

1995 Football Season...



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS ASSISTANT COACH Chuck Lindsey can hardly stand to look as the Little Giants head toward a 20-0 loss to Columbus DeSales Friday night.

***Fremont
football
teams off
to a rough
start ...***

Little Giants fail to score

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Columbus DeSales took advantage of field position and defeated Fremont Ross 20-0 Friday night in the season opener at Harmon Stadium.

The Stallions, led by linebacker Tommy Weilbacher, tackles John Kelly and Kurt Murphy and defensive end Mike Fickell, did not allow the Little Giants past midfield until 10:57 remained in the game.

Fickell is the brother of Ohio State University standout Luke Fickell.

DeSales, undefeated in 10 regular-season games in 1994, scored once in the second quarter and twice on a pair of 2-yard runs by Matt Stewart in the fourth quarter.

"We try to put our best people on defense," DeSales coach Bob Jacoby said. "We have been trying to get our defense better for a couple of years and I think we had a good one tonight."

"They just wore us down finally," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "The reason we were out there defensively was we could not generate anything offensively."

The Stallions held Ross to 23 yards in the first half before bending slightly.

The Little Giants reached the Stallions' 34 and 36 yard lines before faltering.

See ROSS, B4



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JUSTIN CONKLIN (25) and Keith Mosser bring down Columbus DeSales ball carrier Joe Simmons during the first quarter Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Ross blanked in opener

Continued From B1

Derek Thiessen ran for 95 yards on 19 carries, picking up 29 on a sprint to the DeSales' 36 late in the game.

Ross finished with 102 yards of offense — all on the ground.

Quarterback Harry Liggins did not complete a pass in three attempts while being constantly pressured by Fickell and Stewart from the other defensive end slot.

"We had to work hard on stopping their running...you could tell they were a good running team, but we worked hard all summer getting ready for Fremont," Jacoby said.

DeSales quarterback Joe Magliocca scored on a fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 4:29 remaining in the first half. Magliocca followed Kelly, a 6-foot-3, 255-pound junior into the end zone — the same path Stewart followed in the final quarter.

Magliocca added a little flair, grabbing the ball in midair after he juggled the snap, and then stepping into the end zone.

"We try to do that," Jacoby said about using his big tackle, "but they stifled us pretty good and we had to keep it simple."

Stewart's scoring runs were on straight dives

"They did not have any speed," Radeloff said. "They were just going to run the dive with the big running back (Stewart is 200 pounds). The did a good job on us."

"We still played solid defense, but they had good field position the whole night. Without moving the ball and giving them field position, it's tough to beat anybody."

DeSales proved that.

Football

High School

DeSales 20, Ross 0

DeSales	0	6	0	14	—	20
Ross	0	0	0	0	—	0

DeSales: Joe Magliocca, 1 run (kick failed) 4:29, 2nd.

DeSales: Matt Stewart, 2 run (Mike Mayhew run), 11:58, 4th.

DeSales: Stewart, 2 run (kick failed), 3:38, 4th.

	D	R
First downs	14	6
Rushes/yards	42/143	39/102
Passing yards	81	0
Passes/Comp/Int	18/6/1	3/0/0
Fumbles/lost	2/1	3/1
Penalties/Yards	4/30	2/19

Rushing: DeSales—Joe Magliocca 11/34, Matt Stewart 21/87, Eric O'Reilly 12/20. Ross—Harry Liggins 12/6, Derek Thiessen 19/95, Brandon Willer 5/2, Fred Cooley 2/0, Justin Conklin 1/1.

Passing: DeSales—Magliocca 18/6-0-81; Ross—Liggins 3/0-0-0.

Receiving: DeSales—Brock Rutledge 2/35, Mike Kluse 1/4, Jason Wiggins 2/29, Joe Simmons 1/13.

Records: Ross 0-0, DeSales 1-0

AKRON BUCHTEL (1-0) VS. ROSS (0-1)

7:30 p.m. Friday, Harmon Stadium

LAST WEEK: Buchtel beat Gahanna Lincoln 20-10, and Columbus DeSales blanked Ross 20-0 — the first shut out in an opener since 1969.

KICKOFF: Buchtel brings size and speed into Fremont. The Griffins also load up the defensive front with as many as eight men. That might make it tough for the Little Giants, who did not complete a pass in three attempts against DeSales.

Little Giants have to slow down Buchtel

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Rex Radeloff is 1-for-1 in wishes this week.

"I wouldn't want to run them in a track meet," the Fremont Ross football coach said.

But Radeloff's Little Giants will have to face the Akron Buchtel Griffins in football Friday night and that won't be a stroll through the park.

"They are very big and very fast," Radeloff said, emphasizing "very."

The smallest Griffin on the offensive line is a 205-pound guard. After that, there are no Jenny Craig followers. The tackles are 255 and 285 and the other guard is 265. Topping it off is a 275-pound tight end. The 285-pounder, tackle Karel Smith, reportedly bench presses 500 pounds.

"They stick their faces in your's and go right at you," Radeloff said.

But not when they unleash speedy wide receivers Kentonio Anderson and Robert Foster. Those two run past defenders.

Defensively, the Griffins are not on a diet. The small guy is a 215-pound end with the other three going 275, 225 and 285 in the 4-3 alignment. Demetrius Lewis, the tight end on offense, lines up at tackle while Smith switches to end.

"We have to control the inside game against those big linemen," Radeloff said, "contain them on the outside and prevent the big pass."

The Griffins run counters and reverses to get outside, Radeloff said. "But they really like to run inside more than outside," he said.

The tailback, Johnnie Mundy, will handle the bulk of the ball carrying.

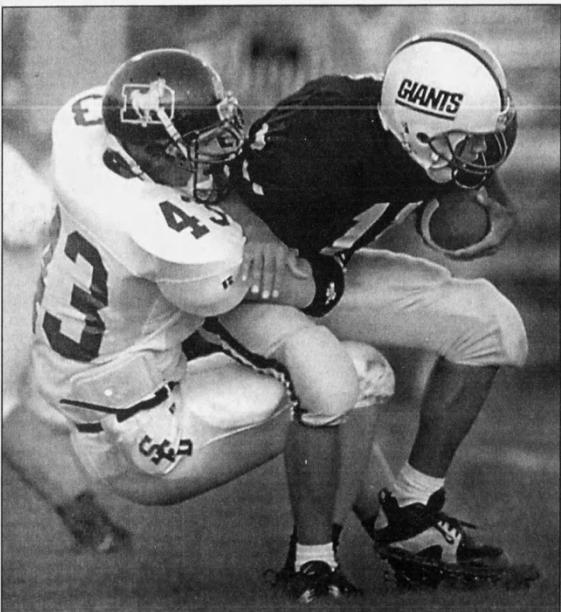
Radeloff said Ross must improve in four areas.

"No. 1, no missed assignments; No. 2, be aggressive; No. 3, improve overall quickness; and No. 4, overall, play better as a team," he said.

Radeloff said he and his staff were looking at player changes this week. As of Tuesday, they had not made any decisions.

"Hopefully, some people who want to play will step up," he said.

For the Little Giants, hopefully enough of them to prevent a track meet from breaking out.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS QUARTERBACK Harry Liggins is sacked by Columbus DeSales' Adam Rader during second-quarter action.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THE LITTLE GIANTS' Jim Burbin tries to find the ball fumbled by Harry Liggins during the second quarter.

Tough defense can't overcome offensive woes



News-Messenger/Brad Phalin

BRANDON WILLER (bottom), Derek Thiessen (top) and Sam Root (right) converge on Akron Buchtel ball carrier Robert Foster during the first quarter

Friday night at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants played well defensively, but the defense got little help from the offense in a 19-0 loss.

Little Giants blanked again

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

The post-game conversation summed it up in a nutshell.

"I was talking to Tim," Fremont Ross football coach Rex Radeloff said, "and he said, 'Coach, there's no replacing speed; there's no comparison.'

Akron Buchtel coach Tim Flossie was right — Buchtel's speed was instrumental as the Griffins swept past Ross 19-0 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

It was the second straight shutout loss for the Little Giants and gave the Griffins a 2-0 start.

Gary Cosey, running out of Buchtel's "no-name" formation, took a quick pitch and skirted left end from 5 yards out to put Buchtel up 7-0 in the second quarter. He followed the same route in the fourth quarter — this time racing 62 yards.

"Last week," Flossie said, "we tried to get a little too fancy. We are not used to that so we decided to go to that three-back set, just go right at people and if we can't win, too bad."

Flossie said he did not have a

name for his formation — two halfbacks and a tailback about two yards behind in sort of an elongated T-formation.

"I just made it up," he said. "'A' formation or reverse 'bone...I don't know, but it worked. They were blitzing a lot of guys and jamming us inside, so we started flipping the ball outside and letting our speed work."

In between Cosey's scores, tailback Johnnie Mundy ran over right guard from 2 yards out giving the Griffins a 13-0 lead late in the third quarter.

Cosey finished with 126 yards rushing on 11 carries and Mundy 95 on 25. Buchtel totalled 223 yards on the ground.

Ross generated a net 31 yards on the ground and finished with 92 total yards. Derek Thiessen led Ross with 38 yards on seven carries and freshman Brent Agnew had 20 on 10 attempts.

Quarterbacks Harry Liggins and Wes Esquivel passed for 61 yards, connecting on 6 of 17 throws.

Buchtel controlled the ball for

IN PERSPECTIVE

The last time Fremont Ross lost its first two games by shutout was 1931, when Toledo Whitmer and Findlay both blanked the Little Giants. Whitmer edged Ross 3-0, and Findlay routed the Little Giants 33-0.

Ross has not lost three straight games by shutout in one season since 1978, when Lorain, Marion Harding and Findlay in succession blanked the Little Giants.

One has to go back to 1926 to find the last time a Ross team did not score in its first three games. That season, a scoreless tie with Bradner was followed by losses to Bowling Green and Lorain.

nearly 28 minutes, keeping a tired Ross defense on the field and absorbing the battering ram blocking from a big offensive line.

"I thought we played aggressively," Radeloff said. "The offensive line came off the ball and defensively, we hung in there the first half. We kind of gave up the ship, but we were tired in the fourth quarter. We kind of got leaned on."

Ross defensive tackles Keith Decker and Chris Shull along with inside linebackers Brandon Willer and Ben Burkett stuffed the Griffins' inside running game.

"If I had been him (Flossie), I would have ran outside all night," Radeloff said. "He probably could have done that if he wanted to make it a track meet."

Ross had its chances.

The Little Giants got the ball at the Buchtel 16 in the first quarter when Keith Mossler recovered a fumble on a bad snap to punter Shawn Briggs. A high snap four plays later prevented kicker Tim Rakes from getting off a 27-yard field goal attempt.

