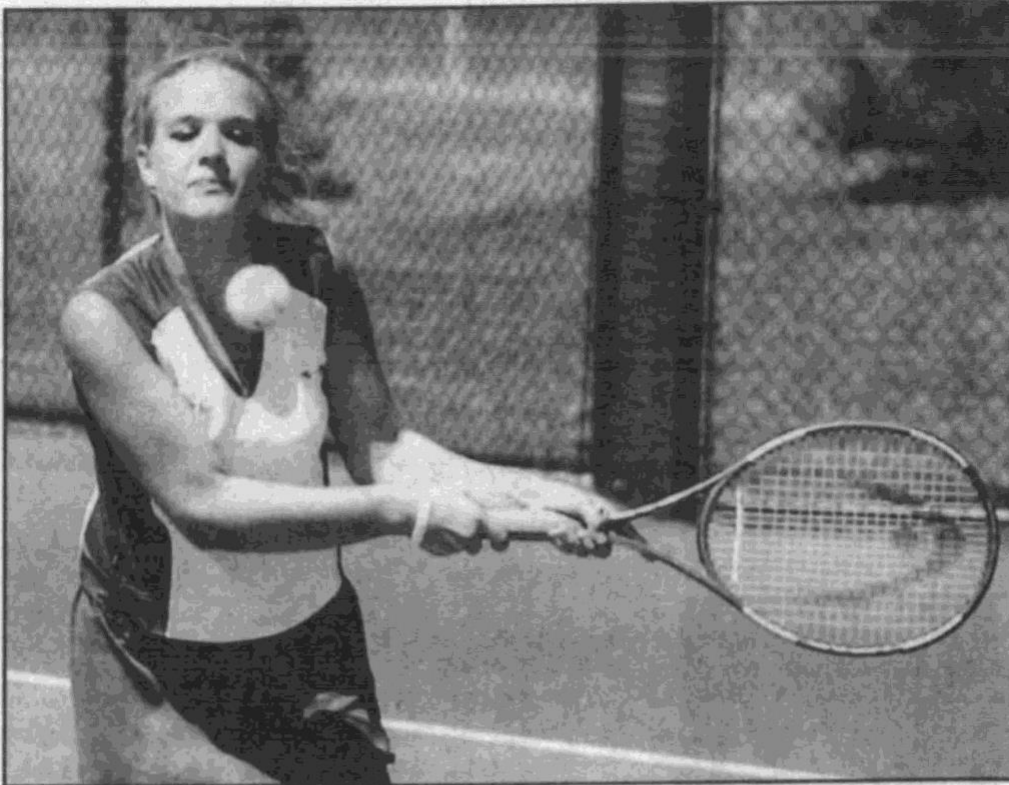


2006 Season Review

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



Charlie Longton/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS'S AMANDA Lachner eyes a ball during her match Tuesday against Findlay at Ross High School. Lachner won, but the Little Giants lost.

Ross falls to Findlay

News-Messenger reports

Amanda Lachner and the doubles team of Shelby Grubb and Samantha Lagrou won for Fremont Ross, but the Little Giants tennis team fell in a Greater Buckeye Conference matchup against Findlay 3-2.

Lachner beat Amy Faeth 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 in second singles. Grubb and Lagrou defeated Annie Johnson and Megan Richter 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Britta Barron and Emily Clarke lost in straight sets, as did the first doubles team of Kylie O'Neal and Katie Harmon.

The Trojans even their record at 1-1, while the Little Giants lost their opening match.

shot 107, Jonathon Miller shot a 109 and Andrew Hartsel shot a 113.

Biggert medals

Andy Biggert tied for medalist honors firing a 34 as Oak Harbor carded a 150 to top Perkins by five strokes at Woussicket on Tuesday.

"We won on one of the toughest courses we've played in recent years," Biggert said. "We lost both our matches there last year. It's the hardest course in the SBC in most players' minds."

The Rockets were sixth at the SBC tournament played at the course last season. Perkins and Oak Harbor are early season favorites in the SBC this year.

