

April 19, 2007

## Four Raiders Earn All-Conference Honors

**Siljestrom, Born take honors for the men; Sufi, Szabo garner accolades for the women**

*MT Media Relations*

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** - Middle Tennessee seniors Andreas Siljestrom, Marco Born and Hala Sufi and junior [Claudia Szabo](#) were all voted to the Sun Belt All-Conference team on Thursday, as announced at a banquet prior to the conference championships that begin Friday in Denton, Texas.

Siljestrom and Born, ranked 11th nationally in doubles and 15-1 this spring in dual matches, garnered All-SBC accolades in doubles for the third straight year. The tandem is 28-5 this academic year in doubles and has won seven consecutive matches entering Friday's SBC Championships.

Both players also garnered All-SBC recognition in singles, for Siljestrom his fourth straight honor and Born his second consecutive accolade.

Siljestrom, ranked 78th nationally in singles this week, becomes the only player in program history honored four straight seasons in singles in the Sun Belt. Daniel Klemetz earned All-SBC honors his final three seasons but played his freshman year in the OVC. The Stockholm, Sweden, native is 21-10 this academic year in singles and 15-5 in dual matches, with all but two of his wins at No. 1 in the lineup.

Siljestrom enters the Sun Belt Tournament sixth all-time in singles victories with 82 at Middle Tennessee and second on the career doubles charts with 108. His 190 combined career wins ranks second as well.

Born's record suffered this spring after an ankle injury made his very immobile for about three weeks. Still the Hannover, Germany, native compiled a 19-15 singles mark this year and 12-11 record in dual matches.

Born, ranked 113th nationally in singles this week, has 67 career singles triumphs as a Blue Raider, ranking ninth on the career list, as well as 90 doubles victories, fourth on the all-time list. His 157 combined career victories ranks sixth on the all-time charts.

Both players have also climbed the single-season charts in 2006-07. Born's 31 doubles victories ranks third on the single-season list, one ahead of his total from last year, while Siljestrom's 30 doubles victories are tied for fourth in the single-season charts with current assistant coach David McNamara (1997, 1998) and Fred Niemeyer (1997).

Freshman Marc Rocafort's 26-12 singles mark ranks him third on the freshman singles list, one behind Michael Staniak (2001) and three behind Daniel Klemetz's freshman mark of 29. Rocafort also has 18 doubles wins this academic year, eighth most on the freshman single-season list.

Rocafort shares the team lead for singles victories with Morgan Richard, who has 26 victories against only 10 losses. Richard owns a 16-5 dual match record this year as well and has won five straight matches heading into the SBC Tournament.

The 47th-ranked Blue Raiders take on Florida Atlantic (13-11) at 11:30 a.m. in the quarterfinals and with a win would meet the winner of Denver and Troy in the semifinals at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

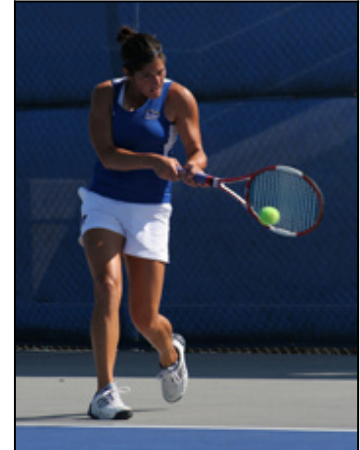
For the women, Sufi earned All-SBC honors in both singles and doubles, while the doubles team of Sufi and Szabo also garnered all-conference accolades.

Sufi becomes just the third different Middle Tennessee player honored in singles since the Blue Raiders joined the Sun Belt. Manon Kruse was voted All-SBC in singles four straight year (2001-04) and Jennifer Klaschka did it her final two seasons (2004-05).

Sufi, ranked 79th nationally this week in singles, posted a 20-11 singles record this academic year, including a 13-6 mark in dual matches, all at No. 1 in the lineup. The Tucson, Ariz., native is 5-5 this year against ranked opponents, including victories over Chattanooga's then 23rd-ranked Anastasia Zhokova and Wake Forest's then 32nd-ranked Alexandra Hirsch.

The doubles tandem of Sufi-Szabo has compiled a 20-8 mark this year, including 12-5 in dual matches. The duo has won five of its last six outings heading into the SBC Tournament, including an 8-5 victory last Sunday against Nevada's then 48th-ranked Caroline Bailly and Maria Mizyuk.

The Middle Tennessee women (7-12) are seeded sixth in the tournament and take on Western Kentucky at 8 a.m. Friday in the first



Hala Sufi (above) earned All-Sun Belt honors in singles and was also honored in doubles along with partner Claudia Szabo. The Blue Raiders begin play in the SBC Championships Friday in Denton, Texas. (Bradley Lambert)

round. A win would put the Blue Raiders into the quarterfinals to face 59th-ranked South Alabama at 3 p.m. Friday.

**MENS ALL-SUN BELT TEAM**

**SINGLES**

(100) Dinko Halachev, Arkansas-Little Rock  
(17) Adam Holmstrom, Denver  
(78) Andreas Siljestrom, Middle Tennessee  
(113) Marco Born, Middle Tennessee  
(46) Marek Sramek, South Alabama  
(75) Dias Doskarayev, South Alabama

**DOUBLES**

Edson Abrao-Rain Roigas, Arkansas-Little Rock  
(46) Adam Holmstrom-Niklas Persson, Denver  
(11) Andreas Siljestrom-Marco Born, Middle Tennessee

**WOMENS ALL-SUN BELT TEAM**

**SINGLES**

(75) Paula Zabala, Florida International  
Annette Aksdal, Denver  
(79) Hala Sufi, Middle Tennessee  
Annabelle Bares, Troy University  
Michaela Babicova, South Alabama  
(55) Adrianna Solarova, South Alabama

**DOUBLES**

Paula Zabala-Nikkita Fountain, Florida International  
Hala Sufi-[Claudia Szabo](#), Middle Tennessee  
Adrianna Solarova-Sylvanie Spangenberg, South Alabama

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*Printed on February 10, 2012*

*Original URL: <http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/25617>*