

SOCCER TEAMS TO OPEN THE SEASON UNDER THE LIGHTS FRIDAY AT DON PAUL STADIUM

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 15, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#), [Girls Soccer](#)



The lights will be shining bright Friday night at Don Paul Stadium. But not for that kind of football.

Fremont Ross' soccer teams will be playing host to rival Sandusky for a doubleheader of "Friday Night Futbol," a campaign by the Ohio High School Athletic Association encouraging schools to promote soccer among its member schools by playing in football stadiums.

"We were supposed to play Sandusky the last Saturday of the regular season, they contacted (athletic director Chad) Berndt and basically said 'We don't want to play at that time,'" boys coach Alex Coressel said. "We needed to find another date, and between the two Ads, they decided to give it a shot.

"I know Perkins has done it a few times, and it's our time to give it a shot."

The Lady Giants will kick off the doubleheader at 6 p.m. with the boys following at approximately 8 p.m.



Isaac Minor

Aside from the hoped-for boost in the size of the crowd, playing at Don Paul Stadium's artificial turf surface will have a direct effect on how the game is played as well.

"The speed of the game is completely different," Coressel said. "Here with the grass (at practice) it slows the ball down quite a bit, at the stadium you kick a ball and 'See Ya,' it's off and running."

The Little Giants are coming off a 9-6-1 season, though one of those losses was a forfeited victory. Having won 10 games in 2017 as well, Coressel sees no reason the Little Giants can't once again approach and surpass double-digit victories.

"I think 10 wins is the ultimate goal. Sandusky Perkins will be harder than they have been, but most of the other non-league games that we won (last year), we should win," Coressel said. "Sandusky, we tied last year. We added Woodmore to the schedule; that's winnable. Old Fort is winnable, Port Clinton. Lima Senior, in the conference, we can beat. Whitmer, we'll have a good chance of beating them. Clay would be a possibility. I don't know what they have. But out of conference, we should be able to win those if we play the way we're capable of playing, and we may be able to surprise a few people in the TRAC."

To duplicate their recent-season success, Ross will have to fill the massive void left by Dylan Brady somehow. Brady crushed the program record for single-season goals (32) last year while setting the career record at 71.

Coressel knows one player won't make up the difference, but he says the Little Giants have the talent to be an offense-by-committee. Ross will lean on seniors Isaac Minor and Alec Slemmer and junior Carter Durbin. Ross will also move from a 4-4-2 system to a 4-5-1, with Minor leading the attack as striker.

“Isaac Minor is normally our left outside mid, and he wreaked havoc up there (in summer tournaments),” Coressel said. “I think he earned that spot and forced us to change things up a bit with where he had played, but I think we have more options at midfield.”



Mason DeWalt



Haydn Marsee

Senior Mason DeWalt will anchor the Little Giants' defensive end, combining a dynamic skill set with experience. A red card, however, in Ross' postseason tournament loss last season, means he has to serve a two-game suspension to begin the season.

While DeWalt's absence will be felt, Coressel is excited by the depth of the back end, including senior Chris Navarro, sophomore Micah Olvera, and sophomore Haydn Marsee, who Coressel believes is primed to break out.

"Last year, Marsee saw a few minutes in here and there, a couple of games, and he gained a lot of experience," Coressel said. "He has been phenomenal, showing up to every workout. In the 795 Tournament, he was our best defender game-in and game-out; it didn't matter who he went up against."

Freshman Logan Baacke and junior Carlos Pena will split duties in goal, but Coressel believes Baacke has the long-term potential to be a force in the net.

"They will split games," Coressel said. "We might even have one play one half and the other come in at halftime. We have two, solid, goalkeepers for the first time in a long time."



2019 Girls soccer team

The Schratt era begins for Lady Giants.

One could be forgiven for mistaking the Ross girls' soccer team's new coaches for players.



Abby Schratt



Emma Schratt

Abby and Emma Schratt are the youngest varsity coaches in the state. And they hope they're youthful energy rubs off on their new team.

"But with us being so young, it might be a different type of excitement for them," Emma Schratt said. "We'll come in and maybe show them something they haven't experienced before. Even talking to the girls, they've said we're the first girl coaches they've ever had, so we're breaking down that stigma too, being female coaches and as co-head coaches, so we're doing it as a team."

