

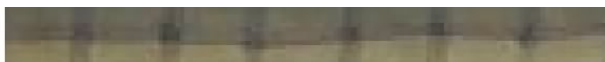
Fremont Ross returns excited and optimistic this year after a frustrating 1-13 season in 2008.

The Little Giants return six players from last year's team, including Jacob Garlock, Ricky Ramirez and Jason Rexroth. Though the Little Giants are young, coach Lisa Wolfe is anticipating the new season.

"We are very excited about a new season with great expectations," Wolfe said. "Erica (Wolfe, assistant coach and Lisa's daughter) is working the boys very hard at conditioning and weights, but also learning mental toughness."

The Little Giants welcome three freshmen to the roster, making for a very young team.

"We are varsity inexperienced with this team," Wolfe said. "They certainly understand the team



SJCC's Chris Wobser returns the concept and are very encouraging to each other."

Though they may be inexperienced, Coach Wolfe and her team are expecting an improvement from last season.

"The GBC is very strong this year, I look for a lot of close matches with scores of 3-2," Wolfe said.

After losing six seniors from last year, including the 2008 SBC doubles champion team of Danny Michaels and Tommy Stein, the Clyde Fliers come into the 2009 season as a young, athletic team.

BOYS TENNIS

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN 3, FREMONT ROSS 2

The Little Giants won matches at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, but dropped both doubles matches and the No. 3 singles contest Wednesday.

Malcolm Leake (No. 1 singles) and Ricky Ramirez (No. 2 singles) captured their wins in straight sets for Ross, which fell to 0-2 overall.

TENNIS

ROSS TOPS BOWLING GREEN

Malcolm Leake (No. 1 singles) dropped only one game as Fremont Ross's tennis team beat Bowling Green 3-2.

Michael Pickerel and David Gipe (No. 1 doubles) lost the first game before rebounding for a victory while Jacob Garlock and Tim Cheek (No. 2) won in straight sets for the Little Giants.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

■ ROSS 4, SJCC 1

Ross beats SJCC

BY JOHN CLEVINGER

News-Messenger correspondent

Before the season started, Fremont Ross tennis coach Lisa Wolfe expected lots of close matches.

On Thursday afternoon, the Little Giants (2-2) exceeded her expectation with a 4-1 victory over St. Joseph Central Catholic (3-4).

"I'm very proud of our first and second singles today. Chris (Wobser) and Matt (Barbour) have a lot of court experience as seniors and we knew it would be important to get points out of Malcolm (Leake) and Ricky (Ramirez)," said Wolfe.

Freshmen Malcolm Leake earned a victory over SJCC's Chris Wobser in two sets 6-2, 6-2.

"I just wanted to be consistent today and play the ball, not my opponent," Leake said. "I think a lot of the time, people think about the match too much and make mistakes. I just like to go out and play."

Ricky Ramirez picked up a point for Ross with his victory over Matt Barbour with a score of 6-1, 6-1.

"I'm happy with the effort our players put forth today," said SJCC coach Scott Knisely. "I told them before the match today that we finally got some nice weather and to go out and have fun and enjoy it."

"We didn't play as well as we wanted to today," said Barbour. "The wind and the highway makes it a bit of a challenge, but we just need to come out next time and play better."

Derek Dickman earned the only win for the Streaks with a win over Ross' Jacob Garlock with scores of 7-5, 6-3.

"Our doubles teams did a nice job for us today," Wolfe said. "I'm extremely proud of the second doubles team of Jordan Martin and Tim Cheek. They were down early, but didn't give up and got a point for us."

Martin and Cheek defeated Sam Hossler and John Koeing in three sets, 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.

The first singles team of Jason Rexroth and Michael Pickerel defeated SJCC's Tyler Cleveland and Paul Wendt in two sets by the scores of 6-1, 6-4.



RAMIREZ

LITTLE GIANTS FALL

Malcolm Leake (No. 1 singles) and Ricky Ramirez (No. 2) won in straight sets but Ross's tennis team fell to Napoleon 3-2 as it opened with a conference match.

