

4/10/2013

## Los Angeles Clippers vs. Minnesota Timberwolves

### CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Overall thoughts on today's game

"I thought we had good activity tonight. Our defense was a little bit sharper early on. The thing that hurt us tonight obviously was the offensive rebounds they had in the first half; we did a better job there in the second. We did a good job in the first half not turning over; did not do a good job in the second turning over too much and giving them opportunities. Fortunately, they missed a few shots for us. We shot it well; we got a lot of production from a lot of guys. LO [Lamar Odom] with 13 rebounds in 18 minutes was great. I thought Blake [Griffin] set the tone there at the end of the second quarter to give us a lead at halftime. Chris [Paul] made some plays as usual. DJ [DeAndre Jordan] with five blocks; he had two in the first minute of the game, I thought he helped set the tone early. We just had good production from a lot of guys. Matt Barnes came in and hit some shots for us. I thought we got a little sloppy with the basketball; we turned it over trying to make the spectacular plays instead of the easy play. You can get away with it every once in a while, but we have to work on that."

### CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Potential letdown factors within the game

"No, they made some runs. They run their stuff well. [Nikola] Pekovic hurt us early but I thought DJ [DeAndre Jordan] did a much better job in the second half. He didn't play as much but I thought we made it a little bit more difficult. Luckily they missed some 3's, we had some long rebounds, we got out on the break, we had some easy ones, and then controlled the game at the end of the 3rd quarter. Then we were able to withstand whatever in the 4th, even though we turned it over too much."

### CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Defensive Play

"Chris [Paul] was getting his hands on a lot of basketballs; we were getting out on the break. We didn't convert as much as I would like but I thought we set the tone on our defense more so and did a better job on the glass in the second half. That's the thing, we have to score some points from our defense, create some offense. We did that tonight. We did better on the glass overall. Our turnovers were obviously a big concern there, especially in the second half."

### CLIPPERS HEAD COACH VINNY DEL NEGRO

RE: Play of Willie Green

"Willie [Green] has been great. We've been saying Chauncey [Billups] is going to come back for a while. Hopefully he'll get back here soon. Willie [Green] like I said, has been a complete pro. When his numbers called he's ready to go. They made a run, he made a big 3 in that right corner. He's been doing that. He'll be one of the last guys to leave no matter how many minutes he's playing and he stays prepared."

### CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES

RE: Team Effort

"We're playing with the same effort that we started the season with. We're starting to get our sense of urgency back and it's starting to show. We've won three games in a row and we want to finish the rest of the season strong."

### CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES

RE: The Play of Blake Griffin

"It really opens up the floor. We have a lot of shooters and a lot of cutters. Chris [Paul] and Blake [Griffin] are our leaders so once they get going early it makes things a lot easier for everyone else."

**CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES**

**RE: Closing out the regular season**

“It has to be a consistent effort. Playing good defense leads to great offense. So when we play hard our defense is the key to our game.”

**CLIPPERS FORWARD MATT BARNES**

**RE: Zone Defense**

“Ball movement especially side-to-side ball movement is important. We need to get the ball in the middle and get it out so guys can knock down shots. Teams are not going to play in the zone until you start knocking down shots but we need to do a better job of knocking shots down.”

**CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD**

**RE: Adjustments in the Second Half**

“I think it was the pressure. We just wanted to continue to get better defensively. I think that is the key to everything for us. Whenever we can get stops and get out and run we can get easy baskets and that’s when we’re at our best. It all starts with defense. Guys are able to get out and run. They can get layups and open three pointers. Whenever Chris [Paul] is navigating or Blake [Griffin] is navigating, that is when we’re at our best.”

**CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**

**RE: Heading into the last four games**

“You want to be playing your best basketball down the stretch. I think we’ve really made it a point the last seven or so games to play with a lot of energy, to play with a lot of pace and try to get on track.”

**CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**

**RE: Turning point**

“I think after that Indiana game, we were really disappointed with how we played, the starters were. Our bench did a good job in that game, but when we lose, it can never be because of lack of effort. It has to be because a team played better than us. I think that’s been our main focus these past three games, to really play with a lot of intensity, a lot of pace, just understand that teams are going to score, we’re going to mess up, but as long as we push the ball right back at them to kind of make up for it.”

**CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**

**RE: Leadership with Chris Paul**

“We talked before the game on Sunday and really just talked about how we always have to be on the same page and we always have to be communicating with each other. We might not have a good offensive game, but we can still contribute in other ways: defensively, passing the ball, the way we talk, the way we lead, the way we are in timeouts. We can always do well and we can always have control over those things.”

**CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**

**RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game**

“I think it was all about our pace and our tempo. We played really fast, got out in transition and we were pretty efficient with 57% from the field. It’s crazy that they had 13 more attempts than us, but I think that says a lot about our defense tonight.”

**CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**

**RE: Difference in tonight’s game**

“I think it’s our pace. Make or miss, we’re trying to get the ball out and push it up the court and not let teams get a chance to get set. Our athleticism and the speed of our bigs is one of our biggest advantages going into every game. So, we try to pick up the pace the entire game and try to tire teams out.”

**CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**

**RE: Home court advantage**

“Like I said last year and like I’ve said all season long, during the regular season you have to try and build some kind of identity on the road because even with home court advantage, you need to win a game on the road. We understand with the seeding right now, at some point we’re not going to have home court advantage. We love to play here as much as possible, but I think we have a team where it really doesn’t matter.”

**TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS**

**RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game**

“That’s just how it goes some times. I think we were still being aggressive. I think at times we settled for too many shots from the outside, but we were playing catch up from the beginning. You just have to take it for what it is, and we just didn’t knock down shots.”

**TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS**

**RE: Physicality**

“Pre-game, we all expected it. They’re a good team, especially at home. They get stops and get out in the open court. That’s what they did tonight. They have a good team. They have bigs on the inside, and they have shooters on the outside; so if you collapse, they’re going to knock down threes as well. Tonight, they just got a little hot in the third quarter.”

**TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD DERRICK WILLIAMS**

**RE: Ability to score from the paint**

“I think part of the game plan [against us] is making us shoot jump shots. We’re not that big on the inside at any position, besides Pek [Nikola Pekovic]. I think we’re outsized at the one through the four. It’s tough to get on the inside when you have guys like DeAndre [Jordan], Blake [Griffin], and [Ryan] Hollins out there blocking shots on the inside.”

**TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO**

**RE: Difference in the game**

“They hit a lot of shots at the end of the third quarter. I think most of them were bad defense, but they [continued to] make it. It was hard.”

**TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO**

**RE: Game’s rebounding and physicality**

“We were being aggressive the whole game long. [In] the first half, we could get a lot of offensive rebounds and in the second, [we could] not. That’s just how the game goes. They were more aggressive under the basket, and that’s it.”

**TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO**

**RE: Clippers’ play**

“They moved the ball very well. They were pushing the ball aggressively and they got a lot of points on the fast break and playing quick. That’s the way they play and we knew it. We couldn’t stop it, and that’s why they’re winning so many games.”

**TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO**

**RE: Clippers as a contender**

“They’re ready [for the playoffs].”

**TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEKOVIC**

**RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s game**

“The first half and most of the third quarter we were playing really good, but after they adjusted and started to be more aggressive, they kept it up. We didn’t follow everything, we didn’t respond when we needed to respond and they took advantage of us.”

**TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEKOVIC**

**RE: Matching up with Clippers’ big men**

“I’m just trying to do what I’m doing when my teammates give me the ball. I’m trying to do my best with that. It’s tough to play against DeAndre [Jordan]. He’s a great player, a very good defensive player. He’s long when he jumps. So, I was trying to adjust my game tonight.”

**TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEKOVIC**

**RE: Handling DeAndre Jordan**

“I’m just trying to use my strength. When you hit somebody, they can’t really jump, so that’s what I’m trying to do sometimes. You always need to find some solution. When you see it the first time, you try it and just adjust from there.”