

Conference-leading Belmont Abbey sweeps Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble

Saturday, 06 October 2012 09:37

The Belmont Abbey College women's volleyball team posted a .230 hitting percentage and held Lees-McRae College to three service aces en route to a straight-set sweep in Conference Carolinas play on Friday evening in Williams Gymnasium. Belmont Abbey (15-3, 7-1 CC) won the match by scores of 25-17, 26-24, and

25-15, recording 48 digs, 38 kills and four blocks while limiting Lees-McRae (7-9, 4-4 CC) to a .119 clip on the attack. The Bobcats notched 42 digs and 34 kills on the night while posting a pair of blocks.

Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with nine kills in two sets, as Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) added seven smashes. Taylor Pritchett (Apex, N.C.) chipped in a match-high 31 assists and six digs, while Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) posted a contest-best 15 digs.

Hannah Schellenberg led the way for Belmont Abbey with a double-double, posting a match-high 12 kills to go along with 11 digs. Lydia Schellenberg added 15 digs, as Angela Jubb chipped in nine kills, seven digs, and two aces. Kay Schellenberg notched 31 assists and a match-high three block assists in the match.

The Abbey jumped out to a 12-7 lead in the first set, rallying from an early deficit with a 5-0 run that was capped by back-to-back kills from Hannah and Kay Schellenberg. After Lees-McRae trimmed the margin to 12-9 on a kill by Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas), the Abbey answered with a 9-2 spurt to push the lead to 21-12. The Bobcats would battle back to fight off a pair of set points before Belmont Abbey responded, closing out the frame with a Jubb kill to take a 1-0 advantage in the match.

Belmont Abbey carried the momentum into the second set, taking an early 12-7 lead before the Bobcats answered with a 5-1 spurt to trim the margin to 13-12 on a smash by Clendenin. The Abbey would counter with a 7-4 run, pushing the advantage to 20-16 following a kill from Hannah Schellenberg.

Lees-McRae fought back once again, cutting the lead to 20-19 on a Clendenin smash before evening the tally at 24-24 following back-to-back miscues by the Abbey. Belmont Abbey would answer, recording two consecutive points to cap the set on a kill by Hannah Schellenberg and take a 2-0 lead in the match.

The Abbey opened the third on a 5-2 run before the Bobcats countered with a 6-3 spurt, evening the tally at 8-8 following a Crusader miscue. Belmont Abbey would break the deadlock with a 14-5 surge, opening a 22-12 advantage on a block by Caitlin Hankins and Kay Schellenberg. The Bobcats countered with a 3-2 spurt, closing the gap to 24-15 and fighting off match point on a smash by Clendenin before the Abbey capped the set and the contest at 25-15.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats host Coker College in conference play at 2 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

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Photo Courtesy: Taylor Clendenin, LMC Athletics