

Little Giants blank Columbian

St. Joe falls to Oak Harbor

News-Messenger reports

TIFFIN — Big things are expected out of the Fremont Ross boys tennis team this season, and the Little Giants showed why Monday afternoon.

The Little Giants were unchallenged by a young Tiffin Columbian team, and rolled to a 5-0 non-league win, in the season opener for both teams.

At first singles, Pete Scran-

ton cruised past Kenny Schank 6-0, 6-0, at second singles, Mike Zimmer defeated Donnie Thompson 6-1, 6-1 and Mark Thomson whipped Craig Seaborn 6-1, 6-3 at third singles.

Austin Miller and Buck Young combined to blank Chris Martin and Sam Moyer 6-0, 6-0 at first doubles and Mike Moxley and Marc Brough defeated Alex Banks and Derrick Brown, 6-0, 6-1 at second doubles.

The Little Giants, who have won the last three Great Lakes League titles, had too

Tennis

much experience for the Tor-
nadoes.

"Tiffin Columbian is a real young team," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "They had no seniors playing today. Next year, they'll give us a much tougher match."

The Ross junior varsity team won its match by a 4-3 count.

Kevin Overmyer, Brian Kaltenbach, Leon Garza, Kunaika Hirobayasia, Adam Swope, Justin Orofino, Chris Orofino and Adam Laurer

were winners for the Little Giants.

The Little Giants host Bowling Green on Wednesday.

In other tennis action Monday:

Oak Harbor 4, SJCC 1

OAK HARBOR — Oak Harbor swept the doubles matches and won two of the three singles matches, en route to a 4-1 win over St. Joe.

Scott Knisley, at first sin-
gles, was the Crimson

Streaks lone winner. He knocked off Zach Goetz 7-5, 6-1.

The rest of the day be-
longed to Oak Harbor. At sec-
ond singles, Brian Vasill out-
lasted Ryan Autullo 4-6, 6-4, 7-
6 and at third singles, Eric

Snyder knocked off Robbie LeJeune 6-0, 6-1.

At first doubles, Cameron Roth and John Kuli outlasted Jerry Freeh and Dave Wensinger 7-6, (7-5) 6-4 and at second doubles, Matt Cam-
bery and Yanick Smith beat John Ryan and Drew Wetzel 6-3, 6-4.

Boys tennis

Ross wins easily again

News-Messenger reports

Wednesday was just another day at the office for the Fremont Ross boys tennis team.

The Little Giants rolled through the singles matches and battled back to win the doubles matches, en route to a 5-0 win over Bowling Green at Rodger Young Park.

Pete Scranton continued to dominate. He beat Ben Cullman 6-0, 6-0 at first singles. Buck Young beat Trent Warnke 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 singles and Mike Zimmer beat Wiggy Sivanarulselvan 6-3, 6-1 at third singles.

Austin Miller and Paul Eckert battled back to beat Ryan Grimm and Rob Tache 4-6, 6-0, 6-0 at first doubles and Mike Moxley and Mark Brough beat Andrew Saneholtz and Nathan Sane 6-4, 6-0 at second doubles.

"I'm pretty happy," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "The doubles struggled a little at the start, we've been working in some new

Inside: Area tennis preview capsules. **Page B2**

combinations. Just early season stuff."

Ross improved to 2-0 on the young season. Bowling Green fell to 0-1.

Ross is at Bedford today in its Great Lakes League opener. The Little Giants have a full slate of matches next week. Ross has non-league matches against rival Clyde on Monday, a tough Norwalk team on Wednesday, and always tough Toledo Central Catholic on Friday. If that's not enough, GLL matches with Fostoria and Findlay also loom on Tuesday and Thursday.

Zach Mierke, Mark Thomson, Kevin Overmyer, Brian Kaltenbach, Rob Straight, Kuni Hirovayashi, Leon Garza and Matt Rakey were junior varsity winners for Ross on Wednesday.

SJCC falls to Sandusky

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Sandusky swept St. Joseph Central Catholic 5-0 in a non-league meet Wednesday.

At first singles, Justin Swan beat Scott Knisley 7-5, 6-1; at second singles, Scott Poeschl topped Ryan Autullo 6-2, 6-0 and at third singles, Adam Ramschell beat Robbie LeJeune 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles action, Chris Parker and Bill Murray beat Dave Wensinger and Eric Walker, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 and Kevin Schwanger and Yaichiro Kuno defeated John Ryan and Drew Wetzel 6-1, 6-0 at second doubles.

St. Joe will host rival Clyde on Tuesday in a non-league match.

