

Ribas Paces Bobcats In Sweep Of Coker

Written by Whitney Noble

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Junior Jose Ribas (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) posted a match-high 10 kills without an error to lead the Lees-McRae College men's volleyball team to a straight-set sweep of Coker College in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon in Williams Gymnasium.

Lees-McRae (5-2, 5-2 CC) won the match by scores of 25-18, 25-21, and 25-20, recording a hitting percentage of .318 while tallying 33 kills, 27 digs, and seven blocks. The Bobcats held Coker (0-4, 0-3 CC) to a .101 clip on the attack, as the Cobras posted 27 kills and four blocks. Ribas led the way for the Bobcats with 10 kills on 16 swings, posting a .625 hitting percentage as Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) tallied six smashes on eight attempts without an error. Brady Markle (York, Pa.) and Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio) added four and three kills, respectively, as Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) chipped in a match-high 19 assists. Jared Geizer and Christopher Gbelay paced the Cobras with seven kills each, as Ricardo Ferrer added five smashes and 18 assists.

The Bobcats jumped out to an early 11-6 lead in the first set, opening the five-point margin on a service ace from Javier Jimenez (San Sebastian, Puerto Rico). Coker would answer with a 6-2 spurt, closing the gap to 18-15 following a Bobcat miscue before Lees-McRae responded with a 7-3 run, capping the set with a block by Kevin Morrison (Norfolk, Va.) and Houston Callaway (Thurmond, N.C.) to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

Coker answered early in the second, opening the frame with a 5-3 spurt before the Bobcats countered with a 14-9 run, claiming a 17-14 advantage on a Cobra serving error. The Bobcats would close out the set from there, capping the frame with a 6-4 spurt to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the match following a Ribas smash.

Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the third set, opening the frame with a 5-2 run before pushing the lead to 13-9 on a Markle kill. Coker would answer with a 7-3 spurt, evening the tally at 16 following a block from Gbelay and Ferrer.

The Bobcats countered once again with a 7-2 surge, taking a 23-18 advantage on a Callaway smash before Sheers closed out the set and the match with an emphatic kill.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats travel to Misenheimer, N.C. to take on Pfeiffer University in league play at 7 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Jose Ribas, LMC Athletics