

# Age swing

## Partners are 3 years apart

By BRIAN SPIESS  
Sports editor

Fremont Ross might get seven years worth of wins out of Neil Sachs.

The senior doubles player hopes for two more today at the district tennis meet at Bowling Green State University. He will compete with freshman teammate Jay Farrell.

The duo is separated by three years in age, which their coach believes benefitted the younger Farrell this year — and beyond.

"Neil's experience has helped Jay out," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "And it's going to help Jay next year too."

The two players admitted that success has not been automatic this year, however. They finished the season 10-17 at No. 1 doubles, where they were often lacked the continuity of their opponents.

"Most first doubles teams have played together for at least two years," Farrell said.

Sachs and Farrell do not share the same friends, hang outs or classes. They do not even share the same school building.

Farrell remains at the Fremont Junior High School for his ninth-grade year while Sachs prepares to leave the high school.

"It's more fun getting the chance to be around the high school people," said Farrell, noticeably shorter and fairer than his partner.

After the first four or five matches, the age difference went away.

"Napoleon," they chimed in together when asked when they started to play well. The 6-0, 6-4 win put them on a roll which took them into the sectional semifinals last weekend at Sandusky.

Now they face a doubles team from Toledo St. John's which includes the team's typical No. 1 and 2 singles players. Junior Bill Flower will compete in singles.

If all three do not advance, the team can look forward to next year, when they return six letter winners.

Some of them — like Farrell — may draw from Sachs' experience for the next three years.



**JAY FARRELL**, left, and Neil Sachs of Fremont Ross will compete today in the Division I District Tennis Tournament at Bowling Green State University. The two play a doubles team from Toledo St. John's. Junior Bill Flower will compete in the singles competition today.

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Meanwhile, it was a quick exit for Fremont Ross singles player Bill Flower and the Ross doubles team of Jay Farrell and Neil Sachs.

Craig Burkhart of Sylvania Northview defeated Flower 6-2, 6-4 in their opening-round match. Burkhart defeated Flower twice before this season.

"He made it a little interesting," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "In the second set, he was down 4-1 and made it 4-all. He got broke at 4-all and Burkhart served out the match.

Josh Weinstein and Matt Arthur of Toledo St. John's defeated Farrell and Sachs 6-0, 6-1.

"The score was pretty much indicative of how they played," LaFountain said. "We didn't play real well but it would have taken a super-human effort to win."