

Ross netters open today

By BOB MARKER

News-Messenger Sports Editor

Pete Michaels could call his Ross High School boys tennis lineup set but shaky.

The veteran coach got his starting lineup for the opening match (4 p.m.) today against Perkins at Rodger Young Park

through challenge matches, some results of which surprised him.

"There were some surprises," Michaels admitted, "but this is the lineup we are going to go with for now."

The number one singles player for Ross will be Brian

Dierkscheide, a senior. Playing second court singles will be Tom Myers, a sophomore, while in the third court will be junior John Battles.

Ramon Eickert and Brian Casselman, sophomore and junior, respectively, will open at number one doubles while the second doubles will be either senior Rodney Smith and sophomore Tom Bowlus or the senior tandem of Troy Laird and Ryan Brant.

The three singles players are returning lettermen with Eickert and Smith, also lettermen. Smith lettered as a sophomore but failed to win a letter last season.

"Doug Peterson and Dean Beck," Michaels pointed out, "will most likely be in the lineup (doubles) sometime but the lost a challenge match and they will have to work themselves back into the lineup."

Peterson and Beck are lettermen.

Twenty-three players are out for the Little Giants team with seven of them freshmen.

"We have Kevin Brooks, a sophomore," Michaels said, "out for the first time and he looks good but needs to work on the fundamentals. Tom Herlihy (junior) probably has the best strokes on our team but he has to become more consistent."

Another junior, Brian Miller, is out for his first year.

"We are not going to have an explosive team," the Ross coach said, "but we have kids, I hope, who will keep the ball in play."

"Maybe I have to use that old sport cliché this year," Michaels smiled, "it's a building year."

"I would hope we will improve with play," he continued. "The kids are intelligent but we must put our game together."



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Ross drops opener

Brian Dierksheide of Ross returns a shot to his opponent during the Little Giants' season opener against Perkins at Rodger Young Park Thursday afternoon. Things didn't go so well for the Little Giants, who were blanked 5-0 by the Pirates yesterday. Things didn't go so well for Dierksheide, either. He was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Perkins' sophomore female sensation Lisa McFarlan.

Giants lose to Northview

News-Messenger Reports

Clyde slipped past Sandusky St. Mary's but Ross fell to SylvaniaNorthview 4-1 in high school tennis Friday.

Clyde swept the doubles match to go with a win in the first court singles to defeat Sandusky Bay Conference rival St. Mary's.

John Stahl got Clyde's single win with straight, 6-3 set wins over Claude Benoit. In the doubles, Kevin Zepernick and Rob Ferrell of the Fliers defeated Scott Kieffer and John McLaughlin 6-2, 6-3.

In the second court doubles, the Clyde duo of Dave Risner and Mark O'Donnell topped Keith Fox and Pat Johnson 7-6, 6-0.

At Sylvania, Ross third court singles player John Battles got the Little Giants match point. He defeated Dave Salley 6-2, 6-1.

"He played very well," Ross Coach Pete Michael said about Battles' effort.

Ross, 1-2, will host Marion Harding at Rodger Young Park at 4 p.m., Tuesday.

Little Giants slip by Marion; Clyde blanks Crimson Streaks 5-0

News-Messenger Reports

The cool winds blew but it was not enough to wither the effort of the the Ross High School tennis team.

The Little Giants pulled off a 3-2 win over Marion Harding at Rodger Young Park Tuesday while surviving the chilly north wind.

In one other match in yesterday's un-tennis-like weather, Clyde blanked St. Joe 5-0.

"Windy? It was pathetic," answered Ross Coach Pete Michaels when asked about the playing conditions. Michaels shivered though the afternoon match in a T-shirt.

"The wind had a lot to do with play," he described. "It curved the serves; it made it look like the players had a heck of a slice. And the lobs? They had little control over those but the wind was blowing on both sides of the net."

For a while, Michaels admitted, it appeared that the he was watching the match float away with the wind.

"It looked like we were going to lose 4-1," Michaels admitted, "but the second and third singles kids came through."

Ramon Eickert of Ross defeated Matt Alexander 7-6 (7-3 in the tiebreaker), 6-4, in the second court singles while John Battles took a three-set win from Marion Harding's Joe Gorham. Battles dropped the first set 4-6

before bouncing back to win the next two 7-5, 6-2.

