

# Little Giants win tennis opener

News-Messenger reports

TIFFIN—The Fremont Ross girls' tennis team overcame a case of the opening-day jitters to sweep Tiffin Columbian 5-0 in a non-conference match.

"The whole lineup was a little bit nervous," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "A lot of them are playing in different spots than they're used to."

Junior Ainsley Watkins is one of the Little Giants to change lineup slots, moving from No. 2 singles last year to the top spot in 1998. Watkins responded with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Columbian's Rutu Dalal.

## TENNIS

"Ainsley Watkins did a great job at first singles," Wolfe said.

Gina Melchiori swept Amber Shellhammer by an identical 6-1, 6-1 score.

"The first and second courts just took over," Wolfe said.

At No. 3 singles Natalie Wolfe beat Michelle Maxwell 6-4, 6-1.

"The first set was a struggle, and then she lost the first game of the second set, and I just said to her you don't want to go to a third set," Lisa Wolfe said. "The sun was intense, if you had to be

out there very long."

The No. 1 doubles team of Stefanie Lagrou and Courtney LaBenne won the most tightly-contested match of the day, beating Stephanie Kissell and Lara Ellinger 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4).

"This was the greatest, they were out there forever," Wolfe said. "They acted like they really wanted to win."

Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom beat Rachel Banks and Katie Decker 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles to round out the sweep.

Ross travels to play Sylvania Southview today.

# Ross beats Sylvania Southview

News-Messenger reports

SYLVANIA — When she scheduled her team's Friday match against Sylvania Southview, Ross girls tennis coach Lisa Wolfe thought her Little Giants would just be getting a tough test before the start of conference play.

Instead, Ross got a tremendous confidence boost, winning 4-1.

"With all the indoor courts they have in Toledo, these

(Southview) girls are taking lessons all year

long," said Wolfe, whose team improved to 2-0. "To beat this team, I'm beaming."

Adding to Southview's home-court edge was a mid-match rainstorm, which moved play indoors.

"When we moved indoors, I thought it would be to their advantage because those girls are used to playing indoors," Wolfe said.

Ainsley Watkins beat Kristen Kincaid at No. 1 singles 6-4, 6-4, while Gina Melchiori lost to Trisha Greenberg at No. 2. Natalie Wolfe beat Yonia Tubin at No. 3 to wrap up singles play.

At No. 1 doubles, Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou overcame a first-set loss to win 2-6, 6-3, 6-0. Morgan Carnicom and Jenny Schaaf finished off the win with a resounding 6-3, 6-3 win over Michelle Conetta and Liz Robich.

**TENNIS**

# Tennis

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## High school

### Ross 4, Southview 1

#### Singles

Ainsley Watkins (R) def. Kristen Kincaid 6-4, 6-4; Triha Greenburg (S) def. Gina Melchiori 6-2, 6-2; Natalie Wolfe (R) def. Yonia Tubin 6-2, 6-3

#### Doubles

Courtney LaBenne/Stefanie Lagrou (R) def. Tiffany Corbin/Kristen Woodward 2-6, 6-3, 6-0; Morgan Carnicom/Jenny Schaaf (R) def. Michelle Conetta/Liz Ribich 6-3, 6-3

Record: Ross varsity 2-0, Ross JV 1-

# Ross tops Huron

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls tennis team won its third straight match to start the season Monday, beating Huron 4-1.

After Ainsley Watkins lost at No. 1 singles, the Little Giants swept the rest of the day's matches.

"Down the line, it was fairly easy," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "Everyone did their job."

**TENNIS**

Gina Melchiori and Natalie Wolfe both swept their opponents 6-0, 6-0 at Nos. 2 and 3 singles, while the doubles teams of Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom and Courtney LeBenne and Stefanie Lagrou both won by 6-1, 6-1 margins.

Wolfe was also pleased with the play of her junior varsity, which improved to 2-0 by sweeping the Tigers.

"I'm really proud of them," Wolfe said.

Ross opens its Great Lakes League schedule at Fostoria today.

# Giants whip BG; St. Joe tops Waite

News-Messenger reports

On the strength of three blowouts and gutsy performances at the Nos. 2 and 3 slots, the Fremont Ross girls tennis team improved its record to 5-0 with a 5-0 win over Bowling Green on Thursday.

After Ainsley Watkins recorded what coach Lisa Wolfe called a "fairly easy" victory at first singles, Gina Melchiori gutted out a 6-2, 7-6 (8-6) win at No. 2 in a match that lasted more than two hours.

"She was ahead in the second set, and started dropping a little," said Wolfe. "Then she got her mental game into it."

