

11/28/2012

Los Angeles Clippers vs. Minnesota Timberwolves Post-Game Quotes

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Team effort

“A great win for us in terms of getting some of our energy back and working Chauncey [Billups] into the lineup. I thought everybody contributed. Our bench was better. Blake [Griffin] made some plays when we had to have them, and everyone contributed which was great.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight's game

“I'm proud of the guys and the way they bounced back tonight. Especially when we had to make plays in the fourth quarter and the defense in the second half. We did a better job there. Their two big guys are very good, physical players up front and they hurt us on the glass, especially on the offensive rebounding. But, I thought our ball movement was better, especially in the first half. I thought it got a little stagnant at times in the second.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Being down going into the fourth quarter

“I told the guys going into the fourth quarter, it's all a test: a test of your character, a test of what you're made of, how you're going to stay together, how you're going to grind games out. So I was proud of the way we managed the fourth quarter. We made plays when we had to defensively and offensively.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Chauncey Billups impact in the fourth quarter

“He is going to be in there at the end of games. He is one of the top guys that you would want in there in terms of not only his big shot ability, but his free throws, knowing the game. He is going to make the right play. I thought he made a great lob play to DJ [DeAndre Jordan] at the end of the game. A lot of guys probably wouldn't make that pass or attempt that. They would hold the ball. But Chauncey [Billups] is able to make those things happen with his experience.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHAUNCEY BILLUPS

RE: First game back

“I was just so excited to be back out there. It's been such a long road back. Honestly I've only played full court about three times since the injury. Knowing that, I've tried to be patient with myself and know that it's going to take a little while. Just to be out there was great. When I went down, I wasn't going to hear the word, 'No' or 'He's done.' I wasn't going to listen to any of you who said that, because of a lot of you were saying that and I wasn't going to give into it. For me, just being out there, no matter how the game went, as long as we won, it was a success for me.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHAUNCEY BILLUPS

RE: Road to recovery

“I got back pretty far ahead of schedule. I would've been back before this if not for a couple of minor setbacks which is expected. I'm pretty sure there will be some other things on the way as I recalibrate my body to play at really intense level of basketball. But I'm definitely early.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN

RE: Having Chauncey Billups back

“It's great. It's like having a calming presence. He is the guy that is always encouraging you; the guy you always look to for advice. To have him out there settles us down a lot.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Battle with Kevin Love**

“He’s a tough player. He has to be accounted for at all times. He can hit shots and he’s going to be physical every time he plays.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Execution in the 4th quarter**

“We did a good job down the stretch, making plays. We had some missed shots, but we had some big offensive rebounds and guys hit free throws. Obviously, we don’t want to be that close down the stretch, but it’s good to get a win no matter what.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Team’s defensive effort**

“We buckled down in the end of the second quarter. We did a good job in the third quarter in spurts, but we still had kind of a letdown defensively. We sometimes get too spread out and worry too much individually, instead of playing team defense. We can’t always rely on our second team like we did in that stretch, but they did do an unbelievable job. It was great to see us pull it together and get that win, but we still need to do a much better job of anchoring down our defense.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Play of Clippers big men**

“I felt like we were in there in the second half. There was one possession when they had four or five rebounds. I have to do a better job about that. The foul trouble with our bigs hurts a little bit. At one point, a member of their team was shooting more free throws than our team. We need to do a better job of getting that evened out. I need to do a better job of getting to the free throw line.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Return of Chauncey Billups**

“It was huge to have Chauncey [Billups] out there. I’ve been waiting for that for a long time. After player intros, I went to Chauncey and said ‘I’ve been waiting a long time to get you back out here, so let’s go.’ I just felt much more comfortable. It’s a big difference talking to him with a uniform on then a suit. He got injured February 6th. It hasn’t even been a year and to see him back on the court doing what he does best, it’s remarkable in of itself.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Fourth quarter impact of Chauncey Billups**

“You can try and put two people on me if you want to. If you noticed towards the end they tried to put Malcom [Lee] on me and Luke [Ridnour] on Chauncey [Billups]. We put Chauncey on the elbow where I usually am. It just keeps everyone honest.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES**RE: Pulling out a win**

“It was an ugly, hard fought game. We had to fight hard for the game, and after losing four straight, we will take a win how we can get it. But this was a good way to get a win and get out of that losing streak.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES**RE: Winning a hard fought game**

“In the NBA you have to win in all kinds of games going down the stretch. In blow-outs and close games, you have to just run games down. Chauncey [Billups] came back for us tonight and had a great game, DeAndre [Jordan] had a great game down the stretch, and Chris [Paul] played well. We had to fight through a lot of adversity but we did a good job.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES

RE: Playing good defense tonight

“We did well, but I think we put them on the foul line a little too much. We have to play aggressive without fouling. But besides that, we did a good job on the defense end.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Winning a close game

“We had to win this game. Losing streaks are never fun. After we lost four games that we felt like we could have at least won four of, we had to get back on track.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Playing the next 6 of 7 games at home

“We have to start something special and get back on track. Being in front of our home crowd is always the way to do that.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: On forcing Minnesota to commit 18 turnovers

“Those forced turnovers were very big because we were able to get out in transition and get easy baskets.”

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game

“We just didn’t do enough in the fourth quarter, especially offensively. We shot twenty-five percent in the second half. They turned it up. They got very physical in the fourth quarter, and we need to respond to that. They’re a little bit more experienced than we are. Whatever happens out there, you’ve got to fight through it. If they’re going to get physical, we have to get physical. We’ve got to finish shots and they did a better job than we did.”

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Team’s 18 turnovers

“[Turnovers] have been a problem for us the whole year. When we turn it over, it really hurts us. We hammered them on the boards and we didn’t convert enough second chance points either. We had 21 offensive rebounds. I thought we played really hard. We just have to stay after it, get better every day, and finish games.”

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Absence of forward Andrei Kirilenko

“It’s a big difference when he’s not out there because we can put him on so many different people.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game

“I’m happy with how the team’s been fighting, we’ve just been losing some tough ones in the second half. Tonight is no different.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Progression of return from broken hand

“[I have] really no feel for the ball. I’m shooting a poor percentage from the free throw line, shooting a poor percentage from the three-point line. It’s tough right now, but the only thing I can do is play as hard as I can. The majority of my missed shots are three point attempts. I’m not going to stop shooting them, because there’s going to come a point in time where I hit five, ten in a row and I’m going to get my touch back.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD JOSH HOWARD

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game

“This is a great rivalry. They compete hard. They’re one of the top teams in the NBA. I think we’re one of the top teams in the NBA. We just have to focus and finish games off.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight's game

"You never want to blame it on a back-to-back. We came out and showed that we had a lot of energy in the first half. I think we have to keep working and try to get better."

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS

RE: Lack of energy in the fourth quarter

"We can't have a big drop off like that. I think it has been a couple games, not just this game, where the second half is not as good as the first."

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS

RE: Play of Clippers guard Chris Paul

"In the fourth quarter, they gave him the ball. He's one of the best players in the game today, so that's what they do. We just have to do a little better of a job stopping him and making him give the ball to other people."