

ASU Women's Tennis Downs North Carolina Central

Written by Paul Blascovich
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Appalachian State University women's tennis picked up its fourth-straight by defeating North Carolina Central, 4-3, at NCCU Courts on Saturday. The Mountaineers (7-3, 1-0 SoCon) have won their last four matches and five of their last six, while the loss snaps a five-match

winning streak for the Lady Eagles (6-4, 1-0 MEAC). Appalachian State began the day by sweeping all three doubles matches. ASU's top duo of juniors Ellie Linsell (Southampton, England/Cheam) and Jennifer Ansari (Greensboro, N.C./Walter Hines Page) posted an 8-6 win at No. 1 doubles, while No. 2 seniors Gisela Fernandez (Guadalajara, Mexico/TEC Monterrey) and Gabriela Celi (Orlando, Fla./Lake Howell) won their match by an identical score. Senior Blakeley Bean (Alpharetta, Ga./South Forsyth) and sophomore Jessica Thaggard (Acworth, Ga./Etowah) completed the ASU trifecta with an 8-6 win at No. 3 doubles, giving the Mountaineers the doubles point.

In singles action, North Carolina Central got on the scoreboard with wins at the top three positions, coming within one match point of taking the match.

The Mountaineers' deep lineup proved vital, as Thaggard, playing at No. 4, picked up a 6-4, 6-3 win to keep the Apps alive. Appalachian's No. 5, Kim-Lea Dinh (Maisons-Alfort, France/Lycee Eugene Delacroix), crushed her Lady Eagle opponent, shutting out both sets, 6-0, 6-0. In the final singles spot, freshman Gabby Gabriel (Weddington, N.C./Providence Day) squashed her foe, following suit with another 6-0, 6-0 win.

The Mountaineers continue their road trip with a visit to defending Southern Conference Champion, College of Charleston, on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Photo Courtesy: Jessica Thaggard, ASU Athletics