Oak Harbor 4, Lake 1

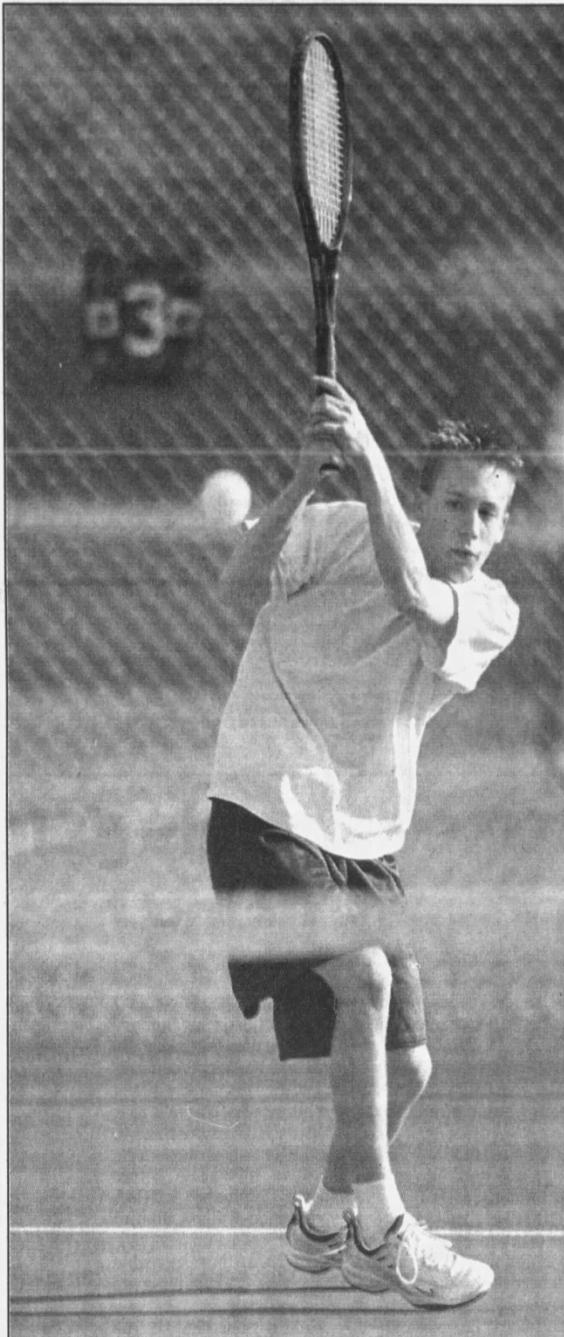
Oak Harbor ran its record to 2-0 with a 4-1 win over Lake.

At first singles, Brian Vasill beat Chad Huber 6-1, 6-2 and at third singles, Eric Snyder beat Jim Nietz 6-1, 6-1.

At first doubles, John Kuli and Cameron Loth knocked off Nick Huefield and Sam Melden 6-1, 6-3 and at No. 2 singles, Yannick Smith and Matt Conley topped Joe DiMaso and Tony Almager 6-1, 7-5.

Kurt Recker was the lone winner for Lake. He defeated Zach Goetz; 6-1, 6-3 at second singles.

Oak Harbor is at Bowling Green on Thursday in a non-conference battle.



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

MIKE ZIMMER of Ross backhands a return to Wiggy Sivanarulselvan of Bowling Green Wednesday at Rodger Young Park. Zimmer won the match 6-3, 6-1.

Ross beats Bedford in GLL

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — Playing under different rules didn't phase the Fremont Ross boys tennis team, which improved to 3-0 with a 6-2 Great Lakes League win over Bedford Thursday.

In Michigan, tennis dual meets consist of four singles and four doubles matches, compared to the three singles and two doubles in Ohio. Ross's only losses came at fourth singles and fourth doubles.

"I'm real proud of the team," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "Playing in Michigan is a little different, but our kids did a nice job. We got some kids a little more varsity experience."

Mike Zimmer had the most intriguing match of the day. He beat a female, Kim Cryan,

Tennis

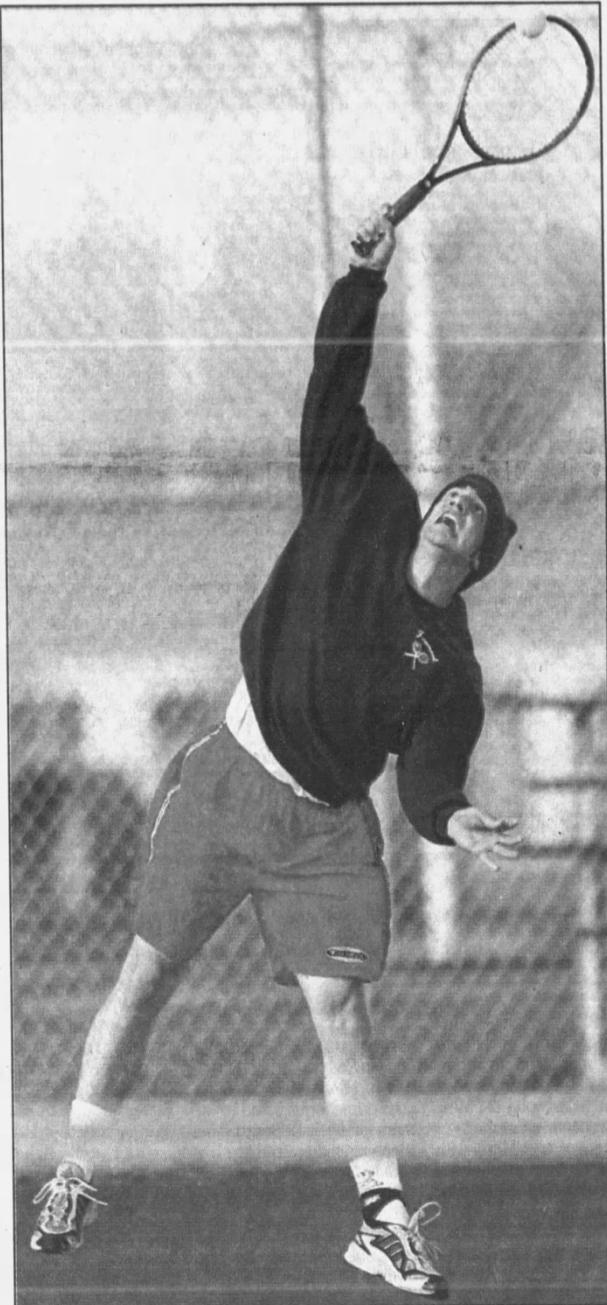
6-3, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.

