

## **Bobcats Compete At Blue Ridge Open**

Written by Whitney Noble

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Sophomore Emily Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) posted the best finish of any NCAA Division II runner, coming in 45th overall to lead the Lees-McRae College women's cross country team to a strong performance at Appalachian State University's

Blue Ridge Open on Friday afternoon. Emily Shields paced the Bobcats with a season-best time of 19:27.24, finishing 45th overall as her twin sister Katherine Shields (Salisbury, N.C.) posted the fourth-lowest mark of any non-NCAA Division I runner, placing 63rd with a time of 19:53.04. Cinthia Lehner (Greer, S.C.) came in 98th with a mark of 21:23.34, as Rayne Delutis (Christiansburg, Va.) placed 118th with a time of 25:26.23. Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.) rounded out the scorers for the Bobcats in 121st.

Wake Forest University took the team title with 44 points, followed by Belmont University (78) and High Point University (94), as host Appalachian State and Virginia Military Institute tied for fourth with 115 points. Milligan College paced all non-NCAA Division I teams in ninth overall with 284 points, as Lees-McRae placed 13th overall with 349 markers.

Lees-McRae returns to the trails on Friday, October 19 when the Bobcats travel to Concord, N.C. to participate in the 2012 Conference Carolinas Championships.

On the men's side, freshman Gabriel Tobias (Caldwell, N.C.) turned in a season-best time of 30:08.59 on Friday afternoon to lead the Lees-McRae College men's cross country team to a solid showing at Appalachian State University's Blue Ridge Open.

Jared Lupton (Nampa, Idaho) posted the top time for the Bobcats on the day, finishing 121st with a mark of 28:22.87 as Matthew MacPhail (Spartanburg, S.C.) placed 127th with a time of 28:53.16. Tobias crossed the line in 135th place, as Dustin Rudisill (Dallas, N.C.) and Nate Weston (Banner Elk, N.C.) finished 137th and 139th, respectively. Zach Cummings placed 140th to round out the scorers for the Bobcats.

Wake Forest University claimed the top spot in the team competition with 31 points, followed by George Mason University (43), East Tennessee State University (107), host Appalachian State (110), and Virginia Military Institute. Belmont Abbey paced all non-NCAA Division I teams with 333 points, followed by Warren Wilson College (468) and Lees-McRae (470).

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**Photo Courtesy: Emily Shields, LMC Athletics**