

Ross duo set for district



News-Messenger file photo

RYAN NEWMAN of Fremont Ross, shown practicing earlier this season, will team with Pete Scranton to play in today's district tournament.

Scranton, Newman will open with team from Southview

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

If Fremont Ross's doubles tandem of Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman is going to succeed at the Division I District Tennis Tournament, which began at 9:30 a.m. today in Bowling Green, the boys will have to play their best tennis.

"We both have to play our best matches to win," Scranton said. "A lot of the best players went to doubles this year. There are going to be some real good tennis players."

"But we do have a chance," Coach Rick LaFountain said the boys will have to be at the top of their game.

"If they both play as well as they can, I'm not going to place limits on how well they can do," LaFountain said. "If

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they don't play well, they could be done by noon."

Scranton, a sophomore, and Newman, a senior, are one of four top-seeds at the meet. They won the Sandusky sectional last weekend, with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 finals' win over Lexington's Brett Hunderfund and Seth Roberts.

But despite the high seed, the duo will open with tough opponents in Jason Rose and Blake Fillion of Southview.

"Fillion is a freshman and I've never seen him play," LaFountain said. "But I've seen Rose play and he's real good."

The Northwest district qualifies just two teams for the state

tournament next week in Columbus. Therefore, the tandem will have to reach the finals Saturday to qualify.

"We're capable of making it to the finals," Newman said, "if we play really, really hard and real well together."

LaFountain said service may be a key for the Little Giants team.

"They will have to serve well," he said. "They'll need to hit lot of first serves to do well."

Both boys have district experience. Newman teamed with 1997 graduate Bill Flower and lost in the second round to a team from Elida. Newman lost his opening singles match to Eric Tracy of St. John's.

"We can do better than I did last year and even better than Pete and Bill did," Newman

said.

Scranton thinks his time with Flower was invaluable.

"Bill taught me a lot about playing doubles," he said. "I'm a better player because of him."

Toledo St. John's is the favorite to win the meet, said LaFountain.

"They have 45 players and their second seven are just as good as anyone else's first seven," he said.

LaFountain said either way he will get top-notch effort from both players.

"I know they will give 110 percent and do the best they can," the coach said.

"Sometimes they're off their game but they never less than 100 percent. That's all you can ask."

Newman, Scranton advance to finals

News-Messenger reports

BOWKLING GREEN — One more match.

That's all the Fremont Ross doubles team of Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman will need to win to advance to the state tournament.

Scranton and Newman opened the tournament Friday with a convincing 6-2, 6-2 win over Sean Fitzgerald and Jordan Rakfer of Whitmer.

In the second round, the duo knocked off Erik Tracy and Ben Miller of mighty Toledo St. Johns, in a greuling 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 match.

Scranton and Newman will play Edida's team of Scott Dredge and Brandon Williams at 9:15 a.m. today in Bowling Green.

If they win they qualify for the state tournament next week in Columbus.

The sophomore Scranton and the senior Newman both have district experience. Last season, Scranton and 1997 graduate Bill Flower advanced to the second round of the dfoubles tourney and Newman qualified in singles. Newman qualified for the state diving tournament in March. Neither athlete has been to the state tennis tournament.

Scranton, Newman fall short in district

BOWLING GREEN — The Fremont Ross doubles team of Ryan Newman and Pete Scranton lost two matches Saturday in the Division I District tournament at Bowling Green.

Scott Dredge and Brandon Williams of Elida beat Newman and Scranton 6-3, 6-1 in the semifinals. In the consolation match Jim Grombacker and Steve Bohl of Central Catholic outlasted the Little Giants' team 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

"There were four doubles teams there, two were great and two were good," said Ross coach Rick La Fountain. "On Saturday the other good team was better than us. It was a match where we had opportunities but they outplayed us. The northwest district winners will do very well in the state."