Ross's first court doubles team of Troy Laird and Tom Myers had command of its match against Jeff Conrath and Steve Bartrum, according to the Ross coach. The Little Giants duo won in straight 6-3 sets.

Marion's Lamont Thurston defeated Brian Dierksheide 6-3, 6-3 in the first court singles and Harding second court doubles duo of Joe Stuard and Jeff Nack upended Dean Beck and Doug Peterson 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Ross is idle until Monday when Port Clinton visits Fremont.

Clyde5
St. Joe.....0

The Fliers inched their early season record above the .500 mark at 3-2 with the shutout victory over the Streaks at East Side Park.

In the singles matches, John Stahl downed Tom Lupica 6-2, 6-3, Dave Scheck beat Randy Ebeling 6-2, 6-4, and Ron Ritzman blanked Sharon Eugenio 6-0, 6-0.

The Fliers had a more difficult time in the doubles competition, but they were still able to pull out the victories.

In first doubles, Rob Ferrell and Kevin Zepernick edged Eric Sullivan and Bill Guhn 4-6, 6-0, 7-6, and in second doubles, Mark O'Donnell and Dave Risner trimmed Brian Zienta and Sam Freeborn 6-2, 7-5.

Ross, St. Joe tennis team are defeated

News-Messenger Reports

Fremont Ross and St. Joe suffered losses in high school tennis Monday afternoon.

The Little Giants fell to Port Clinton 3-2 while the Crimson Streaks were victimized by Sandusky Perkins 5-0.

Using a new lineup that is admittedly geared toward tournament play, Ross Coach Pete Michaels moved his top three singles players into doubles teams.

"This is how we will probably be the remainder of the season," Michaels conjectured.

Ross's only match points came from the two doubles matches although Troy Laird, playing in the first court singles for Ross, performed very well according to Michaels.

Brian Dierksheide and Ramon Eickert, playing the first court doubles for Ross, defeated Todd Heslet and Shawn Puckett 6-1, 6-0, and the second Little Giants doubles team of Tom Myers and John Battles defeated Franz Messner and Joe Voight by the same scores.

Dierksheide, Eickert and Battles had been playing singles for Ross.

In the closest singles match, Laird lost to undefeated (6-0) Kurt Van Luit 7-5, 6-3.

At Sandusky Perkins, the Pirates handed St. Joe its sixth loss in as many matches.

The Pirates, paced by sophomore first court player Lisa McFarlan, lost only four games in the three singles matches.

In the doubles matches, the Pirates lost only three games.

McFarlan defeated Tom Lupica 6-0, 6-1 while Shane Rickard stopped St. Joe's Randy Ebeling 6-1, 6-0, and Shawn Hessler of Perkins defeated Sharon Eugenio 6-0, 6-2 in the second and third court singles matches, respectively.

Jim Swain and Tom Tomasula of Perkins won the first doubles match over Bill Guhn and Eric Sullivan 6-1, 6-1, while the second Pirates team of Brian Brogle and Brian Montelauro defeated Sam Freeborn and Willy Forsyth 6-0, 6-1.

Tiffin Columbian won for the 11th time in 12 matches with a 3-2 win over Ross. The highlight of match was a three-hour marathon at second court singles. Ramon Eickert of Ross won that match, stopping Lee Learned 5-7, 7-6 and 6-1. Eickert won the tiebreaker 9-7 after being down 6-3.

Ross's other win was registered by John Battles 6-0, 7-6, over Kirk Sager in the third singles match.

Perkins blanked Clyde 5-0. The closet the Fliers came to earning a match point was at second court singles where Shane Rickard of Perkins defeated Dave Scheck in three sets 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Tough day for

News-Messenger Reports

It was a tough day for area tennis teams as Ross, St. Joe and Clyde all suffered defeats.

Ross dropped a 4-1 decision to Sandusky, St. Joe lost by the same score to Fostoria and Clyde was blanked by Huron 5-0.

Sandusky 4, Ross 1

The first doubles team of Troy Laird and Tom Myers was the lone bright spot for the Little Giants at Rodger Young Park.

Laird and Myers teamed up to beat Sandusky's Bill Horn and John Powell 6-1, 6-4.

Ross's Brian Dierksheide came the closest to winning another point for Ross when he went up 6-3, 5-3 on Todd Ortner in first singles. But Ortner came back to win the second set 7-5 and then surged to a 6-1 victory in the final set for the match.

