

Bobcats claw past Royals, 3-1

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 15 October 2011 08:13

Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) posted a double-double with a match-high 47 assists and 11 digs to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a four-set victory over Queens University of Charlotte in Conference Carolinas play on Friday night in Williams Gymnasium.

Lees-McRae (17-6, 12-0 CC) won the match by scores of 26-24, 21-25, 25-16, and 25-14, extending its winning streak to 15 matches overall and 43 straight victories in league play. The Bobcats held Queens (13-7, 7-2 CC) to a .072 hitting percentage on the night, totaling seven blocks while attacking at a .197 clip of their own. Queens posted 14 blocks and 50 digs in the match, while the Bobcats recorded 67 digs and 10 service aces.

Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) paced the Bobcats with 17 kills, while Mitchell added five kills and three service aces to her double-double of 47 assists and 11 digs. Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) and Dana Oliver (Davie, Fla.) each chipped in a double-double, as Clendenin recorded 12 kills and 12 digs, and Oliver posted 10 kills and 14 digs. Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) added match-highs of 23 digs and four service aces, while Jessica Singewald (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) and Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas) chipped in four and three blocks, respectively.

Brittany Harvey and Brittney Barren led the way for Queens with seven kills each, as Lindsey Everhart and Anna Gibbs chipped in five and four kills, respectively. Gibbs posted 11 blocks on the night to pace the Royals, while Keri Kemp and Everhart chipped in five stuffs each. Avery Moore also added a double-double with 12 assists and 11 digs.

Queens jumped out to an early 10-5 lead in the first set before the Bobcats responded, launching a 13-5 run to claim an 18-15 advantage on a kill by Mitchell. After the Bobcats pushed the lead to 21-16 and the Royals countered with a 6-2 run to cut the margin to 23-22, Lees-McRae held on for a 26-24 victory in the frame as Epperson closed out the set with back-to-back kills.

The second set proved to be a tightly contested affair, with neither team claiming more than a two-point lead for much of the frame. With the score knotted at 19-19 following a Royal miscue, Queens went on a 6-2 run to close out the set on a block by Gibbs and Everhart to even the match at 1-1.

Lees-McRae responded in the third set, taking an early 12-8 lead on a Fox kill to force a Queens timeout. The Bobcats continued to dictate proceeding when play resumed, opening a 20-13 advantage on a Singewald kill before Clendenin closed out the 25-16 set win with an emphatic smash to cap a 5-3 spurt.

The Bobcats carried the momentum into the fourth frame, opening the set with a 12-5 run that was capped by a Clendenin kill. After Queens trimmed the margin to 14-9 on a kill by Harvey, the Bobcats answered with an 8-3 run to open a 22-12 lead following a Singewald smash. Lees-McRae then closed out the set and the match on back-to-back kills by Clendenin.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Misenheimer, N.C. to

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take on Pfeiffer University in a conference tilt at 2 p.m.

Shields twins pace Bobcats to third-place finish at Blue Ridge Open

Twin sisters Emily (Salisbury, N.C.) and Katherine Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) finished second and third, respectively, to lead the Lees-McRae College women's cross country team to a third-place performance at the Blue Ridge Open, hosted by Appalachian State University on Friday. UNC Wilmington topped the team standings with 40 points, as Bridgewater College finished second with 48 markers. Lees-McRae placed third with 67 points, followed by Belmont Abbey College (74), and Warren Wilson College (118).

Emily Shields turned in a time of 19:50.4 en route to a second-place performance, as her sister Katherine Shields finished third with a mark of 20:05.0. Audrey Garrett (Weaverville, N.C.) finished 20th with a time of 21:55.1, while Cinthia Lehner (Greer, S.C.) and Casey Clark (Roanoke, Va.) placed 28th and 31st, respectively, with marks of 22:03.1 and 22:14.4. Heather Peterman (Buford, Ga.) and Meredith Fox (Foscoe, N.C.) rounded out the finishers for LMC with times of 25:27.6 and 30:16.6, respectively.

Lees-McRae returns to the trails on Friday, October 21 when the Bobcats travel to Charlotte, N.C. for the Conference Carolinas Championships at McAlpine Greenway Park.

Dunn and Simpkins pace Bobcats at Blue Ridge Open

Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) placed fourth overall, and Craig Simpkins (Boiling Springs, S.C.)

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finished eighth to lead the Lees-McRae College men's cross country team to a third-place performance at the Blue Ridge Open, hosted by Appalachian State University on Friday. George Mason University took the top spot with 23 points, followed by Belmont Abbey College (50), Lees-McRae (59), and Bridgewater College (88). Dunn paced the Bobcats with a time of 26:38.8, as Simpkins turned in a mark of 27:14.2. Avery Mouton (Sneads Ferry, N.C.) placed 26th with a time of 28:57.8, while Luke Anton (Hendersonville, N.C.) finished 31st with a mark of 29:28.0. Trevor Morris (Southern Pines, N.C.) and Jordan Meyer (Inman, S.C.) placed 43rd and 46th, respectively, with times of 31:47.7 and 32:30.2.

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