

F.L.B.B. GAME - REPORT

TEAM : Luxembourg U20m
OPPONENT: Slovak U20M
DATE : 07.21.13
COMPETITION : European championship Div B
PLACE : Pitesti- Romania
REFS: Sinterniklaas, Hickman, Van de Broeck

Final Result (Quarters):

SLOVAK REPUBLIC vs LUXEMBOURG 68-67 (23-15 8-15 30-21 6-17)

F.L.B.B. - Team Composition:

	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	POINTS/3 PTS
4	MELCHER	Bob	8
5	WELTER	Tom	
6	ITTENBACH	Chris	17
7	MERSCH	Steven	0
8	STEFFEN	Tom	
9	GENGLER	Alain	4
10	MARTIN	Raphael	7
11	KREUTZ	Max	
12	SCHROEDER	Max	
13	LAURENT	Alex	26
14	GOERGEN	Ben	5
15	POLFER	Gilles	
HC	KLOSS	Rainer	
AC	SMITH	Mike	
PH			
TM	MERSCH	Yves	

Comments about the game:

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Coming back after a big loss is never easy, but this U20 team continued to put their best foot forward after being dealt set back after set back. After leading for 37 minutes they were dealt another tough blow, losing another close game in the last 20 seconds.

Without Gille, Polfer, Tom Welter, Tom Steffen due to injuries, Luxembourg played like a team that really wanted to end this tournament on a good note. Lead by Alex Laurent, and Chris Ittenbach, they came charging into the game and on 50 percent shooting from the 3-point line and working their defence for some easy baskets they built a 23 to 15 lead by the end of the 1st quarter.

The Luxembourg guys cooled off in the second quarter, and the Slovak team used their inside strength to rebound and score around the basket, every time they would



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make a push the Luxembourg team would push right back. At the half the score was 31 to 30 for Luxembourg.

As the third quarter started it was apparent to everyone in the gym just how tired both teams were, but neither team would give ground, again in the third the Luxembourg team tried to pull away and pushed the lead up to 10. Solid defence and rebounding along with good shot selection and a attacking mentality had the game going Luxembourg's way. But in the fourth quarter, the Slovak Republic once again started to push the ball inside, and win the war of the boards. On the defensive end they switched to a box and 1 defence taking Alex out of the game. With Alex tied up and some plays not going their way, the game tightened. With 1 min to go in the game, neither team could gain ground; Luxembourg had many good opportunities that just didn't fall in, and with 9 seconds left in the game the Slovak shot did. With 4 seconds left Bob Melcher drove to the basket passing the ball out to a open Alex Laurent, who's final shot fell short. In the end basketball is 40 minutes long. But this team from Luxembourg showed a lot of heart, spirit and toughness. They lost some extremely tough games, they lost players along the way, but they never lost their fighting spirit and their team mentality.

We learned a lot from this tournament, we also learned a lot about this group from Luxembourg, they fought for the pride of their country and they fought for each other. They figured out that playing for your team and your country only brings positive results, be proud, of this group of kids they showed strong character and gained a lot of respect.

