

LMC Claims Lead At Conference Championships

Written by Whitney Noble
Saturday, 20 April 2013 09:06

Kortnie Curry (Lexington, N.C.) and Persephanie McRae (Brooklyn, N.Y.) took the top two spots in the high jump, and Rachelle Cleveland (Moyock, N.C.) won the javelin throw to lead the Lees-McRae

College women's track and field team to a day one lead at the 2013 Conference Carolinas Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Lees-McRae tallied 28 points on a rain-soaked day one of the championships, entering Saturday's second and final day with an eight-point lead over King College (20). Queens University is third with 13.50 points, followed by Limestone College (9.50), Belmont Abbey College and Mount Olive College (8), and North Greenville University (7).

Curry opened the scoring for the Bobcats, clearing 1.55 meters with her final jump to sweep the high jump in both the indoor and outdoor season. McRae gutted out a second-place performance, battling through injury and the weather to finish second with an identical mark of 1.55 meters.

Cleveland followed in the javelin, taking the conference title with a mark of 32.55 meters. Taryn Moorhead (Deer Park, Wash.), Genay Miller (Woodstock, Ga.), and Kayla Frazier (Chesterfield, S.C.) claimed the seven through nine spots with throws of 23.96, 23.75, and 22.77 meters, respectively.

In the qualifying heats, Ilesha Poindexter (Jetterville, Va.) earned a spot in the finals for both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, posting a time of 12.74 seconds in the 100. Jessica McEnaney (Cary, N.C.), Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.), and Auburn Lowe (Swain County, N.C.) all ran well in the event, each posting a season-best time.

Poindexter also earned a berth in the 200-meter dash finals with one of her top performances of the spring, beating her previous season-best by nearly a second with a mark of 26.27 seconds. Lowe turned in a strong race in the event as well, topping her previous top time of the season by more than two tenths of a second.

Mallory Overholt (Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada) posted one of the Bobcats' strongest individual performances of the day in the 800-meter run, shattering her previous personal-best in the event by almost five seconds to finish 11th in the preliminary round.

Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) qualified for the finals in both the 100- and 400-meter hurdles for the second straight year, posting a time of 15.93 seconds in the 100 to break her season-best by nearly three tenths of a second. The sophomore crossed the line in 1:09.51 in the 400-meter race en route to a spot in today's finals.

On the men's side, Michael Davis (Independence, Va.) won the preliminary heat of the 1,500-meter run, and Brandon Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) and Travis Burton (Newberry, S.C.) each qualified for the finals in the 400-meter hurdles to pace the Lees-McRae College men's track and field team on a rain-soaked day one of the Conference Carolinas Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Limestone College holds the lead in the team standings after day one with 34 points, followed by North Greenville University (18), and Mount Olive College (15). King College is fourth with eight points, followed by Queens University of Charlotte (6), Lees-McRae (5), Belmont Abbey College (5), and Barton College (2).

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Burton tallied the first points of the meet for the Bobcats in the high jump, placing fourth with a mark of 1.85 meters. Ryan Trask (Cobleskill, N.Y.) placed sixth in the javelin, posting a mark of 38.81 meters.

Ian Harned (Pine Level, N.C.) turned in a season-best performance in the prelims of the 400-meter dash, recording a time of 50.40 seconds to qualify for Saturday's finals. Davis paced a group of three Bobcats to earn a spot in the finals of the 1,500-meter run, winning the preliminary heat with a time of 4:15.22, as Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) and Matthew MacPhail (Spartanburg, S.C.) each qualified for the final as well.

Williams and Burton capped the day by both qualifying for the finals of the 400-meter hurdles, posting times of 1:02.79 and 1:04.42, respectively.

Lees-McRae returns to action on Saturday for the final day of the 2013 Conference Carolinas Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Arthur, Lauritsen and Sanders Track and Field Complex. Competition is slated to begin at 8 a.m. with the men's and women's hammer throw.

Photo Courtesy: Rachele Cleveland, LMC Athletics