Men's Tennis Comes Back for 5-2 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee won five of six singles matches to erase an early deficit, as the 39th-ranked Blue Raiders defeated 60th-rated Indiana in men's tennis action Saturday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. Middle Tennessee (3-1) lost the doubles point early but came back to win with excellent singles play, marked by victories at Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Freshman Morgan Richard closed out the match with his fourth straight victory this season. The Blue Raiders lost the doubles point in gut-wrenching fashion. Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born, ranked third nationally, defeated Peter Antons and David Bubenicek, 8-4, at No. 2, very quickly. Siljestrom-Born used an early break to jump ahead and then broke the Hoosiers' duo in the final game to take the victory. Almost a half hour later, IU's Mak Kendall and Michael McCarthy broke twice in the middle of the match and survived a comeback attempt, winning 8-6 at No. 3 over Greg Pollack and Rishan Kuruppu. That left the doubles point up to the No. 1 spot, with Blue Raiders Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn taking on Indiana's Dmytro Ishtuganov and Dara McLoughlin. Both teams got a break early and were back-and-forth throughout until IU broke at 7-all to take the lead. Serving for the match, the Hoosiers went down Love-40 before storming back to take the game and the match, 9-7, picking up the doubles point. Middle Tennessee did not linger on the missed opportunities, but instead came out storming in singles. Born, ranked 97th, played at No. 1 for just the fifth time of his career and played well, defeating Ishtuganov, 6-4, 6-3. Siljestrom, ranked 48th, won 6-3, 7-6 (3) over McLoughlin at No. 2. IU's Bubenicek defeated Schledorn, 6-3, 6-3, at No. 3, but Kuruppu prevailed at No. 4, 6-2, 6-1, over McCarthy. Richard clinched the victory for the Blue Raiders with a 6-2, 6-2, triumph over Araud Roussel at No. 5, while Pollack defeated Kendall at No. 6, 6-1, 7-5. Middle Tennessee heads to Atlanta to take on 29th-ranked Georgia Tech Sunday at 1 p.m. The two teams have split the last four meetings, with each picking up two victories at home. **#39 Middle Tennessee 5, #60 Indiana 2**

SINGLES

1. (97) Marco Born (MT) def. Dmytro Ishtuganov (IU), 6-4, 6-3
2. (48) Andreas Siljestrom (MT) def. Dara McLoughlin (IU), 6-3, 7-6 (3)
3. David Bubenicek (IU) def. Kai Schledorn (MT), 6-3, 6-3
4. Rishan Kuruppu (MT) def. Michael McCarthy (IU), 6-2, 6-1
5. Morgan Richard (MT) def. Araud Roussel (IU), 6-2, 6-2
6. Greg Pollack (MT) def. Mak Kendall (IU), 6-1, 7-5

DOUBLES

1. Ishtuganov-McLoughlin (IU) def. Brandon Allan-Schledorn (MT), 9-7
2. (3) Born-Siljestrom (MT) def. Peter Antons-Bubenicek (IU), 8-4
3. Kendall-McCarthy (IU) def. Pollack-Kuruppu (MT), 8-6

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