Sophomore Katherine Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) finished 41st overall to lead the Lees-McRae College women's cross country team to a 22nd-place performance at the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championships on Saturday morning at

McAlpine Creek Park. Columbus State University claimed the team title and a berth in the NCAA Division II National Championships, totaling 87 points as Clayton State University (99) and University of North Carolina at Pembroke (106) rounded out the top three that will advance to nationals. King College finished fourth with 156 points, followed by Lenoir-Rhyne University (202). Lees-McRae placed 22nd overall and eighth among Conference Carolinas teams with 547 points.

Katherine Shields posted a time of 24:05.80 to finish 41st, as twin sister Emily Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) placed 70th with a mark of 25:02.30. Cinthia Lehner (Greer, S.C.) placed 112th with a mark of 26:13.00, as Rayne Delutis (Christiansburg, Va.) and Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.) rounded out the finishers for the Bobcats.

Lees-McRae is expected to return four harriers next season, including rising senior Heather Peterman (Buford, Ga.).

In the men's race, Jared Lupton (Nampa, Idaho) turned in a time of 34:59.70 to lead the Lees-McRae College men's cross country team to a 24th-place performance in the 10k race at the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championships on Saturday morning at McAlpine Creek Park.

Columbus State University took home the team title with 63 points, earning a berth to the NCAA Division II National Championships while a pair of Conference Carolinas schools booked a ticket to nationals, as Mount Olive College and King College round out the top three with 77 and 91 points, respectively. Lees-McRae finished 24th overall and eighth among conference schools with 671 markers.

Lupton paced the Bobcats in 83rd with a time of 34:59.70, as Matthew MacPhail (Spartanburg, S.C.) placed 134th with a mark of 37:03.20. Dustin Rudisill (Dallas, N.C.) finished 145th with a time of 38:39.80, as Gabriel Tobias (Caldwell, N.C.) and Nate Weston (Banner Elk, N.C.) rounded out the scorers for the Bobcats.

Lees-McRae is expected to return five harriers next season, including rising junior Jordan Meyer (Inman, S.C.).

Photo Courtesy: Jared Lupton, LMC Athletics