Tennis falls to No. 24 Alabama

McKenzie, Peers pull upset in doubles

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The 56th ranked Blue Raiders fell to No. 24 Alabama 4-0 on Thursday in the first day of competition at the 60 annual Blue Gray Tennis Classic. The Blue Raiders began the match with doubles losing the point to Alabama but not before an upset. Senior Robert McKenzie and sophomore John Peers, ranked 51, defeated No. 35 Dan Buikema and Mathieu Thibaudeau 8-4. In singles action, junior Victor Melo lost his match 6-3, 6-4 McKenzie won his first set 6-3 to No. 32 Saketh Mynei but lost the second set 6-3 forcing the deciding set. McKenzie, ranked 124 in singles, and did not get to finish the match because the deciding points had been played. Peers and senior Morgan Richard lost their first sets but were leading in the second sets of their matches when play was halted because Alabama had clinched the win. Junior Alex McCann and freshman Matthew Langley lost their matches respectively giving the Crimson Tide the deciding points. The Blue Raiders will play No. 29 Wisconsin at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

Tennis Match Results Middle Tennessee vs Alabama Mar 19, 2009 at Montgomery, Ala.

Singles

1. #32 Saketh Myneni (UA) vs. #124 Robert McKenzie (MT) 3-6, 6-3, 5-0, unfinished
2. #76 Mathieu Thibaudeau (UA) vs. #104 John Peers (MT) 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, unfinished
3. Thompson (UA) def. Victor Melo (MT) 6-1, 6-4
4. Dan Buikema (UA) vs. Morgan Richard (MT) 7-6 (9-7), 6-1, 3-1, unfinished
5. Billy Mertz (UA) def. Alex McCann (MT) 6-1, 6-1
6. Michael Jung (UA) def. Matthew Langley (MT) 6-1, 6-3

Doubles

1. #51 John Peers/Robert McKenzie (MT) def. #35 Dan Buikema/Mathieu Thibaudeau (UA) 8-4
2. #49 Saketh Myneni/Billy Mertz (UA) def. Alex McCann/Morgan Richard (MT) 8-3
3. Andrew Fesenthal/Ricky Doverspike (UA) def. Victor Melo/Matthew Langley (MT) 8-4

Match Notes:
Middle Tennessee 7-8; National ranking #56
Alabama 13-2; National ranking #24

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