

## 1993 State Tournament

## State tennis

Two Fremont Ross doubles teams will begin play Friday in the 18th Girls State Tennis Tournament at Ohio State University in Columbus.

Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin will meet Katie Meeker and Helen Johnson of Troy, while Dawn Zerman and Kristen Farrell will face Cindy Kroth and Courtney Caress of Cincinnati Ursuline.

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# Tennis

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## STATE TOURNEY PAIRINGS

COLUMBUS (AP) — First-round pairings for the 18th girls state tennis tournament to be played Friday and Saturday at Ohio State University:

### DIVISION I

**SINGLES:** Amber Bradford, Akron Firestone vs. Erin O'Leary, Cin. St. Ursula; Megan Racey, Dublin vs. Martha Polus, Bowling Green; Sibyl Smith, Tol. Notre Dame vs. Megan Wise, Cols. Northland; Elizabeth Cascarilla, Rocky River Magnificat vs. Sora Moon, Centerville; Lilia Osterloh, Groveport-Madison vs. Becky Schrager, Lyndhurst Brush; Jessie LeMasters, Cin. Ursuline vs. Lori Heimerl, Hudson; Lauren Rose, Sylvania Southview vs. Brooke Berryman, Westerville South; Deidre Bissinger, Kettering Fairmont vs. Jen Gerlach, Hudson.

**DOUBLES:** Kiran Dodeja-Annette Niestroy, Mentor vs. Kelly Walker-Megan Newton, Dublin; **CASEY SCHEPFLIN-DENA SCHEPFLIN, FREMONT ROSS vs. Katie Meeker-Helen Johnson, Troy;** Jill Norton-Christine Sheridan, Cols. Watterson vs. Lindsay Connors-Libbie Schlather, Medina; Denise Cholcam-Kristie Rogers, Rocky River Magnificat vs. Aymee Hathaway-Brooke Hart, Cin. Anderson; Anne Vales-Beth McGuire, Upper Arlington vs. Neeta Raghavan-Vindhya Cuddapah, Youngs. Boardman; **Cindy Kroth-Courtney Caress, Cin. Ursuline vs. DAWN ZERMAN-KRISTEN FARRELL, FREMONT ROSS;** Amy Newman-Katie Hitler, Akron Firestone vs. Kelly Komaromy-Divya Gounder, Dublin; Tina Danielak-Sarah Little, Centerville vs. Laura Fraunfelder-Traci Fraunfelder, Holland Springfield.

# Ross girls receive help from a friend

By **BOB MARKER**  
Staff writer

Four Fremont Ross sophomores are going to have a little help from a Fremont tennis legend as they tread unknown waters Friday and Saturday in the 18th Ohio High School Girls Tennis Tournament.

Jim Flower, a state singles champ and twice runner-up while at Ross, will lend his expertise and share his experiences of state tournament play with the a pair of Ross doubles teams.

Cousins Casey and Dena Schepflin along with Kristen Farrell and Dawn Zerman begin competition at 9 a.m. Friday at the Stickney Tennis Center on the Ohio State University campus next to the Woody Hayes Center off Olentangy Road.

"Jim is going to meet us there (today) and hit with us," Ross coach Sue Badertscher said as her team practiced Tuesday at the Sandusky County YMCA indoor facility. "He will talk to them about playing in the tournament and how to cope. It's wonderful that he is taking the time to be with us."

It is the first time any Ross girls have qualified for the state tournament. To get there, the two teams had to finish in the top four at the sectional and district tournaments. Ironically, in each tourney the teams played opposite each other in the finals.

