

POST GAME QUOTES

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

11/11/13

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Play of Blake Griffin

“It was great, everybody’s effort was good. It was an extremely hard fought game. It’s funny, they scored 107 points but they shot 41 percent, so defensively that’s really good, but they had 96 shots I think. I look at one number and I love it, but then I look at another and I think they gave up a lot of points. But Blake [Griffin] and DJ [DeAndre Jordan] had great energy all game. Their two bigs are tough—[Nikola] Pekovic and Kevin Love are just so skilled that it makes our job very difficult. I’m so happy for Blake [Griffin]-- I think he’s finding you can find offense and defense and still have energy. You can see he’s starting to enjoy defending and getting a stop, and transition plays and getting back for a layup. That’s good team building. Blake being more open on the court triggers so many good things [offensively]. It allows him and DJ [DeAndre Jordan] to be so good together; it allows Chris [Paul] to get in the paint.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Thoughts on tonight’s defense

“I thought team defense was overall very good, it’s just the 96 shots were really bad. That one possession where they had eight shots at the basket, (at some point they were going to make a shot). That was our second unit. We were leaking out, I didn’t like that. So there’s room to clean up.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Play of Jamal Crawford

“He’s just different. He’s a great offensive player. He can be struggling, but he just needs to see the ball go in, even if it’s from three-quarter court. Once that shot went in, it’s like it just clicked him on. I’m keeping him on the court for long minutes in the second half because you have to give him a chance to get going. Once he gets the chance to warm up he’s a big weapon for us.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Weight of scoring percentage

“The scoring percentage is important. It tells you you’re doing things right, and that’s two games in a row now (we’ve have a high scoring percentage) so it’s starting to trend our way. “

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Shot clock management

“That’s a tough one. I probably side on taking the shot, especially if it’s Jamal Crawford behind the three by himself, or JJ Redick behind the 3 by himself. Don’t they have to take it? That’s how I look at it.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL

RE: Defensive improvement

“We are almost there. A lot of times tonight we were just in the right spots. I think that we need to get better rebounding collectively. We cannot just rely on DeAndre [Jordan] and Blake [Griffin]. We are playing a lot faster this year, which gives the other team an opportunity to score a little bit more. We have to get stops. It is not good enough at times to be there, because even though we are there, teams are still making shots, and we have to force them to miss.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Energy of Timberwolves**

“That’s a good team. They are professionals and that back to back stuff can be overrated at times. We are used to it. We try to push the tempo with a team like that, if you don’t put them away on a back to back, then when you feel like you have a chance to win, you’re going to gut it out and they did that.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Jamal Crawford**

“We are always trying to get him going. I have to remember that he still needs a play to warm up so as soon as he comes in the game I try and call a play for him. He got going for us and hit some big shots, like the three pointer late in the fourth quarter. He makes those shots that he thinks he is going to make. It is a luxury to have a guy like that, but it is not going to win for us in the long run. We have to keep executing and have guys who can bail us out.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Shot clock management**

“I think that’s strictly me. I think I am pretty good at managing the clock and determining when we should get a shot. We are a very fast and up tempo team, and we do a pretty good job in determining when we should just set it up and when we should keep the pace and the tempo going.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL**RE: Game versus Oklahoma City Thunder**

“It will be a big game for us. They are going to come in here ready to go. They are one of the best teams in the conference year in and year out. Russ [Russell Westbrook] and KD [Kevin Durant] look great so their team is going to be there in the end again like every year.

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Overall play of last two games**

“We’ve gotten better, but we haven’t exactly put it all together yet. We will obviously take this win, but we were fortunate for them to miss two put backs near the end.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Team’s defense**

“Both half’s we were good in some areas. For the most part we did a pretty good job and dug in when we needed stops. Down the stretch is when we need to put teams away, but to their credit they hit tough shots and made plays. We had a few lapses but they played well.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: Individual improvement on defense**

“Every year I try to take another step and this year is the same. I focus really on ‘help defense’, which is huge in our system of trust and ensuring that someone always has your back. I take a lot of pride in defense, despite what it might look like.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN**RE: On play of Kevin Love**

“I’ve played against him since high school. He’s a great player, and I’m a firm believer in learning from other players. He’s a great guy to learn from just because of how hard he plays, and the skill is obviously there.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight's game

"It was a good win for us. I think the first game back at home is the toughest. Our fans were great tonight, a lot of energy, and we kicked off the homestand the right way."

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Improvement from the Clippers' bench

"I think we're getting a little more comfortable. Hopefully the rest of this month we'll get better and better. We're better now than we were at the start of the season."

