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## Strong pitching lifts Little Giants to win

*BY JEFF ARENZ*  
*Sports writer*

SANDUSKY -- It wasn't pretty, but Fremont Ross outlasted Sandusky 10-8 in a Greater Buckeye Conference baseball game Friday at Jaycee Park.

Little Giants reliever Cameron Hord pitched out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the sixth inning before throwing a 1-2-3 seventh frame to help Ross improve to 3-4 overall and 1-0 in the GBC.

"I walked in there, I hit the first guy and I didn't know what to think," Hord said. "Then, I knew the team was counting on me. So, I had to step up."

Hord, who relieved starter Dexter Foos, entered the game with none out in the sixth, Sandusky runners at first and second and the Little Giants leading 10-5. Hord loaded the bases by hitting Mike Drake and allowed an RBI single to Trey Keegan before Eric Jordan and Alan Rhodes reached on two of the six errors committed by Little Giants' infielders.

Tony Jones, Kendrick Aaron and Drake scored unearned runs as the Blue Streaks cut the Ross lead to 10-8.

But Hord began to settle down.

After rebounding to strikeout Cameron Weaver and Davion Gaston, Hord forced Seth Perdue into hitting an infield popout between the mound and the third base line.

"Once I got the confidence going, I was pumped to get out there in the seventh inning and finish them up," said Hord, who earned his first save of the season after making two starts.

Sandusky fell to 5-4 overall and 0-1 in the GBC. Of the eight runs scored by the Blue Streaks, only three were earned.

"This is what we needed, even though it wasn't a pretty victory," Ross coach Mark King said. "It was a very well-pitched game by our pitchers. I'm very satisfied with them because they did a fantastic job (pitching around extra baserunners and out of trouble)."

Blue Streaks coach Matt Martin agreed it was a sloppy game on both sides.

"It seemed like neither team wanted to win," Martin said. "We can't make those errors, especially since the kids know they have to make those plays."

Ross built a 5-0 after 2 1/2 innings without the aid of a hit. Sandusky starter Zak Esposito hit a pair of Little Giants, issued four walks and was the victim of his defense, which committed six errors, including two miscues apiece in the second and third innings.

The Blue Streaks made it 5-3 in the third on a double by Aaron and RBI-singles from Keegan and

Rhodes, who, with runners at the corners, intentionally got into a run down to allow Jordan to score.

A double from T.J. Harkness and RBI singles from Jay Cominsky and Derek Aldrich produced three runs and an 8-3 Ross lead in the fourth. But Brady Smith and Marcus Cobbs scored Sandusky runs on Aaron's two-run single in the bottom half of the frame.

The Little Giants grabbed a 9-5 lead after Stephen Stout hit a double to deep center field in the fifth and scored when Jake Hiestand reached on an error. It became 10-5 Ross on Derek Waggoner's RBI single.

Foos earned the win for the Little Giants by lasting five innings, allowing seven runs (three earned runs) on four hits with five walks and five strikeouts.

"I'm preaching to my team that we need to improve every night, and we did that on the mound and at the plate," King said. "This is a young team that is loaded with talent."

Ross hosts Defiance and Tiffin Columbian in a split doubleheader at 11 a.m. today at Alumni Fields.

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