

Mount Olive Sweeps LMC

Written by Chris Parks

Saturday, 08 February 2014 12:37

The Lees-McRae men's volleyball team stumbled out of the gate and was unable to recover on its way to being swept, 20-25, 15-25, 26-28, by Mount Olive in Conference Carolinas action Friday night at Kornegay Arena in Mount Olive, N.C.

The Trojans (3-6, 2-2 CC) had two players record double-digit kills while hitting at a .526 clip in the second set. The Bobcats (5-3, 1-1) dropped their first set in the last seven while being held to a .033 hitting percentage in the first set.

Mount Olive jumped out to an 8-1 lead thanks to five consecutive attack errors and an ace from Quaid Marin to open up the action.

LMC would shave the deficit to three, 13-10, following a kill from sophomore Brady Markle (York, Pa.). The Bobcats would keep it close until the Trojans used a 4-1 run to stretch the lead to five, 22-17, before claiming the first set 25-20.

Senior Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) smashed a kill to knot the second set at 7 before Markle chipped in with one of his team-high 13 kills, but LMC trailed 11-10.

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The Trojans would rip off a 14-5 run to capture the second set, 25-15.

Mount Olive's Garret Dimm, who hit .526 on the evening, had a trio of kills during the stretch.

The third set proved to be entertaining while providing 15 ties and neither team led by more than three.

LMC would take an 8-5 advantage after Markle had a trio of kills.

The Bobcats would eke out to a one-point advantage after a Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) kill, 11-10.

The set would be a see-saw battle until Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio) chimed in with a service ace to give LMC a 21-19 lead.

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The Bobcats had set point in hand, but an Angel Dache kill made it a 24-23 contest. Mount Olive's Steven Cruse notched it up at 25 with a kill of his own.

Another Harpenau kill tied it at 26, but Dache earned another kill and an attack error gave the Trojans the 28-26 victory.

Ramirez paced the Bobcats with 31 assists while the front line racked up 14 block assists.

Dache (13) and Dimm (12) led the Trojans in kills while Marin amassed 33 assists as Mount Olive hit .338 on the evening.

Lees-McRae returns to action tomorrow for a Conference Carolinas bout with Barton in Wilson, N.C. with opening serve at 2 p.m.