

Match Report – St Mary's CBS V St Vincent's Castleknock

Special thank you to 5th year student Fionn Stack for the match reports.

CBS won the tip at the start of the game, but the ball landed out of bounds and was quickly turned to a St Vincent's Castleknock ball. After getting back on defence Justice Iheme was aggressive on the block, stole the ball and ran the length of the court for an easy layup. After another great defensive possession Iheme got fouled and was given two free throw attempts coming downhill. He quickly secured the CBS first 7 points. A 3 pointer by Tawanda Mahona extended the CBS lead to 7 as Castleknock struggled to stop the fast break. However, after an outlet pass that lead to a basket, the lead was cut to just 5. After a timeout Castleknock split the CBS defence and number 7 impressively finished at the rim through contact. The CBS leading only by one now saw Iheme fouled and earned two free shots. Ciarán Dunne scored a rebound off the second shot for his first point of the game. Gio Osadolor then added his name to the score sheet securing a layup after a long offence with great passing from Sami Ahmed and Mahona. Another putback for Iheme lead to his 10th point in the first quarter as Castleknock took a well needed timeout. The CBS switched to a zone and swallowed up any attempts to score. Two more scores by an impressive Iheme extended the CBS lead to 13 with 30 seconds left in the 1st quarter showing the CBS were here and other teams should take notice. Another score by Osadolor from an assist from Ahmed left the 1st quarter with a score of 23-8.

The second quarter saw Captain Ben Quigley alongside Jim Hanamy eager to get involved in the action. The CBS quickly exploited holes in Castleknock's defence as Prince Iheme scored easily under the basket. Hanamy hustles on defence leading to another CBS fast break bucket. Castleknock however are able to find the gap and got some easy scores from inside the key on the other end. Castleknock's defence improved as the quarter went on as they hit some outside 3's and cut away at the deficit. Marat Tuhtarvos earns two free throws but unfortunately did not convert on either. Quigley scores again with some elite footwork under the basket deciding to take back some control for the CBS. Iheme and Quigley display an impressive pick and roll action to end the second quarter off as the lead is extended to 20 points. The third quarter sees two Iheme brothers grace the court. J. Iheme and Tuhtarvos check back into the game. J. Iheme quickly gets to the rim and is awarded two free throws. A score from P. Iheme and a block from Tuhtarvos shifts the momentum as CBS begin to control the pace of the game. Two more scores from J. Iheme come from elite rebounds and outlet passes from the two bigs, Tuhtarvos and Quigley. The CBS keep their lead as the third quarter progresses and Castleknock take another timeout to talk things over. The CBS stay in their zone as it proves to withhold Castleknock from going on any sort of scoring run.

With Hanamy and J. Iheme closing any gaps Castleknock's struggle on the offensive end. Great defence from Dunne and P. Iheme also helps the CBS retain their substantial

lead going into the final quarter. The score now 46-27 with CBS in the lead. Coach Peter Duignan keeps the solid five players going into the final quarter. Monster rebounding led to scores from P. Iheme and Quigley to start off the fourth quarter. Point guard Hanamy lead the offence with composed dribbling and elite court vision. J. Iheme now racking up 20 points to his name is dominating inside and splitting open the defence leading to wide open shots from Hanamy and Dunne. However Castleknock showed unwavering determination and slowly crept back into this game from 3-point shots and easy fast break layups.

The score now 48-31 and the CBS scoring has slowed Castleknock were seizing the opportunity to come back into the game. After a timeout Castleknock displayed elite ball movement but were unable to convert on the three-point attempt. Senan O' Connell and Owen Bowe Dent make their way into the game. With 2:25 remaining the CBS are attempting to hold and keep their lead as the clock winds down. Quigley is subbed out for Osadolor and Castleknock are awarded two free throws after a foul by Mahona. O' Connell gets on the scoresheet doing what he does best as he drains a corner three in the last minute of the game. The game ended with a monster block by Osadolor as the lads played until the final whistle. The game ended 53-34 as the CBS take home the win in the semi-final.

Match Report – St Mary's CBS V Castleisland

CBS won the tip and quickly got an opportunity to score. Ciarán Dunne gets the first scores of the game by sinking one of two free throws. Justice Iheme pinned a fast break layup off the backboard, but the referee incorrectly called it as a goaltend. Castleisland splits the defence and were able to score twice under the board. Tawanda Mahona responded quickly with a catch and shot a three from the right wing. An intense back and forth left both teams struggling to score with intense defence effort from both teams. Spectators soon knew this would be a tight game. J. Iheme scores an easy basket off an inbound pass. Castleisland then quickly zip the ball around and penetrate to the inside where they were awarded with a finish off the glass. J. Iheme however proved to be too much for Castleisland's defensive effort as he walks into yet another layup on the right side. Impressive defensive efforts from Gio Osadolor and Sami Ahmed allow the CBS to run their offence at their own pace. Ahmed hits one of two after Castleisland receive their fifth foul and with a minute left both teams seem to be evenly scoring.

