



PREGAME QUOTES

Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Philadelphia 76ers

November 17, 2016

Minnesota head coach Tom Thibodeau

On 76ers forward Dario Saric . . .

"He's impressive. Tough. I got a chance to see him some this summer, too, at the Olympics and it looks like he's adjusting well. He's a basketball player. He does a little bit of everything. He's shooting the ball well, passing it well. He's got toughness. I think he's a really good threat for them."

Do you adjust rotation at all knowing Okafor is coming off the bench?

"No, not really. When you know Embiid and Okafor play together, it's tough because they're playing in 4-5 minute segments. So, they're rotating in and out and you have to be ready. It's constant pressure on you. Their skillset is so strong. It puts a lot of pressure on defense. Our ball pressure has to be great."

On third quarter struggles . . .

"Obviously the way we are starting the game is good and I think very well in the first half. We have to try to find a way to come out in the third and be aggressive. I think against the Lakers we were. Even in the Charlotte game . . . Usually the fourth quarter's been very good. WE have to find a way to play for 48 minutes."

76ers head coach Brett Brown

On young 76ers players facing young opponents in Minnesota, most notably Towns vs. Okafor and Embiid . . .

"I don't discourage much with our guys. I think the competitive nature and desire to go play against those guys is healthy. It's part of our game. They understand those people are often referenced as future stars of the league, the new breed. . . We encourage that. Obviously it's a team game and we want to play with that spirit."

On the different buzz with this game against the last two Rookies of the Year . . .

"I think that we understand that we don't get the chance to play on national TV very often. It would be not true to say that it isn't in the back of all of our minds. We want to perform well, we want to play in a way that our city and the team is proud. Obviously there is an extra motivation, you can't help but admit that. I think it's all healthy. It's part of the evolution of taking on young guys and feeding them with this kind of experience."

On Wiggins improving this season . . .

"When I watch him, the attention, the volume of shots, the situations that he is placed in where he can go create his own shot, the freedom that Thibs is giving him -- really, the freedom that he is giving to all three of those young guys (Wiggins, Zach LaVine and Karl-Anthony Towns) -- but Andrew especially is intimidating. He's delivering in many ways. . . I just see the growth of his responsibility to the program and he sure seems to be embracing that."

