

Fremont Ross board OKs move to Three Rivers Athletic Conference

Rescinds participation in TCL

BY LESLIE BIXLER • STAFF WRITER • AUGUST 3, 2010

FREMONT -- The Fremont City School Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night to rescind participation in the Toledo City Athletic League next year and enter into the Three Rivers Athletic Conference

It is the second time in eight months that the school board voted on Ross's entry into a league.

"There was a lot of hard work by a lot of people to come up with this league of ours," Fremont Ross Athletic Director Art Bucci said.

Ross High School Principal Jose Hernandez said, "There's no animosity, there's an understanding that we did what we had to do and we're keeping an open door (with the Toledo City League schools). Our intent is to make a great league with public and parochial schools."

The board unanimously approved Ross's entry into the Toledo City League last November. Ross had been looking for a new league since teams from the Greater Buckeye Conference -- the league Ross has belonged to since its inception in 2003 -- started to leave the league in a domino effect started by Fostoria St. Wendelin's departure from the Midland Athletic League.

The MAL took Lakota from the Suburban Lakes League, which reorganized into the Northern Buckeye Conference, taking Fostoria from the Northern Ohio League and Rossford from the Northern Lakes League, in addition to Elmwood, Eastwood, Genoa, Woodmore, Otsego and Lake.

The NOL took GBC member Sandusky, and the NLL took GBC member Napoleon, leaving a four-team Greater Buckeye Conference of Ross, Findlay, Lima Senior and Marion Harding.

Ross, Findlay and Lima all applied to the Toledo City League, but the TCL initially only approved Ross joining the circuit.

However, the Toledo Public Schools -- including Bowsher, Libbey, Rogers, Scott, Start, Waite and Woodward, all members of the City League -- are facing a \$39 million shortfall and have been unable to pass a school levy.

As a result, they are going to drop some sports on the junior high and high school level, and the non-TPS schools in the league -- which currently includes Oregon Clay, Whitmer, Toledo St. Francis, Toledo St. John, Toledo Central Catholic, St. Ursula and Notre Dame -- looked to form the alternate league with Ross, Findlay and Lima.

In this new conference, Bucci said they'll get to keep the gate receipts for home games, and won't have to share with the team they're playing.

"We need to raise our standards and so do our children," Bucci said of joining TRAC.

Hernandez will be president of the league for the first two years, and future work consists of voting on a constitution and bylaws and hiring a new commissioner and assistant commissioner, along with scheduling meeting dates for principals and athletic directors