"It's a huge victory because now we

Tennis

High School Girls

Findlay 3, Fremont Ross 2

Singles

1. Joy Kellogg (F) d. Britta Barron (FR) 6-1, 6-0.
2. Brittany Bartlett (F) d. Emily Clarke (FR) 6-4, 6-3.
3. Amanda Lachner (FR) d. Amy Faeth (F) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles

1. Carly Harless-Jacintha Ratnasamy (F) d. Kylie O'Neal-Katie Harmon (FR) 6-0, 6-2.
2. Shelby Grubb-Samantha Lagrou (FR) d. Annie Johnson-Megan Richter (F) 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Records: Ross 0-1, Findlay 1-1.

JV winners: Brianne Pinkerton, Ari MacArthur and Jill Hamilton.

Ross falls to Columbian

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

The Fremont Ross girls' tennis team lost its second consecutive match to open the season Thursday as Tiffin Columbian defeated the Little Giants 4-1.

"It could have went either way today," said Tiffin coach Mike Hampp. "If we play this another day it could go either way."

Fremont coach Rick LaFountain agreed.

"It was tough to lose," said LaFountain. "I thought going in we were equal on all five courts. We could have won 5-0, lost 0-5 or fell anywhere in between."

In Thursday's action, Fremont's Amanda Lachner battled with Tiffin's Megan McClung at third singles.

After losing the opening set 4-6, Lachner battled her way back responding by posting a 6-2 victory of her own in the second match.

During the third and decisive match, Lachner opened by taking the first game before she and McClung began a see-saw battle in which Lachner eventually

prevailed 6-2.

"I was pretty pleased with Amanda and how she fought through and pulled out another three set win for us," LaFountain said.

At first singles, the day started off slow for Fremont junior Britta Barron as Tiffin's Christina Daily played a very controlled and nearly flawless opening set as she out-battled Barron 6-4.

Barron answered early in the second set as she took leads of 1-0 and 3-2 before losing two consecutive games to fall behind 4-3.

But Barron's resolve paid off as she rallied her way back to the lead winning the final three games of the set to even things up entering the final set before eventually falling to Daily 6-4.

"(Daily) uses her head a lot," Hampp said. "She loves to move the ball. She doesn't hit too hard but when she does you better be on your game because she doesn't hit the ball in the same place very often."

See ROSS, B2

Ross falls to Columbian

Continued From B1

Falling at second singles for the Little Giants was senior Emily Clarke.

Clarke was defeated 6-2, 6-2 by Tiffin freshman Nicole Ardner, who Hampp said he looks forward to having around for a few more years.

"(Ardner) is at a level where she is very quick and mature for her age," said Hampp. "She doesn't try to over hit it, but she can hit it hard. She'll be good to have around for the future."

Both Tiffin doubles teams were also victorious as Courtney Forseyth and Shelby DeLaCruz outlasted the Little Giant duo of Shelby Grubb and Brianne Pinkerton in three matches while Nicole Stahl and Nicole Hoover won in straight sets over Katie Harmon and Sam Lagrou.

Forseyth and DeLaCruz won 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 and Stahl and Hoover prevailed 6-3, 6-4.

"(Stahl and Hoover) were pretty solid the whole way today," Hampp said. "They have never played together before but they complement each other

"We are experimenting a little with our lineup. All four of the girls are pretty inexperienced and none of them have varsity experience."

— Rick LaFountain

very well."

LaFountain said that Fremont is working on putting the doubles teams together through a process of experimentation.

"We are experimenting a little with our lineup," said LaFountain. "All four of the girls are pretty inexperienced and none of them have varsity experience."

"There are a lot of little things that the girls will have to start doing in order to start winning and that will come in time."

Tiffin runs its record to 2-0 while the Little Giants fall to 0-2.

Tennis

High School Girls

Tiffin Columbian 4, Ross 1

Singles

1. Christina Daily (TC) def. Britta Barron (FR) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

2. Nicole Ardner (TC) def. Emily Clarke 6-2, 6-2.

3. Amanda Lachner (FR) def. Megan McClung (TC) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles

1. Nicole Stahl-Nicole Hoover (TC) def. Katie Harmon-Sam Lagrou (FR) 6-3, 6-4.

2. Courtney Forseyth-Shelby DeLaCruz (TC) def. Shelby Grubb-Brianne Pinkerton (FR) 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Tennis

High School Girls

Port Clinton 3, Fremont Ross 2

Singles

1. Britta Baron (FR) d. Mari Monaco (PC) 7-5, 7-6 (3).

2. Brooke Overberg (PC) d. Samantha Lagrou (FR) 6-1, 6-2.

3. Molly Taylor (PC) d. Kylie O'Neal (FR) 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles

1. Sarah Boss-Alex Underwood (PC) d. Emily Clark-Amanda Lachner (FR) 6-0, 6-0.

2. Katie Harmon-Shelby Grubb (FR) d. Amy Shilling-Melissa Dodge (PC) 6-4, 6-4.

Record: Ross 1-3, Port Clinton 3-1.

