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Fremont Ross takes all 5 matches against SJCC

BY JEFF ARENZ

Sports writer

FREMONT -- With conference and sectional tournaments looming, the Fremont Ross girls tennis team posted a 5-0 tune-up victory against St. Joseph Central Catholic on Wednesday at Alumni Fields.

The Little Giants (14-2 overall) received singles wins from Sam Lagrou (No. 1), Rachel Laeng (No. 2) and Casey Clark (No. 3) and were the benefactors of doubles victories from Alexis Gedeon and Sarah Osborne (No. 1) and Maddie Kueick and Sarah Gray (No. 2).

"This year, we have a very hard-working bunch of players who are very comfortable in their roles," Ross coach Lisa Wolfe said. "It's nice to have a lot of depth because everyone is constantly competing for that seventh (varsity) spot."

The Little Giants, who will participate in the Greater Buckeye Conference Tournament on Saturday at Lima Senior and prepare for the OHSAA Division I Sectional Tournament on Thursday at Sandusky, won all five matches against SJCC on Wednesday in straight sets.

Lagrou (11-5 in dual meets) bested Amanda Berryman 6-0, 6-0. Laeng (13-3) was a 6-0, 6-1 victor versus Hannah Sani. Clark (11-5) recorded a 6-0, 6-1 win against Lauren Fulwider.

Gedeon and Osborne (15-1) defeated Alish Masterson and Morgan Furlong 6-0, 6-2 while Kueick and Gray (14-2) took out Chloe Beck and Emma Hoffman 6-0, 6-0.

Wolfe said her players have decided to keep their consistent lineup as the tournaments approach.

For the Crimson Streaks (2-11 overall), a young SJCC squad has gained experience with players who are competing in their first year at the varsity level.

"Our juniors saw very little varsity playing time last season and Chloe is a first-year tennis player for us," SJCC coach Lilly Walters said. "We just have hone in on their skills, have them get on-court experience and hopefully have them carry that into next season."

Berryman and Furlong are seniors for the Crimson Streaks. The rest of the SJCC lineup includes juniors Sani, Fulwider, Masterson, Beck and Hoffman. Leah Walters, the Crimson Streaks regular No. 2 singles player, did not compete Wednesday due to illness.

"I have been working to be a consistent player," Sani said. "We need to establish ourselves as consistent, effective tennis players and use that as a building block to success."

But the Little Giants are having success with an even younger squad. Lagrou is Ross's only varsity senior while junior Casey Clark has been playing competitive tennis for about four months.

"This has been pretty exciting for me because its the first year of a different sport," said Clark, who is the catcher on the Little Giants' softball team and a forward on the Ross girls basketball team.

The Little Giants' other juniors are Gedeon and Osborne while Kueick is a sophomore and Gray is a

freshman.

"We're winning matches this season with a young team and I know that we'll have three eighth graders who will be freshmen next season that will fit right in," Wolfe said. "It's really nice to have that kind of depth in this program. We're going to be a solid team for a few more years."



Fremont Ross's Casey Clark returns a ball during a match Wednesday against SJCC at Ross. (Brenda Soule / News-Messenger)