



Warwickshire Basketball League

Press Release

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Number 9

NEPTUNES ARE KINGS OF THE RINGS AT LINGS

The eagerly-awaited meeting of the two giants of Warwickshire Basketball did not disappoint as Northampton Neptunes claimed a 90-82 victory in front of a large crowd at Lings Forum.

It was a table-topper in all senses with both teams trying desperately to defend their 100% record, and only one would emerge with it intact under basketball rules. In the event of a draw, extra time periods are played until one side is in front on the buzzer, and for much of this thriller, it looked to be heading that way. Fifteen all at the end of the first period became 36-34 to the hosts by half time. Add to this 61-57 by the three-quarter mark and then 77-77 three minutes from time. The stage was set for a classic finale which eventually went the way of Neptunes.

The two teams went at it hammer and tongs throughout, with players from both sides showing class befitting a National League game. Indeed, the two players who were head and shoulders above the rest offensively were Mark Spatcher, the Neptunes player/coach and Dami Fakunle, Warriors' high flying centre. Between them, they amassed 66 points with the Warriors player heading things on 34, but, in scoring just 4 in the final period, his power was thwarted by the strong defensive play of Northampton.

The game erupted in the last minute though, as Warriors' coach Roger Payne alleged that the scorers had missed a vital basket. The table officials were adamant they had not and the referees ruled in their favour. This incensed Payne who was issued with a technical foul, quickly followed by one on his bench players, which sent Neptunes to the line for four free throws. They duly sank three of them and from the ensuing possessions they made the game safe – while Payne still raged on the sideline.

Spatcher said afterwards, "We did not play our best basketball today, but having players who were in Division 2 of the National League last season made a big difference." He made a special reference to Tyler Kathan who picked up 27 rebounds during to game. Neptunes also took maximum points at Warwick University last week with a 115-80 success which takes them clear at the top.

There was close finish too at Aylesford, where Grace Academy (GAC) picked up a 72-66 win after coming from behind in the final quarter. there was nothing between the two heading into the home straight, until Marcin Twiederski and Lucas Nalewajka hit the purple patch. This sent GAC nine up, and they held on, despite a spate of fouls which sent Hawks to the line six times in the final two minutes.

In Division Two there were wins for leaders Nuneaton, Ernesford, Warwick Juniors and Woodway, while Westwood kept up the pressure with a victory over Tile Hill 2.

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Results follow on next page....

RESULTSRESULTS.....RESULTS.....RESULTS..... RESULTS..... RESULTS.....

Division One Onley Outlaws v Tamworth Tigers - postponed
Warwick University 80-115 Northampton Neptunes
Aylesford Hawks 66-72 GAC

Division Two

Nuneaton Knights 59-43 RC Rebels
Westwood Rhinos 68-63 Stratford Tornadoes
Ernesford Eagles 74-48 Tile Hill Trojans 2
Tile Hill Trojans 3 50-67 Woodway Nuggets
Stratford Tornadoes 52-79 Warwick Juniors
Arden Griffins 57-62 Ernesford Eagles

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