**Beverley Cougars 44 – 60 P & O Pirates**

The Cougars travelled to the P & O Pirates knowing that they would have to perform to the best of their ability to continue their good start to the season.

They started brightly, Rob Brown and Samson Anene combining to create some brilliant scoring chances. However, the Pirates responded to everything the Cougars did and took a slender lead after the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Pirates took command of the game. They kept on finding the basket, whereas the Cougars struggled to put points on the board. Anene contributed the only basket for the Cougars, which meant the Pirates stretched the margin to 28 – 16.

But the Cougars were not going to lose without a fight. James Moore added points to his total of 10 points in the game. At the back, Andrew Ladwiniec provided a solid defence which meant the Pirates could not get too far in front.

Going into the fourth, and final, quarter the Cougars were trailing by fourteen points, but the belief was still there. Moore continued from where he left off and Steven Lindsey helped, piling the pressure on the Pirates. There was only going to be one winner though. The Pirates held off the late surge to end winners, 60-44.

After the game, Coach Steven Lindsey was upbeat despite the loss. He said, “I feel that we played better than the result suggests. There were some brilliant individual performances, but the Pirates were deserved winners. It’s still early in the season and there are some key games coming up for us soon, so we will now concentrate fully on them.”

By Ciaran Mills