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| We just kept fighting and I kept telling my teammates the whole game that we got to fight if we want to get back in it. We did, and Rashard hit the big shot at the end. I just felt the whole game that if we played hard in the second half we was going to win. He said it the best. We have been in tough situations the whole playoffs, and we got a lot of guys who can step up and hit big shots. You know, Rashard did it tonight, but we stepped it up on the defensive end, I think, in the second quarter. And in the second half we played tremendous defense. We didn't let them get easy points in the paint as much as they did in the first quarter, second quarter. And we tried to keep LeBron from scoring 50. I think so. I felt that my team wasn't playing as hard as we needed to and just trying to be aggressive, attacking the basket and getting easy points. When we are down, somebody has to step up. And I just tried to be a leader and step up, not only on the offensive end but on the defensive end. He told us at halftime we are all witnesses. That's what he said to us, and it really motivated us when said y'all playing like y'all witnesses. You are watching them dunk. And he has a great way of motivating all of us. And that right there, you know, brought some fire out of us. And we came out in the second half, tried to do a better job on him. He still made a lot of shots. But we stepped it up on the defensive end, and the guys who came off the bench, they hit some big shots and also played great defense. Yeah, I've done it before a couple times. But I didn't even know what happened. I just heard the crowd say, oooh. I thought it was a regular dunk. Then I turned around and the whole thing was I tried to break the goal. So it was a fun thing to watch when I watched the replay. It was. Everybody is counting us out as a team, and we believe if we play Magic basketball for 48 minutes we can beat anybody. And when we run, defend and rebound, we win a lot of games. And if we want to win this series, that's what we have to do every night. I told our guys to pick our heads up. These are the playoffs. Teams will make runs. They will hit a lot of shots. We can't hold our heads down in any series. We got to keep our chins up and fight through any situation. I told the guys at halftime we got to fight. I just asked them, where is the fight at? And Rashard hit the big shot. I knew when I got the foul I was a little upset because I was sitting on the bench. Rashard looked at me and gave me three winks, signalling that he was going to hit a big 3 and he did it. No, not yet. Yeah, we'll see. When Shaq broke the post, they said they couldn't break it no more. I don't think it will break no more. There's nothing to worry about. Craziest question. No onions. I just get the Quarter Pounder with cheese. I will have it tomorrow. It is my pregame meal. It is just one game, and we understand that. Going into tomorrow -- we had a great chance of doing that in Boston after we won the first game. But Boston came out with a lot of energy, so we learned a big lesson from that. I think tomorrow we have to come out like we did in the second half and play great defense. At the end of the game, you play hard, we should be up. It is great. He actually tricked us yesterday. Usually he's . Yesterday he was . For real, Stan? He is just like that. He is a great motivator. Does a great job of keeping guys loose but at the same time motivating us to get the job done. I was really upset. I didn't want to be a witness. He really upset me. I wanted to come out in the second half with be a better effort, and I didn't want to be a witness. We still witnessed 49 points. Crazy. |
| Yeah, we have been beat by some tough shots. But we just got to come back Sunday and make sure that it doesn't happen again. But, you know, LeBron hit a tough shot, and nothing you can do about it. No, I'm fine. We almost had a chance to win and without me getting a lot of shots, so I'm not upset about that. My guys made some tough shots tonight. So there is no need for me to get frustrated because I didn't get enough touches. I think I did a good job of rebounding and defending. Then it came down to the last-second shot. Well, I think we really got to come out better in the first half. And we can't allow a team like Cleveland to get off to a good start. They will get in a big lead and we will fight our way back. If we want to win this series, we got to come out better. We got to be more mentally tough from the beginning of the game to the end of the game. I thought he took a tough shot. Coach said try to get the last shot, and one second left, LeBron through up a shot. And, man, it was crazy watching the ball when he threw it up. It was like watching a movie. The ball was just spinning. It was like watching a real movie. He hit the shot. It was a tough shot. We got to come back Sunday and get a win. We understand what we have to do to beat this team. We got -- one, we got to get off to a better start. Two, we got to be able to run and move the ball and make the big guys on their team move their feet. And we didn't start the game off that way. We allowed them to come out, guys hit big 3s, dunks, whatever. And took us a while to recover. So when we go home, we really got to capitalize on what we do best so we can get two good wins. No. You know, we got to understand that playing against a team like Cleveland they come out hard in the first quarter and we got to be able to match their intensity. With two games we haven't done it and we had to fight our way back, which is not good, especially in the playoffs, especially against a team like Cleveland. You know, it is not about scoring every night. I think that's -- people look at the box score and