Blue Raiders Take 4-2 Win over ULL

MT set for South Alabama in semi-finals of tourney

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MONROE, La. - Middle Tennessee's men's tennis team won its first match of the 2008 Sun Belt Conference Championships defeating 4-2 Louisiana-Lafayette on Friday night after play was delayed due to inclement weather. The match was originally set for 11:30 a.m. but was delay over six hours because of rain in the Monroe area. Middle Tennessee lost the doubles point as ULL took a 1-0 lead to begin the match. Freshmen John Peers and Alex McCann fell 8-2 to Arlen Domoney and Janusz Conradi 8-2 to begin doubles play. Then Junior Morgan Richard and sophomore Marc Rocafort defeated Piotrek Olechowski and Piotrek Banas 8-3 to even the doubles point at one. Sophomore Joao Paoliello and freshman Kyle Wishing lost No. 3 doubles 9-8 (8) to Jorge Delgado and Stefan Hawkins after having match point twice. "After losing the doubles point and then coming back after having a chance to win the doubles point was huge. We have only lost the doubles point and then won the match once during the season. It was very inspiring to watch and was a very inspirational win," head coach David McNamara said. To begin singles action, freshman Chris Nowak was down 7-6 (6) 2-0 before retiring allowing the Ragin' Cajuns to take a 2-0 lead in the match. From there the tables would turn as Middle Tennessee did not allow ULL to win another match. Rocafort won his mach 6-2, 7-6 (6) over Banas to make it a one point match. Then Richard tied the match at 2 all with his 7-6 (5), 7-5 win over Conradi. McCann gave the Blue Raiders their first lead of the day as he took his match in three sets 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 over

Stefan Hawkins. Paoliello sealed the 4-2 win for Middle Tennessee as he won his match against Delgado in three sets 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-3. "It is very inspirational win with a couple of guys out and others stepping up. Alex McCann played with inspiration and a lot of heart which is what it takes to win a match like this," McNamara said. "Hopefully we can use this as momentum tomorrow against South Alabama. This is just the first match of the tournament. We have played South Alabama twice this season winning the first time and losing two weeks ago in the tournament we hosted. So there will be a little bit of revenge with the match tomorrow," McNamara said. The Blue Raiders will face South Alabama in the semi-finals of the Sun Belt Conference Championships at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. The schedule of play has been revised due to the long rain delay at the beginning of play on Friday.

Singles

1. Marc Rocafort (MT) def. Piotrek Banas (ULL) 6-2, 7-6 (8-6)
2. John Peers (MT) vs. Piotrek Olechowski (ULL) 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 4-5, unfinished
3. Morgan Richard (MT) def. Janusz Conradi (ULL) 7-6 (7-5), 7-5
4. Arlen Domoney (ULL) def. Chris Nowak (MT) 7-6 (8-6), 2-0, retired
5. Joao Paoliello (MT) def. Jorge Delgado (ULL) 6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 6-3
6. Alex McCann (MT) def. Stefan Hawkins (ULL) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

Doubles

1. Marc Rocafort/Morgan Richard (MT) def. Piotrek Olechowski/Piotrek Banas (ULL) 8-3
2. Arlen Domoney/Janusz Conradi (ULL) def. John Peers/Alex McCann (MT) 8-2
3. Jorge Delgado/Stefan Hawkins (ULL) def. Joao Paoliello/Kyle Wishing (MT) 9-8 (10-8)

Match Notes:

Louisiana-Lafayette 7-11
Middle Tennessee 8-13; National ranking #71
Order of finish: Doubles (2,1,3); Singles (4,1,3,6,5)

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