

Blanked In Opener

Mansfield spoiled the opening of the season for Fremont Ross' tennis squad.

The visiting Tygers blanked the Little Giants, 5-0, at Rodger Young Park Tuesday. It was the fourth win of the season against no defeats for the Tygers.

Doug Warga, Tom Fronczak and Steve Smith won in the singles competition for the Tygers while Trent Bazley and Willie Porter combined for one doubles win and Scott Scherff and Greg Bookwalter took the other.

Warga defeated Larry Shilling, one of two lettermen in the Ross lineup, 6-2 and 6-0. Fronczak took a 6-2 and 6-4 decision from Jeff Wingo while Smith downed Steve Frost, 6-0 and 6-0.

Bazley and Porter combined for a 6-0 and 6-1 victory over Scott Hilty and Sherman Gibson. Hilty lettered for the Little Giants last year. He and Gibson are both seniors.

A pair of Ross underclassemen, Lowell Clark and Dave Hurless, bowed 6-3 and 6-0 to Scherff and Bookwalter. Clark is a junior and Hurless a sophomore.

Little Giant Netters Defeated By Trojans

Ross' tennis squad is still looking for its first point.

The Little Giants were blanked for the second straight meet, 5-0, by a talented Findlay squad at the Rodger Young Park courts Thursday.

In the No. 1 match, Ross' Larry Shilling dropped a 6-0, 6-2 verdict to Tom Somers. Jeff Wingo lost by scores of 6-3 and 6-0 to Randy Wynkrap.

Somers and Wynkrap participated in the Class AAA state competition last spring as a doubles team.

The No. 3 singles match found Graig Lather defeating Mark Albrechta by scores of 6-1 and 6-1.

Ross' first double squad composed of Scott Hilty and Sherman Gibson was dropped 6-2 and 6-0 by Monney Lovell and Bob Scully. Brent Snook and Greg Wyant combined to trim Lowell Clark and Dave Hurless by scores of 6-0 and 7-5 in the second doubles match.

The Purple and White netters return to action Tuesday at Rodger Young Park against Marion. The first match begins at 4 p.m. The Giants also play three road matches next week. They visit Findlay Wednesday, travel to Mansfield Thursday and visit Fostoria Friday.

Little Giant Netters Drop Third Match

Ross' net squad scored its first point of the year but is still searching for that elusive first victory after bowing 4-1 to Marion Harding on the Rodger Young Park courts Tuesday.

Larry Shilling, a junior letterman, scored the first team point for the Purple and White, who were blanked in their first two outings. Shilling scored a 6-1 and 6-2 verdict over Brent Rowland on the second court.

In the No. 1 singles match, Dave Stuckey of the visiting Prexies needed to go three sets before downing Jeff Wingo. Stuckey lost the first set 5-7 but came back with 6-4 and 6-1 wins.

Matt Osborne decisioned Lowell Clark, 6-3 and 6-2, in the third singles duel.

The No. 1 doubles match found Harding's Gary Gregg and Dan Simmons combining for a two set victory over Scott Hilty and Sherman Gibson. Both sets ended at 6-1.

Harding's Phil Everson and Jeff Martin won the second doubles match. They defeated Dave Hurless and Steve Frost in straight sets, 6-2 and 6-4.

Ross, which is now 0-3, entertains Findlay at the Rodger Young Park courts today starting at 4 p.m. The match was originally scheduled to be played at Findlay.

The results:

Singles

Dave Stuckey (Marion) dec. Jeff Wingo, 5-7, 6-4 and 6-1.

Larry Shilling (Ross) dec. Brent Rowland, 6-1 and 6-2.

Matt Osborne (Marion) dec. Lowell Clark, 6-3 and 6-2.

Doubles

Gary Gregg-Dan Simmons (Marion) dec. Scott Hilty-Sherman Gibson, 6-1 and 6-1.

Phil Everson-Jeff Martin (Marion) dec. Dave Hurless-Steve Frost, 6-2 and 6-4.

Hometowners Still Winless

Little Giant Netters Downed By Mansfield

MANSFIELD — Ross dropped to 0-4 in tennis this spring with a 4-1 loss to Mansfield Monday.

