133 carries, 833 yards, seven TDs).

The Presidents have a pair of quarterbacks — Asher Rumble and Corey White — who have combined to throw 10 interceptions and one touchdown this season. White has passed for 189 yards and Rumble has tossed for 112 yards. Cody Foos (73-of-140, 1,243 yards, 16 TDs, 3 INTs) guides Ross's offense in the air.

"Fremont Ross will be a tough task. They are very athletic offensively and defensively," Hinton said.

"Their offense has a big-threat potential. They will find your weaknesses and pick you apart."

Foos has completed a pass to 11 different receivers in 2008 with Terence Davis (21 catches, 444 yards, 5 TDs), Jordan Jones (16 catches, 277 yards, 3 TDs) and Greg Brown (15 catches, 268 yards, 3 TDs) leading the way. Eric Gilmore (10 catches, 93 yards, 1 TD) is the only Harding wideout with double-digit receptions.

Kidwell said the Little Giants' special teams units are making improvements after some changes in personnel.

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Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

**FREMONT ROSS'S CODY** Foos runs to the outside against Marion Harding during Friday's game in Fremont.

# Little Giants hammer Presidents

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports Writer

**FREMONT** — Jordan Jones was a game-changer Friday night for the Fremont Ross Little Giants.

With the third quarter winding down, Jones picked off Marion Harding quarterback Asher Rumble, allowing Ross to re-establish itself during the second half of a 38-21 Greater Buckeye Conference victory over Harding on Friday at Don Paul Stadium.

"As a team, we had great pressure on (Rumble) from the defensive line and the linebackers," Jones said. "He just threw (the ball) up for grabs and I just went to go get it."

When the Little Giants took

over at their own 48, quarterback Cody Foos got to the end zone in four plays, which allowed Ross to take a 17-point cushion on running back James Spencer's third TD of the game.

"We we're playing like we should have been playing in the first half," Spencer said. "At halftime, we came in (to the locker room), had a talk and we said we wanted to be more aggressive on the (offensive) line."

Spencer finished with 134 yards on 17 carries. He scored on runs of 5, 12 and 3 yards, respectively. His second and third TDs came in the third quarter after Ross had built a 17-7 lead at halftime.

Mason Lindsey had touchdown runs of 4 and 8 yards and helped

Harding control most of the first half with an effective ground game.

When Lindsey scored after a 4-yard run with 4:46 left in the third quarter, the Presidents kept themselves in the game by trailing the Little Giants 23-14. He had 109 yards on 20 carries.

"It was our game plan coming into the week to take (Ross's) quick, fast guys who like to spin a lot and just run the ball right at them," Harding coach Heath Hinton said. "We knew we were bigger than them up front, but they did a good job of adjusting to it after halftime and taking some plays away from us."

But Jones shifted the momentum in the favor of Ross.

"We challenged our team because I felt we came out flat in the first half," Fremont Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "I don't know if we re-established ourselves because you have to give Harding a lot of credit for playing as hard as they did after having the season they've had. It says a lot about Coach Hinton, his coaching staff and the character of Marion's kids."

"They busted us in the mouth in the first half and we really didn't have an answer for it. The only difference was that we have playmakers at skill positions that made plays for us."

Ross quarterback Cody Foos

See **ROSS, B2**

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# Ross beats Harding

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## Continued From B1

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tossed a pair of touchdown passes in the game, including a 32-yard strike to Brett Mierke in the second quarter and a 50-yard bomb to Terence Davis with 8:27 left.

Foos finished 13-of-18 with 246 yards and no interceptions.

"(Ross) took care of business in the second half," Hinton said. "They protected their quarterback a lot better and they hit their open wide receivers.

Rumple, who threw his 11th and 12th interceptions this season, was 5-of-15 passing with 97 yards and one touchdown. His 10-yard strike to Alex Harb in the first quarter gave Harding a 7-3 lead at the 6:42 mark.

The Little Giants won the battle of total yards 404-267, but allowed the Presidents to control much of the game on the ground. Harding held a 170-158 edge in rushing.

Ross pounced on Harding from the opening kickoff, when Cory White fumbled the ball away to Phrederic Schumacher.

After the Little Giants set up their offense at the Presidents' 28, Ross marched 24 yards in seven plays before Ken Hamilton kicked a 21-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead early in the game.

"I thought the game could have been a little closer if we would have gotten the turnovers that either we created or they had," Hinton said. "They wouldn't have had that second score in the first half."

Both teams had defensive stops before Harding's offense came to life. The Presidents took over at their own 46, where Harding defense stopped Foos for no gain on fourth-and-inches.

Rumple converted on third-and-10 by hitting White with 32 yard pass to the Little Giants' 21. Five running plays later, Rumple was successful on third-and-9 at the Ross 10 after firing a touchdown pass to Harb.

Harb kicked extra point before the Presidents took a 7-3 lead with 11:55 left in the first half.

But Ross answered with touchdowns on two of its next three possessions.

Spencer capped a 13-play, 70-yard drive that ended with his 5-yard TD run with 6:42 left before halftime.

Then, after Little Giants forced the Presidents to punt, Foos used three plays to put Ross into the end zone. Mierke caught Foos' 32-yard pass for a TD with 1:16 remaining in the first half.

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# High School

## Fremont Ross 38, Marion Harding 21

Marion Harding 0 7 7 7 — 21  
Fremont Ross 3 14 14 7 — 38

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### First Quarter

FR — Ken Hamilton 21 field goal, 8:31.

#### Second Quarter

MH — Alex Harb 10 pass from Asher Rumble (Alex Harb kick), 11:55.

MH — James Spencer 5 run (Ken Hamilton kick), 6:42.

FR — Brett Mierke 32 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 1:16.

#### Third Quarter

FR — James Spencer 12 run (kick failed), 9:58.

MH — Mason Lindsey 4 run (Alex Harb kick), 4:46.

FR — James Spencer 3 run (Terence Davis pass from Cody Foos), 0:26.

#### Fourth Quarter

FR — Terrence Davis pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 8:27.

MH — Mason Lindsey 8 run (Alex Harb kick), 4:18.

