

1997 Sectional Tournament

Girls Tennis

DIV. I

SANDUSKY — Singles and doubles pairings for today's Division I sectional tennis tournament at Sandusky High School, beginning at 9 a.m. The finals are Saturday. The top four singles players and doubles teams advance to next Friday's district at Bowling Green State University.

SINGLES

1-Andi Andrews(Frem.) , 2-Sarah Zuzwik (Ashland), 3-Jackie Bell (Mans. Senior), 4-Ainsley Wadkins (Frem.)

DOUBLES

1-Lauren Bittle, Cari Ihrig (Ashland), 2-Gina Melchiori, Courtney LaBenne (Fremont), 3- Carrie Peffley, Tonya See (Mans. Mad.), 4-Libby Collar, Rachel Banks, (Tiffin Col.)

Ross pairings

First Round

Singles

Andi Andrews (Ross) vs. Shannon Smith (Mansfield Senior)-Karla Caruthers (Sandusky) winner; Ainsley Watkins (Ross) vs. Angie Tennis (Ashland)-Ann Frazier (Waite) winner; Natalie Wolfe(Ross) vs. Erin Brenan (Ashland).

Doubles

Gina Melchiori, Courtney La Benne (Ross) vs. Katie Hendersen, Rachel Gregory(Waite)-Molly Stauffer, Jen Longsway(Ashland) winner; Jenny Schaaf, Morgan Carnicom (Ross) vs. Amy Hauke, Carey Schwanger (Sandusky).

Five Little Giants march on



ANDI ANDREWS (left) of Fremont Ross fights off a volley against Mansfield's Shannon Smith in Division I first-round sectional tennis action Tuesday at Sandusky High School. Andrews, one of five Ross district qualifiers, won two matches Tuesday and will play, Mansfield's Jackie Bell in Saturday's semifinals.

AMANDA SHOWMAN (below) of Clyde follows St. Joe's Jennifer Hofelich's return. Showman prevailed without losing a game.

News-Messenger
Steven Garner

Watkins falls in three

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Five Fremont Ross players qualified for the Division I Northwest district tennis tournament, but it was one of the matches that got away at Tuesday's sectionals that Little Giants coach Lisa Wolfe couldn't help but talk about.

Sophomore Ainsley Watkins, who entered the sectionals with an 18-3 record at No. 2 singles, downed Ashland's Angie Tennis but fell in three sets to Mansfield's Rachel Stein, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

"It was a heartbreaker," Wolfe said.

"I just told her there's no shame in that because she's played her heart out all year."

Andi Andrews and Ross's two doubles teams (Courtney LaBenne/Gina Melchiori and Morgan Carnicom/Jenny Schaaf) will play in Saturday's sectional semifinals at Sandusky High School (9 a.m.),

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and have earned district berths.

Andrews downed Ellen Hommerding of Tiffin Columbian in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-1, to earn semifinal match with Madison's Jackie Bell.

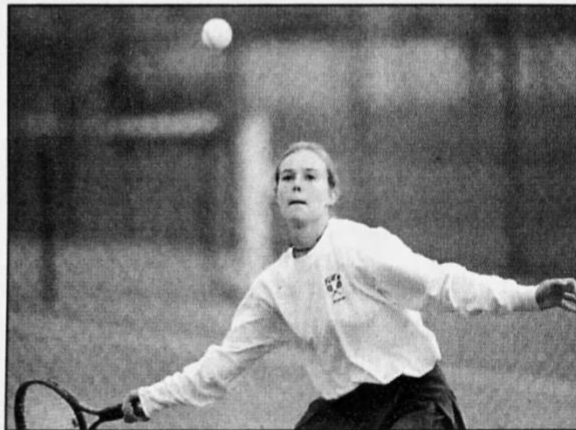
LaBenne, who was a district qualifier last year with Alissa Brickner, teamed with Melchiori to beat Ashland's Molly Stauffer and Jen Longsway, 6-3, 6-2.

Carnicom and Schaaf beat Amy Hauke and Carley Schwanger of Sandusky in three sets and Madison's Carrie Peffley and Tonya See.

Also for Ross, Natalie Wolfe lost in singles to Erin Brennan of Ashland in the first round.

Division II sectionals

Oak Harbor competed at the University of Toledo (doubles)



and the Central Tennis Club (singles) but was stopped short of advancing.

