**Beverley Cougars 61 – 88 DST Wild Dogs**

After scoring an average of 70 points in their past three games, the Beverley Cougars knew that racking up points would be no problem for them in this encounter. However, the DST Wild Dogs posed an attacking danger themselves, as the Cougars have found out in their previous visits to Normandy Barracks.

With the squad again low on numbers, the Cougars knew that getting a good start would be vital. One player who understood the importance of this was Chris Cummings. He made some cutting passes, and scored a few baskets himself, in a balanced quarter, ending 18-16 in favour of the Wild Dogs.

The second quarter started in a similar manner. Both teams were evenly matched. But then, foul trouble and careless turnovers started to take their toll on the Cougars. Five quick baskets, including a three-pointer, meant that the Wild Dogs extended their lead to 41 – 27 at half time.

As the teams returned to the court for the third period, it was clear that the Cougars needed to step their game up, if they were to have a chance of winning this fixture. James Moore did exactly that. He seemed to be unstoppable as he scored 14 points, to lead the Cougars to their best quarter so far. Unfortunately, the Wild Dogs matched everything the Cougars achieved, and then went a bit further. They had their best quarter of the game, as they extended their lead to 66-47.

The final quarter was more of the same, as the Wild Dogs took the initiative, despite leading by a big margin. The Cougars had chances, in the form of free throws, but they failed to convert them. Rob Brown and Chris Cummings were resilient, trying to get something from the game, but their efforts weren’t enough to stop the Wild Dogs winning the game, 88-61.

After the match, Assistant Coach Matt Haughan was disappointed with the result. “Since the last time we played the Wild Dogs, they have improved massively. They have acquired some new players who have brought a new edge to the team.” When asked about the Cougars’ performance, he answered “It wasn’t our greatest performance, but I still feel that we played reasonably well. It was always going to be a tough match, and the score-line represents that."