

Tennis

Singles shine for Ross

Eliot Parker (No. 1 singles), Jordan Will (No. 2) and Jacob Laurer each won in straight sets as Fremont Ross topped Tiffin Columbian 3-2.

"The singles players played well," said Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain. "They cut down the unforced errors. When it's cold and windy you just want to move your feet, keep the ball in play and not make unforced errors.

"Eliot played really well. He beat his kid pretty soundly. He adjusted to the conditions in the second set and moved his feet. He started slow but did a good job mixing things up."

Singles wins carry Little Giants

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

The fortunes of the Fremont Ross boys' tennis team this season will rise and fall with the singles play of Eliot Parker, Jordan Will and Jacob Laurer.

The three did not disappoint Thursday as each won prevailed in their individual matches, and the Little Giants improved to 2-0 on the season with a 3-2 victory over Bowling Green.

In first singles, junior Parker battled his way through his match with John Powers, who Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain complimented on his improved play from a season ago.

"(Powers) has gotten a lot better from last year," LaFountain said. "Eliot is learning. He was keeping the ball back deep and picking and choosing his times."

Parker's patience paid off as he won both sets, 6-3 and 7-5.

"It took a lot of patience," Parker said. "I had to kind of calm down. I had to get my head into it and try to focus a little bit more and take my time."

While Parker was battling with Powers, senior Laurer was cruising to a victory over Bobcat sophomore Alex Carney.

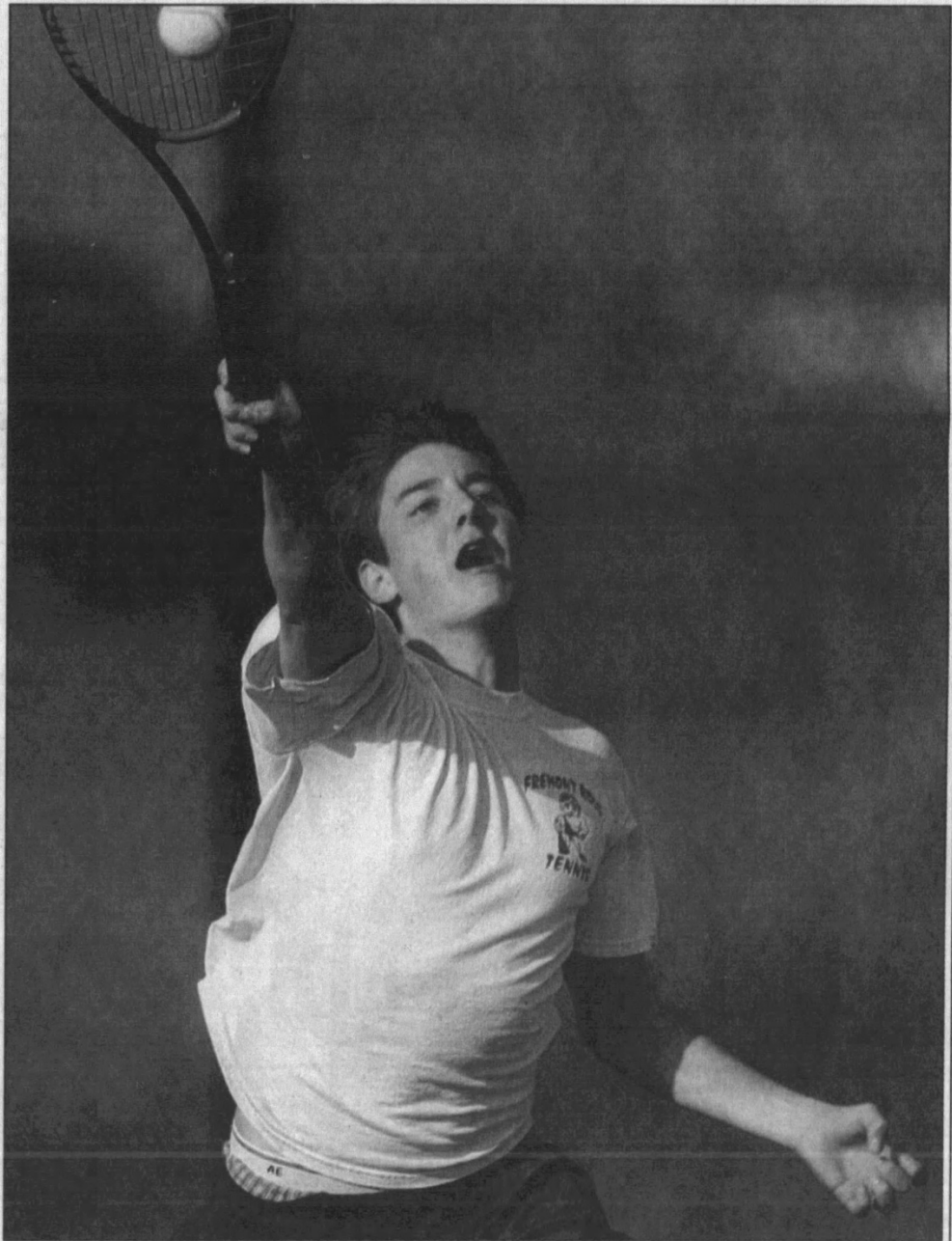
"I thought I hit pretty well today and had cleaner strokes," said Laurer, who defeated Carney 6-0 and 6-1.

LaFountain complimented Laurer's patience and persistence in his style of play.

"He and (Jordan Will) can sit the baseline and hit it all day," LaFountain said. "A lot of times the other players get frustrated and try to hit shots that they just can't hit."

Will also cruised to a victory as he set down Bowling Green junior Chris Scovell in straight sets 6-1 and 6-2.