### TEAM STATISTICS

	MH	FR
First Downs .....	15	18
Total Net Yards .....	267	404
Rushes-Yards .....	38-170	32-158
Passing Yards .....	97	246
Cmp.-Att.-Int. ....	5-15-2	13-18-0
Sacked-Yards Lost .....	0-0	3-17
Punts-Avg. ....	3-35.7	2-27.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards .....	5-48	6-65

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Marion Harding (Mason Lindsey 20-109, Jordan Russell 11-35, Asher Rumble 3-16, Brendin Williams 1-12, Chris Ryle 2-8, Monte Mallory-Williams 1-6, Aaron Clarke 1-1, Marque Troutman 1-(minus-8)); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 17-134, Cody Foos 13-11, Devonte Woods 2-5, Jake Easton 1-3, Greg Brown 1-3, Tylor Trautwein 3-1).

**PASSING** — Marion Harding (Asher Rumble 5-15-97-1-2); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 13-18-246-0-0, Kyle Daman 0-1-0-0-0).

**RECEIVING** — Marion Harding (Cory White 1-33, Alex Harb 2-21, Marque Troutman 1-19, Eric Gilmore 1-24); Fremont Ross (Greg Brown 2-24, Brett Mierke 5-91, Terence Davis 3-55, Justin Hines 1-12, James Spencer 2-48, Jordan Jones 1-16).

**MISSED FIELD GOALS** — Marion Harding (none); Fremont Ross (Ken Hamilton 31).

**RECORDS** — Marion Harding 0-8 overall, 0-3 GBC; Fremont Ross 6-2 overall, 2-1 GBC.

# Ross seeks victory No. 600 against Napoleon

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — A lot rides on Friday night's Greater Buckeye Conference football clash between Fremont Ross and Napoleon.

Not only are both teams battling for a league championship, but the Little Giants (6-2 overall, 2-1 GBC) and Wildcats (5-3, 3-0) are also vying for playoff spots in their respective divisions and regions.

Kickoff for this game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday in Napoleon.

"We know that Napoleon has had our number three out of the four years I've been here," Ross coach Derek Kid-

well said. The Wildcats have won five of the last six meetings with Ross since the formation of the GBC in 2002. "We have to keep our kids focused on intensity."

The Little Giants come into Week 9 rated as the No. 10 team in the Division I, Region 2 standings. With a 14,021-point average, Ross trails Wadsworth (eighth, 14,8625) and Massillon Washington (ninth, 14,4895). Napoleon, which sits 12th in Division III, Region 10, has a 9,8250-point average and still has an outside shot at the postseason, if the Wildcats win their two remaining games.

"They have a new head

coach (Tory Strock), but they're still running a 3-5 defense and, on offense, they look very similar to what they had when Coach (John) Snod was there," Kidwell said. "We're going to have our hands full because it's the same basic fundamentals."

In addition, Ross will be seeking its 600th all-time on-field victory. Currently, the Little Giants' football program has 601 wins since 1895, but 599 of them have come on the gridiron. Two victories (one



**Friday**  
**Ross at**  
**Napoleon**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**(WFRO-FM)**

against Sandusky in 1915 and one against Elyria in 1923) were awarded to Ross as 1-0 forfeits after those opponents were discovered to have used ineligible players to attain on-field wins against the Little Giants.

Strock has a high impression of the Little Giants, especially on offense.

"Fremont Ross is the most balanced team that we will have faced this season," Strock said. "Sandusky and Lima Senior had

average quarterbacks. Ross not only has a super quarterback, but they also have a super running back. And we haven't seen a team like that this season."

Little Giants quarterback Cody Foos (87-of-160, 1,487 yards, 18 TDs, 3 INTs) has an advantage to sustain drives over Napoleon quarterback Andrew Keller (66-of-133, 946 yards, 5 TDs, 5 INTs).

Ross running back James Spencer has a shot to eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing mark Friday night. On 150 carries, he's gained 977 yards and scored 10 touchdowns. Foos adds 94 carries with 269 yards and two touchdowns, while Ty-

lor Trautwein has 51 carries with 267 yards and six touchdowns.

Spencer (13 TDs overall, 1 two-point conversion, 80 points) and Napoleon running back Jason Brown (12 TDs overall, 72 points) are the top two scorers in the GBC.

Kidwell said he was impressed by Brown, who has carried the ball 83 times for 569 yards and scored nine touchdowns. John Weaver (88 carries, 387 yards, 6 TDs) and Brandon Hummer (52 carries, 228 yards, 2 TDs) are other options in the Wildcats' offensive backfield.

See GIANTS, B2

## Giants seek victory No. 600

### Continued from B1

"I think our best defense has to be a good offense. Ball control is essential," Strock said. "The key will be possessing the ball and finishing off drives. I can't overstate how important time of possession is going to be. We do hope to make it a little difficult when Ross gets the ball."

The top receiving targets of Foos include Terence Davis (24 catches, 497 yards, 6 TDs) and Greg Brown (17 catches, 292 yards, 3 TDs). In addition, Brett Mierke (14 catches, 228 yards, 3 TDs) has emerged in recent weeks as a solid possession receiver.

Napoleon counters with Brown, Clint Detmer and Cody Bloom in the receiving corps. Brown has 18 catches for 183 yards and two touchdowns out of the backfield, while Detmer (16 catches, 374 yards, 2 TDs) is a wideout and Bloom

(14 catches, 176 yards, 0 TDs) is a tight end.

On special teams, it will be a battle of the Browns. Napoleon's Jason has returned 10 kickoffs for 313 yards and a touchdown. Ross's Greg has attempted six kickoff returns for 120 yards. Both of them will handle punt return duties as well.

Kidwell said, "I think we're extremely confident in what we're doing. On offense, we're extremely confident in staying balanced. On defense, we have to win the turnover battle, even though we've had a few hiccups along the way. But sometimes, you just have to trust kids, and I trust them to go out and play well. On special teams, we've replaced non-starters with starters. We're finally healthy again, have everybody back and we're going over to (Napoleon) with a full squad."

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# Ross gets 600th win



Photo by Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

**FREMONT ROSS** defensive tackle Andrew House deflects a fourth-down pass thrown by Napoleon quarterback Andrew Keller during the second quarter of a Greater Buckeye Conference football game Friday at Charles Buckenmeyer Stadium in Napoleon.

## Little Giants beat Wildcats to keep GBC hopes alive

By **JEFF ARENZ**  
Sports writer

**NAPOLEON** — For the 600th time in Fremont Ross history, the Little Giants have won on the gridiron.

And to secure the milestone 19-13 on-field victory, the Ross defense came to play Friday night at Charles Buckenmeyer Stadium in Napoleon.

