

Ross counts on creative offense, tight defense

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The Fremont Ross High School softball team shouldn't be expected to outhit many teams, coach Cheryl Coressel says.

"We have to play defense," she said. "We are not going to be able to make mistakes. We can't afford to put anybody on base by errors or walks."

Why?

"We're not that good of a hitting team," Coressel said. "We don't have the one through four lineup that can guarantee we're going to squeeze a run or two."

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We're going to have to manufacture runs. We're going to have to take chances and be aggressive to produce runs."

The Little Giants will rely on their quickness to create offense.

"If our offense runs the way it's got to run, we want to put pressure on the defense," Coressel said. "We want it to make mistakes."

Ross, meanwhile, must not make mistakes defensively. Coressel said the defense, like the Little Giants' offense, has room for improvement.

Freshman Dawn Zerman replaces senior Katie Rhodes (playing club volleyball this spring) at shortstop, Tricia Busdeker returns at first base, Natalie Robbins takes over for graduation loss Amy Burmeister

at catcher and Holly Pelfrey is the center fielder.

"Dawn at short makes us strong," Coressel said. "We have a strong catcher and Tricia Busdeker has turned into a leader of the infield. The outfield (which graduated Kelly Rusch) can be solid."

There are some holes to fill.

Either Andi Oprie or Megan Hadley will win the starting second base job, and Belinda Sandoval or Jessica Rollins will play third base.

Rollins, who led the team with a .321 batting average last year

as a freshman, is also the number two pitcher behind senior Kim Crawford and also will play some in the outfield.

Donna Steinberger is slated to play left field, with Beth Sanford and Rachel Zimmermann also in the right field mix.

Brenda Gibson, the only other senior besides Crawford on the team, will play the outfield when she recovers from a leg injury. Christy Holland is out for the season with a knee injury.

Gibson, Crawford, Robbins, Busdeker, Oprie, Pelfrey and Rollins are letterwinners.

GLL a tough softball league

By TIM HARMON

Staff writer

Here come the 'Little' Giants.

With perennially strong teams Bedford (Mich.), Sylvania Northview and Oregon Clay in the Great Lakes League, the Fremont Ross softball team must play David's role against the Goliaths.

"Bedford, Northview and Clay have a majority of their players back," Ross coach Cheryl Coressel said.

Ross, 9-12 and 5-7 in the GLL last year, figures to battle with Toledo Whitmer for fourth place.

"For us to sneak into the top three, we're going to have to be true 'Little Giants,'" Coressel said. "We're going to have to take down some mighty big foes."

High School Softball

Bellevue 11, Ross 5

Bellevue used a six-run fourth inning to send Ross to its second loss in as many games.

Shannon Watts provided one of the few bright spots for the Little Giants, getting two hits, including a triple, and three RBI.

Margaretta 5, Ross 1

The Polar Bears scored three runs in the third and two in the fifth before the rains took over.

Winning pitcher Kelli Ervin had a five-hitter while Ross's Debbie McClure and Kim White allowed just four.

This afternoon, Ross will host Clyde at four o'clock at Rodger Young Park.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

SHANNON WATTS, third baseman for Ross, has the ball in her hand while getting ready to tag the sliding Pam Meyer of Clyde

during action Thursday afternoon. Meyer was able to beat the tag. Ross shortstop Julie Schaaf watches the play.

Myers, Flores power Clyde past Ross 20-3

News-Messenger Reports

Amy Myers and Angie Flores each went 4-for-4 and Myers had five RBI as Clyde bombarded Ross 20-3 in a high school girls softball game Thursday night here.

Clyde raised its record to 5-1 for the season, while Ross dropped to 0-4.

The Fliers, who pounded out 15 hits, erupted for four runs in the first inning, but the Little Giants answered with two in the bottom of the first. Clyde then scored one in the second inning and pulled away with a six-run outburst in the third inning.

Angie Maines was the winning pitcher and

added two hits to the Flier attack. Myers, Ann Fultz and Amy Maines all tripled for Clyde while Myers and Flores hit doubles. Pam Meyer also doubled for the winners.

Aimee LeJune hit a double to account for Ross's only extra-base hit. Debbie McClure was the losing pitcher.

Maumee 9, Ross 4

Kim Gavorski pitched a three-hitter to pace the Maumee victory.

Maumee scored twice in the fifth and three times in the sixth to open up a 9-2 lead.

Aime LeJeune doubled and drove in a run for Ross, 0-5.