Tennis

High School

Sandusky 5, Ross 0

Singles

1. Travis Steinemann (S) def Malcolm Leake (FR) 6-0, 6-1
2. Eric Hille (S) def Ricky Ramirez (FR) 6-3, 6-0
3. Jimmy Mears (S) def Jason Rexroth (FR) 6-2, 6-4

Doubles

1. Aaron Hixson/ Nick Cundiff (S) def Michael Pickerel/David Gipe (FR) 6-2, 6-0
2. Victor Groot/Karl Fleck (S) def Erik Paulson/Tim Cheek (FR) 6-1, 6-0

Findlay 4, Ross 1

Singles

1. Chikara OShima (Fi) def. Malcolm Leake (R) 6-2, 6-2
2. Connor Hoban (Fi) def. Jordan Martin (R) 6-0, 6-0
3. Justin Hu (Fi) def. Tim Cheek (R) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

1. Ricky Ramirez-Jason Rexroth (R) def. Layne Martin-Mandela Sheaffer (Fi) 6-3, 6-4
2. Joey Armand-Hayden Gephart (Fi) def. David Gipe-Michael Pickerel (R) 6-1, 6-2.

Records: Ross 2-4, (0-3 GBC).

Crimson Streaks 6th at Port Clinton

BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

PORT CLINTON — St. Joseph Central Catholic's Matt Barbour and Chris Wobser (No. 1), and Derek Dickman and Paul Wendt (No. 3) finished fourth as the Crimson Streaks finished the eight-team Port Clinton Doubles Tournament in sixth place Friday.

"They charged the net well," Wobser said. "They took control at the net. We hadn't really seen that."

Barbour said the opposition in the match for third did well hitting winners.

"Once they'd get to the net they were good at splitting us up and getting points we weren't covering."

Barbour and Wobser fell to Napoleon's Ben Hoffman and Jason Wenner 8-1 for fourth while Dickman and Wendt lost to St. Mary Central Catholic's Jacob Marsinick and Collin Ebert 8-5.

Ricky Ramirez and Jason Rexroth (No. 1), and Michael Pickerel and Malcolm Leake (No. 2) finished sixth as Ross was seventh.

"We started out really well," Leake said of the match for fifth. "We missed some important shots and it caught up to us. Overall, we had a pretty good day."

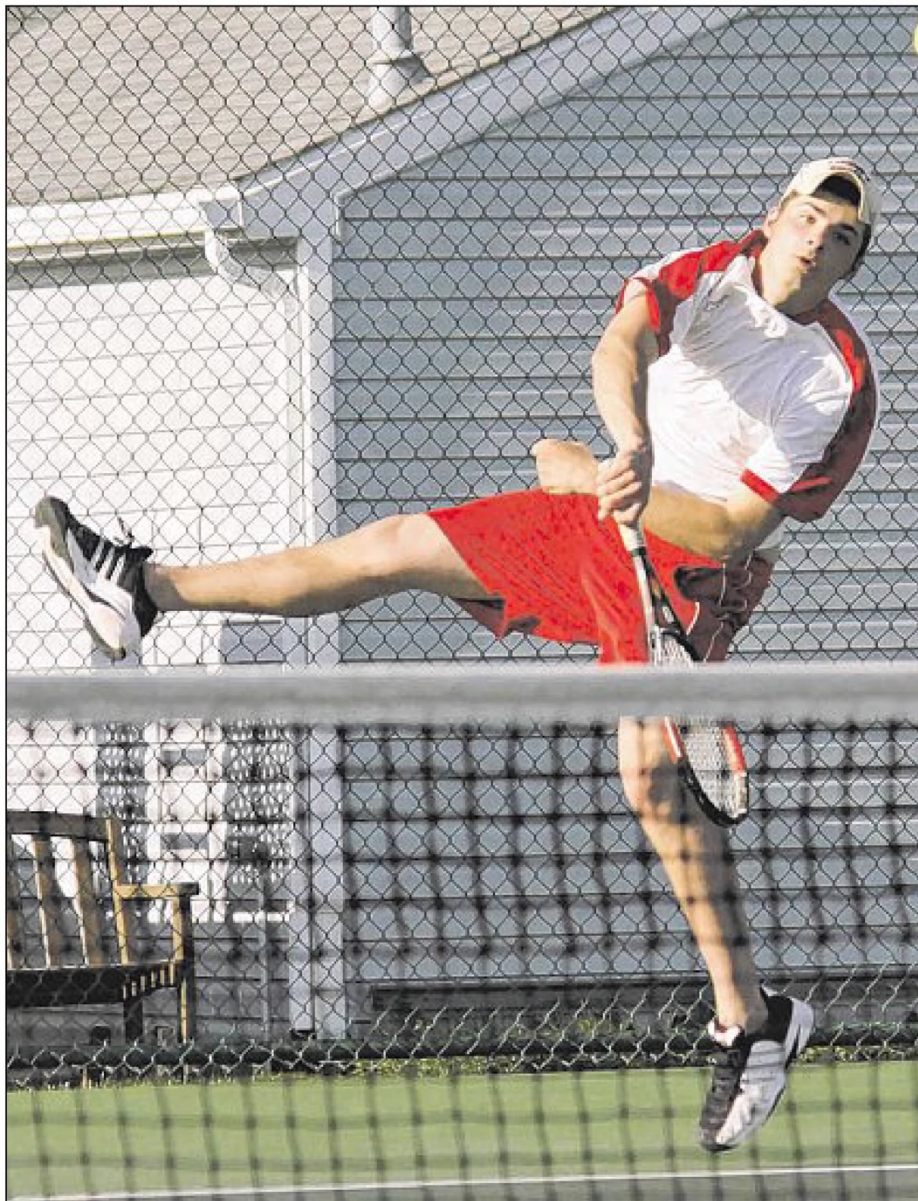
Jordan Frank and Tyler Cleveland (No. 2), and John Koeing and Sam Hossler (No. 4) finished seventh for SJCC.

