

1993 Football Season...



FREMONT ROSS defenders Jon Winters (14), Charles Woodson (upper right) and Carlos Sanchez bring down a Maumee ballcarrier

during Friday night's scrimmage at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants outscored the Panthers 3-0.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Ross outscores Maumee

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross outscored Maumee 3-0 during the untimed portion of the football scrimmage Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

In a pair of 15-minute quarters, Ross reached the 1-yard line once and the 6 another time but failed to score when time ran out and then lost a fumble.

Maumee ended the scrimmage with a 42-yard field goal.

"We have to get the injured players back now," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, "and we have to hang on to the ball better."

Ross scored on a 60-yard pass from Shane Moran to Charles Woodson, an 8-yard run by Woodson and Jason Lather's 17-yard pass interception return.

In another scrimmage Friday, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic traveled to Genoa.

St. Joe at Genoa

The Crimson Streaks reached the end zone three times while holding the defending Suburban Lakes League co-champion Comets scoreless.

St. Joe's Kevin Huntley caught a 70-yard scoring pass from Ed Kiser, John Schneider added a 65-yard scoring pass from Andy Mayle, and Nate Dray intercepted a pass and returned it 50 yards for the final points.

"They're going to be a good team," first-year St. Joe coach Tom Cole said of Genoa. "Our defensive staff did a great job. I kind of just stood back."

Little Giants ready to go

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

All that remains is the fine tuning.

"The coaches and the players are anxious to get started," Fremont Ross head football coach Rex Radeloff said Wednesday. "It's been a long, hot, but fun August. Now we're ready to go."

The Little Giants, coming off a 6-4 season, host a new-look Tiffin Columbian team at 7:30 p.m., Friday at Harmon Stadium. The Tornadoes were winless last year and are on a 14-game losing streak.

It may be posturing, but Radeloff said Columbian is improved.

"The first scrimmage they did not look so good," he said, "but in the second one, it was like night and day, they looked very good."

Ross was the opposite. From a nearly perfect first scrimmage against Elyria, the Little Giants had trouble hanging onto the ball while making some mental errors

'We hope to be able to use multiple formations and throw the ball when we want and not when we have to.'

— Rex Radeloff

in the second scrimmage with Maumee.

Steve Gilbert, after six years as head coach at Mansfield Senior, is the new boss at Columbian. In his last three years at Mansfield, Gilbert was 7-3, 8-2 and 8-2.

"They got a new coach and at the same time, a quarterback," Radeloff laughed. "What a deal."

Gilbert's son, a junior, quarterbacks the Tornadoes.

"He does it very well," Radeloff said. "He throws the ball very well, but the best

athlete on their offensive team is the fullback. He is a heck of a blocker and runs well."

Chad Gitcheff is the fullback in Gilbert's "I" with Mike Morgan at tailback.

"Last year they had no tight ends, double splits, slot and split backs and ran the option," Radeloff said, "but now they are back to the 'I'."

Radeloff said the Columbian defense is a very active "50" with good linebacker play.

An addition to the Tornadoes this season is basketball standout Tony Eisenhard. The 6-7, 216-pound junior plays defensive end.

Radeloff admits he is apprehensive about facing the Tornadoes especially with a new coach.

"He could come out in something different," Radeloff said, "but knowing Steve, I think he will stay very basic in the 'I' while running a little option with short

passes and power with the fullback."

Ross enters the game with most of the Little Giants healthy. Tackle Mike Lance, defensive back/wide receiver Ryan Smith and tailback/defensive back Charles Woodson are ready.

Lance and Smith have recovered from ankle injuries and Woodson has shaken off a slight neck injury suffered in last Friday's scrimmage.

Radeloff said he feels his team is ready to officially unveil its new offensive scheme.

"We hope to be able to use multiple formations and throw the ball when we want and not when we have to," he said.

"The only part of the game that has me concerned is the punting game. We can get off a 45-yarder one time and 20 the next. It's just too inconsistent right now."

Outside of that, Radeloff said, Friday night can't come soon enough.

High-steppin' to victory



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

Charles Woodson (2) of Ross outruns a pair of Tiffin-Columbian defenders on the way to one of his four touchdowns in the Little Giants' 27-0 season-opening victory over the Tornadoes at Har-

mon Stadium Friday night. The junior sensation scored on runs of 14 and seven yards, a 61-yard punt return and a 24-yard pass from Shane Moran. **High school football report, B1-3.**

Ross routs Columbian

■ **Touchdown man:** Charles Woodson found the end zone four times in the Little Giants' season-opener.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

There is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Ask Rex Radeloff.

"Man, wasn't that beautiful!" Radeloff stated rather than asked after Fremont Ross blanked Tiffin Columbian 27-0 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

The game began in a light rain. Midway through the first quarter, the sun peeked through and spawned a full rainbow whose ends were anchored in the end zones.

"That was the pot of gold — the win," said Radeloff, who began his eighth season as Ross head coach on a high note. "That was beautiful."

While Radeloff got a good view of the rainbow, Columbian defenders got a good glimpse of Charles Woodson. The junior running back scored all four Ross touchdowns, three of them before nine minutes had clicked off the new scoreboard clock.

Woodson scored on a 14-yard run at the 8:53 mark and returned a punt 61 yards for a touchdown three minutes later. Two minutes later, the junior ran 7 yards for a 20-0 lead.

Early in the final quarter, Woodson hauled in Shane Moran's first varsity touchdown pass, backing in the last 5 yards of a 24-yard play.

Woodson finished with 128 yards on 18 carries, but 112 of the yards were in the first quarter.

"You take away that first quarter," Columbian coach Steve Gilbert said, "and its a seven-nothing ball game."

"What happened was what we

were afraid could happen and that is Woodson getting loose because we knew we could not run with him. We just did not make some plays when we had to."

Columbian punter Don Perna punted away from Woodson each time except once and it hurt Columbian. On his first punt, the ball hit at the sideline, bounced lazily toward the center where Woodson scooped it up, avoided the first wave of Columbian tacklers and was gone.

"We had him contained on the punt return," Gilbert said. "We had him on the sideline and he cuts back."

Just as quickly as Woodson put up his numbers, the Ross offense seemingly evaporated in the second quarter.

"I think we got a little tired," Radeloff said. "We ran a little bit out of gas. I think we made some mental mistakes in the second quarter that goes along with fatigue and heat, but in the second half I think we got our focus back."

Defense was a consistent plus for the Little Giants.

It was the Little Giants' first shutout since the final game of the 1990 season — 28-0 over Findlay — and increased Columbian's losing streak to 15 games.

"We played a great game the entire game," Radeloff said.

Columbian had 15 first downs — four more than Ross — but had only 155 yards in total offense, 65 yards rushing on 40 attempts. Ross had 249 yards.

Tackle Craig Smith recovered a fumble and fellow tackle Jason Matney had a sack. Inside linebacker Jon Winters also recorded a quarterback sack and ends Jake Binder and Sean Sprouse, along with outside linebackers Ricky Price and Carlos Sanchez, refused to allow Columbian runners outside.

"It was a great victory," Radeloff said, "I think it was fun for the fans and I think it will be like that all year."

That adds up to a lot of gold.



News-Messenger/Chris Walker

CHARLES WOODSON looks for running room against Tiffin Columbian at Harmon Stadium.

Football

High School

Ross 27, Columbian 0

Score by quarters

Columbian	0	0	0	0-0
Ross	20	0	0	7-27

Scoring

Ross: Charles Woodson, 14 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 8:53, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 61 punt return (Dorobek kick), 5:51, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 7 run (kick failed), 3:22, 1st.

Ross: Woodson, 24 pass from Shane Moran (Dorobek kick), 11:02, 4th.

Team Stats

	C	R
First Downs	15	11
Rushes/Yards	40/65	36/191
Passing Yards	90	58
Passes/Comp./Int.	24/8/0	14/8/1
Punts/Average	8/27.1	5/33.4
Fumbles/Lost	5/1	2/1
Penalties/Yards	3/25	5/50

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Columbian: Aaron Gilbert 9/-35, Chad Gitcheff 14/46, Mike Morgan 7/36, Troy Gerschutz 6/13, Jeff Leopold 1/-1, Justin Kline 2/3, Greg Gernet 1/3. Ross: Moran 4/-12, Woodson 18/129, Jason Lather 3/59, Gary Rakes 4/8, Jake Binder 1/1, Melvin Rusch 4/2, Shane Heberling 1/4.

Passing: Columbian: Gilbert 20/6/0 70, Leopold 4/2/0 20. Ross: Moran 14/8/1 58.

Receiving: Columbian: Morgan 1/12, Denn is Green 2/27, Ron Hickman 1/16, Ryan Bleeks 2/15, Dave Aubie 1/16. Ross: Woodson 2/26, Rakes 1/7, David Gibbs 5/23

Records: Columbian 0-1, Ross 1-0.

Visiting St. John's has Ross on guard

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Rex Radeloff is suspicious. Has he seen the real Toledo St. John's football team? After Fostoria beat the Titans 39-7, Radeloff is wondering.

"Everything Fostoria did, worked," Radeloff said. "It was a matter of Fostoria having a good game and St. John's not playing well."

St. John's and Ross will square off at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Harmon Stadium. The game is the fourth in the series with Ross holding a 2-1 edge. The teams first played in 1978 with Ross winning 27-8. In 1991, St. John's won 21-7.

The 1993 Titans, coached by Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic graduate Fred Beier,

were hit hard by graduation.

"I think they have two back on offense," Radeloff said, "and two on defense."

One of the returnees is quarterback Scott Ulmer, a 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior who completed 9 of 24 passes in the Titans' 26-6 loss to Ross last year.

"They put in a new quarterback after our game," Radeloff said, "but still he has varsity experience."

The Ross coach said St. John's tailback Ken Jones, a junior, has decent speed and Radeloff expects the Titans to run from a spread offense.

"The only thing we have not seen, they ran it a little last year and especially two years ago, is the shotgun," Radeloff said. "I'm not sure whether they will

because the quarterback does not have the speed to try and run. He's a pure passer."

The Titans have good size along the offensive line with tackles tipping the scales at 290 and 230. Defensively, the front four of the St. John's defense averages 230 pounds.

Still, Radeloff wonders if he will see those particular players or formations.

"After a loss like they had to Fostoria, who's to say what personnel changes they might have," he said.

Radeloff is not doubting that Beier will have the Titans fired up to play in the stadium where he used to star.

"Their season is far from over," he said.

ST. JOHN'S VS. ROSS

WHEN 7:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE Harmon Stadium, Fremont

RECORDS St. John's 0-1, Ross 1-0

LAST MEETING Sept. 11, 1992

St. John's ran 71 offensive plays, 37 more than Ross, but the Little Giants used big plays to pull out a 26-6 win.

Charles Woodson scored on a 24-yard pass and a 50-yard fumble return to go with a 29-yard scoring run by Tyrone Price and a 46-yard scoring pass reception by Bryan Myers from Brian Wilson.

St. John's had 171 yards rushing to the Little Giants' 87 but the Titans turned the ball over six times — three on fumbles and three on pass interceptions.

Woodson, Price and Todd Vogel intercepted passes. Vogel's theft at the Ross 5 was returned 64 yards, killing the Titans' chances of getting back into the game.

LAST WEEK: Ross shut out Tiffin Columbian 27-0 as Charles Woodson scored four touchdowns and the Little Giants allowed 65 yards rushing, while Fostoria routed St. John's 39-7.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Multiple offenses from both teams.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Ross inside linebackers Jon Winters and Kris Kayden against the inside running game of the Titans; St. John's defensive ends against Ross running backs Jason Lather and Woodson; St. John's passing attack against the Ross secondary.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: The referee for the Ross-Columbian game had to borrow a coin from Ross Band Booster Jan Sorg for the opening flip.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Last week's win over Columbian was the first shutout for Ross since Oct. 26, 1990, when it beat Findlay 28-0.

KEY TO THE GAME: The Little Giants' team speed. The Titans will have to contain it to win.

Four more scores for Woodson

■ **2nd win:** Fremont Ross is 2-0 for the second straight season after a 35-20 victory Friday night.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

So what if it was ugly, Ross football coach Rex Radeloff pointed out, it was a win.

"It's a win, an excellent win," Radeloff said through a painful laugh, "but it was the ugliest win I have ever seen in 26 years of coaching."

Fremont Ross defeated Toledo St. John's 35-20, raising its record to 2-0 and dropping the Titans to 0-2.

Charles Woodson, Jason Lather and the Ross defense dulled the glare of ugliness but could not polish it to a gleam.

"I enjoyed it and the kids enjoyed it but, my goodness ... penalties upon penalties. I don't even want to know how many we had," Radeloff said.

The teams combined for 20 yellow flags for 183 yards — Ross had 12 for 100, 10 turnovers, and 32 incompletions on 51 passes.

Those ingredients made this high school game rival an NFL game ... at least for its length.

Three hours and one minute after the opening kickoff, the final whistle mercifully pierced the air at Harmon Stadium. By that time, the estimated crowd of 4,500 was well acquainted with the numbing agony of sitting.

"I don't know where to put this ball game," Radeloff said.

Except in the "W" column.

While his coach struggled with that question, Woodson knew where to put the ball. The junior had four touchdowns for the second straight game — scoring on runs of 5 and 8 yards in the first half and 69 and 49 yards in the second. The 69-yard run was highlighted by a bone-crushing block from wide receiver David Gibbs which broke Woodson free at midfield.

Lather polished it off with a 59-yard scoring run in the final minute, nine seconds after the Titans had trimmed the Ross lead to 29-20.

"We had some awfully big plays," Radeloff said as a stunned look refused to leave his face.

The Ross offense carved out 298 yards on the ground with Woodson getting 197 on 24 carries and Lather 109 on five. Shane Moran was 9-of-16 passing for 75 yards but his night was tainted by three first-half interceptions.

Defensively, inside linebackers Jon Winter and Kris Kayden controlled the middle while ends Sean Sprouse and Jake Binder terrorized Titan quarterback Tom Klotz. Sprouse had 3½ sacks, tackle Craig Smith one and Binder constantly pressured Klotz, helping force four Ross pass thefts.

