

2004 Season Review...

Ross

COACH: Mark Miesle

LAST YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS: Ross was second in the Greater Buckeye Conference at 3-1 and finished second in the GBC tournament.

TOP RETURNERS: Andrew Aseltine, junior; Spencer Schabel, junior; Scott King, junior; Grant Hilty, senior; Justin Pollak, senior; Austin Young, senior; Kevin Vasser, senior.

TOP NEWCOMERS: Travis Rodriguez, sophomore.

OUTLOOK: Miesle expects the GBC to come down to a two-team race between Ross and Findlay. The Little Giants return everybody with the exception of Wes Eckhardt. A team rarely returns seven of its top eight golfers. Qualifying for state is certainly not out of the question for this group. Ross's seven golfers are very consistent as a whole, and Aseltine may prove to be one of the area's more consistent individuals.

Driving change

Golf coaches are 'jealous' of today's players

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

Golf today is not the game of Andrew Aseltine's father. Even though it is.

Fremont Country Club professional Chris Aseltine and Fremont Ross varsity coach Mark Miesle are jealous of Chris' son Andrew.

Andrew Aseltine has more opportunities in the game of golf than they did in high school.

There has been a marked improvement in the equipment available to golfers since Chris was Andrew's age.

The sport has exploded in popularity, and that has led to golfers typically starting the game at a younger age.

And technology now allows athletes to use video to refine their swings, often along with the help of an instructor. Neither were options 20 or 30 years ago.

Aseltine graduated from Sylvania in 1976, and Miesle finished at Ross in 1985. Miesle played three years of varsity golf, and Aseltine, who has been club pro at FCC since 1982, was the No. 1 player his senior season.

See GOLF, B3

Prep year is here

The News-Messenger is previewing fall sports in the upcoming weeks.

Here is the schedule:

