

Ross Ace Qualifies For State Finals Next Friday; Doubles Team Ousted In Semi-Finals

Ralph Engle, No. 1 man on the Ross high school tennis team for two seasons, won the singles championship of the northwestern Ohio district tennis tournament at Bowling Green Friday.

Engle bowled over three straight opponents after drawing a first round bye to emerge victorious in the field of 11 contenders. Engle is the second Ross representative ever to reach the state singles finals.

By winning yesterday, Ralph qualified for the state tournament in Columbus next Friday. The drawing will be held at 12 o'clock noon in Columbus on that day. Ted Hilty, Ross net star of four years ago, was also a state finalist. No Ross singles or doubles has ever garnered a state championship in singles or doubles.

DeVilbiss Takes Doubles

The Giants' doubles team of Bud Anderson and Ronnie Whisler also gave a good account of themselves going to the semi-finals. There they lost to the highly-favored Toledo DeVilbiss combination of Don Blair and Walt Milbourne, who went on to win the championship.

Blair and Milbourne whipped a highly-regarded Mansfield entry of Bili Reale and Harold Schaus in the title go.

Engle's first victory, in the quarter-finals, came over Joe Paxton of Ottawa Hills, 6-3, 6-4, after Paxton won his first-round tussle. Then the local boy, a high honor student, took Fritz Haring, 6-1, 10-8, to reach the finals. In the lower bracket, meanwhile, Carl Gerwer of DeVilbiss was also showing good form. He defeated Dave Jennings of Lima, 6-2, 6-3, and Joe Imre of Toledo Central, also 6-2, 6-3, to get to the semi-finals. There he squared off against Dallas Atlee of Toledo Scott.

Atlee proved a stubborn and determined foe. Gerwer won the first set 10-8, but Atlee took the second to square the match, 6-1. The final set went to the DeVilbiss player, 6-3, putting him in the finals with Engle.

Finals Prove Easy

In the finals, Engle showed his form and thrashed Gerwer in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Gerwer showed the effects of his gruelling semi-final match, which undoubtedly retarded him in the finals but regardless, Engle was the best player on the court.

Anderson and Whisler won their first round match, defeating Dave Millstein and Gary Barens of Toledo Scott, 6-2, 6-2. They trimmed Toledo Macomber's entry of Dick Barton and Ray Williams, 6-2, 6-1, before Blair and Milbourne appeared on the scene. That score was 6-0, 6-1 in favor of the Toledoans.

Ross has had one doubles team in the state finals, three years ago when Dick Baron and Lloyd Bischoff won the district. They were beaten in the first round.

Under the tournament setup, each school is allowed to enter one singles player and one doubles team. There is no class A-B distinction.