

North Greenville Sweeps Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble
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Hang Lak Choi (Newton, N.C.) and Taduez Poplawski (Asheville, N.C.) posted a hard-fought 9-7 victory in the second doubles flight on Wednesday afternoon, giving the Lees-McRae College men's tennis team an early 2-0 lead, as North Greenville University rallied from a 4-1 deficit to earn a 5-4 victory in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae's (0-12, 0-8 CC) duo of Joao Araujo (Curitiba, Puerto Rico) and Carlos Pinel (Vitoria, Espírito Santo, Brazil) kicked off the day with an 8-4 victory over North Greenville's (2-11, 1-7 CC) tandem of Hugo Ciarrocchi and Juan Vargas, before Poplawski and Choi doubled the advantage to 2-0 with a 9-7 win in the second flight against Guilherme Ferreira and Sergio Araujo.

James Klempin and John Melson countered for the Crusaders in the third flight, edging Jesse Artrip (Cleveland, Va.) and Adam Chivers (Wilbraham, Mass.), 9-8 (3-0) in a tiebreak. Joao Araujo answered in the top singles matchup, giving the Bobcats a 3-1 advantage with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Ciarrocchi before Poplawski pushed the lead to 4-1 with a 6-2, 6-1 decision against Ferreira in the second flight.

Klempin cut the margin to 4-2 with a 6-0, 6-2 win against Artrip in the fifth flight, as Melson defeated Chivers, 6-3, 6-1 at No. 6 singles. After Sergio Araujo evened the tally at 4-4 with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 victory over Pinel in the third flight, Vargas rallied from one set down to defeat Choi, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 to claim the team win for the Crusaders.

In the women's match, the North Greenville University women's tennis team swept doubles play and took five of six points in singles action en route to an 8-1 Conference Carolinas victory over Lees-McRae College on Wednesday afternoon.

North Greenville's (4-9, 3-5 CC) tandem of Susane Lenz and Maggie Elliott opened the afternoon with an 8-5 win over Lees-McRae's (1-12, 1-7 CC) duo of Samantha Wohlers (Windsor, Ontario, Canada) and Hilary Lutz (Shelby, N.C.), as Aline Ribeiro and Muriel Adib defeated Taylor Bost (Jefferson, Ga.) and Stevie Harrell (Morganton, N.C.), 8-2.

Rebecca Beacham and Victoria Gomez then gave the Crusaders a 3-0 lead, posting an 8-1 victory against LeeAnn Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) and Emily Jones (Leonardtown, Md.). Lenz pushed the advantage to 4-0 with a 6-0, 6-2 decision over Wohlers before Lutz answered for the Bobcats in the second singles flight, defeating Beacham, 6-1, 6-3.

Ribeiro posted a 6-0, 6-1 win against Bost in the third flight, as Adib defeated Harrell, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 4 singles. Haley Hardwick earned a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Sullivan in the fifth flight, while Gomez held on for a hard-fought 6-2, 7-5 decision against Jones in the final matchup.

Lees-McRae returns to the courts on Saturday when the Bobcats host Queens University of Charlotte in league play at Avery County High School.

Photo Courtesy: Hang Lak Choi, LMC Athletics