Born and raised in Cincinnati, the Schratts moved to Fremont in the middle of Emma's senior year of high school, and Abby was a junior. The following season, Abby played her senior season for the Lady Giants.

Emma, 22, and Abby, 21, are co-head coaches who knew coming in their age would be both an asset and a challenge.

"I think some of these girls don't see us as much older than them and might see us as more of a friend mentor than a coach mentor," Emma said. "...I feel like at first we had to get past that. We may look young, but we've had our entire life of experience with soccer, so we know it like the back of our hand, but getting their trust at first was the most important part."

The Schratts have liked what they've seen from their new team and are most pleased by how eager they are to improve and to accept coaching. And there is skill as well.



Mia Ramirez



Ashtyn Schneider

"We tell them to do something, and they just go ahead and do it," Schratt said.

"We've had girls come up to us and say, 'How can I get better at this?' We've had girls stay after practice because they want to get better. They're extremely (coachable). They want to do better, and we can see that.

"From the first practice I saw Mia (Ramirez), she had a lot of skill, some of that you just can't teach," she added. "Some of these girls have that, Ashtyn (Schneider), Mia, Sarah (Watson), our goalie, she's one crazy girl, but she has no fear, and that's what you need in a goalie. Madalyn (Metcalf) has some skills, too."



Madalyn Metcalf



Sarah Warson

Friday night the Lady Giants and their new coaches make their debut under the lights at Don Paul Stadium. Emma Schratt, for one, wouldn't mind a little more time to prepare.

"You can never be too ready. We definitely wish we had a little bit more time," she said. "This is definitely going to be eye-opening for them; some of these girls haven't played on a team before. So, they'll see how the speed of a game goes and how the pace is different from practice."

CHRIS NAVARRO CASHES IN TO LIFT LITTLE GIANTS TO A 1-0 WIN OVER SANDUSKY

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 17, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



(Above, Ross boys soccer coach Alex Coressel talks to his team at halftime of the Little Giants' season-opener against Sandusky.)

FREMONT – Few situations in sports are more frustrating than dominating a game with nothing to show for it.

The Fremont Ross boys soccer team had played keep-away from rival Sandusky for long stretches of its season-opening match as part of Friday Night Futbol, but the Little Giants could put the ball in the back of the net.

And the longer the Blue Streaks hung around, the more coach Alex Coressel couldn't help but think his team was flirting with disaster.

"With Sandusky, I know they have a lot of team speed, and they're extremely athletic, so you never know what break-out and we-have-to-chase-them-down and keep-it-out-of-the-net moment will happen," Coressel said.



Chris Navarro

Finally, little more than halfway through the second half, the newly minted captain, senior Chris Navarro, broke through. Cesar Flores passed the ball from 30 yards out to Navarro at the top of the goal box. With a group of Sandusky defenders draped over him, Navarro emerged from the pack and fired the ball into the net.

"I saw the ball get played back to Cesar, and he passes it back. It was a good pass," Navarro said. "I saw the guy come behind me, so I went inside, and I started falling forward and put my hand down. Then I saw two people come up. Then I got up, scooped the ball up, and it popped out of the three guys, and I got it and just shot it.

"It felt amazing. We were waiting for it to go in. We had a lot of chances. It just felt great when it went in."

When Ross needed someone to step up, Coressel wasn't surprised to see Navarro get it done.

"Chris has really taken on that leadership role," he said. "It's been extremely huge. He was named captain yesterday. Since then, you've seen a different look in his eyes, and there was a determination, and he wasn't going to stop."

While Ross controlled the ball for much of the first half, strong scoring opportunities were challenging to come by, as Ross totaled just six shots by halftime, forcing the Sandusky keeper to make just two stops. But the Little Giants turned up the pressure in the second half, doubling their shot total within the half's first 12 minutes, and had fired nine shots midway through the period, five of which were turned away by the Blue Streak keeper.



Carlos Pena

Once Navarro broke through, Ross knew Sandusky would be desperate for the equalizer. The Blue Streaks applied their best pressure of the night, firing four shots in 90 seconds, all of which were turned away by keeper Carlos Pena, including a pair of back-to-back shots from point-blank range.

Soon after, however, Pena took a kick to the ribs. Though he was OK, because a trainer had to come out and the game was stopped, Pena had to leave the game for a moment. But Ross' second keeper, Logan Baacke, was absent from the match due to strep throat. Navarro entered the goal as an emergency back-up until the next stoppage for Pena to return. Though he only played about 30 seconds in goal, Navarro made an aggressive sliding tackle to boot a ball away from a Sandusky attacker.

