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| It was. You play the game and you haven't seen it, and you're like, man, that was an ugly game. Then you look at the tape and you're like, maybe it wasn't that bad. But that game, it really was that bad, you know what I'm saying, for us. We executed, and my performance taking care of the ball and trying to set the table, it was pretty bad. But we came out with the win, and that's all really that matters. Well, I think my angles was just bad on it, my decisions wasn't fast enough on it. They were long. They've got a lot of long guys, and it was good. It worked; it was effective. Well, that's really not me. I've had a lot of games where I've taken less than ten shots, you know what I'm saying, but when I do do that, we've got at least three guys rolling. Last night we only had one guy, Rip, who pretty much carried us. You probably won't see that too often. He told me, settle down, relax, make the play, don't worry about it. We're there for one another like that, especially when one of us is struggling, the other one is always there to have his back. That's why we're such a great tandem. No, they usually showed real hard, but they never really trapped it hard. No matter what pick-and-roll we was running, it was high side, low, it didn't matter, they were just trying to take me away. I really don't blame them. But it won't be that effective anymore, I know that. Good teams win ugly games, man. Just find a way. You've just got to find a way sometimes, and that's exactly what we did yesterday. I thought our second half was pretty good, considering how bad the first half was. It was pretty good. We came out, turned the tide once again in the second half. Once we finally took the lead, we never looked back. Yeah, we planned on him being a lot more aggressive, and because he wasn't, a lot of the things that we planned on doing or talked about, we didn't even have to go to them as far as defending him. So I'm sure we'll have the opportunity the next game. He's going to be very aggressive, they're talking about having him shoot free throws and all of that. I'm sure he'll find a way to get on that free-throw line the next game. It doesn't really matter, we've just got to play. I thought it was a great play. I thought it was a great play. It was horrible defense by us, but it was a great play. It's been an ugly game, and you've got one of your best three-point shooters wide open. He just had six or seven in the last game. So I thought it was an excellent play. I think everybody just -- they want him to be the man so bad and want him to shoot every single time, and that's just unfair. The kid made a great, great play. If they would have made that shot, then they would have been talking about how wonderful the play was. I'm just glad they missed it. I think a lot of that is going to be on me, like the pick-and-rolls and the trap, you know what I'm saying, getting some early throw-backs, trying to get them going, just on pick-and-rolls and stuff like that. They played behind in the post, throw it in, let them go a little bit. We'll find out. They'll be fine. Yeah, that was. That was exciting. We scored, they scored, one big play after another. Both teams, really. That was a lot of fun. I'm just glad we came out on top. It did, it did. Obviously we don't shoot for games in the 70s, but it's like that sometimes, you know what I'm saying? That's the one thing I love about our team is we can love the games in the 70s and 80s and we can win in the 100s. We're versatile that way. You've just got to stay aggressive. I don't think so. I don't think so. I think we'll see a better effort probably on both sides, both teams. I think it's going to be a battle. |
| Well, we had a couple things in mind. Didn't end up having to use them because we had it going in the fourth quarter. A couple guys had it going, so we really didn't have to use it. We just kind of got away from it. Second half started to get a little more aggressive, not waiting for the plays to happen, just kind of bringing it on myself, getting a little more energy, and I was able to turn the tide a little bit personally, and as a team we started to step it up and play a little better, a little faster, a little more aggressive. Well, I would just speak for our team, I think we're playing great defensively and limiting those guys and trying to do what we have to do. Offensively we haven't played good in either game. In either game we haven't played good. You know, we look to try to turn that around, but try to keep our defense the same. One thing about our team is we can win both ways. We can win in the 80s, we can win in the 105 to 110 range. That's just how versatile we are. We're used to games like this where our defense has to carry us. We've done it for years. I thought we did good. We knew he was going to be more aggressive attacking the basket and we did that. We had guys helping and guys in position to be there and help. He still did a good job. He still had 19 points, had a chance to go up one late in the game, and Rip I thought made a great defensive play on him. I thought our defense was great. Well, our offense has just not been very good, and of course when you're at home, when your offense is good, it's a lot of energy in the building, you know, you can kind of feed off of that. Our offense hasn't been good, so we have not given our fans a lot to cheer about in these two games with the exception of our defense. So at halftime we come in down 12, mad, angry, but knowing what the problem is, and we made a couple adjustments, and like I said, stepped