Today: Golf, Capsules on Page B3

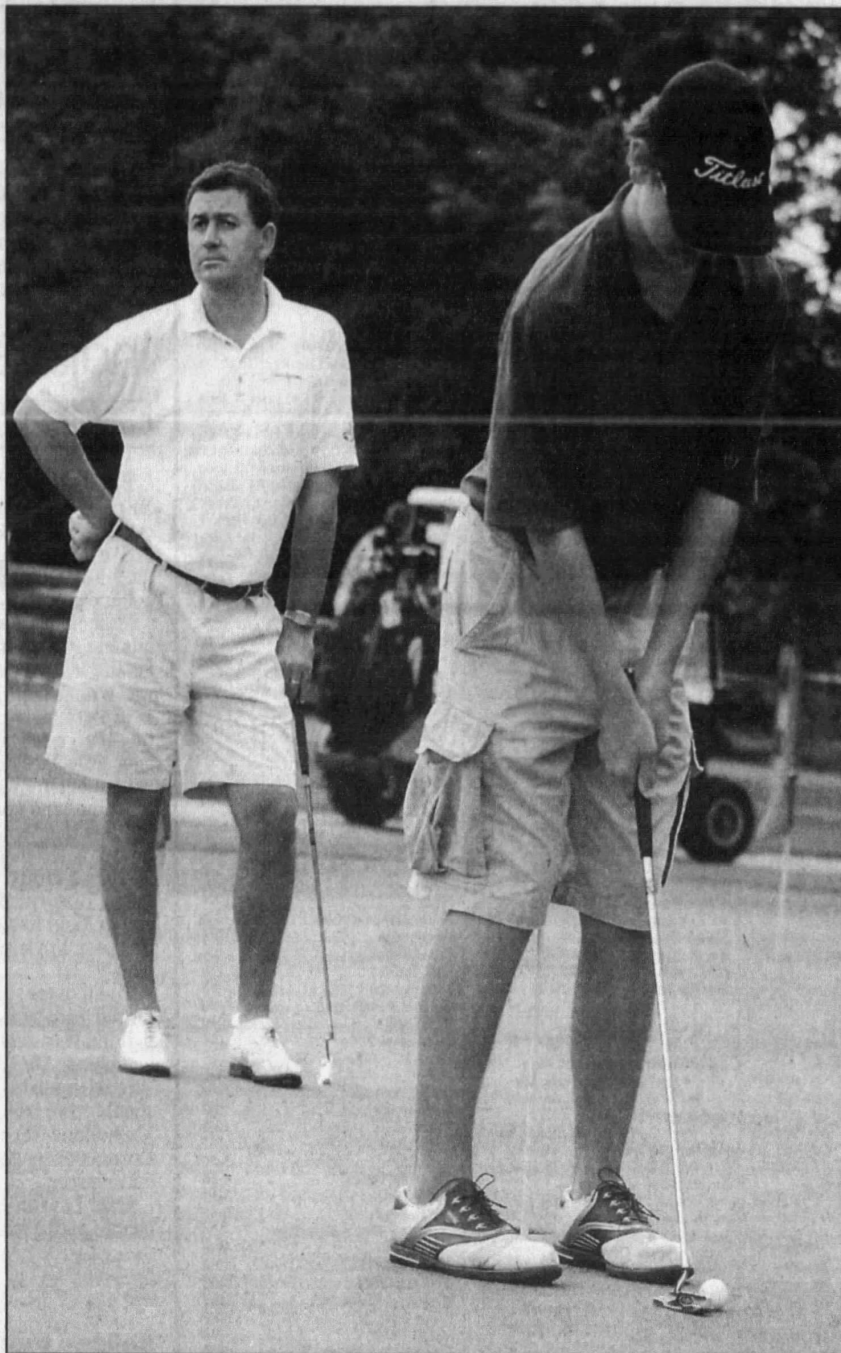
Tuesday: Tennis

Wednesday: Cross country

Thursday: Soccer

Friday: Volleyball

Aug. 26: Football section



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

THE GAME of golf has drastically changed since Fremont Ross coach Mark Miesle, background, played for the Little Giants. Today's players, like Ross's Andrew Aseltine, foreground, have more opportunities in the game. They can play in countless tournaments and improve their swing with the use of video.

Giant first step for Ross

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross golf team opened the season by capturing the 11-team Golden Bear Invitational with a 303 on Monday.

Grant Hilty shot a team-best 74 at Sycamore Hills for Ross.

"(Hilty) didn't do anything extraordinarily well, but he made a lot of pars," Ross coach Mark Miesle said. "That's what I stress."

St. Joseph Central Catholic came in second with a 315, and host Gibsonburg was third at 322.

Old Fort (385) and Bettsville (391) rounded out the field.

The Crimson Streaks' Will Woodruff fired a 73, and the Golden Bears' Andy Gruner shot a 75.

Each of the Little Giants four scores that counted were 77 or better. Scott King's 79 would have been the lowest score for most of the teams in the tournament.

"I was happy with how all five guys played," Miesle said. "Our confidence was

definitely boosted after today's round.

"Depth is going to be our strength all season," he continued. "We have seven guys who can keep it in the 70s consistently."

Spencer Schabel shot a 75 and Kevin Vassar and Andrew Aseltine each carded a 77 for Ross.

■ **BELLEVUE FOURTH:** Bellevue fired a 344 to finish the Bucyrus Invitational at Bucyrus Country Club in fourth.

Vermilion won the event with a 328.

Woodmore shot a 364 to finish 10th.

Jordan Hepler led the Wildcats with an 87.

Girls golf

■ **FLIERS FALL IN DEBUT:** Kaley Willer carded a 50, but the Clyde girls lost 185-226 to Perkins at Thunderbird Hills' South Course.

Monday marked the Fliers' first match as a girls varsity sport.

Brittney Baker and Haley Snyder each fired a 58 for Clyde (0-1).

PREP ROUNDUP

Rolling Ross at it again

Giants are Kings at golf invitational

News-Messenger reports

Ross continued an impressive start to the golf campaign with a victory at the 19-team Admiral King Invitational on Wednesday.

The Little Giants fired a 301 as a team to defeat second-place Keystone by 18 strokes. Ross won a second tournament on Monday and finished second on Tuesday.

The Little Giants' Andrew Aseltine was medalist on Wednesday with a 3-under-par 68.

"(Aseltine's) a fairway and green guy," Ross coach Mark Miesle said. "He'll bore you to death, and I love that. Especially in high school golf, par on any hole is a great score. Par is never bad. Andrew has the ability to

make par the norm. He's strong."

And birdies certainly aren't out of the question.

"(Aseltine) pushes the other kids," Miesle said. "I think I'm lucky with the caliber of kids I have that they truly root for each other."

They have had plenty of reason to do so already in the fledgling season.

Kevin Vassar shot a 74 and Scott King carded a 78 on Wednesday.

"Vassar was one of the unsung heroes (Tuesday), and he played very well today," Miesle said. "Kevin will be one of those guys that this team will look back at this time next year and say they wish they still had. He's very consistent."

Of the 42 teams that Ross has competed against this season, it has only fallen short to Sylvania Northview.

Northview won by three strokes on Tuesday.

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— Ross's
Mark Miesle

"(The Willard Invitational) ticked them off a little bit," Miesle said of his players. "They knew they didn't play well as a team. We weren't very happy with the results."