News-Messenger Reports

Deuces weren't exactly wild for the Fremont Ross and St. Joe girls softball teams as both lost Tuesday night.

Ross fell to Norwalk 10-2 at home and St. Joe lost 12-2 to St. Wendelin in Midland Athletic League play, also in Fremont.

In one other game Tuesday, Calvert blanked Bettsville 19-0.

For the Little Giants, Tuesday's setback was their eighth in nine games this season.

The Truckers got only six hits off losing pitcher Kim White, but three of those came in their eight-run first inning. Ross helped Norwalk by committing eight errors.

Ross scored both its runs in the second when Shannon Watts hit a two-run single. Watts and White had the only two hits for the Little Giants.

Lake 10, Ross 6

Lake, 5-8, scored twice in the third and seven times in the fourth to build up a 9-0 lead against Ross, 1-10.

The Little Giants outhit the Flyers 11-6 but committed 10 errors, eight more than Lake.

Both Julie Schaaf and Kim Borys doubled and singled for Ross.

Softball

High School Girls

Ross 17, Macomber 2

Score by innings

	R H E						
Macomber	000	110	0	—	2	1	7
Ross	135	044	x	—	17	7	1

WP: Kim White; LP: Trina Boyd.

2B: White, Shannon Watts, Angie Flores, Tammy Dumbroff (R).

Season records: Ross 2-11, Macomber 0-5.



News-Messenger/Todd Bauders

THE BALL is in the shadow of Perrysburg's Lynn Stellier (11) during a play between second and third Wednesday afternoon at Rodger Young Park.

Ross shortstop Julie Schaaf and the runner collided on the play. Stellier was attempting to get around Schaaf and reach third.

Ross rebounds to beat Jackets

News-Messenger Reports

Will the real Fremont Ross High School girls softball team please step forward?

After getting drilled by Perrysburg Tuesday 17-0 in the second round of the Fremont sectional tournament, the Little Giants pulled an about-face and handed the Yellow Jackets a 16-15 defeat in eight innings Wednesday at Rodger Young Park.

The Little Giants are now 3-12 for the season.

"Call it bad timing I guess," said Ross Coach Christy Holland, who added he'd much rather have the tournament victory. Ironically, Ross's first win of the year also came against the

High School Softball

Perrysburg.

In one other game Wednesday, Clyde beat Edison 23-9.

Sherry Hathaway drove in the winning run in the eighth inning with a single for Ross, scoring Shannon Watts, who opened the inning with a walk. Watts, Tammy Dumbross, and Amy LeJeune each had three hits, while Angie Flores was 4-for-6 with four RBI for the Little Giants.

Debbie McClure got the win for Ross, and Kathy Rurecha took the loss.

Clyde 23, Edison 9

In Sandusky Bay Conference

play, Joely Andrews was 2-for-3 with eight RBI to lead the Fliers.

Clyde upped its record to 10-3 overall and 3-0 in the SBC. Edison fell to 3-7, 2-4.

Andrews walked three times with the bases loaded to add to the five she collected on two singles. Dee Toth added to Clyde's attack with a 4-for-4 effort while Amy Maines and Pam Meyer had doubles.

Amy Myers was credited with the victory on the mound.



Continued From B-1

rally consisted of three walks, three Findlay errors, a single by winning pitcher Kim White and LeJeune's double. The final three runs scored on two errors on the same play on a ball hit to short by Dumbroff.

LeJeune had three of the Little Giants' four hits.

White went the distance, striking out four and walking three.

Lady Giants' late rally nips Findlay by 2

News-Messenger Reports

Fremont Ross scored six runs in the top of the seventh inning to defeat Findlay 7-5 in high school softball Thursday.

The Lady Giants trailed 4-1 before the eruption.

In other games, St. Joseph Central Catholic defeated

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Perkins 16-3 in the Class AA sectional tournament at Norwalk, and Seneca East edged Bettsville 10-9.

In the bottom of the seventh, Findlay scored a run but Ross second baseman Tammy Dumbroff made a diving catch on a line drive and doubled off the runner at first with a throw to Aimee LeJeune to end the game.

"We played very good defensively," Ross Coach Christy Holland said after his team leveled its Buckeye Conference record at 1-1 and upped its overall mark to 4-12.

In the big seventh, the Ross

See SOFTBALL, Page B-3

Five-inning victories for Giants, Bobcats

News-Messenger Reports

Fremont Ross and Bettsville posted a pair of five-inning high school softball wins Monday.

The Little Giants defeated Old Fort 24-2 and the Bobcats topped Hopewell-Loudon 23-8. Both games were stopped because of the 15-run rule.

