

Poole's monster double-double helps Slam to 106-86 win in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bellingham Slam received a monster double-double from center Blake Poole as they rolled to a 106-86 win over the Portland Chinooks in an International Basketball League game at Eastmoreland Court on Friday.

Poole, recipient of the IBL's Player of the Week award this week for a pair of strong performances last weekend, put up 33 points and 20 rebounds, season bests in both categories.

The Slam's defense went to work early, limited Portland to just 16 first quarter points and eventually led 46-39 at halftime.

But it wasn't until the start of the fourth quarter when the Slam started to pull away, thanks to a 12-2 run buoyed by 7 points from Poole, and led 87-68.

Portland was able to trim the margin to 12 midway through the period, at 90-78, but Bellingham closed out the game with some smart passing and clutch baskets to secure the 20-point win.

Poole's 33 points paced four Slam players in double figures. Guard Morris Anderson finished with 19 points, while guard Sam Freeman had an impressive night with 16 points and 6 rebounds.

Forward Jared Cunningham led Portland with 21 points.

The Slam complete their two-game road trip as they face the Vancouver Volcanoes on Saturday night, before returning to Whatcom Pavilion for their annual Memorial Day game versus the same Volcanoes squad on May 26. Tip-off is set for 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the Slam at (360) 734-SLAM or visit their website at www.bellingslam.com.

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