

## **Galvani Scores Twice Bobcats Nip Royals, 2-1**

Written by Staff Reports

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James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) tallied two goals in the first half to lead the Lees-McRae College men's soccer team to a 2-1 victory over Queens University of Charlotte on Saturday evening in Conference Carolinas play.

Galvani's winner came in the 36th minute as he headed in a beautiful cross from Luke Staats (Almere, Holland) to put the Bobcats up for good.

The Bobcats (7-3-1, 4-1 CC) battled to victory over the Royals (2-7, 1-5 CC), who outshot the Bobcats by a 16-13 margin, as well as holding the advantage on corner kicks by a tally of 5-4. Galvani opened scoring in the 17th minute, taking the ball 30 yards out and after making the turn and knifing through the back line, finishing inside the far post from 12 yards distance to give the Bobcats a 1-0 advantage.

Matthew Gwilt put the Royals back on level pegging in the 28th minute, finding the back of the net from 35 yards out to even the tally at 1-1. Galvani delivered the eventual winner nine minutes later, nodding Staats' cross into the top corner for his second goal of the night.

Tyler Gibson (Gastonia, N.C.) and Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) combined for six saves on the evening for the Bobcats, while Simen Walmann recorded seven stops for the Royals.

The Bobcats return to the pitch on Monday, traveling to Misenheimer, N.C. to take on Pfeiffer University in a make-up of their September 25 contest, which was called due to inclement weather. Kickoff is slated for 4 p.m.

## **Thornton Treble Lifts Bobcats Over Royals, 4-2**

Freshman Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) tallied her second career hat trick on Saturday evening to lead the Lees-McRae College women's soccer team to a 4-2 win over Queens University of Charlotte in Conference Carolinas play at Tate Field.

Lees-McRae (8-2-1, 7-0 CC) outshot Queens (4-7-1, 4-2-1 CC) by a 25-12 margin, including a 9-3 advantage in the first half, as the Bobcats also posted a 12-2 advantage in corner kicks.

Thornton paced the Bobcats with three goals to run her season tally to a team-high nine strikes, as Brooke Santerre (Port Republic, Md.) added a goal for the Bobcats. Jessica O'Leary (Millbury, Mass.), Emily Jones (Leonardtwn, Md.), and Ally Titsworth (Holmes Beach, Fla.)

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each tallied an assist for the Bobcats, as freshman Kaitlyn Briggs posted six saves between the pipes.

Kristen Wright and Hope Hartman tallied the goals for Queens, while Sami Striano and Amanda Wright each added an assist. Kelsey Seretis posted five saves through the first 73 minutes of play, as Megan Hirschy added two stops while playing the final 18 minutes.

The Royals scored the breakthrough midway through the fourth minute, as Striano's driven shot from distance struck the bar and fell right to Hartman at the goal mouth for the easy finish.

Queens held the one-goal lead until the 35th minute, when O'Leary switched it to Thornton on the left side of the area, putting the freshman in perfect position to smash the finish over the keeper's head to level proceedings at 1-1.

Thornton struck again in the 42nd minute, taking a cross from Titsworth and slotting the finish into the bottom corner to send the Bobcats into the interval with a 2-1 lead. Santerre doubled the advantage to 3-1 in the 72nd minute, curling a free kick past the keeper from 20 yards distance for her sixth goal of the season.

Thornton then completed the treble in smashing fashion early in the 83rd minute, timing her run onto a long ball from Jones to perfection before curling the finish past the keeper to give the Bobcats a commanding 4-1 lead. Kristen Wright added the final goal of the night midway through the 87th minute, heading a lead pass from Amanda Wright into the bottom corner to equal the final margin of 4-2.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats host Belmont Abbey College in a pivotal conference matchup at 7 p.m. on Tate Field.

## **Bobcats Sweep Erskine, 3-0**

Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) tallied a match-high 12 kills to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a straight-set win over Erskine College on Saturday afternoon in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae (15-6, 10-0 CC) won the match by scores of 25-19, 25-18, and 25-13, posting a .245 hitting percentage while extending its conference winning streak to 41 straight contests. The Bobcats held Erskine (13-7, 8-2 CC) to a -.065 clip on the attack, while tallying nine blocks and seven service aces.

Clendenin posted 12 kills on 26 swings, attacking at a .308 clip as Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) chipped in 10 kills. Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) added 33 assists, nine digs, three service aces, and three blocks. Dana Oliver (Davie, Fla.) chipped in eight kills and 13 digs,

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while Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Jessica Singewald (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) added match-highs of 15 digs and eight blocks.

Sandra Campbell paced the Flying Fleet with five kills, as Caitlin Bullock and Liz Massey each chipped in three smashes. Larz Chabra added 12 assists and seven digs, while Massey and Brooke Dodge each chipped in six savers.

The Bobcats rallied from an early 9-6 deficit in the first set, launching a 7-4 run to even the tally at 13-13 on a kill by Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas). Erskine answered with a 4-1 spurt to claim a 17-14 advantage on a Campbell smash before the Bobcats countered with a 10-2 run of their own, taking a 24-19 lead on a block by Clendenin and Fox prior to closing out the frame on a Flying Fleet error.

Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the second set, opening an early 12-4 lead on a Clendenin smash. The Bobcats would stretch the lead to 16-9 before Erskine responded, trimming the margin to 20-16 with a 7-4 run. Lees-McRae answered with a 5-2 spurt, closing out the set on an Erskine error to take a commanding 2-0 advantage in the match.

The Bobcats came out firing in the third set, taking a 15-5 lead on a Fox smash before pushing the margin to 21-9 on a kill by Oliver. Lees-McRae then closed out the set with a 4-2 spurt that was capped by a Singewald kill after a pair of quick points by Erskine.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats host King College (Tenn.) to continue their conference schedule. First serve is slated for 7 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.