

Bobcats blank Trojans

Matthew Cureton (Waxhaw, N.C.) and Andrew Shoemaker (Raleigh, N.C.) each found the back of the net midway through the first half to lead the Lees-McRae College men's soccer team to a 2-0 win over Mount Olive College in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon.

Lees-McRae (8-6-1, 5-3 CC) outshot Mount Olive (2-14, 1-6 CC) by a 15-11 margin in the match, including a 7-5 advantage in the first half. The teams combined for just three corner kicks in the contest, with two attempts for the Trojans to the Bobcats' one. The win also guarantees a home match in the first round of the conference tournament for the Bobcats, as Lees-McRae secures a top-half finish in the league standings.

Cureton paced the Bobcats with five shots, including one that found the back of the net for his second match-winner of the season. Shoemaker added a strike of his own, as Yago Xavier (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) tallied his second career assist. Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England) made two saves to keep the 21st clean sheet of his career, and move into a tie for third on the program's all-time list.

Ruben Gomez led the way for Mount Olive with three attempts, including one on frame, as Louis Gorman added two shots of his own. Aleksandar Drobac posted one save between the pipes.

The match remained scoreless until the 28th minute, when Xavier played the ball to Cureton across the area for the finish between the keeper's legs to give the Bobcats a 1-0 advantage. Shoemaker doubled the margin to 2-0 six minutes later, forcing a turnover and curling a strike into the top corner for his second goal in as many matches.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Wednesday when the Bobcats host Lincoln Memorial University on Senior Night at 7 p.m. on Tate Field.

Barton Downs Bobcats In Three Sets

Lees-McRae College freshman Avalon Liscio (Naples, Fla.) posted a match-high 10 kills as the Barton College women's volleyball team posted a 3-0 win over the Bobcats with a third-set rally in Conference Carolinas play on Saturday afternoon.

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

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Barton (12-10, 8-5 CC) won the match by scores of 25-18, 25-10, and 25-20, limiting Lees-McRae (2-23, 0-12 CC) to 25 digs and 23 kills while posting seven blocks and 12 service aces.

Liscio paced the Bobcats with 10 kills, as Angela Morse (Greenville, S.C.) added six smashes and a team-high six digs. Haylee Leonard (Wallburg, N.C.) and Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) each tallied a trio of block assists, while Molly Corhn (Hendersonville, N.C.) posted 19 assists.

Melissa Cochran led the way for Barton with nine kills and a .500 hitting percentage, while Kaitlyn Micol and Jordan Lee added seven and five smashes, respectively. Amber Kelly posted a match-high 23 assists, as Cochran and Micol chipped in contest-bests of five blocks and four aces, respectively.

Lees-McRae took an early 5-3 lead in the first set before the Bulldogs responded, launching a 16-8 run to claim a 19-13 advantage following a kill from Micol. Barton then pushed the lead to 24-16 on a Lee smash, closing out the frame after the Bobcats fought off a pair of set points with kills from Liscio and Leonard.

The Bulldogs carried the momentum into the second set, opening the frame with a 15-7 run that was capped by a Cochran smash. Barton continued to push the tempo over the next several minutes, stretching the advantage to 23-9 with an 8-2 spurt before claiming a 2-0 lead in the match on an ace from Kelly.

The Bobcats battled back in the third, rallying from an early deficit to snatch a 10-7 advantage on a tandem block by Morse and Beatty. Barton would answer with a 13-5 run, claiming a 20-15 lead following a Micol kill before. After the Bulldogs stretched the margin to 24-18 and the Bobcats fought off a pair of match points that included a Liscio smash, Barton capped the set and the afternoon with a Cochran kill.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Tuesday when the Bobcats host North Greenville University in league play on Dig Teal for the Cure Night in Williams Gymnasium. First serve is slated for 7 p.m.