JV score: Ross 6, Port Clinton 1.

JV leader: PC — Alex Moore.

Tennis

Little Giants net win

Freshman Sam Lagrou had a hard-fought 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 win over Ashlea Wills at second singles as Fremont Ross posted a 3-2 road victory at Toledo Waite.

Ross' Britta Barron shutout Beth Gwinn 6-0, 6-0 in first singles while Katie Harmon defeated Ashley Hartford 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3 singles for the decisive point.

The Little Giants (2-3) host tough defending SBC Champion Sandusky Perkins on Monday, Aug. 28.

Tennis

High School Girls

Fremont Ross 3, Waite 2

Singles

1. Britta Barron (R) d. Beth Gwinn (W) 6-0, 6-0.
2. Sam Lagrou (R) d. Ashlea Wills (W) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.
3. Katie Harmon (R) d. Ashley Hartford (W) 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles

1. Samantha Pecina and Brittany Buzcko (W) d. Kylie O'Neal and Brianne Pinkerton 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.
2. Brittany Buzcko 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. second doubles Shelby Grubb and Jill Hamilton lost to Taryn Rios and Kristen Miller 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

ver Edison, 8-3

one kill led Oak Harbor.

In other volleyball action, Gibsonburg posted a 24-26, 20-25, 25-17, 25-20, 15-7 comeback victory over visiting Lake to win its season opener.

Ann Clark slammed home 13 kills and added 22 digs and four service aces to pace the Golden Bears while Whitney Mathia added 12 kills. Amber Sleek chipped in 10 kills, Alisha Brown had 21 digs and Lindsay Hill set 45 assists.

Tennis

Ross won all 10 sets in blanking visiting Toledo Whitmer 5-0 in girls varsity action.

"I was really pleased with how well our team played," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "It was a little windy and drizzly and the girls put the elements behind them and did a nice

job."

Britta Barron shut out Whitmer's Joselyn Roth 6-0, 6-0 at first singles while Emily Clark defeated Cara Durham at No. 2 singles.



BARRON

Amanda Lachner made it a clean sweep in singles by topping Ashley Erdmann 6-3, 6-2.

Katie Harman and Sam Lagrou handled Allison Schnapp and Jennifer Kaczmarek 6-1, 6-1 at first singles while Kylie O'Neal and Brianne Pinkerton posted a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Kally Trumbull and Kaylee Dubendorfer at No. 2 doubles.

See OAK HARBOR, B2

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Little Giants fall to Rockets

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

Coming into the season Oak Harbor did not have seven varsity players secure in their spots because of graduation departures.

Torri Robbins and Brianna Mensing — the pair at second doubles this year — were definitely a question mark as they were devoid of varsity experience.

The duo may have built a great deal of confidence for themselves and the team as a whole with a decisive three set victory in a 3-2 Rockets' win over Fremont Ross on Wednesday.

"They lost concentration in the middle of the second set, but were able to pull back together for the third," said Oak Harbor coach Brad Hemminger.

