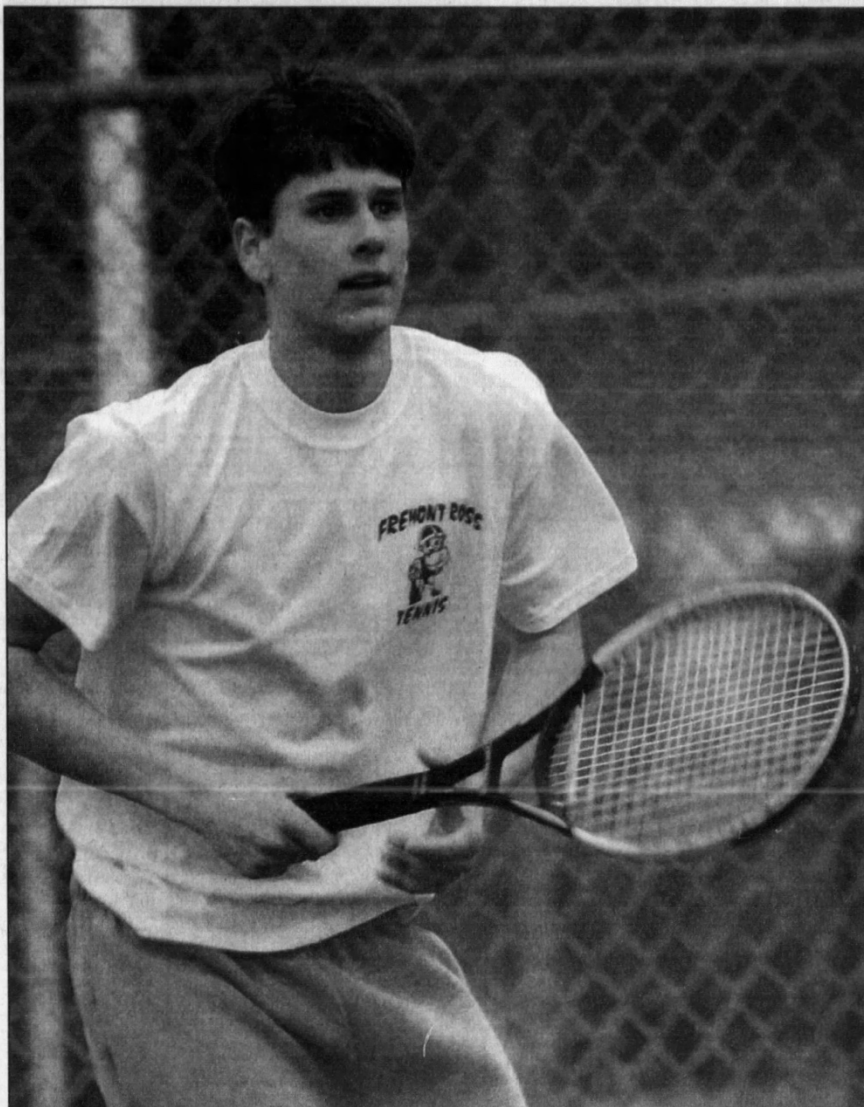


SPRING PREVIEWS: Tennis

David's dream

Tireless worker
Albrechta eyes
a ticket to state

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

Northwest District spots at the boys state tennis tournament are a hot commodity.

Few things are as scarce or coveted as there are only two.

And Fremont Ross's David Albrechta should have a legitimate shot at one of them this season.

The senior was selected to the Great

Lakes League's first team last year. He was a district qualifier and finished second at No. 1 singles at the Sandusky Invitational.

Albrechta worked out at Shadow Valley in Toledo for six hours a day, six days a week during the off-season to advance further than last year's district opener. He also participated in 10 tournaments, winning two.

"David's a hard worker on and off the court," Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain said.

"His work ethic is something that separates him from other kids I've coached. I've never had a kid work out more with the weights."

Albrechta trains with Kent Wymer at Shadow Valley.

"He has me on a rigorous training schedule — lifting, running and lessons," he said. "Not just working on my strokes, but endurance and strength."

In addition to physical strength, Albrechta has vastly improved his mental game.

Previews

Here's the schedule for the rest of The News-Messenger's spring sports previews:

FRIDAY

Track and field

Some of the state's best hurdlers — including Oak Harbor's Jeanne Osborne and Ashley Brooks, Clyde's Jared Martin and Bellevue's Greg Keys — reside in the area.

SATURDAY

Softball, baseball

Junior pitchers Ali Warren and Kevin Wammes will be in the spotlight for Gibsonburg and St. Joseph Central Catholic, respectively.

FREMONT ROSS tennis standout David Albrechta hopes to end his stellar high school career in style — with a trip to the state tournament.

