

Wolves Blank Bobcats, 2-0

Written by Whitney Noble

Monday, 09 September 2013 07:39

The Newberry College women's soccer team scored once in each half, and held off a furious rally in the final 45 minutes en route to a 2-0 win over Lees-McRae College on Sunday afternoon at the Lenoir-Rhyne University Classic.

Newberry (2-0) outshot Lees-McRae (0-2) by a 22-17 margin in the contest, including a 12-5 advantage in the first half, while the Bobcats held a 12-10 edge in the second 45 minutes.

Lees-McRae took three attempts from the corner to none for Newberry in the match.

Alicia Pierson (Brooksville, Fla.) made seven saves between the pipes for the Bobcats, as Erica Allen (Norton, Ohio) and Mallory Overholt (Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada) each led the way with four attempts at goal. Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.) added three shots, with Cheyenne Warrick (Pikeville, N.C.) taking two.

Breanna Naranjo and Ashley Reetz both found the back of the net for the Wolves, as Gabrielle Brodie tallied an assist on both strikes. Reetz paced Newberry with six shots, including two on frame, as Naranjo made five attempts at goal with three finding the frame. Rebecca Darley made four saves to keep a clean sheet for the Wolves.

The Bobcats put the pressure on early, with Overholt nearly breaking the deadlock on a pair of glorious chances in the sixth and 10th minutes. Pierson was forced into a trio of early stops, and after Darley denied Kerrigan's bid early in the 22nd minute, Naranjo opened proceedings late in the 26th minute on a breakaway off a feed from Brodie.

Lees-McRae nearly leveled the score less than 30 seconds into the second half, when Sarah Mahar's (Jacksonville, Fla.) effort sailed just wide of the woodwork. After Allen's attempt was blocked by the defense midway through the 62nd minute, Reetz doubled the advantage to 2-0 for the Wolves when Brodie caught her in stride behind the backline late in the 63rd.

The Bobcats wasted little time renewing their attack, sending three shots toward frame within a four-minute span, including Allen's 69th minute effort that went just wide of the post. LeeAnn Sullivan (Greensboro, N.C.) nearly broke the shutout in the 75th minute when her attempt sailed inches high of the bar from close range.

Overholt and Warrick each forced Darley into a late stop to preserve the clean sheet, as the Bobcats forced much of the last 20 minutes of play into the Wolves' defensive third.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats host Catawba College at 5 p.m. on Tate Field in their home opener.

Photo Courtesy: Kaitlyn Kerrigan, LMC Athletics