

Ross wins first match

Fremont Ross's girls tennis team defeated Tiffin Columbian 3-2 in its first match Tuesday.

Ainsley Watkins won at first singles and the doubles teams of **Natalie Wolfe** and **Jenny Schaaf** and **Morgan Carnicom** and **Sarah Rhodes** also won.

Ross defeats Fostoria 5-0

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross did not allow Fostoria to win a game at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles as the Little Giants opened Great Lakes League season with a 5-0 win.

Andreqa Andrews defeated Sarah Scheeter 6-0, 6-0, Ainsley

Watkins

defeated Anna

Schlesselman

6-3, 6-4 and Gina Melchiori defeated Katie Droll 6-2, 6-0 in singles.

In doubles, Courtney LaBenne and Morgan Carnicom defeated Keelee Shontz and Missy Gilliland 6-0, 6-1 and Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf defeated Erika Heisler and Jenni Blose 6-0, 6-0.

Ross improved to 2-0 overall (GLL 1-0).

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Girls Tennis

Fremont Ross 5, Fostoria 0

Singles

1—Andrea Andrews def. Sarah Scheeter 6-0, 6-0; 2—Ainsley Watkins def. Anna Schlesselman 6-3, 6-4; 3—Gina Melchiori def. Katie Droll 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles

1—Courtney LaBenne and Morgan Carnicom def. Keelee Shontz and Missy Gilliland 6-0, 6-1; 2—Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf def. Erika Heisler and Jenni Blose 6-0, 6-0.

Record—Fremont Ross 2-0 (GLL 1-0)

Giants win third straight match

News-Messenger reports

Andi Andrews lost just one game at No. 1 singles as Fremont Ross defeated Bowling Green 3-2 Monday.

The Little Giants (3-0) also got wins from Ainsley Watkins and the doubles team of Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf.

Andrews, a senior, defeated Sarah Kaplan 6-1, 6-0. Watkins, playing No. 2 singles, defeated

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Julia Klein 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5). Ross's Wolfe and Schaaf beat Crystal Fong and Hillary Smith 6-2, 1-6, 6-2.

Girls Tennis

Fremont Ross 3, B. Green 2

Singles

1—Andi Andrews (FR) def. Sarah Kaplan 6-1, 6-0; 2—Ainsley Watkins (FR) def. Julia Klein 6-2, 5-7, 7-6, (7-5); 3—Annie Corrigan (BG) def. Gina Melchiori 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles

1—Jenny Nagle and Allison Emery (BG) def. Courtney LaBenne and Morgan Carnicom 7-5, 6-4; 2—Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf (FR) def. Crystal Fong and Hillary Smith 6-2, 1-6, 6-2.

Records—Fremont Ross 3-0

Ross 5, Whitmer 0

Fremont Ross remained unbeaten in four matches with a 5-0 win against Toledo Whitmer.

Andi Andrews dropped just two games in a first singles win, and Ainsley Watkins and Gina Melchiori also won for the Little Giants (4-0, 2-0 Great Lakes League).

Morgan Carnicom and Courtney LaBenne won at No. 1 doubles and Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf were victorious at No. 2 doubles.

Oak Harbor 3, Port Clinton 2

Oak Harbor girls tennis coach Rick LaFountain knew his team's match with Port Clinton would lead to a 3-2 score.

Fortunately for LaFountain, the Rockets got the three.

Oak Harbor's Mindy Harsha beat Gretchen Bredbeck at No. 2 singles and both Rockets doubles teams won to clinch the win.

"I think our doubles teams are coming together right now," LaFountain said. "Lisa Wegman and Chrissy Hemminger (No. 1 doubles) are experienced, but LeeAnn Cecil and Lindsay Daft are playing better every match."

Wegman and Hemminger beat Port Clinton's Amanda Maloney and Sarah Fitzthum 6-1, 6-1, while Cecil and Daft earned a 6-3, 6-3 win against Amanda Kozlok and Jackie Pinks.

Port Clinton's Laura Kokinda beat Holly Lorensen 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles and Megan Straw won the other Redskins' point with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win against Brenda Bowersox.

