

Tennis

Schepflins post 99th win

News-Messenger reports

Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin, cousins and the first-court doubles team for Fremont Ross, can win their 100th career match together today when the Little Giants play at Ottawa Hills.

The Schepflins helped Ross to a 4-1 victory over Toledo St. Ursula with their 99th win — a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amy Kubaki and Melanie Harmon.

Ross, 15-0, won both doubles matches and also got singles wins from Kristen Farrell and Andi Andrews to advance in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association team tournament.

Ross 4, St. Ursula 1

Singles

1-Alyson Gabel (SU) d. Dawn Zerman 7-5, 6-2; 2-Kristen Farrell (R) d. Cristina Birsa 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; 3-Andi Andrews (R) d. Marnie Greenblatt 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles

1-Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin (R) d. Amy Kubaki and Melanie Harmon 6-0, 6-0; 2-Alissa Bricker and Courtney LaBenne (R) d. Sara Hanna and Courtney Antonio 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Records: Ross 15-0

Oak Harbor 4, Clyde 1

(Completion of suspended match)

Singles

1-Lisa Overmyer (OH) d. Kim Beckman 6-0, 6-0; 2-Amanda Henry (OH) d. Maggie Pearce 6-0, 6-0; 3-Holly Lorensen (OH) d. Jenny McDonald 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles

1-Tara Scheck and Jenny Seaman (C) d. Lisa Wegman and Christina Humphrey 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; 2-Leann Cecil and Chrissy Hemminger (OH) d. Abbie Funk and Terea Winke 2-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-

Tennis

Century mark strikes again

News-Messenger reports

Cousins Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin won their 100th match as teammates at Fremont Ross, and Andi Andrews won the clinching match for the Little Giants in a 3-2 victory over Ottawa Hills.

The Schepflins defeated Rachel Bovino and Meredith Finley 6-2-6-2 on the second doubles court. They are now 100-5 in their career.

Ross coach Sue Badertscher said all five losses came in tournament play.

Andrews, playing on the third singles court, won the last match of the day when she defeated Erin Cotner 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

In the latest Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association poll, Ross was ranked fourth and Ottawa Hills fifth.

In other action:

Marion Pleasant 4, St. Joe 1

Shana Young won Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic's lone match as Marion Pleasant stopped the Crimson Streaks for its 10th win in 13 matches.

Young did not lose a game on the first singles court, and St. Joe managed to win 10 other games



C. SCHEPFLIN



D. SCHLEPFLIN

Ross in district final of team tournament

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross Little Giants are a victory from the state final four in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association Team Tournament.

Ross advanced to the Northwest District championship match with a 3-2 victory over Toledo Notre Dame Wednesday.

"I put a lot of emphasis on this because I want to take the whole team to state," Ross coach Sue Badertscher said.

Ross, 17-0, will meet Lexington in the district final at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Bucyrus High School. Lexington defeated Celina 5-0 in the other semifinal Wednesday.

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Kristen Farrell and Andi Andrews on the second and third singles courts, respectively, were winners against Notre Dame. The final Ross point came from a victory by Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin on the first doubles court.

Ross, which defeated Elida by default and beat Toledo St. Ursula previously in the team tournament, topped Lexington 4-1 on Aug. 23 in a regular dual match.

Lexington's lineup was altered in that match to strengthen its doubles courts, according to

Badertscher.

First-singles player Purvi Desai and second-singles player Kayo Asami teamed at first doubles in the earlier match but lost to the Schepflins. Ross swept Lexington on the singles courts.

"Their first and second singles players have improved so much," Badertscher said. "They have added some tough angle shots, and they have gotten more aggressive."

Badertscher expects the second doubles match between Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne and Lexington's Amy Staker and Jenny Paladino to be pivotal Monday.

Tennis

High School

Ross 3, Notre Dame 2

Singles: 1-Kelly Loeffler (ND) d. Dawn Zerman 6-1, 6-4; 2-Kristen Farrell (R) d. Abbey Saum 6-0, 6-0; 3-Andi Andrews (R) d. Kylelyn Sansone 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles: 1-Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin (R) d. Megan Beebe and Alice Malcolm 6-1, 6-1; 2-Cartlin Korn and Nique Delelles (ND) d. Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne 6-1, 6-1.

Records: Ross 17-0.

Ross team advances to state finals

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

BUCYRUS — Sue Badertscher went public with her wish early this high school girls tennis season and Monday it became a reality — her Fremont Ross girls tennis team will go the state tournament.

The Little Giants joined the final four after defeating Lexington 4-1 Monday in the Northwest Ohio district finals of the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association Team Tournament at Bucyrus High School.

Ross and three other Division I teams will play Sunday at the Stickney Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Matches begin at 9:30 a.m. The Little Giants, 18-0, will play a team from the Northeast District.

"I want to take the whole team to the

"I have to be realistic. Centerville is so tough. That would be like God himself came and played."

— Ross coach Sue Badertscher

state tournament," Badertscher had said prior to her team's first match this season. She will have a pair of doubles teams in the Ohio High School Athletic Association state tournament Friday and Saturday at the Stickney Center.