News-Messenger/Jennifer Young-Bower

See ROSS STANDOUT, B2

Ross standout hopes to end career in style

Continued From B1

"He's a smart player," LaFountain said. "If one thing doesn't work, he'll try something else. His game has improved since he was a freshman. He's got more weapons. His consistency has improved."

LaFountain said consistency applies to minimizing mistakes and knowing when to be patient. But Albrechta will never be afraid to try for winners.

"I'm at my best when I come out, wait for a short ball and put it away," he said. "If I have an opportunity to put it away, I will and I can. I'm an aggressive baseliner. I can stay back and hit a lot of winners. I'm not a pusher, and I'm impatient. I try to win the point. That's what I focus on."

LaFountain said Albrechta has also improved his ability to rally with opponents.

"He wins with power and conditioning," LaFountain said. "He wins matches by overpowering opponents and driving the ball into the corners. He doesn't get tired."

Pete Scranton, a three-time GLL player of the year and state qualifier as a senior in 2000 for Ross, hit with Albrechta recently and was impressed with what he saw.

"We worked on serve and volley," Albrechta said. "I'm more consistent since he saw me (as a freshman). There's a big difference between trying to go for winners and staying back. I've gotten mentally tougher and matured."

Albrechta's goals for the season encompass repeating on first-team all-league and a trip to state.

"I've worked harder than anybody in the area, physically and technically with my strokes," he said.

Albrechta will undertake a major challenge in the fourth match of the season as the Giants host Huron and its top singles player, Phil Conley.

Ross has finished second to Findlay each of Albrechta's first three years and the Trojans' Nick Casalbore is his primary rival in the league.

"David's got as much athletic ability as anyone in the state," LaFountain said. "Dave knows he can beat anybody on any given day. Whoever gets David in college will be lucky."

Combine talent and determination with a little good fortune of his own, and state shouldn't be out of the question for Albrechta.

Tennis

Ross surges to win

Fremont Ross won its first tennis match 3-2.

David Albrechta dropped the first set before coming back to win the next two at No. 1 singles. Eliot Parker and Mike Hollis won for the Little Giants at No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

Tennis

Giants top rivals

Ross rolled to a 4-1 victory at rival Sandusky.

In their four victories, the Little Giants lost a combined 12 games.

David Albrechta led the way, dropping just one game at No. 1 singles.

Mike Hollis earned a win at No. 3 singles, and the doubles teams of Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker and Jason Damch and Jacob Lavrer won.

The Little Giants improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

ROSS 4, TOLEDO C.C. 1

Swing of things

Dominant duos key for Ross

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

Fremont Ross tennis coach Rick LaFountain configured this season's lineup with a strong doubles group in mind.

And he looks to have done a masterful job.

Anthony Weiker and Aaron Gray won in straight sets at No. 1 doubles and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer lost only one game at No. 2 as the Little Giants defeated Central Catholic 4-1 on Wednesday.

"Damschroder and Laurer have played well all season," LaFountain said. "They're going to be one of the strong points this season. For us to be successful, our second doubles team will have to play a big part. It was nice to see the first doubles team play well, too."

Ross has one of the top players in the area at No. 1 singles in David Albrechta and two freshmen at No. 2 (Eliot Parker) and 3 (Mike Hollis). Albrechta surrendered only one game, and Parker also won in straight sets on Wednesday.

Weiker and Gray, who are both seniors, are partnered for the first time. Weiker said they have already noticeably improved their serving and volleys.

"We were both on the same page, finally," Weiker said. "Our ground strokes were on, and our serves were in today. We clicked."

Albrechta said the doubles teams will be integral to the Giants' chances of winning their big matches this year, and he was impressed with their performance.

"The first doubles match was amazing," he said. "They'll be very important in the Findlay match. They had a breakthrough today."

