

Lagle's Grand Slam Lifts Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble

Thursday, 14 March 2013 08:19

Sophomore Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.) tallied three hits, and freshman Sadie Lagle (Harmony, N.C.) launched a walk-off grand slam in game two to lead the Lees-McRae College softball team to a

twin-bill split against Ferris State University and Minnesota State Mankato at the Rebel Spring Games on Wednesday afternoon.

Ferris State (6-1) defeated Lees-McRae (5-20) by a score of 9-0 in five innings to start the day, before the Bobcats walked off with a 5-4 victory against Mankato (12-5) in game two. The Bobcats recorded 10 hits on the afternoon, including three extra-base hits.

Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.) led the way for the Bobcats with three hits, while Alison Armstrong (Bellingham, Mass.) and Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.) each posted two base knocks. Lagle drove in four runs with her first collegiate grand slam, as Armstrong added a triple and a solo home run.

Oakes took the ball in game one, surrendering three earned runs on seven hits and striking out six in four innings of work. Hollie Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) got the start in the night cap, allowing three earned runs and striking out two through seven innings.

Game One: Ferris State 9, Lees-McRae 0 – Five innings

Ferris State got on the board early in the bottom of the first, taking a 2-0 lead on a two-run double by Lindsey Pettit. The Bulldogs would push the advantage to 6-0 in the third, capping the frame on a two-run single from Rachael Gabrielson, before plating three in the fourth. The Bobcats put together their best threat in the top of the fifth, putting a runner on third with one out following a triple from Armstrong.

Game Two: Lees-McRae 5, Mankato 4

The Mavericks opened the scoring with two runs in the top of the third, taking an early 2-0 lead following a solo shot by Lindsay Erickson and an RBI single from Abby Sonner. Lees-McRae would answer in the bottom of the inning, halving the margin to 2-1 when Armstrong launched her second home run of the season.

Mankato countered with runs in the fourth and sixth frames, pushing the lead to 4-1 on RBI groundouts by Eryn Edgerton and Lauryn Morris. The Mavericks would threaten to tack on more in the seventh, loading the bases with two outs before Crickenberger forced an inning-ending force out at third.

The Bobcats battled back in the bottom of the inning, putting runners on first and second with one out on a leadoff walk by Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.) and a single by Lori Fulmer (Prosperity, S.C.). Sheridan would follow with a two-out infield single, loading the bases for Lagle.

The Harmony, N.C. native would come through in the clutch with perhaps the biggest hit of her young career, crushing a 1-1 pitch over the wall in straight away center for a walk off grand slam and a 5-4 Bobcat victory.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Friday when the Bobcats take on Tiffin University at 1 p.m. and Wayne State University (Mich.) at 3 p.m. at the Rebel Spring Games.

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Photo Courtesy: Alison Armstrong, LMC Athletics