

Lakers complete the come-back over the Celtics

It was a tale of two halves as the Celtics and Lakers faced off in the primetime match-up on Thursday night. While the Celtics dominated play for much of the first half, it was the Lakers who turned the tables, and dominated in the second half.

The Celtics got off to a hot start, as Joseph Polek (12 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals) did what he does best—driving to the basket, scoring some nifty lay-ups. Joey scored 3 baskets in the first quarter, and Carter Becker (1 points, 6 rebounds) added a free throw. However, it was the stingy defense of the Celtics that kept the Lakers virtually off the scoreboard during the quarter, as Trey Pecoraro (4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals) and Tyler Willard (3 rebounds, 2 steals), each recorded multiple steals during the quarter. The Celtics were up 7-1 at the end of the 1st quarter.

The Celtics continued to stick to the offensive game-plan during the 2nd quarter, as Joey Polek, Trey Pecoraro, and Cameron Gruarin each added a basket, along with a couple of offensive rebounds by Zach Cilano (7 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal). The Lakers were able to break through the Celtics defense thanks to many steals by Anthony Savino (10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 steals) and Blake Suitor (5 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists), as each recorded a basket in the quarter. In addition, Anthony Dichiara (1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 steal) knocked down a free-throw, and Matthew Grinnell (4 points, 9 rebounds) worked hard inside the paint, scoring a hard-fought basket. At half-time, the Celtics were up 13-8, however, momentum was beginning to swing in the Lakers favor.

The Lakers dominated play in the second half on both ends of the floor, only giving up 6 points the entire half. Blake Suitor scored a 10-foot jump shot, and Jayden Kramarz (4 points, 4 rebounds) added a couple of nice baskets. Matthew Grinnell added another basket and 4 rebounds during the quarter, and Anthony Savino began to come alive on the offensive end, scoring 4 points and recording an assist. Although Polek did score for the Celtics, the Lakers did a good job of shutting down the remaining Celtics players, as the Lakers took the lead 20-17 at the end of the 3rd quarter.

Anthony Savino helped put the final blow into the Celtics, as he notched another 4 points and 2 steals during the quarter, playing the top of the zone defense to perfection. In addition, Ryler Mnich (2 points, 7 rebounds) put down the final dagger, as he hit a fade away, spin-a-rama jump shot during the final minute of play. Aside from a late-quarter lay-up, the Lakers virtually kept the Celtics off of the score sheet during the final 8 minutes of play. The Lakers completed the comeback, defeating the Celtics 26-19.