

Ross

COACH: Ron Huss, Sixth year

LAST YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS: The Little Giants went 8-7-1 and were third in the GBC.

TOP RETURNERS: Abby Werling, Sr., Midfield; Rachael Daugherty, Sr., Forward; Sierra Pena, Sr., Fullback; Samantha Legron, Sr, Fullback; Stephanie White, Sr.; Goalkeeper; Melissa Arbello, Jr., Forward; Samantha Minich, Jr., Midfield-Forward; Keliegh Schrickel, Jr., Midfield; Janelle Head, Jr., Utility

TOP NEWCOMERS: Emily Grayson, Sr., Fullback; Suzanne Chudzinski, Midfield; Tori Brooks, So.; Erin Hiestand, So.; Ashley Long, So.; Cassie Steinberger, Fr.

OUTLOOK: Huss calls Werling, a first-team all-GBC pick last year, the sparkplug of the team and says she is the rare athlete that never seems to tire. She will lead nine returning lettermen, including all-league honorable-mention goaltender White. Huss feels the key to the season will be the Little Giants' senior leadership. The Little Giants will not have as much speed as last season, and Huss is trying to compensate by getting the girls to be in the right place at the right time. "If the girls can play the angles, cover the gaps and hustle, we will give most teams a run for their money," Huss said.

Soccer

■ ROSS OPENS YEAR IN STYLE:

Kyliegh Schrickel scored two goals and Melissa Arbello and Abby Werling each added another tally as Fremont Ross opened its season with a 4-2 Greater Buckeye Conference victory over Marion Harding.

Rachel Daugherty added two assists for the Little Giants.

Werling also had an assist.

Goaltender Stephanie White made four saves for Ross.

Ross rips archrival

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

Emily Grayson is glad to be on a team.

Her Fremont Ross soccer teammates are sure glad to have her, too.

The senior scored her first career goal and helped lead the host Little Giants to a 4-0 victory over archrival Sandusky on Tuesday.

Grayson only partici-

pated in individual sports — swimming, track and field and cross country — before joining the soccer team this season.

"I love being part of a team," she said. "You have a lot of people relying on you."

She has several talented teammates to rely on as well.

See GRAYSON'S, B3

Grayson's first career goal helps lead Ross over rival

Continued From B1

Abby Werling had a goal and two assists and goaltender Stephanie White posted a shutout as the Little Giants improved to 2-1 overall and 2-0 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

Kyliegh Schrickel and Erin Hiestand also scored for Ross.

Grayson played recreational-league soccer from about 5 years old until she reached seventh grade. She, then, quit the sport to concentrate on swimming.

Grayson is certainly enjoying her return to soccer in her final year at Ross.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "I'm picking up everything I used to know."

Ross coach Ron Huss would have loved to have had Grayson all four years of her career.

"I just wish she would have been here as a freshman and came through," he said. "She is a good player. She hustles a lot."

"What Emily contributes a lot to is our speed," he continued. "We don't have a lot of speed on the team. Her foot skills are getting a little better each week."

Schricket's goal put Ross up 1-0 at halftime. Huss, though, wasn't happy with the sluggish play. The Little Giants, according to Huss, weren't aggressive enough around the Sandusky goal.

"We told them that we have to get pressure on their front end," Huss said. "In the first half, we weren't doing that. We told them at halftime, 'You can only score if you put the ball on net.'"

Grayson started the Little Giants' charge with a goal off an assist from Werling early in the second half.

"I was really excited about that," Grayson said of her breakthrough goal.

Added Huss: "It was good to see her get that."

Hiestand and Werling then scored in quick succession to seal the victory.

Melissa Arbelo assisted on Hiestand's goal, and Rachel Daugherty notched an assist on Werling's goal.

The last two goals were each partially deflected by first-year goalie Ashley Evans before trick-

ling into the net.

Sandusky coach Denny Mateyka was pleased with his Blue Streaks' efforts but realized there is improvement needed.

"We still have to work out some bugs," he said. "We are fast. We just don't have the foot skills yet."

Sandusky, which fell to 0-2-1, has not scored a goal this season.

The streak was kept intact by a fine defensive performance from standout senior fullback Sierra Pena and the rest of the Little Giants.

"She's come around this year," Huss said of Pena. "She has an excellent sense of field back there. She's not fast. But when you have a good sense of field, you make up for that."

"She knows how to position herself and knows how to be at the right place at the right time," Huss continued. "She saves us a quite a bit down there. She's done a whale of a job for us so far."

Celebrating 35 Years of Success at Terra



James Harris was what you might call a "non-traditional" student when he attended Terra Community College.

When he enrolled at Terra in 1985, 13 years had already passed since his graduation from North Baltimore High School. He was employed by the Toledo Edison Company as a quality control inspector and many of the students in his classes were

Abby's hard road

Ross soccer star battles back from gruesome injury

By RYAN AUTULLO

News-Messenger correspondent

Feb. 24, 2004, is a day Abby Werling would like to forget.

With the clock winding down in the fourth quarter of Fremont Ross's 42-31 basketball sectional loss to Mansfield Senior, things turned ugly — if not gruesome.

As the Little Giants were mounting a comeback, Werling collided with an opposing player and fell to the court in agony. She suffered a compound fracture of her left arm.

With the fans turning away in disgust, Werling did the unthinkable. Ignoring the possibility of doing even more damage to her already severely injured arm, Werling wanted to finish her season on the court instead of in the emergency room.

"I said to my dad, 'I just want to finish,'" Werling said. "I was so mad at the time. I'm just really competitive."

And really tough.

Instead of shedding tears with her teammates, she was taken by EMS to the Tiffin Hospital where doctors recommended surgery. She opted against surgery and was instead put in a cast the following morning.

After several doctor visits and days of nursing the injury on the living room couch, Werling has returned to action — this time on the soccer field.

"I was really lazy," Werling admitted of her recovery time. "I couldn't help it, I couldn't do anything."

"It's hard to just sit around when you're not used to it," she continued, "and you just look down and see a cast on your arm and it just depresses you."

The only lasting effect she has of the injury now is a makeshift cast that's a cross between a soccer shin guard and a football elbow pad. The pad is wrapped before each game to get the approval of referees, who fear Werling will use the cast to gain an advantage over opponents.

The gridiron equipment suits last year's first-team all-Greater Buckeye Conference performer quite well.

During the Little Giants' 2-1 start, Werling has three goals and a trio of assists.

"She has always been a true competitor," said Ron Huss, who has coached Werling for four years. "You don't see a lot of athletes who never seem to



News-Messenger/Ken Dumminger

FREMONT ROSS senior soccer standout Abby Werling has battled back from a gruesome injury. In the final game of the basketball season this past February, Werling suffered a compound fracture in her arm.

wear down. She's always in there hustling. To me, she's like a workhorse. She gives 110 percent all the time."

Many athletes would have quit after receiving such a traumatizing injury, but Werling was champing at the bit to begin working out again. She continues to play with the same aggressive demeanor that she showed before the injury, despite the prospect of

reinjuring her arm.

"I think I still play the way I used to," she said. "I've thought about (the injury). But the more you think about getting hurt, the more likely you are to get hurt. When I'm playing, I don't think about it at all."

She did, however, leave her coach holding his breath during the season opener against Marion Harding on Aug. 24.

"She came down on her hand

and the ref came over and said, 'You might want to check out (No.) 12,'" Huss said. "It looked like it bothered her, but she said it was OK."

"I think by her being competitive, she's less likely to have an injury happen," he continued. "If she became cautious, it would make her more susceptible to injury."

See WERLING, B6

Werling excels after returning from bad injury

Continued From B3

It's that toughness and lead-by-example approach that led Werling's teammates to pick her as one of the three captains this season.

Werling's arm has yet to fully heal, and it likely never will. After visiting her doctor on Tuesday, Werling received the unfortunate news that her arm was still slightly fractured. Injured or not, the outspoken, but polite Werling is just glad to be back on the field — and out of that dreadful cast.

"I was scared that I wasn't going to be back for soccer at first," she said. "I was really upset, a lot of things were coming up (at the time of the injury) — like prom. (Casts) aren't the most attractive things."

The willingness and perseverance that Werling illustrates makes it preposterous to think she might sit out her senior season of basketball to avoid another freak fall.

"I'm too scared not to play basketball," she said.

That appears to be the extent of all her fears.

Girls soccer

■ **DAUGHERTY, MINICH SET UP WIN:** Rachael Daugherty and Samantha Minich each scored once and assisted on the other's goal as Fremont Ross stopped Lima Senior 3-1.

Abby Werling scored the remaining goal for the Little Giants (3-2, 3-1).

Frosh Chudzinski phenomenal in Ross win

News-Messenger reports

Freshman Suzanne Chudzinski scored five goals as Fremont Ross rallied from an early two-goal deficit to hammer Napoleon 9-2 on Tuesday.