In another game, Oak Harbor fell to Perkins 11-6.

Kim White gave up just two singles while pitching Ross to the win. She struck out nine and walked two.

Ross, 6-12, scored 10 runs in the second inning on three hits, six walks and two Old Fort errors.

Aimee LeJeune tripled and singled, White and Julie Schaaf doubled and singled for Ross with Shannon Watts, Angie Flores and Tammy Dumbroff getting two hits apiece.

Bettsville 23, Hopewell 8

Shelly Lanning had three hits and five RBI and Barb Phelps had two doubles and five RBI to lead the Bobcats, 6-6. Lisa Heilman added three hits and four RBI to the Bettsville totals.

The Bobcats scored 10 runs in the third to open up a 12-3 lead and put the game away with

High School Softball

seven in the fourth and four more in the bottom of the fifth after Hopewell-Loudon had scored five times in the top of the inning.

Becky Gabel, Chris Lynch, Eliza Harrison and Mary Chevez had two hits apiece for Bettsville.

Perkins 11, Oak Harbor 6

The Pirates broke open a 3-3 game with three runs in the bottom of the fourth and then added insurance with two in the fifth and three more in the sixth for a 11-5 lead.

Julie Duran doubled twice to lead Perkins to its first win in 10 games. Oak Harbor slipped to 2-10 and 1-5 in Sandusky Bay Conference play. Perkins is 1-5 in the SBC.

Mary Fehr, Jenny Thompson and Amy Avery had two hits apiece for the Rockets.

Wednesday, Oak Harbor will play Otsego in the Class AA sectional finals at Bowling Green City Park. The Rockets defeated McAuley 10-5 Saturday to advance the sectional title game.

Ross knocks off Margarett

News-Messenger Reports

Fremont Ross scored five runs in the seventh inning and came back with four more in the eighth to tally a 10-7 upset victory over Margarett Tuesday.

The win lifts the Little Giants to 6-11 overall, while the Polar Bears drop to 16-3 for the season.

"We are getting things together," said Ross Coach Christy Holland. "If the girls had been playing like this at the beginning, we would have a much better record."

Angie Flores had two hits and four RBI to lead the Little Giants and provided a key hit in the seventh when she rapped a two-run single. Ross scored the other three runs in the inning on passed balls. The outburst wiped out a 5-1 deficit.

Margarett scored a run in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings, but Ross came back with four runs in the eighth, with Flores again driving in two runs with a single.

High School Softball

unbeaten in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Maines struck out 14 and walked nine to get the win. He bid for a no-hitter was spoiled in the sixth inning.

Ann Fultz was 3-for-3 with two RBI to lead the Clyde offense and Tanya Tuckerman and Joely Andrews added two hits and two RBI apiece.

Clyde is now 11-3 overall and 4-0 in the SBC.

Bettsville 10, N. Riegel 1

With one out to go, winning pitcher Carol Owen had her no-hitter spoiled, but came away with the victory nonetheless.

Barb Phelps, Chris Lynch, and Mary Chavez had three hits apiece to pace Bettsville's 17-hit effort. Shelley Lanning doubled and Lisa Heilman added two hits and three RBI as the Bobcats moved to 7-6 for the year.

Calvert 15, Old Fort 0

Brenda Rhomach threw a two

News-Messenger Reports

Clyde remained unbeaten in the Sandusky Bay Conference by bashing Perkins 24-5 Wednesday in Sandusky.

The Fliers are now 5-0 in the conference and 12-3 overall.

In two other games Wednesday, Ross lost to Findlay 15-0 in five innings and St. Joe fell to New Riegel 12-5.

Joely Andrews led the way for

High School Softball

Clyde both on the mound and at the plate. She took the win and supported her cause by going 4-for-4 with a double four RBI.

Angie Maines and Pam Meyer each hit three home runs and each finished with three RBI. Maines was 3-for-4 and scored five runs. Tanya Tuckerman was also 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBI and Kris Sherman had three singles and three RBI.

The Fliers led 6-4 before erupting for 18 runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, getting 14 of their 18 hits in that frame. Tuckerman had both doubles in the inning as Clyde sent 24 batters to the plate. Maines added her solo homer.

Perkins, which fell to 1-11, 1-7 in the SBC, helped the Fliers with six errors.

Findlay 15, Ross 0

Susan Barnhill hurled a no-hitter at the Little Giants in the five-inning contest.

