Blue Raiders Just Short Again, 5-2

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The 63rd-ranked Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders dropped the doubles point but had a chance to win in the final two matches before falling, 5-2, to 44th-ranked Georgia Tech Monday afternoon in Atlanta, Ga. The Blue Raiders fell behind, 3-2, to the homestanding Yellowjackets and split sets at Nos. 4 and 6 singles. Middle Tennessee senior Kirk Jackson went up a break at 4-2 against Tech's West Nott, but Jackson dropped the next four games to lose the third set, 6-4. Blue Raider Anant Sitaram then dropped his third set in a supertiebreaker, 11-9, at No. 6. Middle Tennessee dropped the doubles point, losing all three matches despite being up a break in each. Tech's Scott Schnugg and Marko Rajevac defeated 46th-ranked Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn, 9-8 (3), at No. 1. The Jackets also won the other two matches in doubles, with Jason Pieters and Jose Luis Muguruza won 8-4 at No. 2 over Rishan Kuruppu and Andreas Siljestrom, while Trevor McLeod and Jaoa Menano defeated Trevor Short and Greg Pollack, 8-6, at No. 3. In singles the Blue Raiders got a win at No. 2 from Siljestrom, as only three matches could be played at a time. Schnugg won 6-1, 6-4, over Short at No. 1 and Pieters defeated Schledorn, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 3. Siljestrom gave the Blue Raiders their first point with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, victory over Muguruza at No. 2. The second three matches went on and Kuruppu helped cut the deficit to 3-2 with a 7-5, 6-3 triumph at No. 5 over Rajevac. Jackson and Sitaram were left, with the Blue Raider senior splitting sets with Nott at No. 4. Jackson lost the first set, 6-4, but came back to take the second, 6-3, before dropping the final four games and giving the Yellowjackets the team victory. Sitaram won the first set, 6-3, against Menano, but dropped the second, 7-5. By then the match had been decided, and the two played a supertiebreaker, with Menano winning the third, 11-9. "Once again we were in position to win and somehow we just continue to lose," Blue Raider head coach Dale Short said. "I feel like our team really took a step forward today and showed we can play with some of the top teams in the country. "We really left our hearts and souls on the court. We've got to keep working and finish the matches when we're in position to win." Middle Tennessee returns home Friday to face Memphis at 2 p.m. at the Racquet Club in Murfreesboro. **#44 GEORGIA TECH 5, #63 MIDDLE TENNESSEE 2**

SINGLES

1. Scott Schnugg (GT) def. Trevor Short (MT), 6-1, 6-4
2. Andreas Siljestrom (MT) def. Jose Luis Muguruza (GT), 4-6, 6-2, 6-2
3. Jason Pieters (GT) def. Kai Schledorn (MT), 6-0, 6-1
4. West Nott (GT) def. Kirk Jackson (MT), 6-4, 3-6, 6-4
5. Rishan Kuruppu (MT) def. Marko Rajevac (GT), 7-5, 6-3
6. Joao Menano (GT) def. Anant Sitaram (MT), 3-6, 7-5, 11-9

DOUBLES

1. Schnugg-Rajevac (GT) def. (46) Brandon Allan-Schledorn (MT), 9-8 (3)
2. Pieters-Muguruza (GT) def. Kuruppu-Siljestrom (MT), 8-4
3. Trevor McLeod-Menano (GT) def. Short-Greg Pollack (MT), 8-6

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