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| I don't know. We just feel more comfortable out on the court, no matter who is out on the floor with us. We try to complement one another. When one guy is flowing. We try to feed off of each other's energy and always try to stay in attack mode to help our team. We get to the free throw line as individuals or try to spread out our three point shooters and allow them to make plays as well. It's definitely a high comfort level right now. We just want to keep it going. That's a veteran ballclub. They're mentally tough. One of the most mentally tough teams that we have in this league. So we don't even put in the factor of them being fatigued. We don't let that be in our head. We try to work our games, work our habits, the coaching staff gives us a great game plan, try to execute that, and hopefully it continues to result in wins for us. I mean, just they are a championship caliber team. No matter what injuries goes on, I look at them as a top opponent, as a top contender, and as a competitive group. Anytime I look out there and I see Paul and I see Ray and KG and Rondo, no matter who they have in their supporting cast, I feel it's a championship caliber team. I approach every game with a high intensity both mentally and physically. It's going to be tough on all of us. We have to be in tune with Rondo. He's probably the number one unpredictable guy we have in our league as far as how he forces his action. A lot of his points come in transition where you kind of you want to lull to him, but also he spreads off the threes. He's that good. He's that good that he forces a lot of our triggers. He forces us to pay a lot of attention to him, and then he's able to get him a shot or get someone else a shot. We try to make it tough on him, like we do any other guard or any other player in this league. We try to make it tough for him and wear him throughout the game. But he's a great talent. Defensively, no matter what year or group they have out there, they're great. So you try to get the ball moving from one side to another. When it comes back to you, I try to attack. I was able to attack early in the game. Also in a lot of my post ups I was able to get to a lot of my shots I was comfortable with making. So just always try to be on attack, no matter what point of the game it is. And I was able to get a couple to fall for me tonight. It doesn't what our complementary guys do never show up in the boxscore, especially our centers. They go out there, they defend at a high level. They get us open offensively, setting great screens and transition and also in the half court set. We find them, they try to go up there and finish. Everything we get offensively from our centers is always a bonus. It puts no pressure on them offensively. We just want them to play hard, rebound and defend. We know the opposing team is going to sag off our centers, try to clog up the paint. It's been like that the last two years. But they understand their role, and that's what makes them so good. That doesn't change anything for us. We expect to hit the deck every single game, me and D Wade. It's how we feel like teams approach us. They feel like they need to put us on the floor, hard foul us. It doesn't change our approach. We still have to be in the attack mode no matter what happens, because that's when we're at our best as a team. We feel like we didn't play our best basketball tonight. We had some great looks offensively, but we had a lot of breakdowns defensively. So we didn't play our best game. And we want to just try to continue to get better throughout the series. We come in tomorrow, we're going to watch a lot of film, break down the film, see the ways we can get better offensively and defensively. It's a good sign. It's a good thing for us, but we understand we didn't have our best game tonight. So we will prepare and we will be better on Wednesday. First of all, it let's us know we're active. We're playing the rim and playing the ball. Definitely a defensive stop is just as effective as a big dunk. They are both momentum changing plays. Especially when a guy feels like he has a good lane to the rim and someone comes over and gets a block. That definitely helps us offensively, because once you get the block in, most of our blocks aren't hit out of bounds, so it allows us to get out in fast break and get out on the floor. So it helps us a lot. You like Chris Bosh's name. I'm starting to believe that. You mention him every single day. You don't go one day without saying Chris Bosh's name. We have to rebound, and I have the ability to rebound, so I'm just trying to do whatever it takes to help our team win. I mean, we enjoy it. We're always looking to run out on transition. We're just trying to make a transition. Off the rebound, or right off the turnover, we're trying to make the pass, the easy bucket for us. It's a good heads up play. He was one of the greatest receivers. I'll tell you that. Man, how do I prepare for something I already think is going to happen every game . That's possible. We had some great looks. Didn't go down for us. D Wade was able to get into the lane and make some great plays. We start to see it, and we're ready for it. I don't know. First of all, that's a question you should ask him. What adjustments do you think he'll make. I always expect for a great player to be great. He's one of the best players we have in this league. I always expect him to be great each and every night. I feel humbled now, first of all. I remember when I first came to the league and five straight or something like that. I was like, wow, that's unbelievable. I hope I get an opportunity to play in the Conference Finals. This is my fourth. I'm humbled and blessed to be able to be on some great teams, great teammates, great coaches. For sure. For sure. More relaxed, and more I think of my teammates as well. Just more focused. I mean, I've been around here