Barnhill struck out six and walked just two in raising her record to 3-4. The Trojans are now 12-11 for the season. Barnhill also was a terror at the plate, going 3-for-3 with a double and five RBI.

Ross slipped to 6-12 overall.

New Riegel 12, St. Joe 5

Maureen Barry homered and Michelle McGrath added triple, but it wasn't enough for the Crimson Streaks.

St. Joe is now 3-8 for the year.

McGrath took the loss on the mound, while Cindy Cass scattered six hits to get the win.

Rhonda Tiell tripled for the Blue Jackets, who led 10-0 after two innings and never looked back.

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POTTER VALLEY

Kelley Aldrich to a no-hitter as St. Joe blasted Old Fort 16-0 in six innings in high school girls softball action Thursday at Old Fort.

In other games Thursday, Ross beat Norwalk 9-7 and Margaretta topped Clyde 2-0 in a key Sandusky Bay Conference clash.

Aldrich struck out just one and walked eight, but the Crimson Streaks, led by Maureen Barry, came through defensively in the clutch and preserved the no-hitter.

Barry, St. Joe's shortstop, was involved in eight of the 18 outs, and made one of two fine plays in the field in the bottom of the sixth to help Aldrich.

Nikki Binder made the first good play, running down a fly ball in left-center field. Barry then ended the game by snagging a sinking line drive on the end of her glove between short and third base.

Offensively, St. Joe jumped on top 5-0 in the first and never looked back in raising its record to 4-8 overall and 3-4 in the Midland Athletic League.

Michelle McGrath was 2-for-3 with a triple and three RBI to lead the Streaks, while Ann Hossler was 3-for-4 and also had a triple and Gina Rich added two singles.

Ross 9, Norwalk 7

Shannon Watts drove in five runs with a homer, triple and a

single to lead the Little Giants to their seventh victory against a dozen losses.

Watts had an RBI single in Ross' four-run first, drove in both runs in the two-run second with a triple and accounted for all the Ross runs in the third with a three-run homer.

Norwalk, 13-10, matched Ross with four runs in the first, added a run in the third and scored twice in the bottom of the seventh.

Debbie McClure was the winning pitcher for Ross.

The Little Giants host Marion Harding in a double-header Saturday at Rodger Young Park. The first game begins at 11 a.m.

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ROSS GIRLS WIN: Kim White tossed a three-hitter as Ross defeated Marion Harding 6-1 in high school girls softball Thursday. The win enabled the Little Giants to tie Findlay for the Buckeye Conference Western Division lead. The teams will play off for the title at noon Monday in Findlay. Both teams have 4-2 conference records. White struckout three batters and walked two. She and Shannon Watts had two hits apiece and Aimee LeJeune doubled and drove in three runs for Ross. The Little Giants scored four runs in the top of the fourth and iced the game with two in the top of the seventh. Ross is now 11-12.

...Ross girls team takes BC softball crown

News-Messenger Reports

FINDLAY — Fremont Ross captured the Buckeye Conference Western Division softball championship with a 13-2 victory over Findlay in a one-game playoff here.

Both teams ended the regular season with 4-2 conference records, necessitating the one-game playoff.

Ross broke open a close game with seven runs in the fifth

inning to take an 11-2 lead.

Kim White led the way for the Little Giants with three hits at the plate, including two doubles, and a four-hitter on the mound. She also struck out seven batters.

Aimee LeJeune and Angie Flores added three hits each and Sherrie Hathaway and Linda Borys had two apiece.

Ross finishes the season with an overall record of 11-12.

Crawford should improve during season

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

Any discussion of fast-pitch softball should begin with pitching. At Fremont Ross, senior captain Kim Crawford is a topic of conversation.

"We will be as successful ..." Ross coach Cheryl Coressel said, responding to an inference that Crawford could hold the key to the Little Giants' success or failure in 1993. "I don't want to put all the weight on Kim, but it's going to be a matter of her de-

velopment.

"She's not to the point where she can move it consistently (fast) or throw the pitch consistently, but she throws strikes."

Which is all Crawford is being asked to do for now, although she is expected to improve.

"With the type of defense we're going to have," Coressel said, "if she can get the ball across the plate ... hopefully take down (strike out) a few people, but put it in play, I believe we can play with anybody."

Coressel said Crawford's improvement from the beginning of last year (she finished 1992 with a 3-7 record, one save and a 4.30 ERA) has not been as fast as she would like.

Crawford also pitched three games during her sophomore year.

"We're going to go on her arm," Coressel said. "I really have confidence in her, and she's very confident that she can win us ballgames."