Kayden, Woodson, Ricky Price and Chad Root intercepted passes for the Little Giants. Those thefts helped offset Klotz's 208 passing yards on 11-of-34 pass attempts.

"Defensively, we played really solid," Radeloff said.

Defensive coordinator Chuck Lindsay pointed out, "Some of these kids are only in their second game but I think we are doing pretty good."

St. John's coach Fred Beier lamented his team's turnovers at crucial times and the costly penalties.

"We helped Ross out a lot," he said. "I could not believe the flags. I mean let the kids play a little football ... I mean every football game you can throw the flag but sometimes, you got to ease up a little."

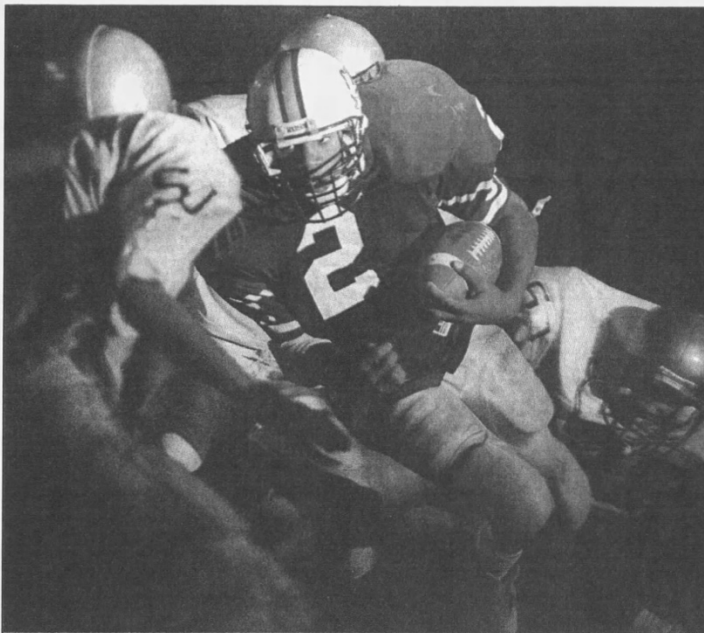
Ross built a 15-0 lead on Woodson's 5-yard run after Kayden intercepted a pass and returned it 31 yards to the Titan 11. Bob Dorobek's 30-yard field goal capped a 50-yard drive early in the second quarter and Price's recovery on Andy Beier's fumble led to Woodson's second TD.

Klotz's 20-yard pass to Cory Pershing cut the Ross lead to 15-6 at halftime.

Price's interception at the Ross 24 set up Woodson's 69-yard run two plays later, putting the Little Giants up 22-6.

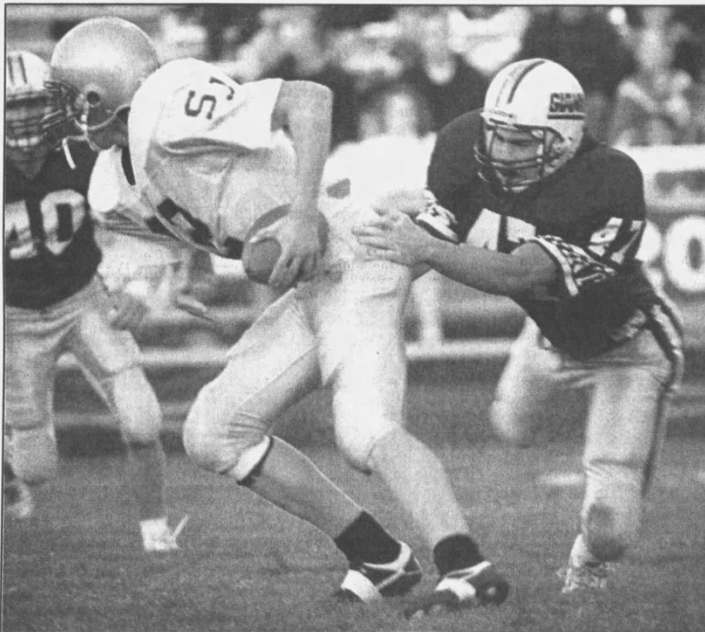
Ken Jones got St. John's back to within 10 with a 6-yard run midway in the final quarter but on the first play after St. John's onside kick went out-of-bounds, Woodson went up the middle for 49 yards.

Klotz's pass to Beier with 56 seconds remaining cut the Ross lead to 29-20, but Lather's burst on the first play after another onside kick KO'd the Titans.



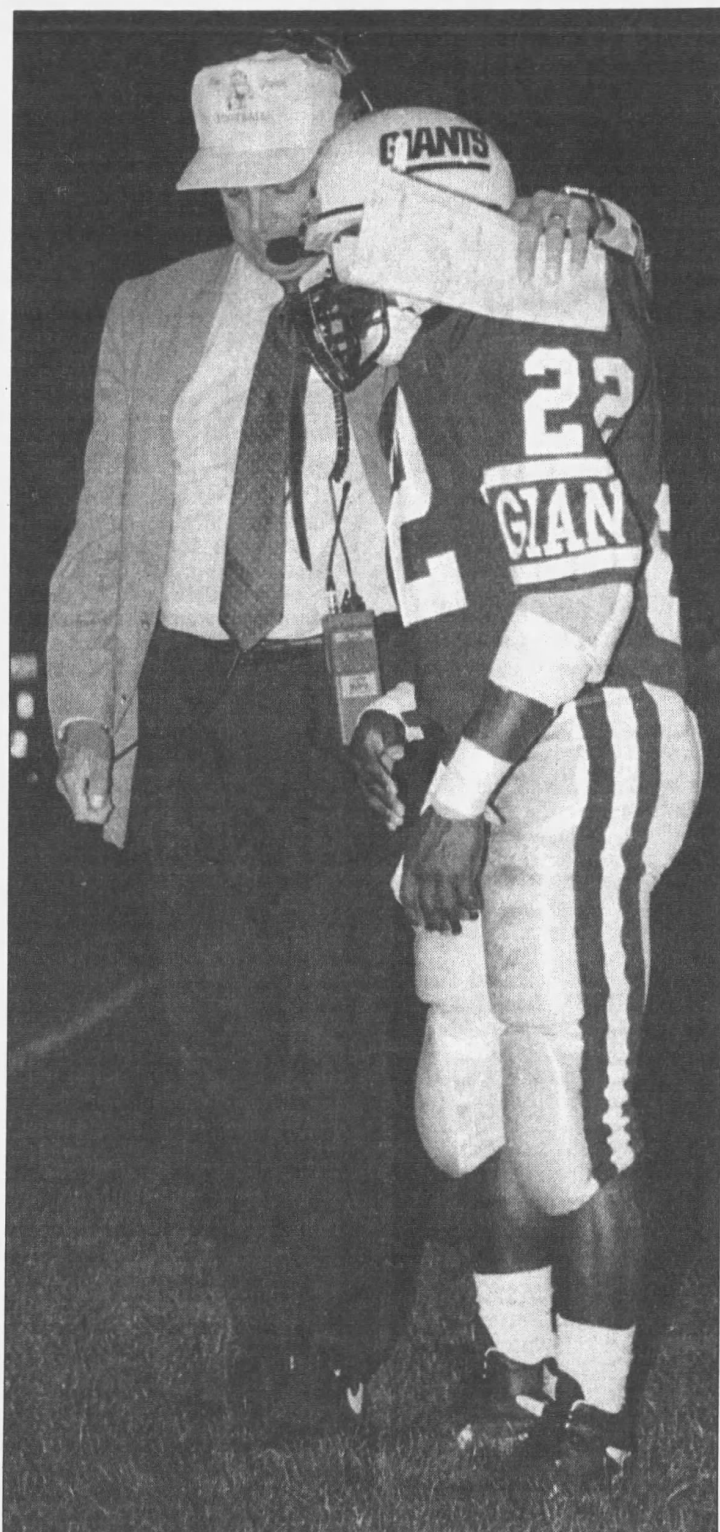
News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Ross scores his second touchdown Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Woodson went to score two more touchdowns in the Little Giants' 35-20 victory.



Andrew Morrison/News-Messenger

JAKE BINDER of Ross grasps for St. John's quarterback Tom Klotz during the first quarter Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Sean Sprouse (40) of Ross is running in to help on the play.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Here comes the play

Fremont Ross coach Rex Radeloff prepares to send in a play with sophomore Jason Lather during the Little Giants' 35-20 victory over Toledo St. John's Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

Football^N

High School

Ross 35, St. John's 20

Score by quarters

St. John's	0	6	0	14-20
Ross	6	9	7	13-35

Scoring

Ross: Charles Woodson, 5 run (kick failed), 3:18, 1st.

Ross: Bob Dorobek, 30 field goal, 9:01, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 8 run (pass failed), 5:44, 2nd.

St. John's: Cory Pershing, 20 pass from Tom Klotz (pass failed), 1:45, 2nd.

Ross: Woodson, 69 run (Dorobek kick), 7:10, 3rd.

St. John's: Ken Jones, 6 run (pass failed), 6:27, 4th.

Ross: Woodson, 49 run (Dorobek kick), 6:17, 4th.

St. John's: Andy Beier, 3 pass from Klotz (Jones run), 0:56, 4th.

Ross: Jason Lather, 59 run (kick failed), 0:45, 4th.

Team Stats

	SJ	R
First Downs	12	16
Rushes/Yards	35/47	36/298
Passing Yards	208	75
Passes/Comp./Int.	34/11/4	17/8/3
Punts/Average	7/31.7	1/28.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/2
Penalties/Yards	8/83	12/100

Individual Statistics

Rushing: St. John's: Klotz 9/-28, Jones 20/72, Beier 4/4, Vince Ruiz 1/4, Joe Dzierwa 1/-5. Ross: Shane Moran 4/-19, Woodson 24/197, Gary Rakes 2/11, Lather 5/109, Ryan Shively 1/0.

Passing: St. John's: Klotz 34/11/4 208. Ross: Moran 16/9/3 75, Rakes 1/0/0 0.

Receiving: St. John's: Jones 1/23, Kevin Szelagowski 2/33, Bob May 1/17, Dzierwa 4/88, Beier 1/3. Ross: Woodson 3/29, Rakes 1/-1, David Gibbs 3/23, Brian Reinbolt 1/7, Kyle Kusmer 1/17.

Records: St. John's 0-2, Ross 2-0.

ROSS VS. SANDUSKY

WHEN7:30 p.m. Friday
WHEREStroebe Field, Sandusky
RECORDSFremont Ross 2-0, Sandusky 0-2
LAST MEETINGSept. 18, 1992

Tron Lofton rushed for 204 yards and scored three touchdowns in Sandusky's 35-14 victory at Harmon Stadium.

The Blue Streaks outgained the Little Giants 352-178.

Charles Woodson's 85-yard interception return and Tyrone Price's 2-yard run accounted for the Ross scoring.

LAST WEEK: Fremont Ross defeated Toledo St. John's 35-20; Sandusky lost to Birmingham Brother Rice 20-14.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Speed from Ross and possibly more speed than that from Sandusky. The Blue Streaks are traditionally tough defensively but are erratic offensively. The game is the first on the road for Ross, while the Blue Streaks are playing at home for the third straight week.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Sandusky's Orlando Pace, all 6-foot-8, 320 pounds, against the Ross defensive and offensive fronts; Ross cornerbacks Ricky Price and Jason Lather against the Sandusky option attack; Charles Woodson and co. against Sandusky's tough five-man front.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: This is the 88th meeting of the teams, the fifth longest high school rivalry in Ohio. Sandusky holds a 48-31-8 advantage.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Sandusky has beaten Ross three straight times. The last time Ross won was 21-17 at Sandusky in 1989.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You'll see Orlando real fast all over the place. He casts a big shadow out there." Ross coach Rex Radeloff on Orlando Pace, picked by USA Today as the top high school lineman in the nation.

KEY TO THE GAME: How well Ross is able to control Pace and the interior of the Sandusky defensive line.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS QUARTERBACK Shane Moran eludes Sandusky's Shane Fox during the second quarter Friday night at Strobel Field. The play set up a touchdown by Jason Lather.

Ross beats Sandusky

■ **Undefeated:** The Little Giants are 3-0 for the first time since the 1985 season.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — The running game fell on hard times, but the Fremont Ross passing game surfaced as Fremont Ross came from behind to defeat Sandusky 20-14 Friday night at Strobel Field.

It was the third win against no losses for the Little Giants, while the Blue Streaks fell to 0-3 in the 88th meeting of the two high school football rivals.

Ross tight end Kris Kayden hauled in Shane Moran's 7-yard scoring pass with 5:13 to play, wiping out a 14-12 Sandusky lead. The winning touchdown was set up two plays earlier on a 52-yard Moran-to-Ryan Smith pass.

"We had not been down before," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "There were a couple of key defensive stands late in the game but that big offensive play

was a great play."

Smith made a juggling reception among three Sandusky defenders and ran to the 4 before being hauled down from behind.

"The ball was floating around in people's hands," Smith said. "I kept my eyes on it and just grabbed it. I just ran, but I could not get the wheels going."

Kayden's score climaxed a night in which Ross had taken a 12-0 lead only to surrender scoring runs of 68 and 43 yards by Sandusky tailback Le'Andre Moore in the second and third quarters.

Moran was 12-of-14 passing for 167 yards and made up for an off-night for the Little Giants' running game. Ross, averaging 245 yards rushing per game, was held to 80 on 30 attempts.

Charles Woodson, who entered the game averaging 163 yards rushing, was held to 68 on 19 carries but scored the first Ross touchdown on an 18-yard burst up the middle in the first quarter.

Woodson's score came on the

See ROSS, B3

Ross scores late for 20-14 win

Continued from B1

first play after a snap had sailed over Sandusky punter Paco Romero's head. Defensive end Jake Binder fell on the ball at the Blue Streaks' 18.

"They put a beatin' on me," Woodson said. "I'm hurting a little bit right now but this win blocks it all out."

Ross took its two-touchdown lead on Jason Lather's 7-yard run midway through the second quarter.

After spotting Ross the 12-point lead, Sandusky grabbed momentum and the lead — using the option and a suddenly porous Ross defense to take the lead.

The Blue Streaks used six plays to drive 93 yards for their first touchdown. Moore, slipping a number of tackles, bolted the final 68 — cutting the Ross lead to 12-7 at the half.

"We probably got a little conservative in the third quarter," Radeloff said. "We went away from the passing game and it was good for us in the first half."

Sandusky drove 79 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. Moore broke through several would-be Ross tacklers and covered the last 43 yards on the drive's ninth play, scoring at the 4:10 mark of the third quarter.

The Little Giants' winning drive also covered 93 yards and came after Sandusky hurt itself on a drive that reached the Ross 30.

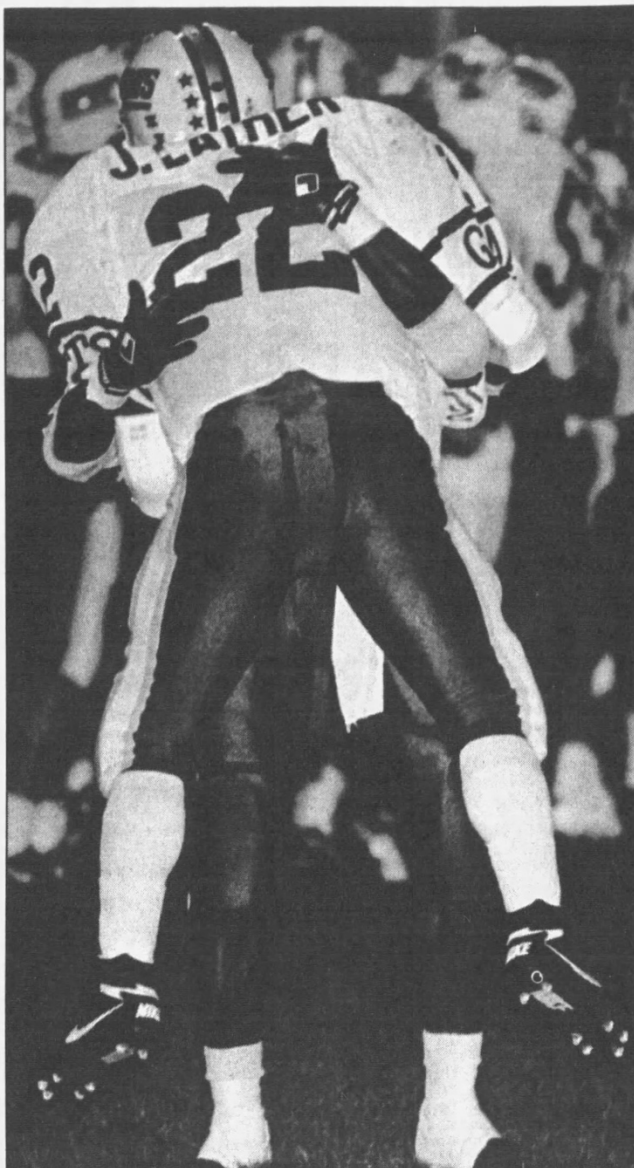
"Fremont had some big plays and we had some stupid plays," Sandusky coach Larry Cook said. "We just continue to shoot ourselves in the foot."

"We are down here with a chance to put the game away. It's first-and-10 on their 30 with seven minutes to play and what do we do? We get a holding penalty on the first play. That takes us out of four-down territory."

"We end up punting and had them back in the hole, but we did not react two or three times in the secondary. How we could let this kid catch the ball and go down to the goal line, I'll never know."

Moran hit Smith for 20 yards on the first play to start the winning drive.

"There was no hesitation," offensive coordinator Dan Fought said about calling for the pass in Ross territory. "I don't care where we were on the field be-



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JASON LATHER of Fremont Ross is hugged by his brother Mike after scoring on a 7-yard run during the second quarter.

cause we were probably more conservative than we should have been."

Up to that point.

"I was confident with Shane all week," Fought said, "I said he was going to have a big game."

As for Ryan Smith, Fought smiled, "I love Ryan Smith ... what a terrific catch."

Given more room to operate,

Moran followed with a 17-yard strike to Woodson. On a third-and-eight, Moran found Smith over the middle for the juggling catch.

Woodson was thrown for a 3-yard loss before Kayden grabbed Moran's toss in the right corner of the end zone, sending Sandusky to its worst start since 1957.

For The Record

ROSS BOOSTERS: The Fremont Ross Boosters will meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, in the Fremont Ross High School cafeteria. Films of the Ross-Sandusky game will be shown.

Football

High School

Ross 20, Sandusky 14

Score by quarters

Ross	6	6	0	8—20
Sandusky	07	7	7	0—14

Scoring

Ross: Charles Woodson, 18 run (kick failed), 4:22, 1st

Ross: Jason Lather, 7 run (pass failed), 6:28, 2nd

Sandusky: Le'Andre Moore, 68 run (Paco Romero kick), 2:32, 2nd

Sandusky: Moore, 43 run (Romero kick), 4:10, 3rd

Ross: Kris Kayden, 7 pass from Shane Moran (Woodson pass from Moran), 5:13, 4th

Team Stats

	R	S
First Downs	11	11
Rushes/Yards	30/85	39/215
Passing Yards	167	30
Passes/Comp./Int.	13/10/0	13/4/1
Punts/Average	3/32.7	4/32.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	3/1
Penalties/Yards	5/57	4/41

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Ross — Woodson 19/68, Moran 5/-3, Lather 2/25, Gary Rakes 3/-5. Sandusky — Moore 15/141, Torrez Rollison 12/82, Brian Barnum 3/8, Shane Fox 6/13, Romero 1/-25, Phillip Mines 2/-4.

Passing: Ross — Moran 12/10/0—167, Rakes 1/0/0—0. Sandusky — Barnum 12/4/1—30, Mines 1/0/0—0.

Receiving: Ross — Woodson 2/27, Lather 1/8, Rakes 2/36, Kayden 2/20, Brad Drake 1/4, Ryan Smith 2/72; Sandusky — Todd Kaufman 3/24, Milton Mines 1/6.

Records: Ross 3-0, Sandusky 0-3.

Now playing...Ross at home

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Fremont Ross begins a three-week run at Harmon Stadium Friday night, hosting Toledo Whitmer in the Great Lakes League opener.

The Panthers defeated Bedford (Mich.) last Friday and sit atop the GLL standings with a 1-0 mark. Ross is 3-0, and Whitmer is 2-1.

Former Whitmer offensive coordinator Jeff Robbins is in his first year as the Panthers' head coach after replacing long-time leader Pat Gucciardo.

"He is not going to change," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "Looking at them, I believe they run the wishbone very well. I think that is probably their best weapon."

Quarterback Nate Mefferd directs the Whitmer offense with Brian Wiskochil at fullback and

LaCharles Smith and Ryan Brown at the halfbacks.

Smith becomes the tailback when the Panthers switch into the I-formation.

"Mefferd runs well and a throws well," Radeloff said. "I don't think they have missed a heartbeat from Justin Keller to Mefferd."

Keller, the Whitmer quarterback a season ago, passed for over 1,000 yards in '92.

Ross got a glimpse of the wishbone last week in a 20-14 win over Sandusky.

"We had worked against the wishbone," Radeloff said, "so it was not as if we were totally surprised. At times we did a good job on it."

Radeloff said his defensive unit is handling the option attack better than last year at the same point of the season.

"We still have to work on it and

get better," he said.

Whitmer starts seven juniors and four seniors with five players starting both offensively and defensively.

Wiskochil is an outside linebacker in the Panther's 4-4 defense, with offensive guard Matt Vaillant switching to inside linebacker. Other two-way players include offensive guard Chris Cutcher and offensive tackle Matt Mutchler at the defensive tackle slots. End Rich Case and Vaillant are the only returning defensive starters.

Radeloff says his team is healthy with the exception of a few minor bruises. One casualty from the Toledo St. John's game, outside linebacker Carlos Sanchez, is still out with a knee injury but has been fitted with a brace and could return in the next couple of weeks.

WHITMER VS. ROSS

WHERE: Harmon Stadium (7:30 p.m. Friday)

RECORDS: Whitmer 2-1, Ross 3-0.

COACHES: Rex Radeloff and Jeff Robbins.

LAST YEAR: A bitter, 26-20, overtime loss for Ross.

Whitmer scored first in overtime on a 5-yard run by Tony Mack. On Ross's first snap of the extra session, a strong Panther rush forced a fumble by quarterback Brian Wilson, and Whitmer recovered.

The Panthers jumped to a 20-7 first-quarter lead, but behind 161 yards rushing on 11 carries by Ross sophomore Charles Woodson, the Little Giants dominated the next three quarters to tie the game and send it into overtime.

LAST WEEK: Ross defeated Sandusky 20-14, while Whitmer opened the Great Lakes League season with a 40-7 win over Bedford (Mich.).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Multiple offenses from both teams with no backs, one-back and the I-formation. Whitmer will come out in the wishbone at times.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The Ross defense against the option attack of the Whitmer wishbone; the Ross passing attack against a young Whitmer defense; both team's kicking games.

KEY TO THE GAME: If Ross can throw the football, it's speed could be the difference in a victory.

Ross wins GLL opener

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Jake Binder expected to get the football, but Toledo Whitmer's defense didn't.

Binder, one of Fremont Ross's defensive ends, was slipped into the Ross backfield at fullback and made the most of his first carry of the season — running 37 yards for the winning touchdown in a 21-14 Ross victory Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

"I was not really playing for the touchdown," said Binder, a junior. "I was just playing for the short-yardage first down. I bounced it outside and just saw daylight forever."

Binder cut off right tackle behind the blocks of right guard Craig Smith, tackle Jason Matney and tight end Kyle Kusmer and went untouched into the end zone with 7:31 remaining in the third quarter.

The opening drive of the second half covered 76 yards in 12 plays.

"Everyone was looking for Charles (Woodson)," Ross offensive coordinator Dan Fought said, "and we slipped the fullback one carry — first time all season — they fell asleep and he went around the corner."

The victory in the Great Lakes League opener left the Little Giants undefeated in four games. Whitmer is 2-2 and 0-1.

"I knew this was going to be a heck of a ball game," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said, adding that the Little Giants didn't pick up the tempo in practice until Thursday.

The Little Giants' only other sustained drive ate up the final minutes of play after a Whitmer drive failed at the Ross 45.

It was a game of miscues and defense. Ross, with linebacker Kris Kayden, Binder, Sprouse and Craig Smith leading the way, held Whitmer to 60 yards rushing. In the second half, the Ross secondary stiffened, holding the Panthers to 55 yards after sur-

rendering 95 in the first half.

"The true character came out in our defense tonight," Radeloff said. "We shored it up and shut 'em out the second half the way we had to."

Woodson, after getting 28 yards on 10 first-half carries, finished with 112 on 25 attempts.

Whitmer was its own enemy, losing five of six fumbles. The Panthers' giveaways killed drives at the Ross 49, 35, and 13. The others set up the Little Giants' first-half touchdown drives of 25 and 32 yards.

"Not all those fumbles were just Whitmer," Radeloff said, "some of them can be attributed to our defense."

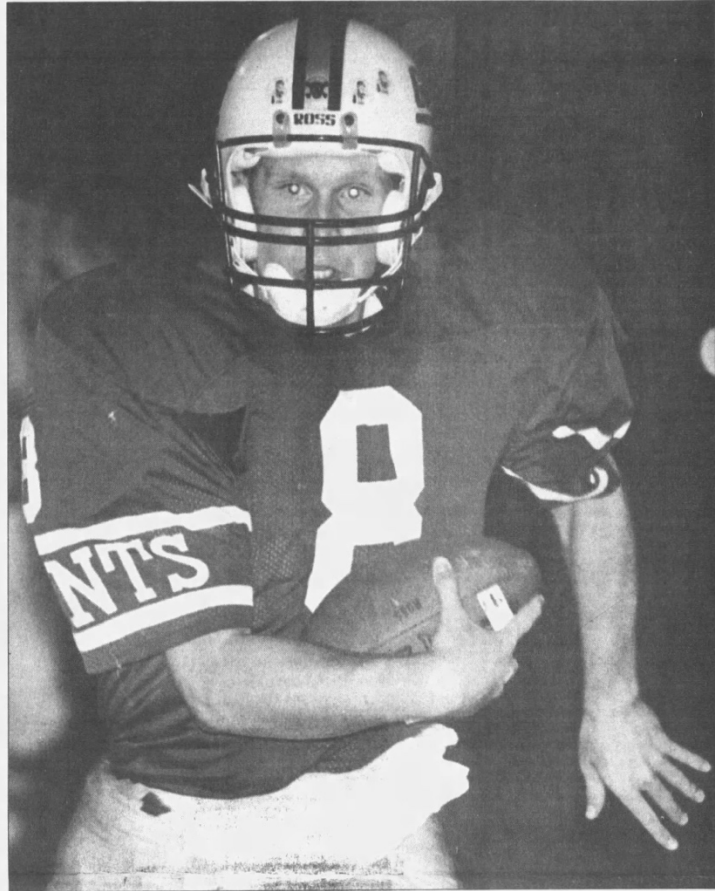
Ricky Price recovered Nate Mefferd's fumble at the Whitmer 25 midway through the opening quarter, and Woodson ran five times before running over from the 2 for his 10th touchdown of the season.

Whitmer came back quickly with Ryan Brown returning Mike Lance's kickoff 86 yards to the Ross 10. Jason Lather's shoe-string tackle cut Brown down, but Brian Wiskochil scored on the first Panthers' play. Kris Kayden blocked Matt Muceextra-point attempt.

Early in the second quarter, Ross defensive back Chad Root recovered Whitmer running back LaCharles Smith's fumble at the Whitmer 32. Ross needed five plays to score, with quarterback Shane Moran taking an option 18 yards around left end.

Moran hooked up with tight end Kyle Kusmer for a 12-yard pass on a fourth-and-eight to keep the short drive alive.

