

Bobcats Earn Split With Railsplitters

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lees-McRae College softball team rallied for a 3-1 victory in game one of a doubleheader at Lincoln Memorial University to split the twin-bill with the Railsplitters on Wednesday afternoon in non-conference play. Lees-McRae (4-1) won the first game by a

3-1 margin in come-from-behind fashion, as Lincoln Memorial (3-1) shut out the Bobcats by a score of 3-0 in the nightcap. Each team collected 10 hits on the day, while LMU tallied five stolen bases on six attempts.

Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.), Lindsey Huntsinger (Asheville, N.C.), and Mercedes Northrop (McDonough, Ga.) paced the Bobcats with two hits each, as Moon and Amanda Leonard (Lincolnton, N.C.) both drove in a run.

Laurel Gregg (Mars Hill, N.C.) made the start in game one and three seven strong innings, earning the win by allowing one run and scattering six hits while striking out nine. Holli Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) got the nod in game two, allowing three runs on four hits and striking out four in five innings of work. Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) tossed a shutout sixth inning in game two with one strikeout.

Amanda Snow, Cierra Mudd, Bridget Eicher, and Kristin Dutton each tallied a pair of hits for the Railsplitters, as Snow clubbed a home run in game one and drove in a run in the nightcap. Sarah Walz also drove in a run for LMU on the afternoon.

Meghan LaFevor made the start in game one, allowing three runs on seven hits and striking out eight in seven innings of work. Snow got the nod in the nightcap, tossing a three-hit shutout while recording 15 strikeouts.

The game remained scoreless until the bottom of the fifth, when Lincoln Memorial took a 1-0 lead on Snow's solo shot to deep left center. Lees-McRae answered in the seventh, putting runners on first and second following a bunt single by Northrop. Alison Armstrong (Bellingham, Mass.) then laced a single to right, advancing to second on the throw as the Railsplitters gunned down Oakes at home to maintain the one-run lead.

Leonard followed with a clutch pinch-hit single on a bunt between the pitcher and catcher, beating out the throw to first and allowing Lori Fulmer (Prosperity, S.C.) to score from third to even the score at 1-1. Armstrong then scored on a passed ball to give the Bobcats a 2-1 lead before Moon laced a single through the left side to score Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.) and push the margin to 3-1.

Gregg sealed the win in the bottom of the frame, retiring the first two batters of the inning before Armstrong threw out Eicher at second attempting the swipe the bag.

The nightcap remained scoreless until the bottom of the fourth, when Walz singled home LaFevor to give the Railsplitters a 1-0 advantage. Lincoln Memorial added two runs in the fifth, pushing the lead to 3-0 following a leadoff double by Brittani Bezanson, who scored on an ensuing Bobcat error. Snow then laced an RBI single to right field, plating Taylor McGinnis from third to equal the final margin of 3-0.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Saturday when the Bobcats travel to Greeneville, Tenn. to take on Tusculum College in a non-conference doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Kierstie Moon, LMC Athletics