

# Little Giant tennis team has experience, talent

By **BOB MARKER**

Reporting for The News-Messenger

A nucleus of five returning lettermen will lead the Ross High School boys tennis team this spring.

Seniors John Battles and Tom Herlihy and juniors Tom Myers, Ramon Eickert and Kevin Brooks are the lettermen on which Coach Pete Michaels will be building the fortunes of the Little Giants.

"Right now," Michaels assessed his team's practices, "the kids are playing good tennis. I don't want to put them out on a limb or anything, but they are playing well."

"All of them are hustling," the Ross coach continued. "There were 27 kids out and I cut down to 17. Four of the ones that were cut asked if they could stay out and practice with the team. I have allowed that because they could develop into better players somewhere down the line."

The Little Giants open today at 4 p.m., at Tiffin Columbian.

Myers, Battles and Eickert will open at the first through third singles, respectively, for Michaels.

"All three singles players are returning from last year's team," Michaels said. "Eickert and Myers played singles last year, but they also saw doubles action."

In doubles, Brooks has the most experience. He will be teamed with junior John Cahill, out for the sport for the first time. The first doubles team will be comprised of non-lettering senior Brian Casselman and sophomore Mark Moyer. Herlihy could work his way onto one of the doubles teams at some point in the season, Michaels said.

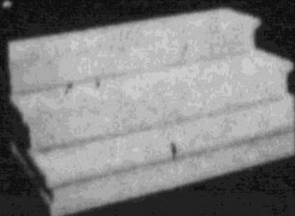
"The second doubles team —

Brooks and Cahill — is very quick," Michaels described. "There is no shot they feel they cannot return. Moyer, in the first doubles, is as good a sophomore as I have right now."

"With five of the top seven being lettermen, I think it will be hard to move them (out of the lineup)," the Ross coach projected, "but I feel that several of them will be challenged."

Michaels said he feels his team will "play some good tennis."

"It all depends on how much they want to win," he said. "All of the players possess good fundamentals; the rest of their game is on top of their shoulders."

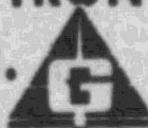


## CENTURY STEPS

- Convenient
- Long Lasting
- Light and Easy Handling

**THE GOTTRON  
BROS. CO.**

100 S. STONE ST.  
FREMONT 332-6363



---

# Tennis

---

---

## High school

---

### Columbian 3, Ross 2

#### SINGLES

Tom Myers (R) d. Lee Learned 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

Eric Eichhorn (C) d. John Battles 6-7, 6-2, 6-

4.

Kirk Sayger (C) d. Ramon Eichert 6-3, 5-7, 6-

3.

#### DOUBLES

Mike Avers and Brian Little (C) d. Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer 6-0, 6-3.

Kevin Brooks and John Cahill (R) d. Pete Gase and Ted Edmonds 6-3, 6-0.

Season record: Ross 0-1, Columbian 4-0.

# Nets teams are beaten

## News-Messenger Reports

Pete Michaels had a feeling his team could win but it did not pay off as his Ross team lost in one of two area high school tennis matches Friday.

Sylvania Northview stopped the Little Giants 3-2 and in the other match, Port Clinton handed Fremont St. Joe a 4-1 setback.

"I felt we could have beaten them," the Ross coach said. "We were up 5-3 in the first set in the second-singles match and we led in both sets of the first doubles match."

But in both cases, the Little Giants, 0-2, fell.

Mark Schwartz of Southview battled back from a 5-3 deficit in the first set to defeat John Battles of Ross 7-6, 7-2 in the tie-breaker, and 6-0. In the first doubles match, Lloyd Klosendorf and Ryan Churdar trailed the Ross duo of Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer in both sets before winning 6-3, 7-5.

Ramon Eichert defeated Craig Findley of Northview 6-1, 6-3 for one Ross point. The second Ross point was taken by Kevin Brooks and John Cahill at second doubles, 6-1, 6-1 over Paul Miller and Jeff DeVilbiss.

