



PREGAME QUOTES

Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Los Angeles Lakers

November 13, 2016

Minnesota head coach Tom Thibodeau

On the patience required with teaching a young team . . .

“You have to be consistent with your approach so each and every day evaluate exactly where you are, what was done, what was done well, what was done poorly, what you have to correct and then put the necessary work and preparation in the next day. Keep doing it day by day. The commitment has to be made to improve. We knew that going into the season.”

Does the team know how much work is required at this point?

“Yeah, I do. They’ve been working hard . . . Often times these games are coming down to one or two possessions. There’s a lot of things that you do have control over, but you have to make sure you’re in control. Shot-fake discipline, getting back in transition . . . Those things you have to take care of. The ball going in and out, that’s part of the game.”

What have you seen from the Lakers?

“I think the big thing with them, they’ve added three starters. When you look at (Timofey) Mozgov, Luol Deng and Nick Young, who was out of the mix, it’s added a lot to their bench. You could argue that Clarkson was their best player last year so now he’s coming off the bench. Lou Williams is a candidate for Sixth Man of the Year.”

Los Angeles head coach Luke Walton

On young talent on both Minnesota and Los Angeles . . .

“The players that both of these teams have, if things go the way that both organizations would like, then I think these could be two really good teams in the West. As far as tonight’s matchup goes, both teams are just trying to get better.”

On what he has seen from the Timberwolves so far this season . . .

“They are shooting the heck out of the ball. . . They are shooting something like 40 or 50 percent from the three-point line. I think with Thibs and the type of coach he is, they’ll get better at defense and they have been getting better at defense.”

On what has helped the Lakers win with a young roster this season . . .

“We have the luxury of relying on 10 guys and we actually rely on more than that, but it’s tough to find minutes for more than 10. When you have 10 guys that you are playing and you have vets mixed in with those guys, it’s a different person each night. So it’s not like every night we are relying on the young players.”