Ross's Andrew Aseltine was medalist on Wednesday with a 36.

"He found his way out of trouble a couple of times today," Miesle said.

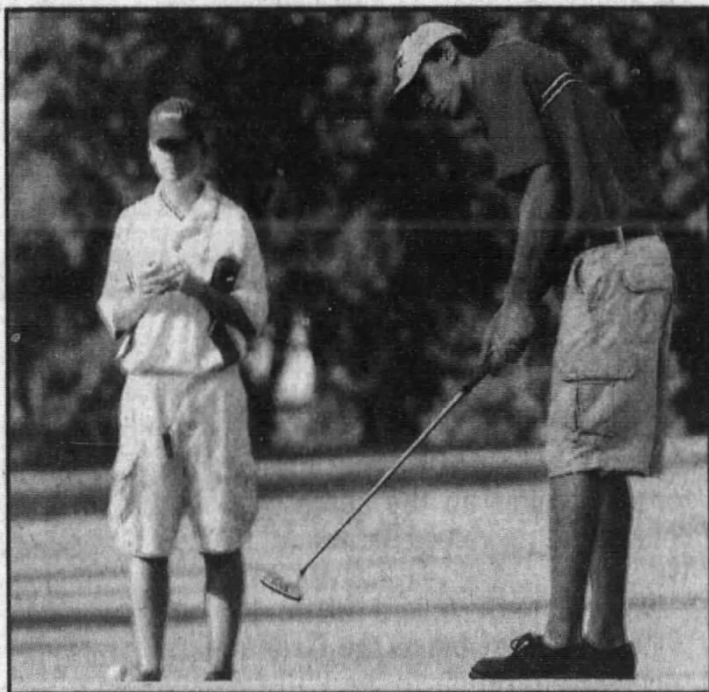
Aseltine hit a shot out of bounds and still managed to par the sixth hole.

The Giants' Spencer Schabel and SJCC's Will Woodruff each shot a 38 on Wednesday.

"Spencer has played well in practically every event we've had so far," Miesle said. "Spencer has as much ability as any of the kids. In terms of physical ability, he may have more."

The Streaks' Cory Swaisgood and Ross's Scott King each carded a 40.

ROUNDUP



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S Andrew Aseltine, left, watches St. Joseph Central Catholic's Will Woodruff during a tri-meet on Wednesday at the Fremont Country Club.

Ross rebounds, edges SJCC

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross coach Mark Miesle didn't have to say much.

In fact, he didn't need to say a thing.

His Little Giants finished behind St. Joseph Central Catholic at the Willard Invitational on Friday. The Crimson Streaks were second and

Ross was fourth.

The Giants hoped to make amends when they hosted a tri-meet on Wednesday.

Ross won the event at The Fremont Country Club with a 158. SJCC carded a 163 and Genoa a 172.

See ROUNDUP, B4

PREP ROUNDUP

Record round for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

After his Fremont Ross golf team's dual at Napoleon on Thursday, Mark Miesle joked with Austin Young

Young fired a 40, a very respectable score. Yet, on this record-breaking day, it didn't count because it wasn't among Ross's top four scores.

"At the end of the day, I patted Austin on the back and said, 'You played great. You better get it going,'" Miesle joked.

The Little Giants shot a 4-under 140 and broke the high school team record at the

"It was a great day. Everybody played very well."

— Ross coach Mark Miesle

Napoleon Municipal Golf Course.

Miesle, a former Ross standout golfer, believes it's one of the best team scores in school history.

"I don't know about (the best) ever," he said. "But it's got to be one of our best

scores ever."

Andrew Aseltine led the way with a 3-under 33. Kevin Vassar (34), who birdied three straight holes, Grant Hilty (36) and Spencer Schabel (37) rounded out the Little Giants' stellar scorecard.

Napoleon finished 29 shots back in the Greater Buckeye Conference match.

Ross improved to 3-0 in duals.

"It was a great day," Miesle said. "Everybody played very well."

See ROUNDUP, B4

Ace Aseltine, Ross wins title

News-Messenger reports

Andrew Aseltine fired a 6-under-par 65 and Justin Pollock helped Fremont Ross win the Bellevue Invitational in a scorecard playoff on Saturday.

Ross, Norwalk and St. Paul each finished the 12-team tournament with a 296. The title was decided by each school's fifth score.

Showing off the Little Giants' depth, Pollock shot an 82. Norwalk and St. Paul's fifth golfers, meanwhile, shot an 86 and 93, respectively.

