

## 2004 Season Review

# Double trouble

Duos key to success in prep tennis

By MATTHEW HORN  
Sports Writer

A good doubles tennis player generally makes for a solid singles player.

But it doesn't always work the other way.

"Sometimes good singles players can't play a lick of doubles," Fremont Ross varsity coach Rick LaFountain said.

While the requisite skills obviously carry over between the two disciplines, strategy, technique and objectives can differ between the two.

So what goes into matching the right pair?

"You have to have kids that get along and can get their first serves in,"

LaFountain said.

"If not, you're setting

things up for opponents to come to the net and put them with their backs against the fence. You don't want to be playing defense all the time.

"You have to have kids that can volley and finish points at the net and aren't afraid to be at the net," he continued. "If you can get four girls (for two doubles teams) who aren't afraid to go to the net, it's a good start. Sometimes if you can find that, you're lucky."

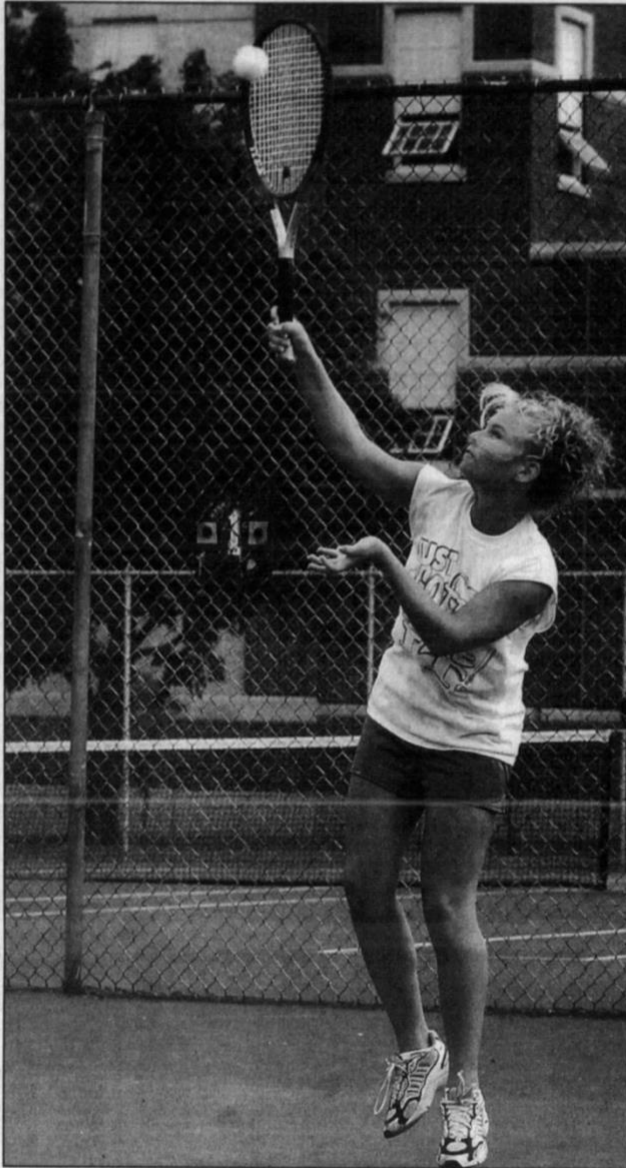
Clyde girls coach Jeff McFarland prefers when his doubles pairs are friends.

"I look for complimentary styles of play," he said. "One may be better at the net and one might be better on the baseline. Communication is a very important aspect of doubles. I like when kids tend to be friends on and off the court."

Doubles players must have good hands, and power is less integral because the swing is typically shorter than that necessary for baseline rallies in singles. Much of the action in doubles cen-

"I usually put my strongest players at doubles and try to have competitive doubles teams. That's where you win in high school."

