



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLORIDA STATE MEN'S TENNIS DROPS CONFERENCE OPENER 4-3 AT NC STATE

RALEIGH, N.C. – With a pair of nationally ranked doubles teams, the Florida State University men's tennis team has been able to win the doubles points in eight of its first nine matches and as a result has come away with six team victories. However, that formula for success wasn't able to get the No. 30 Seminoles a win in their Atlantic Coast Conference opener as they fell 4-3 to No. 59 NC State on Saturday (March 5).

The loss snapped Florida State's three-match winning streak as it dropped to 6-4 on the year with a 0-1 league record. For NC State, who improved 13-1 overall and 1-1 in the ACC, it was its first victory over the Seminoles since they joined the ACC, snapping a 13-match losing streak.

Just as they've done in nearly 90 percent of their matches this year, the Seminoles started the contest by taking the doubles point. The Wolfpack had an early lead as William Noblitt and Mason Schermerhorn defeated **Jonathas Sucupira** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and **Sam Chang** (Young-Ming, Brazil) 8-1 at number three.

Getting Florida State on the board was the junior tandem of **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and **Chris Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa). The No. 57 duo in the country came through with an 8-5 win at number two over Andre Iriarte and Val Banda. The deciding match went the Seminoles' way as No. 28 **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) and **Ytai Abougzir** (Boca Raton, Fla.) produced an 8-6 triumph versus Will Shaw and Nick Cavaday.

Despite having the first point, Florida State could not sustain the lead as NC State won the first two singles matches to take a 2-1 lead. The Wolfpack's first point came when Schermerhorn beat Chang in their number six match 6-1, 6-2. NC State's Conor Taylor gained the distinction of becoming the only player to ever beat two-time ACC Player of the Year Cloer twice during his collegiate career as he took down the No. 17 player in the nation 6-3, 7-6 at number one.

The hosts put themselves one match away from victory as Cavaday beat Abougzir 6-0, 6-7, 6-4 at number two. Florida State rallied to tie the match at three points a piece by winning both matches in the middle of the line-up.

After dropping the first set of his number three match 5-7 to Iriarte, No. 89 Groslimond rallied to win the bout 6-4, 6-3. His doubles partner Westerhof won the first set 6-3 over Shaw, but had to rebound from a 6-7 loss in the second stanza with a 6-3 win in the third set to even the team match. Another three-set match would determine the winner with NC State coming out on top as Noblitt beat Sucupira 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 at number five.

The Seminoles will stay in the Tar Heel State as they try to pick up their first ACC win of the season. Florida State is back on the court Sunday, March 6, when it plays at No. 24 North Carolina at 1 p.m.

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#59 NC State 4, #30 Florida State 3

Box Score

Doubles:

No. 1: #28 Cloer/Abougzir (FSU) d. Shaw/Cavaday (NCSU): 8-6

No. 2: #57 Groslimond/Westerhof (FSU) d. Iriarte/Banada (NCSU): 8-5

No. 3: Noblitt/Schermerhorn (NCSU) d. Sucupira/Chang (FSU): 8-1

Singles:

No. 1: Conor Taylor (NCSU) d. #17 Mat Cloer (FSU) 6-3, 7-6

No. 2: Nick Cavaday (NCSU) d. Ytai Abougzir (FSU) 6-0, 6-7, 6-4

No. 3: #89 Jeff Groslimond (FSU) d. Andre Iriarte (NCSU) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3

No. 4: Chris Westerhof (FSU) d. Will Shaw (NCSU) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3

No. 5: William Noblitt (NCSU) d. Jonathas Sucupira (FSU) 7-6, 3-6, 7-6

No. 6: Mason Schermerhorn (NCSU) d. Sam Chang (FSU) 6-1, 6-2