

July 9, 2018

BIG TIME BALLERS MOVE PAST SLICK SHOTS THANKS TO MELLERSKI'S SOLID OUTING

If there's one thing BIG TIME BALLERS' coach Jacob Lemke enjoys the most when working with his players is seeing their true passion for the game of basketball. Ryan Mellerski was another example of that as his 13-point, 9-rebound, 4-steal performance led the BTBers to a 40-29 victory over SLICK SHOTS for their second victory of the summertime season.

Both teams started the game finding scoring opportunities as the score at the end of the first quarter was 11-9, BTBers. Joe Kish connected on a trio of inside shots for the BALLERS while Mellerski added his lone three-pointer and a lay-up. For the SLICK SHOTS, coached by Eli Williams, big-man Khristan Velasquez converted a three-pointer and a pair of free-throws (5 points, 5 rebounds total) while young guards Sebastian Reid (team-high 11 points and team-high 10 rebounds) converted a pair of lay-ups.

The second quarter was the turning point as the SLICK SHOTS were held to just four points as the BIG TIME BALLERS edged out to a 20-13 halftime lead. Kish scored his final 7 points of the night (13 points, 4 rebounds total) while Mellerski added another lay-up. This could be one of the top tandems to watch as the season progresses. Grant and Reid did their best to keep their team in the game with a nifty lay-up apiece.

The SLICK SHOTS carried that momentum into the third quarter as Grant (10 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists) and Reid converted on a pair of lay-ups apiece while Thomas Sommers and Jael Velasquez made some lockdown plays on the defensive side of the court. Meanwhile, Alex Fletcher began to heat up for the BTBers with a critical free-throw and a game-changing lay-up to keep his team in the lead heading into the final frame, 26-21. Fletcher finished the night with 7 points, 2 rebounds and 2 assists.

Fletcher's strong game was enough for the BTBers to score 14 points in the fourth quarter to ensure the victory. Jerry Amrhein scored all of his 4 points and Bryan Toth (9 rebounds) had a put-back basket inside the paint. However, it was Sommers of the SLICK SHOTS who had the "slick shot" of the game with his connection from beyond the arc.

In the loss, Jael Velasquez recorded four rebounds while Joshua Curran recorded a rebound for the SLICK SHOTS.

In the victory, Vinny Cairns recorded a rebound while Marvin Townsend recorded a free-throw for the BIG TIME BALLERS.