— Ross's Rick LaFountain



News-Messenger/David Dielhorst

FREMONT ROSS SENIOR Devon Michaels is slated to be the Little Giants' top singles player this season. She also is Ross's top doubles player. She played doubles her first two years at Ross.

ters around the net with shorter points.

"With singles you work into positions; at doubles you can make yourself get into position to take the point," McFarland said. "With doubles, you often want to create angles from the net instead of baseline rallies with lobs back and forth. With doubles, your partner can step in and end the point."

Power players will most often play singles. However, a doubles pair can be com-

prised to help one player make up for a deficiency.

"Sometimes if a kid is lacking on one side (forehand or backhand), you can put them with someone stronger on that side and they can help out," LaFountain said. "Or, if they're not so quick, they can play with a quick partner to help them out. In doubles, you don't need to have the speed necessarily."

## Prep year is here

The News-Messenger is previewing fall sports in the upcoming weeks. Here is the schedule:

- Monday:** Golf
- Today:** Tennis, Capsules Page B3
- Wednesday:** Cross country
- Thursday:** Soccer
- Friday:** Volleyball
- Aug. 26:** Football section

See ROSS COACH, B3

## Ross coach: Doubles matches are 'where you win in high school'

Continued From B1

LaFountain said many athletes are equally adept at singles and doubles play.

Pete Scranton, who graduated from Ross in 2000 as the last boys state qualifier and never lost a set in the now-defunct Great Lakes League in four years, was very good at both.

As is this year's No. 1 singles player for the girls, senior Devon Michaels, who played her first two years at doubles and remains the team's top doubles player.

"Some kids can do both very well," LaFountain said. "I've seen the transition made both ways very well."

Michaels, who found the switch to singles somewhat challenging after growing accustomed to playing with a partner, said a good rapport is a

must at doubles.

"I like having somebody out on the court to play with," she said. "If you lose concentration, they'll keep you pumped up and focused on the game. The key word is communication. If you can't communicate, you can't work together through the match."

Michaels' coach agrees that a good doubles partner can help alleviate stress in a match.

"Sometimes there's less pressure because your partner can help you keep your cool," LaFountain said. "I've had some partners help me through some tough times."

McFarland said high school players often start at doubles and gain experience there.

If a player can serve, volley, hit winners at the net and remain calm, they ought to make a competitive doubles player. Footwork, running and power strokes are more vital at singles.

"If you can keep the ball coming back and make the opponent hit you enough balls that eventually you'll have a chance to put it away at the net, if you can do that you'll win the point," LaFountain said. "That's what doubles are all about."

LaFountain believes doubles matches are the key to the Little Giants' success.

But despite being held in high esteem in terms of LaFountain's philosophy, players are often reluctant to play doubles.

"Everybody wants to play singles," LaFountain said. "Nobody ever wants to play doubles. They are all afraid to make a mistake and disappoint their partner."

"I always like to have really strong first singles and doubles teams," he continued. "I usually put my strongest players at doubles and try to have competitive doubles teams. That's where you win in high school."

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Ross 3, Toledo Libbey 2

#### Singles

1. Peggy Moore (L) def. Devon Michaels (R) 6-1, 6-1.
2. Ashleigh Hasselbach (R) def. Nakia Jones (L) 6-3, 6-3.
3. Britta Barron (R) def. Michelle Campbell (L) 6-1, 6-0.

#### Doubles

1. Lokia Jones-Jessica Dillon (L) def. Emily Clarke-Caitlin Hamilton (R) 6-4, 6-2.
2. Kelly Pickerel-Binta Patel (R) def. Charmaine Cassabon-Whitney Matthews (L) 6-2, 6-2.

Record — Ross 1-0, Libbey 0-2.

JV score — Ross 5, Libbey 1

JV winners — Brooke Pridemore, Rose Tin, Amanda Lachner, Ariel McArthur, Kellie Fulkerson, Kathleen Forsythe, Amber Snyder, Brianne Pinkerton, Kelli Schultz.