Two other Ross drives stalled at the Griffins 27 as the first half ended and the 24 late in the game.

High School

Buchtel 19, Ross 0

Buchtel	0	7	6	6	—	19
Ross	0	0	0	0	—	0

Buchtel: Gary Cosey, 5 run (Shawn Briggs kick), 4:41, 1st

Buchtel: Johnnie Mundy, 2 run (kick failed), 0:25, 3rd

Buchtel: Cosey, 62 run (run failed), 10:19, 4th

	B	R
First downs	13	5
Rushes/Yards	48/223	27/31
Passing Yards	21	61
Passes/Comp./Int.	9/4/1	17/6/2
Punts/Average	2/30.5	4/30.5
Fumbles/Lost	5/2	2/1
Penalties	6/58	3/19

Rushing: Buchtel—Mundy 25/95, Cosey 11/126, Robert Foster 5/22, Marlon Ervine 1/4, Brock Arrington 5/3, Briggs 1/19. Ross—Harry Liggins 8/22, Derek Thiessen 7/38, Brandon Willer 1/2, Brent Agnew 10/20, Wes Esquivel 1/7.

Passing: Buchtel—Arrington 9/4/1-21. Ross—Liggins 7/3/1-34, Esquivel 10/3/1-27.

Receiving: Buchtel—Cosey 3/16, Kentonio Anderson 1/5. Ross—Shawn Root 1/5, Terry Cisco 1/10, Ben Burkett 1/19, Kevin Mosser 2/13, Fred Cooley 1/4.

Records: Buchtel 2-0, Ross 0-2

ROSS (0-2) VS. SANDUSKY (2-0)

7:30 p.m. Friday, Strobel Field, Sandusky

LAST WEEK: Akron Buchtel defeated Ross 19-0, the second successive game the Little Giants have been shut out. Sandusky topped Mansfield Senior 17-0.

KICKOFF: First victory for the Little Giants would be to score. The Blue Streaks feature a quick lineup with defensive tackles in the 250-280 pound range.

Little Giants seek their first points

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Opponents 39, Ross 0.

After two football games, scoring has been a mission impossible for the Little Giants.

And facing Ross Friday night is a trip to Sandusky to face a Blue Streaks team that has outscored its opponents 77-0.

"We have to generate some offense and shore up the defense," Ross coach Rex Radeloff says.

The meeting is the 90th between the schools with Sandusky holding a 48-33-8 edge in the all-time series.

Sandusky has a speedy, veteran team with nine lettermen starting on both sides of the ball. Five players started last season, and seven players go both ways.

"They live and die on the '50' defense," Radeloff said, "and angle into the gaps and try to make your life miserable."

Repeated mistakes have been making things miserable for the Little Giants.

"I can only use inexperience so long," Radeloff said. "We have had two scrimmages and two games, but we are still doing things we should not have done."

"I don't want to make wholesale changes, but we have to field the best team possible ... that is the reason I have a coaching staff to evaluate personnel and put people in the right spot."

A possible change is at fullback. Travis Bulger played well Saturday in a junior varsity game and is being looked at in the slot during practice. Moving Bulger to the backfield would allow Brandon Willer to return to guard, where he performed last season.

Another move would put a freshmen, Brent Agnew, into the starting lineup for the first time since legendary Jim Tiller in the mid-1950s. Agnew carried 10 times for 20 yards from the tailback slot against Buchtel.

Regular tailback Derek Thiessen, a starter at outside linebacker defensively, might share the tailback spot or run in the fullback slot along with Bulger.

Offensive guard Greg Hirt, who has missed the first two games because of a shoulder injury, may be cleared to play this week.

Whatever the changes, the mission remains obvious.

"No. 1 is a win," Radeloff said, "but to win, we have to get on the scoreboard."

Ross wins in overtime

Rakes' 33-yard field goal beats Sandusky

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Tim Rakes got a pep talk from a sideline buddy and kicked Fremont Ross to its first football win.

Rakes' 33-yard field goal in overtime gave the Little Giants a 19-16 win over Sandusky at Strobel Field, and the win was preserved when Mike Poeschl's 39-yard field goal attempt was partially blocked by the middle of the Ross line.

"After I messed up the first two kicks, Mike Hickey (sophomore punter who doubles as goalie on the soccer team) told me to get my head into the game because I was mad," Rakes said. "If it was not for him, I don't know what would have happened."

Rakes' kick came after he missed a 48-yard field goal attempt and an extra point kick, which would have given Ross a 17-8 lead in the fourth quarter.

"I knew it was in right when I

kicked it," Rakes said. "It went right down the center."

Junior quarterback Harry Liggins, after struggling for two games, completed 10 of 12 passes for 95 yards.

Three of Liggins' passes were to sophomore Brett Hufford for 37 yards.

Defensively, Liggins killed a third-quarter Sandusky drive with an interception at the Ross 45.

"We have been so inconsistent

passing," Radeloff said, "but we put it together tonight. Hufford did a great job."

The Little Giants scored their first points of the season 14 seconds into the second quarter when Gregg Peugeot's snap sailed over Sandusky punter Jason Zess and out of the end zone for a safety.

It was the first of four gifts the Blue Streaks gave Ross.

See ROSS, B3



RAKES



LIGGINS

Gary Rakes' 33-yard field goal in overtime gave Fremont Ross its first victory of the season Friday night. Harry Liggins helped put the Little Giants in a position to win with his 10-for-12 passing effort.

Ross beats Sandusky in OT

Continued From B1

"He dribbled the first two back tonight and the third went over the head," Sandusky coach Larry Cook said. "We shot ourselves in the foot too much."

Justin Conklin also had an interception for Ross and the fourth gift, a botched pitch in overtime, forced the Blue Streaks into the long field goal attempt.

Sandusky, after "three and out" on its first two possessions, drove 73 yards 12 plays to take the lead. Wide receiver Matt Roth scored from 14 yards out on a reverse with Peugeot's pass to Cassell Causey giving the Blue Streaks an 8-2 halftime lead.

"I thought it was very unemotional in the first half for both them and us," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

Ross drove 60 yards with the second-half kickoff to take the lead. Liggins hit three passes in the drive, a pair of 12-yard strikes to Hufford and a 15-yarder to Terry Cisco to the Sandusky 12. Derek Thiessen ran to the 2, and Liggins sneaked before passing to Hufford for the extra points and a 10-8 lead.

Liggins stopped the Blue Streaks next series with his interception, but the

Little Giants stalled at the Sandusky 31 when Rakes' 48-yard field goal attempt fell short.

Six plays later, Conklin intercepted a Peugeot pass at the Sandusky 45, returning it to the 8.

"We just threw the ball to the wrong receiver," Cook said. "We did not want to go to that guy at all."

Derek Thiessen, who had 70 yards on 14 carries, scored from the 1 on a fourth-and-1 in the

Radeloff relies on seniors

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Rex Radeloff did not like what he had seen ... from either team.

After a lackluster first half, the Fremont Ross coach pinned his hopes on his seniors, but he got a big lift from his underclassmen in a 19-16 overtime win over Sandusky at Strobel Field Friday night.

"I put it right on the seniors," the Ross coach said about his halftime talk. "I told them they had to take charge ... be the leaders. They had to play with emotion and be leaders for the underclassmen."

Led by Brandon Willer and Ben Burkett, the seniors set a fire under the Little Giants.

"The underclassmen made some big plays for us ... Hufford and Harry, throwing and catching the ball but I looked toward the seniors."

Harry Liggins, a junior, after not completing a pass in the Little Giants' season opener and connecting on 3 of 7 in the second game, completed 10 of 12 for 95 yards against Sandusky. Sophomore Brett Hufford caught three for 37 yards and added a two-point conversion catch.

Willer, after starting at fullback offensively the first two games, moved back to guard, the spot he occupied last season, but it was defensively he shined. He accounted for several hard hits that seemed to make Blue Streaks' backs tentative, especially tailback Wayne Durrah.

"Yeah, I hit him pretty good," Willer said about one of Durrah's short early trips into the middle of the Ross defense.

"I was very happy with his play," Radeloff said. "In the same token, I think (Derek) Thiessen and Travis Bulger (sophomore fullback) did great jobs and Brent Agnew (freshman tailback) gave Thiessen some rest."

"We are going to get reps with these guys," the Ross coach continued. "We are going to have to bring them in and out the rest of the year. We cannot have just one single tailback."

"It's fun playing Sandusky any time," Radeloff added. "I don't care what the record is, whether it's the end of the season or what."

It was made sweet with the win.

fourth quarter but Rakes' kick was wide right and Ross settled for a 16-8 lead with 7:35 remaining in the game.

Sandusky quickly pulled even when the Ross defense bit on a dive play, and Peugeot hit Damarius Walls on the sidelines

for a 66-yard scoring pass. Peugeot's run knotted the game at 16 with 6:12 to play.

Each team had one more chance in regulation. Ross was stopped at the Sandusky 37, and the Blue Streaks were unable to move after taking over at the 20.

Football

High School

Ross 19, Sandusky 16

Ross 0 2 8 6 3—19
Sandusky 0 8 0 8 0—16

Ross: Safety, 11:46, 2nd.

Sandusky: Matt Roth, 10 run (Cassell Causey pass from Gregg Peugeot), 3:32, 2nd.

Ross: Harry Liggins, 2 run (Brett Huford pass from Liggins), 7:27, 2nd.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 1 run, (kick failed), 7:35, 3rd.

Sandusky: Damarius Walls, 66 pass from Peugeot (Peugeot run), 6:12, 4th.

Ross: Tim Rakes, 33 field goal, OT

	R	S
First downs	10	10
Rushes/Yards	37/97	40/139
Passing yards	95	74
Passes/Comp./Int.	12/10/0	5/2/2
Punts/Average	4/35.5	2/29.5
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	3/15	4/25

Rushing: Ross-Thiessen 14/70, Liggins 10/4, Travis Bulger 6/14, Brent Agnew 7/9. Sandusky-Peugeot 9/36, Marcel Gowdy 2/1, Wayne Durrah 19/71, Roth 1/14, Causey 5/20, Tony Trayanum 3/13.

Passing: Ross-Liggins 12/10/0-95. Sandusky-Peugeot 5/2/2-74.

Receiving: Ross-Thiessen 1/13, Terry Cisco 2/29, Shaun Root 2/5, Brett Huford 3/37, Graham Hogan 1/7, Ben Burkett 1/4. Sandusky-Causey 1/8, Walls 1/66.

Records: Ross 1-2, Sandusky 2-1

BEDFORD (1-2) VS. ROSS (1-2)

7:30 p.m. Friday, Harmon Stadium

LAST WEEK: Ross scored its first points of the season and beat Sandusky 19-16 in overtime for its first win. Bedford lost its Great Lakes League opener 34-23 at Findlay.

