



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

**THE ROSS HIGH BASEBALL TEAM.** Front row, left to right; Tom Pena, Brian Farr, Jay Bowers, Brian Humbarger, John Rios, Mark Hulka, Bob Clark, Jim Burkett. Back row, l-r:

Kevin Wilhelm, Steve Ebert, Jim Hufford, Mike Hepp, Jeff Ruggiero, Troy Logan, Willie Martin, Doug Gallagher, Dave Eicher, Coach Chuck Lindsey.

## Ross fortes are pitching, defense

The Ross High baseball team is already two games into its season and it has won both games on what first-year coach Chuck Lindsey said would be its strengths — pitching and defense.

The Little Giants return five persons who at one time or another gained experience on the mound last season and an infield composed of all lettermen.

The outfield is composed of two lettermen and the only non-letter-earning starter.

All totaled, the Little Giants have eight lettermen returning from last season's 18-5 Buckeye Conference championship season. It marked the second year in a row the Giant diamondmen have won the BC under then coach Tim Pettorini, who has since moved to the top baseball spot at Wooster College.

Lindsey, a 1972 graduate of Ross and an assistant in three different sports there for the past five years, feels good about carrying on that tradition.

"I think we can be pretty good," Lindsey said. "The senior class has been super. I can't say enough about them. These kids think they can go places."

Leading the way for the Little Giants will be the mound staff of seniors John Rios, Brian Humbarger, Tom Pena and Brian Farr and junior Doug Gallagher.

"Pitching is 75 percent of the game," says Lindsey, and he likes his staff.

While the above five players make up Lindsey's pitching staff, they also will make up a major part of the rest of his starting lineup.

Rios will play right field, Humbarger will play shortstop, Farr will start at first base, Pena will see action at third and Gallagher will go at second.

The rest of the regular starters will likely be senior Jay Bowers at catcher, junior Mike Hepp in left field and senior Jim Burkett in center. Senior Mark Hulka will also see plenty of time at third base, according to Lindsey.

Backing up the infield will be sophomore Jim Hufford at third, sophomore Kevin Wilhelm at shortstop, junior Willie Martin at second, junior Jeff Ruggiero at first and junior Dave Eicher at catcher.

Outfield substitutes include senior Bob Clark and juniors Troy Logan and Steve Ebert.

Offensively, Lindsey said the Little Giants are a question mark because of the limited time they practiced against live pitching.

He said he feels that Gallagher, Rios, Bowers and Humbarger have to hit for Ross to score runs. Humbarger led that quartet last season with a .372 average. Gallagher hit .343, Rios .312 and Bowers .292. Farr was a .416 hitter while Burkett hit .313.

"I really can't say much about our hitting," said Lindsey. "It's tough to tell. But I think we will be a team of pitching, defense and team speed."

Ross will be at Findlay for a 4 p.m. game tonight.