

Cobras Surge Past Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 02 December 2012 14:31

Amber Lau poured in 27 points in the first half to propel the Coker College women's basketball team to a 63-29 halftime lead, and the Cobras held off a late rally by Lees-McRae College en

route to a 77-58 victory in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon in Williams Gymnasium.

Coker (2-2, 2-0 CC) shot 47.3 percent from the floor in the contest, including a blistering 61.1 percent in the first half, while holding Lees-McRae (0-4, 0-4 CC) to a 37.7 percent clip from the field on the night. The Cobras won the battle on the glass by a 40-30 margin, including a 25-16 advantage on the defensive boards, as Coker converted 21 Bobcat miscues into 35 points.

Juliane Faltus (Berlin, Germany) paced the Bobcats with 12 points in 12 minutes off the bench, going 6-for-7 from the floor as Kabrina Truesdale (Wilmington, N.C.) added eight markers and four assists. Zukye Smith (Chesterfield, Va.) and Layana de Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) each added seven points, while Smith hauled down a team-high six boards.

Lau led all scorers with 29 points on 9-of-14 shooting, connecting on 7-of-10 attempts from beyond the arc while also snatching six rebounds. Angie Lawrence added 18 points and game-highs of five assists and five steals, as Hailey Yohn chipped in 13 markers and Priscilla Fenty posted a contest-best 10 boards.

Coker got off to a strong start in the first half, taking an early 20-4 lead after Lau knocked down her fourth three-pointer of the period with 15:05 left on the clock. Lau would push the advantage to 44-15 with 6:49 to go, capping a trio of Cobra three-pointers with a triple of her own.

The Bobcats battled back, outscoring the Cobras by an 8-4 margin over the next two minutes as Truesdale capped the spurt with a freebie at the 4:18 mark. Coker countered with a 10-0 spurt, pushing the lead to 58-23 before de Souza answered a Lau triple with a trey of her own with 1:35 left on the clock. The Cobras would take a 63-29 advantage into the intermission, as Fenty converted a trio of free throws in the closing seconds of the first half.

After Coker opened the second half with a 6-0 run, Lees-McRae countered with a 20-5 surge to close the gap to 74-49 following a Faltus jumper and a pair of de Souza free throws with 4:57 to go. The Bobcats would finish strong over the final five minutes, closing out the game on a 9-4 run to equal the final margin of 77-58 on a pair of last-second jumpers by Faltus.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Monday when the Bobcats host Salem International University in non-conference play at 6:30 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

SCORE BY PERIODS 1st 2nd TOTAL

Coker College	63	14	-	77
Lees-McRae	29	29	-	58

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Coker **Lees-McRae**

Pts: Amber Lau - 29 Pts: Juliane Faltus - 12

Reb: Priscilla Fenty - 10 Reb: Zukye Smith - 6

Ast: Angie Lawrence - 5 Ast: Kabrina Truesdale - 4

Team Statistics **Coker** **Lees-McRae**

Field Goal % 47.3% (26-55) 37.7% (20-53)

Rebounds 40 30

Assists 15 12

Turnovers 23 21

Pts off Turnovers 35 18

2nd Chance Pts 13 12

Pts in the Paint 20 26

Fastbreak Pts 11 8

Bench Pts 8 31

Cobras Nip Bobcats In Double OT

Andrew Morris banked in a buzzer-beating layup in the second overtime period Saturday evening in Williams Gymnasium to lead the Coker College men's basketball team to an 80-78 win in Conference Carolinas play, after battling back from a 14-point deficit late in the second half.

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Lees-McRae (0-7, 0-4 CC) posted a field goal percentage of 43.6 percent on the night, including a 57.1 percent clip from beyond the arc, while holding Coker (2-3, 1-1 CC) to a mark of 36.7 percent from the floor. Coker won the battle on the glass by a 52-41 margin, including a 21-9 advantage on the offensive boards, while outscoring the Bobcats, 40-20, in the paint.