Mindy Harsha won a pair of singles matches for the Rockets, beating Jaclyn Crawford of Bryan, 6-3, 6-1, and Stephanie Jones of Rossford, 6-3, 6-2. Harsha the lost a third-round match to Jackie Riggs of Ottawa Hills, 6-1, 6-3.

"Mindy did a great job (Tuesday)," Oak Harbor coach Rick LaFountain said. "She hit the ball very well."

Holly Lorensen lost a first-round match in straight sets, but Oak Harbor teammate Brenda Bowersox defeated April Distel of Lake in the first

See **CLYDE DUO, B2**

Clyde duo goes to semis

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round. Bowersox then lost to Kerri Smallwood of Toledo Christian in straight sets in Round 2.

The Rockets' second-seeded doubles team of Lisa Wegman and Chrissy Hemminger beat Toledo Christian's Carolyn Perry and Sarah Deraedt, 6-1, 6-4, in the opening round before losing to Ashley Devonshire and Schuyler Ciralsky of Ottawa Hills, 6-4, 6-7 (7-3), 6-0, in the next round.

The Rockets' other doubles team of Lee Ann Cecil and Lindsay Daft won just four games in a loss to Tiffany Harman and Gretchen Bachman of Napoleon.

"That was probably the best competition we've had," LaFountain said. "It's tough (in Toledo). The doubles teams hit the ball so much harder up there. It's like night and day."

At Perkins High School, Clyde's Jen Seaman and Abbie Funk, who won the Sandusky Bay Conference doubles championship on Saturday, earned a semifinals berth against an SBC foe

by beating two other league rivals.

Seaman and Funk, the No. 1 seed, downed Port Clinton's Amanda Maloney and Jackie Pinks, 6-1, 6-2, in the second round, and the Clyde duo beat Katie Haas and Ellen Walls, 6-2, 6-0, in the quarterfinals.

Seaman and Funk will face Kim Ruthsutz and Angie Wagner of St. Mary Central Catholic Saturday.

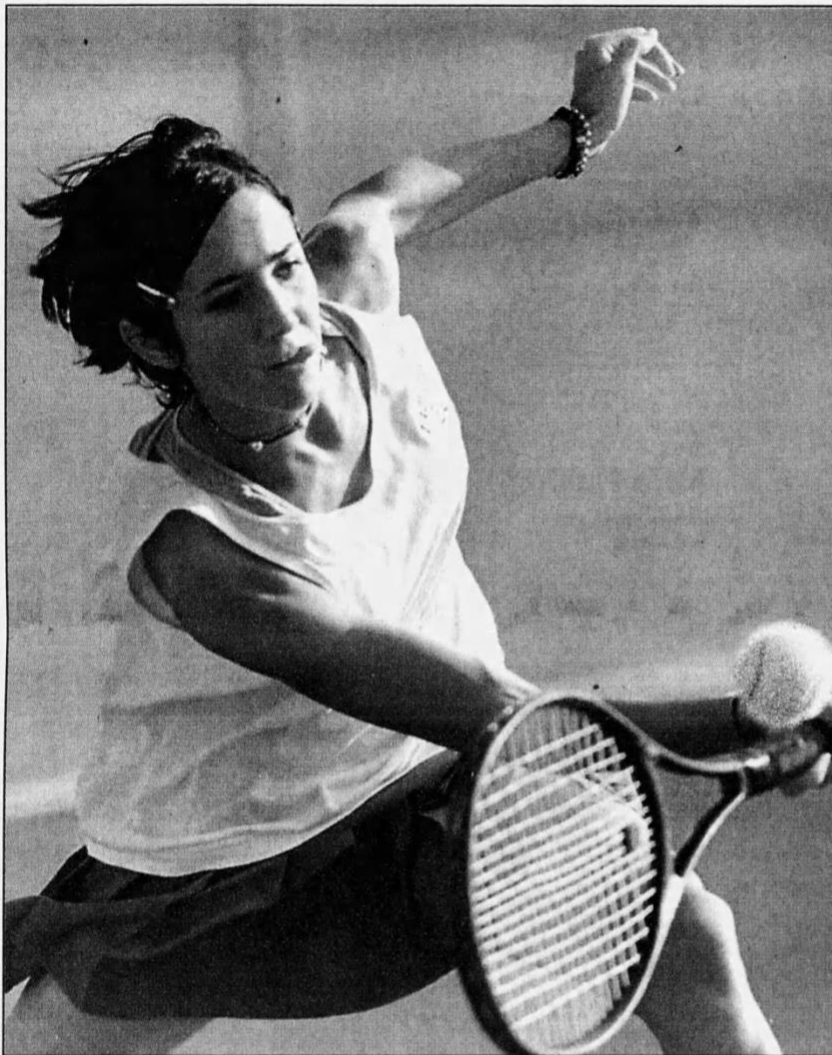
"I'm very pleased in the way Jenny and Abbie played," Clyde coach Jeff McFarland said. "They had very little difficulty playing."

