

## **Bobcats Well Represented In PDL Summer League**

Written by Whitney Noble

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Four members of the Lees-McRae College men's soccer program will spend the summer months the best way they know how starting this weekend: on the pitch in the United Soccer League's Premier Development League.

Rising seniors Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) and James Galvani (High Wycombe, England), rising junior James Smith (Eastbourne, England), and incoming freshman Yago Xavier (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) will lace up their boots for three separate PDL teams this summer.

Rusling and Smith will not have to travel far, relocating to nearby Greensboro, N.C. this summer to play for the Carolina Dynamo, who advanced to the PDL national final last summer. Galvani will return to Toronto Lynx FC for the second straight summer after leading the Lynx with eight goals last season. Xavier will suit up for Chesterfield United in Virginia, sharing the pitch with former Bobcats Dale Parker and Matt Lacey.

Rusling shined for the Bobcats last season, making 81 saves and keeping five clean sheets, and now ranks in the top five in program history in every goalkeeping category. Smith has put together two strong seasons with the Bobcats, totaling five goals and nine assists as Lees-McRae's controlling midfielder.

Galvani will enter the 2013 campaign with his eye set on becoming one of the top forwards in program history, currently ranking fifth on the school's all-time list with seven match-winning goals. Xavier has already spent several months on the Lees-McRae campus, enrolling in classes this spring in preparation for his first season with the Bobcats this coming fall.

Lees-McRae is expected to return 19 lettermen from this year's squad, including rising seniors Scott Hudgins (Fort Myers, Fla.), Brandon Meade (Mocksville, N.C.), Chris DeSanto (Greensboro, N.C.), Rusling, and Galvani.

**Photo Courtesy: James Galvani, LMC Athletics**