

Thursday February 14, 2019

Final-OT—Bucks 24, Jazz 22

Bucks defeat Jazz in OT for 1st win of the season

The Bucks and Jazz each entered the game looking for their first win of the season, however, only one team could be victorious. For the Jazz, Jack Giancola (18 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist) was the offensive heart-beat, coming off screens from Derek Leiker (5 points, 3 rebounds) with the intent to score. In the first quarter, the Jazz jumped out to an early 6-0 lead, thanks to Giancola, who dashed to the basket for 3 lay-ups. However, Brenon Tokarczyk (9 points 10 rebounds) picked up right where he left off in the teams previous game—working his way to the basket for lay-ups. Brenon had two straight lay-ups with under a minute left, and then hit a free-throw on an and-1 point. Suddenly, the score was 6-5 Jazz.

The Jazz began to pull away in the 2nd quarter, as Giancola added 5 more points, and found Leiker on a fancy over-the-shoulder pass, who was cutting to the basket for a lay-up. Tyson Wetzel also added a few rebounds on defense in the frame. While the Bucks dominated the rebounds in the 2nd quarter, they only had 4 points to show for it. However, they came at a crucial time, late in the quarter. First, Matthew Bradley hit a jumper, and then Sal Constantino (6 points, 1 rebound) added a basket from in the paint. This helped edge the momentum into the favor of the Bucks.

This momentum carried over into the 3rd, where the Bucks only gave up 1 point. This was led by Johnny Bertini (2 points, 9 rebounds), who played great defense on Jazz point guards in the frame. Also, Nick Holman came alive, and provided an extra spark that the Bucks needed. Nick showed off his range by hitting a deep 2-pointer to pull the Bucks within 1 point. Sal Constantino also brought some high-energy, adding another jumper from the top of the key. Heading into the 3rd, the Jazz clung to a 14-13 lead.

The 4th quarter was so much excitement, that the game needed an overtime to decide the winner. The Bucks continued to keep the momentum on their side, as Brennon Tokarczyk hit two quick baskets to give the Bucks a 3 point lead. Derek Leiker hit a shot from the paint for the Jazz to cut the deficit back to 1 point. Nick Holman showed off his range once again with 4 minutes left in the quarter, nailing a 3-pointer that hit nothing but net. The Bucks held a 20-16 lead half-way through the quarter.

A couple minutes later, Johnny Bertini nailed a basket, to give the Bucks a 22-17 lead. However, the Jazz kept their composure, as Jack Giancola and Derek Leiker continued to grind in the paint, drawing many fouls on their takes to the basket. Jack Giancola hit 3 straight free-throws with under a minute remaining to pull the Jazz within 1 point. With 45 seconds remaining, Leiker cleaned up a missed free-throw from Giancola, and tied the game. Each team played great defense in the final 45 seconds, forcing the game to OT.

In the overtime, Sal Constantino was the Buck who stepped up the occasion, hitting a 12-foot jump shot with under a minute remaining to give his team the 2-point lead—raising both fists and giving an emphatic yell of excitement when he hit the would-be game winner. The Bucks held on to earn their first win of the season, 24-22, in overtime.

In the loss, Jacob Abramowski grabbed 4 rebounds for the Jazz.

Each team gave their best efforts, and played in arguably one of the best games of the season so far.