



2011 Missouri Valley Conference *Tennis*

Missouri Valley Conference
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ST. LOUIS, Mo. - All roads for the 62nd-rated Drake men's tennis team have been leading towards playing for an NCAA Tournament berth and the Bulldogs will have that chance after defeating Southern Illinois, 4-0, in the semifinals of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Championship on Saturday (April 30).

On the strength of its 14th-straight victory, Drake now faces Wichita State in the title tilt on Sunday (May 1) at 10:00 a.m. with the opportunity to earn the program's fifth NCAA Tournament berth and first since the 2007-08 campaign.

"This was a good win for us in tough playing conditions," Bulldog head coach Evan Austin commented. "We're looking forward to a great opportunity against Wichita State tomorrow."

Drake claimed the doubles points after earning decisions at the top-two positions with the tandem of senior Mauricio Ballivian (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and sophomore Anis Ghorbel (Sfax, Tunisia) clinching the deciding tally downing Adam Fabik and Brandon Florez at No. 1, 8-4.

Freshman Robin Goodman (Cambridge, England) and junior Jonathan Hadash (Lapid, Israel) extended the lead in singles to 3-0 registering triumphs at the Nos. 5 and 6 positions, respectively.

Goodman bested Orhan Spahic at No. 5, 6-2, 6-2, while downed Rafael Cuadrillero, 6-2, 6-1, at No. 6.

Nailing down the victory and a berth in the MVC title match was Ghorbel, who turned in a 6-3, 6-2, triumph over Jorge Caverio at No. 3.

NO. 62 DRAKE (20-2) DEF. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11-8), 4-0

APRIL 30, 2011 • ST. LOUIS, MO.

SINGLES:

No. 1 Mauricio Ballivian (DU) leading Adam Fabik (SIU), 7-5, 2-1 unfinished

No. 2 Anis Ghorbel (DU) def. Jorge Caverio (SIU), 6-3, 6-2

No. 3 Brandon Florez (SIU) leading Jean Erasmus (DU), 7-6 (6), 1-2

No. 4 James McKie (DU) leading Carlos Do Val (SIU), 6-4, 1-2

No. 5 Robin Goodman (DU) def. Orhan Spahic (SIU), 6-2, 6-2

No. 6 Jonathan Hadash (DU) def. Rafael Cuadrillero (SIU), 6-2, 6-1

Order of finish: 5,6,2

DOUBLES:

No. 1 Ballivian/Ghorbel (SIU) def. Fabik/Florez (SIU), 8-4

No. 2 Erasmus/McKie (DU) def. Do Val/Caverio (SIU), 8-1

No. 3 Cesar Bracho/Goodman (DU) leading Jordan Snyder/Spahic (SIU), 7-4

Order of finish: 2,1

Courtesy: Drake University