"Mike played really well," LaFountain said. "That's kind of a no win situation, playing against a young lady. But Mike didn't let that deter him."

Also for Ross, Pete Scranton continued to roll, beating Christian Schneider 6-1, 6-2 and Paul Eckert beat Nick Nieman 7-5, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.

In doubles action, Austin Miller and Buck Young topped Bryan Zak and Bryan Ormiston 7-5, 6-3 at No. 1, Mike Moxley and Marc Brough beat Chris Smith and Tony Markwood 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2, Mark Thomson and Kevin Overmyer topped Bill Bensch and Ben Honingford 6-1, 6-2. at No. 3.

Scranton: What a racket



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

PETE SCRANTON of Ross serves during a match against Bedford, Mich. Scranton is 81-16 as a varsity tennis player.

Ross standout needs suitable sparring partner

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

These days, the hardest thing for Fremont Ross senior tennis player Pete Scranton isn't the competition. In fact, it's the lack of competition.

Scranton, who holds an 81-16 career record, has been untested on the court this season, winning all four of his matches in straight sets and losing just three total games.

Finding someone to challenge Scranton is the biggest difficulty for Little Giants coach Rick LaFountain, who admits even he is no match for the No. 1 singles player.

Inside: Scranton, Ross tennis stay perfect. **Page B2**

"He's a little out of my league," LaFountain said with a laugh. "The rest of the guys I can hit with, not Pete."

"We try to work him in practice with a lot of two-on-one drills. Jay (Farrell, a 1999 graduate) was the one guy in practice that could really push Pete, and we miss that right now. We can't push Pete as much as we'd like."

Scranton will get some tests in Ross's tough non-league schedule, including Wednesday's match at Division II power Norwalk. Wooster, Huron, Elida and Ashland are also on the schedule this year.

In between, Scranton will have to contend with opponents not at his level, which is all part of the game, he said.

"I'm sure it does (hurt)," Scranton said. "I don't dwell on that stuff. You're going to have to play the not-so-great players, and then you're going to have to follow it up with a great player the next day. If you're not ready for that, you're not a great player yourself."

The Great Lakes League has almost been too easy for Scranton, who has not lost a league match in his career. Since moving to No. 1 singles as a sophomore, the two-time GLL Player

Athlete of the Week

Pete Scranton profile

School: Ross.
Grade: Senior.
Sports: Soccer, tennis.
Family: Parents — Nancy and James Scranton; Brother — Paul, 28; Sister — Abigail, 25.

of the Year hasn't even been taken to a third set in a league meet, LaFountain said.

But Scranton said he doesn't put a whole lot of stock into his GLL dominance.

"Our league is not very strong," he said. "So in the GLL, if I go out there and play my best tennis, I'm going to win every time, and I don't worry about it. I know that if I play just good tennis, I'm going to come out with a win."

Scranton played No. 2 singles as a freshman, behind then-senior Bill Flower. LaFountain, who has coached both, said Scranton is the slightly better player, although the two have contrasting styles.

"Pete's the best player I've coached," said LaFountain, who is in his fifth year as Ross's coach. "He's a little better than Bill, but they play a different kind of game. Bill's a serve and volleyer; Pete's more of a stay-back, patient-type player."

"Those two come out and play once in a while in the summer, and it's fun to watch. Bill's rushing into the net, Pete's trying to pass him and Bill's picking the volleys off. It's so hard to compare them because Bill's not at the top of his game right now. When Pete was a freshman, Bill did beat him."

Much like Scranton individually, the Little Giants haven't been challenged yet this season as a team. Ross has won three

See SCRANTON, B2

Scranton eyes trip to state

Continued from B1

matches by a 5-0 count and beat Bedford 6-2 under Michigan rules, losing only the fourth singles and doubles matches.

Most of that success is because of Scranton, according to his teammates.

"He's good," said Ross doubles player Mike Moxley. "He's been a solid player for four years, and anchors our team."

The only thing left for Scranton to accomplish on the tennis court is earning that elusive trip to the state tournament. After two trips to the district semifinals, Scranton has one more chance to reach Ohio's biggest tennis competition.

"If I don't make it, I won't be too disappointed," Scranton said, "because I know that it's tough, and I'll always know that I'm a good player. To make it to state from our district is more difficult than any

other district."

Regardless of how his season ends, this will be the end of the competitive tennis career for Scranton. He plans on attending either Eastern Michigan University or New York University in the fall.

