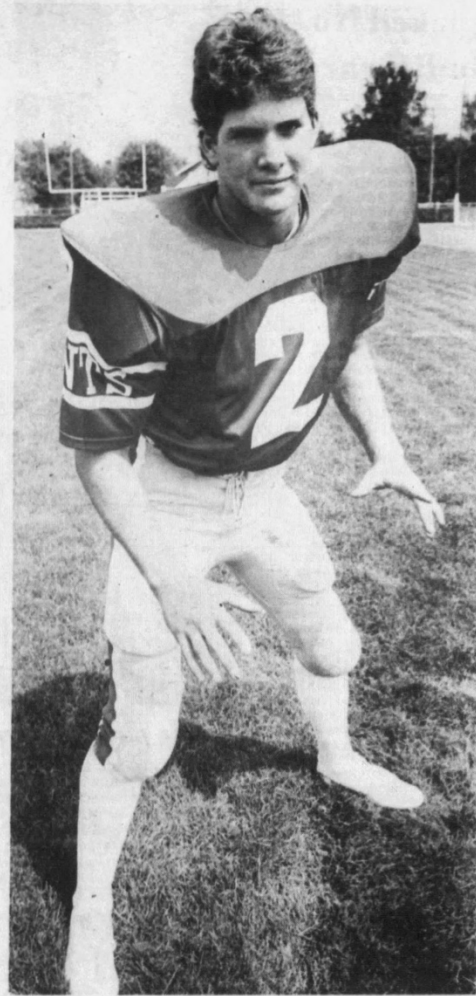


1984 Football Season



DEREK ISAMAN, right, will serve as a co-captain for the 1984 Ross High School Little Giants. The 6-4, 200-pound senior will play outside linebacker and work offensively at tailback. Isaman was named as a pre-season High School All-American by *Street & Smith* magazine. CRAIG MOSSER, left, will be returning at one of the defensive inside linebacker slots for Ross. He lettered at the position last season. Mosser, a senior, is 6-3 and weighs 205 pounds.



Three returnees form Ross defensive nucleus

Ross has been hit as hard by graduation this season as the defensive unit did to opponents while recording six shutouts in 12 games last season.

"We have Chris Simmons, Derek Isaman and Craig Mosser back," Joe Siesel, the Little Giants' defensive coordinator, said, "so we lost eight starters."

The trio will serve as the nucleus of the vaunted Ross "60" or "4-4" defense. Isaman and Simmons are being recruited by many major colleges and Isaman has been named to *Street & Smith's* pre-season high school All-American list.

"It's a free-for-all after that," Siesel insisted and added that numerous small injuries have hurt his search for his starting defenders.

"They are down (injured)," he said shortly before Ross's first scrimmage, "but not permanently down."

Siesel tossed out a tentative list of starters.

Dave Kovalesski and Doug McClure at the ends with Mark Nitschke, a starting offensive guard, also in the picture. The tackles are Jim Kline and George Weissinger, Ryan Bliss or Bob Carmel. Kline is a 190-pound senior, Weissinger, 175-pound senior while Bliss is a junior 195-pounder and Carmel 6-2, 200-pound senior.

Mosser, 6-3, 205-pound senior, will anchor the inside linebacker tandem. Chuck Mamula, 6-3, 195 senior, along with Todd Beatty, the starting offensive fullback and David Growell, 5-11, 185-

senior, seeing duty at the other inside spot.

On the outside, Isaman and Simmons are definite starters. Simmons was at defensive end last season but was moved to the linebacker slot to insure that he and Isaman would not wind up on the same side of the field. Ross plays one of its outside linebackers over the tight end with that most likely being Simmons. Isaman will usually be playing on the wide side of the field.

Simmons is 6-2, 230 this season, about 20 pounds heavier than last year. Isaman is expected to play at about 195.

Spelling those two at times could be 5-10, 175-pound senior Todd Hasselbach.

In the defensive secondary, John Lozano, a junior, senior Thad Lee, T.J. Winans and Scott Provard are in the running for the halfback slots. Winans is recovering from a broken hand.

At the safety slot, junior Kevin Hively along with sophomore

Jerry Palomo are begin considered by Siesel.

Even though the Little Giants have only three returning starters back, Siesel pointed out that many players he is looking at had some experience last season. He also did not rule out the possibility that some sophomores could figure prominently, maybe not as starters but in backup roles this season.

Early in the season, Siesel said, Ross could have four or five playing both offense and defense.

"I am sure the defense will come around," Siesel said. "I anticipate that it will be a solid team but we may play two or three games before we really know how solid it will be."

Siesel recalled the first 1983 pre-season scrimmage when Whitmer demolished his squad.

"We should have been 1-9 based on that," he smiled, "but you cannot go by that. Last year the guys kept getting better and I hope that is going to happen this year."

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Little Giants picked No. 1 in BC race

Fremont Ross is expected to be at the top again this season in the Buckeye Conference.

Unlike in several of the past seasons, the title game in the conference could come in the first week of conference games when the Little Giants entertain the Lorain Admiral King Admirals at Harmon Stadium.

Last year, Ross nipped the Admirals 14-13 and if the coaches' predictions are right, Ross will win that game and the Admirals will have to settle for second. With Ross at the top and Admiral King second, Lorain Senior is predicted to finish third with the bottom four slots a toss-up. Looked at closely, however, the bottom of the standings could have Findlay fourth, Sandusky fifth, Marion Harding sixth and Elyria looking up at everyone else.

Ross will be led by seniors Derek Isaman and Chris Simmons, both All-Buckeye Conference performers last year and All-Ohio candidates this season. In addition to that duo, the Little Giants will have inside linebacker Craig Mosser in helping the trio form the nucleus of what is traditionally a strong Little Giants defensive unit.

Lettermen Scott Cross at center, guard Mark Nitschke and tackle Mike Bobay along with quarterback/place kicker and punter Shawn McCarthy are expected to anchor Ross offensively. Returnee Kris Smith is expected to open at the tight end and along with a couple of speedy wide receivers is expected to give Ross a stable passing attack.

Admiral King will feature a strong offensive backfield featuring the 4.5 speed of tailback Eric West and quarterback Joe Morales who clicks off the 40 in 4.6.

Coupled with that duo will be fullback Willie Moore (4.7).

The Admirals have eight starters back, seven on defense. The defense is expected to the strength of King while a possible weakness if the offensive line.

Lorain Senior boasts a strong junior class with the offensive backfield being made up of juniors.

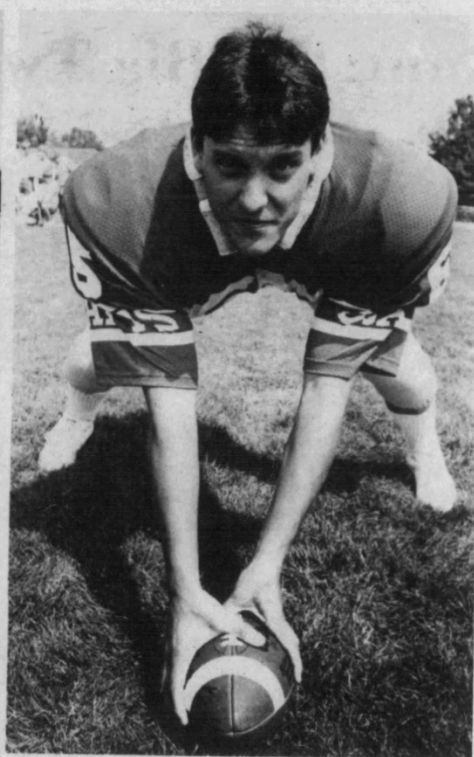
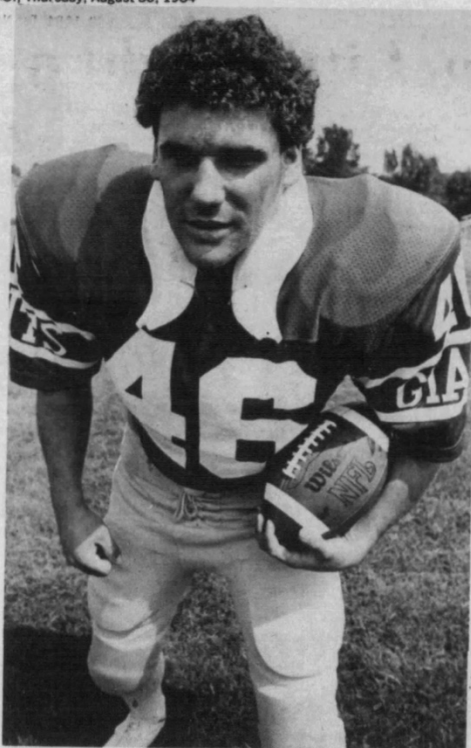
Defense, however, especially the interior, is supposed to the Steelmen's strong point with a plethora of tackles anchoring that unit. Scott Bryan, a 190-pound senior who plays defensive tackle and offensive guard, is the kingpin of the group.

Larry Findlay is the biggest of the Steelmen line at 238 while Jeff Reynolds and Mark Ballard playing at nearly 200.

The defense will also show a new look, switching from a "4-4" to a "4-3".

In the offensive backfield, Dennis Hughes, 4.5 in the 40, will be at tailback with Carson Coates operating at quarterback. Powerful Steve Johnson will be the fullback.

There is one new coach in the Buckeye Conference this season but he is very familiar with the other six schools. Bill Jones, formerly at Findlay for more than 10 seasons, will guide the Elyria Pioneers this season.



Back for more in '84

Todd Beatty, left, and Scott Cross are two of the Ross Little Giants' nine returning lettermen in 1984. Beatty, a 5-11, 200-pound senior fullback, had the distinction of scoring Ross's final two touchdowns of the 1983 season. His short run to paydirt gave the Little Giants a 7-0 victory over Sandusky in the Division I quarterfinal game at Harmon Stadium and the final Ross touchdown was the only tally against Cincinnati Princeton

in a 35-7 loss in the playoff semifinals at Dayton Welcome Stadium. Beatty could also see some time defensively at a linebacker slot this season. Cross, a 5-10, 180-pound senior, will be a co-captain for the Little Giants this season. He was the starting center for the 1983 team and will be back at that position this season.



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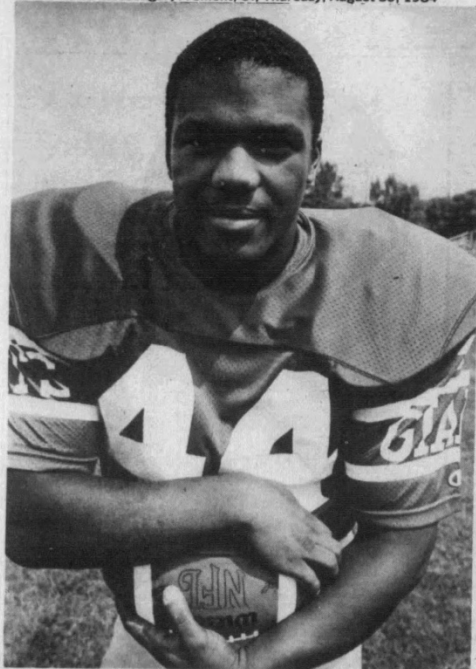
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FREMONT



LITTLE GIANTS lettermen, above, from the 1983 season are comprised of eight seniors and one junior. Front row, left to right: fullback Todd Beatty, center and co-captain Scott Cross, guard Mark Nitschke and tight end Kris Smith. Back row: linebacker Craig Mosser, tailback/linebacker Chris Simmons, quarterback/punter/place kicker Shawn

McCarthy, wingback/linebacker co-captain Derek Isaman and tackle Mike Bobay. McCarthy is the lone junior. At the left, Simmons will be Ross's starting tailback after seeing partial duty there in 1983. He and Isaman are expected to be on the field practically the whole game for Ross.

Line is expected to be team strength

Major repair job for Ross offense

Ross lost its starting quarterback, tight end, wingback, split end, a tackle and a guard, tailback and fullback from its 1983 season.

So what else is new?
"I'd say it is a major rebuilding job," Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff conjectured but at the same time said the problem is similar to what the Little Giants faced before the 1983 season.

Ross does have experience returning at the tailback and fullback slots and the returnees could give Radeloff one of the biggest backfields in recent years.

Chris Simmons, who has built up to approximately 230 pounds, will be at tailback. The 6-2 senior can click off the 40 yards in nearly 4.6 seconds. Running ahead of him in the fullback slot will be Todd Beatty, a solid 200 pounder.

Move out to wingback, and Derek Isaman, 190, will draw the starting job. Isaman and Simmons are all-Ohio candidates and are being heavily recruited by major colleges.

Simmons, however, was bothered by a twisted knee during the early part of the August drills and missed the first scrimmage but returned for the final two. Junior John Lozano is the primary backup for both Simmons and Beatty. Trent Brown could also see action in the tailback slot in the early season. Doug McClure will serve as Isaman's backup.

"The key thing early in the season," Radeloff said, "is to get experience for the new kids. We have to take it slow and work on

the basics."

That was a good formula for Ross in 1983 as each week the squad continued to improve and pick up depth.

Quarterback is a question mark for Ross with senior Troy Laird and junior Shawn McCarthy in the running. "We are limited in some respects as far as the option is concerned," Radeloff said about his primary signal-calling contenders.

"I can see us throwing the ball more than in the past; not as much as in the Tom Woleslagel years (nearly 2,400 yards passing in two seasons) but more than in

the past," Radeloff contended.

"Our number one priority, though, is the running game. That offensive line and the running game was the key to our success last season."

Anchoring the line will be returning lettermen Scott Cross at center and guard Mark Nitschke along with two-year letterman Mike Bobay.

Shay Moran, a junior, is expected to be the backup at both center and guard while Kyle Amor will probably draw the other starting guard slot. Ryan Brant is also expected to be in the second tandem of guards with

Moran.

Dan Gangwer, Andy Chambers and Rick DeLeon are vying for a tackle slot opposite Bobay.

"We have to control the line of scrimmage," Radeloff said, "and that is a situation that we faced last season."

Tight end is expected to be a strong point for the Little Giants with Kris Smith, who saw limited action at the position in 1983, and Dave Kovaleski sharing duties.

Kevin Hively, a junior and one of the quickest Little Giants, along with Gregg Gallagher and Karl Bury are battling for the

split end slot. Bury, a senior who has not played football the past two years, has been impressive during the August drills.

"The key to all this," Radeloff said, "is that we must improve each week — all coaches say that — but we did it last year and we hope to do it again this season."

"We did not have many injuries last year and we cannot have them this year."

A negative factor that affects both the offense and defense is Ross could have as many as five players going both ways in the early season.



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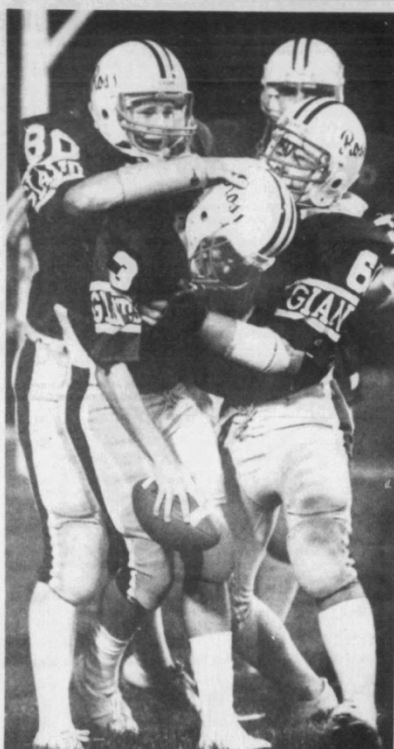
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Fremont



Sports



GREGG GALLAGHER (3) is congratulated by his Ross teammates after he scored the Little Giants' touchdown in the win over Mansfield Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Gibsonburg wins No. 1

The Gibsonburg Golden Bears ended a 13-game losing streak with a 14-12 victory over Ottawa Hills Friday night.

In three other area high school football games last night, Port Clinton beat Genoa 11-6, Bellevue handled Huron 24-13 and Upper Sandusky stunned Margaretta 17-13.

At Ottawa Hills, Gibsonburg won its first game since Oct. 15.

7 lead with two fourth-quarter scores, one a quarterback sneak by Niederkohr and the other a 33-yard field goal by Jim Bailey.

