

**Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys**

***Lakers 22, Pelicans 17***

***Lakers defeat Pelicans in Thursday Night Matchup***

After the Pelicans held a lead going into the locker room at the end of the first half, the Lakers ultimately pulled away to knock-off the Pelicans and get above .500 once again this season. At the end of the first quarter, the Pelicans held a 6-3 lead. Johnny Bertini (9 points, 1 rebound) got the scoring going with back-to-back reverse lay-ups. Then, Chase Smith (4 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals) added a basket of his own to give the Pelicans an early lead. The Lakers crawled back a bit, as Cameron Smith (2 points, steal) made a nifty lay-up, and Adrico Palmer (3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals) nailed a free-throw. In addition, Derek Leiker (4 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals) grabbed 3 rebounds, while Joey Polek (9 points, 3 rebounds) grabbed 2 rebounds.

In the second quarter, the Pelicans saw a 3-pointer by Johnny Bertini, while Chase Smith added a free-throw. Aiden Reed (2 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals) added a rebound, while Dominic Baker (1 rebound, 2 steals) added a steal. For the Lakers, Derek Leiker scored another basket and ripped down 4 rebounds, while Joey Polek added a lay-up of his own, along with a rebound. Adrico Palmer ripped down 2 rebounds, while Trey Pecoraro also added a jumper. At the end of the first half, the Pelicans held a 10-9 lead.

The Pelicans held onto the lead at the end of the third quarter as well, with a score of 17-15. Johnny Bertini added another reverse lay-up for the Pelicans, while Aiden Reed and Ryan Richner (2 points, 2 rebounds) added baskets off nice finds from their teammates. For the Lakers, Brenon Tokarczyk (2 points) added a basket, as did Joey Polek and Derek Leiker.

The Lakers dug deep on the defensive end in the fourth quarter, pitching a shut-out and keeping the Pelicans off the scoreboard. Meanwhile, Joey Polek had a great quarter on the offensive end—driving to the basket and finishing through contact—scoring 5 points in the frame. Derek Leiker also led the charge in the paint, securing 4 rebounds and 2 steals. With under two minutes remaining, Adrico Palmer knocked down a deep two-pointer, ultimately providing the Lakers with the lead, and guiding them to victory. In addition to this basket, Adrico was the ultimate point-guard during the quarter, dishing out two assists to his teammates, and securing the bit victory.

The Lakers held strong and ran out the clock on the offensive end, ultimately defeating the Pelicans, 22-17.

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**Supersonics 31, Spurs 23**

**Supersonics Overcome Slow Start to Clinch #1 Seed**

The Spurs jumped out to a 10-6 lead by the end of the first quarter, thanks to the strong play of Blake Sutor (11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals, block) and Braydon Marcus (3 points, 3 rebounds). In the opening frame, Blake scored 4 points and grabbed 2 rebounds, and also found Braydon Marcus who scored 3 points in the frame. Joey Bihary (3 rebounds) went to work in the paint, grabbing a pair of rebounds, while Mason Mikulski (4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals) grabbed two rebounds and scored two points. Meanwhile, the Spurs played great defense on the other end of the floor, slowing down the Supersonics high-flying offense for much of the first half.

The Spurs continued to attack into the second quarter, as Blake Sutor added a steal and lay-up, while Mason Mikulski knocked down a pair of free-throws. Brandon Miller (2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal) also got in on the action and scored a basket for the Spurs, and Brody Schmutzler added a rebound. Meanwhile, the Supersonics continued to be stalled by the Spurs defense, as they had to work very hard for their points. Greydan Barnwell (11 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks) dished out an assist to Joshua DeVantier (6 points, 2 rebounds, assist, steal) in the frame, while Trevor Harris (2 points, 3 rebounds, assist) recorded a basket too. Jaxson O'Connell (2 rebounds, assist, 5 steals) added a rebound and two steals in the quarter, and Mathew Bradley (8 points, 4 rebounds, steal) also scored. At the end of the first half, the Spurs held a 16-12 lead.

Much of the same continued into the 3<sup>rd</sup>, as the Spurs held a 23-20 lead by the end of the frame. Blake Sutor was on fire in the quarter, scoring 5 points and notching 3 rebounds, while Gavin Haynes added a basket and rebound. However, the Supersonics hung around, thanks to a jumper by Brady Rogers and a big three-rebound performance by Braxton Kilgour (2 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals). Braxton would grab the rebound and then find Greydan Barnwell, who raced coast-to-coast to score 4 points. Josh DeVantier also scored another basket for the SuperSonics, while Trevor Harris ripped down another rebound.