Jacob Garlock and Tim Cheek (No. 3), and David Gipe and Curtis Hinsch (No. 4) were eighth for the Little Giants.

Koeing and Hossler defeated Gipe and Hinsch 8-3 for seventh.

Games in the winners' bracket were played to 10 while those in the losers' bracket were played to eight. Each doubles pair played three one-game matches.

St. John's Jesuit won the tournament.



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Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent
SJCC senior Chris Wobser smacks the ball during the doubles matches Friday at Port Clinton.

BOYS TENNIS ■ ROUNDUP

Little Giants stop Crimson Streaks

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — Four of five matches went to Fremont Ross during a non-conference dual against St. Joseph Central Catholic on Monday.

The Little Giants won both doubles matches as Jason Rexroth and Michael Pickerel defeated Jordan Frank and Paul Wendt 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 and Jacob Garlock and David Gipe upended Sam Hossler and Paul Blohm 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Ross's Malcolm Leake knocked off Chris Wobser 6-0, 6-1 in the No. 1 singles match and Ricky Ramirez needed three sets to stop Matthew Barbour 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 at No. 2.

SJCC No. 3 singles player Jordan Martin was a 6-3 6-1 victor against Derek Dickman.

Ross improved to 3-4 overall.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TENNIS

■ ROUNDUP

Ramirez, Martin record victories for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

MARION — Ricky Ramirez (No. 2 singles) and Jordan Martin (No. 3 singles) won their respective matches as Fremont Ross dropped a 3-2 Greater Buckeye Conference decision at Marion Harding on Wednesday.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TENNIS

■ ROUNDUP

Ross Little Giants sweep Lima Senior for GBC victory

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT — In a Greater Buckeye Conference makeup match, Fremont Ross swept Lima Senior 5-0 on Monday at Alumni Fields.

Malcolm Leake (No. 1 singles) and Ricky Ramirez (No. 2 singles) won their matches in straight sets for the Little Giants. Jordan Martin (No. 3 singles) posted a victory by default.

In doubles action, Jason Rexroth and Michael Pickerel (No. 1) and Jacob Garlock and David Gipe (No. 2) recorded wins for Ross in straight sets.

The Little Giants are 4-5 overall and 1-4 against the GBC.

TENNIS

Malcolm Leake looked strong at first singles, and the Fremont Ross doubles teams both won as the Little Giants beat Clyde 3-2 in a non-conference tennis match Wednesday.

Ricky Ramirez and Jason Rexroth won in straight sets over Jeremy Hohenstein and Blaine MacFarland, 6-0, 6-4, and Michael Pickerel and David Gipe beat Cody McGrath and Zack Downing 7-6, 6-4.