Ross safety Brett Mierke's interception of Napoleon quarterback Andrew Keller redeemed Little Giants run-

### COMING THURSDAY

Check out Thursday's News-Messenger for a special section commemorating the milestone.

ning back James Spencer, whose fumble gave the Wildcats one last shot at midfield with 2:36 remaining.

"I read the defense and I saw (Keller) looking right at

me," Mierke said. "I was excited because I wanted that pick to put this game away."

Defensive tackle Boston Beckley agreed.

"I knew that we had to step it up because the last two games we haven't been playing so good," Beckley said. "I have to give the credit to Mierke on that defensive last play, but Tyler (Hull) and I put the pressure on the throw."

Mierke expressed elation for helping the Little Giants

capture the milestone victory as his teammates chanted his name inside the locker room.

"Oh my God, this feels great," Mierke said. "I'm going to be remembered forever. I'm just excited we won, we still have a shot at the playoffs and we're ready to go."

The Ross held Napoleon in check in key situations. The Wildcats were 1-of-4 in-

See **ROSS, A6**



# Ross

Continued from A1

side the red zone Friday night.

The Little Giants clung to a 19-7 lead in the fourth quarter before Napoleon strung together a 9-play, 73-yard drive that ended with Keller's 13-yard touchdown run with 6:32 left.

It was the only time the Wildcats scored from inside the red zone. But Clint Detmer's extra point attempt failed as Ross led 19-13.

When the Little Giants got the ball back, they tried to run time off the clock. But Spencer, who carried the ball 21 times for 111 yards and scored on a 9-yard second-quarter TD run, fumbled a high pitch from quarterback Cody Foos at the Ross 49-yard line.

The Ross defense had to answer the call one more time.

"I'm really proud of these kids because our defense was on the field an awful lot tonight," Little Giants coach Derek Kidwell said. "Hats off to my dad (Ross defensive coordinator Dick Kickwell) and the defensive coaching staff because I think they came up with a great game plan."

The Wildcats ran 65 offensive plays against the Little Giants, who had 46 of their own. Napoleon won the battle of total yards 319-241.

Kidwell pointed to a key tackle made by Ross defensive back Greg Brown on Napoleon's last drive that kept Wildcats running back Jason Brown in bounds as the time ticked off the clock before Mierke's interception.

"We had so many opportunities in that game and we didn't capitalize on a lot of them. Part of that was because of Fre-

mont's team speed and another part was breakdowns in penalties against us," Wildcats coach Tory Strock said. "It was a great battle because I thought our defense did a great job of containing their athletes."

Napoleon opened the game with a 15-play drive that wiped 6 1/2 minutes off the clock, but was stalled by a holding penalty near midfield. Ross got the ball at its own 19 after forcing the Wildcats to punt.

The Little Giants took a 7-0 lead with 11:47 left in the first half, when Foos hooked up with Terence Davis on a 24-yard TD pass during which the Ross wideout burned defensive back Nick Rettig in single-coverage

in a race to the end zone.

When Beckley recovered Keller's fumble 15 seconds later, the Ross offense reached the end zone in 26 yards in five plays on the legs of Spencer.

After Greg Brown ran back the second-half kickoff 41 yards, Foos (6-of-12, 104 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT) was picked off on the Little Giants' first play from scrimmage after the ball went in-and-out of the hands of Davis.

Brandon Hummer, who was got the majority of the Napoleon carries after Jason Brown walked off the field in the second quarter after sustaining an injury, used his legs to cap a 9-play, 67-yard drive that ended with Hummer's 3-

yard TD run as 7:11 remained in the third quarter.

Detmer's PAT trimmed the Ross lead to 13-7.

But the Ross wideout wanted to atone for the drop. As soon as Ross got the ball back, Foos threw a 53-yard TD strike to Davis, who beat the Napoleon defense to the end zone on a post pattern over the middle.

"It was pretty big to catch that first touchdown pass because it gave us a lead," Davis said. "But I was kind of down after I should have caught that other pass. It went through my hands. I had to redeem myself for that."

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# High School

## Fremont Ross 19, Napoleon 13

Ross           0 13 6 0 — 19

Napoleon     0 0 7 6 — 13

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### Second Quarter

FR — Terence Davis 24 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 11:47.

FR — James Spencer 9 run (kick failed), 10:28.

#### Third Quarter

N — Brandon Hummer 3 run (Clint Detmer kick), 7:11.

FR — Terence Davis 53 pass from Cody Foos (Ken Hamilton kick), 5:10.

#### Fourth Quarter

N — Andrew Keller 13 run (kick failed), 6:32.

### TEAM STATISTICS

	FR	N
First Downs.....	11	18
Total Net Yards.....	241	319
Rushes-Yards.....	34-137	47-216
Passing Yards .....	104	103
Cmp.-Att.-Int.....	6-12-1	9-18-0
Punt Returns-Yards .....	1-4	1-4
Kickoff Returns-Yards....	3-87	3-38
Int. Returns-Yards.....	1-0	1-0
Punts-Avg.....	2-36.0	2-22.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards .....	5-50	3-35

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Fremont Ross (James Spencer 21-111, Cody Foos 10-22, Tylor Trautwein 3-4); Napoleon (Brandon Hummer 11-106, Jason Brown 19-81, John Weaver 9-18, Andrew Keller 8-11).

PASSING — Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 6-12-104-2-1); Napoleon (Andrew Keller 9-18-103-0-1).

RECEIVING — Fremont Ross (Terence Davis 3-87, Justin Hines 1-15, Greg Brown 1-12, James Spencer 1-(minus-10)); Napoleon (Nick Rettig 3-48, Jason Brown 2-31, Jordan Fisher 2-26, Cody Bloom 2-20).

MISSED FIELD GOALS — Fremont Ross (none); Napoleon (none).

RECORDS — Fremont Ross 7-2 overall, 3-1 GBC; Napoleon 5-4 overall, 3-1 GBC.

# 113 years and still going strong

By **JEFF ARENZ**

Sports Writer

FREMONT — For 113 years, Fremont high school football has displayed a consistent commitment to gridiron excellence.

In 2008, the Little Giants secured their 600th victory for a program that has a tradition matched by only a handful of other teams.

The Little Giants rank 16th among Ohio high school football teams on the state's all-time wins list.

