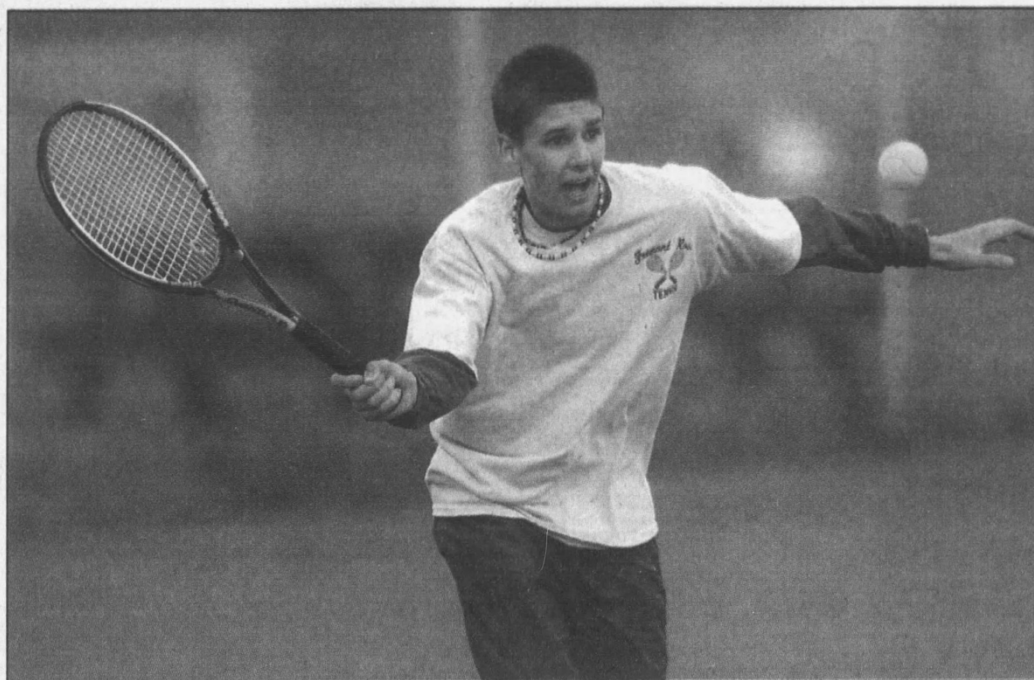


High School Tennis Preview



News-Messenger/Ben French

ROSS SOPHOMORE David Albrechta takes a forehand swipe at the ball during Thursday's 5-0 victory over Toledo Central Catholic at Rodger Young Park. Albrechta is one of three returning singles players for the Little Giants, who hope to unseat Findlay as the Great Lakes League champion.

Ross aims to reclaim St. Joe settles in under second-year head coach

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys tennis team hopes experience and depth will lift it back to the top of the Great Lakes League after a two-year title drought.

The Little Giants welcome back seven of eight letterwinners from last year's squad, which finished second to Findlay in the GLL race for the second consecutive year.

The singles roster of seniors Paul Eckert and Marc Brough and sophomore David Albrechta remains intact.

The only loss to the doubles teams, graduated Brian Kaltenbach, has been replaced by St. Joe junior transfer Drew Wetzel.

"On any given day, any one of our singles players could beat any other of them," seventh-year Ross head coach Rick LaFountain said. "We have a lot of depth. Our 8, 9, 10, 11 guys are probably as strong as any doubles players in the GLL, except for ours and Findlay's."

The Little Giants finished 11-7 overall last season and 5-1 in the GLL. Ross won league titles in 1997, '98 and '99.

Brough and Eckert won a sectional championship as a doubles team, and Albrechta advanced to the district as a sin-

Inside: Ross clubs Central Cath. **Roundup, Page B3**

gles player. Eckert and Albrechta were second-team All-GLL performers.

Senior Adam Swope leads the returning doubles players, although he began the year playing singles as Brough's serves a three-match disciplinary suspension. Twins Chris and Justin Orofino, both juniors, and sophomore Brian Gibbs will join Wetzel in the doubles mix to start the campaign.

Juniors Adam Laurer and Justin Berger and sophomore Anthony Weiker will compete for varsity time as well.

The Little Giants will aim to knock Findlay from its perch atop the GLL. The Trojans lost their No. 2 and 3 singles players from last season.

