

1996 Season Review

Fremont Ross

COACH: Lisa Wolfe (1st year)

LAST YEAR: 22-0, GLL champions, state runner-up

KEY LOSSES: Dawn Zerman (1st singles); Kristen Farrell (2nd singles), Casey and Dena Schepflins (1st doubles).

KEY RETURNING PLAYERS: Junior Andi Andrews (1st singles), senior Alissa Brickner (2nd singles), sophomore Courtney LaBenne (3rd singles); Freshman Ainsley Watkins, and sophomores Natalie Wolfe, Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom (doubles)

KEY DATE: Sept. 14 Michael's Invitational at Rodger Young Park.

STRENGTHS: An enthusiastic new coach, as well as very talented assistants in Bill Weng and Mike Andrews, will help to keep this

Ross loses first match

By MICHAEL BOSI
Staff writer

A recurring remark about this year's edition of the Fremont Ross girls tennis team has been about how much fun the players are having.

Despite the fact that the Little Giants are molding a new identity following last year's state runner-up season and Great Lakes League championship, there are smiles and good feelings rippling across the court.

And that's going to come in quite handy when Ross has to survive matches like Monday's season opener, a 4-1 loss to Huron at Rodger Young Park that muddled coach Lisa Wolfe's debut.

"(Wolfe) makes it a lot of fun. It's a lot more fun than last year," said senior Andi Andrews, who lost in little over an hour at No. 1 singles Jessica Landes, 2-6, 1-6.

"We're very young and very inexperienced," said Andrews, "so we're not going to put up the numbers that we did last year win-wise or anything like that, but we'll hang in there."

With three seniors, Huron, a three-time Sandusky Bay Conference runner up, overpowered Ross's trio of singles players, starting with Landes, the two-time league champion.

The Little Giants' lone starting senior, Alissa Brickner, fell to Katie Harkleroad, 2-6, 0-6, while sophomore Courtney LaBenne battled longest before succumbing to Carrie Velli-



ANDI ANDREWS hits a backhand against Huron Monday at Rodger Young Park.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

quette, 4-6, 1-6.

Other than Velliquette's stronger ground strokes, "Courtney was pretty even, actually," said Wolfe.

Ross earned its lone victory at second doubles, where sophomores Morgan Carnicom and Natlie Wolfe teamed for a 6-3, 6-0 triumph over Emily Moscioni and Katie Haas.

"The second-court doubles did

a great job," said Wolfe. "They played very well together. They're in sync. You can tell when a good doubles team is together because they were pumping each other up in between shots, and even when they would miss one they were still trying to pump each other up."

At first doubles, freshman Ainsley Watkins and senior Char-

lie Swartz dropped their first set to Janna Warren and Sarah Moscioni, 1-6.

The Ross duo battled fiercely in the second set before dropping a 7-5 decision, ending Huron's first victory over the Little Giants in four years.

"We're real happy to come out of here with a win because they're still tough," said third-year Huron coach Jeff Skaggs.

Girls tennis

Huron 4, Fremont Ross 1

SINGLES — Jessica Landes (H) def. Andi Andrews (F), 6-2, 6-1; Katie Harkleroad (H) def. Alissa Brickner (F), 6-2, 6-0; Carrie Velliquette (H) def. Courtney LaBenne (F), 6-1, 6-4.

DOUBLES — Janna Warren/Sara Mascioni (H) def. Ainsley Watkins/Charlie Swartz (F), 6-1, 7-5.

LC beats Streaks; Ross a 3-2 winner

News-Messenger reports

Lorain Catholic defeated the St. Joseph Central Catholic tennis team 3-2 Thursday at East Side Park.

The Crimson Streaks (0-2) won both doubles matches but were beaten in singles by Lorain Catholic (2-0)

"They played well," St. Joe coach Bill Young said of his team. "We knew going in that we're pretty happy with the doubles teams. And the singles kids are getting better."

