

Belcher Boosts Bobcats Against Erskine

Written by Christopher Parks
Thursday, 09 January 2014 10:28

Lees-McRae junior Kerri Belcher recorded her second consecutive double-double to help lead the Bobcats to a 75-74 victory against Erskine College in a thrilling

Conference Carolinas bout Wednesday evening at Williams Gymnasium in Banner Elk, N.C.

The Bobcats (5-8, 2-2 CC) snapped a three-game losing skid and remain perfect (3-0) at home while a trio of players registered at least 13 points. The Flying Fleet (6-5, 2-2) trailed by as many as 15 in the second half, but was unable to dig themselves out of the deficit despite a double double from Adrienne Bannerman.

The first half was a see-saw battle following a Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) three to give the Bobcats a 13-9 advantage with 13:49 on the clock. LMC freshman Nikorska Perez (Asheville, N.C.) drained one of her three triples at the 9:14 mark to push the LMC lead to eight, 20-12.

Erskine would rally back thanks to consecutive layups from Tyndell Mendenhall to knot it up at 26 with 5:34 remaining in the first half. Neither team could catch much breathing room until a pair for free-throws from Alyssa Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) propelled LMC to a six-point advantage, but, a deep three by the Flying Fleet's Raygon Hendrix with three ticks on the clock made it a 43-40 ballgame in LMC's favor.

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The Bobcats offense caught fire in the second half while it started the second half on a 19-7 run in first eight minutes, stretching their lead to 15, 62-47. Munson chipped in six of her game-high 20 during the spurt.

Erskine wouldn't back down as it chipped away thanks to a 16-6 run following a three from Rosa Powell.

A Belcher layup was the last field goal the Bobcats would record on the evening at the 6:10 mark.

The Bobcat defense held strong despite a 10-1 run from the Flying Fleet. Hendrix missed a desperation three at the buzzer while LMC sealed the victory. Munson registered her fourth 20-point game on the season while Belcher (19 points, 11 rebounds) led the team in rebounding. Lewis enjoyed a 13-point output while the Bobcats shot 41.8% from the floor.

Bannerman impressed with 15 points and 13 boards while Hendrix led the squad with 16 points. LMC forced 22 turnovers while dishing out 15 assists.

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The Bobcats look to win consecutive games for the second time this season when they welcome Pfeiffer to Williams Gymnasium in a Conference Carolinas game Saturday at 2 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Kerri Belcher, LMC Athletics