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| Well, our play didn't change at all. We went into the timeout, we had two different calls, and me and Spo looked at each other, and he asked me which one I felt comfortable doing. I had enough time where I could get to the basket and make a play. I don't know if I was surprised or not. I really wasn't worried if Hibbert was in the game at all or if he was in. I was worried about trying to get a bucket for our team. I knew I had enough time to get to the rim. Two plus seconds is plenty of time. I only need one dribble to get to the rim. And the set that we ran, the space that I had, you know, CB first having the first trigger, going to the rim for a lob, and Ray slipping to the corner, a thread and then I was able to be the option at that point and get to the rim. Shane definitely gave me a great pass. All I had to do was just, you know I peeked over my left shoulder. I seen Paul George was a little out of place. So I just took off. I knew I had enough time to do either I could either get to the rim or I could get one dribble in and get up a jumper or a shot. So I seen him leaning a little bit. Just a quick second. I just took off. Yeah, for me it's just flow of the game. I take what the defense gives me. I was able to turn the corner a few times and either get a look up at the shot or at the rim or find my bigs cutting and finishing some plays. The contribution that we got from Bird tonight was unbelievable. Without his effort we don't win this game. Just his energy and his effort once again. For me it's just the flow of the game. I don't really predetermine what I'm going to do. I just read and react. The best thing about it, the coaching staff and my teammates put me in position to be successful, and I try to take advantage of it. We wish we could take two wins, but we only get one. That's what it's all about. No matter if you win by one or if you win by 30 or whatever the case may be. You just want to win. We have to be better Friday if we want to win again. We'll come here to prepare tomorrow and see the ways that we can do that. Well, I mean, like I said, my teammates put me in a position. Coach Spo drove a good play to put me in position to be successful. It's my job to go out there and make it happen. I mean, I made a lay up. It's not like I made something half court. I made a lay up. I've been doing that since I was eight years old. I understand the circumstances a little bit. It happened to have been in the Eastern Conference Finals. When you practice something over and over and over, and you just it's just second nature to you. I also know, hey, we protect home court. This is Game 1. That's what it's about. It's very important. When we go against guys that are taller than us, a little bit bigger than us, our front court and our back court have to help out with the rebounding. I got to go out and if I have to average ten rebounds in this series or whatever the case may be, I have to be out there for my bigs. My bigs are fighting with Hibbert and fighting with David West all game long. When some of those long rebounds come off, myself and D Wade and Norris have to be able to clean the glass to help our bigs out. So just trying to contribute the best way I can when I'm out on the floor. I mean, I don't know. We don't any of us know that? D Wade was not there either, because he fouled out. I mean, you can't say what would have been different. Ten guys out on the floor, and I was able to get the lane against George Hill in the first one, and I was able to get the lane on Paul George in the second one. You know, I was on attack when Hibbert was in the game, I was on attack when Hibbert wasn't in the game. That's not for us to worry about. Once I got the ball I was the only option. I was the only option at that point. Especially with only being 2 plus seconds. As unselfish as a player I am, I cannot no way try to make a pass at that point. Like I said, I'm blessed to be in that position. My teammates put me in a great position each and every night. My coaching staff. And I just try to come through for them. We covered it the best way we could. George, going through my mind now, Paul George entered the ball to David West and he got the hand off. So UD and D Wade switched. D Wade ended up on David West and I was on George Hill. Me and D Wade switched. He got a DHL pass from David West, and he launched one. He launched one from a couple of feet behind the three point line. I was able to get a little strip on it, but he hit a big shot. Tough shot. So we still had an opportunity to win the game with 0.7. We just weren't able to get a good look at the end of regulation. I mean, after it happened, I landed on the elbow, and it would have happened when I decided not to wear my elbow sleeve. I shot the two free throws. My fingers were still tingling a little bit. But it kind of wore off. There's concern for our starting point guard. Any time one of our players go down, especially in the postseason, where every game and every possession counts and we need everyone out there, there's a little concern. But I think our training staff is amazing. Rio is a tough guy. So we'll see what happens. Hopefully he's available by Friday. He should be. We don't know. If not Norris will step up, and I know Mike Miller is looking for the opportunity to probably be back on the floor. You know, call in the righty. |
