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Ross takes advantage of Harding miscues

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Tuesday's Division I playoff softball game between Ross and Marion Harding came down to one thing: Mistakes.

The Presidents made too many, as the Little Giants won the sectional championship game 3-1. Ross advances to play Sandusky next week in the district tournament.

"One play doesn't make or break the game for you," said Marion Harding coach Sean Kearns. "This game came down to mistakes and clearly we made more than them. You can't get away with that against a good team like Ross -- especially on their field."

The game was a pitcher's duel through three innings. Marion got on the board in the top of the fourth inning when LaVesta Petty started things off with a single and came around to score on a Jamie Holsinger RBI double.

Fremont Ross responded with a run of its own in the bottom of the fifth inning -- and the Presidents had no one to blame but themselves. Ashley Saionz struck out, but Marion catcher Kylee Greenwood dropped the third strike and Saionz reached first safely. She came around and scored the game-tying run on a single by McKenzie Schneider.

Ross scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. The first one came when a Greenwood throw to pick off a runner at third sailed in to left field. Sara Gowitzka added an RBI-single to give Ross the 3-1 win.

Recording the win for the Little Giants was Jordyn Gallagher, who went all seven innings, striking out five and only giving up one run on five hits.

"I was really locating my pitches today, that was huge for me," said Gallagher. "I'm ready for next Tuesday's playoff game and I think the rest of the team is, too."



Fremont Ross's Alexis Schneider runs into home for the last score of the game, making it a 3-1 ball game for Fremont Ross. (Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent)