

Bobcats Defeat Crusaders, Win 17th Straight

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 20 October 2011 05:52

Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.) posted a season-high 24 kills to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a hard-fought 3-1 win over North Greenville University on Wednesday evening in Conference Carolinas play.

Lees-McRae (19-6, 14-0 CC) posted eight blocks and 57 digs on the night, attacking at a .136 clip while limiting North Greenville (12-14, 3-10 CC) to a .053 hitting percentage. The Bobcats also tallied 12 service aces, while the Crusaders posted nine blocks.

Epperson posted a match-high 24 kills, moving within nine kills of tying former Bobcat All-American Whitney Justice's all-time record of 1,347 smashes. Junior Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) also moved within striking distance of a career milestone, posting a match-high 45 assists to close to within 22 helpers of the 3,000-mark for her career. Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) and Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas) each added nine kills, while Jessica Singewald (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) chipped in seven smashes.

Freshman Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) posted a match-high 17 digs, while Clendenin, Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.), and Epperson tallied 13, 10, and nine savers, respectively. Mitchell and Suryadevara each added a match-high five aces, while Fox posted a team-best four blocks.

Rebakah Mayes and Lauren Seeley paced the Crusaders with nine kills each, while Kaitlyn Pierce added six smashes. Kaitlyn Harris chipped in a team-high 12 digs, as Mayes and Kendra Meek dug nine and eight Bobcat attacks, respectively. Abigail Frame posted 26 assists, as Pierce recorded a match-high six blocks.

The first set proved to be a tightly contested affair, with neither team claiming more than a two-point advantage until the Crusaders took a 22-19 lead on back-to-back Bobcat miscues. Lees-McRae responded with three quick points, evening the score at 22-22 on an Epperson kill before claiming a 24-23 lead on a Mitchell service ace. After Pierce leveled the margin at 24-24 with a kill, Epperson and Laura Thomas (Broadway, N.C.) answered with back-to-back smashes to give the Bobcats a 26-24 first-set win.

Lees-McRae came out firing in the second set, taking an early 7-1 lead on a Mitchell ace before North Greenville responded, launching a 14-7 run to claim a 15-14 advantage on a Bobcat miscue. After the Bobcats took a narrow 17-16 advantage on back-to-back kills from Epperson, North Greenville responded with a 6-0 run to open a 22-17 lead. The Bobcats answered with a 6-2 spurt, closing the gap to 24-23 before North Greenville closed out the set on a Seeley kill to even the match at 1-1.

The Crusaders carried the momentum into the third set, taking an early 6-4 lead before the Bobcats responded with a 9-4 run, claiming a 13-10 advantage on back-to-back NGU miscues. North Greenville fought back with a 10-1 spurt, opening a 20-14 lead on a service ace by Frame before Lees-McRae answered with a 4-0 run of its own, closing the gap to 20-18 on a Fox kill to force an NGU timeout. The Bobcats completed the rally moments later, answering a pair of Crusader points with a 7-0 run to close out the set on a trio of kills from Epperson.

Lees-McRae rallied from an early deficit once again in the fourth set, launching a 9-0 run midway through the frame to take a 17-10 lead on four aces from Suryadevara. The Bobcats shut the door from there, opening a 24-13 advantage on a Clendenin smash before closing out

Bobcats Defeat Crusaders, Win 17th Straight

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 20 October 2011 05:52

the set and the match on a Crusader miscue.

The Bobcats return to the court on Friday when they travel to Greenwood, S.C. to take on Augusta State University and No. 16 Armstrong Atlantic State University on the first day of Lander University's Crossover Tournament. Lees-McRae will take on Augusta State at 5 p.m. before squaring off with Armstrong Atlantic at 7 p.m.

Bobcats clinch share of conference title on Senior Night

Seniors Vickie Rich (Arlington Heights, Ill.) and Brooke Santerre (Port Republic, Md.) each tallied a goal to lead the Lees-McRae College women's soccer team to a 4-0 win over Erskine College on Wednesday night, as the Bobcats clinched at least a share of their first Conference Carolinas regular season championship since the 2000 season.

Lees-McRae (11-2-1, 10-0 CC) honored its 2011 senior class prior to kickoff, recognizing Rich, Santerre, Mary Gibson (Hendersonville, Tenn.), Mary Dorn (Shallotte, N.C.), and Jessica O'Leary (Millbury, Mass.) for their contributions to the women's soccer program. The Bobcats tied a program-record with their 10th conference win of the season, while securing the top seed in the conference tournament for the first time in school history.

The Bobcats outshot Erskine (6-7, 5-5 CC) by a 25-3 margin, including a 13-1 advantage in the first half, while keeping their 10th clean sheet of the season. Lees-McRae also held a 6-0 advantage in corner kicks on the night.

Rich, Santerre, Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.), and Ally Titsworth (Holmes Beach, Fla.) each found the back of the net for the Bobcats, while Gibson, Thornton, Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.), and LeeAnn Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) each tallied an assist. Freshman Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) made two saves through the first 79 minutes, while Alicia Pierson (Brooksville, Fla.) kept the Flying Fleet scoreless for the final 12 minutes of play.

Rich opened the scoring in the 25th minute, breaking the deadlock off an assist from Thornton with her fifth goal of the season, sending the Bobcats into the interval with a 1-0 lead. Santerre doubled the advantage to 2-0 in the 55th minute, taking a cross from Gibson and looping the finish over the keeper's head and into the side netting from 20 yards distance.

Thornton pushed the lead to 3-0 midway through the 64th minute, tying the team-lead with her 10th goal of the season after Kerrigan and Sullivan combined for a terrific lead pass into the box, putting Thornton in perfect position to finish from six yards out. Titsworth capped the scoring in the 83rd minute, beating the final defender and sending a fantastic finish into the far side netting for her first collegiate goal.

Bobcats Defeat Crusaders, Win 17th Straight

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 20 October 2011 05:52

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Hartsville, S.C. to take on Coker College in a conference matchup at 4:30 p.m. The Bobcats can clinch the outright conference title with a victory over the Cobras.

Erskine holds off Bobcats, 3-1

The Erskine College men's soccer team scored twice in the first half and held off a furious rally down the stretch en route to a 3-1 victory over Lees-McRae College on Wednesday night in Conference Carolinas play, snapping the Bobcats' six-match winning streak.

Lees-McRae (10-4-1, 7-2 CC) honored its 2011 senior class prior to kickoff, recognizing Luke Staats (Almere, Netherlands), Luke Duffy (Wakefield, England), Tyler Gibson (Gastonia, N.C.), David Palmer (South Shields, England), and student assistant coach Adam Burden for their contributions to the Bobcat men's soccer program.

The Bobcats outshot Erskine (7-6-1, 5-4 CC) by a 15-10 margin, including a 12-3 advantage in the second half. Scott Alford (Hillsborough, N.C.) scored his fourth goal of the season for the Bobcats, while James Smith (Eastbourne, England) and Nick Welsh (Boone, N.C.) each tallied an assist. Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) made five saves throughout the opening 45 minutes, as Gibson stopped one attempt at goal in the second half.

Luke Boyce, Peter Savarese, and Dylan Goodale each found the back of the net for Erskine, as Andrew Settle mire added an assist. Roberto De La Silva played the full 90 minutes between the pipes for the Flying Fleet, allowing one goal and making eight saves.

Erskine broke the deadlock with a pair of quick goals within a four-minute span in the first half, taking a 1-0 lead on Savarese's strike at the 27:18 mark before Boyce finished a cross from Settle mire