

2000 District Tournament

District: Double the fun



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

MEGHAN MICHAELS, left, and Erica Wolfe of Fremont Ross make up one of the two area doubles teams headed to the district Friday at Bowling Green State University. The undefeated Clyde duo of Amanda Showman and Laura Seaman are also district-bound.

Ross, Clyde teams rely on communication, fun for success

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

Fremont Ross tennis doubles teammates Erica Wolfe and Meghan Michaels keep each other alert by barking the phrase "no net."

Clyde's Laura Seaman tries to find a place on the court where she is safe from the sizzling serve of fellow Flier Amanda Showman.

For the two area doubles teams headed to Friday's district tournament at Bowling Green State University, the game is all about communication and staying loose.

"We say 'no net,'" said Wolfe, who explained that the phrase reminds players to hit away from the opponent at the net.

"We're just mostly pumping each other up, saying, 'We can get this next point. Let's just do it.' When we starting having fun and laughing, we play a lot better because we're more comfortable."

Showman and Seaman agree that compatibility and good atti-



AMANDA SHOWMAN of Clyde rips a shot during a match earlier this season at Sandusky. Showman is the first Clyde tennis player to rack up 100 career wins.

tudes go along way for doubles partners.

"We just joke around with each other," Seaman said Wednesday before practice at the high school courts.

Said Showman, "Like when I serve, I've hit her a couple times. We always joke about that. Now she stands out in the alley when I serve."

man, who earlier this season became the first Clyde player to win 100 career matches.

"We have to be aggressive. When we're aggressive and come to the net, that's when we put a lot of shots away. I think we make our opponents kind of nervous."

Wolfe and Michaels — who were the first and second singles players, respectively, for Ross this season and each posted records of 20-10 — are 5-1 in their short time together in doubles. They finished third last weekend at the Division I sectional at Sandusky. The Little Giants meet Ashley Collette and Rachel Wallace of rival Findlay at 11:45 a.m. Friday.

"I think we can go a long way if we put our minds to it," Wolfe said.

"Most of the game in tennis is a mind thing. It's not just your ability." Said Michaels, "This is a great experience for me. I'm really excited."

To get out of district and into next week's state tournament, the Clyde team will have to win three matches and finish in the top three. The Ross girls must win three matches and finish in the top two.

Showman and Seaman, who are 17-0 in their first season as a doubles team, won last week's Division II sectional at Baywinds. They open district play at about 10:45 a.m. Friday against the Napoleon team of Chelsea Meyer and Lindsey Elling.

"We just want to go out and play well in the first match," said Show-



SEAMAN

Clyde pair plays for berth at state

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Each team has a district veteran and a first-timer. Clyde's Showman is playing in her third consecutive district and made it to state with former mate Cassie Newsome as a sophomore. Showman and Newsome missed out on a trip to state last year when they lost in the second round.

Wolfe and teammate Gina Melchiori, who chose not to play tennis this season, lost in the first round of last year's district tournament.

The two experienced players said the atmosphere at district takes some getting used to.

"There are a lot more people there than I really expected," Wolfe said. "People are clapping on your mistakes, which is hard for me. I just have to get over that and play."

But Seaman and Michaels have high hopes.

"I'm not really nervous," Seaman said. "I'm just really happy and excited. I think if we really concentrate and play like we have been playing, we'll do well."

Showman and Seaman say aggressiveness is the key to their success. The two players complement each other well; Seaman is left-handed, Showman right-handed, and both have good backhands.

"We play an upbeat, up-tempo type of tennis, where we're trying to catch everything early," Clyde coach Jeff MacFarland said. "If they continue to do that, I think they have a pretty good shot at being successful at districts."

"They're probably two of the most athletic doubles players I've had. As far as strokes, they're up near the top. I've had a couple girls who hit the ball with more finesse, but they didn't play the aggressive, athletic style of tennis these two play."

The aggressive style of play served the Clyde pair especially well last week in the sectional semifinals. Showman and Seaman trailed the Vermilion team of Megan Meyers and Heather Schultz 5-2 in the third set before rallying for a 7-5 victory, keeping their undefeated streak intact.

"They help pick up each other," MacFarland said. "When one seems to get down, the other picks up their game a little bit to keep the team going."

"They both just looked at each other and said, 'We're not going to lose this.'"

Although new to varsity doubles competition, Michaels and Wolfe are no strangers to playing with each other. Wolfe, the daughter of head coach Lisa Wolfe, took up the game at age 2,

Tennis

Wolfe, Michaels reach district semifinal

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — The Fremont Ross doubles team of Erica Wolfe and Meghan Michaels won two matches on Friday at the Division I district tennis tournament at Bowling Green State University.

Wolfe and Michaels beat Ashley Collette and Rachel Wallace of Findlay 6-3, 6-4 in the first round and then knocked off Kelly Alter and Julia Masters of St. Ursula 6-3, 6-4 in the second round.

"It's just tremendous what they did today," said Ross coach Lisa Wolfe. "I was hoping for a first-round win so we could stick around for the afternoon part. But they started out like troopers and really did a great job."

The Little Giants will need to beat Anjali Bhat and Kate Lohner of St. Ursula in the semifinal at 9:15 a.m. today on the BGSU courts (located behind the hockey arena).

The semifinal winners earn a trip to the state tournament next weekend in Columbus.

"I heard that the team that we beat from St. Ursula and this (Bhat and Lohner) team are pretty equal," Erica Wolfe said. "We just have to keep it in our head that we can do this. I know we can do it, we just have to play our hardest."



WOLFE



MICHAELS

Giants fall one win shy of state

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — The Fremont Ross sophomore tandem of Erica Wolfe and Meghan Michaels fell one step shy of a trip to the Division I state tennis tournament.

Wolfe and Michaels dropped a 6-1, 6-0 decision to Toledo St. Ursula's Anjali Bhat and Kate Lohner in Saturday's district semifinal at Bowling Green State University. Bhat and Lohner went on to win the district and advance to state. The top two singles players and doubles teams advanced.

Wolfe and Michaels won two matches Friday to earn a berth in the semifinals.

"I was so happy to get to the semifinals," Wolfe said. "I didn't think we'd get that far. We proved to ourselves we could do it."

"We played pretty tough (Saturday). We pushed points farther than I thought we could."