No. 46 Middle Tennessee knocks off No. 43 Virginia Tech

Davis picks up win over No. 29 Bjerrehus

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DURHAM, N.C. - No. 46 Middle Tennessee put together a last-minute comeback to defeat No. 43 Virginia Tech, 4-3 in the consolation finals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Kick-off Weekend on Sunday.

Virginia Tech (2-2) jumped out to a 3-0 lead after winning two of three doubles matches and the second and sixth flight of singles, but Middle Tennessee (3-1) battled back late, winning the final four matches to win the dual.

"This was arguably the most exciting match I've ever been a part of," head coach Jimmy Borendame said. "To have three matches going at the same time-all tied at five, and needing to win all three, at then following through was huge for our team.

VT's 15th ranked doubles team of Andreas Bjerrehus and Amerigo Contini defeated MT's Christoph Lang and Marlon Brand, 8-1 to start the dual. Hunter Koontz and Lucas Oliveira picked up VT's second doubles victory, 8-4 over Victor Cornea and Yannick Born.

Ben Davis and David Fox's doubles match against Mauricio Antun and Mark Lovrinovic was unfinished.

No. 56 ranked Contina put VT in the lead, 2-0 after he defeated Lang 7-5, 7-6 (7-2 tie-breaker). In the sixth flight, VT's Aaron Gomez defeated Fox 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

With MT on the brink, Ettore Zito defeated Antun 4-6, 6-0 and 6-2 to spark an impressive comeback.

Davis, ranked 101st, then picked up a key victory in the match over No. 29 Amerigo Contina, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Born, who won MT's only set against Duke on Friday, tied the dual at three with a 4-6, 6-2 and 7-6 (8-6 tie-breaker).

In the third singles flight, Cornea picked up a victory in the first set, 6-3, but fell in the second, 3-6, to set the stage for last minute heroics. With the final set tied at 6-6, Cornea won the tie-breaker, 7-5 to seal the victory.

"For Victor, Ben, Yannick and Ettore to all come back and pick up wins was extremely impressive," Borendame said. "I'm so proud of all of our guys today for how they fought."

The Blue Raiders will return to competition Feb. 1 when they take on Vanderbilt at 2 p.m. in Nashville, Tenn.

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