

Strong Second Half Lifts Queens over LMC

Written by Whitney Noble

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Jessica MacConnell (Cary, N.C.) scored three goals on four shots, and Olivia Gudewich (Frederick, Md.) added a game-high three assists to pace the Lees-McRae College women's lacrosse team on Tuesday evening, as Queens University of Charlotte outscored the Bobcats by an 8-3 margin in the second half to hold on for an 18-8 victory in Conference Carolinas play.

Queens (6-8, 3-1 CC) held a 48-17 advantage in shots in the contest, including a 24-12 margin in the first half, while Lees-McRae (3-5, 0-3 CC) scooped up 19 ground balls and converted 18 clearing attempts. The Royals controlled 19-of-28 draws on the night, while converting 21-of-24 clears and recording 42 grounders.

MacConnell led the way for the Bobcats with three goals, as Gudewich added two tallies and a game-high three assists. Katelin Rooney (Naples, Fla.) chipped in a goal and an assist, while Jenah Tracy (Naples, Fla.) and Jessica Travers (Asheville, N.C.) each posted a tally. Nicole Dupont (Fort Myers, Fla.) recorded five ground balls, as Mia Emmerson (Orlando, Fla.) made 16 saves between the pipes.

Jena Ready paced the Royals with seven goals and two assists, while Brittany Barnwell and Brittany Larranaga added four and two strikes, respectively. Arika Zimmerman posted game-highs of six ground balls, six draw controls, and five forced turnovers, as Danielle Horoschak and Jordan Borrosh combined for four saves.

Queens jumped out to an early 4-0 lead before the Bobcats answered, cutting the advantage to 4-1 on MacConnell's first strike of the day at the 19:52 mark. Travers and Gudewich would each add a goal over the next 10 minutes, as the Bobcats closed out the first half strong with two late strikes, trimming the margin to 10-5 when Gudewich fed Tracy with 16 seconds left on the clock. MacConnell carried the run into the second half, cutting the lead to 10-6 with her second strike of the evening at the 29:13 mark. Queens responded with five straight goals, pushing the advantage to 15-6 on a goal by Nicole Forgione with 20:43 left on the clock.

Rooney and Gudewich answered quickly for the Bobcats, trimming the margin to 16-8 on Gudewich's second goal at the 11:30 mark. The Royals would quell the rally with two quick strikes, equaling the final margin of 18-8 following Ready's seventh with 10 minutes left on the clock.

Lees-McRae returns to action on Saturday when the Bobcats host Mount Olive College on Tate Field at 2 p.m. to continue their conference schedule.

Photo Courtesy: Katelin Rooney, LMC Athletics