

Saturday March 9, 2019

Raptors 29, Suns 24

Raptors prevail in victory over Suns

The Suns jumped out to an early 8-2 lead in the first quarter, but the Raptors showed their resiliency and stormed back by half-time. In the first quarter for the Suns, a slew of players worked the ball around to get easy baskets. Blake Deloreto (12 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals), Javier Ortiz (6 points, 3 rebounds, 4 steals), Jared Volz (2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal), and Owen Englert (2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal) all scored a basket in the opening 5 minutes. The Suns did a very good job of pressuring the ball at half-court, jumping any passes the Raptors threw. The Raptors got a big basket by Brendan Dalke (9 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals) late in the quarter to swing some momentum into their favor, as Devan Barnwell (4 points, 3 assists, 4 steals) made a great pass to get him the ball. At the end of the 1st quarter, the Suns led 8-4.

The Raptors played great team basketball over the next two quarters, outscoring their opponent 20-9 over the span of 16 minutes. The Raptors did a great job of pressuring the ball and forcing turnovers, which they then turned into great fast-break opportunities. In the 2nd quarter, the guards of the Raptors—Devan Barnwell, Spencer Juliano (4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals), and Michael Touma (2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) did a great job of pushing the ball up the court, finding Raptor big men such as Ryan Brady (2 points, 8 rebounds, 1 block) and Brendan Dalke (9 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals) near the basket for open shots.

In the 2nd quarter, Barnwell scored 3 points, while Dalke and Ryan Brady each tallied a basket. At half-time, the Raptors clawed back to hold an 11-10 lead. The Raptors began to pull away in the 3rd quarter, thanks to their continued team-centered play. Spencer Juliano scored 4 points in the quarter, while ripping down 3 rebounds. Aidan Mcguire also added a key basket in the paint, while Brendan Dalke had 5 points, including a 3-pointer. Much of this scoring occurred over the final 3 minutes of the quarter. The Suns found offense from Javier Ortiz, who scored 4 points in the final 30 seconds of the quarter off steals at half-court. Will Meyers also added a basket in the frame. The Raptors held a 24-17 at the end of the 3rd.

The 4th quarter featured each team fighting til the end. Despite the Raptors holding the lead, the Suns continued to battle. After a quick basket by Brendan Dalke, the Suns turned it on. Blake Deloreto led the charge, scoring 7 points in the quarter off great drives to the basket, blowing by defenders. Near the end of the quarter, Will Meyers did a great job of pressuring the ball in the final frame, making it very difficult for the Raptors to get open looks. However, Carter Micoli added a key basket during the final minutes of the quarter to give the Raptors a cushion. The Raptors did an efficient job of breaking the Suns press in the final 30 seconds of the game, securing the victory.

The Raptors defeated the Suns, 29-24.