

Saints Rally For Twin-Bill Sweep of Bobcats

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 09 March 2013 22:10

The Limestone College softball team rallied from an early deficit in game one, and held on for a hard-fought victory in the night cap to sweep Lees-McRae College in a Conference Carolinas doubleheader on Saturday afternoon.

Limestone (6-10, 2-0 CC) won game one by a tally of 5-1 before taking the night cap, 4-1, while holding Lees-McRae (3-17, 1-3 CC) to two runs on eight hits. The Saints recorded 16 base knocks, including a trio of extra-base hits, while driving in six runs.

Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with a 3-for-6 day, as Hanna Huckabee (Oak Ridge, N.C.) and Sadie Lagle (Harmony, N.C.) each added a pair of hits. Lagle drove in a run in game one, launching her first career home run, while Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.) crossed the plate for the Bobcats in the night cap.

Hollie Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) got the nod in game one, walking five in six innings of work. Oakes took the ball in the night cap, surrendering one earned run on six hits and striking out one in six frames.

Taylor Wigmore, Ashley Cox, and Kirstyn Burluson each recorded a trio of hits on the day for Limestone, as Kayla Kelley and Alex Brown both tallied two base knocks. Burluson drove in two runs for the Saints, while Cox, Brown, Paige Bolding and Jessica Ramsey each added an RBI. Shelby Webb took the ball in game one, allowing one run on six hits and striking out eight through seven innings. Leah Quant got the nod in the night cap, surrendering just one unearned run on two hits while striking out four.

Game One: Limestone 5, Lees-McRae 1

The opener remained scoreless until the top of the fourth inning, when Lagle got the Bobcats on the board with a solo home run to left center for her first long ball of the season. Limestone battled back in the bottom of the fifth, plating four runs to take a 4-1 lead on a pair of two-run singles by Burluson and Ramsey.

The Saints would add a run in the sixth, pushing the advantage to 5-1 on a sacrifice fly by Bolding to equal the final margin.

Game Two: Limestone 4, Lees-McRae 1

Game two stayed deadlocked at 0-0 until the bottom of the fourth inning, when Brianna Kelnofer scored from third on a sacrifice to second. The Saints doubled the advantage to 2-0 in the fifth on a grounder to second by Cox, which scored Wigmore.

Limestone would push the lead to 4-0 with two runs in the sixth, stretching the advantage to four on an RBI single by Brown before Rebekah Baker scored on a wild pitch. The Bobcats started to rally in the seventh, loading the bases with one out on back-to-back singles by Lagle and Oakes. Sheridan then scored on a Saint miscue to cut the lead to 4-1, before Quant settled down to record the final out and quell the rally.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Monday when the Bobcats take on Northwood University (Mich.) and Minnesota State – Moorhead on the first day of the Rebel Spring Games in Kissimmee, Fla. at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively.

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Photo Courtesy: Hollie Crickenberger, LMC Athletics