

Balanced attack lifts Bobcats over Abbey, 3-0

Written by Staff Reports

Sunday, 02 October 2011 08:11

Four players tallied at least eight kills to lead a balanced attack as the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team pushed its winning streak to 10 matches with a straight-set victory over Belmont Abbey College on Saturday afternoon in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae (12-6, 7-0 CC) won the match by scores of 25-17, 25-14, and 25-14 as the Bobcats held the Abbey (8-8, 4-3 CC) to a .032 hitting percentage while posting a .260 attacking clip of their own.

Junior Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with 10 kills, as Dana Oliver (Davie, Fla.), Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.), and Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas) each tallied eight smashes. Freshman libero Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) shined once again, posted a match-high 17 digs as Epperson chipped in with 11 savers of her own. Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) chipped in 29 assists, seven digs, five kills, and a match-high two aces, as Oliver and Clendenin added two aces of their own.

Stefanie Holler led the way for Belmont Abbey with five kills, as Angela Jubb and Ginny Eckstine each chipped in four smashes. Lydia Schellenberg chipped in 16 digs, as Kay Schellenberg added 12 assists.

The Bobcats opened an early 12-7 lead in the first set on a Clendenin service ace, and after the Abbey trimmed the margin to 13-12, Lees-McRae answered with a 6-1 run to claim a 19-13 advantage on an emphatic kill from Clendenin. Belmont Abbey closed the gap to 21-17 with a 3-2 spurt before the Bobcats took the set on a Clendenin kill to cap a 4-0 run.

Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the second set, launching a 13-4 run to take a 20-9 lead on an Oliver smash. After the Abbey cut into the margin with a quick 3-0 spurt, the Bobcats shut the door with a 5-2 run to close out the set on a well-placed dump from Mitchell.

Belmont Abbey kept it close early in the third frame, cutting the margin to 13-10 on back-to-back Bobcat miscues before Lees-McRae responded, launching a 5-1 spurt to stretch the lead to 18-11 on a kill by Kallai Johnston (Statesville, N.C.). The Bobcats maintained the margin for duration of the set, closing out the frame and the match on a kill by Fox.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Gaffney, S.C. to take on Limestone College in a conference matchup at 7 p.m.

Santerre double powers Bobcats past Bulldogs, 6-2

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Senior Brooke Santerre (Port Republic, Md.) scored two goals to lead a trio of players with multi-point performances, as the Lees-McRae College women's soccer team cruised to a 6-2 win over Barton College in Conference Carolinas play as part of Homecoming Weekend on Saturday afternoon.

Lees-McRae (6-2-1, 5-0 CC) outshot Barton (2-6, 2-5 CC) by a 37-3 margin, including a 21-1 advantage in the second half, as the Bulldogs snapped the Bobcats' shutout streak at just over 588 minutes, marking the second-longest streak in program history.

Santerre tallied a pair of goals to pace the Bobcats, as Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.), Emily Jones (Leonardtown, Md.), Vickie Rich (Arlington Heights, Ill.), and MaryBeth Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) also found the back of the net for Lees-McRae. Thornton, Sullivan, Jones and Rich each added a helper of their own, as Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) played the full 90 minutes between the pipes for the Bobcats, making one save.

Taylor Parrish and Breanna Briggs each found the back of the net for Barton, as Amber Brush added an assist. Carson Moore played the full 90 minutes in goal for the Bulldogs, making 10 saves.

Thornton opened the scoring midway through the 18th minute, taking a through ball from Jones after a quick one-touch pass from Rich and slotting home the finish to give the Bobcats an early 1-0 lead. Jones doubled the margin to 2-0 a minute and a half later, tallying her first goal of the season late in the 19th minute. Rich then pushed the lead to 3-0 in the 23rd minute, taking a cross from Sullivan and beating the keeper for her fourth goal of the season.

Barton trimmed the margin to 3-1 in the 29th minute, when Parrish took a pass from Brush, beat the keeper and slotted home the finish to end the shutout bid. Sullivan reclaimed the three-goal advantage for the Bobcats in the 37th minute, posting her team-leading seventh tally of the season to send LMC into the interval with a 4-1 lead.

The Bulldogs struck first in the second half, trimming the margin to 4-2 when Briggs found the back of the net in the 61st minute for her third goal of the season. Santerre answered with her first of the match midway through the 83rd minute, beating the keeper with a brilliant free kick to give the Bobcats a 5-2 lead. The senior midfielder completed her brace in the 89th minute, taking a pass from Thornton and slotting it past the keeper to equal the final margin of 6-2.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Thursday, October 6 when the Bobcats travel to Spartanburg, S.C. for a conference matchup with Converse College at 7 p.m.

