

## Balanced Attack Propels Bobcats To Sweep Of Bulldogs

Written by Whitney Noble

Saturday, 29 September 2012 08:41

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Freshmen Jordan Banta (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Angela Morse (Clinton Township, Mich.) combined for 20 kills and eight blocks to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a straight-set sweep of Barton College in

Conference Carolinas play on Friday evening. Lees-McRae (7-6, 4-2 CC) won the match by scores of 25-12, 25-21, and 25-16, posting a .352 hitting percentage in the match while tallying six blocks. The Bobcats recorded 37 digs and 11 aces in the match, while limiting Barton (4-10, 2-4 CC) to a .100 clip on the attack.

Banta paced the Bobcats with 11 kills and a .389 hitting percentage, while tallying three block assists. Morse added nine kills, five block assists, and a .353 attacking clip, as Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) chipped in 10 smashes and a match-high .643 hitting percentage. Dana Oliver (Miami, Fla.) posted seven kills and a match-high five aces, while Taylor Pritchett (Apex, N.C.) and Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.) added contest-bests of 43 assists and 14 digs, respectively.

Melissa Cochran led the way for Barton with six kills and a .545 hitting percentage, while Kati Wood chipped in four smashes. Amanda Grandy added 14 assists as Corinna Morton chipped in eight digs.

The Bobcats stormed out of the gate in the first set, opening an early 9-3 lead following a Banta service ace. After Barton responded with a 6-2 spurt to cut the margin to 11-9, Lees-McRae countered with a 7-0 surge to push the advantage to 18-9 on back-to-back kills by Morse and Oliver. The Bobcats would close out the set with a 7-2 run, capping the frame on a smash from Rachel Grether (Ocala, Fla.).

Barton would battle back in the second, taking an early 13-12 lead on a kill by Jordan Lee to cap a 7-1 run. Lees-McRae responded with an 8-3 spurt, claiming a 20-16 advantage following a smash by Beatty. The teams would trade points over the next several minutes before Lees-McRae took control, capping the set on back-to-back kills from Banta and Oliver.

The third set proved to be a battle of runs, with Barton snatching an early 10-8 edge on a kill by Cochran before the Bobcats responded with an 8-3 spurt, claiming a 16-13 advantage following an Oliver ace. Lees-McRae would take control from there, closing out the set and the match with a 9-3 run, which was capped by a trio of kills by Beatty.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Mount Olive, N.C. to take on Mount Olive College in league play at 2 p.m.

**Photo Courtesy: Jordan Banta and Angela Morse, LMC Athletics**