

## FLASHING THE POTENTIAL

### Murray

#### Isabella Murray, 14, on the rise at the Robinson Tournament

FRANCIS J. ROBINSON MEMORIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

#### JOSEPH HAYES

TIMES HERALD

There are many noteworthy observations one can make watching the Francis J. Robinson Memorial Tennis Tournament.

Among the many benefits of the event is a look into the future at the next generation of the Blue Water Area's top tennis players. Near the top of that list is Isabella Murray, who is only 14-years-old but has already begun to show potential to be a dominant force in high school.

By the way, she will begin classes at Port Huron Northern High School next month.

"I'm really excited about her," Northern tennis coach Char Sweeney said. "She just finished eighth grade and she is a rising freshman. She is a really good athlete and for an eighth grader to beat top local players really pushes everyone.

"She is someone to watch. She is 14-years-old playing in the 18-and-under flight and she is the odds on favorite to win."

That's great news for Northern and the entire area. There have been many young talents that have shone brightly at the annual tournament and Murray has followed suit. She has won so many championships that she can't even recall. But her inner drive remains to improve and become a top player.

"This is my favorite tournament because everyone knows each other and we have a lot of fun," Murray said. "But we still take it very seriously. I want to win a triple crown."

Murray is playing up several flights this year at the tournament. She is

See **MURRAY, Page 3B**

**"She is someone to watch. She is 14 years old playing in the 18-and-under flight and she is the odds-on favorite to win."**

#### CHAR SWEENEY

NORTHERN TENNIS COACH



**Isabella Murray of Fort Gratiot won three championships in her age group at last year's Robinson Memorial.**

TIMES HERALD

---

Continued from Page 1B

playing 18-and-under singles and also doubles with St. Clair High School senior Claire Brooks, who has been equally as amazed at her friend.

“She is going to come in and play at a much higher spot than I was able to play,” Brooks said. “She is a really talented player. We have been friends forever.

“I’m excited for her to experience what I was able to experience. I’m excited that she will be able to play against some of the top players.”

Murray has an above average forehand and seems to be on an advanced track that should bode well for her future. Very soon, she will shift her focus to high school, where she will immediately become one of the best players in the area.

“I’m so excited,” she said. “I can’t wait. I think it’s going to be a lot of more difficult matches because I won’t just play people my age. I’m looking forward to it.”

Contact Joseph Hayes at (810) 9896268 or at [jahayes@gannett.com](mailto:jahayes@gannett.com). Follow him on twitter @Joseph\_Hayes11.



**Isabella Murray plays a practice game during the Francis J. Robinson Memorial Tennis Tournament.**

SUBMITTED

# Murray

Continued from Page 1B

playing 18-and-under singles and also doubles with St. Clair High School senior Claire Brooks, who has been equally as amazed at her friend.

"She is going to come in and play at a much higher spot than I was able to play," Brooks said. "She is a really talented player. We have been friends forever.

"I'm excited for her to experience what I was able to experience. I'm ex-

cited that she will be able to play against some of the top players."

Murray has an above average forehand and seems to be on an advanced track that should bode well for her future. Very soon, she will shift her focus to high school, where she will immediately become one of the best players in the area.

"I'm so excited," she said. "I can't wait. I think it's going to be a lot of more difficult matches because I won't just play people my age. I'm looking forward to it."

Contact Joseph Hayes at (810) 989-6268 or at jahayes@gannett.com. Follow him on twitter @Joseph\_Hayes11.



Isabella Murray plays a practice game during the Francis J. Robinson Memorial Tournament.