



September 24, 2009

Little Giants can't beat BG

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT -- Fremont Ross tennis coach Lisa Wolfe expected a dogfight Wednesday, and that's what she got.

Rachel Laeng at second singles would be the lone winner for the Little Giants, who fell victim to a tough Bowling Green squad 4-1 in a non-conference match at Alumni Fields.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match from what happened last year," Wolfe said, who has coached Ross to a 13-2 record. "We lost to them on their courts, 2-3, last year and they only lost a couple of seniors at doubles positions and have everyone back at singles ... so we knew it was going to be a really tough match."

Tough it was, as three of the five courts went to three sets with two matches ending under darkness -- all of which would be won by the Bobcats (13-3), who came in tied for the lead in the Northern Lakes League with Perrysburg and Sylvania Southview.

"I always tell the girls that they can't get better by playing someone less talented than they are," Wolfe said. "The only way you're going to get better is by playing someone that is better than you, and I'm sure there were some valuable lessons learned on the courts (Wednesday)."

Learning a big lesson was the No. 1 doubles team for Ross of Alexis Gedeon and Sarah Osborne. Coming into the match a perfect 14-0, Gedeon and Osborne fell victim for the first time to the Bobcats No. 1 doubles pair of Bethany Hoehner and Stephanie Motsinger in a three set tiebreaker, 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (7-3).

"We did everything we could," Osborne said of her doubles effort against the Bobcat's 15-1 team. "They just played really good net, and with both of them being pretty tall it was hard to get the ball around them."

Also having a tough go with the Bobcats on the doubles court was the Little Giants' No. 2 doubles team of Maddie Kueick and Sarah Grey, who fell for just the second time. BG's No. 2 duo of Abby Sell and Gina Buzzelli beat Kueick and Grey 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

The loss gave the Bobcats a 2-1 lead at the time, after BG's Beth Vickio downed Ross' Sam Lagrou in No. 1 singles and Laenge beat the Bobcats' Maddie Telecky in No. 2 singles.

Lagrou fell 4-6, 6-3 to drop her record to 10-7.

"Last year it went three sets and beat (Vickio)," Lagrou said. "So I knew coming in it was going to be a tough match, and all she did throughout was slice the ball at me, which made it tough for me to get to her shots and made me hit a lot of ball out of bounds."

Laeng, on the other hand, had the easiest match on the courts, winning 6-4, 6-0 to up her record to 11-3.

"Once I won the first set, that was a big momentum boost for me," Laeng said. "In the first set, she did a good job of making me use my backhand, which wasn't working well today, but in the second set I

just focused one point at a time and the focus on my end was much better."

In the other singles match, the Little Giants' Casey Clark fell 6-4, 1-6, 3-6 to BG's Shelby Fenn on the No. 3 court.

"It was a tough non-league match for us, which is nice this time of year," Wolfe said. "If we had to lose to someone, this would be the one, when we're trying to gear up for the (Greater Buckeye Conference) tournament and you're gearing up for sectionals. We'll be a better team come tournament time thanks to matches like these."



Fremont Ross player Rachel Laeng returns a ball during a tennis match Wednesday at home against Bowling Green. (Greg Burr | Submitted photo)