

Webb Hits National Mark; Bobcats Conclude Action at UCS Invite

Reigning Conference Carolinas Men's Field Athlete of the Week and Lees-McRae senior Evan Webb earned a fifth-place finish and hit a national's provisional mark at the UCS Invitational on the JDL Fast Track Saturday in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Webb (Salisbury) cleared his first jump of 4.75 meters, an improvement of .13 meters from last week's performance at the Mountaineer Open.

Freshman Erin Bingham (Jefferson, N.C.) continued her impressive freshman campaign when she completed the 60-meter hurdles in 9.60 seconds to earn a top-25 finish. She pulled double duty and competed in the 400-meter run and finished in a time of 1:07.884.

LMC placed three in the top-25 in the women's high jump. Freshman Makayla Boswell (Mocksville, N.C.) notched a 19th-place finish with a leap of 1.55 meters. Senior Kortnie Curry (Lexington, N.C.) tied for 21st when she cleared 1.50 meters on her first attempt while senior

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Persephanie Mcrae (Brooklyn, N.C.) finished tied for 24th at 1.50 meters on her second try.

Junior men's sprinter Joshua Soto (Aiken, S.C.) finished 33rd in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.52 while completing the 60-meter dash in 7.38 seconds.

Junior Rachelle Cleveland (Moyock, N.C.) tied for 22nd in the women's shot put with a distance of 10.53 meters. Kayla Powell (Moyock, N.C.) grabbed 24th with a throw of 10.45 meters.

Powell fared well in the women's weight throw with a distance of 9.11 meters.

Bobcat duo Devan Mackey (Hickory, N.C.) and Joshua Godwin (Pleasant Grove, N.C.) placed on the men's side with heaves of 12.61 and 10.24 meters, respectively. Godwin grabbed a top-20 finish when he earned 16th in the men's shot put (12.25 meters).

LMC returns to JDL Fast Track Sunday Feb. 23 for the Conference Carolinas Indoor Championships.

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Moore, Chambers Combine for 50; LMC Falls at Hot-Shooting Barton, 103-84

Lees-McRae junior Jacquise Moore and freshman Mike Chambers scored 25 points each, but a hot-shooting Barton bested LMC, 103-84, in Conference Carolinas action Saturday evening at Wilson Gymnasium in Wilson, N.C.

The Bulldogs (14-9, 10-3 CC) saw 12 players score at least a point while Chris Flemmings dropped a game-high 27 points. The Bobcats (6-17, 1-11) shot 15 more free-throws (42-27) than BC, but was outrebounded by the same margin (44-29).

Barton knocked down its first four shots and jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first 2:02 following a Brian McNair trey.

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Chambers (Winston-Salem, N.C.) rattled off eight consecutive points before a Darius Smith (Woodbridge, Va.) layup sliced the deficit to three, 22-19.

The Bulldogs responded by ripping off a 22-7 run to create some breathing room over the next 6:45. Kendall Patterson got in the mix with a pair of three-pointers during the spurt.

BC would stretch the lead to 21 thanks to Khari Faison, who scored six consecutive points prior to the end of the half, 54-33.

The Bobcats shot 33.3% from the floor in the first 20 minutes while BC connected on 57.5% of its shots.

Chambers and Moore (Concord, N.C.) combined for 12 of LMC's first 13 points of the second half while the Bobcats trailed 63-46.

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Flemmings caught fire and scored 10 straight while BC pushed the lead back to 20, 78-58.

Moore responded with eight of his own while LMC went on a 13-6 run to cut it 88-75 with 6:10 remaining.

Raul Tutton (Memphis, Tenn.) weaved his way in for a layup to keep it interesting, 91-78. However, the Bulldogs would finish on the game on a 12-6 run despite a Rishad Felton (Hendersonville, N.C.) layup with 16 ticks on the clock.

Barton's bench dropped a staggering 82 points while the Bulldogs shot 56.5% from the floor with a 21-point performance from McClendon.

Tutton paced the team five rebounds to go with 11 points. Smith nearly missed a double-double (nine points, eight assists). DeAndre Tillman (Charlotte, N.C.) swatted four shots in 15 minutes of action.

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Both offensives were efficient while neither team turned the ball over more than nine times.

LMC looks to bounce back with a trip to North Greenville Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Tigersville, S.C. This is a rescheduled game from Wednesday Feb. 12.

Offense Serves LMC Past Coker, 3-1

The Lees-McRae men's volleyball team had five players register at least five kills during an impressive offensive display while LMC hit .390 on the day in a 25-17, 25-22, 23-25, 25-18 win against Coker in nonconference play Saturday afternoon at Williams Gymnasium in Banner Elk, N.C.