The Crimson Streaks play Elyria Catholic Monday at East Side Park.

Fremont Ross got victories from singles players Andi Andrews, Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne in a 3-2 win against Bowling Green.

High School

Tennis

Ross 3, Sorthview 2

Singles

Andi Andrews (R) d. Heather Helwig 6-0, 6-0; Alissa Brickner (R) d. Lacy Kamm 6-2, 6-7 (7-3), 6-1; Courtney LaBenne (R) d. Jill Wineberg 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles

Heather Frick and Kara Tashima (S) d. Ainsley Watkins and Jenny Schaaf 6-1, 6-1; Trisha Greeberg and Sylvia Wu (S) d. Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom 6-3, 6-0.

Tennis

Ross 3, Findlay 2

Singles

Andi Andrews (R) d. Kendra Nieswander 6-1, 6-0, Sara Radabaugh (F) d. Alissa Brickner 6-0, 6-1, Katie Gartner (F) d. Courtney LaBenne 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles

Ainsley Watkins and Rachael Stout (R) d. Shelly Castret and Andrea Ernst 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom (R) d. Tracelin Smithson and Andrea Dwiggin 6-4, 6-2.

Records: Ross 3-1

The Fremont Ross Lady Giants tennis team won all three singles matches to defeat Tiffin Columbian Wednesday in Tiffin.

"They were all team players out there today," coach Lisa Wolfe said, noting that JV and varsity players rooted each other to victory.

The varsity needed the boost. Andi Andrews, Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne each won in singles for Ross, but both doubles teams were defeated. The Lady Giants play Fostoria today.

Tennis

Ross 3, Columbian 2

Singles

Andi Andrews (R) d. Sarah Schelber 6-1, 6-0; Alissa Brickner (R) d. Jessica Theis 7-5, 6-4; Courtney LaBenne (R) d. Erin Ellinger 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles

Heather Koons and Ellen Hommerding (C) d. Ainsley Watkins and Rachael Stout 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 4-6.

Records: Ross 3-1, Columbian 3-1.

Next match: Today vs. Fostoria

JV Score: Ross 5, Columbian 2

Ross JV Winners: Charlie Swartz, Brit-tany Ford, Nicole Wolfe and Stefanie LaGrou, Amanda Wingo and Christy Weiker, Laura Papalia and Emily Horn.

Lady Giants now 2-0 in league play

News-Messenger reports

The Lady Giants swept Fostoria 5-0 Thursday, with the most decisive win coming from the No. 2 doubles team of Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom. The duo beat Abbey Sheeks and Carrie Gwiner of Fostoria 6-0, 6-1.

TENNIS

Ross is now 5-1, 2-0 in the Great Lakes League.

Tennis

Ross 5, Fostoria 0

Singles

Andi Andrews (R) d. Nicki Smith 6-1, 6-1,
Alissa Brickner (R) d. Meghan Stroman 6-0, 6-2, Courtney LaBenne (R) d. Anna Schlesselman (R) d. 6-3, 6-3

Doubles

Ainsley Watkins and Rachael Stout (R) d. Jessie Sheerar and Sarah Schetter 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom (R) d. Abbey Sheeks and Carrie Gwiner 6-0, 6-1

Records: Ross 5-1 (2-0)

JV result: Ross 2, Fostoria 0

Charlie Swartz and Jenny Schaaf (R) d. Kellee Shontz and Missy Gilliland 8-0, Nicole Wolfe and Stefanie Lagrou (R) d. Katie Droll and Natalie Salazar

Records: Ross 5-1

Ross silences Cowboys, 5-0

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls tennis team enjoyed its easiest win of the year by pounding Libbey, 5-0, at the Ohio Tennis Coaches Tournament.

TENNIS

The Little Giants, now 6-1, lost just three total games.

Every singles match was a shutout. Junior Andi Andrews scored a perfect victory at No. 1 singles over Tanya Farnsworth. Senior Alissa Brickner blanked Mechelle Hoag at the second slot, and sophomore No. 3 player Courtney LaBenne threw a bagel at Holly Griffin.

