

Ross tops Edison in soccer opener

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross Little Giants made the coaching debut of Phil Collison a successful one after a 3-0 non-conference win against Edison at Alumni Fields on Monday.

Collison, who spent the last seven years guiding the St. Joseph Central Catholic soccer team, landed the job at Ross after Jeff Pendry left the Little Giants' post after 13 seasons.

After the teams played to a scoreless first-half tie, Shawn Kluck scored twice after the intermission. In the 48th minute, Kluck took a pass from Victor Layton before giving the Little Giants a 1-0 lead. His second goal of the game was unassisted in the 62nd minute.

In the 54th minute, David Adams put Ross ahead 2-0 after a pass from Zach Foos.

"The kids did a really good job. They're getting a feel for the game," Collison said. "In the second, we slowed it down a little and let the ball do the work."

The Little Giants outshot Edison 38-4. Ross goalie Adam Loucks made four saves to preserve the victory.

Ross is back in action Thursday, when it hosts Port Clinton at 5 p.m.



BOYS SOCCER
Ross 3,
Edison 0

Change abounds among Fremont coaches

By **JEFF ARENZ**

Sports Writer

FREMONT — All three Fremont soccer programs are employing new coaches this season.

At Ross High School, Jeff Pendry and Ron Huss have vacated their posts as the Little Giants' boys and girls soccer coaches, respectively. Pendry guided the boys team for 13 years, while Huss led the girls program for eight years.

Phil Collison, who coached St. Joseph Central Catholic's soccer team for the last seven years, is the new coach of the Ross boys.

"I was looking for a new challenge," Collison said. "The chance to coach against Division I schools is exciting to me."

He will have to find a replacement for graduated goalie Bobby Gipe, who earned a spot on the All-District's second team.

Senior Adam Loucks has a hold on the goalie position. In front of him will be defensemen Camron Michael (senior),

Aaron Brandt (junior) and Austin Wilhelm (sophomore).

Midfielders include seniors Shawn Cluck and Josh McAfee, juniors Victor Layton and Eric Kingsborough and sophomore Michael Pickerel.

The Little Giants forwards are senior David Adams and junior Zach Foos.

"I think we became a better team after the boys took it upon themselves to play in a winter indoor soccer league," Collison said. "And with our feeder program (Fremont Emeralds) giving us a lot of new players, it bodes well for the future."

There are a combined total of 17 sophomores and freshmen out for the Little Giants' boys soccer program this season.

Because of the vacancy left by Collison at SJCC, the Crimson Streaks have hired Steve Llewellyn to coach soccer.

Llewellyn, a native of Trinidad and Tobago with 28 years of coaching experience, takes over the Crimson Streaks, who were 6-10 overall in 2007.

For the last six years, he has guided the Fremont Emeralds along with Collison.

"I'm trying to have the players understand the passion of soccer," Llewellyn said. "I think the maturity of the players has become more apparent during the last year. I want this team to work as a cohesive unit and display perfect fundamentals. I'd like to thank our supporters for giving me this opportunity."

The Crimson Streaks' forwards are seniors Mark Kwiatkowski and Chris Wobser and sophomore Paul Wendt.

Midfielders include senior Grant Nicholas, juniors Shelby Keating, Sophia Cullen, Jordan Foos and Lizi Glanemann; sophomores Matt Wickline, Adam Culbert, Nick Wickline, Cliff Carl, Parker Rutherford, Alex Young, Chris Carpenter and Robert Reineck.

Defensemen are senior Tyler Cleveland, juniors Brianna Fisher, Courtney Stierwalt and Chris Liebold; sophomores Lauren Fulwider and freshman Zach

Molyet.

Senior John Koenig is penciled in as the SJCC goalie. His backups are junior Jessica Molyet and Rutherford.

Otto Gonzalez takes over as coach of the Ross girls soccer team for Huss, who coached the Little Giants to a 7-8-1 mark in 2007. Gonzalez, who hails from Peru and has lived in Fremont for the past year, has 30 years of soccer experience.

