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Pine-Richland tennis players, from left, Ryan Moore, Udi Akolokar, coach Dang Siriprasert, Ian Hurt and Nathan Bang

## Pine Creek Journal notebook: Doubles teams make run to WPIAL tournament

By Jerin Steele April 30, 2023



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Both of [Pine-Richland](#)'s boys tennis doubles teams qualified for the WPIAL tournament April 25-26, and they even crossed paths along the way.

Ryan Moore and Udi Alkokar and Nathan Bang and Ian Hurt met in the Section 2-6A consolation match with Bang and Hurt coming away with a three-set win, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Prior to the consolation match, Moore and Alkokar went on quite a run as the 14th-seeded team in the tournament.



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Bang and Hurt were seeded fourth and took care of No. 13 Jackson Morgus and Thomas Sheptak, 10-6, in the first round and No. 5 Alexander Stern and Aarav Surapaneni, 10-6, in the quarters.

They fell to eventual section champion and top-seeded Evan Kaufman and Matthew Kamp of [North Allegheny](#), 6-0, 6-1, in the semis.

Both [Pine-Richland](#) teams lost in the first round at WPIALS

Moore and Alkokar were seeded 16th and lost to the eventual champs Adam Memije and Zidaan Hassan of [Gateway](#), 10-0, in the first round. Bang and Hurt received the No. 14 seed and lost, 10-1, to the team that finished in third place, Ronan Gibbons and Ari Plutko of [Upper St. Clair](#).

Pine-Richland earned a spot in the WPIAL team playoffs for the 17th consecutive season and, as the 10th seed, were scheduled to visit seventh-seeded [Mt. Lebanon](#) on May 1.

## Softball wins a pair

The Pine-Richland softball team kept itself in contention for a playoff spot with wins over [Butler](#) and [Baldwin](#).

The Rams topped the Golden Tornado, 7-4, on April 19. Calle Henne played a big role with a pair of doubles, a homer and three RBIs. Marissa DeLuca also doubled and plated a pair.

Two days later they beat the Highlanders, 12-8. Henne had another big day with a home run, Abby Laurent added two doubles, and Mackenzie Gillis doubled and plated three.

Pine-Richland was 4-7 in section play through April 26. Making the playoffs will likely come down to the important section games against [Mt. Lebanon](#) and Canon McMillan. The Rams were scheduled to travel to play the Blue Devils May 3 and host the Big Macs on May 8.

Pine-Richland lost close games to both opponents in the first round of section play and both were high-scoring affairs. They lost 15-13 to Mt. Lebanon and 20-15 to Canon McMillan.

The three teams are fighting the final two available playoff spots, fifth and sixth in the lone section in Class 6A.

## Voit, Sarnia advance



Voi

For the playoffs, he has a pair of goals and nine assists.

The Sting were set to begin their semifinal series with the London Knights on April 28.

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