The Bobcats (7-4) remain perfect at home (3-0) while Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) continued his impressive senior campaign with a match-high 19.0 total points. The Cobras (4-8)

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dropped their fourth consecutive match despite swinging at a .409 clip in the second set.

LMC controlled the pace in the opening set while leading wire-to-wire. The duo of Brady Markle (York, Pa.) and Harpenau paved the way with a combined eight kills.

An attack error the Cobras' Jared Geizer gave LMC a comfortable five-point cushion, 11-6, in early action of the first set.

A Liam Flaherty kill shaved the deficit to two, 12-10, but the Bobcats responded with a 6-2 run following a John Lucas (Cincinnati, Ohio) kill to stretch the lead to six, 18-12. Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) gave LMC its largest lead with an ace, 23-16, before Markle followed suit to close out the set.

Geizer redeemed himself with an ace of his own in to give Coker an early 7-3 advantage in the second.

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Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio) delivered a powerful kill while Harpenau chimed in with an ace to knot it at 13.

The Bobcats gained the upper hand with an 8-4 run to grab a 21-18 lead after a Ricardo Ferrer service error.

Lucas and Markle combined for LMC's final three kills to keep the Cobras at bay to take a 2 sets to none lead. Both teams were stellar offensively while LMC hit at a .565 clip.

The third set was a see-saw battle while there were four lead changes.

Coker grabbed a 9-7 lead after an Artur Cabral kill and LMC attack error. Following a Bobcat time, the home squad responded with 7-1 run capped off by one of Harpenau's match-high 17 kills.

However, Coker responded with a 9-4 run of its own to take a lead it never relinquished. The

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Bobcats would cut the deficit to one on four occasions, but a Luke Hansen kill finished the set.

Sheers drilled another kill to tie the fourth at 9 prior to a 7-3 run from LMC to push its lead to 16-12.

Ramirez delivered three of his seven kills in part of a 6-2 run while the Bobcats sealed the victory with a 25-18 win.

Harpenau and Markle (13) paced the squad offensively in kills while Ramirez led the way with 42 assists and four service aces. Lucas filled the stat sheet with eight kills, five block assists and three digs. LMC had a season-high 10 aces.

Geizer led the Cobras with 13 kills while Ferrer dished out 42 assists.

The Bobcats return to Conference Carolinas play when they welcome King on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Williams Gymnasium.

Women's Hoops Furious Rally Falls Short at Barton, 66-63

Lees-McRae senior Lauren Lewis continued her torrid stretch with a 22-point outburst, but a sluggish start hampered LMC in a 66-63 loss at Barton in Conference Carolinas play Saturday afternoon at Wilson Gymnasium in Wilson, N.C.

The Bulldogs (10-12, 7-7 CC) saw Nyeshea Willie explode for 29 points while the defense held LMC to 25.9% from the floor in the first half. The Bobcats (11-12, 8-6) trailed all 40 minutes despite three starters posting double figures.

Willie scored the games' first eight points while Barton's defense didn't allow a field goal for the first 6:31 of the game.

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Icey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.) scored all four of her points in a matter of 53 seconds to cut the deficit to one, 10-9.

BC's Tiffany Webster scored on a layup to stretch the Bulldog lead to nine, 23-14, forcing a LMC timeout.

Lewis (Concord, N.C.) drained a three to cut it to four, 23-19, with 4:15 remaining, but the Bobcat offense fell cold until a Tayler Collins (Fayetteville, N.C.) with 43 seconds left in the first half made it 29-23.

Both squads struggled from long range going a combined 4-for-17 in the first 20 minutes.

Senior Layana De Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) connected on a pair of free-throws before Lewis splashed one of her six three-pointers at the 15:00 mark to make it 36-34 in BC's favor.

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The Bulldogs gained momentum thanks to a 21-13 run after Ashley Thornton and Willie hit consecutive triples to take their largest lead of the game, 57-46.

BC's Shatisha Dukes got a layup to roll in to keep LMC at bay with 4:14 remaining, 62-52.

The Bobcats would show no quit and responded with a 6-2 run thanks to efficient free-throw shooting from Alyssa Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) and Kabrina Truesdale (Wilmington, N.C.).

Truesdale and Lewis connected on three consecutive baskets to shave the deficit to three, 66-63; however a pair of LMC last second three's fell short.

Lewis recorded her second consecutive 20-point effort while Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) impressed with 11 points and seven boards. Truesdale chipped in with 10 points and a game-high four steals.

Besides Willie, Webster (10) was the only Bulldog to register double figures while Brianna

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Thomas grabbed six rebounds.

Both teams shot 35.3% from the floor while LMC forced 19 turnovers.

The Bobcats return to action Monday at 5:30 when they travel to North Greenville in Tigersville, S.C. This is a rescheduled game from Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Photo Courtesy: Evan Webb, LMC Athletics