

TORBAY TIGERS BASKETBALL CLUB MATCH REPORT

EXETER AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE : DIVISION 1 MEN versus EXETER UNIVERSITY 1 (H) Thursday, 4th February 2010.

Fixtures between Torbay Tigers and Exeter University are always closely contested and this encounter was no exception. Tigers finished second best, on the wrong side of the 52:63 score-line, but not without a fight, leading the game up to half-time.

Both teams opened with man-to-man defence and shared the scoring in the opening minutes. Tigers finished the quarter with a 3 point shot on the buzzer from Rob Rudling which gave them a 14:12 advantage.

Tigers pride themselves on playing tough defence rather than just outscoring opponents. Much the same can be said of the University. The second quarter score-line of just 8:6 in Tigers' favour illustrates just how hard the game was played – 14 points in a quarter is most unusual.

The game had been hard graft for Tigers but to battle it out and hold a slender lead at half-time said much for their strength of character.

University had the better start to the second half and managed to gain the advantage for the first time. A barren spell for Tigers saw the students open a 28:22 lead.

Tigers responded bravely with Rob Rudling and John Ellis leading the fight back and Alyric Merriott chipping in with some confident outside shooting, but from here to the death Tigers were always playing catch up.

A change to a zone had some effect, but University held on to the 4 or 5 point advantage they had created at the start of the half until the close. Tigers pressed as a last throw of the dice but to no avail.

Rob Rudling top-scored for Tigers with 26 points. The team were lacking in fire-power on this occasion and the next best scores came from John Ellis with 8 and Troy Culley with 7.

Tigers face Taunton Revolution in their next league match on Thursday February 11, tip-off 8.30pm. Whilst the team are fairly certain to make the play-offs at the end of the season they need to continue to improve their position to ensure a favourable draw.

Norman Waldron
Coach