

Little Giants' season comes to an end

By Kevin Shields

Sports writer

FINDLAY — Ben Morroney was a man under fire on Thursday night.

Ross' junior goalkeeper stood up to 53 total Perrysburg shots, including 19 on goal, making 13 saves. But the Little Giants' season came to an end in a 6-0 setback to the Yellow Jackets in a Division I sectional game at Findlay High School.

Stephen Beaujean tallied a hat trick for Perrysburg. Two of his three goals came in the opening 10 minutes of the second half as the Yellow Jackets (8-7-2) broke open what was a 2-0 game at halftime.

Morroney was impressive in net in the opening 40 minutes, making eight saves on 10 shots. He surrendered a single goal in regulation play, the other came on a penalty shot by Perrysburg's Nasser Jemaa with 1:57 left in the half. Beaujean had opened the scoring with a goal at 28:01.

"I thought Fremont Ross came out in the first half and did

a nice job of keeping us at bay," Yellow Jackets coach Mike Timbrook said. "We weren't real happy with our performance overall in the first half. So we challenged ourselves to come out and play a little better in the second half, which we did."

Overmatched and out-skilled, Ross knew it would have to change its game plan. The Yellow Jackets were a hot team, having won seven of their previous eight games entering the postseason, including two games against top-10 teams in the polls. Meanwhile, the Little Giants, filled with young, inexperienced players, had taken their lumps throughout the regular-season in a one-win campaign.

So it was no surprise the Yellow Jackets easily controlled the game's possession.

"We didn't plan on playing a possession match in the first place," said Ross coach Phil Collision of his team's strategy. "We knew what we were going to do, we were going to compact in the back and try to get a counter at-

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tack out of it.

"On a couple chances, we had some small opportunities, just didn't get the numbers going the other way we needed."

Perrysburg fired 28 shots in the first half, with most coming from far outside or inside the goal box.

"(Ross) kept the high line where they kept their guys pushed up and our guys became, just what I call greedy," Timbrook said. "They wanted to run in straight line and they just wanted to kick the ball and try to run onto it and that's not how you play the game."

"In the second we got around the corners a lot more and we played the ball across a lot more. That really allowed us to come out with more opportunities."

The Little Giants' lone shot came in the first half when junior Fabian Ramirez sailed a long free kick over the Perrysburg net.

"They (the Little Giants) didn't roll over, they kept playing," Timbrook said. "Their goalie (Morroney) did a really nice job, and made some really good saves."

Added Collison: "Actually, I thought the night went well. I'm happy. The first half was close, you take away that penalty kick and it's a close match score-wise."

"In a whole, though, the kids played hard. They held their shape and held their position. They gave it 110 percent and should hold their heads high."

Collison was playing eight freshmen in Thursday's match, as he will lose just two seniors.

"I primarily had freshmen and sophomores on the field, and that in itself, is a great thing," he said. "They did a good job this year and it's something we can look forward to building on."

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