

July 30, 2018

BTBers WIN OVER SLICK SHOTS DESPITE SLOW START; TRIO FINISH IN DOUBLE DIGIT SCORING

After trailing by 8 points at the end of the first quarter, the BIG TIME BALLERS turned things around to avoid a three-game losing streak and stay in the middle of the standings with a 57-48 victory over the SLICK SHOTS in the night-cap of the Week 5 doubleheader, which was moved to the Hope Center due to inclement weather. The trio of Alex Fletcher (17 points), Joe Kish (16 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists) and Ryan Mellerski (12 points, 11 rebounds, 2 assists) led the way for head coach Jake Lemke.

But in the first quarter, it seemed that everything was going in the favor of head coach Eli Williams and the SLICK SHOTS as they built up a 21-13 lead. The Velasquez brothers, Jael (11 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists) and Khristian (11 points, 7 rebounds), combined for 8 points in the quarter- Jael a three-pointer and a lay-up while Khristian converted the old-fashioned three-point play. Luke Grant (11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists) connected on a pair of three-pointers while Thomas Sommers connected once from beyond the arc. Brian Connelly also scored his lone basket. For the BTBers, Kish and Mellerski led the way with 7 points and 6 points respectively.

Then, after still trailing by double-digits halfway through the second quarter, the BTBers went on a tear to tie the game up at 27 heading into half-time, thanks to the efforts of Fletcher, who scored 11 points in the frame, including a nifty put-back lay-up. Newly acquired Nick Sciandra made his scoring debut with a three-pointer from beyond the arc to the finish the scoring. The SLICK SHOTS were held to just 6 points with 3 points apiece from Khristian Velasquez and Joshua Curran.

At the end of the third quarter, the BIG TIME BALLERS held on to a 42-41 lead. Joe Kish led the way with a 6-point outing, including a three-point play and Sciandra connected from downtown. He finished with 8 points on the night. In addition, Jerry Amrhein scored all of his 4 points on the night inside the paint while Fletcher scored a bucket. The SLICK SHOTS countered with a basket apiece from the Velasquez brothers while Sommers scored 7 of his 10 points on the night. Grant also hit his third and final three-pointer of the evening.

In the fourth quarter, the BTBers outscored the SLICK SHOTS, 15-7, to ensure the victory. Mellerski led the way with 6 points while Fletcher scored 4 points, Kish hit another three-pointer and Sciandra scored a basket. Khristian Velasquez had the highlight of the quarter for the SLICK SHOTS, showing the range from beyond the arc.

In the victory, Amrhein added 5 rebounds to go along with his 4 points and teammate Bryan Toth had 2 rebounds and an assist.