

Blue Raiders take 5-2 win over UALR

Dachos clinches win for MT

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee won five of its six singles matches to pull out a 5-2 win over Arkansas-Little Rock on Sunday afternoon. To begin the match, UALR took the doubles point winning two of the three matches. Junior Anna Djananova and freshman Alex Dachos posted the only doubles win for the Blue Raiders defeating Fanny Lopez and Nathalia Garay 9-8 (3). "We have to find a way to win the doubles point. To come out and win the singles like that after losing doubles, I don't care who you are playing it is unbelievably tough," head coach Alison Ojeda said. "We challenged these guys in the 10-minute break between doubles and singles to come out and fight as if this match was going to come down to your singles match because ultimately it could. They did a great job and I am very proud of them." UALR continued to perform well taking a 2-0 lead



in the match after Anne Weijenborg defeated senior Andrea Herrera 6-0, 6-3. Then Middle Tennessee began to close the gap. Freshman Taylor Coffey started the rally as she defeated Rebecca Van Den Houte 6-2, 7-6 (3). Senior Natalie Araya posted a three-set win, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 over Chantal Coolen in No. 3 singles to knot the score at 2. The Blue Raiders took a 3-2 lead after senior Marlene Chemin defeated Garay in straight-sets, 6-0, 6-0. "I think I played focused for the first time throughout the entire match. I feel like I can play without any pressure since it is my last year. I think it has been a long process for me to finally be mentally strong. I have always been able to play tennis but I have held myself back mentally and now it is all falling into place," Chemin said. Dachos sealed the deal for the Blue Raiders with her three-set win over Lopez 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. "The first set was hard because her game was very different so it took me the whole first set to get used to her

game. Then I knew that Marietta was struggling and it was going to come down to me and Marietta," Dachos said. "I knew I could beat this girl and I just started to play my game more, mixing it up and finishing points. When I went up 5-4 in third set I knew I was going to break her and win the match." Freshman Marietta Bigus rounded out the match for Middle Tennessee as she defeated Marta Gomez-Jordana 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Saturday, Feb. 14 when it plays host to conference foe Arkansas State at 11 a.m. at Nashboro Village. Admission to all home tennis matches is free.

Singles

1. Anne Weijenborg (UALR) def. Andrea Herrera (MT) 6-0, 6-3
2. Marietta Bigus (MT) def. Marta Gomez-Jordana (UALR) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3
3. Natalie Araya (MT) def. Chantal Coolen (UALR) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5
4. Taylor Coffey (MT) def. Rebec. Van Den Houte (UALR) 6-2, 7-6 (7-3)
5. Alex Dachos (MT) def. Fanny Lopez (UALR) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4
6. Marlene Chemin (MT) def. Nathalia Garay (UALR) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

1. Marta Gomez-Jordana/Chantal Coolen (UALR) def. Natalie Araya/Marietta Bigus (MT) 8-4
2. Anne Weijenborg/Rebec. Van Den Houte (UALR) def. Marlene Chemin/Taylor Coffey (MT) 8-5
3. Anna Djananova/Alex Dachos (MT) def. Fanny Lopez/Nathalia Garay (UALR) 9-8 (7-3)

Match Notes:

UALR 1-4

Middle Tennessee 3-1

Order of finish: Doubles (2,1,3); Singles (1,4,3,6,5,2)

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