

1996 Great Lakes League

Ross in GLL Tuesday

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Fremont Ross's girls tennis team has short- and long-term history on its side as it prepares for Tuesday's Great Lakes League tournament.

The Little Giants (13-4, 6-0 GLL) beat every team in the league this season and enter the event (9 a.m., Courts of Sylva) as the four-time defending champions.

"The way they've been playing throughout the season, they can win it," first-year coach Lisa

Wolfe said. "When they've wanted to do something, they've done it."

"Confidence is a lot in this game," she said.

And it starts at the top. The three singles players — junior Andi Andrews, senior Alissa Brickner and sophomore Courtney LaBenne — have lost a combined two matches in six team meets against league foes.

"I would hope that all my singles (have a chance to win Tuesday)," Wolfe said. "They've had a wonderful record."

Particularly Andrews. She won all her No. 1 singles matches, rarely losing more than a couple games in any one match. Brickner (No. 2) and LaBenne (No. 3) followed the example from Andrews, each losing one match to Findlay players.

"She was a slicer and I wasn't ready to play her," Brickner said of Trojan player Sara Radabaugh, who beat Brickner 6-0, 6-1 Aug. 27. "You have to have a lot of patience because you're tempted to over hit the ball."

Findlay was one of three teams to push Ross to a 3-2 score (Bedford and Napoleon were the others), and Wolfe expects the biggest challenge to come from the first-year GLL team. Ross topped Toledo Whitmer 4-1 and beat Fostoria and Oregon Clay 5-0.

Freshman Ainsley Watkins is expected to pair with sophomore Rachel Stout at No. 1 doubles, but Stout has been nagged by a thumb injury and could sit out. If so, one of the No. 2 doubles team members — sophomores Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom — will move up a spot. Alternates Jenny Schaaf and Charlie Swartz are the alternates.

GLL Champs Ross captures tennis tourney

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross's girls tennis team, unbeaten in six Great Lakes League matches this season, continued their GLL dominance Tuesday by winning the league tournament.

TENNIS

Junior Andi Andrews won the No. 1 singles title and sophomore Courtney LaBenne won at No. 3 as the Little Giants won the crown for the fifth straight year, this time under first-year coach Lisa Wolfe.

Ross scored 27 points, followed by Findlay, Napoleon and Whitmer with 17 points apiece.

Andrews' win was the most dominant, as she lost just one game to Nicki Smith of Fostoria and Angie Reidling of Whitmer. She received a first-round bye after winning all six of her regular-season matches.

LaBenne needed three sets to beat Anna Sclesselman of Fostoria, then topped Bedford's Erin White for the title. Both Andrews' and LaBenne's wins meant seven points toward Ross's team total.

Senior Alissa Brickner grabbed another five points for the Little Giants when she placed second at No. 2 singles.

Brickner defeated Whitmer's Lindsey Heigel and Kim Cryan of Bedford before losing to Findlay's Sara Radabaugh. Radabaugh was the only GLL opponent to beat Brickner in the regular season.

The doubles teams of Ainsley Watkins and Rachel Stout and Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom each placed third in No. 1 and 2 doubles.

If you go

Take U.S. 20 West to I-475 West, then get off at Central Avenue Exit and turn left. Take a right on Centennial Road, courts are about a mile down the road on the right.