

POST GAME QUOTES

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

12/22/13

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight's game

“It was a very emotional game, for whatever reason the game became emotional. Sometimes more than players can lose composure too; it doesn't have to be just players who lose composure in a game. But anyway we won the game. I thought it was a great lesson for us. I kept saying it throughout down the stretch, 'It's not over there's plenty of time, it's not over there's plenty of time.' I give them credit; they kind of hung in there. We're not fouling and trapping instead. I thought even the first one they called a foul. I thought [Kevin] Love was about to travel because they assume you're going to foul. I told our guys that we're not going to foul until six seconds, because the longer the clock goes and the more they're thinking. That turnover was huge, Duds [Jared Dudley] makes a big three in over times, a lot of guys stepped up for us.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Believing in his players

“Guys who can shoot can shoot and I just believe that. If I stop believing that they can make a shot, then they're going to stop believing too and they're going to know it. We drew up the play and we thought Jamal [Crawford] or Duds [Jared Dudley] would be open, the way the pick-in-roll was run. When CP [Chris Paul] got up under the basket you can see our whole bench. We knew one of the two would get a shot, and you just have to make it and he made it.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Losing composure

“Everybody lost their composure, everybody. We kept gathering ourselves and I thought that was very important. There were a lot of times in the game where we could of just given in and we didn't.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Playing with emotion

“The only thing I didn't like about the game, we stopped playing with emotion that we had been playing with. All of sudden it was dribble, dribble, or stand still and watch, and we will never win that way. I can guarantee that. It went on for like six minutes or at least it felt like that. It was probably one minute but it felt like six minutes. That allows Minnesota's size to be big. We're not going to play slow with them and think that we're going to beat them. We have to play with space and pace, and we got away from that and then in overtime we got back to it, which was great.”

CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS

RE: Reliance on the three-pointer

“You know, I don't mind. If my three point shooters are open, I want them to take the three every single time. I don't want to dance, dance, dance, and take the three. But with ball motion and movement we got guys who can make shots and tonight they were not going in.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN

RE: Overall thoughts on the game

“We didn’t give up. Every single time out we came through at the end of the game and in over time. Doc [Rivers] kept stressing, everybody really on the bench was saying, ‘We have time to win this game.’ I think everybody just believed and we got it done.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN

RE: Elbow from Kevin Love

“First of all, I don’t think Matt [Barnes] should have got ejected. I don’t think it was intentional – either one – so it’s not something I was going to going to dispute at all, really.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD BLAKE GRIFFIN

RE: Defensive rebounding

“I thought we just did a poor job of individually boxing out our guys. They’re a great rebounding team. You’ve got to give them credit. I think [Nikola] Pekovic and Kevin Love are both like one and two in second-chance points individually, so that’s what they do. But we’ve got to do a better job.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL

RE: High team energy

“Somewhat. It’s funny, it used to be that was me added in texts and stuff like that so I actually got a chance to feed off that energy tonight. I got a chance to be the one to tell everybody to calm down, and let’s just win the game. I think SportsCenter had it on the other day—“Top 10 rants” and [the old coach for the Jets]—you play to win the game. So we just kept saying that in the huddle. Regardless of all the stuff that’s going on, let’s just win the game.”

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL

RE: Learning points

“I think the biggest thing that we’ve learned as a team too, from Doc, (and it’s great that it came into fruition tonight), is even in practice, he always talks about the game not being over. When we got down by three or four, with seconds left, we could’ve just said ‘we lost this one, we fought hard’... but it’s crazy because he says that all the time— the game is not over. Extend the game.” We found a way.

CLIPPERS GUARD CHRIS PAUL

RE: Steal to force overtime

“I was guarding the inbounder and Kevin Martin just cut to the back court and I though [Jamal Crawford] was going to be with him, (and I saw nobody with him). When he threw it, my initial thought was to try to steal it from him somehow. I saw he was about to dribble with his left hand to get to my body so I backed off a little bit and we got a hand on it.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Pulling off the win tonight

“We just didn’t give up. I think we have the best leader in sports. It was a gut check. We just never gave up, we felt like we had a chance and we just kept playing and battling it till the end.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Overall thoughts on adversity

“It’s about maturing. You know, being able to handle adversity. In the past we may have let things get to us but we kept battling and gave [ourselves] a chance. If we want to go far we would have to do that this year.”

