

## **Bobcats Move Into First Place**

Written by Whitney Noble  
Friday, 05 October 2012 08:19

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Senior Mary Dorn (Shallotte, N.C.) scored the first of three second-half goals on Thursday evening, propelling the Lees-McRae College women's soccer team to a 4-2 victory over Erskine College

in Conference Carolinas play. Lees-McRae (6-3-1, 5-1 CC) outshot Erskine (3-6-1, 3-3 CC) by a 14-6 margin in the match, including an 8-2 advantage in the first half, as the Bobcats took over sole possession of the top spot in the league standings. The Bobcats held a narrow 3-2 edge in corner kicks on the evening while scoring three of their four goals in the second half.

Freshman Sarah Mahar (Jacksonville, Fla.) tallied her third match-winner of the season, tying Sam Arendt (Franklinton, N.C.) for the team lead with her fourth goal of the campaign. Dorn, Emily Jones (Leonardtown, Md.), and Molly Ames (Greensboro, N.C.) each found the back of the net for the Bobcats as well, while Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) and Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.) both notched an assist. Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.) made two saves between the pipes for Lees-McRae.

Molly Harpe paced the Flying Fleet with a goal and an assist, as Hayley Rogers added a strike of her own and Emily Brown chipped in a helper. Harpe tallied a team-high three shots; Katie Lyle and Ashton Burgess combined for five saves in the contest.

Jones broke the deadlock in the late stages of the 27th minute, taking a short pass from Thornton off a corner kick and delivering the finish into the far corner to give the Bobcats an early 1-0 advantage. Rogers leveled proceedings in the 39th minute, sending the finish into the top corner following a Harpe pass off a loose ball in the area, knotting the match at 1-1 heading into the interval.

The Bobcats answered less than three minutes into the second half, taking a 2-1 advantage when Dorn tucked the finish inside the far post off a Kerrigan corner for her second goal of the season. Mahar provided the eventual winner midway through the 56th minute, slotting the finish into the bottom corner to give the Bobcats a 3-1 lead.

Harpe would halve the advantage to 3-2 in the late stages of the 74th minute, delivering a superb finish into the upper 90 from the top of the 18-yard box off a pass from Brown. Ames capped the scoring midway through the 77th minute, converting from the penalty spot following an Erskine foul in the area to equal the final margin of 4-2.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Saturday when the Bobcats celebrate Homecoming Weekend with a league matchup against Pfeiffer University on Tate Field at 3 p.m.

## **Fleet holds off Bobcats, 1-0**

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The Erskine College men's soccer team snatched an early breakthrough and held off a furious rally by Lees-McRae College on Thursday evening, holding on for a narrow 1-0 victory in Conference Carolinas play.

Erskine (5-3-2, 4-1-1 CC) survived a furious onslaught by the Lees-McRae (3-8, 2-3 CC) attacking corps, as the Bobcats outshot the Fleet by a 21-10 margin, including a 12-3 advantage in the second half. The Bobcats also held a 9-2 advantage on corner kicks, as Roberto De La Vina made nine saves to keep a clean sheet for the Fleet.

James Galvani (High Wycombe, England) and Andrew Shoemaker (Cary, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with six and five attempts at goal, respectively, as James Smith (Eastbourne, England) launched four shots on frame. Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) tallied five stops for the Bobcats.

Henderson notched the lone goal of the match for the Fleet, as Andrew Settlemire recorded four of Erskine's 10 shots.

Erskine got off to a flying start in the sixth minute, when Henderson capitalized on a loose ball off a corner kick, sending a driven strike into the far side netting from just outside the area to give the Fleet an early 1-0 advantage. Lees-McRae responded with a concerted counter attack, peppering the Fleet keeper with five shots before the interval, including a fantastic headed effort by Galvani at the death of the 40th minute.

The Bobcats continued to press the attack in the second half, outshooting the Fleet by a 12-3 margin over the final 45 minutes in search of the equalizer. Lees-McRae tested De La Vina early and often in the second half, forcing the Erskine keeper to make five skillful saves to preserve the narrow one-goal margin.

After De La Vina parried a pair of superb efforts from Preston Shahdad (Charlotte, N.C.) and Smith with less than half an hour left on the clock, Galvani nearly drew the Bobcats level in the 81st minute when his headed effort was pulled off the line by a Fleet defender. Shoemaker and Galvani would each make an impassioned equalizing bid in the closing minutes, as Galvani's 88th minute header sailed just wide of the woodwork.

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**Photo Courtesy: Mary Dorn, LMC Athletics**