

Boiron, Paoliello Propel Blue Raiders to 4-3 Victory

Two players combine for doubles win and also take singles matches

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Marc Boiron and Joao Paoliello combined to win in doubles and both were victorious in the final two matches on the court in singles, as the 43rd-ranked Middle Tennessee men's tennis team came from behind to defeat No. 31 Kentucky, 4-3, Wednesday afternoon at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. The Blue Raiders (2-1) play again on Wednesday, facing Chattanooga at 7:30 p.m. at the Racquet Club. Middle Tennessee overcame an injury to senior Marco Born, who played doubles but retired after five games in the first set in singles. The Blue Raiders won the decisive doubles point at No. 3 with Boiron and Paoliello before the duo both won in singles to clinch the victory, including Boiron erasing a Love-3 deficit in the third set. In doubles, the Blue Raiders staved off two match points at No. 1 before winning and a big break at 5-all helped



No. 3 prevail with the decisive point. UK's Peter Bjork and Will Ward broke Andreas Siljestrom twice thanks to five double faults from the Blue Raider senior, as the Wildcats took the first match of the three doubles tilts, 8-4, at No. 2. Siljestrom double faulted three times in the first game of the match and then twice more at 3-4, giving Ward-Bjork all the momentum it would need. At No. 1, Born and Marc Rocafort broke in the first game, but UK's Bruno Agostinelli and Kenny Hodge came right back

with a break in the third game. The Blue Raiders had an opportunity to serve out the match after a break at 7-all, but the Wildcats broke again to even the score at eight and force a tiebreaker. In the breaker the Blue Raiders won the first two points, but UK evened the score at 3-all before Rocafort unleashed an ace down the middle. But Agostinelli answered with his own ace and the Wildcats won the next three points for a 6-4 lead and two match points. Born-Rocafort staved off the two match points with a good return of serve from Born and then two big serves from the senior before winning the final point for an 8-6 triumph in the tiebreaker. That left everything to No. 3, who lagged well behind the other two matches when the first game had more than 10 deuces and took almost 15 minutes. Boiron and Paoliello eventually broke serve in that first game, but UK's Marcus Sundh and Shane Collins got things back on serve with a break in the fourth game after Boiron double faulted on break point. Boiron-Paoliello broke again at 5-all after a controversial serve call on break point, and Paoliello served out the match for an 8-6 Blue Raiders victory and the first point of the match. But the Wildcats responded by winning three of the first four singles outings. Born was down 5-0 before retiring against Ward at No. 2 because of his ankle injury, but Siljestrom, ranked 41st in singles, defeated Agostinelli, 6-2, 6-2, at No. 1. UK came back to win the next two matches though, with Bjork winning 6-2, 6-2, over Rocafort at No. 3 and Sundh taking care of Richard at No. 4, 6-2, 6-3. Once again the match rested with Boiron and Paoliello, who delivered at just the right time. While Paoliello was on his way to an easy 6-1, 6-2, triumph at No. 6 over Jorge Jorge, Boiron was fighting for his life at No. 5 against Collins. Boiron lost the first set, 1-6, but came back for a 6-3 second set victory. But the Middle Tennessee junior fell behind Love-3 in the third set, only to erase the deficit en route to a 7-5 victory in the deciding set and a 4-3 team win for the Blue Raiders. "I'm quite proud of the team, especially since we're the walking wounded right now," head coach Dale Short said. "I can't say enough about Marc Boiron. Right now he's just kind of willing himself to compete, to win, and bringing a lot of energy to the match and to the team. "I told the team their becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable, learning to deal with tough circumstances. It's incredible to pull out a match like that." **#43 Middle Tennessee 4, #31 Kentucky 3**

SINGLES

1. (41) Andreas Siljestrom (MT) def. (89) Bruno Agostinelli (UK), 6-2, 6-2
2. Will Ward (UK) def. Marco Born (MT), 5-0, retired
3. Peter Bjork (UK) def. Marc Rocafort (MT), 6-2, 6-2
4. Marcus Sundh (UK) def. Morgan Richard (MT), 6-2, 6-3
5. Marc Boiron (MT) def. Shane Collins (UK), 1-6, 6-3, 7-5
6. Joao Paoliello (MT) def. Jorge Jorge (UK), 6-1, 6-2

Order of Finish: 2,1,4,3,5,6

DOUBLES

1. Born-Rocafort (MT) def. Agostenelli-Kenny Hodge (UK), 9-8 (6)
2. Bjork-Ward (UK) def. Siljestrom-Richard (UK), 8-4
3. Boiron-Paoliello (MT) def. Sundh-Collins (UK), 8-6

Order of Finish: 2,1,3

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