"It's pretty special to all of us because we're going to be able to remember this for the rest of our lives that we're the team that brought No. 600 home," Ross quarterback Cody Foos said.

Foos, and the entire Little Giants football family, are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the program.

Year after year, great coaches made great players who were the heart and soul of great teams.

On the occasion of the Little Giants' 600th on-field victory, let's take a look back at some key moments in the history of the Ross program.

## GREATEST COACHES

The following coaches were selected on the basis of having coached 50 games or more.

Mal Mackey is considered the dean of all Little Giants' coaches. From 1950-1966, his record was 104-59-8, which are Ross coaching highs for wins, losses and ties. He coached in 171 games, also a Little Giants' record.

Mackey won eight of Ross's 34 league championships. He coached the Little Giants to four of their six undefeated seasons (1951, 1955, 1956, 1957), which included the longest string of consecutive wins in

school history (29 from 1955-1957).

Rex Radeloff (71-41-0, 1986-1996) is the only Ross coach to guide two different teams (1989 and 1994) into the playoffs.

Wayne "Pete" Moore (70-28-4, 1976-1985) is the only Little Giants' coach to win a playoff game — a 7-0 victory over Sandusky in 1983.

Lester "Legs" Binkley (47-18-2, 1941-1943 and 1946-1949) has the highest winning percentage (.716) in Ross history. His 1949 Little Giants scored the most points (384) of any Ross team in a single season.

Robert "Bob" Oldfather (51-23-6, 1929-1936) succeeded William "Bunk" Ross in 1929 as coach of Fremont High School. In 1930, the school was renamed Fremont Ross High School.

## GREATEST PLAYERS

The list is very long.

Charles Woodson, who won the 1997 Heisman Trophy while playing for Michigan and has gone on to a Pro Bowl NFL career with Oakland and Green Bay, holds five Ross football records.

Those include single-game rushing (335 yards, Oct. 21, 1994, vs. Oregon Clay), season scoring (230 points in 1994), season rushing (2,028 in 1994), career scoring (466 points from 1992-1994) and career rushing (3,861 yards from 1992-1994).

The Little Giants 14 players selected to the All-Ohio First Team. They include Woodson (halfback, 1993 and 1994), Derek Isaman (linebacker, 1984), Tony Gant (defensive back, 1981), Bob Brudzinski (end, 1972), Rob Lytle (halfback, 1972), Ted Kreilick (tackle, 1971), Wes Glover (tackle, 1956), Jim Tiller (halfback, 1956), Tom Cooper (guard, 1953), Bob Biggs (guard, 1951), John "Big Thunder" Lewis (halfback, 1951), Hosea Sims (end, 1949), Bob Heid (center, 1947)

and Bob Demmel (halfback, 1944).

Aaron Opelt is the holder of the Ross record for completions (148) in a season (2005), while Ryan Ottney has thrown for the most yards in a season 2,187 (2006). From 2003-2005, Opelt threw for 4,511 yards, the Little Giants' career leader.

Tom Brudzinski's 699 yards receiving (1978) stands as the single-season record.

## GREATEST TEAMS

The greatest era in Ross football has to be from 1955-1957, when the Little Giants won 29 consecutive games under Mackey.

Three other Ross teams (1983, 1997 and 2006) share the school record of 10 victories in a season. All three of them went to the playoffs. In 1997 under Dan Pallante and 2006 under Derek Kidwell, the Little Giants were ousted in the first round after completing a 10-0 regular season campaigns.

The 1951 Little Giants, who went 9-0-1, were the first undefeated Ross team in the modern football era.

The early 1970s were another great era for the Little Giants, who went 9-1 in 1971, 9-1 in 1972, 9-1 in 1973 under Chuck Shuff and 9-0-1 in 1974 under Tom Hollman.

Moore and Radeloff coached Ross to 9-1 marks in 1980 and 1993, respectively. Other 9-1 years included 1919, 1947 and 1953.

Largest win

On Oct. 12, 1929, Fremont High erupted for 81 points as J.W. Miller set a school record by scoring 44 points as the Little Giants routed Bellevue 81-0.

The program's all-time record stands at 602-384-48.

—  
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# Kidwell current caretaker for Ross tradition

By **MATTHEW HORN**  
Sports Writer

A large mural inside the football stadium encourages Fremont Ross to 'Protect Tradition.'

Little Giants head coach Derek Kidwell takes it to heart.

Ross won the 600th game in program history on Kidwell's watch last week. In five years at the helm Kidwell has led the Little Giants to the playoffs once, had them on the cusp last year and an appearance this season will come down to this weekend.

"It's more for the kids," Kidwell said. "It's something these seniors can always keep with them, along with the rest of the team. It says a lot about the tradition that's been at Fremont Ross for years. I don't look at it as a personal feather in my cap but as a tradition of great athletes with pride in football for years."

Charles Woodson, Rob Lytle, Aaron Opelt ...

"Shawn McCarthy came back and was kind of an honorary coach for the Marion game," Kidwell said. "He kept thanking me and I kept thanking him. It was awesome for him to come back and give back. Our kids know of the history of the kids who have moved on. We talk about it quite often, but we have to motivate them to play their best football each week."

"We talk about it to a point but we have to be realistic — we won't have that

(Woodson) every year."

But they will have that Kidwell.

"I couldn't be any happier," Kidwell said of taking the job. "It was a great opportunity for me. People thought it was a tough decision to leave Hopewell with what we'd built there and what they went on to do. When I got the call that February, I've never had one minute of doubt or regret."

"Plus, we have some great athletes walking the streets and it's been our job to get them motivated and wanting to play football. For years on they'll see a strong program. There's not another job in the state I could see myself being at for a long time. It's a great place to raise a family."

Kidwell has a wife, Beth, and three daughters — Mackenzie, 7, Camryn, 5, and Kendyl, 3. But he could just as well have been talking about his football family. Painted on the wall of the Little Giants' locker room is a reminder to put 'Family First.'

"We're all here for one another at any given time," Kidwell said. "It's not just a three- or four-month slogan. We're not just here to care about victories, we want to mold kids into the best members of society we can and help get them through tough times in high school."

Trust and communication



Kidwell

within a team can lead to cooperation, self-discipline and dedication. Kidwell prefers accountability and reliability.