---

# Tennis

---

---

## High school

---

### Ross 3, Marion Harding 2

#### SINGLES

Tom Myers (R) d. Lamont Thurston 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Mike Schmidt (MH) d. John Battles 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Ramon Eickert (R) d. Joe Stuart 6-2, 6-3.

#### DOUBLES

Matt Alexander and Tom Toney (MH) d. Brian Casselman and Mark moyer 6-3, 6-7, 6-1.

John Cahill and Kevin Brooks (R) d. Brian Huron and J.J. Wack 6-4, 6-0.

Season records: Ross 1-2, Marion 3-6.

---

# Tennis

---

---

## High school boys

---

### Perkins 3, Ross 2

#### SINGLES

Tom Tomasula (P) d. Tom Myers 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Jim Swain (P) d. John Battles 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

Ramon Eichert (R) d. Glen Nielsen 6-7 (7-5), 6-2, 6-1.

#### DOUBLES

Chad Green and Dave Tomasula (P) d. Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer 7-5, 6-2.

Kevin Brooks and John Cahill (R) d. Mike Burge and Rob Hammersmith 7-6 (13-11), 5-7, 6-1.

Season records: Ross 1-3, Perkins 11-1.

# Ross netters top Sandusky

## News-Messenger Reports

The Ross tennis team evened its record at 3-3 and won its second straight Buckeye Conference match with a 4-1 victory over Sandusky Thursday afternoon.

All four Ross wins came in straight sets.

In singles, Tom Myers, John Battles and Ramon Eickert picked up wins, and in doubles, the team of Kevin Brooks and John Cahill were victorious.

# Ross netters edge Clyde 3-2

St. Joe beaten  
by Fostoria 4-1

## News-Messenger Reports

The doubles team of John Cahill and Brian Casselman won in three sets to lift the Ross Little Giants past the Clyde Fliers 3-2 in one of two area high school tennis matches Tuesday afternoon.

After dropping the first set to Clyde's tandem of Dave Risner and Mark O'Donnell 6-2, the Ross duo bounced back to win the next two sets by the same score.

Ross picked up its other match points in the first and third singles court matches. Tom Myers of Ross defeated Tom Chong 6-1, 6-3 in the first singles and Ramon Eickert of the Little Giants stopped Dave LaBonte 6-3, 6-2 in the third singles match.

Clyde picked up a point from John Stahl, playing second singles, with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over John Battles.

Rob Ferrell and Kevin Zepernick, playing first court doubles for Clyde, defeated Tom Herlihy and Tom Bowlus 6-4, 6-3.

"We just could not hit the ball well," Ross Coach Pete Michaels said while noting that the wind affected both teams. "We did not hit good, sharp strokes; our shot selection was not the best.

"I was pleased with the way the (second) doubles team came back," Michaels said. "Once they settled down, they were OK."



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

**TOM MYERS**, No. 1 singles player for Ross, sends a backhand shot to his opponent during action at Rodger Young Park Monday.

Casselman was inserted into the doubles slot because Cahill's regular partner, Kevin Brooks, was ill.

Ross is 4-3 and Clyde 8-2.

In the other match, Fostoria defeated St. Joseph Central Catholic 4-1.

Tom Lupica and Bryan Zienta,

playing first court doubles, got St. Joe's match points with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Bob Wenzinger and Bryon Crump.

In the second singles match, Mike Eynon of Fostoria was pushed to three sets before defeating Dick Mayle 6-7 (7-2), 6-2, 6-0.

# Bellevue blanked by Ross

## News-Messenger Reports

Ross stroked its way to its first tennis shutout of the season Tuesday at Bellevue, blanking the Redmen 5-0.

In another area match, Clyde defeated Calvert 4-1 in a key Sandusky Bay Conference clash.

Ross was pushed to three sets in only one match, the first doubles. Tom Herlihy and Tom Bowlus of Ross won that match 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 over Jon Todd and Brian Hicks.

