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| That's the biggest thing we worry about, it's our defense. They got great players on their team. You have to make sure they don't get any open shots, contest all their shots, make sure they don't get to the lane. We did a good job making sure they're seeing bodies when they went to the lane. We were just hustling. They're a great team. We made sure that we tried to get out to their shooters. Tonight it just went our way. Yes. It was me. Careless turnovers. You can't do that against this team, where when they get in the open court they're too dangerous. Making sure I take care of the ball. I'm the point guard. I have to do way better. In the second half I think I did a good job making sure that our turnovers were down. It really wasn't me; it was defense. Our defense opened up everything, where when we rebound the ball, we play with a fast pace. Especially when it's a turnover. They were giving me mid-range jumpshots where they were backing up. My teammates trust in me and have a lot of confidence in me when I'm taking those shots. I thought tomorrow, after we look at film, this game is going to be out of our mind. We had too many turnovers in the beginning. There's a lot of things we can change. They're a good team. We have to keep going, keep fighting. But if anything, I think our defense has to be there. We just had to go out there and play with intensity. We knew them guys was going to come out and play aggressive. We tried to attack. We tried to make it hard. They're a great offensive team with great players that's very good in delay isolations and breaking people off -- going off the dribble to the basket. We just made sure that it was tough and Taj, Omer, Luol, everybody was making sure that their man was in front of them and contesting all their shots and lay-ups when they were going to the basket. We're not worried about that. All the off-season stuff, we're not worried about it. We're just trying to go out there and play hard and play with an edge, play with a lot of intensity, knowing the guys are going to bring it every single night. That's what we did tonight. I think it should help us out a lot. But we still have a lot of work to do. We're going into practice just closing down the middle when LeBron and Chris Bosh do pick-and-roll. Chris Bosh getting fouled -- he had too many lay-ups. Getting out to their shooters where they had open looks. We could work on a lot of things about that -- on that game. Everybody. About what, the turnovers? Yes. I tried to talk to them as much as I can. Just by nature I'm quiet, but being in this position, being the point guard, being one of the leaders on this team, you have to talk a little bit more. I tried to let them hear me during the game, in the locker room, wherever we're at. We have to communicate, because defensively if you don't have any communication, especially with the players that you're playing -- we're playing against, like LeBron and D-Wade, it can be a tough night any night. It was huge. Joakim, Omer, Taj, Booze. Just making sure they're getting in there playing physical. They got players like Joel Anthony, a lot of hustle plays. Chris Bosh getting a lot of hustle plays. We made sure we put bodies on them. And Joakim finishing lay-ups, dunking. Booze doing the same thing and Taj and Omer coming in and giving us energy every night. That's what we need every night from them. Three turnovers I think in the first quarter. Then I think we got ten total. I think one in the second half. It was tough. You just learn from it, look at the film after practice with coach. Just going through everything. I see the mistakes. It shouldn't happen anymore. Play aggressive and attack more. If anything, go quicker, probably, in transition. Get the ball up the floor quick so they can't go against our set defense. That's the way we've been all season. We're not satisfied. Every time we feel good about ourselves, something knocks us down. We're trying to keep things going, making sure everybody stays positive, stay right and stay hungry. Definitely. And Coach Thibs, you see how he focuses and prepares for the game, it makes you want to do the same. Stay in the office after the game. Not have a life. Not right now. I have to sacrifice a lot of things. We get used to it now. I swear. Sometimes you are talking and -- you get used to it. You have to live with it. They have great players. LeBron and D-Wade and Chris Bosh, they are great players. We just tried to make it tough. That's the only thing we did. Last night we made sure we closed down the lane, stopped them from penetrating, and shoot jumpshots. We have to come out and play with that edge every game. Just totally play with that edge. It gives you so much confidence, especially with this team. It feels great when we are swarming the ball, everybody is communicating, we're getting rebounds, hustle plays, things like that. The fans are into it. They know we're playing hard. It gives us an edge. It makes my job easy, especially when everybody is knocking down shots and playing with that confidence. If anything, our defense starts everything. Just making sure we play hard and we just got to stick together. There's going to be times where it's going to be tough. But we have to make sure we're all on the same page. You never know. I think we'll have a good shot of winning the next game if we come out and play with the edge like we did, play with a lot of intensity. We have to be ready with the ball. Next game they are definitely going to go out there and play hard. Everybody crashing. They are going to make sure they put bodies on people. We have to try hard. We've been doing this the whole season. I think we rebound the ball pretty well. So guys on our team, we just try hard to go out there and be together, have Joakim and Booze on the rebounding side. |