before. So I've got to be more relaxed. No, honestly, I mean, when I first played against him I wasn't into the defensive side of the game like I am now. But he's a great player. You have to try to make him do things that he may not want to do. But he's still going to make shots, because that's how good he is. He makes plays. He can shoot the ball, he can handle the ball, he can post up. I try to make it tough on him. He's a great player in the league. Say that again? That's all. We all know how K.G. is. He means no harm. Be able to put together a good game. We won Game 1 and . Doesn't tell me anything. I expect it to be every game I play in. Me personally. It doesn't surprise me. It's not like I have to gear up for it. I'm already geared up for it. First of all, just to be playing this time of the year is exciting. There are a lot of teams that's not playing right now. We're blessed that we're able to be a part of this. You know the history. You know the Boston franchise is great. It's always fun to go against them as well. It's a great time for us. Get to the free throw line. Like I said, I expect physical play. I expect to be quote, unquote, thrown on the deck. Whatever the case may be. I have to go to the free throw line and go up there and make them. I made a few adjustments. We had a few miscues, a few communication breakdowns in the second quarter when we gave up 35 points. and we gave up eight offensive rebounds as well. As players we can get better to help out. It's another game. Playoff game. We have to protect home court. Playoff game is not one or two games. It's going to be a long series. I don't personally D. Rose. I've never had a conversation with D. Rose. It sucks that it happened. I wish him a fast recovery and hope he gets back . I don't know what he's going through. I've never had that type of injury. So I can't imagine what he's going through. I hope he comes back 100%. 110% because I am a fan of his. I love the way he plays the game of basketball. I love what he brings to his game. Get healthy. |
| First of all, Rondo was absolutely amazing. The performance he put on tonight will go down in the record books. He played the whole game. He made all the plays and tried to will his team to a victory. He showed tonight why he's an all pro and one of the superstars in this league. He's a unique player. He's an unbelievable player. He gave everything that he had tonight. As far as after the game, it was a battle. We never felt like we won the game or lost the game until there were zeros on the clock and we looked up there and there was 115 to 111. We were able to win this game with so many ups and downs throughout the whole game. But it was exciting to be a part of it and to win. Absolutely. Always feel like he's going to make a play, no matter what's going on in his game at that moment. I always feel the next play he's going to make a play to help us push forward. And he was definitely doing that late in the game. He made some unbelievable shots. Made some drives, kicked to UD for a big time shot as well. He made some big plays for us. We ran a play, D Wade was able to hit me on a pass to the rim, and I missed the lay up. I felt I had a good look at it, but I was kind of off balance. I was racing trying to get the offensive rebound to give us the last possession. I had a great look at it at the end of regulation, it just didn't go down. And then started the overtime, I missed two free throws. Like you said, I tried to help us win. Whatever it took, whether it was offensive rebounds, trying to get a defensive stop or whatever the case may be, trying to be out there to help my teammates win. I was happy to be able to make a few plays. I mean, there's parts of the games where you have iso ball, but it's not what we want to do. We don't want high doses of that. We want to continue to work our habits, continue to do what we've been doing over the course of the season. If the pick and roll blows up, we have to get the ball from one side to another, and not try to force anything. Now the clock is at a disadvantage for us. They showed us something different tonight defensively, which we knew they would. We knew they would make a change. That's why this series is going to be great, because both coaches are going to make adjustments throughout the series. We get an opportunity to watch the film tomorrow, and we'll go from there. Absolutely. That's what I told Rio in the game after in the locker room. He kept us afloat by his play. When D Wade didn't have it going, Rio made big shots. Especially in the second quarter, in the third quarter as well he kept us afloat. He stepped up, made some big shots and gave us a lift. He gave us a third punch that we needed in this game. So he played a great game. You guys are tired too, huh. I appreciate it. |
| I mean, KG is a difficult match up for a lot of guys, period. He started off really well. I think he had 12 points in the first quarter and got them off to a good start. That's part of the reason why they had 58 points in the paint. He opened up a lot for not only himself but for his teammates as well. And he's definitely a threat down there, and he made some huge shots. I had a game this year when I didn't have an assist. Do you remember that? They do. You don't know what game it was? I think we played great ball since he's been out, Game 1 of last round. We've played some great ball. Guys have stepped up in his absence. Guys are going to have to continue to step up in his absence. We don't know when Chris will be back. We're not going into next game hoping that he's going to be there, or whatever the case may be. We have to prepare like he's not playing. We will prepare for Game 4 like he's not playing. It started way before that. We can't dig that big of a hole on ourselves. We were down 24 points. When you start fighting uphill, we made a run, but any little mistake defensively or offensive rebound we give up or we miss a