Blue Raiders fall to No. 71 Boise State

Team will play again on Saturday

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Middle Tennessee fell 4-0 to No. 71 Boise State on Friday afternoon at the Blue Gray Classic. Victor Melo and Matthew Langley fell to Vincente Joli and Filipp Pogostkin 8-3 to begin the doubles point. Then Richard Cowden and Shaun Waters lost 8-6 to Jeff Mullen and Harry Skinner as the Broncos took a 1-0 lead in the match. "The doubles point was disappointing and we missed a few opportunities to win. After doubles the message was for us to get better we have to learn from our mistakes and get better. We keep making the same mistakes and we have to learn from them and improve," head coach David McNamara said. "It takes a big gut check and maturity to stand up and acknowledge your weaknesses and work on getting better. That is the main message. These guys are good tennis players and they need to keep working on getting better and will be successful as long as they do that." In singles play, senior Alex McCann fell 6-4, 6-0 to Alex Bothe as Boise State took a 2-0 lead. Then No. 43 John Peers struggled in his first set to No. 41 James Meredith falling 6-1. Peers battled in the second set but lost in a tie-breaker 7-6 as the Broncos extended their lead to three. Boise State sealed the win with Cristian Hodel's 6-2, 6-2 win over junior Kyle Wishing. "The team left their hearts on line in singles. A couple of the guys had chances but Boise State came ready to play and they beat us. Tomorrow is another day and will be another tough test. There is pressure for us to win tomorrow and the ultimate goal is for us to get better day by day and week by week. We have five weeks until the conference tournament and after a team meeting last week there is a plan in place to get better as a team and individually. It started on Monday and they know what we have to do and we can still make a run in the tournament," McNamara said. "I told them I am not

going to bring up the Sun Belt Tournament again until we reach the finals and we must commit as a team. If we commit and work on getting better from the physical and mental aspects to the mistakes we make then we will continue to get better. It is a concern that we are losing matches but this is a very hard schedule and I hope that will help us down the road." Middle Tennessee will play Penn State on Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m. in its final match of the tournament.

#71 Boise State University 4, Middle Tennessee 0 Singles

1. #41 James Meredith (BSU) def. #43 John Peers (MT) 6-1, 7-6
2. Victor Melo (MT) vs. Vincente Joli (BSU) 4-6, unfinished
3. Richard Cowden (MT) vs. Harry Skinner (BSU) 6-4, unfinished
4. Shaun Waters (MT) vs. Filipp Pogostkin (BSU) 4-6, unfinished
5. Alex Bothe (BSU) def. Alex McCann (MT) 6-4, 6-0
6. Cristian Hodel (BSU) def. Kyle Wishing (MT) 6-2, 6-2

Doubles

1. John Peers/Kyle Wishing (MT) vs. James Meredith/Alex Bothe (BSU) 7-7, unfinished
2. Filipp Pogostkin/Vincente Joli (BSU) def. Matthew Langley/Victor Melo (MT) 8-3
3. Harry Skinner/Jeff Mullen (BSU) def. Richard Cowden/Shaun Waters (MT) 8-6

Match Notes:

Boise State University 7-5; National ranking #71
Middle Tennessee 4-13
Order of finish: Doubles (2,3); Singles (5,1,6)

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