Tan Pontangpong and Adam Turner were singles winners for the Fliers.

and Goetz beat Showalter and Francis 6-0, 6-2 in the semifinals while Witt and Wasserman topped Que and Cahlik 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals.

Each of the Redskins' doubles players were recognized on the second team.

GBC TOURNAMENT

FREMONT — With 27

points, Findlay won the team championship ahead Sandusky (24) and Napoleon (21) at the Greater Buckeye Conference Tournament on Saturday at Alumni Fields.

Fremont Ross and Marion Harding tied for fourth with nine points while Lima Senior, which was held scoreless, was last.

In singles play, the Little

Giants received a second-place effort from Rickey Ramirez (No. 2), a third-place performance from Malcolm Leake (No. 1) and a fifth-place finish from Jordan Martin (No. 3).

The Ross doubles teams — Jason Rexroth and Michael Pickerel (No. 1) and Jacob Garlock and David Gipe (No. 2) — placed fourth.



Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger

Fremont Ross's Jason Rexroth returns the ball during a match against Oak Harbor on Monday.

Rockets take out Ross

BY JOHN CLEVINGER

News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT — Although the Oak Harbor defeated Fremont Ross 5-0 in Monday afternoon at Alumni Fields, the matches were closer than the final score indicates.

"There were a lot of good matches today," said Rockets coach Rick LaFountain after Oak Harbor improved to 11-2 this season. "The first singles match (between Greg LaFountain and Malcolm Leake) was close, along with the first doubles match."

Probably the most intriguing match of the day was the first singles contest.

LaFountain took the first set 6-3, then won the second 7-5.

"Malcolm is a great player and never gives up," said Greg LaFountain. "The second set was very close, (Leake) ran down a lot of balls and I just had to keep playing and keep my shots in play."

Both coaches were happy with the match and were quick to give credit to both players.

"Malcolm and Greg is always a great match and very fun to watch," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "They were both raised to hit against each other and play against each other in the offseason in tournaments, so they know each other's style."

A battle at first doubles was taking place a couple of courts over.

Oak Harbor's team of Derek Witt and Brandon Wasserman defeated Ross's Ricky Ramirez and Jason Rexroth 7-5, 6-2.

"I was highly impressed with the play of Rexroth and Ramirez," LaFountain said. "They did a nice job today and deserve all the credit they get."

Oak Harbor's Bobby Lochotzki defeated Jordan Martin 6-0, 6-0 to give the Rockets an early edge in the match.

"I thought I played very well today, and so did Jordan," Lochotzki said. "I just wanted to come out, play my game and put the ball in play. I had a lot of momentum coming off of this weekend and I wanted to keep it going."

Lochotzki teamed with Cliff Goetz to win the Sandusky Bay Conference Doubles title at Baywinds in Sandusky.

Goetz shut out David Gipe 6-0, 6-0 and Oak Harbor's second doubles team of Kevin Young and Christoph Koeglmayr defeated Jacob Garlock and Michael Pickerel 6-2, 7-5.

"Today, we played our sectional line-up to give our players a feel for the tournament and also to get used to where they'll be playing," Wolfe said. "Oak Harbor is a very talented team and are very deep."

The Little Giants enter sectional play Thursday, while the Rockets are looking forward to a rematch with Port Clinton on Friday.

"I think, other than sectionals, all of our players are looking forward to Friday and our match with Port Clinton," Rick LaFountain said. "The last match we played against them was 3-2 and we lost on a doubles match that went three sets. We want to avenge that loss badly."

LEAKE EARNS VICTORY

Malcolm Leake won in two sets at No. 1 singles but Fremont Ross's tennis team fell to Ashland 4-1.

Leake, who earned second-team all-Greater Buckeye Conference status this season along with Ricky Ramirez, is the top seed in the Division I sectional tournament and has a bye to the second round.

The Little Giants' Jordan Martin plays Ashland's Michael Rueger in the first round.

TENNIS ROSS'S LEAKE PLAYS SATURDAY

Fremont Ross's Malcolm Leake won two matches in three sets in the Division I sectional tennis tournament.

Leake faces top-seed Nicky Wong of Lexington on Saturday.