

Bulldogs Spoil Bobcats' Senior Day

Written by Whitney Noble

Saturday, 09 November 2013 19:33

Senior Haydn Beatty (Norman, Okla.) tallied nine kills and four blocks, while fellow senior nearly added a double-double with 27 assists and nine digs to pace the Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team on Saturday afternoon, as Barton College rallied for a four-set Conference Carolinas victory on Senior Day in Williams Gymnasium.

Barton (14-13, 10-8 CC) won the match by scores of 25-16, 25-27, 25-13, and 25-12, posting 48 kills and a .254 hitting percentage while holding Lees-McRae (2-29, 0-18 CC) to 34 smashes and nine blocks. The Bulldogs dug out 46 Bobcat attacks and tallied 11 aces in the contest, as Lees-McRae recorded 41 digs.

Prior to the match, the Bobcats honored their four graduating seniors in an emotional pregame ceremony. Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas), Kortnie Curry (Lexington, N.C.), Beatty, and Corhn were celebrated for their contributions to the program during their careers, including back-to-back conference championships in 2010 and 2011.

Curry returned to the program this fall after a two-year hiatus, appearing in nine matches this season while posting career-highs with 33 digs, 25 kills, and 12 blocks.

Beatty put together a strong two-year career with the Bobcats, totaling 352 kills, 211 digs, and 148 blocks in 60 matches. The Norman, Okla. native enjoyed perhaps her best season this fall, posting career-highs in digs, blocks, and aces while tallying 171 kills.

Corhn played nearly every position on the court in her three seasons with the Bobcats, starting out as a defensive specialist before transitioning to both libero and setter this fall. The Hendersonville, N.C. native recorded career-highs of 257 assists, 219 digs and 22 aces this season, while falling 16 digs short of 500 for her career.

Fox persevered throughout injuries and three coaching changes during her four-year career at Lees-McRae, recording 396 kills, 158 digs, 156 blocks, and 32 aces in 100 career appearances. The senior middle hitter put together her best season in 2011, tallying 202 kills and .296 hitting percentage to help the Bobcats to their second straight undefeated conference record, as well as a spot on the league's all-tournament team.

Corhn nearly posted a double-double in the match to lead the Bobcats, tallying 27 assists and nine digs, as Beatty chipped in nine smashes, five digs, and four blocks (two solo, two assists). Freshman Avalon Liscio (Naples, Fla.) turned in a team-high 13 kills to go along with eight digs, while Curry chipped in three blocks. Jordan Banta (Virginia Beach, Va.) added eight kills, as Haylee Leonard (Wallburg, N.C.) recorded a team-high 10 digs.

Melissa Cochran and Kaitlyn Micol each paced the Bulldogs with a match-high 16 kills, as Cochran posted a .467 hitting percentage and Micol added a contest-best four aces. Amber Kelly chipped in a match-high 34 assists, while Corinna Morton recorded a contest-best 12 digs. Amanda Grandy and Micol each tallied 10 digs, as Cochran and Kelly notched six and five block assists, respectively.

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Barton got off to a strong start in the first set, scoring the frame's first three points before pushing the margin to 13-7 on a block by Catherine Barber and Brittany Edwards. The Bulldogs would continue to win the battles at the net over the net several minutes, stretching the advantage to 23-11 and weathering a late rally by the Bobcats en route to a 1-0 lead in the match.

The Bobcats battled back, rallying from an early 12-2 deficit in the second set with to take a 23-19 lead, capping a 21-7 surge with a 9-0 run that included a pair of smashes from Beatty. Barton quickly answered with a 6-1 spurt, pushing the Bobcats to set point at 25-24 following a Barber kill. Lees-McRae responded, scoring three straight points to even the match at 1-1 following a textbook block by Beatty and Liscio.

Barton countered in the third, launching a 12-5 run early in the set to take a 17-8 lead on a block by Kelly and Cochran. The Bulldogs kept up the pressure over the remainder of the frame, closing out the set with a 6-1 spurt to claim a 2-1 advantage in the match on an ace by Micol.

The Bobcats fought back once again in the fourth, taking an early 10-9 lead following a Liscio kill before Barton answered with a 15-1 surge, pushing Lees-McRae to match point at 24-11 before closing out the contest on a Bobcat miscue.

Lees-McRae is expected to return four letter-winners from this season, including rising juniors Angela Morse (Greenville, S.C.) and Banta.