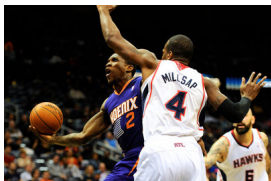


Recap: Phoenix Suns Get 4th Win in a Row Against Atlanta Hawks, 102-95

Written by
Monday, 24 March 2014 21:21 -



Are you a Frye Guy or a Mo' Bro?

Why not both?!

[Channing Frye](#) and [Markieff Morris](#) both came to play tonight, combining for 35 points on 13-21 shooting while playing engaged defense on [Paul](#)

[Millsap](#)

. Millsap still managed 19 points, but did it on 6-14 shooting. Frye chipped in 7 boards while Markieff managed 3 in the 102-95

[Suns](#)

' victory.

Not to be out done, [Eric Bledsoe](#) and Goran Dragi? scored 20 and 19 of their own points in a solid Suns' victory. Aside from a cold stretch in the second quarter, Phoenix looked focused and composed throughout the game, never rattling in the face of the

[Atlanta Hawks](#)

' multiple attempts to steal this game. This was the smoothest Phoenix's offense has looked since Bledsoe returned from knee surgery and is hopefully a harbinger of things to come.

This was a solid effort by Phoenix and hopefully a bit of a breather for Suns fans after their recent struggles to notch wins. Not that you'd know they'd been struggling as they've now won 4 in a row and 5 of their last 6! You know who never struggles (except on fast breaks)? [P.J.](#)

[Tucker](#)

. That dude just plays his game night in and night out. Tonight it was 8 points, 11 rebounds and 3 steals for the heart of the Phoenix Suns, who like Tucker, never quit in this game. His defensive intensity was contagious as the Suns held the normally hot-shooting Hawks to 41.7% shooting.

For the Hawks, DeMarre Carroll matched Millsap's 19 points, while [Jeff Teague](#) and Louis

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Williams had 17 each. And despite some early domination on the glass, Phoenix managed to out rebound the Hawks' aggressive front line, 39-32.

First Half

Hot shooting and good defense got the Suns off to an 15-7 advantage as Atlanta missed their first 6 shots while the Suns hit their first four 3-pointers. It did not last long as Paul Millsap and [Elton Brand](#) went to work to tie the game with 2 minutes left in the first quarter. Channing Frye and [Lou Williams](#) then exchanged 3 pointers before both teams forgot how to play basket ball for the next 90 seconds. [Gerald Green](#) was then fouled on a drive and hit a pair of free throws to extend the lead to 25-23 to end the quarter.

The second quarter started with Atlanta scoring on their first 2 possessions to take a 2-point lead. The Hawks stretched their lead to 7 behind some strong play from Louis Williams before [Marcus Morris](#) and Channing Frye hit back-to-back threes to close the gap to 1. An Eric Bledsoe free throw completed the 7-0 run to tie the ball game with 5 minutes left in the period. Atlanta bested the Suns on the boards 20-18 (5-3 on the offensive end) which lead to multiple second chances and a 3-point halftime lead despite being out-shot by Phoenix 41.2% to 40.5%.

Second Half

After getting abused on the boards early, Phoenix remembered their fundamentals and fought back to take the lead a few minutes into the third quarter. Goran Dragić and Eric Bledsoe were aggressive going to the hoop, drawing fouls when they weren't getting lay-ins. The penetration of DragonBlade was so effective that Hawks coach [Mike Budenholzer](#) drew a technical after an uncontested Bledsoe lay-up. His T was for naught as the Bledsoe-Dragić lay-up line continued unabated as the Suns outscored Atlanta 35-23 in the third with 23 of those points coming from DragonBlade.

Phoenix looked to keep the momentum going in the 4th, but a cold spell allowed Atlanta to climb back within 4 early in the period. Gerald Green, who went to the bench early with foul trouble, made his presence felt to keep the Suns from succumbing to the feisty Hawks scoring 9 points in the 4th quarter. After extending the lead to 10, Phoenix started playing not to lose and working the shot clock with just over 4 minutes left in the game. The lack of aggression allowed

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Atlanta to make it way more of a game than it needed to be. Nevertheless, solid defensive play and steady shooting allowed Phoenix to hold on for the win.