it up and was a little more aggressive. We was able to get back into the game. No, they're definitely doing some different things defensively. I mean, first and foremost, they are trapping on pick and rolls with me. They pretty much said, we're going to take him out of it, take him away from it. Second, when Rip is coming down they're soft trapping him, as well. Yeah, I think they're doing some really good things to us defensively, and for us to try to make some adjustments to. Sheed, man, he just never ceases to amaze me. When he's focused and he's trying to take a game over, there's nobody that can stop him. He scores in so many different ways, he's a great defender, he doesn't get a lot of press for the way that he defends guys, and his help defense, his man defense. He's a well-rounded player. He lives for moments like that. He lives for the playoffs and tight-game situations as a few of us on the team do. Well, it's not nothing that he really says, it's how the game is going, how the refs are calling it. When he feels like he's getting a tough whistle, he's more inspired and he's more motivated. We don't like to see him get them call bad calls on him, but when they do do that it works in our advantage because when he feels like everybody is against him, he's ready to rock and roll. That's what you seen tonight. They can't surprise us really at the end of games. They go to LeBron. I can't blame them. He's an unbelievable player. We've just got to stay locked in. Like I said, at the end of Game 1, we weren't as locked in as we should have been, giving Donyell an open look. Tonight, same situation, unbelievable, same situation; Rip plays great defense on him, makes him take a tough shot, he misses it. Ball's in the air, we're trying to rebound and we finally get the rebound and secure the game. Yeah, that was a little bit earlier. It wasn't like the second situation, but I kind of knew once he got in there, and Rasheed is just so long that Sasha was in the corner, so I was kind of cheating to him, and he was going to have to make a tough, tough shot. |
| Yeah, I do. With our team, the way that we play and the way that our plays are set up, if Rip or myself -- if Rip and me are having a bad night, at the same time it's going to be tough for us to win. It doesn't happen often. Sometimes one of us gets going. Tonight neither one of us could really get going, and it was kind of funny, we still had chances to win the game. We still had great, great chances. You've got to tip your hats to them. They played good. They hit some tough, tough shots. LeBron hit some tough step-backs, Gooden hit a good clutch shot. You've got to tip your hats to them. You're right, when myself and Rip are not having a good game at the same time, it makes it tough. You know what, nothing really. There was nothing that they did differently tonight than they did the first two games. I mean, they helped on me and did a good job with me the first two games. There was no reason for them to really switch up, so I can't say that there's nothing that they did that was a change that made it effective. They stuck to the same thing. They just tried to trap, did the same kind of things that they did the first two games. Yeah, I think so. And like I said, they played good. I can't take nothing away from those guys. Got to tip your hats to them tonight. But when our top two scorers don't play very well and don't shoot very good, we're going to have tough chances to win. Like I say, if either one of us gets going tonight, we're sitting up here talking about we're 3-0. But we didn't, it is what it is, and we look forward to Tuesday. I thought Daniel Gibson was huge for them today. He hit some big, big baskets. He forced a couple turnovers. I thought he played great. He's a guy that they bring in, he spaces the floor because he can shoot it. He can shoot it, and not only that, he can get to the basket and make plays. He's a very good, young player. He made an impact for their win tonight. Go after who? It's not really him, that's the play. It doesn't matter who's guarding Tayshaun. We feel like we can get him with his back to the basket eight, nine feet away. It doesn't really matter who's guarding him, we feel it's an advantage. We run the pick-and-roll just to see sometimes what they're going to do. A lot of times they've been switching it with whoever it was, and sometimes the guard will go under. We just want to see if they'll change up their coverages, and they didn't, they continued to switch it, and we throw it back to Tay and just try to let him make a play. You've got to look at the film. You've got to look at the opportunities we had, why we couldn't take advantage of them. Right now all I can do is rewind it in my mind, and that's a little different from sitting down and watching it on tape. You know, I've got an idea, but we'll have to see. I'll look at that tape, and sometimes my idea isn't the right one, until I look at that tape and we'll make a collective effort to judge what's going on. I got an idea, but we'll see. Yeah, we will. We definitely have to find a way, either myself or Rip. I think everybody else is playing well. Tay bounced back and had a good game tonight. Sheed was good, our bench was good. It's myself and Rip that are lacking and not playing very great right now. As the leader of this team, you've got to take that responsibility head on and say we've got to play better. We've got to play better. For us to have a chance, we've got to play better, and that's all it is. That's all there is to it. |
