

# Little Giants

## FREMONT ROSS LITTLE GIANTS

Fourth place in the Great Lakes League was fine and dandy with the Little Giants last year; inexperience was the main obstacle. This spring, expect Ross to be in the league hunt. Five returning letter-winners as well as a couple of new talents give head coach Rick LaFountain reason to predict much success.

Senior co-captains Bill Flower and Andrew Humberger should make an impact in the league's doubles scene, while Ian Steinert and Jay Farrell have had a full year's worth of experience.

"I've never had a group of guys that worked as hard as this group. They seem to be very focused on making themselves better," LaFountain said.

**Coach:** Rick LaFountain (2nd year)

**Last year:** 7-7 duals, 4-3 Great Lakes League (4th).

**Key losses:** Neil Sachs (1st doubles), Rob Hammer (2nd doubles).

**Key returning players:** Seniors Bill Flower (district qualifier), Andrew Humberger; juniors, Ryan Newman; sophomores, Jay Farrell, Ian Steinert.

**Key dates:** Non-league matches vs. Ashland, Huron, Lexington, and Ottawa Hills.

**Strengths:** Singles players Flower and Humberger, with Flower penciled in at No. 1. "(Flower) is a hard worker and the kind of kid you'd love to have as a son," LaFountain said. "I'm sure his dad's real proud of him. He'll be No. 1, I'm sure, but the rest of the way is up in the air." Farrell and Steinert will solidify the doubles teams, though LaFountain plans on keeping the two on separate teams.

**Weaknesses:** The doubles combinations are yet unknown.

**Outlook:** LaFountain expects two new faces (senior John Overberg and freshman Pete Scranton) to make an impact this year, giving the second-year coach admirable depth. Farrell has already impressed early in the preseason. "No matter who we have playing first with Jay we'll have an outstanding first doubles team," LaFountain said. The Little Giants also welcome new assistant coach and Ross alumnus Alecks Ripple. "I think the kids respect him as an adult and as a coach. I think he'll do a great job for us," LaFountain said.



News-Messenger file/Andrew Morrison  
**BILL FLOWER** of Fremont Ross is seeking a return trip to the district tournament.

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### **Ross sweeps Clyde**

Fremont Ross did not drop a set in beating Clyde 5-0 Monday afternoon.

The Little Giants lost just five games in three singles matches, getting wins from Bill Flower, Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman. In doubles, the teams of Jay Farrell and Andrew Humberger and Ian Steinert and John Overberg were successful.

Ross is at Clay today, while Clyde hosts Fremont St. Joe Wednesday.

*News-Messenger reports*

# Truckers are first to roll over Ross

News-Messenger reports

Despite three-set victories from Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman, the Fremont Ross boys tennis team suffered its first loss of the season, 3-2, to Norwalk Friday at Rodger Young Park.

It was the Truckers' domi-

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nance at doubles that kept them undefeated at 3-0. Jeff Lauderman and Brian Lonsway teamed up to defeat Little Giants Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell, 6-2, 6-4, and Jacob Smith and Alan Furey shut out Ross's Ian Steinart and John Overberg, 6-0, 6-0.

At first singles, Norwalk's Keith Brady withstood Bill Flower's second-set charge for a 6-2, 7-5 win.

Scranton defeated Nathan Polek, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, and Newman got the better of Scott Woilsey, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

"They were good matches," said Ross coach Rick Lafountain. "They each went three and our players outlasted them each time. Both made a lot of mistakes, but I thought Pete and Ryan played pretty well, especially in the third sets."

## Humberger at top form in Little Giants' tennis victory

PERRYSBURG — Fremont Ross won three three-set matches Monday in a 4-1 win against Perrysburg, reversing the score from a match against the same opponent a year ago.

One three-setter came at No. 1 doubles, where the team of **Andrew Humberger** and **Jay Farrell** defeated **Pete Roe** and **Matt Coprigan**, 4-6, 7-5, 6-0.

"Andrew Humberger played awesome, maybe the best he has played ever," Ross coach **Rick LaFountain** said. "He was solid serving, great from the baseline, great from the net. That's the old Andrew."

Also impressive was freshman **Pete Scranton**, who trailed **Matt Bierlein** 7-5, 5-2 before winning 11 straight games to win at No. 2 singles.

Ross hosts Bedford today in a Great Lakes League match.

### **Ross 4, Bedford 1**

Fremont Ross won its second Great Lakes League match in as many tries, beating Bedford 4-1 at Rodger Young Park.

Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman, the Little Giants No. 2 and 3 players, respectively, each recorded 6-0, 6-1 wins. Also winning for Ross were the doubles teams of Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell and Ian Steinert and John Overberg.