Another score from J. Iheme pushed the lead to five and Castleisland instantly respond with a catch and shoot 3. J Iheme however dribbled into a stepback 3 that successfully hit to end the quarter with a score of 16-13 with the CBS in the lead. A new five enter the game as the CBS are attempting to keep the minuscule lead that they have. Castleisland exploit the holes as CBS get back on defence converting two fast break layups. Prince Iheme puts in a tremendous effort on defence and is also able to get onto the scoresheet once again. Castleisland however are able to utilise on their size advantage

and get yet another score. Elite passing by Castleisland continues their scoring run as they take the lead by one. Impressive rebounds by Ben Quigley and Marat Tuhtarvos allow CBS to regain control for a brief minute however another basket by Castleisland shifts the momentum onto their side for the majority of the first half of the quarter. Now in the lead Castleisland seem more comfortable when on offence and are able to convert on open shots and opportunities. David Timmons puts in a massive effort on defence which is greatly felt in the overall atmospheres of the game. The CBS boys struggle to find rhythm in spite of P. Iheme's efforts gliding into another score from midrange. Castleisland continue to successfully run the fast break and the CBS struggle to defend it. Now down by 6 the boys keep heads up and display true tenacity. Castleisland begins to run the pick and roll but it is defended well by P. Iheme and Jim Hanamy. Another turnover resulted in two more free throws for Castleisland. After converting one of them they are now up seven points with the clock winding down.

Nevertheless, Quigley spins down the lane on the next possession and attacks the rim with aggression, finishing through contact he gets fouled and hits the free throw. Castleisland call a timeout to get a good shot off with 23 seconds left. CBS switch to a full court man to man defence in attempt to stop a scoring opportunity. Castleisland fail to score going into the second half with a 30-26 lead. J. Iheme checks back into the game and instantly adds to the CBS defence. Intense hustle from Tuhtarvos along with switches from Mahona and P. Iheme completely smother Castleisland's shot attempts. Both teams go scoreless for the first 3 minutes of the quarter with Castleisland eventually finding an opening under the basket. Shortly after scoring again from inside the key. J. Iheme responds with a floater heading downhill. With both teams only scoring 3 times in total it is clear that the defence effort has been ramped up on both teams. Quigley then catches and fires from beyond the arc hitting the 3 to bring it to within 3 points. A timeout by Castleisland highlights the improvement in the CBS offence as they score coming out of the timeout once again. Castleisland struggled to score this quarter as CBS take the lead with a fast break layup from P. Iheme.

Up by one going into the fourth the CBS have obtained all the momentum. Floaters from P. Iheme extend the CBS lead as Castleisland are unable to hit on multiple shot attempts down the other end. A back and forth from both teams resulted in neither team scoring for a 2 minutes and 49 seconds.

Tuhtarvos fouls number 10 on a shot attempt and he's sent to the line for 2. He hits the first and misses the second. A midrange from Castleisland ties the game at 37-37. Iheme putbacks Tutharvos missed layup to take the lead and J. Iheme steals it off Castleisland coming back down. Castleisland score one off a loose ball and is awarded one free throw. Coach Peter Duignan calls a timeout so the lads can talk it over. Tied at 39-39 Castleisland has one free throw that bounces in. J. Iheme comes down and gets fouled on a floater. He hits the first and misses the second however it bounces off a Castleisland player and is CBS ball. CBS turn it over and Castleisland comes down and scores. CBS are down by two with 1:16 remaining. A costly turnover lead to a Castleisland ball where

they leave it to the last second to shoot a deep three. The prayer hits and CBS now find themselves down a massive 5 points with under a minute remaining. Coach Duignan calls timeout to get the best possible shot off, which would need to be a 3. Quigley gets fouled on the inside off the inbound pass and heads to the line. He hits both. CBS presses to try force a quick turnover but Castleisland are able to zip the ball up court finding the open man who finishes securing a one. Duignan uses his second timeout but after the free throw the ball is loose and goes out of bounds and is a Castleisland ball. A travel by them results in CBS getting one last look at a game saving score. J. Ihome gets a good look at a 3 but is bounced out off the back rim and CBS call their last timeout. The CBS lads are forced to foul down 5 and Castleisland miss both. They foul again with 1 second left and Castleisland hit just 1. Down by 6 Castleisland dribble out the clock and begin celebrating after an impressive performance from both teams. The final score 48-42. A nail-biting final with two closely matched teams. The CBS side securing an All-Ireland silver medal.