

## **Strong Second Half Propels FMU Past Bobcats**

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 23 November 2013 00:04

---

Graduate student Evrik Gary scored a season-high 31 points and Francis Marion University overcame a 13-0 deficit to open the game as the Patriots sailed to a 96-76 victory over Lees-McRae College, Friday night in men's basketball action as part of the Americourt Classic.

The Patriots open their season 2-0 for the fifth time in the past six years. FMU will play North Greenville University, a 117-108 overtime victor over Bluefield State College in Friday's opening contest, on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Gary connected on 10-of-18 field goal attempts, including 7-of-13 three-point shots, and hit 4-of-6 from the foul line. The seven three-pointers were only two shy of the single-game school record. The 6-3 Camden native upped his career points total to 1,271, while also hauling down eight rebounds.

Junior swingman Dustin Jones added 19 points, while senior forward Robert Carpenter scored 16 points and junior forward Mykel Harris chipped in 13 points and nine rebounds coming off the Patriot bench. Harris canned 11-of-12 free throws.

Mike Chambers led the Bobcats (3-3) with 18 points. Darius Smith had 11 points; Darryl Bond had ten points and 12 rebounds. The Bobcats suffered their third consecutive loss. They will play Bluefield State on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Lees-McRae ran off to a 13-0 lead to open the contest as FMU missed its first 10 field goal attempts. A 22-8 spurt by the Patriots erased the margin and put the Patriots up 38-37 following a three-point play by Gary. The Bobcats led 41-40 at intermission.

An 11-1 run early in the second stanza put FMU ahead to stay.

For the game, FMU committed only 10 turnovers and held a 49-37 rebounding edge, while leading 24-7 in second-chance points. The Patriots connected on 14-of-37 attempts from beyond the three-point arc and were 26-of-35 at the free throw stripe.

**Photo Courtesy, Mike Chambers, LMC Athletics**