Will's off-season regiment has prepared him for



News-Messenger/Charlie Longton

See SINGLES, B2

FREMONT ROSS'S ELIOT Parker hits the ball as he plays against Bowling Green at Fremont-Ross High School on Thursday.

Singles wins carry Ross

Continued From B1

what he hopes to be a successful season.

"He's worked pretty hard in the off season," LaFountain said. "He doesn't make a lot of mistakes."

While Parker, Will and Laurer swept through the single matches, the Little Giants' double teams both fell despite an improvement by senior Jared Groot and junior Adam Gruber.

"Maybe what I'm most pleased with is

the way my first doubles team is playing," LaFountain said of Groot and Gruber. "While trying to win singles matches is what I think we're going to need to do this year, the doubles are getting better."

Groot and Gruber fell in three sets to the Bobcat dual of Eric Blasiman and Lewis Johnson, 6-3, 4-6 and 6-3.

The Fremont doubles team of sophomore Cameron Mooney and junior Eric Hottinger fell in straight sets 6-2, 6-3.

The Little Giants will host Oak Harbor at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Tennis

Singles keep winning

Fremont Ross continued its singles success by sweeping Oak Harbor to win 4-1.

"Anytime you can go on the road and come home with a victory, it's a good thing," said Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain.

Winning at first singles was Eliot Parker, who triumphed 6-0, 6-2 over the Rockets' Mike Hanthorn.

Jordan Will also cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 victory, defeating Cody Brough.

Little Giant senior Jacob Laurer completed the singles sweep by beating Stevyn Perry 6-0, 6-1.

For the first time this season, the Little Giants also earned a doubles victory, as the duo of Jared Groot and Cameron Mooney downed Oak Harbor's Alex Brikmanis and Adam Schumaker 6-4, 6-2.

Ross singles players looking good

By **MATTHEW HORN**
Sports Writer

Fremont Ross coach Rick LaFountain has faith his singles players can compete with most teams in the area.

So if his doubles tandems can capture wins on occasion, the Little Giants should have no trouble building on last season's 8-10 campaign.

"At singles we're a lot stronger than last year," LaFountain said. "I don't think too many teams will beat us in singles. If they beat us, it will probably be a tournament player beating Eliot. There are players in Northwest Ohio that will beat him, but for the teams we play I like our chances. Second and third singles will be strong and those two will win most of their matches."

"We hope to get an insurance win or two out of the doubles teams. We won't beat Napoleon without a doubles win or Archbold or Findlay. If teams have a hammer at No. 1 we have to win a doubles match. I feel very confident at two and three with just about everybody we play that those two will come through."

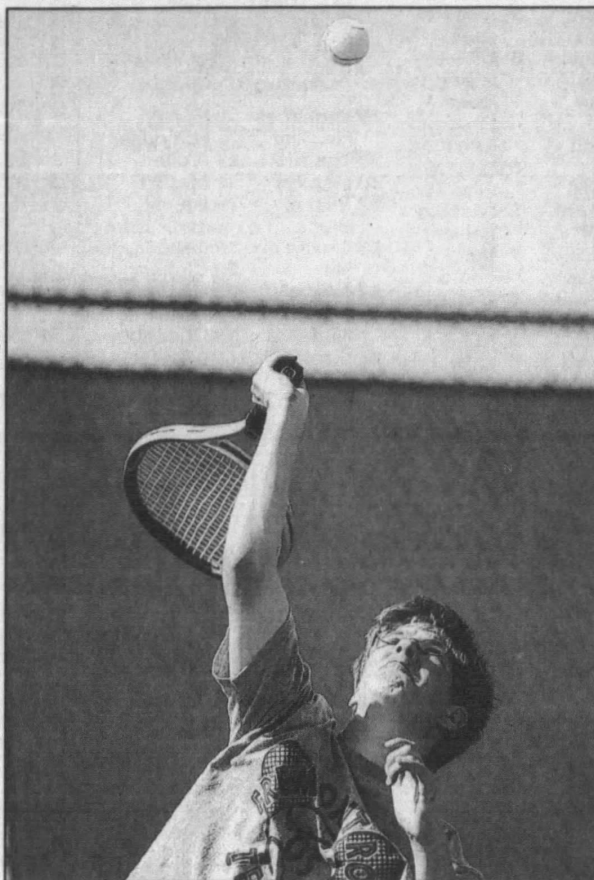
Eliot Parker — who will earn his third letter as a junior — was 13-18 for Ross at No. 1 singles last year. He was a district qualifier and won one match there.

"He was only a sophomore," LaFountain said. "That's a nice accomplishment at Division I."

Parker is a more patient player this season.

"He's hitting the ball a little harder with more patience," LaFountain said. "The key to his season is that he stays patient. He's doing everything better. He can stay on the baseline and keep hitting with anybody. The matches where he picks his spots to go for it is when he's at his best. If he brings pressure and doesn't go for crazy shots with steady tennis there aren't a whole lot that can beat him. He's one of the better players in the area."

Parker played in tournaments every other weekend during the offseason. He moved up an age division from 16 to 18 and is currently ranked fifth in Northwest Ohio.



News-Messenger File Photo

JACOB LAURER of Fremont Ross serves in a match last year. Laurer will play at second singles this season.

Senior Jacob Laurer — who will also earn his third varsity letter — grabbed the second singles slot after a 12-17 season while junior Jordan Will will play at No. 3. Will was 17-11 and he and Laurer were second-team all-Greater Buckeye Conference last year.

"Jacob can get to the net," LaFountain said. "He's a good serve and volley player. He can serve and then get to the net with his doubles experience. He can stay on the baseline and hit with somebody. There's a lot of

things he can do for points. He can hit with people. Jacob has experience at both. He's our most versatile player. He can play singles or doubles and does a good job at either."

