

Bobcats Cruise Past Belmont Abbey, 3-0

Written by Chris Parker

Wednesday, 05 February 2014 15:59

The Lees-McRae men's volleyball team hit .545 in the second set and held Belmont Abbey below .000 in the final two sets on its way to a 25-21, 25-11, 25-15, sweep Tuesday evening in Conference

Carolinas action at Williams Gymnasium in Banner Elk, N.C.

The Bobcats (5-2, 1-0 CC) have won consecutive matches by 3-0 scores and accumulated twice as many kills as Belmont Abbey (42-21). The Crusaders (1-7, 1-4 CC) fell victim to poor hitting on the night (.030) despite a .400 clip in the opening set.

Four kills from Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) gave LMC some breathing room in the first set, pushing the Bobcat lead to 20-15.

Following a Crusader timeout, Josh Cothron (Bradenton, Fla.) got in the mix with a kill of his own extend the advantage to five, 22-17.

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Belmont Abbey responded with a kill from Brandon Kimbrell to shave the deficit to two, 22-20. However, Harpenau drilled home one of his game-high 18 kills to clinch the first set, 25-21.

A Brady Markle (York, Pa.) kill gave the Bobcats a lead they wouldn't relinquish in the second set, 10-9.

LMC would dominate the rest of the set by ripping off a 15-2 run.

Harpenau had a trio of kills while Markle and Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio) chipped in with a pair each.

The Bobcats held BAC to a -.200 clip and a staggering two kills in the set.

A service error kept things close in the final set while LMC held a slim lead, 6-5.

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The Bobcats duplicated their previous sets' success thanks to a 12-4 run.

The Crusaders used a kill from Justin Snyder to make it 21-16, but BAC finished the match with four consecutive attack errors.

Harpenau paced both teams in kills while Markle amassed 11. John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) impressed with seven block assists while Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) dished out 32 assists.

Derek Sullivan led the Crusaders with 18 assists while Spencer Fournell had seven kills.

The Bobcats return to action Saturday at 7 p.m. when they head to Mount Olive for a showdown in Mount Olive, N.C.

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Photo Courtesy; Matt Harpenau, LMC Athletics