# Tennis

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## High School Girls

### Ross 4, Sylvania Southview 1

#### Singles

1. Devon Michaels (R) def. Jamie Katz  
6-3, 6-2
2. Britta Barron (R) def. Michelle Green-  
spoon 6-4, 7-5
3. Chelsea Britton (S) def. Binta Patel  
6-0, 7-5

#### Doubles

1. Ashleigh Hasselbach-Emily Clarke  
(R) def. Stephanie Schafer-Sara Kiani 4-  
6, 6-4, 7-5
2. Caitlin Hamilton-Kelly Pickerel (R)  
def. Audry Craig-Jennifer Teeple 6-1, 6-  
1

Records — Ross 2-0; Southview 1-1

JV winners — Rose Tin-Brooke Pride-  
more, Amanda Lachner-Ariel McCarthur,  
Kellie Fulkerson-Kathleen Forsyth

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Maumee Invitational

#### Team scores

1. Ross.....	11
2. Archibold.....	8
3. Maumee.....	8
4. Celina.....	5

#### First singles

Kelsey Kook (C) def. Binta Patel (R) 6-1, 6-0

Yana Syrnichenko (M) def. Patel 8-4

#### First doubles

Kin Michalak/Lindsay Diegel (M) def. Devon Michaels/Britta Barron (R) 0-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-8)

Michaels/Barron (R) def. Kaleigh Louis/Lindsay Brader (A) 8-2

#### Second doubles

Ashleigh Hasselbach/Emily Clarke (R) def. Arienne Johnson/Laura Maxwell (A) 6-0, 3-6, 6-1

Hasselbach/Clarke (R) def. Marissa Kinkaid/Madison Stachoviachak (M) 7-6 (7-5), 6-4

#### Third doubles

Kelly Pickerel/Caitlin Hamilton (R) def. Erynn Piper/Kelly Casiad (C) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2

Pickerel/Hamilton (R) def. Leah Gautche/Elise Manahan (A) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

# Tennis

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## High School

### Archbold 4, Ross 1

#### Singles

1. Holly Sauder (A) def. Devon Michaels  
6-0, 4-6, 6-0

2. Kaleigh Louis (A) def. Ashleigh Has-  
selbach 6-4, 7-5

3. Britta Barron (R) def. Elise Manahan  
6-3, 6-0

#### Doubles.

1. Linsy Brader-Arienne Johnson (A)  
def. Emily Clarke-Binta Patel 6-0, 6-2

2. Laura Maxwell-Leah Gautsche (A)  
def. Caitlin Hamilton-Kelly Pickerel 6-3, 7-  
6 (7-2)

Records — Ross 2-1; Archbold 1-0

JV winners — Kylie O'Neal-Kathleen  
Forsyth, Amber Snyder-Brianne Pinker-  
ton, Kellie Fulkerson-Kelli Schultz

JV record — Ross 3-0

# Tennis

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## High School

### Findlay 5, Ross 0

#### Singles

1. Joy Kellogg (F) def. Devon Michaels 6-3, 6-4
2. Ali Casalbore (F) def. Ashleigh Has-selbach 0-6, 6-1, 6-4
3. Carly Harless (F) def. Britta Barron 6-2, 6-2

#### Doubles

1. Katie Hammons-Brooke Babcock (F) def. Emily Clarke-Binta Patel 6-2, 6-2
2. Alison Lowie-Jacintha Ratnasamy (F) def. Caitlin Hamilton-Kelly Pickerel 6-2, 6-2

Records — Ross 2-2 (0-1 GBC), Findlay 2-1 (1-0 GBC).

Findlay JV 4, Ross JV 1

Ross JV winners — Amber Snyder-Kelli Schultz

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Ross 4, Huron 1

#### Singles

1. Meredith Skaggs (H) def. Devon Michaels (R) 6-2, 6-2.
2. Ashleigh Hasselbach (R) def. Jenny Maritn (H) 6-0, 6-2.
3. Britta Barron (R) def. Jamie Martin (H) 6-2, 6-1.