Samantha Minich added two goals and two assists and Rachael Daugherty had a goal and four assists for the Little Giants, who improved to 4-3 overall and 4-1 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

Abby Werling had four assists for the Little Giants. Janelle Head added a goal and Samantha Legron added two assists.

Chudzinski scored with 3:01 left in the first half, and Ross entered the break down 2-1.

Chudzinski scored just 1:43 into the second half, and the Little Giants were off to the races.

Chudzinski scored nine minutes later to put Ross ahead for good.



CHUDZINSKI

Fort to a 5-0 victory over Lake.

Jimmy Sisi and Mike McCalla each added a goal for the Stockaders (4-0-2).

McCalla and Paul Roberts each tallied an assist.

Golf

■ **BENES, BIGGERT LEAD WAY:** Brad Benes and Andy Biggert each shot a 35 as Oak Harbor beat Clyde 147-161.

Chris Zunk and Andy Palmer added a 37 and 40, respectively, for Oak Harbor (9-2).

Kyle Steinbauer and Seth Waggoner each shot a 39 to pace Clyde. Logan Tea (40) and David Wasserman (43) also scored for the Fliers.

■ **LYNCHES LIFT BETTSVILLE:** Jessica (41) and Brittany Lynch (42) led Bettsville to a 170-183 win over Old Fort.

Austin Windau (43) and Matt Wilson (44) also scored for Bettsville (3-9).

Bud Seigley's 42 led the way for Old Fort (2-11). Justin Elchert (44), Gabe Mariscal (48) and Kent Kohlenberg (49) completed the Stockaders' scorecard.

■ **WYNDLING LEADS BELLEVUE:** Jeri

scorecard for the Redmen (4-3) at Fostoria Country Club.

Volleyball

■ **ROSS FALLS TO NAPOLEON:** Fremont Ross won a thrilling fourth game to extend the match, but the Little Giants ultimately fell 25-14, 24-26, 25-15, 25-27, 15-11 to Greater Buckeye Conference foe Napoleon.

Kari Marroquin had 32 assists to lead the way for Ross (3-6). Mindy Meggitt had 15 digs, and Stephanie Reed tallied eight blocks and six kills. Emily Legg, Melissa Schrickel and Brittney Miller each added six kills for the Giants.

■ **SJCC IS SWEEP:** Katy Hasselbach had 11 blocks and Becky Babione added 10 blocks and six kills, but St. Joseph Central Catholic fell 25-23, 25-20, 25-13 to Midland Athletic League foe Mohawk.

■ **CLYDE PERFECT IN SBC:** Chrissy Stohl had 24 assists and seven kills as Clyde swept Port Clinton 25-10, 25-23, 25-15 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Erin Way added 15 points and 11 digs for the Fliers, who improved to 5-4 over-

Hill had 29 assists and Kim Schumacher and Jessica Swain each had six kills as Gibsonburg notched its first victory — a 25-18, 25-20, 25-22 decision over Suburban Lakes League foe Lake.

Angela Berni added 28 digs for the Golden Bears (1-4).

■ **WOODMORE NIPS LAKOTA:** Emily Pendleton had 24 points — including two aces — and Megan Abbey added 17 kills as Woodmore beat Lakota 21-25, 25-12, 25-20, 22-25, 15-10 in the SLL.

Katie Dennis had 12 points and 11 kills to lead Lakota (1-5, 1-3). Amanda Johnson had 10 points and eight kills and Camille Wasserman added eight points and seven kills for the Raiders.

■ **BETTSVILLE STUMBLES:** Tiffany Kosta had six digs, but Bettsville lost 25-9, 25-5, 25-5 to Hopewell-Loudon to fall to 1-6.

■ **MARGARETTA ROLLS:** Brittany Nesbitt had 11 kills and Micki Kuns added nine as Margaretta topped Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic 25-14, 25-9, 25-12 in the SBC.

Alexis Lynn had 16 assists for the Polar Bears (5-1, 3-1).

girls race, respectively, as Lakota dominated a tri-meet.

The Raider boys swept Genoa (18-45) and Lake (18-45). The Lakota girls beat Lake (21-38). Genoa didn't register a girls team score.

Kyle Dussel (second), Ryan Nusbaum (fifth), Bryce Tiell (sixth) and Andy Walter (seventh) followed Lance Brockschmidt.

Kelsey Dussel (third), Sarah Girand (fourth), Patti Stiger (eighth) and Alycia Miller (ninth) followed Ashley Brockschmidt.

