

IOWA PREP TENNIS

River Queens finish runner-up

Washington prevails, 5-2

HERALD STAFF REPORT

AMES — While winning its first match in the Class 2A Team Tennis Championships, Clinton fell short in a 5-2 loss in the championship to Cedar Rapids Washington.

In the championship, Griffin Rasche defeated Lilly Hartman 6-3, 6-3 in singles play while the other Clinton win came from Samantha Brisch as she defeated Rina Moore 6-0, 6-1.

The other Washington singles players took the remaining four singles matches while Hartman and Moore bounced back from their losses to clinch the title by knocking off Gabrielle Haan and Jordan Nelson, but not in straight sets. The Warriors' tandem won the first set 6-2, but then Haan/ Nelson won the second set 7-6 after winning the tiebreaker 7-5.

In the third set, they went straight to the tiebreaker, which the Warriors won 6-2.

"Even with the loss, I was real pleased with how the season went," Clinton coach Cindy Rasche said. "These girls are tremendous to work with."

In the dual against Urbandale, a Des Moines suburban school, the River Queens wanted to make sure the match didn't have to come down to doubles play.

The near-sweep against the J-Hawks included wins by Nelson, Brisch, Haan, Shannon Shovlain and Riley Hubbart. Rasche got the short straw by falling to Abby Reis 6-3, 6-1.

"Reis had a huge forehand, and that was tough," Coach Rasche said of Griffin's opponent. "She still played very hard." Nelson defeated her Urbandale opponent 6-2, 6-4 in a match where Rasche was really impressed with her No. 2 player.

"She played her best ball of the day in that morning match," Rasche said.

Of the Clinton girls, Rasche was most impressed by Brisch, who defeated Brynn Reichardt 6-3, 6-1 as the No. 3 player.

"That's the best ball she played all season," Rasche said.

Hubbart won 6-2, 6-2 in her match while Haan defeated Abby Hart 6-1, 6-2. Shovlain dropped her first set with Paige Dannenfeldt 6-2, but won the final full set 6-2, then the tiebreaker 6-4.

Now that the season is over, Rasche turns her focus onto the summer program, which is slated to begin in the coming days.