**Beverley Cougars 58 – 51 East Hull Harriers**

The last time these two clubs met, only a late three-point shot from the Harriers, could separate them. So, you could see why both teams were confident that they could win this match. The Cougars boasted a full strength squad for the first time in a few weeks, and Coach Steven Lindsey returned after his absence.

The first quarter was a balanced one, neither team able to build up a lead. Both sides played some good basketball, at both ends of the court. For the Cougars, Rob Brown made a good start, running the fast break play, as he has done all season. The first quarter finished 13-12.

In the second quarter, both teams were more attacking, but were still almost impossible to divide. The Cougars got the better start; Matt Haughan converted a couple of chances, but the Harriers didn’t allow them to pull away. They blocked a few attempts, and scored enough points themselves, to keep in contention.

Both the Cougars and the Hornets knew that something special would be required if they were to come away with the win. However, the Cougars started the third period poorly. Their defence seemed to be split apart by the Harriers driving runs and precise passing. James Moore scored a three pointer to prevent the Harriers from pulling too far away, but the score was still in the Harriers favour, 42 – 38.

The final quarter was always going to be tense. Moore seemed to rise above the pressure. He scored twelve points in the final ten minutes, taking his tally for the game to 24, and lifting the Cougars above the Harriers. With a lead of ten points, it looked as though the Cougars were going to ease to a victory. However, this wasn’t the case as the Harriers started a comeback. Some slick plays from them, and some silly fouls committed by the Cougars meant that the last few minutes of the game were more nerve-wracking then they should have been. Some fantastic late play from John Parker allowed the Cougars to close out, 58-51.

Returning Coach Steven Lindsey was delighted with the win saying, “The Harriers are a tough team, especially at home. To beat them is a great achievement, especially at this late stage of the season.”