

Bulls outlast Jazz in 21-20 affair

The Bulls and Jazz both put their best foot forward during their season opening match-up in the 5th and 6th grade boys basketball league. Derek Leiker (14 points, 15 rebounds, 3 steals) started off the scoring for the Jazz, as he recorded his team's first 4 points of the quarter. Gavin Haynes (6 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) helped feed Leiker on his second basket, tallying an assist. For the Bulls, Mitchell Sayeta (1 point, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals) knocked down a free-throw to get the ball rolling for his team offensively. A few minutes later, Dominic Baker (6 points, 3 rebounds) added a basket, along with Philly Onevelo (2 points, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 blocks). The Bulls were up 5-4 at the end of the 1st quarter.

The second quarter turned into a defensive struggle. For the Bulls, Michael Sayeta (6 points, 2 rebounds) recorded a couple of steals, and Payton Hutchinson played tremendous defense, pressuring the opposing teams point guard. The Jazz did the same, as Matthew Schmutzler tallied a couple of steals too, along with Derek Leiker. On the offensive side of the ball, Dominic Baker of the Bulls added another basket for the Bulls, and Derek Leiker added 3 points for the Jazz. At half-time, the score was tied at 7.

Both teams began to find an offensive groove in the 3rd quarter. For the Bulls, Michael Sayeta took control early in the quarter, making back-to-back baskets. Dominic Baker tallied another jump-shot, and Talan Garver (4 points, 5 rebounds) became a presence inside the paint, making a basket after fighting hard for the rebound. In addition, Brandon Miller (2 points, 3 rebounds) sank a nice 10-foot jump-shot that hit nothing but net. The Jazz also found an offensive spark during the quarter. While Derek Leiker continued to work relentlessly inside the paint for another couple of baskets, Gavin Haynes (6 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist) stepped-up in a big way, tallying all 6 of his points during the quarter, making a few nice jump shots to keep his team at pace with the Bulls. Heading into the 4th quarter, the score was 17-16 in favor of the Bulls

The 4th quarter gave the fans all the drama they wanted in an opening week match-up. Talan Garver recorded another rebound and a basket for the Bulls to start off the quarter. On the ensuing Bulls possession, Michael Sayeta made a nifty move on the wing, and knocked down the 12 foot jumper. The Bulls were up 21-16 with 5 minutes remaining in the game. However, the Jazz did not give up, as Derek Leiker continued to be a force inside the paint, grabbing 5 boards, and recording 2 baskets of his own. Defensively for the Bulls, Leo Janowsky stepped up during the final stretch, ripping down 4 rebounds, and recording 2 blocks.

The Bulls came away with the victory in a nail-bitter, 21-20.