



PRESS RELEASE (for immediate publication)

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PAHC09/06

NOTTINGHAM HIT BY LATE BLOW

University of Nottingham HC 23 – 24 Salford Quays HC

The University of Nottingham Handball Club's Men's team suffered a cruel defeat thanks to a late goal which saw Salford take the spoils. In an incredibly tight match, both teams were level for almost all of the game before Salford eventually edged it.

The first half was low on goals but high on drama as the two teams found themselves locked together for long spells. Nottingham's experience and Salford's energy made it an exciting exchange, but Salford appeared to be taking the initiative, with the home side fighting back to draw level every time. Nottingham's defence, marshaled by a goalkeeper in superb form, had to be strong to combat the pace of Salford's attacks. At the other end, however, they found goals hard to come by, with Salford sacrificing two men to a man marking system. Nottingham's Guillaume Bodet and Jon Mardaras were singled out for special attention and denied the room to start their team's attacks. Despite this, both played excellent games as Nottingham held on in the first half. A late burst from the visitors saw them take a lead at half time, however, with Nottingham looking frustrated.

The home side started strongly in the second half, leveling the scores and eventually taking the lead. The teams could not be separated for most of the match though and the tension rose as the half wore on. Both teams suffered injuries to important players, adding to the drama as the clock moved ominously towards the end. With five minutes to go and both teams locked at 22 – 22, the match could have gone either way. A draw, a rare occurrence in handball matches, also looked a distinct possibility as both teams struggled on. With both teams tiring, it was Nottingham who finally lost out. They found themselves a man down for two of the final four minutes and when Salford got their noses in front, Nottingham ran out of time in their search for an equaliser.

Salford's attack was led by 7 goals from Woodall while Jankowiak (6) and Gartman (4) made telling contributions. Nottingham's Guillaume Bodet and Jon Mardaras scored 7 goals each, while the other goals came from William Eysauttier (5) and Claude-Eric Roy (4). The undoubted man of the match, however, was the home team's captain, Dana Muhammed. The keeper looked unstoppable for much of the game and produced some incredible saves to keep his team in the match until the dying seconds.

Nottingham remain in contention for the play-offs after the first half of the season. Having suffered only two defeats in matches against all six of their rivals, they are much improved from last season. They will look to end the year on a high when they face Manchester University on 13th December. For more information, see www.handballclub.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

The University of Nottingham Handball Club was established in February 1992 and is currently the only handball club in the East Midlands. The men's team are taking part in the National Division One North League in 2009/10. The club trains on Tuesdays (9-10:30pm) and Thursdays (8:30-10:30pm) at Nottingham University Park Sports Centre. Training is open to students and guests, male and female, of all levels from beginners up. More information is available from Ahmad Beltagui, University of Nottingham Handball

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