

Saturday February 9, 2019

*Mystics 18, Liberty 17*

### **Mystics come all the way back in win vs Liberty**

The Liberty pulled out to 10-0 lead by the half way point of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, but then the Mystics found their groove, and came all the way back to defeat the Liberty 18-17.

Kiyanna Harris (6 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 block) and Alexis Juliano (7 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals) led the way for the Liberty early, thanks to their great defensive play. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, the height of the Liberty made it very difficult for any Mystics players to get open shots, as they caused many turnovers. Harris had 4 points in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and Juliano had her 5 points, including a huge 3 from the top of the key, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

With the score 10-0, the Mystics found some offensive momentum. The key to their success was by setting selfless screens, made in large part by Hailey Bronson and Sophia Waliszewski (4 points, 2 rebounds). In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Kyler Shiesley (8 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists, 2 blocks) looked like a girl on a mission, using the screens to her advantage, and taking the ball to the hoop. Shiesley scored 3 straight baskets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, and then found Sophia Walisewski rolling to the basket for a nice basket. The score was then 10-8. On the next Liberty possession, Valintina Moscato stepped into a beautiful 3-pointer to give her team the 13-8 lead. Right before the buzzer sounded, Maddie Ringler made a layup for the Mystics. At half time, the Liberty held a 13-10 lead—we had a ball game!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter featured each team playing great defense, only surrendering 1 basket each. The Mystics had cut the lead to 1 after a quick cross-over and layup by Kyler Shiesley, however, by the end of the quarter, Kiyanna Harris hit hard-fought rebound-and-basket to give her team the 15-13 point lead.

Each team continued to battle in the 4<sup>th</sup>, leaving it all on the court. Alexis Juliano made a quick jumper early in the quarter to give her team a 17-13 lead. However, the Mystics leaned on teamwork to get the job done late in the quarter. Ariana Caron hit a huge basket in the paint to cut the lead to 2 points. Then Kyler Shiesley found Maddie Ringler over the top for a lay-up, tying up the game. With about 2 minutes, Shiesley showed off her passing abilities, making an acrobatic pass to Sophia Walisewski, who hit a floater to take the lead.

The Liberty did not give up in the final minutes, however the Mystics defense was too much, as they held on to win, 18-17.