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## GBC champion Little Giants earn softball recognition

*News-Messenger reports*

FREMONT -- Eight Fremont Ross softball players earned postseason awards in 2009, a year during which the Little Giants won the Greater Buckeye Conference championship.

Pitcher Jordyn Gallagher, who set two school records and tied a third mark, was the GBC Player of the Year and a second team all-district selection after posting a 13-6 record with a 1.35 ERA.

With 170 strikeouts this season, Gallagher broke a Ross record that was previously held by Miranda Steinberger. In 19 games, the Little Giants' junior hurler walked 11 hitters and established a new Ross single-season mark that was previously held by Courtney Abbott. In a GBC game against Lima Senior this season, Gallagher struck out 15 hitters, which tied a record first set by Nikki Pelfrey.

Sophomore catcher Casey Clark, who led Ross in batting average (.414), in hits (29), in RBI (9) and in doubles (12), received first team recognition from the GBC and the district and was an honorable mention All-Ohio pick. The 12 doubles hit by Clark this season broke a Little Giants' record that was previously held by Paige Kingsborough.

"We scored three runs per game, gave up two runs per game and committed only 1.2 errors per game," Ross coach Mike Gilbert said. "The defense was extremely solid and it helped us out of a lot tight situations and allowed us to win some games."

Freshman center fielder McKenzie Schneider garnered recognition on the GBC's first team and the district's list of honorable mention.

Sophomore second baseman Christy Meggitt, senior first baseman Tashia Novitski and junior shortstop Tayler Redinger were second team selections in the GBC.

Senior designated player Katelynn Ruiz and senior third baseman Ashley Saionz gained honorable mention from the GBC.

After guiding Ross to records of 13-8 overall, 8-2 in the GBC and the Little Giants' first outright league title since 2000, Gilbert was named the conference's Coach of the Year.

## ROSS BASEBALL AWARDS

Nine Little Giants received postseason recognition in 2009.

Senior catcher Brad Wolesslagel, senior center fielder Stephen Stout and sophomore second baseman Jake Hiestand were named to the GBC's first team. Hiestand, whose nod came as a utility player, had a .333 batting average with 22 singles, 13 RBI and 13 walks.

Wolesslagel (.383, four home runs, 25 RBI, 20 walks) and Stout (.308, two HRs, 16 RBI, 20 walks) were first-team all-district selections. Hiestand was granted honorable mention from the district.

Pitcher Dexter Foos (5-4, 3.75 ERA, 41 strikeouts, third baseman Josh Mendoza (.342, six doubles, 15 RBI) and shortstop Derek Aldrich (.298, four doubles, 11 RBI) landed on the GBC's second team. Foos, who defeated every GBC school once, was recognized as a second team all-district pick.

First baseman Tyler Hasselbach (.312, two home runs), designated hitter Brandon Graeter (.380, two doubles, one triple, 12 RBI) and right fielder T.J. Harkness (.310, 16 stolen bases) earned honorable mention from the GBC.

Sandusky's Eric Jordan was the GBC's Player of the Year and the Blue Streaks' Matt Miller was the league's Coach of the Year.

In Ross team awards, Woleslagel was the MVP, Foos secured the Fireman Award as the Little Giants' top pitcher, Hiestand recorded the Little Giant Award for having the most hustle and Greater was Ross's Most Improved Player.

Seniors Woleslagel, Stout, Mendoza and Hasselbach shared the Captains Award. Jordan Garcia was the JV team's Most Outstanding Player.

Ross went 12-13 overall and 6-4 in the GBC, which placed the Little Giants second in the league standings.

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