

## Bobcats XC Honored Sportsmanship Award

Written by Whitney Noble

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The Lees-McRae College women's cross country team has earned the Conference Carolinas Team Sportsmanship Award for the first time in program

history, announced league officials Tuesday.

The Bobcats put together a strong fall season behind senior Heather Peterman (Buford, Ga.), who finished first among Lees-McRae runners in each meet. Peterman posted her best performance of the season at the Conference Preview Meet on October 4, finishing in the top 30 with a time of 20:12. The Buford, Ga. native also earned a spot on the Conference Carolinas Academic All-Conference team alongside junior Sarah Monday (Lexington, N.C.) this fall.

The sportsmanship awards are presented annually to the member institution judged to have exhibited the highest degree of sportsmanship among its players, coaches, and fans during their regular playing season. A Conference Carolinas Institution will be awarded for its overall commitment to providing a quality playing environment for home and opposing fans, players, and staff members. The school with the overall best average, across all conference sports, will receive the Messick Sportsmanship award at the end of the academic year.

The sportsmanship award is decided using a voting process implemented by Athletics Directors that calls for a coach and student-athlete representative to vote together and judge conference competitors' sportsmanship. After all the votes have been submitted the conference office averages the results and the institution with the highest overall average in a particular sport is awarded the 'Team Sportsmanship Award'.

This year marks the third year that there is an individual sport 'Team Sportsmanship Award' highlighting Conference Carolinas efforts to honor institutions exhibiting sportsmanlike behaviors. As an NCAA Division II member, Conference Carolinas prides itself on creating a positive game environment through sportsmanship to ensure a positive experience for student-athletes and fans alike.

Lees-McRae is expected to return five letter-winners from this year's squad, including rising senior Monday and rising sophomores Erin Bingham (West Jefferson, N.C.), Makayla Boswell

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(Mocksville, N.C.), Jessica Hattabaugh (Hamilton, Mass.), and Shelby Reynolds (Marshall, N.C.).