

QUOTEBOARD: Thunder 121, Mavs 116 - The 'It Could've Been Worse' Wrap-Up

Contributed by Mike Fisher
Sun, Apr 4, 2010, 08:19 AM

'It could've been worse' is a bad thought to have whilst walking to the car after watching your guys. I just checked the standings. The good news is Dallas -- with the best divisional record -- is still in second place. The bad news is the Mavericks lead a four-way tie with five games to go in the season. Just gotta love April in the NBA! (Kinda!)

The gang at DallasBasketball.com takes notes as everyone reacts to losing to the Oklahoma City Thunder, 121-116.

Regarding yet another defensive breakdown -- a game lost in which Dallas shot the ball at a higher percentage and still lost

"We gave a lot of points. I can't say we played well defensively." - Brendan Haywood

"The turnovers were a huge part of our poor defense, because, you know, first half it's seven turnovers for 16 points. Those 16 points are undefendable . . . And then for the game it's 18 for 31 points." - Coach Rick Carlisle

On a possible consequence of not relying on play-calling

"One of the things about being a flow team and being able to play off each other and not have a lot of play-calling is when you get in a groove offensively, you can't allow it to erode what you're trying to do defensively." - Coach Rick Carlisle

Regarding the intensity of the game and the referees work

"Definitely this game had a playoff intensity to it. I think both teams were playing hard, competing, being physical. I like the way it was officiated." - Brendan Haywood

Professional respect to the Oklahoma City Thunder, who clinched their first playoff berth

"They play hard. We might see them again in the playoffs. Who knows?" - Jason Terry

"They know it's hard. You gotta give them a lot of credit; they did a great job tonight, they ran their offense, they made shots. They played hard. Harder than us tonight." - JJ Barea

Regarding ongoing consistency issues

"Then also collectively, we've got to come up with some sort of plan of attack consistently. We're all across the board on everything we're doing out there and our play is sporadic. It falls a lot on the players, but I think everybody is held accountable." - Jason Terry

When asked if he meant that as a criticism of Coach's tactical decisions (Terry spent most of the fourth out of the game):

"Write whatever you want." - Jason Terry

On how losing to the Thunder affected thoughts about the upcoming postseason

"Well, a loss is a loss. So we're disappointed we didn't get the victory . . . But you worry about the playoffs when the time comes -- the playoff seedings change every day." - Brendan Haywood

On how he felt about the statement the Mavericks made tonight

"Statement? . . . Yeah very disappointed. Very disappointed." - Coach Rick Carlisle