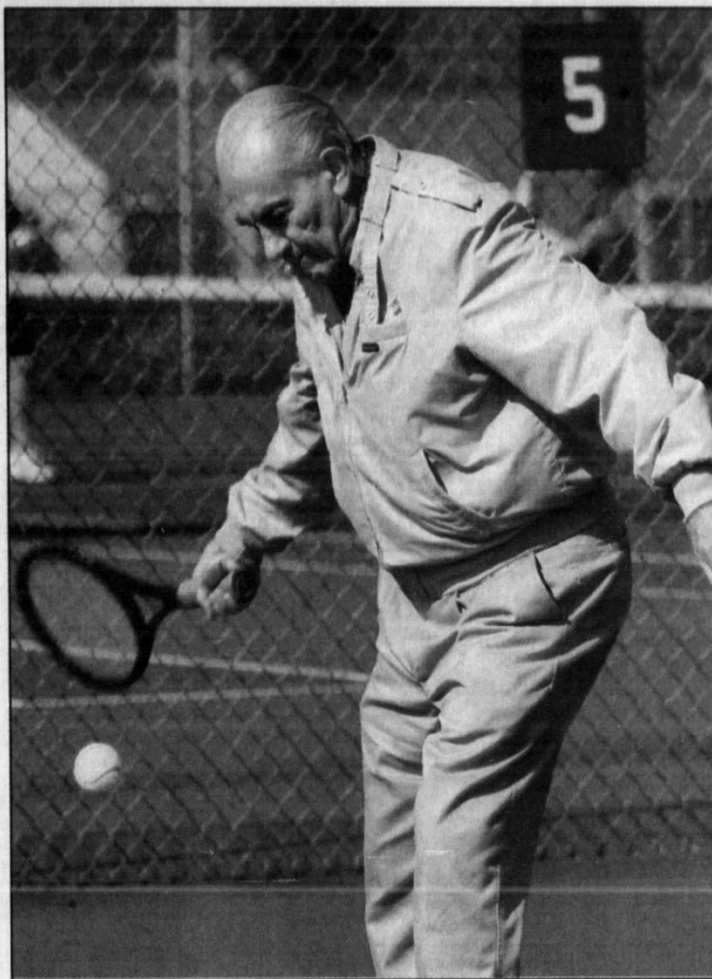
See DOUBLES PLAY, B3

More preps, Page B3

■ Cory Miller adds to SJCC's strong pitching performances.

■ Bellevue tops Margareta in softball to remain unbeaten.

■ Seventh-inning miscue dooms the Crimson Streaks in loss.



News-Messenger/Jennifer Young-Bower

EIGHTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD DALE COLLINS serves the ceremonial first ball at the Fremont Ross tennis team's home opener on Wednesday. Collins was honored for his longtime support of the Little Giants.

Ross recognizes No. 1 fan Collins

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

Eighty-three-year-old Dale Collins hadn't played tennis in seven years.

But you couldn't tell it on Wednesday at Rodger Young Park.

Collins' inactivity on the court doesn't mean he had been away from it completely. The 1939 Fremont Ross graduate has attended a majority of the boys and girls home tennis matches since the early '50s.

Collins' loyalty and passion

were recognized on Wednesday as he got the Little Giants' home season started with a ceremonial first serve.

The Ross boys, who beat Toledo Central Catholic 4-1, were allowed to choose who the honor was bestowed upon, and Collins made it a no-brainer.

And while the velocity may have diminished slightly, Collins' serve found its mark on the opposite side of the net.

"When you're 83, you don't hit it like you used to," Collins said.

Collins played tennis until he

was 76, but a right-knee injury now prevents it.

Collins did not play tennis while at Ross because he lived in Lindsey and transportation made participation nearly impossible. His youngest son Matt played for the Giants and graduated in 1982 and his oldest son Terry played and graduated in 1969.

Dale and Matt, who played for four years at Toledo, won a tournament at Rodger Young in the early '80s.

See ROSS, B3

Ross tennis team recognizes its No. 1 fan

Continued From B1

Senior David Albrechta received Collins' serve on Wednesday to complete a trifecta of sorts. Collins was good friends with Paul Albrechta, David's grandfather, and also played with Joe Albrechta, David's father.

"He was good friends with my grandpa," David said. "With the family relationship — I talk to him about my grandpa who I didn't know that well — winning on the day meant to honor him is pretty special to me."

Added No. 1 doubles player Anthony Weiker: "It definitely makes for a great day. We couldn't ask for more. You can always count on him to be down here. Every time we come down, he is here."

Joe Albrechta said the kids expect Collins to attend matches and notice when he is unable.

Collins sets up a lawn chair at the first singles court or watches from his car when the weather is poor and progresses around the park as matches are completed.

"I can't watch everybody," he said.

Otherwise, he most assuredly would.

Doubles play will be key for Little Giants

Continued From B1

The meeting with Greater Buckeye Conference favorite Findlay on April 27 is one all the Giants have circled on the calendar. Albrechta's focus is on No. 1 singles player Nick Casalbore.

Ross is off to a fantastic start at 3-0 and the freshman singles players should continue to develop as the season progresses. Parker beat Jack Durer, a senior, on Wednesday.

"We don't have a dominant No. 2," LaFountain said. "We have a strong No. 1 and six who are close in ability. We went with two freshmen at No. 2 and No. 3 to build."

LaFountain's arrangement has both the future and present looking promising.

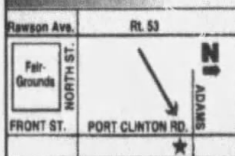
**All area prep results
can be found in The
News-Messenger**

**NORTHTOWN
MINI**

1525 Port Clinton Road • Fremont

Phone

419-334-6080 or 419-332-9106



Managed by Hirt
Rental Properties
Just north of
Fairgrounds

STORAGE

24 HOUR
ACCESS
AVAILABLE

5x10 10x10
10x20 10x30

ELECTRONIC GATE
FENCED & LIGHTED
Auto & Boat Storage

CREDIT PROBLEMS?

NEED A CAR?

