

Mountain Lions Hang On Against Bobcats

Written by Whitney Noble

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Sophomore Alyssa Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) scored a career- and game-high 17 points to pace the Lees-McRae College women's basketball team on Saturday afternoon, as Young Harris College held on for a 70-60 victory despite a furious second-half rally by the Bobcats in non-conference play.

Young Harris (1-2) shot 41.9 percent from the floor in the game, including a 56.3 percent clip in the first half, while winning the battle on the glass by a 42-31 margin. Lees-McRae (2-3) posted a field goal percentage of 41.7 percent, knocking down 44 percent of its attempts in the second half, and converting 19 Mountain Lion turnovers into 21 points.

Munson led all scorers with 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting, converting 5-of-8 attempts at the charity stripe while pulling down five rebounds. Kabrina Truesdale (Wilmington, N.C.) added 15 points and game-highs of six assists and three steals, as Layana De Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) chipped in 10 points and five boards. Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) and Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) tallied nine and seven points, respectively, while Belcher grabbed a team-high six boards.

The Mountain Lions placed four players in double figures, including a team-high 13 points from both Jenna Thompson and Keta Robinette. Lauren Smith and Peyton Robertson added 12 and 11 points, respectively, while Smith, Robinette and Shaquaya Daniels each dished out four assists. Ladondra Johnson and Kaycee Cash both pulled down a game-high seven rebounds.

Young Harris jumped out to an early 6-0 lead before the Bobcats responded, launching a 9-2 spurt to open a 9-8 margin following a Lewis triple at the 15:56 mark. The Mountain Lions countered with a 23-11 run over the next nine minutes, taking a 31-20 advantage on a Smith jumper with 6:41 to play in the half. Young Harris would close the period with an 8-5 spurt, pushing the margin to 39-25 heading into the break following a put back by Cash.

The Bobcats fought back in the second half, scoring the period's first six points to close the gap to 39-30 following a three-point play by Truesdale. Lees-McRae continued to chip away over the next 15 minutes, cutting the lead to 61-52 on a Truesdale jumper at the 6:07 mark, before a Lewis triple pulled the Bobcats to within five at 65-60 with three minutes to play.

The Mountain Lions held on with a bit of fortune and some clutch free throw shooting, scoring the game's final five points in the last 73 seconds to equal the final margin of 70-60.

Lees-McRae returns to the court on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 28, when the Bobcats take the court against Wayne State College (Neb.) on the first day of the North Star Invitational, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska at 6 p.m. Eastern time.

Photo Courtesy: Alyssa Munson, LMC Athletics