



**Girl's Tennis Front Row:** Amanda Lachner, Kylie O'Neal, Emily Clarke, and Brianne Pinkerton. **Back Row:** Britta Barron, Shelby Grubb, Katie Harmon, Sam Lagrou, Ari McArthur, and Jillian Hamilton.

## TENNIS

### Ross drops opener

Tiffin Columbian defeated Fremont Ross 5-0 in the Little Giants' opening match.

Emily Clark (No. 3 singles) lost a tightly-contested match 7-6, 7-5 for Ross.

"It was a tough match to start with," Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain said. "Our girls were competitive on every court. It was a good test right off the bat."

**HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP**

# **Barron helps Little Giants top Archbold**

**News-Messenger reports**

Britta Barron (No. 2) and Emily Clarke (No. 3) each handily won their singles matches as Fremont Ross topped Archbold 3-2 on Monday.

Barron didn't drop a single game and Clarke lost only one in each set. Kelly Pickrel and Amber Snyder also won in straight sets at No. 2 doubles for the Little Giants.

# Ross' Hasselbach rebounds to win

News-Messenger reports

Ashleigh Hasselbach lost nine consecutive games before rebounding to win a third-set tie-breaker at No. 2 singles as Fremont Ross defeated Huron 5-0 on Wednesday.

Hasselbach was down 3-0 in the final set but managed a 6-2, 0-6, 7-6 (7-5) victory.

Britta Barron won 6-2, 6-3 over Jacque Weir at No. 1 singles for the Little Giants (2-1) and Emily Clarke dropped only one game in each set in a straight set win against Megan Klaus.

"Barron played a fantastic match," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "Clarke crushed her opponent."

Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel lost the first set before winning the next

two to top Mary Bloor and Jenny Martin at No. 1 doubles.

Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder lost a second-set tie-breaker to Laura Mentis and Lauren Bork but still took their match.

"Pickerel and Snyder were too mean," LaFountain said.

## Clyde falls to Norwalk

Kayla Gerber played Clyde's most competitive match in a 5-0 setback to Norwalk.

Gerber fell to Jessica Hansen 7-6 (9-7), 6-1 for the Fliers (0-1).

## GOLF

### Hepler's 38 not enough

Jordan Hepler was medalist with a 38 but Woodmore lost to Genoa by three strokes in a triangu-

lar match.

Genoa shot a 167 to win the event.

Derek Warren and Mickey Schnabel each carded a 43, and Keith Giesler added a 46 for the Wildcats on the par-36 Maumee Bay Golf Course.

"We're up and down right now," Woodmore coach Scott Smith said. "We have good days and bad days — we just need to be consistent. I have high expectations for this group and I think we'll peak toward the end of the season."

Elmwood finished behind the Wildcats and Comets with a 183.

Karl Shaner led Genoa with a 40. Jake Terry and Trent Hathaway each shot a 41, and Brooks Clayton added a 45 for the Comets.

## TENNIS

### Ross wins third in a row

Fremont Ross won its third straight, sweeping Toledo Waite 5-0 at home.

Ashleigh Hasselbach gave the Little Giants a 6-2,6-0 singles victory over Beth Gwinn while teammate Britta Barron topped Ashlea Willis 6-1,6-0. Emily Clarke also took a singles victory, defeating Taryn Rios 6-1,6-0.

Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel blanked Ashley Aldrich and Crystal Butler 6-0,6-0 at first doubles and Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder won their third straight with a 6-1,6-0 win over Lexi Bailey and Kristen Miller.

# High School

Findlay 4, Fremont Ross 1

## Singles

No. 1 — Joy Kellogg def. Ashleigh Hasselbach 6-0,6-1

No. 2 — Britta Barron def. Carly Harless 6-2,6-1

No. 3 — Allison Lause def. Emily Clarke 5-7,6-1,7-6(7-4).

## Doubles

No. 1 — Brooke Babcock and Katie Ammons def. Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel 6-0,6-1.

No. 2 — Jacintha Ratnasamy and Anna Schaible defeated Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder 6-3,6-2.

JV — Findlay 4, Ross 3.

# TENNIS

## Fremont Ross breezes

Fremont Ross went to three sets in only one match in a 5-0 victory over Whitmer.

"The Little Giants were all business," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

Ashleigh Hasselbach (No. 1), Britta Barron (No. 2) and Emily Clarke (No. 3) each won in straight sets at singles for the Little Giants (4-2).

Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder also won in straight sets at No. 2 doubles for Ross. Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel rebounded for a convincing 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 win.

"Both doubles played their best tennis of the season," LaFountain said.

