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| I don't think we played a solid game all the way through. We had a lot of mistakes, and they took advantage of it. Obviously, a three point shot is a big thing for our team, and tonight they weren't there. No one had it going. We had some really good looks. They didn't fall, and we just got to do a better job executing in the next game. A little bit of everywhere. I mean, they got some threes early on. Our pick and roll coverage had a lot of breakdowns, including myself; I broke down a few times defensively, and we allowed them to get into the paint. I mean, they shot 37 free throws to our 15, which is definitely something that we can't duplicate going into Game 2. But we had some breakdowns throughout the game, and that's what resulted in us losing this game. As a veteran ball club, we will watch the film and break it down and be better prepared in Game 2. It will be a little bit of both. Just because you watch it on film doesn't mean it's going to be exactly how you want to play in it. You've got to be able to read and adjust on the fly. But I think going into Game 2 we'll be more mentally prepared for their actions and have a game plan of how we're going to cover their pick and rolls. They did a great job with their pick and rolls, with Roy setting it or David setting it and exploited us. The game's still so fresh. It's too hard just to say, well, we need to do this better in Game 2. We need to evaluate our mistakes and things we did well in Game 1 first before I can say what we need to bring to Game 2. Tomorrow will be a game I mean, will be a day when we watch film and start to prepare for Tuesday. We wasn't surprised because Spo told us what the lineup was going to be. So we weren't surprised. It's got to be a collective group, not just one guys or two guys. We all have to get down there and help everybody out. They outrebounded us by nine. So we've got to do a better job of that. We will see. We'll make adjustments, and we'll be a better team in Game 2. We just gave them too many points in the first quarter. We let George Hill get into a real good groove to start the game. And from that point on, I mean, they hit 30 on us, and we just broke down defensively, had a couple of breakdowns, couple of miscommunication errors. Like I said, which we will clean up. They took care of business Game 1, and we'll figure it out going into Game 2. |
| I mean, I just play the game. However the game presents itself, I just try to take advantage of it. I needed to do something in the fourth. I did a great job in the third quarter of attacking and getting my guys some open looks. I hit Cole for two threes, hit C.B. for a three, but I needed to make a few buckets as well to help us in the fourth quarter, and I was able to come through for us. Just tried to keep a body on him. Very good player. Our bigs took a challenge on him all night. Just try to run him off the shot. When he drove, just tried to keep a chest in front of him. Made him take contested shots over the top. Offensively, we just tried to attack him as well. Put him in some pick and rolls. He got a couple of early quick fouls. So that maybe got him out of rhythm, too. But our bigs did a great job on him. We got back to play Miami Heat basketball. We flew around, covered for one another. Even when we made mistakes, we still covered for one another. We allowed them in Game 1 to dictate what our defense did, and that's not us. They had us on our heels the whole game, and that's not how we play basketball. Every time we lose, we always that's the first thing that we can see. Defensively today, we came out with an aggressive mindset. Even if we made mistakes, guys had to cover for one another, and I think we did that for 48 minutes. Yeah, absolutely. Norris is I mean, he's all about defense. He's all about team. Whatever it takes to win. I believe that he'll be a good matchup on Stephenson, even though Stephenson is a bigger guy. He's going to get some shots over him. He's going to make some plays, but I think Norris can lock in on him. And it allowed D Wade to shift to Paul George and allowed me to shift to George Hill. So that versatility that we have on our wings at that point, it helps a lot. But for me as a leader, I just try to give confidence to guys, and I was confident enough for Norris to take on that challenge. Lance had it going, and at the same time, Norris got it going on the other end offensively too, making two threes in a clutch situation. I think the three days are going to allow us to prepare for Game 3. Even though we won, we're going to break down the film as if we lost and see ways we can get better even with some of the mistakes that we made. I think the best thing about tonight, even though we made mistakes, we were flying around, and we were playing the type of basketball that we wanted to play. When we do that, we give ourself a great chance to win, and we can live with the results. So with these three days, we're not comfortable, and we're not satisfied at all. We came here. We got Game 2, but Game 3 is a new game, and we're going to start preparing for that tomorrow and get ready for it on Saturday. We have no idea we're doing that until we hear it after the game, which is our plan. We believe it doesn't matter whoever has the ball in each other's hand, we're going to make the right play not only for ourselves but for our team. Tonight was one of those nights once again, where we were making plays, finding guys, and finding each other, finding a good rhythm with the ball in our hands. We don't know we're doing those things, but we just try to make plays and do whatever it takes to help our team win. It was a huge momentum play. We did a great job on that possession. Hibbert got the ball, and our big did a great job of pressuring him, and he took a couple dribbles and then stopped, and everybody just locked in on their individual man. D Wade kept the Paul from Paul George getting it. Norris kept it from Lance. C.B. kept it from David West, and I was trying to do the same thing to George Hill. When George Hill got the ball, I just tried to lock in on him. I was able to get a steal. Usually, D Wade don't even chase me down. He knows if it's a one on one matchup with me, most of the time I'm going to score. I was glad that he did. I missed the layup, and he was able to tip dunk it. Huge momentum play in the fourth quarter when we needed it the most. |