Ross's top singles player, Bill Flower, was beaten 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 by Fredrik Nessett, an exchange student from Norway.

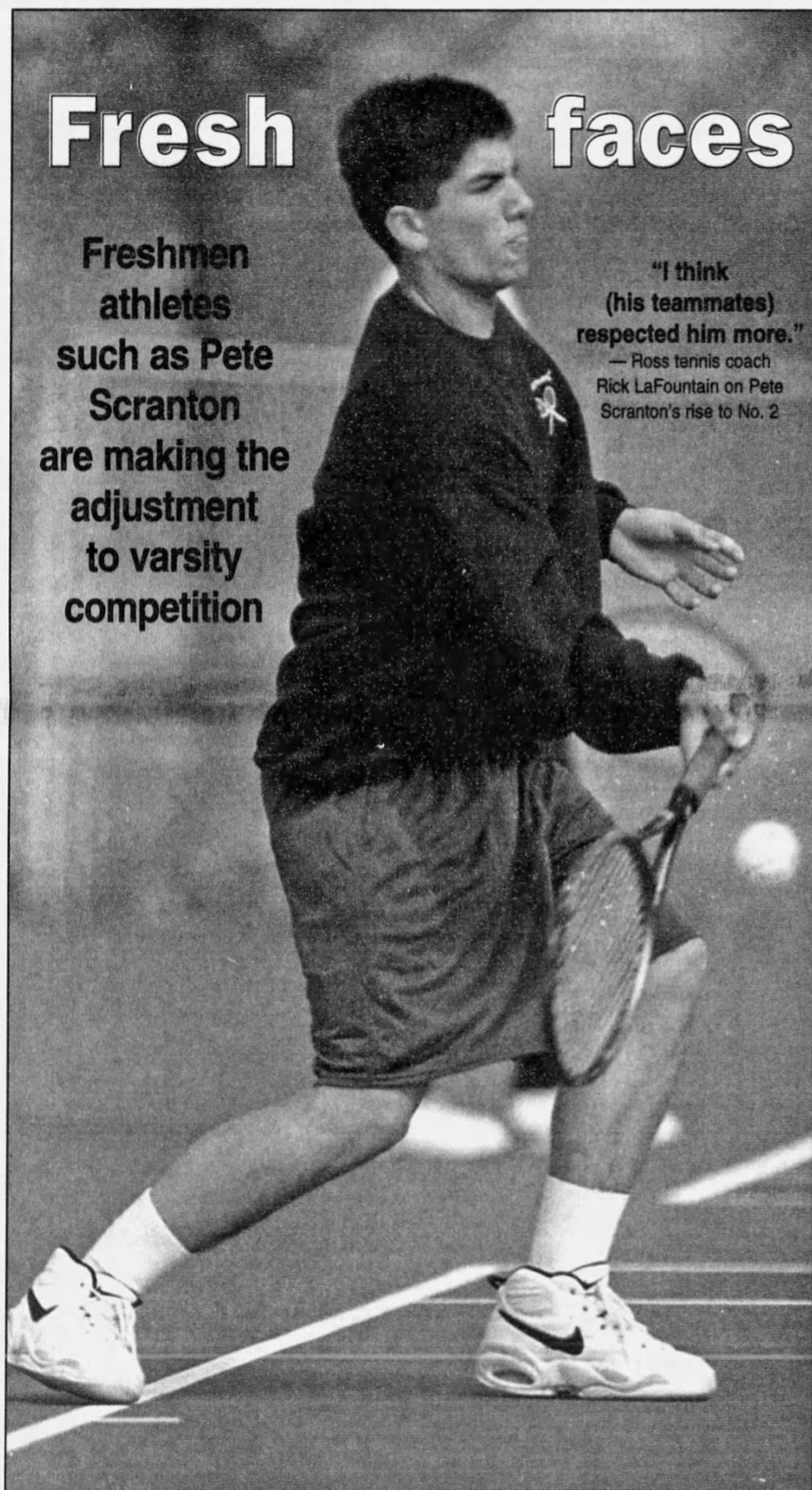
Ross (5-1, 2-0 GLL) hosts Ashland Thursday and plays at the Sandusky Invitational Saturday.

# Fresh faces

**Freshmen athletes such as Pete Scranton are making the adjustment to varsity competition**

**"I think (his teammates) respected him more."**

— Ross tennis coach Rick LaFountain on Pete Scranton's rise to No. 2



**FREMONT ROSS** freshman tennis player Pete Scranton returns a shot during a match Friday against Norwalk at Rodger Young Park. Scranton is the No. 2 singles player for Ross behind senior Bill Flower.

By **BRIAN SPIESS**  
Sports editor

**F**remont Ross freshman Pete Scranton defied his coach's first instruction.

Told he was projected as the Little Giants' No. 5 tennis player, Scranton challenged — and defeated — three older teammates to earn the No. 2 singles spot.

It was more than just the resilience of youth.

In six matches, Scranton has defeated each of his opponents.

"I started him out at No. 5, and he worked his way up," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said, grinning at the prospect of coaching Scranton for four years. "Doing it that way, he earned his way up. I think (his teammates) respected him more."

"They accept someone who is better than them."

It's a balancing act being struck on more than one sports team this spring, as coaches try to integrate young talent with veteran experience. It could be a recipe for jealousy, but coaches report much more positive potential than problems.

"I don't have a lot of rules. But I do not allow any initiations, no picking on (freshman)," said Old Fort coach Phil Miller, who starts freshman Aaron Burks at second base. "The seniors may get on the younger guys when they are cleaning up (making the freshmen do more work). ... But the better he does, the more he's accepted."

Other standouts from the Class of 2000 include softball players Erin Raubenolt of Fremont St. Joe, Tiffany Nitschke of Ross, Jenny Siegley and Heather Webb of Old Fort, and track team members Breanna Busold of St. Joe and Amanda Roadarmel of Woodmore.

And Scranton is not alone on his tennis team.

LaFountain, a history teacher at Fremont Junior High School, has been selling the idea of "tennis for a lifetime" to many of his students to build up the team. He believes freshmen Austin Miller, Mike Moxley and Buck Young will compete for varsity roster spots by the end of the season.

"Pete does inspire me because he's doing so well," Young said. "I want to do the best I can to help the team out."

Being young is not always a plus. Scranton acknowledges he lacks experience, and had to adjust to playing early season

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

See **FRESHMEN**, B2



# Freshmen step in

**Continued from B1**

matches in cool April weather.

The best young Giant on the diamonds has been Nitschke, who began playing third base while regular Erin Tuckerman was away at YMCA camp.

"We weren't planning on throwing Tiffany right in at third, but we had league games coming up so it was best we got her some playing time," said Ross coach Cheryl Schell, whose team is 6-1. "She's doing a nice job. She's nervous, and it's not the way we want to bring a freshman along, but she's going to have to become a veteran by fire."

Last season, Schell played freshman Jodi Fick, and three years prior to that Dawn Zerman was a first-year standout.

Old Fort's baseball team and St. Joe's softball team hope their youth will translate into wins in the future.

"The luxury is that (young players) keep getting better," said Miller, whose Old Fort baseball team is 1-5 despite the speed and hitting Burks has added to the lineup.

"I don't think anybody would question his right to be there," Miller said.

Raubenolt is the starting shortstop for the 0-7 Crimson Streaks. Pitcher Jenny Bork is another freshman playing on varsity.

"I like it," St. Joe coach Sandy Adelsperger said. "I can move them anywhere and see where they may go next year or the next year."

In Scranton's case, next year likely means a move to No. 1 to replace graduating senior Bill Flower.

"Now I want to go as far as I can in singles," Scranton said.

# Ross drops tennis match

News-Messenger reports

HURON — Huron took both doubles matches from Fremont Ross to seal a 3-2 non-league victory Friday.

The Tigers (4-1) also got a No. 1 singles win from 1996 state qualifier Matt Wooster, who beat Bill Flower 6-2, 6-1.

Huron moved Nate Faust and Seth DeRose, who typically play No. 2 and 3 singles, to No. 1 doubles, where they overpowered Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Ross's Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman won easily in singles. The Little Giants (5-2) play in the Sandusky Invitational today.

In other action:

## **Bowling Green 5, Clyde 0**

CLYDE — Two Clyde players played their first varsity matches in a 5-0 loss to Bowling Green.

Fernando Gutierrez, a transfer student from Paraguay, lost to Andrew Ryland at third singles by a 6-2, 6-1 score. Willy Miller, also in his inaugural match, teamed with Jeremy Weiker in a 6-3, 6-2 loss to Bowling Green's Kevin Brechmacher and Neil Rupp.

Clyde is now 1-3, while Bowling Green improved to 6-2.

## **Ottawa Hills 3, Oak Harbor 2**

OAK HARBOR — Two new Rockets doubles teams beat their Ottawa Hills opponents Friday, but the Green Bears survived a three-set win at No. 2 singles to edge Oak Harbor in a non-league match.

Ottawa Hills' David Schiple defeated Jeff Helmke 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 in the closest match of the day.

"Second and third singles both had some chances to win," Oak Harbor coach Dan Yoder said.



# Newman completes Ross's tennis title

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Three gulps of fresh air Saturday sparked a comeback win for Ryan Newman and helped Fremont Ross win the Sandusky Invitational tennis tournament.