Since he won't get a scholarship and will take on a heavy academic load, going for a double major in journalism and telecommunications and a minor in political science, he will not play interscholastic sports in college.

"Tennis is just not an option unless you're top 20 in the nation," Scranton said. "I realized that my freshman year in high school, when there were seniors that were beating me badly and winning state, and they were not getting college scholarships in tennis. That's when I thought, 'Maybe I have to think about something else.'

"If you don't play for a scholarship, to me, it's just wasting your study time."

Ross tops Clyde

CLYDE — Fremont Ross improved to 5-0 on the season with a 4-1 win over Clyde Monday.

At first singles, Pete Scranton blanked Mike Zimmer 6-0, 6-0. At second singles, Mike Zimmer beat Doug Wilkinson 6-0, 6-1 and at third singles, Paul Eckert beat Justin Stokes 6-1, 6-3.

Clyde's win came at first doubles, as Dan Wott and Matt Cuthbertson outlasted Austin Miller and Buck Young 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 at No. 1.

At second doubles, Mike Moxley and Marc Brough topped Tony Cleveland and Ed Cleveland 6-0, 6-1.

After college, Scranton said he would like to get into broadcasting. If he doesn't get a news broadcasting job out of school, he said he will go to Ohio State or Michigan and study law.

Ross handed 1st loss

News-Messenger reports

NORWALK — As far as losses go, Wednesday's was one Fremont Ross tennis coach Rick LaFountain can accept.

The Little Giants gave powerful Norwalk a battle, but dropped a 3-2 non-league decision.

"I guess if you look it up in the dictionary, losing and getting beat is the same thing," LaFountain said. "But we didn't lose this match, they beat us. In Division II, they've got

See ROSS, B4

Ross boys tennis team drops match to Norwalk

Continued from B1

to be the team to beat in the state."

Ross's wins came at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles. At first singles, Pete Scranton improved to 6-0 with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Ben Leffler. At second doubles, Mike Moxley and Marc Brough defeated Andy Sandwick and Jake Cape-

hart 6-3, 6-1.

"Pete played well, he got a little bit of a workout," said LaFountain, whose team fell to 4-1. "The doubles teams both played well."

The most impressive Ross performance in the coach's eyes was that of the No. 1 singles team. Austin Miller and Paul Eckert battled Scott Woolsey and Bart Scheizer, but dropped a 6-2, 7-6 (7-

4) decision.

"The first doubles team played real well against two of the better players in the area," LaFountain said.

Also for the Truckers (4-0) at second singles, Dan Tyson beat Buck Young 6-1, 6-0 and at third singles, Michael Carlisle topped Mike Zimmer 6-4, 6-0.

The Little Giants host rival

Findlay today in an important Great Lakes League match. The match will be played at Rodger Young Park. It was originally scheduled to be played in Findlay, but construction delays there forced a last-minute switch.

"It's a real big match for us," LaFountain said. "We're hoping to have a lot of fans out there; that's our biggest GLL match of the season."

Trojans stun Giants

News-Messenger reports

In one of its toughest losses during Rick LaFountain's coaching tenure, the Fremont Ross tennis team was upset by rival Findlay Thursday, dropping a 3-2 Great Lakes League decision at Rodger Young Park.

"It's a tough loss," said LaFountain. "It's one of the toughest losses I've had here at Ross. I guess if you want to look for a silver lining, we'll look toward (today) and better things against (Toledo) Central Catholic."

The Little Giants (5-2, 1-1) won at first and second singles. Pete Scranton beat Justin Jordan 6-3, 6-0 at No. 1 and Mike Zimmer outlasted Ben Hannah 6-7 (4-7) 6-3, 6-1.

At No. 3 singles, Ian Sparkman beat Paul Eckert 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. At first doubles, Andy Hardy and Doug Johnson beat Austin Miller and Buck Young 6-3, 6-3 and at second doubles, Chris Brown and Jamie Reid beat Mike Moxley and Marc Brough 6-2 7-6 (8-6). Moxley and Brough led 6-1 in the second set tiebreaker but could not finish it off.

Tennis

St. Mary 3, St. Joe 2

St. Joseph Central Catholic lost a 3-2 decision to Sandusky St. Mary at East Side Park.

At first doubles, Dave Wensinger and Jerry Freeh beat Bryce Roth and Joe Baner 6-3, 6-2 and at second doubles, John Ryan and Drew Wetzel outlasted Jesse Schmidt and Jay Burkey 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

In singles action, Jeremy Miller beat Scott Knisley 6-0, 6-1, Mark Posta beat Ryan Autullo 6-2, 6-0 and Ryan Ruthsatz topped Robbie LeJeune 6-1, 6-0.

Oak Harbor 4, Lake 1

OAK HARBOR — Oak Harbor improved to 3-1 with a 4-1 win over Lake in a non-league match.

At first singles, Brian Vasill (O) beat Chad Hubert 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, and third singles, Zach Goetz whipped Sam Melden 6-0, 6-1, at first doubles, Eric Snyder and Cameron Loth beat Jim Nietz and Nick Hueufeld 6-4, 6-1 and at second doubles, Yannick Smith and RJ Stoner topped Joe MiMasso and Tony Almager 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Little Giants fall to Ashland, drop third straight match

Bellevue takes care of Rams

News-Messenger reports

ASHLAND — Fremont Ross dropped its third straight match, falling 3-2 to Ashland in a non-league contest.

