

ASU Sweeps Wofford, 7-0

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In the first date of a four-match, season-ending homestand, Appalachian State University men's tennis swept Southern Conference foe Wofford, 7-0, at ASU Tennis Courts on Wednesday. Appalachian State (12-6, 5-2 SoCon) retains a perfect 5-0 record at home,

while Wofford (4-11, 3-5 SoCon) drops its third-straight match. With scattered thunderstorms in the forecast, play began with singles action. Appalachian had its first point in less than an hour, as sophomore Matt Saltsgaver (Winter Park, Fla./Winter Park) recovered from an opening-game broken serve to score a 6-3, 6-0 win in the No. 6 match.

In the No. 2 match, senior Philip Kloc (Melbourne, Australia/Mentone Grammar) made winning look routine, as the Mountaineer tallied a trio of breakpoints in his speedy 6-3, 6-2 victory.

On the outside court, Appalachian's No. 5, Steve Karendal (Kernersville, N.C./Lees-McRae), followed suit as the senior won his match moments later by an identical 6-3, 6-2 margin, giving the Apps a 3-0 lead in the team scoring. ASU's match-clinching point came on the No. 4 court, where sophomore Sebastien King (Montreal, Quebec/George Vanier) cruised through his opening set before catching a late break to seal his 6-0, 7-5 victory.

Mountaineer Alex Markov (Pernik, Bulgaria/Hawai'i Pacific) showcased his skills by scoring a break point midway through the opening set before scoring four-straight games to close out his 6-3, 6-3 win in the No. 1 singles slot. Senior Alain Humblet (Montreal, Quebec/DE Mortagne) fought hard through his opening set, failing to convert on several set-point opportunities before closing out his Terrier opponent. Humblet opened the second set on a 4-0 run and sailed to a 6-4, 6-2 win to give the Black and Gold the 6-0 lead in the match.

In doubles action, Markov and Humblet tore through their No. 2 doubles match, notching an 8-1 win in under 30 minutes of play. Karendal, paired with junior Andrew McKinnon (Mooresville, N.C./Lake Norman), clinched the Apps' doubles point with an 8-4 win in the No. 3 position.

Kloc and King fell behind in the final match on the court as their Terrier foes picked up an early break for a 2-1 edge. The Appalachian tandem finally broke back to tie the match at 6-6, and the rivals went to a tiebreak at 7-7. In the tiebreaker, the teams scored on serve through the first nine points before ASU took a 6-4 lead. Wofford fought off two match-points before the Apps took another lead at 7-6. Once the dust settled, Kloc and King scored on their fourth match-point opportunity for the 8-7(9-7) win.

The Mountaineers reset to host Chattanooga on Saturday at 2 p.m. The match follows a women's match against Samford at 10 a.m., and fans are invited to join doubleheader festivities between matches.

Photo Courtesy: Alain Humblet, ASU Athletics