

Flower second in state meet

COLUMBUS—Jim Flower, Ross High's talented sophomore tennis player, finished second in the state in the Class AAA singles competition at Ohio State University Saturday.

Flower, who posted a brilliant 25-3 record for the season, lost in the finals to senior Bob Gardner of Upper Arlington.

The talented Ross sophomore moved into the finals with a repeat victory over Mark Padilla of Toledo St. John's. Flower had beaten Padilla in the semifinals of the district tournament.

In the state semifinals, Flower fell behind Padilla, losing the first set, 6-3.

"He really had to come back," Ross coach Pete Michaels said after the pair had returned from Columbus. "Padilla is very strong and he starts well. Jim started slowly as he normally does, but I felt confident that he could win."

Flower evened the score with a 6-3 win in the second set.

"I felt very confident after Jim won the second set. He just kept coming on stronger and stronger. Jim broke Padilla's service twice in the third set."



JIM FLOWER

Flower won the final set, 6-2, to move into the finals.

"He played beautifully in coming from behind," Michaels said.

In the championship match, Flower and Michaels decided that the Ross sophomore should adjust his serve to stay away from Gardner's powerful two-hand back-hand shot and Flower had trouble with his service.

"I think the strategy definitely was right, Gardner has a really strong backhand. Jim wasn't missing by much, just an inch or two here or there."

It wasn't that Flower was double faulting, but he was unable to get his first strong serve where he wanted.

"If Jim's service would have been coming in, I'm sure he could have beaten him," Michaels said. The Ross coach also pointed to a number of others who delivered praise to Flower in spite of the loss in the finals.

The score of that final match was 6-2, 6-1, "but the set scores are no indication of the closeness of the games."

Michaels said that when Flower did bring in his strong serve, "Gardner couldn't control it."

"I'm very satisfied," Michaels

said. "Being second as a sophomore is quite an accomplishment. You would like to win, but there are hundreds of young men out there who would like to be second in the state."

Gardner, who won as the member of a doubles team last year, drew praise from Michaels. "When he hits his backhand, he was really hitting down the line, just superb shots. He was a small and scrappy player."

Flower won two matches Friday to reach the semifinals.

On Friday he defeated Casey Daganhardt, of Kettering Fairmont West, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; and Harold Krent of Shaker Heights, 6-1, 6-4.

"You can use all the adjectives there are to describe this young man," Michaels said of Flower. "He really deserves it."

The second place finish by Flower was the best ever by a Ross High Singles entry.

Phil Brondes and Kevin Shaw of Sylvania teamed to win the Class AAA doubles title at Columbus Friday. They defeated Gary Alexander and Steve Walton of Upper Arlington in the finals.

The Ross tennis team was to play Elyria for the Buckeye Conference Championship at Ashland College at 3 p.m. today.

818 wins in Big Ball

The 818 Club blasted Busolds in the Big Ball League 11-1. Ron Reardon, Rick Barbour and Scott Ash went three for four at the plate for the winners.

Tim Willis cracked a triple for winning pitcher Tom Yeager.



INSURANCE
Is our business
our only business
HILT
Agency
Dial 332-5081

Flower in final four of state tennis meet

COLUMBUS—Jim Flower, playing a pair of strong matches Friday, carried Fremont Ross High School's tennis hopes into the semifinals of the state singles tournament today.

Flower was one of three qualifiers from Northwest Ohio to reach the final four in the singles competition.

"We're very pleased. When you consider that he is already in the final four, we're very happy," Ross coach Pete Michaels said Friday night.

"In his first match, Jim beat a very good boy and then he looked very sharp in winning his second match."

Smith to serve SBC as league president

St. Joseph athletic director and head football coach Robert Smith will serve as president of the Sandusky Bay Conference during the 1975-76 school year, according to an announcement out of the league office today.

Gene VanOrsdahl of Margareta is the vice-president and Thurman Wright of Clyde is the secretary-treasurer.

Tom Beroch of Woodville has been employed for the 75-76 school year as assisting secretary for the conference. He will assign officials for all variety football games, varsity and reserve basketball games and the varsity wrestling tournament.

Final standing for the league in tennis also were announced. "Wim Calvert was the champion with an 18 record. Perkins, Huron and St. Mary's each had a 4-4 mark. Clyde was 0-8."

In his opening match, Flower defeated the Dayton Area District champion Casey Daganhardt in three sets.

"Jim had a rough time with this boy," Michaels said. "He is one of the finest in the Dayton area and has a full ride at Bowling Green State University already. This boy was very strong. Last year he went three sets with a boy who is playing number one court for Ohio State University this year."

Flower won the opening set 6-4 before stumbling in the second set, 6-2. In that final crucial set, Flower turned on the steam and eliminated Daganhardt, 6-2.

"He was very sharp in that second match," Michaels said of Flower. "His service was sharp and he was really putting the ball away."

In that second match, Flower stung Harold Krent of Shaker Heights, 6-1, 6-4, to earn a semifinal spot.

Flower was scheduled to meet Mark Padilla of Toledo St. John's in his semifinal match today. Flower beat Padilla, 7-6, 7-6, in the district semifinals at the University of Toledo last weekend.

Padilla advanced to the semifinals with victories over Robert Dowling of Cleveland Heights and Greg Mockenbush of Cincinnati Oak Hills.

In the other semifinal match, Eric Ikeraky the player who defeated Flower in the championship of the district tournament, faced Bob Gardner of Upper Arlington. Ikeraky is Padilla's teammate at St. John's. Gardner was rated as the pre-tournament favorite.

Phil Brondes and Kevin Shaw of Sylvania remain alive in the doubles competition at the state. The Sylvania pair defeated Mike Nold and Pat See of Willoughby South, 6-6, 6-2, and then downed John Phipps and Rob Wilson of Akron Forestone, 6-2, 6-1.

Tom Friesiak and Doug Wurga of Mansfield Senior were eliminated after losing one doubles match.



JIM FLOWER
In state's final four