

SPORTS



Ross coach Chad Long. MATTHEW HORN

Woodson on sideline for Ross victory

Matthew Horn
Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

There were finally indications of a return to normalcy, although the pandemic is obviously far from over.

On any night, however, Friday was far from normal for Fremont Ross.

A sellout crowd saw a statue unveiled for alum Charles Woodson, who is now in the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

September 3 was designated Charles Woodson Day by the mayor.

Then, the Little Giants snapped a five-game losing skid to Sandusky with a 47-18 victory. They remained unbeaten, while overcoming a blunder that characterized the setbacks.

"When you know you have a crowd like that, that shows up proud of Fremont — to have the Goat back — we had to win," Ross coach Chad Long said.

Anthony Vann caught a 46-yard touchdown pass from Kaden Holmes for

an early advantage. The Little Giants, however, allowed Sandusky to return a kickoff 96 yards for its second lead.

"I'm home," Woodson said. "It feels good to be home. Being here in Fremont, I remember the times I was able to walk out on this field in front of the hometown fans and play this wonderful game. Watching this younger generation play the game is the highlight for me."

Unlike years past, it was not a harbinger. Holmes busted a scoring run 70 yards up the sideline and Adam Hrynciw caught a 31-yard touchdown for a 21-12 lead early in the second quarter.

"Chewy," Holmes said of the top highlight in a vast reel. "I didn't realize he was going to get it. He got underneath it and made the play."

The Little Giants stuffed Sandusky on three straight goal-to-go snaps, including a tackle for a 2-yard loss from Labronze Barnett. Elijah Simms then collected a blocked field goal and returned it to the Blue Streaks' 45.

Hrynciw capped the ensuing drive with a 36-yard touchdown reception for a 28-12 margin at the half.

"They did it this way, pulling, preparing all week," Long said. "We over-shifted and they drove on us. We made an adjustment and dominated in the trenches."

Bryson Hammer added a 46-yard catch and run touchdown, before Holmes scored twice on the ground. Simms had a third-down catch to extend one of the drives.

"This is our rival," Holmes said. "It's the first time beating our rival in five years."

It felt like a time capsule in more ways than one.

"It was different because so many people doubt you," Vann said. "More than ever, the city is on our side. In middle school, I watched Sandusky beat Fremont. This is not normal."

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Buckeyes happy with win, but see 'room to improve'

Bill Rabinowitz
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

MINNEAPOLIS — In a way, Ohio State's 45-31 victory Thursday night over Minnesota was a perfectly imperfect way to start the season.

The Golden Gophers have 20 returning starters. The Buckeyes had a quarterback throwing his first collegiate pass and a back seven on defense also woefully short on experience.

C.J. Stroud acknowledged having first-game jitters in the first half, which ended with him having thrown for only 58 yards with an interception that set up a Minnesota touchdown. The de-



Freshman running back TreVeyon Henderson showed his speed and elusiveness when he turned a swing pass into a 70-yard touchdown.
KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

fense was even worse. With new starting linebackers and freshmen Ryan Watts and Denzel Burke starting at cornerback because Cameron Brown and Sevnyn Banks were out, the Buckeyes took their lumps.

Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim showed why he was the Big Ten's Running Back of the Year in 2020 in squirting through and around the Buckeyes for 163 yards in 30 carries before leaving the game with an apparently serious leg injury.

The Buckeyes trailed at halftime in the regular season against a Big Ten opponent for the first time since 2018.

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Each NFL team's pressing QB question

Mike Jones
USA TODAY

With training camp and the preseason in the books, clarity has come to many teams' quarterback situations. Now, the focus turns to the regular season, which kicks off next week.

However, there are a good deal of unknowns, even for teams with some of the most proven quarterbacks.

From the seemingly most stable situation in Tampa all the way down to the most shaky of the turmoil-filled Houston Texans, here's a look at the pressing question hanging over every quarterback situation in the league.

● **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** — Tom Brady and his entire supporting cast of starters return in Tampa Bay. But Father Time remains undefeated. Can the GOAT, now 44, remain on top and pull off the second title repeat of his career?

● **Kansas City Chiefs** — According to Next Gen Stats, Patrick Mahomes ran for nearly 500 yards behind the line of scrimmage while trying to evade pass rushers in Kansas City's Super Bowl defeat in February. After a busy offseason in which the team re-made its offensive line, have the Chiefs given him adequate enough protection to again contend for the Lombardi Trophy?

● **Green Bay Packers** — Can Aaron Rodgers block out the tumult thoroughly enough to lead the Packers to a Super Bowl in what could be his final season in Green Bay?

● **Baltimore Ravens** — What kind of a leap will Lamar Jackson make as a passer after Baltimore upgraded its receiving corps this offseason? And will a slow start to camp caused by his COVID-19 quarantine come back to haunt him?

● **San Francisco 49ers** — How will Kyle Shanahan handle a timeshare quarterback situation with Jimmy Garoppolo and promising rookie Trey Lance?

● **Buffalo Bills** — Josh Allen led Buffalo to its first playoff win since 1995 and then got paid handsomely with a six-year, \$258 million contract extension. Now can he build on last year's MVP runner-up campaign and take the Bills further?

● **Seattle Seahawks** — Will a new offense equip Russell Wilson for greater success and help resolve his dissatisfaction with the franchise?

● **Cleveland Browns** — Can Baker Mayfield join the ranks of the elite after serving primarily as an up-and-down game manager for the bulk of his career? Can he and the Browns handle the weight of expectations following their first playoff victory in 26 years?

● **Los Angeles Rams** — Can Matthew Stafford deliver as the difference-making upgrade over Jared Goff that Sean McVay is counting on him to be?

● **Tennessee Titans** — Ryan Tannehill has a new offensive coordinator and an additional weapon in Julio Jones. But can he put the Titans over the top in the playoffs, and will he get the defensive help required to do so?

● **Pittsburgh Steelers** — After an

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Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) drops back to attempt a pass against the Atlanta Falcons.
JASEN VINLOVE/USA TODAY SPORTS