

Falcons Sweep Bobcats In League Play

Written by Whitney Noble

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The Pfeiffer University men's volleyball team recorded 11 blocks and a .446 hitting percentage en route to a straight-set sweep of Lees-McRae College in

Conference Carolinas play on Tuesday evening.

Pfeiffer (6-3, 5-1 CC) won the match by scores of 25-23, 25-16, and 25-19, posting 39 kills in three sets while attacking at a .446 clip. The Falcons held Lees-McRae (5-3, 5-3 CC) to a hitting percentage of .100, as the Bobcats recorded 31 kills, 12 digs, and four blocks in the match.

John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) led the way for Lees-McRae with 10 kills, as Javier Jimenez (San Sebastian, Puerto Rico) added six smashes. Brady Markle (York, Pa.) and conference player of the week Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) each chipped in five kills, while Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) and Joshua Jones (Christmas, Fla.) posted 27 assists and four block assists, respectively.

Eric Edelman and Caleb Brophy each paced the Falcons with a match-high 12 kills, combining for 24 smashes and a .486 hitting percentage. David Specian added a contest-best 33 assists, as he and Joe Supko each posted a match-high four blocks. Brophy also chipped in eight digs. The Bobcats jumped out to an early 5-2 lead in the first set before the Falcons responded, launching a 14-9 run to claim a 16-14 advantage following a kill by Micah Bortner. After Pfeiffer pushed the lead to 21-17 on a Specian kill, the Bobcats countered with a 4-1 spurt, cutting the margin to 22-21 following a Ramirez service ace. Pfeiffer answered quickly, closing out the set with three of the final five points to take a 1-0 lead in the match on a smash by Edelman.

The Falcons carried the momentum into the second frame, opening the set with a 10-5 run before pushing the advantage to 18-10 following a Bobcat miscue. Pfeiffer would close out the set from there, capping the frame with a 7-5 spurt to claim a 2-0 lead in the match on a Bortner kill.

Pfeiffer continued to dictate the pace of play in the third set, starting the frame with a 10-6 run before the Bobcats responded, closing the gap to 14-12 following a Markle smash. The Falcons would answer with a 9-6 spurt, stretching the lead to 23-18 before capping the set and the match on a Specian service ace.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thursday when the Bobcats travel to Newark, N.J. to take on the New Jersey Institute of Technology at 7 p.m. Thursday's match against NJIT marks the first leg of the Bobcats' four-day road trip that includes matchups with Harvard University and Saint Francis University (Pa.) on Friday and Sunday.

Photo Courtesy: John Lucas, LMC Athletics