

May 14, 2005

## Men's Tennis Drops 4-3 Heart-Breaker to Auburn

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**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** - Auburn's Tom George won the final four games at No. 5 to give 36th-ranked Auburn and 4-3 victory over No. 30 Middle Tennessee in a match that took five hours at the Gillom Sports Center in Oxford, Miss. in a match forced indoors because of morning rain.

The Blue Raiders dropped the doubles point in a tiebreaker but came back to win a trio of three-set singles matches, overcoming a first-set deficit in all three.

Middle Tennessee played without sophomore **Kai Schledorn**, who is at home in Germany with his mother, who has brain cancer. Schledorn is ranked 26th nationally with junior **Brandon Allan** in doubles and plays No. 3 singles for the Blue Raiders in dual action.

**Greg Pollack** and **Anant Sitaram** opened doubles play with an 8-3 victory at No. 2 over Robert Lauthowers and George. Auburn's Nick Lane and Brett Hunter evened the doubles play with an 8-4 triumph at No. 3 over Allan and **Marc Boiron**.

The deciding match in doubles came down to a tiebreaker, with Auburn's 16th-ranked Alex Schweizer and Gabor Zoltan Pelva outlasting Middle Tennessee's 45th-ranked **Andreas Siljestrom** and **Marco Born**, 8-6, in the breaker.

The Tigers struck first in singles, with 38th-ranked Zoltan Pelva defeating No. 100 Siljestrom at No. 1, 6-4, 6-2. The Raiders got on the board at No. 2, with Born battling back from a set down against 120th-ranked Schweizer to take a 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, victory.

The comeback continued with another come-from-behind, three-set triumph, this one by Allan at No. 3. The junior defeated Lane, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, evening the match at two.

Hunter gave Auburn a 3-2 edge with a 6-0, 6-4, victory at No. 6 over Boiron. But Sitaram won the third three-setter of the day for the Blue Raiders, defeating Lauthowers at No. 4, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Pollack's match was the deciding point, with AU's George taking the first set, 6-4. Pollack led in the second set, 5-3, before George won the final four games of the match to give the Tigers the 4-3 victory.

"It was a very heart-breaking and disappointing loss for us," Middle Tennessee head coach Dale Short said. "It was a nip-and-tuck match all the way through and our guys really battled. Marco, Brandon and Anant all played very well and showed a lot of heart battling back to win in three sets."

Middle Tennessee ends its season 18-7 overall after making its seventh NCAA Team Championships appearance.

### #36 Auburn 4, #30 Middle Tennessee 3 SINGLES

1. (38) Gabor Zoltan Pelva (AU) def. (100) **Andreas Siljestrom** (MT), 6-4, 6-2
2. **Marco Born** (MT) def. (120) Alex Schweizer (AU), 5-7, 6-4, 6-1
3. **Brandon Allan** (MT) def. Nick Lane (AU), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3
4. **Anant Sitaram** (MT) def. Robert Lauthowers (AU), 6-7, 6-2, 6-2
5. Tom George (AU) def. **Greg Pollack** (MT), 6-4, 7-5
6. Brett Hunter (AU) def. **Marc Boiron** (MT), 6-0, 6-4

**DOUBLES**

1. (16) Schweizer-Zoltan Pelva (AU) def. (45) Siljestrom-Born (MT), 9-8 (6)
  2. Pollack-Sitaram (MT) def. Lauthowers-George (AU), 8-3
  3. Lane-Hunter (AU) def. Allan-Boiron (MT), 8-4
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