Fostoria 4, St. Joe 1

Ross netters edge Bellevue

News-Messenger Reports

Ross singles players lost only four games during the Little Giants' 3-2 win over Bellevue at Rodger Young Park.

Brian Dierksheide was perfect against Mario Supparo of Bellevue, winning in straight 6-0 sets in the first court singles match.

Ramon Eickert, Ross's second court singles player, stopped Dave Myers 6-0, 6-1 and Tom Myers, playing for Ross at third singles, defeated Mike Burns 6-1, 6-2.

In doubles play, Bellevue's Darrin Freeman and John Todd needed three sets to get past the Ross duo of Troy Laird and John Battles 6-2, 2-6, 7-5. Seth Weibel and Kyle Yost defeated Doug Peterson and Tom Herlihy of Ross in straight 6-3 sets in the second court doubles.

Ross will travel to Marion Harding today and will play in the Buckeye Conference Tournament at Sandusky Saturday.

Ross, SJ and Clyde net teams fall short

News-Messenger Reports

Port Clinton swept the singles matches, Ross the doubles, as the Redskins picked up a 3-2 victory in high school tennis Monday.

The win raised Port Clinton's record to 8-4 while Ross is now 3-6.

In other area matches, Fostoria defeated St. Joe 4-1 and Clyde fell to Huron 3-2 in a Sandusky Bay Conference (SBC) clash.

Kurt Van Luit, Joe Crisologo and Todd Heslet captured singles wins for Port Clinton.

Van Luit knocked off Troy Laird 6-1, 6-0 in the first singles while Crisologo topped Ross's Doug Peterson 6-1, 6-3. Heslet defeated Kevin Brooks in straight 6-1 sets in the third court singles match.

Brian Dierksheide and Ramon Eickert of Ross won the first court doubles match, stopping John Crisologo and Shawn Puckett 6-1, 6-4.

In the second court doubles, John Battles and Tom Myers of Ross defeated the Port Clinton duo of Franz Messner and Joe Voight 6-3, 6-1.

Findlay 4, Ross 1

Ross's second doubles team of John Battles and Tom Myers salvaged one point for the Little Giants by beating Findlay's Keith Fulkerson and Scott Hehr 6-1, 6-4.

Other than that, the Trojans had their way with Ross, taking three matches in straight sets while winning the other in three sets.

Brooks lifts Little Giant netters

News-Messenger Reports

Kevin Brooks has just begun playing varsity high school tennis, but already he is making a positive contribution to the Ross Little Giants.

Brooks, a sophomore playing in only his third varsity match, outlasted Sandusky's Bill Horn 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 in third singles to lift Ross past the Blue Streaks 3-2 in Sandusky Wednesday afternoon.

Brooks' match was the last one of the day. Both teams already had two wins.

Ross's other victories were turned in by second singles player Troy Laird, who beat John Powell 6-3 in the first set before Powell became ill and defaulted, and the second doubles team John Battles and Tom Myers, which held off Chip Romp and Bob Butler 6-0, 7-5.

Ross is now 4-7 and will begin Class AAA sectional tournament action Friday at 9:30 a.m., at Ravine Park in Toledo. The courts are located on Front Street, right off of Interstate 280.

In one other area match yesterday, Tiffin Calvert edged St. Joe 3-2.

Calvert 3, St. Joe 2

The Streaks went with a new lineup but fell just short of pulling off a win in Tiffin.

Picking up victories for St. Joe were Bill Guhn, normally a doubles player, who won 6-2, 6-1 over Jeff Stacklin in third singles, and the first doubles tandem of Tom Lupica and Brian Agee, usually singles players, who beat Matt Dysard and Jim Kirchner 6-2, 6-4.

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Familiar result as Ross closes out tennis season

News-Messenger Reports

BELLEVUE — The season ended on a familiar note for Ross High School tennis Coach Pete Michaels.

"That's the eighth time that we have lost by that score," the veteran net coach pointed out.

"That score" is 3-2 and this time Bellevue nipped the Little Giants by that count. That

finished off the Ross season at 4-8 and improved Bellevue's to 4-15.

Brian Dierksheide and Doug Peterson picked up the match points for Ross with victories in the first and third singles matches, respectively.

Dierksheide defeated Darin Freeman in straight 6-1 sets while Peterson polished off Scott Seiger 6-4, 6-4.