# Tennis

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## High School

### Ross 4, Oak Harbor 1

#### Singles

1. Britta Barron (R) def. Kaitlin Wendt 6-0,6-2
2. Ashleigh Hasselbach (R) def. Emily Hemminger 6-0,6-0
3. Emily Clarke (R) def. Amanda Florio 6-3,6-4

#### Doubles

1. Caitlin Hamilton-Binta Patel (R) def. Justin Grover-Bethany Twarek 2-6,7-6(7-5),7-5
2. Nicole Brockbrader-Amanda Moor (OH) Kelly Pickerel-Amber Snyder 7-5,7-6(7-4).

## **Ross dominant**

Fremont Ross lost only one game and beat Lima Senior 5-0 in the GBC.

Ashleigh Hasselbach (No. 1), Britta Barron (No. 2) and Emily Clarke each won in straight sets at singles without dropping a game.

Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel lost one game at No. 1 doubles for the Little Giants (6-2, 1-1).

# **Tennis**

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## **High Schools**

### **Ross 5, Lima Senior 0**

#### **Singles**

**No. 1** — Ashleigh Hasselbach def. Kattera Crayton 6-0, 6-0

**No. 2** — Britta Barron def. Sarah Elyse Haller 6-0, 6-0

**No. 3** — Emily Clarke def. Cassie Wall 6-0, 6-0

#### **Doubles**

**No. 1** — Caitlin Hamilton/Binta Patel def. Sabina Zimmerman/Ashley Pyle 6-1, 6-0

**No. 2** — Kelly Pickerel/Amber Snyder won by forfeit

**Record** — Ross 6-2, 1-1.

## TENNIS

### **Clarke wins, Bellevue is second**

Fremont Ross's Emily Clarke won third singles at the Sandusky Invitational, which was won by Perkins.

Bellevue finished second, Ross finished fourth and Clyde finished sixth. Clarke beat Holly Schillinger of Mansfield 6-2, 6-0; Sadie Feick of Bellevue 7-5, 6-2, and Sandusky's Lana Strohl 7-5, 6-2.

## TENNIS

### LaFountain records special win

Fremont Ross dropped only one match in defeating Napoleon 4-1 in the Greater Buckeye Conference for its fifth straight victory.

Ashleigh Hasselbach and Britta Barron lost only two games at No. 1 and 2 singles, respectively, and Emily Clarke won in three sets at No. 3 singles. Clarke lost the first set before winning a second-set tiebreaker.

Clarke recently won the Sandusky Tournament and has taken nine consecutive matches overall.

Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder won at No. 2 doubles for the Little Giants (7-2, 2-1) after taking a first-set tiebreaker. They won the second game 6-0.

"Emily Clarke played a three hour match that came down to whoever wanted it more," said Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain. "Barron and Hasselbach won pretty easily. But Pickerel and Snyder won a tiebreaker 12-10 in the first set and if they lost that you can get on an emotional rollercoaster."

Napoleon (8-2, 2-1) has lost only two matches this year with Perrysburg the only other team to beat it.

"In my 10 years of coaching girls tennis this may be the biggest win in which I have coached," LaFountain said of topping venerable Ohio coach and personal friend Mike Burke. "Coach Burke is a legend in high school tennis and he always

has great teams. For the girls to beat Napoleon it was really nice to see."

Burke is fifth in the state in career wins with nearly 600.

"All of the hard work this summer is really starting to pay off," LaFountain said of his girls. "We have won some close matches this year that we easily could have lost. They're really learning how to win."

LaFountain counts wins over Huron (5-0), Archbold (3-2) and Oak Harbor (4-1) as victories similar to Tuesday's. Ross faces perennial power Ottawa Hills in another tough match Thursday.

"It means a lot," LaFountain continued on beating a Burke team. "I've learned a lot from him. He's an excellent coach and for our girls to beat their girls is really nice."

## **Fremont Ross 4, Ottawa Hills 1**

### **Singles**

No. 1 — Prianka Jain (OH) def. Britta Barron 6-2, 2-6, 1-6

No. 2 — Ashleigh Hasselbach (R) def. Jackie Bornstein 6-4, 6-1

No. 3 — Emily Clarke (R) def. Melissa Auberle 6-2, 6-0

### **Doubles**

No. 1 — Caitlin Hamilton/Binta Patel (R) def. Mollie Albert/Lela Day 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (8-6)

No. 2 — Kelly Pickerel/Amber Snyder (R) def. Morgan Buckey/Sarah Geha 6-3, 6-4

Records — Ross 8-2, Ottawa Hills 6-4.