"I was really nervous," Navarro said. "But I relied on the little bit of goalie skills I had from Club, and I knew to keep calm, and I could hang in."

While Ross finished the night with a 20-7 advantage in shots, Coressel doesn't want his team to get complacent before it hosts Sandusky Perkins Monday at 6:30.

"The big thing is to ride this and not be satisfied that 'Hey, we beat Sandusky, we can come in and beat Perkins,'" he said. "That will not be the case. They're an outstanding team, and we have to have the same energy we played with tonight."

OVERCONFIDENCE DOOMS ROSS IN LOSSES TO PERKINS

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 20, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



FREMONT –As for the boys' match, the Little Giants did a quality job controlling the ball, but scoring opportunities were not as prevalent as they could have been, given the amount of time spent on Perkins' territory.



Alec Slemmer

"We came out super-slow," Coressel said. "We were trying to do our own thing instead of playing as a team, and it showed.

"Mentally, I don't think they were ready to play tonight. I think it was partially overconfidence from Friday night."

Perkins led 1-0 at halftime despite being outshot by Ross. The Pirates added to their lead in the second half before Ross cut the deficit on a goal by Alec Slemmer. A short time later, a miscommunication led to a Perkins own-goal, tying the game at 2.

"(The second half was) a lot more of the same, unfortunately," Coressel said. "We got the ball forward, Slemmer scored, and we got a little bit more energy. They scored the second one, brought us a little more, but from there, we broke down overall and let two more go.

"(We) were way too loosey-goosey getting ready, and we started way too slow. We only had three or four guys attacking the ball hard; the other guys just ran in space. They wanted it a lot more than we did."

Both soccer teams are 1-1 on the season and travel to Port Clinton on Wednesday. The boys begin the doubleheader at 5 p.m. with the girls playing at 7.

LITTLE GIANT SOCCER CRUISES TO 3-1 WIN OVER PC;

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 22, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



PORT CLINTON – The Little Giant soccer team’s first road game of the season ended with a happy bus ride home.

Ross returned to Fremont after dominating the ball offensively and cruising to a 3-1 victory over Port Clinton.

“We played overall very well tonight,” coach Alex Coressel said. “We linked a lot of passes together, especially in the midfield, and worked our way forward. We had, I’m going to assume, probably 50 shots tonight. We were down in their third of the field, probably 60-65 percent of the game. We were firing ball after ball after ball, we were either rolling it into the keeper, firing it right into the keeper, or blasting it about 100 miles over the net. We won 3-1, but it could have been a whole lot worse if we shot it better.”



Brayden Ebinger



Mason DeWalt

Isaac Minor, Ayden Carter, and Chris Navarro each scored for the Little Giants.

“Everybody offensively played their role tonight and played very well,” Coressel said.

The defense benefited from the return of senior defender Mason DeWalt, making his season debut after sitting out the first two games due to receiving a red card in Ross’ district tournament loss last season.

While DeWalt’s play provided a veteran presence to the back-end, Coressel said sophomore Brayden Ebinger stole the show, playing in place of the injured Micah Olvera.

“Brayden’s played very few minutes here and there, kind of in mop-up duty, and played probably 70 minutes and was just phenomenal all night,” Coressel said.

“He trapped the ball really well, played the ball really well, and had, by far, his best game all-around and really put himself in position to earn a lot more minutes going forward into the season.”



Logan Baacke

Behind the defense, freshman goalkeeper Logan Baacke picked up the win in his first varsity start. While he wasn’t overly busy, when he got the chance, he was active and impressive.

“There were a few balls that rolled through, he read them very well, played well with his feet,” Coressel said. “The only goal they scored was on a PK, and he even read it right, it just happened to bounce over him, barely missed it. He took care of anything that even came in and came close to being in danger, which wasn’t too close tonight, but he did a real nice job back there.”

Ross (2-1 overall) travels to Woodmore on Saturday at 11 a.m.

LITTLE GIANTS TAKE 3-1 WIN OVER WOODMORE

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Aug 24, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



ELMORE – Saturday morning saw more of the same for the Fremont Ross boys soccer team.