The only Ross point was taken by the No. 1 court doubles team of Larry Shilling and Ron Kanan. They defeated Duffy Carto and Willie Carter in three sets, 3-6, 6-3 and 6-3.

"They played well," Ross head coach Pete Michaels said of the performance turned in by Shilling and Kanan. "They outplayed the two Mansfield boys

tremendously in the last two sets."

In the second doubles match, the Ross duo of Steve Frost and Lowell Clark lost to Craig Bookwalter and Scott Scherff by scores of 6-3 and 6-4.

Doug Warga, Tom Fronczak and Steve Smith were singles victors for Mansfield, which had dropped Ross by a 5-0 count earlier this year.

Warga took Jeff Wingo by scores of 6-1 and 6-2. Fronczak

defeated Jeff Tschumy with set results of 6-2 and 6-0. Smith blanked Sherman Gibson in both sets by 6-0 scores.

"Despite the scores, our kids played well," Michaels said. "Mansfield is a very seasoned ball club and we're very inexperienced."

Ross is now idle until it visits Sandusky Thursday at 4 p.m. The Little Giants return home Saturday for a 9 a.m. match on the Rodger Young Park Courts against Fostoria.

The results:

Singles

Doug Warga (M) dec. Jeff Wingo, 6-1, 6-2.

Tom Fronczak (M) dec. Jeff Tschumy, 6-2, 6-0.

Steve Smith (M) dec. Sherman Gibson, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles

Larry Shilling-Ron Kanan (R) dec. Duffy Carto-Willie Porter, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Craig Bookwalter-Scott Scherff (M) dec. Steve Frost-Lowell Clark, 6-3, 6-4.

Sports Menu

TUESDAY

Track

Clyde at Sandusky Perkins, 4 p.m.

Lakota at Margaretta, 4 p.m.

Oak Harbor at Elmwood, 4 p.m.

Woodmore at Perrysburg, 4 p.m.

Gibsonburg at Eastwood, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Baseball

Bettsville at Old Fort, 4:15 p.m.

Woodmore at Lakeside, 4 p.m.

Ross at Toledo Whitmer, 4 p.m.

Toledo Libbey at Genoa, 4 p.m.

Genoa at Lake, 4 p.m.

Golf

Clyde at Bellevue, 4 p.m.

Ross Netters Bow At Sandusky, 3-2

SANDUSKY—Ross took both doubles matches but Sandusky swept the singles contests and nicked the Little Giants, 3-2, in tennis here Thursday.

Ross' first court doubles unit of Jeff Wingo and Ron Kanan ganged up on Rich Nardeechia and Dean Henrichsen. Wingo and Kanan took the first set, 6-2, but lost the second, 4-6. In the rubber set the Ross combo came through 6-3.

The other Ross point was picked up by Jeff Tschumy and Lowell Clark. They took a 6-4 and 6-1 decision from Bill Semans and Dan Ruemmle.

Losers in singles matches for Ross were Sherman Gibson, Dave Hurless and Steve Frost.

Brad Steinemann defeated Gibson by scores of 6-0 and 6-1. Chris Steinemann didn't allow Hurless a point in winning by scores of 6-0 and 6-0. Frost also was held scoreless by Jim Fiahka.

Ross, which is now 0-5 for the season, hosts unbeaten Fostoria at the Rodger Young Parks Saturday starting at 9 a.m. After the match, Ross, Fostoria and Toledo Woodward will participate in a three-way scrimmage that is open to the public.

The Little Giants have three dual meets next week before participating in the Buckeye Conference championships at Findlay Saturday.

Bellevue visits Ross Tuesday before the Little Giants journey to Marion Harding Wednesday. Port Clinton will be at Rodger Young Park Thursday.

Head coach Pete Michaels has announced he will take Wingo, Kanan and Larry Shilling to the Buckeye. Wingo and Kanan will play in doubles and Shilling will be the singles entry from Ross.

The results:

Singles

Brad Steinemann (Sandusky) dec. Sherman Gibson, 6-0, 6-1.