shot, we feel like we could have made it, or anything and they come down and get a bucket, it hurts, because you're trying to fight back the whole time. So we made a good run, but they was up too much and we got in too much in the hole. I think we still was in attack mode. Just the free throw attempts just doesn't show for it. I hit a few jumpers as well, but I got into the lane. D Wade definitely got into the lane, got some attack points. We had 46 points in the paint, which is a really good clip. We only made five threes, so it does show we had to make some shots in the paint as well. It just doesn't show for us. But we're attack guys. We'll continue to attack and try to, you know, force the issue. That's what we do, and that's why we're in this position now. No, we're going to keep attacking. That's what it's about. We're attack players. We don't shoot many jumpers. We never got to this point by shooting a lot of jumpers. But we're an attack team. It starts with us. And it trickles down to everybody else. KG is a difficult cover. First of all, he's a more prolific scorer than of Chandler and of Hibbert. And when he gets to shoot, his wing span is he shoots higher than anybody we have in this league. So we have to do a better job of trying to help each other out and not expose ourselves as much with our coverages. Well, we're going to have to go to it. It's just how our lineup is being played right now, especially with CB being out. I'm going to be guarding him either in the case of lining up against him to start the possession or a switch. I'm confident in it. Just try to make it a little bit more tough on him and not give him so many relief lay ups with us being so aggressive on Ray in the post. Absolutely. I know that D Wade, once he gets a few easy buckets, he starts to shoot his jumper, he starts to get to the free throw line and he's very aggressive from that point on. I had it going early on in Game 3, but I'm going to need his dominant play as well. So I will make a conscious effort to try to get him going early. No, nothing changed in our approach. For me, I made a lot more jumpers than I've made in the first two days. But I still got into the paint. I still put some pressure on the defenses, and D Wade did the same way. It just didn't result in the stat sheet saying we shot free throws. No, they played great ball. We came in with a game plan. They executed it more than we did. And it showed in all the big points, as far as free throws, the points in the paint, things like that. So they played good ball. Well, we're going to meet after this. 'Spo is going to give us a game plan for Game 4. And if there's something as players that we see, we're going to give our opinion, and then we go and get ready. We don't honestly, we don't see it too much. We don't read into it. I know I don't personally. I don't get involved in it. It's one game. They protected the home court for Game 3. We get another opportunity. That's the best thing about it. We get another opportunity to play tomorrow, and we're going to try to win a game, go back home and try to finish it up. We have to get back, first of all, in transition. Also low to Rondo and then KG. They do a good job of getting points in the paint with Rondo's attacks and KG posting and in transition. And also Paul, he gets into the paint as well. So you have to be a little bit more aggressive defensively, but also a little bit smarter too. These fans, they support their team. Of course we all know the history of this team, the history of the league. So they give great support to their team, and their team fires up after it. And they love it. It's always great to be a part of it. Like I said, I've been on both sides. Been able to win. I've lost more in this building than I've won. But it's always exciting. As a team we have to figure out ways to exploit the double team. He's going he's always going to try to either come off the pick and roll, and when he posts up, he's going to bring two defenders. So as his teammates, we have to make ourselves available and we have to make plays for ourself. And also when the double team is not there, early and often try to get the ball to him early so he can attack without a double team. Hungrier? No, I don't need to be hungrier at this point. It's the Conference Finals. I'm fine and looking forward to it |
| N/a |
| Some of them we wish we could have come up with. Some of them we haven't been able to come up with. The ball bounces in crazy ways at times. Sometimes you get them, sometimes you can't. We feel like we gave ourselves a chance. I mean, you don't need much motivation right now. It is what it is. You win and you bring it back here, or you go home. It's that simple. I don't need no extra motivation at this point. I've been motivated since the playoffs started. I mean, for me, I just got to keep playing my game. If I can get a couple more points here, a couple more rebounds there, a couple more assists, maybe we win more games. I don't know, man. I put a lot of pressure on myself to try to come through for our team. Last night I felt like I could have made a couple more plays, and I didn't. But at the end of the day, if you play hard, you go out there and lay it on the line, the numbers will take care of itself. And you can be happy with it. I'm not. I won't. I'm going to go into the game just knowing that I got to try to make plays to help our team win and not put too much pressure on myself. I understand what I do for our team. They are going I'll be satisfied because they know how hard I play. I'll be fine. I feel confident. I feel confident we can go up and get one. Then we're focusing on Game 6. That's what it's all about. It's definitely different. Last night we was down. We didn't want to lose that game. We played hard. Gave ourselves a chance to win. But you have to have a new mindset when you come in here today. You have to focus on Game 6. I know we have to go in with a mindset that we're going to win and bring it home for Game 7. We feel confident now. It does. It means a lot to me. How much work I've put into this year. No one said it was going to be easy. I'm looking forward to the challenge, me personally. I'm looking forward to it more than probably anyone on the team. So I'm going to lead these guys in the right direction, and hopefully it results in us winning. I put a lot on myself, like I do any game. I do a lot for the team. I hold myself to a high standard. So I want to play well. I want to play well for sure. I'm not going to put too much pressure saying these are the numbers I'm going to get. I'm going to go out and play my game. At the end of the day we'll see what happens. No, it is fitting. I know how much pain this team has given me over the years. I think I guess it's only right that we will be going up there in an elimination game. In order for us to keep our season going, we have to win in their building. . What do you mean? Let it not get in my head? It's a new day. It's a new game. But it's obviously a great team, and if we go in with a game plan and we go in and play hard, all we can ask for is to give ourselves a chance to win late in the game. We can be satisfied with that. Game 3 it wasn't close. They pretty much got whatever they wanted. Game 4 we gave ourselves a chance to win. We didn't make enough plays. It was a great game. And last night we also had I mean there were some tough bounces. I know a few plays went right off the top of my head. D Wade got the block off Bass. It was a 50 50 ball in the air. Rondo punched it to Pietrus for a three. That was a big play. And then another play was Ray Allen went down the lane, kind of kicked it off his foot, picked it up and hit Pietrus again for another three. Sometimes the ball bounces in different ways. Momentum plays happen. But like I said, last night we gave ourselves a chance to win. That's all you got to do. I mean, he's our coach. I don't need to defend him. I'm here. We got a lot of respect for Spo. We have all the confidence he's going to give us a game plan to help us win. Me personally, I don't even hear what goes on out there. I only hear it until you guys tell me about it. So it's always new to me. I know he's heard it before. That's not new to him either. I mean, they definitely come up. Of course. It's human for them to come up. You got to approach tomorrow's game like it's its own. And we look forward to the challenge. I know I do. We can use his we're going to have to have him out there on the court. I think he played great in his minutes he had last night. 14 minutes, 9 7, that's really good production. The fact that we're a whole finally for a game that means a lot to us all, it should help us. |
| You just said it, it was a must win game for us to continue our season. I'm happy we were able to put together a complete game for the first time this series. We were close in Game 1. We played really good in Game 1. Since then we hadn't played a complete game that we're capable of doing. So that's what I'm more excited about than anything, that we finally put a 48 minute game together. And it allowed us to win this game, a game that we had to have. I don't know. I don't know. I haven't really I haven't watched the film or anything like that. I just tried to make plays for our team throughout the whole game, as long as I was on the court I wanted to make plays, both offensively and defensively, to give ourselves a chance to win. I think I did that tonight. In an environment like this you want to have a big game. I wanted to be there for my teammates, no matter what was going on throughout the course of the game. So like I said, I'm happy I was able to make some plays both offensively and defensively to help us win this game. This was a gut check for us. And it's good to see we were able to bounce back after that loss, after that Game 5 loss at home. You just try to keep the pedal going, keep the pedal down and just continue to be aggressive. I felt like I was aggressive from the opening tip, and the guys continued to find me. I tried to keep it going. I felt like that a few times in this postseason. And it's a great feeling to be in when you feel like everything you put up is going in. But you just can't you can never let go. You can never let it die down or anything like that. You know you have to continue to put pressure on their defense, and I was able to do that. I don't know. I take every game as its own. I will continue to be aggressive. I will try to continue to play at a high level like I done the whole postseason. If it results in these numbers or whatever the case may be, I'm going to go out there and play my game and play as hard as I can. I don't really care what the stats say. I won't regret Game 7. Win, lose or draw, I'm going to go in with the mindset like I've had this whole season. And we'll see what happens. I wasn't paying too much attention to those guys. I was focused on what we had to do as a team, as an individual, to help us win this ballgame. I was in such a zone I really didn't I wasn't trying to pay too close attention to their expressions or what they were going through over there. I was just doing what I had to do to help our team win this game. I have no idea. I don't know. I didn't use any motivation. I just went to my habits. I went to what I built over the course of the season, over the course of the years, and just went out and played. I wasn't going to feel sorry for myself or anything tonight. I just go out and play as hard as I can, as I said, and try to make plays for our team. And at the end of the day, whatever happens happens. I can be satisfied with that. I didn't need no extra motivation tonight. It's the postseason. I know how big these games are. Every game is big. So that's my motivation itself. But I didn't need any extra motivation in this game. I just went to my habits, what I built ever since I started