

Bobcats run win streak to eight with sweep of King

Written by Staff Reports

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Four players tallied at least eight kills to lead a balanced attack as the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team extended its winning streak to eight matches with a straight-set sweep of King College on Saturday afternoon.

Lees-McRae (10-6, 6-0 CC) won the match by scores of 25-18, 25-17, and 25-20, extending its conference winning streak to 37 contests, while holding King to a .191 clip on the attack. The Bobcats posted a blistering .327 hitting percentage on the afternoon, while dropping in 11 service aces.

Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) paced the Bobcats with 14 kills, extending her streak of 10 or more smashes to eight matches. The senior outside hitter has been especially strong of late, averaging 4.42 kills per set over her last six matches while hitting .310 in that span.

Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) added 12 kills and a .391 hitting percentage, while Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas) and Jessica Singewald (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) tallied nine and eight kills, respectively. Fox and Singewald hit .750 and .583, respectively, as Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) chipped in 38 assists, becoming the first player in program history to surpass the 2,600-helper plateau. Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) also added match-highs of 18 digs and four service aces for the Bobcats.

Ashley Pittman led the way for King with 11 kills, while Sarah Van Goethem chipped in seven smashes. Natalie Brown added 12 digs, while Shannon Earwood tallied 24 assists for the Tornado. Kristen Hamel and Kelsey Griffiths also chipped in a match-high three blocks each. The opening set proved to be a tightly contested affair until the latter stages of the frame, when the Bobcats launched a 9-3 run to close out the set on a Singewald kill. Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the second set, opening the frame with a 7-4 run that was capped by an Epperson ace.

King stayed within striking distance, cutting the margin to 14-13 on a Bobcat error to cap a 4-1 run. The Bobcats responded once again, claiming a 21-16 lead on a Tornado error before closing out the set on a Mitchell service ace to take a commanding 2-0 advantage in the match. The Tornado countered early in the third set, battling to an 11-9 advantage before Lees-McRae responded with a 9-3 run to claim an 18-14 lead on a Singewald smash. King refused to go away, cutting the lead to 21-19 on a block by Griffiths and Hamel to cap a 5-3 spurt. The Bobcats reclaimed the momentum in short order, taking a 22-19 lead on a Fox kill to launch a 4-1 run before closing out the match on a Suryadevara ace.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday, September 30, travelling to Raleigh, N.C. to take on St. Augustine's College at 6 p.m.