Written by Don Mann Tuesday, 06 November 2012 10:38



Woodinville senior Nate Billett earned a ticket to the state tennis tournament. File photo. It doesn't happen very often, but a Woodinville tennis player will play in the state tournament — which oddly enough takes place in the spring in eastern Washington because of more favorable weather conditions at that time.

Falcon senior Nate Billett, by way of a 6-0, 6-0 whitewash of Snohomish's Andrew Ivellia at regionals last week, is headed to the big show.

Woodinville coach Jay McGinness, who's been there since the school began operations in 1983, could not accurately say how many times that happened before.

"I can't find all my past records," McGinness said, "but I think Nate is only the second or third player to qualify for state from WHS."

Billett went 9-2 in league play, with losses to Aman Manji of Skyline and Oscar Burney of Garfield — who later became the KingCo Tournament's first and second place finishers.

Nate Billett headed to state tennis tournament

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McGinness was asked about Billet's game: "Nate's a very skilled, patient, and intelligent player. He continually analyzes and assesses his opponent's strengths and weaknesses during his match in order to adjust his own style to improve his chances of winning.

"He can toy with his opponent and then pounce at the opportune time to win the point."

The coach spoke highly of Billett's off the court skills: "He's a fine student and an all around good guy," McGinness said. "His leadership, talent and supportive nature were a few of the qualities that earned him the role as team co-captain with Ben Schetterer. His challenge now is to keep his game in order to be match-ready for the state tournament in May."

That tournament will take place at Richland & Hanford High Schools and Columbia Basin Racquet Club May 24-25.