



PREGAME QUOTES

GRIZZLIES vs TIMBERWOLVES

October 26, 2016



GRIZZLIES HEAD COACH DAVID FIZDALE:

On what he's learned about being a head coach this preseason:

"Patience. It has really taught me to be patient. I have to be the guy that's constantly keeping everything in the right perspective, standing back 30,000 feet and looking at the whole picture. As an assistant, I was always just in the trench, grinding away and throwing suggestions out left and right because as an assistant it's easy to just throw some suggestions out there because it's not on you to make that final decision. But now, that final decision is on me, I am really trying to learn to execute patience."

On what today means to him:

"You know what, it hasn't hit me at all. I think I got it out of the way last night. My mom came in and surprised me last night. I thought I had a delivery at the door, and it turned out to be my mom. We had a great moment last night just talking about what today meant to us and our family. Once I left for work this morning, I'm just in game mode, and I'm ready to go win a game."

On tonight's pace:

"We got to go. We got to play our game. We're establishing an identity right now. I'm not going to nitpick for wins and compromise what we do. Our game has to be good enough. That's the trap that they've fallen in over the years when they wanted to play faster like 'Oh it's not going well,' or 'We can't do that against this team.' Every lineup, every guy plays the same way. It's obvious I got to get the ball to the right places because I have less 'superstar' talent, but we're going to play at our speed."

On managing center Marc Gasol's minutes:

"We're going to every game with a goal in mind on a number of minutes, and I'm going to manage it to make sure he hits that mark, but at the same time keep him on the court for the important stretches of the game."

On establishing a rotation in the roster:

"The bottom line is we just don't know from day to day right now who's going to be healthy and who's not so I'm not going to get locked in on any particular thing right now. I would like to get guys comfortable in particular roles, but from game to game, it might change. Right now, until we get fully healthy, I'm going to look at some different things."

On when guard Tony Allen will be returning:

"Soon hopefully. He really gave it a shot this week. He got three or four practices in there. He just wasn't firing at that level that any of us felt comfortable so we're just going to take it day to day now and see how it goes. No [swelling]. Just aches and pains and power. Explosion. That leg kind of lost a little firepower from going through the days off and getting swelling out of it. I don't want to put him in a situation where he's trying to do something that his body is not ready to do that we lose him for longer. It's more important for the big picture right now than for just one game."

On when forward Chandler Parsons will be returning:

"When he does practice, it looks pretty good. I'm thinking in the next week or two. He'll be ready to go, but there's no definite timeline. We listen [to him] but at the end of the day we want to trust the signs, we want to trust the trainers. I like that he wants to be on the court. I like that he wants to play right now. I want him to be [upset]. That's awesome. I hate when guys aren't in a hurry to get back, because that's not my kind of guy, when they don't want to get back right away. We got to be smart about it too so sometimes you got to save players from themselves."

On last week's preseason game against the Timberwolves:

"Any time you get a chance to play a team, you get to see the gist of their system even though they may hold some things back. At the end of the day, when the ball goes up, you still have to stop them. You still have to execute. Hopefully we learn some things that can help us going into this game, but at the end of the day, we got to play our game better than they play theirs."