BLACKSBURG - The Radford College women's tennis team got a solid performance from its middle-seeded single players and a crucial doubles win here Monday to defeat Virginia Tech 5-4 in the first match of the season.

The match went exactly as Radford Coach Steve Greiner predicted in his pre-season assessment. Tech was very strong in the top two seeds as Jill Allen defeated Radford's Chris Garber 6-3, 6-1 and Ann Grubbs dropped Maureen Herbert 6-3, 7-5.

Radford picked up wins in all four remaining singles matches to give them a 4-2 lead in the match, which was played indoors because of the weather.

In those matches, Mary Kay Shiflett dropped Kathy Bullur 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; Ann Rice defeated Janis McFarland 6-3, 6-1; Kathy Brown took Ellen Dean in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 and Rachel Hill completed singles play with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Tech's Kathy Savoie.

In doubles play, Tech's top-seeded pair, Allen and Grubbs dropped Garber and Herbert 7-5, 6-3 to tighten the score up to 4-3 for Radford.