

Saturday March 23, 2019

## **Sparks 22, Mystics 16**

*Sparks dominate to earn their first win of the season*

The Sparks came out determined to earn a regular-season victory, and it showed in their effort on Saturday. The Sparks set the tone right away, playing great defense, while crushing the Mystics on the offensive boards. The Sparks led 6-0 at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Sophia Wilson (6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals) scored on a lay-up early in the frame, and then hit a jumper near the end of the quarter. She also assisted on a basket by Angelia Ratzel.

Each team played even in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, although the Sparks still led at half-time, 12-6. Wilson hit another jumper for the Sparks, however, then the Sparks started getting contributions from other players on the team. After baskets by Maddie Ringler (2 points, 7 rebounds) and Natalie Endres (2 points, 5 rebounds), Taylor Sciandra (5 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals) found her groove for the Sparks. She hit a free-throw, and then drilled a 3-pointer on the next play, giving her team a 12-6 lead.

The Sparks pulled away in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, dominating in the frame. They outscored the Mystics 8-2, thanks to a basket by Tayler Woolston and a free-throw by Sciandra. Molly Lyons then hit a huge 3-pointer with a minute remaining to give her team a double-digit lead—putting the “exclamation point” on the quarter. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Sparks led 20-8.

The Mystics made a comeback in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, however, it was too little-too late. Kyler Shiesley (10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal) came alive, scoring 6 points off strong drives to the basket. Maddie Ringler also ripped down 5 rebounds, while Ariana Caron (2 points, 7 rebounds) put back an offensive rebound. Sophia Waliszewski also did a good job of running the point guard position when necessary.

The Sparks held on to pick up their first win of the season, 22-16. The Sparks will face the Liberty next week in the playoffs at 1 pm (March 30<sup>th</sup>), as the winner of that game will face the Mystics in the championship game on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.