Ross 5, Whitmer 0

Singles

1—Andi Andrew def. Lindsey Heigel 6-1, 6-1; 2—Ainsley Watkins def. Leslie Boyd 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; 3—Gina Melchiori def. Dawn Dunlop 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles

1—Morgan Carnicom/Courtney LaBenne def. Elizabeth Edinger/Amanda Black 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; 2—Natalie Wolfe/Jenny Schaaf def. Kendra Case/Maureen Case 6-2, 7-5.

RECORD—Ross 4-0 (2-0).

Ross JV Winners—Rachael Stout and Brittany Ford, Nicole Wolfe and Laura Papalia, Sarah Rhodes and Amanda Wingo, Christy Weiker and Sheri Pollock, and Sara Mitchell and Brittany Ford.

Andi Andrews lost just one game at No. 1 singles and Fremont Ross won its fifth consecutive tennis match.

Ross beat Bedford 4-1.

Andrews defeated Kim Cryan 6-0, 6-1 and Ross's Ainsley Watkins beat Abby Nieman 6-1, 6-4. Bedford's Jana Johanssen beat Gina Melchiori 6-3, 6-3 at third singles.

Ross swept the doubles matches with Courtney LaBenne and Morgan Carnicom beating Stephanie Zak and Lambrina Kanellis 6-3, 6-0 and Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf beat Julie Bodi and Jennifer Oberski 6-3, 6-2.

Ross hosts Port Clinton

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Wednesday.

In other action:

Clyde 3, St. Marys 2

Clyde won both doubles matches and got a No. 3 singles win from Amanda Showman to defeat Sandusky Bay Conference foe Sandusky St. Mary's.

The 3-2 win pushed the Fliers record to 4-0 (2-0 SBC).

Jen Seaman and Abby Funk, the Fliers veteran No. 1 doubles team, beat Jen Price and Courtney Bruner 6-2, 6-2. Jenny McDonald and Maggie Pearce earned another point for Clyde with a 6-0, 6-4 win against Susan Smith and Colleen Dwight.

Girls tennis

Fremont Ross 4, Bedford 1

Singles

1-Andi Andrews (FR) def. Kim Cryan 6-0, 6-1; 2-Ainsley Watkins (FR) def. Abby Nieman 6-1, 6-4; 3-Jana Johanssen (B) def. Gina Melchiori 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles

1-Courtney LaBenne and Morgan Carnicom (FR) def. Stephanie Zak and Lambrina Kanellis 6-3, 6-0; 2-Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf (FR) def. Julie Bodi and Jennifer Oberski 6-3, 6-2.

RECORD—Fremont Ross 5-0 (3-0)

Ross JV winners—Brittany Ford and Rachel Stout, Natalie Wolfe and Laura Papalia, Stefanie Lagrou and Amanda Wingo, Sarah Rhodes and Sheri Pollock, Christy Weiker and Sara Mitchell.

Ross beats PC for sixth straight win

Fremont Ross won its sixth match without a loss despite dropping the top singles match. Port Clinton's **Laura Kokinda** beat **Andi Andrews** of Ross 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

Clyde finishes second at Sandusky Invite

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Perkins may have gotten the best of Clyde at Saturday's Sandusky Invitational, but no one else did.

The Fliers, who lost in three separate finals to the Pirates, came in second overall in the eight-team event. Perkins scored 102 points, Clyde 70 and Fremont Ross and Norwalk tied for third with 68.

"I'm very happy with the second-place finish," Clyde coach Jeff MacFarland said. "The girls played very well all day."

Third singles player Amanda Showman won matches against Karla Carruthers of Sandusky and Erin Reed of Norwalk before losing 6-3, 6-4 to Perkins Janet Yunghans in the final.

In first doubles, Abbie Funk and Jen Seaman of Clyde beat Jami Tinker and Jill Myers of Norwalk and Sandusky's Amy Hauke and Dana Woobser before losing to Jen Foster and Becca Timm of Perkins, 6-3, 6-

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0.

Second doubles players Jenny McDonald and Maggie Pearce earned wins against Sandusky St. Mary's Courtney Brunner and Colleen Dwight and Ross's Natal-

ie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf to reach the finals. There they lost 6-0, 7-5 to Pela Keller and Katie Kieffer of Perkins.

The only area champion was Andi Andrews of Ross, who lost just one game in matches against Clyde, Mansfield Senior and Norwalk.



