



# **HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS**

## **PRE-GAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES**

### **JANUARY 26, 2016 AT INDIANA PACERS**

#### **CLIPPERS HEAD COACH DOC RIVERS**

**Q: Does it make it tougher that they were friends and both employees that this happened?**

DR: "Yeah, it does. I mean, this kind of stuff happens sometimes. It shouldn't happen. Of course, they were good friends and that makes it tougher for everybody. We are a family and I have talked to everyone involved and I feel bad for everyone involved."

**Q: How frustrating is it for you to have to deal with this?**

DR: "Well, it is frustrating. You don't want it to happen to anyone. You don't want it to happen during the season, or even when the season is not going on. This type of stuff should not happen, but it did and it is real life and you have to deal with real life stuff sometimes in our make believe world [of the NBA]."

**Q: Have you spoken with Blake since the incident?**

DR: "Yes, I have spoken to him but I am not satisfied with anything at this point because I am talking about a non-basketball issue right now. Having said that, we have to move forward. We have to figure out the best way to deal with this. My job right now, at this moment, is to make sure that those guys in the locker room are ready to play this game. This is a distraction."

**Q: What do you say to your team?**

DR: "For them, we have a responsibility once we decide to play in this league to conduct ourselves in a certain way. That is something that we talked to them about yesterday. We represent the Clippers and we have to continue to do that. Everything that happens, you try to turn into a teaching lesson for your players. They are still young. They are still growing and learning life and it is our job sometimes to teach life through the mistakes that we have made individually and to teach life through the mistakes they have made. [Our players] are human and they make mistakes. I am not one of those guys to never give people second chances in life. I think that is very important in life. Having said that, you have to learn from it. We all do. Not only just the people who were involved here, but us too. How can you avoid all of these situations? So, I take it personally. I am 54 and I am still learning life lessons. I don't think you ever stop. I have been coaching for a long time and I learn every day. I am sure you get better every day at what you do. For these guys, they get better at life. I say it all of the time, we have to learn lessons and sometimes we have to learn the hard way and this is one hard way. This is a hard lesson for Blake and this is also a hard lesson for our team."

**Q: How do you overcome this from a basketball standpoint?**

DR: "Well, we just have to. I always say 4-to-6 weeks with a broken hand is unrealistic, this is my opinion. We do not talk about injuries or guys that are not playing. We just do not, that has been a policy of mine. We talk about the guys that are going to play, and so we have to figure it out. We are in a tough conference and we have kind of clawed our way up to the spot we are at now and we have to keep clawing."