KICKOFF: The GLL opener for the Little Giants. The Mules average 30 passes a game and will test the Ross secondary. The Little Giants must pressure quarterback Dan Williams.

Bedford to test Ross pass defense

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross got the win it needed.

"That gets us ready for the league season," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said of the Little Giants' 19-16 win in overtime last week over Sandusky.

The breakdown of game tapes Saturday morning was an easy task, Radeloff said, considering the previous two weeks and a pair of shutout losses.

Friday night's Great Lakes League opener against Bedford may not be that easy. The Mules have gone to the air.

"They have an excellent passing game," Radeloff said. "Dan Williams is a good quarterback with two good wideouts (Chad Morris and Jason Kehde), and they have big linemen up front."

Guard Jason Groeveld, a 6-foot-2, 338-pound senior, and 266-pound tackle Mike Nocella give the Mules a definite lopsided look to the right side.

A secondary that got interceptions from Jason Conklin and Harry Liggins last week will face the test.

Bedford uses a stunting defense, which Findlay took advantage of last week by hitting the tight end with a pair of scoring passes.

"We are going to try to get outside," Radeloff said. "We haven't tried that lately, but we are this week. We might be a little quicker at some positions."

The improved play of the offensive line should help.

"Moving (Brandon) Willer to guard helped us out," Radeloff said. "It was an excellent move."

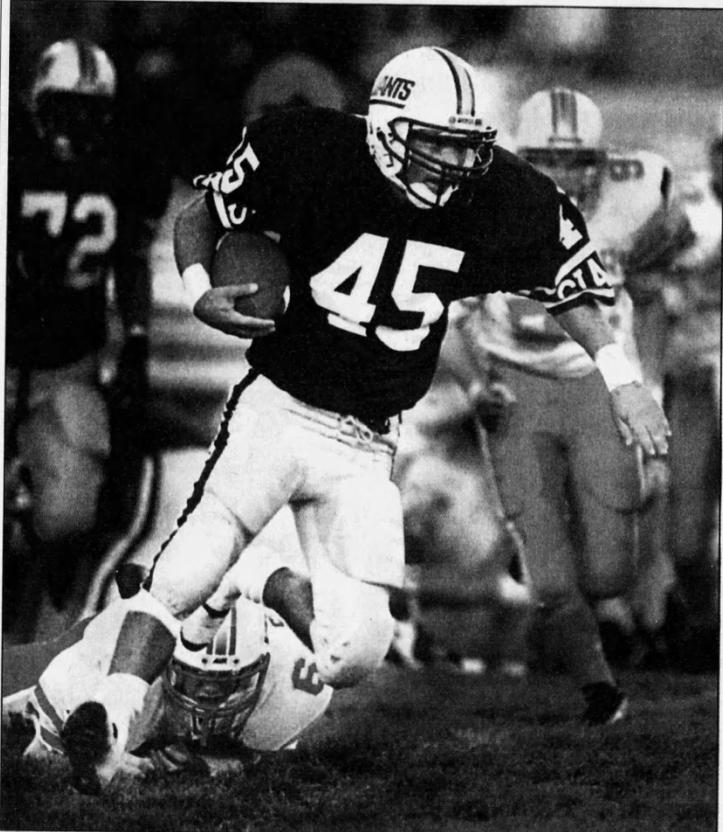
Willer moved from fullback to guard for the Sandusky game.

"We also got a nice game from (sophomore) Travis Bulger at fullback," Radeloff said. "He showed quickness and speed."



WILLER

Ross opens GLL with win



FREMONT ROSS tailback Derek Thiessen runs past the Bedford Mules defense and turns up field on his 64-yard

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
touchdown run Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Ross won its Great Lakes League opener 28-12.

Thiessen rushes for 168 yards, TD

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Fremont Ross survived five fumbles, while Bedford drowned in a yellow rain Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Ross pushed across a pair of late fourth-quarter touchdowns in a 28-12 victory in its Great Lakes League opener.

The Little Giants, 2-2, lost four of the fumbles but held onto the ball in the fourth quarter.

Penalty flags — 14 for 104 yards — would not let the Mules sustain anything and they fell to 1-3.

"They were all legal penalties," Bedford coach Bill Regnoir said. "We had 'em, we did 'em."

"We would move the ball and get a 15-yard penalty...it's not good, not good. The penalties were there...everyone of them. I did not see one they (officials) called that shouldn't have been called."

Bedford defensive tackle Dominic Andrews returned Harry Liggins' fumble 26 yards for a touchdown with 5:28 left in the game, but Dan Williams' pass for the tying points eluded Chad Henman — preserving a 14-12 Ross lead.

The Little Giants resorted to their goal-line offense, power-I left or right, from that point.

The Ross line began knocking the Mules' defense off the ball on the clinching drive. Derek Thiessen, who ran for 168 yards on 24 carries, picked up 41 yards in the 10-play, 64-yard drive before leaving with a twisted

ankle.

Freshman tailback Brent Agnew took over, capping the drive with a 27-yard TD run with 1:16 left in the game.

"We probably should have gone to (the goal-line offense) sooner," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "On our regular offense, they had 11 men on the line of scrimmage but in the goal line, they backed people off. We pulled the back-side guard around to lead the fullback and tailback ... we did a heck off a job."

"When we had to secure the line of scrimmage, we did it."

Ross tackles Mike Byerly and Brian Borer and guards Brandon Willer and Keith Decker opened up huge holes in the clinching drive.

"The tackles did a good job of caving everything down," Thiessen said. "If I could get outside, I knew I was going to go for some yards."

Justin Conklin, who set up the Little Giants' third-quarter touchdown with a 43-yard punt return, broke six tackles on a 22-yard scoring run with six seconds left in the game.

Ross led 7-6 at halftime after scoring on the second play of the game, a 64-yard run by Thiessen. Williams passed 17 yards to Henman with 1:02 left in the half to cut the Ross lead to one.

Travis Bulger's four-yard run after Conklin's punt return gave Ross a 14-6 lead with 7:38 remaining in the third quarter.

Football

High School

Ross 28, Bedford 12

Bedford	0	6	0	6	—	12
Ross	7	0	7	14	—	28

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 64 run (Tim Rakes kick), 10:56, 1st.

Bedford: Chad Henman, 17 pass from Dan Williams (kick failed), 1:02, 2nd.

Ross: Travis Bulger, 4 run (Rakes kick), 7:38, 3rd.

Bedford: Domonic Andrews, 26 fumble return (pass failed), 5:28, 4th.

Ross: Brent Agnew, 27 run (Rakes kick), 1:16, 4th.

Ross: Justin Conklin, 22 run (Rakes kick), :06, 4th.

	B	R
First downs	13	15
Rushes/Yards	32/141	38/226
Passing Yards	107	55
Passes/Comp./Int.	25/8/1	7/3/0
Punts/Average	4/31.5	3/25
Fumbles lost	2/2	5/4
Penalties/Yards.....	14/104	4/44

Rushing: Bedford—Williams 15/51, Dustin Winkler 16/90, Chad Detrick 1/0. Ross—Harry Liggins 5/17, Brent Agnew 2/29, Thiessen 24/168, Bulger 5/11, Terry Cisco 1/11, Kenny Morrisette 1/40.

Passing: Bedford—Williams 24/8/1-107, Henman 1/0/0. Ross—Liggins 7/3/0-55.

Receiving: Bedford—Jason Kehoe 1/35, Henman 6/60, Eric Dow 1/12. Ross—Brett Hufford 1/23, Shaun Root 2/32.

Records: Ross 2-2 (1-0), Bedford 1-3 (0-2).

ROSS (2-2) VS. FINDLAY (3-1)

7:30 p.m. Friday, Donnell Stadium, Findlay

LAST WEEK: Ross opened Great Lakes League play with a 28-12 win over Bedford, scoring two TDs in the final 1:16. Findlay beat Northview 21-7.

KICKOFF: The Little Giants try to improve on their 46-30-3 series lead by testing the Trojans' strong front four with the ground game.

Little Giants striving for consistency

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

One thing the Fremont Ross football team has done well this season is be consistently inconsistent.

"Both offensively and defensively, we have to be more consistent," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "On defense, we have not been real consistent on stopping the option. We have done a good job but there are times we have broken our assignments and go inside for the fullback and the quarterback takes off on us."

"Offensively, we have had a couple of big plays running the ball, but we are not consistent yet and the passing game has a ways to go yet."

With Great Lakes League newcomer Findlay awaiting Ross Friday, Radeloff says the Little Giants have to get more consistent.

"Findlay probably has one of its better teams than it has had in some time," Radeloff said. "Defensively, their front four are all solid players. Offensively, they have two good running backs and the quarterback can throw the ball well...they mix up the passing and running game very well."

Mike Montgomery, a 6-foot-3, 210-pound receiver is the leader of the Trojans' attack. According to Radeloff, Montgomery has lined up at tight end, split end and wingback. He did not play against Northview because of an ankle injury.

"(Quarterback) Stutzman (Justin) did not have a good game against Northview," Radeloff said, "and that may be because Montgomery was not in there. When he is in, that is who they look for. He's a good one."

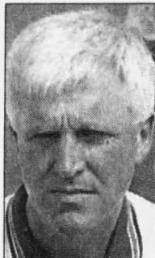
Montgomery lines up at defensive end along with running mate Cloyd-Leon Guerrero and tackles Ryan Norris and Kasey Leonard, present a formidable front four.

"The linebacker are average size but run well," Radeloff said. "The only weakness I can see is possible the defensive backfield."

While running out of I-formation, Findlay will run the option but also likes the off-tackle play.

"They don't run many plays," he said, "we just have to stop them."

And do it consistently.



RADELOFF

Ross comeback downs Findlay

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross recovered from a second-quarter Findlay scoring blitz with a pair of third-quarter touchdowns to defeat the Trojans 21-17 Friday night at Donnell Stadium.

The third straight win for Ross (3-2) raised its Great Lakes League record to 2-0. Findlay fell to 3-2 and 2-2 in league play.

"I could have wrote that script," Ross coach Rex Radloff said. "I knew it was going to be a close one."

After Findlay scored 17 points in the last 3:43 of the first half to take a 17-7 halftime lead, Ross bounced back in the third quar-

ter.

"We made some key mistakes and it cost us," Findlay coach Jim Caserta said. "We just have to execute better."

Instead, the Trojans executed themselves.

The Little Giants drove 75 yards with the second-half kickoff to close the gap. Fred Cooley broke two tackles to score from 6 yards out as Ross trimmed the deficit to 17-14.

Brent Agnew's 28-yard run on a second-and-16 at the Ross 19 and a 24-yard screen pass from quarterback Harry Liggins to Derek Thiessen to the Findlay 8 keyed the drive. A pan-cake block by tackle Brian Borer got Thiessen into the open.