Let **EXPERIENCE** get you the vehicle you want.

Tennis

Little Giants fall

Anthony Weiker was Ross's only winner as the Little Giants suffered their first loss of the season — a 4-1 decision to Norwalk.

Walker topped Brad Hagemeyer 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-3) at No. 3 singles.

"It was pretty tough," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "I think they will rebound OK."

Tennis

Ross rolls

Ross dropped just 11 combined games in four completed matches in a 4-0 Greater Buckeye Conference victory over Lima Senior.

David Albrechta won 6-1, 6-4 at first singles, and Mike Hollis won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3 singles.

In doubles, Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer won 6-4, 6-0 at No. 2.

Ross's Elliot Parker split his first two sets before play was suspended.

Tennis

Ross perfect in GBC

Fremont Ross won both doubles matches and David Albrechta won at No. 1 singles as the Little Giants ran their Greater Buckeye Conference record to 3-0 with a 3-2 victory over Marion Harding.

Albrechta won 6-0 before being challenged 7-5. Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker lost four games while winning in straight sets at No. 1 doubles.

Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer won 7-6 (7-4) and 6-1.

The Giants are 5-1 overall.

Tennis

Ross falls to Napoleon

Fremont Ross can take a positive out of Friday's 3-2 loss to Napoleon in the Greater Buckeye Conference.

The Little Giants (5-2, 3-1) were swept in their singles matches, including a loss by David Albrechta to Ben Bischoff at No. 1 singles.

But coach Rick LaFountain is optimistic wins from each of his doubles teams will bode well for seeding at the GBC Tournament at Sandusky on May 8.

"(Albrechta and Bischoff) will face off again at the GBC Tournament," LaFountain said. "We're looking forward to the rematch. That should be a good one to watch."

The two are familiar with one another after they were summer playing partners.

Napoleon is 7-2 and 2-1.

Tennis.....

Not double the fun

Anthony Weiker and Aaron Gray (No. 2) and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer (No. 3) each finished third as Fremont Ross finished its doubles invitational in sixth place.

Maumee Valley won the event with 78 points.

Tennis

Parker nets Ross's only win

Eliot Parker notched Fremont Ross's only victory in a 4-1 setback to powerhouse Elida.

Parker topped Ryan Wright 6-4, 6-3 at third singles.

The Little Giants fell to 5-3 overall. Elida improved to 9-1.

Ross captures crown

The News-Messenger reports

Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer provided a series of key victories at second doubles to lead the Fremont Ross tennis team to the Coaches Sport Corner Invite title in Sandusky on Saturday.

The duo gave the Little Giants significant points by winning their opening match and advancing into the winners' bracket. Damschroder and Laurer capped off their stellar day with Ross's only flight title.

"The biggest wins of the day came at second doubles," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "We needed one finals win and the second doubles team got it for us."

Ross, with entries in four of the five flight finals, tallied 105 points. Norwalk (93) and Sandusky (75) finished second and third at the eight-team meet.

David Albrechta and Eliot Parker each lost just five total games in their quarterfinal and semifinal matches at first and second singles, respectively, before falling in the finals.

Mike Hollis finished third at third singles.

The first doubles team of Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker lost a thriller 7-5, 7-6 in the final.

Softball

Hoffman the highlight

Sara Hoffman fired a one-hit shutout to highlight two Ross victories.

Hoffman struck out seven and walked none in a 4-0 win over Notre Dame.

Jaymelee Glaspy went 2-for-3 with a home run and Nicole Marroquin and Miranda Steinberger each had an RBI in the victory.

Steinberger earned the victory in Ross's 10-6 win over Whitmer.

Stephanie Nagel and Rachel Hammer each had two RBI in the win. Glaspy and Jessica White each added two hits for the Little Giants (15-3).

Golden Bears 1-2 on weekend

Julie Beaschler finished 5-for-9 with three doubles, a triple and two RBI as Gibsonburg finished 1-2 in the Ashland Tournament.

Beaschler had three hits as the Bears topped Shelby 7-2 to avoid a winless weekend.

Sarah Gruner went 3-for-3 with two RBI and Jessica Swain finished 2-for-4 with three RBI for Gibsonburg (10-5) in the victory.

Tennis

Ross nets big win

Fremont Ross toppled Port Clinton 3-2 as both doubles teams and No. 1 singles player David Albrechta won their matches.

The Little Giants (7-3) also breezed past Mansfield Senior 5-0.

“(Port Clinton) was probably the biggest win of the season,” coach Rick LaFountain said. “We’re hoping that the momentum carries over for us,”

Ross trailed the Redskins 2-1 and lost the first set of each doubles match before rebounding.

No. 2 doubles player Jason Damschroder rolled his ankle but finished the match against Port Clinton. Jared Groot replaced him to team with Jacob Laurer for a win versus Mansfield Senior.