Chris Steinemann (Sandusky) dec. Dave Hurless, 6-0, 6-0.

Jim Fiahka (Sandusky) dec. Steve Frost, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles

Jeff Tschumy-Lowell Clark (Ross) dec. Bill Semans-Dan Ruemmle, 6-4, 6-4.

Jeff Wingo-Ron Kanan (Ross) dec. Rich Nardeechia-Dean Henrichsen, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

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Little Giant Netters Win

"The kids were really effective out there today. That was the best they've looked all season."

Those comments were registered by Ross tennis coach Pete Michaels Tuesday after his netters whipped Bellevue, 5-1, at Rodger Young Park for their first team victory of the spring.

The Little Giants dropped just one match en route to their baptism into the victory column. The local tennis players lost six straight contests prior to Tuesday's surprise.

Ross nabbed four of the five singles matches before winning one of two doubles encounters. Jeff Tschumy and Larry Shilling of Ross were leading the Bellevue duo of Pete Sackett and Mike Newkirk by a 6-4 count when the rains came and forced the cancellation of the match. On the other court, though, the Little Giant team of Jeff Wingo and Ron Kanan defeated Bellevue's Bill Tuttamore and Pete Ruffing, 6-2, 6-0.

In singles matches, Tschumy decisioned Sackett, 6-1, 1-6, 6-1; Shilling whipped Mark Krinke, 6-4, 6-1; Wingo downed Newkirk, 6-0, 6-2; Kanan defeated Rick Hettel, 6-2, 6-1; and Bellevue's Stan Schneider edged Steve Frost of Ross, 6-1, 6-4.

"I was very pleased with my boys' performances," Michaels said. "Sometimes it's hard to get that first win under your belt . . . but now it should be easier to get victory number two."

The Little Giant netters make their way to Marion this afternoon for a match there before entertaining Port Clinton on Thursday.

The results:

Singles

Jeff Tschumy (Ross) dec. Pete Sackett, 6-1, 1-6, 6-1.

Larry Shilling (Ross) dec. Mark Krinke, 6-4, 6-1.

Jeff Wingo (Ross) dec. Mike Newkirk, 6-0, 6-2.

Ron Kanan (Ross) dec. Rick Hettel, 6-2, 6-1.

Stan Schneider (Bellevue) dec. Steve Frost, 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles

Jeff Tschumy and Larry Shilling (Ross) were defeating Pete Sackett and Mike Newkirk, 6-4, in the first match when it was called on account of rain.

Jeff Wingo and Ron Kanan (Ross) dec. Bill Tuttamore and Pete Ruffing, 6-2, 6-0.

Little Giant Netters Defeated By Harding

MARION—Ross, after notching its first tennis win of the spring Tuesday, fell back into the loss column against Marion Harding Wednesday. The host Prexies took a 4-1 verdict.

Junior Ron Kanan provided Ross with its only point. He took both sets of his match with Matt Osborne by identical 6-2 scores. They played on the third court.

Ross' Jeff Wingo lost in three sets to Dave Stuckey on the No. 1 court. Stucky won the first set, 7-5, but Wingo came back to grab the second 6-2. Stucky got straightened out for the final set and won a 6-1 verdict, however.

Jeff Tschumy lost by scores of 6-4 and 6-1 to Brent Roland on the third court.

The No. 1 doubles match found Harding's Greg Green and Dan Simmons defeating Sherm Gibson and Dave Hurless by scores of 6-0 and 6-3.

In the second doubles match, the Ross duo of Steve Frost and Lowell Clark were blanked 6-0 in the second set after extending Phil Everson and Jeff Martin to 13-11 in the first.

Ross returned to Rodger Young Park today for a dual meet with Port Clinton starting at 4 p.m. The Buckeye Conference championships will be played at Findlay Saturday.

First Seeds Capture Conference Net Titles

FINDLAY—The top seeds were the winners in the annual Buckeye Conference players tournament at Findlay College Saturday.

Jim Rakestraw of Elyria took the singles crown while Findlay's Tom Somers and Randy Wynkoon combined for the doubles title.

