

January 30, 2010

Blue Raiders perform well against No. 8 Texas

Peers, Melo, Cowden post strong matches

MT Athletic Communications

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AUSTIN, Texas - The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team had strong performances from a number of players in a 4-0 loss to No. 8 Texas on Saturday.

Juniors [Victor Melo](#) and [John Peers](#) went toe-to-toe with No. 22 Dimitar Kutrovsky and Josh Zavala leading 7-6 before play was suspended after Texas won the doubles point.

"We had our chances to win the doubles point with John and Victor up 6-2 and Richard and Matthew playing well. I was a little surprised and excited by the way we showed up and played today," head coach David McNamara said.

Sophomores [Richard Cowden](#) and [Matthew Langley](#) fell 8-5 to Jean Anderson and Daniel Whitehead while junior [Kyle Wishing](#) and freshman [Shaun Waters](#) lost their match 8-4 to Vasko Mladenov and Jon Wiegand.

In singles action, Peers, Melo and Cowden performed well in the top three spots with each forcing a third set before play was suspended.

"Texas will be a contender for the national championship this year. I am happy with our overall performance. This was our first match of the season and hopefully we will learn from it and ultimately it will help us down the road," McNamara said.

Senior [Alex McCann](#) fell to Mladenov, ranked 104th in singles, 6-1, 6-2 while Langley lost his match 6-3, 6-1 to Anderson. Waters performed well in his first collegiate match forcing extra sets before falling 7-5 in the second set to Ben Chen.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. when they face Texas Tech in the second day of play at the ITA Kick-Off Weekend.

ITA Kick-Off Weekend

Penick-Allison Tennis Center - Austin, Texas

#8 Texas 4, Middle Tennessee State 0

Doubles - Order of Finish: 3, 2

- 1 #22 Kutrovsky/Zavala (UT) vs. Melo/Peers (MTSU) - 6-7, susp.
- 2 Andersen/Whitehead (UT) def. Cowden/Langley (MTSU) - 8-5
- 3 Mladenov/Wiegand (UT) def. Waters/Wishing (MTSU) - 8-4

Singles - Order of Finish: 5, 4, 6

- 1 #5 Dimitar Kutrovsky (UT) vs. [John Peers](#) (MTSU) - 6-3, 4-6, susp.
- 2 #9 Ed Corrie (UT) vs. [Victor Melo](#) (MTSU) - 4-6, 6-2, susp.
- 3 #38 Josh Zavala (UT) vs. [Richard Cowden](#) (MTSU) - 6-3, 4-2, susp.
- 4 Jean Andersen (UT) def. [Matthew Langley](#) (MTSU) - 6-3, 6-1
- 5 #104 Vasko Mladenov (UT) def. [Alex McCann](#) (MTSU) - 6-1, 6-2
- 6 Ben Chen (UT) def. [Shaun Waters](#) (MTSU) - 6-1, 7-5



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Printed on May 23, 2012

Original URL: <http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/43545>