

THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Sports

Emerald Crushes Eagles

By MATT ANDERSON/Index-Journal sports writer

Published: Thursday, October 2, 2008 12:32 AM EDT



Emerald's Arielle Barraca returns a shot Wednesday against Greenwood's Kaitlin Glanton in a non-region girls tennis match at Greenwood Country Club. (Staff photo by T.M. James)

Coming into its non-region girls tennis match against Greenwood High School on Wednesday, Class AA Emerald already had two wins over Class AAAA teams and a win over a Class AAA school.

That dominance over larger schools continued Wednesday.

Emerald (5-0) defeated Class AAAA Greenwood 6-1 at Greenwood Country Club with the Eagles' lone win coming from their No. 1 doubles team of Lori Flick and Kaitlin Glanton. "Season-long, we've just played excellent," Vikings coach Susan Timmerman said. "These girls

have really, really played well. They've done well."

In completing a sweep of the season-series against its city rival, Emerald dropped only two sets, in the No. 1 doubles match.

Timmerman elected to play her No. 2 doubles team of Sammie Jo Manning and Julianne Welch in the first doubles spot Wednesday against Flick and Glanton with the match already in hand to get the team more seasoning heading toward the playoffs. "They need to play some better players than what they've been facing," Timmerman said. "It's been a good experience for them today getting to play this match."

In every match except No. 2 doubles and No. 1 singles, Greenwood won no more than two games in a set.

At first singles, Emerald's Sarah Seigler defeated Flick 6-4, 6-4 in a match Timmerman said was good for her top-spot singles player. "Lori played very, very well and steady," Timmerman said. "Sarah earned every point. That was a beautiful match. ... Sarah really had to earn every point. Lori played awesome tennis (Wednesday)."

Although his team was swept in the season-series against the Vikings, Eagles coach Jim Still said Wednesday's results were more indicative of Emerald's quality and depth than anything about Greenwood (1-7). "This was all about Emerald; Emerald played well," Still said. "They spanked us twice this year and they deserve all the accolades and all the credit. ... They've got a good team, good players."

The Vikings next play Monday against Region 1-AA opponent Abbeville.

Greenwood plays at Easley today in a region match, and Still said the Eagles will benefit from Wednesday's non-region match in Region 1-AAAA play. "They're as good as most teams in our region, so that certainly helps," Still said. "They beat (T.L.) Hanna, which is in our region, and they're a quality team. So it does help to see that level of competition, no doubt about it."