| First one, Ray came to set a pick and roll in the first one, and David West basically just put his hands up and he was able to get his hands on the ball. A little careless on my part obviously. And then the second go round, I was able to get in the lane, I spun and I seen Ray once again wide open and I was careless once again. I had the lane for Ray. I maybe should have jump passed it over the top. I tried to throw it through the lane, and they was able to get the hand on it again. Can't happen in that situation. Especially being down two in a big game. Very disappointing, of course, for me. That's the first thing I always look at on the stat sheet is my turnovers. I had two key ones at a big point of the game. I am very disappointed in my judgment and my plays down the stretch. But I'll make up for them. I get ready for Game 3, like I did in Game 1 and Game 2. I didn't have any emotions after making the game winner in Game 1. We won one game and tonight we lost one. So emotionally I'm still at the same level I've been at. We had an opportunity, but they played well enough to win Game 2. We're just two guys trying to do what it takes to help our team win. He's really good. He's going to be a great one. His maturity and his game has definitely risen in just one year because of the opportunity Frank Vogel has given him. His teammates have a lot of confidence in him, and he has confidence in himself. I love competition. I try to step up to the challenge and try to be there for my team as well. I think the outside shot isn't there for the guys who have been hitting all year for a couple of reasons; the rhythm. We have to figure out a way to get our shooters into the game more instead of trying to get them the ball and make them make a tough one late in the game for Ray or from Rio or from Shane. We have to figure out how to get them some shots early in the game, where they feel like they're part of the offense. That has to come from me, come from D Wade, come from CB. We're the three guys that have the ball in our hands a lot. Try to get our shooters in the game early. We know they've been there for us all year. We're going to continue to have confidence in them. We know it'll help us out a lot. I think having them a part of the flow offensively, they'll feel like they're part of the offense, they'll be there late for us. I mean, I know the answer to that. I'm not going to say it right now while I'm competing against the guy. He may try to use that during our match up right now. I know the answer to that. I'll answer it after the series. Just our experiences over the years. We've had home court and we lost a game at home. But like I said, every game, every series is different. We will figure out ways what we could have did better. Tonight we had some opportunities. We had some really, really good opportunities tonight. One that sticks out in my head a couple of plays, I think we were up four, got a stop, CB got a good look at a three. We missed it. Then Lance Stephenson I think hit a three. If CB makes that, it may be a different ballgame. Also getting another stop and Rio having a clean look from the corner. But I mean, there are experiences over the year, we just stay even keeled. We don't get too high, we don't get too low in the series. We know we're going to go into a hostile environment against a very good team, and we look forward to the challenge. I'm nowhere near close. I made two mistakes tonight. That hurt our team. And that hurt more than anything. Let my teammates down. They expect me to make plays down the stretch, and I had the ballwith the opportunity to make a couple of plays and I came up short. That burns. But the best thing about it is this isn't college. It's not one loss and you're done. I have another opportunity to get better in Game 3, and if I'm put in that position again, to be able to learn from it. My turnovers hurt more than anything. I think the careless turnovers. My mind seen the right play in my head; two guys on the ball, Ray Allen is open. But if I could take it back, I would maybe throw the bounce pass on the first one, because David West had high hands. And on the second one I would still make the same play, but I would probably jump pass over the defense instead of going through the lane, the passing lane. When I took the spin on Paul George, I seen Ray wide open. So I tried to throw the ball through the lane, through the passing lane instead of doing the jump pass. And I would have been able to complete it. Me turning the ball over, no matter what point of the game, but especially like tonight, with us down to a one possession game, those hurt more than anything, more than missing a free throw, more than missing a shot, more than anything. It is disappointing. But at the end of the day, we had a chance to win. We still had a chance to win. I thought Hibbert was big tonight. Every time we kind of made a run, he was able to make some big shots. Especially in the fourth quarter. He had his jump hook going, he had his rolls going. I thought George Hill was the X factor tonight. 18 points, hit some big shots, some big free throws. Just kept them above water. We can't allow 50% on our floor. But at the end of the day, it was 40 points in the paint. It was 9 8 second chance points, 8 6 fast break points. We had 14 turnovers; they had 13. It was a pretty much even game. And they just made one more play, or two more plays than we made down the stretch. Again? No. No. The first play, like I said, I was careless with it. I threw it back to Ray. He was open. I was still on the perimeter. Hibbert was not even around. The second play I drove and I spun away from Hibbert, and seen Ray and turned the ball over. So, no, he wasn't a distraction for me at all. |
