

Little Giants net team opens today

By BOB MARKER
News-Messenger Sports Editor
Ross tennis Coach Pete Michaels freely admits that he is "building for the future" but that does not mean his team will be a pushover this season.

"We have a lot of underclassmen," he said, "and all of them are playing on the same level. They are doing a good job but we are in a rebuilding season.

"Still, though, we should have a lot of close matches because of what I have seen, we will give a good accounting of ourselves."

Michaels will be able to see the first step of the new season today, weather permitting, in a 4 p.m. match against Tiffin Columbian at Rodger Young Park.

As it stands now, Brett Bunting, a non-lettering senior, will open at the top singles spot. Bunting played some at the

number three singles a season ago.

"He is looking pretty good at this point," Michaels said.

The Ross coach pointed out that the loss through graduation of Matt Collins and Ross Paulson has left his team without a nucleus to work around. That has made the competition wide open.

The second singles court spot is like a "first come, first plays" deal. Sickness and extended spring vacations have made that spot tough for the Ross coach.

"I'm going to wait to see who shows up," he chuckled. "I never know who is sick so number two is up for grabs."

Bob Ritchart, a senior who lettered at Ross as a sophomore but was not in the school system last year, could be at the second singles spot.

Kurt Swartzlander, who finished at the number three

singles last season, will be back at that slot this year.

In the first doubles, Chris Shirvis and Rob Shurmer are expected to open with the second doubles tentatively comprised of Rodney Smith and Brian Dierksheide. However, Dierksheide has been ill with the flu this week and is doubtful for today's match. His place will go to either Matt Miller, a senior, or sophomore Dean Beck.

Another possibility at either a doubles spot or the second singles is letterman junior John Ickes. Shirvis and Ickes worked out of the second doubles court last season.

Michaels had 18 players report this season.

After today's matches, the Little Giants are idle until Tuesday when they host Sandusky Perkins in a 4 p.m. match at Rodger Young Park.

Ross falls, Clyde wins in net play

The Ross tennis team opened its season on a losing note Tuesday while the Clyde netters continued theirs on a very positive note.

Ross fell 4-1 to Perkins at Ross while Clyde edged defending Sandusky Bay Conference champion Huron 3-2 at Huron.

At Ross, Chris Shirvis beat Linus Bruno 6-1, 6-1 in third singles to notch Ross's lone win of the day.

At Huron, the Fliers needed to go the route in all three of their individual wins to gain the team victory.

Jerry Garcia defeated Vic Krebs 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 in second singles, Paul and Bob Hohenstein edged Dave Nelson and Seth Haplea 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in first doubles and Marc Streeter and Duane Rinard came back to defeat Tom Mack and Kevin Kay 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.



ROSS'S BRETT BUNTING

Ross, St. Joe and Clyde blanked in tennis

The Ross, St. Joe and Clyde tennis teams were all involved in lopsided matches Wednesday, but unfortunately for them, they were all on the short ends of those matches.

All three teams lost 5-0 decisions — Ross to Sylvania Southview, St. Joe to Tiffin Calvert and Clyde to Perkins.

At Sylvania, Ross could muster only 14 games in falling to the powerful Cougars. Ross is now 0-2 and will be at home Tuesday against Marion Harding. Southview is now 5-0.

At East Side Park, St. Joe lost all straight-set matches in dropping its third match in as many tries this season. Calvert is now 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference. The Streaks host Huron today.

At Perkins, the undefeated Pirates made Clyde their fifth victim of the season and second in the SBC. The Fliers fell to 4-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference and will host St. Joe Monday.

Harding nips Ross 3-2

ROSS started strongly but Harding finished quickly to hand the Little Giants a 3-2 setback in high school tennis at Rodger Young Park Tuesday.

The match was played in a chilling wind that dropped wind-chill temperatures into the teens.

Jon Ickes and Chris Shirvis won at first and second court singles for Coach Pete Michaels' team. Ickes downed John Ault 6-2 and 6-1 while Shirvis defeated Tom Alexander in straight 6-4 sets.

In the closest doubles match, Brian Dierksheide and Rodney Smith of Ross lost to Mike Gorham and Rich Collins of Harding 7-5 and 6-2 in the second court doubles.

It was Hardings fourth win against two losses while Ross slipped to 0-3.

"It was cold," Michaels said as he thawed out. "The kids played well considering all the factors.

"I can see a little light at the end of the tunnel but we have to work on things if we can get time on the practice courts."

Ross, St. Joe are shutout in high school tennis

Ross and St. Joe fell to the shutout bug Thursday in high school tennis. The Little Giants lost to Tiffin Columbian and St. Joe was defeated by Port Clinton, both by 5-0 counts.

"Columbian is a finely coached team," Ross Coach Pete Michaels pointed out. "Fundamentally, they are very strong. They took us right down the line."

Jon Ickes, playing in the second court singles, gave the Little Giants their closest encounter with a match point. Ickes lost the first set to Clay Lewis of Columbian 6-2 but pushed

Lewis to the tie-breaker in the second set before losing 7-6.

Columbian is 8-1 while Ross slipped to 0-4. The Little Giants entertain Port Clinton Monday at Rodger Young Park.

Kevin Keefer held back St. Joe's Mike Sullivan in the first court singles to thwart the Crimson Streak's attempt at avoiding the shutout. Keefer won the first set 6-3 and edged the St. Joe senior 6-4 in the second set.

The win was Port Clinton's third in five outings while St. Joe fell to 0-7, all in Sandusky Bay Conference play.

Ross netters end famine

Pete Michaels is humming a new tune today.

"Everything is beautiful . . . in its own way," is how singer Ray Stevens put it and for Michaels, Ross's first tennis win of the season was beautiful but not as beautiful as a gift he received Sunday.

His Little Giants upended Port Clinton 4-1 in the Monday match at Rodger Young Park. It was one of two matches in the area. In the other, Calvert tripped St. Joe 4-1.

"It was a beautiful match considering it was quite windy," the veteran Ross coach said. "The kids played well and I was pleased with that.

"And the boys were through in time for me to make the 6 o'clock feeding at the hospital," he laughed. "My daughter, Mrs. Dana Miller, gave me a new granddaughter Sunday and I got to hold her for the first time."

John Ickes and Kurt Swartzlander won singles matches while the doubles teams of

Rob Shurmer-Brian Dierksheide and Matt Miller-Dean Beck took the other match points for Ross.

Ross is now 1-4 while Port Clinton is 3-4.

At Tiffin, St. Joe's record fell to 0-8 overall and in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

The only match point for the Crimson Streaks was in the first court doubles. Steve Spieldenner and Steve Guyer defeated Calvert's team of Cliff Lim and Pol Montesclaros 6-2 and 6-3 for the point.

Ross, Clyde netters lose different ways

Ross and Clyde went different routes but both came away with the same results, a pair of losses in high school tennis matches Wednesday.

Ross went the quick and easy route in dropping a 5-0 decision to undefeated Findlay while Clyde took the slow and agonizing route in falling 3-2 to Tiffin Calvert.

At Findlay, the Little Giants managed to win just 11 games in falling to Findlay's 10-0 Trojans.

Ross dropped to 1-5 with the loss.

At Calvert, Clyde won both doubles matches but could not get a victory in singles.

The Flier duo of Paul and Bob Hohenstein downed Cliff Lim and Pol Montesclaros 6-3, 7-6 for one win. And the other victory came from the tandem of Marc Streeter and John Stahl when they beat Jim MacFarland and Mark Langenderfer 7-6, 6-4.

Clyde dropped to 5-5 overall and 2-3 in the Sandusky Bay Conference while Calvert moved to 8-2, 5-1.

Sports

Ross, SJ netters lose; Clyde defeats St. Paul

Ross gave Marion Harding all it could handle before falling to the Presidents 3-2 in high school tennis action at Marion Wednesday.

In two other area net matches, St. Joe lost a rain-shortened 3-1 decision to Huron and Clyde beat Norwalk St. Paul 4-1.

Ross's first two singles players, Chris Shirvis and Jon Ickes, each picked up wins. Shirvis outlasted John Ault 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 while Ickes edged Tom Alexander 7-6, 6-3.

The Little Giant doubles teams had already lost their matches, so it came down to the third singles match between Ross's Kurt Swartzlander and Marion's Gary Fobbs. Swartzlander won the first set 7-6 but lost the next two 3-6, 2-6.

Ross fell to 1-6 while Marion went to 9-2.

At Huron, St. Joe's No. 1 singles player Mike Sullivan picked up the Streak's lone win, a 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Mike Kaminski. The Streaks dropped straight-set decisions in their other matches and were losing the No. 2 doubles match 6-1, 1-0 before the rains came.

St. Joe is still winless in nine matches while Huron is 5-5 overall and 4-2 in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

At St. Paul, Clyde lost first singles but swept the rest of the matches for its sixth win in 11 matches.

Winners for the Fliers were No. 2 singles Jerry Garcia, No. 3 singles Todd Messecar, No. 1 doubles Paul and Bob Hohenstein and No. 2 doubles Marc Streeter and John Stahl.

St. Paul is 0-9.

Fliers top Huron; Little Giants lose

Clyde slipped past Huron 3-2 while Ross fell 5-0 to Sylvania Northview in high school tennis Thursday.

The Fliers, 8-5 overall, evened their Sandusky Bay Conference record at 3-3 with the close win. The Fliers swept the doubles events to pull off the victory.

Paul Hohenstein and Jerry Garcia, operating out of the first court, needed three sets to dispose of the Huron team of Ed Pettegrew and Craig Haplea 6-1, 3-6 and 6-3. The second court team of Bob Hohenstein and John Stahl polished off the Fliers' win with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Seth Haplea and Dave Nelson.

The other Fliers point was in the first court singles where Tim Biddle defeated Vic Krebs 6-4, 1-6 and 7-5.

At Sylvania, Ross Coach Pete Michael knew his squad was going up against one of the better teams in northwest Ohio.

"We tried," he said, "but when you are up against some of the best teams, it's really hard."

Brett Bunting, playing out of the third singles court for Ross, pushed Northview's Jerel Hess to three sets in Ross's closest brush at avoiding the shutout. Hess won 6-1, 2-6 and 6-1.

In the second court doubles, Ross's team of Rob Shurmer and Brian Dierksheide lost to Deke Keating and Scott Power 6-4 and 7-6.

Ross traveled to Sandusky today to face the Blue Streaks and will return to Sandusky Saturday to play in the Buckeye Conference Tournament.

Sports

Ross nipped 3-2

SANDUSKY — Ross won the first two singles matches but Sandusky captured the match 3-2 to run its high school tennis record to 10-5.

The Little Giants, 1-8, picked up wins from Chris Shirvis and Jon Ickes. Shirvis stopped Rick Waldock 6-0 and 6-1 in the first court singles while Ickes got past Chad Johnson 6-4 and 7-5.

In the second court doubles, Ross's Rob Shurmer and Brian Dierksheide pushed the Sandusky duo of Pat Ortner and Gerold Coiffard to three sets before losing. The Little Giants team won the second set 6-2 but lost 6-4 in the first set and 6-1 in the final.
the final.

Ross gets a 2nd and 2 consolation winners

SANDUSKY — Ross got one runner-up and two consolation winners in finishing sixth in the Buckeye Conference Tennis Championships at Sandusky High School here Saturday.

The Little Giants' one runner-up was the No. 1 doubles team of Jon Ickes and Chris Shirvis while the two consolation bracket champs were No. 1 singles player Kurt Swartzlander and the No. 2 doubles tandem of Rob Shurmer and Brian Dierksheide.

Ross tallied 36 points as a team to finish above last-place Elyria, which had 20. The team titlist was Findlay with 135 points. The Trojans were followed by Admiral King 78, Sandusky 53, Marion Harding and Lorain Senior 44 (tie).

"Under the circumstances, with the way we have played all season (1-8 record)," said Ross Coach Pete Michaels, "I was happy. But I thought we could've won number one doubles. They (Shirvis and Ickes) played super in their first two matches, but they let up a little in the finals."

Ickes and Shirvis, normally the top singles players for Ross, surprised a pair of seeded teams in reaching the No. 1 doubles final.

First of all, the Little Giant duo knocked off fourth-seeded Frank Polito and Mike Spinale of Admiral King 3-6, 6-1, 7-5. And then they shocked top-seeded Dave Donithen and Dave Burt of Marion Harding 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

In the championship finals, however, Ickes and Shirvis fell 6-1, 6-3 to Findlay's Chris Weaver and Marty Shaefer.

In No. 1 singles, Swartzlander lost his first-round match 6-1, 6-0 to Findlay's Chuck Merzbacher before rallying to beat Elyria's Greg Standen 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 and Sandusky's Rick Waldo 10-5 in the consolation finals.

In No. 2 doubles, Shurmer and Dierksheide did the same as their teammate Swartzlander; they lost their opening-round match but came back to win the next two.

Shurmer and Dierksheide lost 6-0, 6-3 to Findlay's Todd Stiles and Richie

Weldv before coming back to beat Lorain's Jack Cook and Tim Trout 10-3 and Elyria's Tony Jung and Tony Powers 10-4.

Ross's other two entrants — No. 2 singles man Matt Miller and No. 3 singles player Rodney Smith — each lost two matches.

The division winners Saturday were:

— No. 1 singles, Jim Gray of Sandusky defeated Merzbacher 1-6, 6-3, 6-2;

— No. 2 singles, Dale Wynkoop of Findlay defeated Adrian Harris of Admiral King 6-0, 6-0;

— No. 3 singles, Greg Olson of Findlay defeated Adam Defillipo of Lorain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

— No. 1 doubles, Weaver-Shaefer defeated Ickes-Shirvis 6-1, 6-3;

— No. 2 doubles, Gerard Coiffard-Pat Ortner of Sandusky and Stiles-Weldv were declared co-champs when their match was suspended because of rain.



Ross, Clyde pick up net wins

The Ross tennis team won its second match of the season Monday, and once again its victim was Port Clinton.

The Little Giants who defeated the Redskins 4-1 two weeks ago, picked on them again with a 3-2 triumph at Port Clinton. Ross is now 2-8.

In two other area net matches, Fostoria downed St. Joe 4-1 and Clyde blanked St. Mary's 5-0.

At PC, Ross dropped straight set decisions in the first two singles

run in the first quarter, accounting for the Stallions' only scoring

matches but won the third in the three-setter. Brett Bunting lost the first set 6-0 to PC's Joey Crisologo before rallying to win the next two 6-4, 6-1.

The Little Giants swept the doubles in straight sets. Chris Shirvis and Jon Ickes blanked Todd Hesler and P.J. Colts on 6-0, 6-0, and Rob Shurmer and Brian Dierksheide downed Todd Puckett and Frank Messener 7-5, 6-2.

At Fostoria, St. Joe remained winless in 11 matches in losing to the

had 10 yards on two carries.

"I never played

2-9 Redmen. The Streaks' No. 1 doubles tandem of Steve Guyer and Steve Spieldenner produced their team's lone win, a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 marathon over Mitch Mitchell and Brian Baumbarger.

At Clyde, the Fliers registered their ninth win in 14 matches and fourth in seven Sandusky Bay Conference encounters with the shutout over St. Mary's.

The winners for the Fliers were singles players Tim Biddle, Jerry Garcia and Todd Messecar and doubles partners Bob and Paul Hohenstein and Duane Rineard and John Stahl.

Area netters have bad day

It was a bad day for local and area high school tennis teams, as Ross, St. Joe and Clyde all lost convincing decisions.

Ross hosted recently crowned Buckeye Conference champion Findlay and fell 5-0, St. Joe entertained Huron and lost 4-1, and Clyde hosted Calvert and dropped another 4-1 decision.

At Rodger Young Park, Findlay had little trouble in disposing of the Little Giants. The Trojans are not 16-1 while Ross dropped to 2-9. Findlay won all five matches in straight sets.

Findlay juggled the lineup on the Little Giants, dropping Buckeye Conference singles runnerup Chuck Merzbacher from first singles to first doubles and moving second court singles player Dale Wynkoop up to the first court.

Wynkoop defeated Kurt Swartzlander 6-2 and 6-0 while the Merzbacher-Chris Weaver team topped Ross's Jon Ickes and Chris Shirvis 6-2 and 6-1.

Ross Coach Pete Michaels pointed out that he used a lineup that he would be using in sectional tournaments

Friday and Saturday.

"Findlay's good," Michaels said. "I'm the first to admit that. Wynkoop is normally their number two player but I think he could play number one on 97 percent of any other high school team."

At East Side Park, Mike Sullivan was the lone Crimson Streak to win. The St. Joe senior downed Huron's Vic Krebs 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in first singles. Three of St. Joe's losses were straight-setters while the other was a three-setter in which Steve Guyer and Steve Spieldenner dropped a 6-0, 6-7, 7-5 decision to Seth Haplea and Jeff Herzog. Huron is now 5-6 overall and 5-3 in the Sandusky Bay Conference while St. Joe is 0-12, 0-11.

At Clyde, the Fliers' No. 1 doubles team of Tim Biddle and Jerry Garcia downed Calvert's Cliff Lim and Pol Montesclaros 6-3, 6-4 for their club's only point. Like St. Joe, Clyde lost three straight-set matches and one three-setter, a 7-5, 0-6, 6-3 loss by Bob and Paul Hohenstein to Jeff McFarland and Mark Langenderfer. Calvert is now 8-3, 5-2, and Clyde is 9-6, 4-4.

Sandusky nips Ross

The Ross tennis team extended Sandusky to the final match before falling 3-2 to the Blue Streaks at Rodger Young Park Wednesday.

Both teams had already split four matches when it came down to the No. 2 doubles match between Sandusky's Buckeye Conference championship duo of Pat Ortner and Gerard Coiffard and Ross's Rob Shurmer and Brian Dierksheide.

Shurmer and Dierksheide took their Sandusky opponents to three sets before dropping a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 decision.

Winners for Ross were No. 1 singles player Kurt Swartzlander, who beat Rick Waldock 6-4, 6-3, and the No. 1 doubles team of Jon Ickes and Chris

Shirvis, which beat Tim Putnam and Mike Buller 6-4, 7-6.

In one other area tennis match yesterday, Clyde edged Port Clinton 3-2.

The Fliers lost first and second singles before coming back with wins in the other three matches.

Todd Messecar outlasted Joey Crisologo 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 to win No. 3 singles, Paul and Bob Hohenstein beat P.J. Colston and Todd Heslet 6-2, 6-1 in No. 1 doubles, and Marc Streeter and John Stahl downed Todd Puckett and Franz Messner 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in No. 2 doubles to lead Clyde to victory.

Giants end on a victory; Clyde tops Vermilion

Ross closed the season with a victory and Clyde set up a shot to get its coach win number 100 in Tuesday high school tennis matches.

The Little Giants swept the singles matches to nip Bellevue 3-2 while Clyde defeated Vermilion by the same count after sweeping the doubles courts en-

counters.

"It was nice to close on a winning note," Ross Coach Pete Michaels said after his team won its third match in 14 outings. "The kids played well considering it was a cool night but when you win, everything looks pretty bright."

Chris Shirvis of Ross stopped Dave Martin 6-2 and 6-2 in the first court singles while Jon Ickes of the Little Giants blanked Mark Dumas in straight 6-0 sets. In the third court singles, Kurt Swartzlander of Ross turned back Mike DeVault 6-4 and 6-2. Clyde 3, Vermilion 2.

Clyde won two of three singles and then

let the Hohenstein brothers, Bob and Paul, provide the third match point in the first court doubles. The brothers stopped John Wright and Bill Stanfield in straight 6-3 sets.

In the singles, Jerry Garcia of the Fliers used three sets to top Skip Kohlmeier 6-2, 3-6

and 6-3 in the second court. Todd Messecar of Clyde won the third singles match, defeating Emmett Greeley 6-3 and 7-6.

Friday, Clyde will be at East Side Park to play St. Joe. The win over Vermilion gave Clyde Coach Bill Young his 99th win as a head coach.

Church League

Dave Shimer tossed a three-hitter as St. John's opened the Church League fast pitch softball season with a 7-1 victory over St. Paul's.

In another CL game, Grace I defeated Grace II 11-1 in a game that ended after five innings because of the 10-run rule.

St. John's fell behind 1-0 in the second but took the lead with a two-run third inning. In the fifth, St. Joe scored five times, two on a bases-loaded double down the third base line by Steve Stotz

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