

August 15, 2018

AND 1 ADVANCES TO NEXT ROUND OVER BALLERS THANKS TO CRUCIAL FREE-THROWS

With only a five-man roster, head coach Eli Williams and his AND 1 squad had one of the biggest games of the season as they knocked off head coach Trevor Book and the BALLERS, 31-29, to advance to the next round. Crucial free-throws by AND 1's Patrick McNeil (25 points, 14 rebounds, 4 blocks) and a costly technical foul called on the BALLERS late in the fourth quarter were enough for AND 1's date with SLAMA JAMA later that night. Nash Rieselmann led the way for the BALLERS in the loss with 9 points and 7 rebounds while teammates Jake Kish and Brittany Day had 8 points and 6 points respectively.

In the first quarter, AND 1 had a 9-8 edge over the BALLERS, thanks to 7 points from McNeil, including a three-point play. Jake Dunstan scored his first of two baskets as well. For the BALLERS, Day scored a trio of lay-ups and Rieselmann added a long jumper.

Then, in the second quarter, AND 1 built a one-point lead at halftime, 19-18, thanks to a basket and four free-throws from McNeil and a basket apiece from Dunstan and Chris Desiderio. This was countered by a pair of baskets from BALLERS big man Dylan Froelich (also had 4 rebounds), a three-pointer from Kish and a jumper from Jack Porter.

But, in the third quarter, the BALLERS came out as if they were shot out of a cannon. In an instant, they had a 23-19 lead thanks to a steal and a basket from Kish and a trey from Rieselmann. The scoring battle came between Rieselmann and McNeil to end the quarter. For the BALLERS, Rieselmann made the most out of a pair of opportunities at the free-throw, adding 4 points, while McNeil scored all 7 points in the frame for AND 1.

In the fourth quarter, both teams missed scoring opportunities until Kish made his second and final three-pointer to give the BALLERS a 29-26 lead. McNeil countered with a lay-up to cut the deficit to 29-28. On the next possession, however, a technical foul was called on the BALLERS after McNeil drove to the basket. This led to McNeil making 3 of 4 free-throw attempts (2 for the shot attempt, 2 more for the technical foul), which was enough for the victory.

In the victory, Dunstan added 5 rebounds, man-off-the-street Josh Tiedeman added 4 rebounds, Desiderio had 3 rebounds and Evan Johnson recorded 2 rebounds.

In the loss, the BALLERS, who finished the season with a 3-6 record, found contributions from a variety of players. Day recorded 5 rebounds to go along with her scoring. Kish had 2 rebounds and 2 assists while Porter added 5 rebounds and 2 assists. Aaron Quinn had 5 rebounds while Richard Mateyevich added 3 rebounds.