



POSTGAME QUOTES

DENVER NUGGETS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

Denver Nuggets Head Coach Brian Shaw:

On the game:

“That is a bad loss, not because we are playing a bad team, just in light of the schedule we have coming up; Golden State on Monday, San Antonio back-to-back on Tuesday, I viewed this game tonight as a must-win. Right from the start, we didn’t make the commitment to defense that we needed to regardless of our opponent. Giving up 37 points in the first quarter put us in the hole immediately. Our second unit came in and generated some energy and got the game back in control. I thought the starters did a better job when they reentered the game at the end of the second quarter but it was much the same thing in the third and fourth quarter. The points started going up and it was mainly the starting unit that was in there that wasn’t bringing the energy on the defensive end so [Minnesota] beat us on the defensive end in every area of the game. We just did everything we needed to do to lose the game tonight.”

On a back-to-back for both teams and a higher energy level from Minnesota:

“They did [have more energy]; they are a little younger. We are fairly young but that’s not an excuse. We have to give [Minnesota] credit; they came in and did all of the things that they needed to do to win the game tonight. I will take some of the grief for this game in that, trying to work Randy Foye back into the lineup and figure out when and who to play Jameer [Nelson] with, so I probably through everyone off a bit in terms of the rotational minutes that they had been playing, just trying to fit guys in. Still that’s no excuse for how we played defensively tonight.”

On Andrew Wiggins:

“That’s the best that I’ve seen him shoot the ball in the games that I have seen. He started out early on; they were finding him in the corner and taking advantage of our rotation and swinging the ball into the corner, knocking down jumpers. When he saw a few of them go in, his confidence elevated. Once a guy gets going like that, it’s hard to stop him. It wouldn’t have been so bad if it was just him that got it going but they had double-figure scoring by everyone in their starting lineup. We didn’t really stop anyone. [Robbie] Hummel had his moments in the game, [Gorgui] Dieng had his moments in the game where they went to him and he was able to score and same thing with Thaddeus Young. Zach LaVine came in from the bench and gave them some timely baskets as well and we didn’t really stop anyone who played the game for [Minnesota] tonight.”

Denver Nuggets Guard Ty Lawson:

On why they weren’t able to put Minnesota away tonight:

“I feel like they just got hot. We let them stay in the game and they started hitting shots at the end – when you have (Gorgui) Dieng hitting shots off the backboard, (Zach) LaVine hit that step-back three. With a team like this you just have to put them away early.”

On if it made things difficult getting used to playing with Jameer Nelson and Randy Foye coming back from injury:

“No, I don’t think so. I’ve watched Jameer play, so I know what he likes to do – he likes to get in the paint, he likes to create and that’s how I think I play too, so getting acclimated wasn’t too hard for him and I don’t think it was too hard to adapt to him. I think it was the defense, you can’t make that excuse.”



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Lawson continued...

On if tonight was the worst loss of the season to date:

"I think so – especially with how we've been playing we had won five games in a row, lost to Dallas and this could have been a game to even it out and try and steal one against Golden State or San Antonio before our schedule softens up a little bit. This one hurts a lot."

Denver Nuggets Guard Jameer Nelson:

On tonight's game:

"We wanted this win especially when it is in front of our home crowd because that's who we are playing for. We had some mental break downs, myself included, we need to stick together and work hard."

On the altitude:

"It felt like I played more than 18 minutes. I couldn't think about being tired, I just told myself to keep fighting. Its mind over matter."



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Minnesota Timberwolves Head Coach Flip Saunders:

On scoring by committee:

“Well, Wiggins had 31 so that’s not really a committee there. Everybody else played well, it was a back to back, good team effort, and it’s funny I was talking to one of the referees about how Wiggins has improved in a month. It’s almost astonishing his confidence level. He just keeps continuing to get better and amaze, and do everything, whether its offense, blocking shots, rebounds, he’s doing a little bit of everything.”

On the growth of Andrew Wiggins:

“Every day is a new day, but he has a great attitude. He is working extremely hard, he is a student of the game, he studies a lot, and he watches so much film prior to the games. Part of his success is learning how to prepare for games, to come out, things that he can do and maybe things that he can’t do.”

Minnesota Timberwolves Guard Mo Williams:

On the game tonight:

“It was a trough back-to-back coming into Denver. To get a win, I think speaks to our guys just staying with it, coaches staying with it, and guys coming to work and doing it the right way.”

On building momentum in the fourth quarter after hitting free throws:

“Well that shows something to. Those could have been demoralizing and give them momentum. We bounced back from that, which was good. Everybody was kind of disappointed about it, but things happen. I wasn’t too mad about the four point play, that was the luck of the draw, but it was the offensive rebound can’t happen.”

On the growth of Andrew Wiggins:

“He’s growing, like I said last night, he is hitting his stride which is good because he plays a lot of minutes. It’s tough playing a lot of minutes in this league, and being consistent every day and going out and producing. I think he is handling it pretty well. Obviously I am not going to give him a lot of credit; I want him to continue to grow because there are a lot of strides he can continue to make.”

Minnesota Timberwolves Forward Robbie Hummel:

On getting the start tonight:

“It’s good to play well and to come out and get a win on a tough back-to-back in Denver with the altitude. We played a tough one in Phoenix last night where we competed, but just couldn’t really get stops at the end. I thought we did a really good job of executing and just playing well.”

On tip-ins late in the game:

“They put some smaller guys on me, I think they might have had Jameer Nelson guarding me out there and I’m a little taller than he is. When you recognize that, you just try to get to the glass and luckily I had two balls come right to me. Sometimes you get lucky and tonight I did.”



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Hummel continued...

On Andrew Wiggins development:

“He’s really improving and I think he’s starting to come into his own and see some of the potential of what he can be. We always knew he was a freak athlete, but he’s using that now to get to the basket, get his jump shot off and he’s shooting the ball really well.”