

Bobcats Drop Two At Pioneer Classic

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, 27 February 2012 08:14

Shepherd University and Kentucky Wesleyan College both put together late-inning rallies to defeat the Lees-McRae College softball team on Sunday at Tusculum College's Pioneer Classic. Shepherd (2-1) defeated

Lees-McRae (4-11) by a tally of 4-2, scoring four runs during the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings, as Kentucky Wesleyan (1-7), put together a seven-run rally to knock off the Bobcats by a score of 7-3 in the afternoon game.

Holli Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) and Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.) each tallied two hits to pace the Bobcats, as Crickenberger drove in four runs and launched Lees-McRae's first home run of the season against Shepherd.

Laurel Gregg (Mars Hill, N.C.) took the ball against Shepherd, allowing two earned runs on seven hits in seven innings of work. Crickenberger got the starting nod against Kentucky Wesleyan, tossing six shutout innings and scattering five hits. Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) pitched one inning, surrendering three earned runs on six hits.

Game One: Shepherd 4, Lees-McRae 2

Lees-McRae struck first in the bottom of the opening inning, plating two runs on Crickenberger's two-run home run to center field. The Bobcats held the two-run lead until the fourth inning, when Shepherd halved the margin to 2-1 on an RBI single by Bianca Biondillo.

Shepherd took the lead in the fifth, plating two runs to take a 3-2 advantage on a run-scoring single by Delaney Bell. The Rams equaled the final margin of 4-2 with a run in the sixth when Biondillo crossed the plate on a Bobcat miscue.

Game Two: Kentucky Wesleyan 7, Lees-McRae 3

The Bobcats struck first in the opening inning once again, plating the game's first run on an RBI single by Crickenberger which scored Kim Coley (Marion, N.C.) from second. The Bobcats would push the lead to 3-0 in the third, plating two runs on an RBI single by Coley and a sacrifice fly by Crickenberger.

Kentucky Wesleyan took advantage of two hits and three Bobcat errors in the fifth, plating four runs to take a 4-3 lead on a sacrifice fly by Meagan Sallee. The Panthers added three runs on

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five hits in the sixth, stretching the margin to 7-3 on a run-scoring triple by Angela Camp and a pair of RBI singles from Traci Sanders and Kayla Meny. The Bobcats started to rally in the seventh, putting runners on first and second before the Panthers retired the final batter of the game via strikeout.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Thursday when the Bobcats open Conference Carolinas play with a twin-bill against King College in Bristol, Tenn. The doubleheader is slated to begin at 2 p.m.