Blue Raiders Overcome Deficit for 4-3 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's 57th-ranked men's tennis team won four straight singles matches after being down early, defeating 68th-ranked Indiana Saturday evening at the IU Tennis Center in Bloomington, Ind. The homestanding Hoosiers jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, winning the doubles point and the first completed singles match to put Middle Tennessee's backs against the wall. But the Blue Raiders responded on the road, much to the delight of head coach Dale Short. "We really fought hard tonight and played smart against a very good Indiana team," Short said. "We lost the doubles point but the guys really responded in singles to get us the win." IU won the doubles point with victories at Nos. 2 and 3. The 58th-ranked Middle Tennessee duo of Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born won 8-5 at No. 1 over IU's John Stone and Ryan Recht, but the Hoosiers came back with victories at the other two spots. Jakub Praibis and Dmytro Ishtiganov defeated 28th-ranked Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn, 8-6, at No. 2, and Michael McCarthy and Dara McLoughlin won 8-4 over Anant Sitaram and Greg Pollack at No. 3. McCarthy gave the Hoosiers a 2-0 edge with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Sitaram at No. 3. But the Blue Raiders would battle back with four straight wins, including a three-setter for the deciding point. Born won 6-3, 6-4, over Recht at No. 2, and Allan defeated Stone, 6-3, 6-4, at No. 6. Pollack then finished off Tom Bagnato, 6-3, 6-4, at No. 5, leaving Siljestrom and Schledorn on the courts with the Blue Raiders holding a 3-2 lead. Schledorn gave Middle Tennessee the point it needed, winning 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, over Neil Kenner at No. 3. Siljestrom, ranked 68th in singles, lost the final match to 60th-ranked Praibis, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 5-7. The win was just the third in three years and fifth in four seasons when Middle Tennessee loses the doubles point. The Blue Raiders were 0-8 last season when dropping the first point of the match. Middle Tennessee returns home next weekend to face Georgia Tech and Furman on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, both at noon. **#57 Middle Tennessee 4, #68 Indiana 3**

SINGLES

(60) Jakub Praibis (IU) def. (68) Andreas Siljestrom (MT), 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5
Marco Born (MT) def. Ryan Recht (IU), 6-3, 6-4
Kai Schledorn (MT) def. Neil Kenner (IU), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4

Michael McCarthy (IU) def. Anant Sitaram (MT), 6-0, 6-4
Greg Pollack (MT) def. Tom Bagnato (IU), 6-3, 6-4
Brandon Allan (MT) def. John Stone (IU), 6-3, 6-4

DOUBLES

(58) Siljestrom-Born (MT) def. Stone-Recht (IU), 8-5
Praibis-Dmytro Ishtuganov (IU) def. (28) Allan-Schledorn (MT), 8-6
McCarthy-Dara McLoughlin (IU) def. Pollack-Sitaram (MT), 8-4

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