| You get used to it. Definitely get used to it. It comes with the territory, being able to talk, get comfortable. We know that they have our back. And when we're out, we're on the court yelling, celebrating on the sideline, letting them know we're right behind them. They've been playing great for us. Yes. They tell you what type of guys we have on the team. We have all -- like a whole new team, except for three or four of us who are still here. The guys that came in, they came in, great veterans. They know their role. They are just trying to win basketball games. Luol has been great -- like I said, Luol is my MVP for this year on this team. He's been a great leader, playing through pain, just giving us a lot of energy. He's in great condition. Helping us with his game, like shooting threes, working on his game every day. You see how hard he works, it makes you want to go harder. Not yet. I really don't know what's going to happen. Especially in the playoffs. Really don't know what's going to happen until the ball is in your hands and you see what's going on, like the first play. Other than that, you know we'll have to come out with a lot of intensity. You do what the game tells you to do. Like last game, it didn't take that much me scoring. My teammates are getting off a lot of shots, giving us a lot of energy. Never know, next game it could be passing. Next game it could be defense. Whatever the games tells you to do, that's what I try to do. Every game is huge. It's just going to get bigger every game. You just have to be prepared for it. I think we had a great practice today, making sure everybody keyed in and focused in on everything. Everybody was really professional. Not yet. there are very good fans of the Bench Mob. We know it's going to be long and hard. We know every game is going to be tough. Especially with the type of players they have on the other team. I'm having fun, man. All this attention, I'm getting used to it. The city is going crazy over us. We still have a long way to go. No. Probably in a championship game, or something like that, if we make it there. Not right now. We always play around saying that. Like we'll be in the locker room, we'll just be talking. We'll catch ourselves like, we sound like him. Damn, we sound like him. We've got to stop. It's all playing around. We know the big goal. We know we have to stick together through all this. If anything, they closed down the lane. But I missed a lot of lay-ups, shots that I normally hit. They just wasn't falling tonight. But if anything, I think we lost this game because our intensity and defense. I really don't know. We can't afford to go out there and play like this. I know that. They have great players on their team. We let them get easy baskets, especially in transition. We can't do that if we are trying to win this series. I didn't really know. We really shouldn't care who is out there. We still have to play the same way. He came in huge for them. Shooting the ball well, rebounding the ball well. That's something that it was too many hustle plays we didn't get, and led to them scoring the ball and getting easy baskets. We can't afford to let them do that, especially not with this team. We definitely shot poor from the three. Everybody was missing easy bunnies that we normally hit. Me missing lay-ups, Booze, everybody just missing shots that we normally just -- that's normally just easy for us. This is a series. It's the first of four. We just got to look at film and prepare for the next game. They were going to the rim, getting rebounds, hustle plays, kicking it back out, driving again, getting to the line. They were playing way more aggressive. We just got to pick up our intensity definitely on the defensive end. We made it too easy for them tonight. And they out-hustled us throughout the whole game. I definitely got to try to play the same way, driving. I didn't shoot that many floaters tonight like I usually do, especially against tall defenders. I missed a lot of shots, man, that I normally hit. It was just one of them nights, I guess. We're definitely confident. I know we can't wait to go out there and play again. We're the type of team where when things get tough, we stay together. We're not going different ways. Coach always talks about this, where the playoffs is going to challenge you every way possible. And we just got to stick together and know that it's going to be a fun series. I think I was just missing shots, flipping the ball up, not going strong, trying to get fouled. It was just one of them nights. |
| Just how we respond to it, that's the biggest thing. We just have to come back and stay focused. Coming in. Everybody has to be on the same page, where this is a big game coming up, because it's our next game. It's going to be definitely a hard game, especially going to their arena. And they're a great team when they are playing in there. We have to stay together. It's us against everybody. Yes, we missed shots we normally hit. Wide open threes, lay-ups, floaters, all that stuff. We were just missing them. If anything, I think that next game they should fall. Yes. Passing out of it. I think it's one time I think Thibs was looking at it where I easily could have hit Joakim. I thought in my mind I had the shot at the end of the clock. I stepped back and missed the shot. Just looking at things like that and working to make the game easier. It comes with us just making shots. If we make shots, there's no