1987 CHEVY 3/4 PICKUP V-8, auto., P/S, "Good Work Truck"	\$ 3,995
1997 CHRYSLER CONCORDE V-6, auto., P/S, air, "Factory Car"	\$19,495
1990 PLYMOUTH GRAND VOYAGER S/E V6, auto., P/S, air, 7 passenger	\$ 3,995
1997 DODGE INTREPID V6, auto., P/S, air, factory warranty	\$17,995
1990 CHRYSLER NEW YORKER 4 door V6, auto., P/S, Air, Two to choose from	\$ 6.995

Fremont Ross 4, Huron 1

Singles

Morgan Landes (H) def. Andi Andrews 7-5, 6-1; Ainsley Watkins (FR) def. Monica Fox 6-0, 6-0; Gina Melchiori (FR) def. Catherine Taylor 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles

Courtney La Benne and Morgan Carnicom (FR) def. Ellen Walls and Katie Haas 6-2, 6-4; Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf (FR) def. Elizabeth Bogden and Alison Talcott 6-2, 6-0.

RECORD—Ross 7-0 (3-0)

Ross tennis team reloads



AINSLEY WATKINS, above, and Andi Andrews, right, are two of the top players for Fremont Ross's unbeaten tennis team. Both won Tuesday during the Little Giants 5-0 victory against Oregon Clay.



Area high school tennis outlook

Rosters, schedules and season outlooks for Fremont Ross, St. Joseph Central Catholic, Bellevue, Clyde and Oak Harbor are printed on B3.

Little Giants have another strong team — and bright future

By **MICHAEL BOSI**
Staff writer

Many veteran head coaches tend to call it quits when it becomes apparent that their talent well is running dry.

That was not the case a year ago at Fremont Ross, when Lisa Wolfe grabbed the reins from Sue Badertscher. After eight years and 108 victories, Badertscher left Wolfe plenty to work with.

Last year, this year and probably even for next year.

"I figure basically the same," Wolfe said. "We really don't have any weaknesses all the way down. We have such a strong junior varsity and obviously a pretty strong varsity from their records. For the next two years, I'm doing good, I guess."

Yup, life is good when your

team is undefeated after eight matches and six in the Great Lakes League (with two GLL matchés remaining).

Life is good when your seven varsity regulars have lost just eight matches combined.

And life is good when you'll only lose one senior — albeit No. 1 ace Andi Andrews — from your starting lineup at year's end.

"We have a pretty good, decent team this year with our JV and varsity both," sophomore Ainsley Watkins said after her victory over Oregon Clay's Tory Heilman that was part of a Ross singles clean sweep — three 6-0, 6-0 decisions — in a 5-0 triumph Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

The team will be a favorite Saturday at the Pete Michaels Memorial Tournament at

"She's playing like a senior. Very mature. She holds herself on the court just the way you would want to see one of your kids do it."

— Ross tennis coach Lisa Wolfe

Rodger Young Park.

Watkins was careful to point out that a legitimate concern exists about the number — or lack thereof — of up-and-coming tennis players in Fremont.

But that's a problem for down the road.

Right now, Ross is building on a GLL championship season that saw Andrews win GLL and sectional titles. Only Alissa Brickner graduated, and Watkins, who leads the team

with an 8-0 record, has been a gem at No. 2 singles.

"She's in total control, she's got the mental aspect and from a year ago she developed all that," Wolfe said. "A year ago she struggled at singles, but that just wasn't her cup of tea. ... This year, she's playing great."

Andrews has raised her game to another level this season, Wolfe said, as she has played with the court savvy and workaholic mentality expected of a senior.

"There probably isn't a day that goes by when she's not hitting a tennis ball," Wolfe said. "Just for instance, when we run our mile, she's always focused, keyed in and the first one back. She's just very dedicated to tennis."

"She's playing like a senior.

Very mature. She holds herself on the court just the way you would want to see one of your kids do it. She's just very mature, and she takes a loss gracefully."

Meanwhile, freshman Gina Melchiori, the next in a never-ending line of players assistant coach Bill Weng has seen rise through his Fremont Recreation Department program, has gone 4-3 at third singles.

It took a little prodding, but Weng finally convinced Melchiori that her first love should be tennis and not volleyball.

"She promised me this would be her thing," Weng said. "I said, 'You won't be sorry.'"

