West Iron senior Kylee Erickson served up her second straight U.P. first singles championship during the Division 2 finals at Westwood Oct. 3.

IRON RIVER—Reaching the top is one thing. Staying on top is quite another.

West Iron senior Kylee Erickson is one of the rare talents, as she showed Oct. 3 when she won the first singles championship in the Upper Peninsula's Division 2 for the second straight year.

The title adds yet another major title to close out her high school tennis career. In addition winning two U.P. titles, Erickson reached the first singles semifinals in her freshman and sophomore years,

She won her final title at Westwood High School, defeating the Patriots' Sarah Massie 6-2, 6-4 in the championship match.

First singles is where each school's best player competes. __PUBLIC__

Erickson started the tournament with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Ishpeming's Gabby Croley and took on Iron Mountain's Laurie March in the semifinals, winning 6-0, 6-2. That advanced her to face Massie.

"She is totally deserving of the title," said her coach, Denise Spelgatti. "She played an awesome day of tennis, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m."

U.P. Finals: Erickson was the only Wykon to reach the championship round this year. Two teammates reached the semifinals in their flights: Haley Anderson at third singles and Tori Harris-Hoogenboom at fourth singles.

Anderson won her first match in three sets but was eliminated by the eventual champ, Munising's Emily DesJardins. Harris-Hoogenboom easily won her first match but lost a hard-fought semifinal match (6-3, 7-5) to eventual champ Courtney Beauchamp of Westwood.

As a team, the Wykons finished tied for fourth place with Ironwood, both with five points. Westwood won the team title with 16 points, Iron Mountain was second at 14, and Munising claimed third with 10.

Spelgatti noted the team had a hard day, losing four different three-set matches in the first round. Madeline Waara at second singles; Olivia Han-Mallory Tomasoski at first doubles; Brittanie Barry-Sydnie Mazurek at second doubles; and Megan Miatech-Kiki Piwarski at third doubles.

At Kingsford: On Sept. 28, the Wykons finally made up a twice-postponed match in Kingsford, losing 7-1.

West Iron's only win came from Maddie Waara at second singles. She defeated Hannah Tresedder 6-3, 6-2.

Erickson was defeated by Kingsford's Sam Fleming 6-2, 6-3. There were several other close matches, as well. "It was good to get this match in just before the U.P. Finals," said the coach.

“The scores really do not show how well the girls played. It was good practice for us.”

Wrapup: “We had a good season,” said Spelgatti, “and I am so proud of these girls. They literally gave up their entire August to play tennis in the constant extreme heat.

“I saw improvement in skills and saw friendships grow. We are already looking forward to next year.”

She thanked her husband, John, and Joe Serbentas for their help in coaching, along with the girls, their parents and fans. “Without them, we would not be the team we were.”