

## **Bobcats Drop Pair To Open Season**

Written by Whitney Noble

Saturday, 03 September 2011 10:12

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The Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team dropped a pair of matches to open the season on Friday, falling to Lander University in a five-set battle before No. 21 Wingate University swept the Bobcats in straight sets in the final match of the day at the 2011 Carolina Challenge.

Match One: Lander 3, Lees-McRae 2 – Box Score Lander (1-0) outlasted the Bobcats (0-2) by scores of 25-22, 19-25, 25-21, 21-25, 15-11, holding Lees-McRae to a .104 attacking percentage and recording seven blocks. Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) tied a career-high with 18 kills, while Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) added 14 smashes and 19 digs to record a double-double. Clendenin notched a double-double of her own with 13 digs, while freshman Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) posted a match-high 23 savers in her collegiate debut. Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) chipped in a match-high 41 assists while adding eight kills and five service aces. Mallory Wasik paced the Bearcats with 14 kills, while Jordan Rix added 10 smashes and Jessica Register posted a double-double with 33 assists and 14 digs. Magi Nottingham and Madison Kubal each chipped in a team-high 15 digs. Match Two: Wingate 3, Lees-McRae 0 – Box Score Wingate (2-0), ranked 21st in the AVCA Division II Preseason Poll, swept the Bobcats by scores of 25-22, 25-18, and 25-20 in the final match of the night, holding the Bobcats to a .125 attacking percentage and forcing 16 service aces. Clendenin paced the Bobcats with a match-high 11 kills, while Epperson chipped in 10 smashes and Suryadevara added a contest-best 19 digs. Mitchell also added a match-high 29 assists. Anna Hilton led the way for Wingate with 10 kills, while nearly posting a double-double with nine assists. Maggie Malone chipped in 15 digs, as Liz Willis added 27 assists and Grace Krauser posted eight kills. Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday, taking on No. 22 Flagler College at 1:30 p.m. before closing out the Carolina Challenge with a pivotal matchup against Tusculum College at 6:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

## **Saints Hold Off Bobcats, 2-0, In Season Opener**

The North Georgia College & State University women's soccer team opened the 2011 season with a 2-0 clean sheet against visiting Lees-McRae College, scoring in each half en route to

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victory. North Georgia (1-0) outshot the Bobcats (0-1) by a 14-8 margin, including a 9-3 advantage in the second half. Kelsey Martin tallied a goal and an assist for the Saints, while Danielle Brannan added a goal of her own. Kirsten Ross tallied six saves for the Saints en route to the clean sheet, while Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) stopped four attempts on frame in her collegiate debut. Martin opened the scoring just 42 seconds into the match, netting the eventual match-winner with an unassisted finish into the lower left corner of the goal. The Saints maintained the narrow margin for the remainder of the first half, as Ross made a trio of saves to preserve the advantage heading into the interval. The Saints doubled the advantage midway through the 69th minute, when Martin sent a cross into the area for Brannan, who slotted the finish into the back of the net to give North Georgia a 2-0 advantage. Ross was called up again to preserve the clean sheet three minutes later, making a key save on MaryBeth Sullivan's (Greensboro, N.C.) lone attempt on frame. Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats host Tusculum College in their home opener at Tate Field. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m.