At No. 3, Natalie Wolfe overcame a first set loss to beat Jennifer Nagle 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"She seemed to get really strong," after losing the first set, coach Wolfe said.

"In the third set she found her mental game."

Wolfe was pleased with the support shown by her junior varsity team, which stuck around to encourage Melchiori and Wolfe in their two hours-plus matches.

"They were there for their teammates, and that means a lot to these kinds," Wolfe said.

The Little Giant doubles teams of Morgan Carnicom and Jenny Schaaf and Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou swept through their competition easily, losing a combined four sets.

"They just dominate," Wolfe said.

Ross plays next against Notre Dame.

## TENNIS

# Tennis

## High School

### Ross 5, Bowling Green 0

#### Singles

Ainsley Watkins (R) def. Annie Corrigan 6-0, 6-0; Gina Melchiori (R) def. Allison Emery 6-2, 7-6, 8-6; Natalie Wolfe (R) def. Jennifer Nagle 2-6, 7-5, 6-4

#### Doubles

Morgan Carnicom/Jenny Schaaf (R) def. Crystal Fing/Tiffany Fong 6-1, 6-0; Courtney LaBenne/Stefanie Lagrou (R) def. Tracy Lahote/Courtney Dohoney 6-1, 6-2

# Ross falls

## TENNIS

### Notre Dame 4, Ross 1

Ainsley Watkins won at first singles, but Ross fell to Notre Dame, 4-1.

Notre Dame's Alexis Zouhary blanked Gina Melchiori 6-0, 6-0 at second singles, and Kristie Spriggle beat Natalie Wolfe 6-3, 6-0 at third.

"We knew it was coming," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "They were a tough team. It was a great practice session. The girls never gave up."

Ross plays Whitmer in its Great Lakes League opener today at Rodger Young Park.

# Ross starts strong in GLL



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

AINSLEY WATKINS of Ross returns a shot to Toledo Whitmer's Leslie Boyd during action Tuesday at Rodger Young Park.

## Little Giants breeze past Whitmer at Rodger Young

By MICHAEL PIDANICK

Staff writer

One of the primary goals for Fremont Ross team is to win the Great Lakes League.

So far, that looks like a very attainable goal.

The Little Giants were impressive Tuesday in a 4-1 win over Toledo Whitmer in its GLL opener at Rodger Young Park.

"I'm happy with all of them," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "This is a great start for us."

"It was a real nice way to start in the GLL. The girls all looked strong."

Ross (5-1) received singles wins from Ainsley Watkins and Gina Melchiori, and doubles wins from the teams of Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom and Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou.

Whitmer's only win came from Kendra Case at third singles.

"Any time you lose in the

### TENNIS

GLL it's tough," said Panthers' coach Mike Duhaime, whose team fell to 1-3. "But Fremont is a good team. We're kind of young, but they are a real solid team."

At first singles, Watkins whipped Leslie Boyd, 6-1, 6-2.

"I played pretty well," said Watkins, a sophomore. "I just need to keep the ball in play and place the ball well."

Melchiori, a junior, didn't have much trouble with Mandy Black at second singles, despite having a different style of play.

"She hit a lot of lobs, and I like to kill the ball," said Melchiori, who won 6-0, 6-2. "She played a lot more consistently, but I won with hard shots."

Ross senior Natalie Wolfe, Lisa's daughter, ran into an old

"It was a real nice way to start in the GLL. The girls all looked strong."

— Lisa Wolfe  
Ross coach

nemesis at third singles, and dropped a 6-2, 6-0 decision.

"She has run into that Case girl before," said Lisa Wolfe. "She is really a strong player."

The Ross doubles teams, consisting of four seniors, also had little trouble.

At first doubles, Schaaf and Carnicom beat Lorie Daculik and Brittany Roberts, 6-1, 6-3.

At second doubles, LaBenne and Lagrou breezed past Michelle Graham and Lexy Durik, 6-1, 6-0.

Coach Wolfe said the five seniors on the team are all providing good leadership.

"At the beginning of the year

I told all of them they would be leaders," Wolfe said. "They are all doing really well."

Said Watkins: "A lot of our seniors are doing a great job. We should do really well this year."

The Little Giants travel to Port Clinton today to take on the Redskins in a non-league match.

The Little Giants won the junior varsity match, 6-1. Ross's Nicole Wolfe and Amanda Wingo beat Requel Durik and Julie Hunter, 6-1, Sarah Rhodes and Laura Papalia topped Theresa Marvka and Jessica Francis, 6-1, Sheri Pollock and Kira Zyski beat Beth Gargus and Sarah Knapp 6-0, Papila and Pollock beat Sarah Kosokowski and Trisha Militello, 6-0, and Nicole Wolfe and Amanda Wingo beat Durik and Tania Ishler.

