



# Lionel Hollins Quotes

Brooklyn Nets 91, Minnesota Timberwolves 98

November 5, 2014



## **On the last few minutes:**

“Well, we turned the ball over and they got a couple of run outs after we missed shots, and they went inside to the big boys and they won the battle – got to give them credit. They took it to us and scored a couple of big buckets for them. They ran a play and (Kevin) Martin came off and threw it to the wing for a three. That was huge. We just didn’t have a lot of energy for most of the game and finally found a group with the energy, we got back, we had the lead, we were keeping the lead, then we make a mistake where they throw the ball to (Nikola) Pekovic and he just goes and scores and we just had no answer. But you know, 10 turnovers in the second half, 18 for the game, 23 points. They had 51 rebounds. They had 13 offensive rebounds, so, you know you can’t win having those kinds of deficits. But I like the men just for battling back. We got off to a really slow start. Starting at the beginning of the game, down 17-2 and we battled back, and we just didn’t have the mindset, the will, you know. It’s almost like they just had a little bit more energy than us on the whole night.”

## **On whether the Timberwolves showed the Nets something they weren’t expecting:**

“No, they didn’t show anything. We made some bad decisions on some of the turnovers, but they played good defense too. You got to give them credit. They’re a young team and they battled, they competed, and they came out and they had some guys play well. Andrew Wiggins played well. Kevin Martin got it going there for a stretch, and (Ricky) Rubio had big shots. Just up and down their lineup, they did what was necessary to win, and we didn’t.”

## **On the slow start:**

“We had a bunch of open looks. I think Brook missed three or four point-blank shots early, but then we also turned the ball over early, and then after we settled down, we battled back. It was like, ‘ok, we can just play now,’ but we never could get total control of the game until the fourth quarter. We had a six, eight, six, four lead, and we just couldn’t add one more bucket and give one more shot or one more rebound to really take control of the game.”

## **On Brook Lopez’s performance tonight after being a dominant big man during the preseason:**

“Well the guy whipped him. I mean, it happens. You’ve got to give Pekovic credit. He was a man in there, and I’m always saying that there’s always a badder man than you in the prison, you know, and you got to do it every night. Pek won tonight.”

## **On whether he was disappointed with how the team played:**

“It’s a team loss. It just happens. It’s basketball. Yes, I’m disappointed that it happened, but you know the other team deserved to win.”



# Nets Player Quotes

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## Nets C Brook Lopez

### On his play:

"It's tough. I'm very disappointed in myself. And I felt that the team played hard, shot ourselves in the foot multiple times. I picked up the double foul. I didn't take care of my responsibilities on defense down the line. I'm just very disappointed in myself tonight. Our bench came and gave great effort. D-Will, Joe played great, came out there and sustained it. And I came and just dropped it. I'm not happy about it."

### On Pekovic's game:

"I wasn't playing any defense. It's not what he was doing, it's what I wasn't doing. I wasn't bodying him up, I wasn't being my normal self. It's not the way it should be."

### On the offense foul late in the game:

"Dumb foul you know. We had an opportunity and I killed it."

### On the shots not falling in the first quarter:

"No, I thought for the most part we got the looks that we wanted. Maybe we could have made the extra pass a few times. But we fought back from that, we gained the lead. Again, our bench did a great job of getting us out of that. So, I don't think that once the first quarter was done that was it. We were out of the woods. We really had to come down and finish it but I wasn't there for it."



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## **Nets F Joe Johnson**

### **On the last few minutes of the 4th quarter:**

"I was just trying to be aggressive and make plays, but I got in foul trouble. I didn't think we had any ball movement offensively, which kind of put us in a rut. Defensively, we were very uncharacteristic and we couldn't get stops. We were forced to take tough shots and we just couldn't pull it out."

### **On the Nets' offensive struggles tonight:**

"I just think we got stagnant a little bit instead of opening up the playbook as far as getting the ball moving. We stuck to few things and just didn't get what we were looking for."

### **On the turnover to Thaddeus Young late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter:**

"I didn't think (Thaddeus Young) was going to come out as far as he did. He got a hand on the ball and stole it. That was a costly turnover for me and for us as a team."

### **On Brook Lopez's offensive foul in the last minute:**

"It's hard to win, especially in crunch time like that. You have to take care of the ball and value your possession. We had two costly turnovers and we paid the price. The starters got off to a very, very bad start and put ourselves in a hole, but the bench picked us up. We were able to get the lead back and gain control in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but we just reverted back to doing things that were very uncharacteristic of us. It cost us the game."



# Flip Saunders Quotes

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## On the game:

"I told our guys – the main thing was we played hard for all 48 minutes. We didn't play smart all the time. I told our second unit, 'you're playing hard, but you're killing us because we weren't getting into our offense.' When we got into our offense, we executed pretty well. I told our guys, 'let's get back in our bubble. Let's do what we do and not worry about the crowd, the other team.' The biggest thing was defensively we got aggressive. When Brooklyn made their run, I thought they just got aggressive with us. To our credit, we came back. We grounded it out. It's nice to come in here and get a win. I was just happy with our competitiveness and how hard we played. If we do that, the wins will take care of themselves."



# Timberwolves Player Quotes

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## Timberwolves C Nikola Pekovic

### On the win:

"There were lots of ups and downs. We were kind of struggling at some points of the game, but in the end it was a great win. It's the first road win, especially since we were down six minutes to go by six. We just pulled it together and we won the game."

### On how the win felt after losing their last game:

"It was really important. Every road game is important, especially because it's a long road trip and it was really important for us to just start with a win. They're a great team, they have great players and we really needed to hustle up. We were really hustling and fighting strong and playing hard like we played the previous three games."

### On Lopez's return:

"He's a good player. I was just trying to do my stuff like I do usually. I tried to bump him; I tried to give him a hard time. Everyone knows I am going to do that, hustling in the paint is what I do. I don't shoot threes that's for sure."

### On the team win:

"It's a team win, that's for sure. We showed up huge and we showed that we are growing. Last year, we had some tough losses and we just showed that we can be mature and play well towards the end of the game. Tonight, we are going to forget this win and go on to the next one and try to win one more."

### On going right at Lopez one-on-one:

"That was the plan. That's what coach said I should do. I'm glad the guys really believed in me and started calling plays for me. It was really good. I was trying to pass to some of them and trying to find them open."

## Timberwolves PG Ricky Rubio

### On the win:

"It was a great win. This is a good team and we had a tough loss against Chicago at home, but I think we showed everybody what we want to do this year. We fight every game and try to win every game no matter who is in front of us. We want to play aggressive."

### On him orchestrating on the floor:

"Yeah, that's what a point guard has to do. I feel comfortable how we played the last quarter. I'm not a big number guy, but I just try to do my best and try to win every game. A couple plays, I saw Pekovic inside and saw Thaddeus Young on the pop. It's what I do, I just try to give the ball to my teammates and sometimes score too. When Pekovic sees me under the basket, he hits me so it's good. It was a great win."