#### Doubles

1. Emily Clarke-Caitlin Hamilton (R) def. Joy Tutino-Kate Gerkin (H) 6-4, 6-3.
2. Binta Patel-Kelly Pickerel (R) def. Camile Norton-Laura Mentis (H) 6-1, 6-2.

Record — Ross 3-2, Huron 1-1.

JV score — Ross 4, Huron 2.

JV winners — Amanda Lachner-Ariel McArthur, Kathleen Forsyth-Brianne Pinkerton, Amber Snyder-Kelli Schultz, Kellie Fulkerson-Kylee O'Neal.

JV record — Ross 4-1.

■ **MICHAELS WINS; ROSS DOESN'T:** Devon Michaels won 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0 at No. 1 singles, but it was Ross's only victory in a 4-1 Greater Buckeye Conference setback to Napoleon.

The Little Giants fell to 3-3 overall and 0-2 in the GBC.

# High School Girls

## Napoleon 4, Ross 1

### Singles

1. Devon Michaels (R) def. Amanda Auzins (N) 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0.
2. Eleeza Haas (N) def. Ashley Hasselbach (R) 6-1, 6-4.
3. Nikki Schink (N) def. Britta Barron (R) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

### Doubles

1. Teal Rausch-Grace Witte (N) def. Caitlin Hamilton-Emily Clarke (R) 6-2, 6-3.
2. Susan Kim-Sarah Yarnell (N) def. Kelly Pickerel-Binta Patel (R) 6-4, 6-1.

Record — Ross 3-3 (0-2 GBC), Napoleon 4-1, (2-0 GBC).

JV score — Ross 5, Napoleon 0

JV winners — Kylie O'Neal, Rose Tin-Brooke Pridemore, Amanda Lachner-Ariel McArthur, Kathleen Forsyth-Kellie Fulkerson, Amber Snyder-Kelli Schultz.

JV record — Ross 5-1.

# High School Girls

**Findlay 4, Ross 1**

**Coaches Tournament Match**

## **Singles**

1. Joy Kellogg (F) def. Devon Michaels (R) 6-1, 6-0.

2. Carly Harless (F) def. Ashley Haselbach (R) 6-3, 6-3.

3. Britta Barron (R) def. Alison Lause (F) 6-4, 6-3.

## **Doubles**

1. Katie Hammons-Brooke Babcock (F) def. Emily Clarke-Caitlin Hamilton (R) 6-0, 6-0.

2. Jacintha Ratasamy-Christy Hentz (F) def. Binta Patel-Kelly Pickerel (R) 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 7-5.

Record — Ross 3-4, Findlay 4-3.

JV winner — Ariel McArthur-Brianne Pinkerton.

## Tennis .....

■ **ROSS ROUTS WHITMER:** Devon Michaels' 6-0, 6-0 victory at No. 1 singles led the way as Ross cruised to a 4-1 victory over Whitmer.

Britta Barron dropped just four games at No. 2 singles for the Little Giants (4-4).

Ashleigh Hasselbach and Emily Clarke won at No. 1 doubles, and Binta Patel and Caitlin Hamilton teamed up for the win at No. 2 doubles.

## High School Girls

### Ross 3, Oak Harbor 2

#### Singles

1. Devon Michaels (R) def. Erin Wendt (OH) 6-0, 6-3.
2. Ashley Hasselbach (R) def. Justine Grover (OH) 6-1, 6-2.
3. Britta Barron (R) def. Molly DeMaison (OH) 6-0, 6-3.

#### Doubles

1. Alana Pevets-Amanda Florio (OH) def. Emily Clarke-Caitlin Hamilton (R) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.
2. Bethany Twarek-Emily Hemminger (OH) def. Binta Patel-Kelly Pickerel (R) 6-2, 6-3.

