

Lothian Phoenix hold off St. Mirren Warriors to retain the Wheelchair Basketball Scottish Cup

By Josh Manson



Number 11 Gordon Reid takes a shot under pressure from Dave Steele (28) and Josh Manson (30)

The 3rd game of the Scottish cup weekend was underway with a passionate tie in the Wheelchair Basketball Scottish Cup Final between the two top Scottish teams, reigning champions Lothian Phoenix and the team that beat them in the national league earlier in the season, the St. Mirren Warriors.

Spectators were in for a good battle between the two rivals, with Paralympic Gold Medallist Gordon Reid suiting up for St. Mirren Warriors on the day.

Lothian Phoenix came out fierce with a full court press giving the Warriors problems to start the game off.

They used this to give them an encouraging lead, going 13-2 up against their rivals. As the quarter commenced the Warriors began finding their touch, scoring more frequently. The score at the end of the quarter was 19-10.

The second quarter saw Phoenix further their lead on their rivals on the back of some quality perimeter shooting from Ben Leitch and Jose Alexander. Great defence from Phoenix led to Warriors only scoring 4 points in the quarter despite the motivation coming from Captain Pete Moore.

At the half time break, Phoenix possessed a commanding lead, 30-12 as the teams made their way off court to talk it over and to prepare for the second quarter.

As the second half commenced the action was tense between both teams as they both fought hard on either side of the floor. Both teams looked motivated and confident after the break and surely enough it was a toughly contested quarter. Even though it looked as if St. Mirren had the better period, they could only lower their deficit by 11 points, still behind by 15, 40-25 heading into the final quarter.

St. Mirren came out strong and with determination pulling the game back as they went on a positive and much needed run, this was sparked by the brilliant shooting from player/coach Gary Davidson.

With 3 minutes left of the final period, Lothian Phoenix's lead had been trimmed down to 6 points. With Warriors hot on their tail they had the opportunity to deplete Phoenix's lead even further but couldn't convert on their possessions.

In the end, the clock ran out on Warriors, much to the relief of Phoenix, who will keep the Wheelchair Scottish Cup in the East of Scotland for another year, the final score, 52-42 for Lothian Phoenix.

With Phoenix retaining the Scottish Cup, the MVP of the game was announced, with Lothian Phoenix's Steven Ross taking the honours.

A quote from Lothian Phoenix's Josh Manson: "The game was intense and very physical to play in but none the less it feels amazing to have fought through and come out on top and to win the Scottish Cup for a second year in a row, also to have been a massive part in the winning of the Cup."