

## Redbird women's tennis gets burned by Flames

Written by Kevin Powell, Daily Vidette Reporter  
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A trip to Chicago this past weekend resulted in a disappointing, 6-1, loss to Illinois–Chicago for the Illinois State women's tennis team.

In only their second start as doubles partners, Aniko Kiss and Emmie Marx beat Teona Tsertsvadze and Elisa Simonetti, 8-5, for a big Redbird victory.

Senior captain Hannah Esker and Stefanie Youngberg teamed up to beat Jana Knoppe and Linda Hricistova, 9-7.

“We consistently play well in doubles,” Hoover said. “Our problem lies in singles play.”

Kiss was unable to translate her doubles success to the singles court as she lost to Mariva Kovaleva in three sets, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The rest of the 'Birds' singles matches resulted in similar results.

“The student-athletes are struggling to find themselves,” Hoover said. “They're having a hard time getting into the rhythm of singles play. Both Aniko and Emmie should have won, as well as Stefanie. But they all came close, playing difficult opponents, so I know that we can get them to the point where they can win next time.”

Tsertsvadze beat Phyllis Tigges, 6-2, 6-3, in the No. 2 position while Haley Craig of UIC beat Marx, 5-7, 6-4, 12-10, in the No. 3 spot.

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Ariane Maack lost to Knoppe, 6-2, 6-4, in the No. 4 flight while Hricistova beat Youngberg, 7-5, 6-3, and Kathryn Sharples beat Esker, 6-0, 6-0.

After the meet, Hoover believes his team has more to bring to the table than what they gave this past weekend.

"We can do better," said Hoover. "I know we can. Being home next weekend will help. We will bring back all our notes from today and bring home a win in the next match."

The 'Birds get set for their first home match of the spring season when they host Eastern Illinois this Friday, Mar. 2 at the Evergreen Racquet Club at 7:30 p.m.