Record — Ross 5-4, Oak Harbor 1-5.

JV score — Ross 3, Oak Harbor 3.

JV winners — Rose Tin-Kelli Schultz, Brianne Pinkerton-Kelli Schultz, Amber Snyder-Ariel McArthur.

**News-Messenger reports**

The Fremont Ross tennis team didn't lose one game in singles play and dominated Lima Senior 5-0 on Tuesday.

Devon Michaels, Britta Barron and Binta Patel won 6-0, 6-0 at singles for the Little Giants (6-4, 1-2 GBC), who play host to Clyde today.

Ashleigh Hasselbach and Emily Clarke won at No. 1 doubles, and Caitlin Hamilton and Kelly Pickerel won by default at second doubles.

# Tennis

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## High school

### Ross 4, Ottawa Hills 1

#### Singles

1. Devon Michaels (Ross) def. Prianka Jain, 7-5, 6-0

2. Sharon Bhumbra (OH) def. Caitlin Hamilton 6-2, 6-3

3. Rose Tin (Ross) def. Susan Geha 6-1, 6-4

#### Doubles

1. Ashley Hasselbach-Emily Clarke (Ross) def. Susan Chahal-Amanda Ballard 7-6 (7-2), 3-6

2. Britta Barron-Kelly Pickerel (Ross) def. Tina Reising-Kara Robbins 6-4, 2-6, 6-1

Records — Ross 7-5

JV winners — Kylee O'Neal-Brooke Pridemore, Amber Snyder-Brianne Pinkerton

■ **RIVAL EDGES ROSS:** Britta Barron and the doubles team of Ashley Hasselbach and Emily Clarke notched victories, but Ross fell to archrival Sandusky 3-2.

Barron won 6-2, 7-5 at No. 2 singles, and the Little Giants' top doubles team won 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

A thrilling match at No. 3 singles was the difference.

Sandusky's Whitney Degman beat Rose Tin 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5).

Ross fell to 7-6 overall.

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Perrysburg 4, Ross 1

#### Singles

1. Lindsay Schaeffer (P) def. Emily Clarke (R) 6-0, 6-0.
2. Mallory Messinger (P) def. Caitlin Hamilton (R) 6-0, 6-0.
3. Jaclyn Metzger (P) def. Kelly Pickerel (R) 6-0, 6-0.

#### Doubles

1. Devon Michaels-Ashley Hasselbach (R) def. Mackenzie Hoops-Alyssa Biederman (P) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1.
  2. Annie Clark-Heather Libbe (P) def. Britta Barron-Rose Tin (R) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
- Record — Ross 7-7, Perrysburg 13-1.  
JV winners — Kathleen Forsyth-Amanda Lachner.

# Streaks top cross-town rivals again

## Wobser, Autullo lead the way for 11-1 team

News-Messenger reports

One day after losing its first dual match of the season, St. Joseph Central Catholic snapped back on Tuesday to defeat cross-town rival Fremont Ross 3-2 for the second time this year.

Allyson Wobser (10-0 at No. 2 singles) and Leigh Anne Autullo (10-0 at No. 3) remained unbeaten in those slots. Wobser, who surrendered only two games on Tuesday, is also 1-1 at first singles and Autullo is 2-0 at second.

"I am really impressed," SJCC coach Whitney Mutchler said of Wobser and Autullo. "Both are fairly young but have their heads in the game 90 percent of the time, and it shows in the records they have."

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**See ROUNDUP, B3**

"It makes me speechless," Mutchler continued. "The team has really come together, and I'm sure they're all happy to be 11-1."

Jenna Weickert and Katie Jenkins (No. 2 doubles) earned the Crimson Streaks' third victory after winning a first-set tiebreaker.

"The second doubles team was the last one on the court, and we really needed them to win," Mutchler said. "They played well together and had good communication."