"I want to instill the passion of soccer into these players," Gonzalez said. "To me, soccer is a free game that is played for fun and with intelligence. I want my players to become excellent decision-makers because soccer is an extremely fast game that requires quick reaction time."

His first priority will be to find replacements for graduated players Suzanne Chudzinski and Emma Ellenberger, as well as five other players who had nine years of combined experience. Chudzinski set Ross records for goals in a game (10), in a season (37) and in a career (100), and

Ellenberger holds Little Giants' marks for assists in a game (six, also an OHSSA record) and assists in a career.

Gonzalez pointed to junior Rachel Humbert (forward) and seniors Gabriella Rojas (stopper) and Alisha Zimmerman as experienced players who can be counted upon to guide the Little Giants' younger players.

"They can help the younger players by giving them advice," Gonzalez said.

Other returning letterwinners include senior Amanda Herr (goalie), juniors Alexandra Miller (forward), Lizzy Ellenberger (forward), Shelby Connors (forward/midfielder), Catherine Arnold (defense) and Jennifer Ohms (defense), sophomores Morgan Bauer (midfielder), Vanessa Rojas (midfielder/defense) and Alexandra Rojas (midfielder).

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FREMONT ROSS

Coach: Phil Collison, 1st year

Key losses: Bobby Gipe, goalie, second team All-District; Kyle Koch; Derek Drown

Key returners: Adam Loucks, sr., goalie; Shawn Cluck, sr., midfielder; David Adams, sr., forward; Josh McAfee, sr., midfielder; Camron Michael, sr., defense; Victor Layton, jr., midfielder; Eric Kingsborough, jr., midfielder; Aaron Brandt, jr., defense; Zach Foos, jr., forward.

Key newcomers: Austin Wilhelm, so., defense; Lucas Wisehart, so., forward; Michael Pickerel, so., midfielder.

Outlook: With 17 sophomores and freshmen out for soccer, the Little Giants have enough players for varsity and junior varsity teams ... Adams, Foos are expected to generate goals for the Ross offense ... Loucks has a shot to take over Gipe in the net ... Collison said, "If we could position our midfielders and defenders where I want them, they might be able to score goals and take some pressure off our forwards."



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S DAVID Adams kicks in a goal as Port Clinton's Garret Howell races to block during Thursday's game at Ross.

Little Giants edge Redskins

By **JEFF ARENZ**

Sports Writer

FREMONT — Victor Layton scored two second-half goals, including the match-winner in the 78th minute as Fremont Ross defeated Port Clinton 4-3 in non-conference soccer Thursday at Alumni Fields.

Despite giving up a pair of two-goal leads (2-0 and 3-1), the Little Giants were able to battle back from a 3-all tie with nine minutes left in the match.

"We just had to pull ourselves together and just tell

ourselves that we can do it. We found a way to break through," said Layton, a junior midfielder.

"David (Adams) had a couple of shots that went over (the goal) that probably frustrated him. We just have to keep our heads in the game and go back to see if we can score more."

That's exactly what Layton and his Ross teammates did.



**Ross 4,
Port Clinton 3**

"I got the ball on the (right) sideline and dribbled it down to the corner. When I got to the corner, I cut into the box, faked a trip, got up and crossed it to the middle. (The ball) hit him right in the chest," said Shawn Kluck, a senior midfielder who assisted Layton's game-winning goal.

Ross coach Phil Collison liked Layton's ability to crash the net.

"He was at the right place at the right time, and that's a big part of the game. Especially, when

you're playing up front," Collison said. "We talked to the kids about anticipating, guessing and to keep scrapping. That's how you score those goals."

Layton put Ross ahead 3-1 five minutes into the second half (in the 45th minute) after he re-directed a shot taken by Adams that deflected off Redskins' goalie Garret Zunk.

"(David) came from the outside, and it's what we've been practicing. He worked it back in (to me) for an

See ROSS, B2

ROSS: Little Giants preserve win

Continued From B1

easy goal," Layton said.

