WOLVES WIN IN TIGHT TUSSLE

The Wolves defeated the Shepparton Gators for honours of taking top spot outright in today’s clash. It was a game of intensity and passion, with players laying themselves on the line throughout the game.

Trevor McLean had a great start for the Wolves finding range from all over the floor while Zaine Allen dominated the scoring with 11pts for the quarter for the Gators. Scrappy board control at both ends of the court left the ball up for grabs many times.

Quarter Time: Wolves 15 – Gators 19

It was a great 2nd quarter for the Wolves, putting on 30pts to 19pts. Josh McKay found his rhythm at both ends of the floor hitting 7pts and taking some vital rebounds to give the Wolves many offensive opportunities. And, when Trevor McLean hit three 3 pointers, the Wolves stretched their lead to 15pts. But Shepp came back at the Wolves with 5 minutes remaining and after some strong boards from the Woodcock boys, and a couple of late 3 pointers from Matt Bartlett, brought the lead back to just 7 at the long break.

Half Time: Wolves 45 – Shepp 38

For the first 1min 30secs of the 3rd quarter the scores remained stagnant, with neither team settling into the game. A number of untimely unsportsmanlike and technical fouls, saw tempers flare as both teams tried to assert control over the game. Jonathon Lindhe found some composure amidst the frantic pace and nailed a couple of crucial long shots to steady the Wolves. Three Quarter Time: Wolves 61 – Shepp 53

Adam Hickey exerted disciplined defensive pressure on Shepp’s guards early in the last which resulted in some timely turnovers, however the Wolves shooting prowess had deserted them! Shepparton gained control of the offensive boards and were able to slowly peg back the lead. Matt Waight set the stadium alight as he hit successive three pointers for Shepparton, and cut the lead to 3pts with 1.07min on the clock. But Jon Lindhe was still plugging away for the Wolves and dropped a couple of baskets to secure the win for the Wolves.

Coach Hickey said, “It was a fantastic encounter by two teams willing to give it their all. Both teams showed a great display of defence and shooting, I was happy to get that one!”

Final Score: Wolves 72 defeated Gators 67

Leading Scorers:
Wodonga – Trevor McLean 23pts, Jonathon Lindhe 14pts, Broady Mills 9pts.
Shepp – Zaine Allen 21pts, Matt Bartlett 12pts, Simon O’Keefe 10pts
The Lady Wolves also defeated the Lady Gators in a similarly competitive fashion. The first half was dominated by tight defensive pressure from both teams, resulting in low scores. Inaccurate passing from the Lady Wolves saw them chasing many a wayward ball as opportunities went begging, although they were able to keep ahead of the Lady Gators by getting an edge on the defensive boards. Jacqui Kitto had an accurate half for the Gators, scoring 7pts and Amy Polmear was determined to force the ball inside for the Lady Wolves, successfully going to the line on two occasions. **Half Time: Lady Wolves 21 – Lady Gators 18**

Sarah Mellington

The 3rd quarter saw a change in tempo as both teams picked up the pace. Sarah Mellington had a great quarter hitting 8pts and gave some great ‘help’ defensively. Both sides were more adventurous offensively creating some fantastic opportunities inside. Rachel Jeffery put back some timely rebounds and Stacey de Koeyer gave off some snazzy assists to hedge the Lady Wolves ahead by 8pts at the break. **Three Quarter Time: Lady Wolves 37 – Lady Gators 29**

Tahnee Cannan switched on her radar in the final quarter and stole a couple of passes from the Lady Gators on her way to a 6pt quarter. Shepparton’s Coach, Chris Judd, spurred on his team as they made an all out effort to take out the win, but the Lady Wolves steadied with less than a minute remaining on the clock, to score a further two baskets and secure a 6pt win.

**Final Score: Lady Wolves 54 def Lady Gators 48**

**Leading Scorers:**

Wodonga – Sarah Mellington 18pts, Rachel Jeffery 11pts, Tahnee Cannan 10pts
Shepp – Jacqui Kitto 12pts, Grace Hyde 11pts, Rhianna Barton 9pts

Next weekend the Wolves & Lady Wolves host Wangaratta on Saturday December 15, 6pm & 8pm respectively for Round 10 of the NE CBL competition, before a 3-week break over the xmas period.

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