■ **GIBSONBURG GIRLS SWEEP:** Britney Redd finished fourth as Gibsonburg swept Elmwood (25-32) and Woodmore (20-41) in a tri-meet.

Libby McDermott, Rebecca Paul, Stephanie Hiser and Kate Brinker finished in fifth through eighth places for the Golden Bears.

Trevor Williamson won the boys race, but Gibsonburg lost to Woodmore (28-29) and tied Elmwood (28-28).

Woodmore edged Elmwood 28-29.

Williamson finished in 17:47. Jordan Kimmer (fourth) and Kevin Helms (fifth) finished in 18:15 and 18:25, respectively.

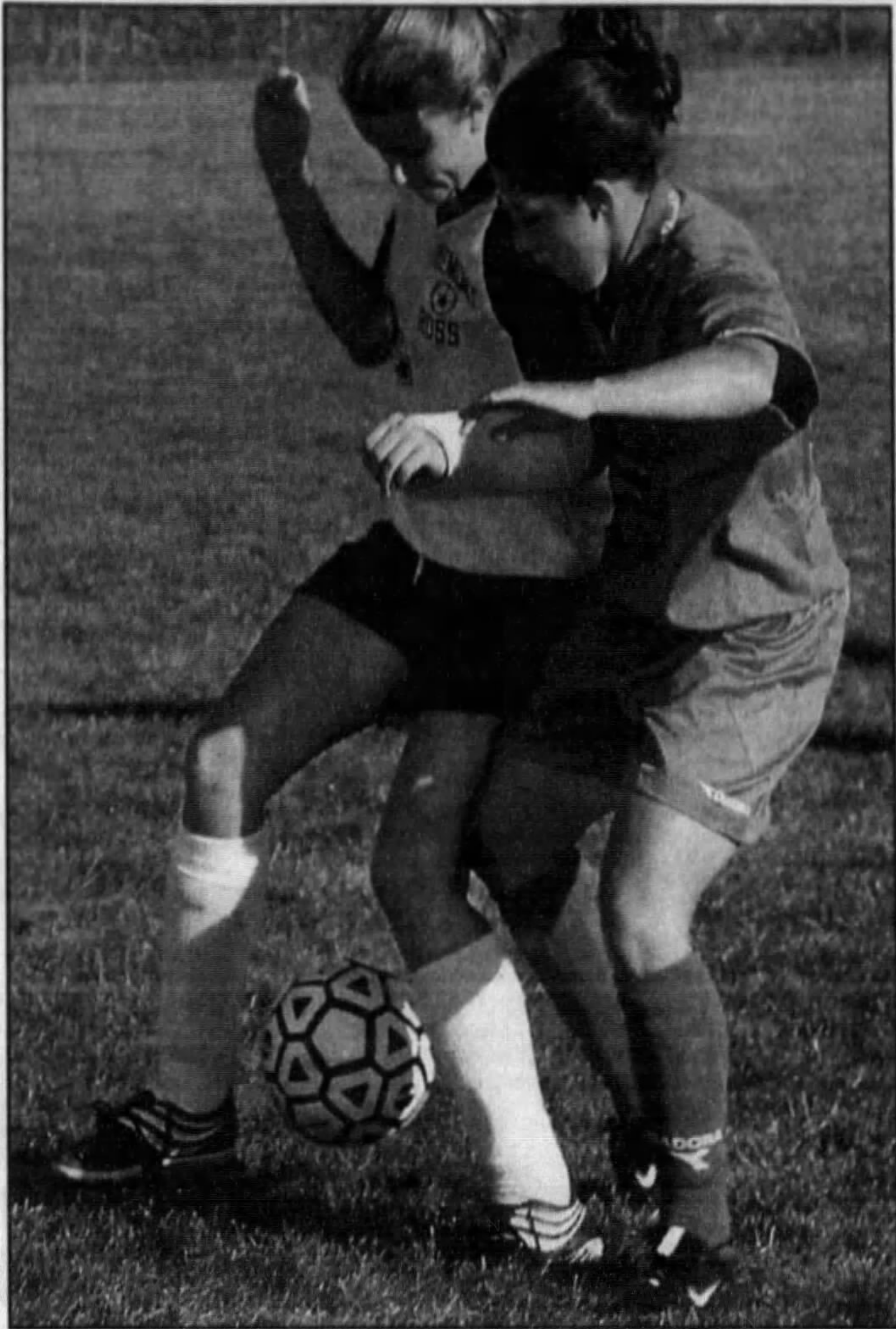
Girls soccer

■ **ROSS NETS WIN:** Suzanne Chudzinski scored twice and Abby Werling added a goal as Fremont Ross topped Marion Harding 3-2.

