

High Country has a tennis champ

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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Hang onto your rackets- we've got a tennis champ in our midst. Boone native Paul Goode just won the North Carolina State Closed Men's Tournament.

While Goode is no stranger to the tournament, having competed in this particular event 8 times since age 16 and making it to the quarter finals twice, winning put a whole new spin on things.

Triad Tennis puts on the tournament every year. The best players in the state play in the tournament, according to Goode.

Where to now? Goode heads to Chattanooga for a tournament next weekend. He heads to as many tournaments as he can over the summer- something that is difficult for the man who is both head tennis coach at Hound Ears Club and Lees-McRae.

Why doesn't he go pro? Actually, he did. For 8 months, he was on the Futures Tour, which is the lowest level of professional tennis, he says.

Coaching is his true passion, however. That, and a recent marriage, keeps Goode in the High Country.

Among other things, Goode currently teaches kids in the junior tennis program. The ten-week program just started and he has university level tennis players helping him coach kids, aged 6-16. You don't have to be a member of Hound Ears to be a part of the junior program, he says. He encourages anyone interested to give him a call at 828-963-6441