

The No. 14 Baylor Bears Men's Tennis team competed in the 2025 UTR Sports Collegiate Championships on Friday. The Bears wrapped up non-conference play at Indian Wells Tennis Garden, defeating No. 28 Pepperdine in a nail-biter, 4-3.

Baylor's Louis Bowden and Zsombor Velcz began doubles play with a win on Court Three against Pisaric/Poertner, 6-3. The team's doubles success continued, as No. 15 Miladinovic/Brostrom Poulsen took a 4-2 lead against E. Winter/H. Winter on Court One. Meanwhile, on Court Two, No. 79 Badenhorst/Koenig were locked in a 4-4 battle with No. 72 Carlsson Halldin/Homberg. They then won two straight sets, notching both a 6-4 victory and the doubles point for the Bears.

In singles, No. 40 Devin Badenhorst and No. 99 Zsombor Velcz were off to a hot start. They both won their first sets, 6-4. No. 96 Brostrom Poulsen dominated the first set, 6-2 on Court Two. Marko Miladinovic was able to capitalize on his momentum and take the first set, 6-4. However, on all other courts, it was a slow start for Baylor. Louis Bowden dropped set one, 4-6, while Alexandru Chirita dropped his set, 1-6.

In the second set, both Badenhorst and Miladinovic went to a tiebreaker but were unable to secure their matches, going 7-6(6) and 6-7(5), respectively. On Court Two, Brostrom Poulsen lost set two, 5-7 while on Court Three Zsombor Velcz gave Baylor their second point that morning. Pepperdine responded quickly, as Alexandru Chirita couldn't force a third set on Court Four, losing 1-6, 5-7. On Court Five, Bowden was unable to respond, losing a tiebreaker, 6-7(3).

With three matches going to a third set, it was unclear who would walk away with the victory. Badenhorst fought hard but was unable to win it, going 4-6. Simultaneously, Miladinovic won Court Six, winning set three 6-2. With both teams knotted up at three points apiece, all eyes focused on Court Two. In a tiebreaker, Brostrom Poulsen bested No. 47 Homberg, 7-6(7), and Baylor exited Indian Wells with their twelfth win of the year.

The Bears play Sunday against No. 26 Princeton and No. 45 Arizona State to finish the 2025 UTR Sports Collegiate Championships. They will return to Waco March 21<sup>st</sup> to host the Sun Devils at the Hurd Tennis Center.