

## Lake, Smith Elimiated In Opening Round

Written by Mike Kelly  
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Steve Lake and Michael Smith of Watauga High were eliminated in the opening round of the Class 4A state championships at Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh.

Lake and Smith lost to Will McDonald and Josiah Boda (Scotland County) 1-6, 6-1, (10-6) in their first-round doubles match. Lake and Smith turned in a successful season for the Pioneers. They were doubles champion in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, and they finished third at the Class 4A Western Regional in Charlotte last week. Lake, who will play tennis at Appalachian State University next season, was a four-time state qualifier for the Pioneers. He was also a two-time regional champion in singles play the last two years before he teamed up with Smith in doubles this season. Overall, it was a tough day for the NW3A/4A Conference. In Class 3A at the Burlington Tennis Center in Burlington, NC, Brad Bowman of Hickory lost his first-round match to Turner Votipka of Nash Central. Votipka defeaetd Bowman in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3; and Nick James of Wilson Fike defeated Paul Hogan of Hibriten, 6-1, 6-2.