

Early Strikes Lift Bobcats Over Eagles, 2-1

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 05 October 2011 05:55

The Lees-McRae College men's soccer team scored two goals in the opening four minutes, and held off a furious rally by Carson-Newman College en route to a 2-1 win on Tuesday night in NCAA Division II Southeast Region play.

Lees-McRae (6-3-1) edged Carson-Newman (3-6) by an 11-7 margin in attempts on goal, including a 6-0 advantage in the first half, as the Bobcats notched their second straight one-goal victory.

Sophomore James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) paced the Bobcats with a goal and an assist, as freshman James Smith (Eastbourne, England) notched his team-leading third goal and first career match-winner. Senior Tyler Gibson (Gastonia, N.C.) played the full 90 minutes between the pipes for the Bobcats, making three saves for his second straight win.

Robert Hill tallied the lone goal for Carson-Newman, as Daniel Zitt collected the assist. Michael Alley went the distance in goal for the Eagles, making three saves.

Galvani put the first tally on the scoreboard just 58 seconds into the match, converting from the spot for his second goal of the season to give the Bobcats an early 1-0 lead advantage. Smith doubled the margin to 2-0 midway through the fourth minute, taking a cross from Galvani and delivering a perfect finish into the back of the net for his third goal of the season.

The Bobcats held Carson-Newman off the scoreboard until the 80th minute, when Zitt flicked it on to Hill and put the forward in position to force his way through a one-on-one, and trim the margin to 2-1 with his fifth goal of the season. Carson-Newman nearly leveled proceedings and sent the match into extra time in the 89th minute, when Whit Gray's equalizing attempt was turned aside by Gibson to clinch the victory for the Bobcats.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Saturday when the Bobcats host Queens University of Charlotte in a Conference Carolinas matchup at 7 p.m. on Tate Field.

Bobcats Regionally Ranked For Second Straight Week

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The Lees-McRae College women's soccer team is ranked among the top teams in the NCAA Division II Southeast Region for the second week in row, announced NSCAA officials Tuesday with the release of this week's NSCAA/Continental Tire NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Southeast Region poll.

Lees-McRae (6-2-1, 5-0 Conference Carolinas) has been on a tremendous run of form of late, outscoring its opponents by a 28-2 margin through its first five matches in conference play. The Bobcats posted a 1-0-1 record last week, playing to a scoreless draw with Lincoln Memorial University before registering a 6-2 win over Barton College on Saturday during LMC's Homecoming festivities.

Lenoir-Rhyne University is ranked atop the region and seventh in the nation with an 8-1-0 record, following by No. 11 North Georgia College & State University (9-0-0), No. 22 Armstrong Atlantic State University (7-2-1), Lander University (8-1-1), and University of North Carolina at Pembroke (7-2-1). Columbus State University (6-3-2) is sixth, followed by Flagler College (6-4-0), Tusculum College (6-3-0), and Mount Olive College (6-1-1). Lees-McRae and Newberry College (6-3-0) are tied for 10th.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Thursday when the Bobcats travel to Spartanburg, S.C. to take on Converse College in conference play at 7 p.m.

NSCAA/Continental Tires NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Southeast Region Poll

Rk. School Record

1. Lenoir-Rhyne 8-1-0
2. North Georgia 9-0-0
3. Armstrong Atlantic 7-2-1
4. Lander 8-1-1
5. UNC Pembroke 7-2-1
6. Columbus State 6-3-2

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- 7. Flagler 6-4-0
- 8. Tusculum 6-3-0
- 9. Mount Olive 6-1-1
- T10. Lees-McRae 6-2-1**
- T10. Newberry 6-3-0

Lees-McRae Ranked Seventh In The Nation In Service Aces

The Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team is ranked seventh in the nation in aces per set, and is listed in 10 individual and team categories in this week's edition of the NCAA Division II women's volleyball statistics, announced NCAA officials Tuesday.

Lees-McRae (12-6, 7-0 Conference Carolinas) has been on a tremendous run of form of late, having won each of their last 10 matches while opening the conference schedule with an unblemished 7-0 record. The Bobcats enter the week ranked seventh in the nation in aces per set (2.7), while also being listed 56th in assists per frame (11.89), and 64th in both kills per set (12.68) and winning percentage (0.667). Lees-McRae is also ranked 86th in hitting percentage (0.207).

Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) is ranked 24th in the nation in digs per set (5.29) and 35th in aces per frame (0.57). Fellow freshman Taylor Pritchett (Apex, N.C.) is ranked 28th aces per set (0.60), while Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) is listed 34th in aces (0.57) and 54th in assists per frame (9.89). Senior Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) is also ranked 62nd in points per set (4.15) and 66th in kills per frame (3.62).

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.