Written by Whitney Noble
Wednesday, 27 February 2013 07:12

The Lees-McRae College men's basketball team placed four players in double figures, and rode a 21-8 run to open the second half en route to an 87-78 victory over North Greenville University in Conference Carolinas play on Tuesday evening.

Lees-McRae (3-22, 3-16 CC) posted a field goal percentage of 46 percent on the night, including a 47.5 percent clip in the first half, while holding North Greenville (10-15, 5-14 CC) to a mark of 40.6 percent from the floor in the contest. The Bobcats won the battle on the glass by a 44-40 margin, including a 34-27 advantage on the defensive boards, while outscoring North Greenville's bench, 51-3.

Asad Lamot (Mebane, N.C.) led the way for Lees-McRae with 18 points off the bench, knocking down a trio of three-pointers and going 7-for-10 from the free throw line in 17 minutes of play. Daniel Sepokas (Illawong, Australia) and Charles Clarke (Orlando, Fla.) added 16 points each, as Jeremiah Henry (Semmes, Ala.) chipped in 12 markers with a 4-for-7 night from the floor.

Tyshawn Patterson paced the Crusaders with a game-high 25 points, going 9-for-17 from the floor and converting 6-of-10 attempts at the free throw line. Jimmy Ellis added 23 markers on 8-of-18 shooting; knocking down six three-pointers, as Chris Dean nearly posted a double-double with 19 points and nine rebounds. Jamaal Pryor also added a game-high 10 boards for North Greenville.

The Bobcats battled back from several early deficits in the first half, answering a 12-3 Crusader run with a 19-8 surge of their own to claim a 37-31 advantage following a Sepokas triple at the 4:54 mark. Lees-McRae would parlay the momentum into a 45-40 halftime lead, pushing the advantage to five heading into the intermission on a last-second lay-in by Sepokas.

Lamot and the Bobcats came out firing in the second half, opening the period with a 21-8 run to stretch the lead to 66-48 following a three-pointer by DJ Brown (Anderson, S.C.) off a slick pass by Corey Young (Bluff City, Tenn.) at the 9:22 mark. North Greenville would battle back, answering with a 27-13 surge to cut the advantage to 79-75 on a triple by Ellis with 34 seconds to play.

The Bobcats refused to cede control, going a perfect 8-for-8 from the free throw line in the final 15 seconds to clinch the 87-78 victory and quell the rally.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday when the Bobcats host Limestone College in their regular season finale at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium. The Bobcats will honor their senior class of Chad Eppley (Boone, N.C.), Robert Hawthorne (Greenville, S.C.), Juan Urbina (Barquisimeto, Venezuela), Brown, Henry, Sepokas, and Young as part of the night's festivities.

Crusaders Hold off Bobcats

Sophomore Kabrina Truesdale (Wilmington, N.C.) poured in 17 points to lead the Lees-McRae College women's basketball team on Tuesday evening, as North Greenville University outscored the Bobcats by a 42-35 margin in the second half en route to an 89-55 win in Conference Carolinas play.

North Greenville (9-11, 8-13 CC) shot 54.7 percent from the floor on the night, including a clip of 60.6 percent in the first half, while holding Lees-McRae (9-15, 7-14 CC) to a field goal percentage of 25.7 percent in the contest. The Crusaders won the battle on the glass by a 50-39 margin, including a 40-22 advantage on the defensive boards, as the Bobcats held a 17-10 edge in offensive rebounds.

Truesdale led the way for the Bobcats with 17 points on 6-of-13 shooting, going 5-for-10 from the free throw line and pulling down a team-high eight rebounds. Layana De Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) added 12 points with a 3-for-8 night from the floor, as Alyssa Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) and Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) chipped in eight markers and seven boards, respectively.

Timisty Nelson paced North Greenville with a double-double, posting 17 points and a game-high 11 rebounds, as Alisha Hope led all scorers with 21 markers on 9-of-12 shooting. Ashleigh Edwards added a game-high 13 assists, while Tyler Powers chipped in 11 points with a 3-for-6 night from beyond the arc.

North Greenville jumped out to an early 22-6 lead in the first half before the Bobcats responded with a 7-0 run, cutting the advantage to 22-13 on a Truesdale jumper with 12:06 left in the period. The Crusaders would answer with a 23-6 surge over the next nine minutes, pushing the lead to 45-19 following a triple by Landrie Fox at the 3:09 mark before taking a 47-20 advantage into the intermission.

The Bobcats battled back in the second half, opening the period with a 17-9 run to cut the lead to 56-37 on a jumper by Tayler Collins (Fayetteville, N.C.) with 12:16 to go. Lees-McRae continued to hang with the Crusaders over the next several minutes, answering an NGU spurt with a triple by De Souza at the 5:36 mark.

North Greenville would close out the win with a 14-7 run over the final five minutes, as the Bobcats forced the Crusaders to fight for every point down the stretch. The Bobcats capped the night with a 4-2 spurt in the final minute, including a late jumper by Zukye Smith (Chesterfield, Va.) and a pair of Munson freebies.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday when the Bobcats host No. 9 Limestone College in their regular season finale at 5:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium. The Bobcats will honor their senior class of Juliane Faltus (Berlin, Germany), Candace Flowers (Charlotte, N.C.), Icey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.) and Smith as part of the night's festivities.

Photo Courtesy: Asad Lamot, LMC Athletics