In other matches, Tom Myers of the Little Giants defeated Steve Bowles in straight 6-1 sets in the first singles match and John Battles of Ross stopped Ken Fox 6-0, 6-2 in the second court singles match. Ramon Eickert, third singles player for Ross, won his match 6-0, 6-2 over Tom Chase.

The final Ross point came in the second doubles with Brian Casselman and John Cahill defeating Seth Weibel and Matt Hoersten 6-1, 6-1.

Ross is 5-3.

## Ross netters lose by one again

The frustrating string of one-point losses continues for the Ross tennis team.

The Little Giants lost their fourth 3-2 decision of the season to the Marion Harding Presidents at Rodger Young Park Wednesday.

All four of Ross's losses this season have been by one point. The Giants have won five matches.

Another frustrating aspect to yesterday's loss was the fact that the Giants had beaten the Prexies earlier this season, by the same 3-2 count.

Everything went the same yesterday as it did before, except in No. 1 singles. Last time Ross ace Tom Myers beat Marion's Lamont Thurston in three sets, but this time Thurston got the best of his counterpart 7-5, 6-3.

Victories for Ross were turned in by Ramon Eickert, who beat Joe Stuart 6-2, 6-4 in third singles, and Kevin Brooks and John Cahill, who teamed up to blank Paul Carr and Steve Ropel 6-0, 6-0 in second doubles.

Marion is now 9-7.

# St. Joe wins No. 1; Ross, Clyde pick up high school net victories

## News-Messenger Reports

Gary Bowman was reluctant to show any jubilation but it was close to the surface.

Bowman, coach of the St. Joseph Central Catholic High School boys tennis team, was cautiously savoring his team's first win in 10 matches, a 3-2 squeaker over Norwalk St. Paul.

"It got windy at the end," is all Bowman would say. He added that Tom Lupica, a member of the first court doubles team, has now played in four straight winning matches but that was the extent of his celebrating.

The St. Joe win was one of three area matches. In the others, Ross defeated Port Clinton 4-1 and Clyde blanked Lake 5-0.

After losing the first two singles matches, St. Joe's Dick Mayle picked up the first match point, defeating Rick Betuker 6-4, 6-2 in the third court singles match.

In the doubles, Lupica and Bryan Zineta stopped St. Paul's Tom Collier and Jeff Young 6-2, 6-3. St. Joe's Craig Sheets and Sharon Eugenio, playing number two doubles, defeated Pete Mainzer and Tim Marksbury in three sets 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

**Ross .....4**

**Port Clinton .....1**

Ross and Port Clinton avoid the spotty rain showers that fell late Tuesday afternoon but

could not avoid the wind.

"It was a very windy afternoon," Ross Coach Peter Michaels said. "It really blew."

That wind failed to hamper the domination of Ross's singles players. The three, Tom Myers, John Battles and Ramon Eichert, lost only two games in the three match. Myers defeated Franz Messner 6-1, 6-0, Battles polished off Chuck Arndell 6-0, 6-1 and Eichert flattened B.J. Dupps 6-0, 6-0.

Ross's final point was in the second doubles where Kevin Brooks and John Cahill defeated Greg Voight and Bill Wuersig 6-0, 6-2.

**Clyde .....5**

**Lake .....0**

Clyde had a tough time but till pulled off the shutout.

John Stahl, first singles court, pulled off a 6-2, 7-6 win over Sean Walsh to set the tone of the match for Clyde.

Tom Chog defeated Doug Ramsey 6-3, 6-0 at second singles and Ron Ritzman fought off Jeff Neff 6-3, 6-3 to win the third court singles match for the Fliers.

In doubles, play tightened. Rob Ferrell and Kevin Zepernick, first court, defeated Lake's Steve Goddard and Norm Jovanovich 6-1, 7-5, and the Flier's Mark O'Donnell and Dave Risner fought off Matt Daniels and Brad Moritz 7-5, 6-2.



ROSS BOYS tennis team members are, left to right, front row: Dave Hefflinger, Tim Swartz, Mark Moyer, Mike Dixon, Tom Herlihy, John Battles, Tom Bowlus, Steve Schwartz; back row:

Ramon Eickert, Tom Myers, John Cahill, Brian Casselman, Kevin Brooks and Coach Pete Michaels. Team members not in the photo are Don Hoppert, Jim Darr and Eric Lilley.