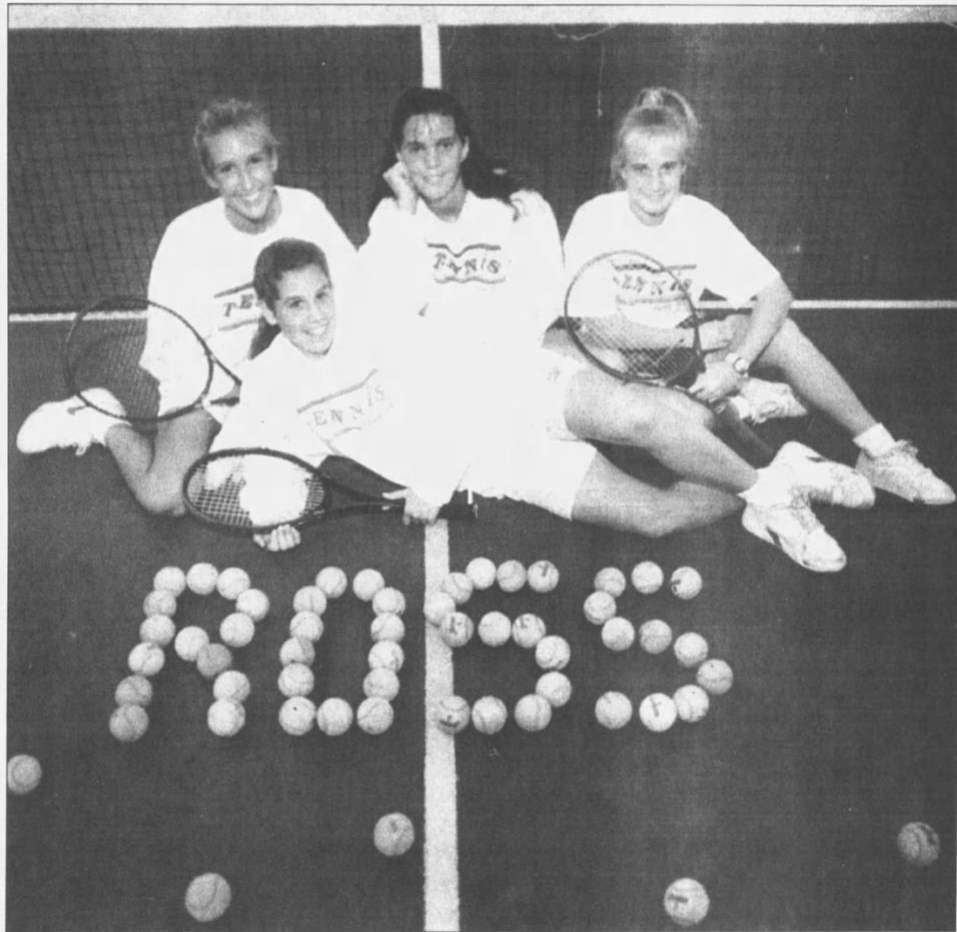
The Schepflins won both times, stretching their season record to 28-0 and 54-1 in two seasons. The Farrell-Zerman duo began playing together in the sectional after a couple of matches during the regular season. Zerman played first singles, while Farrell was at second-court singles most of the season. As a doubles team, the pair are 10-2 with both losses to their teammates.

"It was a little touchy after the sectionals," Baderstcher said when asked about possible friction between the four, "but at the districts, they were laughing, hugging and having a good time."

Zerman hedged a bit when asked about playing her teammates again.

"Yeah, in the state finals," she blurted and added that she did not expect to play the Schepflins in the finals of the two previous tourneys. "The second time was a lot more fun than the first."

Farrell admitted that the switch from singles to doubles was not easy.



**HEADING TO** Columbus for the Ohio High School Girls Tennis Tournament are Fremont Ross players Dawn Zerman (front) and back row, from left Dena

Schepflin, Casey Schepflin and Kristen Farrell. The Schepflins are a team and Zerman and Farrell form another doubles team.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

"I am used to playing the baseline and rallying a lot," she said, "but in doubles, you have to go to the net more."

Badertscher recalled, in a comical sense, how difficult that may have been.

"I kept yelling at Kristen 'Up, up,' meaning go to the net," the Ross coach said, "and she kept saying she was lobbing the ball as high as she could. That's what

she thought I meant when I was saying 'up.'"

The matchup with her teammates did not surprise Casey Schepflin.

"The way we were all playing, I thought we would (play them)," she said.

She hesitated when asked her feeling had she and Dena lost to Farrell and Zerman.

"I may have been upset, but

they are a really good team," she said. "I probably could stomach the loss a little easier, though."

Dena was logical about playing her teammates in a tournament.

"I'd rather play them in the finals than anytime before," she said.

Dena described the district finals match succinctly: "It was sore," she said.

"I mean everyone was diving

around. We were having a good time and going for everything."

If it should happen, how does Dena feel about facing her teammates in the state finals?

"If we had to lose, I would rather it be to them — at least it would be Ross," she said.

Which are probably Flower's thoughts as well.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

CASEY SCHEPFLIN of Fremont Ross hits a backhand during the opening round of doubles play during the 18th state girls tennis tournament in Columbus Friday. Schepflin and her cousin, Dena, prevailed in the first round before losing in the second round.

## Ross girls gain experience

■ **They're only sophomores:** All four state participants have two years left at Ross.

News-Messenger reports

COLUMBUS — Perhaps the finest season ever for the Fremont Ross girls tennis program is over, but prospects for the future remain bright.

Four sophomores earned state tournament experience Friday, and the doubles team of Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin now know what it feels like to win a match at the highest level of interscholastic competition in Ohio.

The Schepflins won won match before losing, while the team of Dawn Zerman and Kristen Farrell lost in the first round.