"There isn't a team on our schedule we can't beat," LaFountain said. "We'll probably drop a few, but there's nobody out there we can't compete with."



BROUGH

Crimson Streaks expect progress

The St. Joseph Central Catholic boys tennis team hopes to improve after adjusting to head coach Greg McMaster, who is starting his second year at the helm.

The Crimson Streak squad is 11 members strong with five returning lettermen.

"I've seen improvement in all the returnees," McMaster said. "They've become more comfortable with me, being my second year, but we're still a young team. I expect us to finish around .500."

SJCC went 4-7 last year.

Back this season to lead the Crimson Streaks are senior Jeff Young, juniors Nick Wobser and Justin Carmack and sophomores J.T. Mauric and Jim Ryan.

McMaster said the kids will rotate through the order of singles and doubles until players distinguish themselves.

"It was a tough start with the snow days limiting our practices heading into our first meet but things are improving," he said. "We just need more time to develop."

One surprise already has been the singles play of Carmack. He is expected to share time in the singles spots with Mauric. Wobser and Young are expected play in the top two slots.

"Our first and second singles

will be our strength," McMaster said. "Jeff and Nick have both really improved from last year."

"Justin has surprised me though. He had an outstanding performance in the opener. He spent all last year at doubles and that was his first shot at singles."

Sophomores Ben Burkett, Brandon Magyar and Rob Moyer will all vie for time at singles and work in doubles action.

McMaster said doubles play is an area in need of improvement, but St. Joe returns its top doubles team of Ryan and Carmack.

Gone from last season are Jon Verock, who played second singles and first doubles player Drew Wetzel. He transferred to Fremont Ross.

SJCC dropped its first match, but McMaster said he could see his players are getting better a year ago. The No. 1 doubles team consisting of Wobser and Young, along with Carmack at No. 1 singles, both won matches in a 3-2 season opening loss to Sandusky on Wednesday.

"We will be competitive. They were disappointed that we didn't pull off the victory. We feel with a little better strategy, we can beat them next time," McMaster said.

See CLYDE, B3

Lakota visits Clyde today. Old Fort is at Arcadia on Friday.

BOYS TENNIS

Ross 4, Bowling Green 1

BOWLING GREEN — The Little Giants played without their top player, but they had little trouble with the Bobcats in the season opener.

Ross's No. 1 singles player, Marc Brough, served the first match of a three-match suspension. His replacement, Paul Eckert, earned a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Bowling Green's Brian Puffer.

The Little Giants also earned victories at No. 2 singles and in both doubles matches. Ross's David Albrechta downed Mike Frye 6-1, 6-1 in second singles. The top Ross doubles team of Justin and Chris Orofino claimed a hard-fought 7-5, 6-7, 7-3 triumph over Travis Tansel and Scott Colvin.

The most impressive performance may have been at No. 2 doubles. The Ross team of Brian Gibbs and Drew Wetzel claimed a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Will Parker and Troy Barne.

"They played very well," Ross coach Rick Lafountain said of Gibbs and Wetzel. "We just threw some doubles teams together, and it

worked out pretty well."

Bowling Green's lone victory came from No. 3 singles player Jeff Zeh, who defeated Adam Swope 6-2, 6-2.

Ross hosts Toledo Central Catholic today.

Sandusky 3, St. Joe 2

SANDUSKY — The Crimson Streaks' top singles player and doubles team pulled off victories over the Blue Streaks, but it wasn't enough for St. Joe in the season opener.

St. Joe's Justin Carmack defeated David Prout 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 in the No. 1 singles match. And the Crimson Streaks team of Nick Wobser and Jeff Young earned a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Jon Flittner and Phil Barone in the No. 1 doubles match.

In other singles matches, Sandusky's Ray Seiler downed St. Joe's Jim Ryan 6-3, 6-4; and Steve Wobser of Sandusky took care of Brandon Magyar of St. Joe 6-3, 7-5.

In the No. 2 doubles match, Justin Hayman and Joe Seder downed J.T. Mauric and Rob Moyer of St. Joe 6-1, 7-5.

St. Joe hosts St. Mary Central Catholic on Monday.

BOYS TENNIS

Ross 5, Central Catholic 0

The cold weather couldn't stop a hot Fremont Ross boys tennis team as it blanked Toledo Central Catholic in non-league action at Rodger Young Park.