Courtney LaBenne has stashed away her No. 3 singles GLL title for now and has

See OFFSEASON WORK, B3

Offseason work helps Giants

Continued from B1

worked a 6-1 record with Morgan Carnicom, while Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf are perfect after seven second doubles matches.

If earning a diploma from the rec department programs means playing for the Ross varsity squad, then this year's team represents a 100 percent graduation rate for Weng.

"It's satisfying," he said.

Ross can point to its offseason work and know it remains a step ahead of many of its opponents. Oregon Clay coach Walt

Ralph, for one, was envious.

Asked how many of his players continue to work when the high school nets fold up, he said, "Absolutely none."

Weng pointed out Tuesday that U.S. Open champion Martina Hingis and the Little Giants junior varsity team have a lot more in common than one might think, both having more than 60 wins this year.

Hingis has put together her 63-2 record on her own, while it's taken 10 Ross players to match it, but Weng might be onto something.

And so are the Little Giants.

Lorain Catholic defeats St. Joe

LORAIN — St. Joseph Central Catholic dropped to 1-6 with a 5-0 loss Tuesday at Lorain Catholic.

Michelle Smith, playing No. 3 singles for the Crimson Streaks, lost 6-4, 6-1 to Airyn Mealy in the day's most competitive match.

St. Joe plays at Maumee today.

— N-M reports

Fremont Ross 5, Sandusky 0

Fremont Ross's girls tennis team did not lose a game until the third singles match as it continued its season-opening win streak.

The Little Giants (9-0) swept Sandusky 5-0.

Andi Andrews blanked Maggie Prout at first singles and Ainsley Watkins shut out Carly Schwanger at No. 2. Stephanie Lagrou won the third singles match 6-1, 6-1 against Stephanie Mettert.

The doubles teams of Courtney LaBenne and Gina Melchiori and Natalie Wolfe and Jenny Schaaf also won.

Andrews routs Findlay foe in monumental victory

News-Messenger reports

FINDLAY — Andi Andrews' 100th career tennis victory highlighted Fremont Ross's 3-2 Great Lakes League victory over Findlay Thursday.

Andrews, whose career record is 100-9, easily handled Findlay's Sara Radabaugh in a 6-1, 6-0 victory, and was met by teammates and parents bearing balloons and gifts when she walked off the court.

"It was wonderful," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "The teammates and the parents made a big deal out of it, which is wonderful. It's real

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hard to achieve 100 wins, and she did it. We're really proud of her."

Ainsley Watkins was Ross's other singles winner, beating Katie Gartner, 6-0, 6-3, on Court 2.

The Little Giants' victory, which pushed their record to 10-1, 6-0 GLL, wasn't cemented until Courtney LaBenne and Gina Melchiori downed Beth Ann Browne and Andrea Ernst in a second-set tiebreaker for a 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) victory.

The win also seeds Ross first,

with 12 points, going in to the GLL tournament. Findlay finished the GLL season at 5-1 and will be seeded second.

"This is the one we wanted," Wolfe said.

Clyde 4, Lima Central Catholic 1

LIMA — Clyde survived a two-hour drive and a loss at first singles to advance to the semifinal round of the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association Tournament.

After Krista Nofz fell to Shannon O'Connor on Court 1, Cassie Newsome and Amanda Showman captured singles victories for the

Fliers (9-1), and the teams of Jen Seaman and Abby Funk and Jenny McDonald and Maggie Pearce won their doubles matches.

"Having a two-hour van ride all the way down there and trying to play tennis is not always that easy," said Clyde coach Jeff McFarland, whose team will host Huron, St. Marys Memorial or Napoleon in Saturday's semifinal.

Calvert 4, St. Joe 1

TIFFIN — Again shorthanded and despite Michelle Smith's first singles victory of the season, St. Joseph Central Catholic fell to Tif-

fin Calvert.

"I have a girl suspend injured and a girl sick," said coach Dave Heflinger, who dropped to 1-9. "It's become normal, unfortunately."

Smith scored her win in singles, where she beat J. to, 7-5, 6-3.

"Michelle has been improving at each match certainly one of the brights of the team," Heflinger said. "She has really moved around, and started doubles. She has really been as the season's progress."