FINDLAY 4, ROSS 1

Game effort

Ross senior's thrilling match highlight of loss

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

David Albrechta may remember Fremont Ross's 4-1 loss to visiting rival Findlay.

The senior may remember his 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 loss to Nick Casalbore at first singles.

But Albrechta will remember one amazing, marathon game that he won on Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

Albrechta ripped a forehand winner on the 26th deuce to take the sixth game of the final set.

"I will never forget that game," Albrechta said. "That was insane."

With the memorable match, Albrechta helped the Little Giants give notice that they are ready for the powerhouse Trojans in the Greater Buckeye Conference tournament on May 8.

"I think we are all very excited," Albrechta said. "This is the best team in the league, and I think that we sent them a pretty strong message today."

The first doubles team of Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker notched the Little Giants' only victory against Findlay, which won the final four tournament titles in the defunct Great Lakes League.

The duo topped brothers Sam and Tyler Lentz 6-4, 6-1.

"They've done super," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "The first doubles keeps getting better every match. I hope they can continue to improve."

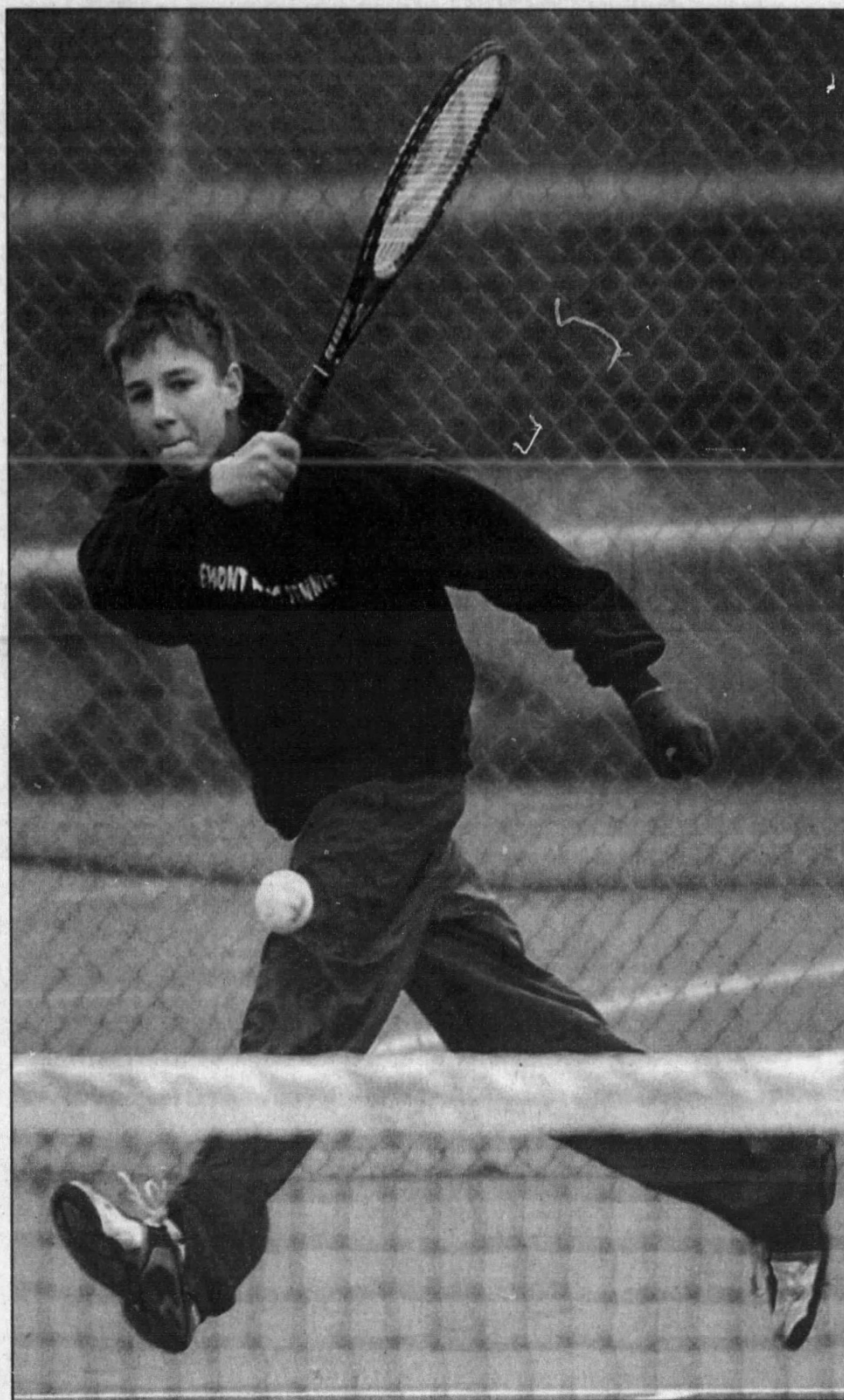
Ross's Mike Hollis lost a heartbreaker 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 to Jon Dy at third singles.

