

Tornado Downs LMC, 3-1

Written by Whitney Noble

Saturday, 05 October 2013 11:14

Freshman Avalon Liscio (Naples, Fla.) posted a double-double and senior Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.) added nine digs to pace the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team on Friday evening, as King University rallied with a 15-5 run in the third set en route to a hard-fought 3-1 victory in Conference Carolinas play.

King (15-3, 6-0 CC) won the match by scores of 25-16, 19-25, 25-12, and 25-19, tallying 47 kills and 41 digs as Lees-McRae (1-17, 0-6 CC) held the Tornado to a .198 clip on the attack. The Bobcats recorded 44 digs, 34 kills, and nine blocks in the contest.

Liscio led the way for Lees-McRae with team-highs of 10 kills and 11 digs, as Jordan Banta (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Angela Morse (Clinton Township, Mich.) added eight and seven smashes, respectively. Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.) chipped in nine digs, while Candace Niemiec (Huntington Beach, Calif.) tallied 30 assists.

Summer Kremer paced the Tornado with 15 kills, as Kelsey Griffiths added 10 smashes and a .471 hitting percentage. Maribeth Kern and Payton Tipton chipped in six and five aces, respectively, while Tipton posted a match-high 12 digs. Olivia Underwood notched a contest-best 36 assists.

King jumped out to an early 8-4 lead in the first set before the Bobcats responded, taking a 10-9 advantage on a kill from Morse to cap a 5-1 spurt. After Lees-McRae pushed the margin to 14-12 following a block by Banta and Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.), the Tornado countered with a 9-0 surge to claim a 21-14 lead. King then closed out the set with four of the next six points to take a 1-0 advantage in the match.

The Tornado carried the momentum into the second, opening the set with a 5-1 spurt before the Bobcats answered with an 8-5 run to close the gap to 10-9 on a smash by Liscio. After King countered with back-to-back points Lees-McRae responded with a 13-2 surge, taking a 22-14 lead following a kill from Haylee Leonard (Wallburg, N.C.). The Bobcats would put a lid on the set with a Beatty smash, evening the match at 1-1 after weathering a late 5-2 spurt by the Tornado.

King stormed back in the third set, kicking off the frame with a 15-5 run that was capped by an ace from Brooke Calhoun. The Tornado continued to push the tempo over the next several minutes, stretching the advantage to 24-10 on an ace by Tipton. The Bobcats would fight off a pair of set points, including a textbook block by Banta and Beatty, before Kern closed out the frame with a smash to give the Tornado a 2-1 lead.

The Tornado took an early 8-5 advantage in the fourth before the Bobcats responded, launching a 10-6 run to claim a narrow 15-14 lead following an ace from Banta. King answered with three of the next four points, seizing a 17-16 edge before pushing the margin to 22-17 on a smash from Griffiths. The Tornado would close out the set and the match from there, capping the contest with a kill from Grace Underwood following a pair of smashes by Liscio.

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Lees-McRae returns to the court on Saturday when the Bobcats celebrate Homecoming Weekend with a 2 p.m. non-conference matchup against Chowan University in Williams Gymnasium.

Photo Courtesy: Avalon Liscio, LMC Athletics