

Thursday February 21, 2019

**Rockets 33, Lakers 10**

*Rockets fly away from Lakers*

The Rockets got off to a fast start on Thursday and never looked back in their victory over the Lakers. Johnathan Touma (8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists) led the way, scoring the first basket of the game. He then got Michael Mikulski (10 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals) involved, as he scored 4 points in the quarter, off of passes from Touma. Maximus Townsend (3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal) also added a basket in the quarter for the Rockets. The Lakers tried to find some offensive momentum, as Anthony Savino (5 points, 1 steal) added 3 points in the quarter. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup>, the Rockets led 8-3.

Blake Sutor of the Lakers started the quarter off with a 3-pointer, but then, the Rockets went on a big run. Taydan Williams (8 points, 11 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 block) was a huge part of their success on the night, scoring 4 points and ripping down 3 rebounds in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. His effort in the paint was a big reason why the Rockets found so much success. Touma also hit another basket, as he drove to the basket consistently throughout the game. At half-time, the Rockets led 14-8.

The Rockets were on fire in the second half, out-scoring their opponents 19-2 in the final 16 minutes. A major part of their success was due to their tenacious defense, led by Touma and Mason Mikulski. Each player got many steals and disrupted many passes, making it very difficult for the Lakers to get any ball movement. These steals transitioned into fast-break points, as the Rockets did a great job running the floor, passing the ball up to open to teammates.

In the second half, Michael Mikulski scored 6 points, Johnathan Touma had 4 points and 2 assists, while Taydan Williams also added 4 points. Ethan Harris also added a well-earned basket, working hard in the paint.

The Rockets defeated the Lakers 33-10 in the battle of first-place teams.