Blue Raiders conclude first day action in Louisiana

Four singles players in semifinal action

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LAFAYETTE, La. – Four Middle Tennessee players advanced to the semifinals of their respective singles flights Friday, while all three doubles pairings also were victorious during opening day action at the Ragin' Cajuns Women's Tennis Classic in Lafayette, La.

Senior Carla Nava is the Blue Raider representative in the A1 singles bracket to advance. She won by default in her first match against Southern Miss' Alexus Coats before rallying to defeat South Alabama's Alina Volman 0-6, 6-4, 10-4. Nava will square off against host Louisiana's Briggitt Marchovich in the semifinals Saturday.

Also advancing was freshman Nayara Moraes in the A2 singles flight. She started the day by handing Northwestern State's Amy Williams a 6-1, 6-3 setback before defeating Southern Miss' Kate Lanier in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 to reach Saturday's semifinals. She is slated to battle the host Ragin' Cajuns Erin Wilbert, who needed three sets to reach the next round over her teammate, Hannah Appleyard.

In the B1 singles flight, both senior Alex Dachos and junior Lexi Brand will compete in Saturday's semifinals. Dachos earned a 1-6, 6-2, 10-7 come-from-behind triumph over Louisiana's Haley Acuna before knocking off ULM's Isabelle Rocher 7-6, 6-0, to set up a Saturday meeting with ULM's Vivian Polak.

On the other side of the bracket, Brand opened with a 6-1, 6-4 decision against Alex Bradley of Southern Miss and then dispatched McNeese State's Marcella Castaldi 6-4, 6-2, in the quarterfinals. Brand will face another McNeese State player Saturday, playing against Diana Pirciu.

Three other Middle Tennessee individuals also participated in singles action and each member of the trio advanced to the consolation semifinal of their respective bracket.

Sophomore Flavia Nagayama dropped her opening match 6-1, 6-0 to Louisiana's Audrey Wooland to fall into the consolation side. The Blue Raider newcomer then proceeded to move to the consolation semis of the A1 singles bracket by winning by default over Louisiana Tech's Vivian ten Dolle. Nagayama will face South Alabama's Ramona Ghermani, who moved into the semifinals also by a default triumph.

In A2 singles, junior Yuiri Nomoto suffered a 6-4, 6-3 setback to start the day against ULM's Monica Winkel before rebounding with a 6-1, 6-2 victory against Lamar's Carolina Maso. Nomoto will face Louisiana's Milou Israel in the consolation semis Saturday.

Lastly, senior Marietta Bigus fought in three sets against Lamar's Alessandra Pennesi in the B1 singles opening round before dropping a 5-7, 6-3, 10-4 decision. Bigus then moved into the bracket's consolation semifinals against Northwestern State's Dana Sardak Saturday after earning a default win over South Alabama's Chane Hines.

In doubles action, a pair of MT tandems reached the quarterfinal round of the A1 bracket. Moraes and Nava defeated South Alabama's Emily Newton and Volman 8-1 to set up a meeting with McNeese State's Lara Pujol and Tea Tvrtkovic.

Also in the A1 doubles quarterfinals Saturday will be the Blue Raider duo of Brand and Nagayama. The pair knocked off Lamar's Carolina Salas and Maso 8-3 and will face Louisiana's Israel and Wilbert Saturday in the quarterfinals.

The final Middle Tennessee doubles tandem to advance was Bigus and Dachos in the A2 doubles bracket. They handed the mixed pair of teammate Nomoto and South Alabama's Veronika Klaugina an 8-2 loss. Bigus and Dachos are scheduled to battle Louisiana's Acuna and Tara Vosavic Saturday in the quarterfinals.

Tournament action continues Saturday and Sunday in Lafayette, La.

Middle Tennessee Results

A1 Singles
Round of 16: Carla Nava def. Alexus Coats (USM) by default
Round of 16: Audrey Wooland (UL) def. Flavia Nagayama 6-1, 6-0
Quarterfinals: Carla Nava def. Alina Volman (USA) 0-6, 6-4, 10-4
Consolation Quarterfinals: Flavia Nagayama def. Vivian ten Dolle (LT) by default

A2 Singles
Round of 16: Nayara Moraes def. Amy Williams (NSU) 6-1, 6-3
Round of 16: Monica Winkel (ULM) def. Yuiri Nomoto 6-4, 6-3

Quarterfinals: Nayara Moraes def. Kate Lanier (USM) 6-4, 6-3
Consolation Quarterfinals: Yuiri Nomoto def. Carolina Maso (LAM) 6-1, 6-2

B1 Singles
Round of 16: Alex Dachos def. Haley Acuna (UL) 1-6, 6-2, 10-7
Round of 16: Lexi Brand def. Alex Bradley (USM) 6-1, 6-4
Round of 16: Alessandra Pennesi (LAM) def. Marietta Bigus 5-7, 6-3, 10-4
Quarterfinals: Alex Dachos def. Isabelle Rocher (ULM) 7-6, 6-0
Quarterfinals: Lexi Brand def. Marcella Castaldi (McN) 6-4, 6-2
Consolation Quarterfinals: Marietta Bigus def. Chane Hines (USA) by default

A1 Doubles
Round of 16: Moraes/Nava def. Emily Newton/Volman (USA) 8-1
Round of 16: Brand/Nagayama def. Carolina Salas/Maso (LAM) 8-3

A2 Doubles
Round of 16: Bigus/Dachos def. Nomoto (MT)/Veronika Kalugina (USA) 8-2

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