



**Warwickshire Basketball League**

**Press Release**

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## **TROJANS EXTRA TIME SALVO SINKS GRIFFINS**

*Tile Hill Trojans 133-124 Arden Griffins (AET)*

**They came, they saw but sadly Arden Griffins failed to conquer. Such was the tale of the second division side's fairytale ride in the Inter-Divisional Shield competition which ended in a final defeat at the hands of first division Trojans.**

In an action packed final, Griffins, who put Aylesford Hawks to the sword in the semi final tried gamely to defend their 70-15 handicap, but Trojans, without centres Trevor Robinson and Tim Duckers along with forward Jacob Krupa, had to use all their experience to catch the eager, six-man squad from Knowle.

The outstanding performance of the night though was that of Trojans' guard Ross Emery, who took full advantage of the defensive strength of Richard Onions – a 6'4" leaper who blocked at least six goal-bound efforts from the Arden shooters. Emery amassed 44 points, a personal best, even for Trojans' top scorer for the past five seasons, but, eventually, it was a great team effort which saw the home side through at Hereward College.

"It was tough and we knew it was always going to be as we had to pull back 55 points," said Trojans' Coach Ross Alexander as he celebrated afterwards, "but all credit to Arden, they gave us a hard time all night but lacked a couple more players." Griffins had just a basic six-man squad with several players unavailable, and their hero was Dan Opoku, who at 6'2" walked with the big men of Trojans, but could not take them on his own. His colleagues tried gamely all night, and they certainly shook Trojans by actually leading 77-21 with six minutes gone.

Tile Hill struck in short bursts, and had difficulty in finding the right shot for much of the early part of the game. Griffins, playing the 24 second clock well, were 99-75 ahead into the third, before a 23-3 salvo brought life back into Trojans. It looked to be game over as the final period began, and Tile Hill tied it up at 107-107 with four minutes left, but they took their foot off the accelerator and Griffins took full advantage.

Then, drama with seconds on the clock, as the highly experienced Rob Fleming lobbed an in-bound ball which was stolen by Opoku, and showing great confidence he stepped out of the three point area to bank in a shot with half a second left. The buzzer went, the ball sailed up and in for a game levelling basket which took the tie into overtime.

Heroics over, Arden capitulated. Trojans piled into them, and that was that, as Emery went on the rampage to register his personal milestone. For Arden, and Opoku in particular, tributes were paid, but even his 27 point haul offered no consolation for the Griffins centre and his team who were that close to a major upset.

**For further information on Warwickshire Basketball contact**

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