

Seminole netters shoot for second

By CARL FINCKE

Democrat sports writer

Heading into the final day of play, the Metro 7 tennis tournament is strictly a two-team race — for second, that is.

Judging from Friday's results, there is little reason to believe Memphis State will not maintain its strongman's grip on the Metro tennis crown. The defending champ is threatening a runaway this year, leading by a 16-point margin entering today's final action.

Florida State and Tulane are in a heated battle for runner-up honors with the Seminoles holding a meaningless one-point edge after Friday's matches. The breakdown entering today's play: Memphis State 36, FSU 20, Tulane 19, Georgia Tech and St. Louis with eight apiece and Cincinnati and Louisville with six each.

The Tigers from Memphis State assured everyone that they are still the class of the Metro by not losing a single match. They are still trying to figure out what the consolation brackets are. The Tigers have a representative in all six singles and all

three doubles finals.

THIS IS not to say that the Seminoles are looking for excuses, but they seem to lean on the contention that the draw was unkind to them. Indeed, the pairings were anything but ideal from the Seminole standpoint: FSU's top two players wound up facing Tigers in their initial matches.

Instead, FSU's number one and two players have been relegated to the not-so-meaningless consolation brackets. It is here in the consolation matches that Ortiz feels second place will be won or lost.

Two points are awarded for each victory in the championship brackets with a single point for each win in the consolation rounds.

While Memphis State has nine in the finals, FSU has four and Tulane three. The Seminoles have two singles entries left in the championship field and two doubles teams. All three Tulane survivors are in singles.

ORTIZ KNEW when he saw the draw that his squad's work was cut

out for it. Although his number one player, Baber Ali Khan, had a first-round bye, his first match was against MSU's highly-regarded Mel Purcell.

A super freshman from Murray, Ky., Purcell brought a big reputation to town. A year ago he was the nation's third-ranked junior and by the time he met Khan in the flight one semi-finals, he already had a 6-1, 6-0 win under his belt. An hour later, he had another as Khan could do little with the Tiger's devastating strokes. Purcell dropped Khan 6-1, 6-0 without much trouble.

After the match, Khan was noticeably embarrassed by his score in front of a Seminole crowd.

"I was just too nervous, I guess," Khan offered. "I didn't sleep well at all last night. I didn't play very well. . . I could have played a lot better. I don't know how well he was playing, but . . ."

But there's not a lot you can do with a player like Purcell when he's on, which is probably most of the time. He does everything well —

make that exceptionally well. He seems to protect his backhand whenever possible, but when he gets one he really lays into it. Purcell hits his forehands a ton, his backhands half a ton.

THE ONLY two Seminoles still in the running for a singles title are Chris Hagman at number four and Scott Gilmore at five.

Today's action starts at 8 a.m. on the Tully Gym courts with consolation matches. Two singles finals (for the number one and three championships) will be held at 11 a.m. with the other four singles finals at 1:30 p.m. The three doubles finals will be at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free to all matches.

FLIGHT ONE SINGLES

First round: Khan (FS) bye; Purcell (MS) d. Prince (SL) 6-1, 6-0; Kronauge (C) d. Walsh (L) 6-2, 7-6; Shapiro (T) d. Burrus (GT) 6-2, 6-3. Semifinals: Purcell d. Khan 6-1, 6-0; Kronauge d. Shapiro 6-7, 6-1, 6-3.

FLIGHT TWO SINGLES

First round: Smith (T) bye; Burke (GT) d. Samuels (C) 0-6, 6-4, 7-6; O'Bryan (L) d. Blount (SL) 6-4, 6-3; Hooper (MS) d. Nefo (FS) 6-3, 7-6. Semifinals: Smith d. Burke 6-3, 6-1; Hooper d. O'Bryan 6-2, 7-5.

FLIGHT THREE SINGLES

First round: McDougal (GT) bye; Webb (MS) d. Lucas (L) 6-1, 6-2; Lehman (T) d. Bellamy (FS) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; Barretto (SL) d. Cruzat (C) 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. Semifinals: Webb d. McDougal 6-2, 6-0; Lehman d. Barretto 6-0,

6-7, 6-3.

FLIGHT FOUR SINGLES

First round: Lindner (C) bye; Hagman (FS) d. Wong (SL) 6-4, 7-5; Shulla (GT) d. Alvarez (L) 6-4, 1-6, 6-2; Simpson (MS) d. Edelstein (T) 6-2, 6-3. Semifinals: Hagman d. Lindner 6-4, 6-2; Simpson d. Shulla 6-1, 6-1.

FLIGHT FIVE SINGLES

First round: Ladyman (MS) bye; Brofsky (T) d. Spohr (C); Gilmore (FS) d. McChesney (L) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Schaetzel (GT) d. Schlaflv (SL) 7-6, 6-4. Semifinals: Ladyman d. Brofsky 6-1, 6-2; Gilmore d. Schaetzel 6-4, 6-4.

FLIGHT SIX SINGLES

First round: Puffak (L) bye; Mansour (MS) d. Levine (C) 6-0, 6-0; Dunay (T) d. Bruin (SL) 6-1, 6-2; Knittle (FS) d. Cox (GT) 7-6, 6-2. Semifinals: Mansour d. Puffak 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Dunay d. Knittle 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

FLIGHT ONE DOUBLES

First round: Wong-Barretto (SL) bye; Gilmore-Nefo (FS) d. Burke-McDougal (GT) 6-3, 6-1; Purcell-Hooper (MS) d. Walsh-Alvarez (L) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; Kronauge-Cruzat (C) d. Shapiro-Baker (T) 6-4, 6-2. Semifinals: Gilmore-Nefo d. Wong-Barretto 6-3, 6-0; Purcell-Hooper d. Kronauge-Cruzat 6-1, 6-4.

