

January 31, 2019

## **Thunder 31, Lakers 25**

### *Thunder roll past Lakers despite slow start*

The Lakers came out on fire on Thursday, jumping out to a 9-1 lead at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The tandem of Anthony Savino (6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals) and Blake Sutor (4 points, 5 steals) did a great job of running the point-guard position when called to do so. Each player recorded a lay-up in the quarter. Joey Bihary also hit a jumper, and Anthony Dichiara added a deep 3-pointer.

The Thunder began to turn the tides in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Anthony Battaglia (16 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist) had 5-points in the quarter, and Nate Patterson had two lay-ups, including the first of his 2 buzzer-beaters on the night. For the Lakers, Jayden Kramarz made a free-throw, and then Anthony Savino added a lay-up. Ryler Mních and Chase Smith also found the score-sheet, adding a basket each. At half-time, The Lakers held a 16-12 lead.

The Thunder dug in on defense in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Nate Patterson and Jacob Smith played great defensively, protecting the paint. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Battaglia added another 5 points and Patterson added 4 points (along with another buzzer-beater). Steven Pienta also did a great job of distributing the ball, adding an assist and basket of his own. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Thunder had climbed back to take a 23-20 lead.

The Thunder rolled in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, thanks to Battaglia's two 3-pointers, that helped seal the win. His 3's would not have been possible without screens by Lucas Johnson and Steven Pienta, who helped get Battaglia open. The Thunder also played great defense, as Jacob Smith and Brady Rogers disrupted many shots and passes.

The Lakers played hard in-side the paint, as Matt Grinnell (4 points and 7 rebounds) did fantastic, snatching a slew of rebounds and putting 2 offensive boards back. Ultimately, the Thunder's shooting from behind the arc was too much to overcome, as they won 31-25.