

Washington Wizards Media Conference

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Coach Brian Keefe

Media Conference



Nuggets 121, Wizards 121

Q. I happened to catch Jamal's walk off and he gave you guys a lot of credit for coming in here and closing out the road trip, tough travel, and push them to the brink. When you hear things like that from veteran teams, what does it say about what has happening right now with this young roster?

BRIAN KEEFE: I loved our mindset tonight. Anybody could have used that and we never even talk about those things as an excuse.

You know, the game is on the schedule and we go play. I was really proud of our guys' mindset tonight. Really after that start of the first quarter we really defended well.

Give them credit down the stretch. These guys been doing this for a long time. They really know how to get to what they want to run at the end of the games. Like you said, a veteran team.

I was really proud of our guys' effort tonight.

Q. When you look at points in the paint, second chance points, the bench, points on turnovers, the little things that you guys typically focus on, you guys had the advantage.

BRIAN KEEFE: Yeah.

Q. What was it late in the game that just shifted things for them not in your favor?

BRIAN KEEFE: Give them credit. We had a couple defensive miss cues on some of our coverages, but they had to make the shots and they were tough shots to make. Couple there at the end of the shot clock, threes, I think they were 5 for 8 in the fourth quarter on threes alone.

Got to give them credit. And we're leaning what we need to get to and what we need to execute. I thought we

executed our stuff pretty good. Had some shots that didn't go down for us, but I liked our process.

Q. Seemed like with your rotations you were going a little bit quicker. Did playing at altitude play into you changing up the timing of the rotations you were going with just to get guys the necessary breaks they wanted?

BRIAN KEEFE: A little bit of that. A little bit we have a deep roster. We wanted to get the guys in there quick and keep them fresh. A little bit of that, too.

Everybody who came off the bench, I thought Jamir and Will, Marvin, those guys, Justin set the tone gain, second night in a row. They came in and really changed the game defensively, so those guys were big contributions.

Q. As you get set to see the Clippers again on Monday, you have tough road trip; you've had good, bad moments. What are the lessons you can take, especially the way that you guys closed it out tonight, that you can step into Monday with the right mindset knowing that guys are figuring things out and learning along the way?

BRIAN KEEFE: These are great games for us to be in. There is so much to learn. You're playing in crunch time against a former NBA Championship team, executing both coverages down the stretch, defensively and execution on offense.

These are great things to learn, but take these things, move on, get better, and then look forward to the next challenge.

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