

Abougzir, Westerhof Upset The No. 1 Doubles Team; FSU Falls To No. 12 OSU

Florida State drops to 5-6 on the season

March 4, 2006

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Florida State junior Ytai Abougzir played the top match of his career Saturday, upsetting the No. 1 doubles team in the nation and the No. 46th-ranked singles player as the Seminoles fell 4-1 to No. 10 Ohio State at Scott Speicher Tennis Center. The loss dropped Florida State to 5-6 on the season while the Buckeyes improved to 11-1.

"I thought the match was a different match if we would of won the doubles," Florida State head coach Dwayne Hultquist said. "The match was a lot closer than the final score indicated. The key to the match was they won the majority of the close sets. Really they won five close sets and I really feel like that was the difference in the match."

Abougzir and his partner Chris Westerhof defeated the OSU tandem of seniors Scott Green and Ross Wilson, a pair that entered the match 10-0 in duals matches this season. Green and Wilson are also three-time defending national champions.

"Ytai obviously played really well today," said Hultquist. "Beating the No. 1 doubles team in the country and having a solid win against a high-ranked singles player shows he put forth a respectable effort."

The Seminoles lost the doubles point after falling in positions two and three. Florida State's duo of junior Jonathas Sucupira and sophomore Sam Chang was upended by Devin Mullings and Chris Klingemann, 8-4, at No. 3 doubles and freshmen Andrew Bailey and Maciek Sykut lost in the tiebreaker 9-8(4) to Drew Eberly and Bryan Koniecko in the third slot.

In singles, the Buckeyes took the 3-0 lead with victories at No. 3 and No. 6. Chang fell to No. 42 Mullins 6-2, 6-4 in the third position and Mertens got past freshman Chris Cloer 6-2, 6-4 at court five. At center court, Abougzir put the first points on the board for the home team with a 6-4, 6-4 victory against No. 46 Koniecko. OSU won the match after Westerhof dropped a close 6-4, 6-4 decision to Moneke at No. 4 singles.

At No. 2 singles, Sucupira competed in his first duals singles match of the season and led 6-3, 3-6, 3-2 in the third set before play was halted. Meanwhile, Sykut's match looked promising as he held a 6-5 advantage in the second set to Wilson.

Florida State must quickly bounce back as the upcoming week finds the Seminoles at South Florida on Monday, Rice Wednesday, and at Texas A&M on Thursday.

DOUBLES

1. Abougzir/Westerhof (FSU) def. (#1) Green/Wilson 8-5
2. Eberly/Koniecko (OSU) def. Bailey/Sykut (FSU) 9-8(4)
3. Klingemann/Mullings (OSU) def. Chang/Sucupira 8-4

Order: 3, 1, 2

SINGLES

1. Abougzir (FSU) def. No. 46 Koniecko (OSU) 6-4, 6-4
2. Sucupira (FSU) vs. Klingemann (OSU) *DNF*
3. No. 42 Mullings (OSU) def. Chang (FSU) 6-3, 6-1
- *4. Moneke (OSU) def. Westerhof (FSU) 6-4, 6-4
5. Sykut (FSU) vs. Wilson (OSU) *DNF*
6. Martens (OSU) def. Cloer (FSU) 6-2, 6-4

Order: 6, 3, 1, 4