

Thursday, March 12, 2020
5th & 6th Grade Boys Basketball

Spurs 38, Rockets 26

Spurs 3-pointer Barrage On Full Display in Victory

The Spurs and Rockets came out on fire Thursday evening, draining 3's left and right in the opening quarter. In the first quarter, the Spurs and Rockets combined for 4 3-pointers, as team's exchanged baskets from downtown early on. In the opening frame, Joey Bihary (7 points, 4 rebounds), Gavin Haynes (5 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist), and Blake Suitor (18 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 blocks) knocked down 3's for the Spurs, while Carter Becker (11 points, 3 rebounds, block, steal) knocked down a trey for the Rockets. Nate Patterson (5 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, steal) added four points for the Rockets as well in the frame, while Ethan Harris (4 points, 7 rebounds, block) added another basket. At the end of the first quarter, the Spurs led 14-10.

The Spurs continued to shoot well in the second quarter, as Blake Suitor added another 3-pointer and a free throw, while Mason Mikulski (4 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals) added a basket and two rebounds. Meanwhile, Carter Becker was on fire for the Rockets, as he added 5 points, including a 3-pointer, and grabbed a rebound. Nate Patterson knocked down a free-throw and grabbed two rebounds. At the end of the first half, the Spurs led 21-16.

In the 3rd quarter, the Spurs began to pull away, as Joey Bihary knocked down another 3-pointer, and Gavin Haynes hit a jumper and grabbed two rebounds. Mason Mikulski scored on a lay-up and grabbed three rebounds, while Brody Schmutzler (point, 2 rebounds, steal) grabbed two rebounds and knocked down a free-throw. Blake Suitor also did a great job of running the point, finding open teammates in transition, while also scoring a basket. For the Rockets, despite the struggles, Ethan Harris ripped down 4 rebounds, and Carter Becker continued his strong, scoring a deep 2-pointer and grabbing two rebounds. Johnathan Touma (2 points, 2 steals) also scored on a tough take to the basket. At the end of the 3rd quarter, the Spurs held a commanding 31-20 lead.

Each team played even in the 4th quarter, as the Rockets even made a run late in the 4th to cut the deficit. The opening of the quarter saw the Spurs hold the momentum, as Blake Suitor went on a 7-0 run, knocking down a silky 3-pointer, and converting on hard takes to the basket. However, the Rockets were able to compete in the final minutes of regulation, as Braxton Vaillancourt (4 points) came alive, scoring 4 points off back-to-back hard takes to the basket. In addition, Ethan Harris scored off an offensive rebound, while Anthony Baran (3 rebounds, assist, steal) and Nate Patterson dished out assists.

Ultimately, the Spurs defeated the Rockets, 38-26. With the victory, the Spurs clinched the # 4 seed and will face the Clippers at 7 pm on March 19th. With the loss, the Rockets fell to the #6 seed and will face the Lakers in the Quarter-Finals on March 19th.

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Clippers 35, Lakers 32

Clippers Win Battle for L.A. in Regular Season Finale

The Clippers got off to a hot start on Thursday night, jumping out at 14-4 lead by the end of the first quarter. In the opening frame, the dynamic duo of Blake Deloreto (10 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 blocks) and Jack Giancola (17 points, 11 rebounds, assist, 2 blocks, steal) scored 6 points apiece, knocking down nearly every shot they took. In addition, Aiden Schmidt (4 points, 6 rebounds) put back an offensive rebound for two points of his own, while Lucas Johnson (4 points, 6 rebounds) and Peyton Moore each grabbed a rebound. In addition, the Clippers forced the Lakers into many bad shots, grabbing the rebound and looking to attack in transition as a result.

The Clippers continued to shoot well in the second quarter, however, the Lakers began to push through the Clippers tough defense. While Jack Giancola knocked down a 3-pointer and made a mid-range jumper, Derek Leiker (9 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist) began to heat up for the Lakers. In the second quarter, Derek scored 5 points, including a tough And-1. In addition, Adrico Palmer (9 points, 3 rebounds) scored a fast-break layup, while Cam Smith (2 points, 4 rebounds, assist, steal) added a jumper from the short corner and dished out an assist. Near the end of the frame for the Clipper, Blake Deloreto added a basket. In addition, Lucas Johnson had a huge quarter, snagging 3 rebounds. At half-time, the Clippers held a 21-13 lead.

The Lakers were on fire in the 3rd quarter, clawing back to make the score 27-25 by the end of the frame. After a quick basket by Blake Deloreto for the Clippers, the Lakers went on a 10-0 run, ripping up the court with ease. In the frame, Trey Pecoraro (6 points, 2 rebounds) and Adrico Palmer went on a tear, scoring 4 points a piece by attacking the paint. Joey Polek also grabbed 2 rebounds, while Derek Leiker took a steal coast-to-coast to score a lay-up. Near the end of the quarter, the Clippers answered the run with baskets from Lucas Johnson and Aiden Schmidt, however, the damage was already done. Heading into the 4th quarter, we had ourselves a tight ball game.

