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## Little Giants rally, beat Redskins

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FREMONT -- Staying aggressive at the plate is something Ross baseball coach Mark King has been trying to stress to his young team.

In the fifth inning on Wednesday against Port Clinton, the Little Giants finally started to get aggressive at the dish. After falling behind in counts early on and not swinging at strikes, Ross got bolder with the aluminum in their half of the inning, plating three unearned runs to break a tie on the way to a 5-2 victory.

All of those fifth inning runs came off the bat of Ross catcher Brad Woleslagel, who hit a three-run homer after two PC errors kept the inning alive. The senior took a first pitch fastball from the Redskins' Matthiessen Nisch Quan over the fence in left for his lone hit, as he would finish 1-for-3.

A total of six different batters would record hits for the Little Giants (2-3), who had three hits in their final two at bats after having just three base knocks through four.

"We have to stay aggressive and put the ball in play," King said. "I thought we sat on our heels and had some bad approaches at the plate today, but then Brad stepped up in the fifth and got aggressive and gave us a huge lift."

Ross's inability to hit was backed up, though, by solid defense and pitching. The Little Giants defense helped strand eight Redskin (1-4) runners to just four for Ross.

Cameron Hord (1-1) went the distance for the Little Giants, picking up win No. 1 on the season, allowing just two runs on five hits with six strikeouts. He was backed up by a defense that committed just two errors -- a reason for coach King to be excited.

"Our defense killed us the first three games of the year," King said. "The last two games now (both wins) we've had a total of two errors."

"We've been preaching defense to this team the whole time ... we don't have a pitching staff who is going to throw it by everyone. We need to throw strikes and play solid defense to be successful as a team and that's what we did today."

The Ross defense kept PC off the board in its first two at bats, allowing a struggling offense a chance to gain an early lead.

Derek Waggoner reached on a walk to open just ahead of Derek Aldrich, who ripped a double to left center to put two runners in scoring position. Two batters and two outs later, both were brought home on a two-RBI single by T.J. Harkness, as Ross took a 2-0 lead.

PC answered back quickly however, plating two runs in the top of the third. Josh Fravel and Nisch Quan both recorded RBI in the inning, as the Redskins evened the game up at 2-2.

Redskin starter Derek Colston and Hord would then retire six of the next seven batters to keep the game scoreless.

Colston would go four innings giving up two runs on three hits with four strikeouts and three walks for PC. He gave way to Nisch Quan, who threw the final two innings and was eventually saddled with the loss allowing three runs (all unearned) on three hits with a strikeout.

"I thought our pitchers pitched real well," Port Clinton coach Tracy Bodi said. "We gave two runs the one inning and then the home run, but I thought Derek (Colston) and Matthiessen (Nisch Quan) both threw well."

Nisch Quan wasn't helped though in his effort, Ross got their fifth going thanks to dropped fly ball in center field. A fielder's choice and base hit later, Ross had two on with one out. Josh Mendoza then hit into another fielder's choice to third, but after making an unassisted putout, PC's Cody Gray misfired a throw across to first allowing the inning to stay alive for Woleslagel.

"We aren't hitting good enough to give teams extra outs," Bodi said of the errors.

PC would have chances to cut into the Ross lead, but stranded four runners in its' final three at bats. The Redskins would only muster five hits in the game, as like Ross they struggled at being aggressive at the plate.

"We had too many guys stranded," Bodi said. "We weren't going after pitches that were in our strike zone and we're struggling at the plate right now. That's what I'm most disappointed about right now ... because we're capable of hitting, but I have confidence in these guys and we'll bounce back."

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Fremont Ross' Cameron Hord pitches against Port Clinton on Wednesday. Hord got the win for the Little Giants. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger)