

1999 Great Lakes League

Watkins repeats as GLL champ

Little Giants finish third in league

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Ainsley Watkins of Fremont Ross repeated as Great Lakes League tennis champion on Saturday, sweeping a pair of matches at the league tournament at Sandusky High School.

The Little Giants took third overall with 20 points. Defending champion Findlay won the event with 29 points, edging out Bedford, which had 27.

Watkins received a first round bye, then beat Maggie Prout of Sandusky 6-3, 6-4 and Miriam Stehling of Findlay 6-1, 6-4.

"We talked on the way over, and her goal was to win it a second year in a row," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "She was in control the whole time."

The other Ross singles players finished in the top three. At No. 3, Erica Wolfe was second, beating Fostoria's Courtney Smith 6-4, 6-3 and Bedford's Deanna Ringle 6-2, 6-2 before losing to Findlay's Andrea Ernst 6-2, 6-1 in the final.

"She was a trooper, she nev-



WATKINS

Tennis

er gave up," Wolfe said.

At No. 2, Gina Melchiori beat Fostoria's Katie Schlesselman 6-2, 6-3, lost to Findlay's Katie Gartner 6-0, 6-0 and beat Sandusky's Soeni Aills 8-2 to finish third.

Both Ross doubles teams were consolation winners. The No. 1 pair of Nicole Wolfe and Brittany Ford lost to a team from Findlay 6-0, 6-1 before beating a team from Fostoria 8-0 and a team from Toledo Whitmer 8-3.

At No. 2 doubles, Laura Papalia and Sheri Pollock lost their opener to a Whitmer entry 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, had a second round bye, and beat a team from Oregon Clay 8-3.

"I thought my doubles teams had a chance to be a spoiler, but we were unlucky with the seeding," said Wolfe.

Ross returns to Sandusky on Friday for the opening rounds of sectional play. Wolfe said Watkins, Papalia and Pollock would play singles, and Melchiori and Erica Wolfe and Ford and Nicole Wolfe would be the doubles teams.

Inside: Newsome earns SBC honors. **Page B4**