

04 Sectional Tournament

Michaels, Hasselbach moving on

News-Messenger reports

Ashleigh Hasselbach certainly wanted to have Devon Michaels' back.

"Devon has always been a great

player," Hasselbach said of her senior Fremont

Ross doubles partner. "I

was hoping I would be good enough to get her back to districts."

Hasselbach was.

The Little Giant tandem won a pair of matches at the Division I sectional tournament in Sandusky to advance to next Thursday's district tournament.



MICHAELS



HASSELBACH

See ROSS DUO, B2

Ross duo moves on to districts

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"I knew it was her last chance," Hasselbach said of Michaels, who will play in her third district tournament. "It's an honor to play with somebody as good as Devon.

"It's an honor to get to districts," continued Hasselbach, who will make her first district appearance. "I am so happy to be able to experience this. So many girls play and don't get this far. It's a great experience. I'm very, very happy."

The Little Giants will first play in the semifinals of the sectional tournament on Saturday.

The Little Giant duo topped Ashland's Lauren Akkerman and Priya Malhotra 6-3, 6-4 in the first round on Thursday.

Michaels and Hasselbach trailed 4-3 in the second game of their first match before winning the final three games.

They beat Clay's Megan Gladieux and Jordan Roe 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals

to advance to districts.

"I think that we were both really relieved," Hasselbach said. "To be able to say that we were able to get to districts was a little off our back."

Ross's No. 2 doubles team of Rose Tin and Binta Patel beat Mansfield Senior's Sarah Dawson and Kylin Morgan 6-2, 6-1 in the first round before losing to Lexington's Courtney Schaub and Paige Cooper 6-0, 6-0 in the quarters.

Ross's Caitlin Hamilton lost to Sandusky's Tessa Steineman 6-3, 6-0 in the first round.

Britta Barron beat Mansfield Senior's Megan Brunn 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) in the second round, but she lost 6-0, 6-3 to Lexington star Taylor Cooper in the quarterfinals.

Ross coach Rick LaFountain was incredibly impressed with Barron.

"This is the best I've ever seen Britta play," LaFountain said.

"Today, she really became a tennis player. Before she was always timid and shy on the court. Today, she really started ripping the ball."