Cooley set up the winning touchdown by blocking Justin Stutzman's punt.

Punting with the Trojans facing a fourth-and-seven at the Ross 42, Stutzman fumbled a low snap from center. His

attempt to get the punt off was smothered on his foot by Cooley. The ball bounced off several players until Thiessen scooped it up at the Findlay 14 and scored.

The Ross defense took over from there.

The Trojans were unable to get any further than the Ross 47 in three fourth-quarter possessions. Brandon Willer's interception of a tipped pass at the Findlay 46 killed the final Trojan drive.

"The turnovers cost us in the first half," Radloff said, "and then we created the turnover that was the difference in the second half."

Liggins' first varsity touchdown pass, a 14-yard strike to Justin Conklin with 3:56 remaining in the first half was set up by Conklin's third interception of the season. He returned the ball 30 yards from the Ross 13.

The Ross TD was followed by the Trojans' scoring flurry.

John Henkelman returned a kickoff 86 yards, and Findlay took the lead 19 seconds later on Stutzman's 10-yard run.

Stutzman's score was set up by Marc Bosworth's return of Liggins' fumble to the Ross 10.

Nick Lotz kicked a 26-yard field goal with 1:06 left in the half, giving the Trojans' a 17-7 lead.

Another Ross fumble, this one by fullback Travis Bulger, was recovered at the Little Giants 29 by tackle Cloyd-Leon Guerrero to set up the field goal.

"We had our chances," Caserta said. "We made some key mistakes and they turned out to be huge plays ... we just came up short, I guess."

The win set up a key GLL match for Ross next Friday at Fostoria. The Redmen defeated Bedford 42-22 Friday night.



COOLEY

Football

High School

Ross 21, Findlay 17

Ross	0	7	14	0	—	21
Findlay	0	17	0	0	—	17

Ross: Justin Conklin, 14-pass from Harry Liggins (Tim Rakes kick), 3:56, 2nd.

Findlay: John Henkelman, 86 kickoff return (Nick Lotz kick), 3:43, 2nd.

Findlay: Justin Stutzman, 10 run (Lotz kick), 3:24, 2nd.

Findlay: Lotz, 26 field goal, 1:06, 2nd.

Ross: Fred Cooley, 6 run (Rakes kick), 7:57, 3rd.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 14 blocked punt return (Rakes kick), 0:28, 3rd.

	R	F
First downs	10	14
Rushes/Yards	37/149	40/99
Passing Yards	50	63
Passes/Comp./Int.	5/3/0	13/5/2
Punts/Average: 5/42.4 ... 4/36.5		
Fumbles/Lost	4/2	3/1
Penalties	9/65	3/25

RUSHING: Ross—Liggins 5-21, Thiessen 17/67, Brent Agnew 8/61, Conklin 1-4, Cooley 1/6. Findlay—Stutzman 13/46, Dwight Decker 17/77, Shaun Ball 6/3, Henkelman 3/5, Jason Neff 1/2.

PASSING: Ross—Liggins 5/3/0—50. Findlay—Stutzman 13/5/2—63.

RECEIVING: Ross—Thiessen 2/36, Conklin 1/14. Findlay—Mike Montgomery 3/30, Decker 1/11, Nino Iriti 1/22.

Records: Ross 3-2 (2-0), Findlay 3-2 (2-2).

Little Giants seek to end loss skid against Fostoria

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Rex Radeloff's voice rises when he responds to the statistic that is Fostoria's four-game winning streak over Fremont Ross.

"You always remember those things, don't you," the Ross football coach said Tuesday. "It's a game that I feel should be the 10th of the season all the time."

Although the game is misplaced, it has been pivotal in determining the Great Lakes League championship the last four seasons. It's no different this year.

The Redmen lost their season opener but have responded with four straight wins, three of them in the GLL. Ross has won its last three games, including two league encounters, after losing its first two.

"It's a league game and we are fighting for the championship," Radeloff

said. "It's another big game."

Radeloff said Ross will have to control hard running Fostoria backs Ryan Russell and Leo Frierson, but he said the key to the Fostoria offense is quarterback Jerry Dessausure.

"He is doing a great job of throwing the ball and he has some excellent receivers who can catch it and run," Radeloff said. "He is a heck of a weapon...plus they have those two good running backs."

Ahead of that crew is a line that averages a light, but quick, 216 pounds.

Defensively, the common scenario the last four years has Fostoria's nose guard and tackles in the five-man front dominating the middle of the Ross offensive line.

"They are always aggressive," Radeloff said, "but the majority play both ways."

"I think the front three — tackles and

nose guard — is the key to their defense.

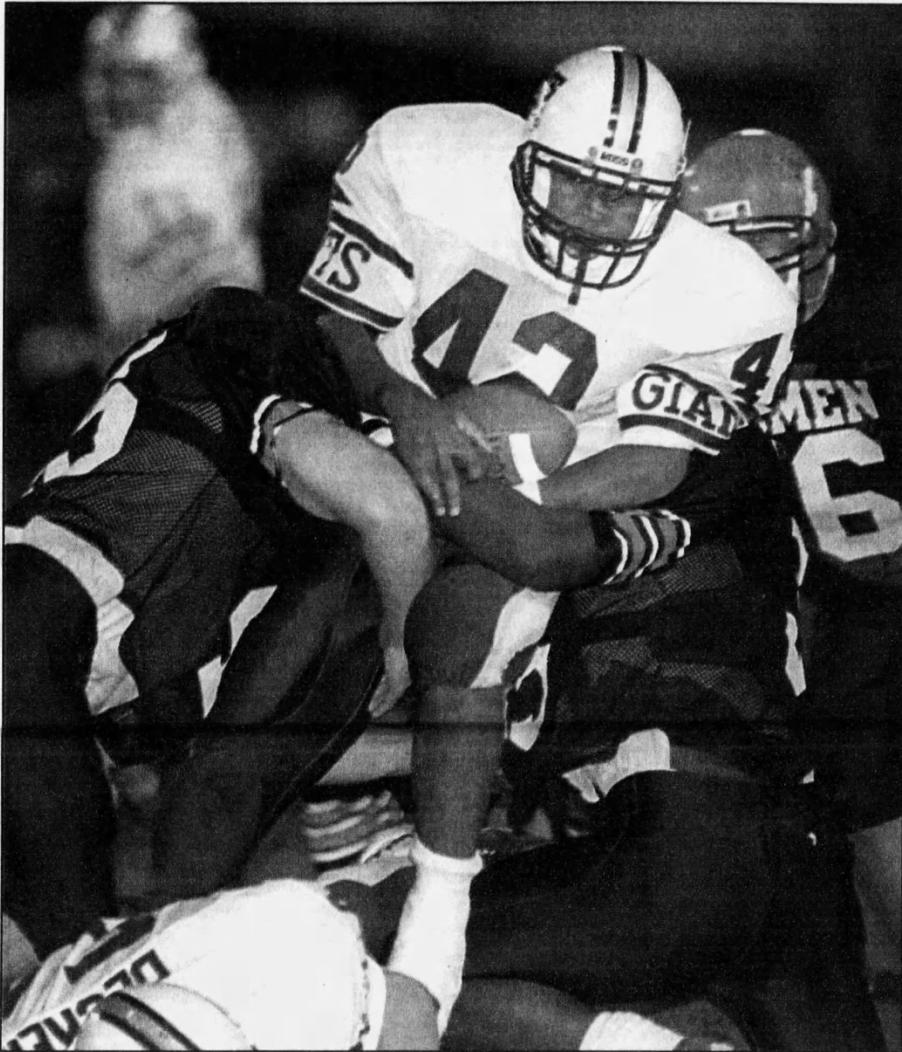
"In the secondary, they are very tough. They play you man-to-man and dare you to throw the ball."

The Little Giants are coming off a game in which quarterback Harry Liggins tossed his first scoring pass and defensive backs Justin Conklin and Fred Cooley turned in key plays on a defense that tightened up in the second half.

Conklin intercepted his third pass of the season to kill a Findlay drive and Cooley blocked a punt that led to Derek Thiessen's 14-yard return for the winning touchdown. Inside linebacker Brandon Willer's first interception killed Findlay's final effort.

"We have to play consistently on both sides of the ball," Radeloff said, "and we have not accomplished that yet."

Fostoria tops Ross in OT



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

BRENT AGNEW of Fremont Ross is sandwiched by a pair Fostoria defenders during the first quarter of a Great

Lakes League game Friday night at Memorial Stadium in Fostoria. The Redmen prevailed in overtime.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

FOSTORIA — If it wasn't for the big play, Dick Kidwell admitted, his Fostoria Redmen did very little against Fremont Ross.

But Fostoria lived and Ross died by the big play Friday night in the Redmen's 22-19 overtime win in a battle for the top spot in the Great Lakes League football race. The Redmen (5-1) are 4-0 in the GLL race while Ross is 3-3 and 2-1.

"We have been a big play offense all year," Kidwell said. "We got the big play on the punt return in the first half, the big pass play to set us up ... we really did not move the ball too successfully all night. We had to rely on the big play and we got one right at the end."

Richard Newsome's 4-yard pass reception from Jerry Dessausure for the overtime touchdown was the game winner. Four plays earlier, Dessausure hooked up with Newsome on a 10-yard play on third-and-11, setting up a fourth-down run to the Ross 4 by Leo Frierson.

Newsome's 72-yard punt return set up Dessausure's 5-yard TD run in the first quarter. Dessausure's 49-yard pass to Jeremy Carter to the Ross 19 set up the Redmen's second touchdown, a 19-yard run by Wendell Young, ended a two-play, 58-yard drive.

"I thought we played good defense," Ross coach Rex Radloff said, "but the big ones killed us. They have the people to make the big plays. We blew the coverage on the pass."

"They beat us up front when they had to beat us."

Fostoria won the overtime coin toss.

See ROSS, B3



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Fremont's Fred Cooley (33) gets some extra yardage on a kick return after Fostoria scored in the first quar-

ter at Fostoria. The Little Giants lost to the Redmen in overtime 22-19.

Ross falls to Fostoria in overtime

Continued From B1

The Redmen took defense while the Little Giants had the wind at their backs. Ross was unable to move and went for the field goal after Derek Thiessen's 7-yard run on third-and-17 put the ball at the 20. Tim Rakes' 37-yard field goal, his second of the game, put Ross up 19-16.

"We always want to play defense in the overtime," Kidwell said. "If we would have lost the choice and they had chosen defense, we would have put them against the wind."

The Redmen do not have a kicker, Kidwell laughed, and "have not had once since we had a foreign exchange student."

The Ross defense dominated the Redmen most of the night, allowing one first down and 33 total yards in the first half. Fostoria finished with 80 yards rushing and 92 more in the air.