"That's what I have been saying from the start was going to be our strength," Ross coach Mark Miesle said of the Little Giants' depth.

Aseltine, who had seven birdies and one bogey, notched his third medalist honor of the young season.

Scott King shot a 75 for Ross. He had to make a clutch 10-foot putt on the final hole to put the Little Giants into the scorecard playoff.

Spencer Schabel and Kevin Vassar shot a 77 and 79, respectively.

"The two teams that we were tied with — Norwalk and Norwalk St. Paul — were top-notch teams," Miesle said. "They knew that this was going to be one of our bigger tests. And they turned it on."

Bellevue finished sixth and Margaretta was eighth in the invitational.

Kyle Ball shot a 71 to lead Bellevue. Jarrett Yingling (80), Luke Curran (81) and Logan Wenner (84) completed the Redmen's scorecard.

Andrew Bolinger and Andy Ensign shot 77 and 78, respectively, for Margaretta. Tim Hammersmith (85) and Austin Kramer (86) also scored for the Polar Bears.

Cross country

■ **HILL FIRST, ROSS SECOND:** Derek Hill won the Chris Green Invite but Fremont Ross finished second in the team standings. Perkins edged Ross 65-76.

"I was really happy," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said.

Hill finished in 16:44, beating runner-up

Deven Siesel of Margaretta by 20 seconds.

"I just love to watch him run," Esposito said. "He is such a smooth runner. He always looks focused during his races. He's definitely a great distance runner."

Nathan Bowen (ninth), Josh Bowen (16th), Michael Flores (21th) and Derek Flores (29th) also scored for the Little Giants.

Margaretta and Bellevue were fifth and sixth, respectively.

Josh Yount (11th), Aaron Stewart (23rd), Tom Round (38th) and David Beechler also scored for Margaretta.

Brian Ackerman (12th), Brett Veach (14th), Ben Wallingford (24th), Scott Hopton (26th) and Nathan Steinmetz (48th) were Bellevue's top five runners.

Ross and Margaretta finished fifth and sixth in the girls division. Bellevue was eighth.

Perkins won the girls division.

Ashley Fischer (seventh) and Alyssa Bowerman (10th) finished in the top 10 for Ross. Allison Adams (32nd), Ashley Brunthamer (46th) and Bryleigh Linton (49th) also scored for Ross.

Emily Kuns' 13th-place finish led Margaretta. Also scoring for the Polar Bears were Mandy Gentner (22nd), Cayla Keegan (26th), Danielle Hahn (38th) and Alissa Malott (56th).

Wendy Sumser (23rd), Abby Smith (27th), Rachel Smith (31st), Jess Cook (35th) and Natalie Hartzell (53rd) were Bellevue's top five finishers.

■ **MILLER LEADS OLD FORT TO TITLE:** Dustin Miller won the Gray division title and led four top-10 finishers as Old Fort cruised to the boys team championship at the Columbus Grove Invitational.

Jackson Stults and Mike Rodriguez finished third and fourth, respectively, for Old Fort. Greg Joseph was 10th, and Marcus Hoke was 30th.

Miller finished in 17:13.83, nearly 17 seconds better than runner-up Tony Reiss of Sidney Lehman.

Old Fort finished with 48 points. Hopewell-Loudon (115) and Minster (118) were second and third.

The Stockader girls finished fourth with 130 points. Minster with 30 points.

Lisa Ortiz finished fifth to lead the Stockaders.

Freshman Lucy Stults finished 10th. Becky Miller (30th), Jenny Kline (39th) and Emily Ellis (54th) also scored for Old Fort.

Michelle Kimmet finished 40th to lead Bettsville, which didn't record a girls or boys team score.

Andrea Bender and Megan Benner were 56th and 122nd, respectively, for the girls. Kurtis Miller and Travis Lang finished 83rd and 112th, respectively, for the boys.

■ **LAKOTA SHINES AT INVITE:** Kyle Dussel finished third as Lakota was runner-up to Eastwood in the Otsego Invitational.

Eastwood edged the Raiders 41-45.

Lance Brockschmidt was fifth for Lakota. Josh Stultz (11th), Nate Miller (12th) and Andy Walters (14th) also scored for Lakota.

Ashley Brockschmidt was second as the Lakota girls were third.

Kelsey Dussel and Patti Stiger were eighth and ninth, respectively. Brooke Racheter (22nd) and Andrea Leathead (23rd) also scored for Lakota.

Volleyball

■ **OLD FORT SECOND:** Old Fort finished 2-1 in the St. Mary's Memorial Invitational, losing to champion Parkway 25-20, 25-19.

