



Trailblazers Academy 99 – Charnwood Riders 86

Trailblazers won an entertaining high scoring contest again Charnwood, 99-86, to secure a third place finish in the All Midlands Conference. Defeat was costly for Charnwood as it means they will likely finish second behind Milton Keynes in the title race.

Derby jumped out the blocks early to a 12-0 lead. It was the crucial run in the game as Charnwood failed to close the gap to single digits for the remainder of the game. By the end of the first period it was 29-18 as both team found scoring relatively easy. Wesselingh continued his good form from his 30 point haul against Birmingham netted 11 of Derby's first 15 points.

The second period saw Derby extend their lead as Monk, Brown and Wroe connected from deep while King continued to pull the strings chalking up 5 first half assists to go with his 12 points. By the interval Derby had stretched their lead to a massive 27 points at 59-32. Derby had already past the 57 points they'd scored in the entire game in the reverse fixture at Charnwood where they lost 77-57.

The second half was a much more even contest. Charnwood worked hard in an attempt to get back into the game pressing and attacking early when they could. At the end of the third it was 77-54. The fourth belonged to Charnwood as they connected with four 3s and downed 32 points. But they never got to within 10 points as Derby controlled the clock to secure a hard fought victory.

For Derby Wesselingh had 29 points and 8 rebounds, King had 20 points and 7 assists, Brown and Monk scored 12 and 11 respectively while Turner had 8 points and 9 boards. Charnwood were led by Fava who scored 20 while McSwiggen had 16.

A delighted Coach Shaw commented after the game:

"We played excellent today, the best we've played all season. To get our season high score of 99 against the conferences best defence per game is a great achievement. We've played some good basketball in patches recently but today we put a great 40 minutes together."

Derby close out the league campaign against Gateway on Wednesday. Derby will finish 3rd in the league and unless All Saints beat Milton Keynes on the final day Gateway will join them in the play offs in fourth spot regardless of Wednesdays outcome. Charnwood play Birmingham Mets hoping for a win and an upset in the All Saints Milton Keynes game for them to return to the top where they've been all season and claim the title.