

## Bobcats Bested By Belmont-Abbey

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 22 March 2012 07:42

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The Belmont Abbey College men's lacrosse team outscored Lees-McRae College by an 8-3 margin in the first half en route to a 15-6 victory in Conference Carolinas play on Wednesday afternoon. Belmont Abbey

(3-5, 1-1 CC) outshot Lees-McRae (1-8, 0-3 CC) by a 57-15 margin, including a 33-5 advantage in the first half, while edging the Bobcats, 47-41, in ground balls. Lees-McRae won 14-of-23 face-offs, as Belmont Abbey converted 24-of-27 clear attempts.

Danny Ives (Cheadle, Cheshire, England) paced the Bobcats with a game-high three goals, as Derin Vacca (Wake Forest, N.C.) added two assists and an 8-for-11 afternoon in the face-off circle. Ryan Sparks (Hilton Head, S.C.) chipped in seven ground balls, as Ryan Harrison (Lake Mary, Fla.) and Justin McLaughlin (Charlotte, N.C.) each scoped up six balls. Harrison made 23 saves between the pipes for the Bobcats.

Five players scored a pair of goals for the Crusaders, as Tanner Scharr, Jarrett Bergin, Jared Shickles, Joey McGinley, and Corey Cooke each found the back of the net twice on the afternoon. Josiah Nash and Dan Morrissey both added two assists, as Shickles and Scharr chipped in nine and eight ground balls, respectively. Brett Lawless and J.J. Rowan recorded two and one saves, respectively, between the pipes for Belmont Abbey.

The Abbey struck first at the 10:14 mark, taking an early 1-0 lead on a Scharr strike before Ives evened the tally at 1-1 off a pass from Vacca less than two minutes later. Belmont Abbey answered with a trio of goals, taking a 4-1 lead on a late strike by McGinley to cap the period. After Brett Yusiewicz (Chapel Hill, N.C.) opened the second with a goal to cut the margin to 4-2, the Abbey countered with four strikes to push the lead to 8-2 with 4:53 to go in the half. Ives would cap the scoring for the half with just 15 seconds left, trimming the advantage to 8-3 heading into the intermission.

Belmont Abbey continued to dictate play in the second half, stretching the margin to 11-4 with three goals in the third quarter. After Shickles opened the fourth with a strike to push the lead to 12-4, Jeff White (Middle Township, N.J.) countered for the Bobcats, scoring his first collegiate goal at the 6:28 mark to trim the margin to 12-5. The Abbey would answer with a trio of goals to stretch the lead to 15-5, before Dalton Lamb (Clemmons, N.C.) capped the scoring with 11 seconds remaining.

Lees-McRae returns to action on Saturday, March 31 when the Bobcats travel to Misenheimer, N.C. to take on Pfeiffer University in conference play at 3:30 p.m.

**Photo Courtesy: Danny Ives, LMC Athletics**

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