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Half-court shot to end the 3rd quarter

"I think with plays like that, a lot of guys don't want to shoot because it will ruin their percentage. I tried to go for it. I think plays like that can uplift the crowd and can hopefully lift the team up to get a win."

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Aggressiveness in the 4th quarter

"Yeah, I definitely wanted to be more aggressive after [the buzzer-beater]. For me, it just takes one shot. But I give credit to my teammates and my coaches for putting me in that position."

CLIPPERS GUARD DARREN COLLISON

RE: Jamal Crawford's performance

"He's great. That's what he's been doing off the bench. He scores in such a hurry, and in such bunches. I think everybody expects that from him. He could easily be a starter in this league. The way he scores is always fun to watch."

CLIPPERS GUARD DARREN COLLISON

RE: Matt Barnes' performance

"I thought Matt Barnes was terrific today. He's always been that defensive player that you can count on. I thought he did a solid job on Kevin Martin. For his first game back, I think he did a good job."

CLIPPERS GUARD DARREN COLLISON

RE: Overall play of Clippers' bench

"We've got a talented bench: myself, Jamal [Crawford], Matt [Barnes], Byron [Mullens], Ryan [Hollins]. We've just got to stay with it. When we focus on the defensive end like we did tonight, we're going to be just fine."

CLIPPERS CENTER RYAN HOLLINS

RE: Clippers' defense

"It was tough. We definitely tightened it up in the fourth quarter, but that's a tough team. They have bigs that shoot, they spread the floor, post up, and pop to guards in the corner. Kevin Martin is playing the best he's played in a couple years, so that's a very tough team to defensively come out and guard against."

CLIPPERS CENTER RYAN HOLLINS

RE: Kevin Love's performance

"He had a great game. Kevin [Love] is really one of the best forwards in our league. He's so smart and he has great talent. He's a good player for the offense. He spaces the floor, he can pass, he's always in the right place, he offensive rebounds."

CLIPPERS CENTER RYAN HOLLINS

RE: Upcoming game versus Oklahoma City Thunder

"I think this year is one of the most competitive years I've seen for a while. So every single night you're playing a big matchup. I mean, [Minnesota] didn't even make the playoffs last year, and they're just as good as anybody in the league right now."

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Team's effort

"I'm proud of our guys. You've got to give them credit. It came down to where they were up big in the fourth quarter and we got back in and had a chance to tie the game. We kept fighting."

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Trying to catch up from behind

"Well, it was good effort. It was a back to back game, and we knew it. I thought we stayed in the first half, and then fourth quarter, they got the lead and we were able to make some plays to get back in it. We had a great chance to tie it, just didn't go in."

TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH RICK ADELMAN

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight's game

"Our guys played hard. That's the way you have to play. It's a back to back, they're waiting for us. We have that all month. We have to continue to try and get better. We've got to respond [on] Wednesday."

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Last play of the game

"When Kevin [Martin] had shot the ball, I knew we had 11 seconds left. Pek [Nikola Pekovic] got the rebound, shot it up. So, my natural instinct was to try to rush and put it up there. It sat on the rim, and like I said, 99 out of 100 times, that goes in. That was my bad."

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Jamal Crawford's play

"He's one of the best bench players that has been in the league for a long time. He hit a lot of shots. It seemed like he was hitting shots the whole game. Same thing with Chris Paul. Just efficient, both of those guys."

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Matchup with Blake Griffin

"Blake [Griffin] is a very good player. DeAndre [Jordan] is a very good player. They have good bigs and they fight hard. They're very athletic, run the floor, rebound the ball, and you know, the high wire act."

TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO

RE: Impact of the back to back

“We were ready from the beginning. We knew they were a great offensive team, but we were ready to guard them well. I think we did a great job. We missed an easy look at the end, but I think we fought all the way through, and that’s great.”

TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO

RE: Matchup with Chris Paul

“He’s great. He’s at the top. The best player right now out of point guards in the league. He’s tough to guard. He knows how to play; how to step up and be the leader, and challenge himself to be even better than last year. He’s doing great.”

TIMBERWOLVES GUARD RICKY RUBIO

RE: Team’s effort

“We fought. We’re going to fight all the way through. That’s our mentality, ‘don’t give up.’ At the end, we had a chance. That’s something that we have to be proud of, but we have to learn that there’s always a chance if you fight.”

TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEKOVIC

RE: Impact of the back to back

“I think we played a very good game tonight. I know we lost by one point, but I’m happy we played a good game against a great team, and also we can build on this in the future.”

TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEKOVIC

RE: Matchup with Clippers’ big men

“It’s tough. Their big guys are long. They’re jumpy. Whenever I play against them, I need to make some adjustments to my game.”