

## Stephens College Tennis

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### Stephens tennis team opens season with win over Fontbonne

**COLUMBIA** — Despite a condensed roster that resulted in a 3-0 deficit to begin the match and a 90-minute rain delay, the Stephens College tennis team opened up its 2010-11 season with a 5-4 win over Fontbonne University Saturday afternoon at the Stephens tennis courts.

Freshman Dina Kaissi led the way for the Stars with a two-set win over Molly Miller, 6-1, 6-0. Stephens coach Lexie Payne said Kaissi was able to “dominate regularly” over her opponent in her first collegiate match, taking advantage of Miller’s shorter shots.

“She ended several points with decisive winners off both the forehand and backhand sides,” Payne said of Kaissi.

Alex Lewis was equally dominating in her singles match with Mary Alice Pierce, winning 6-0, 6-0. Payne said Lewis played a “smart game” after missing several practices.

“Knowing she was not at her best (Lewis) played safe, made few errors, and incorporated several high percentage shots,” Payne said. “She played in a controlled and mature manner. I was proud of this decision on her part.”

In the other singles matches, Annie Pfeiffer won 6-1, 6-1 over Fontbonne’s Maggie Pohl but Stephens’ Natalia Ramirez fell short in a tiebreaker to Libby Brauss, 2-6, 6-3 (10-8).

In doubles play, Kaissi, a 2010 Hickman High graduate, teamed with Lewis for an 8-2 win over Miller and Pierce.

“Dina and Alex had terrific competitive chemistry together despite having neither practiced nor played together prior to this (match),” Payne said. “It’s enjoyable to watch a team learn so quickly about each other’s strengths and weaknesses and begin covering and utilizing them during their first match play.”

In the other doubles matchup, Ramirez and Pfeiffer took full advantage of weaker second serves, returning serve well and automatically putting Pohl and Brauss on the defensive in a decisive 8-2 win.

“We had terrific weather today as well as a terrific win for our opening match for the year,” Payne said. “Despite the score being close, 5-4, we really only dropped one match that was played; three matches were immediately defaulted due to us having a condensed team today at No. 3 doubles, and Nos. 5 and 6 singles. Hopefully this is temporary, and we will have a full team shortly.”

The Stars return to action on Saturday as they travel to St. Louis to take on Maryville.

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## Stephens Tennis Results vs. Fontbonne University

### Singles:

1. Dina Kaissi defeated Molly Miller, 6-1,6-0
2. Alex Lewis defeated Mary Alice Pierce, 6-0,6-0
3. Annie Pfeiffer defeated Maggie Pohl 6-1, 6-1
4. Natalia Ramirez lost to Libby Brauss, 2-6, 6-3 (10-8)
5. Default SC
6. Default SC

### Doubles:

1. Kaissi/ Lewis defeated Miller/Pierce, 8-2
2. Pfeiffer/ Ramirez defeated Pohl/Brauss, 8-2
3. Default SC

Final Score:  
Stephens College 5-4