Newman, who plays No. 3 singles for the Little Giants, trailed Norwalk's Scott Woolsey 5-2 in the third set of the championship match after the players split the first two sets. Players play a tournament for three flights of singles and two flights of doubles.

"(Newman) had lost two straight games in the third set to go down 5-2, and I told him to take three deep breaths to settle down," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

Newman responded, winning five consecutive games to take the No. 3 singles title, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

The win sealed a 120-110 Ross win over second place Norwalk in the seven-team

event.

Ross also got a championship win over Norwalk at No. 1 singles, where Bill Flower defeated Keith Brady, 7-5, 6-2. It avenged a critical loss to Brady earlier in the season in a 3-2 dual-meet win for the Truckers.

Pete Scranton added to Ross's championship total at No. 2 singles, where he beat Mark Kuhnle of Vermilion, 6-1, 6-0.

The Little Giants return to action today against Findlay at Rodger Young Park.

Clyde finished fourth at the invitational, getting four third-place finishes.

Jason Suter won the consolation final at No. 1 singles, Matt Bailey was the consolation winner at No. 2 singles, the No. 1 doubles team of Fernando Gutierrez and Dustin Payne were third-place finishers. The No. 2 doubles team of Don Klein and Mike Dziak took third as well.

# Ross player toughs out three-set win

## Newman caps victory against rival Findlay

By **MICHAEL BOSI**  
Staff writer

The way Fremont Ross's Ryan Newman looked after his tennis match Monday, it would have been no surprise if the World Wrestling Federation came calling to make him its next poster boy.

Tired. Bruised. Scraped.

Bloodied.

He wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'm an aggressive player and I like to get every ball I can, and I'm willing to take a spill for it," Newman said after he capped the Little Giants' 4-1 victory with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Findlay's Andy Hardy.

Three-set marathons have become standard fare for Newman, who won the Sandusky Invitational's third singles class Saturday after beating Norwalk's Scott Woolsey, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

"I'm still beat from Saturday,"

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Newman admitted.

It's not often you hear a coach label an opponent "gummy" and "gritty" — it's still another four months until football season, folks — but those were the *bon mots* Findlay coach Rick Elbin was tossing in the Little Giants' direction his team lost its first Great Lakes League match.

The Trojans had not lost a single match in its first two GLL victories.

"Well, we haven't played one

as good as Fremont Ross either," Elbin said. "They're pretty solid and they're good and they'll be a good challenge for us when we get to the league match."

Findlay (3-2, 2-1 GLL) had a shot at winning its third league match after Mike Omier, playing his first match of the season, took down Ross's Bill Flower at No. 1 singles.

Omier, who had missed the team's first four matches for disciplinary reasons, threw Flower off his game and rallied for a 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory to cut Ross's edge to 2-1.

"That's a good player (Flower) was playing," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "The kid beat Bill last year twice, and I think Bill could have (won) if he would have kept playing at the same level as the first set. It seems like Bill came down a notch and Omier came up a couple of notches."

After Ross nearly won by forfeit, with Findlay arriving almost 15 minutes after the 4:30 p.m. scheduled start, Little Giants freshman Pete Scranton (11-0)

See **LITTLE GIANTS, B2**

# Little Giants doubles make quick work

Continued from **B1**

needed under an hour to crush junior Nick Jacobson, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 2 singles.

At second doubles, senior John Overberg and Ian Steinert rolled over Mike Lai and Matt Romick, 6-1, 6-0.

Ross (6-2, 3-0 GLL) clinched its sixth victory when seniors Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell rebounded after dropping the second set to Daisuke Yanagisawa and Zach Schwartz, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

"We let the second set get away from us, but we pretty much controlled the match," LaFountain said. "We got up 4-1 and lost the second set and put it back together to win the match."

Newman's was the most entertaining match. The Ross junior was forced to toggle between aggressive and patient modes, as many of Hardy's shots nearly brought rain from the skies.

But three-set matches serve only to fire up Newman. "Especially when I know I shouldn't be

in the third set," he said after improving to 11-0.

"(Newman) just never quits," Elbin said. "That's a trademark of a Ross team. They're just gutsy, gritty performers."

Guts? Grit? Throw in Newman's blood, and tennis may not be such a gentlemanly sport after all.

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### Clyde 5, Oak Harbor 0

CLYDE — Three of the matches went three sets, but the Rockets could not manage a point in the Sandusky Bay Conference match.

"(Clyde) looked good. But they weren't 5-0 better than us," Oak Harbor coach Dan Yoder said. "We let some definite sets get away that we should have won."

