

April 18, 2009

## Melo wins three-set battle for 4-3 win over Denver

### Blue Raiders to face Florida Atlantic in tourney championship match

MT Athletic Communications

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**DENTON, Texas** - The Blue Raiders defeated Denver 4-3 in dramatic fashion on Saturday night to advance to the finals of the Sun Belt Championships.

- **Video:** [Head Coach David McNamara Interview](#)

The match last four hours and 20 minutes before junior [Victor Melo](#) put it away with his three set battle. Melo defeated Benny Althaus 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 to seal the Blue Raiders a spot in the finals.

The match began with Denver taking the doubles point after winning two of the three matches. Melo paired with sophomore [John Peers](#) to win 8-2 over Martin Zimmermann and Andrew Landwerlen in the only doubles win for Middle Tennessee.

Senior [Robert McKenzie](#) tied the match at 1 with his 6-0, 6-3 win over Zimmermann. Then Peers defeated David Simson 6-1, 6-2 to give the Blue Raiders a one point advantage.

Senior [Morgan Richard](#) put Middle Tennessee within one point of clinching the match as he defeated Yannick Weihs in straight sets 6-2, 6-1 making the score 3-1.

The Blue Raiders lost No. 5 and 6 singles to the Pioneers which set up the dramatic ending by Melo.

Middle Tennessee will be back in action in the championship match at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 19 when it faces Florida Atlantic. The winner of the match will earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

#### Singles

1. #96 [Robert McKenzie](#) (MT) def. Martin Zimmermann (DU) 6-0, 6-3
2. #104 [John Peers](#) (MT) def. David Simson (DU) 6-1, 6-2
3. [Victor Melo](#) (MT) def. Benny Althaus (DU) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1
4. [Morgan Richard](#) (MT) def. Yannick Weihs (DU) 6-2, 6-1
5. Andrew Landwerlen (DU) def. [Matthew Langley](#) (MT) 6-1, 6-0
6. Ravjot Dhatt (DU) def. [Alex McCann](#) (MT) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

#### Doubles

1. [John Peers/Victor Melo](#) (MT) def. Martin Zimmermann/Andrew Landwerlen (DU) 8-2
2. Benny Althaus/Yannick Weihs (DU) def. [Robert McKenzie/Morgan Richard](#) (MT) 8-6
3. David Simson/Ravjot Dhatt (DU) def. [Alex McCann/Kyle Wishing](#) (MT) 8-3

#### Match Notes:

Denver 10-11

Middle Tennessee 15-9; National ranking #60

Sun Belt Conference Tournament Semifinals

Order of finish: Doubles: 1, 3, 2 ... Singles: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 3

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