

July 9, 2018

HOOP STARS EDGE SLICK SHOTS IN NIGHTCAP MATCHUP

Similar to last week, the nightcap matchup of the 15-18 year-old league was a dandy as the HOOP STARS remained undefeated in dramatic fashion, a 43-39 victory over the SLICK SHOTS. Speedy guard Noah Fox led the way once again with a 12-point, 2-rebound, 3-assist and 4-steal performance, exploding from one end of the court to the other in a few seconds.

The HOOP STARS, coached by interim head coach Jordan Fox, jumped out to a 16-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. Recent NT Varsity star Sean Ferry (10 points, 6 rebounds) led the squad with 5 points in the frame while Fox added 4 points. But it was Carly Hall (5 points, 1 rebound) who had the play of the game with an attack to the basket, completing the old-fashioned three-point play. For the SLICK SHOTS, Sebastian Reid, Khristian Velaszquez (6 points) and Jael Velaszquez scored three points apiece, all attacking the paint and getting to the free-throw line.

Head coach Eli Williams must have told his team something motivational as the SLICK SHOTS came out slick, going on a 13-7 run to cut the deficit to 23-22 at the half. Not only did Jael Velaszquez (team-high 11 points, 2 rebounds, block) and Reid (9 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals) continue scoring inside the paint but fellow young guard Luke Grant joined the party with a three-point play and an additional bucket. While the HOOP STARS were held to just 7 points in the frame, young forwards Aidan Ferry and Austin Johnson most notably scored a lay-up apiece.

In the third quarter, the HOOP STARS bounced back with a 10-point outing to extend their lead to 33-29. Johnson, Fox, Hall, Sean Ferry and Louis Deluca (4 points, 3 rebounds) all scored lay-ups. Luke Grant kept the SLICK SHOTS in the game with a basket and a pair of free-throws to finish the night with 9 points and 3 rebounds. Jael Velaszquez also added a big-time bucket.

In the fourth quarter, Reid, Khristian Velaszquez and Jael Velaszquez made it close with big buckets down the stretch for the SLICK SHOTS but it was HOOP STARS' forward Caleb Royer who had a pair of lay-ups inside the paint along with baskets from Fox that was enough for the victory.

In the victory, Johnson finished with 6 points and 2 rebounds while Aidan Ferry finished with 2 points and 6 rebounds for the HOOP STARS. In the loss, Brian Connelly and Thomas Sommers scored a basket apiece for the SLICK SHOTS.