## BC tennis tourney Saturday

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Individually, Coach Pete Michaels is hoping his players do well, but as a team, he is guessing.

"It all depends on the draw," he said while discussing Saturday's Buckeye Conference Tennis Tournament at Sandusky High School.

Michaels, whose team is 5-4, pointed out that the Little Giants have seen only Marion Harding and Sandusky this season.

"The Findlay match was

rained out," he said, "but I believe they will be strong and I think Admiral King should also be strong."

Michaels said that every team will probably have at least one strong individual.

One of the top individuals coming back is defending first court singles champ Dave Binder of Lorain Senior.

Ross's best shots at a championship will come in the third court singles and the second doubles, said Michaels.

Ramon Eickert, a senior,

carries Ross's colors in third singles. Kevin Brooks and John Cahill will carry an unbeaten 10-0 mark as the Little Giants' second court doubles entry.

Other Little Giants figuring to be in the tourney include Tom Myers in the first court singles and John Battles at second singles. The team playing in first court doubles may still be in doubt.

Tom Herlihy and Tom Bowlus form one possible tandem while Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer make up the other.



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

JOHN CAHILL, one-half of Ross's runner-up forehand during the finals match at Sandusky Buckeye Conference doubles teams, strokes a Saturday.

## Brooks-Cahill tandem leads Ross to 4th-place BC finish

### News-Messenger Reports

Kevin Brooks and John Cahill finished second in the Buckeye Conference Tennis Tournament at Sandusky High School Saturday.

Findlay was the team champ, racking up 110 points to Admiral King's 90. Lorain was third with 84, Ross next at 46, followed by Marion Harding with 40, Sandusky at 32 and Elyria on the bottom with eight.

"I was a little disappointed," Ross Coach Pete Michaels admitted, "but I did pick us to finish third or fourth."

The junior combination of Brooks and Cahill, the most surprising duo on the Little Giants this season, finished runner-up in the second court doubles, losing to the Findlay tandem of Doug Hosey and Matt Semeyh 6-3, 6-4 in the finals.

What made Brooks and Cahill's effort stand out is the fact that they both possess little court experience. Brooks has the most experience of the two, playing in Ross's final six matches in 1985. Cahill is in his first year of tennis.

In spite of those credentials, the Ross duo was unbeaten and

### Tennis roundup

top-seeded in the second court lineup. Brooks and Cahill took an 11-0 record into the match against the third seeded Findlay pair.

After a first-round bye, Brooks and Cahill defeated Gary Wechter and Jeff Russell of Sandusky 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinals.

Ross had a third-place finish in the first court singles from Tom Myers. After losing to Bob Cook of Findlay 6-1, 6-1 in the first round, Myers came back to win the consolation bracket with a pair of pro set wins. He stopped Marlon Mayuyg of Elyria 11-9 in the consolation semi-finals and Kevin Kraus of Sandusky 10-1 in the finals.

John Battles, Ross's second court singles player, lost to Bart Cera of Lorain 6-2, 6-2 in the first round but came back to win his first consolation match 10-1 over Rich Runser of Elyria. In the semifinals, Battles lost to Chuck Reed of Sandusky 10-1.

Ramon Eickert of Ross won his third courts singles first

round match 6-2, 6-1 to Chad Hamrlik of Lorain but was felled in the second round by Sean Swisher of Findlay 6-4, 7-5.

The Little Giants' first doubles team of Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer lost to the Findlay pair of Emilio Soli and Scott Hehr 6-1, 6-1 in the first round.

Meanwhile, at the Sandusky Bay Conference tournament at Perkins High School Saturday, the host Pirates claimed three All-Conference spots, while Clyde managed to grab one selection.