Thiessen scored both of the Ross TDs. His run on a draw play to the Fostoria 6 preceded a 6-yard scoring run early in the second quarter and climaxed a six-play, 57-yard drive, cutting the

Redmen lead to 8-6. Ross failed on the two-point conversion, a fake off kick formation that ended on a dropped lateral from quarterback Harry Liggins to Rakes.

Ross took the lead on Rakes' 31-yard field goal into the wind with 25 seconds remaining in the first half. The Little Giants drove 67 yards to set up the kick with a 21-yard Liggins-to-Thiessen screen play keying the drive.

Thiessen started at fullback but moved back to tailback when freshman starter Brent Agnew suffered a slight groin pull in the first half. Thiessen finished with 92 yards on 23 carries and Agnew had 72 on 19 attempts.

After Young's TD and Dessuasure's second conversion run put Fostoria up 16-9 with 8:25 remaining in the game, Ross drove 74 yards in 10 plays to tie the game. A 45-yard screen pass to Thiessen put the ball at the Fostoria 7 and Thiessen scored from the 4 three plays later with 3:27 remaining.

Football

High School

Fostoria 22, Ross 19 (OT)

Ross	0	9	0	7	3	—	19
Fostoria	8	0	0	8	6	—	22

Fostoria: Jerry Dessausure, 5 run (Dessausure run), 3:51, 1st.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 6 run (run failed), 9:55, 2nd.

Ross: Tim Rakes, 31 Field Goal, 0:25, 2nd.

Fostoria: Wendell Young, 19 run (Dessausure run), 8:25, 4th.

Ross: Thiessen, 4 run (Rakes kick), 3:27, 4th.

Ross: Rakes, 37 Field Goal, OT

Fostoria: Richard Newsome, 4 pass from Dessausure, OT.

	R	F
First Downs.....	11	7
Rushes/Yards	48/156	30/80
Passing Yards	76	92
Passes/Comp./Int.	7/4/0	13/7/0
Punts/Average	5/35.2	7/27.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	1/0
Penalties/Yards	2/10	2/20

RUSHING: Ross, Harry Liggins 4-20, Thiessen 23/92, Brent Agnew 19/72. Fostoria, Dessausure 10/18, Ryan Russell 2/7, Leo Frierson 14/30, Young 4/25.

PASSING: Ross, Liggins 7/4/0—76, Fostoria, Dessausure 12/6/0—87, Jeremy Young 1/1/0—minus 5.

RECEIVING: Ross, Thiessen 4/72, Shaun Root 1/4. Fostoria, Russell 1/5, Newsome 2/14, Lee Stalnaker 1/0, Jeremy Carter 2/62, Eric Green 1/10.

RECORDS: Fostoria 5-1 (4-0), Ross 3-3 (2-1).

Little Giants host Clay

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

How intangibles are handled figure in Friday night's Great Lakes League game between Fremont Ross and Oregon Clay.

- How will the ease of last year's 72-0 romp over the Eagles affect Ross?
- How will the Little Giants respond to a disappointing loss to Fostoria?
- Avoid an overtime.

Ross coach Rex Radeloff feels his team has things covered.

"Attitude-wise, it is still good," Radeloff said about any letdown from the overtime loss to the Redmen. "The kids want to finish the season winning these last four games and go out 7-3.

"Who knows, that still has a possibility of sharing the league championship."

Ross is 3-3 and 2-1 in the Great Lakes League race.

The loss to Fostoria nullified his team's effort, Radeloff said.

"I looked at the game film, and the kids played extremely well," he said. "They played hard...probably the best game offensively and defensively we have played all year but we still come out on the short end of the stick.

"Still, their attitude has been good this week."

In last year's win over Clay, the Little Giants ran to a 51-0 halftime lead. Charles Woodson ended up setting the Ross single-game rushing record (335 yards) and broke his GLL mark for touchdowns in a game (seven).

"I think their (Clay) loss to Bedford was like what happened last year...there were a couple of early scores and they cashed in the chips," Radeloff said.

A social activity may help offset any thoughts of last year's game.

"It's homecoming," Radeloff said, "and I think the kids want to go out and show the fans what kind of a team they really are. If we play the way we played Friday night, we will be alright."

One thing Radeloff wants to avoid, is extra work Friday night.

"We have not been very successful in overtimes, in fact, we have been horrible," Radeloff said. "We were fortunate to win against Sandusky this year, but the other times we have been associated with overtime, we have lost. In fact, we have not even scored a touchdown."

With the two overtimes this season, Ross is 1-4 in the extra sessions.

"If it comes down to going for a tie to get into overtime this week, I am going for the win," Radeloff said.

If the young Clay team responds as it did last year, Radeloff will not have to worry about that.

NOTES: Tailback Derek Thiessen led the Little Giants at Fostoria, rushing for 92 yards and hauling in three passes for 72 yards while scoring both TDs.

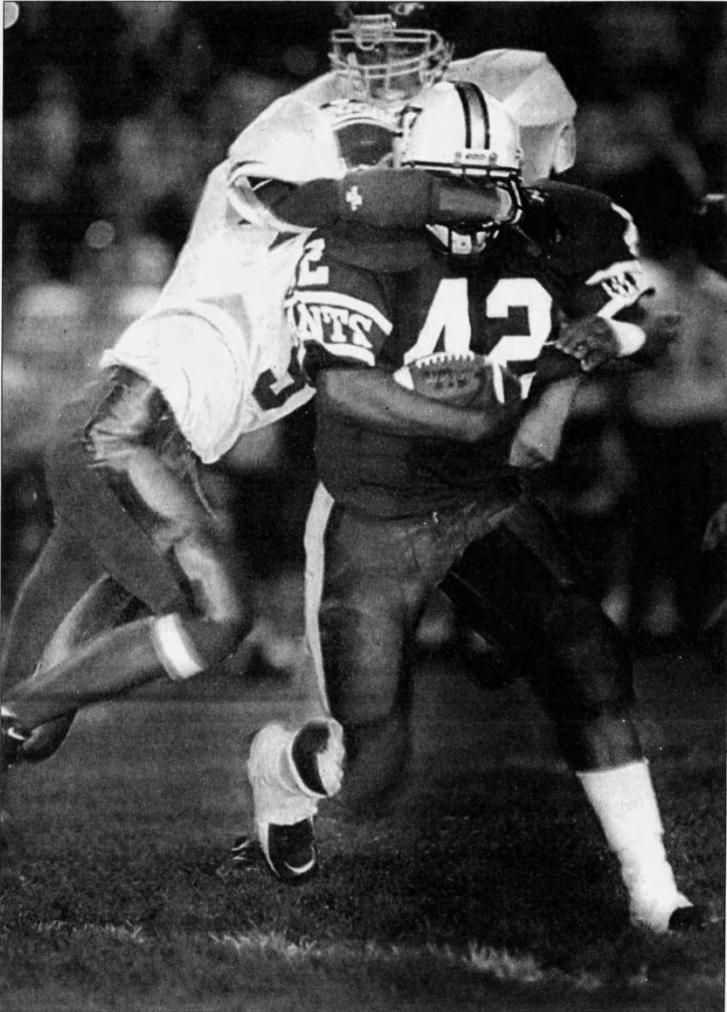
Kicker Tim Rakes made field goals of 31 and 37 yards and made the game-tying extra point from 25 yards after the Little Giants had been penalized 5 yards for illegal procedure.



THIESSEN



RAKES



BRENT AGNEW is hammered across the face by Isaac Fears of Oregon Clay during the first half Friday night at

Harmon Stadium. Agnew, a freshman, led Ross to a 43-7 victory with 168 yards rushing and four touchdowns.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Little Giants fly past Clay Eagles

Agnew scores four TDs

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Freshman Brent Agnew scored four touchdowns and ran for 168 yards as Fremont Ross routed Oregon Clay 43-7 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Ross is 4-3 and 3-2 in the Great Lakes League race, while Clay is 1-6 and winless in four GLL games.

Agnew scored on a 16-yard run in the first quarter but Ross struggled to a 7-7 halftime tie. Kyle Reau's 6-yard run and Adam Pfeiffer's kick tied the game with 7:58 remaining in the first half.

Running mainly behind the left side of the line and tackle Mike Byerly, Agnew gained 106 yards in the first half. But the Ross scoring machine did not awaken until the third quarter.

It became a nightmare in the final quarter for the Eagles defense.

"I was worried we would play a little flat," Ross coach Rex Radloff said. "We were very, very passive offensively and defensively. But in the second half, we had fun by playing hard."

Agnew's 3-yard run and Harry Liggins' two-point conversion run gave Ross a 15-7 lead four minutes into the second half.

Jeremy Halsinger's block of Jason Elders' attempted punt set up the Little Giants' go-ahead score. Shaun Root returned the

block 11 yards to the 17 and Agnew scored five plays later.

In the final quarter, Agnew scored from 3 and 13 yards and the Little Giants erupted for 28 points.

"That was a great game," Radloff said of the freshman running back, "and he is going to be with us three more years. If he keeps working at it and the offensive lines keep going, he can have a great career here."

Derek Thiessen added a touchdown on a 4-yard run and Kenny Morrisette scored the final Ross TD on a 37-yard run with 4:46 to play as the second-team took over for the Little Giants. Tim Rakes added the final point, his fifth PAT kick of the night.

