Written by Peter Nocerini
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IRON RIVER— Before taking part in the Great Northern Conference tournament last week, West Iron's boys tennis team earned a win and a tie in dual matches at Nelson Field.

The team earned a 6-2 win over Westwood on May 21, sweeping the doubles matches along with victories by top singles players Austin Waara and Caleb Pellizzer.

The day's most exciting match came at first doubles, where Ryan Rogers and Andrew Peterson bounced back from a 2-6 first set loss to win the match 6-1, 6-3.

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Pellizzer won his second set on a tiebreak, and Alex Ralston, at fourth singles, went three sets before falling to David Bonetti. "A really nice match against a tough opponent," said Coach Joe Serbentas.

WIC's other wins came from doubles teams Sean Gustafson-Tylor Capadagli (second), Connor O'Donnell-Alec Schmelebeck (third) and Joey Pisoni-Max Maloney (fourth).

The 4-4 tie was May 22 against Kingsford, which had defeated the Wykons 7-1 earlier in the season. "It was nice to tie one of the elite programs in the U.P.," Serbentas noted.

He was especially pleased with No. 1 singles Austin Waara rolling past Caleb Harrington 6-3, 6-2. "He played a smart march and is really coming on."

The coach said the second doubles match with Gustafson and Capadagli was "the best doubles match I've seen all year." In a battle of long, hard-found points, the West Iron duo prevailed on a third set tiebreak, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3).

Other Wykon winners were Rogers and Peterson at first doubles and Ralston at fourth singles.

• The GNC tourney took place on May 24.

This week, the Wykons were scheduled to host Escanaba May 29 at Nelson Field. The Division 2 U.P. Finals are scheduled for May 30 at Kingsford (with Iron Mountain the host school). Other teams in Division 2 are Gwinn, Iron Mountain, Ishpeming, Westwood, Munising and Norway.