

Redbird women's tennis splits weekend on the road

Written by Kevin Powell, Daily Vidette Reporter
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A trip to Missouri this past weekend provided mixed results for the Illinois State's women's tennis team as it lost to nationally-ranked Missouri, 6-1. However, the 'Birds beat St. Louis University, 4-3.

"I'm glad we came out with a win," ISU head coach Chris Hoover said after the win. "We'll take the win but we've still got better in us. We're going to keep getting better and better until we sweep every match."

Against St. Louis, the 'Birds swept doubles as Kiss and Marx won the No. 1 position against Jenny Napela and Maria Toro Moreno, 8-4. Phyllis Tigges and Ariane Maack beat Stefanie Hollis and Brooke Urzendowski, 8-4.

In the first singles match Tigges beat Stefanie Hollis, 3-6, 7-6, 7-5, in the No. 2 position. Marx won over Mia Elmore, 7-5, 6-2, in the No. 3 flight, while Kiss dropped her match against Jenny Nalepa, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

Team captain Hannah Esker won her match, 6-2, 6-1, in the No. 6 spot while Carolina Abello lost to Urzendowski, 6-1, 6-3. Kiss lost to Jenny Nalepa lost in three sets, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2. Stefani Youngberg lost a tight match against Moreno in a tiebreaker, 4-6, 7-6 (17-15).

Although the Redbirds ended on a high note they were dealt a loss to Missouri.

Tigges brought home the lone victory against Missouri when she beat Maria Christensen, 2-1, after a retirement in the No. 2 position. Nina Pantic defeated ISU's Aniko Kiss, 7-5, 6-7, (10-5), in the No. 1 spot. Emmie Marx was beat by MU's Rachel Stuhlmann, 6-1, 6-4. Jamie Mera lost to Maack, 6-4, 6-2, in the No. 4 slot.

Caroline Abello lost in the No. 5 position and Esker was defeated by Annemijn Koenen, 6-3, 8-3, in the No. 6 position. The Tigers also dominated every doubles match as they won each event. Pantic and Mera beat Tigges and Marx, 8-3, in the No. 1 position. Christensen and

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Koenen paired up to defeat Kiss and Maack, 8-4, in the No. 2 spot. Stuhlman and Clark won against Esker and Youngberg, 8-6, in the No. 3 position.

“It was a rough day,” Hoover said. “We put up a good fight, and we lost. I know tomorrow we’ll do better.”

The weekend in Missouri may have been bittersweet with a win and loss, but Hoover believes it is a building point.

“I’m very glad we could hand them their first loss,” Hoover said. “We’ve got a pretty good record against them and they’re a tough opponent. They made us work for that win, but we came out in the end. We’re going to capitalize on this win and come back even harder next time.”