"Jordan is extremely fast. He returns very well. He's got power this year. He's really hitting the ball hard after last year. It's tough to hit a passing shot on him with his quickness. He's like a third singles player with power. He won't beat himself. You have to bring some power and

angles to beat him. He played a lot over the summer and winter."

Senior Jared Groot and junior Adam Gruber — who served as eighth man last year — also return for the Little Giants. Groot is the only full-time returner at doubles.

LaFountain said sophomores Cameron Mooney and Mitch Langley, and juniors Bryce Huffman and Eric Hottinger could contribute this season.

"He's probably the most improved player," LaFountain said of Mooney. "He's the biggest surprise. He's probably improved more than any player I've ever coached in one season. He'll be a varsity doubles player after playing a lot of tennis. I wish we had a fourth singles spot. He's a better singles player but he's getting better at doubles."

"Those (six) will man the doubles. With that many new players we'll see who plays well together. The last spot has a lot of kids competing."

With only two seniors on the roster, the Little Giants can develop as a group.

"We lost some close matches in the third set," LaFountain said. "We were pretty young last year with one senior and we're still young with two seniors but we're hoping the experience helps there. We have three new doubles players."

Ross finished third last season, behind co-champs Napoleon and Findlay — probably the favorite again this year.

"They have the best player in the GBC at No. 1 and the third best at 2," LaFountain said. "They continue to rebuild and put out tournament tough players. It's a credit to their summer program. It works so closely with the school and there are no conflicts. They have good coaches and the kids work hard. I really envy their program."

Kyle Collette of Findlay almost made state last year while Ben Bishoff of Napoleon has been to state twice at doubles.

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HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS: ROSS 3, SANDUSKY 2

Little Giants beat Streaks to stay undefeated

Ross wins singles matches but drops both doubles

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

When the heat is on Fremont Ross junior Eliot Parker gets cooking.

After losing his opening match 7-5 on cold and blustery day, Parker rallied in the second match to even the score at Tuesday's tennis contest between Fremont Ross and Sandusky.

Parker battled his way through until the very end, defeating Sandusky's Blake Albert 7-5 in the final match to win 5-7, 7-5, 7-5, giving the Little Giants a thrilling 3-2 victory.

With the win, Fremont remains perfect on the season at 4-0 while Sandusky falls to 3-1.

After winning the first three sets of the final

match and eventually grabbing a 5-1 advantage, Parker needed just one point to put Albert away.

But Albert had other plans as he took four straight sets and tied the match at 5-5 before falling to Parker.

"This match lived up to what Sandusky and Fremont is all about," said Sandusky coach Bernie Seiler. "It came right down to the last match."

In fact, this was the second straight year in which Parker and Albert went down to the wire before Parker came through with a win.

"This happened last year," said Parker. "We were tied 2-2 and it came down to the final match."

"I don't know, it just really helps having pressure on me. It makes me play a lot smarter and not go for big shots."

But it was in fact those big shots Parker said that helped in his success Tuesday.

"Ironically, (the big shots) is what helped me win," Parker said. "Going for those shots and hitting winners and that's how I ended up beating him."

Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain complimented Parker's persistent play and his ability to fight the windy conditions.

"Playing in these conditions you just want to try to get the ball back any way you can," LaFountain said. "You want to try to keep (the ball) deep and try to keep your opponent from the baseline as much as possible with the wind like this."

"Sometimes it just comes down to whoever wants it more and I think (Parker) plays better under pressure."

Parker's victory was instrumental once again for the Fremont victory, as

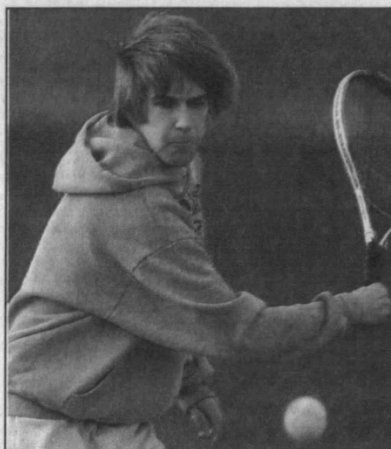
they had already picked up two wins in singles matches and two losses in doubles' action during the contest.

"(Our team) is pretty even with (Fremont) all the way," said Seiler. "Our lineup is pretty strong all the way through but doubles is definitely our strength. They are all veteran players."

While the doubles' teams of Jared Groot and Cameron Mooney, along with Eric Hottinger and Adam Gruber, lost 2-6, 4-6 and 3-6, 4-6 respectively, Jacob Laurer and Jordan Will maintained Fremont's singles' dominance this season.

Will cruised past the Blue Streaks' Bryce Cremean by a score of 6-3, 6-1.

"I just tried to keep the ball low so (Cremean) couldn't get a good stroke



News-Messenger/Charlie Longton

ROSS'S JACOB LAURER hits a backhand in a match against Sandusky on Tuesday. The Little Giants beat the Blue Streaks.

See LITTLE GIANTS, C3

Little Giants topple Blue Streaks

Continued From C1

on the ball," said Will on his strategy of playing in the fierce wind.

"Also, I just tried to keep the ball in play because in these conditions it's hard to keep the ball in, so that was my goal."

LaFountain said he was pleased with Will's play.

"He did a nice job and just took care of business," said LaFountain. "He beat a real good player, a player who beat us twice last year."

"Jordan is playing steady and playing smart and waiting for his opponent to make some errors and when he gets that short ball he usually comes in there and finishes that point off."

Laurer also prevailed Tuesday, defeating Travis Steineman in two sets by a 7-6 (7-5), 7-3 margin.

"Laurer saved five set points in the first set and came back and won," said LaFountain. "That was big."

Tennis

Double your pleasure

Fremont Ross got a key win from Eric Hottinger and Bryce Huffman at No. 1 doubles to top Huron 3-2.

"The first doubles team played smart," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "They got their first serve in and set their partner up for easy volleys. They were on the offense rather than defensive while getting their first serve in. It was nice to see a doubles team play aggressively."