Ross's Paul Eckert downed Brian Taylor 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 at No. 1 singles. David Albrechta followed suit with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Pat Best at No. 2 singles. Little Giant Adam Swope topped Jay Schmakel, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

The Ross doubles team of Justin and Chris Orofino defeated Aaron Gice and Joe Stahl 6-1, 6-1. In second doubles, the tandem of Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs posted a 6-2, 6-1 win over Central Catholic's Jack Dever and Sam Wlodarski.

The Little Giants (2-0) travel to Clyde on Monday.

BOYS TENNIS

Elida 5, Ross 0

ELIDA — The Bulldogs won their first match of the season and handed the Little Giants their first setback during a non-league affair.

Ross's No. 3 singles player David Albrechta and the top doubles team of Justin and Chris Orofino suffered heartbreaking defeats. Albrechta fell 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) to Jim Bob Harter. Mike Sarno and Rob Schwinnen took care of the Orofinos 6-0, 7-6 (7-4).

At No. 1 singles, Elida's Jeff Perrin downed Paul Eckert 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. Jayson Hilborn of Elida (1-7) beat Marc Brough of Ross at No. 2 singles 6-2, 6-2.

At second doubles, the Elida pair of Zach Mikesell and Ryan Lee recorded a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Drew Wetzel and Bria Gibbs 6-2, 6-2.

Ross (3-1) visits Norwalk today.

Norwalk squeaks past Giants

News-Messenger reports

NORWALK — The top two Fremont Ross singles players won, but the Truckers swept the final three matches to claim a 3-2 non-league boys tennis victory Thursday.

Ross's Paul Eckert downed Steve Rehnberg 6-4, 6-0; teammate Marc Brough turned in a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Wes Sellers.

Norwalk (5-0) started the road back at third singles. Kyle Bowers upended David Albrechts 6-2, 6-0.

In doubles, the Truckers' top team of Doug Dials and Ryan Houghtlen earned a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Justin and Chris Orofino. Norwalk's Chris Higgins and Adam Dufur won 6-2, 6-3 over Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs of Ross.

The Little Giants (3-2) are at Clyde for a makeup match on Monday.

St. Mary 4, St. Joe 1

SANDUSKY — The doubles team of Jeff Young and Nick Wobser pulled off St. Joe's lone victory against powerful St. Mary Central Catholic.

Young and Wobser claimed a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Greg Pawlowski and Steve Clear. In second doubles, the St. Mary squad of Ryan Brady and Kyle Kelley defeated Justin Carmack and Jim Ryan 6-0, 6-3.

The Panthers swept the singles matches without losing a single game. Jeremy Miller downed J.T. Mauric; Mark Posta ripped Rob Moyer; and Ryan Ruthsatz upended Ben Burkett.

St. Joe (2-2) is at Edison today.

Lake 4, Oak Harbor 1

OAK HARBOR — Oak Harbor's Cameron Loth recorded a victory at No. 2 singles as the Rockets bowed to Lake in non-league action.

Loth defeated Flyer Craig Baumbach 6-0, 6-3.

Lake's Tony Almaner defeated R.J. Stoner 7-5, 7-5 in No. 1 singles, while Adam Young received a forfeit for the Flyers.

The Rocket team of Scott Avery and Justin Fetterman bowed to Paul Veller and Adam Brassia 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. In second doubles, Oak Harbor's Troy Alvarado and Ryan Tinger lost a close match to the tandem of Josh Duncan and Steve Reyher 6-4, 7-6, (7-5).

Oak Harbor (0-2) travels to Bowling Green today.

Boys Tennis

Little Giants sweep Clyde, get ready for Findlay battle

News-Messenger reports

CLYDE — The Fremont Ross boys tennis team recorded five straight-set victories on the way to a 5-0 non-league victory over Clyde on Monday.

Paul Eckert defeated Flier Matt Culbertson 6-1, 6-1 in No. 1 singles, while David Albrechta downed David Paul 6-0, 6-0. Little Giant Anthony Weiker posted a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Mike Hernandez.

The Ross duo of Justin and Christopher Orofino defeated Ed Cleveland and Mike Cooley 6-1, 6-2, while Ross's Drew Wetzel and Adam Swope concluded the sweep with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Justice Foreman and Cory Whitaker.

