

Cobras Take Two From Bobcats In DH Sweep

Written by Whitney Noble
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Amanda Decker (Apex, N.C.) recorded four hits to pace the Lees-McRae College softball team on Saturday afternoon, as Coker College rallied for a doubleheader sweep of the Bobcats in Conference Carolinas play. Coker (22-12, 11-5 CC) won game one by a score of 9-1 in six innings, before coming from behind in the night cap for a 4-2 victory. The Cobras tallied 16 hits on the day, as Lees-McRae (7-32, 2-10 CC) posted 13 base knocks in the twin-bill. Decker paced the Bobcats with a 4-for-6 day, as Brooke Sheridan (Rosman, N.C.), Kristen Oakes (Lenoir, N.C.), and Jessica Smith (Gastonia, N.C.) each tallied a pair of hits. Oakes and Sheridan both drove in a run for Lees-McRae, while Kierstie Moon (Oxford, Ga.) celebrated her senior day with a key base knock in game two.

Hollie Crickenberger (Boydton, Va.) got the nod in game one, walking five and striking out four in six innings of work. Oakes took the ball in the night cap, surrendering four unearned runs on six hits and striking out through seven innings.

Sarah Rountree led the way for Coker with a 5-for-9 afternoon, driving in two runs and scoring four others, as Jaclin Poole recorded six RBI to go along with four hits. Sydney Weatherford added three base knocks and three RBI.

Lauren Phillips picked up the win in both contests, allowing one run on four hits in game one, before tossing five shutout innings in relief in game two. Breanna Skipper took the ball in the night cap, surrendering two runs on four hits through two frames.

Game One: Coker 9, Lees-McRae 1 – Six Innings

Coker got on the board with three runs in the third inning, taking a 3-0 lead on a two-run double by Weatherford and a RBI single from Poole. The Cobras would add four tallies in the fourth, stretching the advantage to 7-0 following a three-run home run by Poole.

Lees-McRae answered in the bottom of the inning, trimming the margin to 7-1 on a run-scoring single by Oakes, which scored Sheridan from third. Coker countered with two runs in the sixth, equaling the final margin of 9-1 on a double by Weatherford and sacrifice fly by Poole.

Game Two: Coker 4, Lees-McRae 2

The Cobras opened the scoring with one run in the top of the first, taking an early 1-0 lead on a sacrifice fly by Stacy Burr. The Bobcats answered in the second, claiming a 2-1 advantage when Sheridan reached on an infield single, scoring Smith before Crickenberger scampered home on a wild throw by the second baseman.

Coker countered with two runs in the top of the third, retaking the lead at 3-2 following a run-scoring single by Poole and a sacrifice fly by Ashley Gallman. The Cobras would add a run in the sixth, pushing the advantage to 4-2 on a RBI double by Rountree.

The Bobcats started to rally in the seventh, loading the bases on a pair of one-out singles by Decker and Oakes before Phillips rose to the occasion for Coker, retiring the final two batters of the inning to clinch the victory.

Lees-McRae returns to the diamond on Sunday when the Bobcats host Pfeiffer University in a conference twin-bill at 2 p.m. at the Bobcat Softball Field.

Photo Courtesy: Amanada Decker, LMC Athletics