The Newberry College women's soccer team scored twice in the first half and held off a furious rally by Lees-McRae College en route to a 2-0 win in non-conference play on Monday afternoon. Newberry

(5-6-3) controlled the run of play for much of the first half, outshooting Lees-McRae (8-4-1) by a 9-6 margin in the opening 45 minutes. The balance of play shifted in the second half, as the Bobcats outshot the Wolves, 13-0, in the period. Lees-McRae also held a 6-1 edge in corner kicks in the match, as Morgan Cox made eight saves for the Wolves.

MaryBeth Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.), Sarah Mahar (Jacksonville, Fla.), and Mallory Overholt (Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada) each tallied three shots in the match, as Ally Titsworth (Holmes Beach, Fla.), Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) and Mary Dorn (Shallotte, N.C.) all posted a pair of attempts at goal.

Brayden Miller and Heather Stork each found the back of the net for Newberry, as Katie Sas and Tiffany Kinner both recorded an assist. Cox made eight saves to keep a clean sheet, as Miller posted a match-high four attempts at goal.

Newberry got off to a flying start in the early moments of the fifth minute, when Miller chested down a cross from Sas and sent a half volley into the back of the net from 18 yards out to give the Wolves a 1-0 advantage.

The Bobcats nearly drew level just over four minutes later, when Titsworth forced a brilliant save from Cox off a corner kick from Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.). After Cox parried an effort from Mahar midway through the 24th minute, the Wolves made another superb stop off a Kerrigan corner in the 27th, making a strong save on a Titsworth header.

Freshman Kate Brandon (Charlotte, N.C.) would force another brilliant save by Cox in the 40th minute, directing a Kerrigan corner on frame before Stork doubled the advantage just over two minutes from the interval, nodding home a Kinner cross to give the Wolves a 2-0 lead heading into the break.

The Bobcats continued to push forward in search of an answer in the second half, outshooting the Wolves by a 13-0 margin in the final 45 minutes, including a pair of attempts from Mahar that just missed the bar in the 50th and 53rd minutes. After Cox parried a Dorn effort in the 67th, Thornton forced another save in the 68th minute with a strong shot from close range.

Elise Steinmetz (Louisville, Ky.) and Overholt each nearly found the back of the net in the 77th and 80th minutes, each forcing a save from Cox to preserve the clean sheet.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Salisbury, N.C. to take on Catawba College in non-conference play at 7 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Kaitlyn Kerrigan, LMC Athletics