■ Filers, Rockets win, B2

# Port Clinton tops Ross 3-2

News-Messenger reports

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross lost its second match of the season Wednesday 3-2 to Port Clinton.

“We’ll have heavy-duty practice tomorrow,” said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe.

**TENNIS**

Natalie Wolfe recorded the lone singles win, beating Jackie Pinks 6-0, 6-3.

The top doubles team of Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom defeated Leigh Ann Rasmussen and Lindsay Smith 6-1, 6-3, but Courtney LeBenne and Stefanie Lagrou lost 4-6, 6-2, 6-7 (4-7) to Ashlee Maloney and Sarah Shilling.

# Little Giants net win at Bedford

News-Messenger reports

BEDFORD, Mich. — Fremont Ross continued to roll in the Great Lakes League with a 4-1 win at Bedford (Mich.).

At first singles, Ainsley Watkins beat Kim Cryan, 6-4, 6-3. Gina Melchiori held off Jennifer Oberski 7-6 (7-1), 6-0 at second singles for Ross.

The Little Giants (6-2) also swept the doubles matches. Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom beat Stephanie Zak and Rachel Paranik 6-2, 6-3, and Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou defeated Julie Bodi and Gretchen Manders 6-4, 6-4.

"Bedford is a tough team," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "We happened to outplay them today."

Ross also won the junior varsity match. Doubles teams of Nicole Wolfe and Amanda Wingo and Laura Papilia and Sarah Rhodes earned victories for the Little Giants (6-1).

Clyde 3, Sandusky St. Mary's 2  
Clyde remained unbeaten with a 3-2 win over Sandusky St. Mary's.

Amanda Showman whipped Susan Smith 6-1, 6-4 at second singles and Leslie Noftz beat Sarah Merick 6-3, 7-5 at third singles.

The Fliers' doubles team of Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer swept Colleen Dwight and Katie Kelly, 6-2, 6-2.

"They'll probably be finishing right near us," said Clyde coach Jeff MacFarland. "We were very fortunate to get a 3-2 victory."

## TENNIS

## **Fremont Ross**

**Coach:** Lisa Wolfe

**1997:** Undefeated, 2nd in GLL

**Key losses:** Andi Andrews

**Key returnees:** Ainsley Watkins, Gina Melchiori, Natalie Wolfe, Stephanie Lagrou, Morgan Carnicom, Courtney LeBenne, Jenny Schaaf

**Key newcomers:** None<sup>N</sup>

**Toughest GLL competition:** Findlay

**Coach Wolfe's outlook:** "We'd like to win all our GLL matches. The kids are all looking very strong, and if we can peak at the right time, do well against Findlay on that day of the tournament — without injuries — we can do fine."

# Ross second at Sandusky, Clyde 3rd

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross had its entire roster playing in either the finals or consolation finals, allowing the Little Giants to finish second in the Sandusky Invitational. Clyde finished tied with host Sandusky for third place.

“It was just great,” said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. “Our team goal was to finish in the top three.

The doubles team of Courtney LeBenne and Stefanie Lagrou beat Sandusky’s Erin Dolan and Jessica Samko 6-3, 6-0 to win the No. 2 doubles bracket.

Clyde’s No. 1 doubles team of Cassie Newsome and Amanda Showman took the title, beating Norwalk’s Lauren Aguilar and Bri Wilson 1-6, 6-0, 6-4 in the finals.

For Ross, Ainsley Watkins was runner-up at No. 1 singles, falling to Mansfield Senior’s Jackie Bell in the finals. Gina Melchiori fell to Mansfield’s Rachael Stein in the No. 2 finals, while Natalie Wolfe beat Clyde’s April Misner to take third place at No. 3 singles.

Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom beat Katie Nichols and Rachel Demyan of Mansfield in the consolation finals.

**TENNIS**

# Unbeaten in GLL, Ross shuts out Clay

## Clyde defeats Oak Harbor 5-0

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross lost just six total games en route to defeating Oregon Clay 5-0 in a Great Lakes League match Tuesday.

Ainsley Watkins defeated Tory Heilman 6-1, 6-0 at first singles, and Gina Melchiori swept Nichole Berryman 6-0, 6-0

### TENNIS

at No. 2. Natalie Wolfe closed out the singles sweeps with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Heather Granger.

At No. 1 doubles, Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom beat Jenny Herrera and Jessica Berger 6-0, 6-3, while Stefanie Lagrou and Courtney LaBenne beat Priscilla Deal and Stacey Bartok

6-0, 6-0.