Devon Michaels (No. 1 singles) and Ashleigh Hasselbach and Emily Clarke (No. 1 doubles) won in straight sets for the Little Giants (7-8). Hasselbach and Clarke lost only two games.

Mutchler said the environment is lively when the two teams square off.

"Both matches were very good matches," she said. "It's close competition between the two teams. All the girls are pretty good friends. It's a fun atmosphere with good sportsmanship."

## **Marion Harding 3, Ross 2**

### **Singles**

1. Jessica Jenkins def. Devon Michaels  
6-0, 6-1.

2. Ashleigh Hasselbach def. Brooke  
Vanderhoff 6-2, 6-0

3. Britta Barron def. Kelsey Osborne 6-  
2, 6-2

### **Doubles**

1. Paige Gustin, Katie Miller def. Emily  
Clarke, Caitlin Hamilton 6-3, 6-2

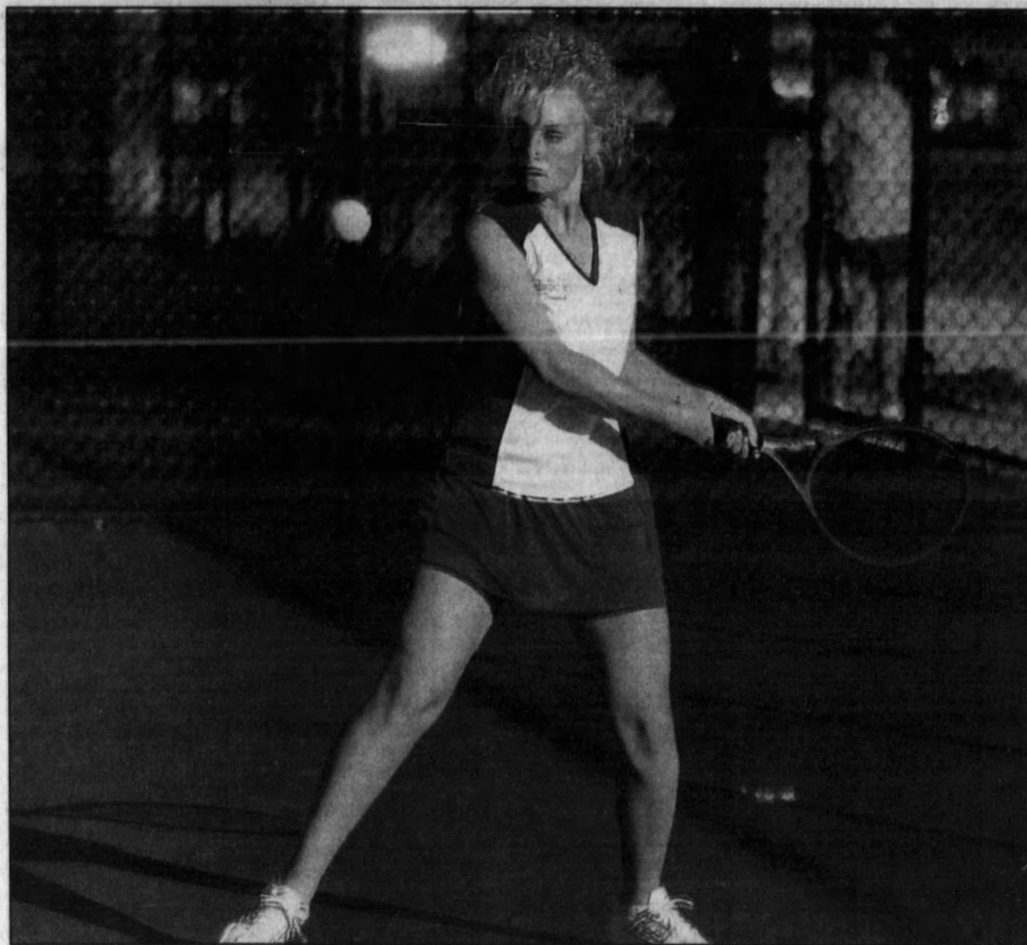
2. Morgan Wade, Betsy Slagle def. Bin-  
ta Patel, Rose Tin 6-3, 6-1.

