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Fremont Ross shows interest in joining Toledo City League

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

TOLEDO -- Fremont Ross High School athletic director Art Bucci confirmed Wednesday that the Little Giants have sent a letter of interest to the Toledo City League.

With the breakup of the Greater Buckeye Conference, Ross is searching for a new conference that will offer them stability.

"The City League has a lot to offer us," Bucci said. "The biggest factor is stability. The City League has good competition and it gives our student-athletes a chance to gain recognition. Another factor is that the City League is close to home."

The TCL is comprised of 10 Toledo-area co-ed schools -- Bowsher, Central Catholic, Libbey, Oregon Clay, Rogers, Scott, Start, Waite, Whitmer and Woodward. The league also includes two all-boys schools, St. Francis and St. John's Jesuit, and two all-girls schools, Notre Dame and St. Ursula.

"With 14 schools in the City League, it shouldn't be a problem to schedule games," Bucci said. "Week 5 of the football season has been a scheduling problem for us."

Commissioner Ed Scrutchins said Ross has two key qualities the TCL values: Proximity and competitiveness.

"Many of our schools have played Fremont for many years and we know they have good sports programs," Scrutchins said.

Scrutchins said the next step in the process will happen Sept. 8, when the TCL's Athletic Board of Control meets and will discuss the pros and cons of adding Ross to the conference.

"When interest is shown, my office takes an informal poll of our member schools to see how they feel about schools coming into the league before we invite any school to send us an application," Scrutchins said. "That was done several months ago."

The Lima Schools Board of Education recently voted 5-0 to seek membership in the TCL. The Athletic Board of Control will discuss their application on Sept. 8.

Bucci believes Ross is an attractive fit for the TCL.

"We have good sports programs with good facilities here in Fremont and the community support is outstanding," Bucci said.

If Ross were to become a member of the TCL, it would have to share revenue from some sporting events hosted in Fremont.

"Any AD doesn't really want to share revenue," Bucci said. "We feel like were not going to be losing money. If we play a football game at Whitmer, we're going to take home half of the gate receipts. The next season, when Whitmer comes here to Fremont, they'll get half of what we make. In the end, it should even out over time."

Bucci said Fremont City Schools superintendent Dr. Traci McCaudy has thrown her full support into having the Little Giants join the TCL.