Whitmer bounced back, driving 56 yards in seven plays after Smith returned the Ross kickoff 36 yards. Mike Howe slipped behind Woodson on a 27-yard scoring pass, and Mefferd passed to a wide-open Andy Davis for the extra points — tying the game at 14-all with 5:11 remaining in the first half.



News-Messenger Andrew Morrison

ROSS QUARTERBACK Shane Moran runs for 6 yards on the Little Giants' first drive of the second half Friday

night at Harmon Stadium. The play set up Jake Binder's 37-yard TD run, which gave Ross its fourth victory

Football

High School

Ross 21, Whitmer 14

Whitmer 6 8 0 0 — 14

Ross 7 7 7 0 — 21

Ross: Charles Woodson, 2 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 3:54, 1st

Whitmer: Brian Wiskochil, 10 run (kick blocked), 3:22, 1st

Ross: Shane Moran, 18 run (Dorobek kick), 8:01, 2nd

Whitmer: Mike Howe, 27 pass from Nate Mefferd (Andy Davis pass from Mefferd), 5:11, 2nd

Ross: Jake Binder, 37 run (Dorobek kick), 7:31, 4th

	W	R
First downs: 12	13	
Rushes/Yards	28/60	37/171
Passing Yards	150	44
Passes/Comp./Int.	14/8/0	15/8/0
Punts/Avg.	1/42.0	7/33.1
Fumbles/Lost	6/5	0/0
Penalties/Yards	4/40	7/55

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Whitmer: Mefferd 10/-13, Wiskochil 5/25, LeCharles Smith 11/43, Ryuan Brown 1/0, Earnest Harmonb 1/5. Ross: Moran 6/7, Woodson 25/112, Jason Lather 4/14, Binder 1/37, Shane Heberlin 1/1.

Passing—Whitmer: Mefferd 14/8/0—150. Ross: Moran: 15/8/0—44.

Receiving—Whitmer: Brown 3/68, Chad Fitzgerald 2/19, Hoew 3/62. Ross: Woodson 1/5, Gary Rakes 3/13, Ryan Smith 1/4, Kyle Kusmer 1/2, David Gibbs 2/10.

Records: Ross 4-0 (1-0), Whitmer 2-2 (1-1).

Ross routs Findlay, 29-13

■ Fostoria next:

The Little Giants take on the Redmen in a key Great Lakes League game Friday at Harmon Stadium.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Shane Moran passed for two touchdowns and ran for another as Fremont Ross defeated Findlay 29-13 Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

The win was the fifth without a loss for the Little Giants, setting up a clash with unbeaten Fostoria next Friday in the Ross home.

The Redmen, also 5-0, defeated Napoleon 48-7 and lead the GLL with a 2-0 record. Ross is 1-0 in league play.

"We're happy to be five-and-oh and going into a great high school game next week," Ross head coach Rex Radeloff said. "It's going to be fun getting ready for it."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

See ROSS, B6

SOPHOMORE RUNNING back Jason Lather of Fremont Ross struggles to gain yardage during the second quarter as center Doug Adams (78) and tight end Kyle Kusmer block Friday night at Harmon Stadium. The Little Giants won their homecoming game, defeating Findlay 29-13.

Ross remains unbeaten

Continued From B1

The Little Giants played without leading rusher and scorer Charles Woodson, a starter both offensively and defensively. Ross co-captain Ricky Price also missed the game because of illness.

Jason Lather filled in for Woodson at running back, rushing for 106 yards on 23 carries and scoring the first Little Giants' touchdown on a 38-yard run five minutes into the game.

"Defensively, we played solidly all night," Radeloff said. "Steve Holland stepped in for Price and played an excellent game. That is the first varsity play he has had in his life."

Holland, a junior, stepped in for Price at outside linebacker while Ryan Smith filled in for Woodson in the defensive backfield.

"Smith played well," Radeloff said, "but the whole secondary played well."

The absentees were barely missed as Ross held the Trojans to 30 yards rushing and 82 passing.

"The kids came out and put pressure on them right at the beginning," Ross defensive coordinator Chuck Lindsey said. "The kids up front played very well."

Defensive end Sean Sprouse had four quarterback sacks for Ross, inside linebacker Kris Kayden added a sack and a tackle for a loss. Defensive end Jake Binder also had a QB sack.

"You can't win the ball game when you are playing defense the whole game," Findlay coach Jim Caserta said. "That's to Fremont's credit. They moved the ball on us some, but our defense played well. I thought. Our offense, though, could not move the ball on them. That was the story of the ball game. They stuffed us on the run and that is what beat us."

Caserta noticed the absence of Woodson.

"They played without their best player but we said all along they had more weapons than Woodson," he said.

Ross scored on its first drive, covering 57 yards in three plays with Lather running the final 38. The score was set up by an 18-yard punt by Findlay's Zach Dennis to the Ross 43.

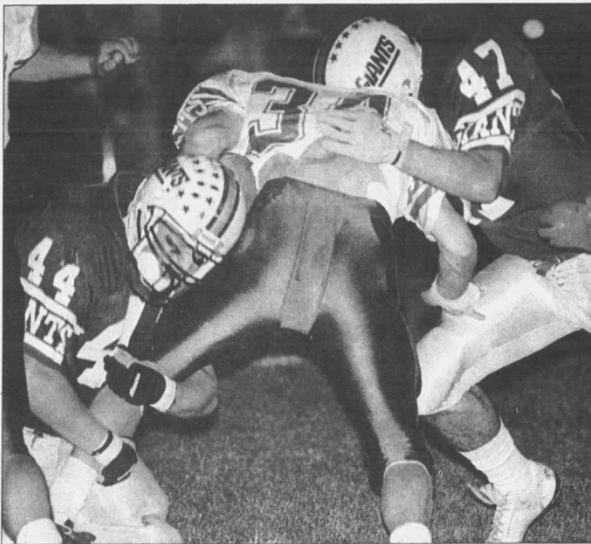
The Little Giants took a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter when Moran found tight end Kris Kayden behind the Trojan secondary for a 23-yard scoring strike on a third-and-16 play.

Findlay bounced back, benefiting from Darrel Ramsey's fourth interception of the season. Ramsey returned Moran's errant pass to the Ross 20. Chris Beltz scored from 2 yards out four plays later.

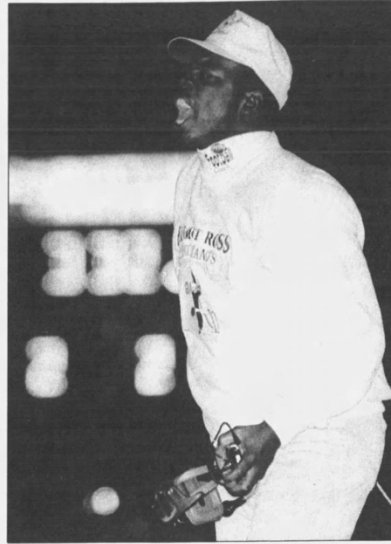
Inside linebacker Jon Winters' interception at the Findlay 20 set up the Little Giants' third TD of the first half. Lather ran to the 9 and Moran scrambled in from there with 22 seconds remaining in the first half. Lather scored on a two-point conversion after the Trojans were penalized on a late hit on Moran's scoring run.

After a scoreless third quarter, Moran pass 13 yards to David Gibbs with five minutes remaining and Bob Dorobek's third point after kick made it 29-7.

The Trojans, operating against the Little Giants' second and third defensive units, drove 75 yards in 11 plays with Scott Crates running the final 15 for a TD with 1:26 to play.



ROSS LINEBACKER Kris Kayden (44) tackles Findlay's Chris Beltz low while Ross defensive end Jake Binder hits him high during the first quarter of the Little Giants' 29-13 victory over the Trojans.



CHUCK LINDSEY, the Fremont Ross defensive coordinator, screams instructions to the Little Giants with Findlay on the Ross 2-yard line.

Lakota overcomes penalties, Gibsonburg in 22-0 victory

By DEAN LOWE
Staff writer

KANSAS — "It was a hard hitting game," says Lakota coach Jack Burgess of the Raiders' 22-0 victory over Gibsonburg Friday night.

A game Burgess said was influenced by defense. That's defense, defense, and defense with a capital "D".

With its blanketing of Gibsonburg, Lakota improved to 3-2 and 1-1 in the Suburban Lakes league.

Gibsonburg, 2-3 and 0-2, mustered 34 yards in offense and also was hurt by 60 yards in penalties.

"Our defense kept us in the game," Burgess said. "I'm happy with the game we played defensively because we put a stop on them when we had to. We were just waiting for our offense to get going."

"We had our chances."

Keith Diebler

The Raiders were in trouble early in the first quarter when Chad Plouck, who ran 16 times for 116 yards and a touchdown, fumbled at the Raider 44 with 9:43 left in the first quarter.

Lakota's defense stood tough and forced a Gibsonburg to punt less than a minute later, but neither offense was effective.

That is until Chad Miller, who ran for 72 yards on nine carries, went over from 4 yards out with 3:55 left in the second quarter giving the Raiders an 8-0 lead.

Lakota began the drive in excellent field position at the Gibsonburg 34 with 6:01 left in the second quarter.

TA pass interference penalty moved the ball to the 19.

It was Lakota's turn to stumble, then. One of the Raiders' 15 penalties for 135 yards in losses — an illegal use of hands — moved the ball back to the 29.

Brad Gnepper, who was 5-for-10 passing for 25 yards, threw 11 yards to Chris Scherger and 10 yards to Jason Bauer to make it first-and-goal at the 8. Plouck took it to the 4 before Miller's TD run.

"I am extremely happy with the way we played in the first half," Diebler said. "Lakota is supposed to play that way. We went in with the feeling that if we minimize mistakes, we could make a game of it."

The Raiders moved to the Gibsonburg 26 near the 10-minute mark of the third quarter when a broken play cost the Raiders 3

yards. Off-setting penalties then nullified a 13-yard pass from Gnepper to Miller that would have given Lakota a first down.

Three incomplete passes later, Lakota turned the ball over on downs at Gibsonburg's 15.

The Golden Bears, whose ground attack netted a negative 3 yards on 22 rushes, tried a long pass. It backfired as Lakota's Gabe Caudill picked off Scott Hill's throw at the 30 and returned it for a touchdown.

Gibsonburg answered with a drive to the Lakota 32, but the Raider defense again stopped Gibsonburg and the Bears turned the ball over on downs.

The Bears forced a Lakota punt, but a roughing the kicker penalty gave the ball back to the Raiders.

Plouck finished the scoring with a 55-yard run.



CLYDE QUARTERBACK Eric Hutchins eludes Port Clinton defensive end Preston Krupp on a scramble during the Fliers' 14-12 Sandusky Bay Conference victory over the Redskins at Clyde High School.

Fliers avoid scalping by PC's Redskins

Continued From B1

calm halftime. That (fumbling in the first half) has been the story this year and we don't know why. Most of the time it's extra effort, but basically I think we're just not very smart knowing when to cover the dang ball up."

"When we're going out there and smacking people and gang-tackling and causing turnovers and jarring the ball loose, that's when we're at our best," Clum said. "The kids were at their best."

Port Clinton's second touchdown was set up by Jason Barr's second muffed punt return of the night, this one coming with 4:12 left in the third quarter.

The Redskins took over at the Fliers' 25 and scored four plays later, on a 4-yard run by Rick Cassel. Clyde kept PC's drive alive when it was called for pass interference in the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 8.

Port Clinton went for two points but was called for delay of game, and Eric Heise's conversion pass was intercepted. The

Redskins were whistled for 13 penalties for 120 yards on the night.

On its ensuing drive, Clyde drove 60 yards in five plays and was aided by a face mask penalty and a pass interference penalty. Kiser ran in from 2 yards on the first play of the fourth quarter but Joe Sutton's extra point kick was blocked.

Port Clinton, however, was called for roughing the kicker and Sutton got another chance. His kick was good, pulling the Fliers within 12-7 with 11:56 left.

Clyde got the ball back at its own 25 with 2:07 remaining and used short sideline passes to Josh Gregg to move the ball downfield. PC was whistled for a 15-yard face mask penalty to aid the drive, and Hutchins passed for 15 yards to Tony Oakleaf to the PC 19 on a crucial third-and-three.

"Probably the biggest play of the drive was Tony Oakleaf," Bishop said. "We snuck him in at tight end and took him over the middle and he made a great catch. That's probably the play of the game."



High School

Ross 29, Findlay 13

Findlay 0 7 0 6 — 13

Ross 7 15 0 7 — 29

Ross: Jason Lather, 38 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 7:10, 1st

Ross: Kris Kayden, 23 pass from Shane Moran (Dorobek kick), 9:56, 2nd

Findlay: Chris Beltz, 2 run (Ryan Devore kick), 3:32, 2nd

Ross: Moran, 9 run (Lather run), 0:22, 2nd

Ross: David Gibbs, 13 pass from Moran (Dorobek kick), 5:13, 4th

Findlay: Scott Crates, 15 run (kick failed), 1:26, 4th

	F	R
First Downs.....	8	13
Rushes/Yards	32/30	39/152
Passing Yards.....	75	
Passes/Comp./Int.	16/7/1	16/7/1
Punts/Avg.	6/32.7	4/36.8
Fumbles/Lost.....	2/1	1/0
Penalties/Yards	7/52	7/75

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushings—Findlay: Zack Dennis 4/-30, Crates 5/18, Beltz 17/52, Justin Stutzman 6/-10. Ross: Moran 10/69, Lather 23/106, Gary Rakes 4/1, Melvin Rusch 1/0, Ryan Shively 1/-7.

Passing—Findlay: Dennis 8/3/1—24, Stutzman 8/4/0—58. Ross: Moran 15/7/1—75, Rakes 1/0/0.

Receiving—Findlay: Darrell Ramsey 4/36, Mike Fox 3/46. Ross: Lather 1/6, Gibbs 1/13, Ryan Smith 1/8, Rusch 1/12, Kayden 1/23, Kyle Kusmer 2/13.

Records—Ross 5-0, Findlay 2-3.

