

Ross taken out of its game at tournament

By Kevin Shields

Sports writer

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross coach Phil Collison couldn't have summed up Monday's Division I sectional tournament loss to Lima Senior much better.

"It was just one of those things," he said.

In a game with two evenly-matched teams that weren't surrendering many quality scoring chances, it appeared whichever team caught a break first would be the one advancing to Thurs-

day's final.

Lady Luck just so happened to choose the Spartans.

Jose Saavedra's goal with 7:07 remaining in the second half broke a scoreless tie, giving Lima Senior a 1-0 victory in the game played at Findlay High School.

Saavedra's shot from the right side, just outside the penalty area, sailed over Ross goalkeeper Kevin Harmon's head and caught the back post high on the left side. It was one of just eight shots on for the Spartans in the game.

Lima Senior will play Perrys-

burg Thursday at 5 p.m.

"Both teams played hard, and everybody gave 110 percent," Collison said. "Sometimes that's just the way it goes. In this case, it was just one missed cleared ball."

Ross (2-10-2) had limited the Spartans chances all game, holding them to seven total shots in the first half and just eight in the second 40 minutes. But the Little Giants could never get a high percentage scoring opportunity.

Instead, they settled for a lot of shots that had no power to them.

"We didn't do as well as I'd have

liked at playing our game," Collison said.

"We played their game too much at times. Just kicking it and chasing it, never slowing the ball down and only playing it forward.

"We couldn't put together the two or three passes to create that good scoring opportunity that we needed."

Jose Garcia generated one of the Little Giants' best scoring attempts just 30 seconds prior to the winning goal. His shot slowly rolled into the hands of Spartans' goalkeeper Nathaniel Biederman.

Brett Foos had another good attempt off a header go wide of the net 12 minutes into the second half from a Garcia corner kick.

Meanwhile, Harmon and the defense made key stops to keep the game scoreless. One included senior Adam Jenkins sacrificing his body to make a stop just inside the right side of the goal box.

Lima Senior was shy to pull the trigger when some good looks at the net presented themselves, something its coach said was typical.

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"I've been begging the kids to shoot, and finally one of my seniors stepped up," Spartans coach Mitchell Monfort said. "He hasn't taken a shot like that all year.

"That was just a beautiful hit. Everything about it was gorgeous."

Harmon made six saves for Ross. Biederman finished with five for the Spartans.

The Little Giants will say goodbye to eight seniors. But it was a group that included eight sophomores and two freshmen as well.

"This will be our year of growth," Collison said. "The seniors we had this year did a good job of leading and setting the way for the kids coming up through the program."

"Though they didn't get to reap the award of earning 'W's,' they kept the program alive. They taught the kids tradition and how to work hard. I'm proud of them, and we'll be a better team going forward because of them."

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