

**2015/16 Game Report**

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| **Team** | Newcastle Eagles Under 14 Boys | | | | |
| **Opposition** | Chesterfield Flight | | | | |
| **Home/Away** | A | | | | |
| **Competition** | EBL Under 14 Boys North East Development League | | | | |
| **Date** | 26th November 2016 | | | | |
| **Score** | Newcastle Eagles | **105** | **V** | **19** | Chesterfield Flight |

Report

After a fourth quarter comeback, and last second game winning shot against Tees Valley Mohawks last week 67-65, the Eagles retained their perfect record 7-0. Managing to hold on to the top spot and going into this weekend’s match up, the Eagles looked to continue their NBL campaign against Chesterfield Flight who currently hold a 2-4 record.

As the first quarter began, the Eagles took control of the tip and attacked early. The first possession yielded good scoring opportunities but the Eagles couldn’t convert as a Chesterfield fast break saw them score the first basket of the game by way of a tough fadeaway off the glass. The Eagles responded with a put-back in the paint to tie the score. Defensive communication and intensity was none existent from the Eagles early resulting in a 5 for 5 rotation as the substitutions would hopefully perform as expected. After a rocky start the Eagles picked things up and began to gather some momentum. Both teams performed well whilst the Eagles mainly led as a result of their rebounding efforts and ability to force turnovers. The travellers struggled from range as the rims were unforgiving, however they did manage to get maintain the lead as they closed the first 15-6.

The second quarter production from the Eagles bench was much better and defensive teamwork provided additional possessions which they were able to convert. Denying penetration was problematic at times as the Eagles seemed rough around the edges and inconsistent for the most part. Chesterfield still managed to bank eight points in the quarter, whilst the Eagles marked 21 which was an improvement but was far from what they could output on both ends of the floor. For the most part the second was much a repeat of the first with the same defensive issues arising from time to time. However the Eagles did improve slightly at the end of the second to cap off an inconsistent quarter 21-8, leading 36 to 14, an uncharacteristic score for the Eagles at this point of the season.

After the first half the Eagles needed a stern warning that this would not cut it if they were to contend against York in a few weeks time, and that they all needed to pick up the slack. The Eagles knew what they needed to do as they began the third. The Eagles ramped up the efforts defensively and as a result led them to put up a plethora of transition layups. Chesterfield struggled with the half-court pressure as poor passing led to even more turnovers as Newcastle took advantage on the break. A few errors were made here and there by rushing at times, however on the whole offensive output was at its best and defensive communication across the board was as it should have been throughout the first half. After a timeout from Chesterfield, the Eagles at this point led 44-14 whilst on a 8-0 run with 7 and a half minutes to go. The Eagles continued to pile on the pressure at the halfway line as Chesterfield’s turnover count continued, leading to a string of transition baskets again stretching the Eagles lead beyond reach. Chesterfield struggled to defend in the paint late on as the Eagles dominated the quarter 35-3.

The fourth quarter was an identical outcome to the third as they Eagles controlled both sides of the floor. Rebounding was key at times when poor shooting decisions were made but cleared up swiftly. All Eagles players were productive and were able to pool their performances together as they all contributed in different ways. Chesterfield still struggled to adjust and found themselves at a loss as the away side pulled ahead relentlessly. By the end of the fourth the Eagles mirrored their third quarter performance as they poured out 34 in the fourth, while Chesterfield converted 2. Chesterfield were undersized and outgunned however they’re competitive spirit and heart was certainly admirable and great to see. Although the outcome of the game could have been tough to swallow, both teams played with sportsmanship and dignity throughout as the Eagles moved on to another win and retained their undefeated status 105-19.

The Eagles now have a few weeks break before their meeting with title contenders York Eagles. This will be the biggest game of the season seeing the victor take the top spot and likely see themselves through to the playoffs.