Fostoria comes to town

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

Rex Radeloff has no problems this week. At least not until Friday night rolls around and undefeated Fostoria visits to face his undefeated Fremont Ross Little Giants in a key Great Lakes League football game.

The Ross coach admitted that after a victory over Sandusky in the third week of the season, his team performed flatly against Whitmer. Last week against Findlay, Radeloff felt his team played with more spirit but lost control in a few instances.

"Whitmer...we struggled that week getting the kids ready to play the game," Radeloff said. "I thought we were ready to play last week except when we made the mistake (interception) early on after leading 14-0 and giving them field position — we weren't mentally ready to go out and shut them down because they scored in four plays, but that was the only time

The winner of the game between Fremont Ross and Fostoria will have the inside track on the Great Lakes League championship and will pick up valuable points in the Ohio High School Athletic Association computer ratings.

we let down defensively.

"Offensively, we let down a little bit after the first two scores.

"I thought we were ready to play last week. Definitely, the Whitmer game was a struggle because we were so emotionally ready to play the Sandusky game. It was hard coming back.

"There is no worry this week, though.

When we (Ross) first got into the GLL, Dick (Kidwell, Fostoria coach) and I both said that sometime, somewhere along the line, it would be nice to go into our game undefeated.

"Well, the wish has come true."

And the attitude in practice?

"They are really ready to play; they want to play this game, play it hard and tough and have fun," Radeloff said. "That's one thing I am never concerned about: If you are undefeated going into a game against another team which is undefeated and you have to worry about if the kids are ready, then something is wrong.

"Right now, it is a matter of execution, focusing on responsibilities and doing them; that is what we are doing this week."

Ross is expected to be at nearly full strength with leading rusher and scorer Charles Woodson returning to the offensive and defensive lineups. Woodson sat out last week while nursing a bruised

knee.

"He could have played if we had needed him," Radeloff said, "but the doc said if we didn't, not to use him. And we did not need him."

Outside linebacker Ricky Price also missed the Findlay game because of illness but will be back in the lineup against Fostoria.

Looking at Fostoria, Radeloff considers quarterback and defensive back Damon Moore the key, calling him Fostoria's best athlete. Moore operates behind a line that averages 231 pounds including 294-pound tackle Chip Dawson.

The defensive line is in direct contrast to the offense. It averages 190, but is extremely quick.

In the last game at Harmon Stadium between the teams, the Redmen defeated the Little Giants 14-6.

■ At a glance, B2

FOSTORIA VS. ROSS

WHERE: Harmon Stadium (7:30 p.m. Friday)

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

COACHES: Dick Kidwell and Rex Radeloff

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ross leads 28-12-1.

LAST YEAR: Fostoria gained early field position and used it for a 34-0 season-ending victory. Quarterback Damon Moore figured in all of Fostoria's points — scoring three touchdowns and a two-point conversion while passing for a pair of TDs and another two-point conversion.

Ross was held to 110 total yards with only 29 on the ground. Fostoria generated 433 yards of total offense.

LAST WEEK: Ross defeated Findlay 29-13 without leading rusher and scorer Charles Woodson, who missed the game with a bruised knee. Fostoria rolled over Great Lake League opponent Napoleon 48-7 and has now outscored opponents 234-27.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: The running and passing of Fostoria quarterback Damon Moore coupled with the rushes of tailback Ryan Russell, a 5-foot-9, 215-pound sophomore.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Fostoria's big offensive line vs. the Ross defensive line; the Ross offensive line vs. Fostoria's quick defensive front; Moore's exploits vs. those of Woodson.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Ross quarterback Shane Moran has rushed for plus yardage the last two games after opening the season with negative yardage each game.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Ross has been penalized 10 more times (35-25) and for 100 more yards (326-226) than its opponents in the first half of the season.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "This was an easier game than I thought it would be." — Kidwell after last year's contest.

KEY TO THE GAME: The Little Giants must generate an offense and not hurt themselves in the kicking game.

Fostoria blocks Ross



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAVID GIBBS of Fremont Ross is brought down from behind by Fostoria's Lamont Campbell after catching a pass during the first quarter Friday night

at Harmon Stadium. Gibbs finished with seven catches for 105 yards, but the Redmen defeated the Little Giants 7-6.

By **BOB MARKER**
Staff writer

Doug Mathias made the most of his one carry, and Fostoria had enough defense to defeat Fremont Ross 7-6 Friday in a battle of unbeaten high school football teams in front of over 7,000 people at Harmon Stadium.

A 36-yard field goal try by Mike Lance of Ross was blocked with six seconds remaining in the game. Kris Kayden of the Little Giants scooped up the loose ball but was tackled at the Fostoria 15, ending the final Little Giants threat.

Ross was inside the Fostoria 30 six times and inside the 10 three times but the Redmen defense refused to wilt.

"The best team did not win tonight; I'm telling you that up front," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We are a better football team than them, bar none.

"We played them tougher and harder and hit 'em harder than they hit us but a couple of crucial mistakes were the difference."

Radeloff took no solace in the one-point loss to the state's top-ranked Division II team.

"There is no satisfaction — a loss is a loss. I am proud of the way the kids played," he said. "When you go through what they went through, a loss is a tough feeling."

Fostoria, 6-0, grabbed the inside track for the Great Lakes League championship, raising its league record to 3-0 while Ross is 5-1 and 1-1 in the league.

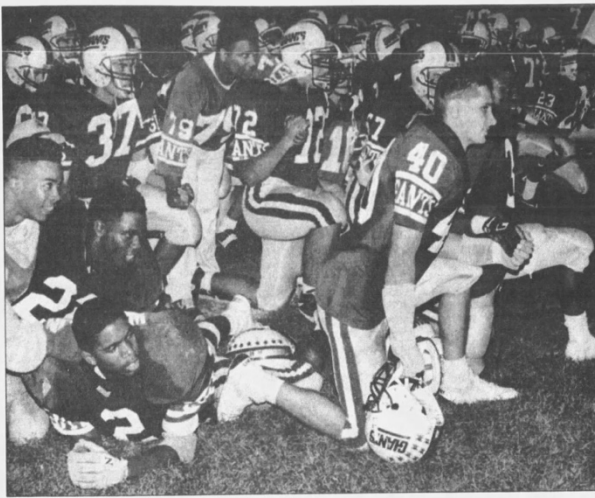
"We made some misreads on offense that hurt us a couple of times,"

Radeloff said in a raspy voice, "but the kicking game was the difference."

Fostoria coach Dick Kidwell lauded his defense, especially it's second-half effort.

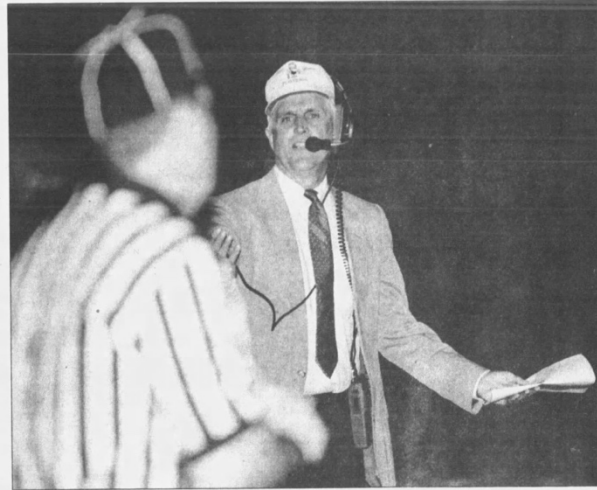
"We had to adjust to their speed," Kidwell said. "We had a

See **ROSS, B3**



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THE LITTLE GIANTS watch teammate Mike Lance's field goal try with six seconds left in Friday night's game against Fostoria. Lance's attempt was blocked and the Redmen walked away with a 7-6 victory.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS COACH Rex Radeloff debates a call with an official late in the game Friday night. The Little Giants lost 7-6 to Fostoria in a battle of unbeaten Great Lakes League teams at Harmon Stadium.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MIKE LATHER of Fremont Ross loses his helmet after being tackled by Fostoria's Damon Moore Friday night during Fostoria's 7-6 Great Lakes League victory over the Little Giants at Harmon Stadium.

Ross loses tough battle, 7-6

Continued From B1

rough time early but we tackled much better in the second half. I told the kids at halftime that our offense did not have to do a thing; we just had to tackle and we would shut them out.

"The defense came up with big plays when it had to."

Mathias scored from 2 yards out four plays into the second quarter and Cole Dove's extra-point kick trickled through the goal posts for a 7-0 lead.

Mathias' run capped a 91-yard, 14-play drive that began when a Ross drive ended deep in Redmen territory.

"We thought offensively we were stronger up front," Kidwell said, "but to their credit, they played a lot better defense than I thought they would."

Ross drove to the Fostoria 8 on its next possession only to give the ball up on downs. Fostoria quarterback Damon Moore's fumble two plays later gave the ball back to the Little Giants,

with Jake Binder recovering at the 14.

Ross scored on the fifth play after an interference penalty on the Redmen gave the Little Giants a first down at the 6. Charles Woodson carried to the 3 and scored on the next play, taking a couple of Redmen into the end zone with 1:51 remaining in the first half.

On the extra-point attempt, a mass of Redmen broke through the interior of the Little Giants' line and blocked Bob Derobek's kick to preserve a 7-6 lead.

Fostoria threatened on its first drive of the second half, driving to the Ross 24 before Moore fumbled at the end of a 4-yard run and the Little Giants' Mike Lather recovered at the 20.

Ross mounted a 16-play drive that reached the Fostoria 29. Following a penalty, Shawn Nye sacked Shane Moran on a fourth-and-eight at the 37.

Defensive back Ryan Smith killed another Fostoria drive to

the Ross 34 early in the final quarter, intercepting Moore at the 20 and returning it to the 32.

The Little Giants drove to the Fostoria 22 with 1:55 to play but Moran's pass to a diving Mike Lather was short at the 10 and Fostoria took over on downs.

The Little Giants got the ball back with 46 seconds remaining. Moran passed 14, 16 and 4 yards to David Gibbs as the Little Giants reached the 19 with six seconds left — setting up the ill-fated field goal attempt.

Gibbs caught seven passes for 105 yards, while Woodson ran for 105 yards on 26 carries.

Moran was 9-of-18 for 135 yards, and Woodson was 2-for-4 on halfback option passes for 56 yards.

The Little Giants outgained the Redmen 302-189. Fostoria, though, won the one statistic that counted.

"We did a great job," Radeloff said, "but I don't think you have seen the best of us yet."

Football N

High School

Fostoria 7, Ross 6

Fostoria 0 7 0 0 — 7
 Ross 0 6 0 0 — 6

Fostoria Doug Mathias, 2 run (Cole Dove kick), 11:05, 2nd

Ross Charles Woodson, 3 run (kick blocked), 1:51, 2nd

	F	R
First Downs	11	17
Rushes/Yards	36/160	44/111
Passing Yards	29	191
Passes/Comp/Int	6/1/1	22/11/1
Punts/Avg	4/32.3	1/46.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	0/0
Penalties/Yards	4/31	5/48

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Fostoria Damon Moore 11/70, Ryan Russell 18/65, Walter Talley 7/25, Jamie Guarra 1/4, Mathias 1/2
 Ross Shane Moran 13/4, Woodson 26/105, Kris Kayden 1/4

Passing—Fostoria Moore 6/1/1—29
 Ross Moran 18/9/1—135, Woodson 4/2/0—56

Receiving—Fostoria Jason Groves 1/29, Ross David Gibbs 7/105, Brian Reinbolt 1/32, Mike Lather 3/56

Records—Fostoria 6-0 (3-0), Ross 5-1 (1-1)

Ross rolls 46-16

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — Charles Woodson scored six touchdowns as Fremont Ross routed Bedford 46-16 Friday night in a Great Lakes League game.

Woodson's 36 points tied him for third place with John "Big Thunder" Lewis for most points scored in one game in Ross history. Lewis had his big night in 1949.

The 190-pound junior, who is nursing a bruised knee that he reinjured in practice Tuesday, ran for 237 yards on 26 carries. He scored on runs of 2, 22, 1, 73, 29 and 4 yards.

"Once we started playing, the game was over," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "We did not want to play Charles in the second half but when they scored those two TDs it was two-touchdown game again and we had to use him."

Ross, 6-1 and 2-1 in the GLL, led 32-0 at halftime before Bedford scored 16 points in the first five minutes of the second half on Scot Parachek's 63-yard run, Chad Stock's 1-yard run and a couple of two-point conversions.

With Woodson running freely, the Little Giants amassed 303 yards on the ground and added 101 in the air on Shane Moran's 7-of-12 passing.

Three of Moran's tosses were hauled in by tight end Kyle Kusmer for 41 yards.

Jason Lather opened the Ross scoring, bolting 90 yards up the middle five minutes into the game. Lather's run ties him with Lewis and Jim Hailey for the second longest scoring run from scrimmage behind the 98-yarder by Lester Franks in 1952. Lewis run came in 1951 and Hailey's in 1957.

Woodson scored on 2 and 22 yards runs in the first quarter and added two more TDs in the second quarter on runs of 1 and 73 yards. His 73-yard score came as time expired in the half, giving Ross a 32-0 lead.

"We made two adjustment at halftime," Radeloff said. "One was to take care of the stunting linebackers because we literally were not going to get outside."

"The second was line adjustment on blocking up front."

Running behind a line that tore huge holes in the Bedford defense, Woodson added his final scores in the third and fourth quarter.

Most of the Ross yardage was between tackles, according to Radeloff, as the Mules defense continually rushed from the outside in its effort to neutralize the Little Giants' speed.

Ross tackle Jason Matney left the game on a stretcher in the third quarter. Radeloff said "he's fine" and that treatment was precautionary. Matney will be re-examined again today.

The Little Giants host Oregon Clay next Friday in the final home game of the season. Tickets go on sale at noon Monday at Dummering Photography, Fremont Athletic Supply and the Ross Athletic Department office.

Ross officials expect a big crowd for the key GLL game and urge fans to by their tickets early.