Ross JV won 5-1 (winners: Amanda Lachner/Ariel McArthur; Kylee O'Neal/Brianne Pinkerton; Shelby Grubb/Katie Harmon; Kelli Schultz/Kathleen Forsyth; Kellie Fulkerson/Rian Honaker.

## **Ross bowls over Clyde**

Ross took four of five matches — including every singles match — against Clyde, moving to 9-2 on the season. The Fliers drop to 1-7.

In singles, Britta Barron beat Lauren Stamm, Ashleigh Hasselbach beat Kayla Garber and Emily Clarke won as well.

In doubles, Janie Richert and Nikki Bryant of Clyde got the Fliers' only win, beating Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel 6-2, 7-6, 7-1.

## **Tennis**

### **Ross wins eighth straight**

Fremont Ross defeated Sandusky 4-1 in the GBC for its eighth consecutive victory.

Britta Barron (No. 2 singles) and Emily Clarke (No. 3) each won in straight sets for the Little Giants (10-2, 3-1).

Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel dropped only two games at No. 1 doubles, and Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder didn't drop any at No. 2.

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Ross 4, Sandusky 1

#### Singles

1. Ellen Prout (S) d. Ashleigh Hasselbach 6-1, 6-0.

2. Britta Barron (R) d. Tessa Steineman 6-2, 6-4.

3. Emily Clarke (R) d. Lanna Strohl 6-4, 6-4.

#### Doubles

1. Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel (R) d. Sam Reibold and Runa Myrvang 6-0, 6-2.

2. Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder (R) d. Megan Fox and Nichole Berkey 6-0, 6-0.

Records: Ross 10-2 (3-1 GBC).

## **Little Giants securely in mix for GBC championship**

Fremont Ross defeated Marion Harding 4-1 in Greater Buckeye Conference girls tennis for its ninth consecutive victory Wednesday.

The Little Giants complete the GBC regular-season schedule at 4-1 while Findlay was 5-0. Ross will play in the GBC Championships Oct. 1 at Lima Senior with a chance to earn a share of the league title.

"This is the biggest story going for Fremont sports," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

The Little Giants were 7-10 and tied for fourth last year.

## TENNIS

### **Ross falls to Perrysburg**

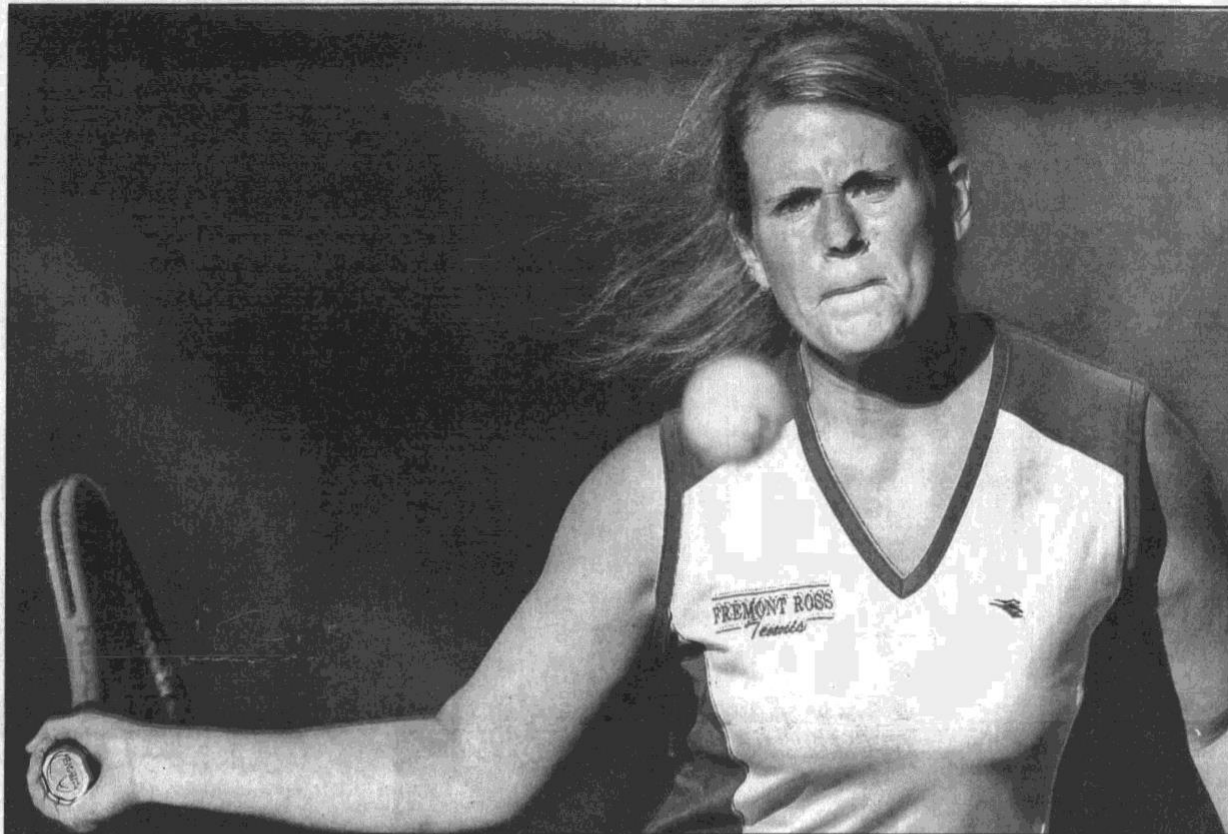
Fremont Ross coach Rick LaFountain had a great deal of respect for Perrysburg before Monday's match.

