

Women's Basketball – Pride believe they are turning the corner



Pride tussle for possession near the Wildcats basket during Saturday's WBBL clash at Oria

Natalie Bastian left The Oria wondering what might have been had Caledonia Pride had not been punished for their mistakes against Women's British Basketball League (WBBL) pace-setters Nottingham Wildcats.

The Edinburgh student believes Scotland's first women's professional basketball squad are turning the corner in their inaugural season.

They were soundly beaten 91-52 at Nottingham in the third round of fixtures on October 22 but on Saturday they pushed the Midlands club and they only lost by 14 points this time.

Natalie, who was playing for the first time in three weeks after picking up a virus on the plane back from her native North America, said: "We could have won the game and we're leaving the arena annoyed that we didn't.

"They are the league leaders but we pushed them in the second-half and having done that we feel we are moving in the right direction."

Natalie was third top scorer for Pride with nine points after Hannah Peacock who claimed 15 points and Tricia Oakes with 14.

The squad now face two weeks of training under their Dutch-born head coach Bart Sengers before facing third-placed Manchester Mystics at Oria on Saturday, January 22 (1pm).

She added: "Nottingham were really physical but we stayed with them. However,

we made too many turnovers and will work on that in training. We'll be focused and ready to face Manchester on January 22."