

Perrysburg goes down to wire before capturing Michaels title

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Perrysburg needed a last-match victory before claiming its second successive Pete Michaels Memorial Girls Tennis Tournament title Saturday at Rodger Young Park.

It was a day on which Fremont Ross coach Sue Badertscher could not keep from smiling even though Perrysburg took home the championship cup.

Perrysburg first court singles champion Cindy Mikolajewski needed three sets before defeating Nina Morgensterne, a German exchange student attending Bryan High School, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a match that lasted nearly two hours but won the title for her team. Mikolajewski came back from a 4-1 deficit in the final set.

Mikolajewski's title was one of three for Perrysburg as the Yellow Jackets rolled up 150 points, 10 more than runner-up host Ross. Bryan was third with 140, followed by Whitmer 50, Lake 20 and Toledo Waite 5. Whitmer won the sportsmanship trophy.

Ross won one title and added three runners-up and a third-place finish.

"We had four in the finals,"

Badertscher pointed out, "with one champ but did not convert (the others). It was a close one though."

The Little Giants first court duo of cousins Dena and Casey Schepflin needed a second-set tiebreaker to defeat Hollie Woodward and Joy King of Bryan 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) to win the division. The victory kept the Schepflins undefeated in 15 matches.

The Schepflins are freshmen and have helped the Little Giants to an 8-0 dual meet record and the Sandusky Invitational Tournament title a week ago.

Freshman Dawn Zerman and Ann Darr, the only senior on the Ross team, took second for Ross in the second and third court singles, respectively. Zerman lost to Jean Lowry of Perrysburg 6-1, 6-3 in the finals while Darr, who became ill during her championship match, lost to Christina Schneider of Perrysburg 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the title match.

"That was a surprise for me that Ann Darr did not take her court," Badertscher said. "You look at a lot of reasons (for the loss), but I went out and talked to Annie when she was in her

third set and she said, 'Coach, I'm going to throw up'; she did not feel well.

"I think she could have pulled it off, other than that. It would have made a big difference."

In second-court doubles, Heather Boggs and Megan Hadley of Fremont Ross lost to the Bryan team of Ann Yoder and Kelly Lehman 6-0, 2-6, 6-3 in the championship clash.

But Badertscher was still smiling.

"I can't do anything else but smile. It's a good year!" the Ross coach smiled.

Moments earlier, the smile had gotten larger after finding out that the Ross junior varsity team won the the Norwalk Junior Varsity Invitational Tournament, winning all three doubles divisions.

Sarah Williams and Brandy Cheek won the Norwalk JV first doubles; Miki Steffens and Lisa Sherck took the second doubles title; and Sara Binau and Shannon Neeley won the third doubles crown.

Ross returns to action at 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, hosting Great Lakes League rival Whitmer.