Margaretta closed out the scoring on a 51-yard pass from Jim Bodey to Greg Wiedenheft with 1:29 left in the game. Earlier, Bodey hit Brian Stimmel with a 53-yard scoring strike.

Simply...Ross beat Mansfield

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

"Let's make this simple," Pete Moore said moments after Ross had blanked Mansfield 9-0 in the season opening high school football game for both schools, "the only good thing about this game is we won."

Other than that, Moore, the Ross Little Giants head coach, was quietly smoldering.

His team had just enough to burn the Tygers at Harmon Stadium, scoring on a 23-yard Shawn McCarthy field goal in the first quarter and sneaking in a 24-yard touchdown pass from McCarthy to Gregg Gallagher with less than two minutes left in the game.

In between those plays, both teams played giveaway — Ross more than Mansfield. Ross took the ball away from the Tygers with sheer defense while the Little Giants fumbled a half dozen times and lost the pigskin five of those times.

"I don't mind fumbles if they are the result of great hits," Moore said, "but I cannot accept it when we just fumble ourselves."

"The kids were not mentally ready; they were a little too relaxed and I think they took these guys (Mansfield) too lightly," Moore said somewhat grimly. "We cannot take anyone lightly."

Ross generated 153 net yards rushing and another 36 in the air while picking up 12 first downs.

"You cannot fumble and score points, and we fumbled and did not score," Rex Radeloff, Little Giants offensive coordinator said logically. "We were inconsistent and that may be an understatement."

"One of the good things that came out of this was the experience for the younger kids like Shawn, Kyle Amor, Gallagher and (Dan) Gangwer and others. You have to feel good about how some of them played," Radeloff said while searching for superlatives.

The Ross defense, if there were bright spots for the Little Giants, shined.

"I thought overall, the kids played well," defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said, "but the hitting could be a little sharper."

"One thing, though, about the defense," Siesel continued, "is we had a lot of turnovers offensively but everytime the kids went out and shut them down."

Siesel's charges limited the Tygers to two first downs, 40 total yards rushing and 31 through the air. The deepest penetration into

Little Giants territory was to the 20 but that came on a 49-yard interception return by Tyger safety Brett Gilbert eight seconds away from the end of the first half.

Ozzie Williams' 37-yard field goal was short after that play. Earlier, Williams was short on a 38-yard attempt with four minutes to play in the second quarter. That aborted attempt was set up on a fumbled punt.

Siesel pointed out the play of his front four of Doug McClure, George Weltsinger, Jim Kline and Dave Kovaleski. "The

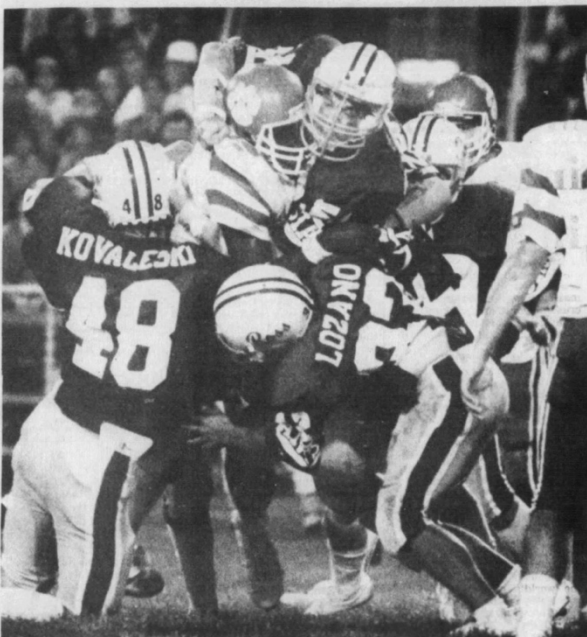
linebackers, Craig Mosser, Chuck Mamula, Chris Simmons and Derek Isaman, I felt had good games," Siesel said.

Ross took the opening kickoff and moved easily to the Mansfield five before the drive stalled. Simmons, who finished with 73 yards on 15 carries from the tailback slot, keyed the drive with a 31-yard burst to the 21. McCarthy, who was five of 13 passing for 36 yards, hit the field goal three minutes and nine seconds into the contest. Fullback Todd Beatty collected 16 yards on three carries in the drive.

The Little Giants' TD drive covered 44 yards in six plays. McCarthy found Gallagher in a crowd over the middle but the junior wide receiver leaped, hauled down the pass at the 15 and went untouched into the end zone with 1:57 to play in the game.

"After that, we went flat," Mansfield Coach Harold Dean said. "This game was just a lot of mistakes by both teams."

"I know we can execute a lot better than that," Moore insisted. The Little Giant's earliest opportunity to prove that will be Friday at Oregon Clay.



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

DAVE KOVALESKI (48), John Lozano (32) and Craig Mosser of Ross team up to stop a Mansfield runner during third quarter action Friday at

Harmon Stadium. Ross won its season opener with the defense playing the key role.

Box scores

Ross 9

Mansfield 0

Score by quarters

Mansfield	0	0	0	0—	0
Ross	3	0	0	6—	9

Scoring

Ross: Shawn McCarthy, 23-yard field goal, 8:51, first quarter.

Ross: Gregg Gallagher, 24-yard pass (kick no good), 1:57, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	M	R
First Downs	2	12
Rushes/Yards	31/40	40/153
Passing Yards	31	36
Passes/Comp/Incomp	13/4/1/	13/5/1
Punts/Average	9/27.4	4/31.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	6/5
Penalties/Yards	6/70	1/15

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Mansfield-Robbie Andrews 10/24, Chris Kiser 11/28.

Passing: Mansfield: David Misard 13/6/1,31.

Ross: McCarthy 13/51, 36.

Receiving: Mansfield: Tim Harless 2/21, Ricky Williams 1/5, Andrews 1/5.

Ross: Gallagher 3/38, Beatty 1/0, Simmons 1/-2.

Ross hopes history won't repeat

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Two years ago, the Fremont Ross Little Giants noisily swaggered into Oregon to play a football team known as the Clay High School Eagles.

When the swaggered had ended, the Eagles sent the Little Giants quietly home, stung by a 14-13 setback. Friday, Ross will travel to Oregon, but Little Giants Coach Pete Moore hinted that the swagger will not there this time.

"I haven't reminded them of what happened up there two years ago," Moore said Tuesday afternoon before practice, "but I will."

Ross is fresh off a less than stimulating 9-0 victory over Mansfield Senior in the Little Giants' home opener. That game was one of highs and lows; a game that socked Ross with more

mental than physical pain.

"We moved the ball against Mansfield," Moore said, "and it seemed like we did nothing because of the turnovers. It was a lot more mental thing than physical."

Ross was charged with a half dozen fumbles, losing five of them. Nearly all of the bobbled pigskins were not the result of a hard hit.

"I can forgive the fumble when it results from a hard hit," Moore said, "but not the mental ones. We can correct the mental ones, though, by stressing it — isolating the ball — on the practice field."

While Ross had six visible fumbles, the Little Giants made a mental fumble that turned out right. On the fourth quarter scoring pass play from quarterback Shawn McCarthy to

Gregg Gallagher, the offensive line and most of the backfield went the wrong direction.

"It worked, so it was a great play," Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff was able to admit.

Moments after the opening Ross win, Moore chastised the Little Giants.

"I told them they could not just read that they were supposed to be number one," he explained. "I really don't know what number one means but we must not have shown anything like it."

"It was a good thing that the defense played typical Ross defense but if we play overall like we did last week, we'll get our rear ends beat (this week)."

Mike Row, a 6-3, 215-pound sophomore fullback, for Clay has impressed the Ross coaches. Row is good enough in the eyes of his

Clay teammates to be one of the team's captains.

Clay lost last week to Toledo St. Francis, Ross's opponent a week from Friday, 23-20.

"Clay threw the ball pretty well," Moore said, "and Row is a good running back."

It will be the third meeting on the gridiron for the teams with both teams owning a victory. Ross defeated the Eagles 28-0 at Harmon Stadium last season.

Ross is relatively healthy for the game with only guard Mark Nitschke in doubt.

DIRECTIONS TO CLAY: To get to Oregon Clay High School's football field, take Route 19 through Oak Harbor to Route 2.

Go west (left) on Route 2 to Stadium Road. Go north (right off Route 2). The stadium will be west of Stadium Road after a short drive.

Ross sneaks past Clay

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Do or die, Pete Moore was going to be sneaky about beating Oregon Clay.

When lanky quarterback Shawn McCarthy squeezed between center Scott Cross and guard Shay Moran into the Clay end zone, Sneaky Pete was saved from sweating out a final quarterback sneak. The 6-foot-8 McCarthy hit paydirt 35 seconds from the end of the game as Ross pulled out a 14-7 win.

"We were going to go with two quarterback sneaks," Moore, the Ross head coach said, "and we were not going to go for a field goal. Once we got close, there was no thought of that."

Ross, 2-0, played lethargic ball for most of the game but came to life offensively with a minute and a half to play. Taking over at the Little Giants' 42 after the defense had stopped Clay at its own 17, McCarthy guided Ross to paydirt in six plays.

A 48-yard punt into the wind by McCarthy had nailed Clay deep in its territory with 3:18 to play.

Starting at the Eagles 13, Ross's defense behind Dave Kovaleski, Jim Kline, Craig Mosser and Derek Isaman surrendered only four yards. Clay punter Chris Bueschen got off a 48-yard punt with the wind to the Ross 42 to set up the final dramatic drive.

A pass interference penalty on Clay's Bob Heck when he went over Isaman on the play. With first and 10 at the Eagles 43, McCarthy's first pass fell incomplete. He followed that with a short swing pass into the left flat to tailback Chris Simmons who lumbered to the Clay 24.

The next play, Ross got a break. With only 10 players on the field — Ross was minus a wide receiver — Kovaleski put the ball at the 11. On a third and eight, McCarthy found split end Kevin Hively in the pass and bull his way to the four.

"We went with that pass to Kovaleski to set up the field goal," Moore said, "but when we got that close, we decided to go for the end zone."

Fullback Todd Beatty got the ball inside the one to set up the sneak attack.

Both teams never got their offenses in gear during the first half as the defenses dominated play. Ross had just one first half in the first 24 minutes while Clay had four in that span.

Midway through the third period, Ross started a 46-yard drive that produced the game's first touchdown. The Little Giants needed eight plays to cover the distance with the key play coming on a 20-yard run by Simmons to the Clay 25 on a third and nine play. Simmons cut off a block by tight end Kovaleski to get into the clear.

An eight-yard run by Simmons, a four-yard sneak by McCarthy and a two-yard run by the Ross quarterback put the ball at the 11. On a third and eight, McCarthy found split end Kevin Hively in the back of the end zone for the TD. McCarthy had two players, Hively and Kovaleski, open on the pass. McCarthy's kick made it 7-0 with 2:43 left in the third period.

Clay retaliated midway through the final period, driving 39 yards in seven plays. Sophomore fullback Mike Row scored from

seven yards out and Phil Price's kick tied the game with 6:24 remaining.

Ross was unable to move on its possession but McCarthy's kick from the Little Giants 33, buried Clay at its 13.

Moore was happy with the way his team played the final three minutes.

"It showed they could come back," Moore said, "that's a sign of maturity and they kept it exciting right up until the end. I know I was not able to smile until I got into the locker room."

The win helped soothe a football field of penalties — 12 for 116 yards — absorbed by the Little Giants. Ross ended up with eight first downs, one more than Clay, now 0-2, while generating 194 yards in total offense to Clay's 147.

McCarthy was seven of 15 passing with all of his completions to different receivers for 93 yards. Simmons rushed for 62 yards on 14 carries to top Ross.

The Little Giants will travel to the Glass Bowl in Toledo Friday to play St. Francis.



News-Messenger/Dave Ziemke

DAVE KOVALESKI, right, of Ross grabs the jersey of Clay quarterback Tim Walters just as he gets set to throw a pass.

St. Wendelin trips Gibsonburg



By ROB BOURKISSEN
News-Messenger Sports Writer

GIBSONBURG — The Fostoria St. Wendelin Mohawks staked Gibsonburg to an early 6-0 lead before coming back to beat the Golden Bears 14-6 in an evenly

Football

Ross 14, Clay 7

Score by quarters

Ross	0	0	7	7—	14
Clay	0	0	0	7—	7

Scoring

Ross: Kevin Hively 11-yard pass from McCarthy (McCarthy kick) 2:43, third quarter.

Clay: Mike Row 7-yard run (Price kick) 6:29, third quarter.

Ross: Shawn McCarthy 1-yard run (McCarthy kick) :35, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	C
First Downs	8	7
Rushes/Yards	32/101	37/61
Passing Yards	93	86
Passes/Comp/Incomp	15/7/1	14/6/1
Punts/Average	9/34.1	7/38.5
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	2/0
Penalties/Yards	12/116	4/40

Individual Statistics

Rushing:

Rushing: Ross, Simmons 14/62, Beatty 9/26, McCarthy 5/8, Lozano 4/5; Clay, Row 11/33, Walenzak 19/30.

Passing: Ross, McCarthy 15/7/1 — 93; Clay Tim Walters 14/6/1 — 86.

Receiving: Ross, Koveleski 1/20, Simmons 1/19, Isaman 1/14, Bury 1/13, McClure 1/12, Hively 1/11 (TD), Lozano 1/4; Clay, Price 5/77, Walenzak 1/9.

Season record: Ross 2-0, Clay 0-2.

Ross faces rugged St. Francis

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Pete Moore had waited two weeks for those 90 seconds and he got to see them just in time for Ross to remain unbeaten after the second week of the 1984 high school football season.

"Offensively, that was the best that we have played this season," Moore, the Ross coach, now in his ninth year as head man for the Little Giants, said about the drive that gave his team a 14-7 win over stubborn Oregon Clay last Friday.

In the nearly two games preceding that 58-yard, six-play drive, Ross had sputtered offensively. As Moore said, his team would look impressive one moment and then do something, fumble or be penalized, to thwart a drive.

"The first week, it was fumbles (Ross lost five of six) and last week, it was penalties (12 for 116 yards)," he said. "We'd have a good play, then a penalty or a fumble and that is frustrating."

The fumbles were eliminated and now Moore pointed out the obvious that the penalties must go.

Friday, Moore will take his team to the University of Toledo Glass Bowl to play an 8 p.m. game with St. Francis, a team that the

Little Giants managed to tie last season 7-7 on a last quarter TD pass from Kevin Wilhelm to Jim Hufford.

That scoring combination is not around this year thanks to graduation but instead, injuries suffered the past two weeks may force Moore to make revisions in his lineups.

Tailback and "giant" back, defensively, Chris Simmons is doubtful because of a shoulder injury and linebacker/wingback Derek Isaman is still nursing a bothersome hip pointer. Add to that, wide receiver Karl Bury will miss two to three weeks with a fracture to a foot.

Isaman was held out of contact during this week's practice and will likely see action Friday. Should Simmons not be able to play, John Lozano will start at tailback and Todd Hasselbach will take his spot on defense.

The Ross coach said that he felt Simmons' possible loss will be felt more on offense than on defense.

"Defensively, one man can make the play but offensively, everyone has to do his job; it's definitely a team job."

"We won't change anything drastically offensively," Moore offered and then added, "but it will be a more structured offense."

He would not give any details on his definition of "structured."

About St. Francis, Moore said he felt the Knights were not as physical size-wise as last year but are quick.

"It's just like here, they are proving that small kids can play this game," he said.

St. Francis, according to Ross scouting reports, employs five two-way performers, about the same as the Little Giants. The Knights are 2-0 with a 23-20 win over Oregon Clay and last week, a 12-6 victory over Whitmer.

Against Whitmer, the Knights were without the services of Mike Nicholson, 5-10, 185, senior tailback.

"We anticipate that he will be ready to play," Moore said. "Without him last week, they ran more out of a 'power-I' but with him two weeks ago, they did not use that alignment much."

Moore pointed out that wide receiver Jeff Upton and quarterback Jeff Krasnewski have been impressive. Against Whitmer, Upton hauled in eight passes from Krasnewski.

"Their quarterback has the ability to scramble and the whole team is quick and aggressive," Moore concluded.

