



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEMINOLE MEN'S TENNIS CAN'T REPEAT THE PAST, DROPS 5-2 CONTEST TO FOURTH-RANKED DUKE

DURHAM, N.C. – A year ago, the Florida State University men's tennis team pulled off one of the biggest wins in school history when it upset fourth-ranked Duke. Going into this year's contest, the No. 27 Seminoles found themselves up against a fourth-ranked Blue Devil squad once again, but this time the key third-set matches went Duke's way as the host prevailed 5-2 on Sunday (March 27).

Florida State fell to 12-6 overall and 3-2 in the league. Duke won its eighth match in a row to improve to 13-2 with a perfect 3-0 ACC record.

Despite a line-up loaded with ranked singles players, not even the Blue Devils could derail the best doubles line-up in the country. Florida State ran its doubles record to 17-1 by taking the first point of the day. Coming through with the first win was **Sam Chang** (Young-Ming, Taiwan) and **Jonathas Sucupira** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) as they prevailed 8-5 at number three over Stephen Amritraj and Peter Shults.

Duke evened the doubles at one match apiece when Ludovic Walter and Jason Zimmerman beat No. 27 **Jeff Groslimond** (Atlanta, Ga.) and **Chris Westerhof** (Durban, South Africa) 8-5 at number one. The loss ended the duo's 13-match winning streak.

The opening point came down to number two in a match that featured a pair of ranked opponents. After going up 7-2, FSU's No. 39 team of **Mat Cloer** (Brevard, N.C.) and **Ytai Abougzir** (Boca Raton, Fla.) allowed No. 29 Peter Rodrigues and Jonathan Stokke to even the match at eight points. The bout went into a tiebreaker where the Seminoles prevailed 8-6 to win the doubles point.

The Tribe founds itself in an unusual position as Florida State quickly had a 2-0 advantage in the match as Abougzir came through with an upset of No. 96 Stokke 6-3, 6-2 at number two singles. The Blue Devils didn't get on the board until No. 80 Rodrigues posted a 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 win over Sucupira at number five.

Tying the match at two points was Shults as he came through with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Chang in the sixth bout. The Blue Devils got their first lead of the afternoon when 66th-ranked Amritraj beat Groslimond 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-2. Completing Duke's comeback was a tight match at number one as No. 26 Cloer was serving for the match in the third set before No. 5 Walter rallied for the 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (4) triumph. With the team match complete, Charles Brezac beat Westerhof 6-1, 6-7 (4), 7-5 at number four.

Florida State returns home to take on No. 14 Clemson on Friday (April 1) at 1 p.m.

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#4 Duke 5, #27 Florida State 2

SINGLES

No. 1: #5 Ludovic Walter (Duke) def. #26 Mat Cloer, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (4)

No. 2: Ytai Abougzir (FSU) def. #96 Jonathan Stokke, 6-3, 6-2

No. 3: #66 Stephen Amritraj (Duke) def. Jeff Groslimond, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-2

No. 4: Charles Brezac (Duke) def. Chris Westerhof, 6-1, 6-7 (4), 7-5

No. 5: #80 Peter Rodrigues (Duke) def. Jonathas Sucupira, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1

No. 6: Peter Shults (Duke) def. Sam Chang, 7-5, 6-3

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

DOUBLES

No. 1: Walter & Jason Zimmermann (Duke) def. #27 Groslimond & Westerhof, 8-5

No. 2: #39 Abougzir and Cloer (FSU) def. #29 Rodrigues & Stokke, 9-8 (6)

No. 3: Chang & Sucupira (FSU) def. Amritraj & Shults, 8-5

Order of finish: 3, 1, 2