At No. 2 singles, Clyde's Mike Getty beat Andy Loth, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Mike Dziak defeated Rob Hiss, 6-0, 1-6, 6-1 at No. 3 singles. The last three-set match came at No. 1 doubles, where Nick Nieset and Jason Suter beat Kevin Peters and Craig Mincer, 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

"I was happy with it. We've struggled early with people mov-

ing up so far," Clyde coach John Cahill said. "We're playing some good tennis."

Matt Bailey beat Brian Bomer, 6-1, 6-3, at No. 1 singles, and the No. 2 doubles team of Dan Klein and Jeremiah Wagner defeated Jeff Helmke and Gary Skeel, 6-3, 6-0.

The Fliers improved to 2-3, 1-1 SBC, and Oak Harbor dropped to 2-5, 0-3 SBC.

### Perkins 3, St. Joe 2

After nearly two weeks away from the court, the rust was evident for St. Joseph Central Catholic as it dropped its first match of the season at East Side Park.

Andy Stotz and Jose Ramirez continued their unbeaten seasons at first and second singles, respectively, but Shana Young lost her first match at No. 3.

Young fell to Bobby Morey, 7-5, 6-7 (7-3), 6-4.

"It was a good night. Some of the matches could have gone either way but they got them," St. Joe coach Brian Miller said.

Both St. Joe doubles teams had second-set rallies that fell short.

# Ross shuts out Fostoria after lineup juggling

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA — For the second time in a week, an opponent stacked its top singles players against the Fremont Ross tennis team's doubles.

This time, the ploy failed.

The Little Giants made quick work of Fostoria, 5-0, Tuesday as Bill Flower, Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman all completed their singles victories in under 45 minutes before Ross swept the doubles matches.

"They tried to compete at doubles with us," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain, whose team lost when Huron reshaped its lineup last Friday.

All three singles victories were by straight-set 6-0, 6-0 scores. Ryan Newman lost only four total points in beating Alex Thies at No. 3 singles.

"It's a compliment to our singles players that no one wants to play them," LaFountain said.

Fostoria's No. 1 and 2 singles players, Ryan Fox and Ryan Gilliland were paired against Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell. The Ross duo prevailed, 6-1, 6-2.

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"Our first doubles team struggled at first, but they didn't give up when they lost the first set," Oak Harbor coach Dan Yoder said after his team improved to 3-5.

Rob Hiss and Mark Lajti teamed to win at second doubles, taking a 6-4, 6-3 decision over Jason Muffinger and Matt Cruz.

Edison's lone win came at first singles, where Ivan Wesley blanked Brian Bomer, 6-0, 6-0.

Loth beat Josh Schwanger at No. 2 singles, 6-4, 6-2, and Helmke was a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Jeff Schlessman.

Edison fell to 1-6.

In other action Tuesday:

### **Clyde 5, St. Mary's 0**

CLYDE — The Fliers surrendered only seven total games as they breezed past St. Mary's in an SBC match.

Matt Bailey took down Adam Feick at first singles, 6-3, 6-0; Mike Getty beat Chip Keller at No. 2 singles, 6-0.

# Ross pushes GLL streak to five

News-Messenger reports

Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman remained unbeaten in 10 dual meets as Fremont Ross swept Napoleon, 5-0.

The Little Giants (8-2) play at Whitmer Tuesday in their final Great Lakes League regular season match. A sixth win without a loss would clinch the first title since 1993 and would provide momentum for the GLL tournament.

Scranton and Newman proved Thursday they will not need many tuneups.

Scranton did not lose a game at No. 2 singles, beating Napoleon's Fred Rocha 6-0, 6-0. Newman defeated Scott Austermiller 6-4, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.

Bill Flower won at No. 1 with a

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6-2, 6-1 beating of Brian Wentzel.

Two Ross doubles teams each lost just four games. Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell defeated Curt Musshel and Mark Sickmiller, 6-3, 6-1, and Ian Steinert and John Overberg topped Billy Burke and Matt Smith, 6-2, 6-2.

Napoleon dropped to 7-7 (3-2 GLL).

In other action:

**Maumee Valley CD 5, St. Joe 0**

TOLEDO — Andy Stotz and Jose Ramirez suffered their first losses of the season, and the Crimson Streaks (5-2) were shut out for the first time, falling to Maumee Valley Country Day in

the first round of the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association Tournament.

"Maumee Valley was good. They were solid the whole way through," said St. Joe coach Brian Miller.

Roopak Chakrzvarty sent Stotz to a 6-0, 6-1 loss, and Ramirez fell to Jon Hui, 6-1, 6-1. At third singles, Shana Young lost to Minir Torsekour, 6-0, 6-1.

Phil Nieset and Casey O'Brien stretched their first doubles match to three sets before they lost to Kamram Ahmed and Shanewit Nopkhun, 2-6, 7-6 (10-8), 6-1.