"We want 100 percent for four months of the season and 6.5 months in the weight room," he said. "I have to be accountable and dependable to them so if they have a problem there's an outlet. Once you're in the family you're in it for as long as you want to be."

Kidwell understands adversity well as an intervention specialist at the high school. He also saw firsthand the love, enthusiasm and commitment apparent with his father's program at Fostoria.

"He's a positive role model," Ross athletic director Art Bucci said. "He treats all the kids with respect. No matter if you're the best player on the team or a kid trying to work your way in, it's amazing how the kids really like him. They look up to him."

"He fair. He's got rules and the kids know there are consequences. He makes sure kids hit the books. Kids today look for discipline. The kids are on time, they study when they get home and they stay out of trouble."

All that certainly helps a coach protect tradition.

"They've always put a great product on the field," Kidwell said. "When they play Fremont Ross they know we'll be physical and play hard for four quarters. However many coaches have been through, the best statement is the team played hard for four quarters because that's the way you've asked them to play and that's been the case through 600-plus victories and I don't see that changing."

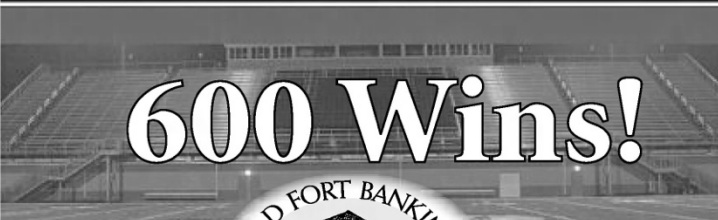
"With the makeup of the community and expectations in the community, kids grow up wanting to be Little Giants."

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## Coaching records

Edgerton J. "John" Garvin	1-4
Ben Wickham	3-2-1
Harry Hazel	1-0-2*
Burt German	2-3-2*
No Coach	8-7-1
Elliot	1-2-0*
Ed Seibert	1-2-0*
Rollin Mowry	1-1-0
Albert O. Baumann	7-5-2
Arthur Christy	4-3-0*
Karl D. Figley	9-11-4*
Dick Sherwood	10-10-4*
E. Swinehart	2-5-1*
Robert L. Todd	7-14-4*
Edgar Roper	5-3-0
Harry Stout	6-12-0
George Crane	0-6-1
Warren Bannorsdall	18-5-0
Charles A. Taylor	11-13-3
William "Bunk" Ross	22-14-4
Fred L. McClintock	21-9-0
Les "Legs" Binkley	47-18-2
Sylvester "Sive" Kohr	12-5-2
Mal Mackey	104-59-8
John Behling	4-6-0
Chuck Shuff	35-23-2
Tom Hollman	15-3-2
Wayne "Pete" Moore	70-28-4
Rex Radeloff	71-4-1
Dan Pallante	18-3
Mike Eicher	10-10
Mike Wetzal	4-6
Chuck Lindsey	1-19
Derek Kidwell	32-17

## Congratulations & Continued Success From Rob Lytle and the Entire Old Fort Bank Staff



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# No need to motivate players as Sandusky game looms

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — The Little Giants don't need a reason to be excited.

With a trip to the OHSAA Division I playoffs on the line and archrival Sandusky standing in the way, Ross coach Derek Kidwell and his players are intensely focused on Friday night's game at Don Paul Stadium.

"Luckily, for us, it's not that hard (to focus) this week because it is Sandusky," Kidwell said. "We've played them for more than 100 years, and our kids get really focused on that."

"We're worried about Week 10, and not anything else because that other stuff is out of our hands."

The only thing we can do is execute our game plan against Sandusky and get a win a Friday night."

In a series that dates back to Nov. 2, 1895, the Little Giants and Blue Streaks have met 102 times on the gridiron with Sandusky holding a 51-43-8 lead over Ross.

But Friday night is a must win for the Little Giants (7-2 overall, 3-1



**Friday  
Sandusky  
at Ross  
7:30 p.m.  
(WFRO-FM)**

Greater Buckeye Conference), who are seeking to qualify for the Division I playoffs. Ross, currently eighth in the Region 2 computer points standings, will also need help from its defeated opponents (Perrysburg, Toledo Whitmer, Tiffin, Columbian, Lorain Southview, Lima Senior, Marion Harding and Napoleon) to qualify for the postseason.

"The mood (in practice) has been up-tempo because it's Sandusky Week," said linebacker Brad

Woleslagel, who ranks second among Ross tacklers with 87. "It's a big game, but we're trying to stay focused and stick to what we have to do."

Defensive back Brett Mierke is the Little Giants' top defender with 90 tackles.

Sandusky (4-5 overall, 2-2 GBC) is playing better, winning two of its last three games (vs. Lima Senior 21-14 in OT and Marion Harding 22-19 on Friday) after struggling through a three-game losing streak.

The Blue Streaks have relied primarily on the running of Eric Jordan (212 carries, 1,241 yards, 7 TDs), who is the leading rusher in the GBC. Quarterback Willie Irby adds 207 yards and 2 TDs on 67 ground attempts. The rest of Sandusky backfield features 10 different ballcarriers who have gained 112 yards and scored 7 TDs.

Sandusky, the third-best rushing offense in the conference, has run for 1,560 yards and thrown for 579 yards. Ross has the more balanced offensive team, with 1,693 yards rushing and 1,593 yards passing. On defense, the Little Giants rank first in the GBC by yielding a league-low 2,485 yards, while the Blue Streaks are third with 2,645 yards.

Irby, a senior, leads the Sandusky aerial attack on 29-of-69 passing for 342 yards and 1 TD and 0 INTs. Junior Zach Esposito has spent time in the Blue Streaks' lineup, completing 17-of-53 passes for 216 yards, 2 TDs and 5 INTs. The Sandusky passers have the second-worst comple-

tion percentage (37.5 percent) in the GBC.

Despite having 13 different receivers who have caught at least one pass, the top two Blue Streaks' wideouts (Antron Lane with nine and Dominic Will with eight) have combined for 17 receptions and 216 yards.

On special teams, Esposito has the second-most yards punting (1,111) in the league.

Ross's three-pronged attack of running back James Spencer, quarterback Cody Foos and wideout Terence Davis stand respectively, second, second and third in the GBC in each category.