they say you didn't have a lot of points, that's not a productive night. But rebounding, trying to be aggressive on defense is what really matters. That's what got us back into the game tonight is not me getting points up. That's not me just going out there and trying to be a factor on offense but being a factor on defense, first of all. And I know my shots will come. I just got to be more aggressive going to the offensive glass, which I will do in the next game. But we come out and play Magic basketball, we should win. It was a tough shot, you know? I'm shocked anybody would make that shot. Everybody is watching. It was a tough shot. Turk played great defense. There was nothing he could do about it. LeBron hit a tough shot. He is MVP of the League, and that's what he do best. It's tough when you got to go home and watch it on T.V. over and over again, thanks to Rachel Nichols and ESPN. I know I won't be able to sleep and the rest of my teammates won't be able to sleep. We got to get over it. The series is tied 1-1. We are going home, and we know what we have to do to beat this team, but we have to do it for 48 minutes. |
| Yeah, well, we can't focus on what other guys are saying. You know, we just got to go out there and play. It is not hard to stay hungry. Right now -- right now we are so close to our goal. The only thing on our mind is reaching that goal we want to accomplish so bad. That's what motivates us, is that goal that everybody wants, which is to win a championship; and we have a great chance of doing it. So we're hungry. We just got to come out and play. We can't focus on what the series is right now. We have to come out and treat it like it is a Game 7. It is do or die. Can't look at it as is it 2-1 and we can have them on the ropes. The talk? Yeah, we want to win a championship. We don't want the championship to be handed to somebody. So we go out every night and show everybody that we believe we can win. I like the commercials. They're funny. They are commercials that are very entertaining. So I love watching them. It is very entertaining. But our job is to go out there and play and not worry about what's on T.V. or in the paper or whatever. We just got to go out there and do that. It is disrespectful when everybody is counting us out trying to win a championship. They can beat the Magic and Denver. They want to see Kobe and LeBron go at it. Well, I just got to get up there and make my free throws. I know they are going to foul me. I just have to be prepared for it and go out there and make them. I don't think it is a tough spot for him. We've been in a lot of different situations. He's played where he started a couple games and I have been out, and he knows how to play. So he can get out there and do the job just as well as everybody else. We have full confidence in him. We know he can get the job done. He's done better. That's what it is going to take to win. Everybody has to be willing to work. So when game time comes, everybody is ready. We are focused. Nobody is talking about the win from last night. Our mind-set is coming in tomorrow and getting another game. There is no rivalry. We go out there and try to win basketball. There are only four teams left. So, you know, everybody is out there fighting. We don't want to go home, neither do they. Everybody wants to play. Anthony can play. We're just happy to see him out there playing. He is not scared of anything, and he is playing 100 percent so I'm happy for him. Soft-spoken? That's my Mickael Pietrus. He is not soft-spoken. He might not talk in front of you guys. It is not challenging. It is frustrating sometimes when you get hit. But I got to try to keep my cool and go to the next play. Getting too close to getting a technical foul, so got to find a way to keep my composure. No comment. No, I don't. I can't get any more. I have to keep my elbows down, my mouth shut. I'm thinking about duct taping my mouth tomorrow before the game. So that might be a good thing. I might have to duct tape my mouth and put some elbow pads on just in case my elbows fly. I will try to keep those down, too. Yes, I can. I can sing in my head. I won't sing to the refs. Carmelo? Carmelo is focusing on winning. I'm pretty sure he is not worried about the commercials. Well, I just tried to stay aggressive. I know I didn't play a lot of minutes, especially in the first half. And I just kept telling myself, stay in the game and get ready for the second half and come out and try to dominate. Free throws? I didn't think about it. I just went up there and tried to shoot, and it was working. It was actually -- I was actually singing a song tonight in my head, and it was working. So I ought to stick with it. It was a song I heard at halftime. It was one of the dance songs. I kept thinking about dancing the whole time and free throws was going in, so I might need to keep up that routine. Is that God? Say it again. Yes, I just really tried to be aggressive on the offensive end and make Big Z and the other bigs move their feet and try to get them in foul trouble. We can't get into it. We just got to go out there and play. When we play our basketball, we can beat anybody on the floor. That's our mentality. We have to play Magic basketball. When we do that, we can't worry about what other people are saying about us. We just go out there and win. I think so. I think so. Before the game, when I came out to warm up, I shot all free throws. Pat said, Are you going to work on your jump hook? I said I will work on my free throws tonight. I felt like I was going to go to the line a lot. I know I missed a couple early. But I tried to keep most of the same shot, and they was falling towards the end of the game. Oh, no, I can't gave you no notes. I was singing in My Dougie song that I heard. It