

TORBAY TIGERS BASKETBALL CLUB

MATCH REPORT

EXETER AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE : DIVISION 1 MEN **versus BROADCLYST BANDITS (H)** **Thursday, 21st January. 2010.**

A disastrous fourth quarter denied Torbay Tigers victory when they met Broadclyst Bandits last week. A tense struggle had seen the teams equally matched for the three-quarters of the game making Tigers' eventual 17 point loss (65:82) all the more frustrating.

Whilst Bandits had been the victors in the reverse fixture before Christmas, Tigers had scored a notable victory over the Exeter based team in the Cup and confidence was high approaching this game.

That confidence seemed well-founded initially – Tigers started strongly and swept into a 22:15 lead. It was never going to be that easy and Broadclyst responded well, closing to gap to just four points at the end of the first quarter (24:20).

Tigers kept Misiunas, Broadclyst's tall centre, quiet, but were caught napping by their opponent's fast break – especially when extending their defence.

For Tigers, Rob Rudling started in dynamic form and John Ellis had a superb spell with 12 points in as many minutes.

The two teams battled out a tense second quarter and Tigers held a slender 43:42 lead at half-time.

The third quarter followed a similar pattern – Tigers built a lead 51:45 only to see Broadclyst regain the initiative 58:55 at the end of the third quarter.

A nightmare quarter followed for Tigers. A combination of circumstances – tiredness of the lead players, a blood injury to Ross Little and Rob Rudling fouling out – saw Broadclyst enjoy a 16:0 spell which killed the game as a contest.

Tigers couldn't buy a basket as all their normally reliable shooters lost form.

A late rally from full court pressure restored some respectability in the last few minutes otherwise the loss would have been even more devastating.

John Ellis top-scored with 17 points. Rob Rudling scored 13, Ryan Pitt and Lloyd Blackler 12 apiece and Ross Little 11.

"The final score-line flatters Broadclyst and doesn't reflect the titanic struggle that had ensued for the best part of the game. A 17 point margin suggests that a game has not been competitive – this is far from the case – on the other hand we need to find consistency to be successful at this level!"

Norman Waldron
Head Coach