The Little Giants improved to 4-2 and host Great Lakes League rival Findlay today.

"Every year, it seems like the winner of that match wins the GLL," Ross head coach Rick LaFountain said.

"It's important for seeding and getting the two points for the league scoring. It will be a big match. ... We hope to get a lot of fans out to root us on."

Boys Tennis Roundup

Trojans upend Little Giants in GLL

News-Messenger reports

The Findlay boys tennis team kept its hands firmly on the Great Lakes League title it won last season by upending Fremont Ross 4-1 Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

The Little Giants' lone victory came from the No. 1 doubles team of Justin and Christopher Orofino, who downed Joe Gange-mi and Alex King 6-2, 6-3.

"I'm really proud of how Justin and Chris played," Ross head coach Rick LaFountain said. "They've worked really hard on their game together and had a big win."

The Trojans (5-1, 3-0 GLL) swept the singles matches. Nick Casalbone downed Paul Eckert 6-

4, 6-2; Doug Johnson took out Marc Brough 6-0, 7-5; and Ben Hannah outlasted David Albrechta 6-3, 6-4.

In second doubles, Adam Stinger and Neil Archanya of Findlay defeated Drew Wetzel and Adam Swope 6-3, 6-1.

Ross (4-3, 1-1 GLL) is at Ashland on Monday.

St. Mary 4, Clyde 1

CLYDE — The Fliers adjusted their lineup and got one victory against the Sandusky Bay Conference powerhouse Panthers in the conference opener for both squads. Clyde's Matt Culbertson and Ed Cleveland, normally singles

players, teamed up for a victory at No. 1 doubles, downing Bryce Roth and Aaron Timmons of St. Mary 6-2, 6-1. The Fliers are 1-3.

St. Mary (5-0) eased to victories in the other matches. Jeremy Miller downed Mike Cooley 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles; Mark Posta recorded a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Cory Whitaker at No. 2 singles; and Ryan Ruthsatz swept Mike Hernandez 6-2, 6-2.

St. Mary's Kyle Kelley and Jeff Smith won a 6-4, 6-2 decision over Clyde's Justice Foreman and David Paul at second doubles.

Edison 5, Oak Harbor 0

OAK HARBOR — The Charg-

ers kept the Rockets winless in the SBC opener for both teams.

Jesse Schwanger of Edison earned a 6-4, 6-1 victory over R.J. Stoner in the top singles match. Chris Miller topped Cameron Loth 6-0, 7-6 (7-4) at second singles. Edison won the No. 3 singles match by forfeit.

In doubles, Matt Miklovic and Eric Bickley of Edison took care of Scott Avery and Justin Fetterman 6-2, 6-4, and Rick Keeple and Mike Luv defeated Ryan Tingler and Troy Alvaredo 6-0, 6-0.

Edison improved to 3-0. Oak Harbor is 0-4.

The Rockets are at Huron on April 24.



News-Messenger/Ben French

JUSTIN OROFINO sends a backhand over the net as brother and doubles partner Christopher Orofino (foreground) prepares for action during Tuesday's match against Findlay at Rodger Young Park.

TENNIS

Ross fourth at doubles tourney

Drew Wetzel and Adam Swope finished second at No. 3 doubles to lead Fremont Ross to fourth place in the Fremont Doubles Tournament on Saturday at Rodger Young Park.

Wetzel and Swope dropped the title match to Ryan Lewandowski and Jerod Bohnenkamp of Perrysburg 6-0, 6-3.

The Little Giants, who were playing without top player Paul Eckert, scored 53 points. Eckert attended a band event Saturday.

Port Clinton won the tournament with 95 points, 27 more than second-place Perrysburg. Clyde finished eighth with 10 points.

For Ross, the top doubles team of Marc Brough and David Albrechta finished third. The No. 2 team of Justin and Christopher Orofino came in fourth, and the No. 4 team of Bryan Gibbs and Justin Berger placed fifth.

The only Clyde placers were Ed Cleveland and Matt Culbertson, who teamed up to place fourth in the top doubles division.

Boys Tennis Roundup

Ross doubles teams sweep, lead to victory

News-Messenger reports

ASHLAND — A depleted Little Giants team used improved doubles play to eke out a non-league victory over Ashland.

Ross (5-3) was missing starters Paul Eckert and Adam Swope, who attended a band concert.

