

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2019

1983 Fremont Ross Football Team

Not only was the 1983 football team the first to qualify for the Ohio state football playoffs but is still the only team to win a playoff game in Ross history.

Under head coach Pete Moore, the '83 team went undefeated during the regular season, with only a tie with Toledo St. Francis. The Little Giants won the outright Buckeye Conference championship with a perfect 6-0 record.

In the first 11 games of the season, the Little Giants only gave up 45 points while recording six shutouts.

In the final game of the regular season, Ross scored one touchdown at Sandusky, but it was good enough for a 7-0 win over their archrivals, resulting in a conference championship.

Their 9-0-1 record earned them a trip to the Division I state playoffs, with a first-round home matchup against Sandusky, of all teams. The result was the same as the week before, a 7-0 victory, which earned them the right to play in the Division I state semifinals in Dayton.

Even though the Little Giants fell to Cincinnati Princeton, the eventual state champion, this squad will go down as one of the best Ross teams of all time. They were ranked third in the state in the final AP and UPI polls.

This team was led in rushing by Jeff Gentry, passing by Kevin Wilhelm, receiving by Jim Hufford, and scoring by placekicker Shawn McCarthy. Defensively, the 1983 football team was led by Derek Isaman, Rod Lanning, Stacy Swaisgood, Paul Stout, and Jim Hufford.

Four members of the 1983 squad went on to play college football in the Big Ten Conference: Derek Isaman at Ohio State, Dave Kovalski at Purdue, Shawn McCarthy at Purdue, and Chris Simmons at Michigan.