The Stockaders (2-2) rallied to beat Fort Recovery 15-25, 25-15, 15-10 and also topped Wauseon 25-17, 20-25, 15-9.

Shannon Nye led the Stockaders with 20 kills. Kara Kohlenberg and Kelsey Molyet added 18 and 15 kills, respectively.

Molyet had 22 points and 24 digs for Old Fort.

Morgan Magers had 70 assists.

■ **BETTSTVILLE WINS:** Bettsville won its first game of the season, a 25-20, 19-25, 15-8 decision over Vanlue.

The Bobcats also fell to Port Clinton 25-15, 25-22.

Jannell Twindall and Tiffanie Kosta had 11 and 10 points, respectively, in Bettsville's win. Ashley Vallaejo had 15 assists.



Nick Mathews
Mathews musings

Miesle's the man for Giants

Mark Miesle said his Fremont Ross golf team's greatest strength is that it doesn't have any weaknesses.

That's Miesle's mark on the program.

The first-year coach has turned his Little Giants' weaknesses into strengths, and, in turn, he has developed Ross into a dominating squad.

Led by junior ace Andrew Aseltine, Ross has already won four tournaments — including the 12-team Bellevue Invitational this past Saturday.

"He has made a major impact," Ross senior standout Spencer Schabel said of Miesle.

Miesle's greatest attribute as a golf coach is that, well, he's a great golfer. That isn't always the case with high school golf coaches. In fact, it rarely is.

There are probably very few prep golf coaches in Northwest Ohio — and, maybe even the state — who can keep up with Miesle on the links.

He is a former Ross standout who was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame this past spring. He was also a PGA professional, including time as the assistant pro at the Fremont Country Club.

In late July, Miesle broke the Sycamore Hills scoring record with an 8-under-par 62.

"I respect the guy," Schabel said. "I would be shaking if I had to play match play against him. He's got game. He's very talented."

Said Miesle: "The Little Giants' sort of joke about that, that they wish I could be their sixth man in matches."

Miesle is already doing a fantastic job as the sixth man — cheering his players on and improving their games.

After one of the Little Giants' only disappointments of the season — a fourth-place finish at the Willard Invitational — Miesle didn't get upset with his players.

"He wasn't pleased," Aseltine said. "But instead of getting mad or yelling at us, he asked us what we did wrong during the round and what we were going to do to improve."

"I appreciated that he didn't get angry," he continued. "Him not getting mad, him trying to help us out was great. Trying to find out a way for us not to do that again was his biggest concern, more than us playing really badly that day."

With his teaching background as a pro, Miesle quickly spots any flaws and fixes them.

Senior Kevin Vassar struggled with his chipping before Miesle's arrival. During the Little Giants' victory at Napoleon — in which they set a high school team scoring record on the course — Vassar chipped in twice.

Overall, though, Miesle said he hasn't overhauled his players' swings.

"I'm taking what they are already good at and tweaking it just a little bit," he said. "Nothing major."

The 6-foot-5 Schabel could already hit his drives 300 yards before working with Miesle. But the coach has helped Schabel improve his accuracy and — unbelievably — his distance off the tee.

Most important, though, Miesle has gotten Schabel to realize that he doesn't always have to hit the big drive. Miesle has taught Schabel — and the other Little Giants — proper course management.

Hit fairways and greens. Eliminate the chances of double- and triple-bogies. Pars win high school golf tournaments, Miesle says.

"I don't care who hits the ball the farthest," Miesle said. "I want to see who is going to have the lowest number. It's all about the results."

And Schabel has delivered. He has already dropped his 18-hole scoring average by four shots with Miesle's tutoring.

After the victory in the Bellevue Invitational, Miesle and his Little Giants went to Mike and Nina's for a celebratory dinner.

Miesle toasted his players and thanked them for allowing him to have the time of his life.

"I am having a blast," he said. "This has been a lot of fun. ... Winning is fun."

And Miesle certainly deserves a toast for that.

Nick Mathews is The News-Messenger sports editor. Columns appear on Tuesdays — or whenever the mood strikes. He can be reached at nmathews@fremont.gannett.com or 334-1042.

Hilty heats up for Ross

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross defeated Bedford, Mich., and Sylvania Northview by four strokes to walk away with its sixth tournament victory of the campaign at the 18-team St. Francis Invitational on Saturday.

"I was very excited about this one," Ross coach Mark Miesle said. "This is the best competition we've faced in one tournament."

Senior Grant Hilty fired a 1-under 71 to lead the Little Giants. Hilty carded a 75 for second on the team as Ross won the Marion Harding Invitational on Friday.

