

Jim Flower wins 'AAA' district singles crown

TOLEDO—Pete Michaels is not a man that minces words ... except when it comes to talking about Jim Flower.

"You can use all the descriptive words you want about him (Flower)," Michaels, Ross tennis coach, beamed Sunday after he had a day to think about Flower's winning performance in the Northwestern Ohio "AAA" Tennis Tournament. Michaels had watched Flower turn back first, Kevin Shaw of Sylvania, and second, Erick Iskersky of Toledo St. John's, to win the singles title at Jermain Park.

All three will compete in the state tourney next weekend in Columbus.

"Against Shaw," Michaels recalled, "I don't think he made a mistake. In fact I think it was one of his sharpest performances of the year. His services were great and his volleys excellent."

Flower, a teammate of Shaw during the summer months on one of the top doubles teams in the three state area of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, defeated the Sylvania prod-

uct, 6-2 and 6-3, and made it seem exceedingly easy.

Iskersky and Flower had met on two other occasions during the regular season this year with both players winning a match, so the game was actually a "rubber" game between the two players.

Flower was nearly as sharp as he had been against Shaw in the first set, stopping the St. John's junior, 6-4. In the second set, Iskersky had his passing shot game working and tripped Flower, 6-3.

Iskersky appeared to have Flower on the run in the third and deciding set by jumping out to a 3-0 lead.

"Jim seemed to lose his concentration after he lost the second set," Michaels said, "but after losing that third game in the third set, he started to comeback. You could almost see him gaining his composure and concentration after that."

Using some outstanding cross-court volleying, Flower started to turn the tables against Iskersky. With some pinpoint drop shots and an aggressive, attacking style of play, Flower took away Iskersky's passing shots and won six straight games to win the title.

The win for Flower and the way the final match was played caused Michaels to talk highly of his own ace, Iskersky and Shaw.

"I told people while the match was going on between Jim and Erick that we could very well be looking at the same situation next week in Columbus. With these three (Flower, Iskersky, and Shaw) coming out of this district, I think anyone of the three could be the state champ."

"If Jim plays as well as he did yesterday, I have every right to feel that he will be right up there."

Flower was "right up there" last year when as a sophomore, he was the state's runnerup in "AAA" singles.

One thing about the trio of Flower, Iskersky, and Shaw is that they will all be back next year. And that situation will cause shudders in the rest of the state.

Flower in semis; doubles teams out

TOLEDO — Jim Flower of Ross survived his first round district tennis match but the Little Giants' two doubles team were ousted in first round play.

The "AAA" Northwestern Ohio Tennis Tournament ran afloat of Mother Nature yesterday and had to be moved indoors to the facilities of the Laurel Racquet Club. The matches had originally been slated for Jermain Park.

Flower, the number two seed in the tourney, drew a bye in the first round but met Mick Pinchoff of Toledo Blowher in the second round. Pinchoff had beaten Greg Smith of Maumee in the first round to advance to the match with Flower.

The Little Giant junior, a runnerup singles player at the state tournament in Columbus last year, rolled past Pinchoff easily, 6-3, 6-2, to put him into a match with Kevin Shawn of Sylvania at 9 p.m. this morning.

The doubles team of Joe Albrecht and Roger Parker lost to Jim Goldman and Mike Jones of Lima Shawnee in the first round, 6-3 and 6-1, while the team of Art Gilbert and Jack Hilly fell to St. John's Tom Nagy and Steve Sedys, 6-4, 6-0.

Matches today were slated once again for Jermain but if the weather did not cooperate, the matches would once again be moved indoors to the Racquet Club. Flower's first match at the Racquet Club would be set back to 11 a.m.

FREMONT ROSS' JIM FLOWER LOOKS FOR OPEN SPOT

Flower's forehand turned deadly in the district title winning match against Erick Iskersky (N-M photos by Jon Donnan)



FLOWER GETS SET TO RETURN