Records — Marion Harding 8-7, 3-1;  
Ross 7-9, 1-4.

Ross JV winners — Kelly Pickerel and  
Kylee O'Neal, Amber Snyder and Kath-  
leen Forsyth

CLYDE 3, ROSS 2

# Double take



FREMONT ROSS'S Devon Michaels gets ready to return a shot during the Little Giants' match with Clyde on Monday. Clyde won 3-2. News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

## Roach, Selvey play decisive roles as Clyde tops Ross

By MATTHEW HORN  
Sports Writer

Clyde's Jill Roach and Tiffany Selvey did not want to beat themselves on Monday.

But Fremont Ross's Caitlin Hamilton and Emily Clarke left them little choice.

Playing very similar styles, the two pairs went to three sets at No. 1 doubles before Roach and Selvey emerged victorious as the Fliers topped the host Little Giants 3-2.

Roach and Selvey won the first set 6-4 before Hamilton and Clarke rebounded to take the second set by an identical score. Roach and Selvey captured the third set 6-1.

"They played a lot like we

"Coach told us our match would decide it. It comes down to us a lot. We enjoy the pressure. I think it gives us an edge."

— Clyde's Jill Roach, whose doubles partner is Tiffany Selvey

play," Roach said. "They cover the court well and hit nice ground strokes, but we got them back at the net. We pulled it out in the third set."

As is often the case, Monday's dual was decided at No. 1 doubles.

"Coach (Jeff MacFarland) told us our match would decide it," Roach said. "It comes down

to us a lot. We enjoy the pressure. I think it gives us an edge."

The Little Giants' Ashleigh Hasselbach and the Fliers' Melanie Brenneman played the event's other three-set match at No. 2 singles. Hasselbach won 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

"(Brenneman) is a very good player," Hasselbach said. "It's always fun playing against

Clyde."

Many of the Ross girls have taken lessons from Bill Young, father of Clyde's No. 1 singles player Darcy Young, at the Sandusky County YMCA. Hasselbach has been playing with Bill Young during the summer since the fourth grade.

Hasselbach and Devon Michaels — who will play together as a pair at the Division I sectional tournament on Thursday in Sandusky and finished the No. 1 flight of the Greater Buckeye Conference Tournament in third place this past Saturday — played separately on Monday.

See STRONG DOUBLES, B2

# Strong doubles play lifts Clyde to win

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## Continued From B1

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"I've been playing a lot of doubles lately," Hasselbach said. "I was hitting it in the alley early (on Monday). I was playing like a doubles player. After (Brenneman) won (the first set), I realized I wasn't going to let her win the next one."

Darcy Young defeated Michaels 7-5, 6-1 at No. 1 singles. Young, who finished third at No. 1 singles in the Sandusky Bay Conference Tournament on Saturday, lost to Michaels last season at the Sandusky Invitational.

"I'm taking the game more seriously this year," Young said. "I am more determined to win."

Young, who advanced to districts last season and will play singles at sectionals on Thursday at Port Clinton, said the match with Michaels was a very

good test.

"(Michaels) has got a very good game where she can stay in it for a long time," Young said. "She's very consistent. It was a hard match."

The first three games of the second set included several long rallies, but Young won four consecutive games after battling for a 2-1 lead.

"I just wanted to close it out," Young said. "I just wanted to be as consistent as I could. The game plan was just to get the ball back. She is still very tough, but I think my tennis game has matured since last year. I think that is what it took to win."

Britta Barron won in straight sets at No. 3 singles without surrendering a game for Ross (7-10).

Ashley Kern and Megan Ludrowsky won 6-3, 6-4 at No. 2 doubles for Clyde (9-6).