Ross edges St. Francis 14-13

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

TOLEDO — Todd Beatty ran for 150 yards, two touchdowns and intercepted an attempted two-point conversion pass while leading Fremont Ross to a 14-13 victory over St. Francis Friday.

Beatty, a 5-11, 200-pound senior fullback, scored on runs of 16 and one yard in the University of Toledo's Glass Bowl. He had 29 carries in amassing his two-year high production mark for the Little Giants, now unbeaten in three games.

The loss was the first after two wins for St. Francis and was a measure of revenge for the Little Giants. Seconds after the win, Ross players tore a sign to shreds in the locker room.

"It had the statement written last year by *The Blade* about St. Francis hadly broke a sweat all season, tight end Dave Kovaleski explained. "They wrote that St. Francis could beat either Ross or Sandusky if they had met again."

That story appeared when the Toledo newspaper named the Knights as their 1983 Division I season champ. St. Francis and Ross tied 7-7 in the 1983 season, but that was secondary to the show put on by Beatty and the Ross offensive line.

"I knew they (coaches) were going to run me a lot but not that many times," Beatty panted after the game. He had 61 yards on 10 carries at the half and then bruised the Knight's in the second



TODD BEATTY

half with 89 on 19.

"We went into the game thinking we could throw on them," Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff said, "but at halftime we felt we could run off tackle because we found a good tackle and a weak one on St. Francis."

"Everytime we came up to the line, Shawn (McCarthy, Ross quarterback) would check off to the side where the weak tackle played," Radeloff described. "Shawn did a nice job of checking off."

McCarthy hit six of 12 first half passes for 70 yards but did not

throw in the second half because the Little Giants' ground game was gouging huge holes in the Knights' defensive line.

The Knight's took advantage of a 14-yard punt by McCarthy to score their first touchdown. Taking over at the Ross 39 near the end of the first quarter, the Knight's scored in four plays, the six-pointer coming on a fourth and one pass from quarterback Jeff Krasnewski to split end Jeff Upton four seconds into the second quarter.

Ross began its first scoring drive after safety Kevin Hively recovered a fumble when St. Francis running back Dan Ragowski was hit hard at the Ross 44. With Beatty picking up 46 of the yards, Ross scored in eight plays. Beatty went straight up the middle for the final 16 and McCarthy's kick made it 7-7 midway through the quarter.

Ross survived a final minute scare in the first half when Knights defensive back Brian Burns stepped in front of a McCarthy pass and returned it 29 yards to the Ross 17. Two plays later, Jim McGuire's 33-yard field goal attempt was short.

Ross, after stopping a St. Francis drive at the Little Giants 31, scored on their first second half possession. Running behind Ross's line of tight ends Kris Smith and Dave Kovaleski, tackles Mike Bobay and Dan Gangwer, guards Mark Nitschke and Kyle Amor and center Scott

Cross, Beatty handled the bulk of the duty.

The Ross fullback had runs of seven, three, five, one, 17, one, eight, three and the final one in a 69-yard, 14-play drive that ate more than 6½ minutes off the clock. Beatty scored at the 3:10 mark and McCarthy's kick gave Ross a 14-7 lead. Also in the drive, McCarthy had a seven-yard run and tailback John Lozano, taking over for injured Chris Simmons, had a 10-yard burst up the middle on the fourth play of the series.

St. Francis, held to one first down in the first half, unleashed its passing attack in the second 24 minutes. Krasnewski, after completing two of four in the first half, tossed 18 in the second half, completing nine of them for 120 yards.

St. Francis started its fourth quarter scoring drive from the Ross 29 when McGuire recovered McCarthy's fumble. Krasnewski passed six yards to Upton and when the Little Giants were called for a personal foul, the Knights were in business at the Ross 11.

Two plays later, St. Francis faced a third and two at the three but Mike Nicholson, Knights tailback who had sat out the first half, dashed through the right guard slot for the TD at the 7:25 mark. After a timeout, Beatty intercepted Nicholson's attempted halfback pass for the extra points that would have put the Knights in the lead.

"I really did not expect him (St.

Francis Coach Dick Cromwell) to go for the two points," Ross Coach Pete Moore said. "I thought there was plenty of time left and the way things were going, both teams could have had the ball three more times."

After the St. Francis TD, Ross used a time consuming drive from their own 20 to the St. Francis 44, again with the bulk of the work load riding on Beatty's shoulders. Twice Beatty ran for first downs on third down and long yardage plays.

With 1:37 remaining, McCarthy punted into the endzone. Krasnewski's passing to Upton got the ball to the 44 but on a first and 10, Lozano picked off Krasnewski's pass at the Ross 42 to preserve the win.

Upton finished with nine receptions for 116 yards.

"St. Francis definitely belongs on the same field with us," Moore said, "and I mean that because they are a good ball club."

The Little Giants finished with 254 yards in total offense and St. Francis 223, with 147 coming in the second half.

ROSS NOTES: Simmons played defense with the decision being made Friday afternoon to use the 6-2, 230-pound senior linebacker/running back. Derek Isaman, nursing a hip-pointer, played sparingly on offense but all the way on defense.

The win was Moore's 57th at Ross.

High school

Ross 14, St. Francis 13

Score by quarters

Ross	0	7	7	0—	14
St. Francis	0	7	0	6—	13

Scoring

St. Francis: Jeff Upton, one-yard pass from Jeff Krasnewski (Jim McGuire kick) 11:56, second quarter.

Ross: Todd Beatty, 16-yard run (Shawn McCarthy kick) 7:18, second quarter.

Ross: Beatty, one-yard run (McCarthy kick) 3:10, third quarter.

St. Francis: Mike Nicholson, three-yard run (pass failed) 7:25, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	SF
First Downs	16	11
Rushes/Yards	54/184	25/86
Passing Yards	70	137
Passes/Comp/Incomp	12/6/1	22/11/2
Punts/Average	5/28.0	2/57.0
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	2/2
Penalties/Yards	4/27	0/0

Individual Statistics

Rushing:

Ross, Todd Beatty 28—150, John Lozano 17—35; St. Francis, Jim Kovacs 9—51, Mike Nicholson 10—34, Dan Rogowski 3—9.

Passing: Ross, McCarthy 12/6/1—70, Jeff Krasnewski 22/11/2—137.

Receiving: Ross, Dave Kovalski 4/57, Todd Beatty 2/13; St. Francis, Jeff Upton 9/116, Mark Nicholson 2/21.

Season records: Ross 3-0, St. Francis 2-1.

Can Ross defense stop King offense?

By **BOB MARKER**
News-Messenger Sports Editor

It's a familiar scenario: Ross will pit its defense against Admiral King's offense.

That will repeat again Friday at Harmon Stadium when the Little Giants, first in the Buckeye Conference defensive stats, and Admiral King, first in offense, clash in the conference lidlifter.

Both teams carry 3-0 records but Admiral King has won all three convincingly; Ross not so convincingly. The Admirals have outscored opponents 99-23 and Ross 37-20.

The teams have won two games apiece since 1979 when a teacher's strike wiped out the game. This game will mark the 22nd renewal of the rivalry with the Admirals holding a 10-8 advantage and three games ending in ties.

Last year, Ross sneaked past the Admirals 14-13, losing when Ross linebacker Derek Isaman and a host of other Little Giants stopped Admirals tailback Gary Patton on a sweep, a play that had gouged big chunks of yardage out of the Ross defense all night. There was 2:15 left in the game when that play took place.

"Their backs have good speed and they have good size up front," Ross Coach Pete Moore described the 1984 Admirals. "They have eight players going both ways but that does not seem to bother them; they are very well conditioned."

Moore pointed out that the Admirals have always been troublesome for the Little Giants and that the Admirals generally field a good defense.

"They have a good defensive team and we have a good defensive team," the Ross coach explained, "and when two teams like that get together, it's usually a good game."

Moore pointed a finger at Admirals tailback Eric West as being a key target for the Little Giants. "West is capable of breaking longs runs," he said, but warned, "they seem to run the fullback just about as much as West. The fullback is a good

runner; he's like a bull back there.

"West, though, can burn you if he gets a little opening."

West is a 5-10, 185, senior while the fullback who Moore says his team must respect is Bill Moore, a 6-0, 205-pound senior.

West is the leading scorer in the Buckeye Conference with seven touchdowns and 44 points while rushing for 360 yards on 67 efforts, a 5.4 average. Moore has 131 yards on 27 carries for a 4.9 per carry average.

The top rusher for the Little Giants is Todd Beatty with 231 on 49 carries for a 4.7 mark, making him sixth in the conference on an average basis.

As a team, Admiral King has averaged nearly 367 yards of total offense in the three games while giving up 212. Ross has generated 210 yards of offense a game while yielding 147.

While Moore was relatively satisfied with his offense in last week's 14-13 win over Toledo St. Francis, he recognized the problem with the punting game.

"The kicking game is more mental than physical," he said while talking about punter Shawn McCarthy, also the Little Giants starting quarterback. "Maybe he is worried about doing a good job at quarterback and not executing properly on the punt."

"We are going to practice this week using pressure when we work on the kicking game. I don't like to do that because that is when you get people hurt," Moore said. "I don't know if that will work, but we are going to try it."

"I would think that most teams now would come at us with a lot of pressure when we had to punt."

McCarthy average 28 yards on five punts but had two punts of 20 yards or less.

ROSS NOTES: Isaman's hip pointer is improving while Chris Simmons, a doubtful starter for last week, may be able to play some offense this week. Moore did not get an okay to play Simmons defensively until Friday afternoon. He is suffering from a shoulder injured against Oregon Clay.

Beatty captures N-M grid honor

Just when the Fremont Ross Little Giants needed him the most, Todd Beatty stepped up and answered the call this past Friday.

And for his efforts, the 5-11, 200-pound senior fullback/linebacker has been named The News-Messenger Player of the Week.

With Ross's top two players — Derek Isaman and Chris Simmons — playing hurt and the Little Giants facing a very formidable foe in Toledo St. Francis at the Glass Bowl this past Friday, someone needed to supply extra help.

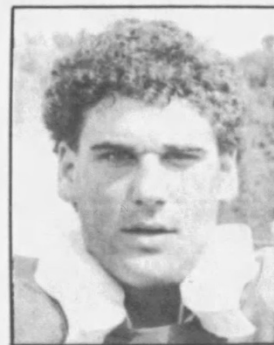
That person was Beatty, who carried the ball 28 times for 150 yards and both of Ross's touchdowns in a big 14-13 victory over the Knights. Nine of his carries and 43 of his yards came in the final period when the Little Giants needed to maintain possession to help protect their one-point lead.

And Beatty was also a key player defensively. He caused one fumble and made the biggest interception of the night when he picked off St. Francis' pass attempt for two points after the Knights had scored to make it 14-13.

Other area players who were considered for the N-M honor this week were:

• Greg Wiedenheft, Margaretta's 5-8, 150-pound junior halfback, who ran the ball 11 times for 85 yards and caught three passes for 52 yards in the Polar Bears' 35-0 rout of Norwalk St. Paul. Wiedenheft also scored two touchdowns, one on a 31-yard pass from Jim Bodey and the other on a 33-yard run.

• Mike Miller, Lakota's 5-10, 165-pound senior



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quarterback/safety, who threw two touchdown passes and made two interceptions in the Raiders' big 14-13 victory over Fostoria St. Wendelin. Miller's TD tosses went for 43 and 33 yards, both to Phil Rickard, and one of his interceptions ended St. Wendelin's last-minute scoring threat.

• Steve Connell, Oak Harbor's 6-2, 165-pound senior safety, who picked off two passes and had one deflection in the Rockets' 14-0 triumph over Port Clinton. The biggest things about those three defensive plays were that they all ended serious PC scoring threats. Connell also had four tackles.

• Brian Mougey, Bellevue's 5-10, 170-pound senior linebacker, who made 14 tackles in the Redmen's 35-7 victory over Perkins.

• Dave Emch, Woodmore's 5-9, 160-pound junior linebacker, who made 11 tackles in the Wildcats' 12-7 win over Northwood.



CRAIG MOSSER (51) of Ross brings down Admiral King running back Eric West during fourth quarter action.

King sinks Ross 26-7

By **BOB MARKER**
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Admiral King scored 26 second half points and left Pete Moore gasping for fresh air as the Admirals deflated the Little Giants 26-7 in a battle of unbeaten high school football powers at Harmon Stadium Friday.

"We stunk," Moore, coach of the Little Giants succinctly summed up the game afterwards in the quiet Ross locker room. The loss in the Buckeye Conference opener, dropped the number two state ranked and defending conference champion Little Giants to 3-1 while the Admirals climbed to 4-0.

Admiral King scored three touchdowns with less than four minutes remaining in the game to wipe out a 7-6 Ross lead.

"It was two passes and a fumble," Moore said that cost his team in the second half.

Robert Carrion recovered at the Ross 32 when Little Giants fullback Todd Beatty had a first down but coughed up the ball. That was the fumble and the first of the two crucial passes caught Moore's team was on a fourth and nine at the 21. Admiral King quarterback Rick Ducar, who took over for starter Joe Morales

in the third quarter, lofted a pass into the end zone where the Admirals' Jef Lindsay hauled it down.

Joe Guerrieri missed the extra point and Ross had a slim lead that seemed safe until the second pass fell on Ross.

Facing a second and eight at their own 46, Ducar, who had slipped back to the tailback slot with Morales coming back in for the play, hit Lindsay at the Ross 26. Two plays later, tailback Eric West ran 11 to the 14.

Two plays later, the Admirals were facing a third and seven at the Rossbut West again picked up the first down with a 10-yard run to the one. Two player after that, West hurtled the right side of the Ross line for the go-ahead TD with 3:54 to play.

"I put Ducar in when Morales came out and told me hethought he was hampering out offense," Admiral King Coach Bill Provident said. "Morales hurt his big toe last week and it was bothering him but I put him back into the lineup and switched Ducar to tailback for that play."

On Ross's next possession, quarterback Shawn McCarthy fired toward wingback Derek

Isaman at midfield but the Isaman fell and Lindsay stepped in front of the ball and returned the interception 47 yards to the Ross three. Fullback Bill Moore scored on a third and goal at the one with 1:31 on the clock to put the killing crush on the Little Giants.

The final TD came with no time on the clock when defensive back John Matakovich intercepted McCarthy's throw and returned it 59 yards for the six-pointer.

"They didn't do anything different to us in the second half as they did in the first," Moore said. "All they did was play with more intensity then we did."

Provident disagreed, saying that a defensive adjustment at the half forced Ross inside where the Admirals' linebackers could work.

"Willie (Bill) played an All-Ohio game tonight," Provident praised. "He made some tackles out there that I didn't think were possible."

Provident continued, "Ross is darn good defensive team; we just got lucky, darn lucky tonight."

AdmiralKing had taken the opening kickoff and marched for the 32 to the Ross 14 before Morales was sacked by George

Weissinger and Jim Kline of Ross, fumbled and the Little Giants' Micah Jones fell on the ball. The Admirals did not get into Ross territory again in the first half.

The Little Giants' scoring drive started at the Admiral King 49 after a 30-yard punt by Mike Carrico. It took Ross eight plays to score with tailback Chris Simmons running for, six and 13 yards to key the drive. Simmons's slashing run to the three was followed by Beatty's TD run with 3:01 remaining in the first half. McCarthy split the uprights to give Ross a 7-0 halftime lead.

After that, it was downhill for Ross. The Little Giants did not pick up a first down in the second half until their last possession. By that time, the Admirals held a 20-6 advantage.

Ross outgained the Admirals on the ground 141-98. West, the conference's leading ground gainer, had 21 of his game leading 70 yards in the final quarter.

Morales and Ducar combined for five of 12 passing for 73 yards for a 171-169 advantage in total offense.

Simmons was Ross's leading ground gainer with 56 on nine carries. Beatty had 52 on 16 efforts.

Admiral King 26, Ross 7

Score by quarters

Admiral King	0	0	6	20—	26
Ross	0	7	0	0—	7

Scoring

Ross: Rodd Beatty, three-yard run (Shawn McCarthy kick) 3:01, second quarter.

Admiral King: Jeff Lindsay, 21-yard pass from Rich Ducar (kick failed), 2:24, third quarter.

Admiral King: Eric West, one-yard run (pass failed) 3:54, fourth quarter.