| I think it was a little bit of everything. I made a conscious effort to sit down in the post tonight, try to put pressure on the defense. Spo and the coaching staff wanted me to be down there tonight, and my teammates allowed me to do that. It was a little bit of everything. We wish we can not come off losses, but it happens. It happens in the playoffs. That's what playoff basketball is all about. But we're a team who just bounces back from diversity. We love the fact that you know they took the home court away from us, and now let's see what we are made of. I think we know what we're made of as well. This is a great group of guys that always loved, I think, the pressure moments of being, I guess, 1 1, a team taking our home court away. And we have to go on the road to win. Well, I mean, I seen I had a one on one match up. They didn't come down in the post all game, so I just tried to take advantage of it. My teammates gave me space. I just tried to sit in the post, not get the ball in the wing as much tonight. Tried to anchor myself down on the block and go to work. I was able to do that. He's always the key. He's the heartbeat of our team, first of all. He's the captain, one of the captains of our team. There's no one in our roster that plays that goes out there and we don't have the utmost confidence in their ability. For him to come through tonight and do what he was able to do offensively from the start, Rio stepping it up in the third, also Shane and Ray contributing, Bird giving his usual. We needed everyone's effort tonight, and it allowed us to get a big win on the road. Well, we have to get stops, first of all. The 34 30 first quarter was something both teams are not accustomed to doing, being defensive minded teams. But we had to get stops, we had to rebound and then we had to execute. We went from a 34 point quarter to a 36 point quarter. It just showed the ball movement that we had. And also not turning the ball over; we had five turnovers for the whole game, and that's big time. Especially on the road. We're a team who doesn't turn the ball over a lot, but when you have under 10, you're going to give yourself an unbelievable chance to win. To have five turnovers on the road in a tough building was big time for our team tonight. We just wanted to keep putting the pressure on them. We scored 70 points in the first half, and we knew they were going to make a run. That's a really good team. We knew they were going to make a run. They did. They cut the lead to seven in the third. Right after that I think Rio got an and one to put us back up 10. We wanted to try to continue to put the pressure on them, continue to execute offensively, not turn the ball over, get stops defensively. And we could see their body language start to change a little bit. That's when we just keep going. Just keep going and not play the score, not play the lead. Just play the game. Understand every possession matters, every possession counts. At the end of the game we see what happens. We were able to continue to do that and come out with a well needed win. I do everything with my left. I just shoot the ball with my right. I'm weird. His knee is fine. We don't need to talk about the knee. In the lineup, he good. |
| You would like to be out there on the floor, especially me. Be there for my teammates especially in the closing minutes when we have a chance to win. Wasn't able to do that. That's obvious. They did a good job of taking away our first option. Sometimes our second option. I believe though we had some really good looks and some of them just didn't go down. You give a lot of credit to their D. As a team they D'ed in on me, especially in the low post. But for me, I've seen every defense, I've seen every individual. I was able to get it going a little bit in the second half. I played mostly with foul trouble. I thought we got some great looks. I thought CB had a great look by their bench, a three pointer. I thought D Wade was going to get a good look on my offensive foul. You know, you give some credit to them for sure, for holding us to only three points. But some of the shots that we had just didn't go down. We can't afford to get beat on the glass by 20. Can't happen. It allows them to get second chance points. Then they shot the ball from the field 50%. As a collective group, we can't allow that. But we don't need confidence to go into any game. We're a confident bunch. We're excited to get the opportunity to go back to our home and play Game 5. I thought, I mean, offensively he played extremely well. He attacked us. He got some offensive rebounds. He got one offensive rebound for a tip back. I think he played well. He played really well. But if you are sitting here and talking about an individual one on one match up between me and Lance Stephenson, I'm not going to harp on that. I didn't believe it was an offensive foul. I was going to set a screen, and I felt like I was stationary. And D Wade rejected the pick and roll. Lance actually ran into me. I believe I was straight up and down on Paul George's drive, on the and one. Hibbert, they reversed a call with Hibbert, called a foul for me on that one. And at the end of the third they called a push off on David West in the end of the third. It was a couple of calls that I didn't feel like were fouls, personal fouls on me. That's how the game goes sometimes. He's playing well. He has his jump hook going. I think we just got to try to clean up some of those offensive rebounds that he's getting, because he's going to make some shots in the low post. We're playing some great defense, getting them down to late seconds. One that sticks out in my mind tonight is the long heave three by Paul George