Little Giants fall to Archbold in a close one

Jordan Will remained unbeaten at No. 2 singles but Fremont Ross fell to powerful Archbold 3-2.

Jacob Laurer (No. 3) did not drop a game while also winning for the Little Giants.

Eliot Parker lost his first match of the season at No. 1 for Ross (5-2).

"It was a good match against a good team," LaFountain said. "Losing 3-2 to them isn't that bad."

Tennis

Will stands out

Jordan Will (No. 2 singles), and Jacob Laurer and Jared Groot (No. 1 doubles) won their matches but Fremont Ross lost to Napoleon 3-2 in the GBC.

Will did not drop a game to the defending GBC champ and the doubles tandem rebounded from a first set loss.

"Jordan Will stood out," said Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain.

The Little Giants (5-3, 1-1) also suffered a setback to a strong Archbold team this week.

Eliot Parker of Ross suffered his second loss at No. 1 singles in three sets to state-qualifier Ben Bischoff. Cameron Mooney lost in three sets at No. 3.

"The kid Eliot Parker played was pretty good," LaFountain said. "Eliot took his game up a notch. He just came up short."

LaFountain hopes to contend for second with Napoleon as Findlay is very tough.

"It looks like we're going to have a whole cluster of teams battling it out for second place," he said.

Tennis

Will still perfect

Eliot Parker (No. 1 singles), Jordan Will (No. 2 singles) and Jacob Laurer (No. 3) each won matches as Fremont Ross toppled Ottawa Hills 3-2.

Parker lost three games, Will two and Laurer one.

Cameron Mooney and Mitch Langley lost in three sets for the Little Giants (6-3) at No. 1 doubles.

"Our guys played really well," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "Laurer played really well. Everything from serving to returning. He played as well as he has all season."

Will remains unbeaten and has not dropped a set at 9-0, Parker is 8-1 and Laurer 7-2. Parker defeated Will in a third-set tiebreaker Monday.

"It's amazing for the amount Jordan plays," LaFountain said. "They're close right now. He's never taken a lesson. He's just an athlete."

Ross plays Lima Senior in the first round of the state tournament Friday.

Will yet to be beaten for Giants

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross came ready to play Friday and advanced in the boys state tennis tournament.

The Little Giants (7-3) defeated Lima Senior 4-1 in typical Ross fashion as they won each of their singles matches and also picked up a confidence booster as the doubles team of Bryce Huffman and Eric Hottinger brought home a victory as well.

After dropping the first set 6-3, Huffman and Hottinger rallied to win the final two sets 6-1, 6-4.

"It feels good," Huffman said. "It was our first win after like five matches I think."

"We stayed focused and though we made unforced errors in the first set, we kept it together in the second two (sets)."

Huffman and Hottinger's victory was their first of the season as a duo.

"We just had to keep the ball in play and maintain our cool," said Hottinger. "We were getting pretty angry in the first set but we just had to maintain that focus on the game and come back and win the two sets."

Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain praised the efforts of his doubles team.

"They did a nice job," LaFountain said. "They came back after losing that first set, in which they didn't play real well, and they started coming into the net and taking control up there. That's what I always preach."

At third singles, senior Jacob Laurer didn't drop a game to register his seventh win of the year against two losses.

Fellow Little Giant Jordan Will (No. 2 singles) also cruised past his competition, 6-3, 6-1. Will's win moves him to 10-0 on the season as he and Laurer continue to be mainstays for LaFountain's club.

"They are playing pretty steady," LaFountain said.

Will has yet to lose a set this season.

"It's a good surprise," Will said of his perfect start to the year. "I've just been playing my best and hopefully I'd win. It's turned out better than I thought it would."

In the other singles match-up, junior Eliot Parker fought a pesty Spartan opponent to a 6-3, 7-6 victory. Trailing in both sets, Parker remained tough and endured for the victory.

"Eliot played a kid who can hit the ball pretty decent," said LaFountain. "He came out and didn't have his best stuff and Eliot won. I guess you can say that's most important."

Yellow Jackets spoil Ross home match

Perrysburg wins doubles tournament by 65 points

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross played host to the Fremont Doubles tournament Saturday but it was Perrysburg who acted like they owned the court as the Yellow Jackets captured all four doubles championships en route to winning the tournament.

Perrysburg, who finished with 120 points, won the eight team set-up. Fremont Ross finished with 55 points, followed by Port Clinton (51 points), Bowling Green (50 points) and Springfield (48 points). Rounding out the field were Bryan, Fremont Ross "B", and Maumee Valley Country Day.

"We had all our players here," said Perrysburg coach Al Alrava. "Some of the other schools were missing some of their key players."

"I'm happy with getting everybody into the finals."

The Little Giants advanced two teams into the finals with a chance of knocking off Perrysburg.

At first doubles, junior

Eliot Parker and senior Jacob Laurer hooked up against Port Clinton's Tim McLean and Brendan Shirkey.

Parker and Laurer dropped the first set 1-6 and fell behind quickly in the second set.

Trailing 3-5, Parker returned a Redskin shot after a back and forth battle as the he and Laurer rallied to tie the match at 5-5.