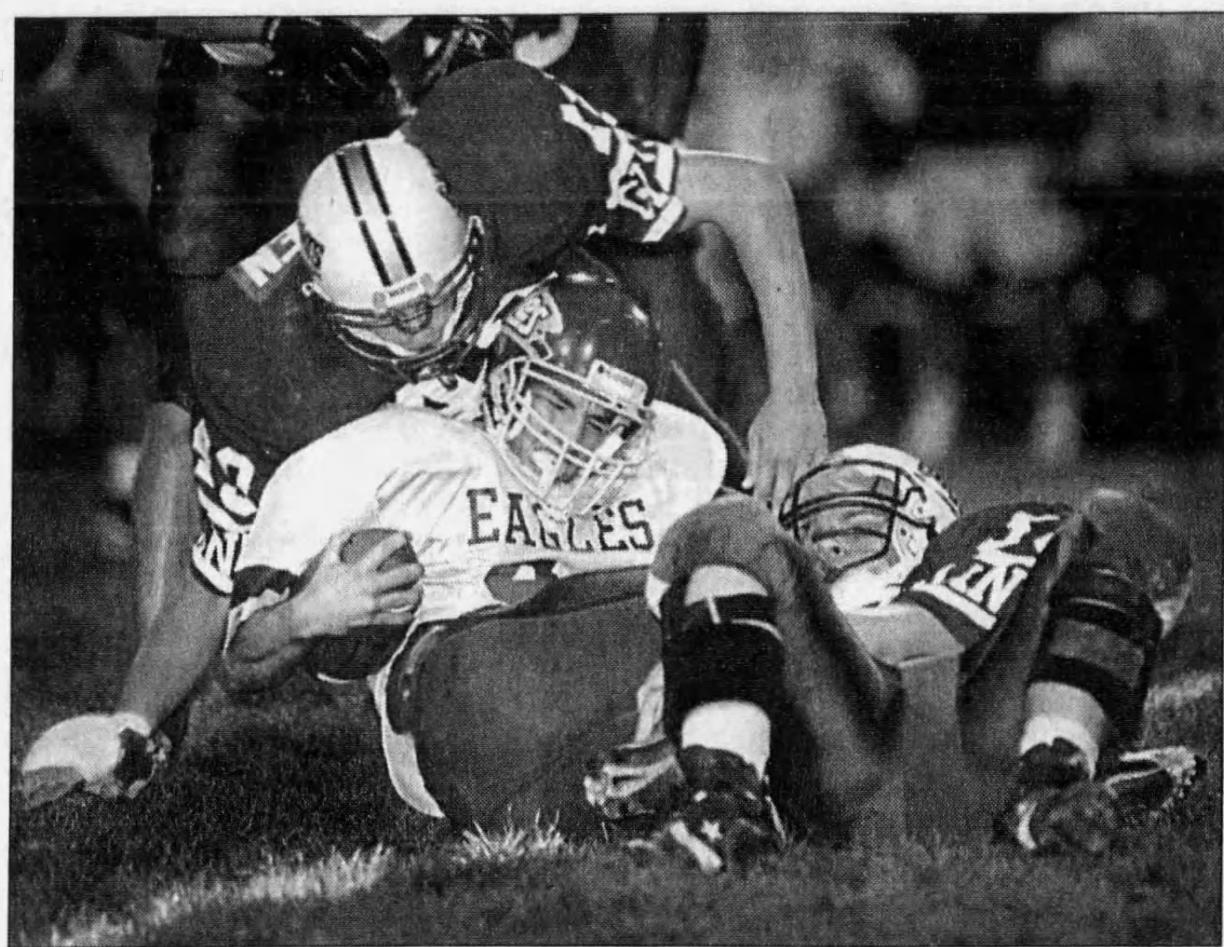
Part of the Ross game plan, Radloff said, was to work on the passing game.

"We knew we had to get it out to the wide receivers," Radloff said, "but we did not do it enough tonight. I still think we are getting better at it."

One time Ross did get the ball to a wide receiver, Brent Hufford took Liggins' pass 38 yards to the Clay 5, setting up Agnew's 2-yard scoring run. Hufford's second-effort run characterized the Ross second-half effort.

"All our backs ran hard," Radloff said, "but the other thing we did in the second half was we stayed with blocks."

And the Eagles could stay with the Little Giants no longer.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

The ball stops here

Fremont Ross defensive end Mike Kuyken (49) comes up from behind to help Jim Durbin (58) make the tackle on Oregon Clay running back Kyle Reau during sec-

ond play action Friday at Harmon Stadium. The Ross defense held the Eagles to 153 total yards in the Little Giants' 43-7 Great Lakes league win.

High School

Ross 43, Clay 7

Clay	0	7	0	0	—	7
Ross	7	0	8	28	—	43

Ross: Brent Agnew, 16 run (Tim Rakes kick), 2:02, 1st.

Clay: Kyle Reau, 6 run (Adam Pfeiffer kick), 7:58, 2nd.

Ross: Agnew, 3 run (Harry Liggins run), 8:16, 3rd.

Ross: Agnew, 13 run (Rakes kick), 11:01, 4th.

Ross: Agnew, 2 run (Rakes kick), 7:52, 4th.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 4 run (Rakes kick), 5:41, 4th.

Ross: Kenny Morissette, 37 run (Rakes kick), 4:46, 4th.

	C	R
First downs	8	16
Rushes/Yards	36/118	40/283
Passing Yards	35	66
Passes/Comp./Int.	11/3/2	10/4/0
Punts/Average	5/33.2	3/30
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	3/1
Penalities/Yards.....	1/5	1/5

RUSHING: Clay-Ron Henneman 7/33, Reau 17/51, Tom Swaya 6/22, Mike Mahaney 2/1, Ben Warnke 4/11. Ross-Liggins 3/18, Thiessen 5/23, Agnew 22/168, Travis Bulger 7/33, Morissette 2/41, Eric Lindsey 1/0.

PASSING: Clay-Henneman 8/1/2 -6, Warnke 3/2/0 -29. Ross-Liggins 10/4/0- 66

RECEIVING: Clay-Swaya 1/14, Mahaney 1/6, Chris Fajkos 1/15. Ross-Thiessen 2/23, Brent Hufford 1/38, Terry Cisco 1/5.

Records: Ross 4-3 (3-1), Clay 1-6 (0-4)

Little Giants concentrate on Northview

By BOB MARKER

Sports Editor

Stay focused.

That's the game plan for Fremont Ross in Week No. 8 of the high school football season.

It may be difficult.

The Little Giants travel to Sylvania Friday night to play winless Northview with Toledo Whitmer — unbeaten in the Great Lakes League — waiting in the wings.

"We have to work on improving ourselves to get ready for the final two games, which will be tough ones," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "But we cannot overlook Northview...they can play offense and some defense when they want to."

The figures say the opposite.

The Wildcats have been outscored 180-41. Ross is averaging 26 points a game the last five weeks while allowing less than 15 a contest.

"Really, Northview is not a very strong team," Radeloff said. "Our kids understand that but you cannot go out and play to the level of your opponent. We have to play to our own level and that is what we hope to do."

Playing down to an opponent may have been the Little Giants' problem last Friday against Clay. The Eagles entered the game 1-5 but held Ross to a 7-7 halftime tie.

Radeloff did not feel that way, instead pointing out a first-half turnover and a missed fourth-down conversion attempt deep in Clay territory.

"If we did not have the turnover and completed the pass, it probably would have gone on to be like the second half," Radeloff said.

In the second half, Ross outscored Clay 36-0.

Left tackle Mike Byerly led a Ross offensive line that consistently wiped out the Clay defense in the second half. Freshman tailback Brent Agnew, took advantage of blocks from Byerly, his running mate Brian Borer, guards Brandon Willer and Keith Decker and center Kyle Smith, to score four touchdowns.

"We have to go out and work hard, you know, to just get better this week," Radeloff said. "Last week, we were not a good football team for four quarters. We had two good, two bad. We have to improve that."

Focus, focus, focus...

Ross blanks Northview

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

SYLVANIA — The game was nearly over before it got started. By the end of the first quarter, there was no doubt about the outcome.

Derek Thiessen ran 59 yards for a score on the second play and scored twice more in the first quarter as Fremont Ross blanked Northview 33-0 in a Great Lakes League game Friday night.

The Ross defense allowed 75 total yards and recorded its first shutout of the season.

Still, Ross coach Rex Radeloff was only semi-pleased.

"We can't put a whole game together," Radeloff said. "We can put six to 10 plays together and then we have a three or four-play lapse. In this case, the whole second half we lapsed offensively. The next two weeks, we have to get it together."

Ross, 5-3 and 4-1, hosts Whit-



THIESSEN MORRISSETTE

mer next Friday before closing the season at Napoleon. Whitmer is 5-3 and 5-0 in league play after a 14-13 win over Bedford Friday.

Also Friday, Napoleon upset Findlay 29-14.

"We wanted to come out establish ourselves right away in the first half and try to continue in the second half," Radeloff said, "We did not get that accomplished."

Thiessen, moved back to tailback when freshman starter Brent Agnes was benched for a

half due to disciplinary reasons, scored his second TD on a 1-yard run three minutes into the game and capped off the 20-point first quarter with a 64-yard scoring run with 1:28 remaining.

The Ross junior had 161 yards on eight first-quarter carries and finished with 183 on 17 first-half attempts. He did not carry the ball in the second half as Agnew and sophomore Ken Morrisette shared the tailback slot.

"That's not a bad first half," Radeloff said. "We gave Agnew the opportunity; he played well and Kenny came in and did a nice job."

Agnew had a 62-yard run called back because of a holding penalty, one of 11 penalties called on the Little Giants.

Morrisette, who entered the game with 81 yards on three carries, gained 106 yards on 10 in the final quarter. He scored

the final Ross TD on a 45-yard run with 30 seconds remaining.

Ross amassed 319 yards rushing, its best of the season.

The other Ross TD came on a 34-yard blocked punt return by senior lineman J.R. Adkins. Sam Root blocked the punt, and Adkins scored 90 seconds into the second half.

The score highlighted the Little Giants' defensive effort. With linebackers Brandon Willer and Ben Burkett on the inside and Fred Cooley and Thiessen on the outside, Northview couldn't sustain an attack. Defensive end Mike Kuyken and Burkett recorded quarterback sacks.

"The defense played strong all night long," Radeloff said. "We were well prepared for them. We played hard inside and out...the whole defense played well all night."

All the offense had to do was play a quarter.

High School

Ross 33, Northview 0

Ross 20 0 7 6 — 33

Northview 0 0 0 0 — 0

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 59 run (kick failed), 11:00, 1st.

Ross: Thiessen, 1 run (kick failed), 9:14, 1st.

Ross: Thiessen, 64 run (Shaun Root pass from Harry Liggins), 1:28, 1st.

Ross: J.R. Adkins, 34 blocked punt return (Tim Rakes kick), 10:25, 3rd.

Ross: Ken Morissette, 45 run (kick failed), 0:32, 4th.

	R	N
First downs.....	11	3
Rushes/Yards.....	45/319	25/53
Passing Yards.....	28	22
Passes/Comp./Int.....	5/2/1	13/4/0
Punts/Average.....	3/41.0	6/34.0
Fumbles/Lost.....	3/1	2/1
Penalties/Yards.....	11/93	2/18

RUSHING: Ross—Liggins 3/1, Thiessen 17/183, Fred Cooley 2/14, GTravis Bulger 1/2, Brent Agnew 10/26, Morissette 10/106, Justin Cummings 1/0. Northview—Mike Ray 3/14, Matt Lewis 13/43, Dan Swade 4/4, Ryan Porter 2/17, Costa Petros 2/3.

PASSING: Ross—Liggins 5/2/1—28. Northview—Ray 13/4/0—22.

RECEIVING: Ross—Jeremy Haslinger 1/14, Root 1/14. Northview—Lewis 1/15, Swade 2/7.

Records: Ross 5-3 (4-1), Northview 0-8 (0-5).

Little Giants contend with Whitmer defense

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Toledo Whitmer brings a five-winning streak into Fremont Friday and the reason for the Panthers' success is summed up in one word: Defense.

The Panthers have allowed 25 points to five consecutive Great Lakes League opponents after giving up 39 in their first three games, all losses.

"They are really playing good defense," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said.