Tennis

Fremont Ross 3, Findlay 2

At Findlay Singles

1—Andi Andrews (FR) def. Sara Radabaugh, 6-1, 6-0; 2—Ainsley Watkins (FR) def. Katie Gartner, 6-0, 6-3; 3—Shelly Castret (Findlay) def. Stefanie Lagrou, 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles

1—Courtney LaBenne/Gina Melchiori (FR) def. Beth Ann Brown/Andrea Ernst, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3); 2—Karie Webb/Janice Walsh (Findlay) def. Natalie Wolfe/Jenny Schaaf, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Team record—Fremont Ross, 10-1, 6-0 GLL.

Ottawa Hills 3, Ross 2

Singles

1—Andi Andrews (FR) def. Chelsea Tuschman 6-1, 6-0; 2—Jackie Riggs (OH) def. Stefanie Lagrou 6-0, 6-3; 3—Anjali Gupta (OH) def. Morgan Carnicom 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles

1—Courtney LaBenne/Gina Melchiori (FR) def. Ashley Devonshire/Schwyer Ciralsky 6-4, 6-1; 2—Sam Day/Lauren Snyder (OH) def. Natalie Wolfe/Jenny Schaaf 6-3, 6-0.

Record—Fremont Ross 10-2 (6-0).

■ Area high school award winners:

St. Joe Volleyball

MVP: Holly Wagner, Dawn Wilbur

Most Improved: Jenny Gabel

100 percent Serving: Holly Wagner

Defense Award: Julie Kupka

Ross Boys Cross Country

MVP: Jon Framstad

Most Improved: John Peterson

Coaches Award: Jake Smith, Eric Gabel

Ross Girls Cross Country

Captain: Kristyn Warner, Alison Kelly

JV Captain: Molly O'Connor

Most Valuable: Alison Kelly

Most Improved: Kathryn Oberst

Coaches Award: Jami Toeppe, Dawn McElfresh

Ross Tennis

Leadership Awards: Courtney Labenne, Andrea Andrews

Most Valuable: Andrea Andrews

Varsity Most Improved: Ainsley Watkins

Coaches Award: Stefanie Lagrou

JV Best Season Record: Sarah Rhodes, Nicole Wolfe

Ross Soccer

Captain: Andy Smith, Mike Hickey, Nik Wearsch

Outstanding Offensive Player: Nik Wearsch

Outstanding Defensive Player: Andy Smith

Little Giant Award: Amy Smith

Versatility Award: Mike Hickey

Gibsonburg Cheerleading

Most Spirited: Melody Maynard, Stefanie Vallance

Most Improved: Ashley Renfro

Gibsonburg Golf

Most Improved: Matt Castillo

Top Freshman: Terrence Friar

Team Medalist: Nick Kaemming

Low Average: Nick Kaemming

HM All-District: Nick Kaemming, Kevin Kir-

wen

Gibsonburg Cross Country

Most Valuable Runner: Corey English

Coaches Award: Mario Picciuto

Dedication Award: Andy Hise

All-District 1st Team: Corey English

Most Valuable Runner: Sarah Hilt

Most Improved: Carrie Damschroder

Coach's Award: Katie Fisher

All District H.M.: Sarah Hilt

Gibsonburg Volleyball

Offensive Player of the Year: Krista Reiter

Defensive Player of the Year: Megan Wasil

JV Offensive Player of the Year: Jenny MacDonald

JV Defensive Player of the Year: Anna Davis

Spirit Award: Sarah Mason

JV Spirit Award: Emily Walter

All District H.M.: Krista Reiter, Heather Hill

Old Fort Golf

MVP: Kyle Ryman

MIP: Erik Lynch

Old Fort Volleyball

MVP: Randi Whitman

MIP: Jennice Egbert, Rachael Mc Calla

Old Fort Soccer

MVP: Jeff Meeker

MIP: Steve Burks

Old Fort Boys Cross Country

MVP: Dan Haugh, Jeremy Riehm

MIP: William Pfeiffer

Margaretta Golf

3rd Year Varsity Award: Dustin Howard

Margaretta Girls Cross Country

4th Year Varsity Award: Claire Miller

Margaretta Boys Cross Country

Soph. MVP: Kevin Clapp

Margaretta Volleyball

4th Year Varsity Award: Rachal Hamilton