

Pride sweeps Bobcats, 3-0

Written by Staff Reports

Sunday, 12 February 2012 13:10

The Springfield College men's volleyball team posted a hitting percentage of .329 and tallied 11 blocks en route to a straight-set sweep of Lees-McRae College in the championship match of the 2012 Volleyball Hall of Fame Morgan Classic. Springfield (8-4) won the match by scores of 25-21, 25-15, and 27-25, limiting Lees-McRae (4-4) to a .100 hitting percentage while

attacking at a .329 clip of its own. The Pride tallied 35 digs and 11 blocks on the evening, as the Bobcats dug out 29 Pride attacks and registered 5.5 stuffs in the match.

Jose Ribas (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) paced the Bobcats with nine kills, as Chris Flood (Louisville, Ky.) and Joshua Jones (Christmas, Fla.) added eight and seven smashes, respectively. Efrain Negrón (Caguas, Puerto Rico) posted a match-high 12 digs, as Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) added 26 assists and seven digs.

Angel Perez led the way for Springfield with a match-high 14 kills and a .591 hitting percentage, as Mike Pelletier and Greg Falcone posted seven and six blocks, respectively. Pelletier chipped in seven kills, while Nick Ferry recorded a team-high 10 digs.

Springfield started off strong, opening the first set with a 9-4 run before Lees-McRae responded with an 8-4 spurt to cut the margin to 13-12 on a Negrón kill. After the Pride pushed the margin to 17-12 with a 4-0 spurt and extended the lead to 20-13 on a Bobcat miscue, Lees-McRae answered with a 7-3 run to trim the advantage to 23-20 following a Ribas smash. The Pride would counter with two of the next three points, closing out the set with a pair of Perez kills to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

Lees-McRae answered in the second frame, opening the set with a 7-3 run before Springfield responded with a 10-2 spurt to take a 13-9 lead on a Bobcat miscue. With the Pride leading 18-13 following back-to-back Bobcat attacking errors, Springfield went on a 7-2 surge to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the match on a block by Falcone, John Coen, and Keaton Pieper.

Springfield carried the momentum into the third set, claiming a 15-11 lead on a Perez kill to cap a 5-1 run. After the Pride claimed a 19-16 advantage on a Pelletier kill, the Bobcats responded with a 7-3 run to take a 23-22 lead on a Springfield miscue. The Bobcats would fight off a pair of match points later in the set, evening the tally at 24-24 and 25-25 before Springfield claimed the frame and the contest on a pair of Lees-McRae miscues.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday, February 17 when the Bobcats host Limestone College in Conference Carolinas action at 7 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

Catawba surges past Bobcats, 29-5

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The Catawba College men's lacrosse team outscored Lees-McRae College by an 18-2 margin through the first two periods of play en route to a 29-5 victory on Saturday afternoon in the 2012 season-opener for both programs.

Catawba (1-0) outshot Lees-McRae (0-1) by a 72-19 margin, including a 41-4 advantage in the first half, while winning 24-of-36 face-offs and edging the Bobcats by a 62-32 spread in ground balls. Braden Artem, Tom Cullop, and Steven Ridolfo each posted a hat-trick on the afternoon, as Artem, Cullop, and John Scheich each tallied a pair of assists.

Senior Danny Ives (Cheadle, Cheshire, England) paced the Bobcats with two goals on 11 shots, as Josh Shingleton (Temecula, Calif.), Brett Yusiewicz (Chapel Hill, N.C.), and Jon Batsel (Raleigh, N.C.) each found the back of the net. Yusiewicz also recorded an assist on the afternoon, as freshman Ryan Harrison (Lake Mary, Fla.) made 17 saves while making his first collegiate start.

Catawba jumped out to an early 5-0 advantage in the first eight minutes of play, as Brett Howe found the back of the Bobcat net off a pass from Ridolfo at the 7:13 mark of the first quarter. Freddie Turcio closed out the opening period with his first goal of the season, giving Catawba a 9-0 lead with 1:38 to go in the quarter.

Shingleton put the Bobcats on the board early in the second, taking a pass from Yusiewicz and finding the back of the net to trim the margin to 9-1. Ives would double the Bobcat total two minutes later, beating the Catawba goalie at the 11:40 mark. Catawba countered with five goals in the final six and a half minutes of the period, taking an 18-2 advantage into the intermission on Cullop's last-second strike.

Catawba carried the momentum into the third, adding four tallies before Ives doubled his total of the day at the 1:56 mark. Yusiewicz would open the fourth quarter with his first of the season to cap the Bobcats' scoring.

Lees-McRae returns to action on Tuesday when the Bobcats host Mars Hill College in their 2012 home opener at 4 p.m. on Tate Field.