Siljestrom, Schledorn Lead Comeback for 4-3 Victory

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee's Andreas Siljestrom and Kai Schledorn both overcame third-set deficits, coming back to win and leading the 38th-ranked Blue Raiders to a 4-2 victory over No. 23 San Diego Friday afternoon in Fresno, Calif. The teams played singles first because of the threat of rain in the area. The match had one short delay because of the weather. The Blue Raiders (7-5) ended a three-match losing streak and defeated a team ranked in the Top 25 for the first time since the 2002 NCAA Tournament, a 4-3 triumph over then 18th-ranked Alabama. "We finally loosened up and played better," head coach Dale Short said. "We really needed a win like that to propel us in the right direction. It just goes to show that you can't pay attention to rankings. "San Diego was very similar to Fresno State in talent. We were finally able to win a close match, something we needed very badly. I'm so proud of our guys for keeping the faith and continuing to work everyday." Middle Tennessee's Marco Born defeated Thomas Liversage, 6-3, 6-2, at No. 2, and Brandon Allan won 6-1, 6-2, over Mirza Koristovic, at No. 4. But USD's Ryo Sekiguchi took care of Greg Pollack at No. 5, 6-3, 6-4, and Jonas Mouly defeated Rishan Kuruppu at No. 6, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, at No. 6, evening the match at two. Schledorn and Oscar Plotnik split sets at No. 3, and Plotnik got an early break in the third set. But Schledorn fought to win, giving the Blue Raiders a 3-2 lead with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, victory. That left the match to 47th-ranked Siljestrom and 45th-ranked Ysern at No. 1. The two split sets and Ysern got an early break in the third set, as well, but Siljestrom battled back to force a tiebreaker and took a 6-1 lead in the breaker. Ysern won the next four points before Siljestrom took the final point for the 4-2 team victory. "We haven't been playing up to our potential like we showed in the fall, but this is a great way to end the trip," Short said. "We had some tough losses but we kept fighting and played really well today and got the victory." **#38 Middle Tennessee 4, #23 San Diego 2**

SINGLES

1. (47) Andreas Siljestrom (MT) def. (45) Pierrick Ysern (USD), 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5)
2. Marco Born (MT) def. Thomas Liversage (USD), 6-3, 6-2

3. Kai Schledorn (MT) def. Oscar Plotnik (USD), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4
4. Brandon Allan (MT) def. Mirza Koristovic (USD), 6-1, 6-2
5. Ryo Sekiguchi (USD) def. Greg Pollack (MT), 6-3, 6-4
6. Jonas Mouly (USD) def. Rishan Kuruppu (MT), 6-3, 2-6, 7-5

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