

1996 District Tournament

Little Giants, Rockets prepare for districts

News-Messenger reports

Fremont's newest doubles team will try to prolong the season Friday at the Division I District Tournament at Bowling Green State University.

Courtney LaBenne and Alissa Brickner, each of whom played singles for Fremont Ross during the regular season, played in one dual match together against Sandusky. Two days later they finished second at the Sectional Tournament at Sandusky High School.

They'll need to win three matches Friday to advance to state.

"I think they have a good chance," said coach Lisa Wolfe, who teamed with play-

er Ainsley Watkins and split sets with her top duo at practice Tuesday. "They just need to keep focused."

In singles, junior Andi Andrews enters the district event as the sectional champ. She lost just three games in four victories, continuing her hot streak. She lost the first dual match of the season, then won at No. 1 in 14 straight dual matches and won the Great Lakes League title.

"I think she's got a great chance to get to state," Wolfe said. "The way she has played lately ... her playing ability shows me that she is determined to get to state."

Wolfe said Andrews has practiced this week with her father Mike.

Like the doubles teams, singles players need to win at least three matches (finishing in the top 3 out of 16) to advance to state.

Another local team, Oak Harbor's Chrissy Hemminger and Lisa Wegmen, will play at Bowling Green.

They advanced to the Division II District Tournament by finishing third at the Division II Sectional at the University of Toledo. They'll face Clyde's Abbie Funk and Jen Seaman, a team which beat them twice this season.

Andrews' year ends in controversy

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

BOWLING GREEN — Fremont Ross's Andi Andrews and Marnie Greenblatt of St. Ursula Academy traded as many verbal attacks as groundstrokes Friday, prompting district tennis tournament director Bob Gill to make three on-court visits to settle disputes.

"It's in my top 10 worst nightmares," Gill said of both players' behavior after watching the players object to line calls and differ on correct scores for close to three hours. When the spat finally gave way to a tennis match, it was Greenblatt beating Fremont Andrews for a spot in today's semifinal at Keefe Courts.

The 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 loss was an ugly way for Andrews to end one of the more successful seasons in school history.

Said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe: "I just told (Andrews), 'I know how bad you wanted to win. There's always next year.'"

But entering the match it seemed this was Andrews' year. The junior won all but one of her dual matches this season and was the Great Lakes League champion at No. 1 singles. She lost just three games in four straight-set wins at the sectional tournament a week earlier. She and her coach both were looking toward a chance to play singles in Columbus next week.

"Nobody feels as bad as she

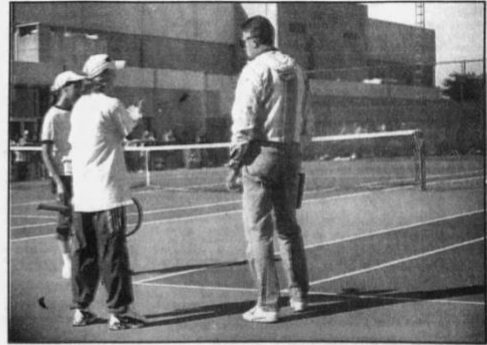
does right now," Wolfe said.

Andrews lost her first three games in her first round match Friday morning against Whitmer's Angie Riedling, then won 12 straight games to win the match. She picked up where she left off in the first set against Greenblatt, winning 6-2.

The second set was tied 3-3 when it got ugly. In a baseline rally, Andrews placed the ball just over the net. Greenblatt attempted to get the ball back over, and it appeared to Andrews and the Little Giant contingent that the ball bounced two times, ending the point.

Andrews counted it as her

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TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR Bob Gill (right) admonishes Fremont Ross tennis player Andi Andrews (center) and St. Ursula's Marnie Greenblatt. Greenblatt won the match in three sets, ending Andrews' season.

Andrews loses district quarterfinal matchup Friday

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point and eventually took a 40-30 lead in the game. Greenblatt objected, saying she had gotten to the short ball a few points earlier and the score should be 30-40 in her favor.

Andrews would not accept the change, and Greenblatt left the court to find a line judge.

Gill returned moments later, and asked players to pick a score they could both agree on to restart the game. Begrudgingly, Andrews agreed on 30-30. Greenblatt went on to win the game and took the second set, 6-4.

As the shouts back and forth grew more frequent, the size of the crowd increased. About 130 people watched as Greenblatt built a 4-1 lead before there was another confrontation about a score. This time, Gill forced Wolfe and St. Ursula coach Sue Miller to act as line judges.

"I wanted to punish the coaches for the way their players were acting," Gill said. "But it didn't work."

There was still a discrepancy, and Wolfe said the St. Ursula coach admitted not knowing the

score. Again Gill found his way to the green courts, this time appointing BGSU tennis player Milm Ptak to referee the match. He made no reversals in the final few games.

Andrews stormed back to tie the final set at 4-4. Then, with Greenblatt taking chances with hard groundstrokes and Andrews keeping the ball in play, the two traded games.

Greenblatt won the final two games of the match for the win, leading to an abrupt hand slap at mid court rather than the traditional handshake.

Greenblatt went straight to her parents and sobbed. Andrews headed for the shelter of the nearby hockey arena.

Wolfe defended her top player.

"She was frustrated (with what she perceived as a fluctuating score count)," Wolfe, in her first year, said. "Maybe Andi called her lines a little close, but who wouldn't?"

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In the Little Giants doubles match, Abbey Saum and Kylelyn Sansore of Notre Dame Academy defeated Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne of Ross, 5-0.