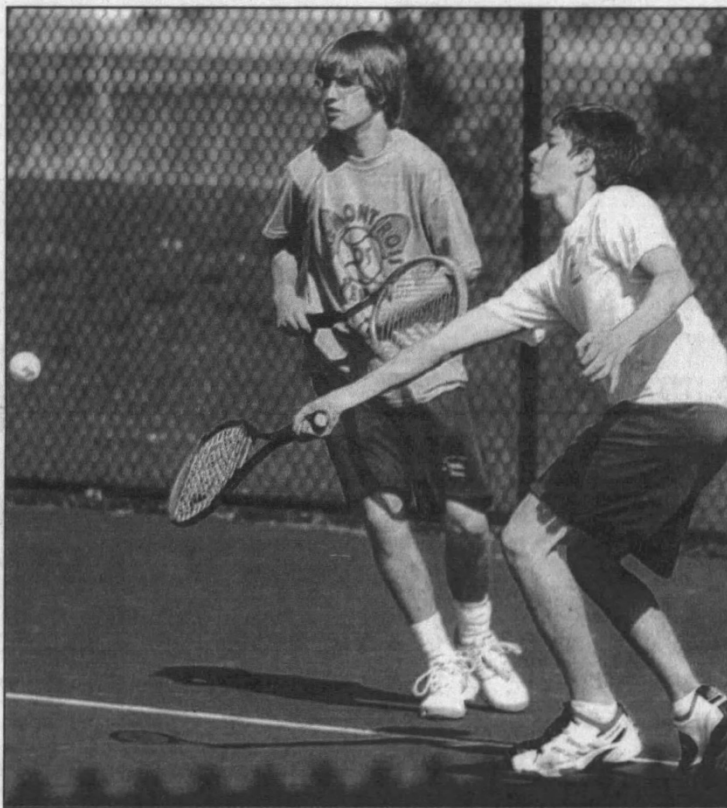
The two moved on to take the second set 7-6 entering into a decisive third set.

"I told Jake (Laurer) to stand back in the corner and let me play and let it be a singles' match," Parker said. "It actually worked there. We came back and won and then won the tie-breaker pretty easily."

Parker and Laurer sealed the deal with a 10-4 margin in the third set, advancing in the winner's bracket to face Springfield's Eric Anderson and Andy Veltschy.

"It was a great match," said Port Clinton coach Mike Drusbacky. "We took the first set, then we were leading the second set and then (Ross) got a break. It was a tough draw out of the hat, right out of the gate."

The combo were too much for Springfield as



News-Messenger/Charlie Longton

FREMONT ROSS'S ELIOT Parker swings at the ball in a doubles match with Jacob Laurer against Port Clinton on Saturday.

See ROSS, B2

Ross distant second at doubles meet

Continued From B1

they took both sets 6-4, 6-3 and moved into the finals.

In the finals, Parker and Laurer found themselves matched up with Yellow Jacket team of Ashton Converse and Andy Gunkler.

The Fremont duo took an early advantage by winning the first set 6-3 but then fell 4-6 going into the final set of the day.

Parker and Laurer seemed to have the match in hand leading 9-6 in a first to 10-point format before Converse and Gunkler rallied for a stunning win, 11-9.

"They were a good team," said Fremont coach Rick LaFountain of Converse and Gunkler. "It's just one of those things where you give a few points away here and there and they end up costing you in the end."

The Little Giants team of junior Jordan Will and sophomore Cameron Mooney also suffered a similar fate in their final match.

After the two won their opening set 6-3, they gave way to Perrysburg's Alan Chan and Marcus Strickland who tied the game at 1-1 with a 6-4 win in the second set before winning the match in the tie-breaker 10-4.

"They let that get away also," LaFountain said. "I don't know if it was nerves or what, but they couldn't hit a volley to save ourselves the whole third set."

Will and Mooney advanced to the finals by defeating fellow Little Giants Patrick Robb and Jason Rexroth 6-0, 6-0 and Bowling Green's Lewis Johnson and Alex Carney 6-2, 6-1.

The Fremont third doubles' team of Bryce Huffman and Eric Hottinger took third place with a victory over Bowling Green.

"I always think of this as a fun tournament," Alrava said. "The kids like to come here and they are always treated well."

The Little Giants will square off Monday against local rival St. Joseph Central Catholic at Ross High School.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Ross sweeps SJCC

By KYLE TIMMONS

News-Messenger correspondent

The Fremont Ross boys' tennis team swept in-town rivals St. Joseph Central Catholic on Monday, improving to 9-2 on the season.

Leading the charge as usual for the Little Giants were the singles players of Jacob Laurer, Eliot Parker and Jordan Will. Each won in two sets.

At second singles, Will ran his winning streak to 11 straight with a win over SJCC's Mike Wagner.

Will surrendered one set during the opening match en route to a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

"I'm just cutting down on making mistakes and making my opponent make them," Will said. "That's been working all season so far and I make the big shots when I have to."

Wagner took the loss in stride, noting personal and team improvements.

"I started the season out pretty well but I'm starting to struggle a little bit," said Wagner. "It was a rough match today but I can see some of my shots have gotten better and I've been getting stronger throughout the season."

Laurer also sparkled Monday as he took on the Streaks' George Hossler at third singles and also won with a score of 6-0, 6-1.

"(Laurer) rolled up there," Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain said.

See ROSS, B2

Ross tennis tops SJCC

Continued From B1

"He's been hitting the ball real nice and using the wind to his advantage."

The win marked Laurer's seventh in nine tries at singles.

Parker rounded off the singles' sweep with a 6-0, 6-0 mark over Eric Barbour.

"Today I just had it flowing," said Parker. "I just did what I do best and had fun."

In doubles play, the Little Giants won both contests for the first time this season.

Eric Hottinger and Bryce Huffman took the opening set over the Streaks' Chris Wobser and Matt Barbour winning 6-1.

Wobser and Barbour battled through a close second set and forced a third set by defeating Hottinger and Huffman 6-4.

But the Fremont duo proved to be too much in the decisive set as they won 6-1 to take the match.

"Ross is a tough school," St. Joe coach Scott Knisely said. "It's a learning experience for some of our kids and I was impressive with our doubles players today."

The other doubles team of Jared

Groot and Cameron Mooney defeated the Streaks' duo of Mike and Ty Hrupcho in straight sets by a score of 6-3, 6-3.

