

Northern alum Sweeney playing big for GVSU tennis

Matt Sheehan, Times Herald 12:23 p.m. EDT October 9, 2016



Allie Sweeney returns a hit Sunday, Aug 9, during the final day of the Francis J. Robinson Memorial tennis tournament. (Photo: ANDREW JOWETT, TIMES HERALD)

Coming off an All-GLIAC season as a sophomore, Grand Valley State junior Alexa Sweeney was due for a big junior season on the tennis court.

The Port Huron Northern alum is known as one of the best players in the GLIAC as the No. 2 singles player for the Lakers. If there was any doubt about how great she's been, that was erased as she was named GLIAC Player of the Week after going a combined 4-0 against Hillsdale and Wayne State.

"It's really nice to get recognition for all the hard work," Sweeney said. "We put in so many hours and we are on the road constantly, and it's stressful with balancing school."

Finding out she had received the honor didn't necessarily come in a ceremonious way as, she stumbled across the news on a Facebook post. Regardless, the excitement was unwavering as it was her first time being named GLIAC Player of the Week.

On Oct. 1 against Hillsdale Sweeney dominated her singles match with a 6-1, 6-3 win, but the doubles match win came in dramatic fashion. With Madison Ballard – the Lakers No. 1 singles player – the duo was down 2-7 but rallied back for a 9-7 win.

Along with mental strength, that pairing has proved talented enough to be one of the most consistent teams with a 5-2 dual meet record.

"My biggest strength is my net game, and she has the biggest forehand on the team," Sweeney said. "She's able to set me up to put the volleys away."

Sweeney also picked up two more wins against Wayne State the following day, which was key in a 5-4 dual meet win for the Lakers. That's helped the Lakers start 5-2 in conference, but she already has her eyes set on the GLIAC Tournament at the end of the month to avenge the few losses she has.

"I want to go undefeated the rest of the season and get my revenge at GLIACs," Sweeney said.