

Sepokas, Bobcats Defeated Knights In OT

Written by Staff Reports

Sunday, 12 February 2012 13:49

Junior Daniel Sepokas (Illawong, Australia) dropped in a clutch layup with less than two seconds left in regulation to propel the Lees-McRae College men's basketball team to an 83-79 victory in a Conference Carolinas overtime thriller on Saturday evening in Williams Gymnasium. Lees-McRae (8-14, 7-6 CC) posted a field goal percentage

of 47 percent on the evening, including a 53.8 percent clip in the second half, as St. Andrews (6-18, 1-11 CC) shot 46.8 percent from the floor in the contest. The Bobcats won the battle on the glass by a 47-35 margin, including a 17-7 advantage on the offensive boards, while converting 17-of-27 attempts at the free throw line.

Sepokas led all scorers with 21 points on 9-of-16 shooting, nearly recording a triple-double with eight rebounds and a game-high seven assists. Asad Lamot (Mebane, N.C.) added 14 points and six assists, while Jeremiah Henry (Semmes, Ala.) chipped in 13 markers and five boards. BJ Battle (Orlando, Fla.) posted eight rebounds and a game-high four steals, as Gideon Oji (Imane in Kogi, Nigeria) added eight points and six boards with a 4-for-4 day from the floor. Ross Williams paced the Knights with 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting, as Aaron Christian and Ryan Streater added 17 and 14 markers, respectively. Streater chipped in game-highs of nine rebounds and four steals, as Williams posted seven boards.

St. Andrews got off to a strong start in the first half, taking an 18-13 lead on a Williams layup at the 12:52 mark. The Bobcats responded with a 14-5 run, claiming a 27-23 advantage on an Oji jumper with 6:59 to play in the period. After the Knights evened the tally at 27-27 and the Bobcats pushed the lead to 32-27 on a tip-in by Juan Urbina (Barquisimeto, Venezuela), St. Andrews closed out the period with a 12-4 run to take a 39-36 advantage into the intermission following a last-second lay-in by Christian.

Lees-McRae responded with an 11-0 run to open the second half, taking a 47-39 lead on a Sepokas layup with 16:38 to play. After Henry gave the Bobcats a 51-45 advantage with a jumper, St. Andrews countered with an 8-0 run to claim a narrow 53-51 lead on a Streater steal and slam at the 11:41 mark.

The teams would trade buckets over the next eight minutes, as the Knights responded to a Sepokas freebie with layups by Williams and Christian to snatch a 69-66 lead with 1:56 to play. After Tillman cut the advantage to 69-68 with a lay-in, Williams converted a critical three-point play to give the Knights a 72-68 lead with just over a minute left on the clock.

Henry and Sepokas would answer the call for the Bobcats in the final minute, as Henry converted a pair of free throws before Sepokas dropped in a clutch layup with just over one second remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime.

St. Andrews struck first in overtime, claiming a 74-72 advantage on a jumper by Streater before the Bobcats responded with a 5-0 run, taking a 77-74 lead on a critical three-point play by Sepokas with 3:01 to go in the period. After the Knights trimmed the margin to one point on a pair of occasions, the Bobcats' clutch free throw shooting took over, as Lamot and Sepokas converted five of six attempts at the charity stripe over the final 30 seconds to hold on for the win.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats host King College in conference play at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

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LMC 83, ST. ANDREWS 79 (OT)

Score by Periods 1st 2nd OT Total

St. Andrews.....	39	33	7	-	79
Lees-McRae.....	36	36	11	-	83

ST. ANDREWS: STREATOR 14 (9 REBOUNDS), MONROE 4, WILLIAMS 18 (7 REBOUNDS), MOFFITT 9, SUNSKI 9, MURRAY 2, CHRISTIAN 17, BABER 2, HOUBE 4. FG: 29-62, 3FG: 6-16, FT: 15-21. 35 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS, 14 ASSISTS.

LMC: BATTLE 6 (8 REBOUNDS), OJI 8, HENRY 13, LAMOT 14, SEPOKAS 21 (8 REBOUNDS), BROWN 6, TILLMAN 9, URBINA 4, SAINT MARC 2. FG: 31-66, 3FG: 4-21, FT: 17-27. 47 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS, 19 ASSISTS.

Bobcats slay Knights, 105-46

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The Lees-McRae College women's basketball team placed six players in double figures and scoring a season-high 105 points en route to a 105-46 victory over visiting St. Andrews University in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon in Williams Gymnasium. Lees-McRae (7-13, 3-11 CC) posted a field goal percentage of 55.8 percent on the afternoon, including a 56.4 percent clip in the second half, while holding St. Andrews (0-20, 0-13 CC) to a mark of 23.2 percent from the floor in the contest. The Bobcats won the battle on the glass by a decisive 56-27 margin, including a 39-19 advantage on the defensive boards, while converting 25 St. Andrews miscues into 36 points.

Paige Whitaker (Harrisburg, N.C.) led all scorers with 20 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including a 6-for-9 clip from downtown, while pulling down seven rebounds and recording three steals. Ikey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.) and Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) each added 18 points, as Patterson dished out a game-high seven assists and recorded two steals to move into ninth in program history.

Chloe Parker (Chicago, Ill.) chipped in 14 points, eight rebounds and three steals, as DeAnna Waters (Upper Marlboro, Md.) recorded a double-double with 13 markers and a game-high 11 rebounds. Candace Flowers (Charlotte, N.C.) added 11 points with a 3-for-6 day from beyond the arc.

Kimayah Fulcher paced the Knights with 11 points, as Karin Law and Brittany Roberts chipped in nine and six markers, respectively. Rebecca Bryant added a game-high five steals, as Fulcher posted a team-best five rebounds.

Lees-McRae stormed out of the gate in the first half, taking a 26-6 lead on a Waters layup with 12:03 to go in the period. The Bobcats would push the lead to 49-17 with a 23-11 run, which was capped by a Patterson jumper at the 2:54 mark. Lees-McRae closed out the period with a 6-2 spurt to take a 55-19 advantage into the intermission following a last-second lay-in by Parker.

The Bobcats carried the momentum into the second half, opening the period with an 18-9 run to push the margin to 73-28 on back-to-back buckets by Patterson with 13:37 to play. Lees-McRae would hold on from there, widening the margin to as many as 59 points on a late three-pointer by Flowers.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats host King College in conference play at 5:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

LMC 105, ST. ANDREWS 46

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Score by Periods 1st 2nd Total

St. Andrews..... 19 27 - 46

Lees-McRae..... 55 50 - 105

ST. ANDREWS: FULCHER 11 (5 REBOUNDS), BRYANT 4, NORTON 4, HEWITT 4, ROBERTS 6, M. FRANCOIS 4, LAW 9, A. FRANCOIS 4. FG: 13-56, 3FG: 1-11, FT: 19-28. 27 REBOUNDS, 25 TURNOVERS, 3 ASSISTS.

LMC: WHITAKER 20 (7 REBOUNDS), PARKER 14 (8 REBOUNDS), BELCHER 18 (8 REBOUNDS), COLEMAN 3, PATTERSON 18 (7 ASSISTS), CAKAREVIC 2, FLOWERS 11, SMITH 2, WATERS 13 (11 REBOUNDS), WITTE 2. FG: 43-77, 3FG: 10-18, FT: 9-13. 56 REBOUNDS, 21 TURNOVERS, 32 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Daniel Sepokas, LMC Athletics