

HOCKEMEYER REX A  
 Form 4  
 May 17, 2005

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 HOCKEMEYER REX A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 8366 MEADOWLARK DRIVE  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/16/2005

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Executive Officer

WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	05/16/2005		M	V Amount (A) or (D) Price 350 A \$ 11.1355	12,851	D	
Common Stock					1,368.0035	I	401K
Common Stock					10,320	I	Restricted Stock Award(s)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. P Der Sec (Ins
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
1997 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.1355	05/16/2005		M	350	01/28/1998	01/28/2007	Common Stock	350
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1999	01/27/2008	Common Stock	2,541
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000	01/25/2009	Common Stock	1,155
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.56					01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	5,694
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.56					01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	7,798
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124					01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	6,244
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124					01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	1,631

2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,000
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	5,000
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	2,789

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HOCKEMEYER REX A 8366 MEADOWLARK DRIVE WEST CHESTER, OH 45069			Executive Officer	

## Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel                      05/17/2005

           \*\*Signature of                      Date  
Reporting Person

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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