

UM netters no 'April Fool' in blanking Seminoles 9-0

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The University of Miami tennis team, runner-up in last year's NCAA championships (but 9-3 for '76), is in a down year — right? April Fool, Florida State!

The traditionally strong Hurricanes, although weakened this year by graduation, still had far greater depth than FSU yesterday at Tully Courts and ripped the Seminoles 9-0 — the first whitewash victory for Coach Dale Lewis' team since 1970 when Miami went undefeated.

FSU's Gordon Jones, who zipped through Miami's top man 6-1 in the first set, waited in vain for the Hurricanes' John Eagleton to look up, smile and reverse a controversial second-set call with "April Fool!" But instead of a ripping topspin backhand down the line for 6-all and momentum going for Jones into a tie-breaker, the "wide" call prevailed and the unnerved host made two errors out of the next three points to lose the set.

In the rubber, the discouraged Jones wasn't even a shadow of the player who pounced on the former South African junior champ in the first set, marking time until 6-0. Both sluggers played cautiously and sluggishly in the second set, but Eagleton, now 11-1 on the season with several outstanding wins, picked up confidence as Jones bantered with his opponent and crowd.

"If Jones had kept his mouth shut, he would've won the match," said the rival coach. "I'm not knocking him, because we have guys who do that too. But, when you're up against a lethargic player (Eagleton) you don't want to fire him up."

Afterwards, Jones, whose hope of an

NCAA invitation dimmed as his personal record dipped to 6-4, lamented that he had become "discouraged too fast, after getting ready for this match for days." At the 5-0 change-over, Jones symbolically quit by flipping the "2" set marker for Eagleton.

Despite runaway scores of 6-1, 6-3, the better of the featured matches was on the next court, according to coach Lewis. "They're two boxers," he said of his Tavo Martinez and FSU's Enrique Andrade. "What you have here (Jones vs. Eagleton) are two sluggers." Martinez won the "boxing match" from the hard-luck Ecuadorian in straight sets for the third straight year.

FSU's Bruce Knittle moved up to No. 3 to give touted Ronnie Myers some anxious moments at 2-3 in the second set before losing 6-3, 6-3. And Alan Bellamy played "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" in a 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 loss to Flavio Arenzon. The freshman from Saskatchewan, and now Tallahassee, faced a 5-0 deficit only minutes after strongly taking the second set.

Tribe coach Ken Vinson was pleased with the contribution of spring quarter recruit Rupert Green of England as the 3-9 Seminoles head for the undefeated Florida Gators next Wednesday and the toughest part of their schedule. Green was not out of his singles at No. 6 and teamed well with Bellamy in doubles, although the new partners squandered a 5-1 second set lead.

Singles: John Eagleton def. Gordon Jones 1-6, 7-5, 6-0; Tavo Martinez def. Enrique Andrade 6-1, 6-3; Ron Myers def. Bruce Knittle 6-3, 6-3; Flavio Arenzon def. Alan Bellamy 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; Joe Etienne def. Scott Gilmore 6-2, 6-4; Larry Dennert def. Rupert Green 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles: Eagleton-Martinez def. Jones-Andrade 6-2, 6-2; Myers-Dennert def. Gilmore-Rick Thomas 6-4, 6-2; Etienne-Arenzon def. Bellamy-Green 6-4, 7-5.