

Flower is sectional champ; two Ross doubles teams reach district tournament

TOLEDO — Jim Flower is in a rut.

All the Ross High School junior seems to be able to do is win big tennis matches at crucial times. Saturday at Jermain Park in Toledo was no different.

Flower walked away with his second straight "AAA" sectional singles crown by defeating Neil Rubin of DeVilbiss in easy, 6-0, 6-1, sets. The victory for Flower put him into the district play at Jermain Park next Saturday.

Joining Flower for the districts, will be two Ross doubles teams, Art Gilberg and Jack Hilty, along with Joe Albrechta and Roger Parker.

Gilberg and Hilty made it into the finals before losing to Kevin O'Connell and Jim Hearons of Toledo St. Francis. The Ross pair lost 6-2 and 6-3. Earlier in the day, Gilberg and Hilty had disposed of Greg Allan and Doug Allan of Maumee, 6-0, 6-0, to make the finals match.

Albrechta and Parker, a Ross tandem that has endured all season, fought their way into the semi-finals and a district berth but were dropped in the championship bid by the O'Connell-Hearons team, 6-3 and 6-1.

Ross was competing in the southern division of the 24-team tournament. The only Ross casualty in the tourney was also one of the only girls in the competition. Karen Driftmyer advanced the quarter-finals before losing on Friday.

The northern division sectional singles title went to Toledo St. John's sophomore Erick Iskersky when he defeated Kevin Shaw of Sylvania, 6-2, 6-3, in the final match.

The doubles title went to another pair from St. John's, brothers Jim and Mark Padilla. The brothers knocked off Dick Arnos and Mark Fine of Sylvania, in straight 6-3 sets in the finals.

The semi-finals of both divisions advanced to the district play next week.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Singles

Jim Flower, Ross, defeated Mike Pichoff, Bowsher, 6-4, 6-2;

Neil Burin, DeVilbiss, defeated Greg Smith, Maumee, 6-2, 6-1;

Flower, Ross, defeated Rubin, DeVilbiss, 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles

Kevin O'Connell-Jim Hearons, St. Francis, defeated Joe Albrechta-Roger Parker, Ross, 6-3, 6-1;

Art Gilberg-Jack Hilty, Ross, defeated Greg and Doug Allan, Maumee, 6-0, 6-0;

O'Connell-Hearons, St. Francis, defeated Gilberg-Hilty, Ross, 6-2, 6-3.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Singles

Erick Iskersky, St. John's, defeated Bob Szymanski, Central, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2;

Kevin Shaw, Sylvania, defeated Jim Rippee, St. John's, 6-1, 6-2;

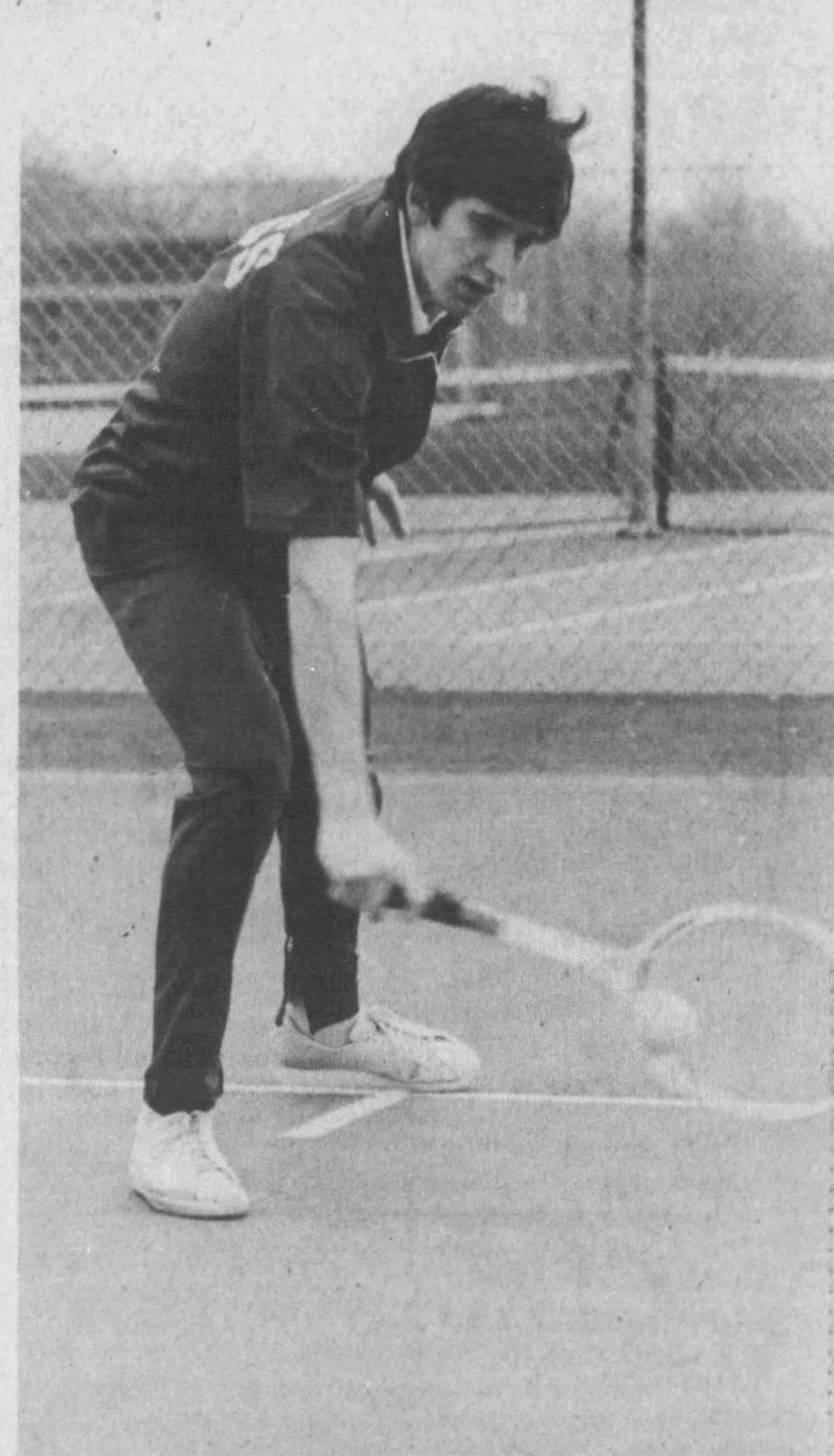
Iskersky, St. John's, defeated Shaw, Sylvania, 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles

Dick Arnos-Mark Fine, Sylvania, defeated Steve Solys-Tom Nagy, St. John's, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2;

Jim and Mark Padilla, St. John's, defeated Dave Deeren-Randy Smith, Rogers, 6-1, 6-3;

Padilla-Padilla, St. John's, defeated Arnos-Fine, Sylvania, 6-3, 6-3.



JIM FLOWER