Rakestraw defeated Sandusky's Brad Steinemann, 6-4 and 6-0 in the finals. Steinemann was the second seed.

Somers and Wynkoon gained their title with a hard-earned decision over Mansfield's Doug Warga and Tom Fronczak. The Mansfield duo won the first set, 6-1 but lost the second, 7-5. The teams were deadlocked 6-6 in the

final set and went to a tie breaking system. Findlay won by taking the best of nine point match.

Larry Shilling, the Fremont Ross entry in singles, lost his opening match to Greg Lather of Findlay. Lather won the first two sets, 6-2 and 6-4.

Ross' doubles team of Jeff Wingo and Ron Kanan won their first match before bowing out of the tournament. Wingo and Kanan opened with a 4-6, 6-4 and 6-4 win over Sandusky entry of Chris Steinemann and Jim Filaka.

Wingo and Kanan then lost to Warga and Fronczak by 6-0 and 6-3 set scores.

Little Giant Netters Nicked In Dual Meet

Ross lost three matches that went to three sets and a narrow 4-3 tennis decision to Sandusky at Rodger Young Park Tuesday.

Little Giant competitors went to three sets in two singles matches and one doubles contest before bowing.

Ron Kanan dropped two straight sets on the third court by scores of 6-3 and 7-5 after taking the opening set, 6-1. At the fifth court, Steve Frost lost 6-4 in the opening set before rebounding with a 6-4 win. But the deciding set went to Rich Nardecchia, 6-1.

At the No. 1 doubles court, the Sandusky team of Brad and Chris Steinemann decisioned Jeff Wingo and Kanan, 6-2, 5-7 and 6-3.

Sandusky's final point was authored by Brad Steinemann, who decisioned Wingo by scores of 6-1 and 8-6 on the first singles court.

Larry Shilling and Jeff Tschumy were responsible for the Ross points. They each won a singles match and then teamed up for a point in the doubles competition.

In singles, Shilling bested Chris Steinemann by scores of 6-1 and 6-2. Tschumy, playing on the fourth court, defeated Dean Henrichsen by set scores of 6-4 and 6-1.

The doubles win by Shilling and Tschumy came at the expense of Henrichsen and Nardecchia. Both set scores were 6-2.

"The kids played well again," Ross head coach Pete Michaels said. "It's the little mistakes that are hurting us.

"This was probably as hard a contest as our kids have played in the last several years. When we only lost by one point to a team that is as strong as Sandusky I think it shows we're making progress."

Ross traveled to Port Clinton for another dual meet today at 4 p.m.

The results:

Singles

Brad Steinemann (S) dec. Jeff Wingo, 6-1 and 8-6.
Larry Shilling (R) dec. Chris Steinemann, 6-1 and 6-2.
Jim Fialka (S) dec. Ron Kanan, 1-6, 6-3 and 7-5.
Jeff Tschumy (R) dec. Dean Henrichsen, 6-4 and 6-1.
Rich Nardecchia (S) dec. Steve Frost, 6-4, 4-6 and 6-1.

Doubles

B. Steinemann-C. Steinemann dec. Wingo-Kanan, 6-2, 5-7 and 6-3
Shilling-Tschumy dec. Henrichsen-Nardecchia, 6-2 and 6-2.

Netters Bank No. 2

PORT CLINTON — Ross' tennis squad dented the victory column for the second time Wednesday with a 6-1 win over Port Clinton.

The Little Giants had four wins in singles matches and swept the doubles competition. It was the final dual meet for Ross before entering sectional competition at Toledo Laurel Hills Friday.

Singles winners for the Little Giants were Jeff Wingo, Larry Shilling, Ron Kanan and Jeff Tschumy. Wingo and Tschumy teamed up for one doubles win while shilling and Kanan took the other.

Wingo needed three sets to defeat Mark Dunham. He lost

the first, 6-4, before rebounding, 6-1 and 6-0. Shilling defeated Dick Kallenbach by scores of 6-1 and 6-0.

