

Bobcats Finish 4th At Mountain Bike Nationals

Written by Whitney Noble
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Kerry Werner (Birdsboro, Pa.) finished third in the individual omnium to lead the Lees-McRae College cycling team to a strong fourth-place performance

at the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships this past weekend. Fort Lewis College claimed the overall team title with 701 points, followed by University of Colorado at Boulder (625), Marian University (445), Lees-McRae (439), and the University of Wyoming (434). Werner led the way individually for the Bobcats, claiming the third spot on the individual omnium podium with 230 points, including a pair of sixth-place finishes in the cross country and short track races.

Hailey Sarausky (Littleton, N.H.) paced the Bobcats on the women's side, finishing eighth in the individual omnium with 206 points as Sarah Hill (Banner Elk, N.C.) followed closely behind in 10th with 170 markers. Carter Luck (Banridge, Pa.) placed 11th on the men's side with 37 points, as Mackenzie Filippi (Cary, N.C.) finished 16th in the women's individual omnium. Werner kicked off the weekend with a strong showing in the cross country race, finishing sixth with a time of 1:58:18 as Ezra Mullen (Nottingham, N.H.) placed 11th with a mark of 2:05:23. Davis Bentley (Mill Valley, Calif.) and Benjamin Stover (Lawrence, Kan.) finished 17th and 21st, respectively, as Luck placed 29th with a time of 2:21:33.

Sarausky and Hill paced the Bobcats in the women's cross country race, finishing 17th and 18th with times of 2:08:12 and 2:08:21, respectively. Erin Donohue (Norwich, Vt.) followed closely behind in 27th with a mark of 2:18:08, as Filippi came in 31st with a mark of 2:24:20.

Cody Phillips led the way for the Bobcats in the men's downhill race, finishing 21st with a time of 2:59.18, as Werner, Eric Bercume (Barre, Mass.), and Brian Jorgensen claimed the 36th-38th spots. Sarausky and Hill posted the top finishes for Lees-McRae on the women's side, placing 23rd and 24th, respectively, while Filippi finished 26th.

Saturday's competition kicked off with the short track race, with Werner pacing the Bobcats in sixth as Mulle and Bentley placed 13th and 15th, respectively. Sarausky led the way for Lees-McRae in the women's short track, finishing 13th as Donohue and Hill placed 15th and 19th, respectively.

Jorgensen paced the Bobcats in Saturday's downhill race, finishing 21st with a time of 2:52.46 as Bercume claimed 29th with a mark of 2:58.02. Sarausky turned in the top finish on the women's side, placing 17th with a time of 4:01.27 as Filippi and Hill finished 25th and 26th, respectively.

The weekend's competition wrapped up with Sunday's dual slalom race, as Phillips paced the Bobcats in 23rd with a time of 56.69 and Bercume placed 27th with a mark of 57.10. Werner and Jorgensen finished 29th and 31st, respectively, as Luck placed 42nd with a time of 1:00.27. Hill led the way for the women's side in 17th, finishing with a time of 1:11.55 as Sarausky placed 19th with a mark of 1:11.74.

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Photo Courtesy: Kerry Werner, LMC Athletics