

# Locals reach Summer Slam finals

Published: Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 7:24 AM



By **Daniel Boyette, Press-Register**

GULF SHORES, Alabama — Coastal Alabama may have found a great new junior tennis rivalry.

Facing off for the third time, top-seeded Zak Sorel of Irvington edged Foley's Nick Cruz 7-6 (12-10), 3-6, 1-0 to win the Boys 16 final at the third annual City of Gulf Shores Summer Slam on Sunday at the Meyer Tennis Center.

Nick Cruz of Foley eyes a backhand return against top-seeded Zak Sorel of Irvington during the Boys 16 final of the Summer Slam tournament Sunday in Gulf Shores. Sorel won 7-6 (12-10), 3-6, 1-0. (Daniel Boyette, Register)

"I first played him here; I wasn't playing good that day and he beat me pretty bad," Sorel said. "I played him in another tournament in Gulf Shores and I barely won that one in another tiebreaker. We always play good every time; we'll probably be going back and forth a lot."

Added Cruz: "It was the same thing; (this time) he played harder."

Cruz, a rising sophomore at FHS and the No. 2 seed, advanced to the final of the two-day tournament by defeating Greenville's Daniel Autrey 6-4, 6-2 and Gulf Shores' Nathan Taylor 6-0, 6-0.

"My serve was on most of the tournament," Cruz said. "The last few points (against Sorel), it dropped, probably from being so nervous."