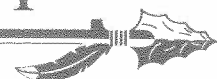




FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLOSE MATCH GOES NOTRE DAME'S WAY AS IRISH BEAT FSU MEN'S TENNIS 4-3

NOTRE DAME, Ind. - On Saturday, the Notre Dame men's tennis team became the sixth school in NCAA history to record its 1,000 victory. Florida State University hoped to make the Irish wait a few more days for win No. 1,001, but the indoor courts of the Eck Tennis Center were not favorable to the Seminoles at #34 Notre Dame defeated No. 41 Florida State 4-3.

Florida State dropped its second match in a row as it fell to 3-2 with the loss. Both of the Seminoles' losses have come on the road this year to ranked opponents. Notre Dame stays perfect at 6-0. So far during the dual match season, the Seminoles' strength has been the play of its doubles team, including Friday when FSU's number one team of Mat Cloer (Brevard, N.C.) and Ytai Abougzir (Boca Raton, Fla.) upset the number four team in the country. However, the timing of the Seminoles' first loss in doubles couldn't have come at a worse time.

Early on it look as if FSU would stay undefeated in doubles as the number three tandem of Jonathas Sucupira (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and Sam Chang (Young-Ming, Taiwan) easily beat Stephen Bass and Barry King 8-2. Notre Dame tied the doubles at one match apiece when Brent D'Amico and Ryan Keckley beat Cloer and Abougzir 8-6. The doubles point would be decided at number two and it went to Notre Dame as Eric Langenkamp and Sheeva Parbhu beat the No. 32 team of Jeff Groslimond (Atlanta, Ga.) and Chris Westerhof (Durban, South Africa) 8-4.

As it turned out, the doubles point was the deciding factor as the teams split the six singles matches.

Florida State evened the match at one point when Sucupira picked up a 6-1, 7-5 win over Patrick Buchanan at number five. The Irish recaptured the lead at number six as Keckley took down Chang 7-5, 6-4. Once again FSU evened everything when Cloer took down No. 78 Bass 6-4, 6-4. The win was Cloer's 70th of his career, tying him with Grand Slam doubles winner Paul Haarhuis for eighth in school history.

With both teams needing to win two of the final three singles match, Notre Dame used the advantage of its familiarity of the indoor courts to come away with the team victory. D'Amico picked up the only break in each set of the number two match as he took down Abougzir 6-4, 6-4. After dropping the first set to Westerhof at number four, Parbhu battled back to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 and secure the team victory. Getting the final point of the day was No. 91 Groslimond as he outlasted #112 King 6-7 (1), 7-5, 7-6 (5) at number three.

Florida State will try to stop its two-match slide when it plays host to No. 3 Florida on Sunday, February 6, at 1 p.m. at the Scott Speicher Center.

Box Score

#34 Notre Dame 4, #41 Florida State 3

Singles

No. 1: Mat Cloer (FSU) def. #78 Stephen Bass (ND) 6-4, 6-4

No. 2: Brent D'Amico (ND) def. Ytai Abougzir (FSU) 6-4, 6-4

No. 3: #91 Jeff Groslimond (FSU) def. #112 Barry King (ND) 6-7 (1-7), 7-5, 7-6 (7-5)

No. 4: Sheeva Parbhu (ND) def. Chris Westerhof (FSU) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3

No. 5: Jonathas Sucupira (FSU) def. Patrick Buchanan (ND) 6-1, 7-5

No. 6: Ryan Keckley (ND) def. Sam Chang (FSU) 7-5, 6-4

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

Doubles

No. 1: D'Amico/Keckley (ND) def. Abougzir/Cloer (FSU) 8-6

No. 2: Eric Langenkamp/Parbhu (ND) def. #32 Groslimond/Westerhof (FSU) 8-4

No. 3: Chang/Sucupira (FSU) def. S. Bass/King (ND) 8-2

Order of Finish: 3, 1, 2*