The Fliers doubles team of Rob Ferrell and Kevin Zeperneck earned conference honors with their second-place finish. The Clyde duo fell to Chad Greene and Dave Tomasula of Perkins in the doubles final 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Another Clyde member, John Stahl, just missed conference honors when he lost in the consolation singles finals to Perkins' Jim Swain 7-5, 1-6, 6-4. Huron's Jeff Wolfe won the singles title by defeating Tom Tomasula of Perkins in the championship match 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

# Little Giants netters bull over Port Clinton

## News-Messenger Reports

Dave Miller could see light in the gloom.

"Well, the last time we played them, our singles players won only three games," the coach recalled after his Port Clinton High School tennis team lost to Ross 4-1 Monday, "but in this match, they won 10 games."

In the singles matches, Tom Myers of Ross stopped Franz Messner 6-3, 6-1 in the first court match. Ramon Eickert of the Little Giants set Chuck Arndell down 6-1, 6-0 at number two singles and Ross's John Battles defeated B.J. Dupps 6-3, 6-2.

Kevin Brooks and John Cahill of Ross ran their record to 13-1

with straight 6-0 set verdicts over Greg Voight and John Hopfinger in the second court doubles match.

John Crisologo and Joe Voight, playing first court doubles for the Redskins, salvaged Port Clinton's match point. The Redskin duo defeated Brian Casselman and Mark Moyer in straight 6-2 sets.

"Well, we beat him twice last year," Miller said about his duel with Ross Coach Pete Michaels, "so he got us back twice this year."

Ross swept the four junior varsity matches.

The win put Ross at 6-4 while Port Clinton dropped to 4-11.

## Findlay netters blank Ross

**FINDLAY** — The Ross Little Giants dropped a pair of three-set decisions on their way to a 5-0 loss to the Findlay Trojans in high school tennis action Tuesday.

Tom Myers won the first set 6-4 over Findlay's Bob Cook in first singles, but Cook came back to win the final two sets 6-2, 6-4.

In second doubles, Ross's Kevin Brooks and John Cahill also won the first set 6-4, but Findlay's tandem of Doug Hosey and Sean Swisher rallied to win the last two sets 6-2, 6-3.

Another close match came in third singles where Ross's John Battles lost 7-5, 6-3 to Matt Semeyn.

Ross is now 6-5 while Findlay is 8-5.

# Ross, Clyde win net finales

## News-Messenger Reports

Pete Michaels made the discovery too late.

"We should have played in the rain," he chuckled after his Ross High School tennis team closed out the season with a 5-0 win over Bellevue at the Rodger Young Park courts Tuesday.

The match, which was in doubt early in the afternoon because of the intermittent drizzle, was plagued by the on-and-off watery weather.

"I had some real rain players out there," Michael said after the shutout, which gave the Little Giants a 7-5 record.

The Little Giants lost just three games during the match, which Michaels called "senior day." The three Ross seniors —

John Battles, Brian Casselman and Tom Herlihy — chose which singles or doubles they wanted to play.

Battles stopped Jon Todd 6-1, 6-0 in the second court singles while Casselman teamed up with Ramon Eickert to form the first doubles team. That combo blanked the Bellevue tandem of Matt Hoersten and Tom Chase 6-0, 6-0.

Herlihy and John Cahill played second doubles, downing Robbie Kessler and Tim Hoover 6-1, 6-1.

In the other singles skirmishes, Tom Myers of Ross defeated Seth Weibel in straight 6-0 sets in the first court, and Kevin Brooks, playing his first singles match of the season, defeated Ken Fox 6-0, 6-0 in the

third court. Brooks and Cahill comprised Ross's second doubles team through most of the season.

Michaels' team lost three matches to rain this season and four of the five losses were by 3-2 counts.

"So really," he pointed out, "it has been a good season."

Clyde also concluded its season yesterday with a 4-1 victory over St. Mary's.

The Fliers got victories from Kevin Zepernick in first singles, Dave Risner in third singles, John Stahl and Mark O'Donnell in first doubles, and Tom Chong and Greg Harmon in second doubles.

Clyde finished the year with a sparkling 13-3 ledger.