Appearances aren't deceiving—Kylee Erickson, West Iron's first singles starter, is a dedicated, intense athlete. Here she is during a recent match at Nelson Field.

IRON RIVER—Busy, busy week for West Iron's girls tennis team. The schedule-maker had them scurrying to three dual matches and a tournament last week.

And this week: Here comes another one, just like the other one.

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At Westwood: Westwood earned a 6-2 win Aug. 20—but the match was much closer than that shows. Three individual matches went three sets, and two were decided by tiebreakers.

First singles Kylee Erickson lost an oh-so-tight match with Sarah Massie (6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5)). "They pushed each other on every point," said Coach Denise Spelgatti, "and the match could easily have gone the other way." At 2D, Bittanie Barry and Sydney Mazurek played just as tough in a loss, winning a second set tiebreak but losing a tiebreak in the third set.

WIC's 1D Olivia Han-Mallory Tomasoski also came close, losing 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

The wins were by 2S Maddie Waara (6-2, 6-2) and 3D Megan Miatech-Kiki Piwarski (three sets).

Vs. Iron Mtn: The Mountaineers won 6-2. WIC's wins came from 1S Erickson (6-0, 6-1) and 3D Miatech-Piwarski. "Kylee played an excellent match" after losing the day before.

At 2S, Waara lost in three sets, and 4S Tori Harris-Hoogenboom was close, losing a second set tiebreak. 4D Lexi Kinner-Kristin Smith were also in a thriller.

Coach: "Iron Mountain has a young team, but they are fundamentally sound. It was good to see how we match up with them. I think we are close."

At Negaunee: A third 6-2 loss for West Iron. The wins were from 1S Erickson (6-0, 6-1) and 2S Waara (three sets).

The closest loss was by 2D Barry and Mazurek, who won 6-4 but lost a second-set tiebreak and fell in three. "A point here or there could have given them the win."

Later, Coach Spelgatti said the team needs time to work on fundamentals. But little time to practice—not with the Kingsford Invite coming up Aug. 25 and five matches in three days this week.

"We will be tired."

Coming up: The Wykons visit Ironwood Aug. 27, Marquette/Munising on Aug. 28 and Escanaba Aug. 29. Then a 13-day break until they visit Iron Mountain Sept. 11. Rest up, gals.