



POSTGAME QUOTES

GRIZZLIES 102, TIMBERWOLVES 98

October 26, 2016



TIMBERWOLVES HEAD COACH TOM THIBODEAU:

On the game:

"I like the way we started the game, and I thought we lost our discipline in covering the line. The threes hurt us in the first half, but we closed out the second quarter well. The third quarter, again, we need more discipline. We're recklessly following, we put them to the line, the free throws hurt us in the third quarter, and then the rebounds got us down the stretch. We've got a lot of work to do."

On leading in the first half of the game:

"No lead is safe. We got off to a good start, you let your guard down, you leave the line open, seventeen points can be made up quickly, and it was. They're not challenging shots, not finishing our defense, and that has to be corrected. We're helping in situations in which we shouldn't. It's all discipline, so we'll get a look at the film tomorrow and make our corrections."

On playing with a young team:

"There were some good things too. We've got to learn from it, study what happened down the stretch. The game was in the balance and we gave a couple of offensive rebounds, or free throw rebounds, so we'll have to correct that. We missed some free throws. Missing free throws, that's part of it, but I think we have to understand what it's going to be like at the end of the game. When on the road on a free throw rebound, you can't look at the referee just to bail you out. It's going to be physical and it is what it is."

On the physicality of the game:

"It's NBA basketball. We have to respond better to it. Every night you adjust. If the game is called tight, you adjust, and if it's called loose, you adjust. Usually at the end of the game the players are going to decide it. It's going to be physical, and you've got to hold your space, you've got to be tough minded, and you've got to get it done."

On finishing games:

"The same things go with winning. When we go back and we look into it we're going to see that the defense wasn't good enough, the rebounding wasn't good enough, the turnovers weren't bad, but you know, some of the mental mistakes got us down the stretch. Playing inside out, sharing the ball, we've got to make the extra pass, we've got to know that the fourth quarter is ticking and the intensity is different, decisions are different, and we've got to understand that. How you work on things is important. I think the reckless fouls at the end of the shot clock, that hurt us, gifting them free throws. We've got to work on our technique. They were fouls. We can't be reaching, we've got to play body position, trace the ball properly, challenge the shot properly, finish the defense properly. Offensively, we've got to set better screens and we've got to get people open. We've got to do all the little things to win."

On playing as a team:

"On most teams the ball moves and you want to run in transition. You've got to get stops in order to run and your primary scorers have the responsibility of making the right plays. The ball has to move with quick decisions. If you call plays wrong, then the responsibility is to execute the play, to make the right play. It doesn't mean they take the shot, but I thought for the most part they got good shots, we have to execute and keep the ball moving. Our bench has to come in and they've got to be ready, so we need everyone."