But before the Little Giants could celebrate a 2-0-0 start to their season, they had to overcome a second-half surge from Port Clinton.

Despite being outshot 17-14, the Redskins held a 15-5 edge in free kicks and a 9-4 advantage in corner kicks. Trailing 3-1 in the 47th minute, Seth Blankenkober beat Ross goalie Adam Loucks for his second goal of the match. After Matt Manly Jr. set up Blankenkober's second tally, Manly Jr. tied the match at 3 with an unassisted goal in the 71st minute.

"We have a young team with a veteran defense, but our attack looked better than what it has," said Port Clinton coach Paco Romero after the Redskins fell to 0-1-0 overall. "That's the name of this game. They don't give up, they play as a team and that's what we've been preaching since the beginning."

Kluck and the Little Giants had a different reaction.

"We were disgusted (at ourselves) because all we had to do was hold them. We just couldn't do that," Kluck said. "It was a team effort. Our offense clicked in the beginning, and then it went away. As the game progressed, it got better because our defense did a good job of bringing it back for us and keeping us alive."

"I think we dug down deep and played with out hearts. Once we started to slow it down and play the ball live, we got our scoring opportunities," Collison said. "We we're in too much of a hurry. We

didn't take our time with the ball, look up or look for our passes. At times, we were one-dimensional. We fought hard and didn't quit, but I think we need to slow down more and continue playing our game. Once they get relaxed and find their feel for the game, I think we'll be fine."

It was Kluck who gave Ross a 1-0 lead on a unassisted goal in the 14th minute. Then, in the 32nd minute, Adams extended the Little Giants' advantage to 2-0 by scoring another unassisted tally from inside the goal box.

In the 38th minute, Blankenkober broke free on the left side of the penalty box to score his first goal and cut the Redskins' deficit to 2-1.

In the second half, Kluck stripped a defender at midfield and ran to the goal box, where Zunk came out of the net to meet him. As Kluck began to kick the ball, Zunk dove in front of it and took the brunt of the blow in his stomach from the Little Giants' attacker.

Zunk laid on the turf for nearly eight minutes before getting up and walking to the bench. Gabe Reyna replaced Zunk for the remainder of the match.

Loucks made 13 saves to improve to 2-0-0 this season. Zunk had five saves and Reyna added three.

Ross travels to play Greater Buckeye Conference rival Findlay at 1 p.m. Saturday. Port Clinton has a Sandusky Bay Conference meeting at Huron at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

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Ross, Oak H shutout socc

News-Messenger reports

Jay Speer scored a pair of goals as Fremont Ross shut out Greater Buckeye Conference rival Marion Harding 6-0 in boys soccer on Tuesday.

In the fifth minute, Shawn Kluck put the Little Giants ahead 1-0 on an unassisted goal before Jasper Tegtmeyer extended the Ross lead to two goals in the 21st minute. In the 35th minute, Speer tallied the first of his two goals on assist from Brandon Pridemore.

In the second half, Speer scored again in the 60th minute after a pass from Tegtmeyer. Five minutes later, Eric Kingsborough found the back of the net as Ross claimed a 5-0 lead before Michael Bringenberg capped the scoring with a goal assisted by John Adams.

Adam Loucks made three saves to become the winning goaltender.

The Little Giants outshot the Presidents 29-5 as Ross improved 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the GBC.

On Thursday, goals from John Koenig, Chris Carpenter and Kwiatkowski propelled SJCC past Columbian at Rodger Young Park. It was watch a match during which the Crimson Streaks outshot the Tornadoes 13-8.

"I'm pleased with how this team is working together," said SJCC coach Steve Llewellyn, who has guided the Crimson Streaks to a 2-4-1 mark this season.

Norwalk 4, Fremont Ross 2

NORWALK — Shawn Kluck scored a pair of goals, but Fremont Ross could not rally to defeat Norwalk during a non-conference match Saturday.