Ashland won all three singles matches and improved to 2-2.

"When we play like that we deserve to lose," said Ross coach

Tennis

Rick LaFountain. "We desperately need to get a practice in. We keep making the same mistakes over and over."

Ross won both doubles matches. Austin Miller and Paul Eckert topped Nate Raubenzl and Neil Malhotra 6-1, 6-4 at first doubles and Mike Moxley and Marc Brough beat Curt Jackson and Sam Richard 6-4, 6-3 at second doubles.

Ross senior Pete Scranton dropped his first match of the year at No. 1 singles. He lost 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-3 to Justin Crooks.

"Pete just had an off day," LaFountain said. "He beat Crooks twice last year. A lot of times when you're at No. 1 singles, you can go 75 percent and win. If you go 75 percent against Justin Crooks, you're going to lose.

"Crooks is a lot improved from last year, take nothing away from

him. But Pete didn't play his best tennis."

Also for Ashland, Adam Slabobnick beat Mike Zimmer 6-0, 6-2 at second singles and Aaron Oeken defeated Buck Young 6-3, 6-3 at No. 3.

Ross is at Elida Wednesday.

Bellevue 4, Upper Sandusky 1
UPPER SANDUSKY — Bellevue won its Northern Ohio League opener 4-1 over Upper Sandusky. Nick Eisenhauer beat Tyler

Wall 7-5, 6-3 at No. 2 singles and Aaron Garman beat Ryan Webster 6-4, 6-0 at No. 3.

In doubles action, Bob Boger and Nick Dendinger beat Rob Smith and Chris Webster 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 and Cory Leber and Brett McGee knocked off Nick D'ettorre and Scott Gearing 6-3, 6-3 at No. 2.

Bellevue is 3-1 (1-0).

"It was a nice way to start the league season, but we know it's a long road," said Bellevue coach Lee Booze.

Tennis

Wensinger 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Eric Walker and Joe Hoelzle were junior varsity winners for the Crimson Streaks.

Ross 5, Elida 0

ELIDA — Fremont Ross coach Rick LaFountain said it was a perfect day for tennis, and his Little Giants played accordingly, blanking perennially-tough Elida 5-0.

"It was about 45 degrees, sunny, perfect tennis weather," LaFountain said.

Pete Scranton won easily at first singles, thumping Jim Harter 6-0, 6-1. Mike Zimmer rolled past Jeff Perrin 6-0, 6-3 and Buck Young beat Zack Miesell 6-4, 6-3.

Austin Miller and Paul Eckert defeated Michael

Sarno and Rob Schwinnen 7-6 (7-3), 6-0 at first doubles and Mike Moxley and Marc Brough whipped Mark Aahle and Bill Crites 6-1, 6-0 at second doubles.

"It's nice to end that three match losing streak," LaFountain said. "Elida's in a little bit of a rebuilding year this year, they're kind of young."

St. Mary 3, Clyde 2

SANDUSKY — Clyde won both doubles matches, but dropped a 3-2 Sandusky Bay Conference decision to Sandusky St. Mary.

For the Fliers (1-3, 0-1), Dan Wott and Matt Culbertson topped Bryce Roth and Jay Burkey, 6-1, 6-0 at first doubles, and Marc Schneider and Eddie Cleveland whipped

Ross 5, Southview 0

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross got a glimpse of the future Thursday, as the Little Giants traveled to face Lorain Southview, a future Great Lakes League team, and rolled to a 5-0 win.

Pete Scranton blanked Graig Szakats 6-0, 6-0 at first singles, Mike Zimmer defeated Jason Andres 6-4, 6-3 at second singles and Buck Young topped Dan Ayala 6-4, 6-2 at third.

At first doubles, Austin Miller and Paul Eckert whipped Andy Robinson and Derek Candelario 6-0, 6-2 and Mike Moxley and Marc Brough defeated Joe Spohn and Joe Miksa 6-1, 6-3 at second doubles.

Ross (7-3) will host Huron today. Southview (3-4) will join the GLL next year.

“They’re going to be in GLL,” said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. We had an open spot on the schedule and decided to get to know the coach and the facility they have.”

Doubles win lifts Ross

News-Messenger reports

Mike Moxley and Buck Young out-dueled Jeff Gockstetter and Craig Bulea 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 at first doubles, to clinch a 3-2 non-league tennis win for Fremont Ross Friday at Rodger Young Park.

"Mox and Buck pulled it out," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "It was kind of, 'Who is going to stay mentally tough?' Mike and Buck jumped out to a 3-0 lead (in the third game) and pulled it out."

At first singles, Pete Scranton cruised past Matthias Muller 6-0, 6-0, and at third singles, Paul Eckert beat Nate Goehring 6-2, 6-1.

Tennis

Tom Bulea beat Mike Zimmer 6-3, 6-4 at second singles and Don Bulea and Tony Eichelberger beat Mark Thomson and Brian Kaltenbach 6-3, 6-2 at second doubles for the Tigers.

"It was nice to win a match we could have lost," LaFountain said. "Hopefully something good will come from it."