Hollis trailed 5-2 in the second set before rallying and forcing the tiebreaker.

The tiebreaker was never separated by more than one point until the end.

More preps

■ Fremont Ross's Mekenna Smith signs to play tennis at Ashland. **Page B3**



News-Messenger/David Distelhorst

See THRILLING GAME, B3

FREMONT ROSS FRESHMAN Eliot Parker returns a shot during his second singles match on Tuesday.

Thrilling game highlight of match

Continued From B1

"When he lost (the tiebreaker), you could see it in his face," LaFountain said. "It was hard for him to get that out of his head."

It will be hard for those at the dual to get the thrilling game between Albrechta and Casalbore out of their heads.

Albrechta, who was serving, trailed 3-2.

On the 19th deuce, the game was extended when a ball Albrechta hit tipped the net and bounced away from Casalbore.

"Somebody must want me to win this game," Albrechta yelled. "C'mon."

On the final deuce, Albrechta won another point on a tip at the net. He closed out the game after a short rally with a huge forehand up the middle.

"That was the most fun I've ever had playing tennis," Albrechta said. "I've had sets that were shorter than that."

Said Findlay coach Ray Elbin: "It was by far the most incredible game I've ever seen at any level."

Casalbore showed unbelievable resolve and won the next three games to close out the match.

"I was exhausted," Albrechta

said, "and he stepped it up a notch after that too."

It was the best that Albrechta has played this season.

"David played dynamite," LaFountain said. "He played the kind of tennis he's capable of playing."

Elbin said that Tuesday's match proved that these teams are capable of putting on a great exhibition in a couple of weeks.

"This just shows what kind of a match it's going to be on May 8," he said. "It will be exciting."

FREMONT TR

Now F

COMPLETE

- FREE Computer I
- FREE Towing with
- 1 YR. NATIONWID

For Honest,

Call: 419

202 L

Fre

"Where Quality is

Tennis

Ross tops Ottawa Hills

Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker rebounded from a heartbreaking first-set loss to win their first doubles match and help lead Fremont Ross to a 4-1 victory over Ottawa Hills.

Gray and Weiker topped Ottawa Hill's Doug Ely and James Reising 6-7 (8-6), 6-1, 6-4.

David Albrechta and Eliot Parker earned straight-set singles victories for Ross, which improved to 8-4.

Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer won in straight sets at second doubles.

nmpreps

Albrechta, doubles teams lead Ross

News-Messenger reports

David Albrechta won at first singles and Fremont Ross swept doubles in a 3-2 victory over Springfield Holland on Friday.

Albrechta dominated Eric Anderson 6-3, 6-1.

Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker rallied to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 at first doubles, and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer

won 6-3, 6-4 at second doubles.

The Little Giants improved to 9-4.

Softball

Bettsville rolls

Bettsville scored four runs in both the third and fifth innings to rout Cardinal Stritch 9-3.

Jill Schumm and Emily John-

son each had a hit and an RBI for the Bobcats, who improved to 3-12.

Winning pitcher Samantha Ludwig allowed five hits and struck out six.

Lakota blanked

Amanda Capehart and Cassie Chrisman each had a hit, but

Lakota was shut out 9-0 by Lake.

Baseball

Lakota still winless

Winless Lakota had more errors (five) than hits (three) in a 9-0 loss to Lake.

Lake tallied six third-inning runs to take control.

Lakota fell to 0-19.

Tennis

Ashland tops Ross

David Albrechta won at first singles and the second doubles team won a thrilling three-set match, but Fremont Ross lost 3-2 to Ashland.

Jacob Laurer and Jason Damschroder won 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in doubles.

Albrechta rolled to a 6-4, 6-1 victory.

Ross fell to 10-5, while Ashland improved to 10-3.

Tennis

Ross falls to power

Ross won only 10 games collectively in losing to state-power Lexington 5-0.

Lexington ran its record to 16-1.

The Little Giants (11-7) will play for the Greater Buckeye Conference championship at 9 a.m. on Saturday in Sandusky.

Stephanie Nagle doubled and drove in a run and Kara Willoughby scored once in the win.

Miranda Steinberger (13-4) allowed only two earned runs in the 6-2 Game 1 loss.

Ross outhit Ashland 10-5 in the contest.

Glaspy drove in two runs and Nagle and Hickey each had two hits in the game for the Giants (19-4).

Tennis

Ross second in GBC

Findlay won four of the five

flights to win the Greater Buckeye Conference championship.

Ross finished as runner-up.

Anthony Weiker and Adam Gray finished second at No. 1 doubles and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer were also second at No. 2 doubles for the Little Giants.

No. 1 singles player David Albrechta wound up third for Ross.