The Little Giants won for the third time in their first four games of the season, 3-1 over Woodmore, doing so while dominating offensively for long stretches.

But while Ross dictated the pace of play, the Little Giants again had trouble generating and cashing in on quality scoring chances.

While it has become a trend thus far, coach Alex Coressel isn't overly concerned and believes the offense will come around and find a rhythm.

"We've played four games in eight days, so it's not like we've had a lot of practice time to work on correcting anything," Coressel said. "We're kind of just trying to save people's legs and keep them ready for the next (game) that comes up.

Those are things we can start correcting as we get towards the end of next week. We play on Tuesday, then we have a full week before we play again, so we can get some practice time and start getting some of those things corrected."

Brady Wolfe opened the scoring Saturday, with Alec Slemmer scoring a penalty kick to give Ross a 2-1 lead at halftime. Chris Navarro added an insurance goal in the second half.

"We played relatively well today. Not too bad," Coressel said. "Rough field conditions. They have a grass field they also use for football, so the ball was taking some weird bounces. But we maintained possession for a large portion of the game, and things got sloppy, kind of like kickball back and forth. We happened to be a little bit more talented and a little bit faster and got on the end of a couple of finishes."

Freshman Logan Baacke picked up the win in goal.

"They only had a couple chances that were threats of any kind, but mostly it was down in their end," Coressel said.

The Little Giants have an extensive test ahead of them as they host TRAC power St. Francis Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"We got work to do," Coressel said.

LITTLE GIANTS RUN OUT OF GAS AGAINST ST. FRANCIS

by Rich McGowan | Aug 28, 2019 | Boys Soccer



FREMONT – A confluence of events conspired against the Little Giant boys soccer team Tuesday afternoon.

The biggest of those factors, however, was Three Rivers Athletic Conference power St. Francis.

The Knights took an 8-0 win from the Little Giants, though coach Alex Coressel liked the effort he saw from his team, including battling to a just a 2-0 deficit through halftime.

“It was a relatively good-looking 8-0; it was not a nightmare,” Coressel said. “We held strong, just had a couple of balls that we gambled on trying to stop, and they happened to get past and put it in.”

Ross continued to play well despite St. Francis extending its lead to 4-0 in the second half. But midway through the second period, Ross’ busy, early-season schedule, playing five games in 11 days, caught up to the Little Giants.

“I think it finally caught up with our legs. We got tired in the last 25 minutes or so,” Coressel said. “Five games in that short a time span, plus it was the first day of school, plus the heat and humidity. It was a perfect storm to wear some of our guys out in the second half.”

The Little Giants (3-2 overall, 0-1 TRAC) can finally take a breather, as they have a week off until they travel to Lima Senior next Tuesday.

In the interim, Ross will use the time to their advantage.

“First thing is getting healthy,” Coressel said. “We’re taking the day off (Wednesday). We have two guys with hip issues, multiple guys with knee stuff,

and we have a lot of bumps and bruises through five games. The second main thing is going to be working offensively to create a slightly better attack, something we can use to score and not be so one-dimensional. Let those offensive guys get a lot of rips at the net and lots of repetitions.”

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CARTER'S TWO GOALS LEAD GIANTS OVER LIMA SR.

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 4, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



LIMA – It's a long bus ride to and from Lima Senior High School.



Ayden Carter

But the ride home isn't quite as long following a victory. The Fremont Ross boys soccer team can attest to that as the Little Giants returned home Tuesday night off a 4-2 league victory over the Spartans.

"We came out pretty on fire," coach Alex Coressel said. "We got there early, which was good, take care of all those things getting off the bus, get stretched back out, we had a lot of time to warm back up.

"We controlled large parts of the game," he added. "We had a couple of sections where it got a little sloppy and played a little bit of kickball and tried to dribble a little too much, but overall, we were linking a lot of passes extremely well and moving forward and had more quality chances than just a large total of them." Freshman Ayden Carter had an outstanding day. He scored Ross' first goal, off an assist from Carter Durbin, then Durbin scored on a penalty kick to give the Little Giants a 2-1 lead going into halftime.

Carter scored his second goal of the game in the second half, then assisted on a goal by Mason DeWalt to end the night on the scoresheet three times.



Carter Durbin



Mason DeWalt

“We put him up front, and he did an excellent job of following after the ball,” Coressel said. “But the bigger thing was we put our playmakers into spots where they could create some plays. They jumped back a little bit and were able to play some really good through-balls; they bounced off a couple of feet, and he was able to get on the end of them and finished them. He was in the right place at the right time.”