At No. 1 doubles, Ainsley Watkins and Rachael Stout downed Heather Schwartzkopf and Leah Wick, 6-1, 6-0. Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicome teamed to crush Melissa Whittecar and Danielle Maier, 6-1, 6-1.

■ The Fremont Ross girls tennis team ran its record to 7-1 Wednesday with a 4-1 non-league victory over host Port Clinton. The Little Giants, who haven't lost since their season opener against Huron, swept the singles matches.

Andi Andrews blanked Kylene Habitzel, 6-0, 6-0, at first singles. Alissa Brickner fended off Gretchen Bredbeck at No. 2 singles, 6-3, 6-2, and third singles player Courtney LaBenne roasted Sarah Reiter, 6-1, 6-3.

Brooke Rasmussen and Teresa Durkie scored Port Clinton's only win at first doubles.

Drama unfolded at No. 2 doubles, where Ross's Natalie Wolfe and Morgan Carnicom outlasted Amanda Kozlok and Sarah Fitzthum, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-2).

The Little Giants junior varsity upped its record to 6-1 with a 6-1 triumph.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

season, splitting four Great Lakes League matches.

Ross plays at Bedford Tuesday.

■ Preparing to host Saturday's 14-team Old Fort Invitational, Old Fort was beaten 161-180 by Elmwood at Briar Hills Golf Course in North Baltimore.

Matt Overmeyer's 38 and Brent Williamson's 39 led Elmwood past visiting Old Fort, which got 42s from Kyle Ryman and Derek Huber.

■ In tennis, Andi Andrews dropped just three games in her No. 1 singles win and Courtney LaBenne nearly blanked her No. 3 singles opponent as Fremont Ross beat Toledo Whitmer 4-1.

Andrews defeated Angie Riedling 6-3, 6-0, and LaBenne beat Katie Maier 6-1, 6-0. At second singles, Alissa Brickner beat Mandy Black 6-3, 6-3. The Little Giants (8-1 overall, 3-0 Great Lakes League) split the two dou-

bles matches against the Panthers.

■ Clyde was swept in singles by the Sandusky St. Mary's tennis team, then won both doubles matches in a 3-2 loss. Jenn Seaman and Abbie Funk of Clyde defeated Christie Zucker and Heidi Kramer 6-2, 6-4 and Jenny McDonald and Maggie Pearce bested Jen Price and Courtney Bruner 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

■ Oak Harbor got singles wins from Amanda Henry and Mindy Harsha and a doubles win from the team of Lisa Wegman and Andrea Weber in a 3-2 win against Sandusky Bay Conference foe Edison.

The Rockets are 6-1 overall, 3-0 in the SBC. Edison is 2-6 overall, 0-4 SBC.

■ Fremont Ross's soccer team lost 3-0 at Findlay Thursday.

"We looked pretty decent at 0-0 at halftime," assistant coach Nathan Sorg said, "then we had a few mental lapses."

The Little Giants (0-2 overall, 0-1 GLL) play Toledo Whitmer at home Tuesday.

Fremont Ross improved to 9-1 with a 4-1 win against Ashland. Andi Andrews lost just two games at No. 1 singles. The team win put the Little Giants into the semifinals of the Northwest Ohio Tennis Coaches Association tournament.

Ross fends off Bedford threat

News-Messenger reports

The **Fremont Ross** girls tennis team survived a scare to win its 10th match in a row Tuesday.

Dropping both doubles matches, the Little Giants rallied to sweep the singles for a 3-2 Great Lakes League victory over **Bedford**.

Ross is 10-1, having won all four of its league matches.

Andi Andrews breezed past Lisha Bodi at first singles, 6-1, 6-0. At No. 2 singles, Alissa Brickner fended off Kim Cryan in a tiebreaker, 7-3, before taking the second set, 6-2. Courtney LaBenne outlasted Erin White, 6-4, 6-3.

