FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2004
Contact: Michael Smoose (850) 644-4836
FLORIDA STATE MEN'S TENNIS HOLDS ON FOR 4-3 DECISION OVER MICHIGAN

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Home was definitely sweet for the Florida State University men's tennis team as it broke a two-match slide with a 4-3 victory over Michigan on Friday (February 27). The 39th-ranked Seminoles won the last match on the court to beat the No. 44 Wolverines and improve to 5-4 on the year. Michigan drops its first match of the season, falling to 6-1.

"We've played a lot of close match like this against some teams in the top ten," FSU head coach **Dwayne Hultquist** said. "I think we could have had a complex, but we've won two now that have been close. We knew Michigan was going to be a tough match. They have one of the best teams there that they've had in a while."

The Seminoles picked up the first point of the match by taking the doubles. FSU took an early advantage when the #48 tandem of **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and Chris **Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa) beat Anthony Jackson and Brian Hung 8-1. Michigan answered at number three as Steve Peretz and Vinny Gossain held off **Chip Webb** (Chattanooga, Tenn.) and **Jarrod Owen** (Vero Beach, Fla.) 8-4.

The point came down to the number two match between FSU's **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) and **Jonathas Sucupira** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and the Wolverines' Michael Rubin and Ryan Heller. Down 6-3, the Seminoles rallied to send the match in the tiebreaker where they prevailed 8-6 to win the doubles point.

Michigan got its first point when David Anving beat **Joao Paolo Bounassar** (Maringa Parana, Brazil) 6-1, 6-3 at number six. FSU regained the lead when Westerhof won his fourth match in a row, beating Peretz 6-2, 6-3.

"Chris is playing good tennis right now and he's capable of playing higher in our line-up and maybe that's something we can do," Hultquist added. "He's certainly playing well right now."

Taking down his second-straight ranked opponent, #25 Cloer beat 40th-ranked Rubin 6-4, 6-4. The victory was number 74 of his career, tying him with **Joey Rive** for seventh all-time. The doubles triumph moved him into a first-place tie with **Alex Rucker** and current assistant coach **Ty Braswell** at 52 career doubles wins.

While the first three matches were decided in under an hour and a half, the remaining trio went to a third set. After trading the first two sets at 6-4, Groslimond and Hung battled at number three singles. The deciding set went Michigan's way as Hung prevailed 6-4. Just minutes before, Michigan's Heller also rallied from a one-set deficit to beat Webb 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3 at No. 4 to tie the match at three points a piece.

The outcome came of the match came down to number two between Sucupira and Jackson. Sucupira won the first set 7-6 (3), but Jackson answered with a 6-1 win. Tied at three in the deciding set, Sucupira picked up a break then held to go up 5-3. After Jackson held, Sucupira came back to win the set and the match 6-4.

"I think Jonathas really stepped it up," Hultquist added. "He really served well in the third and I thought that was the difference. He stayed aggressive. Even though he was missing some volleys, he stayed aggressive and that in the end won him the match."

FSU returns to the Scott Speicher Tennis Center on Saturday to play a 3 p.m. match with Furman.

Box Score
#39 Florida State 4, #44 Michigan 3
Doubles
1. #48 Groslimond/Westerhof (FSU) d. Jackson/Hung (UM) 8-1
2. Cloer/Sucupira (FSU) d. Rubin / Heller (UM) 9-8 (6)
3. Peretz / Vinny Gossain (UM) d. Owen/Webb (FSU), 8-4
Order of finish: 1, 3, 2

Singles
1. #25 Mat Cloer (FSU) d. #40 Michael Rubin (UM) 6-4, 6-4
2. Jonathas Sucupira (FSU) d. Anthony Jackson 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-4
3. Brian Hung (UM) d. Jeff Groslimond (FSU) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
4. Ryan Heller (UM) d. Chip Webb (FSU) 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3
5. Chris Westerhof (FSU) d. Steve Peretz (UM) 6-2, 6-3
6. David Anving (UM) d. Joao Paolo Bounassar (FSU) 6-1, 6-3
Order of finish: 6, 5, 1, 4, 3, 2