Allan, Sitaram Provide 4-3 Win

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Brandon Allan and Anant Sitaram each won singles matches to provide the final two points in a 4-3 victory over 62nd-ranked Virginia Tech Friday afternoon at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

The 45th-ranked Blue Raiders (7-1) jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead, winning the doubles point and the No. 1 singles match before losing three straight singles matches. The visiting Hokies were on the verge of victory before Sitaram and Allan posted wins to help Middle Tennessee win their fifth straight.

In doubles, the 58th-ranked Blue Raider duo of Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born defeated 21st-ranked Stephane Rod and Arvid Puranen, 8-6, at No. 1. Middle Tennessee's 29th-ranked duo of Allan and Kai Schledorn won 8-3 over Adel Abbas and Alexei Sergeev at No. 2. Virginia Tech won at No. 3, with Angel Diankov and Brent Wilkins defeating Sitaram and Greg Pollack, 8-6.

Siljestrom gave the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead with a 6-2, 6-3, victory at No. 1 singles over Puranen. But the Hokies would respond with three straight wins, including winning three tiebreakers along the way.

Diankov defeated Pollack, 6-3, 6-3, at No. 4, and Albert Larregola won 7-6 (5), 7-5, over Schledorn at No. 3 to even the match at two. The loss was the first for Schledorn in dual match play singles this year.

Tech's Rod won a war with Born at No. 2, taking a 3-6, 7-6 (10), 7-6 (3), decision to give the Hokies a 3-2 lead.

Sitaram helped the Blue Raiders even the match with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, triumph at No. 5 over Abbas. The win came just as Allan won the first set in a tiebreaker, 7-2, and the Blue Raider junior finished off the win with a 6-3 second set.

"This was another hard-fought win and we really showed some grit," Middle Tennessee head coach

Dale Short said. "We played better in doubles and Andreas played well, but then we lost some tough matches with Marco and Kai and fell behind.

"But Anant and Brandon pulled us through, and that was good to see, continued production and consistency at the bottom of the lineup."

Middle Tennessee was set to host Southern Illinois later Friday evening at the Racquet Club. The Blue Raiders hit the road next week to face Ole Miss and Mississippi State.

#45 Middle Tennessee 4, #62 Virginia Tech 3

SINGLES

1. (68) Andreas Siljestrom (MT) def. Arvid Puranen (VT), 6-2, 6-3
2. Stephane Rod (VT) def. Marco Born (MT), 3-6, 7-6 (10), 7-6 (3)
3. Albert Larregola (VT) def. Kai Schledorn (MT), 7-6 (5), 7-5
4. Angel Diankov (VT) def. Greg Pollack (MT), 6-3, 6-3
5. Anant Sitaram (MT) def. Adel Abbas (VT), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1
6. Brandon Allan (MT) def. Alexei Sergeev (VT), 7-6 (2), 6-3

DOUBLES

1. (58) Siljestrom-Born (MT) def. (21) Rod-Puranen (VT), 8-6
2. (29) Allan-Schledorn (MT) def. Abbas-Sergeev (VT), 8-3
3. Diankov-Brent Wilkins (VT) def. Pollack-Sitaram (MT), 8-6

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