

TRUCKERS THROW DOWN GAUNTLET IN TITLE BID

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SHANTELE Rolle said their Johnson's Lady Truckers are serving notice that they are out to reclaim their New Providence Women's Basketball Association championship title.

Taking advantage of a refurbished floor at the DW Davis Gymnasium on Saturday night, the Lady Truckers held off the Super Value Cybots Queens in one of three games played. The other two games saw the defending champions Four J's Lady Cheetahs blast the Junior All-Stars 51-31 and the College of the Bahamas Lady Caribs routed the Saints 50-35.

Johnson's Trucking, coached by James Price, led 16-10 after the first quarter and 28-17 at the half. But in the second quarter, they were able to withstand every challenge that Super Value threw at them.

Their big three scoring machine of Glenda Gilcud (19 points, three steals), Latoya Rolle (19 points, six rebounds, five steals and three assists) and Rolle (11 points and seven rebounds) proved to be a step or two ahead of their younger rivals.

With speed on their size, the Cybots were able at times to out run the aging Lady Truckers. But at times, they seemed to have taken it too fast and the game got out of their control as Johnson's slowed it down and utilized their experience in the half court setting.

"That's what basketball is all about, hills and valleys and runs," said Super Value's coach Wayde Watson. "Unfortunately when we had our run, we were not able to take the lead. So we felt short."

Despite the loss, Watson said he was glad that officials - Norman Humes and Christopher Saunders - allowed both teams to play the game. They just didn't take advantage of their up tempo style of play. Watson, however, said they are looking forward to the playoffs.

Tracey Lewis led the Cybots with a game high 22 points and seven rebounds. Taniel Poitier had 14 points and five rebounds and Tannia Joseph came off the bench and scored eight.

Lady Cheetahs 51, All-Stars 31: Although they are struggling to maintain a .500 winning percentage, Four J's made sure that the hapless Junior All-Stars didn't put another dent into their losing column.

In a low-scoring production that saw all but two of their players didn't score a point, Pamela Bethel had nine points with a game high 13 rebounds and Alyse Dean came off the bench to also score nine with four rebounds and three assists. Tameka Martin contributed eight, while Linda Pierre had six and Teranna Pyfrom added five.

For the All-Stars, who fell behind 14-6 after the first quarter and 29-16 at the half, Jakia Brown had nine points and 10 rebounds; Queenell Conliffe eight points and five rebounds and Myrade Davis six points.

Lady Caribs 50, Saints 35: Holding their opponents to four points in both the second and third quarters, the College of the Bahamas managed to open a slight lead and they stayed on top of the first year Saints.

Gabrielle McKinney led three players in double figures with a game high 14 points, seven rebounds and three steals; Deandra Williams had 12 points and Celeste Pyfrom came through with 10 points, three steals and two assists.

The Saints, who led 16-15 after the first quarter, got out-scored 8-4 in the second and 15-4 in the third as the Lady Caribs pulled away for the win. Marceline St. Jean had 13 points, seven rebounds and four steals; Alexis Russell came off the bench with nine points and eight rebounds and Tonya Flowers had eight points and seven rebounds in a losing effort.

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