The victory improves the Little Giants to 4-2 overall, 1-1 in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. Ross returns to action Thursday when it hosts Toledo. Start time is 5 p.m.

“They’re always a very scrappy team,” Coressel said of Start. “They’re someone that if we come out and play sloppy, we could lose to. If we play a good game, things could be rather one-sided. It’s one of those that is up in the air, and we have to go get it.”

ALEC SLEMMER SCORES 2 IN ROSS' 4-1 WIN OVER TOLEDO START

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 6, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



FREMONT – A three-goal second half blew open what had been a game closer on the scoreboard than it appeared to be on the field Thursday afternoon for the Little Giant boys soccer team.

Ross opened up a one-goal halftime lead into a 4-1 victory over Toledo Start, improving the Little Giants' overall record to 5-2.



Alec Slemmer

"Start played relatively well, we had our chances going forward, just didn't quite finish," coach Alex Coressel said of his team's first half. "It was a little bit of back-and-forth, but mostly on their end. We were creating a lot of stuff, but not taking many shots.

"The second half, (we had) the same creation that we had, and (Start) kind of got worn down and got tired, it looked like," he added. "Gaps opened up, and through-balls opened up, and we had a lot more chances in the second half." Alec Slemmer tallied two goals, one in each half, with Isaac Minor and Ayden Cater also adding goals for the Little Giants.

"(Slemmer) had speed over the guys on the outside, and we played him a couple through-balls that he was able to run onto and was able to outrun people and had a couple good finishes," Coressel said. "He had a couple of other shots that could have, should have gone in; they just happened to get a last-second deflection on it before it went in the net. He had an excellent shooting night. Defensively, Coressel said the Little Giants played "phenomenal" in their own end with midfielder Brady Wolfe standing out.



Brady Wolfe

“He did an excellent job of patrolling and getting to loose balls and had some perfect balls going forward that gave us good scoring opportunities,” Coressel said. He did a great job in the midfield.”

Ross is coming up to a lull in its schedule, and it couldn't come at a better time. The Little Giants play just one game (Tuesday at home against Toledo Central Catholic) in the next 12 days—good news for a team being ravaged by injuries, bumps, and bruises.

“We are beat up as hell, and we are going into triage,” Coressel said.

“They're still fighting through. We're going to manage right now, off (Friday) and all weekend. We're going to get them on Monday, just a light walk-through to get them moving. We play Tuesday night, then we get a week off. That time is going to be spent managing bodies and trying to get healthy and get everybody where they need to be for the stretch run.”

LACK OF ENERGY DOOMS LITTLE GIANTS IN A LOSS TO THE IRISH

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 11, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



FREMONT – A common refrain of coaches – regardless of the sport – is to focus on what you can control.

No matter the opponent, a team can control its own preparation, its discipline, its focus, and its effort. When a team does those things, the result – even a loss – is more palatable.

Tuesday afternoon, hosting Toledo Central Catholic, the intangibles within the Fremont Ross boys soccer team's control weren't there in a 4-1 loss to the Irish.

"Lazy first half. We did not communicate too well, which led to their first two goals," Ross coach Alex Coressel said. "Their third goal was one of the midfielders making no effort to try to go after the ball, even though he was only five feet from it."



Chris Navarro

"It was not an Xs and Os thing, it was more of an effort thing and they weren't in it to start the game."

Central struck first within eight minutes of the match and led 3-0 at halftime. The fourth goal came in the first minute of the second half, on a header off a corner kick.

"They had their heads down at half, almost like they were defeated already, so we came out of the second half flat as can be to start," Coressel said.

Ross's effort increased in the second half, evening the play for the most part.

Ross's only goal, however, came on a Central miscue, as a pass back to the goal was misplayed by the keeper and into the net.

Looking for a spark, Coressel turned to team captain Chris Navarro despite being limited by nagging injuries.

"We put in Chris Navarro, even though he probably shouldn't have played, not super healthy, but he gave us a little bit of a boost, but he can only do so much," Coressel said. "It takes 11 guys to have energy and they didn't."

"It gets frustrating. You want your team to be consistent and we weren't tonight. You kind of take it, hopefully learn a little bit from it and move on to the next one."