Admiral King: Bill Moore, one-yard run (Ducar pass to Jerry Evans), 1:31, fourth quarter.

Admiral King: John Matakovich, 59-yard pass interception return (no PAT attempted) 0:00, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	AK	R
First Downs	10	8
Rushes/Yards	42/98	29/141
Passing Yards	24	28
Passes/Comp/Incomp	12/5/1	11/2/3
Punts/Average	5/31.8	6/37.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	1/1
Penalties/Yards	1/5	4/30

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Admiral King 7, West 25/70, Moore 12/39; Ross, Beatty 16/52, Chris Simmons 16/52, John Lozano 4/33.

Passing: Admiral King, Joe Morales 8/3/1—24, Ducar 4/2/0—49; Ross, McCarthy 10/2/2—28, Derek Isaman 1/0/1—0.

Receiving: Admiral King, Lindsay 2/49, Joe Guerrieri 2/17, Leander Harvey 1/7; Ross, Dave Kovalski 2/28.

Season records: Admiral King 4-0, (1-0); Ross 3-1 (0-1).

'Augie's Air Show' invades Ross

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Augie Bossu has a reputation for going with the flow and when he brings his Cleveland Benedictine football team to Harmon Stadium Friday, it will be another verification of that fact.

"Augie's Air Show" will quickly force Fremont Ross to shake off the effect of a 26-7 setback by Admiral King last Friday or be gunned down by the aerial bombardment of Bennie quarterback Larry Wanke.

"They'll be throwin' the hell out of the ball," Ross Coach Pete Moore emphasized Tuesday as he prepared for practice. "One good thing, for us, about the Bennies this year is they do not have a running back like O'Neill (Steve) or Richardson (Kevin).

"If they had some one like that and with him (Wanke) throwing, they would really be tough."

Moore quickly pointed out that Benedictine is tough enough with just the passing game.

"When he (Bossu) had the good running backs, he stuck primarily with the run," Moore explained, "but now he has the good quarterback with three or four good receivers and he throws most of the time."

Benedictine ran the ball only seven times in last week's 10-0 victory over Brecksville, the 1983 Division II state champion.

For the season, Wanke, a 6-2, 190-pound junior, has completed

Ross 5th in computer poll; 3 area teams also ranked

The Fremont Ross Little Giants stand in fifth place in Division I, Region 3, of the first Ohio High School Athletic Association computer poll of the season.

Findlay, Ross's fellow Buckeye Conference team, leads Region 3 with 28.00 points, followed by Toledo Central Catholic with 25.75, Upper Arlington with 25.50, Westerville North with 24.50 and Ross with 24.00. Toledo St. Francis is sixth with 22.00 points.

Three other area high school football teams are ranked high in the first computer poll. They are Oak Harbor, Margaretta and Bellevue.

Unbeaten Oak Harbor is in second place in Division III, Region 10. The Rockets have 18.50 points to trail first-place Elyria Catholic by 1.50 points. Bellevue is fifth in that same region with 17.50 points.

Margaretta, meanwhile, stands in third place in Division II, Region 14. Evergreen leads Region 14 with 17.50 points, followed by Lima Central Catholic with 15.50 and Margaretta with 12.50.

Complete computer listing is on page 16.

64 of 112 passes for 778 yards and seven touchdowns. The Bennies have averaged less than 80 yards rushing while compiling their 3-1 record.

Against Warren Western Reserve, a 22-12 loss, Benedictine had a minus-24 yards and last week, generated only 35 yards against Brecksville. The Bennies have defeated Parma Normandy 44-12 and Cleveland John Marshall 20-0 for their other victories.

"They have a very disciplined passing game," Moore said. "They throw outside very well. They have not thrown the ball

long very much but Wanke played against us up here last year and we know that he can throw long."

Moore and defensive coordinator Joe Siesel logically pointed out that Ross must get good pass coverage from the secondary.

"We have to have that plus we want to keep the heat on the quarterback," Siesel said. "When we do rush the linebackers, he does have a 'hot' receiver and he is good at dishing it off to him.

"We cannot," Siesel continued, "let them have the short ones all the time because they would keep doing that all night.

"They do take what the defense gives them so what we have to do is disrupt their pass routes and we have to get the heat on the quarterback."

Moore jokingly pointed out that Ross may have to resort to trickery.

"Yeah, we may play a 'nickle' or a 'dime' defense," he laughed.

"Or maybe a double-nickel," he said as he polished off his CB talk.

Siesel said that one of the favorite passing strategies employed by the Bennies is to flood the flats, hit the short man and hope that he can generate more yardage on his own.

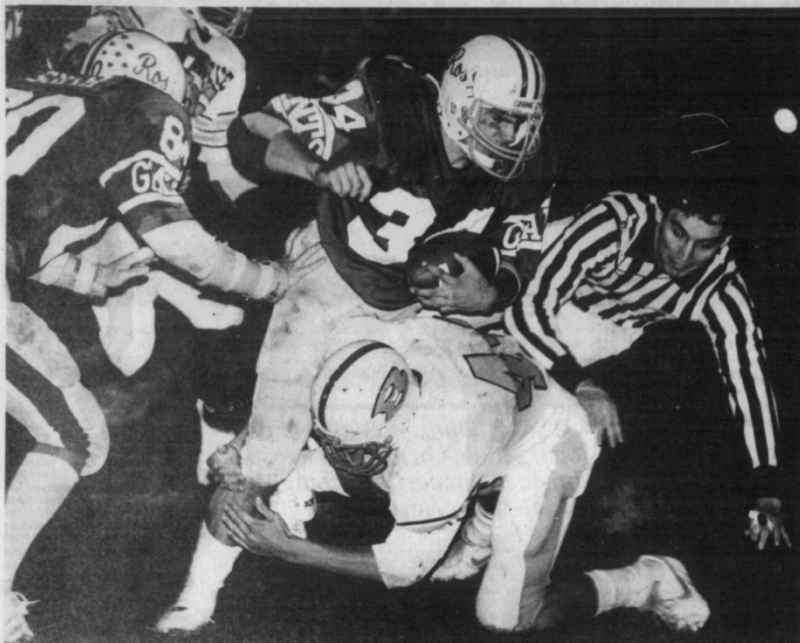
Wanke's favorite receiver this season has been sophomore Bob Clark, a 145-pounder, who has hauled in 21 passes for 303 yards and three TDs. Junior Jerry Wrobel, a 5-7, 190-pounder, has 14 catches for 206 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Ken Deininger, senior tailback who scored Benedictine's TD against Ross last season, caught eight passes for 106 yards against Brecksville.

Siesel indicated that Ross may go with three linebackers and four defensive backs.

"That will look like the old Elyria defense," he said.

On the Little Giants' side of the field, running back/defensive back Todd Beatty is expected to play Friday despite some bruised ribs but Chuck Mamula will likely miss the game because of a knee injury suffered in Wednesday's practice before the Admiral King game.

Big plays help Benedictine beat Ross



ROSS'S STEVE LETZRING (above) charges into Benedictine defender Ken Deininger and a referee in an effort for more yardage during second-half action at Harmon Stadium Friday night. Kris Smith (80) aids Letzring's run. In the left photo, Ross's Doug McClure (86) makes the hit on Benedictine running back Jerry Wrobel. Craig Mosser (47) trails the play.

100-yard theft, 61-yard punt return lift Bennies

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Cleveland Benedictine gave Fremont Ross a lesson in basic electronics Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

"They out-phased us," Ross Coach Pete Moore said after the Bennies had short-fused the Little Giants 31-14. It was Ross's second loss in a row after three straight wins and raised Benedictine's record to 4-1.

"They hit every phase," Moore explained, "defensively and offensively; they got a charge when they needed it."

The biggest charges wired in by Coach Augie Bossu's crew were by a couple of sophomore apprentices — Tom Zdanowicz and Bob Clark. Zdanowicz, a 6-2, 175-pound linebacker, stepped in front of a Shawn McCarthy pass at the Bennie goal line and returned it 100 yards for a third quarter touchdown and Clark taped up the victory with a 61-yard punt return in the final quarter.

The Bennies started the second half in the hole after being penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct for returning to the field late after the intermission. Ross took over at the Little Giants' 47 after John Lozano returned the kick 22 yards.

Nine plays later, on a third and seven at the Bennie eight, McCarthy shot a pass toward tight end Derek Isaman but Zdanowicz flagged it down and had clear sailing down the left sideline. He eluded McCarthy at the 40 and was home free.

In effect, that theft was a 14-point swing.

Ross forged back by taking advantage of a fumbled punt by Bennie Ken Deininger at the Benedictine 20. With sophomore Steve Letzring picking up 19 of the yards, Ross scored in five plays, the final yard coming on McCarthy's sneak. McCarthy passed to Isaman for the two extra points and Ross trailed 17-14 with 3:35 remaining in the third quarter.

"Hey, I looked up, saw that it was 17-14 and I thought that was exciting," Moore said. "I thought it was a super game at that time." It turned sour but quickly sweetened on the next Benedictine series. The Bennies, after driving 69 yards to the one, lost the ball when quarterback Larry Wanke fumbled and Ross defensive end Dave Kovaleski came up with his second recovery of the game.

With Letzring, who ended up with 103 yards rushing on 16 carries, all in the second half, carrying the load, Ross moved out to the 20 before two McCarthy passes fell incomplete and forced a punt.

Clark hauled in McCarthy's

punt at the Benedictine 39 and hit the Little Giants like a bolt of lightning. The 145-pounder galloped down the right sidelines virtually untouched for the six-pointer that taped up the win with 8:08 to play.

Ken Redd's six-yard run with 4:45 remaining turned out the lights on the Little Giants.

"They do an excellent job on the punt returns," Moore said. "We ran through that all week with the kids."

The Ross coach said that about the only good thing that came out of the ball game was the performance of sophomore fullback Jim Carroll and Letzring.

"The only concern we have with Letzring is turning the ball over. He has had problems with that."

"It was a heck of a game to watch," Bossu, the chief electrician for the Bennies for the past 30 years, grinned. "You could not have a faint heart."

Bossu watched his team bounce back from a 47-yard intercepted pass return by Ross's Chris Simmons in the first quarter with a 49-yard pass theft by Kim Hudson. The Bennies followed that up with a three-play, 49-yard scoring drive capped by a 39-yard scoring strike from Wanke to Dean Fortman midway through the opening period.

Ross countered with a 74-yard, 12-play drive that ended with an 11-yard McCarthy pass to Isaman with 1:02 to play in the period. McCarthy's kick was no good.

Benedictine grabbed a 10-6 halftime lead on Mike Gurney's 30-yard field goal with three seconds remaining in the first half.

In the second half, Ross controlled the ball more than 15½ minutes but each time the Little Giants threatened, the Bennies defused the threat.

"We had a few crucial mistakes," Rex Radeloff, Ross offensive coordinator said. "We wanted the passing game to loosen up the running game and at times we looked good but the whole story is we are too inconsistent."

Radeloff explained that he switched to the pass to open up the ground game in the second half even though Ross was picking up good yardage on the ground.

"They were starting to close in and we wanted to loosen them up with the pass," he shrugged, "but there is only one good thing which can happen to a pass."

Wanke ended up with 11 of 22 passing for 204 yards while McCarthy was 14 of 27 for 128 yards. Letzring led all rushers as Ross picked up 137 on 35 running plays. Benedictine had 57 yards on 23 rushing attempts.

Next Friday, Ross will travel to Elyria to resume Buckeye Conference play.

Football

Benedictine 31, Ross 14

Score by quarters

Benedictine	7	3	7	14—	31
Ross	6	0	8	0—	14

Scoring

Benedictine: Dean Fortman, 29-yard pass from Larry Wanke (Mike Gurney kick) 6:16, first quarter.

Ross: Derek Isaman, 11-yard pass from Shawn McCarthy (kick failed) 1:02, first quarter.

Benedictine: Gurney, 30-yard field goal, 0:03, second quarter.

Benedictine: Tom Zdanowicz, 100-yard interception return, (Gurney kick) 7:39, third quarter.

Ross: McCarthy, one-yard run (Isaman pass from McCarthy) 3:35, third quarter.

Benedictine: Bob Clark, 61-yard punt return (Gurney kick) 8:08, fourth quarter.

Benedictine: Ken Redd, six-yard run (Gurney kick) 4:45, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	B	R
First Downs	16	18
Rushes/Yards	23/57	35/137
Passing Yards	204	128
Passes/Comp/Int.	22/11/1	28/14/3
Punts/Average	2/36.5	4/39.5
Fumbles/Lost	5/4	2/2
Penalties/Yards	9/69	6/65

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Benedictine, Redd 6/46, Mike Herbst 2/14, Robert Dunn 7/33, Ken Deininger 2/2, Wanke 5/-28; Ross, Steve Letzring 16/103, Chris Simmons 14/40, Todd Beatty 3/2, McCarthy 2/0.

Passing: Benedictine, Wanke 22/11/1—204; Ross, McCarthy 27/14/3—128, Simmons 1/0/0—0.

Receiving: Benedictine, Clark 6/65, Jerry Wrobel 2/63, Dunn 1/36, Fortman 2/40; Ross, Isaman 6/68, Karl Bury 3/27, Kevin Hively 2/15, Beatty 1/7, Simmons 1/-4.

Season records: Benedictine 4-1; Ross 3-2.

Ross hopes to end skid at Elyria

By **BOB MARKER**
News-Messenger Sports Editor

The last time Elyria and Fremont Ross squared off, the Pioneers were non-existent.

The Little Giants did not permit Elyria a first down while surrendering a minus-4 yards of total offense. Ross won the game 20-0 in a clash that, as an old statement goes, was not near as close as the score indicates.

Ross will travel to the home of Pioneers Friday while getting back into Buckeye Conference football action after a one-week hiatus and two consecutive losses.

"Sure, it's a natural thing to be down a little after losses to two tough teams," Ross Coach Pete Moore said. "But there are five more football games and we still have a shot at the conference championship.

"This week and next week will be trouble because we are on the road," the Ross coach pointed out, "but we seem to play better on the road."

Both Ross losses — to Admiral

King 26-7 and to Cleveland Benedictine 31-14 last Friday — came in the friendly confines of Harmon Stadium.

Elyria, under former Findlay coach Bill Jones, is 1-1 in the conference and 2-3 overall. Jones, who spent a year at Zanesville after leaving Findlay, is known for turning out good quarterbacks. His offensive game plan includes plenty of passes but he has not been able to develop that tactic yet at his new school.

"I think Bill would like to be able to throw a little more than he has," Moore said.

Eric Garretson has handled the bulk of the Pioneer signal calling for Jones, completing 21 of 59 pass attempts for 373 yards, second in conference rankings. He has been intercepted 10 times, one more than Ross quarterback Shawn McCarthy.

"Elyria has been running out of a 'stacked I,'" Moore said. "He will put some people in motion out of it but it is basically a power setup.

"Jones does have a good tailback. He's a sophomore but he has good moves."

Lamar Jackson is the sophomore drawing Moore's praise. The 5-8, 160-pounder, has rushed for 501 yards on 79 carries for a conference leading 6.3 average. He has scored six times.

Ross will be functioning without fullback/defensive halfback Todd Beatty who is nursing bruised ribs. Taking his offensive position will be either senior Craig Mosser, sophomore Jim Carroll or junior John Lozano, normally a tailback. Chris Simmons will start at tailback but sophomore Steve Letzring will see a good bit of action Moore said. T.J. Winans may fill Beatty's spot defensively.

Letzring rushed for 103 yards on 16 carries in the second half against Benedictine.

"Chris is especially good at tailback when he is fresh," Moore said, "so we will probably rest him after the first few series."

Moore said that no other changes are planned.

He also pointed out that he feels the Ross passing game has not looked bad despite nine interceptions thrown by McCarthy.

"We have not had the quarterback sacked all season," Moore pointed out, "and that is a credit to our offensive line but at times, Shawn should be thinking of taking a sack now and then instead of forcing the ball."

BUCKEYE STATS: Ross ranks second in defense behind Sandusky. The Little Giants are yielding 177 yards per game and the Blue Streaks 164. Elyria is fifth with a yield of 241 per contest. Offensively, Ross ranks fourth with a 213-yard average and Elyria is second, generating 232 per game.

