

Mother Nature first, Norwalk next for Ross

By JOHN CUMMINGS

Staff correspondent

The weather may not have helped Fremont Ross first year tennis coach Mike Andrews get his team in tip-top shape for Mondays opener, but its close.

Andrews, and the Little Giants have been battling Mother Nature most of the time, and if there is no precipitation have been outside ... no matter what.

"We have been outside quite a bit," Andrews said. "We have been outside when it was 30 and 40 (degrees) out. We have been outside when there has been 20 to 30 mile per hour winds... those (the wind) makes it kind of tough."

So, Ross has sought refuge on indoor courts, but Monday they will be outside at Norwalk. The

Little Giants will play four matches this week, including three at home.

"It's going to be tough playing outside after playing indoors," Andrews said. "You have to worry about the wind, the sun and the concrete. Concrete is a faster surface to play on than the indoor courts."

Outside of the weather, Andrews is concerned with improving on a 6-7 1988 record.

The first year coach feels the squad can go 13-5, or win at least 10 games, and do it with a varsity that uses seven juniors.

The singles positions are anchored by returning letterman Rod Myers. Myers will play first singles, the same spot he played a year ago posting a 10-11 record, and missing the district tournament by one match. David

☐ Clyde ready, B-3

Dierksheide, and Buckeye Central Conference runner-up Mike Byrnes round out the singles spots.

"I think Rod (Myers) has a shot at districts or higher," Andrews said. "He's a pretty good player, and he should do well against the ranked players."

The last returning letterman, Mark Schwartz, will team with Justin Oxley at first doubles. Schwartz played second doubles with his brother last year, while Oxley is in his first year.

"They should be all right," Andrews said. "We have an experienced player teamed with someone that is very athletic."

Shaun Badertscher and Jamie Schroeder are playing varsity

for the first time this spring, but they are not strangers to each others playing style, as they played doubles all winter.

Andrews admits that asking for a BCC title this spring may be impossible, but that a runners-up trophy may be within reach.

Findlay won the tournament last year with 150 points. Lancaster was second with 70, then came Ross with 60 points.

The Trojans won all five championship matches, while Ross settled for two silvers.

"We should be second," Andrews said. "Hopefully, we can put a dent into Findlay (points)."

"But, we'll get a good indication of how we'll do right off the bat. It ought to be interesting."

Just like the weather.