Ross, which travels to Sandusky on Thursday, improved to 3-0 in the GLL, 7-2 overall.

### Clyde 5, Oak Harbor 0

Clyde used dominant singles play and steady doubles play to beat Oak Harbor 5-0.

Cassie Newsome beat Lindsay Noftz 6-1, 6-0 at first singles, Amanda Showman defeated Caitlyn Conley 6-0, 6-1 at second sin-

gles and Leslie Noftz downed Liz Norman 6-3, 6-2 at No. 3.

Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer beat Katie Humphrey and Jennifer Swint 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles, while Kelly Williams and April Misner defeated Courtney Schwartz and Kendra Gyde 6-2, 6-4 at No. 2.

Clyde remains unbeaten in Sandusky Bay Conference action at 4-0, 7-0 overall. Oak Harbor falls to 0-3 SBC, 2-5 overall.

# Ross rolls over Sandusky; St. Joe falls to Calvert

News-Messenger reports

**SANDUSKY** — Fremont Ross made it look easy in a 5-0 win Thursday over Great Lakes League rival Sandusky.

"I'm proud of the girls. They're trying different shots than normal," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe.

Ainsley Watkins swept Maggie Prout, 6-3, 6-0 at first singles. Gina Melchiori blanked Molly Feick 6-0, 6-0 at second singles and Natalie Wolfe cruised past Jessica Samko 6-1, 6-1 at third.

At first doubles, Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom beat Erin Dolan and Dana Wobser 6-3, 6-4, and Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou defeated Stephanie Metter and Ellynn Ferback 6-1, 6-2 at second.

### TENNIS

## Tiffin Calvert 4, St. Joe 1

St. Joseph Central Catholic's Jenny Brooks and Maggie O'Brien teamed up to earn a win at second doubles, but the Crimson Streaks fell to Tiffin Calvert.

Brooks and O'Brien swept past Sara Bores and Katie Kerscher 6-4, 6-2 for St. Joe (1-6).

For Calvert (13-2), Tracy Derpker topped Amber Haslinger 6-4, 6-0 at first singles, Mary Kiun beat Michelle Smith 6-3, 6-1 at second singles and Allison Welly blanked Andrea Karlovetz 6-0, 6-0 at third.

At first doubles, Jenny Haley

and Theresa Velar beat Nadine Wise and Sarah Pietrykowski 6-1, 6-0.

## Clyde 4, Edison 1

Clyde swept the singles matches, and beat Edison 4-1 to improve to 8-1.

Cassie Newsome whipped Ashley Schaeffer 6-2, 6-1 at first singles, Amanda Showman topped Kim Taylor 6-2, 6-2 and second singles and Kelly Williams defeated Erin Miller 6-2, 6-2 at third singles.

At first doubles, Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer topped Melissa Ingram and Jessica Sisson 6-3, 6-3. Huron's win came at second doubles, as Melissa Brunetti and Noelle Tanigawa beat April Misner and Leslie Noftz 6-1, 6-4.

# Ross falls to Findlay

By SCOTT TAPPA  
Sports editor

After a promising start, the Fremont Ross girls tennis team could not hold off rival Findlay, falling 3-2 in a Great Lakes League match Tuesday afternoon at Rodger Young Park.

Ainsley Watkins at No. 1 singles and the No. 2 doubles team of Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou recorded quick early wins for the Little Giants. Watkins finished off her match first, beating Sara Radabaugh easily 6-1, 6-2.

"I played well, my passing shots, forehand and backhand were on," Watkins said. "She made a lot of errors, I just had to keep the ball in play, make her run a little bit."

Watkins said her success this season has been due in part to an improved volley game.

"My most improvement is in my net play," she said. "Last year, I never came to the net, and this year I feel confident at the net."

Lagrou and LaBenne remained undefeated in GLL play, their only two losses coming against Toledo Notre Dame and Port Clinton. Julie LaJoe and Mel Hirschfield were the victims, as the Little Giant duo won 6-3, 6-4.

"We were really pumped up for this, so we played a lot better than we normally do," said LaBenne. "Findlay is our rival, they beat us in the GLL last year, so this was our match to get revenge."

Lagrou said the fan support at Rodger Young was extra motivation.

"We had our jayvees there, our families, everyone was there," Lagrou said.

That would be the Little Giants' last win. At first doubles, Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom lost 6-3, 6-4 to Andrea Ernst and Janice Walsh.

At No. 3 singles, Natalie Wolfe lost 6-4, 6-1 to Shelley Castret. In the final match to end, Gina Melchiori lost a hard-fought match to Katie Gartner, 6-4, 5-7, 2-6.

