

Curry Paces Bobcats At Hilton Garden Invitation

Written by Whitney Noble

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Junior Kortnie Curry (Lexington, N.C.) led a strong team performance by the Lees-McRae College women's track and field team at the Hilton Garden Invitational on Saturday at the JDL Center, placing fifth in a field dominated by NCAA Division I

competitors in the high jump with a mark of 1.63 meters. Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) kicked off the weekend in the 60-meter hurdles, posting a time of 9.52 seconds to finish 31st out of 48 competitors, as Miesha Thompson (Orlando, Fla.) turned in a mark of 10.99 seconds. Ilesha Poindexter (Jettersville, Va.) paced the Bobcats in the 200-meter dash, finishing 54th with a time of 27.38 seconds while Thornton followed in 66th with a mark of 27.98 seconds. Jessica McEnaney (Cary, N.C.) added a time of 29.03 seconds, as Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.) rounded out the field for the Bobcats with a mark of 29.59 seconds.

The Bobcats then placed 27th out of 32 teams in the 4x400-meter relay, as the quartet of Mallory Overholt (Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada), Thornton, McEnaney and Poindexter posted a time of 4:26.08.

Rachelle Cleveland (Moyock, N.C.) paced LMC in the shot put, placing 37th with a mark of 10.38 meters, as Kayla Frazier (Chesterfield, S.C.) and Genay Miller (Woodstock, Ga.) turned in marks of 10.03 and 9.06 meters, respectively.

Curry delivered perhaps the performance of the weekend in the high jump, posting the highest non-NCAA Division I mark with a final jump of 1.63 meters to finish fifth overall. Persephanie Mcrae (Brooklyn, N.Y.) placed 30th with a mark of 1.42 meters to round out the weekend for the Bobcats.

Junior Evan Webb (Salisbury, N.C.) continued his strong indoor season with a JDL center record on Saturday, tying the venue mark with a vault of 4.90 meters to finish third in the pole vault competition and pace the Lees-McRae College men's track and field team at the Hilton Garden Invitational.

Brandon Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) kicked off the weekend for the Bobcats in the 60-meters hurdles, finishing 18th out of 34 competitors with a time of 8.63 seconds. Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) turned in a strong performance in the 3,000-meter run, finishing 47th with a time of 9:19.05 as Williams placed 55th in the 200-meter dash with a mark of 23.62 seconds. Jarrett Gibson (Marietta, Ga.) and Joshua Soto (Aiken, S.C.) followed with times of 23.94 and 23.98 seconds, respectively, in a competitive field of 90 runners.

Michael Davis (Independence, Va.) finished strong in the one-mile run, placing 21st with a time of 4:27.32, but the quartet of Kevin Dever (Leesburg, N.J.), Travis Burton (Newberry, S.C.), Ian Harned (Pine Level, N.C.) and Gibson turned in one of the performances of the weekend in the 4x400-meter relay, finishing 15th out of 28 teams with a time of 3:31.11.

Devan Mackey (Hickory, N.C.) paced the Bobcats in the shot put, placing 34th with a mark of 11.56 meters, as Corbin Pickett (Arden, N.C.) turned in a mark of 11.10 meters en route to a 38th-place finish.

Eric Cloy (Ball Ground, Ga.) turned in a strong performance in the long jump, posting a mark of 5.86 meters. Webb then posted perhaps the top performance of the weekend for the Bobcats, tying the JDL Center record with a vault of 4.90 meters to finish third in the pole vault in a competitive field of 50 vaulters, primarily comprised of NCAA Division I competitors. Dever

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added a vault of 4.45 meters to finish ninth in the competition.

Lees-McRae returns to competition on Saturday, February 16 when the Bobcats return to the JDL Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. for the inaugural Conference Carolinas Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Photo Courtesy: Kortnie Curry, LMC Athletics