

## 2014 Sectional Tournament

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ross downs Rebels to advance in sectional play

Leah Ballenger had three solo blocks to complement her team-high 14 kills in Thursday's Division I sectional win against Bowsher.

The Little Giants won the match 24-26, 25-21, 25-21, 25-17.

Allison Bates led Ross in assists with 19, while teammate Morgan

Guhn added 16. Maddie Overmyer had seven kills and five blocks, Elyana Ackerman five kills and three blocks, and Allison Sanchez had 12 digs for the Little Giants. Emily Muffler chipped in with 10 kills.

Ross (11-12) will play host to St. Ursula on Saturday in sectional play.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SECTIONAL

# A mountain too high to climb

No. 1-ranked St. Ursula Academy ousts Fremont Ross

**Rich McGowan**  
Asst. editor/sports reporter

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross volleyball team knew the scale of the mountain it had to climb Saturday if its season were to continue.

And it didn't take long for the Little Giants to realize reaching the summit was going to be every bit as difficult as they imagined and settled for simply climbing as high as they could.

Division I's No. 1-ranked team, St. Ursula Academy, showed Ross exactly why the Arrows are one of the state's power programs, having made six state championship matches

since 2000 with a pair of titles in that time. St. Ursula swept Ross out of the sectional tournament, winning by scores of 25-3, 25-10, 25-14.

"They continued to fight, and I couldn't be more proud of them," Ross coach Lyndsey Robinson said. "I'll be losing three seniors, three key players, but we have a lot returning next year and we need to continue to build from what we had here tonight into next season."

Seniors Allison Bates, Maurene Fox and Kyle Guhn played their final matches for Ross.

St. Ursula wasted little time jumping on Ross and scored the first nine points in each of the

first two sets and cruised to one-sided victories.

Though the writing appeared on the wall for her team, Robinson was impressed by the Little Giants' fight in the third set.

The Little Giants got on the scoreboard first in Set 3, and traded points with the Arrows for the first portion of the set. A block by Emily Muffler followed by back-to-back aces by Matallyn Overmyer gave Ross a 7-6 lead which they later grew into a 9-8 lead. Then the St. Ursula's machine began to rev once again, scoring 12 of the match's final 14 points en route



RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 7A

Fremont Ross' Leah Ballenger goes for a kill against St. Ursula Academy.

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 6A

to the victory.

"We knew coming into it, it was going to be a fight. It's St. Ursula," Robinson said. "We wanted to win, of course, you always play to win, but when they leave it all on the court, like they did in that third set, it's easy to walk off the court like, 'We played the best we could.'"

Muffler had three blocks for Ross while Overmyer finished with three aces, two blocks and a kill. Leah Ballenger had three kills and Jordan Robinson had two. Allison Bates had five assists and Allison Sanchez had nine digs.

Robinson said she hopes playing a program like St. Ursula in the season's final match will give her squad added motivation to improve during the offseason.

"It give us that realization of how much work we do have, as a team, and what we can become if we continue to play in the off-season and if we continue to work all summer," Robinson said. "(St. Ursula) is heading into the tournament looking to be the next state champions. We can say we played the best in the state."

[rmcgowan@gannett.com](mailto:rmcgowan@gannett.com)

419-334-1043

Twitter: @RMcGowan1