playing this game. I don't really get too far in sports talk radio or anything like that too much. Over the postseason I've been doing a lot of reading and been watching movies and things like that. I don't really hear the outside noise of what's said about me or what's said about our team. As a team, we never get too high, we never get too low. So we kind of just try to stay focused on what's at hand. And over the course of these 48 hours we've just been worried about Game 6, how can we prepare to win Game 6. And our coaching staff gave us a great game plan, and as players we tried to go out and execute that. For me this game is all about team. I was coached that way as a kid, and it was instilled in me ever since I picked up a basketball. As an individual you can't do it by yourself. No matter what my numbers was tonight, nowhere near we would have won this game if the other 14 guys weren't in tune and wasn't focused about us trying to win this game. So two guys come to me or three guys come to me, I'm very good at math, that means someone is open. I believe in my teammates, and they're going to knock that shot down. So that's how I play the game, and I will continue to play the game like that, because it's gotten me to this point. No, it doesn't mean that. I'm basically saying this whole team is about getting back to the way I play the game of basketball. I said that to all you guys, seen the interview I did with Rachel before the season. You guys have all seen it. In a great place right now as far as the game of basketball on the court and off the court. So I'm looking forward to Game 7. See you all in Miami. |
| I mean, it's been a journey. It's been a long ride, like he said. But we're happy we've been able to put ourselves in the position, and not take we didn't take any days off. We knew it was a process once again this year. We're just going to take each ride each hump, each obstacle as it came to us. We couldn't shortcut anything this year. We're happy to be back in this position. We look forward to the challenge. What we're saying to each other, it's time. It's time. We want to give a lot of credit to the Celtics. They got a hell of a coach in Doc Rivers and great players. They pushed us as hard as any team has pushed us thus far. But everything we were saying going into the fourth, it's time. Let's play our fourth quarter defense, what we're capable of doing. I'm glad we were able to do that. No. I got to be in attack mode, no matter what's going on throughout the course of the game. I always know that he's going to figure it out. So it's not to say that I see what's going on with his game, so I have to be more aggressive; I have to stay aggressive. It's going to help our team a lot. I don't have to worry about him. Last series in the Indiana game where he didn't play well, I didn't even go to him or say anything to him. I know he's going to figure it out. It's just the player he is. For me I always have to be in attack mode and try to help our team. I envisioned it every day we worked out. I understood what his passion was. I understood what his drive was. We pushed each other every single day. That four day span, we called it hell week, that we worked out in Akron. He was a little upset about the series in Dallas, where they got eliminated by Dallas, and I was as well. So we pushed each other each and every day. I envisioned us getting to this point. Like I said, I was happy for him that he's able to get to the Finals. I'm looking forward to going against him. It's only right. It's only right. We look forward to the challenge. It's going to be a big test for us. Chris is big. Game ball automatically goes to him. Without his production tonight, we don't win. Come off the bench, 19 8. It's huge. It's something we haven't had. We haven't had that type of activity, that firepower off the bench since we got here. It's unique. It's very unique that CB is coming off the bench, but it may be something great for us. As far as the play, the three pointer in the corner, I felt like when I got the drive, that KG may sink in and try to take my drive away. So when I seen that happen, I just kicked it to him, and he just lined it up and made it. He made three of them tonight, and all of them was big. The game ball definitely goes to him. He was big time. Competitors. They're great. You can never relax. You can never relax at all on the court when you're competing against those guys. You can never feel comfortable. You always feel on edge when you go against them. This is their chemistry that they built over the years. It's like no other team that I've ever faced in the postseason. They're great. They're great. As far as the scrutinized, I don't get involved in that. For me as a competitor and as a player individually, I just try to do whatever it takes to help our team win. I do the things in the offseason to prepare myself to come into the season to be dominant, and I try to lead by example and lead by my voice every night we step on the floor. That's on and off the court. I can't worry about what people say about me, about my game, about who I am as a person. I can't get involved in that. People can have their own opinions, and rightfully so they can have their own opinions. For me I just go out and play at a high level, and do whatever it takes for us to win. And I can be happy with that. 'Spo talk already? I'm starting (laughing). This guy is starting. That's all I know. No, I don't think it's interesting. I don't think it's interesting at all. We've played some good ball. It doesn't matter who starts or who finishes the game. James Harden doesn't start, but he's always on the court at the end of the game. Jason Terry doesn't start, but last year in The Finals he was in the fourth quarter every game. CB didn't start tonight, but he was in the fourth quarter. It doesn't matter who starts, or finishes the game, it's who is being productive. That's what it all boils down to |