

Bobcats finish third at Greensboro Invitational

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lees-McRae College women's cross country team finished third overall and second among NCAA Division II squads at the Greensboro Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, placing three runners in the top 15.

Lees-McRae topped the NCAA Division II standings with 54 points, just behind NCAA I squad and team champion Virginia Commonwealth University's total of 34 markers. Winston-Salem State placed third with 104 points, followed closely by Belmont Abbey College (106).

Senior Craig Simpkins (Boiling Springs, S.C.) paced the Bobcats with a fourth-place finish, turning in a time of 27:35.22. Tyler Dunn finished just behind Simpkins in fifth with a time of 27:35.75, while Sondre Thorbergsen (Tranoy, Norway) placed sixth with a mark of 28:11.68 in his first race of the season. Jared Lupton (Nampa, Idaho) placed 18th with a time of 29:21.65, as Avery Mouton (Sneads Ferry, N.C.) rounded out the scoring runners for the Bobcats in 25th with a mark of 30:03.49.

"I was proud of our men today," said head coach Thomas Cason. "Our top three runners really set the tone for a great team effort on one of the muddiest courses I have seen in 15 years." Lees-McRae returns to the course on Friday, September 30 when the Bobcats travel to the Charlotte Cross Country Invitational at McAlpine Park.

Bobcats blank Falcons, 3-0

Vickie Rich (Arlington Heights, Ill.) scored a pair of goals, and MaryBeth Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) added a strike of her own to lead the Lees-McRae College women's soccer team to a 3-0 win over Pfeiffer University on Sunday afternoon in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae (5-2, 4-0 CC) continued its strong play in conference action, remaining atop the league table with its fourth straight clean sheet as the Bobcats have outscored conference opponents by a 22-0 margin so far this season. The Bobcats outshot the Falcons (3-5, 2-2 CC) by a 28-11 margin, including an 18-4 advantage in the first half.

Rich paced the Bobcats with two goals on seven attempts on frame, running her season total to three tallies while tying Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) for the team-lead in match-winners with

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her second decisive strike of the campaign. Sullivan scored her team-leading sixth goal of the season, as Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.) and Allyson Titsworth (Holmes Beach, Fla.) each tallied an assist. Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) played the full 90 minutes between the pipes for the Bobcats, making two saves en route to her fourth clean sheet of the season. Alyssa Wombwell led the way for Pfeiffer with four shots, as Brittany Papaj made three attempts at goal. Goalkeeper Brittany Polly made 17 saves on the afternoon, under nearly constant pressure from the Bobcat attack.

Rich put the Bobcats on the board midway through the 17th minute, making a run along the end line after a quick one-two from Kerrigan and slotting it home to give Lees-McRae an early 1-0 lead. Sullivan doubled the advantage to 2-0 in the 37th minute, tallying her sixth goal of the season with a masterful finish into the upper 90 from the top of the area.

The Bobcats maintained the two-goal margin until the 79th minute, when Titsworth found Rich unmarked in the area with a quick cross, putting the senior forward in perfect position to nod home the finish for her second goal of the day.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Tuesday when the Bobcats travel to Harrogate, Tenn. to take on Lincoln Memorial University at 4p.m.

NOTES: Sunday's Conference Carolinas men's soccer match between Lees-McRae College and Pfeiffer University was halted due to inclement weather in the 51st minute, and has been rescheduled. The match will be replayed in its entirety at a date and time to be determined. Lees-McRae will return to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Anderson, S.C. to take on Anderson University in a 4:30 p.m. matchup.