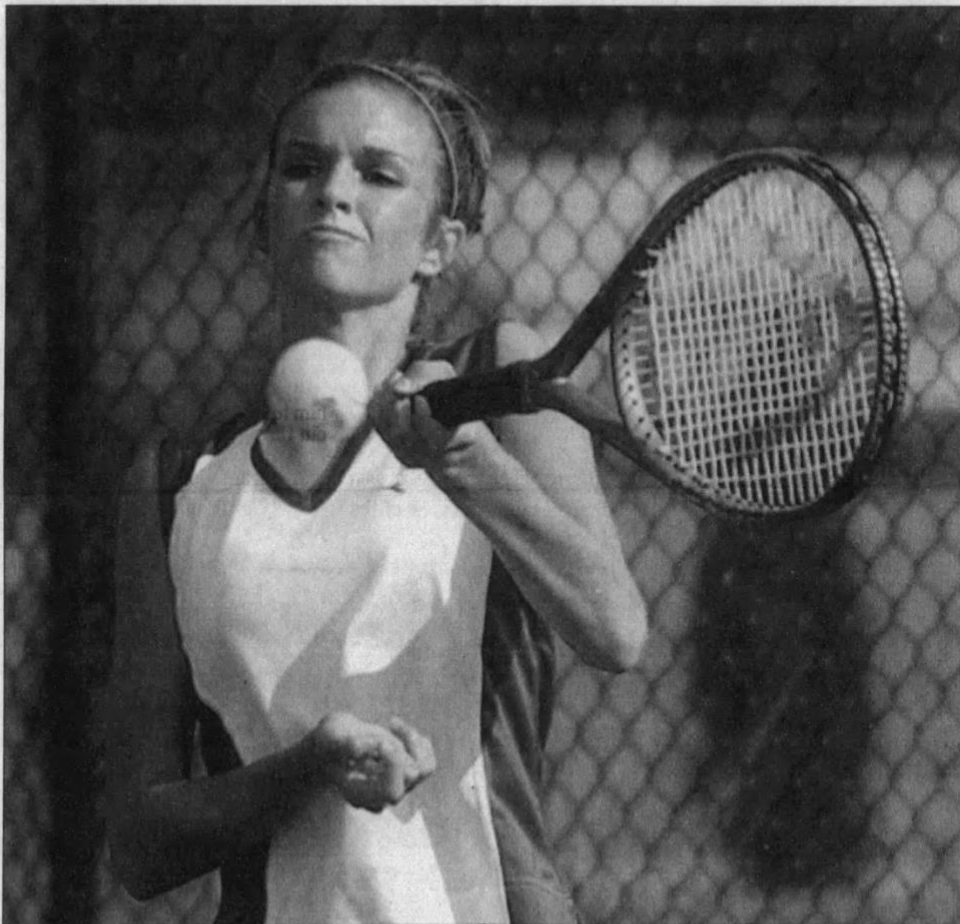
Robbins and Mensing topped Shelby Grubb and Sam Lagrou 6-4, 3-6 and 6-4.

"We don't have seven set varsity players," said Oak Harbor's Emily Hemminger, who notched the team's only singles win with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Amanda Lachner. "We needed two to step up with the seniors we lost."

Coach Hemminger said the entire team should benefit from the newcomers' victory.

"It will be huge for second doubles and the whole team," he said. "I'm not sure we believed we could win this before we came over."

The Little Giants (3-5) defeated Oak Harbor 4-1 last season. Britta Barron of Ross toppled Kaitlin Wendt 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 singles Wednesday while



Charlie Longton/News Messenger

FREMONT ROSS' Britta Barron returns the ball to Oak Harbor on Wednesday afternoon. Barron won her match at No. 1 singles.

Emily Clarke bettered Nicole Bockbrader 7-6, 6-1 at No. 2.

"I'm usually a power hitter both ways," Barron said. "Nothing was falling, so I switched to the slice for an alternative. When

something's not working you have to adjust."

Barron advanced to districts with now graduated Ashleigh Hasselbach last year.

Hemminger — who also advanced to districts but

lost her partner Beth Twarek to graduation — said hustle was the key to Wednesday's win. Hemminger said she has worked on her deep shots and limiting her frustration.

"She hits it deep every time and wins a lot of games," Hemminger said of cousin and periodic practice partner Bockbrader. "I've tried to work on hitting it deep."

See **FREMONT, B2**

Fremont upended by Rockets

Continued from B1

Justine Grover and Anna Grieger beat Katie Harmon and Ari McArthur 6-3, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles for the Rockets' remaining point. Grieger saw only limited time at varsity last season.

Ross coach Rick LaFountain said the second doubles match stood out Wednesday and both doubles pairs played their best tennis of the season despite setbacks. The Little Giants are very young as only Clarke and Barron saw varsity action last year.

"It was a fun match to watch," LaFountain said. "All four of them had fun; that's what it's all about. They all made shots to save match points. Either pair could have won.

