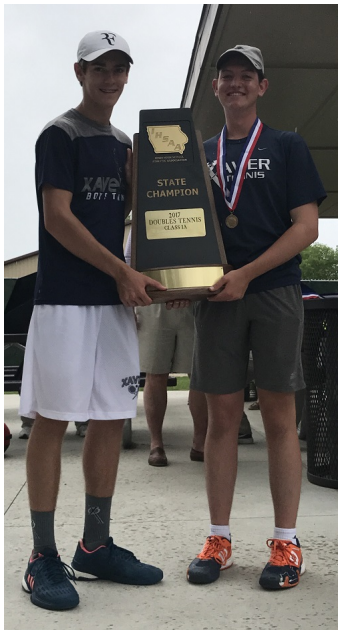


WATERLOO - Jon Lansing and Charlie Esker of Xavier enjoyed a remarkable run at the Class 1A state tennis tournament Saturday and captured the first doubles title in school history.

Lansing and Esker topped Luke Willis and Ryan Willis, 6-4, 6-2, in the championship at the Byrnes Park Tennis Center in Waterloo.

Lansing, a junior, and Esker, a senior, were the No. 1 seed in the state tournament and the Willis twins were the No. 2 seed.

Lansing and Esker went 4-0 at the state tournament and did not a set. They won 6-2, 6-0 in the first round, 6-2, 6-0 in the quarterfinals, 6-2, 6-0 again in the semifinals and 6-4, 6-2 in the finals.

"It was pretty awesome," said Xavier Coach Jim Potts. "They're playing their best tennis right now. It's a good time to do it."

Lansing and Esker raised their record to 16-5 for the season.

Potts said the players communicate very well on the court.

"Jon's strength would be his control. He's always in control," the coach said. "And he's phenomenal at the net. A great net player.

"Charlie serves well. He's also very good at the net. Quick hands."

Alex Hinrichs and Ryan Jasper of Xavier also had a good weekend at the state tournament as Xavier's No. 2 doubles team. They won three of five matches and placed seventh out of 16 teams.

The Class 1A state tournament that was held in Waterloo was for singles and doubles competition. The Saints also will compete in the Class 1A team championships at Waveland Park in Des Moines on Tuesday.

Xavier will face Pella in the semifinals at state.

"It's been a great year for us," said Potts. "I'm pretty excited."