way they can help off anybody. Especially when Luol got it going, Kyle got it going, Joakim got it going. It's tough. Just keep driving. I know it's going to be hard, because they got shot-blockers back there, Chris and Anthony. But I just have to find a way to get there. Don't jinx us like that. If anything, we look at film, and we look at the reason that we lost. Our energy, our intensity wasn't there. Rebounding the ball, the smalls got to get back and rebound the ball. Thibs explained to us that we just didn't play with a good pace during the game, especially on the offensive end. And it shows on the film. We felt bad about it, and now we're on to the next game. He got to keep shooting. That's God's gift, the way he shoots the ball. We have a lot of confidence in him every time he comes off the pick that he's going to make the right decision. We tell him, if anything, just shoot it up there, because most of the time it's going to go in. It feels great. But it's nothing right now. We still feel a little fatigued. But you come in, you still get your work in. Now I feel great. No. There's no excuses anyway. If anything, I think they walked the ball up the court a little bit. So you get your breath right there. But I'm not tired at all. Physical. I stayed in the whole day. Just watched movies, playing a game, getting around to my friends. Stuff like that. Will. Definitely will. Every game is like that now, where the talent is equal, and it's all about will. Who wants it more. I wouldn't say "angry." Knowing it was a tie game, tie Game 73-73 with four minutes left, usually we would be the team that ends up winning that game. They made great plays. They've got great players on their team. Hopefully we learned from our mistakes. I really don't know right now. I could care less right now. I just want to win. Give me a win and I'm all right. I think their energy. Their energy, their awareness, the help side to come in and contest shots without fouling, rebound the ball. Just running. It's really up to me in the fourth quarter. We have to run more instead of walking the ball up, because their bigs -- where they can finish down there and easily get fouled. I just got to make the right decisions. This is going to be a crazy game, where I think they are going to have a lot of confidence. But some way, somehow we have to come up with this win, no matter how we get it. We just have to have more intensity than them, and we have to play way more aggressive. No. That's regular season. It's nothing like right now, where every little thing that you do is big. Especially in the playoffs right now. Turnovers, blown sets, everything can cost you the game. You get used to it. Especially when Oprah is here. Used to getting rest right now. I think it helped us out in practice. Really in the game that's what we're used to doing, because of practice, going through every set. When we're tired, when we're fatigued, just making sure that we run it to a T and towards the end of the game. That's why I could be wide open. Because we're used to running it when we're tired. Last game it just wasn't there. We missed a lot of sets. Missed communication. Things like that messed us up. We looked at film. I think we got things right in practice. |
| It's very important. Definitely a good session today. Guys were really keyed in on the mistakes they made yesterday and just trying to correct them. That's what it's all about. It's just double-teaming. Yesterday in the court I was trying to be able to pass. But I have to be more aggressive. I have to take the double-team on and play my regular game. I really don't know. Just not making the right plays. But if we're going to learn -- we learned today the passes and the plays we have to run when they do them type of things, when they trap and the release points and the offense. I'm definitely confident. The atmosphere was great. Guys were real positive, knowing they messed up yesterday. We are just trying to learn every single day. Still defense. We have to bring more intensity to the game. We have to be the first to the floor, first on the rebounding side. Guards still have to get in and rebound and help the bigs. And we have to play more aggressive on both ends. Way more. That would be great. I think like more step-ups, things like that, more isolation-type things instead of double-teaming all the time. I don't know. That's one of the things we were talking about today. If the bigs are going to have anything going up the side, give it right back to me, hands on, back-door, things like that to get me open and give me good looks. Not at all. You try to learn. This is just a learning experience, where the double-team -- Atlanta's double-team was different, Orlando was different. Theirs is where they show high, and sometimes they show and leave out early. Sometimes they show . I have to read what they're doing. It's totally different. They are way athletic. Every series, the team is different and they're doing something different. The thing is catching on to it and trying to do something different. I'm fine. I'm good with the teammates I've got right now. It's nothing about that. It's team basketball. I think that they are playing better team basketball now all around, defensively, offensively, communicating to one another. That's something we have to bring to the game. And I think we have to be aggressive. Really aggressive. Show too much emotions. I think that's what it was all about. It's one thing to have a passion about the game. But when you start bringing emotions into the game, I think that's when you can really get in trouble. But we just can't wait to play tomorrow. I know we're