The win over Lexington was icing on the cake.

Ross won the second- and third-court singles matches and both doubles against

Lexington, 16-5.

Kristen Farrell defeated Kayo Asami 6-2, 6-3 and Andi Andrews rolled over Julie Schuffert 6-2, 6-0 for the Ross singles wins. Casey and Dena Schepflin ran their high school career record to 111-7 with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Amy Straker and Jenny Paladino at first doubles. The final match point went to Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 winners over Carrie Bingaman and Aradhi Doji.

In the first-court singles match, Dawn Zerman of Ross lost a hard fought 6-3, 6-4 decision to Purvi Desai.

After narrowly edging St. Ursula and Notre Dame by 3-2 counts early in the tournament, Badertscher was confident her team could beat the Minutemen and reach the state team finals for the first time.

"We just barely pulled Notre Dame out

of the fire," Badertscher said of early tournament matches, "but because we had beaten Lexington (4-1) earlier this season, I was pretty confident."

Sunday, her wish is more modest.

"I hope to finish second or third," she admitted. "I have to be realistic. Centerville is so tough. That would be like God himself came and played."

"It's possible we can win our first match. It will be tough, but I think we can take the Northeast section, but then we would have to go up against Centerville... boy, they are really, really tough," Badertscher said while uttering a sigh.

For now, Badertscher and the Little Giants can bask in the light of reaching the state show. God will have to wait until Sunday.

Fremont Ross girls runner-up in state team tourney

By BOB MARKER
Sports Editor

COLUMBUS — Fremont Ross finished second to Centerville Sunday in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association State Team Tournament.

The Elks, who Ross coach Sue Badertscher deemed the god of Ohio high school girls tennis earlier in the week, lorded it over the Little Giants in the finals, winning 4-1 in the finals at the Stickney Center on the Ohio State University campus.

"I had not really thought about that before," Centerville coach Brian Jones said of Badertscher's description. "I guess I don't have much of a comment on that."

He did disclose his team's secret.

"We do have a very good junior developmental program and that helps a lot,"

Jones said. "There is no doubt they come to me ready to play."

Instead, his team team did the talking through its play.

Centerville, 20-0, won the coaches tournament for the sixth time in the last seven seasons. The Elks did not make it out of the districts last season but made it into the finals Sunday with a 3-2 win over Upper Arlington, the second time the Elks had defeated the Golden Bears by that

score this year.

Against Ross, the Elks won all three singles matches and the first-court doubles clash but lost their invincibility the Ross second-court duo of Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne defeated Cassie Brunner and Anna Yen 6-4, 6-4.

"That is a surprise" Badertscher said about the Brickner-LaBenne win. "They have not been doing that well all year but,

man, they pulled this one off."

Badertscher said her goal for her team in the finals was respect.

"We just wanted to do well and not look like little people from Podunk Junction," she laughed. "And we did play well"

The Little Giants, 19-1, nipped Youngstown Boardman 3-2 in the semifinals Sunday.

Ross won the second and third singles and the first doubles

match against Boardman. Kristen Farrell scored the clinching point for Ross against Boardman, beating Veena Kolli 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in a 2½-hour second-court match.

Kolli rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the third set to take a 4-3 lead but Farrell held her serve and broke Kolli in the ninth game for a 5-4 lead. In the 10th game, Kolli fought Farrell to deuce before netting a return and hitting a volley long.

Andi Andrews won the third-court singles match 7-6 (7-4), 6-0 over Katie Warden while Casey and Dena Schepflin dominated Andy Warden and Suzie Kovass in the first doubles match 6-1, 6-1.

First-court singles Dawn Zerman lost to Boardman's Brandy Steinhauser, who was third in the state meet, 6-3, 6-0.

The Little Giants



ZERMAN



FARRELL



ANDREWS



C. SCHEPFLIN



D. SCHEPFLIN



BRICKNER



LABENNE

Team Tournament

COLUMBUS — Results of the Fremont Ross Division I matches in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association Team Tennis State Tournament:

Semifinals

At Hillard High School

Ross 3, Boardman 2

Singles

1-Brandy Steinhauer (B) d. Dawn Zerman 6-3, 6-0; 2-Kristen Farrell (R) d. Veena Kolli 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; 3-Andi Andrews (R) d. Katie Warden 7-6 (7-4), 6-0.

Doubles

1-Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin (R) d. Amy Warden and Suzi Kovass 6-1, 6-1; 2-Jaclyn Jones and Melissa Martin (B) d. Allssa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne 6-2, 6-2.

Finals

At Stickney Center, OSU

Centerville 4, Ross 1

Singles

1-Alicia Grahamn (C) d. Zerman 6-1, 6-0; 2-Liz Simon (C) d. Farrell 6-2, 6-1; 3-Erica Echko (C) d. Andrews 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles

1-Sarah Little and Courtney Kowzley (C) d. C. and D. Schepflin 6-2, 6-2; 2-Brickner and LaBenne (R) d. Cassie Brunner and Anna Yen 6-4, 6-4.

Records: Centerville 20-0, Ross 19-1.