The Little Giants (5-3 overall, 1-2 TRAC) have a week off to rest and get healthy before they travel to Whitmer on Tuesday.

THE BOYS SOCCER TEAM “PLAYED OUR BUTTS OFF” IN A 3-2 WIN OVER WHITMER

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 18, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



TOLEDO – Every time the Whitmer Panthers pushed Tuesday night, the Little Giants boys soccer team pushed back.

Ross went on the road against its Three Rivers Athletic Conference rival and played, perhaps, its best match of the season, and returned home with a 3-2 victory.

“We played our butts off, to be really honest,” said Ross coach Alex Coressel.



Ayden Carter



Brady Wolfe

The Little Giants took the early lead off an unassisted goal by Brady Wolfe but Whitmer scored later in the half to tie it going into halftime.

“First goal they put in, we thought they were offsides, (goalkeeper) Carlos (Pena) got very frustrated and upset with himself, but I talked to him at halftime and said, ‘We’re going to need you,’” Coressel said. “There were a couple of times he came up extremely big; he took charge of his box tonight and persevered through a couple of calls that maybe weren’t the best, but he came up with the win.”

With Pena holding down the fort on the defensive end, the offense gave him a lead to work with. Eight minutes into the second half, Wolfe sent a ball to Ayden Carter, who chipped the ball over the keeper and into the net to retake the lead.



Carlos Pena



Alec Slemmer

Whitmer, however, tied the game again. There, the score remained until about 12 minutes left in the second half, when the ball found Alec Slemmer.

"A ball came out to Slemmer at the top of the box, he chested it down and gave it an absolute rocket of a shot under the crossbar past the keeper."

Added Coressel: "Brady Wolfe had a perfect offensive night tonight. ...Defensively, Mason DeWalt had a phenomenal night, holding their leading scorer to no goals, which is huge, and was part of our game plan. Michael Harper and Victor Martinez were the only two guys we played off the bench tonight, and they played some huge minutes to give some other guys some breaks."

The victory lifts Ross' overall record to 6-3 and is now 2-2 in the TRAC.

"The way the guys came out and played, they played with complete guts and heart tonight," Coressel said. "They got a little tired before the first half was over, but they gutted it out. There were some strong challenges; it was a very physical game. But every time Whitmer would answer, we'd find a way to step it up another notch and have another level."

Ross returns to action Thursday when the Little Giants travel to Tiffin Columbian.

BOYS SOCCER TEAM TAKES 6-1 WIN AFTER SLOW START

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 20, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



TIFFIN – Coming off its best performance of the season Tuesday, defeating TRAC rival Whitmer, the Fremont Ross boys soccer team hoped to avoid an emotional hangover.

While the final score might indicate the Little Giants succeeded in keeping the momentum going, Ross' 6-1 victory over Tiffin Columbian wasn't everything coach Alex Coressel wanted it to be.

"It was a very sloppy, lazy first half," Coressel said. "I think there was a kind of hangover from Tuesday, combined with not playing a powerful opponent, so they kind of walked in with a last attitude."

The Little Giants wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, as Chris Navarro set up a goal by Ayden Carter less than three minutes into the game. But more than 20 minutes passed before the Little Giants added to their lead. Isaac Minor scored a pair of goals, assisted by Navarro and Brady Wolfe, respectively, to take a 3-0 lead at halftime.

"We had possession, we had 23 shots in the first half, just not many on net," Coressel said of the first half. "It was sloppy, selfish play, and it wasn't stunning to watch."

Carter scored his second goal of the game within two minutes of the start of the second half, off an assist from Alec Slemmer. Mason DeWalt scored with an assist from Durbin, and then Minor scored his third of the game unassisted to finish the scoring.

In all, Ross fired 43 shots toward the Tornadoes' goal.

"We had a stern talking-to at half," Coressel said. "We came out in the second and scored goals 4 and 5 within two minutes. We got it together, quit being selfish, and shared the ball really well and banged a couple more home runs really quickly to put it out of reach, and we were able to get subs in for the last 20 to 25 minutes or so."

Logan Baacke played the majority of the game as the goalkeeper, though he wasn't required to make any saves, before freshman Cristian Reta came on in relief to play his first experience in goal, where he made three saves.

"He is not a goalie, but it was his birthday," Coressel said. "He said he wanted to play in the net, so we put him in."

