Bobcats claw past Bears, 1-0

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Junior John Williams (Rutherfordton, N.C.) tallied the lone goal of the match, and sophomore Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) made five saves to lead the Lees-McRae College men's soccer team to a 1-0 win over host Lenoir-Rhyne University on Wednesday night.

Lenoir-Rhyne (0-3) outshot the Bobcats (2-1) by a 15-10 margin, including a 10-4 advantage in the second half, as Rusling made several key saves down the stretch to preserve the clean sheet. Williams broke the deadlock 10 minutes into the match, winning a free ball 17 yards from goal and delivering a well-placed finish inside the far post to give the Bobcats an early 1-0 lead. The Bobcats maintained the narrow margin for the remainder of the match, withstanding several Bear attacks in the second half en route to their second consecutive victory. James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) and David Palmer (South Shields, England) each made a team-high three attempts at goal for the Bobcats, as Rusling made a pair of key stops in the final 20 minutes to preserve the win.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Saturday when the Bobcats host St. Andrews Presbyterian College to open their Conference Carolinas schedule. The match is slated to kickoff at 3 p.m.

Pioneers overcome Bobcats, 3-0

The Tusculum College women's soccer team overcame a 26-5 shot margin, and took advantage of limited offensive opportunities en route to a 3-0 win over Lees-McRae College on Wednesday night at Avery High School.

Lees-McRae (0-2) controlled the run of play for virtually the entire match, outshooting the Pioneers (2-1) by a 14-0 margin in the first 44 minutes before Tusculum's Jana Linke broke the deadlock just nine seconds before the interval, finding the back of the net on a free kick from 35 yards distance to send TC into halftime with a 1-0 lead.

The Pioneers maintained the narrow margin until midway through the 67th minute, when Tramicka James took advantage of a Bobcat miscue in the defensive third before slotting the finish into the back of the net under the keeper's hands. The Bobcats continued to battle down the stretch, making seven attempts at goal over the final 20 minutes.

James capped the night's scoring with less than a minute remaining in the match, taking

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possession of a Lees-McRae giveaway and delivering a strong finish into the bottom corner to equal the final margin of 3-0.

Tusculum's Marissa Williams kept a clean sheet with 14 saves on the night, while Alicia Pierson (Brookville, Fla.) and Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) combined for one save for Lees-McRae. Sophomore MaryBeth Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) and senior Vickie Rich (Arlington Heights, Ill.) paced the Bobcats with nine and six shots, respectively.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Saturday when the Bobcats host St. Andrews Presbyterian College to open their Conference Carolinas season. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m. at Tate Field.