

Smith Advances To State

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Michael Smith has made his way back to the Class 4A State Tennis Championships. The Watauga High senior, who has signed with Appalachian State University, marched his way to the Class 4A Western Regional championship match at Hough High School in Cornelius, N.C., on Saturday. Smith (18-2) lost to Mike Roberts of Ardrey Kell in the finals, 1-6, 1-6.

He defeated Thomas Ohmen of T.C. Roberson 6-0, 6-0 in his first match; and he knocked off Greg Dow of Lake Norman 7-5, 6-4 in the second round. Smith knocked off Jim Fan of Ardrey Kell, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinal round.

The state finals will be played Friday and Saturday, May 11-12 at the Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh. The Pioneers had four regional qualifiers in the field. Harrison Battle lost his first-round singles match to Grant Patton of South Mecklenburg in three sets, 4-6, 6-3, 4-6; and the doubles team of Landon Taylor and Chris Ludwig lost in the first round to Nicholas Cottrill and Matt Coats of Providence in straight sets, 5-7, 1-6.