MVCD's Alex Hodak and Michael Gerber dumped Pete LeJeune and John Yeager, 6-1, 6-2, at No. 2 doubles.

# Overberg, Steinert win title

News-Messenger reports

John Overberg and Ian Steinert prevailed in fourth doubles of the eight-team Fremont Doubles Tennis Tournament Saturday, denying Maumee Valley Country Day a championship title at Rodger Young Park.

The Mohawks tied

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Maumee for first place with 80 overall points. Those two teams split their head-to-head matches, but Maumee lost one fewer set, three, than Maumee Valley Country Day.

Overberg and Steinert downed MVCD's Carwin Carr and Kamran Ahmed, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, in the semifinals before outlasting Bryan Reaume and Austin Drzymiernki of Maumee, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1 for the championship.

"They did a very good job," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "They played great tennis and I'm very proud of those kids."

In first doubles, the Little Giants' Bill Flower and Pete Scranton finished in fifth place after getting knocked into the losers' bracket after the first round. Flower and Scranton defeated Clyde's Matt Bailey and Mike Getty, 8-1 in a pro set.

At second doubles, Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell, normally Ross's top doubles duo, also claimed fifth place, beating Clyde's Jason Suter and Nick Nieset, 8-4.

"We had a tough draw in first and second doubles. With a different draw it could have been different," said LaFountain, whose team finished fourth overall with 61 points.

Ross claimed third place at third doubles, where Ryan Newman and Mike Moxley teamed to defeat Maumee's Tom Dussel and Nate Rambo, 8-3.

Bowling Green was third with 65 points.

Port Clinton's Josh Smith and Ryan Greer finished second at No. 2 doubles, falling to Maumee's Jeff Barber and Nate Konrad in the championship match, 6-3, 6-0.



## Ross nearly perfect in tennis victory

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross lost just two games in five matches against Sandusky in a 5-0 sweep.

"Our guys took no prisoners (Monday)," Ross coach **Rick LaFountain** said.

**Bill Flower, Pete Scranton** and **Ryan Newman** all won their singles matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins, as did the No. 2 doubles team of **Ian Steinert** and **John Overberg**.

At. No. 1 doubles, **Andrew Humberger** and **Jay Farrell** defeated **Curt Romp** and **Joe Wittmer**, 6-0, 6-2.

Sandusky dropped to 0-10 with the non-league loss.

Ross (9-2) plays a Great Lakes League match at Toledo Whitmer today.



# Ross wins GLL championship

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — Fremont Ross won three individual tournament titles on its way to claiming the Great Lakes League tennis championship.

The Little Giants, who did not lose a dual meet against a GLL

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opponent this year, won the No. 2 and 3 flights of singles and the No. 2 doubles title. Ross finished second in No. 1 doubles and third in No. 1 singles.

The Little Giants ended the event with 30 points, three more than second-place Findlay. Combined with regular season results, Ross outdistanced Findlay 42-37 for the overall title.

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**See LITTLE GIANTS, B3**

# Little Giants win GLL championship

Continued from B1

Freshman Pete Scranton lost the fewest games in route to the title, defeating Whitmer's Todd O'Neill, 6-1, 6-3, and Findlay's Nick Jacobson, 6-4, 6-1, after receiving a bye in the No. 2 flight. Ryan Newman also received a bye at No. 3, and defeated Whitmer's Adam Diebert, 6-2, 6-2, and Findlay's Andy Hardy, 7-5, 6-3.

The Little Giants' final championship came from the No. 2 doubles team of Ian Steinert and John Overberg, who defeated Carl Prenzlin and Matt Milliland of Fostoria, 6-1, 6-1, and Matt Resnick and Daisuka Yanagigawa of Findlay, 7-5, 2-6, 6-0.

"They really got it going," Ross coach said of his No. 2 team, which clinched the tournament win. "They realized they could go out there and have some fun and they started smiling and having a good time."

At No. 1 doubles, Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell

reached the championship before being beaten 6-7 (13-11), 6-4, 7-5 by Findlay's Zack Schwartz and Brett Miller.

Bill Flower, playing No. 1 singles, split his first two matches before winning the consolation match.

Ross plays Tiffin Calvert today.

In other action:

## Clyde 3, Sandusky 2

SANDUSKY — Sophomore Dustin Payne and freshman Drew Turner teamed for a 6-2, 6-2 win at No. 1 doubles as Clyde defeated Sandusky in a non-league match.

The Fliers (8-6) also got wins from Jason Suter, 6-2, 6-2 over Drew Turner at No. 1 singles, and Fernando Gutierrez, 6-0, 6-0 against Jeff Johnson at No. 2.

Payne and Wott defeated Curt Romp and Ben Metterd.

"Dustin Payne and Dan Wott did a nice job," Clyde coach John Cahill said. "They have a bright future."

Sandusky dropped to 0-13.

Clyde returns to Sandusky Bay Conference play today at Sandusky St. Mary's.

## Ottawa Hills 3, St. Joe 2

Mike Zimmer and Kevin Wagner of the Crimson Streaks outlasted Brett Frankel and Bryan Wilson in a three-set match, but St. Joe still fell to Ottawa Hills at East Side Park.

Shana Young had St. Joe's other victory, beating Nick Barrie, 6-2, 6-0, at third singles.

John Monoky and Brad Riggs had singles wins for Ottawa Hills, while David Shiple and Niko Ormond won at first doubles.

St. Joe fell to 7-3.

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# Little Giants score win against Panthers

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross swept Toledo Whitmer, 5-0, in a Great Lakes League match Tuesday.

As the Little Giants (10-2) kept their perfect GLL intact at 6-0, their singles players inflicted their usual punishment.

Bill Flower downed Jay Wiseman at first singles, 6-2, 6-2; Pete Scranton beat Todd O'Neill on Court 2, 6-1, 6-0; and third singles player Ryan Newman blanked Adam Deibert, 6-0, 6-0.

Ross struggled before winning the doubles matches.

Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell went three sets with Justin Frisco and Derek Downing before winning 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and John Overberg and Ian Steinert fended off Jordan Roskar and Shawn Fitzgerald, 6-2, 7-5.

"We made a lot of unforced errors and we kept them in it

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longer than they should have been in it," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said.

Elsewhere:

### St. Mary's 3, Oak Harbor 2

OAK HARBOR — Oak Harbor got production out of something old and something new, but still fell to St. Mary's Central Catholic in matchup of struggling Sandusky Bay Conference squads.

Rockets coach Dan Yoder put his top doubles players, Rob Hiss and Andy Loth back, together, and they responded with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Ryan Riesterer and Jason Didion.

Oak Harbor's Gary Skeel and Mark Lajti, playing together for the first time, won at second doubles. They surmounted a 1-2 deficit in the first set for a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

"We just figured (Hiss and Loth) was our best doubles team and we figured they're probably going to play in the league together," Yoder said. "We wanted to get them some more matches together and they played well together."

"The No. 2 doubles team played well also."

The Panthers (2-8, 1-5 SBC) swept the singles matches, as Adam Fieck survived a three-set marathon against Jeff Helmke, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Chip Keller and Peter Holecsek turned in the other St. Mary's wins.

"This is one we thought we should have won, and I think our singles players really let us down," Yoder said. "Jeff Helmke did a nice job and played a nice match against a kid that was pretty good. Second and third singles, we should have and could have won."

### Clyde 4, Edison 1

CLYDE — Clyde's Nick Nieset and Jason Suter continued their assault on opposing SBC doubles teams, beating Matt Thayer and Matt Crase of Edison, 6-1, 6-1, in the Fliers' home victory.

Nieset and Suter are 6-0 in the league.

"But they've got a tough one (today) against Port Clinton and against Huron (Thursday)."

The Fliers swept the doubles, as Dustin Payne and Fernando Gutierrez downed Jason Ruffing and Eric Lang, 7-5, 6-2.

Clyde won at second and third singles, as Mike Getty outlasted Josh Schwanger, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2, on Court 2 and Mike Dziak beat Jeff Schlessman, 7-5, 6-1.

"The matches were really close," Clyde coach John Cahill said. "I think they've got some young kids playing and our experience helped out a little bit."

# Moxley, Steinert team for doubles victory; Fliers gain momentum

News-Messenger reports

TIFFIN — Freshman Mike Moxley got his first chance to crack the Fremont Ross tennis lineup and responded by teaming with Ian Steinert for a three-set doubles victory in the Little Giants' 5-0 non-league win over Calvert Wednesday.

Moxley was inserted into the lineup because Steinert's regular partner, John Overberg, was sick.

After losing the first set of their No. 2 doubles match, Moxley and Steinert beat Mark Kimmet and Mark Kromer, 6-7 (13-11), 6-1, 6-1.

"In the first set they weren't on the same wavelength, but in the second and third sets they played well together," Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "I think it was just communication, and I think Ian is used to playing with Overberg, who's a lefthander. It's just a little bit. Instead of being strong up the middle, (Moxley and Steinert) are a little stronger on the outside."

Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell won their first doubles match against Matt Kerschner and Brian Frank, 6-4, 6-2, and Ross swept the singles matches, as well, with Bill Flower, Pete Scranton and Ryan Newman each emerging victorious.

Ross improved to 12-2, while Calvert dropped to 5-7.

"In the first set they weren't on the same wavelength, but in the second and third sets they played well together."