McCarthy is third in passing with 34 of 80, 43 per cent, for 355 yards and two TDs. Dave Kovaeski is fifth in receiving with seven for 105 yards and Derek Isaman is eighth with seven for 82.

Ross romps; 8 turnovers haunt Elyria

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

ELYRIA — It took Elyria one play Friday night to wipe out some of the bad memories but eight turnovers later, the Pioneers had created a horror story that dwarfed a 1983 loss to Fremont Ross.

The Little Giants capitalized on the giveaways for a 39-0 Buckeye Conference football victory.

Ross, on its way to a state playoff berth in '83, had humiliated the Pioneers during the regular season by holding them to minus yardage and no first downs in a 20-0 win.

This time around, Elyria got a first down on its second play, a 13-yard burst around right end by sophomore tailback Lemar Jackson, but then the Pioneers self-destructed. Six lost fumbles and a pair of pass interceptions knocked the wheels from under the error-prone Pioneers. Ross defensive safety Kevin Hively raked in two of the half dozen fumbles and grabbed both pass thefts.

Ross is now 4-2 and 1-1 in the BC while Elyria is 2-4 and 1-2.

Chris Simmons scored three times, the final one drawing smoldering silence from Elyria Coach Bill Jones, and the Little Giants scored three times in less than 2½ minutes in a wild and wooly fourth quarter to take center stage along with the Elyria giveaways.

"I know Bill was mad," Ross Coach Pete Moore said after the game, "but we brought two tailbacks (Simmons and Steve Letzring) and one of them got hurt so we had to put Simmons back in.

"We brought 38 kids and all 38 played," Moore pointed out. "There is no way I tried to run up the score. If I had wanted to, I would not have put my second string lines in with six minutes to play.

"Bill Jones is a hell of a coach; I have tremendous respect for him and he will get things turned around over here."

Jones, who spent 10 seasons as bossman for the Findlay Trojans before a year at Zanesville in 1983 before coming to Elyria, did not charge that Moore run up the score but he did not deny he felt that way.

"That's none of my business," Jones said in reply to the question.

After Ross stopped Elyria's initial drive, it took Ross two plays to score. Simmons carried one yard to the Ross 44 and on the next play, cut around a block by guard Kyle Amor at left end and raced untouched 56 yards for the touchdown four minutes into the game.

Elyria began its exhibition in self-destruction on its next series. The Pioneers rolled from their 27 to the Ross 10 on a drive keyed by 36 and 12 yard runs by Jackson. On the final play, Jackson fumbled at the six and Hively came up with his first recovery to kill the drive.

A short punt set up Ross's next TD drive of 33 yards in six plays. Letzring, taking over for Simmons at tailback, picked up all the yardage while scoring from the two with 8:59 remaining in the half. Shawn McCarthy hit both extra points to give Ross a 14-0 lead at the half.

Before halftime, however, Hively came up with his two pass thefts, the last at the Ross 10. He returned the latter to the 32.

McCarthy was intercepted for the second time three plays into the third quarter but two plays later, quarterback Glenn Arbaugh fumbled and Ross linebacker David Growel picked it up at the Elyria 45, returned it nine yards and had 15 more tacked on because of a Pioneer personal foul.

After failing to move, McCarthy punted from the Elyria 43 but Jackson fumbled the punt after signaling a fair catch and Hively came up with the ball at the Pioneer 14. Simmons scored five plays last from one yard out and Ross took a 20-0 lead.

Elyria reached the eight on its next series but Arbaugh was sacked by Little Giants Growel and George Weissinger for a two-yard loss. An illegal procedure penalty and two incomplete passes killed the drive.

In the wild final 12 minutes, Ross guard Mark Nitschke recovered another fumbled Elyria punt at the Pioneer 47. It took 10 plays and a seven-yard pass from McCarthy to Karl Bury on a fourth and goal to culminate the drive. Ross held a 27-0 lead with 6:28 to play.

Elyria's comedy of errors continued with a pair of fumbles allowing Ross to scored at the 5:21 and 4:04 marks of the final quarter.

John Coleman scooped up Jackson's fumble at the Elyria 14 and returned it to the four. Simmons scored on the first play and Ross was up 33-0 after McCarthy's kick was blocked.

History repeated itself on the fourth play after the kickoff. Arbaugh, back to pass, was hit, fumbled and Ross's Shawn Overmyer picked the ball up at the 22, charged to the end zone only to fumble at the goal line but sophomore defensive tackle Micah Jones fell on it in the end zone to complete the quick flurry of Ross scoring.

"Our game plan went the way it was supposed to go," Moore said. "We wanted to play Simmons at tailback when he was fresh, then bring in Letzring."

Simmons finished with 81 yards on 12 carries and Letzring 89 on 20. John Lozano, normally a tailback had worked at fullback all week but took over a tailback the final few minutes, getting 11 yards on three carries.

Sophomore Jim Carroll ran for 13 yards on four carries out of the fullback spot.

"Carroll did a nice job," Ross offensive coordinator Rex Radeloff said, "even though he did not carry the ball too much, he blocked very well."

Carroll and Lozano stepped in for injured regular fullback Todd Becatty.

McCarthy hit six of 12 passes for 92 yards. Deke Isaman hauled in two for 35 yards and Kris Smith came down with two for 41 yards.

Mysterious Lorain hosts Little Giants

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Call Lorain the "Mr. X" of the Buckeye Conference.

For some reason, the Steelmen have mysteriously not lived up to expectations as a football title contender this season.

"I cannot explain it," Ross Coach Pete Moore said about the Little Giants' Friday opponent at George Daniel Field in Lorain. "They move the ball well at times and they are aggressive on defense but they have been giving up big plays and before they know it, they are in the hole and in a goal line defense."

Lorain is 1-5 overall but even in two Buckeye Conference games, the same as Ross, and as Moore sees it, still in the running for the conference title along with his team.

"I rated them third in the conference in the pre-season," the Ross coach said about the Steelmen.

Lorain Coach Vic Furiga, in a pre-season fact sheet, rated his offensive and defensive backfields at the team's strength but also notated that the lines were the possible team weakness.

Dennis Hughes, the Steelman tailback, has impressed Moore.

"He can really move," the Ross boss described.

Hughes, 6-foot, 180-pound junior, is the conference's fourth leading rusher with 470 yards on 98 carries, a 5.1 average. He has scored only two touchdowns, however, as the Steelmen have put only 47 points on the board.

Lorain lost its first four games of the season before slipping past Sandusky 14-12. Last week, the Steelmen lost to undefeated Findlay 25-0.

"Lorain is basically a junior ball club," Moore said, "and they have nine lettermen back and with that many lettermen back, I really cannot figure out why they have done so poorly."

Moore said he was pleased with the Little Giants defense last week, pointing out that half of the eight Elyria turnovers in the 39-0

Ross win, were caused by the defense.

"They had two or three good runs by Jackson (Elyria tailback Lamar), but we did have some missed tackles on those plays."

Moore pointed out that his Ross, 4-2, may be playing a bit looser now, saying that the pressure his team may have felt three weeks ago has now disappeared.

"I can tell you that we are not as 'pressurized' as we were three weeks ago when we were rated number two in the state and everyone felt we were going to be in the state playoffs," he described. "When everyone is talking about it, you do get pressure."

"Right now, it is a long shot at a berth in the state playoffs but the conference title is not out of question," Moore insisted. "We have to create our chances by winning and we have to have help."

Admiral King with a 6-0 overall mark and 2-0 in the conference is a half-game behind Findlay at 6-0 and 3-0.

"I think Findlay or Sandusky or even Lorain has a shot at getting Admiral King," Moore offered. "Someone has to help us but we have to stay alive ourselves."

After Lorain, Ross will host Marion Harding, travel to Findlay and host Sandusky.

BUCKEYE STATS: Ross is ranked third in offense with 223 yards a game and second defensively, yielding 173 per game. Lorain is last in offense with 185 per contest and last in defense, giving up 273.

Individually, quarterback Shawn McCarthy is second in passing with 40 of 94 for 447 yards, three TDs and 10 interceptions. Derek Isaman is eighth in receiving with nine for 117 yards and Dave Kovalski is 10th with seven for 105. Chris Simmons, John Lozano and Kevin Hively are in a logjam for sixth place among interceptions leaders with two.

McCarthy ranks fourth in punting having averaged 34.6.

Ross nudges Lorain 9-7

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

LORAIN — "Keep cranking."

"That's how it was tonight," Ross Coach Pete Moore said as he described his team's play at foggy George Daniel Stadium Friday.

Only, while the Little Giants' cranked, the Ross machine kept sputtering but did not miss often enough to deny the Little Giants a 9-7 Buckeye Conference football victory and keep Ross's slim title hopes alive.

Shawn McCarthy's 34-yard field goal midway through the third quarter pulled Ross from a 7-6 deficit to the lead. After that, the Little Giants "kept cranking" and got the Ross engine functioning smoothly enough to hold off the 1-6 Steelmen.

"I don't know whether we played that badly or they played that well," Ross defensive coordinator Joe Siesel said after watching his team get pushed around for much of the game.

Lorain rolled up 122 yards on the ground and another 144 in the air for 266 yards of total offense, the most allowed this season by the Little Giants.

"We moved the ball very well, but then we would braack, spraaat, flooop," he said as he made a sound like a cement mixer with heartburn.

Ross scored first on a five-play, 48-yard drive midway through the second quarter. John Lozano, one of two tailbacks employed by Moore, ran 34 yards to the Lorain 15 on the first play. Three plays later, Ross faced a fourth and eight at the 13 but McCarthy fired a pass over the middle that wide receiver Karl Bury, caught, bobbled and finally controlled as he hit the turf in the end zone.

McCarthy's kick, however, sailed off to the left.

Lorain used a faked punt to key its scoring drive which covered 74 yards on 11 plays. Facing a fourth and seven at the Steelmen 40, 240-pound punter Baron Roule faked the punt and lofted a pass to tight end Tony Kruman for 27 yards to the Ross 40.

From that point, Lorain tailback Dennis Hughes carried for nine and the final 25 to put Lorain on the board with 1:44 to play in the first half. Roule's kick put Ross behind 7-6 at the half.

The Little Giants took the second half kickoff and drove 41 yards before settling for McCarthy's field goal at the 6:34 mark.

Lorain took the ensuing kickoff and marched methodically to the Ross 14. Twice, Steelmen quarterback Carson Coates connected on passes of 20 and 18 yards in the ill-fated 66-yard drive. On a second and 14 at the Ross 14, Ross linebacker Craig Mosser stepped in front of a Coates pass at the seven and took it out of danger to the Ross 33.

Chris Simmons, who started at tailback for Ross, bulled his way to 150 yards on 26 carries for the Little Giants. After a Lorain drive had stalled at the Ross 32 with 6:36 to play, Ross started a time-consuming drive that did not result in any points but took valuable time off the clock.

Simmons had runs of 14, 11, and 12 yards in the drive as the Little Giants drove to the 25 before giving up the ball with 1:32 remaining in the game.

Four plays later, the Little Giants defense had allowed just one yard and Ross's fifth win in seven games was sewn up.

"I still say that Lorain is not a bad football team," Moore insisted. "They did self-destruct and that is what we tried to do."

"Our defense bent a little and at times it bent a little too much."

"But as I told the kids," Moore concluded, "we'll just keep cranking."

And hopefully, he offered a silent wish, not sputter so much.

Ross 9, Lorain 7

Score by quarters

Ross	0	6	3	0—	9
Lorain	0	7	0	0—	7

Scoring

Ross: Kary Bury 13-yard pass from Shawn McCarthy (kick failed) 6:10, second quarter.

Lorain: Dennis Hughes 25-yard frun (Baron Roule kick) 1:44, second quarter.

Ross: McCarthy 34-yard field goal 6:34, third quarter.

Team Stats

	R	L
First Downs	16	11
Rushes/Yards	46/234	30/122
Passing Yards	52	144
Passes/Comp./Int.	11/6/0	18/11/1
Punts/Average	1/37	3/31
Fumbles/Lost	3/0	1/0
Penalties/Yards	2/30	11/77

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross, C. Simmons 26—150, J. Lozano 9—49, J. Carroll 7—21, S. McCarthy 4—14; Lorain, D. Hughes 17—68, G. Laurent 1—26, T. Kruman 2—24, S. Johnson 5—10.

Passing: Ross, S. McCarthy 11/6/0 52 yards; Lorain C. Coates 17/0/1 117 yards, B. Rovle 1/1/0 27 yards.

Receiving: Ross, K. Bury 3—38, J. Carroll 1—7, C. Simmons 1—5, J. Lozano 1—2; Lorain G. Laurenti 5—40, T. Kruman 3—56, J. Curry 2—28, K. Bryant 1—20.

Pssst! Little Giants' problem team next

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Maybe it's the week before the Findlay game or perhaps Marion Harding gets "high", but for whatever reason, Fremont Ross nearly always has its problems with the football playing Presidents.

Harding has caused so many problems in the past for the Little Giants, Ross Coach Pete Moore doesn't like to read about the problems.

"I think when you read about it year in and year out, you get to believing that you will have a hard time and you do," Moore said Tuesday as his semi-battered team began to group for the homecoming game Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Down through the years, the Little Giants have beaten the Presidents much more than they have lost — 21 times more in the 39 games that have been played.

The past three years, Ross has won 16-6 in 1981, 14-7, one of only three Ross wins in 1982, and 18-13 in the Little Giants' historic 1983 season.

This meeting, the 40th between the two teams, marks the 25th anniversary of Harding's 76-6 romp over the Little Giants.

This season, Harding is 2-5 and 0-4 in the Buckeye conference. At one point, Harding was 2-2 but have since fallen to Findlay (16-10), Sandusky (28-6) and last week to Admiral King (28-7).

"King intercepted two passes on them and returned them for touchdowns," Moore pointed out about the latest Harding loss. "King did not dominate them; no team has dominated them. I think it will be a good football game Friday night."

The Ross coach explained the Presidents use multiple formations offensively.

"They always seem to change something for us," he said and explained that he and his coaching staff have been reviewing films of past games.

"Defensively, in the past, they seem to stunt more for us than other teams."

Ross escaped the fog-shrouded plains of Lorain Senior 9-7 last Friday in a game that featured many ill-fated offensive drives for the Little Giants.

"It seems like all the teams in the Buckeye Conference have played very well at times and then gone flat in games," Moore explained. "That is what has been happening to us and that was what happened to us at Lorain."

"That seems to be a characteristic of the Buckeye Conference this season."

ROSS NOTES: Senior fullback Todd Beatty, out the past two games because of badly bruised ribs, and sophomore tailback Steve Letzring, are expected to see some action this Friday. Letzring did not make the trip to Lorain while nursing groin and hip injuries.

Moore said that Beatty and sophomore Jim Carroll will share fullback duties while Chris Simmons who had 150 yards on 26 carries against Lorain, John Lozano and Letzring will operate out of the tailback slot.

Derek Isaman suffered a severe bruise on his right hand against Lorain but will play against Harding.

In Buckeye Conference stats, Ross is second in total defense, allowing 186 yards a game and third in offense with 238 yards.

Quarterback Shawn McCarthy has taken over the passing lead with 499 yards on 42 of 102. Isaman is 10th and Dave Kowaleski is 11th in yards in pass receiving with 117 and 105 on nine and seven receptions, respectively. Simmons, Kevin Hively and Lozano are in a knot of players tied for fourth in interceptions with two each.

Lozano is ninth in kickoff returns, averaging 19 yards on seven returns. He is also eighth in punt returns with a 36 yards on 11 efforts.

McCarthy is third in punting, averaging 34.7 on 31 punts.

Simmons is sixth in rushing with 454 yards on 92 carries. Beatty is ninth with 285 on 68 and Letzring is 11 with 192 on 36 carries.

Lozano's theft tops Ross win

By ROB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor

John Lozano added polish to a plodding, methodical Buckeye Conference high school football victory for Fremont Ross Friday.

The Little Giants, with Lozano, a junior defensive halfback, returning an intercepted pass 90 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter, outplayed and out-muscled Marion Harding 23-0 at Harmon Stadium. The win, number six in eight games and the third against one loss in conference play, sweetened the Little Giants Homecoming.