That would put the Little Giants' strength against the Panthers' strength. Ross, after being shut out in

its first two games, has scored over 27 per game since.

According to Radeloff, the Panthers have three of the better defensive players in the GLL: Inside linebacker Mike O'Brien (5-11, 190, junior), tackle West Keaton (6-2, 240, senior) and free safety Andy Boyd (6-2, 180, junior).

"O'Brien is tougher than nails," Radeloff said. "Keaton is probably one of the better defensive players I have seen over the years...he's real quick and a good technician."

Radeloff rates Boyd not far behind Keaton.

"Probably one of the factors that

may help us is six or seven players go both ways," Radeloff said.

That's a player or two more than the Little Giants.

The recent performance of running backs Brent Agnew and Kenny Morissette allows Ross to rest outside linebacker Derek Thiessen, who on offense runs out of the fullback and tailback slots.

Offensively, Whitmer will hit Ross with the option — something the Little Giants' have trouble defending.

"Boyd likes to run the option and he likes to keep the ball," Radeloff said.

The Panthers alternate a pair of

tailbacks, Charles Moses and Ernest Harmon.

"They have good speed," Radeloff said. "When they go to the wishbone, both will be in there."

Radeloff said the Panthers will offer a number of offensive formations, including I-formation, split backs and power sets.

"They try to confuse," he said, "not by plays, but by formations...try to get you out of place."

"But what they do is play tough defense and try not to make mistakes on offense."

Ross defense stiffens

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

A quick-strike offense took a back seat to a key defensive play as Fremont Ross defeated Whitmer 29-13 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Defensive end Mike Kuyken recovered a fumble by Whitmer punter Todd Calcamuggio with 1:45 to play in the third quarter for a touchdown, giving Ross a 22-7 lead.

The win raised Ross to 6-3 and kept alive its hopes of a share of the Great Lakes League championship at 5-1. The Little Giants and Whitmer are 5-1 in the GLL race, a game behind Fostoria.

Whitmer, 5-4, hosts Fostoria next week while Ross is at Napoleon.

"Hey, I thought this was going to be a defensive battle," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. He was right in the first half, but only partially correct in the second.

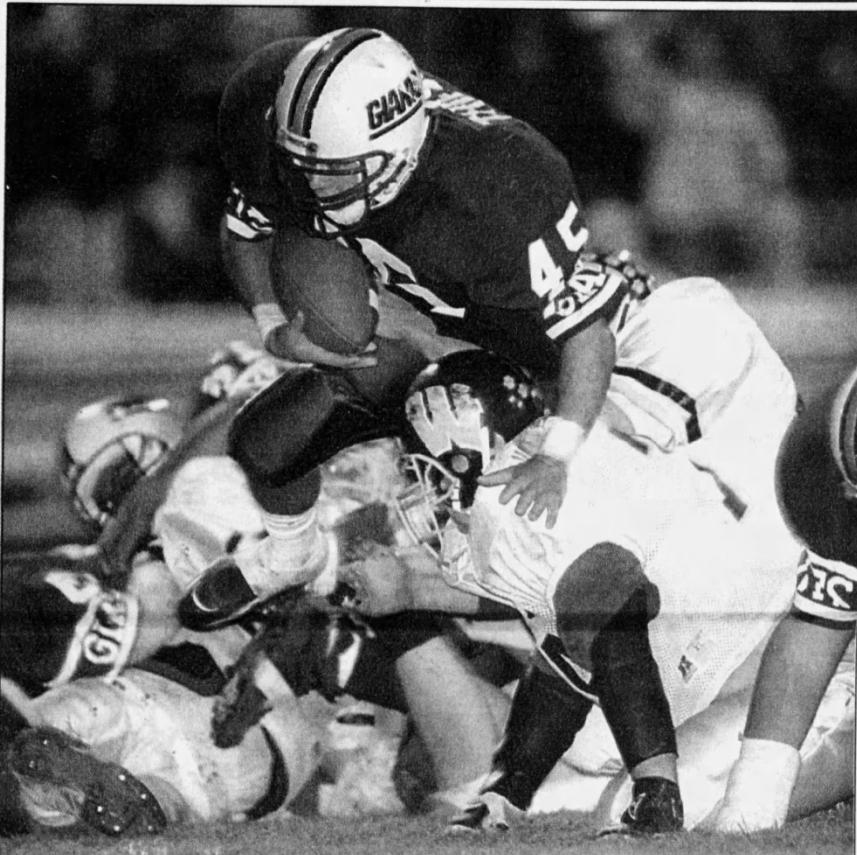
"The fans really got their money's worth in the second half," Radeloff said.

Whitmer allowed 25 points in GLL games prior to meeting Ross. But the Little Giants rushed for 281 yards.

Defense seemed to evaporate in the second half, but Ross played it well when necessary.

Whitmer finished with 254 total yards, but the Panthers managed merely 5 on three plays after a Ross drive stalled inside the Whitmer 5. Quarterback Harry Liggins scrambled with a high snap with Tim Rakes preparing to attempt a 30-yard field goal but was stopped inches short of a first down at the 3.

See ROSS, B2



DEREK THIESSEN of Fremont Ross tries to step over the pile into the end zone during the second quarter on Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Harry Liggins scored soon after to give Ross a 7-0 halftime lead. The Little Giants went on to a 29-13 victory.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Little Giants try taming Napoleon Wildcats

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

Toss out a quarter here and a half there, and the Fremont Ross football team has accomplished a goal most coaches set.

"I don't think there is any doubt about it, we have improved in all aspects," coach Rex Radeloff said. "We have come a long way; we are a good football team right now."

"I don't know how much respect we have but we certainly have it from Whitmer."

Last Friday's victory over Toledo Whitmer in the final home game brought a smile to Radeloff's face.

"It was a good way for the seniors to close out their high school career," he said. "Some of them may be putting on a football uniform for the last time and that win at Harmon Stadium was special."

The defensive secondary and offensive line stood out against Whitmer, continuing their fine play. Justin Conklin had his fourth interception and Sam Root his third.

"Justin has had a great season...and Harry Liggins has had a solid season back there," Radeloff said.

The offensive line may have scored a "10" on Brent Agnew's 63-yard game-clinching touchdown.

"Practically every defender we had to block, went down," Radeloff said. "It was very well blocked."

The improvement will have to continue against a good Napoleon team.

The Little Giants, 5-1 in Great Lakes League play, need a win over a

Napoleon team also bidding for its seventh win. A Ross victory coupled with a Whitmer win over Fostoria would create a three-way tie between the Little Giants, Redmen and Panthers for the league title.

"Napoleon is very basic," Radeloff said. "They run out of the full house, go off tackle and pound and pound and pound at you."

Fullback Mike Gerdeman is the main runner and quarterback Adam Vance throws fairly well. The Wildcats' attack features misdirection runs and play-action passes.

"Defensively, they run a straight '50.' They don't angle...they have played everyone tough all year," Radeloff said.

Napoleon's three losses have been to Bowling Green 25-12, Fostoria 34-29 and Whitmer 35-6. In the latter game, Whitmer scored a pair of defensive touchdowns.

The Little Giants' assignment is as simple as the Napoleon game scheme.

"We have to play the way we have been playing," Radeloff said.

Ross linebacker Brandon Willer is doubtful for Friday's game after breaking his right thumb and suffering ligament damage when his hand was caught in a Whitmer face mask.

Directions to the Napoleon High School football stadium, according to the Fremont Ross High School Athletic Department:

Take U.S. Route 6 west to Napoleon. Exit on State Route 108 south (a Holiday Inn is at the intersection) and turn left. Go through downtown Napoleon. The stadium is on the right.

Ross ends with tri-championship

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

NAPOLEON — Fremont Ross got the help it needed and settled for a Great Lakes League tri-championship after defeating Napoleon 38-18 Friday at Luse Field.

The win, coupled with Whitmer's 19-6 win over Fostoria, gave the three teams 6-1 GLL records. Ross, 7-3, shared the title with Fostoria last season.

"Everything came together tonight," Ross coach Rex Radloff said, "and thanks a lot to Whitmer."

Napoleon finished 6-4 and 4-3.



RAKES

"Hey, oh-and-2, not knowing what to expect from that point on, the seniors helped pick us up and did a great job," Radloff said of his team's 0-2 start.

A quartet of Little Giants were among many who stood out Friday.

■ Quarterback/defensive back Harry Liggins ran 24 and 44 yards for touchdowns and intercepted two passes.

■ Placekicker Tim Rakes connected on a school record 47-yard field goal and was perfect on all five extra-point kicks.

■ Running back Derek Thiessen gained 140 yards on 23 carries and finished his junior season with 1,015 yards rushing.

■ Fred Cooley's second blocked punt of the season set up the Little Giants' first touchdown, Travis Bulger's 24-yard

run up the middle off blocks by center Kyle Smith and guard Brandon Willer.

"Defensively, we may have given up some points but we got the turnovers when we needed them and we generated the offense when we needed to," Radloff said.

The Ross defense, led by Willer, Ben Burkett, Liggins, Chris Shull, Sam Root, Justin Conklin and Mike Kuyken, held the Wildcats to 54 yards rushing.

And the offensive line, with Keith Decker teaming with Willer, tackles Brian Borer and Mike Byerly and tight end Shaun Root, opened big holes for Ross backs to collect 277 yards rushing.

Rakes' field goal broke the record of Shawn McCarthy, a 44-yard kick that beat Findlay 13-11

in 1984. Rakes' kick put Ross up 10-0 four minutes into the second quarter.

Josh Behnfeld's 15-yard run cut the Little Giants' lead to 10-6 with six minutes left in the half, but Liggins scored his first TD to put Ross up 17-6.

Adam Vance passed 22 yards for a score to Chris Thompson on a fourth-and-10 play, cutting the Ross lead to 17-12 at halftime.

After a scoreless third quarter, Liggins ran 44 yards on the second play after his first interception for a 24-12 Ross lead. Liggins' second interception at the Napoleon 40 set up Thiessen's 22-yard TD run for a 31-12 lead with 4:28 to play.

Thompson hauled in a 6-yard scoring pass from Vance, cutting the Ross lead to 31-18 before Ross drove 51 yards for the final



LIGGINS



THIESSEN

touchdown. On the drive, Thiessen went over 1,000 yards on a 36-yard run to the 7. Brent Agnew's 5-yard TD run capped off the night.

Thiessen summed up the Ross effort when he was asked who had the biggest block on the run that put him over 1,000.

"All of them," he said.

It was that type of effort for the Little Giants.

High School

Ross 38, Napoleon 18

Ross	7	10	0	21	—	38
Napoleon	0	12	0	6	—	18

Ross: Travis Bulger, 24 run (Tim Rakes kick), 6:23, 1st.

Ross: Rakes, 47 field goal, 8:43, 2nd.