And a 5-0 Little Giant loss gave evidence why.

"They are an outstanding team," LaFountain said. "Their only losses came to Notre Dame and Lexington who are fifth and sixth in the state."

Ross faces St. Joseph Central Catholic today at the Ross courts.

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News-Messenger/Diane Cebula

FREMONT ROSS'S ASHLEIGH HASSELBACH returns the ball against St. Joseph Central Catholic's Allyson Wobser in the first singles match Tuesday. Wobser lost, but the Little Giants won the match.

## Little Giants win battle of Fremont

By **MATTHEW HORN**  
Sports Writer

Ross won the battle for bragging rights in Fremont, beating St. Joseph Central Catholic 3-2 on Tuesday.

"We billed it as the battle of Fremont," said Little Giants coach Rick LaFountain. "Two of the more successful sports teams in Fremont are the tennis teams. They're probably the biggest thing going for each school.

"Both of us beat Oak Harbor and we both beat Clyde so (Tuesday's) match was for Fremont bragging rights. It's nice when the teams get together because these girls play together during the summer and have played together for years."

Both LaFountain and SJCC coach Whitney

Mutchler believe tennis is undergoing a resurgence in Fremont.

"It's gotten big again," she said. "Both Fremont teams are strong, which brings out the interest. It helps to have two good teams to bring back the popularity. The girls are working harder because they're seeing the results. We had six freshman come out and we are starting to take lessons in the winter. Now that they know it's a competitive sport people want to be a part of a winning team."

The coaches, however, disagreed on the key match to Tuesday's outcome.

LaFountain felt his team would have to win at second doubles to walk away with the victory while Mutchler felt third singles was essen-

tial. Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder of Ross (12-3) toppled Jenna Weickert and Katie Jenkins 6-3, 6-3 at No. 2 doubles.

"I knew it would come down to second doubles the way (Mutchler) had the lineup," LaFountain said. "They put (Leigh Anne) Autullo at first doubles which made that pair hard to beat."

Emily Clarke bested Alexis Heimert 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-0 at No. 3 singles.

"It went three sets and that determined the outcome," Mutchler said. "Heimert fought to go three sets but couldn't quite get the edge to beat her. It was a good long battle."

Allyson Wobser beat Ashleigh Hasselbach 7-5, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, and Emily Miller and Autullo defeated Caitlin Hamilton and Binta

Patel 7-6 (7-0), 6-2 at No. 1 doubles for SJCC (10-3).

"Allyson has pretty clearly been the best player in Fremont the last two years," LaFountain said.

SJCC was 12-2 last season. Sectionals are at Port Clinton Oct. 6 and 8.

Britta Barron defeated Olivia Beck 6-0, 6-1 at No. 2 singles for Ross. LaFountain has been impressed with his singles players this year.

"All three have been steady," he said. "We knew Ashleigh would be steady and Britta and Emily are doing the little things. I don't know how many matches Emily has won in the third set. She played a really smart third set (Tuesday). She won 6-0 after losing a tiebreaker."

SJCC defeated Ross 3-2

and 4-1 in two meetings last year, when the Little Giants went 7-10.

Every Little Giant has a winning record this season. Sectionals are Oct. 6 and 8 in Sandusky.

LaFountain believes the improved play stems from summer tournaments, camps and clinics. The Little Giants are still in the running for this season's Greater Buckeye Conference title while the Crimson Streaks have won the Midland Athletic League "title" the last two years.

"Mutchler does a super job with those girls," LaFountain said. "They're as good as any DII team in the area. You can see the hard work both teams have put in in the offseason. It's

See **LITTLE, B2**

# Ross tennis beats SJCC

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## Continued From B1

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nice to see Ross tennis coming back. And Fremont tennis for that matter."

