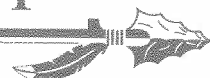




FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FSU MEN'S TENNIS ENDS #4 DUKE'S 58-MATCH ACC WINNING STREAK WITH 4-3 VICTORY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – All season long the Florida State University men's tennis team has been on the brink of upsetting a top ten team. On Sunday (March 21), the Seminoles turned the corner as they rallied to win four of the six singles matches on their way to a 4-3 triumph over #4 Duke University.

With the victory, No. 41 Florida State improves to 10-6 overall and 3-1 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, while Duke drops to 11-5 on the year. FSU also hands the Blue Devils their first conference loss in nearly eight years. Duke had won 58-straight ACC dual matching dating back to 1996, which is also the last time Florida State beat the Blue Devils.

"All season long we've been right there knocking on the door and today we finally did it," FSU net boss **Dwayne Hultquist** said. "We were right there against Florida and Illinois and the difference is that we got a group of guys that just won't quit. We needed that experience of what it takes to beat a top ten team and today it paid off. The crowd was great again today and they gave us that emotional lift when we needed it."

After losing the doubles point, Florida State faced the tough uphill climb of having to win four of the six singles matches to gain the team victory. The Seminoles not only did just that, but pulled it off in grand style, taking the top four singles matches, including a pair of upsets over top 15 players.

With the Seminoles down 2-0 in the team tally after Duke had won at No. 5 singles, Florida State got its first point of the day when **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) beat 11th-ranked Phillip King in a battle of the previous two ACC Players of the Year. The 20th-ranked Cloer got the upper hand as he beat King 6-4, 7-5 at number one after being down 5-3 in the second set.

Once again the Tribe had to respond to a two point deficit as the Blue Devils captured a point at No. 6 to put them one point away from victory. Giving Florida State its second point and pulling off his second upset of a top-30 player in as many days was rookie **Jonathas Sucupira** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) with his win at number two. The freshman beat #7 Ludovic Walter 6-3, 7-5 as he also rallied from being down 5-3 in the second stanza.

That left FSU down 3-2 with number four and three singles still left on the court and doubles playing partners **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and **Chris Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa) to bring home the victory.

After Jonathan Stokke took the first set from Groslimond 6-3 at No. 5, the sophomore battled back to win the second stanza 6-4. Groslimond looked to be in control of the third set from the start as he broke the first game and held serve twice to go up 3-1, but Stokke answered with a break of his own and held to go ahead 4-3. From there Groslimond held serve to tie at 4-4, took the lead by breaking Stokke and then served out for the match with a 6-4 win in the third set.

Now the match, and the entire focus of the Seminoles' second crowd of over 300 spectators, turned to number three singles. An early break gave Westerhof the first set 6-4 over Peter Rodrigues, but the Blue Devil answered with a victory in the second set (6-3) to push the contest to a rubber match. Battling cramps and a match that went almost three hours, both players held their first two serves. Up 3-2, Westerhof got the upper hand when he broke to go up 4-2. Two holds of serve and the Seminoles had their first victory over a top five program during Hultquist's five-year tenure as Westerhof won 6-3.

"Chris has been in a position a couple times this year where he could have won the match for us, but ended up losing so it was great to see him come through with a victory for us," Hultquist noted. "Mat and Jonathas really got us going with great wins over ranked players."

The Blue Devils' only two singles points came at number five and six as Jason Zimmerman posted a 6-4, 6-1 win over **Chip Webb** (Chattanooga, Tenn.) and Christopher Brown beat **Joao Paolo Bounassar** (Maringa Parana, Brazil) 6-4, 6-4.

Duke captured the first point of the afternoon when it swept all three doubles matches. The No. 3 tandem of Rodrigues and Stephen Amritaj took down Webb and **Joe Bassett** (Monticello, Fla.) 8-4. A back and fourth match at number two went the way of Stokke and King 8-6 over Cloer and Sucupira. The only break of serve at number one went the way of Duke and it came in the final game as fourth-ranked Walter and Zimmerman prevailed 9-7 over No. 22 Groslimond and Westerhof.

"In the fall we went through intense training sessions and those paid off today," Hultquist added. "I have to give (strength and condition coach) **Dave Plettli** some credit for the win today."

After taking on #1 Illinois and #4 Duke on back-to-back days, the Seminoles have a week off before they return to competition, taking on #47 Wake Forest on Saturday (March 27) at the Scott Speicher Tennis Center.

Florida State Men's Tennis
Scott Speicher Tennis Center
March 21, 2004

#41 Florida State 4, #4 Duke 3

Doubles

Doubles

No. 1: #4 Zimmermann / Walter (DUKE) d. #22 Westerhof/Groslimond (FSU) 9-7

No. 2: Stokke / King (DUKE) d. Cloer / Sucupira (FSU) 8-6

No. 3: Rodrigues / Amritaj (DUKE) d. Webb / Joe Bassett (FSU) 8-4

Order of finish: 3, 2, 1

Singles

No. 1: #20 Mat Cloer (FSU) d. #11 Phillip King (DUKE) 6-4, 7-5

No. 2: Jonathas Sucupira (FSU) d. #7 Ludovic Walter (DUKE) 6-3, 7-5

No. 3: Chris Westerhof (FSU) d. Peter Rodrigues (DUKE) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3

No. 4: Jeff Groslimond (FSU) d. Jonathan Stokke (DUKE) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4

No. 5: Jason Zimmerman (DUKE) d. Chip Webb (FSU) 6-4, 6-1

No. 6: Christopher Brown (DUKE) d. Joao Paolo Bounassar (FSU) 6-4, 6-4

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