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## Sandusky takes out Fremont Ross in 4

*BY JEFF ARENZ*  
*Sports Writer*

MANSFIELD -- Sandusky overcame a strong start by Fremont Ross during a 25-27, 25-21, 25-17, 25-17 victory in the semifinals of a Division I volleyball sectional tournament on Tuesday at Mansfield Senior High School.

"This time, we worked together better as a team," Blue Streaks assistant coach Vickie Ritchie said. "I think we had better communication on the court and our players wanted it more."

Ritchie guided Sandusky on Tuesday night in the absence of head coach Stephanie Hotz, who gave birth to a daughter Thursday.

Near the end of Game 1, the Little Giants trailed the Blue Streaks 23-21 before McKenzie Schneider produced two of her team-high 10 kills during a 6-point span as Ross tied the contest at 25.

A kill from Alex Furguson handed the Little Giants a one-point edge before a hitting attempt from Sandusky's Cara Croom sailed long and Ross went ahead 1-0 in games.

"We couldn't capitalize upon a good start," Fremont Ross coach Randi Whitman said. "We got to a point in Games 2, 3 and 4 where we didn't have many (scoring) runs. And the few runs that we went on, we eventually gave the ball away and couldn't get it back"

Croom, who had a pair of kills in Game 1, established herself more during the final three sets. She finished with a match-high 11 kills, while Capreece Irby contributed eight more. Croom ended Games 2 and 4 with kills and finished off Game 3 with an ace.

"We just didn't seem to have everything running on all cylinders," Whitman said. "When our defense was on, our offense didn't seem to click. When our offense was working, our defense couldn't get the ball to our setters."

Trailing 14-7 in Game 2, Ross closed its deficit to 20-18 behind a pair of kills from Taylor Waggoner, Christy Meggitt and a solo kill from Carly Young. They combined for 11 kills in the match as Young produced five and Waggoner and Meggitt generated three apiece.

But a kill from Irby and a Little Giants' violation for a double-hit put the momentum back on the Blue Streaks' side. A Ross hitting error set the stage for Croom to end Game 2.

The Little Giants trailed entirely during Game 3 before Sandusky turned a slim 9-8 lead into a 17-10 advantage. Tierra Hunter served two of her four aces during the Blue Streaks' 8-2 run that was ended by a kill from McKenzie Schneider.

Alexis Schneider attempted to rally Ross with three of her seven kills coming in Game 3 as the Little Giants answered with a 7-2 run. But Croom controlled the end of the set with a kill and an ace and received help in the form of kills from Anissa Hunter and Jakira Spearman.

"I made some adjustments to our rotation, and I know that's a lot to ask from our girls," Whitman said. "I did it to throw some new things at Sandusky, but we just didn't have everything that we needed tonight."

Irby used four kills to turn Ross's 11-10 lead into a 14-11 advantage for Sandusky. Despite an ace from Gabby Domiray and consecutive kills from Waggoner, the Little Giants couldn't push the match to a fifth game.

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