

TORBAY TIGERS BASKETBALL CLUB

MATCH REPORT

EXETER AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE : DIVISION 1 MEN **versus BRIDPORT EVOLUTION (A)** **Sunday, 31st January. 2009.**

After the disappointment of a last quarter defeat at the hands of Broadclyst, Torbay Tigers were in no mood for compromise when they faced Bridport Evolution at the weekend. No mercy was shown in a comprehensive win by over 40 points, 88:42.

For once Tigers were able to field a full strength team on a Sunday and they started strongly, quickly building a 16:8 lead. Ross Little was unstoppable inside, with the most delicate of touches, and the impetus was maintained by some fine outside shooting from Lloyd Blackler.

For a time Tigers made things too difficult for themselves by over-complicating their offence, but composure was soon restored, and it was Rob Rudling's turn to lead the scoring. Some deft passing inside exposed the weaknesses of Bridport's zone defence.

Tigers led 20:12 at the end of the first quarter and by 35:18 at the end of the half.

A change to man-to-man defence by Bridport held up Tiger's progress for a while, but only briefly, and they led 54:31 at the end of the third quarter.

Tigers saved some of their best basketball for the last quarter. To be fair, Bridport were a fairly dispirited side by this stage with their better players in foul trouble, but, having said that, Tigers played some pretty formidable basketball.

Fast break was a feature of this phase of the game, with Tigers showing some very unselfish play in converting the score. Weak side hand-offs allowed Troy Culley to make his mark on the game with six quick points from the same play.

As Broadclyst fouled in desperation, Tigers were equally clinical from the line, with 10 from 13 free throws converted in the last quarter.

A 34:11 margin in Tigers' favour during the final quarter turned a convincing win into a rout.

Rob Rudling scored 26 points and was awarded the most valuable player distinction by Bridport. Ross Little scored 18 and Lloyd Blackler 14. This was a great team effort however, with everyone contributing at the right time and maintaining the team's impetus.

The same confidence will be needed on Thursday when Tigers face the current league leaders – Exeter University – at Churston Ferrers Grammar School, tip-off 8.30pm.

University hold a two game advantage over Tigers in the league but contests between the two sides have always been closely contested, and they are to meet again in the Cup Final at the end of the month.

Norman Waldron
Coach