The Truckers took a 3-0 first-half lead before Kluck scored on an assist from Jay Speer in the 43rd minute. Kluck struck again with a penalty kick in the 55th minute to pull the Little Giants within 4-2 after Norwalk had scored in the 47th minute.

Ross (3-2 overall) won a 16-15 decision in shots on-goal. Little Giants' goalie Adam Loucks made eight saves.

GIRLS SOCCER

Margaretta 5, Clyde 0

CLYDE — Sarah Weaver scored four goals as Margaretta shut out

See ROUNDUP, B2

Ross falls despite strong start

Little Giants take lead before falling to Bowling Green

By **JEFF ARENZ**

Sports Writer

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross girls soccer team couldn't sustain its dominant start during a 5-1 non-conference loss to Bowling Green at Alumni Fields on Monday.

The Little Giants hit the Bobcats with an attack that saw Ross



possess the ball in the Bowl- **Bowl. Green 5, Ross 1**

ing Green zone for 18 of the first 25 minutes of the match.

In the eighth minute, Morgan Bauer buried a pass from Eline Sorensen in the right corner of the net from 15 yards out to give the Little Giants a 1-0 lead.

"We have to find a way to continue the passion that we have at the start of our matches," Ross coach Otto Gonzalez said after the Little Giants fell to 1-3. "It seems like we are very aggressive at the beginning, and then it just goes away."

A shift in momentum occurred with about 15 minutes left in the first half after the Bobcats recorded their first shot-on-goal in the 22nd minute.

"Give Fremont credit

See ROSS, B2

CLYDE — Jared Hillman shot a 74 to become the medalist as Genoa won the Suburban Lakes League championship at Green Hills Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Comets needed 310 strokes to capture first over Woodmore (321), followed by Eastwood (346), Lake (354), Otsego (361), Gibsonburg (369), Elmwood (371) and Lakota (415).

Jack Rospert and Andy Flick fired 78s for Woodmore. Jared Shafer led Gibsonburg with an 80 and Jared Gilts cared a 92 to pace Lakota.

Hillman landed on the All-SLL first team with teammates Kyle Simmons and Nolan Eli. Rospert was a first-team selection for Woodmore, as was Shafer for Gibsonburg.

Fremont Ross 153, Sandusky 184

SANDUSKY — The Little Giants improved to 10-0 in dual meets as three golfers broke 40 while Ross toppled Sandusky on Tuesday.

Austin Darr had a 37 to lead Ross, while Clay Schwartz and Alex Chudzinski added 38s for the Little Giants.

Oak Harbor 160, Perkins 177

OAK HARBOR — Alex Pavlica (38) and Ryan Graber (39) sparked Oak Harbor to a Sandusky Bay Conference match win over Perkins on Tuesday.

Bellevue 172, Tiffin Columbian 175

TIFFIN — Cory Marvin shot a 40 to lead Bellevue past Columbian by three strokes in a Northern Ohio League match Tuesday.

Carey 183, St. Wendelin 190, Old Fort 191

FOSTORIA — Roman Ream carded a 46, but Old Fort dropped a Midland Athletic League triangular match on Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER Fremont Ross 7, Sandusky 3

FREMONT — Shawn

Kluck posted a hat trick as Fremont Ross defeated Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky on Tuesday.

Kluck scored in the first, 16th and 74th minutes for the Little Giants (6-2 overall, 3-1 GBC). David Adams added a pair of unassisted goals for Ross in the third and 65th minutes. Victor Layton and Jasper Tegtmeier also scored.

The Little Giants held a 29-22 edge in shots on goal, while goalie Adam Loucks made 21 saves for Ross.

"Adam played a great game in the net," Ross coach Phil Collison said.

GIRLS SOCCER Sandusky 4, Fremont Ross 2

SANDUSKY — Tera McDonald scored a pair of goals, but Ross dropped a Greater Buckeye Conference match to Sandusky on Tuesday.