Groot said it was his focus on his serving and the play by Mooney which led them to the victory.

"They gave us a run for our money," Groot said of the Hrupchos. "We needed to focus on getting our first serve in and unfortunately we lost a lot by me not getting my first serve in. (In the third match) everyone was cold and tired and ready to go home so I had to get my serves in there and get it over with.

"Thank God I have a partner like Cameron who has my back whenever I screw up."

LaFountain complimented Groot's patience with his serve.

"It's all about (Groot) taking his time," LaFountain said. "When he takes his time and gets it across they take the serve 90 percent of the time.

"When you take your time on the first serve you're going to catch your opponents back about another three feet."

The Little Giants will travel to Lima Senior Tuesday for a Greater Buckeye Conference match while the Streaks will host Crestline on Saturday.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Ross tennis team triumphs

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross tennis team caught a couple breaks en route to a 4-1 Greater Buckeye Conference win over Lima Senior.

Jordan Will at second singles and Jacob Laurer in third singles won in straight sets, but the first doubles team of Jared Groot and Cameron Mooney lost in straight sets.

The second doubles team of Eric Hottinger and Bryce Huffman dropped its first set, and at first singles, Eliot Parker got blanked in his first set and lost his first five points in the second set.

However, Parker came back to beat Teddy Stepleton in the second set, and Stepleton quit in the third set down 4-0.

"What could have been a 3-2 loss turned into a 4-1 win," said coach Rick LaFountain.

The Little Giants move to 9-3 (2-1 GBC), while Lima remains winless in three conference games (2-10 overall)

Sandusky Invitational Saturday Team Scores

Ross	85
Sandusky	85
Norwalk	68
Perkins	64
Mansfield Sr.	44
Bellevue	30
Vermilion	27
Mansfield Madison	23

Ross results Singles

1. Eliot Parker (R) def. Cory Grathwol (Perk) 6-0, 6-1; Diego Miranda (Mans Sr.) def. Parker 6-2, 6-0; Parker def. Nathan Phillips (Nor) 8-3.

2. Jordan Will (R) def. James Hasten (Nor) 7-5, 6-4; Will def. Matt Hansen (Verm) 6-3, 6-3; Will def. Travis Steineman (Sand) 6-0, 6-1.

3. Jacob Laurer (R) def. Jon Stout (Bell) 7-5, 6-2; Laurer def. Joe Leffler (Nor) 6-1, 3-6, 10-8; Laurer def. Evan Llowellyn (Mans. Mad) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

1. Brent Haig-Andrew Bosko (Mans. Sr.) def. Jared Groot-Eric Hottinger (R) 2-6, 7-6(7-5), 10-7; Austin Ammaniti-Matt Allen (Bell) def. Groot-Hottinger 8-4

2. Cameron Mooney-Bryce Huffman (R) def. Dickens Mok-Save Lee 6-3, 6-0; Kevin Wise-Chris Skogland def. Mooney-Huffman 6-1, 6-3; Josh Harpel-Aaron Hixon def. Mooney-Huffman 8-6.

runs, Megan Boukissen singled twice and scored twice, and Jamie Bork singled and scored two runs for the Crimson Streaks (14-5, 5-1). Heather Blake singled, drove in a run and scored once, Abby Crockett singled and drove in a run, Melissa Taylor singled twice and drove in two, and Megan Casey added a single.

Tennis

Parker nets huge win

Eliot Parker took an important step toward earning the third singles seed at sectionals with a victory Monday but Fremont Ross fell to powerful Ashland 4-1.

Parker defeated Bobby Irwin 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1 singles. Irwin defeated Parker last season.

"Whoever gets that third seed has a shot to get out," said Little Giant coach Rick LaFountain. "This goes a long way toward that (seed)."

Diego Miranda of Mansfield Senior and Alex McCann of Lexington are likely the top two seeds. Parker and Wednesday's probable opponent Zach Hyndman of Oregon Clay could very well vie for the third seed.

The two split two matches last season.

Jordan Will of Ross (9-4) lost to Michael Li at No. 2 singles after winning the first set. He lost to Li 6-2, 6-2 last year.

"There's a good chance we'll see them again in sectionals and I like our chances in both matches if those two meet again," LaFountain said of Will and Parker's opponents Monday.

Ashland is 13-1.

"When you leave a place like Ashland, if you compete you did well," LaFountain said. "Year after year they're one of the top programs in Northwest Ohio."

Trojans sweep Little Giants, continue win streak

Ross in midst of tough stretch of schedule

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

The Fremont Ross tennis team is in the middle of an incredibly tough stretch of tennis, playing the likes of Ashland, Toledo Central Catholic and Oregon Clay. And on Tuesday, six-time defending Greater Buckeye Conference champions Findlay came rolling into town with an 11-match winning streak. They left rolling their streak to 12. "Findlay has a lot of kids that play USDA tournaments over the summer,"

said Fremont coach Rick LaFountain. "They are a good team and they are going to keep getting better."

It didn't take long for the Trojans (12-1) to show their muscle as their two doubles teams made quick work of their Fremont foes.

Findlay's undefeated duo of Scott Elbin and Tyler Lentz handed Jared Groot and Cameron Mooney a 6-0 victory in the opening set to get things rolling.

"(Scott) Elbin was a champion at 2nd doubles last year," said Findlay coach Ray Elbin. "He and Lentz, who already has two league championships, are pretty solid as a 1st doubles team."

Groot and Mooney showed a little more deter-

mination in the second set as they took a 2-1 advantage but eventually fell 6-4 to the Trojans.

The Little Giants' other doubles team found things just as difficult as they took on Seth Reed and Drew Jack.

Reed and Jack won the game in two sets with a 6-1, 6-2 margin.

"They are a couple of sophomores," said coach Elbin. "They are both from tennis families and they are always out playing. Overall, we have a pretty solid team."