| I'm fine. Probably just got a little dehydrated tonight. It's been four days since we played. Just playing as hard as we could tonight. I try to prevent that from happening, but it happened. D Wade came in and closed the quarter out. I wasn't going to leave until I saw what he was going to do. He drained and put us up ten, and I was all right. He definitely did that by putting the right personnel on the floor. Obviously, we started the game with mental turnovers, mental breakdowns, mostly coming from us offensively. He pushed the right buttons, bringing in Norris, giving Rashard a nod, Bird came in with his energy every night he plays. Those guys off the bench, man, they did it for us tonight. They got the game ball for sure. Well, for us, we have to play our type of basketball. We have to be disruptive. We have to speed up the team that we're going against, and we have to fly around defensively. When we lay back, we're just everything that we've built, it just doesn't work. We just lay back and allow teams to come down and set up their offense or whatever the case may be, even offensively, when we're just passing the ball around and being very passive. We're an attack team. When we get into our game, so many things happen for us, and we're even able to cover up for some of the mistakes we make both offensively and defensively. Ray creates so much for our team, just his ability just to move without the ball, to shoot the ball. He shifts the defense by himself, and it's a great I mean, it's great that we have that. No matter who's on him, him coming off pin downs, he's one of the few on our team that can do that, that can create two on the ball, and he's always in constant motion. He's got it going, man, and we just want to continue to find him. I was able to find him for the majority of the shots that he had tonight in the fourth quarter, and when you got a hot hand, you just keep going to it. We have a lot of confidence versus our opponent, but we don't want to keep digging holes. We hate the way we played to start the game. We can't play that type of basketball. We've got to come out and play like we're down 15 to start the game because they can't bite us in the butt if we don't prepare that way. But we're a confidence group. We don't panic. We just work the game. Obviously, the start of the game, it wasn't the type of basketball that we're accustomed to playing. We turned the ball over way too much, and myself and a couple other guys had a few turnovers. But we just got into our game. We kept going, getting into our game. We started putting pressure on them defensively, offensively, and we were able to get back into the game at the end of the second quarter. Norris, he's great. He's great for our team. He's a change of pace from we have our starting point guard in Rio, and when we go to Norris, he changes the tempo. That's when you need with guys off the bench, you need energy guys. We have a few of them, but Norris, he's great. He's been in this is his third year. He's still young, but he's been in all the pressure situations, obviously, so he's able to come in and be confident. As the leaders of the team, we try to give him confidence. Defensively, though, it's his mark. He makes his mark defensively. He makes us all step up our game defensively as well, and then offensively, whatever he gives us is always extra credit for us. He attacks the rim, gets himself looks, gets our great guys looks, and it's great to have him. Not surprised. They've done it for two years. Two years straight, he's guarded Ray when we went small. So not surprised at all. |
| Chris Bosh. We got off to that fast start because Chris Bosh came out and got it going early. No, I don't need any motivation. I'm motivated enough to try to get back The Finals. That's motivating enough, and being one of the leaders of this team, I have to do my job. I have to do my part to help us win. That's what it's all about. I got a smirk out of it. We did only have five turnovers, seven steals, and 20 points off their turnovers. That has nothing to do with the free throw line. The fact that it makes it a lot easier for Spo when you have true professionals, guys that can sit out for one month, two months, two weeks, and get the nod, and they're ready to go right then and there. That makes it a lot easier on our coaching staff to have the locker room and the group of guys we have. That's why Spo and Riles and those guys went out and got this team. It wasn't just about the game of basketball. It's about what they bring to the locker room as well. To insert U.D. back into the starting lineup and then take him out and insert Rashard. Or when D Wade went down and Toney Douglas came in or J.J. came in in the Charlotte series. It's whatever. G.O.'s number could still get called. B's number could still get called. Those guys are ready. That's the type of locker room we have. It makes it a lot easier for Coach when you have that type of luxury. I took care of it. Don't worry about it. I got you It's going to take a better game than we had tonight. It's that simple. You have to get better every game. Their back is against the wall, but we have to go in with that mindset that our back is against the wall, too. We don't want to come back with a Game 6. We love our fans, obviously. We love being in Miami, but we want to try to close it out. But we're going to have to work for it. It's not going to be easy, not against this team. It's the No.1 team in the Eastern Conference, and they're there for a reason. So we look forward to the challenge. The first play of the game was ran for him, and he opened it up with a jumper. Second play, D Wade drove the ball, kicked it to him in the corner, and he hit a three. From that point on, he just got it going. He had 10 points in the first quarter. Should have had 12; he missed two free throws. I haven't seen that from him in a while, but he just got it going. We rode him