that went off the backboard, and he got the offensive rebound. That was a big time play. I think I fouled him on that to give him a three point play. And then there's a couple of other ones. He's so big and being around the rim, he's able to get a lot of offensive rebounds. If we can cut that in half, it would help us out a lot. Yeah. We wanted to be greedy and get two. We were able to come here and regain home court. We feel good about that. It's a three game series with two on our home floor, if needed. We look forward to Game 5. D Wade told me about it today. Obviously I'm not on social media right now during the playoffs. D Wade came to me with the story today, and it was a no brainer for me. It's sad. It puts everything in perspective. At the end of the day, this game is just basketball. Two great teams, we're competing. But it's just basketball. You have a little girl or any kid that loses her life over an illness, it's very sad. It's very sad. It puts everything in perspective. I understand that this game is so magnified, and this is the talk of a lot of people throughout the day. But what happened to Bella puts everything in perspective. |
| Juwan's voice in our locker room on the floor is as big as anyone. As big as Spo, as big as mine, UD, D Wade. That's why we brought him back because he's an instrumental part of our team. He got us on at halftime, letting us know how we weren't connected as a team, we weren't playing as a team. We were wasting an opportunity. At the beginning of the third, I just tried to reiterate that in my own words, and get on the guys and just let them know we can't just win with talent. We are playing a great team. Luckily we were only down four at halftime, at the half. We had to play with a little more sense of urgency, well, a lot more sense of urgency in the second half, if we wanted to win that game. Yeah, I kind of just went back to my Cleveland days at that point and just said, hey, let's try to make more plays and be more of a scoring threat as well, and just try to figure out a way that I can I don't know, just see if the guys would just follow me, and just lead them the best way I could. I was just in attack mode in the third quarter, look for my shot. And luckily I was able to make some. Well, I mean D Wade is not a liar, so... If he said it, it happened. I have a big voice in our locker room. I have a big voice on this team. I sensed what was going on with our team, you know, in the first half. And before we took the floor in the third quarter, I just gave them a little piece of my mind and a piece of my voice, and we was able to respond. Yeah. As a competitor you love challenges, and Lance is one of those guys who likes to talk some. And I'm for it, too. I really don't start it, but if it gets started, then I love to do it. It's cool. I think it's great. It shows a competitive spirit between two individuals, between two teams to go out there and just try to figure out ways to help their team win. But I'm all for it if it's there. We just had no sense of urgency. We were just waiting for the game to change instead of going to get it. Instead of going to make plays and make things happen and make changes, we were waiting for things to happen. We made a great run to actually tie it at 40 40, but they went on on a 4 0 run to end the half. There was a few plays in the first half that were just like, didn't make any sense to us. Didn't make any sense to me and to some of the guys, like a couple of plays we know we're capable of making that we just wasn't making. And it had nothing to do with X's and O's. It was about a sense of urgency. I think we all sensed that, we all felt that. I am glad we were able to turn it around. Yeah, I have. I talked to him before the game today. I talked to him after shoot around this morning. Letting him know where he can be aggressive, where he can make plays not only for himself but for our teammates in certain situations. Most of his possessions are coming off 1 3 pick and roll with me and him. I just tell him just to use me. My man is sometimes kind of in between of trying to help on the point guard and not help as much off of me. So that gives Rio a lot of creases. Rio has done a great job of using me as a screen or to get in the paint, either make plays for himself or for teammates. I just seen how we were playing in the first half. Like I said, we were in wait mode in the first half instead of going and getting it. Just waiting for things to happen. I took it upon myself to stop waiting and just go. Just try to figure out a way to go and get it. I don't know, I just stepped outside the box a little bit and UD was amazing. I mean with his ability to shoot the ball as well and finish around the rim. As one of the leaders on the team, I just tried to do whatever it takes to try help those guys to try to follow me and lead them to the right place. No, I don't think so. I think UD is, like I said, he's our heartbeat. Any time there's a confrontation, if he's on the floor, he goes to protect. We're not going to let anybody talk down on our point guard. He's one of the smallest guys on our team. UD was there to protect him. I was just trying to take advantage of what I seen after that point. I don't think the confrontation had anything to do with it. I think the emotions of being in a Game 5 with the series tied 2 2 on our home floor and being able to make plays had everything. That's where the emotion came from. I'm blessed I was able to make a few plays. That's what I came here for. That's what I came here for, is to be able to compete for a championship each and every year. We are one step away from doing it once again. But it's not a promise. It's not promised at all. I made a tough decision, obviously. I think we all know the story. I'm not going to harp on that. I envisioned something that was bigger as far as a team. Sacrificed a lot for me individually, what I had going on in the summer of 2010 because I wanted to do something special with a team. And we got an opportunity as a team once again for the third year straight to make a trip to the NBA Finals. But we have to try to go out on the road in a hostile environment and take it. |