Adam Swope, Rob Straight, Matt Rakay, Phil Foster and Alex Damschroeder were junior varsity winners for the Little Giants.

Ross hosts Whitmer Tuesday.

Ross, Clyde win easily

News-Messenger reports

Pete Scranton beat Casey Black in a battle of the Great Lakes League's top two players, and Fremont Ross swept Toledo Whitmer 5-0 Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

Scranton, the two-time defending GLL Player of the Year, beat Black in straight sets 6-3, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.

"It was nice to see Pete beat Black because (Black) is the second best in the GLL," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain.

Mike Zimmer blanked Matt Scott 6-0, 6-0 at second singles and Paul Eckert rolled past Scott Calcamuggio 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.

Austin Miller and Buck Young beat Marcello Lima and Mike McCutchen 6-4, 6-1 at first singles and Mike Moxley and Mark Brough defeated Bryan Smith and Chad Dubendorfer 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2

Tennis

doubles.

Clyde 5, Oak Harbor 0

OAK HARBOR — Clyde won its first match of the season, rolling to a 5-0 win over rival Oak Harbor in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Dan Wott outlasted Brian Vasill 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 at first singles, Matt Culbertson beat Matt Conley 6-3, 6-2 at second singles and the Fliers won at third singles by forfeit.

Marc Schneider and Ed Cleveland beat John Kuli and Kevin Winters 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 at first doubles and Tony Cleveland and Dan Wilkinson knocked off Yannick Smith and Zach Goetz 7-6, 6-1 at second doubles. Clyde is 1-5 overall and 1-3 in the SBC. Oak Harbor fell to 3-5, 0-4. Clyde is at Edison and Oak Harbor is at St. Mary in SBC matches today.

Tennis

Little Giants take trophy

News-Messenger reports

The Ross tennis team won titles in three of the four divisions Saturday to take the Fremont Doubles Tournament for the third year in a row.

The Little Giants scored 110 points, nearly doubling the 58 points racked up by second-place Bryan and third-place Perrysburg. Bryan earned second place through a tie-breaker.

"We had a wide margin of victory. We didn't anticipate that," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

Another area team, Clyde, scored 10 points and finished seventh in the eight-team field.

The first Ross doubles team of seniors Pete Scranton and Buck Young swept through the tournament to take first place. In the final, Scranton and Young survived a three-set match — 7-6, 3-6, 6-4 — against a Maumee Valley Country Day doubles pair that qualified for state last season.

Clyde's points came from the first doubles team of Dan Wott and Matt Culbertson, who finished fourth.

Austin Miller and Paul Eckert, who made up the Ross second doubles team, won all three of their matches in straight sets. They defeated Darrell Durkie and Aaron Taylor of Port Clinton 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

The third Little Giant team of Mike Moxley and Marc Brough won the tournament with three straight-set victories as well. Moxley and Brough beat a Bryan pair 7-6, 6-3 in the final.

The only Ross team to lose was the fourth doubles pair of Mike Zimmer and Mark Thomson. Zimmer and Thomson advanced to the final but dropped a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 decision to a Perrysburg pair.

LaFountain said Saturday's event and this week's Port Clinton Doubles Tournament afford his doubles players a greater chance to hone their skills.

"We spent a lot of time last week practicing doubles," he said. "The good thing about this is our doubles players are getting double the number of games."

Ross tennis team upends Springfield

HOLLAND — Fremont Ross advanced in the Coaches Tournament with a 3-2 win over Holland Springfield in a first round match.

At second doubles, Mike Zimmer beat Raymond Chow 6-3, 6-0 and Paul Eckert beat Jake Paul 6-0, 6-1 at third singles. Austin Miller and Buck Young beat Andy Georgiadis and Conrad Lichwala, 6-3, 6-3 at first doubles.

For Springfield, Cisco Villar remained unbeaten, as he beat Pete Scranton 6-3, 5-7, 7-5. Brian Mossing and John North beat Mike Moxley and Marc Brough 6-4, 7-5 at second doubles.

Tennis

High School Boys

Ross 3, Springfield 2

Singles

1- Cisco Villar def. Pete Scranton 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; 2- Mike Zimmer def. Raymond Choy 6-3, 6-0; 3- Paul Eckert def. Jake Puhl 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles

1- Austin Miller and Buck Young def. Andy Georgiadis and Conrad Lichwala, 6-3, 6-3; 2- Brian Mossing and John North def. Mike Moxley and Marc Brough, 6-4, 7-5

Records: Ross 11-3, Springfield 8-5

Ross tennis first at doubles invite

PORT CLINTON — Three Fremont Ross teams took first as the Little Giants won the Port Clinton Doubles Invitational at the Verdi Von Thron courts.

Austin Miller and Paul Eckert won at No. 2, Mike Moxley and Marc Brough won at No. 3 and Mike Zimmer and Mark Thomson won at No. 4.

Pete Scranton and Buck Young took second at No. 1, falling in the final.

Ross totaled 95 points, the Redskins first team had 80 and Bellevue totaled 40 for third place.^N

Tennis

High School

Ross 5, Clay 0

Roger Young Park Singles

1-Pete Scranton def. Eric Schabel 6-0, 6-0. 2-Mike Zimmer def. Brian Phillips 6-2, 6-0. 3-Paul Eckert def. Bill Neitz 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles

1-Austin Miller and Buck Young def. Mike O'Shea and Mario Taylor 6-2, 6-2. 2-Mike Moxley and Marc Brough def. Chris Schabel and Paul Miller 6-0, 6-3.