"When she hit that second set loss, her emotions took over," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "(Gartner) was a smart player, she knew exactly what she had to do to beat Gina, and she did it."

The loss puts Ross two points behind Findlay in the GLL standings, with only a make-up match against Fostoria today left on the regular season conference schedule. The Little Giants' last chance at Findlay comes Oct. 3, at the GLL meet in Sandusky.

"We'll see them at the GLL," Wolfe said with a grin.

**TENNIS**

# Little Giants rebound with 5-0 victory

News-Messenger reports

Fremont had no trouble with Fostoria, scoring a 5-0 Great Lakes League win.

"I didn't have to do a lot of coaching," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "The girls did a lot themselves."

Ainsley

Watkins topped Anna Schlesselman 6-1, 6-2 at first singles, Gina Melchiori whipped Katie Droll 6-1, 6-0 at second singles



WATKINS

and Natalie Wolfe stopped Kellee Shotz 6-3, 6-1 at third singles.

Morgan Carnicom and Jenny Schaaf swept Jessie Dyer and Abbey Sheeks 6-1, 6-1 at first doubles, and Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou beat Katie Schlesselman and Tina Chanyaphong 6-1, 6-0.

"We were testing new serves and trying different spins," Wolfe said.

Ross, which improved to 10-3 overall and 5-1 in the Great Lakes League, will play Elida Saturday at the Coaches Tournament.

## TENNIS

Ross also won the junior varsity match, 2-0, to improve to 9-1. Doubles teams of Nicole Wolfe and Amanda Wingo and Laura Papalia and Sarah Rhodes.

# Ross edges Ottawa Hills

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross swept the doubles match and earned a 3-2 win over Ottawa Hills Thursday at Rodger Young Park.

Morgan Carnicom and Jenny Schaaf topped Schwyler Ciralsky and Erin Mattingly 6-3, 6-4 at first doubles, while Courtney LaBenne and Stefanie Lagrou got past Samantha Ray and Lauren Snyder 6-4, 6-4 at second doubles for Ross.

"The doubles teams played great," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "They really came through for us."

Natalie Wolfe won at third singles for the Little Giants, beating Anjali Gupta 6-2, 6-3.

"Natalie played the best she has all year," Lisa Wolfe said.

Chelsea Tuschman outlasted Ainsley Watkins 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 at first singles, and Jackie Riggs defeated Gina Melchiori 6-3, 6-2, at second singles.

Wolfe was pleased as her team improved to 11-3 on the season.

"(Ottawa Hills) has the same team

back from last year, Wolfe said. "Last year they beat us 3-2, so this is a nice win for us."

Wolfe said the home court advantage was vital in the win.

"We had a real big crowd," she said. "We got some nice support."

In other action:

## Sandusky 3, Clyde 2

SANDUSKY — Clyde lost for just the third time this season, falling 3-2 at Sandusky in a non-league match.

Clyde's Amanda Showman knocked off Socni Aills, 6-2, 6-3, at second doubles, and Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer stopped Danna Wobser and Molly Feick, 6-4, 6-3 at first doubles.

For Sandusky, Maggie Prout stopped Cassie Newsome 6-4, 6-3, at first singles, Stefanie Mettert outlasted Kelly Williams 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 at third singles, and Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer topped Danna Wobser and Molly Feick 6-4, 6-3 at first doubles.

Clyde fell to 9-3, while Sandusky upped its mark to 8-5.

**TENNIS**

# Ross improves to 10-1

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross prepared for the Great Lakes League Tournament with a 4-1 win over Perrysburg.

At first singles, Ainsley Watkins dominated Alexis Waggoner, 6-1, 6-0, Gina Melchiori outlasted Melissa Lathem 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 at second.

"Ainsley just dominated today," said Little Giants Lisa Wolfe said. "Gina's match was tough. She was outstanding."

Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom knocked off Sarah Lark and Lindsay Bennion 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 at first singles and Courtney LeBenne and Stefanie Lagrou beat Betsy Radcliffe and Becca

Wynder, 6-3, 6-3 at second doubles.

## Clyde 4, St. Mary's 1

SANDUSKY — Clyde swept the singles matches and beat Sandusky St. Mary's at Sandusky High School.

Cassie Newsome topped Kim Ruthsatz 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 at first sin-

gles, Amanda Showman outlasted Susan Smith 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 at second doubles, Leslie Noftz stopped Sarah Merrick 6-3, 6-2 at third.

At first doubles, Clyde's Andrea Wilson and Danielle Shetzer bested Courtney Bruner and Jodi Maczuga 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 at first doubles.

Clyde improved to 10-4 overall, and 7-1 in the SBC.

## TENNIS