



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



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SEMINOLE MEN'S TENNIS SURPASSES LAST YEAR'S WIN TOTAL WITH 7-0 SWEEP OF MARYLAND

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – With fourth-ranked Duke and No. 25 Wake Forest looming this weekend, it would have been easy for the Florida State University men's tennis team to overlook its Atlantic Coast Conference match with the University of Maryland. Instead, the Seminoles won their third match in a row with a 7-0 victory over the Terrapins on Wednesday (March 23).

The victory improved FSU's record to 11-5 on the year, 2-1 in the league, and surpassed last year's win total with at least seven matches remaining on the schedule. FSU has now won 95-straight points off Maryland, having swept the last 14 matches after a 5-2 win in 1992. The Terps fell to 8-7 overall and 0-6 in the league.

"I was concerned about us overlooking Maryland, but it's always tough to play midweek matches," FSU head coach **Dwayne Hultquist** said. "I tend to group matches together and today was the start of four conference matches in about nine days and three are against higher ranked opponents. Next week we'll know if we're in the hunt for an ACC title and a top 10-15 team or stuck in the same place that we are in right now."

Wasting no time, the 39th-ranked doubles team of **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) and **Ytai Abougzir** (Boca Raton, Fla.) took just 27 minutes to post their 8-0 victory at number two over Scott Fink and Ben Graham. After going down 4-3 to Ian Bliss and Troy Demers, No. 27 **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and **Chris Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa) won five of the next six matches to prevail 8-4.

The closest doubles contest of the day came at number three. The Florida State tandem of **Chip Webb** (Chattanooga, Tenn.) and **Sam Chang** (Young-Ming, Taiwan) jumped out to a quick 5-1 lead over Josh Brauser and Michael Coleman. The Terrapin duo rallied with a pair of breaks to pull to 7-6, but Webb held serve and completed the sweep.

It took Cloer just over an hour to post a pair of victories against Maryland. Following a quick win in doubles, the No. 26 player in the country took just 45 minutes to dispose of Demers 6-0, 6-1 at number one. Taking his third match in a row was Abougzir as he broke a 2-2 tie in the first set by winning ten of the last 11 games for a 6-2, 6-1 win over Bliss at number two.

"The guy that was really focused today was Mat," Hultquist noted. "He dropped one game in a total of three sets today. He always plays solid day in and day out, but sometimes he can get streaky and he lost a few matches I thought he should have won, but he's bounced back really well."

Clinching the team victory was Groslimond at number three. He went down 5-4 in the first set to Fink, but rebounded to win the next three games for the first set, 7-5, and then rolled to a 6-2 decision in the second. By winning his doubles match, the junior put himself one win short of **Joey Rive** for sixth on the all-time list at 68 career doubles wins.

In just the opposite fashion, Chang won the first set 6-2 at number five against Brauser, but had to come back from a 4-3 deficit in the second for a 6-4 triumph. With his 6-2, 6-4 win over Reichsfeld at number four, Westerhof equaled his career high with 19 singles wins and combined with the doubles win, gave him 107 overall victories, which rates him tenth in school history. Webb completed the sweep with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Coleman.

Florida State takes to the road for its matches with Wake Forest (Friday) and Duke (Sunday).

No. 27 Florida State 7, Maryland 0

Box Score

Singles

No. 1: #26 Mat Cloer (FSU) d. Troy Demers (UM) 6-0, 6-1

No. 2: Ytai Abougzir (FSU) d. Ian Bliss (UM) 6-2, 6-1

No. 3: Jeff Groslimond (FSU) d. Scott Fink (UM) 7-5, 6-2

No. 4: Chris Westerhof (FSU) v. David Reichsfeld (UM) 6-2, 6-4

No. 5: Sam Chang (FSU) d. Josh Brauser (UM) 6-1, 6-4

No. 6: Chip Webb (FSU) v. Michael Coleman (UM) 6-2, 6-3

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 3, 6, 5, 4

Doubles

No. 1: #27 Groslimond/Westerhof (FSU) d. Bliss/Demers (UM) 8-4

No. 2: #39 Cloer/Abougzir (FSU) d. Fink/Graham (UM) 8-0

No. 3: Webb/Chang (FSU) v. Josh Brauser/ Coleman (UM) 7-6

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 3