

Bobcats Earn Split At Rebel Spring Games

Written by Whitney Noble

Tuesday, 12 March 2013 06:57

Sophomore Amanda Decker (Apex, N.C.) went 3-for-6 with a triple and a walk-off RBI single to lead the Lees-McRae College softball team to a split with Northwood University (Mich.) and Minnesota State

Moorhead on Monday on the first day of the Rebel Spring Games. Northwood (7-2) defeated Lees-McRae, 9-1, in the Bobcats' first game of the day, before the Green and Gold walked off with a 3-2 victory over Moorhead (2-9) in the afternoon contest. The Bobcats tallied 13 hits on the day, including a pair of extra-base hits.

Decker and Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) each collected a trio of base knocks in the twin-bill, as Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.) and Hanna Huckabee (Oak Ridge, N.C.) both posted a multi-hit day with two hits each. Decker and Sheridan each drove in a run for the Bobcats. Oakes took the ball in game one, walking two and striking out one in four innings. Hollie Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) pitched a total of nine and two-thirds innings on the day, including an eight-frame effort in the night cap during which she surrendered two unearned runs while striking out three.

Game One: Northwood 9, Lees-McRae 1 - Six innings

Northwood got on the board early with three in the first and one in the second, taking a 4-0 lead before the Bobcats battled back in the fourth, trimming the margin to 4-1 when Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) scored on a force out.

The Dragons answered with four in the bottom of the inning, claiming an 8-1 advantage on an RBI single by Kelsey Beck. Northwood then walked off with the 9-1 victory in the bottom of the sixth.

Game Two: Lees-McRae 3, Moorhead 2 - Eight innings

Moorhead opened the scoring in the top of the second, taking an early 2-0 lead when Avery Carter drove in Mandy Mauch with an RBI single. The Bobcats answered with a run in both the third and fourth innings, evening the tally at 2-2 when Decker scampered home on a wild pitch, after Sheridan plated Huckabee with a run-scoring single in the third.

Crickenberger worked out of several jams in the late frames to keep Moorhead off the scoreboard. The game would head into extra innings, when Crickenberger forced a pop up and struck out the final batter of the frame to give the Bobcats a chance to walk off with the win. Decker answered the call on the first pitch she saw, plating Sadie Lagle (Harmony, N.C.) from second to complete the rally for the Bobcats.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Tuesday when the Bobcats take the field against Ashland University at 11 a.m., and Adelphi University at 1 p.m. on the second day of the Rebel Spring Games.

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Photo Courtesy: Amanada Decker, LMC Athletics