Napoleon: Josh Behnfeld, 15 run (run failed), 6:00, 2nd.

Ross: Harry Liggins, 24 run (Rakes kick), 2:39, 2nd.

Napoleon: Chris Thompson, 22 pass from Adam Vance (pass failed), 0:20, 2nd.

Ross: Liggins, 44 run (Rakes kick), 9:55, 4th.

Ross: Derek Thiessen, 22 run (Rakes kick), 4:28, 4th.

Napoleon: Thompson, 6 pass from Vance (pass failed), 3:21, 4th.

Ross: Brent Agnew, 5 run (Rakes kick), 1:41, 4th.

	R	N
First Downs	11	20
Rushes/Yards	40/277	39/54
Passing Yards	14	167
Passes/Comp./Ont.	5/1/0	29/10/2
Punts/Average	3/31.3	3/36.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/2
Penalties/Yards	8/80	4/30

RUSHING: Ross—Liggins 3/63, Thiesen 23/140, Bulger 6/50, Agnew 10/32, Graham Hogan 1/8. Napoleon—Vance 6/22, Mike Gerdeman 9/26, Thompson 8/16, Behnfeld 9/38, Todd Kruse 1/4, Allan Armes 4/17, Taggart Brubaker 1/2, Jon Tassler 1/27.

PASSING: Ross—Liggins 5/1/0—14. Napoleon—Vance 29/10/2—167.

RECEIVING: Ross—Brett Hufford 1/14. Napoleon—Thompson 4/68, Behnfeld 2/40, Jason Gerken 1/14, Alex Gerken 3/45.

Records: Ross 7-3 (6-1), Napoleon 6-4 (4-3).

Football

High School

5 Ross players on first teams

News-Messenger reports

Five Fremont Ross players were named to either the first team offense or defense in All-Great Lakes League selections by the coaches. The teams were officially announced Wednesday.

Tackle Mike Byerly and running back Derek Thiessen were selected on the first team offense while linebacker Brandon Willer and back Justin Conklin were first team defense picks. Placekicker Tim Rakes was also a first team offense selection.

Earning second team honors were tackle Brian Borer and tight end Shaun Root garnered second team offense honors. Defensive back Harry Liggins and linebacker Ben Burkett were named to the second team defense.

OFFENSE			
First Team			
Player, school	Gr	Ht	Wt
Heath Schwierking, Clay	Sr	6-1	210
Malcom Robinson, Fost.	Jr	6-3	237
Mike Byerly, Ross	Sr	6-1	230
Dave Bire, Whitmer	Jr	5-10	195
Mike Gerdeman, Nap.	Sr	5-10	215
Derek Thiessen, Ross	Jr	5-9	160
Chad Henman, Bedford	Sr	5-11	165
Jerry Dessausure, Fost.	Sr	6-0	160
Nathan Glick, Napoleon	Sr	6-3	250
Andy Boyd, Whitmer	Jr	6-2	180
Chris Adams, Findlay	Sr	6-0	210
Placekicker: Tim Rakes, Ross, Sr.	Sr.	5-5	140
Offensive lineman of the year: Glick			
Offensive back of the year: Henman			

Second Team			
Player, school	Gr	Ht	Wt
Ryan Russell, Fostoria	Sr	5-10	215
Isaac Fears, Clay	Sr	6-1	165
Justin Stutzman, Findlay	Sr	5-10	160
Josh Scott, Bedford	Sr	6-0	185
Ernest Harmon, Whitmer	Sr	5-11	175
Brian Borer, Ross	Jr	6-5	290
West Keaton, Whitmer	Sr	6-0	240
Eric Green, Fostoria	Sr	6-0	165
Ryan Porter, Northview	Sr	5-10	170
Dan Swade, Northview	Sr	5-10	170
Shaun Root, Ross	Sr	6-3	175

Honorable Mention

- N Bedford: Jason Kehoe, Dustin Winkler, Casey Bly, Dominic Andrews, Greg Messenger, Brian Sabo.
- Clay: Kyle Reau, Marc Berryman, Omar Abou-Arab, Bill Threet, Jason Kanthak, Chad Krompak.
- Findlay: Dwight Decker, Jason Lane, Cloyd Leon-Guerrero, Matt Casburn, John Henkelmann, Seth Rothery
- Fostoria: Mike Doogs, Eli Haughwout, Ryan Williams, Ted Jagucki, Tony Callahan Ross: Mike Kuyken, Fred Cooley, Keith Decker, Sam Root
- Napoleon: Jason Gerken, Kurt Borstelman, Ryan Fortner, Alex Gerken, Phil Gerken, Neal Gerdeman
- Northview: George France, Dan Estep, Brian Blakman, Ryan Connell, Brad Horseman, Nick Ciesinski
- Whitmer: Joe Kopke, Rene Oroczo, Justin Laux, Rico Young, Chad Lorton, Jamie Maher

Football

High School

All-Northwest Ohio Team
COLUMBUS (AP)—The 1995 Associated Press All-Northwest District high school football team, as voted by a media panel from the district:

DIVISION I

First Team

Offense

Ends—Mel Long, Tol. Scott, 6-foot-4, 165 pounds, Senior; Scott Swan, Tol. Waite, 6-3, 180, Sr. Linemen—Joe Perry, Mans. Senior, 6-2, 285, Sr.; Shaun Mason, Tol. St. John's, 6-6, 265, Sr.; Matt Dennis, Tol. St. John's, 6-2, 250, Sr.; Marc Voiers, Lima Senior, 6-1, 265, Sr.; **MIKE BYERLY, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 230, Sr.** Quarterback—Mark McKone, Tol. St. John's, 6-1, 185, Sr. Backs—Jim Lee, Tol. St. John's, 5-10, 180, Sr.; Curtis Cooper, Tol. Bowsher, 5-10, 150, Jr.; Dan Norris, Mans. Madison, 6-3, 185, Sr. Kicker—Jeff DelVerne, Tol. St. John's, 5-1, 185, Sr.

Defense

Linemen—Shanan Aaron, Sandusky, 5-9, 205, Sr.; Rick Butter, Tol. Start, 6-1, 215, Sr.; Marshall Levins, Mans. Senior, 6-3, 220, Sr.; Mike Montgomery, Findlay, 6-3, 220, Sr. Linebackers—Mike O'Brien, Tol. Whitmer, 5-11, 190, Jr.; Andy Vierbeck, Tol. St. Francis, 6-1, 200, Jr.; **BRANDON WILLER, Fremont Ross, 6-2, 215, Sr.**; Ben Ohlemacher, Sandusky, 6-2, 205, Sr. Backs—Andre Jackson, Lima Senior, 5-11, 200, Sr.; Ed Ziemke, Tol. St. John's, 6-0, 180, Sr.; Tim Wagner, Tol. St. Francis, 6-3, 170, Sr. Punter—Derek Chelminski, Tol. Central Cath., 6-4, 197, Sr.

Offensive player of the year: Dan Norris, Mans. Madison.

Defensive player of the year: Ed Ziemke, Tol. St. John's.

Lineman of the year: Shaun Mason, Tol. St. John's.

Coach of the year: Dick Cromwell, Tol. St. Francis.

Second-Team

Offense

Ends—Nate McAfee, Tol. Bowsher, 6-2, 215, Sr.; Matt Williams, Mans. Madison, 6-5, 220, Sr. Linemen—Joe Fairchild, Mans. Senior, 6-3, 250, Sr.; Cory Zwick, Ashland, 6-1, 230, Sr.; Wade Dutridge, Tol. Bowsher, 5-11, 160, Jr.; Dave Baker, Tol. St. Francis, 6-1, 310, Sr.; Chris Adams, Findlay, 6-1, 210, Sr. Quarterback—Jake Soliday, Mans. Senior, 6-2, 190, Jr. Backs—William Bratton, Lima Senior, 5-11, 200, Sr.; Delano Smith, Tol. Start, 6-0, 170, Sr.; Wayne Durrah, Sandusky, 5-10, 165, Sr.

Defense

Linemen—Brian Greer, Tol. St. Francis, 6-1, 180, Sr.; Matt Baldwin, Tol. St. John's, 6-3, 265, Sr.; Brent Fink, Tol. Cent. Cath., 5-7 1/2, 203, Sr.; Mike McCartney, Tol. St. Francis, 5-9, 180, Sr. Linebackers—Mike Butcher, Tol. Start, 5-9, 190, Sr.; Gary Beier, Tol. St. John's, 5-10, 175, Sr.; Ryan Wojciechowski, Tol. Bowsher, 5-10, 195, Sr.; Doby Lantz, Mans. Madison, 5-10, 215, Jr. Backs—**HARRY LIGGINS, Fremont Ross, 6-1, 160, Jr.**; Josh Peterson, Mans. Madison, 6-1, 165, Jr.; Jason Schaetzke, Tol. Bowsher, 6-2, 170, Sr.

Area Honorable Mention
Derek Thiessen, Tim Rakes, Justin Conklin, Fremont Ross.

Football

High School

Willer wins MVP award

News-Messenger reports

Brandon Willer was named the most valuable player on the Fremont Ross Little Giants football team during the team's awards program Tuesday evening in the Ross High School cafeteria.

Willer, a two-way starter at linebacker and guard, was named to the Associated Press All-Northwest Ohio District defensive first team last week. The senior also received a captain's trophy as did co-captain Justin Conklin.

Coach Rex Radeloff and his assistant coaches handed out several special awards during the program. The Little Giants finished 7-3 after beginning the season with two consecutive losses. Ross was one of three team



WILLER

tying for the Great Lakes League championship.

Senior Mike Byerly, a first-team AP All-Northwest District first team offensive pick, was named the team's outstanding offensive lineman. Keith Decker won the award for defensive linemen.

Junior Derek Thiessen, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards, won the outstanding offensive back award while Conklin, a senior who had four interceptions, was named the top defensive back.

Linebacker Ben Burkett, who started alongside Willer at inside linebacker, was named the most improved senior. Defensive back Sam Root won the most improved junior award.

Freshman Brent Agnew was named the outstanding first-year player and senior Mike Dabrunz won the True Grit award. The True Grit award is given to the player who is not necessarily a starter or may not play much, but who exemplifies team spirit through practice and enthusiasm.

Willer All-Ohio

Associated Press

COLUMBUS — It wasn't the willingness of Brandon Willer to move from fullback to guard but rather his play at linebacker for Fremont Ross that earned him a spot on the 1995 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio high school football team announced Monday.



WILLER

As important as Willer's position was to the Little Giants' turnaround after an 0-2 start, it was his ability to anchor the defense that stood out.

Willer, a 6-foot-2, 215-pound inside linebacker, anchored the Ross run defense. He made 126 tackles to go with two fumble recoveries, two interceptions and two batted-down passes.

Ross tackle Mike Byerly was a special mention pick.