The win lifts Ross' overall record to 7-3, and the Little Giants host Clyde Saturday as part of a doubleheader with the girls team. The boys start the day at 10 a.m., with the girls beginning approximately 11:45.

BOYS SETTLE FOR A TIE WITH CLYDE

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 23, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)

Little Giants are unable to find the net

Calling the boys soccer team's 0-0 tie with Clyde frustrating would be an understatement.

The Little Giants controlled the ball for long stretches of time Saturday, hardly allowing Clyde to cross midfield with possession in the second half.

And though Ross fired 25 shots at the Clyde goal – with zero shots taken on its keeper – the Little Giants never managed to put the ball in the net.

"You just have to let them keep getting after it," coach Alex Coressel said. "And it's not like we didn't get chances, but they weren't the best quality chances at times, but nothing going in.

"...We kept the ball up there the entire time, but not getting one in the net made for a very long morning," he added. "It was one of those things where any shot you take, it was not going to be your day to put it in, I guess, even though we held it in their end the entire time.

Things won't get any easier for Ross (7-3-1), however, as the Little Giants host powerful St. John's Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"They're ranked first or second in most of our polls," Coressel said of the Titans.

"They play high level of competition and they've been beating up on a lot of people."

BOYS SOCCER 'ANSWERED THE CALL' IN LOSS TO ST. JOHN'S

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Sep 25, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



FREMONT – Even though the Fremont Ross boys soccer team had won and tied in the previous two games entering Tuesday night, coach Alex Coressel hadn't been overly pleased with those games.

Both in the Little Giants' [6-1 win over Tiffin Columbian](#) and after its [0-0 tie with Clyde](#) on Saturday, Coressel didn't like how his team had played, even though they hadn't lost.

Tuesday night, Ross hosted TRAC and state power St. John's. Coressel and his team knew the scale of the challenge that awaited them, and it was everything they'd expected it to be, as the Titans took a 7-0 victory.

Even though the Little Giants lost, Coressel's mood had improved dramatically compared to its last two outings.

"I think our guys answered the call tonight," Coressel said.

"It's (about) effort and heart, and they played with it tonight. The team has gone through a lot over the last week with some internal struggles and we came together and played as one. They did what they were asked to do and played with a team that many would say we had no business hanging around. You could see the frustration on St. John's and their coach's faces. We hung in there and even had two or three opportunities to score, and their goalie actually had to work, which they haven't had to do in the past."

The Little Giants held the Titans to three goals in the first half. At halftime, Coressel challenged his starters – who'd played all of the first half – to hold on tough for 20 more minutes and allow no more than one more goal midway through the second half, at which point he'd empty the bench and play his subs. "They did exactly that," Coressel said. "We got to the 20-minute mark at 4-0, and then we put the subs in there, and they did exactly what I asked them to. They played their butts off, and we played one of our better games of the season, I think."

"Every single kid, from our top starter to the last kid on the bench, played well tonight," he added. "The subs went in and showed a lot of effort and heart, even though they were outmatched. St. John's has 22 varsity starters out there, but all of our kids played well."

The Little Giants (7-4-1 overall, 2-3 TRAC) have some time off before their next match, next Tuesday at Oregon Clay, which they will use to recover.

"We are beat up, to say the least," Coressel said. "We had five or six guys walking out in the ice today when it was over."

LITTLE GIANT MAKES COACH PROUD

IN 3-1 LOSS TO OREGON CLAY

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 2, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



OREGON – A slow start aside, there was much to like about the Fremont Ross boys soccer team's performance Tuesday night.

No, the Little Giants did not come home with a victory – rather a 3-1 loss to Oregon Clay – but they did return with a coach who felt pride in his team.

"I loved what I saw," coach Alex Coressel said. "Our kids played extremely well tonight. We were down three starters, so I was extremely proud of the effort." Things could have turned sour quickly on the Little Giants after giving up a goal to the Eagles in the opening minutes of the match, thanks to a turnover that promptly ended up in Ross's net.

Beyond that slow start, the Little Giants matched the Eagles the rest of the way. Ross trailed 2-0 at halftime but cut the deficit to one about 15 minutes into the second half when Carter Durbin connected on an assist from Chris Navarro. With momentum on its side, Ross continued to battle but could not get the equalizer before Clay added an insurance goal late.

