



October 15, 2009

Ross looks to break losing streak

BY JEFF ARENZ

Sports writer

FREMONT -- Reeling from a two-game losing streak, the Fremont Ross football team must contend with Division III sixth-ranked Napoleon on Friday at Don Paul Stadium.

Kickoff for this Greater Buckeye Conference game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

"There is a lot for us to play for," Ross football coach Derek Kidwell said. "Hopefully, our seniors can give us maximum effort because it's their night. It might be the last time they will get to play in front of their family and friends. It might be the last time they put on the purple and white."

The Little Giants (4-3 overall, 0-2 GBC) and the Wildcats (6-1, 2-0) have had their share of closely-fought games over the years. Ross holds a slim 9-7 lead in the all-time series, including a 19-13 win at Napoleon in 2008.

"Napoleon is sound in all three phases of the game," Kidwell said. "They have 10 starters back on defense and quite a few back on offense. It's going to be a hard-fought game. Even though they are the smallest school in our league, they always have big wins, and they're always right there in the race for the league championship."

Napoleon's Brandon Hummer (524 yards, 7 TDs) leads the best rushing offense in the GBC, which averages 194.6 yards per game and has produced 19 touchdowns in 2009. John Weaver (388 yards, 5 TDs) and Clint Detmer (217 yards, 3 TDs) also carry some of the load for the Wildcats.

They will be going up against a Ross run defense that ranks second in the league at 145.7 yards per game.

Napoleon quarterback Nick Rettig has run for more touchdowns (4) than he has thrown (2). He has completed 27-of-55 passes for 209 yards with 2 INTs, but his feet have allowed him to gain 158 yards on 43 carries.

Jordan Fisher (8 catches, 56 yards), Detmer (7 catches, 35 yards, 1 TD) and Cody Bloom (5 catches, 78 yards, 1 TD) are the top targets of Rettig.

At 147.8 yards per game, the Little Giants' pass defense is sixth in the GBC.

Detmer leads the GBC with nine punt returns for 153 yards while Napoleon's Fisher and Detmer have combined for seven kickoff returns for 256 yards to top the league.

The Little Giants will counter with the highest rated GBC offense, which averages 302.7 yards per game. But Ross is facing the best defense in the league as the Wildcats yield 181.0 yards per game.

"We need to come out with some heart and desire," Kidwell said. "There is no excuse to come out flat. This is high school football and (our players) should be ready to play at the start. It hasn't happened that way for us this year. I think if we can get a positive return to start the game or get good coverage on a kickoff, we can build off of that for the rest of the game."

Little Giants' running back James Aaron Spencer tops the GBC with 678 yards on 116 carries while Ross quarterback Cody Foos has completed 68-of-144 passes for 955 yards with 8 TDs and 9 INTs.

Greg Brown, the league leader in receiving yards, has made 24 receptions for 430 yards and 6 TDs.

The top six players in GBC scoring will be featured Friday night. Detmer (first, 49 points), Hummer (42, second) and Weaver (36, third) hail from Napoleon. Spencer (42, second), Brown (36, third) and Victor Layton (36, third) play for Ross.
