Game #1

**Hornets overcome huge deficit to win season opener**

The Charlotte Hornets defeated the Houston Rockets 110-105 on Wednesday night to get their first win of the season.

“It was a very good performance from the guys I thought they showed some really good defensive intensity,” said Charles Lee, Head Coach of the Charlotte Hornets.

This was Lee’s first win as a head coach in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He has been an assistant coach since 2014. Lee has been an assistant for the Atlanta Hawks, Milwaukee Bucks, and the Boston Celtics, helping the latter two teams win their most recent NBA championships.

LaMelo Ball led the Hornets in scoring tonight. The star point guard put up 34 points along with 11 assists and eight rebounds. This was the first time Ball had played since January 26th of last season due to an ankle injury.

“It felt good to be out on the court again,” Ball said.

The Hornets were down as many as 18 points in the first half because they could not stop the young duo of Jalen Green and Alperen Sengun of the Rockets. The future All-Stars combined to score 53 points in the game and led Houston to a double-digit halftime lead.

Lee implored his team to keep fighting and to come out strong in the 2nd half.

The Hornets took that message to heart as they outscored the Rockets 61-55 in the third and fourth quarters to get their first win. Other key contributors for Charlotte were Tre Mann (24 points and six rebounds) and Nick Richards (six points and eight rebounds).

However, Hornets fans noticed that Small Forward Brandon Miller did not play in the second half due to left hip soreness. The Hornets were already without Mark Williams who has been dealing with a back injury that sidelined him last season, and Josh Green who is dealing with a sore left Achilles.

It is an unfortunate position for Coach Lee but he believes that other players will step up in their absence.

“Anyone is ready for their opportunity because they put in the work every day. They know the offensive and defensive concepts and I feel comfortable and confident putting anyone in the game,” Lee said.

Up next for the Hornets they will be on the road once again on Friday night as they head to Atlanta to take on the Hawks. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.