See MOTIVATION, C2

# Motivation not a problem

## Continued from B1

On 171 rushing attempts, Spencer has gained 1,085 yards and scored 11 TDs. His 14 overall TDs and 86 points scored are also league highs. Foos adds 287 yards and 2 TDs on 104 carries and Tylor Trautwein has 270 yards and six TDs on 53 carries.

Foos has guided the Little Giants' passing game, throwing for 1,593 yards

and 20 TDs on 93-of-173 attempts. He has kept his interceptions to a minimal four in 2008.

Davis, now fourth in the GBC in scoring with 58 points, has made 27 catches for 584 yards and 8 TDs. In addition, Foos' other top targets include Greg Brown (18 catches, 304 yards, 3 TDs) and Brett Mierke (14 catches, 228 yards, 3 TDs).

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Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S TERENCE Davis goes for a pass against Sandusky High School at Don Paul Stadium on Friday night.

# Ross wins in wild finish

By JEFF ARENZ  
Sports Writer

FREMONT — The Little Giants football team will wait to hear if they earned an OHSAA Division I playoff spot, but they needed an amazing second-half comeback to do it.

Ross (8-2 overall, 4-1 Greater Buckeye Conference) overcame arch-rival Sandusky (4-6, 2-3) on Friday night at Don Paul Stadium 26-20. But the Little Giants had to successfully do two things — find a way to shut down league-

leading rusher Eric Jordan and generate an offensive attack — before posting the thrilling rally.

The game was sealed for the second straight week by Ross defensive back Brett Mierke, whose interception of Sandusky quarterback Zach Esposito at the Little Giants' 5-yard line ended the Blue Streaks' final threat.

Jordan ran 41 times for a game-high 326 yards, but was held out of the end zone. In the second half, Little Giants' running back James Spencer came

to life, scoring three TDs on carries of 55, 32 and 1 yards as Ross overcame a 10-0 halftime deficit to tie the contest at 20 on his 2-point conversion run with 6:18 left.

Spencer finished with 241 yards on 25 carries.

The Little Giants, who trailed 20-12 with 7:48 left after Blue Streaks' second quarterback Willie Irbe pushed his way into the end zone on a 1-yard run, drove 90 yards in 7 plays, capped by Spencer's 1-yard TD plunge 90

seconds later.

But when Ross went to kick the ball back to Sandusky, it surprised the Blue Streaks by using a short, high-arching boot that was fumbled away by Sandusky and recovered by the Little Giants' Greg Brown.

On Ross's ensuing play, Brown took an option-pitch from Little Giants quarterback Cody Foos to the end zone on a 37-yard run with 6:08 left.

See ROSS, B2



# Ross awaits playoff fate

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## Continued From B1

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In the span of 1:40, Ross turned an 8-point deficit (20-12) into a 6-point lead (26-20).

But the Little Giants' defense was forced to hold on. After forcing Sandusky to punt after a three-and-out, Spencer tried to run down the clock by picking up a Ross first down.

However, Phil Henderson recovered Spencer's second fumble of the game at the Blue Streaks' 42, where Jordan ran twice to get the Ross 24 before a penalty led to Esposito's interception.

Ross won the battle of total yards 395-349 in the game, but were outgained 335-287 on the ground.

Behind Sandusky linemen Donovan Cole, Alex Jones, Jeremy Strohm, DaQuez Davis and Eddie Wimbley, Jordan and the Blue Streaks' offense dominated the first half.

Sandusky outgained Ross 154-73 in total yards during the first 24 minutes. With Jordan, Blue Streaks ran the ball 32 times of their 35 plays from scrimmage before halftime. He accounted for 137 first-half yards on 24 carries.

Jordan helped Sandusky take time off the clock with an opening drive that ate up nearly 5 minutes on 12 plays. The Blue Streaks moved the ball from their own 31 to the Ross 41, where a pair of penalties and the Little Giants' defense

forced Sandusky to punt.

But the Ross offense couldn't generate any momentum. The Little Giants went three-and out on their first drive and turned the ball over to Sandusky after Spencer fumbled at the Blue Streaks' 14 after Ross drove 28 yards on seven plays.

Sandusky took a 7-0 lead with 24 seconds left in the first quarter after forcing Ross to punt on its first possession. Jordan ran eight times as the Blue Streaks used 11 plays to find the end zone on a 14-yard pass from Esposito to Rayshawn Daniels.

Foos (6-of-14, 112 yards, 1 INT) and the Ross offense was plagued by five dropped passes by Little Giants' receivers. The Little Giants had only three first-quarter plays.

It became 10-0 Sandusky after Ross's second of the first half. The Blue Steaks took over at the Little Giants' 40, where Jordan ran five straight times to the Ross 15. Eric Hille drilled a 32-yard field goal with 4 seconds left in the first half.

It became a 4-point game early in the second half, when Spencer ran 55 yards on the fourth play from scrimmage. After Adam Loucks missed the extra-point try, Sandusky clung to a 10-6 lead.

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# High School

## Fremont Ross, Sandusky 20

Sandusky .....7 3 3 7— 20  
Fremont Ross .....0 0 12 14— 26

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### First Quarter

S — Rayshawn Daniels pass from Zach Esposito (Eric Hille kick), 0:24.

S — Eric Hille 32 field goal, 0:04.

#### Third Quarter

FR — James Spencer 55 run (kick blocked), 10:05.

S — Eric Hille 32 field goal, 5:24.

FR — James Spencer 32 run (pass failed), 3:20.

#### Fourth Quarter

S — Willie Irbe 1 run (Eric Hillie kick), 7:48.

FR — James Spencer 1 run (James Spencer run), 6:18.

FR — Greg Brown 37 run (run failed), 6:08.

### TEAM STATISTICS

	S	FR
First Downs	16	13
Total Net Yards	349	395
Rushes-Yards	54-335	30-287
Passing Yards	14	112
Cmp.-Att.-Int.	1-8-1	6-14-1
Punts-Avg.	5-30.0	3-31.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	3-2
Penalties-Yards	8-60	4-27

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Sandusky (Eric Jordan 41-326, Willie Irbe 3-3, Courtney Strickland 6-19, Zach Esposito 4-(minus-13)); Fremont Ross (James Spencer 25-241, Cody Foos 4-9, Greg Brown 1-37).

PASSING — Sandusky (Zach Esposito 1-7-14-1-1, Willie Irby 0-1-0-0-0); Fremont Ross (Cody Foos 6-14-112-0-1).