was a dance song. I just felt good out there shooting it. I can't gave you no lines right now. I lost my voice screaming. I'm avoiding it. No, not tonight. No, I'm not going to get into it with any of the refs. My team and the city needs me, so -- I'm going to do a good job of keeping my head composed and trying not to allow things to happen on the floor to get me away from what our goal is, which is to win a championship. I can't allow anything to, you know, stop me mentally from achieving our goal. Pat tells me every day. My teammates tell me. I just got to try to stay focused, like I said. All it takes is one little incident, but I'm going to do my best to stay away from it. All we got to do is come out and play Magic basketball. We run, move the ball, and defend. Like I have been telling you guys, we can beat anybody. And those are going to be the three things, run, move the ball, and play defense. I'm not going to get into it. My job is to go out there and play hard, no matter if I foul out or not. If I give -- if I go out there and play 48 minutes hard and get six fouls and we get the win, that's all that matters. So I can't really concern myself with getting in foul trouble. Just got to go out there and play. In order for us to be the better team, like I have been telling you guys, we have to run. We have to defend and rebound. I think they beat us on the boards tonight. But as a team, we got to do a good job of rebounding and not letting them get more than one shot and try to contain LeBron. It is a tough thing to do, but when we run, nobody can beat us. We have a chance to win, you know? And if we go out there and play, we shouldn't worry about what we see on T.V., the commercials, the write-ups, whatever. Do we find it disrespectful that they're counting us out? Yeah. But there is nothing we can control. What we can control is how hard we play on the court, and that's when we get the job done. It is about effort. The team that wants it the most is going to get the win. We want it. We feel like we have a great chance of winning the championship. We believe. And all we got to do is go out there and play hard for 48 minutes. We know what it takes to win. We just have to be able to go out there and do it. It wasn't tough. I know my teammates have played without me, played with me having foul trouble. So I trust my teammates, and everything is going to work out for us if we just go out there and play. We can't worry so much and I can't worry about getting fouls or sitting on the bench. Just got to play through all that stuff. When you play through it and you fight and at the end of the day, you know, you should come out with a good result. The shot that he made? Was it tough? Yeah, you know. Hedo went down to hit the shot, and we thought Hedo shot it with no time where they didn't have a chance of getting a shot off. We celebrating. Then LeBron come down and hit, seemed like a movie 3. Yeah, you know, it was kind of hurting for us. But there was nothing you can do about it. He hit a tough shot. We had to move on. It was tough on the plane, riding back and just seeing that shot over and over in your head. But we knew we had to come out tonight and give 100 percent. He has been playing hard. He works hard every day in practice and he gets into LeBron to try to force him to take tough shots. In the offensive end, he shoots the ball with confidence, and he is just having fun. With a guy like Mike, you just want to give him the green light sometimes and just let him go to work. He makes big shots sometimes. You saw it. I'm not going to yell at the refs. I was talking to the bench. Instead of talking to the bench, I should have just walked to the sideline. No. I just should have kept my head and walked to the bench. |
| Well, one, I was -- the first time I think I got tired in a while. And I just tried to push myself. He said that I stopped going to the ball on the pick-and-roll, so I just tried to be aggressive toward the end of the game, and it worked. I really didn't know who to screen. Usually they switch the four and five pick-and-roll towards the end of the game. And I think Ben had a head start, so I tried to hit him before he got a chance to close out to Rashard. And then Rashard just hit the shot. I think as a team we want it more than any other year that I have been here. I have been talking about winning a championship since I have been here. But I think this is the first year that everybody is locked in on our goal. We just got to keep fighting, you know? We have an excellent opportunity in front of us, but we got to keep fighting. We can never give up, never think it is going to be easy because we got to work for everything that we get. I think as a team, coaching staff, everybody, we believe that every time we step on the floor, we play our brand of basketball, we can win. Well, first, you know, all I was doing was -- I was playing with emotion. You get in the game and you score a big bucket, you let your emotions take over. I wasn't tonguing Varejao or anything. My thing, it was a tough play. He grabbed me around my neck and made the shot. So hopefully they look at it. Whatever happens, though, I have full confidence in me and my teammates, and we can get the job done. I might have to really use some duct tape. (Smiling). My role? I think my role is to lead by example. I don't have to get in my teammates' face and yell at them and scream at them. That doesn't work with our team. If they see me out there, you know, fighting for every possession, going hard, then they tend to follow. So my role is to lead by example and the rest of my teammates follow. Well, like I said, at the end of regulation, our coach, he came to me and he said that I got to come to the ball. And I think earlier in my career, probably