In the third court, Kanan lost the first set, 2-6, before winning 6-3 and 6-3. Tschumy bested Jim Stein by scores of 6-2 and 6-0.

The Wingo-Tschumy combination toppled Kallenbach and Underwood in three sets, 2-6, 6-3 and 6-4. Shilling and Kanan took Scott Glanzman and Jeff Luchsinger (6-0 and 6-0).

Rex Jamieson provided Port Clinton with its only point. He decisioned Steve Frost, 7-6 and 6-3.

Little Giant Netters Nab Third

BELLEVUE—Ross' improving tennis team squeezed past Bellevue, 4-3, Tuesday.

The Little Giants are now 3-8 on the season but have won three of their last four matches. Two of the wins came against Bellevue while the other victim was Port Clinton.

Three juniors—Jeff Wingo, Larry Shilling and Ron Kanan—earned points in singles competition for the Purple and White. Then Shilling and Kanan combined for the winning point with a doubles victory.

Wingo took a 7-5 and 6-4 verdict from Paul Sackett on the first court. At the second court, Shilling easily dropped Mark Krinke, 6-0 and 6-1. Kanan dumped Rick Hottel by set scores of 6-4 and 6-2 on the fourth court.

Fremont had a pair of singles losses. Jeff Tschumy was defeated (6-2, 6-0) by Mike Newkirk and Steve Schneider of the hosts whitewashed Steve Frost (6-0, 6-0).

Shilling and Kanan had an easy time in rolling to their doubles win which clinched the match. They took both sets from Tuttamore and Pete Ruffing by a 6-0 count.

In the first court doubles, Wingo and Tschumy were beaten. They lost by scores of 6-3 and 6-4 to Sackett and Newkirk.

The Little Giants close their season at Rodger Young Park Tuesday with a dual meet against Port Clinton. The first singles match will begin at 4 p.m.

The results:

Singles

Jeff Wingo (Ross) dec. Pete Sackett, 7-5, 6-4.

Larry Shilling (Ross) dec. Mark Krinke, 6-0, 6-1.

Mike Newkirk (Bellevue) dec. Jeff Tschumy, 6-2, 6-0.

Ron Kanan (Ross) dec. Rick Hottel, 6-4, 6-2.

Stan Schneider (Bellevue) dec. Steve Frost, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles

Sackett-Newkirk (Bellevue) dec. Wingo-Tschumy, 6-3, 6-4.

Shilling-Kanan (Ross) dec. Bill Tuttamore-Pete Ruffing, 6-0, 6-0.

Tennis
Special Awards

Captain — Larry Shilling.
Most Valuable — Larry Shilling.
Most Points — Ron Kanan.
Most Games — Jeff Wingo.
Most Improved — Steve Frost.

Letter Winners

Seniors — Steve Frost, Sherman Gibson, Scott Hilty and Jeff Mazzacco.
Juniors — Lowell Clark, Ron Kanan, Larry Shilling, Jeff Tschumy and Jeff Winto.
Sophomore — Dave Hurless.

Final Match

Ross Netters Nick Redskins

Ross concluded its tennis campaign by nicking Port Clinton, 4-3, on the Rodger Young Park courts Tuesday.

The win gave the Little Giants a 4-9 record for the spring. That represents two more victories than were recorded during the 1971 campaign.

"Overall, you would have to say I'm pleased with how everything has progressed," first-year coach Pete Michaels said. "The kids have shown a lot of improvement since our first match.

"We only lose three seniors from this year's team and there are a number of outstanding players in the freshman class. I would say things are definitely looking brighter for Ross High School tennis."

The Little Giants had three singles victors against the visiting Redskins and split in doubles. Jeff Wingo, Larry Shilling and Ron Kanan posted the singles points while Shilling and Kanan combined for the doubles victory.

Wingo needed three sets to dispose of Mark Dunhan. The Ross junior lost the first set, 7-5, but came back to win 7-5 and 6-3.

Kanan also needed three sets. He won the first, 6-3, but failed (7-6) in the second. In the rubber set, Kanan posted a 6-3 decision.

Shilling had a relatively easy time with Dick Kallenbach, winning 6-2 and 6-1.

