

Bobcats Scorch Catawba

The Lees-McRae College men's basketball team shot a blistering 73.9 percent in the second half, and outscored Catawba College by a 36-23 margin over the final 10 minutes to open the 2013-2014 season

with a 90-86 victory on the first night of the Salisbury Roundball Classic.

Lees-McRae (1-0) opens the season with a win for the first time in eight years, shooting 47.4 percent from the floor, including a 73.9 percent clip in the second half. The Catawba Indians (0-1) won the battle on the glass by a 38-35 margin, as the Bobcats converted 21 Catawba turnovers into 26 points while sinking 32-of-47 attempts from the charity stripe.

The Bobcats placed five players in double figures on the night, as Raul Tutton (Memphis, Tenn.) poured in 16 points on 4-of-6 shooting, including a 3-for-5 evening from beyond the arc. Darryl Bond (Nashville, Tenn.) added 15 markers and a game-high six rebounds, while Mike Chambers (Winston-Salem, N.C.) tallied 15 points off the bench.

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

Jacquise Moore (Concord, N.C.) chipped in 13 points and a game-high three steals, as Darius Smith (Woodbridge, Va.) posted a double-double with 10 markers and a contest-best 10 assists.

Elon Edwards led the way for Catawba with a game-high 28 points, going 9-for-17 from the floor and knocking down five three-pointers. Chance Rucker added 21 markers with an 11-for-15 night from the charity stripe, as Vismantas Marijosius chipped in 12 points and five boards.

The Bobcats stormed out of the gate in the first half, opening an early 9-2 lead on a steal and a basket by Moore with 17:08 left on the clock. Catawba answered with a 19-9 spurt, claiming a 21-18 advantage following a Nick Houston trey at the 11:51 mark. The Catawba Indians continued to dictate play over the remainder of the first half, closing the period with a 14-11 run to take a 39-32 lead into the intermission.

Lees-McRae responded in the early moments of the second half, cutting the margin to 50-46 on a lay-in by DeAndre Tillman at the 14:41 mark. After Catawba countered with an 8-2 spurt to stretch the lead to 58-48, the Bobcats answered with a 19-9 run, evening the tally at 67 with a Moore layup with 6:24 to go.

The Bobcats would continue to push the tempo over the next several minutes, claiming a 76-73

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

lead following a bucket by Donte Falls (Shelby, N.C.) at the 3:02 mark. Catawba refused to give in, staying within striking distance before ultimately falling prey to clutch free throw shooting by Lees-McRae. The Bobcats knocked down 8-of-10 free throws in the final 61 seconds, capping the win in emphatic fashion on a throw down by Moore with seven ticks left.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Sunday when the Bobcats square off with Lenoir-Rhyne University at 4 p.m. on the final day of the Salisbury Roundball Classic on the Catawba campus.

First-half surge lifts Eagles over Bobcats in season-opener

The Carson-Newman College women's basketball team closed the first half with a 22-6 run, and held off a late charge by Lees-McRae College en route to a 95-72 victory on the first night of the SAC/Conference Carolinas Challenge in Holt Fieldhouse.

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

Carson-Newman (1-0) shot 41.9 percent from the field on the night, including a 42.9 percent clip in the first half, while holding Lees-McRae (0-1) to a field goal percentage of 37.3 percent. The Eagles won the battle on the glass by a 54-32 margin, including a 25-12 advantage on the offensive boards, while forcing 16 Bobcat turnovers.

Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) paced the Bobcats with 18 points on 5-of-13 shooting, including four three-pointers, as Layana De Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) added 14 markers and a team-high eight rebounds. Freshman Nirooska Perez (Asheville, N.C.) netted 12 points in her collegiate debut, as Ikey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.) posted nine markers, two assists and a game-high three steals. Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) and Tayler Collins (Fayetteville, N.C.) each pulled down six rebounds.

Tatum Burstrom came off the bench and poured in a game-high 23 points for the Eagles, connecting on 7-of-10 shots from beyond the arc, as Taylor Peterson added a double-double with 15 markers and a contest-best 10 rebounds. Kaitlyn Cupples chipped in 10 points, as Jai Jai McLaughlin dished out a game-high eight assists.

The Eagles jumped out to an early 5-2 lead before the Bobcats responded, launching a 9-4 run to take an 11-9 lead following a jumper by Patterson at the 13:43 mark. Carson-Newman would answer with a 10-3 spurt, reclaiming the advantage at 19-14 with 8:55 to go on a jumper by McLaughlin.

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

After the Bobcats closed the gap to 23-19 with a pair of freebies from Patterson, Carson-Newman countered with a 22-6 surge, taking a 45-25 lead into the intermission following a late triple by Burnstrom.

Lees-McRae kept pace with the Eagles throughout the second half, cutting the margin to 70-55 on a layup by Natalija Cakarevic (Belgrade, Serbia) with 9:29 left on the clock. The Bobcats would edge the Eagles by a 50-47 margin over the balance of the second half, finishing strong with a 12-6 run over the last five minutes as the Bobcats shot 48 percent from the floor over the final 20 minutes.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Sunday when the Bobcats take on Lenoir-Rhyne University at 1 p.m. on the second and final day of the SAC/Conference Carolinas Challenge.

Seniors pace Bobcats at Southeast Region Championships

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

Seniors Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.) and Michael Davis (Independence, Va.) finished less than 11 seconds apart to lead the Lees-McRae College men's cross country team to a strong 22nd-place finish at the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championships, beating out a pair of Conference Carolinas foes in the afternoon's 10-kilometer race.

Conference foes Mount Olive College and King University claimed the top two spots in the team standings, each earning a trip to the national championships with totals of 53 and 102 points, respectively. Georgia Regents University was third with 104 points, followed by Mars Hill University (110) and Columbus State University (170).

Dunn paced the Bobcats in 65th with a time of 34:00.0, gaining eight spots at both the seven-kilometer split and the finish to cross the line a full three seconds ahead of the next runner. Davis followed closely behind in 72nd, posting a time of 34:21.1.

Brenden Sherrill (Sherrills Ford, N.C.) finished third for the Bobcats in 138th, turning in a mark of 36:38.6, as Cody McNeely (Salisbury, N.C.) crossed the line in 152nd with a time of 37:32.2. Sean Condon (Walnut Grove, N.C.) rounded out the scorers for Lees-McRae in 157th, posting a time of 37:54.9.

Lees-McRae is expected to return 10 letter-winners from this year's squad, including rising senior Jordan Meyer (Boiling Springs, S.C.).

Peterman turns in strong performance at Southeast Regionals

Senior Heather Peterman (Buford, Ga.) ran one of her best races of the season in the final circuit of her career, finishing Saturday's NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championship six-kilometer race in 29:30.2 while crossing the line 15 seconds ahead of the next finisher.

Peterman closed out her career in style, finishing ahead of nearly 20 runners while turning in one of her top times of the season. A native of Buford, Ga., Peterman earned a spot on the Conference Carolinas Academic all-Conference team for the second straight season, pacing the Bobcats in every race this fall.

Peterman was also named Lees-McRae's Female Student-Athlete of the Month for the month of September, as the senior harrier posted perhaps her best performance at the Conference Preview Meet on October 4, finishing 30th with a time of 20:12.

LMC Sports Round Up....

Written by Whitney Noble

Sunday, 10 November 2013 09:02

Lees-McRae is expected to return five letter-winners from this year's squad, including rising senior Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.).