| Explain it? You seen it. It was total domination by the Pacers in the third. They made a lot of shots. We didn't get too many stops. And we missed some very, very easy shots. D Wade had a chippy in transition. Rio had a chippy in transition. We bobbled a turnover on a three on one break. CB had a couple of good looks. They pushed it up. It just needed one quarter. One quarter to separate the two teams. 23 21 first. 17 18 second, 23 22 fourth. And you know, 29 15 in that third. That was the separation. No. No. I believe in my teammates. They are struggling right now, obviously. So they got another opportunity on Monday, and I look forward to the challenge. I know they do as well. I mean, obviously it's a little bit of both. They're two great players. When they don't shoot well or play well, it's more them. It's not taking no discredit away from Indiana's defense; they were amazing tonight. They forced us to have more turnovers than assists. And we only shot 36% from the floor. But I think Dwyane and Chris have seen every defense ever been applied to them in their ten year career, and they've been able to figure it out. This one just took a little longer. had to run down the court to stop from being kicked out. I thought it was a pretty bad call. I don't complain about calls too much. I thought me and Hibbert met at the mountaintop. I didn't throw an elbow. Basically I went straight up. And I knew he was going to go high hands, like he had been doing. So I went to a double clutch to try to let him go down. Then I was able to go over the top. I don't have no idea why that was called an offensive foul. So, you know, just stopped me from being ejected. I think at that moment I just got away from the ref that called it. I said absolutely nothing. I ran down the court to get me away from the scene of the crime, I guess. I may have to look over the film. I am able to replay a lot of plays in my head. I know for him I know he missed a couple of chippies that he wished he could get back. He had a lay up or two lay ups in the third, pretty good ones, pretty good looks, some looks he hadn't had all series. He went around Hibbert I think and he missed one at the rim, it rimmed out. He had another one that rimmed out for him as well. I know he wish he could get those back. Those are rhythm plays for anyone. When you're struggling, the best thing to get is a lay up or a dunk. He missed a couple of them. So I can go over the film. I will watch the film tonight and I will watch it tomorrow and see ways that we can try to help him get on track. That will be great for our team. I mean, we can state the obvious; they're both struggling. Chris is struggling with his shot, and him hurting his ankle didn't help him a lot as well. I think he will find it. He will find it. It's my job as a leader to keep him motivated, to let him know how important he is to our movement, to our chances of returning to The Finals. The best thing about this opportunity is right here we worked all season long to get home court advantage. If we ever had an opportunity or we put ourselves in position where we weren't taking care of business on the road, we always have one more to fall back on at home. This is the position we're in and those guys as professionals, as champions, we'll figure it out. And me as the leader, I'll have to help them figure it out. It's going to be tough. I probably won't be able to relax just because of the excitement of having the Game 7 in our building, the opportunity to go to the NBA Finals. I probably will not be able to relax until the game starts. It's an opportunity for us. And like I said, that's why we had the best record in the league for. If we didn't take care of business on the road at some point in the playoffs, we can always fall back on this. We'd hate to be in this position, but it's an opportunity and we look forward to it on Monday, I believe. Do the opposite of what you just said. It's not promised. Each and every year there are 30 teams that would love to be a part of this. To have one game to advance to the NBA Finals. And there's two teams that's in this position. And it's something that you can't substitute this feeling. You can't substitute the atmosphere that we're going to be in on Monday night for both teams. We should all cherish this moment. At the end of the day, go out and play, have fun. It's just a game of basketball. That's all it is. It's just a game of basketball at the end of the day |