RECEIVING — Sandusky (Rayshawn Daniels 1-14); Fremont Ross (Brett Mierke 1-38, Terence Davis 2-25, Kyle Daman 1-13, Justin Hines 1-5, Greg Brown 1-32).

MISSED FIELD GOALS — Sandusky (none); Fremont Ross (none).

RECORDS — Sandusky 4-6 overall, 2-3 GBC; Fremont Ross 8-2 overall, 4-1 GBC.

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For the second year in a row, Ross's playoff hopes were dashed on the final day of the regular season, when a Massillon Washington win over Canton McKinley vaulted the Tigers into the eighth spot of Division I, Region II, and knocked the Little Giants into the ninth spot, out of the playoffs despite an 8-2 record (4-1 Greater Buckeye Conference).

Last year, Ross went 7-3, but finished ninth in Region II as well. Ross coach Derek Kidwell could not be reached for comment.

## Football

### High School

**Northwest All-District Football List**  
COLUMBUS —The 2008 Associated Press Northwest All-District football teams, based on the recommendations of a media panel:

#### DIVISION I First Team

Offense: Receivers—Ryan Wolfe, Findlay, 6-foot-1, 165 pounds, senior; Jordan Brown, Tol. Whitmer, 6-0, 180, sr.; Terrence Davis, Fremont Ross, 6-4, 200, sr. Linemen—Tyler Joseph, Findlay, 6-1, 245, sr.; Jack Mewhort, Tol. St. John's, 6-6, 295, sr.; Zak Teel, Tol. Whitmer 6-2, 200, sr.; Mac Knisley, Perrysburg, 6-1, 230, sr.; Nate Halbeisen, Fremont Ross, 6-3, 260, sr. Backs—Troy Bell, Tol. Start, 5-8, 175, sr.; Julian Nash, Tol. Whitmer 6-0, 200, sr.; Aaron Spencer, Fremont Ross, 5-6, 165, jr. Quarterbacks—Eric Gilbert, Findlay, 6-0, 175, sr.; Cody Foos, Fremont Ross, 6-0, 170, sr. Placekicker—Skyler Roberts, Findlay, 6-1, 175, sr.

Defense: Linemen—T.J. Fatinikun, Perrysburg, 6-3, 230, sr.; Tim Kynard, Tol. St. John's, 6-3, 240, sr.; Kenny Hayes, Tol. Whitmer, 6-5, 220, soph.; Parrish Wimberly, Tol. Start, 5-10, 285, jr. Linebackers—Joey Powell, Findlay, 6-0, 200, sr.; Brandon Butler, Perrysburg, 6-0, 215, sr.; Terry Mitchell, Tol. Start, 5-10, 185, sr.; Cody Riffle, Tol. St. John's, 6-1, 208, jr. Backs—Mandela Sheaffer, Findlay, 6-2, 200, sr.; Hunter Lent, Tol. St. John's, 5-10, 190, sr.; Brett Mierkle, Fremont Ross, 5-9, 150, jr. Punter—Desmond Harvey, Lima Senior, 5-9, 190, jr.

Offensive player of the year: Troy Bell, Tol. Start.

Defensive players of the year: Joey Powell, Findlay; Hunter Lent, Tol. St. John's.

Coach of the year: Mark Ritzler, Findlay.

#### Second Team

Offense: Receivers—Zach Crawford, Findlay, 6-0, 165, jr.; Hayden Prycka, Perrysburg, 6-1, 185, sr. Linemen—Jarrod Pughsley, Lima Senior, 6-6, 270, sr.; Randall Schuler, Tol. St. John's, 6-3, 286, jr.; Chad Kinshaw, Perrysburg, 6-3, 240, sr.; T.J. Meridieth, Tol. Whitmer, 6-1, 265, sr. Backs—Mason Lindsey, Marion Harding, 5-10, 175, sr.; Chaz Foster, Lima Senior, 5-9, 180, sr.; Sheron Brown, Tol. Bowsher, 6-0, 186, sr. Quarterback—Joe Missler, Tol. Whitmer, 6-0, 180, jr. Placekicker—Tyler Boone, Perrysburg, 5-8, 160, jr.

Defense: Linemen—Micah Carter, Perrysburg, 5-9, 225, fr.; Andrew Miciolek, Tol. Whitmer, 6-2, 210, soph.; Zach Villa, Tol. St. John's, 5-10, 265, sr.; Mac Bernard, Tol. Bowsher, 6-2, 252, sr. Linebackers—Corey Compton, Tol. Whitmer, 6-0, 190, jr.; Garrett Harvey, Tol. St. John's, 6-0, 205, jr.; Jerome Davis, Tol. Bowsher, 6-1, 225, jr.; Brad Wolesslagel, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 205, sr. Backs—Jacob Noon, Tol. Whitmer, 5-9, 155, jr.; Kevin Buno, Tol. St. John's, 5-8, 185, sr. Punter—Mike Noward, Tol. St. John's, 5-9, 175, sr.

#### Honorable Mention

Mike White, Tol. St. John's; P.J. Wimberly, Tol. St. John's; Walt Anderson, Tol. St. John's; Kyle Whitmore, Tol. Start; Jeff Chesser, Tol. Bowsher; Brian Price, Marion Harding; Wade Arredondo, Findlay; Cody Fletcher, Findlay; Chase Bass, Marion Harding; Cortey Edwards, Lima Senior; Kyle Schuster, Bowsher; Mike Scott, Mansfield Senior.



## Greater Buckeye Conference

### All-League Football Selections

#### First Team Offense

Cody Foos, Fremont, 11; Nate Halbeisen, Fremont, 12; Aaron Spencer, Fremont, 11; Eric Gilbert, Findlay, 12; Ryan Wolfe, Findlay, 12; Wade Arredondo, Findlay, 12; Jason Brown, Napoleon, 12; Mason Lindsey, Marion, 12; Chaz Foster, Lima Sr., 12; Jarrod Pughsley, Lima Sr., 12; Alex Jones, Sandusky, 12; DaQuez Davis, Sandusky, 11.

#### First Team Offense

Brad Wolesslagel, Fremont, 12; Brett Mierke, Fremont, 11; Zach Crawford, Findlay, 11; Cody Fletcher, Findlay, 12; Cody Bloom, Napoleon, 11; Brandon Hummer, Napoleon, 11; Nick Rettig, Napoleon, 11; Delonne Baker, Sandusky, 12; Chace Bass, Marion, 12; Brian Price, Marion, 12.

