

July 2, 2018

### **BIG TIME BALLERS BOUNCE BACK WITH VICTORY OVER SLICK SHOTS WITH THIRD QUARTER SURGE**

After a season-opening loss to the Hoop Stars, the Big Time Ballers bounced back to move to .500 on the season with a close 47-40 victory over the Slick Shots. Head coach Jake Lemke was pleased with the effort, especially in the third quarter, when the BTBers outscored their opponent 23-2 in the frame.

However, it was a slow start for the Big Time Ballers as head coach Eli Williams' squad of sharp shooters for the Slick Shots had the early story. Baskets from Luke Grant, Sebastian Reid (team-high 13 points) and Thomas Sommers along with 4 points from big-man James Holler gave the Slick Shots a 12-10 edge at the end of the first quarter. Ryan Mellerski quietly led the way for the Big Time Ballers with 5 points in the quarter and finished with 13 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals on the night.

The Slick Shots kept their pace in the second quarter, with Holler recording 6 points and 5 rebounds in those 8 minutes. He finished the night with 12 points and 8 rebounds. Reid added 5 points, connecting on a three-point play down the stretch. For the Big Time Ballers, Joe Kish (10 points, 4 rebounds) connected on a three-point play the old-fashioned way while Jerry Amrhein connected on his second of three three-pointers on the night (9 points total). At the end of the first half, the Slick Shots had a 25-19 lead.

But the floodgates opened in the third quarter with the Big Time Ballers connecting four times from beyond the arc- one each from Amrhein and Kish and two from Ryan Mellerski. The BTBers attacked in the paint with Bryan Toth adding 4 points, Joe Woronecki and Vinny Cairns scoring a basket apiece and Jacob Kish converting a three-point play.

A late triple from Luke Grant (7 points total, 2 assists) and a trio of lay-ups from Reid kept the Slick Shots in the game, who outscored the BTBers, 13-4 in the final frame. But the damage from the third quarter by the Big Time Ballers was enough for the victory.

Other contributors in the victory were Woronecki, who finished with 4 points, and Marvin Townsend who had 2 points and 3 rebounds. In the loss, Sommers finished with 6 rebounds to go along with his basket. Plus, Khristian Velasquez added 4 points and 2 rebounds and his brother Jael, finished with a basket.