Despite a couple of ties during the quarter, the Clippers ultimately overcame the Lakers ferocious comeback. After Brenon Tokarczyk (3 points, 4 rebounds) tied the game early in the 4th quarter for the Lakers, the Clippers answered back with a tough take by Jack Giancola—reestablishing the lead. Giancola then converted a free-throw midway through the quarter, giving the Clippers a 30-27 lead. Joey Polek (2 points, 7 rebound, 2 assist) added a basket for the Lakers with under two minutes remaining, cutting the lead to one point again. On the other end of the floor, Lucas Johnson then added a clutch basket of his own, snagging the loose ball and putting it up to re-establish the 3-point lead.

With under a minute left and their backs against the wall, Adrico Palmer pulled up from behind the arch and drilled a 3-pointer to tie the game at 32. However, the Clippers were able to overcome this shot, as Blake Deloreto found Jack Giancola beneath the hoop, who then converted a 3-point play—re-establishing a three point lead. The Clippers were able to hold strong on defense for the final 45 seconds, as Caleb Herbert grabbed one of his two rebounds during the 4th quarter in the final seconds of the quarter. Ultimately, the Clippers defeated the Lakers, 35-32.

With the win, the Clippers clinched the #5 seed, and will face the Spurs on Thursday March 19th at 8 pm. The loss penciled the Lakers into the # 3 seed, as they will now take on the Rockets at 7 pm.

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Pelicans 20, Braves 18

Chase Smith Last-Second Shot Lifts Pelicans Past Braves

The Pelicans tough defense made life difficult for the Braves, as they disrupted nearly everything the Braves tried to do on the offensive end. All game, the Pelicans were able to slow down the fast-paced Braves by continuously getting back on defense, and forcing the Braves to shoot from the outside.

At the end of the first half, the Braves held a 9-8 lead, as AJ Cinquino (14 points, 7 rebounds) scored 8 points during the first 16 minutes by taking the ball hard to the basket. In addition, Ryan Whalen (point, 4 rebounds, steal) added a free-throw, and Issac Piorkowski (6 rebounds, block) grabbed 3 rebounds, while Najir Schultz registered 5 rebounds and 2 steals. Meanwhile, the Pelicans used a balanced attack, as Dominic Baker (6 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals, block) paved the way with 4 points and 4 rebounds, while Johnny Bertini (4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists) added 2 points and 2 rebounds. In addition, Chase Smith added a long-two-pointer and grabbed a rebound, while Ryan Richner grabbed two early rebounds.



The Pelicans controlled much of the 3rd quarter, jumping out to a 16-10 lead before Najir Schultz (3 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 blocks) knocked down a 3-pointer with under 20 seconds remaining in the frame to stop the bleeding for the Braves. The Pelicans used a steady attack, sharing the basketball in order to find the best shot possible. As a result, Dom Baker added a saucy lay-up, while Johnny Bertini added a basket and two assists. These assists were distributed to Chase Smith (6 points, 3 rebounds, 4 steals) and Aiden Shingleton (4 points, block), who each knocked down mid-range jumpers. Heading into the 4th quarter, the Clippers held a 16-13 lead.

The Pelicans never found themselves trailing in the 4th quarter, as even when the Braves tied the game, they regained the lead within seconds. AJ Cinquino tied the game early in the 4th quarter by converting a tough And-1, however Aiden Shingleton came down and nailed another mid-range jumper to re-gain the lead. The majority of the quarter turned into a defensive battle, as there was no more scoring until under the final 30 seconds of the frame. With under 15 seconds remaining, AJ Ciquino made a big play on the offensive end, putting back an offensive rebound to tie the game at 18 with 11.2 seconds remaining.

The Pelicans then pushed the ball up the court quickly, and called a time-out with under 6 seconds remaining. Out of the time-out, the Pelicans executed their play perfectly, leading to a great shot. Chase Smith came off a screen and faded to the wing, where he was found wide-open, with the time ticking down. Chase stepped into his shot and drilled the mid-range jumper, hitting nothing but net. With the shot, the Pelicans regained the lead with 3 seconds remaining. After a Braves time-out, the Pelicans held strong on the defensive end—with Chase Smith registering the final block to propel the Pelicans to a 20-18 lead.

As a result of the game, the Pelicans and Braves are set to have a rematch in the opening round of the playoffs, at 6 pm on March 19th.

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| Player of the Week | Unsung Hero of the Week |
|---|--|
| Carter Becker--Rockets | Chase Smith--Pelicans |
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| <p>Despite the loss, Rockets guard Carter Becker was on fire Thursday evening, scoring 11 points, grabbing 3 rebounds, and snagging a steal and block. Seemingly everything Carter put up went in the hoop, as Carter nailed a pair of three-pointers, as well as a few mid-ranger jumpers to keep the Rockets within the game. Carter's shooting abilities were on full display Thursday evening during the regular season finale.</p> | <p>Chase came up clutch for the Pelicans, drilling the game-winning basket with under 4 seconds remaining. Chase nailed the open shot from on the wing, as it hit nothing but net and gave the Pelicans the lead. Overall, Chase had 6 points, 3 rebounds, and 4 steals, displaying great effort on both ends of the floor. Chase's efforts helped propel the Pelicans to victory on Thursday evening.</p> |

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