"We picked it up a little bit more at that point; we just weren't able to get it in the back of the net," Coressel said. "We matched what they were putting on the field. The last one they scored, again (like the second goal), was just a good shot."

Ross is now 7-5-1 overall on the season, 2-4 in the TRAC.

"I was extremely proud of the effort our guys gave," Coressel said. "After that first goal, we didn't put our heads down, we fought back, and our defense played phenomenal tonight."

The Little Giants travel to Old Fort on Thursday for a 5 p.m. match.

BOYS SOCCER BEATS OLD FORT, CLINCHES AT LEAST A .500 RECORD

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 4, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



OLD FORT – The seniors of the Fremont Ross boys soccer team have never experienced a losing season.

And they never will.

The Little Giants' 3-1 victory Thursday at Old Fort lifted Ross' overall record to 8-5-1. With two games next week before playing at least one tournament match, the Little Giants have clinched no worse than a .500 season for the fourth year in a row.

"It's a great achievement for the seniors," said coach Alex Coressel. "It's a good way to wrap up all four years, with winning records."

Thursday's victory saw the Little Giant battle not just the Stockaders, but also the field itself.

"It was a sloppy game overall, mostly due to field conditions, it was really rocky and treacherous," Coressel said.



Michael Harper



Brady Wolfe

"We had to chase after the ball after you shot because you never know where it's going to go. That's exactly how Michael Harper scored; he happened to be in the right place at the right time both times. It bounced off someone's leg or off the ground, weird, and he was able to tap it in."

Harper scored the game's first goal off an assist from Brady Wolfe. Wolfe then assisted on a goal by Alec Slemmer, which put Ross ahead 2-0 at halftime. Harper's second goal of the game came in the second half, giving the Little Giants a three-goal lead.

Old Fort's lone goal came on an own-goal as the ball bounced off a Ross defender following a Stockader corner kick.

"We had a lot of chances in the first half, we either ended up blowing it over the crossbar or it took a weird bounce, and we'd swing and hit it wrong," Coressel said. "We had possession for a decent portion of the night, but we couldn't get it in the back of the net, but a lot of that was (because the ball) taking weird bounces."

Ross will learn its district tournament draw on Sunday before it plays its final two regular-season games next week, Tuesday at Findlay and then Thursday at home against Oak Harbor.

BOYS SOCCER KEEPS LONG VIEW IN LOSS TO FINDLAY

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Oct 9, 2019 | [Boys Soccer](#)



FINDLAY – Playing against a conference rival might seem like a strange time to play possum, but the Fremont Ross soccer team was focused on the bigger picture Tuesday night.

The Little Giants traveled to Findlay Tuesday night, but will also play the Trojans next week in the sectional tournament. Ross, however, kept its cards close to the vest and held them back for the postseason.

So while the scoreboard may have been ugly – and an 11-1 loss – it was a necessary evil for the Little Giants to have a shot when the game mattered most. “So even though it sounds really, really bad, it was a lot. Freshmen played a lot of minutes, a lot of guys that haven’t played much this season played a decent portion of the second half,” coach Alex Coressel said. “The goalie for the last 35 minutes was (Micah Garcia), who has never played goalie, never even played it in practice.

“We didn’t want to tip our hand about anything because we played them in the tournament next Tuesday, we were resting bodies and trying not to play too many guys.”

Isaac Minor scored the Little Giants’ only goal unassisted about eight minutes into the second half, putting the ball in the net off a goalmouth scramble. Despite the patchwork lineup, Coressel said he saw reasons for optimism the next time the Little Giant faces the Trojans.

“Most of the guys played relatively well. Our starters who played didn’t really start in their positions, played well,” Coressel said. “We had five or six genuine, real good opportunities to score; their goalie had to work, which was nice to see. “That was part of our so-called game plan, I guess you could say tonight, not show them a whole lot of what we have, just to go out and play. We saw some good things, which give us some reasons to be optimistic going into next week.” The Little Giants are 8-6-1 and close out the regular season at home Thursday against Oak Harbor at 5 p.m. before heading back to Findlay on Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. for the district tournament opener.

Ross Soccer (2019) Schedule

2019-20 ▾

 **Print** 

Overall	Conference
8-7-1	2-5
0.531 Win Pct	7th <u>Three Rivers</u>

Home	2-4	GF	33
Away	6-3-1	GA	51
Neutral	0-0	Streak	2L