Thursday March 14, 2019

Celtics 25, Grizzlies 23

Celtics survive a late push by the Grizzlies

The Celtics played tight defense down the stretch to clinch a victory of the Grizzlies. Each team played very similar in the first quarter, as the Grizzlies led 8-6 at the end of the frame. Greydan Barnwell (12 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals) had arguably his best game of the season, which he started right off the tip, with a lay-up within the first few seconds of the game. Joseph Polek (10 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals) of the Celtics also had one of his best games of the season, as he answered back with 4 quick points of his own. Braedon Dembek of the Grizzlies then added a basket of his own. After a Cameron Gruarin (7 points, 2 steals) basket off a pass from Zach Wilson (6 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals), the Celtics held a 6-4 lead. However, right before the end of the quarter, Andrew Brydges (6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals) added 4 points for the Grizzlies to give them the lead.

The Celtics dominated for much of the 2nd quarter, utilizing strong defensive play to stop any Grizzlies passes and shots. This was led by Carter Becker (4 rebounds, 2 steals) and Joey Polek. In the frame, Polek turned steals into points, rushing to the basket on drives to score an additional 6 points. At half-time, the Celtics held a 14-10 lead.

The Celtics continued to dominate in the early part of the 3rd, extending their lead to 19-10 after three points by Cameron Gruarin, and a basket by Zach Wilson in the paint. However, the Grizzlies clawed back in the final couple minutes of the quarter, eventually cutting the score to 21-17 by the end of the frame. This surge was led by Greydan Barnwell, who scored 4 points in the quarter. He did a great job of finding open lanes, using teammates screens in the process. He also found Andrew Brydges for a basket, while feeding Matthew Brydges, allowing him to knock down a free-throw after getting to the line.

The Grizzlies regained their momentum after a defensively solid first half of the 4th quarter by both teams, as Barnwell knocked down another 4 points, and then found Matthew Brydges for a jumper of his own. The Grizzlies also did a good job of grabbing offensive rebounds in the frame, getting multiple opportunities, cutting the lead to 2.

However, a finger-roll lay-up by Zach Wilson ultimately sank the Grizzlies, as he scored with under a minute remaining to give the Celtics a 25-23 lead. The lead would prove to be enough after a huge defensive stop with under 8 seconds remaining in regulation, stifling any of the Grizzlies plans for their final play.

The Celtics held on to win, 25-23.