Langley battles handing Blue Raiders 4-3 win over ULL

Team will face Denver in semi-finals Friday afternoon

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NEW ORLEANS - Sophomore Matthew Langley rebounded from losing his first set to take his singles match and hand the Blue Raiders a 4-3 win over UL-Lafayette in the first round of the Sun Belt Championships on Thursday afternoon. Langley lost his first set 6-2 to ULL's Yanick Mandl but did not let that stop him. The Melbourne, Australia native won the second set 7-5 and dominated the third 6-3 for the win. "I have said all year it will take a couple come from behind to wins in big matches and Matthew was down 5-3 in the second set and came back. I am just really proud of him and the way he played today," head coach David McNamara said. "He has really been battling all year and the past couple of weeks has worked really hard playing with his emotions and the mental game but he out played his opponent today." In doubles, Langley paired with senior Victor Melo, who has been sidelined the last three weeks with an injury, to defeat Neil Schneider and Carlin Murray 8-4. The Blue Raiders won the doubles point after sophomore Richard Cowden and freshman Shaun Waters defeated Robert Voss and Yanick 8-4. ULL won the first singles match as Cowden retired due to injury trailing 6-1, 4-2 to Tomasz Krzyszkowski. Junior John Peers made it 2-1 in favor of Middle Tennessee with his 6-1, 6-4 win in No. 1 singles over Murray. The Ragin' Cajuns tied the match at 2 after Voss defeated senior Alex McCann 6-4, 6-2 in the No. 6 position. Then ULL took the lead as Javier Pulgar defeated Melo in three sets 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 at No 2. singles. Middle Tennessee did not back down as two of its most inexperience players remained on the court. Waters defeated Yanick 6-3, 6-4 in No. 4 singles to knot

the score at 3 and set up the finish by Langley. "I am very excited by Shaun's play today and what he is doing on the court is very exciting. He will be a fun player to watch the next few years as he gets older and more mature on the court," McNamara said. "John continues to get the job done. Winning the doubles point was huge today and all of the team's hard work paid off and I am looking forward to facing Denver tomorrow." The Blue Raiders will face top seeded Denver in the semi-finals at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 23 in New Orleans. Results will be posted on goblueraiders.com when they become available.

Middle Tennessee 4, Louisiana 3

Singles

1. #34 John Peers (MT) def. Murray, Carlin (UL) 6-1, 6-4
2. Pulgar, Javier (UL) def. Victor Melo (MT) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3
3. Krzyszkowski, Tomasz (UL) def. Richard Cowden (MT) 6-1, 4-2, retired
4. Shaun Waters (MT) def. Mandl, Yanick (UL) 6-3, 6-4
5. Matthew Langley (MT) def. Schneider, Neil (UL) 2-6, 7-5, 6-3
6. Voss, Robert (UL) def. Alex McCann (MT) 6-4, 6-2

Doubles

1. Pulgar, Javier/Krzyszkowski, Tomasz (UL) vs. #87 Kyle Wishing/John Peers (MT) 8-7, unfinished
2. Victor Melo/Matthew Langley (MT) def. Schneider, Neil/Murray, Carlin (UL) 8-4
3. Richard Cowden/Shaun Waters (MT) def. Voss, Robert/Mandl, Yanick (UL) 8-4

Match Notes:

Middle Tennessee 7-19
Louisiana 11-11
Order of finish: Doubles (2,3); Singles (3,1,6,2,4,5)
No. 4 ULL, No. 5 MT - SBC Quarterfinals
MT advances to face No. 1 Denver
T-3:55

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