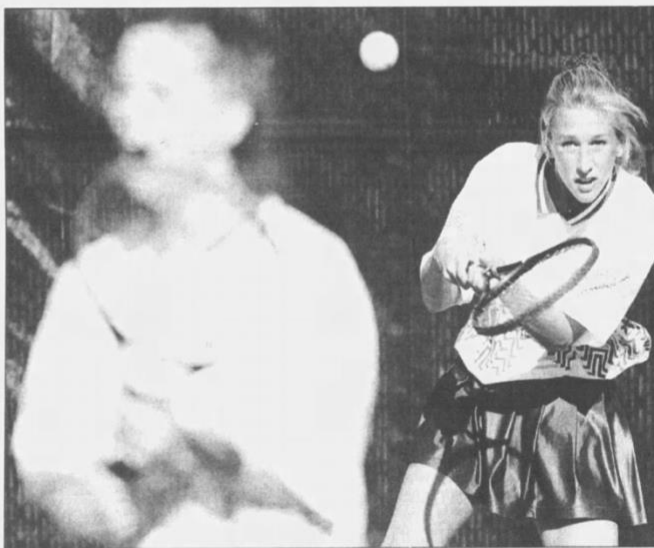
After leading 5-1 in the first set against Katie Meeker and Helen Johnson of Troy, the Schepflins held on for a 7-6 victory. They won the tiebreaker 7-1. Meeker and Johnson took the second set 6-2. The Schepflins took the deciding set 7-5.

In the second round, Schepflin and Schepflin fell 6-4, 7-5 to Kelly Walker and Megan Newton of Dublin.

Cindy Kroth and Courtney Caress of Cincinnati Ursuline defeated Zerman and Farrell 6-2, 6-4.

Centerville's Sora Moon successfully began her quest for a third straight state title with a pair of victories.

The semi-finals and finals are Saturday.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DENA SCHEPFLIN of Fremont Ross follows through on a backhand Friday during the first round of the Division I doubles portion of the 18th state girls tennis tournament Friday at Columbus. Schepflin and her cousin Casey won their first match before losing. Ross' Dawn Zerman and Kristen Farrell, lost in the first round.

Centerville continued its domination in Division I, with its doubles team of Tina Danielak and Sarah Little winning both its matches. Centerville has won the last three Division I singles crowns and last two doubles titles.

Moon beat Rocky River Mag-

nificant's Elizabeth Cascarilla 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round and Toledo Notre Dame's Sibyl Smith 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

Division II singles frontrunner Tracy Zobrist of Kettering Alter got off to a good start with wins over Vermillion's Elizabeth Burkart and Wheelersburg's

Mandy Yeley.

Huron's Division II tandem began defense of its 1992 title with a pair of wins. Senior Cassidy Landes and her freshman sister, Jessica, defeated Dayton Miami Valley's Molly Jackson and Debi Weis 6-0, 6-2, in the second round.

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## Girls State Tournament

COLUMBUS (AP) — First-round pairings for the 18th girls state tennis tournament to be played Friday and Saturday at Ohio State University:

### First Round, DIVISION I

**SINGLES:** Amber Bradford, Akron Firestone def. Erin O'Leary, Cin. St. Ursula 6-1, 6-1; Martha Polus, Bowling Green def. Megan Racey, Dublin 6-4, 7-5; Megan Wise, Cols. Northland def. Sibyl Smith, Tol. Notre Dame 6-2, 6-1; Sora Moon, Centerville def. Elizabeth Cascarilla, Rocky River Magnificat 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Lilia Osterloh, Groveport-Madison def. Becky Schragger, Lyndhurst Brush 6-1, 6-1; Jessie LeMasters, Cin. Ursuline def. Lori Heimerl, Hudson 6-2, 6-4; Lauren Rose, Sylvania Southview def. Brooke Berryman, Westerville South 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; Deidre Bissinger, Kettering Fairmont def. Jen Gerlach, Hudson 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

**DOUBLES:** Kelly Walker-Megan Newton, Dublin def. Kiran Dodeja-Annette Niestroy, Mentor 6-3, 6-2; **Casey Schepflin-Dena Schepflin, Fremont Ross def. Katie Meeker-Helen Johnson, Troy 7-6 (7-1), 2-6, 7-5;** Jill Norton-Christine Sheridan, Cols. Watterson def. Lindsay Conners-Libbie Schlather, Medina 7-6 (11-9), 6-4; Aymee Hathaway-Brooke Hart, Cin. Anderson def. Denise Cholcam-Kristie Rogers, Rocky River Magnificat 6-0, 6-1; Anne Vales-Beth McGuire, Upper Arlington def. Neeta Raghavan-Vindhya Cudapah, Youngs. Boardman 6-2, 6-1; **Cindy Kroth-Courtney Caress, Cin. Ursuline def. Dawn Zerman-Kristin Farrell, Fremont Ross 6-2, 6-4;** Amy Newman-Katie Hitler, Akron Firestone def. Kelly Komaromy-Divya Gounder, Dublin 6-2, 6-0; Tina Danielak-Sarah Little, Centerville def. Laura Fraunfelder-Traci Fraunfelder, Holland Springfield 6-0, 6-1.