Coach Pete Moore would not call the game methodical but he did admit that he felt his team was in control by the third time the Little Giants got the ball.

"Now, we are right where we want to be," Moore said as he began to mentally prepare for next Friday's clash with unbeaten Findlay. The Trojans squeezed past Elyria 13-11 to move to 8-0 overall and 4-0 in BC play.

Lozano's third interception of the year killed a belated Harding drive. The 96-yard interception return is the third longest in Ross history. Ironically, the two players in front of Lozano — Jim Ohms and Mike Havenor — also had their returns against Harding. Ohms leads with a 96-yarder in 1960 while Havenor loped 95 yards in 1976.

Before that time, Ross has scored in each quarter to pile up a 17-0 lead. Chris Simmons had ran three yards in the first quarter, Shawn McCarthy passed 10-yards to tight end Dave Kovaleski in the second and McCarthy booted a 32-yard field goal in the third.

Lozano's theft put the shine on the win.

"I told the coaches that I felt we had control of the game by the third series," Moore said. "We were running the dive plays and our isolation plays up the middle about the best that we have done all season."

After an exchange of punts, Ross marched 56 yards in eight plays with Simmons going in from the three for the first score. McCarthy, who hit two of three point after touchdown attempts, made

it 7-0 at the 3:40 mark of the first quarter.

McCarthy's pass to Kovaleski capped a 13-play, 80-yard drive in the second quarter. Todd Beatty, back in action after missing two games, bulled his way for five yards on a fourth and five at the Harding 38 to key the drive.

McCarthy's field goal came after Ross has taken over at the Harding 19 on Lozano's eight-yard punt return. Ross had driven to the six-inch mark on the prior series but gave up the ball on downs at that point. Harding punter Jon Reed escaped Ross's Derek Isaman and John Coleman in the end zone to get off a 26-yard punt three plays later.

After that, Ross controlled the ball, missing on two other opportunities to score. Once when Harding's Fritz Wink intercepted a McCarthy pass in the end zone and the other when a Ross drive stalled at the Harding five.

The deepest penetration for Harding was the Ross 25 when Craig Owens ran a fumble 20 yards off a completed pass to teammate Aaron Mahle. Four plays later, Lozano stepped in front of a Kent Berry pass and galloped into Ross history.

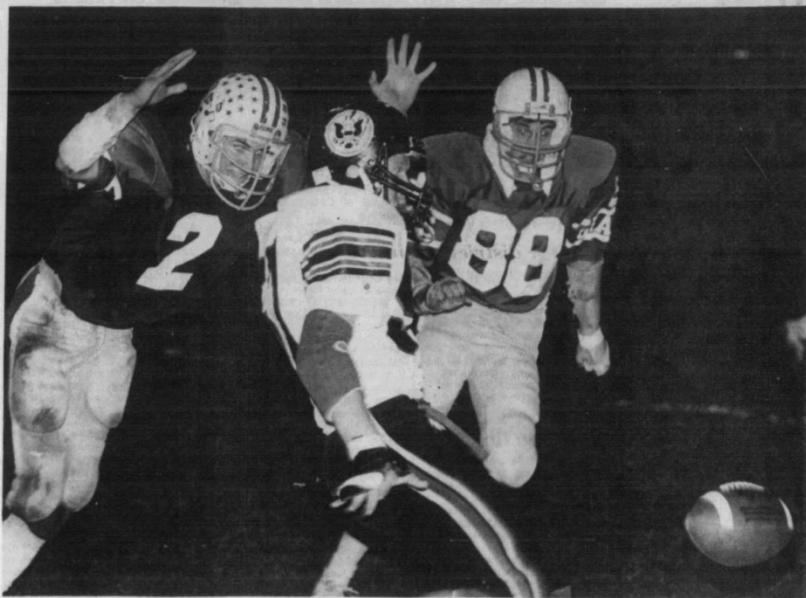
The Little Giants battered the interior of the Harding line with Ross's interior people of tacklers Dan Gangwer and Mike Bobay, guards Mark Nitschke and Kyle Amor and center Scott Cross consistently opening up big holes. To balance that, Simmons picked up big chunks of yardage pitches to the outside.

Simmons finished with his second straight 100-yard game, rushing for 101 on 18 efforts. Beatty had 81 on 15 carries.

Defensively, Ross limited the Presidents to 47 rushings yards and 45 in the air.

"We played pretty well," Ross defensive Coordinator Joe Siesel said. "We covered the field very well defensively."

Jim Kline, George Weissinger, Dave Growel, Isaman and Craig Mosser led the Ross defense. In addition to Lozano's pass theft, T.J. Winans, Isaman and Jerry Palomo intercepted passes for the Little Giants.



DEREK ISAMAN (2) and John Coleman (88) of Fremont Ross bear down on Marion Harding punter Jon Reed. The two Little Giants

were attempting to block Reed's punt in the Harding end zone. He managed to get his punt off for 26 yards.

Lakota roars past Bears 29-2

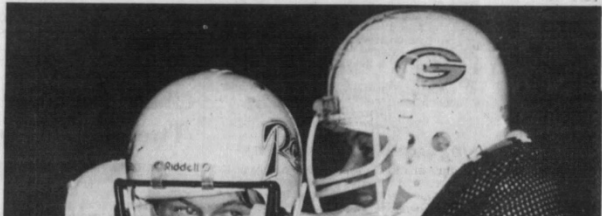
By STEVE GOBLE

News-Messenger Staff Writer

GIBSONBURG — A fair start melted into a bad finish for the Gibsonburg Golden Bears, while opportunities turned into touchdowns and a win for the Lakota Raiders, in a 29-2 Suburban Lakes League match Friday night.

Head Coach Gary Wasielewski's Bears got off OK after the Raiders unsuccessful opening drive and punt let Gibsonburg start from their own 28.

The Bears looked good at first. Running back Tom Angelen



Football

Ross 23, Harding 0

Score by quarters

Harding	0	0	0	0—	0
Ross	7	7	3	6—	23

Scoring

Ross: Chris Simmons, three-yard run (Shawn McCarthy kick) 3:40, first quarter.

Ross: Dave Kovaleski, 10-yard pass from McCarthy (McCarthy kick) 1:14, second quarter.

Ross: McCarthy, 32-yard field goal, 4:38, third quarter.

Ross: John Lozano, 90-yard interception return (kick failed), 1:53, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	H	R
First Downs	7	* 18
Rushes/Yards	23/47	49/209
Passing Yards	45	74
Passes/Comp./Int.	10/5/4	14/7/1
Punts/Average	7/29.7	2/45.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	5/1
Penalties/Yards	4/27	4/20

Individual Statistics

Rushing: **Harding**, Larry Parker 5/30, Kent Berry 10/7, Kyle Mayse 5/8, Jim Colby 3/2; **Ross**, Chris Simmons 18/101, Todd Beatty 15/81, Steve Letzring 10/22, Derek Isaman 3/8, Troy Laird 1/1, Troy Blodgett 1/1, Jim Carroll 1/-3, Shawn McCarthy 3/-3.

Passing: **Harding**, Berry 18/5/4—45; **Ross**, McCarthy 14/7/1—74.

Receiving: **Harding**, Aaron Mahle 3/28, Craig Owens 1/13, Mayse 1/4; **Ross**, Isaman 2/35, Karl Bury 1/25, Simmons 1/4, Kovaleski 1/10, Letzring 1/0.

Season records: Ross 6-2 (3-1); Harding 2-6 (0-5).

Stakes are high in Ross-Findlay clash

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Two common opportunities face both Findlay and Fremont Ross as the Little Giants invade the home of the Trojans Friday at Donnell Stadium.

— One, both teams have a shot at the Buckeye Conference championship.

— Two, both have shots at reaching the state playoffs.

Those are the opportunities but in actuality, they may be common ground between the teams but the Trojans have the much better chance of pulling off both.

Findlay is 8-0 and ranked first in Division I, Region III of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Computer Ratings, the device used to determine playoff teams, and the Trojans are tied for the conference lead with Admiral King, the team they play the final week of the regular season.

Ross, 6-2 and 3-1 in the BC race, is a very long shot at pulling off either trick.

In some corners, Findlay's schedule has been a joking point. The Trojans' non-conference games came against Cleveland John Adams, Toledo Start and Toledo DeVilbiss, none of which is a

powerhouse.

Findlay has beaten Sandusky 26-20, Marion Harding 16-10, Lorain Senior 25-9 and Elyria 13-11 in conference play. In comparison, Ross has beaten Elyria 39-0, Lorain Senior 9-7 and Marion Harding 23-0. Ross's loss in BC play has been to Admiral King 26-7.

"Hey, I don't care what you say," Ross Coach Pete Moore said while challenging the Findlay doubters, "they are 8-0 and you have to be doing something good to be undefeated."

What Findlay has been doing "good" the Ross coach said is not making mistakes.

"They do not turn the ball over," Moore said, "and we have been living by the turnover this year. We have gotten 27 of them defensively this year."

The Trojans do not rank with the "fancy" teams the Ross coach said.

"They will come at you with the split backfield and run the dive play at you until you stop it. Once you do that, they will go outside on you.

"Occasionally, they will run out of the 'I.'" Moore continued. "They use two quarterbacks — Sam Dunn and Brian Miller — and it is evident what they are going to do depending on which quarterback is in

the game."

Dunn is the runner and Miller is the passer. Dunn, however, can throw, passing for four touchdowns in his 19 completions in 48 attempts. Miller is the top percentage passer in the conference with 34 of 53 for 464 yards and six touchdowns.

The top receivers for the Trojans are Larry Helms, first in the BC with 22 catches for 398 yards, and Mark Ritzler, 18 catches for three touchdowns and 187 yards.

Dave Sprouss has rushed for 575 yards on 126 carries and six TDs to lead the Findlay runners. Running mate John Breitgam has 510 yards on 123 carries and five six-pointers.

In team stats, Findlay is second behind Admiral King in offense, generating 243.1 yards while averaging nearly 18 points a game. Ross is third with 242.9 yards and a little over 16 points per game.

The Little Giants are first in defense, allowing 177 yards a contest and a little over 10 points per game while Findlay is sixth with 235 yards allowed per game but only nine points per contest.

Moore made the logical statement, saying he expected a heckuva game and he looked logically at the playoff picture.

"Findlay could wrap up a playoff berth if they beat us," he said but added a "no comment" to how he felt his team's chance were should the Little Giants win.

ROSS NOTES: John Lozano's pass interception for a TD against Marion Harding last Friday is officially 91 yards, a yard better than originally thought. Game films verified the extra yard for the fourth longest return of an interception by a Ross player. It was thought to have been the third longest but digging deeper into the record book produced a 95-yard return by Ross defensive back coach Chuck Lindsey against Mansfield in 1971. Mike Havenor matched Lindsey against Marion Harding in 1976. First in the category belongs to John Ohms, a 96-yarder against Marion Harding in 1960.

It will be the 59th meeting of the two teams with Ross holding a 36-19 lead with three games ending in ties. Last year, Ross won 27-0.

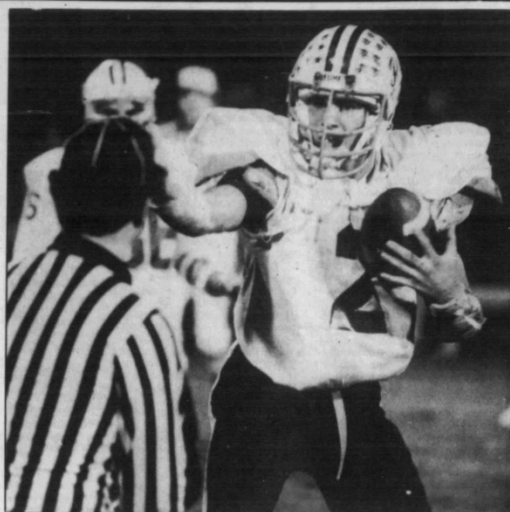
Tickets for the game are on sale at Tremper's until Friday at 4 p.m. That is the only place you can buy tickets now, according to Ross Athletic Director Dick Sherman, who said tickets are sold out in Findlay. He said that extra bleachers are being installed for the game.

Sports



DEREK ISAMAN, Ross outside linebacker, hurls his body, upper left, parallel to the ground as he comes up with an apparent third quarter

interception against Findlay Friday night at Donnell Stadium in Findlay. Isaman stepped in front of Findlay receiver Mike Binn for the theft,



but the apparent interception was ruled no catch by the referee. At the right, Isaman voices and gestures his displeasure at the ruling. The

disputed play came on a first and goal from the Ross 22 and on the next play, Findlay scored its only touchdown of the game.

News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

Ross wins in final 10 seconds 13-11

McCarthy's field goal stuns Findlay

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

FINDLAY — Shawn McCarthy's 40-yard field goal with 10 seconds remaining in the game pulled Ross to a 13-11 victory over Findlay Friday night and brought the Trojans' dream season to a skidding halt.

The loss was the first in nine games for Findlay and dropped them into a second place tie at 4-1 with Ross, 7-2 overall, in the Buckeye Conference race. Admiral King, a 14-6 winner over Sandusky, leads with a 5-0 record. Findlay will play the Admirals next Friday.

Findlay had entered the game as the top team in Division I, Region III of the Ohio High School computer ratings, the method used to determine playoff teams. Ironically, Findlay had defeated Elyria 13-11 a week ago.

"Are the doctors around here?" Ross Coach Pete Moore said as he did a takeoff on Fred Sanford of television's Sanford and Son. "I think this is the big one. My heart was really thumping out there."

While Moore's heart was thumping, McCarthy's toe came up with one big thump.

"The farther it went, the more it kept coming back in," McCarthy said as he described the kick that rocked Findlay.

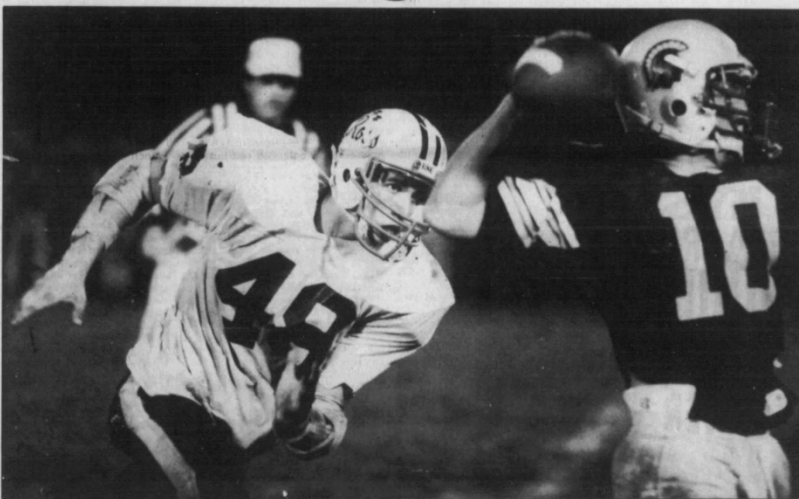
"The snap was a little high," holder Karl Bury said. "The kick started out right but then hooked back in; he had the leg in it."

McCarthy, a 6-8 junior who quarterbacked the Little Giants, said the kick made up for a fourth quarter intercepted pass that killed a Ross drive at the Findlay 26 after the Trojans had grabbed an 11-10 lead on Mark Ritzler's 33-yard field goal.

"That was a dumb mistake," McCarthy was able to laugh. "I should have ran the ball."

The field goal capped a 35-yard drive from the Ross 22 with two minutes to play. Findlay punter Jay Viera had gotten off a 44-yarder to that spot after he had avoided a Little Giants rush.

The 12-play drive featured 10



DAVE KOVALESKI, Fremont Ross Little Giants defensive end, takes a bead on Findlay quarterback Sam Dunn during first half

passes and one run. McCarthy's fired eight yards to Derek Isaman on the first play and misfired on the second before Todd Beatty picked up the first down with a three yard run. Two incomplete passes were followed by a 17-yard connection to Gregg Gallagher at midfield.

After an incompleteness, McCarthy hit Bury for 13 to the Findlay 37. He followed that with a six-yard strike to Gallagher and an eight-yarder to Bury that carried to the Trojans 23. Then

came possibly his biggest pass; one that sailed nearly into the stands but stopped the clock with 16 seconds to play.