"I saw some fire in Sam and Shelby I haven't seen before. It's nice to see that from a freshman (Lagrou) and sophomore. We're learning and improving. Sometimes you have to lose the close ones to win the close ones."

Oak Harbor is 5-1 and unbeaten in the Sandusky Bay Conference at 3-0.

"The big goal as a team is first in the SBC after we fell short to Perkins last year," Emily Hemminger said.

LaFountain was impressed with Oak Harbor.

"They have a very deep team," he said. "They have to be a favorite in the league."

Matthew Horn can be reached at mhorn@fremont.gannett.com

High School Tennis

Ross tops Napoleon

News-Messenger reports

The Ross tennis team got their biggest win of the season, dispatching Napoleon 3-2 in Greater Buckeye Conference play

Emily Clarke at second singles and the Ross second doubles team of Shelby Grubb and Sam Lagrou each prevailed against opponents that hadn't lost all year.

Ross tennis coach Rick LaFountain said the match ranks high in the list of ones he coached.

"Out of my 23 years of coaching, it was definitely one of the best," he said.

Britta Barron also won, at first singles in straight sets.

Ross is now 4-6 (2-2), while Napoleon drops to 12-2 (3-2).

won in straight sets, as did the doubles teams of Alexis Heimert and Emily Miller, and Katie Jenkins and Carly Picciuto.

Jenkins and Picciuto pitched a shutout, while Heimert and Miller, and Beck each won a set without being scored on as well.

Clyde-Perkins

The Fliers were swept by Perkins in a Sandusky Bay Conference meet, 5-0.

Clyde drops to 3-6 (2-4 SBC).

Oak Harbor-Huron

The Rockets' doubles teams carried the day, as Oak Harbor beat Huron 3-2 in SBC play.

Nicole Bockbrader won in third singles. The first doubles team of Anna Greiger and

Tennis

High School

Fremont 3, Napoleon 2

Singles

1. Britta Barron (FR) def. Sarah Yarnell 6-1, 6-0 *
2. Emily Clarke (FR) def. Adrienne Haase 6-2, 6-4
3. Merideth Small (N) def. Amanda Lachner 7-6, (7-5) 6-2

Doubles

1. Abby Panning/Morgan Westhoven (N) def. Katie Harman/Ari McArthur 6-1, 6-1
2. Shelby Grubb/Sam Lagrou (FR) def. Kelly Gott/Madison Nasha 7-5, 6-4

Records: Fremont: 4-6, 2-2; Napoleon: 12-2, 3-2

Ross tennis zaps Blue Streaks

Ross won each of its doubles matches en route to a 3-1 victory over Sandusky in Greater Buckeye Conference girls tennis Wednesday.

Amanda Lachner and Brianne Pinkerton scored a 6-3, 6-1 decision over Sam Riebold and Kailee McGuire at first doubles while Shelby Grubb and Sam Lagrou netted a 6-2,

6-2 triumph against Megan Fox and Crystal Vladiff at second doubles.



Little
Giant

LACHNER

Britta Barron posted a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Tessa Steine- man at No. 1 singles. Emily Clark led her



PINKERTON

match at No. 2 singles 6-4, 6-5 when play was halted due to lightning.

Ross faces St. Joseph Central Catholic on Friday at 3:30. Fremont hosts the GBC Tournament on Saturday, with action starting at 10 a.m.

High School Tennis

Ross defeats Streaks

By **THOMAS PASCH**

News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross handed in-town rival St. Joseph Central Catholic its second loss of the season, 3-2 Friday.

"Well, it ended just the way I figured it would," said SJCC coach Whitney Mutchler. "I knew for sure that it would be a 3-2 contest, but it's too bad we couldn't come out on the winning end."

Rick Lafountain, Little

See TENNIS, B2

Tennis: Little Giants now 7-7

Continued From B1

Giants' coach, felt the same way.

"I think it was clear on both sides, coming into the match, that it would finish 3-2," he said. "I was very confident that we could definitely get two points but I wasn't sure about the third."

They did, in fact, get that third point. The win was highlighted by Ross's Britta Barron posting a hard-fought 7-5, 6-3 victory over Leigh Ann Autullo in first singles. The match was easily the most competitive as it went back and forth throughout. Autullo came out dominant, but Barron made the proper adjustments.

"I was playing very patient at first," she said. "I realized that I needed to just go for it if I was going to beat her."

