

Times-Standard

Dominating the field: Del Norte's Wilson, Cink capture H-DNC doubles tennis title

Erik Fraser/The Times-Standard

Article Launched: 11/03/2007 01:24:14 AM PDT

McKINLEYVILLE -- Emma Wilson is going back to the North Coast Section Tennis Tournament after all, and she gets to bring a friend.

Wilson and Del Norte teammate Rebecca Cink dominated their competition to win the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference doubles title on Friday, punching their ticket to Novato with a 6-1, 6-0 win over McKinleyville's Abbey Arndt and Rachel MARRS in the final.

A year ago, Wilson went to NCS as the H-DN singles representative, but St. Bernard's Catherine Macan gets that honor this year after she beat Wilson in the singles final last week.

Wilson and Cink made sure that didn't happen again. After a first-round bye -- a perk of being the top seed -- the Del Norte duo dispatched Eureka's Crystal Parker and Laura Kramer 6-1, 6-1 before meeting Arndt and MARRS in the championship.

The McKinleyville pair expended significantly more energy to reach the championship game -- they went to three sets against both North Coast Prep's Chisa Hughes and Amy Wolfberg and Fortuna's Karina Knapp and Niki Green.

Wilson and Cink were, by contrast, quite rested, and were therefore much sharper than their opponents.

They moved aggressively and placed shots well, especially shots close to the net, and ran away with the title.

Arndt and MARRS came up short in the final, but they were impressive in winning their first two matches, especially in the win over Fortuna.

"They played the best they've ever played to get to the finals," said Mack head coach Frank Sanchez.

The Warriors' No. 2 and No. 3 doubles teams also won to make it a Del Norte sweep. Lauren Godla and Jennifer Gustafson beat Eureka's Jenna Madsen and Vivi Smith 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 in the No. 2 spot, and Rachel Cink and Kelsey Hintz outlasted Arcata's Jenny Durina and Breanne King in a marathon No. 3 final, 6-3, 6-7 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4).

Only the No. 1 singles and doubles champions get to go to NCS Tournament, which takes place at Rolling Hills Country Club in Novato on Nov. 13-14, but the entire Del Norte team will represent the H-DNC at the NCS team tournament next week.

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