Track and field

Osborne breezes

Jeanne Osborne won the 100-

Ross dominates on tennis courts

31

hing at
the key
s' three
state ti-

ter and
as pro-

has got-
id. "She

vo first-
eight in
third in
aretta.

Ashley
e, Julie
nmiller
Brooke
for the
sky Bay

Sarah
apiece
0).

runs in
ning to
nd elim-
rom the
ence ti-

rall and

walked none.

Justin Witte had a hit and three RBI and Any Gruner had a hit and two RBI for the Golden Bears (12-10, 6-6 SLL).

Losing pitcher Devon Black, Justin Harmon and Tom Foos got the Raiders' hits.

Witt earns shutout

Kory Witt threw a two-hit shutout as Oak Harbor topped Margaretta 4-0.

Witt struck out seven and walked three as the Rockets improved to 9-13 overall and 7-6 in the SBC.

Ryan Price went 3-for-4 with an RBI and T.J. Grof hit a home run for Oak Harbor.

The Polar Bears fell to 14-6 overall and 7-5 in the SBC.

Wildcats get two-hit

Woodmore got just two hits off Chad Albright in a 3-2 loss to Eastwood.

J.R. Ribe and Brett Golightley got hits for the Wildcats (11-14, 3-6 SLL).

Tennis

Little Giants dominate

Ross won on the top two singles courts and swept doubles in a 4-1 victory over Lorain Admiral King.

David Albrechta won a three-set match at first singles and Eliot Parker won in straight sets

at second singles for the Giants (12-6).

Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker won a three-set match at first doubles, and Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer lost just two combined games at second doubles.

Admiral King fell to 10-5.

Track and field

Birkholz impressive

The Clyde boys won 12 events and the girls won 10 as each team won a dual meet with Edison.

Erik Birkholz was on the winning 400-, 800- and 1,600-meter relays and won the 400 and Jared Martin won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles and the 100 for the Fliers.

Andy Sherman was on the 400 and 800 relays and won the 200 and Ryan Hackenburg was on the 800 and 1,600 relays. Nick Garcia was on the 400 and 1,600 relays.

Stephanie Meyer won the 100 and 200 and was on the winning 400 relay and Meghan Gill won the high jump and 300 hurdles and was on the winning 1,600 relay for the Clyde girls.

Katie Diebold joined Brianna Bradfield as the only two Flier girls to clear the bar and win the pole vault event.

Alex Lizarribar and Arica Vogel were on the 400 and 1,600 relays.

Tennis

Ross rolls

Ross won every set in a 5-0 victory over Tiffin Columbian.

Eliot Parker's 6-1, 6-0 victory at second singles was the most impressive.

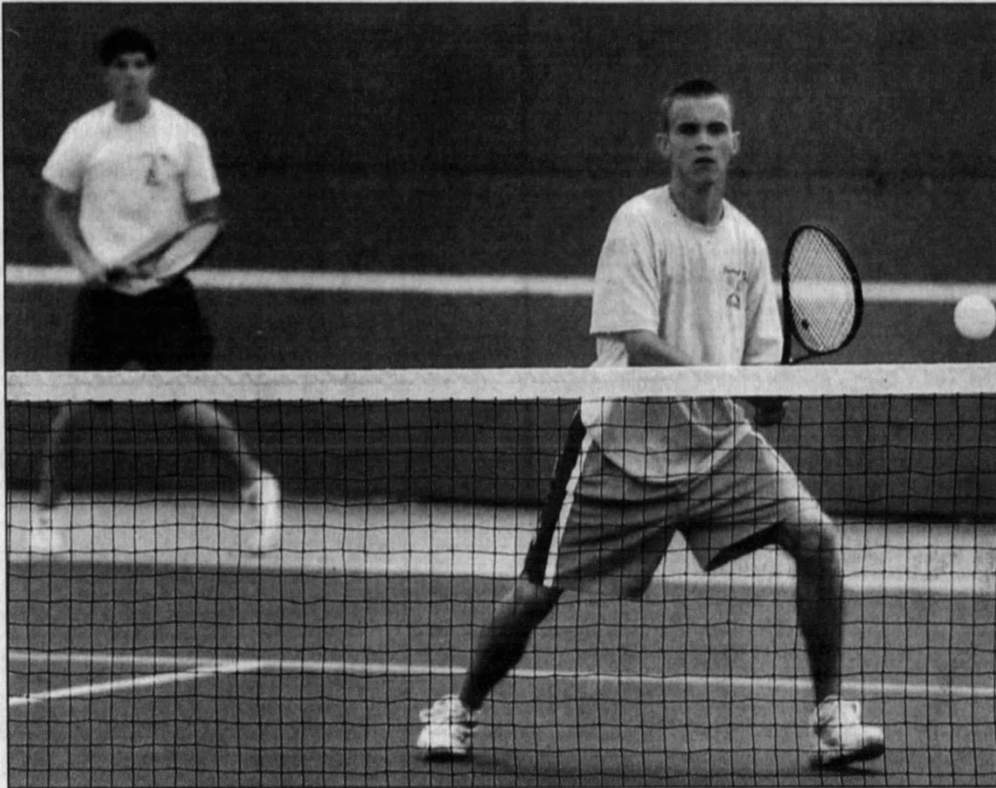
David Albrechta and Jason Damshroder won at first and third singles, respectively.

Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker won at first doubles, and Jacob Laurer and Mike Hollis won at second doubles.

The Little Giants improved to 13-6.

SECTIONAL TENNIS

Semi sweet



News-Messenger photos/David Distelhorst

FREMONT ROSS'S Anthony Weiker, background, and Aaron Gray qualified for next weekend's Division I district tournament.

Giants win quarters, qualify for districts

By NICK MATHEWS
Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — You can bet Aaron Gray and Anthony Weiker feel better now.

Gray — with a sore lower back and extremely tired legs — and Weiker — with a headache, thanks to his Fremont Ross doubles partner — pumped their fists and congratulated each other after winning their all-important quarterfinal match at the Division I sectional tournament on Thursday at Sandusky.

"I'm pumped," Gray said. "But I'm dead tired. I'm going to go home and go to sleep."

A well-deserved rest, really.

The Little Giants duo survived a match point before rallying to win a thrilling three-set first-round match and then dominated a Sandusky tandem in the quarters to join teammate David Albrechta at next weekend's district tournament.

The four semifinalists in singles and dou-

bles — who will finish out the sectional tournament on Saturday — advance to districts.

And state powerhouse Lexington advanced its entire lineup — three singles players and two doubles teams.

More preps, Page B2

■ Ross routs archrival Sandusky 13-3 in baseball.

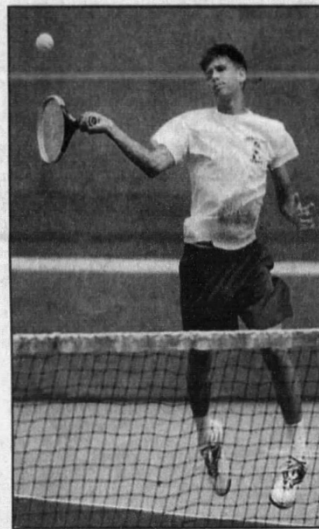
■ SJCC softball team earns second consecutive thrilling win.

"When you have the best team in the state in your backyard, it's tough," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "It doesn't leave a whole lot of spots for everybody else."

"So, we're thrilled to have both singles and doubles going," he continued. "The kids did really well today."

Thursday proved to be a mere tune-up for Albrechta.

The senior cruised through his two matches, dropping just one game. He topped Clay's Brian Saunders 6-0, 6-0 and beat Tiffin Columbian's Jon Seeberger 6-1, 6-0 in the quarters to advance to his third district tournament.



FREMONT ROSS'S David Albrechta lost just one game in two matches at the Division I sectional tournament on Thursday.

See ALBRECHTA, B2

Albrechta, doubles team advance

Continued From B1

"This is more of a fun day," Albrechta said. "It's a day to come out and hit some balls and get warmed up for Saturday."

And while advancing to the district tournament was only a formality for Albrechta, it was nonetheless significant.

"It's a major goal," he said. "Most kids don't make it."

Ross freshmen Eliot Parker and Mike Hollis each won a match before falling in the quarterfinals.

Hollis lost 6-0, 6-0 to three-time state qualifier Ty Schaub of Lexington.

The Little Giants second doubles team of Jason Damschroder and Jacob Laurer won its first-round match 6-0, 6-0 against Mansfield Senior's Joe Jun and Nick Greenawalt.

The Ross duo, though, then ran into Lexington's Nathan Jones and Alex McCann. The Lexington squad rolled 6-0, 6-2.

The match of the day was Gray and Weiker's 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Ashland's Mike Runyan and Zach Carter in the first round.

The Ross seniors were down 5-4 and faced match point before coming back for the victory.

"It was insane," Gray said. "I was so tired. I had to keep trying to get more energy. I probably drank about eight bottles of water in the whole match."

The match also provided one of the funniest moments of the day.

Gray accidentally ripped a backhand into the back of Weiker's head. The ball hit Weiker with such force that it bounced over the fence surrounding the court.

"That was all Aaron's power," Weiker cracked.

Weiker took a couple of pain pills for a headache immediately after the match.

After only a half-hour of rest, Gray and Weiker beat Sandusky's Raymond Seiler and David Albert 6-2, 6-2 to earn their first trip to districts.

Gray said that he and his partner are starting to develop a strong chemistry on the court.

"I love playing with Weiker," Gray said. "We play really well together."

Added Weiker: "This is definitely a lot of fun."

After his second match was over, Gray put a thermal heating pad on his sore lower back and complained that his legs were "shot."

"Long day," Gray said.

A good one, too.