

July 2, 2018

### **HOOP STARS WIN NAIL-BITER OVER BIG TIME BALLERS; FOX-STODDARD DROPS 31**

The 15-18 year old league started Monday night with a fiery effort from both teams to match the weather as the Hoop Stars won over the Big Time Ballers, 45-43. It seemed that guard Noah Fox-Stoddard didn't break a sweat as he was making plays on both ends of the floor for head coach Alex Quinn's team, finishing with a stat-line of 31 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 5 steals.

The first quarter started with a defensive battle, the Big Time Ballers clawing their way to an 8-6 lead with Joe Kish scoring 6 of his team-high 15 points and big-man Joe Woronecki (6 points, 8 rebounds) finishing on a put-back shot in the paint. A major play for the Hoop Stars in that quarter came from Sean Ferry, who connected on his lone three-pointer of the day (finished with 7 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals).

But Fox-Stoddard gave the Hoop Stars the lead heading into half-time, 19-18, dazzling the crowd with 8 points and a nifty pass to Aidan Ferry, who connected on his lone shot from beyond the arc. The Big Time Ballers' continued to follow head coach Jake Lemke's system of "find the open teammate and make the open shot" with five players recording a basket.

In the third quarter, the duo of Kish and Ryan Mellerski turned it up a notch for the Big Time Ballers. Kish scored 7 points in the frame while Mellerski scored 7 of his 9 points on the night. While Fox-Stoddard scored 6 points for the Hoop Stars, big-man Austin Johnson emerged in the quarter, scoring all 5 of his points to keep his team in close distance, trailing 34-33.

His performance seemed to connect the dots for the Hoop Stars, with Fox-Stoddard scoring all 11 points in the quarter for the victory and other contributors putting in the effort on the defensive end. But the play of the game from Big Time Ballers guard Jerry Amrhein. His three-point shot with less than 2 minutes to go in regulation tied the game up at 40. However, the Hoop Stars locked things down on the defensive end to seal the deal.

Another notable performer for the Hoop Stars in their Week One victory was Caleb Royer, who finished with 2 points and 3 rebounds. In the Big Time Ballers loss, Jacob Kish and Bryan Toth scored 4 points apiece while Marvin Townsend and Vinny Cairns each recorded a basket.