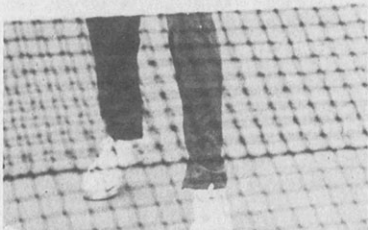
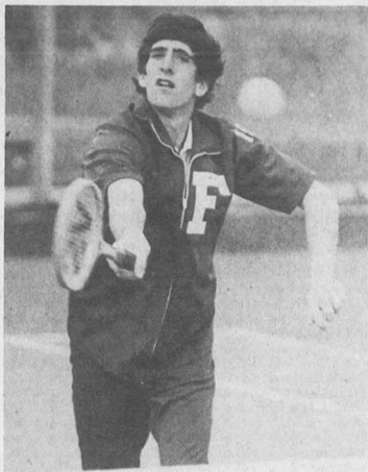


1973 Sectional Championship

Flower earns state berth



TOLEDO — Jim Flower clinched a berth in the Class AAA State Tennis Tournament next weekend in Columbus and will be the first tennis player from Ross High to make the trip in 18 years according to coach Pete Michaels.

Flower earned the spot by whipping Kevin Valentine of Ashland High School and Mark Padella of Toledo St. John's. The match against Valentine was an easy victory for Flower, taking the sets 6-3 and 6-2.

The match against Padella, however, was described by Michaels as a "very, very, very, very hard fought match. It was a service match.

"Both players broke each others serve in the first game but Jim held on. In the end it was Jim's return that won the match. Most of the points, though, came from his service."

Flower won the match 7-5, 7-6 taking the final game in the best of nine points tie breaker.

Flower's season record now stands at 22-1 said Michaels.

The sectional champ went after the district championship today against Eric Iskerski of Toledo St. John's.

Iskerski was seeded 14th in the nation last year in the 14 and under class. Padella plays number two behind Iskerski at St. John's.

Flower is assured of a state tournament berth since he can do no worse than second place and the first three individuals qualify.

In the doubles competition, Phil Brondes and Kevin Shaw of Sylvania won the district title. They defeated Jim Goldman and John Stechschulte of Lima Shawnee in the finals, 6-2, 6-4. Those two teams and third place Tom Fronczak and Doug Warga of Mansfield Senior will compete at the state.

The fact that Fronczak and Warga made the state competition emphasized the unfortunate draw that Ross seniors Jeff Wingo and Larry Shilling had in the sectionals. They had to meet Brondes and Shaw in the early going last week and lost out. Wingo and Shilling won the Buckeye Conference Day doubles title by beating Fronczak and Warga in the finals two weeks ago.

In the Class A-AA district tournament, Ottawa Hills was in complete control. In the singles finals, Tom durfee defeated John Bailey in three sets, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4. They are teammates at Ottawa Hills and both qualified for the state.

In the doubles, Jim Ketcham and Mike Riedmayer of Ottawa Hills downed Dave Miller and Steve Baggett of Bucyrus, 7-6, 6-3. Both teams advance to the state.

All matches were played at the University of Toledo.