

Offensive Woes Trouble Bobcats

Written by Chris Parker
Sunday, 02 March 2014 10:46

Lees-McRae senior Layana De Souza and sophomore Alyssa Munson registered double digits, but the LMC offense couldn't get on track in a 46-37 loss to King in the Conference Carolinas quarterfinal powered by OrthoCarolina at the Student Center Complex in Bristol, Tenn.

The Tornado (17-10) held LMC to a season-low 37 points and 24% from the floor. The Bobcats (12-16) defense was just as impressive while holding King to a 27.6 clip.

Both offenses were stagnant out of the gate while each went scoreless for over three minutes in the first 10 of the game.

LMC climbed out to a 7-2 lead after a Tayler Collins (Fayetteville, N.C.) bucket followed by a Lauren Lewis (Concord, N.C.) three-pointer.

King's Chelsea Bowling completed a traditional three-point play to tie it at 9 with 9:02 remaining in the first half.

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Once again, both teams hit a spell of three minutes without a point.

Junior Kerri Belcher (Roanoke, Va.) chipped in with four points in the final six minutes while the Tornado' Bonnie Durrett scored the team's final six points of the half.

King held a 17-15 lead at the half while LMC shot 19.2% from the floor. The Tornado didn't fare well either while shooting 20.6% in the first 20 minutes.

King used a 13-5 run to stretch the lead to 10, 30-20, following a pair of Alley Sprouse free-throws.

Collins and De Souza (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) knocked down a pair of shots to trim the deficit to seven, 32-25 with 10:38 remaining.

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Sprouse struck again for consecutive buckets to give King its biggest lead of the game, 39-26.

LMC would claw back into it after Lewis knocked down a jumper and De Souza hit the backend of a pair of free-throws.

However, King's Tia Keitt drained four free-throws to ice the game.

Munson (Summerfield, N.C.) and De Souza had 10 points while Belcher led both teams with 11 rebounds.

Sprouse paced the Tornado with 12 points while the defense forced 22 turnovers.

The Bobcats saw Lewis, De Souza, Icey Patterson (Seneca, S.C.), Kasey Haynes (Mooresville, N.C.) and Natlija Cakarevic (Belgrade, Serbia) play their final collegiate game.

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Men's Volleyball Stays Ho at Coker Tournament

Lees-McRae senior Matt Harpenau racked up 36 kills in two games while LMC swept Sacred Heart, 3-0, before downing Coker, 3-1, at the Coker Tournament Saturday afternoon at the Timberlake Lawton Gymnasium in Hartsville, S.C.

LMC 3, Sacred Heart 0

SHU (5-9) used a 10-6 run to hold a 21-17 lead in the first set, but Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) chipped in with three kills while Kevin Morrison (Norfolk, Va.) recorded two block assists to propel the come-from-behind win as LMC won the first set in exciting fashion, 26-24.

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Bobcat senior Josh Cothron (Bradenton, Fla.) stuffed two shots to give LMC an 18-17 lead in the second set. However, the Pioneers bounced back following a service error to tie it at 20.

LMC (12-5), winners of seven of its last eight, clamped down a ripped off a 5-0 run to claim the set.

The third set was a tightly-contested one while Markle and Sam Sheers (Centerville, Ohio) delivered a kill each to put LMC up 20-17.

The Pioneers' staved off match point with a kill from Austin Arcala, but an attack error from Jason Kinney proved to be the winner while LMC claimed the set 25-23.

The Bobcats impressed with a .500 clip in the final set while holding SHU to a .000 mark in the second.

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Harpenau led both teams with 15 kills while Randy Ramirez (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) racked up 27 assists.

LMC 3, Coker 1

Coker (4-12) sprinted out to a 12-5 lead in the opening bout, but a block from Mark Shayka (Hamilton, Va.) and block assists from Cothron and Ramirez shaved the deficit to three, 15-12.

The Cobras used a 10-6 run to end the set to claim it, 25-18.

The Bobcats returned the favor and used a 15-4 in the second set to enjoy a 24-13 lead. Sheers, Harpenau and Markle handed out two kills each while a Sheers kill capped off the 25-14 victory.

The third set was tight while neither team led by more than three. LMC took a 23-22 lead following consecutive attack errors.

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Morrison and Harpenau sealed the win with a block, 25-23.

The Bobcats would use strong play from Cothron and Harpenau to produce a 10-5 run to end the fourth set after a 15 all tie.

Harpenau led the squad again with 21 kills while Markle produced 15. The Bobcats swung at an impressive .421 clip in the deciding set.

Luke Hansen (15) and Artur Cabral (14) registered double digit kills for Coker.

LMC returns to conference play with a trip to Gaffney, S.C. to battle Limestone March 7 at 7 p.m.

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Bobcats Downed in Doubleheader at North Greenville

The Lees-McRae softball team dropped a pair of games at North Greenville, 14-0, 2-0, in Conference Carolinas play Saturday afternoon at Pepsi Field in Tigerville, S.C.

The Crusaders (10-5, 2-0 CC) used a grand slam from Cassi Carpenter while Rachel Glazebrook tossed a perfect game in the opener. The Bobcats (3-14, 0-2) saw Sadie Lagle (Harmony, N.C.) bash out three hits in the second game to raise her batting average to .422.