The GBC Championships are Saturday at Lima Senior.

"We have a shot at first or second place," LaFountain said. "The girls are definitely getting better. We've played pretty much the same schedule. We still don't have the depth of a Perrysburg and we may never be like that until there's an indoor facility, but it's nice to see the girls improve the season record so quickly."

LaFountain said the tournament experience that many of the girls on both squads have recently acquired leads to victories when the season starts.

"We're turning the 3-2 losses into 3-2 wins," LaFountain said. "The girls learned how to win playing in tournaments over the summer. More than the clinics it's the

Saturday tournaments. USTA tournaments during the winter and area tournaments get the girls mentally tough. You can teach a serve or ground stroke but it's the little things you can't teach and don't expect that win matches.

"You learn those things by playing in tournaments. There are so many good tournaments in the area."

And when the Ross girls can't find a tournament they can always hit with LaFountain at 5:30 in the morning at the YMCA. Snyder hit with the coach Tuesday morning.

"I've never had girls on any team that come out and hit at 5 in the morning," LaFountain said. "They want to get better. I want to open as many doors for these girls to play with as many people as possible without traveling to Sandusky or Toledo. They should be able to hit in Fremont and that's finally happening."

And the opposition is unlikely to be pleased with the results.

## HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

# Ross tennis beats BG

## Ross tennis swept by St. Ursula

The Fremont Ross girls lost to St. Ursula, 5-0.

In first singles, Britta Barron lost to Kelly O'Connell, 6-1, 6-1. In second singles, Ashleigh Hasselbach lost to Melissa Leonard, 6-1, 6-1. The Little Giants didn't score after that.

Alexa Davis beat Emily Clarke, 6-0, 6-0. In doubles, Caitlin Hamilton and Binta Patel lost to Sarah Edwards and Maddie Eccleston, 6-0, 6-0, and Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder lost to Morgan Bechtel and Caitlin Masters, 6-0, 6-0.

Ross falls to 12-4, while St. Ursula moves on for 16-2.

### News-Messenger reports

Britta Barron, Ashleigh Hasselbach and Emily Clarke won their singles matches as the Little Giants rolled over Bowling Green, 4-1, on Monday.

In first singles, Barron beat Sara Wilson, 6-1, 6-1. Hasselbach beat Lauren Everett 3-6, 5-5, default at second singles, and Clarke beat Alison Wittinger, 6-1, 6-0 at third singles.

In first doubles, Trisha Henry and Meredith Alps of Bowling Green beat Binta Patel and Brianne Pinkerton, 6-4, 6-2. The Ross team of Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder won at second doubles, besting Emma Donipole and Anna Reichgott, 6-2, 6-4.

The win moves Ross to 13-4, while Bowling Green falls to 10-6. Ross will close out the season today against Oregon Clay.

# Tennis

## High School Girls

### Ross 4, Bowling Green 1

#### Singles

1. Britta Barron (R) d. Sara Wilson 6-1,6-1.
2. Ashleigh Hasselbach (R) d. Lauren Everett 3-6,5-5(default).
3. Emily Clarke (R) d. Alison Wittinger 6-1,6-0.

#### Doubles

1. Trisha Henry and Meredith Alps (BG) d. Binta Patel and Brianne Pinkerton 6-4,6-2.
2. Kelly Pickerel and Amber Snyder (R) d. Emma Donipole and Anna Reichgott 6-2,6-4.

Record: Ross 13-4, Bowling Green 10-6.

JV score: Ross 4, Bowling Green 0.

JV winners: Kellie Fulkerson and Kelly Schultz, Kylie O'Neal and Ari McArthur, Katie Harmon and Shelby Grubb, Amanda Lachner and Ariel S. uey.

JV record: Ross 10-3-3.

singles matches in a 4-1 victory over Clay on Tuesday for its 14th win in 18 matches. Barron is currently 22-5, while Clarke is 19-7.

"It's probably been quite a while since a Ross team won 14 matches," LaFountain said.

Hamilton and Patel won in three sets Tuesday.

"This was a really nice win for us," LaFountain said. "It's nice to win the ones against teams close in talent. We did a lot of that this year. I told the girls tonight that 11 of our 14 wins this season could have gone either way. We won every close match this year."

Hasselbach missed class Monday with an illness.

"Hasselbach played a fantastic match after being sick," LaFountain said. "Her opponent was tough but Ashleigh took care of business. First doubles came back from a set down with Caitlin out of class sick. That's another example of those girls finding a way to win."