But the doubles teams of Justin and Christopher Orofino and Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs pulled out straight-set victories to lead the Little Giants.

"I've never been more proud of the way our kids played," Ross head coach Rick LaFountain said. "They're a tough team, and we were playing short-handed. But we've been working on our doubles play, and it really came through tonight."

David Albrechta got Ross's lone singles victory, beating Neil Malhotra 6-2, 6-3 at No. 2. Aaron Oeken of Ashland downed No. 1 player Marc Brough 6-3, 6-3, and the Arrows' No. 3 player Carl Kauffman earned a 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 win over Dan Rakay.

Rakay came up from the junior varsity and nearly pulled off a big upset. He won the first set and was tied in the second set 5-5 before losing control of the match.

"I was really proud of the way Dan played," LaFountain said.

The Orofinos stopped Scott Vore and Matt Barr 6-4, 7-6 (11-9), and Wetzel and Gibbs downed Neil Slabodnick and Troy Kitchen 7-6 (11-9), 6-3.

Ross hosts Whitmer today.

Clyde 4, Sandusky 1

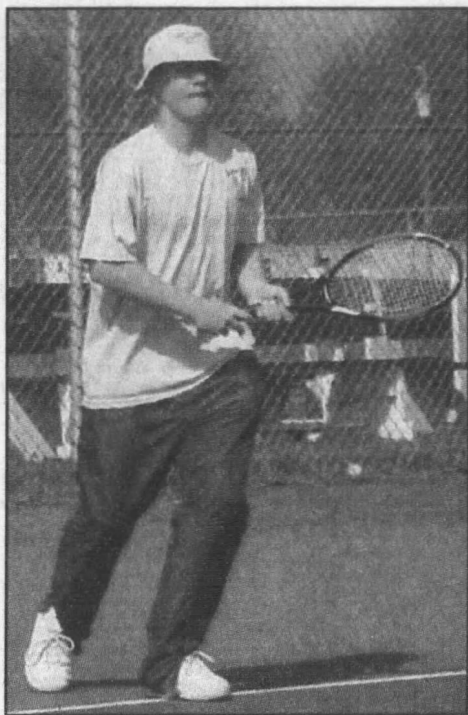
CLYDE — The Fliers swept the singles matches and eased to a non-league victory over the Blue Streaks.

Matt Culbertson, Ed Cleveland and Justice Foreman beat their Sandusky counterparts. Culbertson topped David Prout 6-1, 6-2; Cleveland upended Justin Hayman 7-6 (15-13), 2-6, 6-4; and Foreman took out Steve Wobser 6-4, 6-4.

Ray Seiler and Trey Hart got Sandusky's only victory at No. 1 doubles, beating Mike Cooley and Jared Shetzer 6-4, 6-4.

David Paul and Cory Whitaker of Clyde defeated Phil Barone and Jon Fillitter 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) at second doubles.

Spring Roundup



News-Messenger/Lisa Wilson

MARC BROUGH of Fremont Ross prepares for a volley during Tuesday's victory over Toledo Whitmer at Rodger Young Park.

Little Giants net win over Whitmer

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross tennis team eased to four victories in five matches Tuesday to beat Toledo Whitmer in a Great Lakes League match at Rodger Young Park.

Singles players Marc Brough and David Albrechta recorded 6-0, 6-0 and 6-0, 6-1 victories, respectively, over Whitmer's Mark Neville and Mik Dobbinger.

In doubles, Justin and Christopher Orofino of Ross downed Chris Smith and Cal Lykins 6-0, 6-0. Teammates Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs downed Tony Pasguello and Ryan Okulski 6-0, 6-2.

Whitmer's only victory came from top singles player Casey Black, who upended Paul Eckert 7-5, 6-1.

Ross (6-3, 2-1 GLL) hosts Tiffin Columbian today.

Edison 3, Clyde 2

MILAN — The Fliers won the top two singles matches, but Edison charged back to win the rest and take a Sandusky Bay Conference match.

Matt Culbertson and Ed Cleveland picked up Clyde's victories. Culbertson downed Jesse Schwanger 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; and Cleveland upended Chris Miller 7-5, 6-1.

Anthony Whitt started the Chargers' comeback by beating Justice Foreman 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.