Game 1: North Greenville 14, LMC 0

The Crusaders exploded for six runs in the first inning after a leadoff single by Sarah Armstrong

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followed by three consecutive walks put NGU up 1-0. Jordan Farmer stroked an RBI single to extend the lead, 2-0.

Carpenter delivered the big blow with a grand slam.

Celeste Sheppard (East Julian, N.C.) (1-7) settled in and would strike out the next three batters.

The Crusaders plated four runs in the second inning, highlighted by a two-run single off the bat of Megan Johnson.

Farmer recorded her third RBI single of the contest in the bottom of the third while NGU pushed the lead to 13-0.

Glazebrook helped her own cause with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fourth to cap off the Crusader scoring.

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Sheppard lasted two innings while allowing six hits with five strikeouts.

Game 2: North Greenville 2, LMC 0

The Bobcats threatened in the top of the first following a Lagle ground-rule double and Amanda Decker (Apex, N.C.) single, however, LMC was unable to capitalize when a fly out ended the inning.

Freshman Charlie Dutton (Monroe, Ga.) induced a two-out bases loaded ground out to escape the bottom of the first unscathed.

Glazebrook led off the bottom of the third with a double while Tori Freedman drove her in with an RBI single. Jordan Willingham followed suit with an RBI single of her own.

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Dutton (1-7) buckled down and recorded one of her eight strikeouts and got a groundball to get out of the jam.

Lagle led off the inning with a single to open the seventh, but LMC was unable to push across a run in the frame.

Dutton took the loss after five innings of work while Taylor Billings (Sophia, N.C.) pitched a scoreless inning.

LMC will play its home opener when it welcomes Mars Hill for a doubleheader Tuesday at 2 & 4 p.m.

LMC Topped by No. 28 Erskine, 8-1

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Lees-McRae sophomore Hilary Lutz rallied from a set down to earn a win at No. 2 singles, but LMC fell at No. 28 Erskine, 8-1, in Conference Carolinas women's tennis action Saturday afternoon at the Erskine College Tennis Complex in Due West, S.C.

The Flying Fleet (6-3, 3-0 CC) won three of their matches without dropping a game. The Bobcats (1-6, 0-1) dropped their third consecutive match despite impressive play from Lutz (Shelby, N.C.) and Samantha Wohlers (Windsor, Ontario, Canada).

Wohlers fell in a tightly-contest bout at No. 1 singles to Corin Hallman 6-1, 6-4.

Lutz dropped her opening set, 6-0, but stormed back to down Miranda Guthrie 6-4, 13-11.

The Bobcats look to bounce back when they travel to Catawba March 5 at 2 p.m. in Salisbury, N.C.

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Men's Tennis Ousted by Erskine, 9-0

The Lees-McRae men's tennis squad hung tough, but was unable to capitalize on it while dropping a 9-0 decision at Erskine in Conference Carolinas play Saturday afternoon at the Erskine College Tennis Complex in Due West, S.C.

The Flying Fleet (1-7, 1-0 CC) earned their first win of the season while snapping a seven-match losing skid. The Bobcats (2-5, 0-1) put out a gritty performance while Scott Alford (Hillsborough, N.C.) lost in a three-set heartbreaker.

Joao Araujo (Curitiba, Puerto Rico) battled Wilson Matthewes in No. 2 singles action, but fell 6-3, 7-5.

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Hang Lak Choi (Newton, N.C.) fell at No. 3 singles in a tightly-contested affair 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Alford grabbed the first set, 6-2, in No. 6 single play, but Erskine's Robert Clarke responded to win the final two sets 7-5, 10-3.

Carlos Pinel (Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil) and Choi fell short in No. 2 doubles, 8-5.

The Bobcats step out of conference play to take on Catawba March 5 at 2 p.m. in Salisbury, N.C.

Men's Lacrosse Falls at Wingate, 27-0

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The Lees-McRae men's lacrosse team fell to Wingate, 27-0, in nonconference action Saturday afternoon at the Irwin Belk Track Complex in Wingate, N.C.

The Bulldogs (3-1) cranked out 55 shots while a trio of players recorded at least four goals. The Bobcats (0-4) saw freshman Mike Gregory (Greensboro, N.C.) stop a career-high 18 shots.

Wingate's Tanner Kotch recorded two first-quarter goals while his team led 8-0 after the first quarter.

The Bulldogs dished out a nine-goal performance in the second quarter to take a 17-0 lead into intermission.

Austin Murphy notched consecutive goals halfway through the third while he paced the Bulldogs with five goals on the day.

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Four different Bulldogs notched a goal in the fourth quarter.

Freshman Dominick Hamilton (Beech Mountain, N.C.) paced LMC with five faceoff wins and three groundballs. Senior Kyle Judge (Hampstead, Md.) led the team with four shots, while three other Bobcats amassed two each.

The Bulldogs churned out 19 shots in the first quarter while winning 25 faceoffs in the game.

LMC returns to action with a trip to Franklin Springs, Ga. to battle Emmanuel (Ga.) March 6 at 6 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Layana De Souza, LMC Athletics