



POSTGAME QUOTES

DENVER NUGGETS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2014

Denver Nuggets Head Coach Brian Shaw:

On the game:

"We'll take it, we will take it. Not the prettiest game in the world but a win is a win. Kenneth [Faried] played a heck of a game, 26 points, 25 rebounds and he got the majority of his points just hustling after the ball, being in the right place at the right time, making his own luck. That's what we needed him to do; we needed every ounce of what he gave us tonight. Tomorrow at practice, I may have to get my stuff on and get a few shots lined up because Wilson [Chandler] is getting some great looks, Arron [Afflalo] is getting some great looks, they just aren't knocking them down right now; we can make it a lot easier on ourselves if we were able to knock down the shots that we have. I thought it was a typical game coming back after two games off, not doing anything at all. I thought we were sluggish and stepped slow all night long, but we made the plays we needed to make. When I inserted the starting lineup back in the game, I think with eight minutes left in the fourth quarter, they quickly got the game back in order; I think we were down four points and within three or four possessions, we got the lead back. They did what they needed to do and it was enough to scrape out this win."

On the importance of Kenneth Faried's energy tonight:

"It is [important]. At 26 points, I want him to understand that we didn't call plays for him. He got those 26 points from going after offensive rebounds every single time; four times tonight, the ball got volleyball-ed around and then fell into his hands and he was able to put it right back up and in. That was because he was able to be in the right place, by being there in the first place. That's what I want him to take away from that and that is the kind of energy we need for him to produce for us especially on the boards night in and night out."

On improvements to be made in 2015:

"Obviously everything starts with defense. We have to do a better job defensively and have some consistency on the end of the court. We are fouling too much once again; we started out the season fouling a lot and then got it under control so we have to get back to defending without fouling. Offensively, continue to execute and knock down our shots. We get looks, we get the shots we want to get, and we just have to knock them down. If we can do that and have that consistency on the defensive end, that's first and foremost. Also, just allow ourselves to be in the games and have a chance to win them at the end, that's all we can ask for."

Denver Nuggets Forward Alonzo Gee:

On if the Nuggets were a little rusty after having a few days off:

"Yeah, it kind of affected us a little bit – we needed our legs with our shots. Coming back after being on the road for a couple of games, coming home the altitude kind of got to us a little bit too."

On Nuggets Forward Kenneth Faried getting back-to-back double-doubles:

"He goes hard like that, he's unstoppable. We're glad he came to play tonight and he got a big double-double."

On having three of the next four games at the Pepsi Center:

"We just have to take it one game at a time and take it from there. We can't look forward to other games, we just have to take it one game at a time."



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Denver Nuggets Center Timofey Mozgov :

On the play of the front court tonight:

“I am so happy for Kenneth he had 26 (points) and 25 (rebounds) because I know how hard it is to do and how good he is feeling. I am happy for him because he does what he does and he does it so well, and he was a big part of the win tonight.”

On trying to take advantage of having three of the next four games at home and getting some wins:

“Actually, I am going to tell you something – no matter where you play it is important to win. We are in a situation where we can’t give up games, it doesn’t matter if it’s home or away games we need every game. It’s what we do in basketball, everybody plays for the win.”

Denver Nuggets Forward Kenneth Faried:

On double-double performance tonight in win:

“Yeah it was great to just go out there and play. My back wasn’t tight. It was loose and nimble. It felt like I was back at USA Basketball.”

On strong performances recently after talking with Coach Shaw:

“It helped me. I can’t even lie, it helped 110 percent. We went to the back and had a conversation. [Shaw] had some stuff he wanted to say; I had some stuff I wanted to say, and we came to an agreement. Now it helps just ease my mind and I can just go play my game. It is now more just like go play my game and everything else will follow.”

On what has to go right to get 25 rebounds in a game:

“You just have to keep going. I was able to keep going tonight. My teammates were missing shots, but I was just there at the right time. [Minnesota] played hard, but I just wanted to keep us in it some way, somehow. I was able to by rebounding the ball.”



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Minnesota Timberwolves Head Coach Flip Saunders:

On the little things like missed free throws:

“Yeah missed free throws, we just haven’t learned how to win down the stretch yet and that’s a big thing.”

On Kenneth Faried tonight:

“Yeah he was a monster. They ran one [play for him], the first play of the game, he didn’t score. Then he got 26 points 25 rebounds just on his pure hustle and pure energy, he was just fabulous tonight.”

Minnesota Timberwolves Forward Thaddeus Young:

On closing out games at the end:

“Yeah, like I said, we are a young team and sometimes it happens in the game where you can’t find a shot or can’t make a free throw. We are going to get over the hump, and we’ll be fine. Right now we are still fighting, still trying to get wins.”

On free throws this season:

“Free throws have been crazy this year, especially for me. I have been missing a lot of them also. We just have to concentrate a little bit more and get to the gym a little bit early, and stay a little bit later, keep working and just try and get better”

On what keeps them going through this tough season:

“Just to know that you have the next game, you go out there and play hard the next game, and try and find a way and a will to win. We were on the verge of doing that tonight and I thought that we played hard. We just had a stretch where we missed a few shots and they made shots.”

Minnesota Timberwolves Forward Andrew Wiggins:

On figuring out how to win:

“We just have to figure it out, we’re young. The last couple games we played have been close; we had a lead in the fourth quarter. We just have to figure out how to close out the game.”

On free throws down the stretch:

“Free throws are free throws, there’s no excuse for missing them. They’re free, you just have to take your time and make them. I didn’t make them coming down the stretch tonight. That’s where conditioning and practice comes in. I just have to shoot a lot next time I’m in the gym.”

On carrying the scoring load:

“All of my coaches told me that anybody can do it one night, but if you want to be great you have to do it every night. I’m just trying to get that mindset to come out and compete every night.”