



PREGAME QUOTES

Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Charlotte Hornets

November 15, 2016

Minnesota head coach Tom Thibodeau

On Ksemba Walker . . .

"I think when you look at his game, each year he has gotten a lot better. When he came into the league, he was always aggressive with his penetration and his ability to push the ball up the floor. But now, he really has worked on his shooting. He is shooting such a high percentage, he is really shooting the three great, and that's what makes him so difficult to guard."

On the Hornets . . .

"When you look at the way they play, they are strong on both sides of the ball, they are sharing the ball. They are shooting the three great. With Marvin Williams at the four, they've added a lot of shooting. They are very, very unselfish."

On the Hornets having multiple-position players . . .

"I think it's huge and I think it's the way the league is going. . . What the switching (on defense) allows you to do is it's gets three-point attempts down, but what you are relying on is the communication and the ability to guard. . . When you have the 6-foot-7, 6-8, 6-9 guys, and what Marvin Williams has shown and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, they can guard all three of those positions. So it makes a lot of sense and it has been very effective for them."

Charlotte head coach Steve Clifford

On the contrasting styles between the two teams . . .

"We have to be able to take their 3-point game away and they also get to the free-throw line a ton, too, so you know, again, like most teams, their threes come as a result of penetration, which is also where you're going to foul. Having the ability to contain the ball is what will set up our defense."

On Andrew Wiggins being able to shoot from deep . . .

"The way he's shot the ball, he still has the penetration game, he has an offensive rebounding part of his game. And obviously his iso, post-up game, he's one of those guys (like) DeRozan. If you can just get him the ball, he can just raise up. (Zach) LaVine is actually similar. They can just get a shot which is a big advantage."

On third quarter success . . .

"Usually because our first halves haven't been good and we've been behind so we play with more urgency, frankly. What we need to do is we have to play with more consistency from the start of the game. We've done a good job. I like where we are, what we can become. But we've played sporadically."

