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## Little Giants survive in OT

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FREMONT -- Defensive back Skylar Reffner and linebacker Travis Maynard ensured a Fremont Ross victory against Cleveland Benedictine on Friday night at Don Paul Stadium.

Reffner tipped a pass that Benedictine quarterback Ty Wilcosky intended for wideout Tim Kendig in the left corner of the end zone into the hands of Maynard as the Little Giants rallied to stun the Bengals 28-21 in overtime.

"I just knew Benedictine was going to run a deep pattern," Reffner said. "They ran an out route and I just broke on the ball, tipped it and Travis made a great play."

Maynard was excited to be in position to seal only the Little Giants' third win over the Bengals in 16 tries.

"After I caught the ball, I knew that I had to get out of the end zone for the referees to blow the whistle for the game to be over," said Maynard, who made his second interception in as many weeks. "I just took off out of the end zone and it was great."

As Maynard stood as his locker after the game, he drew a huge smile as his teammates chanted over-and-over, "Travis! Travis!"

Ross quarterback Cody Foos hooked up with wideout Mikel Stanley for a 20-yard TD strike on the first play of overtime that broke a 21-all tie and gave the Little Giants their first lead of the game.

Victor Layton's PAT attempt -- like each of the three that preceded it -- was good as Ross took a 28-21 edge.

The Bengals generated a first down on their overtime possession before Demetric Banks ran for no gain, Wilcosky threw an incomplection and before his pass to Joe McKinley was nullified by a holding call. On the next play, Wilcosky was intercepted in his attempt to find Kendig, who led Benedictine with three catches for 49 yards.

"We didn't capitalize on our opportunities when we had good field position," Cleveland Benedictine coach Art Bortnick said. "We had a touchdown taken away by a penalty and a missed field goal after it (in the first half). A couple of times we were in the red zone, we didn't get any points."

The Bengals were also the victims of 10 penalties for 81 yards while the Little Giants were penalized twice for 10 yards.

But before Ross was able to preserve its victory, the Little Giants had to rally from a 21-7 fourth-quarter deficit.

Winning the battle of field position with 11:09 left, Foos engineered a 6-play, 32-yard drive that netted the first of his two touchdown passes. Greg Brown hauled in Foos' 6-yard TD toss 2 1/2 minutes later.

Getting defensive in the fourth quarter, the Little Giants stopped the next two Benedictine drives

inside the Bengals' territory. As 5:11 remained, Foos and running back James Aaron Spencer were the catalysts of Ross possession that consisted of 20 plays, gained 78 yards and chewed up 4:46 off the clock. The result was a 4-yard touchdown run for Spencer, who scored with 27 seconds left to forge a 21-all tie.

"This is part of getting over the hump," Ross coach Derek Kidwell said. "We beat a team that's had our number, especially when it didn't look good in the third quarter. We faced a lot of adversity and I thought our defense did a good job of getting stops and giving our offense opportunities."

Foos completed 14-of-27 passes for 161 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Spencer topped the Little Giants' rushers with 79 yards on 21 carries while Brown added six receptions for 99 yards.

The Bengals struck first to take a 7-0 lead after William Cloud caught Wilcosky's 11-yard touchdown pass with 5:49 left in the first quarter.

But Ross didn't waste much time answering.

Foos' 44-yard pass to Brown put the Little Giants on the Benedictine 4-yard line, from where Spencer carried the ball into the end zone on the next play. In only 88 seconds, Ross scored to make it a 7-all tie.

But the Bengals added TDs in the second and third quarters to take a 21-7 lead.

After Adam Patterson intercepted Foos in the second quarter, Benedictine drove to the Little Giants' 36, where Wilcox and Kendig connected for a TD strike with 54 second left in the first half.

Bryan Lacey, who led all rushers with 143 yards on 18 carries, busted through the Ross defense for a 64-yard touchdown run 3:10 into the third quarter. He did most of the damage as the Bengals held a 206-102 advantage in rushing yardage.

Wilcosky, who went 8-of-18 for 96 yards with two TDs and an interception, was held in check for much of the second half. After throwing for 74 yards in the first half, he managed only 22 more yards passing during the final 24 minutes.

Despite Benedictine having a 302-263 edge in total yards, the Little Giants held the Bengals to minus-2 yards of offense in the fourth quarter.

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