"I was very impressed with the way Britta played," Lafountain said. "I also thought Amanda [Lachner] came up huge for us tonight."

Lachner won her third singles match over the Crimson Streaks'

Heather Miller, 6-2 6-3.

Ross's No. 2 doubles team of Sam Lagrou and Shelby Grubb defeated Carly Picciuto and Olivia Beck 6-2 6-3. This helped the Little Giants to improve to 7-7 overall.

The Crimson Streaks (12-2) received a victory from their No. 1 doubles team of of Katie Jenkins and Emily Miller, who defeated Katie Harmon and Brianna Pinkerton 6-2 6-3.

St. Joseph's Alexis Heimert had an impressive 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 comeback victory over Emily Clarke at No. 2 singles. Heimert struggled through the first set but came back to take the second one and overwhelm Clarke in the third.

Despite the loss, Mutchler remained confident in her team's ability to bounce back.

"Our girls have shown a lot of heart all season long," she said. "We have had some illnesses this week that definitely affected our play but those things are going to happen. I expect nothing less after tonight. We will bounce back and be ready for the next one."

Barron, Lachner win for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Ross's Britta Barron and Amanda Lachner won at singles, and the Little Giants second doubles team of Shelby Grubb and Sam Lagrou also prevailed as Ross beat Oregon Clay 3-2 in non-conference play.

The win rolls the Little Giants up to 10-7. The Eagles fall to 15-4.

Clyde-SMCC

The Fliers' singles players swept Sandusky St. Mary Cen-

tral Catholic in straight sets as Clyde prevailed 3-2 in a Sandusky Bay Conference matchup.

Kayla Gerber didn't lose a game, triumphing 6-0, 6-0. Janie Reichert lost just one, 6-0, 6-1. Lauren Stamm also won for the Fliers (5-8, 4-7).

Oak Harbor-Edison

Kaitlin Wendt did not lose a game at No. 1 singles as Oak Harbor shut out Edison 5-0 in the SBC.

Anna Grieger and Emily Hemminger (No. 1 doubles), and Torri Robbins and Brianna Mensing dropped only one game for the Rockets (13-1, 9-0).

Justine Grover (No. 2 singles) won 6-1, 6-1 and Nicole Bockbrader won 6-2, 6-0.

"All the girls came out focused and ready to play," said Rockets coach Brad Hemminger. "With a big match at Huron (today) and the sectional tournament starting Thursday we are where we need to be."

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Ross finishes with win

News-Messenger reports

Three Fremont Ross seniors finished their high school careers in fine fashion as the Little Giants defeated visiting Perkins 4-1 Monday.

Ross, winners in eight of their final nine matches, finished the season 11-7. Perkins dropped to 14-4.

"I'm really proud of all three of the seniors," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

"Emily Clarke came from behind to win.

Amanda Lachner

had a

back injury, but there was no keeping her off the court. And Brianne Pinkerton did a great job at second doubles."

LaFountain had an inkling this team could grow into a solid unit.

"I kind of knew we'd be good once the girls got some experience on the court. They did a nice job at tournament time and beat some real good teams this year," he said.

Pinkerton teamed with Sam Lagrou to win a 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 match over Kylie Lorcher and Dalah Harod.

Katie Harmon and Shelby Grubb posted a three-set victory at first doubles for Ross.

Britta Barron, the No. 1 singles player for the Little Giants, lost a 6-2, 6-3 decision to Amy Schlessman, a player LaFountain believes has a chance to make the state tournament.

Barron and Clarke compete in the Division I district tournament on Thursday at Sandusky High School.



PINKERTON

Tennis

High School Girls

Ross 3, Oregon Clay 2

Singles

1. Britta Barron (R) d. Ashley Damask 6-0, 7-6 (7-5).
2. Alex Shellhammer (C) d. Emily Clarke 1-6, 6-4, 7-5.
3. Amanda Lachner (R) d. Lindsay Durant 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

Doubles

1. Sarah Jale-Gayle Roberts (C) d. Katie Harmon-Brianne Pinkerton 6-2, 6-3.
2. Shelby Grubb-Sam Lagrou (R) d. Kayleigh Brewer-Emily Czerniak 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

Record: Ross 10-7, Clay 15-4.

JV winners: Kylie O'Neal.