Jeff Tschumy and Sherman Gibson lost their singles matches. Tracy Behrman bested Tschumy in three sets (4-6, 6-1 and 6-3) while Rex Jameson was defeating Gibson (4-6, 6-4 and 6-3).

Shilling and Kanan combined to decision Dunhan and Jameson in the second court doubles. The Little Giants won by set score of 6-3 and 6-2.

In the first doubles court, the Ross combo of Wingo and Steve Frost bowed to Kallenbach and Underwood in three sets. Wingo and Frost took the first set, 7-6, but failed 6-3 and 6-4 in the next two.

Singles

Jeff Wingo (R) dec. Mark Dunhan, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

Larry Shilling (R) dec. Dick Kallenbach, 6-2, 6-1.

Ron Kanan (R) dec. Steve Underwood, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Tracy Behrman (PC) dec. Jeff Tschumy, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Rex Jameson (PC) dec. Sherman Gibson, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles

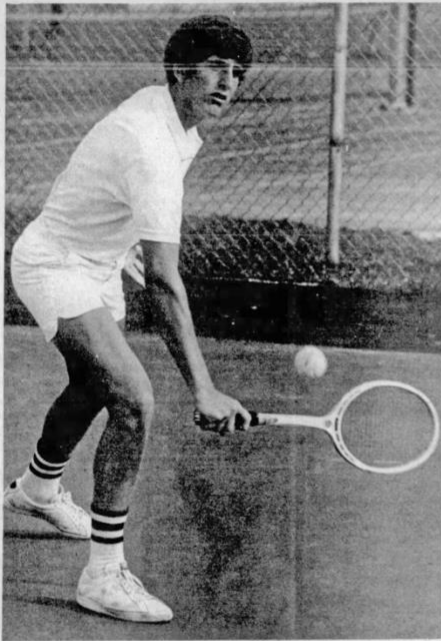
Kallenbach-Underwood dec. Wingo-Frost, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Shilling-Kanan dec. Dunhan-Jameson, 6-3, 6-2.

Raiders

KANSAS — Underclassmen grabbed off many of the points as Lakota rolled past Oak Harbor, 76-51, in the final dual meet of the spring for both schools Tuesday. Lakota had 10 individual first places and only two of those were earned by a senior. Dick

News-Messenger SPORTS



YOUNG TENNIS STAR JIM FLOWER SPENDS MANY HOURS PRACTICING

Barney & Tom's Cops Two

Peltier's Tops Gunners

Charlie Walker's fourth home run of the season boosted Peltier's to a 6-4 win over Gun Store in the 14-inch Slo-Pitch Softball League Monday.

In other league action, Barney and Tom's B1B Club grabbed a pair of victories, beating Knights of Columbus, 7-5, and Jaycees, 19-2.

Walker's homer came in the last of the seventh inning with the score tied at 4-4. Peltier's had knotted the count in the sixth

8. Frank Lenhart went three-for-three and Merle Wammes two-for-three for the Gunners. Pat Waggoner and Charlie Walker each had two hits for Peltier's.

A pair of home runs by Tom Bahione accounted for five runs in Barney and Tom's win over K of C. Mark 'Ollie' Mosser and winning pitcher Cork Rectenwald drove home the other markers.

Barney and Tom's broke a 3-3 tie in the third with a pair of

hits in the Jaycee win. Tim Willis and Rod Cletcher each had three hits while Mosser and Rick Barbour contributed two apiece.

Barney and Tom's built up a 17-0 lead before the Jaycees got on the scoreboard in the seventh inning. The winners, leading 6-0, put the game out of reach in the third with eight runs.

Gun Store 200 802 8-4 11 2
Peltier's 020 101 3-4 8 2
Barney & Tom's 020 101 3-4 8 2

Mark My Words Flower(ing) Tennis Star

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor

There's a Flower blooming on the junior tennis circuit. Fremont's Jim Flower, a 15-year-old who was too young to play high school tennis last spring, is making quite a name for himself in the midwestern United States.

