

Mountaineers Fall to Samford in SoCon Opener

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 01 March 2014 20:17

Appalachian State University women's tennis lost its second-straight match as it fell by a 4-3 final to Samford in its Southern Conference opener on Saturday at Yonahlossee Racquet Club.

The Mountaineers (3-6, 0-1 SoCon) fought from behind in their first conference match of the season as the Bulldogs (6-1, 1-0) took the early lead by inning the doubles point before going on to win three of the six singles matches.

Appalachian's No. 1 duo of Gabrielle Wreder/Mackenzie LaSure was knocked off first by Samford as it lost 8-3 before the No. 3 doubles team of Olivia Isbey/McKayla Zupan fell 8-2.

The No. 2 doubles team of Clare Cox/Megan Mullen trailed 7-3, but the match went unfinished as Samford had already secured the doubles point.

Despite its best efforts to rally in singles play, Appalachian was unable to grab four points in the remaining six matches. Yasmeen Ebada defeated Wreder at the No. 3 singles 6-3, 6-2 while LaSure lost to Stephanie N'tcha 6-4, 6-3

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Cox was the first to win a point for Appalachian as she defeated Kristin Lewis 6-1, 6-3 at No. 1. The Bulldogs' Lauren Cabellero defeated Zupan at the No. 6 spot 6-3, 6-3 to secure the match win for Samford.

The Mountaineers played out their final two matches as Brianna Armellino snagged the win at No. 4, winning 6-4, 6-4 against Jessica Northcutt while Jessica Thaggard battled hard to come back from an early deficit to earn a tiebreaker. She carried her momentum into the extra-set where she won, finishing 4-6, 7-6, 10-7.

Appalachian will move on to play Charlotte as it finishes out a four-game homestand on Monday. The match is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. at Yonahlossee Racquet Club.

Samford 4, Appalachian State 3

Mar 1, 2014 at Boone, N.C. (Yonahlossee Racquet Club)

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Singles competition

1. Clare Cox (APP) def. Kristin Lewis (SAM-WT) 6-1, 6-3
2. Stephanie N'tcha (SAM-WT) def. Mackenzie LaSure (APP) 6-4, 6-3
3. Yasmeen Ebada (SAM-WT) def. Gabrielle Wreder (APP) 6-3, 6-2
4. Brianna Armellino (APP) def. Jessica Northcutt (SAM-WT) 6-4, 6-4
5. Jessica Thaggard (APP) def. Emily Mallory (SAM-WT) 4-6, 7-6, 10-7
6. Lauren Caballero (SAM-WT) def. McKayla Zupan (APP) 6-3, 6-3

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Doubles competition

1. Kristin Lewis/Stephanie N'tcha (SAM-WT) def. Gabrielle Wreder/Mackenzie LaSure (APP) 8-3
2. Clare Cox/Megan Mullen (APP) vs. Yasmeen Ebada/Jessica Northcutt (SAM-WT) 3-7, unfinished
3. Emily Mallory/Lauren Caballero (SAM-WT) def. Olivia Isbey/McKayla Zupan (APP) 8-2

Match Notes

Samford 6-1

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Appalachian State 3-6

Order of finish: Doubles (1,3); Singles (3,2,1,6,4,5)

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