No. 43 Middle Tennessee falls to No. 33 Northwestern

Davis, Born win lone singles matches

February 17, 2013 · @MTAthletics

EVANSTON, Ill. - No. 43 Middle Tennessee held an early lead, but eventually fell, 4-3, to Northwestern on Sunday at the Combe Tennis Center.

The Blue Raiders won the doubles point after clinching the second and third flights. Ben Davis and Victor Cornea lost, 5-8, to No. Sidarth Balaji and Raleigh Smith, but MT's David Fox and Christoph Lang defeated NU's Mihir Kumar and Alex Pasareanu, 8-6.

In the final doubles match, Yannick Born and Marlon Brand squeaked out an 8-7 victory over Spencer Wolf and Chris Jackman to clinch the point.

NU answered back in the first two singles matches, and took a 2-1 lead. In No. 3 singles, as Balaji topped Lang, 6-1, 6-3, and Fox fell to the Jackman in three sets, 6-2, 1-6, 2-6.

In the third flight, Cornea fell to Smith, 3-6, 4-6, putting MT in a must-win situation in the final three singles matches.

Ettore Zito started hot by winning his first set, 6-4 against Pasareanu, but eventually lost, falling in the final two sets, 4-6, 1-6, as NU clinched the team dual.

Davis, ranked No. 98 in ITA singles, defeated No. 114 Spencer Wolf, 6-4, 7-5, for MT's first singles win of the day.

Born went three sets with Kumar, and clinched his sixth duals victory of the season. Born won, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7 tie-breaker).

Middle Tennessee will travel to Raleigh, N.C., next and face No. 34 North Carolina State at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Live stats for that match are available here.

HEAD COACH JIMMY BORDENDAME

Opening comments...
"We've got to do a better job of learning to play with momentum. There are a number of guys that need to learn to fight back when they lose a set."

On team support...
"We need to have better team support. Our guys need to do a better job of cheering others on during the match."

#33 Northwestern 4, #43 Middle Tennessee 3

Feb 17, 2013 at Evanston, Ill.

Singles competition

1. #98 Ben Davis (MT) def. #114 Spencer Wolf (NU) 6-4, 7-5
2. Raleigh Smith (NU) def. Victor Cornea (MT) 6-3, 6-4
3. Sidarth Balaji (NU) def. Christoph Lang (MT) 6-1, 6-3
4. Yannick Born (MT) def. Mihir Kumar (NU) 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7)
5. Alex Pasareanu (NU) def. Ettore Zito (MT) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1
6. Chris Jackman (NU) def. David Fox (MT) 2-6, 6-1, 6-2

Doubles competition

1. Sidarth Balaji/Raleigh Smith (NU) def. Ben Davis/Victor Cornea (MT) 8-5
2. Yannick Born/Marlon Brand (MT) def. Spencer Wolf/Chris Jackman (NU) 8-7 (8-6)
3. David Fox/Christoph Lang (MT) def. Mihir Kumar/Alex Pasareanu (NU) 8-6

Match Notes

Middle Tennessee 6-2; National ranking #43
Northwestern 9-3; National ranking #33
Order of finish: Doubles (1,3,2); Singles (3,6,2,5,1,4)
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