Ross had used its last timeout with 39 seconds remaining.

"We wanted to stop the clock and it was a key pass," Moore said as he perched on a rock just outside the Ross locker room at Donnell Stadium.

That safe pass set up the winning field goal.

"We talk about a two-minute drill," Ross offensive Coordinator

action at Findlay Friday. Dunn was able to get rid of the ball but Kovaleski was credited with two quarterback sacks in the contest.

Rex Radeloff said about the last Little Giants drive, "but we don't talk about what plays we would use."

Ross mixed up sideline patterns with a couple of clutch catches in the middle by Bury and Gallagher in the winning drive.

Ross had broken out on top three minutes into the game after linebacker David Growl stepped in front of Findlay quarterback Sam Dunn's pass at the Trojan 32 and returned it to the 14. Ross

tailback Chris Simmons ran to the three and two plays later, scored from the one with McCarthy's kick making it 7-0 Ross at the 9:16 mark.

The Little Giants increased that lead to 10-0 on McCarthy's 33-yard field goal three minutes away from halftime.

The first half was dominated by both defenses. Ross did that expectantly while Findlay's defense was a mild surprise. The Little Giants are the top rated defensive team in the conference

while Findlay ranks sixth. Ross had only 64 total yards while Findlay had 20 at the half.

In the second half, the Trojan defense manhandled Ross until the Little Giants' backs were against the wall. Ross did not get a first down in the second half until eight minutes remained in the game. That came on the series after Findlay had taken the lead but ended when McCarthy's pass was intercepted by Jeff Marshall.

The series after that, Ross failed on a fourth and six at the Findlay 35 but the next time Ross got the ball, McCarthy's passing look over.

Findlay's touchdown came on a third and goal pass from the 22.

"It was a floater and we got caught out of position; we had rotated away from it," Ross defensive Coordinator Joe Siesel said, "but that happens."

Siesel explained that Findlay, after running out of an "I" formation in the first half, used a split-back setup in the second to good advantage.

"As soon as we would come inside to stop the drive plays, they would pop it outside," Siesel said.

After Larry Helms returned a McCarthy punt 13 yards to the Ross 37 early in the third quarter, Findlay needed 11 plays to score, converting on a pair of fourth down plays in the drive. Dunn floated the ball to Helms for the TD, that coming with 4:10 to play in the third period.

After Ross failed to move the ball, Findlay took over at its 22 and marched to the Ross 16 where on a fourth and 13, Ritzler hit the field goal.

Defensively, Ross with Isaman, Simmons, Craig Mosser, Jim Kline, George Weissinger and Dave Kovaleski leading a charge that sacked Dunn seven times, allowed 119 yards of total offense.

#7 in the air, John Lozano intercepted his fourth pass of the season for Ross.

"If you are looking for one key point in this game," Moore said, "it was these kids did not give up."

News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

Football

Ross 13, Findlay 11

Score by quarters

Ross	7	3	0	3-	13
Findlay	0	0	8	3-	11

Scoring

Ross: Chris Simmons, one-yard run (Shawn McCarthy kick) 9:16, first quarter.

Ross: McCarthy, 33-yard field goal, 3:03, second quarter.

Findlay: Larry Helms, 22-yard pass from Sam Dunn (Mark Ritzler pass from Dunn) 4:10, third quarter.

Findlay: Ritzler, 33-yard field goal, 9:37, fourth quarter.

Ross: McCarthy, 40-yard goal, :10, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	R	F
First Downs	10	9
Rushes/Yards	31/83	34/32
Passing Yards	69	87
Passes/Comp./Int.	18/7/1	15/6/2
Punts/Average	3/44.6	4/39.2
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	6/62	5/43

Individual Statistics

Rushing: **Ross**, T. Beatty 10/38, S. Letzring 10/23, C. Simmons 11/22. **Findlay**, D. Sprouse 11/39, J. Breitgam 12/29, S. Dunn 10/(-36).

Passing: **Ross**, McCarthy 18/7/1—69, **Findlay**, Dunn 15/6/2—87.

Receiving: **Ross**, Bury 3/33, Gallagher 3/28, Isaman 1/8; **Findlay**, Helms 4/64, Breitgam 1/16, Bihn 1/7.

Season records: Ross 7-2 (5-1); Findlay 8-1 (5-1).

Win over Streaks a must for Ross

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

It's a matter of working toward goals.

At least, that is what Ross Coach Pete Moore is saying as the Little Giants began drills for the season finale against Sandusky Friday at Harmon Stadium.

Ross faces a couple of unique situations with one key requirement.

— One, the Little Giants have a shot at a share of the Buckeye Conference title should Findlay defeat Admiral King.

— Two, should Admiral King defeat Findlay, the Little Giants will not get a share of the conference crown but have a possible shot at a second state playoff berth.

The requirement?

Moore brought that quickly to the front. "We won't have a shot at anything if we don't win this game," he said quickly.

Ross is 6-2 and 4-1 in the conference race while Admiral

Little Giants are 2nd

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Toledo St. Francis' Knights have replaced Findlay as a Division I regional leader this week in the Ohio High School Athletic Association's computerized regional football ratings.

The OHSAA uses the rankings to select its 40 teams for the playoffs that begin next week after the 10-game regular season. The top two schools in each of the 20 regions will be announced Sunday for the postseason eliminations.

St. Francis (8-1-0) defeated twice-beaten Toledo Central Catholic 24-0 last week to move from third to first in Region 3 with 109.56 points. Findlay, suffering its first loss this season 13-11 to Fremont Ross, fell to third behind second-place Ross 107.50 to 105.00.

King is 9-0 and 5-0 with Findlay 8-1 and 4-1.

"What is wrong with a championship?" he asked while sidestepping the question about how he wanted to see the Admiral King-Findlay clash end. "If we get a win over Sandusky, we will have a pretty good season."

While still hedging about the

Buckeye Conference championship game, the Ross coach clicked off his team's top five preseason goals:

- 1-Win the Buckeye Conference.
- 2-Be 10-0 for the season.
- 3-A possible playoff berth.
- 4-Have the best possible season.
- 5-Be respectable.

"I don't know how the kids feel

right now," Moore explained, "but our number one goal is to be Buckeye Conference champions and if we cannot be champs, then have an opportunity to possibly be in the playoffs."

A Findlay win would give Ross the title share but a Findlay win or tie would put the Ross uniforms in mothballs for the season.

"The best thing for us right now, though, is to have a good game against Sandusky," Moore insisted.

"I am just happy now that we are bouncing back from two tough losses that took a lot out of us."

He was referring to the 26-7 loss to Admiral King and a 31-14 setback by Cleveland Benedictine, a pair of games that Ross took itself out of with big mistakes in the latter stages of the contests.

"Right now," Moore said, "I can accept an 8-2 record; not 7-3. We are approaching where I feel we should be and 7-3 is not there."

Sandusky is 4-5 overall and 1-4

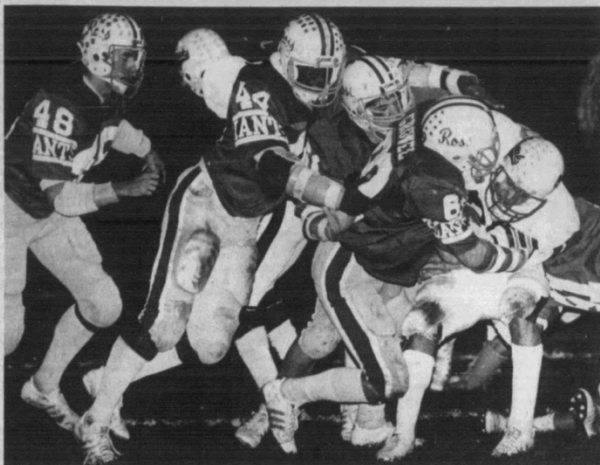
in the BC race after losing to Admiral King 14-6 last Friday. The Blue Streaks conference win was 28-6 over Marion Harding. The other losses have been to Lorain Senior 14-12, Elyria 24-6 and Findlay 26-20.

"They have made big strides this season with a lot of young players," Moore said about first year Coach Larry Cook's team.

The Blue Streaks had only four returning lettermen. Statistically, the Blue Streaks rank third in conference defense, yielding 188 yards a game while offensively, Sandusky is sixth with 186 yards a contest.

Quarterback Todd Croom has passed for three touchdowns on 42 of 93 attempts for 610 yards, fourth in the conference. David Belle is the team's leading receiver, ranking second in the BC with 25 catches for 428 yards and three TDs. Sandusky's leading rusher is Eric Jordon with 636 yards on 129 carries.

Sports



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

ROSS'S DEFENSE swarms over a Sandusky runner above. Left to right are Little Giants Dave Kovaleski, Chris Simmons, Craig Mosser and

David Growel. At the right, Simmons goes into the end zone for his second touchdown as Kovaleski blocks Sandusky's Luis Guevara.



Ross blanks Streaks to win 12th BC title

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Aaaahhhhh, the sweetness was mingled with the bitter but there was not a scowl to spoil the happiness that clogged the Ross locker room at Harmon Stadium Friday night.

The Little Giants had systematically dismantled Sandusky 14-0 and were celebrating a 12th Buckeye Conference championship. Ross needed the win and a victory by Findlay over unbeaten Admiral King to get a portion of the title but there were strings attached to those conditions.

A Findlay win would probably eliminate the Little Giants from a state playoff berth even though it would enable Ross to tie the Findlay and the Admirals for the conference title.

When the night ended, Ross had its conference title but may have to utter the battle cry of "Wait until next year!" when it comes to the playoffs.

Findlay felled Admiral King 26-15 and with the Ross win, split the conference title between the Trojans, the Little Giants and the Admirals, all with 5-1 conference records.

"We like to win championships," Ross Coach Pete Moore said in the noisy Little Giants locker room.

"but I think the community wants us in the playoffs."

That want was visible in the stands when the Findlay-Admiral King updates were greeted with cheers and groans. The biggest cheer was when Admiral King went ahead 13-12 early in the third quarter.

"The community can share in a playoff berth more than it can in a conference championship," Moore reasoned. "but the only thing wrong with this tonight is it's a shame we did not win the conference championship outright."

Ross was second in the Division I, Region III computer ratings which determine playoff teams, heading into the game, two points ahead of Findlay. Toledo St. Francis led the regions and locked up a place in the playoffs with a 20-0 win over Toledo Libbey Friday afternoon. Findlay probably locked up its berth with the win over Admiral King and Ross will likely finish third or fourth.

The Little Giants dominated Sandusky from the first to the last plays of the game. The Ross defense gave up just 33 yards of total offense and three first downs. The only time the Blue Streaks got into Ross territory was midway through the fourth quarter when Troy Aaron recovered a fumble at the Ross 38.

That drive ended when Ross defensive back John Lozano intercepted his fifth pass of the season and returned it to the 22.

The Little Giants have now blanked Sandusky for 12 consecutive quarters with the two 7-0 victories last season and Friday's whitewash.

Ross scored in the first and fourth quarters with Chris Simmons, who finished with 129 yards on 24 carries, scoring both TDs on runs of one and three yards, respectively.

On the first play of the game, Sandusky tailback Eric Jordan fumbled and Ross linebacker Craig Mosser recovered at the Blue Streaks 32. It took Ross 10 plays to score. Shawn McCarthy's kick put Ross up 7-0 with 6:44 to play in the quarter.

After that, it was a case of Ross's defense with Derek Isaman, George Weissinger, Doug McClure, Jim Cline, Dave Kovaleski, David Growel, Simmons, Todd Beatty, Kevin Hively, T.J. Winans, Lozano and a few others dictating Sandusky's progress and a sputtering Ross offense.

The Little Giants drove to the Sandusky 35, 42, 8 and 27 in the first half but an interception, fumble, downs and halftime kept Ross's offense out of the end zone.

Sandusky's offense, however, was non-existent.

Outside of the fourth quarter fumble recovery, the best field position the Blue Streaks had to begin a drive was at the Sandusky 40 midway in the third period when Tim Linden returned his second pass interception of the game 34 yards. That killed a Ross drive that had reached the Sandusky 25.

Simmons intercepted a pass at the Ross 44 and returned it to the Sandusky 47 to set up the Little Giants' second touchdown. Ross marched those yards in nine plays. Fullback Beatty picked up 32 of the yards on three carries. Simmons leaped in from the three at the 9-46 mark of the final period to secure the game for the Little Giants. That drive featured good blocking from tackles Mike Bobay and Dan Gangwer, guards Kyle Amor and Mark Nitschke, center Scott Cross and tight end Kris Smith.

The game ended at the Sandusky 31 and Ross driving. By that time, Moore had inserted his second stringers for mop-up action.

"It was a great season for us," Moore said, "and it was a great game for us tonight. We did everything but push the ball into the end zone with our offense."

"The defense had a great game; they handled everything up front that Sandusky tried."

Ross 14, Sandusky 0

Score by quarters

Sandusky	0	0	0	0—	0
Ross	7	0	0	7—	14

Scoring

Ross: Chris Simmons, one-yard run (Shawn McCarthy kick) 6:44, first quarter.

Ross: Simmons, three-yard run (McCarthy kick) 9:46, fourth quarter.

Team Stats

	S	R
First Downs	3	14
Rushes/Yards	22/32	54/248
Passing Yards	1	48
Passes/Comp./Int.	9/2/2	7/4/2
Punts/Average	6/30.8	2/38.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	4/2
Penalties/Yards	0/0	3/35

Individual Statistics

Rushing: **Sandusky**, Eric Jordan 7/18, Mike Carlucci 6/10, Bill Omlor 2/6, Tony Myers 2/3; **Ross**, Simmons 24/129, Todd Beatty 17/68, Steve Letzring 10/42, Troy Blodgett 2/5, Jim Carroll 1/4.

Passing: **Sandusky** Todd Croom 9/2/2—1; **Ross**, McCarthy 7/4/2—48.

Receiving: **Sandusky**, Jordan 1/3, Carlucci 1/—2; **Ross**, Beatty 2/25, Derek Isaman 1/7, Kris Smith 1/16.

Season records: Ross 8-2 (5-1), Sandusky 4-6 (1-5).

Ross just misses out on playoffs

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Fremont Ross has a dubious distinction that has quietly been accepted by football Coach Wayne "Pete" Moore.

Findlay and Toledo St. Francis finished one-two in Division I, Region 3 in the Ohio High School Athletic Association computer ratings and qualified for the state playoffs — and the Little Giants defeated both teams.

"It's just too bad," Moore said Sunday after what he had predicted earlier in the week was confirmed. "I felt we were getting better as the season went on."

After the Little Giants had defeated Findlay 13-11 the ninth week of the season, Ross had jumped to second behind St. Francis in the computer rankings. Findlay was third but had unbeaten Admiral King remaining on its schedule.

Computer points are awarded for your wins and beaten opponents' wins with different point evaluations for teams in the five divisions.

Moore, while not admitting it, was torn two ways before his team defeated Sandusky 14-0 Friday to end the season with an 8-2 mark. He had pointed out that his team could realize its top goal of winning the Buckeye Conference championship should Findlay beat Admiral King.

What was quietly tearing at him inside was the realization that if Findlay beat the Admirals, Moore's team would be out of the playoffs. Findlay did beat the Admirals 26-15 giving Ross a share of the Buckeye Conference crown along with Findlay and Admiral King but also damaging their playoff hopes at the same time.

Findlay finished with 143.50 computer points, St. Francis 138.51 and Ross 136.50.

"I think we would have put on a good show for the people in the playoffs," Moore said, "especially defensively."

What also made the near-miss sting was Findlay's feelings about Ross.

"The Findlay coaches could not figure out how we lost the Admiral King," Moore said. "It was pretty easy for me to figure it out...we lost 26-7."

Ross led Admiral King 7-6 with less than six minutes to play but three big mistakes led to three Admiral touchdowns in less than 3½ minutes.

Moore and his coaching staff met with the team Sunday evening to go over the Sandusky game films and he said that he sensed the members of the team were happy with the conference title, but not being in the playoffs was a disappointment.

"Yeah, you could tell they wanted to be in the playoffs. They have a championship but have to share it," Moore said. "They enjoyed watching the Sandusky films but you got that feeling they were disappointed."

The coaching staff, Moore admitted, was disappointed but had expected not making the playoffs since they had figured that a Findlay tie or win against Admiral King would eliminate the Little Giants.

