**Beverley Cougars 56 – 68 DST Wild Dogs**

The Cougars went to Normandy Barracks for the second time this year, hoping to exact revenge on the Wild Dogs, a team who beat them in a pre-season friendly, but were yet to win in the league this season.

The last time the teams met, Jacob Evans was pulling the strings for the Wild Dogs. Again, this was the case. The ex-England international was almost uncontrollable as he ran the Cougars ragged. The Wild Dogs looked like they were going to run away with the victory, after winning the first quarter 16-7.

The rout continued early in the second quarter with the Wild Dogs scoring 8 without response. However, the Cougars then began to get their act together. The experienced John Parker scored some vital baskets and did well to restrain Evans from playing to his full ability. Despite this effort, the Cougars went into the half-time break 35-19 down.

Just when the Wild Dogs looked like they had gained an insurmountable lead, the Cougars finally found some form. Chris Cummings scored some vital three-pointers to get the Cougars back into the game. Antony Barton was the stand-out player on the court, scoring some key points at key times. He was also superb defensively, drawing fouls from the Wild Dogs and preventing them from scoring too many.

The Cougars scored eight points without response, to reduce the lead to five points. The morale improved and it looked like they could complete a fantastic comeback.

The Wild Dogs had other ideas though. They halted the momentum and began to restore their lead. The last few minutes were always going to be the most pivotal, and the Wild Dogs got the best of them. Some silly fouls from the Cougars, allowed them to restore their lead. At the final whistle, it was a victory for the Wild Dogs, 68 – 56.

After the Cougars second successive defeat, Coach Steven Lindsey still had faith in his team. “Today, the result did not reflect the performance. The lads played their hearts out and the team spirit was fantastic, all the way to the end of the game.”  
  
By Ciaran Mills