

Markle, Harpenau, Negron All-Conference

Written by Chris Parker
Thursday, 10 April 2014 14:05

A trio of Lees-McRae men's volleyball players were named to the Conference Carolinas All-Conference teams for their success on the court in 2014, the conference office announced Thursday morning.

Sophomore Brady Markle (York, Pa.) earned first-team all-conference accolades after leading the Bobcats (12-16) in kills per set (3.93) and aces per set (0.35). Markle finished third in the conference in kills per set behind Michael Michelau of No. 1 seed Erskine and CC Player of the Year Angel Dache of Mount Olive. The sophomore swung at an efficient .273, which was the fifth best mark in the conference while grabbing the third best mark at aces per set.

He appeared in 86 sets while registering double digit kills in all but four matches while recording 20 or more on five occasions. He battered St. Francis with 23 kills and a .529 clip in a LMC win on Jan. 25 before cranking out a season-best 25 against Quincy on Jan. 31.

Pfeiffer and Barton led the conference with two representatives on the first team.

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Seniors Matt Harpenau (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Efraín Negrón (Caguas, Puerto Rico) earned second-team all-conference recognition after Harpenau finished second in the conference in kills (384) and Negrón had the second-most digs in CC with 234.

Harpenau was a constant force for the Bobcats while he accumulated 3.66 kills per set, which was sixth most in CC and 11th in hitting percentage (.254). The senior had 20 games of 10 kills or more while bashing out a season-best 24 on Senior Day against Erskine. Harpenau registered five games of 20 kills or more and had a season-high 11 digs in a thrilling five-set victory at Pfeiffer Feb. 14.

He finished the season with 59 block assists and eight solo blocks.

Negrón finished fifth in digs per set with 2.25 while Barton's Michael McMahon, CC Defensive Player of the Year, led the category with 3.13. The senior had 10 games of 10 digs or more while tallying a season-best 21 in a sweep of Belmont Abbey on Feb. 25.

He appeared in 104 sets while producing 13 games without a reception error.

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Erskine's Roberto Perez Vargas was tabbed Freshman of the Year while Barton's Jeff Lennox earned Coach of the Year recognition.

Erskine had three second-team representatives while Limestone paved the way with two third-team players.