

Thursday February 28, 2019

Rockets 32, Bulls 14

Rockets height propels them to victory

The Rockets used their height to establish themselves in the paint and score inside all evening in their victory over the Bulls. The first quarter started close, as each team tried to figure out each other's strengths and weaknesses. At the end of the 1st, the Rockets led 6-4. In the frame for the Rockets, Taydan Williams (12 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals), Michael Mikulski (8 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block), and Arden Kruger (4 points) all scored baskets in the paint. Johnathan Touma (2 points, 1 rebound, 2 steal) did a good job all evening finding open teammates, and that started in the 1st quarter playing as a true point-guard. For the Bulls, Payton Hutchinson (2 points, 3 rebounds) made a lay-up, and Philly Onevelo added a buzzer beating basket.

The Rockets broke the game open in the 2nd quarter. Taydan Williams continued to do work in the paint, scoring 4 points. Johnathan Touma then added a basket off a steal, and also assisted on a basket by Mason Mikulski. Arden Kruger added another basket too. The Rockets also played great defense, thanks to steals by Touma, the Mikulski brothers, and Nolann Haffey. At half-time, the Rockets led 16-6.

The Bulls battled back in the 3rd quarter, as Mitchell Sayeta (6 points, 8 rebounds) added all 6 of his points in the frame. Mitchell made a couple of jump shots and made a nice floater in the lane. However, the Rockets kept the pace, as Michael Mikulski used his size to score on back-to-back baskets in the paint, shooting over the top of the defense. At the end of the 3rd, the Rockets held a 22-12 lead.

The Rockets finished the job by scoring an additional 10 points in the 4th. Presten Manzare (2 points, 5 rebounds) added a basket and 3 rebounds, while Taydan Williams added 4 points and 3 rebounds. Mason and Michael Mikulski each added baskets in the final frame. For the Bulls, Talan Garver's hard work was rewarded with a basket, on top of his 6 total rebounds. The Rockets ultimately won, 32-14.

In the loss, Philly Onevelo and Dominic Baker did a good job of playing help-side defense and pushing the ball up the court.