High School

Ross 46, Bedford 16

Ross	19	13	7	7	—	46
Bedford	0	0	16	0	—	16

Ross: Jason Lather, 90 run (run failed), 7:17, 1st

Ross: Charles Woodson, 2 run (run failed), 3:01, 1st

Ross: Woodson, 22 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 0:49, 1st

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Dorobek kick), 3:46, 2nd

Ross: Woodson, 73 run (kick failed), 0:00, 2nd

Bedford: Scott Parachek, 63 run (Toby Houghtlein pas from Parachek), 10:38, 3rd

Bedford: Chad Stock, 1 run (Stock pass from Parachek), 7:24, 3rd

Ross: Woodson, 29 run (Dorobek kick), 5:26, 3rd

Ross: Woodson, 4 run (Dorobek kick), 8:37, 4th

	R	B
First Downs.....	15	10
Rushes/Yards	41/303	35/147
Passing Yards	101	92
Passes/Comp/Int.	12/7/1	22/7/4
Punts/Avg	3/29.7	4/31.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	4/2
Penalties/yards	4/35	6/45

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Ross: Woodson 26/237, Lather 4/89, Justin Conklin 1/1, Gary Rakes 5/-11, Shane Moran 3/-13. Bedford: Parachek 15/146, Houghtlein 9/16, Toby Breschohl 4/7, Matt Hochleitner 4/0, Dan Williams 3/-22.

Passing—Ross: Moran 12/7/1—101, Bedford: Parachek 18/5/4—60, Williams 4/20—32.

Receiving—Ross: Kyle Kusmer 3/41, Rakes 2/22, Woodson 2/38. Bedford: Parachek 1/14, Matt Moran 4/57, Brian Widmer 2/21.

Records—Ross 6-1 (2-1), Bedford 2-5 (1-4).

CLAY VS. ROSS

WHERE: Harmon Stadium (7:30 p.m. Friday)

RECORDS: Oregon Clay (6-1, 3-1), Ross (6-1, 2-1)

COACHES: John Johnson and Rex Radeloff

LAST YEAR: Oregon Clay scored with 52 seconds remaining in the game to beat the Little Giants 24-17. Ross trailed 10-0 at halftime but took a 14-10 in the third quarter.

Clay regained the lead 17-14 with 5:52 left, but a Brian Wilson to Charles Woodson 50-yard scoring pass put Ross on top with 3:48 to play. The teams exchanged the ball twice in the final moments before Clay took over with 1:29 to play and drove 61 yards for the winning touchdown.

LAST WEEK: Toledo Whitmer beat Clay 35-7, while Ross beat Bedford (Mich.) 46-16.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: The running of Clay tailback David Little, a 5-foot-8, 155-pound junior, and the power off-tackle rushes of fullback Mark Lones.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The quick penetrating front four of the Clay defense against a slightly banged up Ross offensive front; the option game of the Eagles against the Ross defensive ends and cornerbacks; Clay linebacker Mark Lones against Ross running backs Woodson and Jason Lather.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Jason Lather ran 90 yards for the first Ross touchdown against Bedford last week but finished with 89 yards rushing on four carries.

STATS OF THE WEEK: Woodson's 36 points tied him for the third highest for a single game and Lather's 90-yard run tied him for the second longest run from scrimmage in Ross history.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "I don't think Clay played so badly last week, it was Whitmer played so well." — Rex Radeloff.

KEY TO THE GAME: How well Ross controls the Eagles' option game and the Ross passing game against a suspect Eagle secondary.

Ross, Clay clash

By **BOB MARKER**

Staff writer

Whitmer took the lustre off Friday's Great Lakes League game between Fremont Ross and Oregon Clay, but the game remains a critical one.

Clay had a six-game win streak stopped abruptly as Whitmer blitzed the Eagles for three passing TDs in a 35-7 win.

See GLL, B3

GLL game a must win

Continued From B1

The loss dropped the Eagles into a tie for second in the GLL with the Panthers, a half game in front of Ross.

Friday's game at Harmon Stadium is critical not only in the league but in the Ohio High School Athletic Association computer ratings. A win by either could vault them into or near the top four of the standings. The top four teams qualify for the state playoffs.

Despite the seemingly lopsided loss to Whitmer, Ross coach Rex Radeloff said his scouts at the game told him differently.

"It was a lot closer than the score indicated," he said. "Clay ran the ball well, but they had trouble scoring and Whitmer scored quick. They got two quick touchdowns and then they had good field position and scored from that."

"Whitmer had three touchdown passes so Clay was hurt by the pass more than the run last week."

"Whitmer, though, is an improved team. I knew they were going to be once they got a few games under their belts."

Ross defeated Whitmer 21-14 Sept. 24.

"Clay did not play so bad; Whitmer played very well," Radeloff said.

Radeloff said his team has to control tailback David Little, a quick 155-pound junior.

"We cannot let him get outside," Radeloff said, "and then we have to stop the off-tackle game with the fullback (Mark Lones), and hopefully, we can control the pass because I think it will come down to the passing game."

"It came down to the passing game last year where they threw the ball when they had to and were successful. Certainly, when a team has to throw the ball, we have to stop the pass. We did not do it last year late in the ball game to prevent the loss."

Defensively, Clay's front four likes to penetrate, Radeloff said.

"They like to come hard," Radeloff said. "Whitmer trapped them. Against a penetrating defense, you have to trap but they really live to rev the engines and come hard."

Looking at Ross, the Little Giants offensive line is battered a bit. Tackle Jason Matney is doubtful after suffering a head injury against Bedford. Center Doug Adams may return after missing the Bedford game.

"The offensive line played well despite that," Radeloff said. "We put T.J. Wolfe at center because we did not want to change two positions. Craig Smith, who has played center before but has been at guard most of this season, could have been there but we did not want to change two position. T.J. really, really played well."

Defensively, Radeloff pointed out another switch as Brian Reinbolt started at cornerback due to the absence of safety Chad Root, out with a back injury. Charles Woodson was moved back to safety with Reinbolt at cornerback.

Other Little Giants were coming off the flu, Radeloff said.

This week, as of Tuesday, he said illness has not hurt his team.

"I hope that is over," Radeloff said.

The Ross coach hopes to draw from the intangibles this Friday, pointing out that it will be the last game at home for the seniors and the way the Little Giants lost to Clay last year in the final minute.

"Paybacks can be tough," Radeloff said, "and we are going to pay'em back."

■ Game at glance, B2

Ross moves past Clay



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

SEAN SPROUSE (40) of Fremont Ross brings down Oregon Clay runner Mark Lones with help from Jon Win-

ters (14) and Kris Kayden (44) during the second quarter Friday night at Harmon Stadium.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Rex Radeloff insisted he had to repeat a phrase that is as common to coaches as the stitches on a football.

"I know every coach says it," Radeloff said, "but it was a team effort."

The "team effort" was a 28-14 Fremont Ross victory over Great Lakes League rival Oregon Clay, the Little Giants seventh win against a loss and the Eagles' second straight defeat after six wins. Ross is 3-1 in the GLL while Clay fell to 3-2.

"The special teams played well," Radeloff said, "we kicked all the extra points; we did what we had to do to win. As far as I am concerned, it was a no holds barred victory for us."

There was some holding and a clip, too, that kept this two-touchdown game from being a rout. A pair of Charles Woodson scoring runs were wiped out. The hold nullified an 81-yard kickoff return after Woodson took a lateral from Ricky Price and the clip erased a 35-yard run. Ross was penalized seven times for 83 yards.

But the Little Giants did what they had to do to win.

Shane Moran followed Woodson's 4-yard touchdown run with scoring passes of 13 yards to Kris Kayden, 6 yards to Gary Rakes and 26 yards to Jake Binder. Moran completed 11 of 14 passes for 137 yards, spreading the passes around to eight different receivers.

Woodson ran for 123 yards on 29 carries, mostly between the tackles, and is 29 short of 1,000

for the season.

"They have more speed than we do," Clay coach John Johnson said, "and we knew if we let them break containment, they would go and they did."

While the Little Giants' offense was breaking the Eagles' containment, Binder broke through their punt blocking and may have broken the Eagles' backs, blocking Brian Weseman's punt at the Clay 31 and returning it to the 12 to set up Woodson's touchdown midway through the opening quarter.

An 80-yard, 11-play drive that led to the Little Giants' second touchdown showcased the interior of the Ross line. Woodson tore up chunks of yardage behind center T.J. Wolf, guards Craig Smith and Eric Straube, tackles Jason Matney, Mike Lance and Brad Drake plus tight end Kyle Kusmer. Ross continually trapped the hard-charging Eagles' front line.

"That's what we did in the first half," Radeloff said, "trapped them all the time."

The drive was capped off by Kayden's third TD reception, and only his fourth catch of the season, as Moran found him all alone in the middle of the end zone.

"I'm just open when we get down close," Kayden, who also had an interception, laughed.

Clay cut the Ross lead in half at the intermission on quarterback Luke Meinke's 4-yard run last in the first half.

Five minutes into the third quarter, Clay drove a nail in their

See ROSS, B3

Ross routes Clay

Continued From B1

own coffin as a snap sailed over Weseman's head on a punt attempt for a 31-yard loss, giving Ross the ball at the Clay 5. Moran hit Rakes for his first touchdown three plays later and Bob Dorobek's third kick put Ross up 21-7.

Ross tacked on its fourth TD in the final minute of the third quarter. Kayden's interception at the Clay 49 set up the four-play drive.

Moran passed 18 yards to Kusmer and Woodson ran to the five before Binder slipped out of the Ross backfield from his fullback slot, took Moran's pass and ran over a Clay defender at the 5 and into the end zone.

Clay scored with 4:23 to go, benefitting from a pair of roughing-the-passer penalties in the 52-

yard 11-play drive. Mark Lones scored on a fourth-and-goal from the one.

"Sue they scored, but that was a great goal-line stand," Radeloff said. "It took time off the clock and that was what we needed."

Inside linebacker Jon Winters liked the stand.

"They got on the two and, wow, it took 'em four plays to score; it was a great goal-line stand," Winters said.

The penalties gave Clay first downs at the 5 and 2.

Ross co-captain Craig Smith called the win sweet revenge for Clay's win in the final moments last year.

"With what happened last year, we had to come back and get 'em," he said. "Revenge is sweet."

High School

Ross 28, Oregon Clay 14

Oregon Clay	0	7	0	7	—	14
Ross	14	0	14	0	—	28

Ross: Charles Woodson, 4 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 6:37, 1st

Ross: Kris Kayden, 13 pass from Shane Moran (Dorobek kick), 0:06, 1st

Clay: Luke Meinke, 4 run (Thomas Jensen kick), 4:45, 2nd

Ross: Gary Rakes, 6, pass from Moran (Dorobek kick), 6:13, 3rd

Ross: Jake Binder, 26 pass from Moran (Dorobek kick), 0:57, 3rd

Clay: Mark Lones, 1 run (Jensen kick), 4:33, 4th

	OC	R
First Downs.....	10	12
Rushes/Yards	34/30	42/106
Passing Yards	100	137
Passes/Comp/Int	19/8/1	14/11/0
Punts/Avg	3/30.7	6/28.3
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	3/0
Penalties/Yards	3/21	7/83

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Clay: Meinke 14/51, Lones 4/7, David Little 11/23, Bryan Cutcher 5/7. Ross: Woodson 29/123, Jason Lather 3/11, Moran 8/-30, Justin Conklon 2/2

Passing—Clay: Meinke 19/8/1—100. Ross: Moran 14/11/0—137

Receiving—Clay: Steve Berger 2/19, Josh Common 3/50, William Groll 2/14, Mario Rizo 1/17. Ross: Woodson 2/28, Lather 1/11, David Gibbs 1/13, Rakes 2/16, Kayden 1/13, Kyle Kusmer 2/29, Binder 1/26, Melvin Rusch 1/1

Records—Ross 7-1 (3-1), Clay 6-2 (3-2)

ROSS VS. NAPOLEON

WHERE: Napoleon Junior High School (7:30 p.m. Friday)

DIRECTIONS: Take US 6 west to County Road 12 near Napoleon and turn left (there is a truck stop at the intersection). Travel approximately one-quarter mile and turn right on Ohio 424 and 424 goes right to the stadium. The field is located behind Napoleon Junior High School.

RECORDS: Ross (7-1, 3-1), Napoleon (2-6, 1-4)

COACHES: Shane Dryer and Rex Radeloff

LAST YEAR: Fremont Ross defeated Napoleon 14-6 with all of the points coming in the second half.

Charles Woodson's 34-yard return of an intercepted pass plus a personal foul set up the Little Giants' first touchdown, a 16-yard run by Bryan King late in the third quarter.

Napoleon cut the Ross lead to 7-6 with five minutes remaining in the game, but Ross countered with a 61-yard TD drive. Tyrone Price gained 56 yards on the game-clinching drive and capped it with a 2-yard TD run with 1:30 left to play.

LAST WEEK: Ross defeated Oregon Clay 28-14, and Toledo Whitmer beat Napoleon 45-14.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Napoleon's power-I attack quarterbacked by senior Ryan Johnson, and the penetrating defense of the Wildcats.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: The middle of the Ross offensive line against Napoleon tackles Nick Frysinger and Shane Stoner; the Wildcats conservative offense vs. the big-play offense of Ross; the kicking game of both teams.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Napoleon, during a semi-teachers strike, is being coached by non-teaching coaches. Dryer is a freshman assistant coach with the most experience among the main group of four volunteers handing the Napoleon coaching duties.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Ross quarterback Shane Moran used eight difference receivers in completing 11 of 14 passes against Clay.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "This is a scary game; you don't know what to anticipate." — Radeloff

KEY TO THE GAME: How well Ross mentally responds to closing out the season against teams who have combined for four victories.

Little Giants continue to roll along

News-Messenger reports

NAPOLEON — Charles Woodson scored six touchdowns for the second time this season, leading Fremont Ross to a 42-0 victory over Napoleon in a Great Lakes League football game Friday night.