Edison's Eric Bickley and Matt Miklovic won a hard-fought top singles match 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2 over Clyde's Mike Cooley and Jared Shetzer. Trevor Harlow and Mike Lux of Edison earned a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Cory Whitaker and David Paul.

See FRAZIER, B2

Spring Sports Roundup

Giants blow by Tornadoes

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross collected five straight-set victories on the way to a 5-0 non-league victory at Rodger Young Park.

Paul Eckert and David Albrechta of Ross won 6-0, 6-0 single decisions over Pete Grangaart and Nick Rider, respectively. Marc Brough downed Neal Seaborn 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles, Christopher and Justin Orofino turned in a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Rick Donaldson and Jim Piccuto.

Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs combined for a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Andy Zirger and Brian Anthony.

Ross hosts Toledo Rogers on Friday.

Port Clinton 5, Clyde 0

CLYDE — Port Clinton tennis coach Rod Gale said his team is playing well and it didn't disappoint during a shutout of Clyde.

The Redskins lost a total of eight games in the rout. Bryan Warga and Tristan McLean extended their

records to 11-0, and Nick McLean improved to 10-1 at first singles.

Nick McLean defeated Clyde's Justice Foreman 6-1, 6-0, and Redskin teammate Ben Bauk blanked Dave Paul 6-0, 6-0. Chris Cellier, who bumped up to No. 3 singles, defeated Flier Cory Whitaker 6-0, 6-0.

The Port Clinton duo of Warga and T. McLean defeated Matt Culbertson and Ed Cleveland 7-5, 6-0, while Redskins

See FLIERS, B2

BOYS TENNIS

Ross 5, Rogers 0

The Little Giants had no problem with the Rams at Rodger Young Park, recording four straight-set victories and a default in a non-league match.

Paul Eckert earned a 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Eric Turner, and Marc Brough turned in a 6-1, 6-1 victory in singles action. Ross's David Albrechta won by default.

Justin Orofino and Christopher Orofino of Ross took a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Brian Veres and John Kinnear at first doubles. Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs stopped Andy Condon and Gay Carr 6-1, 6-0 at second doubles.

Ross (8-3) is at Sandusky High School for the Sandusky Invitational at 9 a.m. today.

TENNIS

Ross 5, Fostoria 0

The Little Giants singles players lost only two games on their way to straight-set victories during a Great Lakes League victory at Rodger Young Park.

No. 1 player Paul Eckert and No. 3 player David Albrechta claimed 6-0, 6-0 triumphs over Kyle Kings and Jake Fliners, respectively. Second singles player Marc Brough defeated Nate Damron 6-2, 6-0.

In doubles, Justin and Christopher Orofino of Ross downed Fostoria's Josh Miller and Caleb Schiff 6-1, 6-2. Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs defeated Rodney Hook and Ben Hummell 6-1, 6-2.

Ross (10-3, 3-1 GLL) hosts Clay today.

Giants rip Clay, stay alive for GLL crown

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys tennis team stayed alive for a chance at the Great Lakes League championship with a 4-1 victory over Oregon Clay on Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

The Little Giants (11-3, 4-1 GLL) can get a league title by winning the GLL Tournament on Friday at Sandusky.

On Tuesday, the four Ross victories came in straight sets. Paul Eckert downed Clay's Chris George 6-0, 6-0 at first singles, Marc Brough took down Ali Abou-Arab 6-2, 6-1 at second singles and David Albrechta swept Brad Vogelbacher 6-0, 6-2 at third singles.



ECKERT

Clay (6-5, 3-2 GLL) got its lone victory from the first doubles team of Matt Taylor and Craig Schabel. They downed Justin and Christopher Orofino 1-6, 6-2, 7-5. Ross rebounded to win second

doubles when Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs outlasted Mike Ritchey and James Brower 6-3, 6-2.

Ross hosts Oak Harbor today.

SOFTBALL

Anthony Wayne 10, Ross 2
The Generals outthit the Little Gi-

ants 15-6 on the way to an easy non-league victory at Alumni Field.

Erica Wolfe led Ross (11-6) with two hits. Jera Johnson doubled and scored a run, and Rachel Hammer added a hit and a run batted in.

Ross hosts Whitmer today. The two teams will complete a suspended by lightning on April 12 in Toledo before the regularly scheduled game.

Clyde 7, Perkins 2

SANDUSKY — The Fliers improved to 7-1 in the Sandusky Bay Conference by blowing open a close game with four runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Sarah Pearson's two-out, two-run

single highlighted the big inning.

