

## **Tornados rally past Bobcats in second half**

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 09 December 2012 07:45

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The Brevard College women's basketball team outscored Lees-McRae College by a 37-24 margin in the second half, overcoming a 33-26 halftime deficit en route to a 63-57 victory in non-conference play on Saturday afternoon in Williams Gymnasium. Brevard (3-5) won the battle on the glass by a 38-35 margin, including a 12-8

advantage on the offensive boards, posting a field goal percentage of 34.5 percent while holding Lees-McRae (1-5) to a 34.7 percent clip from the floor. The Tornado converted 24 Bobcat miscues into 24 points, and edged Lees-McRae by a 28-20 in the paint.

Layana de Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) led all scorers with 21 points off the bench, going 4-for-8 from the floor while knocking down each of her 11 attempts at the free throw line.

Kabrina Truesdale (Wilmington, N.C.) chipped in 10 points and a game-high five steals, while Alyssa Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) posted contest-bests of 10 rebounds and two blocks. Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) added a strong performance with eight points, seven boards, and three steals for the Bobcats.

Micheala Watkins paced the Tornados with 19 points and four steals, as Tuccoa Brackett added 17 markers with an 8-for-17 night from the floor to go along with a team-high six rebounds.

The Bobcats jumped out to an early 6-0 lead before Brevard answered, taking a narrow 9-8 lead on a Brackett jumper at the 15:21 to cap a 9-2 run. After de Souza converted a pair of free throws to give the Bobcats a 10-9 advantage, the Tornados countered with a 13-4 run, claiming a 22-14 lead following a Brackett jumper with 9:52 left in the half.

Lees-McRae would answer with a 5-2 spurt to trim the margin to 24-19, and after Brevard countered with a pair of free throws, the Bobcats put together a 14-0 run to close out the half on a buzzer-beating layup by Belcher to send her team into the intermission with a 33-26 lead.

Brevard responded in the second half, opening the period on an 18-8 run to take a 44-41 lead following a layup by Micheala Watkins with 9:44 to play. After de Souza and Belcher answered with a trey and a layup to even the tally at 46-46 at the 7:30 mark, the Tornados countered with a 10-4 spurt to take a 56-50 lead on an Asheley Watkins lay-in with 3:20 left on the clock.

The Bobcats would stay within striking distance, cutting the lead to 58-55 on a three-pointer by Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) with 26 seconds to go. The Tornados finished strong over the final 20 seconds, converting five-of-six attempts at the free throw line to close out the hard-fought, come-from-behind victory.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats host Virginia Intermont College in non-conference play at 4 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

## **Brevard outlasts Bobcats in shootout, 109-100**

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Three players scored at least 20 points to lead the Brevard College men's basketball team to a 109-100 shootout win over Lees-McRae College in non-conference play on Saturday evening in Williams Gymnasium, as the Tornados outscored the Bobcats by a 53-45 margin in the first half. Brevard (2-6) posted a blistering field goal percentage of 60.7 percent on the night, including a 64 percent clip in the second half, as Lees-McRae (0-9) shot 51.5 percent from the floor in the contest. Lees-McRae edged the Tornado by a 31-29 margin on the glass, including a 14-9 advantage on the offensive boards, as the teams connected on a combined 27 three-pointers. Daniel Sepokas (Illawong, Australia) led the Bobcats with a game-high 31 points, including 19 markers in the second half, while connecting on 11-of-18 attempts from the field and going 5-for-8 from behind the arc. The senior guard nearly posted a double-double in the contest, recording a game-high nine assist while hauling in a squad-best six rebounds.

Chad Eppley (Boone, N.C.) turned in an impressive performance of his own for the Bobcats, pouring in a career-high 21 points with an 8-for-13 night from the floor, including a 4-for-6 clip from downtown. Jeremiah Henry (Semmes, Ala.) added 13 points, as Asad Lamot (Mebane, N.C.) and DJ Brown (Anderson, S.C.) chipped in 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

Gerel Simmons led the way for Brevard, coming off the bench to equal Sepokas' game-high of 31 points with a 7-for-11 night from the floor and a 13-for-14 clip for the charity stripe, while also knocking down 4-of-5 attempts from behind the arc.

Alex Moe and Dominique Pickett added 23 points and 22 points, respectively, as Pickett dished out seven assists and notched a game-high five steals. Simmons hauled down a game-high eight rebounds, while Manzey Miller chipped in 16 points on 6-of-13 shooting.

The game opened with a flurry, as Lees-McRae kicked off the contest with an 11-5 run before Moe knocked down a three-pointer to start the Tornados on an 8-2 spurt that evened the tally at 13-13. Lees-McRae countered quickly with a 10-0 run, opening a 23-13 lead on back-to-back triples by Corey Young (Bluff City, Tenn.) and Eppley with 12:08 remaining in the half.

Brevard would answer with a 14-2 surge, claiming a 27-25 advantage following a layup by Filip Gujanicic at the 8:01 mark. The Bobcats countered with a 3-0 spurt before Brevard responded once again with a 14-3 run, pushing the margin to 39-31 on a pair of Simmons freebies with 4:50 left in the period. The Tornados would maintain the advantage for the remainder of the period, as Miller knocked down a buzzer-beating three-pointer to send Brevard into the intermission with a 53-45 lead.

The Tornado carried the momentum into the second half, opening the period with an 8-2 run to push the advantage to 61-47 on a trey by Moe with 17:59 to play. Lees-McRae would slowly chip away over the next eight minutes, cutting the lead to 79-73 with a 26-18 run that was capped by a Young three-pointer with 10:30 left on the clock.

The Bobcats stayed within striking distance, trimming the margin to 94-89 on a clutch triple by Lamot to cap an 8-4 spurt with 3:31 to go. Brown followed with a big-time three-pointer of his own at the 1:52 mark, cutting the advantage to 96-93 with his third triple of the day.

Brevard would answer with a 6-1 spurt, pushing the lead to 102-94 with 42 seconds left as the Tornados converted seven of eight free throw attempts in the final minute to close out the hard-fought 109-100 win.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 when the Bobcats host Tusculum College in a non-conference matchup at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.



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### WOMEN'S GAME

#### Score By Periods 1st 2nd Total

Brevard 26 37 - 63

Lees-McRae 33 24 - 57

Banner Elk, N.C. (Williams Gymnasium)

#### Brevard Lees-McRae

Pts: Micheala Watkins - 19 Pts: Layana De souza - 21

Reb: 2 Players (#13, #33 - 6) Reb: Alyssa Munson - 10

Ast: Micheala Watkins - 3 Ast: Candace Flowers - 4

#### Team Statistics Brevard Lees-McRae

Field Goal % 34.5% (20-58 ) 34.7% (17-49 )

Rebounds 38 35

Assists 8 11

Turnovers 15 24

Pts off Turnovers 24 8

2nd Chance Pts 8 9

Pts in the Paint 28 20

Fastbreak Pts 2 6

Bench Pts 21 27

Photo Courtesy: Candice Flowers, LMC Athletics