Findlay then secured the team victory with their third win as junior Kyle Collette, last year's GBC champion, downed Fremont junior Eliot Parker 6-2, 6-1.

"Collette is a club player," coach Elbin said. "He plays in a lot of tournaments in the off-season. He's legitimately a good player and will have a chance to go to Columbus."

At second singles, Fremont's Jordan Will battled with the Trojan's Steven Albert. Albert battled his way to a 6-4 decision in the opening set

before Will rallied in the second set.

Albert took the opening point in the second set but Will turned things quickly around as he fought his way back to even the game with a 6-2 win.

In the third and decisive set, Will jumped out to a 4-2 lead before Albert re-

sponded and eventually ran away with the match at 6-4.

"(Albert) is a very determined player," said coach Elbin. "He's earned his spot in the lineup. He's worked very hard."

Senior Jacob Laurer was the final Little Giant to fall Tuesday as he and Brett Jack exchanged shots between the rain drops and the slippery pavement.

After losing the first set 6-4, Laurer forced a third set by returning the 6-4 favor to Jack.

Laurer took a 4-3 advantage in the final set but eventually fell to Jack 6-4 to complete the sweep for the Trojans.

"(Brett) was runner-up last year in the league as

second singles," said coach Elbin. "He is a very strong and aggressive kid."

LaFountain said that despite the loss, there is much to gain from playing Findlay.

"It's pretty interesting and second and third singles," LaFountain said with the league championship coming up. "I think that there is a shot

that both of those kids could meet again.

"We'll work on some things tomorrow in practice, some things that I think they can improve on and hopefully we can turn it around this weekend."

Fremont (9-5) will travel to Toledo Central Catholic on Thursday.

Tennis

Little Giants beat Irish

Fremont Ross singles players carried the day, going undefeated against Toledo Central Catholic as the Little Giants won the out-of-conference matchup 3-2.

Eliot Parker and Jordan Will won in straight sets, while Jacob Laurer needed three to dispatch Todd Brown.

Both teams are now 10-5. Tennis coach Rick LaFountain is proud of his team's resilience during a tough week.

"We're in a gauntlet right now," he said.

Ross tennis team has shot at second place in conference

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross was tabbed to finish fourth in the GBC this season.

But the Little Giants are locked in a four-way tie for second after completing the regular season with a 3-2 victory over Marion Harding.

The Greater Buckeye Conference tournament is today. The regular season record and conference tournament are each factored into the league championship. Findlay, as expected, leads the circuit.

Jordan Will didn't lose a game to win at No. 2 singles Friday. The doubles teams of Jacob Laurer and Jared Groot (No. 1), and Eric Hottinger and Bryce Huffman also won for Ross (11-5, 3-2).

Hottinger and Huffman's match was decisive Friday.

Ross coach Rick LaFountain said second place overall is a definite possibility as Will and Laurer (No. 3 singles) are more than capable of earning league titles.

Ross opponents have a combined 78-14 record to close out the season. It will play St. Johns, Elida, Ashland and Findlay among others.

Cameron Mooney — who lost in three sets Friday — played a No. 3 singles.

"Mooney will win a lot of singles matches next year so it's nice to get him some experience," LaFountain said.

Redskins ruling SBC meet

Jason Drusbacky, Jason Cellier and Brendan Shirkey, and Carey Clum and Craig Miller of Port

Clinton can finish no worse than second-team all-SBC after Friday's league singles tournament.

Oak Harbor's Cody Brough won his first match before falling to SMCC's Austin Opfer.

The Redskins' Justin Drusbacky could still win second-team honors. Drusbacky topped Huron's Ryan Noftz in three sets and Clyde's Derek Foreman on Friday before losing to Edison's Tyler Stewart.

The Rockets' Stevyn Perry also fell to Stewart after a first-round bye.

Each of the top four singles and doubles seeds advanced to the semifinals.

No. 1 doubles seed Cellier and Shirkey topped Alex Brikmanis and Evan Miller of Oak Harbor to reach today's semifinal against No. 3 seed Cory Roth

and Andrew Serhal of Perkins.

Oak Harbor's Mike Hanthorn and Devin Frank to advance to play No. 2 seed James Wott and Josh Bender of Clyde. Clum and Miller avenged a loss to McBride and Fial earlier in the season.

Wott and Bender beat SMCC's Nick Felter and Joe Miller.

Softball

Rockets top rival

Brooke Sprouse walked only one and struck out eight as Oak Harbor climbed to .500 overall and shut out Port Clinton 5-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

"Brooke pitched a really nice game," said Rocket co-coach Tiffany Hernandez. "(Port Clinton) struggled hitting."

Krista Galliher singled and

doubled, and Kylie Biggert scored two runs for the Rockets (9-9, 8-4).

"No errors," Hernandez said. "That really helped."

Giants suffer setback

Reegan Koppelman singled twice but Fremont Ross was shut out by rival Sandusky 7-0.

Megan Wasserman and Jessica White each singled once for the Little Giants (5-16, 1-7).

Beth Shafer (4-11) took the loss.

Baseball

Alafita wins again

Clyde's Frank Alafita has two varsity starts on the mound.

And the left-handed freshman has two victories.

Alafita followed an SBC win over Port Clinton on Monday with an 11-1 victory over Mar-

garetta on Friday.

The Fliers (12-10, 6-4) scored four runs in the second inning and five in the sixth.

Alafita (2-0) allowed only two hits and two walks.

Zach Gast took the loss for the Polar Bears (9-7, 4-7).

Dan Gurney and Seth Roach each hit 3-run home runs and added singles for Clyde. Gurney — who represented the eighth different Flier to homer this season — hit his shot in the second inning while Roach went deep in the sixth.

"[Gast] had a little command problem early on and our boys were patient," said Flier coach Bill Selvey. "We hit the ball hard. We hit the ball hard 1-9."

