

Nicol bites the dust

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WINDY CITY OPEN: Falls to Nour for the third consecutive time

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NICOL David is still adjusting to the change in the tin height after another defeat against Nour El Sherbini at the Windy City Open quarter-finals in Chicago on Monday.

Egypt's Nour has now beaten Nicol three times in a row to even their career meetings at

4-4, with the eight-time world champion's form slump coinciding with the tin height being brought down to the level which the men play.

Following Nicol's 11-9, 12-10, 11-9 defeat in 36 minutes to World No 4 Nour, her coach Liz Irving said the World No 2 is still adapting to the change in the sport.

"This is just an adjustment period. She is just trying to develop her game to adapt to the

change of tin," Liz told www.squashsite.co.uk.

"It's a massive change. Shots that used to be down are now good, and the boast, for the girls, if you are standing behind the service line, if it's just that much above the tin, you just cannot get it."

Nicol has won just two titles on the PSA Tour since the change came into effect early last year and she lost the No 1 ranking in September.

But Liz believes it is no longer a question of

motivation, but for the 32-year-old Nicol to develop her attacking game in the new environment.

"Nicol is working on changing her game, but most of all, on trusting her attacking game more," said Liz.

"It's all about allowing her to take more calculating risks. It's not there yet, but Nicol adapts very well to new elements. And if in the past, she had some motivation issues, that's gone."

"She now knows what she wants, she is clear about it, and she wants back in. And that's the most positive of all."

Nicol, who also lost to Nour at the Tournament of Champions quarter-finals in January, will next play at the British Open, which she last won in 2014 for a fifth time, in Hull on March 19-27.