"The whole team would say that next to Andrew (Aseltine), Grant is probably our hardest worker," Miesle said. "Everybody roots for Grant. He plays hard."

"He's probably the most upbeat of all of our players."

Aseltine shot a 74, Austin Young a 78 and Spencer Schabel added an 80 for the Giants on Saturday.

beck had 15 digs and 12 kills as Oak Harbor defeated Danbury 25-20, 25-18 and Lakota 25-20, 25-23.

Lily Dellinger had 31 assists, Brittany Taylor had nine digs and five aces, and Katie Burns added 15 digs for the Rockets.

■ **WOODMORE SPLITS:** Woodmore topped St. Wendelin 25-17, 25-16 but lost to Fostoria 25-10, 25-22.

Megan Abbey had nine kills for the Wildcats in the loss.

■ **CLYDE DROPS PAIR:** Angie Powell had 17 digs and Sarah Doebel added 14, but Clyde fell to Notre Dame 25-21, 25-15 and Perrysburg 25-20, 16-25, 15-10.

Brittany Shetzer had eight kills and Lollie Vargas added five blocks for the Fliers (4-4, 3-0).

Boys soccer

■ **ELLENBERGER LEADS ROSS:** Blair Ellenberger scored two goals as Fremont Ross beat Lima Senior 4-2.

ROUNDUP

Little Giant golfers fire another record round

News-Messenger reports

Mark Miesle said his Fremont Ross golf team is at a little lull in its season. The Little Giants haven't played in any big tournaments in a few weeks, and the closest major event is the Greater Buckeye Conference meet next Tuesday.

His golfers' play in recent practice rounds has reflected that.

"They haven't been playing as well as they are capable of," Miesle said. "That's why today was such a nice surprise."

Andrew Aseltine shot a bogey-free, 4-under-par 32 and Ross finished with a record score of 4-under 140 in a 14-stroke win in a dual with archrival Sandusky on Thursday.

Sandusky coach Dave Colatruglio said the Little Giants' team score beat the previous course mark of 141 at Mills Creek Golf Club.

"That's tremendous," Miesle said. "We are pretty happy about that."

It was the Little Giants' second course mark of the season. They also set a record in Napoleon with a 140.

"Hopefully, this is the beginning of a second turnaround where we are going to start playing really well again," Miesle said.

Austin Young followed Aseltine with his best round of the season, a 1-under-

par 35.

"I was very happy for Austin," Miesle said. "He works very hard on maintaining his place (in the varsity lineup) going into our conference tournament and sectionals."

Spencer Schabel's 36 and Scott King's 37 completed the Little Giants' stellar scorecard.

Two of Ross's junior-varsity players — Grant Hilty (38) and Kevin Vassar (38) — also shot under 40.

"It was a very strong day from top to bottom," Miesle said.

■ **ROCKETS TIE MARK:** Thursday was finally the day for the Oak Harbor boys golf team.

The Rockets danced around the school record all season, but they finally tied it with a 145 in a 30-shot win over Huron in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

"I thought we were going to be well below it, but we kind of faded toward the end of the round," Oak Harbor coach Jay Hoover said. "We had a great regular season."

Andy Biggert shot a 34 to lead the way for the Rockets. Andy Palmer (36), Matt Weatherwax (37) and Brad Benes (38) completed Oak Harbor's scorecard.

■ **HISER'S BIG DAY LIFTS BEARS:** Brent Hiser shot a career-best 35 as Gibsonburg topped Mohawk and Arcadia in a tri-meet.

dia in a tri-meet.

Derek Eddings (36), Andy Gruner (39) and Andrew Stainbrook (40) completed the Golden Bears' scorecard of 150.

Mohawk had a 188, and Arcadia had a 212.

Gibsonburg improved to 12-2.

■ **SMCC TOO STRONG:** Kyle Steinbauer shot a 37, but Clyde lost 146-160 to Sandusky Bay Conference champion St. Mary Central Catholic.

David Wasserman (38), Seth Wagner (41) and Scott Kahler (44) completed the scorecard for Clyde.

■ **BELLEVUE DROPS MATCH:** Kyle Ball and Jarrett Yingling each shot 39, but Bellevue lost 153-167 to Willard.

Jeremy Haar (44) and Luke Curran (45) completed the scorecard for Bellevue (5-6).

Volleyball

■ **STREAKS WIN IN FOUR:** Becky Babione had 10 blocks and nine kills as St. Joseph Central Catholic beat Midland Athletic League foe St. Wendelin 25-19, 25-10, 22-25, 29-27.

Katy Hasselbach had seven blocks and four kills and Mandy Hensley tallied 10 digs and six kills for SJCC.

