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Tennis: Fremont Ross tops Oak Harbor

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OAK HARBOR -- Tied at 3 in the third set, Oak Harbor's No. 2 doubles team of Emily Macko and Katie Mehlow won a crucial game against Fremont Ross's Maddie Kueick and Sarah Gray on Wednesday.

Macko and Mehlow survived through 10 deuce points before taking a 4-3 lead in games on Kueick and Gray en route to handing the Little Giants' No. 2 doubles team its first loss this season 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

Ross, which improved to 9-1 overall, received wins from singles players Rachel Laeng (No. 2) and Casey Clark (No. 3) and its No. 1 doubles team of Alexis Gedeon and Sarah Osborne to post a 3-2 win over Oak Harbor (5-3). Ashley LaFountain turned in a victory for the Rockets at No. 1 singles.

Patience was the key for Macko and Mehlow.

"We just had to stay calm," Macko said. "Sometimes, we have a problem with that. I know that I get bent out of shape and so does (Katie). We just talked to each other and kept each other calm."

Mehlow agreed.

"By staying calm, we didn't make any stupid mistakes and kept ourselves in the match," Mehlow said.

After Macko and Mehlow won the first set Wednesday, it was the first time this season that Kueick and Gray dropped in any match.

"Oak Harbor was one of the tougher teams that we have played," Gray said. "It was kind of hard for us to focus against them."

Kueick and Gray have been partners only since this season began.

"We're a good match because we have fun and we stay positive in difficult times," Gray said.

Macko and Mehlow are 7-3 in 2009 while Kueick and Gray have combined for a 9-1 mark.

Gedeon and Osborne remained undefeated by recording a 6-1, 6-1 win over the Rockets' Kristina Blatt and Hannah Sigurdson. The Little Giants' No. 1 doubles team is 10-0.

Laeng upped her record to 8-2 overall after topping Julia Konieczny 6-2, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.

Clark used a 6-0, 6-0 shutout against Logan Bahnsen to become 7-3 at No. 3 singles.

LaFountain, an Oak Harbor freshman, won for the 10th time in her first 11 varsity matches at No. 1 singles by compiling a 6-1, 6-0 victory against Sam Lagrou (5-5).

Experience has been the key for LaFountain.

"I hit a lot during the offseason," LaFountain said. "I've tried to play one USTA-sanctioned tournament per week during the summertime."

According to LaFountain, her forehand and backhand have been strengths to her play in 2009.

"(My forehand) is a lot harder than my backhand, but my backhand has been more consistent," LaFountain said.



Sarah Gray of Fremont Ross serves during a doubles match against Oak Harbor on Wednesday. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger Fremont Ross' Sarah)