

1997 District Tournament

everything.

Also Friday at BG, Ross singles player Andi Andrews and two Little Giants doubles teams will compete in the Div. I event.

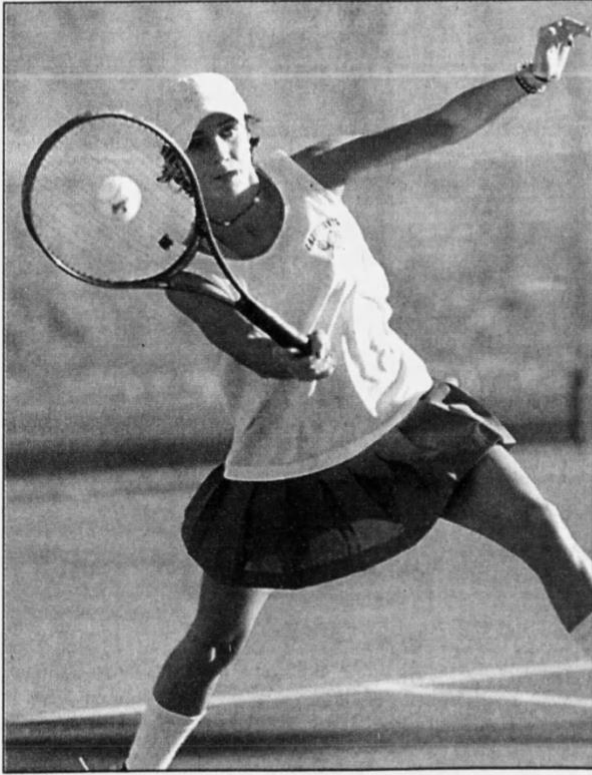
Andrews opens play against H. Van Horsten of Notre Dame, who lost to Ross's Ainsley Watkins at No. 2 singles in a dual match earlier this season.

"She just has to play her game," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said of Andrews, who lost in the second round of districts last year.. "Her game is staying focused on the court, hitting strong shots. She's fine if she stays focused."

As in Div. II, Div. I players will play two matches Friday. But because only three advance to state, players will need to win a semifinal or consolation match Monday to prolong the season.

The Ross doubles teams of Courtney LaBenne and Gina Melchiori and Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom will compete in the district doubles tournament.

Andrews loses just three games in district wins



News-Messenger/Steven Garner

ANDI ANDREWS won two matches Friday to reach the Division I District Tennis Tournament semifinals to be played Monday. **More inside, B4**

By **BRIAN SPIESS**
Sports editor

BOWLING GREEN — Fremont Ross senior Andi Andrews is one win from making the state tennis tournament, but she may have to lose a match to get there.

Andrews, having more troubles with nerves than opponents, won two matches Friday at the Division I District Tournament on the campus of Bowling Green State University.

Andrews defeated Notre Dame's Holly Van Horsten 6-2, 6-0 in the first round, then reached the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-0 win against Perrysburg's Emily Lowry.

"I was real nervous, so I didn't play that well," Andrews said. "I'll have to be more aggressive Monday."

That's when the four singles semifinalists return to BGSU fighting for three spots in the Oct. 17-18 state tournament in Columbus. The semifinal final winners earn two state spots, joined by the winner of the consolation match between the semifinal losers.

Andrews' semifinal match is against Alyson Gabel of St. Ursula. Gabel, who qualified for districts by winning the Toledo sectional, defeated Andrews in the 1995 districts.

"I better play more aggressive or I'll get spanked," Andrews said of the 1 p.m. matchup. "I'll play the hardest I can, but to be truthful,

I'm playing for the second match."

The other semifinal is between Sylvania Southview's Carey Richards and Marnie Greenblatt of St. Ursula, who knocked Andrews out of the 1996 districts.

"At this point I don't have anything to lose," said Andrews, happy to have won her bracket after winning the Sandusky sectional to qualify.

In Andrews' Friday morning match, she led just 3-2 as both players appeared tentative. And while the long, patient rallies continued, the closeness of the score did not.

Andrews won the final nine games of the that match and 12 of 13 games in her afternoon match to reach the semifinals.

"She did great," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "She just have to get rid of the nerves when she first started. After that, she maintained court."

Her teammates were not as successful.

Ross's Jenny Schaaf and Morgan Carnicom lost 6-4, 6-0 in a doubles match against Sylvania Northview's Rachel Dielman and Heidi Burkhart. Gina Melchiori and Courtney LaBenne, another Ross pair, lost 6-4, 6-2 to Perrysburg's Sarah Lark and Alexis Waggoner.

"They were up against some tough competition," Wolfe said of both duos. "They basically played well ... but in districts you're getting the best of all over."

Ross star knocked out



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ANDI ANDREWS hits a backhand during her 6-4, 6-2 loss to Sylvania Southview's Carey Richards in Monday's Division I District Tournament consolation match at Bowling Green State University. Richards advanced to the state tournament with the win.

Andrews misses state toumey berth by one match

By **BRIAN SPIESS**
Sports editor

BOWLING GREEN — Fremont Ross senior Andi Andrews is not headed to the state tennis tournament, instead ending a career which included 46 wins in her final two seasons.

Sylvania Southview's Carey Richards, distinguished as much by her orange socks as her aggressive strokes, defeated Andrews 6-4, 6-2 Monday at the Division I District Tournament's consolation match to earn the final state qualifying spot.

Both players had lost semifinal matchups prior to the 3:30 p.m. matchup.

"She played well, I can't take that away from her," Andrews said. "There wasn't a lot of pressure because the better

player is going to go (to state). She played better today, she deserves to go."

"I've seen (Andrews) play better," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "But the girl from Southview played well."

So well, in fact, that she never trailed in the match. Andrews committed three unforced errors and served a double fault in the first game, giving Richards her first opening.

Richards led 4-1 after breaking Andrews for the second of what would be nine breaks in the match.

But Andrews fought back, winning three games and showing glimpses of the fire that helped her win consecutive Great Lakes League and sectional tournament titles.

But after tying the score at 4-4 Andrews dropped eight of the next nine points to lose set No. 1.

"I had opportunities and I missed them," Andrews said. "We both had opportunities and she made more of her opportunities."

The second set was more of the same. Richards and Andrews combined for three consecutive breaks to open the set as Richards held a 2-1 edge. After Andrews broke to make the score 4-2, Richards won eight of the final 10 points to clinch the match.

"I had to keep focused," Richards said. "The pressure is always there. You just try not to think about it when you're playing."

Richards said Andrews was

enjoyable to play because of her honesty on line calls, something both players said does not happen in all high school matches.

"She's one of the best players, and I love playing her," said Richards, who wore calf-high orange socks and orange shoelaces to match her school's color.

In the finals Alyson Gabel, who beat Andrews, defeated Marnie Greenblatt, who beat Richards.

Andrews finished her senior year 23-5 after a 23-2 junior season.

"I'm just really proud of her accomplishments this year. She's going to be missed," Wolfe said. "She will be dearly missed as an excellent athlete and a wonderful girl."