



POSTGAME QUOTES

GRIZZLIES 102, TIMBERWOLVES 98

October 26, 2016



GRIZZLIES HEAD COACH DAVID FIZDALE

On the game:

"Came out down 20-3, you noticed how I kept my poise. I was squirming on the inside but I just knew our team just had some big time jitters. They've been waiting for this day for a long time. Their energy was fantastic. Our young guys as crazy as they drive me they really stepped up. I know Andrew Harrison's line doesn't show it but man he really made it tough on (Zach) LaVine. He really did and that kid's a player. LaVine is a heck of a player. It was hard to take Andrew off of him for that reason. James Ennis really answered the bell in the second half. I challenged him at halftime and he really answered the bell. Obviously you know the 16-0 run to start the third was big for us. Mike Conley, he's a tough nut. He's not afraid of the moment and I'm really lucky to have he, and Marc, and Z-Bo (Zach Randolph). Z-Bo really, really gave us a lift off the bench there to carry us for a while, and that's what I'm expecting from him coming off the bench is just big time productivity. He's going to touch the ball a lot. Obviously all in all very happy to get the win."

On what he told the team during halftime:

"We had to defend. For some reason we came out with the idea that it's all offense and our identity starts on the defensive end. So I just wanted to snap them back into reality of who we have to be if we're going to have any success. In the second half they shot 33 percent from the field, so we ended up getting them down to 41 for the game and our intensity stepped up. We had three deflections in the first half and we ended up having three deflections in the first minute and a half of the second half. That was the stress. Let's play off of misses. Let's get stops. Let's get turnovers and get our pace up and get up the court and they really responded."

On how the team handled the new offense:

Ok, I wouldn't call it great. There were sometimes in there where we were really rolling and the ball was moving, our execution was sharp. I thought when we got fatigued, guys started forgetting their sets, forgetting their actions. Weren't focusing on the details of the offense. Missing screens, poor timing, things like that. We can get a lot better with that, but overall I thought the pace was pretty good and in our favor even though that team right there is really athletic, we really developed some good habits with playing with pace. You notice it's not sporadic. We want to get the ball up the court, give ourselves a lot of time to get the best shot available early in the clock and if we have to we will work the clock down. It just worked out for us. Guys made big shots and big plays.

On playing Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol together:

"I've always said it's not like I'm not going to do it. They're a weapon together, especially when the game is tight and we're in the bonus and things like that when we have the right match ups out there, absolutely I'm going to play them together and it was working. Z-Bo really he gave us a serious lift tonight, from all over the place. Everyone here knows that when the lights come on and the popcorn's popping he's ready to go. He may look like he's a 100 in practice, when we get to the game he's ready to go. He was so awesome just now, I'm not even thinking, he was the guy that remembered to grab the ball and give it to me for my first win. That just solidifies our history together. I've been knowing him for such a long time. It meant a lot that it was him. I was really proud of him tonight."

On being able to count on Mike Conley, Zach Randolph, and Marc Gasol at the end of the game:

"That was the one thing that was really awesome about getting this job is that I wasn't just taking over a team that was trying to figure out who could come through in the crunch. I've got guys here who are not afraid and have done it on a high level. That gives me a lot of peace knowing that I have guys I can go to when the game gets tight from multiple areas. We'll get Chandler (Parsons) back at some point and that'll give me another guy who's not afraid of the lights either. It definitely gives me some peace of mind going into games knowing that if it's a close game I have a chance, because I have closers."