excited. My teammates are excited. I just can't wait to get out there and play. No. No, I think I was playing during that time. No. No, I didn't hear about it. We just got each other. This is a family. We're just trying to stay together, knowing that it's definitely harder now. But we're going to get through this. And this summer we're going to laugh about it later on. Just closing in on the paint. Just got to make shots. They're a good defensive team. We're loading in on one side, and going for steals. We just got to find a way to find easier baskets. It's definitely frustrated. Our will wasn't there tonight, where they still found a way to win playing good basketball, moving the ball to one another, playing easy basketball, I'll say. We just got to find a way to win the next game. No, I'm just trying to make it easy, where they're doubling me every pick-and-roll. So just get the ball out of my hands and try to let my teammates create for others. That's what I'm going to continue to try to do. Sometimes try to beat the double-team and sometimes try to pass and make it easy. Definitely. Definitely. They definitely hurt. I thought I had it. LeBron made a great steal. I was passing it to Luol, and D-Wade stepped in front, took a charge. Can't definitely get any charges. Not right now. Especially towards the end of the game. So just learn from it and try not to do it the next game. Just passing. I told you every pick-and-roll they were doubling me. So just got to find a way to sometimes beat it. I've been trying to beat it with the pass. Try to be more aggressive. Yes. If anything, you're going to miss shots, but our defense, that was the key of the game, where I think we let them shoot 50%. Something like that, in the playoffs, and we call ourselves a defensive team. That's definitely not going to work against a team like that, where they've got great players and great shooters on their team. With who? I guess he made the right decision. We're both playing in the Eastern Conference Finals. He teamed up with a great group of guys, where they're still playing good together. They're playing good basketball right now. So I guess he made the right decision. Just tried to get a good look, take the clock all the way down. LeBron played good defense. It was online, but it was just a little bit too short. Not at all. You're just trying to win. Tonight definitely it was on me. I had two opportunities to end the game. Couldn't do it. If anything, learn from it. Too many turnovers. Really was my fault, but I'm going to learn from it. It makes you play harder. I know that. As a basketball player, I know if you want to be great, you're going to want pressure. I think that my teammates have confidence in me to go out there and play -- love the way I play. I trust them, they trust me. Tonight was definitely a tough night where they had -- they played great defense I think on both sides. We did, too. But you have to find a way to finish the quarter out, finish the game off in the fourth quarter when we have the lead, and continue to play defense. I really don't know. I guess one of them nights. Losing the ball, careless turnovers. Only thing I can do now is put it behind me and go forward. It's hard, but it's no excuses right now. Everybody on their team, all the stars on their team is playing the same time. So you have to just play harder and just go out there and make it work. It's hard where a guy, he's running at top speed, he can easily catch up with you. If anything I was trying to hit my teammates at first, get easy baskets, because I think that they had like Mike Miller, someone sticking like Luol at first. That's when I tried to take things myself, go to the hole and just try to get fouled. But it's extremely hard where a 6'8" guy can easily defend you. It's not over. We still have games to play. Thibs talked to us in the locker room about it, where we're going back to play at home, and we have to stay positive, where they are beatable. But we just have to make sure that we play together and the turnovers have to be down, play defense. |
| It was me. Turnovers, I guess fouls, if you call it that. If anything, you just learn from it and just try to do better next year. Everything is a learning experience. We're definitely sad that we lost, but if anything, we'll take a lot from it. We'll getting closer as a team, get better, and only thing we can do now is work on our games in the summer and just try to get it next year. They're definitely a tough team to beat. They play well together, pass the ball. All the other guys know their role on the team. They play defense. Hit shots when they're open. They're a good team; that's why they made it this far. It is what it is. We ran the plays. They're a good defensive team. If my teammates were open, they would shoot the ball. They were just playing tough defense. At the end, I told you it's on me. Everything is on me. Turnovers, missed shots, fouls. If anything, learn from it. That's all I can do right now. The series is over with. No, I wasn't tired. I was just making dumb decisions, and it cost us this game. If anything, just get better. No, I wasn't fouled. If I was fouled, they would have called it, I guess. I'm going to get better. I'm not worried about that. If anything, this is going to make me hungry. Made it this far with this group. My teammates, great teammates. Too bad we couldn't get to The Finals, but we still got a shot next year. I won't take anything back from this year. It's been great. The coaching staff has been great. Organization has been great, the management, ownership, everybody has been great. But I think it's going to make everybody hungry. |