Written by Whitney Noble
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Freshman Brady Markle (York, Pa.) recorded 17 kills and seven digs to pace the Lees-McRae College men's volleyball team, as Erskine College rallied for a

thrilling five-set victory over the Bobcats in Conference Carolinas play on Thursday evening. Erskine (9-9, 6-6 CC) won the match by scores of 18-25, 25-20, 26-24, 21-25, and 15-12, recording a .324 hitting percentage as Lees-McRae (12-6, 7-6 CC) attacked at a .320 clip in the contest. The Flying Fleet posted 68 kills, 54 digs, and six blocks on the night, while the Bobcats tallied 53 smashes, 39 digs, and 10 stuffs.

Markle led the way for Lees-McRae with a season-high 17 kills, posting a .464 hitting percentage while Joshua Jones (Christmas, Fla.) added 13 smashes and a .684 attacking clip on 19 swings. Jones chipped in a match-high six blocks (one solo, five assists), as John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) posted a team-best 12 digs.

Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) recorded seven kills and a .316 hitting percentage, as Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) and Efrain Negron (Caguas, Puerto Rico) tallied 44 assists and 10 digs, respectively.

Mike Kawa and Mike Michelau each paced the Fleet with a match-high 21 kills, as Kawa attacked at a .487 clip while Michelau added 10 digs to record a double-double. Corey Marks chipped in seven digs and a match-high 55 assists, while Neal Stanley posted 12 smashes and a .409 hitting percentage. Michael Schneck recorded a contest-best 19 digs for the Fleet.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday when the Bobcats host Barton College in league play at 2 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

**Photo Courtesy: John Lucas, LMC Athletics**