Alford brace completes Bobcat rally over Barton, 2-1

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Freshman Scott Alford (Hillsborough, N.C.) scored the first two goals of his collegiate career on Saturday evening, as the Lees-McRae College men's soccer team executed a second half rally to perfection in a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Barton College in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae (5-3-1, 3-1 CC) outshot Barton (7-2, 4-2 CC), ranked fifth in the Southeast Region, by a 20-7 margin, including a 17-2 advantage in the second half. Alford paced the Bobcats with his first two goals of the season, as James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) added two assists and James Smith (Eastbourne, England) chipped in a helper of his own. Senior Tyler Gibson (Gastonia, N.C.) made the start and played the full 90 minutes between the pipes for the Bobcats, making three saves.

Danilo Matos tallied the lone goal for Barton, as Erik Pajunk paced the Bulldogs with four attempts at goal, including two on frame. Brian Riesenbergs played the first 77 minutes in net for the Bulldogs, making six saves before he was forced to leave because of injury. Dalton Bauer played the final 14 minutes in his stead, stopping two attempts at goal.

Matos broke the deadlock midway through the 30th minute, beating the defender and looping a fantastic finish over the keeper and into the far side netting to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead heading into the interval.

The Bobcats came out firing in the second half, looking the far more dangerous side throughout the first 20 minutes of the period. Galvani was denied the equalizer on four consecutive chances in a four-minute span, with the last two being denied by the keeper. Smith nearly netted a highlight reel goal in the 66th minute, easily breaking through the defense and executing a deft spin move before his finishing effort was touched just wide by the keeper. After a David Palmer (South Shields, England) effort was pulled off the line and the Barton keeper denied John Williams' (Rutherfordton, N.C.) header, Galvani made a brilliant run down the flank and into the area. The sophomore forward then sent a well-timed cross to Smith in the center of the box, who flicked it on to Alford, putting the freshman in perfect position to slot the finish under the keeper and pull the Bobcats back on terms at 1-1 in the 75th minute.

The match went into a significant delay two minutes later, when Riesenbergs was involved in a fierce collision on the back post, which propelled him into the woodwork and forced him from the contest. Bauer entered in his absence, and just over a minute later, Alford made a brilliant run onto a through ball from Galvani and delivered a perfectly-paced finish into the bottom corner to complete the comeback.

The Bobcats held on over the final 12 minutes, nearly extending the margin to two goals on glorious chances from Galvani and Preston Shahdad (Charlotte, N.C.) before the final whistle blew, giving Lees-McRae a pivotal win in both conference and regional play.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Tuesday when the Bobcats travel to Jefferson City, Tenn. to take on Carson-Newman College in NCAA Division II Southeast Region action at 7 p.m.

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Bobcats post series of season-bests at Charlotte Invitational

The Lees-McRae College women's cross country team enjoyed season-best performances from each of its runners at the Charlotte Cross Country Invitational on Friday.

Freshman Emily Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with a time of 19:08.9, finishing in 96th, while her sister Katherine Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) placed 117th with a mark of 19:27.0. Fellow rookie Audrey Garrett (Weaverville, N.C.) turned in a season-best time of 20:17.4 en route to a 163rd-place performance, as Crystal Fischer (Greer, S.C.) rounded out the Bobcats in the top 200 in 187th with a time of 20:37.2.

"Our women's team continues to improve and get better each week," said head coach Thomas Cason. "All the women ran strong today; it was a true team effort."

Lees-McRae returns to the trails on October 14 when the Bobcats travel to Boone, N.C. to take part in the ASU Blue Ridge Open at State Farm Fields.

Thorbergesen and Lupton pace Bobcats at Charlotte Invitational

The Lees-McRae College men's cross country team placed four runners in the top 200 at the Charlotte Cross Country Invitational on Friday, led by season-best performances from Sondre Thorbergesen (Tranoy, Norway) and Jared Lupton (Nampa, Idaho).

Thorbergesen placed 112th with a season-best time of 26:53.1, as Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) and Craig Simpkins (Boiling Springs, S.C.) finished 126th and 130th, respectively, with times of 27:01.4 and 27:06.0. Lupton came in 167th with a time of 27:52.8, while Avery Mouton (Sneads Ferry, N.C.) finished 217th with a time of 29:20.4.

"Sondre did a great job today leading our men's team against some strong competition," said head coach Thomas Cason. "We will continue to work hard, and get our men's team ready for the next meet at App. State."

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