early this season, struggling from the free-throw line, I probably would have shied away from touching the ball towards the end of the game. But I just felt that if I stepped up to the free-throw line I can make it. My teammates found me in great positions to score, and I just tried to put the ball in the basket. Like I said, I have full confidence in my teammates. Every night somebody has to step up and play a major part for us to win games. It is going to be nice where me and Rashard are not making shots, somebody has to step up. Rafer stepped up tonight. He wasn't Dwight Howard. He was the playground legend skip-to-my-Lou. He was getting to the basket. He was finishing. He played with a lot of confidence. When plays like the playground legend, then he is tough to guard. I think it's all mental. At this point of the season, I got to be able to step up there and make the free throws. And my teammates have confidence in throwing me the ball. And so, you know, since they're having confidence in giving me the ball, I got to do something with it at the free-throw line. And it is just about practice. Every day I try to get a good amount of free throws up, and then before the game. When I step up there, just got to shoot it just like I have no care in the world. Just go out there and shoot it. When I do that, they go in. I think it will show how mentally tough we are as a team. We've had to overcome so many obstacles this playoffs. It will show a lot. We really got to be focused going into the next game. Tonight is over with. It is no time to celebrate. We really got to be focused going into Cleveland because it is probably going to be the hardest game of the season, you know, next game. So we really got to be focused. I'm happy with our progress. I'm not satisfied. We done a pretty good job this year, but the only way, I have been telling you all year, we get respect is by winning. We haven't won anything yet. We won a couple games, and that's our mind-set. We won a couple games. So what? We want the respect after winning the championship. That's the only way we are going to get anybody's respect, is by winning. We won a couple games. That's great. It feels good. We're not happy with just winning a couple games in the Eastern Conference Finals. We want to win the whole thing. That's when we will be happy. It is just like us against the world. Playing in a dog house like Cleveland, the whole crowd is against you. You want to go in somebody's home court and quiet the crowd. Nothing feels better than defeating a team on their home floor. It is one of the toughest things to do, especially against Cleveland. They have only lost a couple games at home. It feels good to win on the other team's home court and to do it in a dominate way. |
| Well, they just come out shooting the ball extremely well. I think the first quarter they shot 67 percent. So they didn't miss a lot of shots. And we came back. We just fought our way back. And I think down the stretch we made a lot of turnovers that got them going. Nothing. Can't worry about it. You know, they are either going to call a foul or they are not going to call it. My main job is to try to stay focused and, you know, not worry about some of the calls that tend not to go my way. It is tough, you know, because I want to be on the floor to help my teammates, but things happen. They had a lot of guys that shot the ball well, Mo Williams, Delonte, Daniel came off the bench with some big shots, and LeBron closed it out. It was a great team effort on their part. Everybody came out to play tonight, and that's what they got to go with. They hit shots. Next game we got to do a better job of containing LeBron at the top of the key. He got a lot of easy points. He created for others. So we got to do a better job when he catches at the elbow or in the middle of the free-throw line and he backs down and tries to force his way to the hole. We got to do a better job. We have. We lost tonight. It is over with. We got to come back ready for Game 6 from the start and protect our own floor. We bounce back well. We know what it is going to take. We just got to come out from the beginning. I don't think there is any pressure. We just have to step up our intensity, especially at the beginning of the games. We didn't do it tonight and they got off to a big lead. We had to try to fight our way back. And then turnovers was key for us. In the second half, we had too many, too many chances to take the lead and build upon it. We turned the ball over a lot, and that gave them a chance to really, you know, come back and, you know, knock the shots down and get their offense going. Maybe. We got to have a better defensive effort on him. It is just too easy for him right now. He's catching it in the sweet spot and it is one dribble to the basket. We got to make it a little bit tougher on him and make him take tough shots. Nope. No. We shouldn't have -- we shouldn't lose any confidence just because of the game tonight. If anything, we should learn, you know, from our mistakes tonight and make sure we don't do the same thing in the next game, and hopefully the outcome of the game will be a little bit different from tonight. I may shoot a lot of free throws. But like their coach said a couple games ago, he was going to make sure he was going to foul me to put me on the line. Does that mean we can still be as physical as I want to? I don't think so. But I just got to find a way to stay aggressive without fouling. It is tough, but just got to stay aggressive and not foul. |
