

## Washington standout juggles 2 postseasons

Written by Guy Martino

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IOWA CITY - Cedar Rapids Washington junior Katie Hammond has been busy lately.

Along with participating in the state tennis tournament this weekend at the University of Iowa Tennis Center, she is part of the Washington soccer team that faces Linn-Mar on Monday in the regional championship, where a state tournament berth is at stake.

At the state tennis tournament, she performed admirably, finishing in third place in singles. Coming into the tournament, Hammond was unseeded. She upset No. 3 seed Jackie Pedersen of Kennedy in their quarterfinal match Thursday. She lost the semifinal match to No. 2 seed Libby Caris of Des Moines Roosevelt on Friday, and then beat Michele VanRoekle of Urbandale in straight sets to secure third place and run her record to 19-4.

Despite losing the semifinal match, Hammond felt good about the way she played. "I'm really happy because my goal was to place top four," she said. "In my semifinal this morning the girl was really good. I wish I could have played a little better but my goal was top four so I am excited."

Pedersen ended up sixth.

Three Metro schools were represented in the doubles competition, where the Kennedy duo of Sarah Lasecki and Kali Hildebrand finished fourth, losing in the semifinals and consolation Friday. Xavier's Lisa Cowden and Laura Birky were sixth, and Washington's Kristin King and Olivia Brooks were eighth.

The state team tournament is Saturday at the Iowa Tennis Center. Washington faces Mississippi Valley Conference foe Iowa City West. Hammond once again will compete as Washington's No. 1 singles player.

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After this weekend, Hammond has a quick turnaround. The Washington soccer team is on the cusp of its first ever state tournament berth. Hammond said she and the rest of the Warriors are eager to experience the state tournament. "It's really exciting, we have a bunch of seniors that have been on varsity all four years and everyone wants to go really badly and the fact that we are that close is really exciting."

The Warriors' soccer game against Linn-Mar is at Kingston Stadium at 7 p.m.

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