

## **Leicester Riders 82 Worcester Wolves 81**

Cometh the hour cometh the man. Corey Johnson stepped up with an incredible game winning basket with just seconds remaining on the clock to ensure the Leicester Riders (14-1) edged the Worcester Wolves (5-9) and maintain their place at the top of the British Basketball league.

Geno Crandall or “the General” as he is known showed the league exactly why he is favorite for league MVP with a double-double for the Riders that included 13 points and a game high 11 assists.

His 11<sup>th</sup> assist was the crucial winning score for Johnson who finished the game with a team high 17 points.

For the Wolves the loss will sting more than ever given they led the league leaders for the vast majority of the contest.

There were some positives for the Wolves, Lamarr Kimble was unguardable all night and finished the game with a game high 24 points. Jordan Williams was also outstanding with a double-double of his own but the Wolves ultimately fell to their third loss in a row and 9<sup>th</sup> loss of the season.

The first quarter of the game was tight with neither team giving an inch and almost going score for score to ensure the game remained tied at 23 points apiece.

Before the game, Wolves manager Matt Newby said his side needed “to take some scalps.” By half time his Wolves side lead the league leading Riders by 46-40 and the biggest scalp of all looked like it could be on the cards.

Williams, who averages 9.1 rpg, the third most in the league, was outstanding for the Wolves in that first half with nine points and seven rebounds taking the fight right to the Riders.

Crandall, the top scorer in the league ensured the Riders stayed in touch with eight points of his own but at half time he was unhappy at his team’s first half performance.

“A really bad half for us,” he said. “We are probably lucky to be only six points down. We have to fix everything; we are not playing with enough intensity and we aren’t guarding anybody.”

A lack of intensity was something the Riders certainly did not show in a dominant third quarter where they wiped out their six-point deficit, replacing it with a five-point cushion of their own.

The 11-point turnaround was crucial and it meant the Wolves had an even bigger job on their hands heading in to the last quarter against the much-fancied Riders.

The Wolves matched the Riders in the final quarter and when Kimble knocked down a three-pointer with two minutes to play, just two points separated the teams.

A minute later it was deja-vu as Kimble hit the same shot with same outcome which meant the Wolves amazingly lead the Riders with just 20 seconds remaining.

The game seemed destined to be heading the way of the Wolves, however Johnson had other things on his mind and stepped up to hit the match winning three pointer to break Wolves hearts.

The win means the Riders grip on the title is strengthened while the Wolves in 8<sup>th</sup> could slip further down the table depending on other results this weekend.

## **Leicester Riders Scores**

### **Starting Lineup**

G- Geno Crandall 13, G- Mustapha Heron 0, F- Jamell Anderson 12, G- Corey Johnson 17, F-Darien Nelson-Henry 16, (C)

### **Substitutes**

G- Justin Hedley, G-Greg Wild, G- Conner Washington 3, F- Aaron Falzon 7, C- Ali Fraser, F- Victor Ndoukou,

## **Worcester Wolves**

### **Starting lineup**

G- Lamarr Kimble 24, C-Mike Parks Jnr 12, G-Maarten Bouwknecht 9, F- Jordan Williams 13, G-Micah Ellan 4.

### **Substitutes**

G- Nathan Ramsdale Owen, F- Shaun Parren Rackley, G-Brandon Anderson 15, Johnson Thompson 4.

*G- Guard, C- Centre, F- Power Forward*