

TORBAY TIGERS BASKETBALL CLUB MATCH REPORT

EXETER AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE : DIVISION 1 MEN versus BROADCLYST BANDITS (H) Thursday, 18th February. 2010.

Re-arranged fixtures have resulted in Torbay Tigers meeting Broadclyst Bandits at home twice in the space of a month.

Broadclyst have proved the stronger team on both occasions – winners by 10 points in the most recent game – but not without a struggle along the way.

In both games Tigers stormed into an early lead making Broadclyst look hesitant and unsure.

A purple patch for Tigers in the last few minutes of the first quarter resulted in them opening a 20:9 lead and holding a 24:11 advantage at the end of the period.

The second quarter proved a much more even encounter, but Tigers managed to hold a significant lead 38:27 at half time.

Tigers were unlucky at this stage to have lost two significant players through injury. Both John Ellis and Rob Rudling were forced to exit the game with sprained ankles – between them they had contributed 23 of Tigers' 38 points.

Tigers once again started the stronger team in the second half extending their lead to 45:27. This cushion proved important because the game began to swing back in Broadclyst's favour.

Tigers were still up 50:41 at the end of the third quarter but they were now struggling to find their shooting accuracy, having to rely on consistency from the foul-line to keep them in the game.

It was a tired and nervous performance from Tigers in the last quarter that handed Broadclyst the initiative. Passing turnovers resulted in lightening fast break against Tigers and they couldn't find the energy to defend quickly enough.

Sensing a major turn around Broadclyst grew in confidence and outscored Tigers 34:15 in the final period to take the game 75:65.

A Tigers press in the last three minutes had restored some respectability to the final score-line, but for most of the quarter points had been almost impossible to come by.

With a close final score Tigers can rue the injuries to key players who had demonstrated they were in good form before their early departure from the game. Rob Rudling was awarded the accolade of being Tigers' most valuable player by the opposition, despite leaving the game in the 19th minute!

Rudling was Tigers' top scorer, reflecting the difficulty the team experienced in finding the basket in the second half, with 15 points. Lloyd Blackler scored 12, and Ryan Pitt 11 – poor points by their high standards.

Tigers next game is the Cup Final against Exeter University on Sunday 28th February at Middlemoor Police Headquarters in Exeter – tip-off 4.00pm. With only a week to go, Tigers will be hoping their injured players heal quickly!