

Block Party Powers Bobcats Overs Lourdes

Written by Whitney Noble

Tuesday, 05 March 2013 08:16

Joshua Jones (Christmas, Fla.) recorded seven kills without an error and a match-high six blocks to lead the Lees-McRae College men's volleyball team to a straight-set sweep of Lourdes University in non-

conference play on Monday evening in Williams Gymnasium. Lees-McRae (12-5) won the match by scores of 25-20, 25-17, and 25-21, posting a hitting percentage of .266 while holding Lourdes (9-9) to a .045 clip on the attack. The Bobcats recorded 38 kills, 32 digs, and 13 blocks in the contest, as the Gray Wolves tallied seven stuffs of their own.

John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) paced the Bobcats with eight kills, as Jose Ribas (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico), Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Jones each notched seven smashes. Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto) added a match-high 30 assists to go along with five blocks (one solo, four assists), while Javier Jimenez (San Sebastian, Puerto Rico) chipped in a contest-best nine digs. Jones posted a match-high six blocks (one solo, five assists), as Harpenau tallied five block assists.

Frank Craig led the way for Lourdes with eight kills, as Brad Miller and Garrett Jones each added a match-high nine digs. Oliver Cizmazia chipped in 23 assists and six digs for the Gray Wolves.

The opening set proved to be a tightly contested affair, with Lees-McRae battling back from an early 8-5 deficit with a 12-6 run to take a 17-14 advantage on a Wolves miscue. The Bobcats would close out the frame from there, pushing the Wolves to set point at 24-19 before taking a 1-0 lead in the match on a Lourdes service error.

Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the second set, claiming an early 8-5 advantage on a Jones kill before Lourdes battled back to take a 10-9 lead following a block by Trevor Lund and Zander Epps. The Bobcats answered with an 8-2 run, opening a 17-12 margin on a kill from Ramirez. After Lourdes trimmed the advantage to 21-17, the Bobcats countered with a 4-0 spurt to claim a commanding 2-0 lead in the match following an emphatic block by Harpenau and Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio).

The Bobcats would open an early 8-4 lead in the third set before the Wolves answered with a 5-1 spurt, cutting the advantage to 10-9 following an Epps kill. Lees-McRae would counter with a 9-5 run, taking a 19-15 lead on an emphatic smash by Lucas. Lourdes battled back once again, evening the tally at 20-20 on a kill by Epps. The Bobcats responded with a 5-1 spurt, claiming the set and the match on a Ribas smash.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thursday when the Bobcats travel to Due West, S.C. to resume their Conference Carolinas schedule with a 7 p.m. matchup against Erskine College.

Photo Courtesy: Joshua Jones, LMC Athletics