FLIGHT TWO DOUBLES

First round: Bellamy-Dwight (FS) bye; Simpson-Ladyman (MS) d. Brofsky-Lehman (T) 6-2, 6-4; Prince-Blount (SL) d. Samuels-Lindner (C) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; Shulla-Cox (GT) d. O'Bryan-McChesney (L) 6-0, 6-4. Semifinals: Simpson-Ladyman d. Bellamy-Dwight 6-4, 6-3; Prince-Blount d. Shulla-Cox 6-0, 5-7, 6-1.

FLIGHT THREE DOUBLES

First round: Bruin-Schlaflv (SL) bye; Hagman-Khan (FS) d. Levine-Ahlin (C) 6-0, 6-3; Dunay-Edelstein (T) d. Lucas-Puffak (L) 7-5, 6-1; Webb-Mansour (MS) d. Burrus-Schaetzel (GT) 3-6, 6-1, 6-0. Semifinals: Hagman-Khan d. Bruin-Schlaflv 6-1, 6-2; Webb-Mansour d. Dunay-Edelstein 6-2, 6-4.

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Memphis St. sweeps every spot in tennis

By CARL FINCKE

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Rarely is a flawless performance seen in the world of athletics, but this weekend the Memphis State tennis team gave one.

The Tigers defended their Metro 7 tennis title in style, scoring a maximum 54 points to easily outdistance the remainder of the baffled field. Memphis State won each of the 26 matches it played through the course of the tournament. The Tigers came away with all nine individual titles and did not even lose a set in the Saturday finals.

Winning when it had to in the consolation brackets Saturday, Florida State edged Tulane 29 points to 26 for second place. A year ago, the Seminoles finished third by a single point behind Cincinnati. The Bearcats finished in a fifth-place tie with Louisville this year at nine points apiece while Georgia Tech took fourth with 15 points. St. Louis was in last with seven.

"WE ALL come out here to win," FSU Coach Juan Ortiz said Saturday. "None of the rest matters."

But on several occasions after the tournament began (and MSU had the title wrapped up from the beginning), Ortiz could be found cheering his players on in their quest to capture runner-up honors.

Leading the way for the champion Tigers was their ace on the number one court, freshman Mel Purcell. Void of any apparent pressure, Purcell slashed away at final opponent, Cincinnati's Bob Kronauge, until there was nothing left of the Bearcat. Kronauge did manage to win two games out of 14 — better than anyone else did against Purcell this this weekend.

Kronauge spent the better part of the first set displaying disgust at his own performance. Little did he realize that Purcell could play a lot better, too. But it didn't matter: Even a below-par Purcell was far too much for anyone else in the Metro conference.

The Murray, Ky., netter lost only four games in three matches en route to his crown. Few errors came out of his aggressive style of play and he seemed to bang off winners at will from anywhere on the court. It was not unusual for Purcell to receive a booming first serve and promptly put it away. Next point.

HIS OWN serve left little to be desired. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find much room for improvement anywhere in Purcell's game. He volleyed accurately throughout the match, was rock-steady with his baseline ground strokes and his touch shots left spectators with jaws agape. The nation's third-ranked junior player a year ago, Purcell already has the Metro conference groveling at his feet in this his first year as a collegian.

Purcell also captured the flight one doubles crown as he and partner Chip Hooper swept aside FSU's Scott Gilmore and Jose Salibi Neto 6-0, 6-4 in the finals. Hooper, a towering figure on the court, finished the tournament with a reputation as a frightening server. He also was a two-time winner, copping the number two singles title by downing Tulane's Jim Smith 7-5, 6-1 in the championship match.

The other winners (for Memphis State, of course) were: third singles, Roger Webb 6-3, 6-4 over Tulane's Tommy Lehman; fourth singles, Peter Simpson 6-0, 6-3 over FSU's Chris Hagman; fifth singles, Jim Ladyman 6-3, 6-0 over FSU's Gilmore; sixth singles, Steve Mansour 6-2, 6-1 over Tulane's Gary Dunay; second doubles, Simpson-Ladyman 7-5, 6-0 over St. Louis' Steve Prince and Lee Blount; and third doubles, Webb-Mansour over FSU's Hagman and Baber Ali Khan.

ENTERING THE final day of play Saturday, Memphis State had already locked up the team title but the Seminoles held only a slight one-point edge over Tulane. But the Seminoles did exceptionally well in their consolation action, winning four of the consolation bracket finals: Neto won flight two 6-3, 6-1 over Cincinnati's John Samuels, Alan Bellamy took flight three 6-1, 6-2 over St. Louis' Mario Barretto, Bruce Knittle won flight six 6-2, 7-6 over Georgia Tech's Barry Cox, and Bellamy and John Dwight won the second doubles by default over Georgia Tech's tandem. FSU's Khan advanced to the finals of the flight one singles consolation, losing 6-3, 6-2 to Tulane's Neal Shapiro.

The Tigers won in a rout last year, and unless someone comes up with a way to keep Memphis State back in Memphis next year, the rest of the Metro teams had better get ready for more of the same.