Bedford's Jana Johanssen and Abby Nieman teamed to defeat Ainsley Watkins and Rachael Stout at No. 1 doubles, 6-1, 6-4. On Court 5, Ross's Morgan Carnicom and Natalie Wolfe succumbed to Sonja Johanssen and Emily Ahonen, 2-6, 2-6.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

(sixth, 21:55), Lisa Schneider (seventh, 22:21), Cara Moellman (eighth, 22:43) and Lindsay Kuhlman (10th, 23:03).

Clyde (23 points) dumped Huron (50) and Oak Harbor (68) on the strength of Jennifer Staats' first-place finish in 20:28. Rachel Salazar also provided the Fliers (5-1) with a spark, finishing third with a 22:06.

GOLF

Clyde dropped to 0-6 with a 160-176 loss to Sandusky Bay Conference rival **Perkins** at Green Hills Golf Course.

Perkins' Tony Corder and Ryan Beverick each shot 38s, while Jeff Beatty carded a 39. Junior Brett Newsome led Clyde with a 43.

Fremont Ross took a 2-stroke decision over Great Lakes League foe

Andi Andrews leads Little Giants

By **BRIAN SPIESS**
Sports editor

Andi Andrews is stingy with her tennis games.

The Fremont Ross junior will allow opponents to win two — maybe three — games each match, but rarely more. Since a season-opening loss to Huron's Jessica Landis, Andrews has won every No. 1 singles match in leading the Little Giants to a 10-1 record.

Last week, she beat Bedford's

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Lisha Bodi 6-1, 6-0 and Ashland's Sara Juzwik 6-2, 6-0 to lead Ross to two wins and earn The News-Messenger's Athlete of the Week award.

"I've taken more of a leadership role this year," Andrews said.

"I have to help the other players remain more focused."

Andrews also has worked with

her father Michael and is trying to make her game more aggressive. "I'm still tentative some of the time," she said Monday.

Andrews, who lost in the second round of districts in 1995, hopes to make it to state this year. Her team goal is to win the Great Lakes League.

Today the Little Giants face Clay in a GLL match. In four league matches this year, the team has proved as stingy as its top player, winning all four.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison
ANDI ANDREWS

ban Lakes League, dumping **Otsego**, 24-36, and **Lakota**, 25-31, in a tri-meet Tuesday.

The Golden Bears, 8-0 in the SLL, received a second-place finish from Cory English, who completed the course in 18:09. Mario Picciuto supported him with a fifth-place showing.

Lake captured four of the top five spots as it swept a Suburban Lakes League tri-meet against **Woodmore** and **Elmwood**. The Blue Streaks' Rick Byington finished first in a time of 17:18.

Jeremiah Smith continued his dominance for the **Fremont Ross** boys cross country team, finishing first in the Little Giants' 15-46 victory over Great Lakes League rival **Fostoria**.

Smith finished in 17:26, 32 seconds before second-place finisher Kurt Snyder of Ross.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

At Osborne Park, Perkins edged Sandusky Bay Conference edged Clyde, 27-28, despite the Fliers' 1-2 finish from Jenny Staats (20:32) and Rachel Salazar (21:19).

Fremont Ross saw perfection against **Fostoria**, 15-50, in a Great Lakes League meet. Lindsay Frontz topped all finishers with a 20:38, while Monica Wood finished second in 20:40.

Woodmore emerged a double winner in a Suburban Lakes League tri-meet with **Elmwood** and **Lake**. The Wildcats' Lindsay Travis (20:17) finished two seconds behind meet winner Kristen Rosendale of Elmwood.

SOCCER

Fremont Ross (4-2, 3-1 GLL) received its second hat trick in as many days as it captured its fourth win in a row, 6-1 over Napoleon. Fol-

lowing Corey Sterling's three-goal performance in Monday's 3-0 win over Sandusky, Brian Thomson notched the trifecta Tuesday.

