



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FSU MEN'S TENNIS OPENS HOME SCHEDULE WITH 7-0 DECISION OVER JACKSONVILLE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In the five previous seasons under head coach **Dwayne Hultquist**, the Florida State University men's tennis team has never lost its first match of the season at home. After Saturday's (January 22) bout with Jacksonville the streak is still alive as the Seminoles posted a 7-0 decision over the Dolphins.

With the win, No. 41 Florida State also remained undefeated in the dual match season, upping its record to 3-0. Jacksonville dropped its first match of the spring campaign.

Continuing their strong doubles play in the early season, the Seminoles swept all three matches to take the first team point. Picking up the first victory was the number three tandem of **Jonathas Sucupira** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and **Sam Chang** (Young-Ming, Taiwan) as they beat Andrew Burks and Christian Ritschka 8-4.

"One of the things the guys have strived to do is have everyone win their match," Hultquist noted.

"Jacksonville played hard; there were a couple of close matches. Our guys were really determined and even though we had the team victory wrapped up, everyone still wanted to win their own match."

Wrapping up the team point was the duo of **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) and **Ytai Abougzir** (Boca Raton, Fla.) as they beat Bjoern Behles and Martin Hehensteiger 8-7 at No. 1. Completing the sweep was the 32nd-ranked team of **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and **Chris Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa) with their 8-3 win over Jonathan Hoenicke and Tarek Merchant at number two. The win was Westerhof's 51st career doubles triumph, moving him into a tie for tenth all-time with **Rodrigo Laub**.

Where Florida State has improved the most this year has been towards the bottom of its singles line-up and the Tribe won its first two individual points at bouts five and six. After dropping the second game of the No. 5 match, Sucupira won the next 11 games to take his match over Burks 6-1, 6-0. His doubles partner Chang won almost as many games in a row, taking eight-straight for a 6-2, 6-1 win over Ritschka at number six.

"Whoever is playing five and six should be winning almost every day for us," Hultquist said. "We're going to be very strong down low and some of our best points should be from those matches. Jonathas is gaining some confidence now that he is playing more matches and we're glad to see him and Sam dominate down low."

Closing out the team victory was Cloer as he produced a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Behles. With the win, the two-time ACC Player of the Year moved into a tie with **Neil Krefsky** for ninth place in school history with his 69th career singles win. Following a 6-1 win in the first set, Groslimond had to go the distance in the second set with Wietrak as he won the tiebreaker 8-6 to win the set and the match 7-6.

Down 5-3 in the second set, Abougzir rallied to win the next four matches as he produced a 6-3, 7-5 against Hehensteiger at the number two match. The lone set of the entire afternoon won by Jacksonville came during the number four singles match where Hoenicke won 7-5, but Westerhof rallied for a 6-1 win in the second set then won the super tiebreaker 10-7 to take the third set 1-0 and complete the sweep.

The Seminoles are on the road for their next two matches, starting January 28 when they take on fifth-ranked Illinois at 7:30 p.m. in Champaign, Ill.

#41 Florida State 7, Jacksonville 0

Box Score

Singles

No. 1: Mat Cloer (FSU) d. Bjoern Behles (JU) 7-5, 6-1

No. 2: Ytai Abougzir (FSU) d. Martin Hehensteiger (JU) 6-3, 7-5

No. 3: #88 Jeff Groslimond (FSU) d. Peter Wietrak (JU) 6-1, 7-6 (6)

No. 4: Chris Westerhof (FSU) d. Jonathan Hoenicke (JU) 5-7, 6-1, 1-0 (7)

No. 5: Jonathas Sucupira (FSU) d. Andrew Burks (JU) 6-1, 6-0

No. 6: Sam Chang (FSU) d. Christian Ritschka (JU) 6-2, 6-1

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

Doubles:

No. 1: Cloer/Abougzir (FSU) d. Behles/Hehensteiger (JU) 8-4

No. 2: #32 Groslimond/Westerhof (FSU) d. Hoenicke/Tarek Merchant (JU) 8-3

No. 3: Sucupira/Chang (FSU) d. Burks/Ritschka (JU) 8-4

Order of Finish: 3, 1, 2