

Seventh-Ranked Flyers Sweep Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble
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Javier Jimenez (San Sebastian, Puerto Rico) recorded eight kills, and Joshua Jones (Christmas, Fla.) posted four blocks to pace the Lees-McRae College men's volleyball team on Thursday evening, as No. 9 Lewis University hit .464 as a squad en route to a straight-set sweep in non-conference play.

Lewis (18-7) won the match by scores of 25-14, 25-16, and 25-15, posting a hitting percentage of .464 while holding Lees-McRae (16-10) to a .104 clip on the attack. The Flyers tallied 42 kills and seven blocks in the contest, adding nine service aces, as the Bobcats recorded 14 digs and five blocks.

Jimenez paced the Bobcats with eight kills, as Jose Ribas (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) and Jones added six and four smashes, respectively. Jones tallied a match-high four block assists, while Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) chipped in 22 assists and three block assists. Efrain Negrón (Caguas, Puerto Rico) posted a contest-best seven digs, as John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) recorded three smashes and four digs.

Eric Fitterer led the way with 10 kills and a .562 hitting percentage, as Geoff Powell added eight smashes and an even .500 clip on the attack. BJ Boldog recorded a match-high 24 assists, while Fitterer and Jay Petty each posted a contest-best two aces. Eric Butch chipped in five digs, as Powell and Yiwei Zhou both tallied three block assists.

Lewis jumped out to an early lead in the first set, opening the frame with a 10-3 run before pushing the advantage to 16-8 on a smash by Powell. The Flyers would close out the set with a 9-6 run, taking a 1-0 lead in the match following a Fitterer kill.

The Flyers carried the momentum into the second frame, claiming an early 8-2 lead before the Bobcats responded, cutting the margin to 11-8 on a smash by Ribas. Lewis answered with a 9-6 spurt, stretching the advantage to 20-14 following a kill by Fitterer before capping the set on an ace from Powell.

The Bobcats stuck with the Flyers in the third, evening the tally at 3-3 on a smash by Ribas before Lewis responded with a 13-5 surge, claiming a 16-8 advantage following an ace from Will McCall. The Flyers continued to dictate play over the next few minutes, pushing the Bobcats to match point at 24-13 with an 8-5 run. The Bobcats would fight off two match points, trimming the margin to 24-15 on a block by Ramirez and Jones before Patrick Lilly capped the set and the match for the Flyers.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Columbus, Ohio to take on No. 11 Ohio State University in a non-conference clash at 7 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Joshua Jones, LMC Athletics