



PRESS RELEASE (for immediate publication)

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PAHC09/08

NOTTINGHAM SNATCH DRAMATIC LATE POINT

Liverpool HC 31 – 31 University of Nottingham HC

The University of Nottingham Handball Club's Men's team held nearest rivals Liverpool to a draw on Sunday, thanks to an incredible effort in the dying seconds of the game. With less than 30 seconds remaining and Liverpool leading by two goals, Nottingham came back to equalise and could even have stolen an unlikely victory.

The Christmas break clearly influenced Nottingham's sluggish start as they fell behind and struggled to assert themselves on the game. Despite creating some good opportunities, chances were wasted. Liverpool stayed 3 goals ahead for most of the first half as both teams defended strongly, but failed to take the initiative at the other end. Nottingham did battle back to level the scores just before half time and, following a fairly even opening 30 minutes, the teams were locked at 15:15.

In the second half, Nottingham finally did take control, with some strong defending and inventive attacking play. They found some more accuracy with their shooting, but errors in defence allowed Liverpool back in. The scores remained very tight, but a two goal advantage, with 5 minutes to go looked to be secure as Liverpool played with confidence. Things looked to have gotten even worse for Nottingham after an injury to Ali Karakiprik, resulted in a long stoppage. With seconds remaining, they continued to fight for a seemingly lost cause. After scoring once, they challenged Liverpool from the restart and, incredibly, Apostolos Fakis stole the ball to set up a chance for Alberto Camara. With 7 seconds on the clock and a chance in front of goal, he made no mistake to pull his team level. And from the restart, Nottingham again won the ball but saw Jon Mardaras' shot hit the post as the final whistle blew!

An incredible 14 goals were scored by Liverpool's Carlo, whose team-mates Garcia and Leon added 5 each. Nottingham's win came courtesy of Jon Mardaras' 6 goals, while Alberto Camara and Guillaume Bodet scored 6 each and Ruben Wolf added 4. Both goalkeepers were excellent, with Nottingham captain Dana Muhammed again rescuing his team on several occasions.

The win leaves Nottingham in touching distance of the play-offs, as they remain in the top 3, level on points with Liverpool but with a game in hand. Next week's match against leaders Manchester will be vital and Nottingham will look for strong home support in the match at Sutton Bonnington sports centre on Saturday 23rd January. For more information, see www.handballclub.co.uk

ENDS

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 Club communications officer, nottingham_handball@hotmail.com or online at www.handballclub.co.uk