CLIPPERS GUARD JAMAL CRAWFORD

RE: Dunk after Chris Paul steal

“Chris played great defense. It was more of his play than mine. Obviously centering Kevin Martin to his left made it difficult. Chris is one of the best defenders out there. I just figured that he lost the ball in close proximity and I was able to get it. I wanted to dunk and made sure it went in.”

CLIPPERS CENTER DEANDRE JORDAN

RE: Defense in the fourth quarter

“We got to get a stop. We didn’t want to foul; we wanted to just trap it and try to make a play on the ball. I was planning that they turn it over or we got a deflection, and we did. Jamal [Crawford] went down and dunked the ball which I never seen before in my life which it was a sight to see.”

CLIPPERS CENTER DEANDRE JORDAN

RE: Overall thoughts on tonight’s win

“We just stuck together, even when Blake [Griffin] got his sixth foul out of the game. We just stuck together and this is definitely the game we grew from. Our defense and us just staying mentally into the game.”

CLIPPERS CENTER DEANDRE JORDAN

RE: Plans to work on in upcoming practice

“Our defense and not turning the ball over as much. Definitely rebounding but I will say in all (of) our defense, working on our defense.”

CLIPPERS GUARD WILLIE GREEN

RE: Doc Rivers helping control team emotions

“Yeah he [Doc Rivers] is good at that. Just helping our team mentally get past mad. We know there’s going to be some play controversy but we got to continue to keep our cool and stay in the moment and we did that tonight. We were able to pull away with a win.”

CLIPPERS GUARD WILLIE GREEN

RE: Thoughts on tonight’s game

“It’s a big time character win. That is exactly what it is. It’s gutsy. Minnesota did everything to win the game but we just kept fighting down the stretch and got a steal at the end. It was just big time on our guys, everybody just came in and fought and that’s what’s going to take.”

CLIPPERS GUARD WILLIE GREEN

RE: Upcoming game against Golden State Warriors

“Well I know it’s highly anticipated. It’s becoming a sort of rivalry and rightfully so. They got a good team, they play hard basketball and we play hard and they busted us up last year. So we got to go into this game, business minded and it’s a business trip for us.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD JARED DUDLEY

RE: Crucial play

“The play was designed to get the ball back to Chris [Paul.] First Jamal [Crawford] gets it, I come up like I’m doing a fake screen, go back to CP [Chris Paul], a little step up screen, and him make a play. It was just him making a play and finding me. I don’t even know how he found me because I kind of went over to the right side and he just went underneath the baseline and threw it and you’ve got to make those ones, especially when you get it that wide open and in that clutch decision. I’m glad I did tonight.”

CLIPPERS FORWARD JARED DUDLEY

RE: What’s changed on his shooting slump

“That’s a good question, you know I think my mom texted me and was like ‘I know you can play better than this.’ It’s funny how it is. When you’re mom’s texting you, you know you’re not playing well. I mean, it was something I never had experience with in my career—I was missing open shots, and adjustment. For me it was just enough is enough. Ever since the Washington game I’ve just been more confident and some guys you know once you see the ball go in, they tend to set harder screens... so for me it’s just staying confident.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Overall thoughts on the game

“We just blew it. Blew the game. I don’t know how else to say it – we blew the game.”

TIMBERWOLVES FORWARD KEVIN LOVE

RE: Upcoming four-day break

“The good thing about the NBA is there’s another game the next day, the day after that. But we get a little break, rest our legs, come back and hope we’ll take stuff a little more seriously.”

TIMBERWOLVES GUARD KEVIN MARTIN

RE: Whether tonight was the toughest loss of the year

“I think it is. We just played so hard for something like that to go down. But you know, we’ll bounce back from it.”

TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEVOKIC

RE: Missed hook-shots at the end of regulation and overtime

“I scored them like all game. All game, it was fine. But that’s just, I don’t know – it’s more difficult when you miss it than when you score it.”

TIMBERWOLVES CENTER NIKOLA PEVOKIC

RE: What this team is missing

“I think first we need to know how to win. Winning is a habit, like everything, you know? It’s better when you lose some game like this than when you lose it by a twenty-point difference, then you can see that you’re close to something. But we still need to get over the hump to learn how to close these games, because I think we’ve got like four or five of these games this season where we didn’t close in the last few minutes. So it’s just the process of learning how to close, how to play hard all the way to the end.”