

January 26, 2019

Mystics late-game surge leads team past Sparks

Mystics vs Sparks round 1 was everything it was hyped up to be, as each team battled back and forth the entire game. However, it was a late-game run by the Mystics that led them past the Sparks.

The Mystics started the game on a 5-0 run, lead by virtually every Mystics player on the court, who all utilized great team passing—looking for their open teammates. Marissa Richard (6 points, 2 rebounds) opened the game with a jump-shot, and Brittany Day (12 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assists, 2 steals, 1 block) had a lay-up. Kiera Tokarczyk also added a free-throw within the first 3 minutes. However, the Sparks began to claw back. Raygen Manzare (4 points, 3 rebounds) hit a deep jump-shot, and Maya Reynolds (2 points, 3 rebounds) had a hard take to the basket. At the end of the first quarter, the Mystics led 5-4.

The Sparks were led by Molly and Elizabeth Lyons in the second quarter, who each had 4 points apiece. Each player was draining baskets with ease. For the Mystics, Brittany Day and Sophia Waliszewski (2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block, 1 steal) worked in tandem, combining for all of their teams points in the quarter. At half-time, the Sparks were winning, 12-11.

Each team continued to fight in the second-half, matching each other step-for-step. Sophia Wilson (2 points, 3 rebounds, 2 blocks) took a drive to the basket for the Sparks, and Raygen Manzare added another jumper from the top of the key. Taylor Sciandra also made her presence known on the defensive end, snatching a couple of steals. On the Mystics side of things, Maddie Ringler (4 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block) found the scorebook with a lay-up, and Marissa Rickard added another jumper. The Mystics held a 19-16 lead at the end of the 3rd.

The Mystics ultimately used their teamwork to pull away in the 4th quarter, getting back to what they did well in the first quarter. Maddie Ringler, Brittany Day, and Marissa Rickard all added key baskets, while Natalie Endres and Sophia Waliszewski all played tremendous defense. With 2 minutes remaining and the Mystics only up by one, Sophia Waliszewski helped add some cushion as she weaved in-and-out of the defense on a fast-break, to then find Marissa Rickard open for a jumper.

In the 4th for the Sparks, Maya Reynolds played great defense, disrupting many shots inside the pain, and Madeline DeVantier added a nice jump-shot. However, the basket was a little too late to gain any extra momentum. The Mystics went on to win, 25-18.