Stephanie White had 16 saves for the Little Giants (5-3, 5-1 GBC).

Chudzinski scored on an assist from Samantha Minich just 3:02 into the game.

Werling assisted on Chudzinski's second goal and capped the Little Giants' scoring with a goal on an assist from Emily Grayson.



News-Messenger/Kathy Williams

FREMONT ROSS'S Abby Werling, left, fights for control of the ball during the Little Giants' 9-0 loss to Toledo Central Catholic on Tuesday.

Melissa Hoelzle and Katie Jenkins won at No. 1 doubles and Katie and Emily Miller won 6-1, 6-1 in straight sets at No. 2.

■ **CLYDE HANDLES PERKINS HANDILY:** Darcy Young (No. 1 singles), Lauren Stamm (No. 3 singles), Jill Roach and Tiffany Selvey (No. 1 doubles) and Ashley Kern and Megan Ludrowsky (No. 2 doubles) each won a match as Clyde topped Perkins 4-1 in the SBC.

Young, Stamm and Kern and Ludrowsky each lost only three games in two sets for the Fliers (6-4, 6-1). Roach and Selvey lost four games in two sets.

■ **ROCKETS GROUNDED:**

Molly DeMaison (No. 2 singles) and Kaitlin Wendt (No. 3) each won their match, but Oak Harbor lost to Huron 3-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Soccer

■ **FIREPOWER NIL:** Fremont Ross failed to register a single shot on goal in a 9-0 loss to Toledo Central Catholic.

TCC scored six first-half goals to take control.

Emily Large, Lauren Pazell and Stephanie Markho each scored two goals for TCC.

Stephanie White made 10 saves for the Little Giants (5-4).

Rachael Daugherty, Jamie Brown and
Kyliegh Schrickel also tallied assists.

Goalkeeper Stephanie White had 19
saves.

Girls soccer.....

■ **ROSS TIES RIVAL:** Samantha Minich tallied a goal and an assist as Fremont Ross tied Greater Buckeye Conference rival Sandusky 4-4.

Abby Werling, Melissa Arbelo and Suzanne Chudzenski also scored for the Little Giants (5-4-1, 5-2-1).

Darcy Young at No. 1 singles.

Girls soccer

■ CHUDZENSKI IMPRESSES:

Suzanne Chudzenski, who recently returned from an injury, scored once and added two assists, but one-loss Oregon Clay topped Fremont Ross 10-3.

Ross led 2-1 on goals from Melissa Arbelo and Chudzenski. Chudzenski and Abby Werling assisted on Arbelo's tally and Samantha Minich set up Chudzen-

ski's goal.

Rachael Daugherty added a goal in a second half, in which Ross was outscored 7-1. Stephanie White notched 22 saves for the Little Giants (5-5-1).

Boys soccer

■ ROCKETS SUFFER FIRST LOSS: Oak Harbor fell to Huron 2-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference for its first loss of the campaign.

Drew Garber registered 10 saves for the Rockets (6-1-1).

and Emily Hemminger and Bethany Twarek won their first-round match before stumbling in the quarterfinals.

■ **UNBEATEN UNTIL END:** Allyson Wobser (No. 2 singles) and Leigh Anne Autullo (No. 3) capped undefeated 12-0 seasons in those slots with victories against Sandusky, but the Blue Streaks topped St. Joseph Central Catholic for the second time this week.

Sandusky, which won 3-2 on Thursday, was the only team to beat SJCC in a dual match this season.

"They really responded well to their positions," first-year coach Whitney Mutchler said of Wobser and Autullo. "Everyone had a good season, but they did it day in and day out."

Autullo, who was also 2-0 at No. 2 singles, dropped only one game on Thursday.

The Crimson Streaks (12-2) will play in sectionals on Oct. 7 and 9 in Port Clinton.

"I couldn't have asked for a better season to start with," Mutchler said. "The girls really played well and responded to all the pressures. There couldn't have been a better group of girls."

Girls soccer

■ **HEART IS PRIORITY:** Ten years ago, the U.S. Olympic men's coach taught Fremont Ross girls coach Ron Huss a lesson he hasn't forgotten.

The coach impressed upon Huss that if ever faced with a choice between a talented team that lacks heart and a less talented group with considerable heart, the choice should be simple.

