

## High hopes for area teams

Staff Reports • March 27, 2010

Fremont Ross

Coach: Lisa Wolfe

Last year: 5-7 (1-4 Greater Buckeye Conference)

Key Departures: Jacob Garlock, Ricky Ramirez, Jason Rexroth

Key Returners: Malcolm Leake, Jordan Martin, Tim Cheek, David Gipe, Michael Pickerel, Curtis Hinsch, Erik Paulson.

Key Newcomers: Marcus Hernandez, Rob Hart, Andrew Wright, Michael Hall, Logan Apling, Cody Curry, David Garza

Outlook: Wolfe is encouraged by the last week of practice in good weather, and hopes the scrimmages against Bowling Green and Oak Harbor -- both successful programs -- served as a wake-up call for some of the players. The Little Giants, led by Leake at first singles, look to be competitive in the GBC. Wolfe noted that most of the top players they saw in the league have graduated. "I'm definitely looking for a better record than last year." She has high hopes as well for Leake, who was the Little Giants' lone player to advance to districts. "He's played in a lot of tournaments and he's gotten better and better," she said of the sophomore.

SJCC

Coach: Scott Knisely

Key Departures: Chris Wobser, Matt Barbour, Tyler Cleveland, Derek Dickman

Key Returners: Paul Wendt, Sam Hossler, Paul Bloom, Matt Wickline

Key Newcomers: Grant Cleveland, Scott Lamson, James Oddo, Parker Rutherford.

Outlook: Paul Wendt, who had played singles and doubles last year, will be the first singles player for the Crimson Streaks, who lost singles players Wobser and Barbour to graduation. "That's a jump for him, but I know he's a competitive kid and he'll

give it his best effort," Knisely said. Grant Cleveland, the brother of Tyler, who graduated, has come out for the team, as has Lamson, a senior. "The big thing is how quick the newcomers develop into the roles that they have," Knisely said.

Clyde

Coach: Jeff MacFarland

Last year: 5-11

Key Departures: Tan Prentapong, Patrick Potts, Cody McGrath, Jeremy Hohenstein

Key Returners: Zack Downing, Blaine MacFarland, Adam Turner

Key Newcomers: Jordan Brown

Outlook: Downing is the lone senior on the team, and coach MacFarland will probably fill the ranks with a lot of players that had seen mostly junior varsity action. "We're going to be young," coach MacFarland said. "I'm pretty happy with the athleticism we have and we'll improve for next year." Bellevue

Coach: Jim Picciuto, 1st year

Key Returners: Brian Wilson, Jake Eastman

Key Departures: Tyler Buchanan, Sam Wagner, Andrew Zuk

Key Newcomers: Ian Carr, Brendan Adkinson, Jordan Lindsey, Paul Pooch

Outlook: "We're a really young team, but we already have a great core of freshmen and sophomores to build on for the future," Picciuto said. The Redmen have lost all three of their singles players to graduation, but project Wilson to step in at first singles, and Eastman at first doubles.

Oak Harbor

Coach: Rick LaFountain, (323-211), 6th year at Oak Harbor, 31st year coaching

Last year: 16-3

Key Departures: Bobby Lochotzki, Dereck Witt, Clifford Goetz

Key Returners: Greg LaFountain, Brandon Wasserman, Kevin Young

Key Newcomers: Eli Bolt

Outlook: LaFountain, Young and Wasserman will be the singles players for the Rockets, while Nick Shay and Nick Johnson will be first doubles. Eli Bolt and Justin Kaman will likely be at second doubles, coach LaFountain said. "Coming into the season, I thought SMCC had the best team, but Port Clinton spent a lot of time working," Rick LaFountain said. "But I think on any given day St. Mary's could beat them."



Fremont Ross' Malcolm Leake plays a ball during last season's match against St. Joseph Central Catholic. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger)