

Fleet Takes Two From Bobcats

Written by Staff Reports
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The Erskine College softball team took advantage of timely hitting and strong pitching en route to a doubleheader sweep of Lees-McRae College in Conference Carolinas play on Wednesday afternoon at the

Bobcat Softball Field. Erskine (13-15, 11-5 CC) edged Lees-McRae (12-23, 3-5 CC) by a 3-1 margin in eight innings in game one, before taking the nightcap by a score of 5-2. The Flying Fleet pounded out 13 hits, including seven for extra bases, as the Bobcats recorded 12 base knocks of their own.

Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.) and Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) each collected three base hits to pace the Bobcats, as Lori Fulmer (Prosperity, S.C.) added a pair of one-baggers. Moon drove in two runs, while Oakes tallied a double.

Laurel Gregg (Mars Hill, N.C.) got the nod in game one, allowing one earned run in eight innings of work while striking out five. Holli Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) took the ball in the nightcap, allowing two earned runs in three frames. Oakes tossed the final four innings in game two, surrendering one earned run.

Lees-McRae got on the board first in the opener, plating a run when Fulmer beat out the throw at home in the third inning to give the Bobcats an early 1-0 lead. Erskine would answer in the sixth, evening the tally at 1-1 on a sacrifice fly to send the game into extra innings.

The Flying Fleet opened the eighth by sacrificing the international tiebreak runner to third, before taking a 2-1 advantage on a Bobcat miscue at the plate. Larissa Shannon then stroked an RBI triple to the gap in right center, scoring Lindsay Waters to give Erskine a 3-1 lead.

Lees-McRae began to rally in the bottom of the inning, putting runners on first and second on an Oakes single with no outs. The Bobcats would push the runners to second and third with two outs, before Erskine forced a groundout to shortstop to end the game.

Erskine plated a run in each of the first four innings in game two, taking a 4-0 lead on a solo homer by Shannon in the third and a Bobcat miscue in the fourth. After the Bobcats countered with a run in the bottom of the fifth to trim the margin to 4-1 on an RBI single by Moon, Erskine answered with a tally in the sixth to push the lead to 5-1.

The Bobcats would respond once again with a run in the sixth, cutting the advantage to 5-2 on an RBI double by Oakes before Erskine shut the door in the seventh, retiring three of four batters to clinch the twin-bill sweep.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Monday when the Bobcats travel to Gaffney, S.C. to take on Limestone College in conference play at 2 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Kristen Oakes, LMC Athletics

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