Allison Golamb and Sonda Beachler added 14 and 10 digs, respec-

tively, and Molly Wise tallied 15 assists.

■ **CLYDE CRUISES:** Chrissy Stohl had 23 assists and 10 points — including six aces — as Clyde cruised to a 25-9, 25-21, 25-17 victory over Sandusky Bay Conference foe St. Mary Central Catholic.

Brittany Shetzer had nine points and seven kills and Katie Stein and Jenny Miller each added seven kills for the Fliers (6-6, 5-2).

■ **STOCKADERS STEAMROLL FOES:** Morgan Magers had 18 points and 21 assists to lead Old Fort to a 25-12, 25-9, 25-6 win over Midland Athletic League foe Carey.

Amy Benz had 11 kills and seven blocks for the Stockaders (8-3, 4-0), who remained unbeaten in the league.

■ **EDISON TOPS OAK HARBOR:** Brittany Slauterbeck had 13 points, 10 kills and 11 digs, but Oak Harbor lost 25-18, 25-20, 25-22 to Edison in the SBC.

■ **LAKOTA FALLS:** Camille Wasserman had 10 kills, but Lakota lost 25-17, 25-15, 26-28, 25-8 to Suburban Lakes League powerhouse Genoa.

Rian Kistner and Katie Dennis each added five kills for the Raiders.

■ **BETTSVILLE LOSES:** Jannell Tyndall had seven points and 11 digs, but Bettsville lost 25-13, 25-14, 25-20 to Midland Athletic League foe New Riegel.

Tiffany Kosta added 10 digs, three points and two kills for the Bobcats (3-9).

Tennis

■ **FLIERS DOMINATE:** Jill Roach and Tiffany Selvey combined to win a thrilling three-set match to preserve Clyde's 5-0 shutout of Oak Harbor.

Roach and Selvey won 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5) at No. 1 doubles.

Darcy Young, Melanie Brenneman and Lauren Stamm earned straight-set singles victories for the Fliers.

Ashley Kern and Megan Ludrowsky won at No. 2 doubles for Clyde (7-4, 7-1 Sandusky Bay Conference).

Boys soccer

■ **NYE NOT ENOUGH:** Adam Nye scored a goal, but Old Fort lost 2-1 to Van Buren.

Goaltender Randy Ardery had eight saves for the Stockaders (6-1-2).

Girls soccer

■ **ROCKETS ROLL:** Erica Lipstraw had two goals and two assists and Courtney Snider and Ashley Brugnone each added two goals as Oak Harbor topped Edison 8-1 in the SBC.

Sara Boss added a goal and an assist and Caryn Diefenthaler tallied a goal for Oak Harbor, which outscored Edison 5-0 in the second half.

Ross rolls to tourney title

News-Messenger reports

Andrew Aseltine earned medalist honors with a 71 as Fremont Ross continued its stellar season with a 16-shot victory at the 14-team Genoa Invitational on Saturday.

Spencer Schabel (73) and Austin Young (74) also were named to the all-tournament team for the Little Giants.

Kevin Vassar (76) completed Ross's scorecard of 294.

North Canton Hoover finished second with a 310. Bellevue finished in 10th place.

Kyle Ball shot a 72 to finish in second place for the Redmen. Logan Wenner (83), Luke Curran (86) and Kyle Strong (87) also scored for Bellevue.

Kelsey Dussel (23rd), Patti Stiger (26th), Sarah Girard (31st) and Andrea Leathead (35th) also scored.

Jenna Branski (31st) led the Clyde girls to a seventh-place finish. Kristen Rathbun (33rd), Emily Hart (39th), Ally Pierce (43rd) and Nina Garcia (47th) also scored for the Fliers.

Volleyball

■ **OLD FORT TOPS GENOA:** Kara Kohlenberg had 23 digs and 15 kills and Morgan Magers had 43 assists and 15 digs as Old Fort beat previously unbeaten Genoa 15-25, 25-13, 25-17, 25-23.

Old Fort improved to 9-4. Genoa, which advanced to state in Division III last year, fell to 8-1.

Shannon Nye had 17 digs and 15 kills and Kelsey

Deep impact



FREMONT ROSS golf coach Mark Miesle, center, works with his team before practice on Thursday. Miesle will have a tough decision to make before the upcoming Division I sectional tournament. He has five positions available for the event and seven stellar golfers to fill them. *News-Messenger/David Distelhorst*

Ross coach faces enviable dilemma every match

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

HURON — First-year Fremont Ross coach Mark Miesle has a problem.

Or does he?

