**Beverley Cougars 48 – 69 Hull Hornets**

After winning their comeback game last week, the Beverley Cougars travelled to Sirius Academy to face the Hull Hornets. The two teams faced each other in a pre-season friendly, in which the Hornets won a very competitive game.

The Cougars have become notorious for their slow starts, and that was the case again. The Hornets built up an early lead of 22-6, within the first seven minutes. A tactical team talk from coach Steven Lindsey allowed the Cougars to bring back the first quarter to a respectable score of 28-16.

As the second quarter began, it was obvious to see that the Cougars had stepped up their game. The defence was much tighter and communication between the players was much more vocal. However, the Hornets showed why they are contending for the title. Some strong, well thought out plays allowed them to play the game their way. This meant their lead was extended to 46-25 at half time.

The Cougars knew that they would have to improve if they were to have a chance of winning this game. Chris Cummings had played well all game, but he seemed to star in the third quarter. He led on court and scored a few baskets to keep the Cougars in touching distance of the lead. Although, the Hornets still played at a high level, the Cougars persevered. Justin Robinson and Chris Roberts never gave up, trying their absolute hardest to stop the Hornets form pulling ahead.

Going into the last quarter, the Cougars were down, 60-33. Although a win was unlikely, they still set out to win the final period. Rob Brown scored some late baskets, capitalising on sloppy mistakes from the Hornets. The defence was at its best in the final quarter, only conceding four points in open play. However, it was too little, too late, as the Hornets won the game 69 – 48.

After another tough match for his side, Coach Steven Lindsey was still upbeat about his team’s progress. “To play how we just played after only training together for a couple of months, was absolutely incredible.” When asked about how his team would respond to this game, he stated, “Of course, the boys will be disappointed. But, we just keep moving on, game by game.”