Despite the strong play of the Spurs for the first three quarters, the SuperSonics were able to overcome their troubles and have a monster 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. First, the SuperSonics got back to form on the defensive end by not giving up a single points throughout the course of the quarter. As a result of the increased defensive pressure, the SuperSonics were able to pick-up their pace of play, and ultimately pull away from the Spurs. Braxton Kilgour was the heart of the SuperSonic defense in the frame, as he grabbed 4 more rebounds, and prevented the Spurs from gaining second chance opportunities. As a result, the speed of the SuperSonics was able to shine. Greydan Barnwell scored 5 points in the quarter and dished out an assist to Joshua DeVantier, who once again did a great job of running the floor. In addition, Matthew Bradley pieced together a great game, as he scored 4 more points in the quarter. Brady Rogers and Jaxson O'Connell also did a great job of making smart passes—finding their open teammates for the best possible shots.

Ultimately, the SuperSonics defeated the Spurs 31-23. With the victory, the SuperSonics clinched the number one overall seed, and a first round bye to the semi-finals.

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**Braves 35, Clippers 22**

**Braves Teamwork Prevails in Victory Over Clippers**

The Braves came out on Thursday and played some of their best basketball of the season, sharing the basketball and making unselfish decisions to help better the team. The Braves pushed the ball up the court and found their open teammates, who were cutting hard to the basket. By the end of the first quarter, the Braves held a 10-2 lead. In the opening frame, Najir (13 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals, block) and Aris (6 points, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks) Schultz each scored baskets to get the ball rolling for the Braves. Then, Aiden Raymond (2 points, 5 rebounds, 6 steals) provided an additional spark, using his team-first mentality to find open teammates and push the ball up the court. As a result, AJ Cinquino (12 points, 12 rebounds, 2 assists, 7 steals, 4 blocks) was able to quarter-back the offense, grabbing 5 rebounds and dishing out 2 assists, to Aiden Raymond and Brandon Starich (2 points, 1 rebound), who both did a great job of finding open space on the court.

The Clippers and Braves exchanged baskets in the second quarter, however, it was a late run by the Braves which provided them with an 11 point lead at half-time. For the Clippers, Jack Giancola (17 points, 3 rebounds, 2 blocks) began to find his groove, scoring 8 points by coming off screens from Lucas Johnson (2 points, rebound, steal, block) and Caleb Herbert and attacking the basket. Lucas Johnson also had a rebound and basket for the Clippers. However, then Najir Schultz found his rhythm for the Braves, as he went off for 11 points in the quarter, including a nice 3-pointer and hard takes to the basket. Many times, Najir would pass to a teammate and then cut hard to the basket, where his teammates found him for the easy baskets. At the end of the half, the Braves held a 23-12 lead.



Each team locked in on defense in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, as the Clippers outscored the Braves 5-2 in the frame.

Ultimately, the Braves used a big 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to pull away from the Clippers, as AJ Cinquino scored 8 points off strong takes to the basket, and Aris Schultz knocked down a floater in the lane. Mason Richau also went to work in the paint, grabbing 2 rebounds, while Isaac Piorkowski registered a rebound and assist for the Braves. For the Clippers, Blake Deloreto (3 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals) scored 3 points, while Jack Giancola added a basket of his own. Peyton Moore and Aiden Schmitt each grabbed a rebound in the quarter for the Clippers as well.

The Braves ultimately defeated the Clippers, 35-22.

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<b>Player of the Week</b>	<b>Unsung Hero of the Week</b>
<b>Joseph Polek—Lakers</b>	<b>Aiden Raymond—Braves</b>
	
<p>Joseph Polek had one of his best games of the season, scoring 9 points and grabbing 3 rebounds in his teams come-from-behind victory. Joey's play in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter helped seal the comeback, as he scored 5 straight points for the Lakers, which helped them pull past a pesky Pelicans squad. Joey's efforts were a large reason why the Lakers were able to get back in the win column on Thursday.</p>	<p>Aiden was the motivator of the Braves once again on Thursday, showing off his leadership abilities by stressing teamwork and playing with energy. Aiden set the tone early for the Braves, and despite having only one basket, Aiden grabbed 5 rebounds and tallied 6 steals, while also making correct passes throughout the game to his open teammates. Aiden's leadership and energy helped propel the Braves to victory on Thursday.</p>