Zach Hoffman hit a home run and added a triple for Margaretta.

Tennis

High School

GBC Championship

at Marion Harding

No. 1 Singles

Kyle Collette (Fin) bye

Eliot Parker (Ross) def. David Albert (SHS) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; Nick Laskaris (MH) def. Trent Sampson (LS) 6-0, 6-0

Ben Bischoff (Nap) bye

Second Round

Collette def. Parker 6-4, 6-4

Laskaris def. Bischoff 6-4, 7-5

Final

Collette def. Laskaris 6-2, 4-6, 6-1

Third Place

Bischoff def. Parker 8-1

Fifth Place

Albert def. Sampson 8-0

No. 2 Singles

Steven Albert (Fin) bye

Travi Steinemann (SHS) def. Derek Durham (Nap) 6-3, 6-0

Matt Bernhard (MH) def. Mike Huffer (LS) 6-2, 6-3

Jordan Will (Ross) bye

Second Round

Albert def. Steinemann 6-3, 4-6, 6-3

Will def. Bernhard 6-1, 6-0

Final

Albert def. Will 6-4, 7-5

Third Place

Steinemann def. Bernhard 8-2

Fifth Place

Derham def. Huffer 8-1

No. 3 Singles

Brett Jack (Fin) bye

Matt Ellingson (Nap) def. Bryce Cremean (SHS) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1

Frank Lo (MH) def. Travis Klinger (LS)

6-2, 6-0

Jacob Laurer (Ross) bye

Second Round

Jack def. Ellingson 6-2, 6-1

Laurer def. Lo 6-1, 6-0

Final

Jack def. Laurer 3-6, 6-4, 6-3

Third Place

Ellingson def. Lo 8-4

Fifth Place

Cremean def. Klinger 8-0

No. 1 Doubles

Scott Elbin-Tyler Lentz (Fin) bye

Brent Hoffman-Blake McClury (Nap) def. Jared Groot-Cameron Mooney (Ross) 6-3, 6-3

Teddy Stepleton-Save Cress (LS) def. Evan Tackett-Joe Zucker (MH) 6-2, 6-1

Greg Allen-Ben Hixson (SHS) bye

Second Round

Elbin-Lentz def. Hoffman McClury 6-1, 6-1

Stepleton-Cress def. Allen Hixson 6-1, 6-3

Final

Elbin-Lentz def. Stepleton-Cress 2-6, 6-2, 6-2

Third Place

Hoffman-Lentz def. Allen-Hixson 8-6

Fifth Place

Tackett-Zucker def. Groot-Mooney 8-3

No. 2 Doubles

Chris Niermann-Rob Meyers (Nap) bye
Korey Sarven-Ethan Landry (LS) def. Eric Hutteringer-Bryce Huffman (Ross) 6-2, 6-2

Dick McCury-Kyle Dettra (MH) def. Dan Flittner-Tim Murray 6-4, 6-3

Drew Jack-Seth Reed (Fin) bye

Second Round

Niermann-Meyers def. Sarven-Landry 6-1, 6-0

Jack-Reed def. McCury-Dettra 6-2, 6-2

Final

Nierman-Meyers def. Jack-Reed 6-2, 7-6(8)

Third Place

Sarven-Landry def. McCury-Dettra 9-7

Fifth Place

Flittner-Murray def. Hutteringer-Huffman 8-0.

Beth Shaffer gave up seven runs in a complete game, four earned. Shaffer (5-12) also got a hit for Ross (7-18, 1-8 GBC).

Cassie Steinberger, Stephanie Stout, Mindy Meggitt and Britta Barron also got hits for the Little Giants.

Fliers win SBC matchup

Ashley Kern and Jessica Waterfield each doubled as Clyde beat Edison 5-3.

Freshman Liz Drown (7-5) went the distance, giving up eight hits, striking out two and walking one.

Erica Bennett went 2-for-4 for the Fliers (15-8, 10-2 SBC).

Tennis

Little Giants waxed

Fremont Ross took on Elida, ranked third in the latest

Associated Press poll, and came away with a bruising 4-1 loss.

The lone winner for the Little Giants (11-6) was the second doubles team of Eric Hottinger and Bryce Huffman, who dispatched Jeff Maye and Jon Koester 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-1.

All the Elida (14-0) winners won in straight sets, including one shutout in each set.

Fliers fall to Panthers

Clyde managed one singles win and one doubles win as the Fliers fell to Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic 3-2.

Lucas Colley beat Patrick Chambers 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in third singles, and the second doubles team of Bobby Hintz and Ben Stickney beat Joey McCormick and Alex Slattery 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

The Fliers are now 8-5 (5-5 SBC).

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Ross tennis beats Clay

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross tennis team ended the regular season with a 3-2 win over Oregon Clay on Wednesday.

Eliot Parker, Jordan Will and Jacob Laurer each won their singles match in straight sets as Ross finished the season 12-6. Parker beat Zach Hyndman 6-0, 6-4.

"It was a pretty good win for Eliot," said tennis coach Rick LaFountain. "This kid's the fourth seed in the district, and he beat him pretty convincingly."

Parker, doubles team still playing

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross's Eliot Parker and the doubles team of Jordan Will and Jacob Laurer advanced to districts with wins Thursday at Division I tennis sectionals at Sandusky.

Parker, the top seed in the sectional, defeated Tim Murray of Sandusky and Lexington's Viloc Desai after a first-round bye.

Will and Laurer beat the Sandusky duo of Travis Steineman and David Albert and then dispatched Madison's Dan Mastin and Brent Haag in straight sets.

Cameron Mooney won his first match, against Madison's Travis Pence, before falling to Michael Li of Ashland. Bryce Huffman lost his first match in straight sets to Danny Jacobs of Ashland.