The young net whiz, who has won the Fremont Jaycee Junior Tennis Tournament four straight years, is spending his summer vacation touring the Midwest and participating in some of the top tennis tournaments in the country for boys.

He has already played in the Toledo Junior Championships, the Northern Indiana Championships at South Bend, the Western Close Championships at Indianapolis, Ind., and Northern Ohio Championships at Lakeside.

This week, he's entered in the Western Open Juniors and Boys Tennis Championships at Springfield. Next week, he hopes to play in the United States Lawn and Tennis Association Junior Championships at Kalamazoo, Mich. He will also play in the Ohio Jaycee Tournament late next month.

"Playing in these tournaments should be a big help to me when I'm eligible to play high school tennis next spring," Flower says. "I've been playing against some of the top junior tennis players in the country this summer."

Flower qualified for the prestigious Western Close meeting by advancing to the semifinals of the Toledo tourney over the Memorial Day weekend.

At Indianapolis, he won three matches before losing to Pete Osler of Ann Arbor, Mich., by scores of 5-7, 6-2 and 4-6. But before losing, Flower had beaten players from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

At the Northern Indiana matches, Flower and Kevin Shaw of Sylvania won the doubles tournament for boys 16 and under. They defeated Don Kitchell of Chicago and Toledo's Eric Lakosky (7-5, 1-6, 6-1) in the finals. A total of 70 teams competed in the division.

Flower finished among the top eight in the singles competition. He beat Steve Carter (6-3, 6-3), who's ranked fourth in the Western states, before losing to top seeded Greg Hodgman (4-6, 1-6).

Yet, even though he has done so well in the out-of-state meets, it was probably the Northern Ohio championships at Lakeside last week that have provided Flower's biggest thrill.

He won the 16-and-under title with a 6-5, 6-3 win over Toledo's Jim Keichan in the finals. But the key victory came in the semifinals where Flower trimmed Phil Brondes, the Northwest District High School champion last spring by scores of 1-5 and 6-4.

"I just put everything together," Flower said. "I had a real good day. I've played him (Brondes) a number of times but that's the first time I ever beat him."

Flower just missed pulling out a double victory. He lost in the finals of the 18-and-under bracket to John Zell of Columbus by scores of 5-7 and 6-2.

Jim, who is the second ranked player in the Fremont Tennis Club (former Toledo University star Gary Driftmeyer is first), does not play just during the summer.

"I practice every chance I get," Flower says. "If I can find the time and a vacant wall, I'll practice during the winter. I enjoy and look forward to playing tennis. It's not really work for me because I enjoy it."

"My parents have been a big influence. They have encouraged me. That has been a big help. Now, I wouldn't quit for anything."

His parents also play tennis but Flower has relied on teaching professionals in Toledo for help with his game. One of the pros was Al Mills, who is currently serving as coach of the Wightman Cup team in England. Currently, Flower goes to Dave Boehk for assistance.

Flower, who also hopes to make the Ross junior varsity basketball squad next semester, has definite goals in mind for his tennis career.

"I hope to get to the state high school tennis tournament sometime and do well there," he says. "I would also like to get a scholarship after I graduate."



REACHING HIGH TO RETURN BALL ACROSS NET



JIM FLOWER and his father, Bill, discuss future tournament plans during a practice session break at Rodger Young Park courts recently. Jim has already participated in a

number of tournaments this summer including two in Indiana. (News-Messenger Photos by Bruce Crippen)

Sandusky County Teams Begin District Action

Sandusky County Slo-Pitch teams will begin play in the Fifth District Open and Class A tournaments at Elyria this weekend.

Action in the Class A tourney starts Saturday with 12 games on the agenda. Nine teams entered

meets Norwalk Nite Life in one of the 3:45 p.m. games Saturday while Sandusky County's third "A" representative, Paul's Barber Shop of Bellevue, collides with Clouses-Agrico at another park. The winners also meet at 7:30 p.m.

and Midway Oh-Boys collide while Dauch Concrete is playing First Federal Bank on another diamond.

The Sandusky County entrants, Woodville Merchants and National Bank of Oak Harbor are involved in the 6 p.m. tilt.