

Trio Earns Academic Honors

Written by Whitney Noble

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The Lees-McRae College women's soccer team placed three players on the Conference Carolinas Academic all-Conference team to kick off the 2013 award season, announced league officials Thursday.

Lees-McRae (10-6-1, 8-1 CC) enters the conference tournament riding a tremendous run of form, carrying a 10-match unbeaten streak that includes eight consecutive clean sheets and a streak of more than 780 minutes. The Bobcats clinched their third straight conference regular season title this past Saturday, shutting out Mount Olive by a score of 3-0 to secure the top seed in the conference tournament.

Kaitlyn Briggs (Oviedo, Fla.), Kaitlyn Kerrigan (Fishers, Ind.), and Meagan Thornton (Millville, N.J.) each earned a spot on the academic all-conference team for the first time in their careers, joining a group of elite athletes being recognized for their accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom.

Briggs has put together perhaps the best season of her career, entering next week's conference tournament with nine shutouts and a goals against average of 0.60, allowing just eight goals in 14 matches. The Oviedo, Fla. native has compiled a 29-12-5 record over the last three seasons, keeping 21 clean sheets in 52 matches to move into a tie for first on the program's all-time list.

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Kerrigan has enjoyed one of the best individual careers in school history over the last four years, totaling eight goals, 34 assists, and 50 points to rank third in the program record in helpers. The senior midfielder has tallied at least seven assists in each of her four seasons, posting a career-high 19 points with four goals and 11 assists in 2011.

Thornton is in the midst of a strong junior season for the Bobcats, entering the conference tournament leading the team with eight goals, five assists, and 21 points to go along with two match-winners. The Millville, N.J. native has averaged more than a point per match in her career, currently ranking among the program leaders with 22 goals, 14 assists and 58 points in 56 matches.

Lees-McRae returns to the pitch on Monday evening when the top-seeded Bobcats host the as-yet-to-be-determined eighth seed in the quarterfinal round of this year's Conference Carolinas Tournament at 7 p.m. on Tate Field.