

Little Giants fall in district semifinal

Ross beaten by St. Marys

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

TIFFIN — Linda Lauth came down with a convenient case of forgetfulness.

The St. Marys Memorial softball coach neglected to tell her Lady Riders that Fremont Ross was 19-2 and on a 13-game winning streak entering Monday's Division I district semifinal.

Her strategy paid off. St. Marys, much like Ross has done all season, came up with some clutch hits and

played error-free in a 7-4 victory at Tiffin University.

"I never told them what their record was," said Lauth. "I felt there wasn't any pressure on us, we were only 11-8. I just said to go out and have fun, and everything else would take care of itself."

Everything did take care of itself, as the normally surferdfield Little Giants made six errors and lost in the district semifinal round for the second year in a row.

"You can't have six errors and beat any quality team," said Ross coach Mike Gilbert. "We just had too many errors, that's how we got beat. When you get this far, you have to play errorless."

Softball

The Little Giants (19-3) mustered only one run and two hits in the first five innings and trailed 7-1, before mounting a comeback in the final two innings.

The Lady Riders (12-8) collected 10 hits, three each by Jill Zwiebel and Liz Krush.

"We've been practicing (hitting) and it's been working," said Krush. "We got up there did what we were supposed to. Confidence was a big thing."

Ross's Jenny Schaff opened the game with a triple and scored on a Jenn Mielke sacrifice fly. But St.

Marys tied the game with an unearned run in the bottom of the first, and took the lead in the second as Ashley Triplett tripled and scored on a wild pitch.

St. Marys caught a break in the top of the third. With two outs and Allyson Hickey on first, Mielke ripped a double into the left centerfield gap. Hickey would likely have scored easily, but the ball bounced over the fence forcing her to stop at third.

In the bottom of the third, Zwiebel led off with a double and scored on a base hit by Krush. After a fielder's choice and an error, winning

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Bucyrus knocks off Woodmore 3-0

New-Messenger reports

WILLARD — Woodmore pitcher Sarah Bowen pitched well Monday, but Bucyrus pitcher Jessie Heile was a little bit better, leading the Redmen to a 3-0 victory over the Wildcats in a Division III district semifinal game at Willard High School.

Heile limited the 'Cats to just five hits as Bucyrus advanced to the district final. Bowen pitched 6½ innings, striking out four batters, and scored two earned runs on six hits. She did not walk a batter.

"They only out-hit us 6-5,

and that's one of the best-hitting teams I've seen in years," Woodmore coach Dean Sandwich said. "That was a tribute to Sarah. She had an outstanding game and she deserved to win."

"We just couldn't support her at the plate."

The game was scoreless until the fifth, when the Redmen scored three times on two hits and two errors.

"Bucyrus is a good team," Sandwich said.

"You can't give a good team runs and expect to win."

Ross falls to St. Marys at Tiffin

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pitcher Mindy Lauth's base hit scored Amy Carpenter for a 4-1 lead. The Lady Riders sent nine batters to the plate and tacked on three more runs.

"I was really pleased with the way we came and hit the ball, we were aggressive," coach Lauth said. "When others make mistakes, we're going to be aggressive and take advantage."

Meanwhile, Lauth frustrated the Little Giants at the plate. After Mielke's double, Lauth retired seven batters in a row.

But Ross finally started to get to her in the sixth. Schaff walked to lead off the inning and, two outs later, Jodi Pick tagged a ground rule double

to left center.

Ainsley Watkins followed with a two-run single to left center.

The Little Giants rallied in the seventh. Ashleigh Horn and Hickey led off with back-to-back singles and, one out later, Schaff blooped an RBI single to center.

But Lauth retired the next two hitters to end the ballgame.

"We came back in the last few innings, we didn't quit," Gilbert said. "It's a good bunch of kids and we're a good team and I'm still proud of them."

"It's a game, and there had got to be a winner and there's got to be a loser. Tonight we were the loser."

In another district semifinal:

Softball

Old Fort 16, Seneca East 2

OLD FORT — Jenny Seigley was 4-for-5 with a home run as Old Fort whipped Seneca East 16-2 in a Div. III district semifinal.

Seigley also drove in four runs.

Randi Whitman, Heather Webb and Rachel McCalla each had three hits for the Stockeders, while Julie Koch and Erin Rau added two apiece.

Rau pitched seven innings for the win on the mound. She gave up eight hits.

April Hollinger took the loss for the Tigers.

In regular season action Monday:

North Baltimore 14, St. Joe 9

North Baltimore took a 13-1 lead and then survived for a 14-9 Midland Athletic League win over St. Joseph Central Catholic at Rodger Young Park.

Melissa Geller doubled and tripled and Jamie Heberling bled for the Crimson Steaks (8-15, 4-4).

Lakota 7, Genoa 2

GENOA — Winning pitcher Ashley Lockmiller helped her own cause by driving in four runs as Lakota beat Genoa 7-2 in the Suburban Lakes League. Jamie Ray and Crystal Miller both went 2-for-3 and Jenni Bomer was 2-for-4 for the Raiders.