Hans Schmidlin, Andrew Humberger and Andy Smith added goals for the Little Giants. Michael Hickey turned aside nine shots on goal.

GOLF

Clyde won just its second match, using a 164 to take a triangular from **Sandusky** (183) and **Edison** (187). Brett Newsome was the medalist by six strokes, shooting a 35 at Green Hills Golf Course.

Brent Weyant shot a 38 to lead **Bettsville** (7-1) past **Old Fort** (1-10), 174-189, at Nature Trails.

St. Joseph Central Catholic improved to 10-1 with a 160-187 decision over **Cardinal Stritch** at Sycamore Hills. Medalist Ben Sorenson shot a 38, while teammate Dustin Dewey was one stroke behind.

TENNIS

Winning its 11th match in a row, **Fremont Ross** shut out **Oregon Clay**, 5-0, in a Great Lakes League match. Andi Andrews, Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne cruised to singles victories for the Little Giants.

The teams of Ainsley Watkins/Rachel Stout and Natalie Wolfe/Morgan Carnicom collected doubles triumphs.

In the Sandusky Bay Conference, **Edison** (4-7, 1-5 SBC) edged Clyde, 3-2, dropping Clyde to 3-5, 1-5 SBC. The Fliers' Andrea Wilson pulled out a 6-3, 6-2 victory at third singles over Ashley Schaeffer, and Maggie Pierce and Jenny McDonald prevailed at second singles, 6-2, 6-0, over Jessica Sisson

Little Giants suffer second tennis defeat

The **Fremont Ross** girls tennis team lost for just the second time the season, dropping a 4-1 match to **Perrysburg**. Andi Andrews was the lone Little Giants winner, beating Jill Johnston at the No. 1 singles position.

GIRLS TENNIS

After reeling off 11 straight victories, **Fremont Ross** lost for the second time in as many days, 3-2 to **Maumee** in a non-league match. Andi Andrews and Alissa Brickner took singles victories for Ross (11-3).

Little Giants lose, Streaks win in area tennis matches

Fremont Ross lost Monday in the semifinals of the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association Tournament, an event played by member teams throughout the fall season.

The Little Giants lost 4-1, getting their sole point at No. 1 singles, where Andi Andrews beat Heidi Burkhart 6-1, 6-1.

Close one, but Ross still unbeaten in GLL

The **Fremont Ross** girls tennis team remained unbeaten in the Great Lakes League with a 3-2 win

over **Napoleon**

TENNIS

Tuesday. Ross's three singles players,

Andi Andrews, Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne all took victories.

Brickner and LaBenne had to survive three-set nailbiters.

Ross readies for GLL meet

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross tuned up for Tuesday's Great Lakes League championships with a 4-1 victory over Ottawa Hills. The Little Giants took an exciting match at second doubles, with Ainsley Watkins and Natalie Wolfe downing Julie Dolgin and Sam Day, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Andi Andrews, Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne swept the singles matches for Ross (13-4, 6-0 GLL).

Ross tennis team tops Sandusky 4-1

Fremont Ross's girls tennis team, played their final pre-sectional tuneup Wednesday, beating **Sandusky** 4-1 with an adjusted lineup.

Alissa Brickner and Courtney LaBenne, who played singles during the regular season, won at No. 1 doubles and will play as a duo when sectional play begins Friday.

Little Giant athletes swarm GLL awards

Fremont Ross athletes earned the Great Lakes League's top player honors for volleyball, tennis and boys cross country.

Michele Smith was the GLL Player of the Year in volleyball, **Andi Andrews** earned the same honor in tennis and **Jeremiah Smith** was the top runner on the GLL boys cross country first team.

Volleyball coach **Beth Muffler**, who led the Little Giants to the district finals, won league coach of the year honors.

Several Ross athletes made GLL first and second teams as well as honorable mention in volleyball, soccer, cross country and golf.

■ **All-GLL lists, B2**