Woodson scored on runs of 21, 1, 3, 2, 9 and 24 yards in the first three quarters while rushing for 260 yards on 27 carries. He also caught two passes for 35 yards giving him 295 yards of offense.

The Ross junior has scored 24 touchdowns and 148 points this season.

Ross, 8-1, kept its hope alive for at least a share of the Great

Lakes League championship with its fourth win in five league games.

Fostoria secured at least a tie for the GLL crown with a 28-12 victory over Whitmer Friday night. The Redmen, 9-0 and 5-0, trailed 12-7 at halftime.

Behind Woodson, the Little Giants rushed for 323 yards on 43 carries while generating 373 yards of total offense. Jason Lateran ran nine times for 62 yards as six Little Giants carried the ball.

Woodson played three quarter of offense and appeared briefly in the final quarter on defense. On Napoleon's first drive, Woodson intercepted a pass to kill a

drive.

Later in the first quarter, linebacker Kris Kayden killed a Wildcat drive, intercepting quarterback Ryan Johnson in the end zone. The pass thefts were Woodson's third and Kayden's second.

The first-half statistics were deceiving.

Napoleon controlled the ball more than 16 minutes but Ross, with Woodson running for 179 yards on 19 carries, made the most of its eight minutes of ball possession.

Woodson's 21-yard run capped off the Little Giants' first scoring drive at the 8:36 mark of the first period.

Woodson sets GLL record

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross junior running back Charles Woodson set a Great Lakes League record and tied another while moving into a tie for third place in Ross single season scoring in a 42-0 victory over Napoleon Friday night.

Woodson set the six-game GLL scoring record with 89 points, moving past the 74 by Dan Houston of Toledo Rogers in 1966.

His six TDs tied his own GLL record established two weeks ago at Bedford in a 46-16 win. The 36 points matched that of himself set in the Bedford game and of John "Big Thunder" Lewis in 1949.

His 148 points moved him into a tie for third with Bob Shaw in Ross single season scoring. Shaw set his mark in 1939.

Jim Tiller is the leading single season scorer for Ross with 180 in 1956. Bob Demmel is second with 156 points in 1944.

Woodson also went over the 1,000-yard mark in rushing, gaining 260 yards on 27 carries to run his total to 1,231 in eight games.

Football

High School

Ross 42, Napoleon 0

Ross	14	14	14	0	—	42
Napoleon	0	0	0	0	—	0

Ross: Charles Woodson, 21 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 8:36, 1st

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Dorobek kick), 1:31, 1st

Ross: Woodson, 3 run (Dorobek kick), 6:09, 2nd

Ross: Woodson, 2 run (Dorobek kick), 0:53, 2nd

Ross: Woodson, 9 run (Dorobek kick), 8:47, 3rd

Ross: Woodson, 24 run (Dorobek kick), 3:58, 3rd

	R	N
First Downs.....	15	9
Rushes/yards.....	43/323	40/66
Passing Yards	50	56
Passes/Comp/Int	9/4/0	16/5/2
Punts/Avg	0/0	2/29.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/0
Penalties/yards	4/35	4/40

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Ross: Woodson 27/260, Jason Lather 9/62, Justin Conklin 3/2, Melvin Rusch 2/1, Gary Rakes 1/6, Chad Root 1/-8. Napoleon: Mike Gerdman 16/49, Doug Brown 16/52, Ryan Johnson 4/-9, Chris Shepard 3/3

Passing—Ross: Moran 7/4/0—50, Ryan Shively 2/0/0. Napoleon: Johnson 16/5/2—56

Receiving—Ross: Ryan Smith 1/6, Woodson 2/35, Rakes 1/9. Napoleon: Josh VanAusdale 3/42, Brown 2/14

Records—Ross 8-1 (4-1), Napoleon 2-7 (1-5)

ROSS VS. NORTHVIEW

WHERE: Northview High School, Sylvania (7:30 p.m. Friday)

DIRECTIONS: Take the Ohio Turnpike to exit 4; follow Reynolds Road north, turn left on Airport Highway to Route 23 north to the Monroe St. exit. Go left on Monroe and left on Silica St. Northview High School is on Silica. The field located behind the high school.

RECORDS: Ross (8-1, 4-1), Northview (2-7, 0-5)

COACHES: Rex Radeloff and Rod Achter

LAST YEAR: Charles Woodson returned a kickoff and two punts for touchdowns as Ross rolled to a 35-10 victory. The kickoff return covered 88 yards, coming with a second left in the first after after a 47-yard field goal by Northview's Brad Ladd cut the Little Giants' lead to 16-10. Both punt returns were 64 yards and came in the fourth quarter.

LAST WEEK: Ross shut out Napoleon 42-0, and Bedford blanked Northview 27-0.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Northview's wing-T offense and a Wildcats' defense that stunts very little.

THREE MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Ross centers Doug Adams and T.J. Wolfe against Northview's 303-pound middle guard Jason McClellan; the Little Giants' speed against a stay-at-home Northview defense; the inside linebackers of Ross against the misdirection of Northview's offense.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: This is the first winning season for the Fremont Ross seniors.

STAT OF THE WEEK: Charles Woodson scored six touchdowns in a single game for the second time this season last week.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "We are looking at this to tune up." — Radeloff on the possibility of Ross being in the playoffs.

KEY TO THE GAME: Ross getting off to a quick start.

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio

Sports Editor Bob Marker, ext. 142

Saturday, November 6, 1993 B1

Little Giants blank Northview 34-0

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SYLVANIA — Charles Woodson rushed for 297 yards and the Fremont Ross defense held Northview to 6 net yards in a 34-0 romp Friday night at a chilly, wind-swept Northview Field.

The win was the ninth in 10 games as Ross finished 5-1 for the runner-up spot in the Great Lakes League race. Northview finished 2-7 and 0-6.

Fostoria clinched the title with

a 409-14 win over Oregon Clay.

Woodson's rushing total moved him into fourth place on the all-time Ross single-season list with 1,528 yards. He moved ahead of his half-brother, Terry Carter, who rushed for 1,384 yards in 1988.

Terry Bates holds the Ross record with 1,628 yards in 1976. Jim Tiller had 1,598 in 1956 and John Lewis ran for 1,535 in 1951.

The 297 yards was 18 yards away from tying the Ross record

of 315 yards in a single game set in 1949 by Lewis.

Ironically, Woodson was unaware of the record, but he did have his sights set on rushing for 300 yards.

"At the end of the game, it was brought to my attention that I only needed 3 yards," he said. "I wasn't thinking about the record; I was thinking about 300."

"I really didn't realize what the record was and I had a shot at it, but the 297 is great."

Woodson left the game with eight minutes remaining.

"I did not want to chance any injuries," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said explaining why he pulled his junior running back. "I think it was time for him to come out and he understood that; he's a pretty level-headed young man."

"Anyway, he will have 10 games to accomplish that next season and I am looking forward to them."

Woodson accomplished his

totals in nine games, missing one with an injury.

Woodson scored three touchdowns, running his season total to 27. The 18 points moved him into second place on the all-time Ross scoring list with 164. He entered the game fourth but moved ahead of Bob Shaw and Bob Demmel, who had 156 in 1944. Shaw scored 148 in 1939.

Northview started quickly, but

See ROSS, B3



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Stopped!

Jon Winters (14), Ross inside linebacker, grabs Northview running back John Eberle during a first quarter play at Sylvania Friday night. Winters helped the Ross

defense hold the Wildcats to a 6 yards of net offense in the Little Giants 34-0 Great Lakes League victory. Ross ended the season 9-1 and 5-1 in the GLL.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross picks his way through the Sylvania Northview defense for some of his 297 yards rushing Friday night. Woodson scored three touchdowns and the Little Giants won 34-0.

Ross closes with shutout victory

Continued From B1

the Ross defense quickly took away any Wildcat hopes of an upset. Woodson made it an improbability on its first carry.

The Wildcats took the opening kickoff and drove to the Ross 23 before Kris Kayden fell on John Eberle's fumble. On the first Ross offensive play, Woodson bolted 78 yards for his 25th touchdown of the season.

The only way Northview was able to stop Woodson in the first half — he had 238 yards on 23 carries — was when left the field after running out of his shoe at the Wildcats 13 on the second Ross scoring drive. Jason Lather took over and scored three plays later from the 1 with 1:11 to play in the first quarter.

Ross took a 21-0 lead into halftime on Woodson's 1-yard TD run with 1:37 remaining in the half.

Woodson added his third touchdown with another 1-yard run

midway through the third quarter. Melvin Rusch capped off the Ross scoring with no time remaining in the game on a 5-yard run.

Woodson's effort was punctuated by the Ross defense.

Led by inside linebackers Jon Winters and Kayden, tackles Craig Smith, Jason Matney and Paul Cruz as well as defensive ends Matt Gerner and Keith Decker, the defense did not allow a Northview first down in the second half.

After allowing the Wildcats 33 yards in the first half, the Little Giants' checked Northview with a minus-27 yards in the second.

One of Radeloff's goals before the season finale was to get as much playing time as he could for his seniors.

"They all played as far as I know," he said. "They were able to finish their career with a victory and a nine-and-one season, a

season they can look back and feel very successful."

Radeloff was talking between shivers. With two minutes remaining in the game, a group of players doused him with ice water from a 10-gallon jug.

"They got me good," Radeloff laughed. "I don't know who did it, but man was it cold and wet."

That was the only thing that dampened his spirits.



Football

High School

Ross 34, Northview 0

Ross	14	7	7	6	—	34
Northview	0	0	0	0	—	0

Ross: Charles Woodson, 78 run (Bob Dorobek kick), 8:31, 1st

Ross: Jason Lather, 1 run (Dorobek kick), 1:11, 1st

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Dorobek kick), 3:37, 2nd

Ross: Woodson, 1 run (Dorobek, m kick), 5:45, 3rd

Ross: Melvin Rusch, 5 run (no try), 0:0, 4th

	R	N
First Downs.....	21	4
Rushes/Yards	50/372	31/-10
Passing Yards	81	16
Passes/Comp/Int	14/6/1	1/2/0
Punts/Avg	2/37.5	10/23.4
Fumbles/Lost	4/1	3/1
Penalties/Yards	5/62	2/10

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing—Ross: Woodson 31/297, Lather 10/30, Shane Moran 2/-13, Shaen Heberling 3/25, Rusch 4/24. Northview: Mike Radzinski 6/-13, John Eberle 8/-3, Darren Snapp 11/49, Case Carstensen 2/-9, Joe Raker 4/-8.

Passing—Ross: Moran 11/5/0—74, Woodson 1/0/0, Ryan Shively 1/1/0—7, Chad Root 1/0/1. Northview: RFadsinzkik 8/1/0—11, Raker 3/1/0—5.

Receiving—Ross: Woodson 1/9, GBary Rakes 2/39, David Gibbs 1/19, Kyle Kusmer 1/7, Nick Kreilick 1/7. Northview: Eberle 1/11, Rob Payne 1/5.

Records—Ross 9-1 (5-1), Northview 2-8 (0-6)

Woodson top player in district

■ **Area awards:** 18 local players and one coach receive 1993 honors from the Associated Press.

Staff, wire reports

Fremont Ross running back Charles Woodson heads the 1993 Associated Press Northwest All-District high school football teams announced Tuesday.

Woodson was selected as the offensive player of the year in Division I. Today, Woodson was named offensive back of the year in the Great Lakes League.

Mansfield's Chioke Bradley was picked as top defensive player in the big-school division.

Bellevue's Ryan Irons, who has helped lead Bellevue into the second round of the playoffs, was named back of the year in Division II.

And Bob Bishop of Clyde repeats as coach of the year in Division II, although he shares the award with Celina's Jerry Harris this year.

Two players who led their teams to state poll championships also are among the top players honored in the district.

Doug Speck, a running back from St. Henry, was chosen the offensive player of the year in Division V. Fostoria's Damon Moore, who excelled as a quarterback and defensive back, was tabbed as the defensive player of the year in Division II.

Scott Palte of Columbus Grove was the defensive player of the year in Division V.

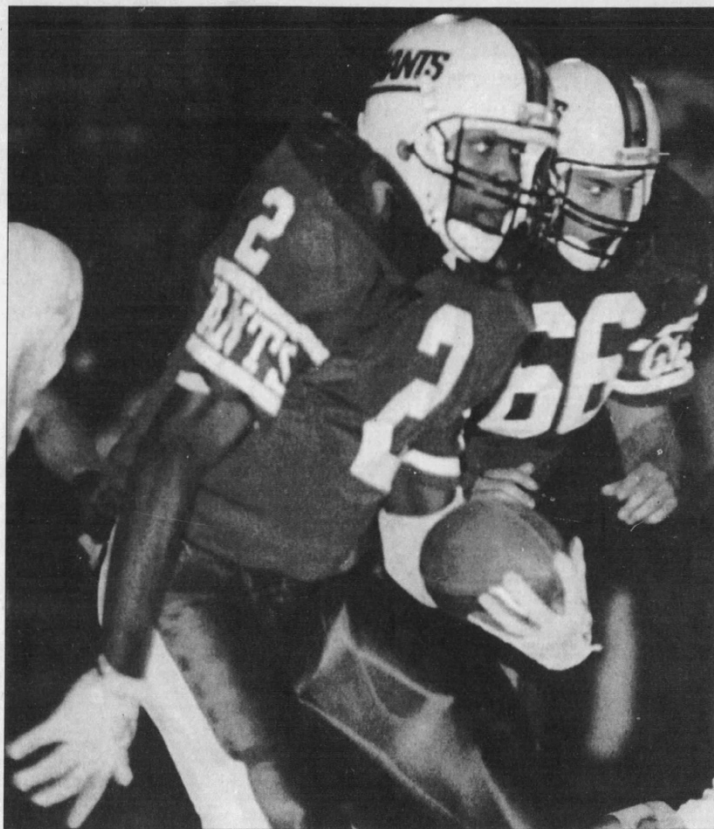
The selections were based on the balloting of a media panel from the district.

Cory Griggs of Wauseon and Eric Deal of Lima Bath were tabbed as the top offensive and defensive players, respectively, in Division III.