Justin Pollock — who fired an 82 as the No. 5 man to give Fremont Ross a victory at the Bellevue Invitational and carded an 81 as the Little Giants captured the Fremont Invitational earlier this season — was a spectator for the Greater Buckeye Conference Tournament on Tuesday.

After Andrew Aseltine, Grant Hilty and Spencer Schabel, the remaining four Ross golfers — Kevin Vassar, Scott King, Austin Young and Pollock — are very comparable in terms of talent.

That has left Miesle with quite a dilemma heading into each match — who gets to play?

Throughout the season, after players were randomly selected to sit out the first few

"Each kid has individual strengths and weaknesses in their own game, but as a team our strength is depth."

— Fremont Ross coach Mark Miesle

events, three formulas have been utilized to make the distinction. Miesle has either used a straight average, thrown out a player's high score or thrown out a golfer's two highest scores plus their lowest score to determine which players will comprise his group for a particular event.

"It's not just on the course," Miesle said. "It's with drills with the putter, wedge and irons. We stress the importance that because we have seven good players it's important to play well every match to qualify to play. Practice, qualifying rounds, whenever we play nine

or 18, the score matters. They have to play hard every time they tee it up."

Two players will have to watch their teammates at sectionals on Friday at Westbrook Country Club in Mansfield. And while most coaches might assume they would love to have Miesle's depth, it is doubtful they'd be very envious when it came time to break the news to those selected to sit.

Not to mention the fact that a coach could easily make the wrong choices.

"If kids play poorly, who's to say the kids left behind wouldn't have beaten them," Miesle

said.

Miesle said that honesty is the best policy with his players.

"Come sectionals, there will be seven guys for five spots," he said. "They understand that two will be unhappy when we announce the squad for the day. It's a matter of who wants to be one of the five."

To their credit, the Ross golfers have remained a consolidated bunch, devoid of any bickering or dissent.

"There have been no problems," Miesle said. "They are fantastic kids. (Assistant coach) Carl (Schabel) and my only challenge has been figuring out which five kids we can count on come crunch time."

"They are all really good friends," he continued. "There hasn't been any jealousy or anybody wishing someone else played poorly. It's friendly competition."

See **DEPTH**, B6

Depth a Giant asset for the Ross golf team

Continued From B3

Each of the seven Ross golfers has played a prominent role in a tournament victory this season.

Aseltine has consistently been the team's ace. He fired a 3-under 33 as the Giants set a team course record at Napoleon, a 4-under 32 as the group established a second record with an identical score at Sandusky and a 71 as Ross won the 18-hole Genoa Invitational with a 294. Aseltine also carded a 3-under 68 in the Admiral King invite, which Ross won, a 6-under 65 to help win the Bellevue Invitational and a 71 against Marion Harding in a team victory.

Hilty shot a 1-under 71 to lead the team to a win in the St. Francis invite, a 74 to lead the group to a win in the Gibsonburg invite, a 75 at Marion Harding and a 36 at Napoleon.

Schabel had a 73 to make the all-tournament team for the Genoa invite, a 75 at Gibsonburg, a 77 at Bellevue, a 36 at Sandusky and a 37 at Napoleon.

Young shot a 74 to make the Genoa invite's all-tournament team, a 78 at St. Francis, a 79 at Marion Harding and a 1-under 35 at Sandusky.

Vassar carded a 74 at the Admiral King Invitational, a 76 at Genoa, a 79 at Bellevue, an 80 at Marion Harding and a 34, including three straight birdies, at Napoleon.

King fired a 75 at Bellevue, including a clutch putt to force a scorecard playoff, a 78 at Admiral King, a 79 at Gibsonburg and a 37 at Sandusky.

Aseltine said the competitive environment has

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— Fremont Ross's Andrew Aseltine

made the team stronger as a group.

“(Miesle) tries to get us to compete within ourselves to do better,” Aseltine said. “He's tried to get us to play solid as a team. The more competition you have, the better off you'll be.”

While depth is certainly an advantageous strength, it has limited Miesle's opportunities for individual tutoring, which he relishes.

“It's nice to be able to plug in five or six and usually expect them to play well as a group,” he said. “Each kid has individual strengths and weaknesses in their own game, but as a team our strength is depth.”

“In terms of teaching, there hasn't been as much teaching as I thought,” Miesle continued. “The biggest challenge of the job is figuring out who to play.”

Aseltine, Hilty and Schabel are probable selections for sectionals.

The remaining two golfers still have a few rounds before Friday.

“The pressure isn't just on (Nos.) 1, 2 and 3,” Hilty said. “Everybody can come in low.”

But first they have to crack the lineup.