— Ross coach Rick LaFountain

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rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the second set to beat Edison's Jeff Schlessman, giving Oak Harbor a 3-2 Sandusky Bay Conference win.

Helmke, playing third singles, defeated Schlessman 6-0 in the first set, but lost four of the first

five games in the second. He then won five straight to complete the decisive win, 6-0, 6-4.

"He did a nice job of battling back," Oak Harbor coach Dan Yoder said.

Oak Harbor's other two wins came from the doubles teams of Andy Loth and Rob Hiss and Gary Skeel and Mark Lajti.

The Rockets play at league-leading Huron today.

### Clyde 5, St. Mary's 0

SANDUSKY — The Fliers geared up for the weekend's SBC tournament with a shutout over St. Mary's.

Matt Bailey, Mike Getty and Dustin Payne swept their singles matches as Clyde improved to 8-6.

Nick Nieset and Jason Suter won at first doubles and Jeremiah Weiker and Mike Dziak won their No. 2 doubles match.

"Overall, it was a pretty good team effort," said Fliers coach John Cahill.

# Giants fall short against Ashland

News-Messenger reports

Playing without its top two players proved too much of an obstacle for the Fremont Ross tennis team to overcome, as it lost 3-2 to Ashland.

Ross's No. 1 player, Bill Flower, was sick, and No. 2 Pete Scranton was on his way back from Texas, where he watched his sister graduate from Texas Lutheran College.

The Little Giants (13-3) won both doubles matches but were swept in singles.

"We're 4-1 better than that team," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "It's too bad it turned out like that."

LaFountain moved Ryan New-

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man up to spots to No. 1 singles, and the doubles team of Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell was split to fill the other singles vacancies.

John Overberg and Ian Steinert, moved from No. 2 doubles to No. 1, responded with a 6-1, 7-5 win against Ashland's Justin Crooks and T.J. Harper. Ross's Mike Moxley and Austin Miller defeated Ben Grigg and Mike Ihrig, 6-4, 6-1, at No. 2 doubles.

The Little Giants play today at Ottawa Hills, where they expect to have Scranton back. LaFountain is unsure about Flower's health.

In other action:

**Maumee Valley Country Day 4,  
St. Joe 1**

Phil Nieset and Mike Zimmer teamed for Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic's only win of a 4-1 loss to Maumee Valley Country Day.

Chris Burkett, playing No. 3 singles, came closest to another Crimson Streaks win, losing 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) to Carmaren Ahmed.

"Chris played well and almost won," St. Joe coach Brian Miller said. "Maumee is really good."

Andy Stotz and Shana Young, who will be the No. 3 seed at Friday's sectional tournament, lost 6-1, 6-2 to Roopak Chakravarty and Jon Hui.

# Ross loses 2 straight

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — For the last two days, the Fremont Ross tennis team has felt like the Chicago Bulls. It's not a very good feeling.

In a loss to Ashland Monday and at Ottawa Hills Tuesday, the Little Giants were missing No. 1 singles player, Bill Flower, who has been ill.

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The results were identical 3-2 losses.

"That made the difference for the second night in a row," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said. "If we had all our personnel there we could have won. It's disappointing for the kids."

With their first two-match losing streak of the season, the Little Giants dropped to 13-4. Ottawa Hills is 12-4.

"Trying to win without Flower is like the Bulls winning without (Michael) Jordan," said Ross coach Rick LaFountain. "You can beat the lower teams, but you can't beat teams that are the caliber of Ottawa Hills and Ashland."

LaFountain said he is optimistic that Flower will return in time for Friday's sectional tournament matches.



# Little Giants drop third straight match

News-Messenger reports

ELIDA — The Fremont Ross tennis team finished the regular season on a three-game losing streak, dropping a 4-1 decision to Elida Thursday in the quarterfinals of the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association Tournament.

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Elida, which swept Thursday's singles matches from Ross, will face St. John's in the tournament semifinals.

"They're tough," Ross coach Rick LaFountain said of the 19-0 Bulldogs. "They're the toughest team we've played yet."

The second doubles pair of John Overberg and Ian Steinert gained Ross's only victory, beating Jeff Fisher and Ryan Garling in a tight match, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 7-5.

Ross (13-5) lost matches to Ashland and Ottawa Hills earlier this week, but, said LaFountain, Elida was "the first one that somebody flat out beat us."

At first singles, Tyson May downed Bill Flower, who returned after a two-match absence, 6-1, 6-4. Scott Dredge beat Pete Scranton, 6-4, 6-3, at second singles, and Chris Schwinnen completed the singles sweep with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ryan Newman.

John Osmon and Brandon Williams defeated Andrew Humberger and Jay Farrell at first doubles, 6-4, 6-1.