

## Early lead helps Ross relax, win

BY KEVIN SHIELDS • Sports Writer • March 31, 2010

FREMONT -- The Fremont Ross softball team proved Tuesday that it has a short-term memory.

One night after being shutout in their season-opener by Bowling Green, the Little Giants rebounded both at the plate and in the circle with a 7-0 non-conference victory over Port Clinton.

Jordyn Gallagher tossed a complete game, giving up just three hits and striking out 10 Redskin hitters. She helped herself out at the plate, going 3-for-3 with three doubles and three RBI as the Little Giants pounded out nine total hits, including four for extra-bases.

"This is probably the best we've hit in quite awhile and hopefully we can continue that," Ross coach Mike Gilbert said. "Then we had one error and Jordyn pitched a good game."

Ross scored a single run in the top of the first before breaking the game wide-open with a pair of three-run innings, starting in the third.

"When you get ahead you play more relaxed and we got ahead and played more relaxed," Gilbert said.

The Little Giants took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning when Gallagher, hitting in the three-hole, doubled to left field to bring in McKenzie Schneider from second base.

Ross upped its edge to 4-0 in the third when Casey

Clark hit a two-RBI double off the fence in the left field. Christy Meggitt added a run after scoring on a passed ball from third and Ross had more than enough run support for Gallagher.

"She pitched tonight like I'm used to her pitching," Gilbert said. "She's the kind of kid where the more she pitches, usually, the better she gets, and I think she hit a groove in the in the second and third innings."

At one point Gallagher struck out six straight Port Clinton batters. She allowed just two hits and two runners on base in the first four innings.

"She has a lot of pitches and does well with them," Redskin coach Jenna Kinnear said. "I knew she'd be throwing junk and outside stuff when she had two strikes on us and we couldn't hold on them. We watched a lot of strikes go by too."

Gallagher threw a total of 27 balls, as she reached a full-count only twice and had just 10 hitters record two balls against her.

"She made it a lot easier on me to call pitches," Gilbert said. "Usually I got my heart in my throat, but tonight was a little more relaxing because she was on and she told me she found her groove."

Left fielder Kenzie Payne would be the lone Port Clinton hitter to solve Gallagher, as was 3-for-3 and finished a home run shy of hitting for the cycle. Taylor Searight reaching on an error in the fifth-inning would be the other time a Redskin touched base.

Meanwhile, the Little Giants were continuing to hit Redskin starter Ashley Wuersig hard, plating three more in the fourth inning. Andra Snodgrass and Schneider both drew walks to open the Ross half of the inning. Snodgrass was retired on McKenzie Gallagher's fielder's choice, but Jordyn Gallagher's two-run double plated both Schneider and her younger sister to up the Ross advantage to 6-0.

Clark followed with her third hit -- an RBI-single up the middle -- to cap the scoring. Clark was 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs. She and Jordyn Gallagher went a combined 6-for-7 in the three and four-holes, with four extra-base knocks and six total RBI.

"That's huge," Gilbert said. "You got McKenzie Schneider and McKenzie Gallagher setting the table and then you hope the three and four will come up and clean the table and they did tonight. They hit the ball really well."

Gallagher went on to surrender a single hit in the seventh, picking up her first victory. Wuersig was saddled with the loss, going four innings, allowing seven runs on five hits with two strikeouts and seven walks.

Other collecting hits for Ross were Schneider, McKenzie Gallagher and Tayler Redinger.

"We were making contact and we're hitting the ball hard," Gilbert said. "Last night we made contact at times, but didn't hit the ball hard and when you do, it opens up a lot of things."

Ross will return to action Wednesday when it hosts Toledo Waite.