No. 47 Middle Tennessee gears up for two matches this weekend

Will host UTSA, travel to No. 11 Mississippi State

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Coming off a big win over No. 34 North Carolina State, Middle Tennessee will gear up for another big weekend against UTSA at home and No. 11 Mississippi State on the road.

"We are taking UTSA very seriously," head coach Jimmy Borendame said. "Last year, we won 4-3 after being down match points. They are coached very well by a former player of mine, Jeff Kader, and he has already taken his team to national ranking and a conference title in only two years."

MT, ranked 47th, has won three of its past four matches and is scheduled to face UTSA on Friday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. at Nashboro Village. MT will battle MSU at noon on Feb. 24 in Starkville, Miss.

The Road Runners are 4-2 on the season, and their doubles pair of Martin Ayala and Diogo Casa is perfect this spring, at 6-0. MSU stands at 8-2, and is the second top-15 matchup for the Blue Raiders, and the sixth top-50 opponent MT has faced this season.

"We have faced Duke and I believe we will be ready to play Mississippi State come Sunday," Borendame said. "Our team is still realizing how good we really are and we have not come close to our full potential yet."

No. 98 Ben Davis (6-2) is coming off his seventh career Sun Belt Male Tennis Athlete of the Week award, and will lead the Blue Raiders in the Flight 1 position all weekend.

He will likely face UTSA's Ayala on Friday and either No. 19 Romain Bogaerts or No. 43 Malte Stropp for the Bulldogs.

Victor Cornea (5-3) and Christoph Lang (5-4) have each filled the No. 2 and No. 3 roles this season, but each have lost their past two singles matches and will look to bounce back.

In the fourth spot, Yannick Born (6-2) defeated Northwestern's Mihir Kumar, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 earlier this week, but fell to NCST's Sean Weber, 2-6, 4-6.

Ettore Zito (6-3) has won three of his past four singles matches, including a match-tying victory over NCST's Simon Norenius last Tuesday, helping MT take the match, 4-3.

David Fox has held down the sixth singles flight all season, posting a 5-3 record from that spot and a 6-3 record overall. Fox clinched the team victory over the Wolfpack after pulling out a three-set win over Beck Bond.

Live stats for Friday's match are available here. To follow along Sunday, please click here.

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