

Ross 3rd in BC; Michaels top coach

News-Messenger Reports

SANDUSKY — The Ross girls tennis team registered a third-place finish in the Buckeye Conference Tennis Tournament at Sandusky High School Saturday, but with a little luck it could've been better, according to Coach Pete Michaels.

"We lost some very close matches," said Michaels. "We should've finished second, and maybe we could've won the thing because a couple of those close matches we lost were to Findlay."

Findlay ended up running away with the team title as expected. The Lady Trojans had 120 points, second-place Admiral King had 72 and Ross had 70.

The rest of the team standings were

Marion Harding 58, Sandusky 38, Elyria 32 and Lorain Senior 20.

There was some personal consolation for Michaels, however. The longtime Ross mentor was voted Buckeye Conference Coach of the Year by his peers. This is just the second year for the award.

"It's quite an honor," said Michaels. "It was only through the good play of my girls that I was able to win it."

Julie Young and the first doubles team of Jolene Gamertsfelder and Kim White led Ross with a pair of second-place performances Saturday.

Young, who played 84 games the entire day, was involved in one of her team's close losses, dropping a 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 decision to

Admiral King's Amy Tyler in the finals. If the match had gone the other way, Ross would've finished second and King third.

Gamertsfelder and White, meanwhile, fell 6-3, 6-3 to Findlay's Tonya Bott and Kelli Hinkle in the finals.

Another tough loss for Ross came in third singles where Jennifer Miesle fell 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 to Marion's Amy Stout in the semifinals.

Ross's other two entrants — first singles player Gail Stark and the second doubles team of Lisa Manahan and Sarah Hull — each lost straight-set decisions to Findlay opponents in the semifinals.

"I was pleased with our play," said Michaels. "We scored in all five events."