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Last second-basket by Smith helps Thunder defeat Grizzlies

The Thunder and Grizzlies played a great back-and-forth game where each team seemed to answer each-others play, bringing out the best in both teams. The end of the first quarter was tied at 3 points, as each team played fantastic defense. For the Grizzlies, Anthony Christian (4 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) scored all 3 points in the frame, while Anthony Battaglia (5 points, 1 assist, 3 steals) did the same for the Thunder. Each team played great defense in the quarter, making it difficult for either offense to get open shots.

The game began to open up in the 2nd quarter. Greydan Barnwell (10 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals) of the Grizzlies lead the way, hitting two 3-pointers in the quarter. Barnwell controlled the Grizzlies tempo all night, helping space the floor and get open shots. Braedon Dembeck (6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) also added a basket in the quarter for the Grizzlies. On the Thunder side of things, they also went on an offensive run, especially in the 2nd half of the quarter. Anthony Battaglia added a basket and Jacob Smith (9 points, 8 rebounds) added 5 points in the quarter, working hard inside the paint. At half-time, the Grizzlies were up by 1 point.

The Thunder came out firing in the 3rd quarter. Steven Pienta (7 points, 5 rebounds) scored 4 points including a huge 3-pointer from the top of the arch, and Brady Rodgers added a deep 2-pointer, giving the Thunder a 5 point lead. However, the Grizzlies had answers too. Greydan Barnwell and Matthew Brydges each hit 2 pointers, along with Braedon Dembeck who had a nice drive to the basket. At the end of the 3rd, the Grizzlies lead 19-18.

Neither team wanted to lose in the 4th quarter, however, it was the Thunder who would ultimately come away with the victory. After 3 early points by Steven Pienta, the Thunder held onto a 2 point lead. After a free-throw by Anthony Christian for the Grizzlies, the lead was cut to 1. On the next Grizzlies possession, Christian made a nifty move to slice through the defense, where he found Greydan Barnwell wide-open in the corner for the 15-footer, giving the Grizzlies a 1 point lead with 90 seconds remaining. However, the Thunder did not crumble under the pressure. With under 30 seconds remaining, Jacob Smith snuck behind the defense, and cleaned up the rebound with a basket, giving his team a 1 point lead. The Thunder would hold on to win the game, as Anthony Battaglia had the game sealing steal. The Thunder defeated the Grizzlies, 23-22.