Written by Whitney Noble
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Freshman Rachel Grether (Ocala, Fla.) tallied a season-high five service aces, and senior Dana Oliver (Miami, Fla.) added a match-best 14 kills to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a 3-1 win over Converse College

in Conference Carolinas play on Friday evening. Lees-McRae (9-9, 6-4 CC) won the match by scores of 25-20, 26-24, 22-25, and 25-21, posting a .234 hitting percentage while holding Converse (0-20, 0-10 CC) to a .104 clip on the attack. The Bobcats recorded nine aces and seven blocks on the night, as Converse notched four aces and threes stuffs.

Oliver led the way for Lees-McRae with 14 kills and a .345 hitting percentage, as Jordan Banta (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Angela Morse (Clinton Township, Mich.) added nine and eight smashes, respectively. Taylor Pritchett (Apex, N.C.) chipped in a match-high 41 assists, while Grether recorded seven kills and a contest-best five aces. Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) notched six kills and three blocks assists, as Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.) added a match-high 13 digs.

Anna Williams paced the Valkyries with seven kills, as Michaela Evers and Katie Butler each posted six smashes. Aubrey Crosby chipped in 11 digs, as Jenna Martin recorded a team-high three aces.

The Bobcats would rally from an early 9-7 deficit in the first set, countering with an 11-5 run to take an 18-14 advantage following a Grether ace. After Converse cut the margin to 19-18 on a block by Butler and Evers, Lees-McRae answered with a 6-2 spurt, closing out the set and taking a 1-0 lead in the match on back-to-back kills from Banta and Morse.

Converse battled back from an 11-6 hole in the second, answering with an 11-2 surge to take a 17-13 advantage following a Williams kill. The Bobcats would respond with an 11-5 run, pushing the Valkyries to set point at 24-22 before Converse countered with a pair of points to knot the score at 24-24. Lees-McRae then answered back-to-back markers to claim the set and take a 2-0 lead in the match following a Beatty smash.

The Valkyries battled back in the third set with an early 10-7 run before Lees-McRae answered with a 4-1 spurt, knotting the score at 11-11 on a block by Beatty and Banta. Lees-McRae would open a 17-13 advantage before Converse responded with a 7-2 run, taking a 20-19 lead following a Bobcat miscue. After Lees-McRae answered with back-to-back points to claim a narrow 21-20 lead, the Valkyries countered with a 5-1 run to cap the set and cut the Bobcat advantage in the match to 2-1.

The Bobcats would respond in the fourth frame, opening the set with a 14-6 run that was capped by back-to-back kills from Grether. Converse battled back, cutting the lead to 20-17 on a Butler service ace to end an 11-6 run. The Bobcats would hold on down the stretch, trading points with the Valkyries before capping the set and the match on a solo block by Banta.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Due West, S.C. to take on Erskine College in league play at 2 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Dana Oliver, LMC Athletics