

Patterson fuels Bobcat Over Belmont Abbey, 60-56

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 04 January 2012 07:58

Junior Icey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.) scored 10 points, including a desperation three-pointer as the shot clock expired, to lead the Lees-McRae College women's basketball team to a hard-fought

60-56 victory over Belmont Abbey College in Williams Gymnasium to open the Bobcats' Conference Carolinas schedule.

Lees-McRae (5-2, 1-0 CC) forced 26 Belmont Abbey (4-7, 0-2 CC) turnovers, converting those miscues into 27 points, while posting a field goal percentage of 38.3 percent on the night. The Crusaders won the battle on the glass by a 42-33 margin, including a 28-21 advantage on the defensive boards.

Patterson paced the Bobcats with a game-high 18 points, knocking down 7-of-15 attempts from the floor, while dishing out a contest-best six assists. Chloe Parker (Chicago, Ill.) added a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds, as Paige Whitaker (Harrisburg, N.C.) chipped in 10 markers of her own.

Melissa Foures led the way for Belmont Abbey with 13 points and a game-high 13 rebounds, while Candace Fox nearly recorded a triple-double with 10 markers, eight boards, and six assists. McKenzie Owen also added 11 points and four rebounds.

The Bobcats got off to strong start in the first half, opening the contest with a 10-2 run over the initial four minutes. Belmont Abbey responded with a 20-7 surge of their own, taking a 22-17 lead on a jumper by Paula Regalado at the 4:33 mark. The Bobcats then closed out the half with a 10-7 spurt to trim the margin to 29-27 heading into the intermission.

Lees-McRae stayed within striking distance throughout the second half, launching a 12-6 run over a six-minute stretch to take a narrow 49-48 advantage on a clutch triple by Whitaker at the 3:24 mark. Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) then knocked down a three-pointer of her own to push the margin to 52-48, before the Abbey countered with a pair of quick buckets to trim the advantage to 52-52.

Patterson then hit perhaps the shot of the season for the Bobcats, throwing up a desperation attempt from just outside the arc as the shot clock expired. The shot found the backboard and then the bottom of the net, giving the Bobcats a decisive 57-52 lead with 29 ticks left on the clock. Patterson would convert a trio of free throw attempts down the stretch to keep the game out of reach and clinch the comeback win for the Bobcats.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thursday when the Bobcats travel to Gaffney, S.C. to take on Limestone College in conference play at 5:30 p.m.

LMC 60, BELMONT ABBEY 56

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Score by Periods 1st 2nd Total

Belmont Abbey..... 29 27 - 56

Lees-McRae..... 27 33 - 60

BELMONT ABBY: FOURES 13 (13 REBOUNDS), REGALADO 4, RICE 2, FOX 10 (8 REBOUNDS, 6 ASSISTS), LONG 7, RANSON 9, OWEN 11. FG: 22-53, 3FG: 2-7, FT: 10-15. 42 REBOUNDS, 26 TURNOVERS, 13 ASSISTS.

LMC: PATTERSON 18 (6 ASSISTS, 4 REBOUNDS), PARKER 12 (10 REBOUNDS), BELCHER 5, WHITAKER 10, FALTUS 2, SMITH 7, HAYNES 6, WATERS (5 REBOUNDS). 33 REBOUNDS, 16 TURNOVERS, 8 ASSISTS.

Abbey surges By Lees-McRae, 78-64

The Belmont Abbey College men's basketball team utilized a strong defensive effort in the first half, and held off a late surge by Lees-McRae College en route to a 78-64 win in Conference

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Carolinas play on Tuesday evening.

Belmont Abbey (8-4, 2-0 CC) posted a field goal percentage of 42.4 percent on the night, including a 48.1 percent clip in the second half, while limiting Lees-McRae (0-9, 0-1 CC) to a 34.4 percent mark from the floor. The Abbey won the battle on the glass by a 49-34 margin, including a 35-23 advantage on the defensive boards, while converting 12 Bobcats turnovers into 16 points.

DJ Brown (Anderson, S.C.) paced the Bobcats with 16 points on 5-of-10 shooting, including a 4-for-9 night from beyond the arc, while Asad Lamot (Mebane, N.C.) and Jeremiah Henry (Semmes, Ala.) added 15 and 12 markers, respectively. Henry also chipped in a team-high seven rebounds while Lamot notched a contest-best five assists.

Tyshawn Good led the way for Belmont Abbey with a game-high 26 points, knocking down 8-of-15 attempts from the floor while going 8-for-9 at the charity stripe. Matthew Graves added 12 points while Darryl Durham chipped in a game-high eight rebounds.

Belmont Abbey jumped out to an early 14-7 lead in the first half on a triple by Good at the 11:27 mark, before the Bobcats trimmed the margin to 16-12 on a Daniel Sepokas (Illawong, Australia) with 8:25 to go in the period. The Abbey responded with a 15-5 surge over the final eight minutes of the half, pushing the advantage to 31-17 heading into the intermission.

The Crusaders carried the momentum into the second half, opening a 49-25 lead on a Graves layup at the 12:51 mark on the heels of an 18-8 run. Lees-McRae would trim the margin to 52-35 over the next four minutes, capping a 10-3 spurt on a Henry layup with 8:20 to play.

Belmont Abbey shut the door from there, hanging on to the double-digit lead en route to victory. Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thursday when the Bobcats travel to Gaffney, S.C. to take on Limestone College in conference play at 7:30 p.m.

BELMONT ABBY 78, LMC 64

Score by Periods 1st 2nd Total

Belmont Abbey.....	31	47	-	78
Lees-McRae.....	17	47	-	64

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BELMONT ABBY: PHILLIPS 4, SHEFFEY 6, GOOD 26, COUNCIL 3, ORFORD 3, GRAVES 12, CONRAD 6, KUHLMAN 5, BEERSE 2, DURHAM 6, SOWELL 5. 49 REBOUNDS, 11 TURNOVERS, 11 ASSISTS.

LMC: BATTLE 8, HENRY 12 (7 REBOUNDS), LAMOT 15, SEPOKAS 6, LOPEZ 1, BROWN 16, TILLMAN 6. 34 REBOUNDS, 12 TURNOVERS, 13 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Icey Patterson, LMC Athletics