

Erskine Guns Down Bobcats

Written by Christopher Parks
Thursday, 09 January 2014 10:23

The Lees-McRae men's basketball saw four players register double figures while going into the half tied at 40, but a hot-shooting Erskine squad downed LMC,

89-72, in Conference Carolina action Wednesday night at Williams Gymnasium in Banner Elk, N.C.

The Flying Fleet (8-4, 3-1 CC) shot an impressive 58.8% in the second half while Roderick Perkins exploded for 31 points and four blocks. Despite a season-low 72 points, the Bobcats (6-7, 1-2) have scored at least 70 points in every game this season.

The first five minutes proved entertaining while Erskine's Perkins scored the team's first 14 points while the game was knotted at 14 with 14:44 remaining in the first half.

The Flying Fleet stretched the lead to nine, 34-25, after converting six consecutive free-throws with 5:43 on the clock.

The Bobcats Darryl Bond (Nashville, Tenn.) and Raul Tutton (Memphis, Tenn.) helped LMC claw its way back after a pair of buckets.

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A Mike Gabbard layup gave the Flying Fleet an eight-point advantage, but LMC responded with an 8-0 run to end the half following a three from Darius Smith (Woodbridge, Va.) at the buzzer.

The Erskine offense came out nearly unstoppable as it produced a 32-13 run in the first nine minutes of the second half to take a commanding 72-53 lead.

Lees-McRae freshman Josh Gaither (Statesville, N.C.) drained a deep three to bring the Bobcats within 15, 76-61, but the Flying Fleet wouldn't squander the lead thanks a quick 6-0 spurt over the next 90 seconds.

Despite the loss, LMC controlled the glass (41-34), but only shot 38.1% in the second half. Bond led the Bobcats with 15 points and nine rebounds. Tutton was a perfect 5-of-5 from the charity stripe in part of his 14-point performance.

Perkins knocked down 11 field goals while Gabbard chipped in with 16 points and a game-high seven assists. The Flyin Fleet buried five three's in both halves while committing seven

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turnovers.

The Bobcats look to snap a two-game losing skid when they welcome Pfeiffer to Williams Gymnasium in a Conference Carolinas game Saturday at 4 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Darryl Bond, LMC Athletics