In Division IV, the top individuals were running back David Rose of Montpelier on offense and North Robinson Colonel Crawford's Brett DeGray on defense.

Selected as other coaches of the year were Toledo Rogers' Al Stephens and Stan Jefferson of Mansfield Senior in Division I; Wauseon's Mark Emans in Division III; Jim Draper of Carey in Division IV; and John DiPietro of Crestline and Pete Brunow of Hardin Northern in Division V.

Lineman of the year honors went to Sandusky's Orlando Pace in Division I; Fostoria's Shawn Nye in Division II; A.J. Blum of Bryan in Division III; Eric



CHARLES WOODSON of Fremont Ross looks for running room against Oregon Clay. Woodson, a junior, was

named Division I offensive player of the year in the Northwest District by the Associated Press Tuesday.

DeGroh of Huron and Jason Dickman of Delphos Jefferson in Division IV; and Keith Capizzi of Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic in Division V.

Craig Smith of Ross, who was named offensive lineman of the year in the GLL today, was selected to the all-district team in Division I. He is a all-district defensive selection.

Smith, a two-year, two-way starter and three-year letterman for the Little Giants, helped pave the way as Woodson rushed for 1,528 yards and scored 164 points.

Three Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic players were named to the first team in Division V.

Kevin Huntley was named as an end on the first-team defense, while linebacker Mark Beier was named to the first-team defense for the second straight year.

Huntley had 28 receptions for 485 yards, rushed 52 times for 374 yards, scored 108 points and averaged more than 36 on kickoff returns and over 21 on punt returns. Today, he was named offensive player of the year in the Midland Athletic League.

Beier made 128 tackles for the Crimson Streaks after making 101 a year ago.

Lineman Dan Overmyer joined Beier on the Division V all-district defense after making 95 tackles from his nose guard slot.

Clyde was represented by three players on the first team in Division II, while Bellevue also landed guard Tom Mygrant, defensive lineman Ryan Nottke and defensive back Ian Fultz on the first team.

The Fliers are represented by quarterback Eric Hutchins,

defensive back Josh Gregg and linebacker Dan Crockett.

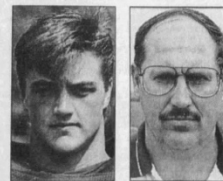
Hutchins threw for 17 touchdowns, Gregg intercepted eight passes and broke up seven others and Crockett made 109 tackles.

In Division III, Oak Harbor's Roger Hamilton and tackle Josh Morse were named on offense and linebacker Nathan Tabbert was tabbed on defense.

Hamilton rushed for 1,229 yards for the Rockets, and Morse helped lead the way. Tabbert averaged 14 tackles a game.

Margaretta had two first-team linemen in Division IV, Kirk Brindley on offense and Mike Jarrett on defense.

Lakota defensive back Gabe Caudill, who intercepted seven passes and broke up 12, was also named to the first-team defense in Division IV.



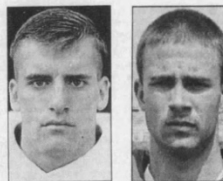
SMITH

BISHOP



HUNTLEY

GREGG



BEIER

HUTCHINS



OVERMYER

CROCKETT



TABBERT

MORSE



All-GLL

Following are the All-Great Lakes League football teams selected by the seven head coaches:

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Luke Meinke, Clay, Sr., 6-4, 190; Chip Dawson, Fostoria, Jr., 6-3, 286; Ryan McDougle, Napoleon, Sr., 6-1, 208; Nate Mefferd, Whitmer, Sr., 6-0, 175; Scott Parachek, Bedford, Sr., 6-3, 180; Charles Woodson, Ross, Jr., 6-2, 185; Brent Dukate, Bedford, Sr., 5-11, 180; Ryan Wagner, Fostoria, Sr., 6-0, 210; Craig Smith, Ross, Sr., 6-0, 215; Rich Case, Whitmer, Sr., 6-3, 200; Troy Dowe, Bedford, Sr., 6-2, 220.

Placekicker: Ryan Jones, Northview, Sr., 6-1, 165

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Dustin Smith, Fostoria, Sr., 6-1, 172; David Little, Clay, Jr., 5-8, 155; Joe Raker, Northview, Sr., 6-0, 175; David Gibbs, Ross, Sr., 6-5, 180; LaCharles, Whitmer, Jr., 6-0, 170; Shane Moran, Ross, Jr., 6-2, 175; John Eberle, Northview, Sr., 5-10, 190; Ryan Russell, Fostoria, Soph., 5-9, 215; Chris Robinson, Northview, Sr., 6-3, 210; Eric Straube, Ross, Sr., 6-1, 230; Mazen Hakkj, Northview, Sr., 5-11, 195

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Damon Moore, Fostoria, Sr., 6-1, 190; Bryan Cutcher, Clay, Sr., 6-1, 185; Jason Matney, Ross, Sr., 6-4, 235; Shawn Nye, Fostoria, Sr., 6-2, 230; Mark Lones, Clay, Sr., 5-11, 190; Shawn Doogs, Fostoria, Jr., 6-1, 188; Matt Vaillant, Whitmer, Sr., 6-2, 210; Jon Winters, Ross, Sr., 6-0, 170; Shane Stoner, Napoleon, Jr., 6-2, 248; Jeremy Fritz, Whitmer, Sr., 5-9, 155; Brooke Gray, Napoleon, Sr., 6-1, 195.

Punter: Darren Snapp, Northview, Sr., 5-11, 195

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Doug Mathias, Fostoria, Sr., 6-1, 205; Brian Wiskochil, Whitmer, Sr., 5-10, 175; Kris Kayden, Ross, Sr., 6-1, 185; Greg Faneuff, Clay, Sr., 6-0, 190; Loren Boos, Fostoria, Sr., 5-11, 185; Shane Jesion, Clay, Sr., 5-8, 165; Jeremy Spohn, Bedford, Sr., 5-11, 160; Chris Harr, Fostoria, Sr., 6-1, 167; Dave Smith, Whitmer, Sr., 5-10, 200; Ricky Price, Ross, Sr., 5-10, 180; Bob Rambo, Bedford, Sr., 5-9, 170

Honorable Mention

Bedford: Mike Burzynski, Matt Moran, Jon Miller, Matt Jensen, Marty West and Toby Houghtlen

Clay: Chad Schliesser, Ben Heslet, Kurt Pfefferle, Hizar Boraby, Shawn Spears, Brian Weseman

Fostoria: Shane Ledesma, Bryon Flinders, Nate Bernal, Jason Groves, Scot Mora and Walter Talley

Ross: Brad Drake, Jake Binder, Sean Sprouse, Jason Lather and Kyle Kusmer

Napoleon: Mike Gerdeman, Josh Van Ausdale, Ryan Johnson, Seth Bostelman, Nathan Glick and Ryan McGhee

Whitmer: Matt Mutchler, Mark Schumaker, Scott Reighard, Chris Cutcher, Mike Howe and Chad Fitzgerald

Fremont Ross honors its football players

News-Messenger reports

Charles Woodson, Craig Smith and Jason Lather won the top awards Tuesday during the Fremont Ross Football Awards Program in the Ross High School cafeteria.

Woodson, who rushed for 1,528 yards and scored 27 touchdowns during the Little Giants' 9-1 season, was voted the most valuable player by his teammates. He also won the outstanding offensive and defensive back awards.

It was the second MVP award for Woodson, a junior.

Smith, a guard/tackle offensive and a defensive tackle, won the outstanding award for both lines. Smith also received his third letter award.

Lather, a running back and linebacker, was named the team's outstanding sophomore.

Other special awards went to offensive lineman Eric Straube as the most improved senior; offensive lineman Brad Drake as the most improved junior; and Fernando Calvillo won the True Grit award given to a player who may not be a starter but who has contributed to the team through hard work, spirit and dedication.

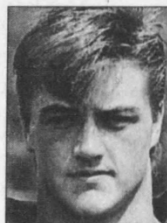
Also, Ricky Price and Smith were presented with captain's trophies.

The awards were presented by head coach Rex Radeloff and his assistant coaches.

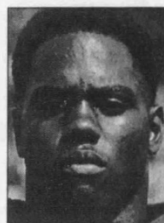
Radeloff also presented All-Great Lakes League medals to Woodson and Smith for first-team offense; receiver David Gibbs, quarterback



WOODSON



SMITH



LATHER

Shane Moran and guard Eric Straube for the second-team offense. Woodson was the offensive back of the year and Smith the offensive lineman of the year.

Linebacker Jon Winters and tackles Jason Matney were named to the first-team defense, while linebackers Kris Kayden and Price won second-team honors.

Woodson and Smith were also recognized for being named to the 1993 Associated Press Northwest All-District team. Woodson, who was the district offensive back of the year, was named to the first-team offense and Smith was tabbed for the first-team defense.

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio

Sports Editor Bob Marker, ext. 142

Tuesday, November 30, 1993 B1

Ross' Woodson All-Ohio

Staff, wire reports

COLUMBUS — Fremont Ross junior running back Charles Woodson has been named to the first team on the 1993 Associated Press Division I All-Ohio high school football team announced Monday.

"I thought I did pretty good, but I didn't think I did that good," said Woodson, who rushed for 1,528 yards despite missing the Findlay game with an injury.

Woodson (6-foot-2, 185 pounds), who amassed 1,923 all-purpose yards while averaging 6.8 yards per rushing attempt and 169.8 yards rushing per game, is the first All-Ohio player from Ross



WOODSON

since defensive back Chris Benson in 1989.

"I'm happy for Charles and happy for his teammates," Ross coach Rex Radeloff said. "It's a great accomplishment for him because he certainly had an excellent year."

"The best thing about it is that he's only a junior and we've got him back next year."

Ross compiled a 9-1 record. The Little Giants' lone setback was a 7-6 loss to Fostoria at Harmon Stadium.

"The team did very well," Woodson said. "We started doing some new stuff on offense. That helped, plus the line did such a good job."

Although a gamebreaker with sprinter speed, Woodson said his favorite play was a trap up the middle.

"That's based on how well the line executed the blocking," he said.

Woodson said he wasn't surprised at his accomplishments, which included 27 touchdowns.

"I knew I could have that kind of season. It was just a matter of doing it," he said.

The Ross star said he will feel no pressure next year after being named the top offensive player in the northwest district and earning all-state honors.

"It makes it that much more exciting," he said.

A pitch-and-catch team that combined for 1,139 yards and 16 touchdowns and a rock-solid defensive lineman from the state's No. 1 team, meanwhile, also headline the Division I All-Ohio team.

The Springfield South tandem of quarterback Chris Wallace and wide receiver Dee Miller became the first teammates ever to share the offensive player of the year award, while Cleveland St. Ignatius' defensive end Mike

Buzin was tabbed as the defensive player of the year.

Hilliard's John Sines, who turned a 5-5 team into a 9-1 state playoff contender, was selected as the state coach of the year. All honors were based on the recommendations of a state panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Hilliard was 42-68 in its last 11 seasons, but in three years Sines has produced one of the top programs in the state. His only loss was by a point to fellow playoff team Westerville North.

Wallace and Miller pushed the envelope of offensive statistics for batterymates. Wallace, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound senior, completed 148 of 265 passes for 2,889 yards and 38 touchdowns.

His top target was Miller, a 6-2, 205-pound senior who caught 56 passes for 1,139 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Wallace passed for 525 yards in one game and finished his prep

career with 81 touchdown passes. Miller had 126 catches for his career for 2,756 yards and 36 scores.

If Wallace and Miller lived to score touchdowns, Buzin was known to prevent them. A 6-4, 243-pound senior, he also starred as an offensive lineman. But he was known as a cornerstone of unbeaten St. Ignatius' defense.

Buzin was credited with 69 tackles, 13 sacks, caused four fumbles, broke up five passes and caused the opposing quarterback to hurry a throw 14 other times. Impressive stats, but even more impressive when you consider he played less than three quarters in half of the Wildcats' games.

He has already committed to attend Penn State.

Joining Buzin on the defensive front wall are Ryan Murphy of

See WOODSON, B2

Woodson on All-Ohio team

Continued From B1

Cincinnati LaSalle, Elyria's Marvin Majors, Calvin Brown of East Cleveland Shaw and B.J. Payne of Massillon Washington.

The linebackers are Centerville's Chad Brightman, Ahmad Ash of Warren Harding, Kent Rafey of Toledo St. Francis, Wally Hurdley of Youngstown Austintown Fitch and Doug West of Lima Senior.

The secondary is second to none: Cincinnati Princeton's John Baker had 76 solo tackles, intercepted four passes and averaged 27 yards on each of his punt and kickoff returns; Canton McKinley's Che Bryant, a first-team all-state running back last year, was the top defender for the Bulldogs; Columbus South's Dwayne Harris rushed for 1,501 yards when he wasn't intercepting six passes on defense; Mansfield's Chioke Bradley starred as a wide receiver and defensive back; and Delaware Hayes' Todd Goebbel picked off 10 passes and accounted for almost a thousand yards on offense.

Speaking of offense, Miller's running-mates at the receiver spots are Walsh Jesuit's Brock Kreitzburg (44 catches for 690 yards) and D'Metrius Wilson of Huber Heights Wayne (48 for 729).

The front line averages 6-4 and 281 pounds: Fred Saylor of Massillon Perry (6-0, 245), Tom Erb of Hilliard (6-4, 275), Fairfield's Mark Piatt (6-3, 265), Eric Gohlstein of Cleveland St. Ignatius (6-5, 315), Sandusky's Orlando Pace (6-8, 320), Rick Scheiderer of Cincinnati Princeton (6-3, 301) and Cincinnati Moeller's Andy Biemeshe (6-3, 245).

The other running backs are Euclid's Pepe Pearson (1,418 yards and 16 touchdowns), Eric Haddad of St. Ignatius (1,301 yards, 21 TDs) and Mount Vernon's Matt Buirley (1,780 yards, 164 points).

The kickers are Chris Ferencik of Strongsville and Moeller's Brian Houston, while Justin Henderson, who also starred at quarterback for Lima Senior, is the punter.