And despite leaving with a 6-0 loss to Findlay that eliminated the Little Giants from contention for first place in the Greater Buckeye Conference, Thursday's game vividly drove home the point.

Six of the 15 girls on Ross's roster are not at full strength. That includes Suzanne Chudzinski, Sierra Pena and Emily Grayson. Huss challenged his girls to play with heart after a 10-0 loss to Oregon Clay on Wednesday.

"We have three players that start play-

ing at less than 100 percent," Huss said. "The rest of the team picked it up with hustle and motion."

Chudzinski just returned from a leg injury, Grayson must battle occasional bouts with asthma and Pena has been in and out of the lineup recently with a leg injury. When taken out of the contest on Thursday, Pena begged to return to the lineup, but coaches and trainers elected to proceed with caution.

Stephanie White, who registered 13 saves, is in her second season back after suffering a lacerated kidney and Abby Werling has played the whole season with a bulky cast on her arm made necessary by a horrific compound fracture from the basketball postseason.

The Little Giants will now vie with Napoleon for second in the conference. Each team currently has three losses and Napoleon, which fell to Ross at home this year, travels to Fremont on Tuesday.

"You have to deal with adversity," Huss said. "Hopefully, we'll respond to the challenge and take these last three games."

Boys soccer

■ **SJCC TIES:** St. Joseph Central Catholic allowed Keystone's Blake Friedt to score in the game's final minute, but the Crimson Streaks ended their season-long losing skid with a 1-1 tie.

Kevin Celek scored a goal with assists from Andy Morrison and Megan Boukissen in the first half for the Crimson Streaks (0-9-1).

Amy Morroney had 18 saves for SJCC.

■ **ROSS BLANKED:** Fremont Ross failed to register a shot on goal in a 3-0 loss to Sylvania Southview.

Bobby Gipe made 12 saves for the Little Giants, who fell to 5-6-2.

■ **OLD FORT DOMINATES:** Zak Magers, Paul Roberts and Joel Foos each scored in Old Fort's 3-0 win over Tiffin Calvert.

Justin Lee had two assists and Mike McCalla and Magers each added one for Old Fort (7-2-2).

News-Messenger reports

Play your position.

Play wide.

Play smart.

Fremont Ross coach Ron Huss certainly subscribes to a theory that encompasses these three points, but the message on Tuesday came from his players.

The Little Giants have gone 0-5-1 in their last six games, including a 3-2 loss to Napoleon on Tuesday. And the girls have struggled to find a remedy.

"We're trying to stay positive. We haven't won in several games, and it's hard to come back from consecutive losses," junior Melissa Arbelo said. "The captains and the seniors have been great leaders, but winning and losing are both contagious. We need to forget about (the Greater Buckeye Conference season) and focus on the tournament. We're starting fresh."

Ross (5-8-1, 5-4-1) has two regular-season games remaining before it plays

Celina in sectionals on Oct. 20.

The Little Giants trailed Napoleon 1-0 at the half after the team's leaders had rounded up the group before the game to discuss a game plan that included staying home positionally, being available to receive the ball in space and playing intelligent soccer.

The game-winning tally came on a tough bounce. Alli Follett's shot with six minutes remaining in the game ricocheted off the crossbar and post before finding its way across the goal line.

Suzanne Chudzinski, who when healthy supplies Ross with a substantial portion of its speed but is playing hurt, scored each Ross goal with assists from Janelle Head and Rachael Daugherty, respectively.

"We have to quit waiting for the second half to start to play," Huss said. "We'll come back, pick it up and finish respectable. These girls aren't quitters. I'm not a quitter. We'll see what happens."

All-Greater Buckeye Conference

Girls

Player of the Year — Chelsea Small (Napoleon).

Coach of the Year — Kevin Veroneau (Findlay).

Goalie of the Year — Latisha Sunderland (Marion Harding).

First Team

Suzanne Chudzinski	Ross
Rachael Daugherty	Ross
Abby Werling	Ross
Krista Moore	Lima Senior
Lisa Good	Sandusky
Alyssa Lux	Marion Harding
Melissa Schoenitz	Napoleon
Paige Aten	Napoleon
Caitlin Logan	Findlay
Angie Misamore	Findlay

Second Team

Stephanie White	Ross
Samantha Durnwald	Ross
Lindsey Tallman	Marion Harding
Ashley Follett	Napoleon
Hannah Heaston	Napoleon
Andrea Garrett	Lima Senior
Kristi Hewitt	Findlay
Michelle Jastal	Findlay
Alicia Almond	Findlay
Sarah Craig	Findlay