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Three keys to 112-109 win over Magic

By Chris Vivlamore

ORLANDO, Fla. -- A look at the three keys elements of the Hawks' 112-109 win over the Magic Wednesday:

Paul Millsap speaks up - again: For the second straight game, the Hawks forward needed to gather his teammates and implore them not to let another late-game lead slip away. He did so during Monday's win over the Heat. While he said he wants to be selective about when he speaks out, he could stand by Wednesday. The Hawks lost a 19-point third-quarter lead and trailed by six points, 98-92, with 6:20 remaining.

"I think it's becoming my job, my 9-to-5," Millsap said. "We were falling apart a little bit. They were making a run. We didn't just want to call it quits then. We needed to regroup and get back on the right track."

Millsap also did his talking on the court. He finished with a stat line of 24 points, six rebounds, five assists, five blocks and three steals.

"Paul, his effort, his leadership, I wish they could put a leadership column on our stat sheet because tonight when we got down it was Paul who pulled them together and kept our group together," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "All the other (stats) are great and we appreciate the rebounds and the blocks but it's his leadership. Our group needs that going forward."

Jeff Teague bounces back: The Hawks guard has struggled of late. He did not play in the final 17 minutes, including all of the fourth quarter, in the win against the Heat. He finished with just two points. On Wednesday, he was determined to drive the lane and get into the paint.

"I was going to play tonight," Teague said. "The last game I didn't come out with a lot of energy. I didn't do anything. I wasn't aggressive. I wasn't myself. Tonight I was going to make an effort to go out there and be aggressive, be in attack mode, and go out the way I wanted to go out."

Teague, who made just 3 of his last 30 3-point attempts, found his outside shot too. He finished with 23 points, including 2 of 3 from long range.

"I though Jeff's aggressiveness and his effort to get to the paint was really good," Budenholzer said.

"That set the tone for our entire team. When he is attacking a lot of people can feed off that. It's a real credit to Jeff and his aggressiveness."

DeMarre Carroll a spark before injury: The forward had a big offensive game with 17 points, 11 in the first half. He injured his left hamstring and went to the locker room early for treatment. At one point late in the second quarter, Budenholzer turned to insert Carroll in the game, but he was already away from the bench.

Carroll started the third quarter and hit two 3-pointers as part of a 22-6 Hawks' run. However, he came out of the game for good soon after with what the team described as a hamstring irritation. With Carroll watching, the Magic made their run to nearly steal a game the Hawks led by 19 points.

"I thought the ball movement was excellent," Budenholzer said. "The ball was really moving and DeMarre ended up with some open 3's and different people ended up with some open shots. We were getting a lot of good looks and a lot of it was the ball movement and the people movement. Not just the pace getting into the half court but the pace once you are there, setting screens and moving. We want to put that in a bottle and do it for longer."

Carroll said after the game that the injury was not serious and he does not expect to miss any time.