#### Second Team Offense

Ross Greeno, Findlay, 12; Jeff Cole, Findlay, 11; Taylor Price, Findlay, 12; Terrence Davis, Fremont, 12; Trevor Trimble, Fremont, 11; Andrew Keller, Napoleon, 12; Clint Detmer, Napoleon, 11; Donovan Cole, Sandusky, 10; Jeff Scott, Marion, 12; Adrian Nichols, Lima Sr., 12.

#### Second Team Defense

Nate Kupferberg, Findlay, 12; Chris Opp, Findlay, 11; Alex Henry, Findlay, 10; Boston Beckley, Fremont, 12; Greg Brown, Fremont, 10; Tyler Hull, Fremont, 12; John Weaver, Napoleon, 11; Joel Spurgeon, Napoleon, 11; Eddie Wimbley, Sandusky, 11; Rayshawn Daniels, Sandusky, 10; Austin Jagers, Marion, 12; Cortey Edwards, Lima Sr., 12.

#### Honorable Mention

Tylor Trowtwein, Fremont, 10; Andrew House, Fremont, 12; Shane Durnwald, Fremont, 11; Cam Clinger, Findlay, 12; Garrett McQueen, Findlay, 11; Michael Alexander, Findlay, 11; Eric Schaible, Findlay, 11; Zach Dominique, Findlay, 12; Chris Paye, Findlay, 12; Chaz Walker, Lima Sr., 12; Ricky Martin Jr., Lima Sr., 12; Marc Johnson, Lima Sr., 11; Joshua Eley, Lima Sr., 12; Darenton McClellan, Lima Sr., 11; Dion Hurley, Lima Sr., 11; Chase Heinze, Napoleon, 12; Skyler Davis, Napoleon, 11; Jordan Fisher, Napoleon, 11; Evan Vocke, Napoleon, 11; Josh Cox, Napoleon, 12; Mitch Beals, Napoleon, 12; Tyler Chambers, Marion, 12; Michael VanMeter, Marion, 11; Asher Rumble, Marion, 11; Jake White, Marion, 11; Jordan Russell, Marion, 12; Willie Irby Jr., Sandusky, 12; Devin Jenkins, Sandusky, 11; Alan Rodes, Sandusky, 12; Anthony Jones, Sandusky, 12; Jeremy Strohm, Sandusky, 12; Brandon Keys, Sandusky, 11.  
**Coach of the Year:** Mark Ritzler, Findlay.

**Offensive Lineman of the Year:** Tyler Joseph, 12, Findlay.

**Offensive Back of the Year:** Eric Jordan, 12, Sandusky.

**Defensive Back of the Year:** Mandela Sheaffer, 12, Findlay.

**Defensive Lineman of the Year:** Joey Powell, 12, Findlay.

**Punter of the Year:** Desmond Harvey, 11, Lima Senior.

**Kicker of the Year:** Skyler Roberts, 12, Findlay.

#### Final Standings

	GBC	All
Findlay.....	5-0	6-4
Ross.....	4-1	8-2
Napoleon.....	3-2	5-5
Sandusky.....	2-3	4-6
Marion.....	1-4	1-9
Lima Senior.....	0-5	2-8

unselfish players ... they never complained about it. They took to it and helped us win a lot of games.”

### **Fremont Ross**

Five Little Giants — wide receiver Terence Davis, offensive lineman Nate Halbeisen, quarterback Cody Foos, running back James Spencer and free safety Brett Mierke — landed on the Division I all-state team in 2008.

“I’m proud of the guys,” Little Giants coach Derek Kidwell said. “It’s a nice way for Terence and Nate to end their careers. It’s well-deserved for the effort that they put forth in their careers. I’m also excited for the three juniors for them to get this kind of recognition as juniors and for them to be coming back next year.”

Davis, a first team selection, made 27 receptions for 584 yards and 8 TDs for a Ross team that fin-

ished 8-2 overall.

“We did a lot of things with (Terence), like lining him up in different positions, and it was a little harder for teams to double-team him,” Kidwell said. “Another factor that came into the mix is that we had other quality receivers, like Greg Brown and Brett Mierke. It was a little harder to double-team him.”

Halbeisen, a second team pick, was the captain of an offensive line that helped Ross gain 3,322 total yards. In 2008, the Little Giants followed through with their commitment to running the football by gaining 1,693 yards on the ground and 1,629 yards in the air.

“Nate is going to be the hardest individual that we will have to replace,” Kidwell said. “He’s a very versatile football player because

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**See ALL-OHIO, B2**



News-Messenger file photo

**FREMONT ROSS WIDE RECEIVER TERENCE DAVIS (8)** falls forward after making a catch during a non-conference football game against Perrysburg at Doyt Perry Stadium in Bowling Green in this file photo from the 2007 season.

# All-Ohio

## Continued from B1

he can play all three line positions, if need be. Nate was almost as important to our offense as Cody Foos or James Spencer were because we ran over him when we wanted to, and if we didn't run over him, he was pulling to be an elite blocker."

Foos, Spencer and Mierke received special mention all-state.

Foos threw for 1,593 yards on 93-of-172 passing with 20 TDs and 4 interceptions. Spencer became a 1,000-yard rusher for Ross after running 171 times for 1,085 yards and 11 TDs. Mierke, who led Ross with 106 tackles, became an all-state free safety after replacing one (Deon-dray Brown).

With all three being juniors, they return for the Little Giants in 2009.

and Zane Huston received special mention for the Redmen.

"Any time you're represented with four guys, it's outstanding," Bellevue coach Ed Nasonti said. "It's representative of a good season. The kids have worked hard and, on top of that, they're good character kids. I'm proud of them and they deserve it."

Smith, who made 46 grabs for 683 yards and 5 TDs, was the featured receiver of Watson, who threw for 2,574 yards on 181-of-309 passing with 25 TDs and 4 interceptions. Loparo and Huston were part of an offensive line that allowed Bellevue to gain 3,962 total yards during an 8-3 season.

"Trevor's an outstanding all-around athlete," Nasonti said. "We ran the spread offense, and Curtis did an awesome job with his reads, and pre-snap reads. Bryant and Zane did a good job blocking for him up front."

Watson, a junior, will be back to lead the Redmen in 2009.

"We're excited to have him back," Na-