| In the fourth quarter I was ready for him, hit a couple shots, but like I said, he's just too good, too good. I've got to give it to him. He hit a lot of shots, fadeaway three-pointers, and he's been known to hit bad shots, tough shots. He did that last night. Just winning. I don't really care how good I'm playing. As long as we're winning, y'all know that. I never play for stats or nothing like that, I play to win. But I have played better, of course. But as long as we win, it doesn't really matter. Well, my shot has been fine. Until yesterday I hadn't really gotten over seven shots, seven looks. Actually I got some really good looks yesterday. I think I had like four good looks early in the first quarter; didn't knock them down. But yesterday I shot bad. Other than that, my shot is fine. I think the turnovers are our biggest thing for me, you know what I'm saying? My shot, I'm not worried at all about my shot. I've never been in one like this as far as turning the ball over. My shot, look, shooters shoot, your shot is going to be on and off. I've had a tough stretch this year with my shot, and I'm not in that at all, which I'm happy about. You know, like I said, I've got to start playing a little bit better for us to win. They're a tough team, it's the Eastern Finals, and us as a team offensively, I think we've got to play a lot better for us to win. No, not at all, no. Well, it depends. I mean, I pick my spots. There's times in the game when I do need to be a little bit more aggressive and there's times when I need to take a step back, but that's nothing new. That's how I've always played. That's what I do. It's funny, when you have a couple tough games, you know, the way it always plays, I pick my spots to take over sometimes and I fall back sometimes, and now it's like, man, everybody wants to take over for the whole game, and I've never been like that, you know what I'm saying? That's not going to change the way I play, change my game. I haven't been playing out of character; I'm doing what I do. No. No, I'm not confused or concerned. You know, like I said, I could be taking care of the ball a little better. I had five turnovers yesterday via my travels, you know what I'm saying, not throw-aways, travels, but I'm not concerned at all. Like I said, could I be playing better? Yeah, no doubt about that. But I'm not concerned. We didn't run as many pick-and-rolls yesterday. We didn't run as many pick-and-rolls. We had C Webb going to the post, we had Sheed going -- the times that I did run a pick-and-roll, they trapped me. I mean, I think you look at any series, there's only four teams playing right now, you know what I'm saying? Any teams like us, two really good defensive teams, are going to be tough, grind-out games every night. That's what it's been every single game, and I expect it to continue like that. You act like we're down 3-0 and I'm having like three points. Come on, man, it's not that serious at all. It's not that serious. We're up 2-1, Eastern Finals, chance to win Game 4. It's not that serious. Yeah, then none of this is going on. Nobody is talking about nothing. We have two all-stars that haven't been playing like all-stars. And when you have that going on, when your all-stars aren't playing that great, it says the winners are going to be slim, you know what I'm saying? They're going to be slim. That's exactly what I said. If me or Rip get going yesterday, we win the ballgame because even with us not playing that great, we have a lot of chances at the end of the game to win. We still had a lot of chances. They hit some tough, tough shots to kind of ice it, and we couldn't catch up with them. And I understand. If you look at those situations at the start of the season, they said, look, the only way we've got a chance is if you cut their head off every single time. They know we run a lot of pick-and-rolls, so that's a big part of our offense. If you trap somebody and don't let them play, it makes it tough. It makes it tough. That's what you're seeing. We're starting to make some adjustments. I had 14 shots yesterday, so I feel good about just having some more opportunities. There's some things that we try to do, but sometimes you go through a game and other things start working. That's fine, too. Whatever works, I don't care, whether it's me or whoever. Not a particular person. They've got a particular two or three guys, you know what I'm saying, at one time that makes it difficult, not one guy. It's different because most times, a lot of times one of us might struggle, have a tough night, but at the same time, we haven't really seen a lot of that. So it's different, it's different. Like I said, that's why our team is such a great team is because of that. We've got guys that are capable of stepping up and having big nights. Man, we've got Game 4 tomorrow and we'll see what happens. I'm not concerned at all. Well, we go into every game with a different way. Sometimes we say, all right, look, we're going to go in the post, we're going to make them play us out of the post first four or five plays. Sometimes we say, all right, Rip, come with some energy, we're going to run the up screen, see how they're playing down screen. Let's see how they're playing. We've got LeBron guarding. It's different every night. But with that being said, a lot of these guys, our whole entire team looks to me and Rip to lead and to take big pieces of the responsibility, and we're always good for that. We never make excuses and say this is going on, that's going on. If we don't play good, we don't play good. We don't say that. Ain't no running around that. That's what leaders do. That's what leaders should do. |