

Block Parade Powers Bobcats Past Cobras

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 07 October 2012 08:14

Jordan Banta (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) combined for two solo blocks and 11 block assists to lead the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team to a 3-1 victory over Coker College in Conference Carolinas

play on Saturday afternoon in Williams Gymnasium. Lees-McRae (8-9, 5-4 CC) won the match by scores of 25-19, 24-26, 25-7, and 25-18, posting a .242 hitting percentage while limiting Coker (5-14, 5-4 CC) to a .044 clip on the attack. The Bobcats recorded a season-high 15 blocks in the match, while notching 14 service aces and 46 digs.

Rachel Grether (Ocala, Fla.) and Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with 13 and 12 kills, respectively, as Banta and Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas) each chipped in seven smashes. Beatty led the way at the net with seven block assists, as Clendenin and Banta both tallied a pair of solo stuffs.

Taylor Pritchett (Apex, N.C.) posted match-highs of 36 assists and five aces, moving into 10th on the program's all-time list, as Banta and Grether recorded four and three aces, respectively. Sariah Suryadevara (Cincinnati, Ohio) paced the Bobcats with 16 digs, as Pritchett dug out seven Cobra attacks.

Taylor Willis led the way for Coker with eight kills, as Kelley Stine and Hannah Vadakin each tallied five smashes. Brittany Bass chipped in a match-high 18 digs, while Willis added six blocks (one solo, five assists) and Samantha Celek posted 24 assists.

Lees-McRae rallied from an early 7-4 deficit in the first set, launching a 5-1 run to take a narrow 9-8 advantage following a pair of Banta aces and a Grether kill. After Coker reclaimed the lead at 13-12 on a block by Willis and Vadakin, the Bobcats countered with a 6-0 spurt to take an 18-13 advantage following a trio of aces from Pritchett. The Cobras would cut the lead to 18-16 before the Bobcats responded with a 7-3 run, closing out the set on a Coker miscue to take a 1-0 advantage in the match.

The second set proved to be a tightly contested affair, with Lees-McRae opening an early 10-8 advantage on an emphatic kill by Clendenin. After Coker evened the tally at 16-16 with a kill by Catie Truzzolino, and Clendenin answered with back-to-back smashes, the Cobras countered with an 8-3 spurt to take a 24-21 lead following a block by Truzzolino and April Griggs.

Lees-McRae would answer with three straight points, evening the score at 24-24 on a block by Grether and Beatty before Coker claimed the set following back-to-back kills from Truzzolino and Hannah Cabaniss to level the match at 1-1.

The Bobcats responded in the third set, surging to an early 13-3 lead as Beatty teamed with Banta and Grether to cap the run with a pair of blocks. Lees-McRae would push the lead to 20-4 before Coker countered with a pair of points, trimming the margin to 20-6 on a kill by Stine. The Bobcats answered with a 5-1 spurt, closing out the set on an ace by Beatty to take a 2-1 advantage in the match.

Coker responded early in the fourth set, opening the frame with a 6-2 spurt before the Bobcats answered, taking a 13-9 advantage following a block by Beatty and Pritchett to cap an 11-3 run. After the Bobcats pushed the margin to 20-14 on a kill by Fox and Coker trimmed the advantage to 22-18 with a 4-2 spurt, Lees-McRae capped the set and the match following a Beatty smash.

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Lees-McRae returns to the court on Friday, October 12 when the Bobcats travel to Spartanburg, S.C. to take on Converse College in conference play at 7 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Rachel Grether, LMC Athletics