Records: Ross 11-3 (4-1), Clay 5-5 (2-3).

Junior Varsity Winners

Alex Damschroder, Brian Kalpenbach, Matt Rakay, Mark Thompson, Phil Foster, Tyler O'Neal, Rob Straight, Kunaka Hi-robayashi, Adam Kobel, Adam Swope, Justin Berger, Adam Laurer, Justin Orofino.

Ross doubles teams lead double win

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross doubles teams won all four of their matches Wednesday as the Little Giants took care of Tiffin Calvert and Ottawa Hills in a tri-meet at Rodger Young Park.

Ross swept Calvert 5-0 and squeaked past Ottawa Hills 3-2.

Against Calvert, the Ross doubles team of Austin Miller and Buck Young defeated Jeff Feasel and Greg Krupit 6-1, 6-0. Little Giants Mike Moxley and Marc Brough beat Tyler Webb and Mark Shutt 6-2, 6-2.

Tennis

The Ross singles players swept the Seneca counterparts in straight sets. Pete Scranton got past Radha Ganesan 6-0, 6-1; Mike Zimmer beat Bryan Stephens 6-0, 6-0; and Paul Eckert pasted Howie Stulpe 6-0, 6-0.

But against Ottawa Hills, the doubles teams saved the day. Miller and Eckert teamed up to beat Sunny Gupta and David Drumheller 6-3, 6-1. Moxley and Brough won 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) over Joe Ascher and Sam Ross.

The only singles winner for Ross was Young, who beat Aaron Saferin 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Clyde 4, Oak Harbor 1

CLYDE — The Fliers got straight-set victories in their four wins Wednesday.

Dan Wott won for Clyde (3-8, 2-6 Sandusky Bay Conference) in first

singles with a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Brian Vasill. Flier Matt Culberson beat Zack Goetz 6-2, 6-1.

In doubles, Clydes Tony Cleveland and Doug Wilkinson upended Matt Conley and Kevin Winters 6-4, 6-3 and Ed Cleveland and Mark Schneider beat Cameron Loth and Yannick Smith 6-0, 6-1.



Ross tops Sandusky in GLL

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Pete Scranton's 24th straight Great Lakes League victory was among his easiest.

Scranton finished his GLL career an incredible 24-0 with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Sandusky's Justin Swan Thursday and Ross went on to an easy 4-1 win over the Blue Streaks at Sandusky High School.

"I'm real proud of Pete," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "It's real nice for him to get."

For the Giants (14-3, 5-1), Paul Eckert beat Adam Ramsdell 3-6, 6-0, 6-0 at third singles; Austin Miller and Buck Young beat Chris Parker and Bill Murray 6-3, 6-2 at first doubles and Mike Moxley and Marc Brough beat Kevin Schwanger and Yuichiro Kuno 6-1, 6-2.

Scott Poeschl defeated Mike Zimmer 6-1, 6-4 at second singles

Tennis

for Sandusky (9-4, 3-3).

The teams will meet again Saturday in the GLL Tournament at Sandusky. Scranton will try for his third straight GLL Player of the Year honor.

Perkins 5, St. Joe 0

Sandusky Perkins blanked St. Joseph Central Catholic in a non-league match. Shawn Babinch beat Scott Knisely, 6-1, 6-1 at first singles, Alan Schlessman defeated Mike Yager, 6-4, 6-4 at second singles and Andy Essex beat Ryan Autullo, 6-2, 6-4 at third singles.

In doubles, Mike Rowe and Nick Routh beat John Ryan and Jeff Young, 6-2, 6-0 at first doubles and Tim Perin and Justin Goff beat Jon Verock and Nick Wobsen, 6-4, 6-3 at No. 2. SJCC is 3-8.

Sectional Tennis

LaFountain: 'We were like tennis terminators'

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Friday was quite a day for the Fremont Ross boys tennis team.

The Little Giants were a perfect 14-0 in the Division I sectional tournament at Sandusky High School, and all seven Little Giants reached the semifinal round, automatically qualifying them for the district tournament next weekend.

"I'm pretty sure that's the first time that's ever happened," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "We were like the tennis terminators; we kept

terminating seeded players."

All three singles players and both doubles teams advanced to the district tournament next Friday at Bowling Green State University. All seven will continue play at 9 a.m. today in the sectional tournament, with top district seeding at stake.

Ross No. 1 singles player Pete Scranton was untested as expected. He blanked Josh Kuelling of Madison and Davis Foster of Shelby by identical 6-0, 6-0 counts.

See GIANTS, B2

Little Giants beat Southview in OTCA tourney

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross tuned up for the district tournament with a 4-1 win over Sylvania Southview at Rodger Young Park in the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association tournament.

Both doubles teams won for the Little Giants. At first doubles, Austin Miller and Paul Eckert outlasted Henry Caporale and Adam Ramser 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2; and at second doubles, Mike Moxley and Marc Brough swept past Mark Green-

berg and Mike Shall 7-5, 6-1.

