

Women's Soccer: Royals Edge Bobcats, 1-0

Written by Whitney Noble

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The Queens University of Charlotte women's soccer team scored midway through the 38th minute, and held off a late surge by Lees-McRae College en route to a narrow 1-0 victory in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon.

Lees-McRae (3-3-1, 2-1 CC) outshot Queens (3-5, 1-1 CC) by a 25-12 margin in the match, including a 17-5 advantage in the first half, as the Royals held a slim 4-3 edge on corner kicks. Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) and Sarah Mahar (Jacksonville, Fla.) paced the Bobcats with five shots each, while Sam Arendt (Franklinton, N.C.) chipped in four attempts of her own. Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) made five saves between the pipes for the Bobcats. Brooke Foil scored the lone goal of the match for Queens, sending three shots on frame as Nicole Hoff tallied an assist. Kelsey Seretis made 11 saves to keep a clean sheet for the Royals.

Lees-McRae tested the Royal keeper early and often, forcing Seretis to make seven saves in the opening 32 minutes to preserve the deadlock and keep Lees-McRae off the score sheet. Queens snatched the advantage against the run of play midway through the 38th minute, when Hoff found Foil in position for the finish to give the Royals a 1-0 lead. Erica Allen (Norton, Ohio) nearly leveled proceedings six minutes later, forcing Seretis into a skillful save to keep the Royals in front heading into the interval.

The Bobcats continued to push the tempo in the second half in search of an equalizer, sending four shots toward goal within a four-minute span. Mahar nearly equalized just past the hour mark, forcing a stop by Seretis to maintain the narrow advantage. Seretis parried another effort from Thornton midway through the 79th minute, preserving the Royals' 1-0 lead en route to the clean sheet.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Belmont, N.C. to take on Belmont Abbey College in conference play at 1:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer: Bobcats drop heartbreaker to Royals

Felipe Netto scored with less than a minute remaining in regulation to lead the Queens University of Charlotte men's soccer team to a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Lees-McRae

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College on Saturday evening in Conference Carolinas play, after the Bobcats rallied from a 2-0 deficit to equalize late in the second half.

Queens (4-2, 2-0 CC) edged Lees-McRae (2-6, 1-1 CC) by a 14-12 margin in shots, including a 5-3 advantage in the first half, in a physical match that featured 29 fouls and nine cautions.

James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) and Scott Hudgins (Fort Myers, Fla.) both found the back of the net for the Bobcats, as goalkeeper Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) notched his second assist of the season. Galvani paced the Bobcats with four attempts at goal as Rusling made five saves between the pipes.

Netto, Gersi Cilingiri, and Thiago Andrade both tallied a goal for Queens, as Erick Suarez, Diego Suarez, and Drew Walsh each recorded an assist. John Rush was called up to make two saves, while Andrade paced the Royals with four attempts at goal.

The match remained scoreless until midway through the 13th minute when Walsh and Diego Suarez linked up to put Cilingiri in position for the breakthrough, giving Queens an early 1-0 lead. The Royals doubled the advantage to 2-0 in the closing seconds of the 22nd minute, when Andrade converted from the penalty spot.

Queens would carry the two-goal advantage into the second half, when Galvani created space for himself and found the back of the net in the 49th minute to halve the margin to 2-1 with his third strike of the season. The Bobcats continued to press the attack in search of an equalizer, winning a free kick just outside the area in the 62nd minute which Smith curled just over the bar. Hudgins would level proceedings late in the 82nd minute, directing a long free kick from Rusling into the back of the net to pull the Bobcats back on terms at 2-2. Queens responded in the 90th minute, snatching a late winner at the death when Erick Suarez set up Netto to give the Royals a decisive 3-2 lead.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Belmont, N.C. to take on Belmont Abbey College in conference play at 3:30 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: James Galvani, LMC Athletics