| Well, first of all, I'm happy that we came out tonight and did what we had to do at home, but it's over with. It's done. I'm happy we won, but we got to move on to the next series, which is the Finals. So I'm happy about tonight. Go home and relax with my family and tomorrow wake up and get ready to go back to work. I believe in my team, first of all. I believe that we come out every night and play our brand of basketball. We can beat up. I have been telling you guys that all year. If we run, defend and, you know, rebound, we can win a lot of games. And everybody since I have been here, has always written us off. We work every day. We put the work in the gym to become a better team. We're not -- we're not at our best yet. But, you know, I'm happy with our progress. Yes, sir. I sent out a text message when I woke up yesterday to the whole team, and I just told them that, you know, when they wake up today, think about dominating. When they come to shoot-around, think about dominate. When they get to the gym for the game, think about dominate. And we started out the day great. We had a great shoot-around. Everybody was into it. Everybody was focused. And, you know, we came out tonight with the same mentality and we got a good win. Very happy with our progress. We still got a lot of work to do. It feels good to win, but we want to win a championship. That's the ultimate goal. So tonight was a big stepping stone for us as a team from what we were able to accomplish last year. But when we wake up tomorrow, we got to get ready to go back to work. Like I have been telling you guys, if we run, defend and rebound, we can beat anybody. We are at our best when we are running and we are having fun. So, you know, that's the mentality that we have to take into the next series. I've always been known as somebody who has never been serious or always playing around. But I take the game of basketball very seriously. Every time I step on the floor, I may have a smile on my face, but my main job, my main goal is to go out there and fight for my team. And I can do that with a smile on my face. For us as a team, we understand how everybody has talked about us for the past couple of years. But we understand that, you know, we get out on the floor, if we do what we do best, we can beat anybody. It's tough to not listen to the things that people have said about us. But that only fuels us. It pushes us to become a better team and to become, I would say, you know -- we became closer. With all the stuff that goes around us, what people say, we continue to get closer. Me and Coach have gotten a lot closer. It only helps us get better. Rafer came in right away knowing he is not Jameer Nelson and he didn't try to be Jameer. He came in doing what he do best. He pushed the pace, take the shots when he's open and just facilitate to the offense. He has done a great job of that since he has been here. And he is also a great motivator. He keeps us going out there on the floor and off the floor. He's silly just like all of us. He fits in with our team very well. Just happy he's here. I think it's great. I can remember, you know, coming to the games and nobody is in the stands until we play, like, a Kobe or LeBron. And now the stands are always filled up. I think we started to bring back some magic in Orlando, and that's one of the goals that I set out to do when I first got here. I felt that we were a laughing stock around the league. Everybody played the Magic, they thought about Disney World. So I just wanted to change that. We as a team wanted to change that. Me and Jameer, we sat and we talked about this a lot, and we put on ourselves to get better every day in the gym, work on the little things to get better because we want not only the respect of the NBA but we want our fans in Orlando to believe in us. We work extremely hard every day. We might have days where, just like anybody elsewhere, we mess up, we make mistakes. It is a bad day. But we wake up the next day with the mentality of getting better. Oh, I gave him five, you know. I knew he was trying to foul me. I knew he wasn't trying to hurt me or anything. So I was just letting him know that it is all love. I knew he was just trying to foul me. It wasn't no bad blood or nothing. My effort, I would say a B. And my teammates, an A plus. There was moments where we didn't play as hard as we need to. But for the most part, we came out with the mind-set of we run, really lock in on defense and try to rebound, we were going to have a great chance of winning the game. But going into the Finals is going to be a lot tougher. We really have to work on going hard for 48 minutes. If we go hard for 48 minutes at the end of the Finals, we should have a ring. We should have a trophy. Yeah, he's always been the same guy. He wants nothing but the best out of all of us. He pushes us to the limits. Me and Stan have had our ups and downs, but for the most part, he's always, you know, always did a great job of motivating me and my teammates. He is a great motivator. Even when he is yelling and screaming, throughout all that, he finds a way to put in just an ounce of something to get us fired up. He has been doing that since I've been here. He has been one of the best coaches I've ever said. Like I said, we had our ups and downs. I told him when he first got here, he was going to have a soldier in me and I was always going to go to battle for him. I appreciate everything he's done for us. Can change from possession to possession. we knew they would do the little things. Focus, rebounding. The second-chance shots. We did a good job of holding them to about 40%. We gave them 31 second-chance points. They shot 43, almost 44%. We can take losing. That's a part of the game. But losing that way is not the way . You have the guy has the backup they have with Taj Gibson and Noah helping them out. We just go on. We had a difficult time moving the ball. If you don't get the rebounds, it's going to be a long night. They did a good job of moving the ball, rebounding |