

Eagles sweep twin-bill with Bobcats

Written by Staff Reports

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Mary Shealy threw a no-hitter in game two of a non-conference doubleheader, and the Carson-Newman College softball team rallied for a 2-1 win in the opener en route to a sweep of Lees-McRae College on

Monday afternoon. Carson-Newman (10-4) came back from a 1-0 deficit with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take game one by a score of 2-1, as the Eagles shut out Lees-McRae (4-5) in the night cap by a tally of 8-0 in five innings. The Eagles tallied 16 base hits in the twin-bill, pushing across 10 runs while holding the Bobcats to six hits and one run. Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.) and Karli Robb (Hayes, Va.) each tallied a pair of hits for the Bobcats, as Kim Coley (Marion, N.C.) drove in the lone run for Lees-McRae. Laurel Gregg (Mars Hill, N.C.) took the ball in game one, allowing two runs on nine hits in six innings of work. Holli Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) got the nod in the night cap, allowing one earned run on five hits through three innings. Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) tossed the final inning for the Bobcats in game two, surrendering two hits.

Kim Whaley and Shelby Robertson both tallied three hits to pace the Eagles, as Bri Shoemake, Caitlyn Lance and Cassidy Skeen each tallied a pair of base knocks. Shoemake posted a team-high two RBI on the day, as Skeen clubbed a solo home run in game two.

Shealy got the nod in both games for Carson-Newman, allowing one run on six hits and striking out seven in the opener. The senior followed with a no-hitter in game two, walking three and striking out four in five innings of work.

Game One: Carson-Newman 2, Lees-McRae 1

Lees-McRae struck first in the top of the third, pushing across the game's first run when Coley singled to second, scoring Robb from third after she led off with a walk and advanced to third on a wild pitch. The Bobcats would threaten once again in the fourth, putting runners on second and third before Shealy retired the final two batters of the inning by way of the "K".

Carson-Newman found the answer in the bottom of the sixth, pushing across two runs to take a 2-1 lead when Lance singled home Skeen and Robertson scored on a wild pitch to give the Eagles a one-run advantage. Shealy shut the door in the seventh, allowing a one-out single by Robb before retiring the final two batters of the inning to seal the victory.

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Game Two: Carson-Newman 8, Lees-McRae 0 (5 innings)

Shealy was the story of the game in the nightcap for Carson-Newman, tossing a five-inning no-hitter as the Eagles pushed across six runs in the first three innings. The Eagles got on the board in the second, tallying the game's first run when Whaley scored on a passed ball.

Carson-Newman pushed the margin to 6-0 with five runs in the third, as Skeen led off with a solo shot to right and the Eagles added four additional tallies in the inning on four hits and three Bobcat miscues. The Eagles would cap the contest and invoke the eight-run rule in the bottom of the fifth when Shoemake plated two runs with a single.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Wednesday when the Bobcats travel to Hickory, N.C. to take on No. 9 Lenoir-Rhyne University in a non-conference doubleheader at 2 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Karli Robb, LMC Athletics