

Catawba rallies past Lees-McRae, 18-17

Written by Staff Reports

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The Catawba College women's lacrosse team outscored Lees-McRae College by a 12-7 margin in the second half to rally from a four-goal halftime deficit en route to a last-second 18-17 victory in non-conference play on Tuesday evening. With the win,

Catawba (1-3) earns the first victory in program history, outshooting Lees-McRae (0-5) by a 31-26 margin, including a 19-9 advantage in the second half. Catawba won the battle on the ground by a 28-22 stretch, as Lees-McRae edged the Catawba Indians by a 19-18 margin in draw controls.

Olivia Gudewich (Frederick, Md.) scored a career-best seven goals to pace the Bobcats, as Lees-McRae poured in a season-high 17 tallies. Katelin Rooney (Naples, Fla.) chipped in five goals, as Anna DeLuke (Woodstock, Ga.), Jessica MacConnell (Cary, N.C.), Nicole Nixon (Charlotte, N.C.), Nicole Dupont (Fort Myers, Fla.), and Arlene Kim (Clemmons, N.C.) each found the back of the net. Rooney controlled 11 draws while adding three ground balls. Jessica Travers (Asheville, N.C.) made 10 saves for the Bobcats.

Ebony Mills led the way for Catawba with a game-high eight goals and three assists, while Kortney Kavanagh added four tallies and one helper. Chelsea Ferraro chipped in three goals, as Kavanagh posted seven draw controls and six ground balls. Haley Register and Brandi Cockerham combined for six saves.

After Kavanagh opened the game with two quick goals, Lees-McRae answered with four strikes to take a 4-2 advantage on Kim's first collegiate goal at the 21:18 mark. Mills countered with a pair of goals to even the tally at 4-4, before the Bobcats scored six of the next seven goals to claim a 10-5 advantage on Rooney's fourth of the game with less than three minutes to go in the half. Ferraro closed out the half with a goal on the advantage to cut the lead to 10-6 heading into the intermission.

Catawba stormed back in the second half, opening the period with five of the next seven goals to cut the margin to 12-11 on Mills' sixth tally of the day at the 18:11 mark. The teams would exchange tallies over the next 13 minutes before Catawba took control, rallying from a 17-15 deficit with three unanswered goals to seal the 18-17 victory on Kelsey Perusse's game-winner with less than a minute to play.

Lees-McRae returns to action on Thursday when the Bobcats host No. 7 West Chester University in a non-conference matchup at 3:30 p.m. on Tate Field.

Photo Courtesy: Olivia Gudewich, LMC Athletics