The Little Giants were outshot 15-8, while goal Andra Snodgrass made five saves.

VOLLEYBALL

Lima Senior 25-25-23-25, Fremont Ross 18-18-25-20

FREMONT — Carly Young had 10 kills, 12 digs as Fremont Ross dropped a Greater Buckeye Conference match to Lima Senior.

Taylor Waggoner added seven kills, Kayleigh Walther had five kills, Christy Meggitt made 13 digs and Gabby Domiray chipped in eight digs for the Little Giants.

"When we play as a team, we play aggressively," Ross coach Bill Bonham said. "When we lack, we put ourselves in losing positions. When we decide to execute and do what we need to do, we put ourselves in a position to win."

Clyde 25-25-25, Oak Harbor 18-12-19

CLYDE — Jamie Hoppe generated 10 kills, while Lindi Humbert added eight kills and five aces and Lainey Barnett chipped in nine kills as Clyde (6-7 overall, 3-4 SBC) swept Oak



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS FORWARD DAVID ADAMS kicks the ball during a non-conference soccer match Thursday at Alumni Fields.

Irish overcome Little Giants

By JOSH ROMANOTTO
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Toledo Central Catholic traveled to Fremont for a non-conference boys soccer match against Ross on Thursday that the Little Giants led early, but saw the Fighting Irish win with a 7-2 decision.

Little Giants' senior David Adams struck first scoring a goal in the third minute, but it was the only tally Ross (5-3 overall) had in the first half.

"They had good ball movement, they just went for the ball harder, and they were more aggressive." Little Giants coach Phil Collison said.

After the goal by Adams, the Fighting Irish (6-2 overall) stepped up their game up on both offense and defense. Ross did not have a shot on goal for the rest of the first half.

Aaron Tracey was the first to score for the Fighting Irish after he found the net on as assist from

Robert Jablonski in the 27th minute to tie the match at 1.

However, Central Catholic was not done when a controversial throw from the right sideline by Jordan Duckett sailed into the goal. The Little Giants argued by saying the ball was never touched, but the damage already had been done as the Fighting Irish took a 2-1 advantage.

In the 39th minute, Central Catholic scored its third goal of the first half off the foot of

Jablonski with 37 seconds left before intermission.

The second half began with a defensive struggle by both teams.

In the 52nd minute, Jeff Balogh scored against the Little Giants on an assist from Josh Felix as the Fighting Irish increasing their lead to 4-1.

Then, for Ross, the match began to get out of control. When Adams got into a dispute with the

GIANTS: Now 5-3-0 this season

Continued From B1

referee, he was ejected from the contest. A few Little Giants' fans disputed that call as well.

Momemts later, Bradley Hashim increased the Central Catholic lead to 5-1 with a goal scored about four minutes after Balogh's tally.

It became 6-1 in the 71st minute on a goal from Andrew Troy.

Both teams managed to score in the 89th minute. Shawn Kluck cut the Ross

deficit to 6-2 with 33 seconds left before Tracey generated his second goal of the match.

Little Giants' goalie Adam Loucks racked up 16 saves, while Ross was limited to four shots in the match.

"We had a very good second half." Central Catholic coach Joe Hoppe said. "I felt like it took us some time to get going in the first half, but our defense was able to slow Ross down in the second half. We had better control and more possessions in the second half than they did, and it worked to our advantage."

Ross records soccer victory in second half

Little Giants score three times for win

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — The Fremont Ross Little Giants rallied from a 2-0 deficit at halftime to post a 3-2 win against Toledo Start on Saturday at Alumni Fields.

David Adams scored in the 61st and 73rd minutes to help Ross tie the match at 2. Five minutes after Adams' second goal, the Little Giants' Jasper Tegtmeyer scored to hand Ross a 3-2 lead with two minutes remaining.

"This team has met my expectations," Ross coach Phil Collison said after Ross improved to 7-3 overall. "This is a team that doesn't get down too low when things are going badly. They just continue to keep battling in every situation."

