

Maia Richardson qualifies for upcoming MSHSL Class AA state tournament

By TOM NELSON Sports Writer Oct 21, 2026 Updated Oct 22, 2026 ⌚ 2 min read ↻



Maia Richardson (left) is congratulated by former Northfield tennis coach Mark Johnson for her finish as one of the two individuals representing Section 1AA in the upcoming MSHSL Class singles tournament. Johnson currently serves as one of the Section 1AA managers. (Photo

Senior Maia Richardson will be representing Northfield High School at the 2026 MSHSL Class AA individual girls state tournament in singles play. She is the first Raider to qualify for the state tournament as an individual in singles play in over 20 years.

Maia Richardson earned her trip to the tournament with a top two finish at the recent Section 1AA tournament that was finished on Tuesday, Oct. 20 in Rochester. She opened the Section 1AA tournament on Oct. 13 with a pair of victories in her opening matches and then picked up a 6-0, 6-1 win over Ellie Adams of Tri-City United in the semifinals.

Northfield's other representative in the singles competition was Kate Grant, who also advanced to the semifinals before losing a 6-3, 6-1 match against Olivia Regal of Stewartville. In the singles bracket championship match, Regal posted a 6-2, 6-1 win over Richardson that set up a "true second" match between Richardson and Grant to determine the second state entrant from Section 1AA.

Richardson then punched her ticket to state with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Grant.

"It was very exciting to have both our 1 and 2 singles players and our 1 doubles team make it to the Semis and Finals. And they all played three matches because they all ended up playing for True Second. It was a long and exhausting day for them," NHS coach Beth LaCanne said.

"We had a rare circumstance where our No. 1 and No. 2 singles players had to play each other for True Second. It is never easy playing against a teammate and friend but Maia and Kate handled it with maturity and grace. They've practiced together every day during the season so they know each others' strengths and weaknesses well. They both played well and it was a high quality match that coaches, players and parents from other teams stayed to watch. Maia won the match and qualified for the State Tournament for Individuals. She is our first singles player in over 20 years to make it to State as an individual."

In the doubles competition, Gwen Tapper and Siri Richardson gained a 6-7 (4), 6-1, 7-6 (5) win in the semi-finals against Makenzi Ries and Leedia Xiong of Simley. In the championship match, Winona's Anna Bricco and Aundra Aarre defeated Tapper and Siri Richardson 7-5, 6-2.

In the match for "true second" in the doubles bracket, Aubrey Wittkop and Kendall Johnson defeated Tapper and Siri Richardson by a 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 margin.

"Gwen and Siri started the morning with a grueling 2 1/2 hour long match against Simley, playing three full sets that included two tie-breakers. Their second match was against two very hard-hitters from Winona that had qualified for State last year, so it was a very physical match," LaCanne said. "And their third match of the day was another long match of three full sets.

"Gwen and Siri have had an amazing season and we couldn't be more proud of how they've played and how much they accomplished together this season."

Maia Richardson will continue play in the upcoming MSHSL Class AA individual tournament that will take place on Oct. 29-30 at the Lifetime Bloomington South tennis center.

Northfield has also qualified for the upcoming MSHSL Class AA team tournament and it will represent Section 1AA at the state meet on Oct. 27-28 at Lifetime Bloomington South.

