**Beverley Cougars 45 – 48 East Hull Harriers**

After two defeats last week, the Cougars were keen to reverse their fortunes against the East Hull Harriers. However, they knew they would have their work cut out, as the Harriers were undefeated this season and started the game top of the table.

The Cougars are usually slow starters, but that wasn’t the case on this occasion. The Cougars defence was solid and only allowed the Harriers to score once. They were strong in attack as well. Baskets from Chris Roberts and Pat Dooner allowed the Cougars to take a first quarter lead 8-2.

In the second quarter, the Harriers started to show why they are top of the table. Some resilient defending and smart offence meant they regained the lead. They couldn’t pull too far away though, thanks to some brilliant team work in defence from Antony Barton and new acquisition, Mark Leason.

The second half was always going to be tight, but nobody could predict just how close it was going to be. The Cougars again stopped the momentum and gained some of their own. Samson Anene couldn’t seem to miss as he helped the Cougars back into the game. Then, the intensity of the game started to show. The Harriers committed foul after foul, giving the Cougars an opportunity to take back the lead and then strengthen it. It was an opportunity they took. Not all of their free throws hit the net, but it didn’t matter because they went into the final quarter as the leading side.

A tense final quarter lay ahead for both teams, and it was the Harriers who made the better start, but the Cougars weren’t going to give in so easily. Anene was again on hand to tie the game. However, at the end, the Harriers’ perseverance paid off. They won by the narrow margin of 48-45.

After the game, Coach Steven Lindsey was delighted with the performance from his team. “There were some good individual performances, but more importantly, a great team one. There is no shame in losing by only three points to a team as good as the Harriers.”

By Ciaran Mills