

August 13, 2018

**BIG TIME BALLERS PUNCH TICKET TO CHAMPIONSHIP WITH WIN OVER SLICK SHOTS;
WILL FACE HOOP STARS IN TITLE GAME NEXT MONDAY**

Thanks to a sensational 25-point performance from NT Youth Center Basketball veteran Joe Kish, the BIG TIME BALLERS and head coach Jake Lemke advanced to next week's championship game with a 58-50 victory over SLICK SHOTS and head coach Eli Williams. Kish, who also finished with 7 rebounds and 3 assists, recorded an astounding 6 three-pointers on the night, five coming in the second quarter. Teammate Alex Fletcher added 17 points and 5 steals while Sebastian Reid led the SLICK SHOTS with a 14-point, 8-rebound and 4-assist performance.

The BTBers built a 15-9 lead over the SLICK SHOTS at the end of the first quarter thanks to a 5-point outing from Kish. Ryan Mellerski (8 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals overall) recorded 4 points while Fletcher had a 3-point play and Jerry Amrhein scored a three-pointer. For the SLICK SHOTS, Luke Granto scored his first of his three three-pointers (9 points, 3 rebounds overall) while Reid and Thomas Sommers scored a basket apiece.

Things were still neck-and-neck in the second quarter as the SLICK SHOTS outscored the BIG TIME BALLERS 18-14 to cut the deficit to 29-27 at halftime. Reid had a trio of lay-ups along with 4 rebounds and assisted on baskets from Khristian Velasquez and Brian Connelly. Sommers and Granto had a three-pointer apiece to finish the scoring. As for the BTBers, along with Kish recording his five treys, Fletcher had a fast-break basket.

Then, in the third quarter, Fletcher took over, scoring 10 points, to keep the BTBers in front, 43-39. Mellerski and Amrhein (8 points, 5 rebounds overall) complimented Fletcher with a basket apiece. For the SLICK SHOTS, both Velasquez brothers, Khristian and Jael, started to heat up. Khristian scored of his 7 points while Jael scored 4 of his 6 points.

But in the fourth quarter, after a costly technical foul called against the SLICK SHOTS, the BIG TIME BALLERS kept their composure with Kish scoring 7 points, including 4 free-throws. Amrhein added a three-pointer while Fletcher scored a basket and Mellerski had two free-throws. For the SLICK SHOTS, Granto, Reid and Sommers had a three-pointer apiece while James Holler scored a basket.

In the victory, Vinny Cairns added 5 rebounds and 2 assists to round out the five-man squad.

In the loss, Holler finished with 4 points and 7 rebounds. Connelly finished with 3 rebounds and Curran finished with 2 rebounds.

The BIG TIME BALLERS will face the HOOP STARS next Monday at Payne Park at 6 PM.