Daniel Sepokas (Illawong, Australia) paced the Bobcats with team-highs of 16 points, six rebounds and six assists, as Asad Lamot (Mebane, N.C.) added 12 markers with a 4-for-9 night from the floor. DJ Brown (Anderson, S.C.) chipped in 11 points with a 3-for-5 performance from behind the arc, while Chad Eppley (Boone, N.C.) posted 10 markers on 4-of-5 shooting, including a 2-for-3 night from downtown.

Morris led the way for Coker with a game-high 19 points, knocking down five three-pointers with grabbing seven rebounds. Larry Felder and Sharod Williams each posted a double-double on the night, as Felder recorded 17 points and 12 rebounds and Williams added 13 markers and a game-high 15 boards. Julian Nelson and Bryce Arnott each notched a game-high six assists. Lees-McRae opened the first half on a 6-3 run before Coker responded with a 10-3 spurt of its own, taking a 13-9 lead following a tip-in by Felder with 11:18 left in the period. The Bobcats answered with a 12-4 run, claiming a 21-17 advantage on a triple by Eppley before Coker countered with a 9-1 surge to take a 26-22 lead following a Felder three-point play at the 4:57 mark.

The Bobcats responded once again with a 14-0 run, capping the surge and the half with a buzzer-beating three-pointer from 35 feet out to take a 36-26 advantage into the intermission. Lees-McRae carried the momentum into the second half, opening the period on a 10-7 run to push the lead to 46-33 on a Lamot triple with 15:40 to go.

Coker would keep pace and slowly chip away over the next 10 minutes, cutting the lead to three points at 64-61 following a Morris triple to cap an 8-0 run with 2:30 left on the clock. After Jeremiah Henry (Semmes, Ala.) answered with a clutch layup, Williams countered with a lay-in and two free throws to cut the lead to 66-65 with 1:34 to go.

Sepokas would convert a free throw with 23 seconds left to give the Bobcats a 67-65 advantage before Nelson answered for Coker, banking in the game-tying layup with five ticks on the clock to send the game into overtime knotted at 67-67.

The Cobras carried the momentum into the overtime period, taking a 70-67 lead following a Felder layup and an Arnott freebie before the Bobcats answered with a Brown triple to knot the score at 70-70. After Morris countered with a layup to give the Cobras a 72-70 advantage, Sepokas converted a pair of free throws to send the game into a second overtime period knotted at 72-72.

Neither team would open more than a two-point advantage in the second overtime period, with the Bobcats claiming a 78-76 lead on a Sepokas freebie with 1:04 following a strong layup by Henry. Nelson countered for the Cobras 14 seconds later, knotting the score at 78-78 with a lay-in with 50 seconds left on the clock.

Coker would have a chance to hold for the last shot 30 seconds later, when an errant Bobcat pass sailed over the baseline with 24 ticks on the clock. The Cobras would do just that, failing to capitalize on a pair of desperation opportunities before Morris made a great read from the top of the key, making a run onto a missed jumper and banking home the buzzer-beating layup to give the Cobras a hard-fought 80-78 victory.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thursday, December 6 when the Bobcats travel to Hickory, N.C. to take on Lenoir-Rhyne University in non-conference play at 7 p.m.

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SCORE BY PERIODS

	1st	2nd	1OT	2OT	TOTAL
Coker College	26	41	5	8	80
Lees-McRae	36	31	5	6	78

Coker Lees-McRae

Pts: Andrew Morris - 19 Pts: Daniel Sepokas - 16
Reb: Sharod Williams - 15 Reb: Daniel Sepokas - 6
Ast: 2 Players (#03, #12 - 6) Ast: Daniel Sepokas - 6

Team Statistics

	Coker	Lees-McRae
Field Goal %	36.7% (29-79)	43.6% (24-55)
Rebounds	52	41
Assists	19	14
Turnovers	15	20
Pts off Turnovers	18	12
2nd Chance Pts	19	8
Pts in the Paint	40	20
Fastbreak Pts	2	0
Bench Pts	36	36

Photo Courtesy: Daniel Sepokas, LMC Athletics

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