

Herndon, Smith headed to state

Written by Mike Kelly
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Shannon Herndon and Meredith Smith of the Wataiuga High tennis team are headed to the state tournament next weekend.

Herndon, the No.1 seed in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference qualifier grabbed a second-place finish in the Class 4A Western Regional at South Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte.

Herndon, who was 3-1 during the two-day tournament, lost to Grace Baker of Myers Park 6-2, 6-3 in the finals. Herndon, who was undefeated in conference play, only lost her second match of the year.

Herndon reached the finals by defeating Jessica Perez of Meyers Park 6-2, 6-1 in the semi-final round. Baker defeated Smith in the semi-finals, 6-0, 6-0.

Smith, who was seeded second in the NW3A/4A qualifier last week, finished fourth in the field, and will join Herndon at the state tournament this Friday and Saturday. The top four finishers in singles and doubles play advance to the state tournament.

Smith, who was 2-2 in the field, lost her consolation match to Perez, 6-0, 6-1. The doubles team of Hannah Petersen and Katelin Fox were eliminated on Friday. They were the No.1 seed in the NW3A/4A qualifier.

The Class 4A state finals will be played at the Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh this Friday and Saturday.