Michael Bringerberg sent a back-heel pass to Adams, who buried his shot in the corner of the net in the 61st minute. Tegtmeyer assisted Adams' second goal, which was scored on a header in the 73rd minute. Tegtmeyer worked the outside before crossing to the middle and kicking in the match-winner in the 78th minute.

Ross outshot Start 17-9. Little Giants' goalie Adam Loucks made eight saves to preserve the win.

On Thursday, Ross faces St. Joseph Central Catholic in the first meeting in a soccer match between the two schools.

included St. Joseph Central Catholic (sixth, 190) and Gibsonburg (eighth, 218).

Wes Brown placed 15th overall in 17:09 to pace the Stockaders. Elias Dandar, who was one stop ahead of Brown in 14th, led Gibsonburg with a time of 17:02. Matt Meyer ran 22nd overall in 17:38 for SJCC.

Complete results are listed in The Scoreboard on Page B2.

Bill Brown Classic

ONTARIO — Craig Gerber was fourth overall in 16:36 as Clyde placed fifth in the Bill Brown Classic on Saturday.

Margaretta had a 10th-place finish behind the running of Michael Grunden, who was 17th in 17:46.

River Valley had 78 points to win the team championship. Clyde scored 129 points and Margaretta ended up with 246.

Complete results are listed in The Scoreboard on Page B2.

Van Wert Invitational

VAN WERT — Kyle Babcock and Daniel Limon were Lakota's top two runners as the Raiders finished 11th at the Van Wert Invitational on Saturday.

Babcock was 22nd overall in 18:08 and Limon ended up in 36th place in 18:47.

The team champion was Coldwater with 68 points. The Raiders had 268 points.

Complete results are listed in The Scoreboard on Page B2.

Girls

The Little Giants had a three-goal deficit, but rallied to within one after Shawn Kluck scored an unassisted tally in the 17th minute and David Adams scored off a pass from Michael Bringenberg in the 57th minute.

The Wildcats regrouped to score three times — in the 60th, 71st and 75th minutes.

Napoleon (10-1-1 overall, 4-1 GBC) outshot Ross (7-4 overall, 3-2 GBC) 30-4.



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

SJCC'S CHRIS LIEBOLD battles for control of the ball with Fremont Ross's Michel Bringenberg on Thursday at Fremont Ross High School.

Little Giants blank SJCC

Kluck scores only goal as Ross, SJCC meet for first time

By MATT MILLS
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Ross's Shawn Kluck scored the lone goal in Wednesday's game between the Little Giants and St. Joseph Central Catholic.

The 1-0 win by Ross — with Kluck scoring in the 53rd minute — marked the first meeting on the soccer field between the two teams.

"At times we played well and at times we played very lazy," said

Fremont Ross coach Phil Collison, who came to Ross this season from SJCC.

The first half featured a number of saves by Ross keeper Adam Loucks.

"A lot of the shots were kind of slow and there wasn't much pressure on me," said Loucks. "A big part of what I did out there today was make sure my men were set up."

SJCC had a great scoring opportunity at the 20 minute mark of

the first half, but the shot went off the top cross bar of the net and Ross took control of the ball.

"We gave it our all out there," said SJCC's Paul Wendt. "We had a lot of chances, but just couldn't get the ball in the back of the net. We needed to execute our free kicks a lot better and the outcome might have been different."

Despite the low score, there were lots of fireworks. Collison and Ross junior Austin Wilhelm each got red cards in the second

half.

"The ump gave me no explanation as to why I was red-carded," Collison said.

"I don't know why I got that red card, all the ref said was 'Get off the field'," said Wilhelm. "We didn't play as well as we could have. If we play like that Saturday I think we might lose, but we'll step it up a ton."

David Adams and Jay Spear, both from Ross, also received yellow cards.