Jenna Kinnear, Kasey Dymond and Ashley Carter had two hits apiece for the Fliers (11-4). Kinnear and Carter each scored twice.

Angie Powell earned her 10th victory on the mound. She allowed two earned runs and six hits in a route-going performance. Powell struck out three and walked five.

Clyde hosts St. Mary today.

Woodmore 5, Old Fort 3

WOODVILLE — Tarah Jacobs struck out 16 batters to lead the Wildcats to their third victory of the season.

See BETTSVILLE, B3

Giants record 8th win in a row

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross tennis team overcame the absence of its top singles player to win its eighth consecutive match Wednesday at Rodger Young Park.

The Little Giants downed Ottawa Hills 4-1 to improve to 12-3 on the campaign.

"It's days like this that make me proud to be a coach," Ross head coach Rick LaFountain said. "We were hoping to win 3-2, maybe, and really walked away with a great win."

Marc Brough and David Albrechta won for Ross at first and second singles, respectively.



ALBRECHTA

Brough upended Aaron Safrin 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, and Albrechta earned a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Brian Buckey.

"I've never seen Marc and David play a better game," LaFountain said.

Ross also claimed both doubles matches. Justin and Christopher Orofino claimed a 7-5, 7-5 triumph over Kyle Wilson and Peter Drumheller. Drew Wetzell and Brian Gibbs won 6-4, 7-5 over Arthur Zepf and Mike Nutter.

Ottawa Hills got a victory at No. 3 singles when Sonjay Vasani took down Adam Swope 6-1, 7-6 (8-6).

Ross competes in the Great Lakes League meet Friday at Sandusky.

GLL Tennis

Findlay upends Ross in league

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — The Findlay boys tennis team backed up its dual meet victory over Fremont Ross by taking the Great Lakes League tournament title Friday at Sandusky High School.

The Trojans scored 26 points to second-place Ross's 18, earning the overall league championship.

For the Little Giants, second singles player Marc Brough and third singles player David Albrechta turned in the top performances.



BROUGH



ALBRECHTA

Each player finished second in the tournament and earned second-team all-league honors.

Brough fell to Findlay's Doug Johnson 6-4, 6-3 in the title match. He defeated Ali Abou-Arab of Oregon Clay 6-1, 6-3 in the opening match.

Albrechta downed Steve Wobster 6-1, 6-0 before falling 6-1, 7-5 to Ben Hannah of Findlay in the final.

Ross's top singles player, Paul Eckert, finished third place in the tournament and made second-team All-GLL. He defeated David Trout of Sandusky 6-0, 6-1 in the first round but lost to Casey Black 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals. Eckert rebounded to beat Findlay's Chris George 8-3 for third place.

In doubles, the Ross teams of Justin and Christopher Orofino and Drew Wetzel and Brian Gibbs each won one match and lost one match. They did not place.

The Little Giants host Huron on Monday.

Roundup

Knights lance Giants in 5-0 shutout

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — On paper, the Toledo St. Francis De-Sales boys tennis team is the best in the state.

On Thursday, the defending state champion Knights, currently atop the latest state poll in Division I, showed why they are such a heralded program with a 5-0 shutout of Fremont Ross.

"They were incredible," Little Giants head coach Rick LaFountain said of the Knights. "They're the best high school tennis team I've ever seen. It was an honor to play with them."

St. Francis (16-0) showed its court prowess in singles action as Ross wasn't able to score a point.

Little Giant David Albrechta lost 6-0, 6-0 to Ross Wilson, and Ross's Drew Wetzel bowed 6-0, 6-0 to James O'Connell. His brother, Mike O'Connell, posted a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of Brian Gibbs.

The Little Giant team of Marc Brough and Paul Eckert bowed to the Knights'

See LITTLE GIANTS, B2

Kevin O'Connell and Justin Jordan in a 6-3, 6-1 match. Ross's Justin and Christopher Orofino fell to Jeff Serpa and Colin Mohler, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 2 doubles.

Said LaFountain, "It's fun to play a team like that but I wish we could've played them outside in the elements. When you're playing indoors, you're playing in their living room. ... Our kids have something to remember."

The Little Giants (12-4) host Lorain Admiral King on Tuesday.