Pete Scranton won again at first singles, he beat Chris Weiss 6-4, 6-2. Buck Young beat Arnold Mendoza at third singles for the Little Giants (15-3).

Southview's win came at second singles, as Adam Hartman slipped past Mike Zimmer 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. Southview is 9-3.

Ross will play St. John's in an OTCA semifinal on Monday at Rodger Young Park.

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Abbott, Scranton named tops in GLL

Fremont Ross pitcher Courtney Abbott, softball coach Mike Gilbert and tennis player Pete Scranton grabbed the top awards in All-Great Lakes League voting released Friday.

Abbott, a senior who threw five no-hitters and led her team to a 19-3 season, won the player of the year award and was accorded first-team honors. Gilbert won the coach of the year award after guiding his Little Giants to an 11-1 GLL record and a first-place tie with Oregon Clay.

Scranton, a senior who won the GLL singles title for the third consecutive year, was the league's player of the year. The Ross doubles team of Mike Moxley and Marc Brough also brought home first-team awards.

In softball voting, Ross designated hitter Ashleigh Horn, a senior, made the first team.

The Ross baseball team did not have a first-team selection.

Ross awards spring honors

News-Messenger reports

Courtney Abbott, Josh Lozano and Pete Scranton reaped most valuable player awards at the Fremont Ross Spring Sports Banquet on Thursday.

Abbott, a senior pitcher who threw five no-hitters for the Great Lakes League champion Little Giants, led the softball awards. Tiffany Nitschke received the batting champ award, Allyson Hickey was the golden glove award winner, Emily Bibler took home the clutch fielder award, Kristy Gabel won the coach's award and Abby Gilbert was most improved.

Lozano, a senior outfielder, was chosen the top baseball player and also reaped the captain's award. Nick Lance was the most improved player, T.J. Hammer and Dustin Shively shared the offensive player award, Hammer won the coach's award, Gabe Sanchez won the golden glove award and Mike Davis was named the junior varsity's most valuable player.

Scranton, a senior who qualified for the state meet, won the most valuable player and captain's awards for the tennis team. Mike Zimmer took home the racquet award, Buck Young was the most improved, Mike Moxley earned the senior leadership award and Austin Miller was the smash award winner.



ABBOTT



LOZANO



SCRANTON

All-Great Lakes League teams

SOFTBALL

First Team

Courtney Abbott (Ross), Jenny St. John (Clay), Shannon McDougle (Clay), Tracy Lee (Fostoria), Jessica Zobaib (Bedford), Megan Beishalske (Clay), Sarah Fleming (Fostoria), Stacy Goulding (Whitmer), Erica Anderson (Clay), Ashleigh Horn (Ross), Ashley Kuhlman (Findlay).

Second Team

Krista Kreinbrink (Bedford), Jennifer Kuhlman (Findlay), Abby Gilbert (Ross), Kayla Kistner (Whitmer), Tara Dunnigan (Bedford), Shellie Andrijewski (Clay), Jenn Mielke (Ross), Krisitn Albring (Bedford), Jillian Broadway (Clay), Danielle LaFountain (Findlay), Darcie Correll (Fostoria), Amanda Shaffer (Ross).

Honorable Mention

Fremont Ross: Tiffany Nitschke, Emily Bibler, Ainsley Watkins, Allyson Hickey
Player of the Year: Courtney Abbott, Ross
Coach of the Year: Mike Gilbert, Ross

BASEBALL

First Team

Cory Maag (Fostoria), Dan Lasnoski (Sandusky), Nick Branyan (Clay), David Girrell (Whitmer), Adam Sonnett (Findlay), Dan Phillips (Clay), Zak Andrijewski (Clay), Ryan Donley (Clay), Chad Cotton (Sandusky), Richie Van Hoose (Findlay), Andy Burghardt (Bedford), Alan Holman (Fostoria).

Second Team

Kyle Myers (Ross), B.J. Preston (Findlay), Josh Lozano (Ross), Eric Hugueley (Clay), Derek Kozlowski (Whitmer), Dan Vincent (Whitmer), Adam Dunn (Whitmer), Jansen Swy (Bedford), T.J. Hammer (Ross), Tim Haynes (Clay), Scott Andrus (Findlay), Nick Lance (Ross).

Honorable Mention

Fremont Ross: John Meggit, Aaron Hines, Dustin Shively
Player of the Year: Ryan Donley, Clay
Co-Coaches of the Year: Karl Krieger, Clay; Brent Liskai, Fostoria; Schuyler Smith, Sandusky.

Ross tennis players awarded

Three Fremont Ross tennis players have earned the Gold Racquet Award presented by the Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association.

Seniors Pete Scranton, Buck Young and Mike Moxley were presented the award, given to student-athletes who have earned at least two varsity letters in tennis and have maintained at least a 3.75 grade-point average for seven semesters.

Pete Scranton, Ross: Scranton was a three-time Great Lakes League Tennis Player of the Year, advancing to state as a senior. He did not lose a GLL match in his career. Scranton also led the soccer team defensively, as it enjoyed a stellar 1999 season.

Ainsley Watkins, Ross: Advanced to state as a senior, and was twice the GLL Player of the Year in tennis. Also contributed for the successful basketball and softball teams.