Bowling Green slips past Ross

Kluck ties match before Beattie's goal is winner

By JOSH ROMANOTTO

News-Messenger correspondent

BOWLING GREEN — It was an evenly-matched contest as Fremont Ross traveled to Bowling Green on Thursday, where the Little Giants suffered a 3-2 loss.

Both teams fought hard, but in the end it was the Bobcats edging out the Little Giants.

“Both teams fought out there, it was a nice, honest game.” said Bowling Green coach Tim Memmer after he watched the Bobcats earn their fourth victory. “We have a young team, with only one senior. So, I was pleased with the way they performed out there this evening.”

The Little Giants scored first, when junior Eric Kingsborough slipped his

“Both teams played well and hard. One or two more breakaways and it might have been a different game”

— **Phil Collison, Ross soccer coach after a 3-2 loss to BGHS**

shot past Bobcats' goalie James Fite in the 11th minute to give Ross an early 1-0 lead.

It would be about another 11 minutes before Bowling Green could score a goal of its own. Senior Michael Fox received a penalty kick, and was able to get it past Ross goalie Adam Loucks to knot the match a 1.

Both teams took two shots at each

other, but it was the Bobcats who would finally get one past on another penalty kick. Junior Matt Zirkes scored Bowling Green's second goal of the first half with in the 34th minute to give the Bobcats a slight advantage heading into the half.

The Little Giants rallied to tie the match in the second half when senior Shawn Kluck set himself up with a penalty kick. After he took advantage of his opportunity, the Little Giants were back into the match.

Seven minutes later, the Bobcats scored the match-winning goal as sophomore Max Beattie put the ball into the net in the 57th minute.

The Little Giants had three more shots at the goal, but Fite was able to block all of them to insure a Bowling Green victory.

Despite the loss, Little Giants coach

See ROSS, B2

ROSS

Continued from B1

Phil Collison was proud of his team's

play.

"It was a great game," Collison said, "Both teams played well and hard. One or two more breakaways and it may have been a different game. Regardless. I am proud of the way the guys played out there."

Little Giants drop finale of season, eye playoffs

By **JEFF ARENZ**

Sports Writer

FREMONT — Derek Kreager scored the only goal as the Perrysburg junior varsity team shut out the Fremont Ross varsity squad 1-0 on Tuesday at Alumni Field.

Kreager's tally came after 10 minutes had expired in the first half and stood up as the only goal of the game.

The Little Giants, who finished the 2008 regular season 8-7 overall after winning two times in 2007, played Perrysburg's JV team because its varsity squad had scheduled a match against Division I No. 1-ranked Sylvania Northview.

"We definitely stepped up our game through the season," Ross's Austin Wilhelm said. "Coach (Phil Collison) helped us play our game better and we're looking forward to doing well in the playoffs."

In the final 15 minutes Tuesday, Shawn Kluck broke through the Yellow Jackets' defense and drove into the penalty box for a shot that was stopped before becoming a rebound that Wilhelm redirected wide.

With 7 1/2 minutes left, Collison decided to put goalie Adam Loucks at a forward spot with Jay Speer minding the net. About 2 minutes later, Loucks cut into the penalty box, where he fell

to the ground after making contact with a Perrysburg defender.

As Loucks looked for a call that would award a penalty kick, the referee let the play go.

As 4 minutes remained, Speer came out of the net to play a Perrysburg shot, but got caught by a Yellow Jackets' forward who took the ball and shot it off the left post of the unguarded goal.

With 2:45 left, Kluck took a free kick from just outside the penalty box that was deflected by a Perrysburg defender. When the ball came back to the Little Giants' forward, his rebound shot went wide right.

Ross had one final scoring chance in the final minute when Eric Kingsborough's cross pass from the right corner was headed by Wilhelm, who was in the middle of the goal mouth. But the ball jumped high into the air and came down in the hands of the Yellow Jackets' goalie.

"I didn't get as much as I wanted on it," Wilhelm said. "I got some on it, but, unfortunately, he made the save."

On Monday, the Little Giants will take on Bowling Green in the Division I sectional tournament.

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