| I mean, obviously we're a much better team when we have everyone clicking at the same time. That's obvious. And we've had more games where everyone was clicking than not so. It just happened that this series guys were just not in the rhythm, not feeling like themselves. Hey, you save it to the last game, and it allows us to advance, then I'm okay with that. Absolutely. The first play of the game I called a play for D Wade. Even though he didn't shoot the ball, he got a good touch in the paint. Just to make him feel like he was a part of the offense, make him feel in a good rhythm. I called a couple of sets for him early in the game, just to get a feel for it. And it showed throughout the whole game that he was in the rhythm. He started to make lay ups, he started to attack, he started to make his free throws. So it was big time. This is what it's all about. I dreamed about opportunities like this as a kid to have a Game 7, no matter at home or on the road. And that game allows you to advance to The Finals. I have had multiple dreams about it. To see a dream become a reality, I'm just very blessed. Our team is blessed. And we're just happy that we are able to represent the Eastern Conference in The Finals. I guess that's what it is. That's the notion that high caliber players need to step up and play at the highest level in Game 7s. I've been blessed to do to be pretty good in Game 7s in my career. Well, I'm not going to take this win for granted. I'm definitely going to savor this win tonight. This league is so hard to win in. It's so hard to advance, that you can't take these moments for granted. So tonight I'm definitely going to savor this for my friends and my family. And deciding what we do as a team tomorrow, I'll start to get back into the books and get back into the film on a team that's very good, very disciplined, well coached. They've got a bunch of Hall of Famers. So I look forward to the challenge, but I'm not quite there yet mentally, because I'm not going to take it for granted what we were able to accomplish tonight. We came in with the mindset just stay at the task at hand. We can't worry about the reward. We can't worry about trying to advance. We just have to worry about every possession. For the first time I believe in this series probably in Game 3 as well we just focused on every possession. Try to get stops. Try not to turn the ball over. Get shots. And play Miami Heat defense. Create havoc. And I thought we did a great job of that tonight. First of all, I think our team is more experienced, first of all. My Cleveland team, we were very young, and we went up against a very experienced team, well coached team. And they took advantage of everything that we did. I think for this team, this is our third year advancing to The Finals. So we're very experienced as well. We're not young, we're not inexperienced. We understand the opportunity that we have. And I'm a much better player. I'm 20, 40, 50 times better than I was in the '07 Finals, very young, and you know. So, yeah, we're all better. Well, I mean, any little pressure I could take off D Wade I wanted to do that, especially in tonight's game. I told him we kind of talked about it this morning, about the match ups coming out. I told him I would take Paul George. I want to allow him to focus on his offense, not have to worry about stopping Paul George every possession and allow him to get out in transition, allow him to get out in transition, allow him to make a couple of cuts and get to the line. I think that was huge for him. No. Ever since I lost The Finals to Dallas, my mind frame changed that off season. I just wanted to get back to playing the game that I love and have fun and play it at a high level and just I'll take this opportunity and this unbelievable game that we have for granted. So my mindset has been the same since we lost to Dallas. I'm looking forward to it. What's more relieving? I mean, I don't know. As a team this is what we had as a goal, that's to get back to The Finals. But we didn't cut any corners throughout the process, throughout the whole season. This is an opportunity for us again to be able to win another championship. So I don't have a relief at all of anything right now because I have a lot of work to still do. But it's a great thing to be in this position. Yes, we were just aggressive. We were very aggressive. I was very aggressive. That's how you control tempo. You control tempo by getting to the free throw line. One thing it allows us to do, it allows us to set our half court defense. When we get to the free throw line, we shot 86% from the free throw line. We got there 38 times. We know that we're very good in the half court. And the games that Indiana won, they put a lot of pressure on us in transition. And tonight we only gave them five points in transition. We only gave them 12 second chance points and only 28 points in the paint. It was a by product of us getting to the free throw line and allowing us to get our defense set. I think the zone and the comfort level I'm in right now happened because Dallas beat us. Dallas beat us in The Finals two years ago or three years ago, whenever it was. I just went back to the basics. I went back home, I went back to Ohio. I worked out with my high school coach. I went back to my high school gym, and just put myself in the mindset of what made me fall in love with the game. And it's because I had a lot of fun with it. Every night I stepped on the basketball court, I wanted to have fun. I wanted to represent myself and my family and friends at the highest level. But at the end of the day, it is just a basketball game. There are so many things in life that happens that you can just put the game you can put life in perspective. Like I said the other day with the little girl that passed away, "live like Bella," that we had on our shoes. A little girl that passed away here in South Florida. Once again that just put the game of basketball, it's just a game; it put life in perspective. I'm happy I'm able to play this game at the highest level. I love to compete. I love to represent what basketball stands for. But I don't put too much added pressure on myself, because I know it's just a game. |