"What we realize," he explained, "is we had some close games during the season and could easily have been 6-4."

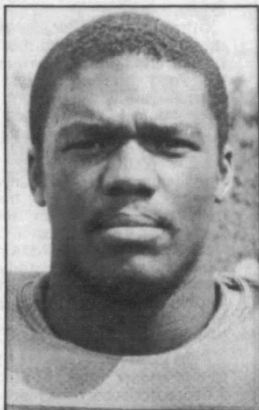
In Ross's first three games, the Little Giants defeated Mansfield 9-0, Oregon Clay 14-7 and St. Francis 14-13 before moving into conference play.

This past weekend Mansfield and St. Francis won while Oregon Clay lost to Napoleon 22-21, but even a Clay win would have given Ross only two points and the Little Giants would still have fallen short by .01 points.

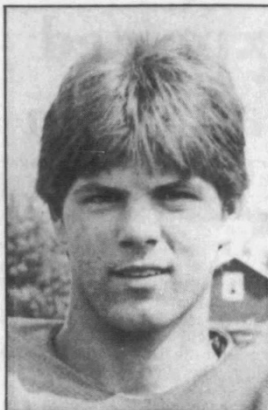
Four of Ross's opponents — Findlay, St. Francis, Admiral King and Cleveland Benedictine — are in the playoffs.

In 1985, the playoffs will be expanded to four teams from each region.

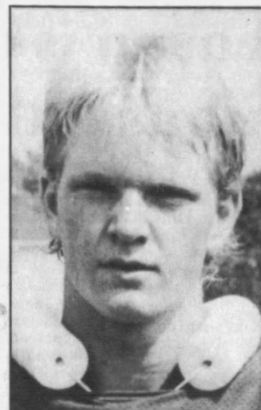
"It's too bad that it's not four teams this year," Moore said quietly, "but we will live with it right now."



CHRIS SIMMONS



JIM KLINE



MARK NITSCHKE

Isaman leads BC choices

Derek Isaman was named the Buckeye Conference defensive player-of-the-year to lead a squad of Ross Little Giants being selected to either the first or second All-Buckeye Conference football teams.

The players were selected by the seven conference head coaches.

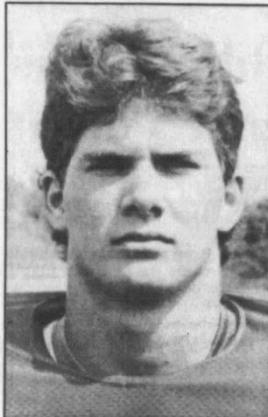
Isaman was selected as a tight end and at linebacker on the first offensive and defensive teams, respectively. During the season, Isaman hauled in 13 passes for 145 yards, one touchdown and a two-point conversion.

Defensively, Isaman was credited with 78 tackles and 64 assists, five quarterback sacks, two fumble recoveries and two pass interceptions.

Isaman was one of a pair of two-way first team selections. The other was 243-pound offensive/defensive tackle Doug Pettitcord of Admiral King.

Ross had two other first team offense members: guard Mark Nitschke, a 5-10, 185-pound senior and place kicker Shawn McCarthy, 6-8, 195-pound junior. Nitschke was a two-year starter for the Little Giants while McCarthy was Ross's quarterback and punter.

The offensive back-of-the-year was Eric West of Admiral King. West was the



DEREK ISAMAN

conference's leading scorer with 19 touchdowns and 116 points while rushing for 1,129 yards on 251 carries, second in the conference stats.

Nine of the first team offensive players are seniors a junior and a sophomore, running back Lamar Jackson of Elyria, rounding out the team. Jackson was the BC's leading rusher with 1,177 yards on 190 carries, a 6.2 average.

Defensively, Ross was represented by end Dave Kovaleski, tackle Jim Kline,

linebackers Isaman and Chris Simmons and defensive back John Lozano.

Kovaleski and Lozano are juniors. The 6-3, 200-pound Kovaleski made the team at end while Lozano, a 5-9, 160-pounder, made the team as a back. Lozano had five pass interceptions this season, tying him with four others for first in the conference.

Kline, 6-4, 190, was a vital cog in Ross's conference leading defense while Simmons, an end last season, stepped out to the outside linebacker slot this season.

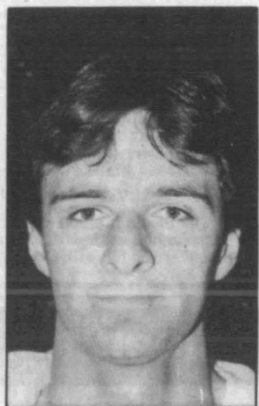
Simmons, 6-2, 238, was also selected as a second team offensive running back.

Other Little Giants making the second teams were tackle Dan Gangwer on offense and Craig Mosser at linebacker on defense.

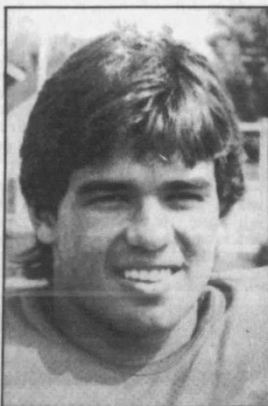
The coach-of-the-year is Dan Evans of Findlay. The second year leader of the Trojans was 4-6 a season ago and with a squad that was picked to be an also-ran this season, carved out a 9-2 record (including one playoff game) while leading the Trojans to a tri-Buckeye Conference championship along with Ross and Admiral King.

In his coaching career, Evans is 66-40-4.

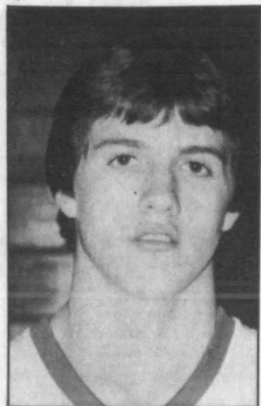
The Buckeye Conference teams are listed on page 17.



SHAWN MCCARTHY

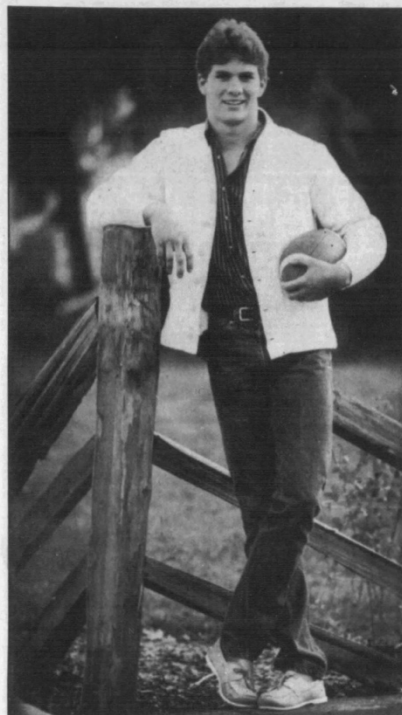


JOHN LOZANO



DAVE KOVALESKI

Isaman voted 'AAA' district Lineman of Year



DEREK ISAMAN

News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

The post-season honors continue to be heaped upon Ross's brilliant football player Derek Isaman.

Isaman, the Little Giants' 6-4, 205-pound senior, was named Class AAA Lineman of the Year for Northwestern Ohio today by a panel of Associated Press sports writers and broadcasters. Two days ago he was voted the Buckeye Conference defensive player of the year.

Isaman became eligible for the district Lineman of the Year honor after being voted to the Class AAA defensive first team as a linebacker.

Isaman was the lone Ross player to make the Class AAA first teams, but two Oak Harbor players, two Margaretta stars and two Bellevue gridders were named to the Class AA first units.

For Oak Harbor, seniors Jerry Witt and David Weirich were first-teamers. The 6-0, 185-pound Witt made it as an offensive guard and the 6-0, 170-pound Weirich made it as a defensive back.

For Margaretta, senior Aaron Kromer and junior Keith Brummitt made the top units. The 6-5, 220-pound Kromer was named first-team center and the 6-2, 210-pound Brummitt was voted first-team defensive end.

For Bellevue, seniors Dennis Hay and Greg Hogue were honored. The 6-0, 190-pound Hay made first-team linebacker and the 6-2, 175-pound Hogue made first-team kicker.

Eleven area players were named to the all-district second teams, including four from Ross, two each from Clyde and Oak Harbor, and one each from Margaretta, Genoa and Woodmore.

Ross is represented on the Class AAA second teams by senior Chris Simmons as a linebacker, senior Jim Kline as a defensive tackle, junior Dave Kovaleski as a defensive end and junior John Lozano as a defensive back.

On the Class AA second teams, Clyde has senior Rick Harrah at running back and senior Tom Albright at linebacker. Oak Harbor has senior Dennis Jensen at offensive tackle and senior Mike Grodi at defensive tackle. Margaretta has senior Jim Bodey at defensive back, and Genoa has senior Rob Welch at defensive end.

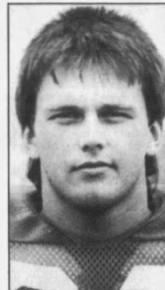
And on the Class A second team, Woodmore has senior Trent Rothert at defensive tackle.

Complete all-district listings are on page 10.

2 stars each from Oak Harbor, Margaretta and Bellevue make the Class AA first teams



JERRY WITT



KEITH BRUMMITT



GREG HOGUE



DAVID WEIRICH



AARON KROMER



DENNIS HAY



SPECIAL AWARD winners for the Ross football team are, left to right, front row: Mark Nitschke, Scott Cross, Micah Jones, Steve Letzring, Todd

Beatty and Derek Isaman; back row: Craig Mosser, Chris Simmons, Jim Kline, Shawn McCarthy, Dan Gangwer and Troy Laird.

Isaman named Ross grid MVP

Derek Isaman was named the most valuable player of the Ross Little Giants football team during the football phase of the Ross Fall Sports Awards Programs Monday.

Last Tuesday, members of the girls tennis, boys and girls cross country, volleyball and golf teams were honored.

Isaman, the Associated Press (AP) Northwest Ohio lineman of the year, was also named the team's most valuable defensive back. In the AP voting, linebackers were considered defensive linemen. The Ross defensive back voting was comprised of outside linebackers and defensive backs.

The Little Giants MVP also received a captain's award along with co-captain Scott Cross from Coach Pete Moore.

During the season, Isaman led Ross with 59 tackles and added 48 assists while causing three fumbles and trapping the passer three times. He also intercepted two passes. Offensively, the 6-4, 200-pounder, graded out at 90 per cent while playing wingback and tight end. He caught a team high 13 passes for 167 yards, one touchdown and a two-point conversion.

Chris Simmons, who doubled as an outside linebacker and tailback, won the most valuable offensive back honor. Simmons rushed for 704 yards on 145 carries (4.9 per carry) and seven touchdowns. He also caught six passes for 30 yards.

Guard Mark Nitschke, a two-year starter, was given the most valuable offensive lineman. The 180-pound senior helped the Little Giants gain nearly 1,700 yards rushing during the season while grading out at 89.5 per cent.

Craig Mosser was named the team's top defensive lineman. Defensive linemen and inside linebackers were considered for the honor. Mosser had 49 tackles, 56 assists, a pass interception, recovered a fumble, caused a fumble and was credited with trapping the passer once.

The most improved awards went to senior defensive lineman Jim Kline and junior offensive tackle Dan Gangwer. Kline had 47 tackles and 50 assists from his defensive tackle slot and caused

three fumbles to go along with trapping the passer 11 times. Offensive tackle Gangwer graded out at 83 per cent effectiveness for the season.

The most valuable sophomores were Micah Jones, a defensive lineman and running back Steve Letzring. Jones, a defensive lineman, scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery while seeing limited varsity action. Running back Letzring ran for 287 yards on 66 efforts (4.2) and scored one touchdown.

Senior quarterback Troy Laird was named as the team's "True Grit". The award is given by the Sandusky County YMCA Y's Men's Club.

In letter awards, three received third year honors: senior Isaman, Simmons and Mike Bobay.

Bobay ended his Ross career by participating in 557 offensive plays, tying him for the top spot in that area with quarterback Shawn McCarthy, while grading out at nearly 80 per cent.

In other awards, McCarthy and Todd Beatty were presented with plaques for being The News-Messenger players of the week for the third and ninth week of the seasons.

Following are the letter award winners by classes:

Seniors

Third: Derek Isaman, Chris Simmons and Mike Bobay.

Second: Todd Beatty, Scott Cross, Craig Mosser, Mark Nitschke and Kris Smith.

First: Ryan Brant, Karl Bury, Bob Carmel, Andy Chambers, Jeff Derhammer, Jeff Geller, Dave Growel, Todd Hasselbach, Jim Kline, Troy Laird, Doug McClure, Chuck Mamula and T.J. Winans.

Juniors

Second: Shawn McCarthy.

First: Kyle Amor, Ryan Bliss, John Coleman, Gregg Gallagher, Dan Gangwer, Kevin Hively, Dave Kovalski, John Lozano, Shay Moran and George Weissinger.

Sophomores

First: Jim Carroll, Micah Jones, Steve Letzring and Jerry Palomo.

Isaman named 'AAA' all-state

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Mark Kamphaus and D'Juan Francisco, a pair of record-shattering Cincinnati Moeller performers, are The Associated Press' Co-Backs of the Year in Ohio Class AAA high school football.

Brent White of Dayton Stebbins is the Class AAA Ohio Lineman of the Year and Dick Cromwell, who guided St. Francis to Toledo's first big-school playoff crown, is the Class AAA State Coach of the Year.

Derek Isaman, Fremont Ross's 6-3, 205-pound senior standout, was named to the Class AAA first-team defense as a linebacker. Earlier this month, Isaman was named All-Northwest Ohio Lineman of the Year and the Buckeye Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

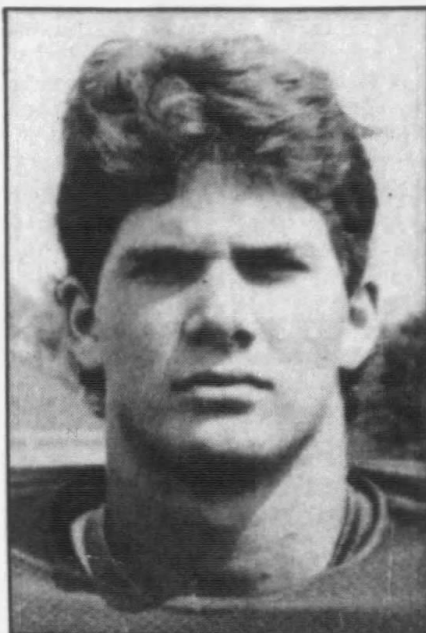
The all-state selections were made on the recommendations of a state panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Kamphaus, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound senior quarterback, broke nine Moeller passing records in his two-year career. He completed 61 percent of his passes for 3,622 yards and 41 touchdowns in 1983 and 1984, leading the Crusaders to the AP's Class AAA state poll championship both times.

This season Kamphaus completed 135 of 198 passes for 1,947 yards and 27 touchdowns, throwing just two interceptions.

Francisco, a 5-11, 185-pound senior tailback, averaged 7.6 yards per rush in three seasons, piling up 4,062 yards and 376 points and 62 touchdowns in his career. He is the brother of the AP's Class AAA State Back of the year in 1982, Hiawatha Francisco, now at Notre Dame.

The younger Francisco's touchdown, point and rushing



DEREK ISAMAN

totals are all Moeller records.

D'Juan Francisco and Mike Sullivan of Mentor Lake Catholic are the only players to make the AP's Class AAA all-state first teams in both 1983 and 1984.

White, a 6-5, 229-pound senior also sought by the nation's major colleges, is a two-time Ohio Southwestern District selection.

Cromwell, 37, led St. Francis to the Division I state playoff crown Sunday with a 17-14 verdict over North Canton Hoover. The Knights were 12-1-0 this fall (with their only loss coming to Fremont Ross 14-13 in the third week of the season) and are 52-15-1 in Cromwell's six seasons.

Cromwell also coached the Toledo school into the Division II playoffs in 1980 and 1982, losing in the state title game two years ago to Youngstown Mooney 12-0.

Moeller dominated the first-team All-Ohioans with five selections.