

Saturday March 9, 2019

Liberty 32, Mystics 24

Liberty hand Mystics their first loss of the season

The Liberty was lights-out from the field on Saturday, handing the Mystics their first loss of the season. The Mystics built a big lead early in the game, leading 9-2 at the end of the 1st quarter. Alexis Juliano (9 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal) set the tone early, scoring 7 points in the opening quarter, including a 3-pointer on the first shot of the game. Ella Waliszewski also added a basket in the frame for the Liberty.

The Liberty played tremendous defense the entire afternoon, wreaking havoc on the Mystics offense. Not only did the Liberty assert themselves on the boards, but they turned steals into fast break points. At the end of the first half, the Liberty held a commanding 17-7 lead. Kiyanna Harris (7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist) and Valintina Moscato (8 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist) scored 4 points each. Moscato did a good job of pressuring the ball on defense, stealing the ball and pushing it up to her teammates. However, not all was lost for the Mystics, as Kierra Tokarczyk (4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block) hit two mid-range jumpers to give her team some life heading into half-time. The Liberty held a 17-7 lead at half-time.

The Liberty really broke the game open in the 3rd quarter. Kiyanna Harris scored another 3 points, and Alexis Juliano added a rebound and basket. Ella Waliszewski also hit a nice jumper from in the paint. Kyler Shiesley did score for 3 points for the Mystics in the frame, while she assisted on Brittany Day's (6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist) lay-up. The Mystics held a commanding 26-12 lead at the end of the 3rd.

The Mystics cut the score to 6 during the 4th quarter, however, the Liberty ultimately pulled away, winning 32-24. For the Mystics, Maddie Ringler worked hard in the paint, scoring 6 points while ripping down 5 rebounds. Brittany Day also added a basket, and Natalie Endres added a jumper on top of playing really tight defense all afternoon.

However, the Liberty repeatedly broke the Mystics press during the final quarter, as Kaylee Julinao scored a basket, while Valintina Moscato added 4 points off great takes to the hoop.