In singles, Clyde's Cassie Newsome advanced to the quarterfinals before falling to Vermilion's Heather Hagood, 6-2, 6-3.

For St. Joseph Central Catholic, Jennifer Hofelich, the Streaks' lone sectional representative, fell to Clyde's Amanda Showman in the first round.

Showman succumbed to Huron freshman and SBC singles champion Morgan Landes in the second round, 6-0, 6-1.

Ross duo checks 'mates



News-Messenger/Steven Garner

FREMONT ROSS'S Andi Andrews drops a volley during her Div. I sectional semifinals win over Mansfield's Jackie Bell Saturday at Sandusky. Andrews later beat Mansfield's Rachel Stein for the sectional singles title.

Melchiori, LaBenne take all-Giants duel; Andrews wins

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Didn't know who to root for in the Division I sectional doubles finals Saturday?

Fremont Ross was a good bet.

But it wasn't that easy.

It was Ross against Ross.

The Little Giants doubles team of Courtney LaBenne and

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Gina Melchiori faced teammates Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom for the championship, and LaBenne and Melchiori showed why they're the team's No. 1 duo, taking a 6-2, 6-1 victory.

LaBenne and Melchiori, the No. 2 seed in the sectional tournament, started their day with a three-set victory (6-0, 3-6, 6-3) over Mansfield Madison's Toni Scott and Jessica Gordon in the semifinals.

Schaaf and Carnicom advanced by beating Lauren Bittle and Cari Ihrig of Ashland, 6-3, 6-7 (7-4), 7-5. Bittle and Ihrig were seeded first coming into sectionals.

The doubles drama ensured a Ross sweep at Sandusky High School. In a No. 1 vs. No. 2 seed final, top-seeded Andi Andrews downed Ashland's Sarah Juzwik to win the singles championship.

Andrews regrouped after Juzwik posted a 6-0 win in Game 1. The Ross senior won the match — and her second singles sectional title — with 6-3, 6-4 decisions.

In the semifinals, Andrews dropped Jackie Bell of Mansfield by identical 6-1 scores.

Bell defeated Stein in the singles consolation, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2. In the doubles consolation, Scott and Gordon cruised past Bittle and Ihrig, 6-0, 6-1.

All of Saturday's semifinalists will play in the district tournament, which starts at 9:30 Friday morning at Bowling Green.

Andrews and LaBenne were Ross's only representatives at least year's districts, and both lost in the first round.

Norwalk pours the heat on Seaman, Funk

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Clyde's Jen Seaman and Abbie Funk persevered through a three-set semifinals victory (6-1, 2-6, 6-4) over Kim Ruthsatz and Angie Wagner of St. Mary Central Catholic, but fatigue got the best of the Fliers duo in the finals at Perkins High School.

With less than a half hour to rest between matches — and with 80-degree temperatures beating on them — Funk and Seaman fell to Kristen Woolsey and Bridget Routh, 6-3, 6-1.

"The other girls had been off

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well over an hour," Clyde coach Jeff McFarland said. "I'm sure that did have something to do with it. Truthfully, it's the first time this season we've palyed in 80-degree weather; we weren't used to playing in that kind of temperatures. The other team had to deal with that, too, but they didn't have to play a three-set match before."

In the semifinals, Woolsey and Routh had topped Sara

Linz and Jen Foster of Perkins, 6-1, 6-4.

"We did fairly well," McFarland said. "We won in the semifinals, which gives us a great chance to do well in the districts (starting Friday at Bowling Green)."

In an all-freshman, all-Sandusky Bay Conference singles final, Morgan Landes of Huron won Round 4 of her growing battle with Port Clinton's Laura Kokinda, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5).

It was the third time in a row that Landes (23-1) has beaten Kokinda.