that whole first quarter, and it gave us the 27 19 lead. For us, we just want to play great basketball. We don't really get involved in whatever that we can't control. What we can control is how we approach the game from an offensive and defensive standpoint, and that's with aggression. That's how we approach the game. At the end of the game, whatever the end results is, we can be satisfied with that if we brought our game. Everything else doesn't matter. When you get between the lines of the court, 94 feet, and you got to get in between, and you got to play it. That's all we try to worry about. We can't worry about nothing else. It was to get Chris going. We needed it from him. C.B. had been struggling offensively the last few games, and we needed that. We needed it from him. So Spo called it, and I was able to D Wade was able to make the pass. I was able to slice over the top to release pressure from him, make Hibbert back up into the lane, and that got him his first shot. That was the game plan for us. We've been talking about it the last couple of days, how are we going to get C.B. going? It worked out for us tonight. All time, yeah. |
| I picked up some early fouls. It's definitely something I'm not accustomed to, but my teammates kept it going and put us in a position to win. That's all we can ask for. We needed it. We needed every bit of it. Wish it would have resulted in a win when he started to make shots, it was big time. He gave us huge minutes. His timely shots, defensive activity. He's been great ever since he's been inserted into the lineup for sure. Just called it out. I was able to get into the paint, drew two, and saw C.B. in the corner in his sweet spot. Thought we got a pretty good look. You live with the result. I don't really I mean, I'm just here to play basketball, man. All the extracurricular activities, I don't really get into. I mean, I'm just trying to win. We need one more game to get The Finals. That's my only concern. We put ourselves in a position to win tonight, and as competitors, as professionals, that's what we are. At the end of the day, we put ourself in a position to win. All the extra, whatever Lance wants to deal with, I don't really care about that. Absolutely not. It's a clean slate for myself. It sucks for me because I'm not able to make plays to help our team win. I made a couple in the fourth, but 24 minutes is not enough for me to make an imprint on the game like I know I'm accustomed to doing or I know I can do. So you just continue to help the guys from the bench, let them know what you can see when you're in foul trouble, and ways we can try to exploit them. But I'm much better on the floor than I am off of it for sure. I mean, it is what it is. We go back home. We learn from our mistakes tonight, and tomorrow we get ready for Friday. I said that? You think or I said that? Yeah, I don't think I said that. Yeah, okay. Don't worry about it. Obviously, we don't want to come back. We come here to win. We'll focus on Game 6 now. Like I said before, we focus on the things that we can control and not the things we can't control. We learn from our mistakes. 17 turnovers on the road for 21 points is definitely not winning basketball in no way, shape, or form. Like D Wade said, this game is imperfect. You cover for those mistakes. At the end of the day we put ourselves in position to win, and we look forward to the game on Friday. It's Eastern Conference Finals, it should be urgency no matter what. You can't control shots going in. It's a make or miss league. I think turnovers for sure. You can control that. You're going to have some. We're an attack team. We're going to have attack turnovers. Some of the careless turnovers, some of the swing passes, some of the entry passes where we were careless with them and we allowed them to get into the open floor, those are some of the things we can clear. No. We don't get involved in things that we can't control. That's not how we play ball. Only thing we can control is how we approach the game in Game 6. Lance is Lance. He's going to do what he needs to do to help his team win. As to the leaders of our team, we're going to do what it takes to help our team win. The game is reffed by the refs. They ref how they see it. We play it, and you live with the results. I mean, it's easy to say that after the fact. It's like playing cards, that's why they got backs on them. You don't know what's going to happen. For me, my teammates trust me that I'm going to make the right play to help us win. I trust myself that I'm going to make the right play to help us win. And win, lose, or draw, you live with that. I don't it doesn't matter from somebody else's perspective. We got a great look. C.B. makes that shot, then we go, we get a stop, and we're headed to The Finals. So it's a make or miss league. You don't think about things you could do in the past. You just correct them in the future. Probably my wife. I blew in my wife's ear before. That was definitely a defensive tactic. That's the second time it's happened to me, right? |
| Just to piggy back off what D Wade said, we don't take this moment for granted. We're going to celebrate tonight because it just doesn't happen every year. We've been fortunate enough to be a part of this four straight times, and you just can't take these moments for granted. It hasn't really hit us that much yet because I think we're in it. I think it will once we're done and we're able to look back at what we were able to accomplish as players, as a franchise. I think that's when it will really hit us. We definitely don't take it for granted to be in this position. I mean, I don't know. I would say it had to be at the end of the first quarter we started to get a good groove, started to get a good groove, and we were down 9 2 to start the game. From that point on, they only scored four points. It's crazy. They scored four points from that point on. We just locked in and got a good groove. I think it started with Bird coming into the game. His rebounding, his effort that he gave us when he came into the game gave us six defensive rebounds, gave us three buckets from drives from Norris and guys, and his dunk and his layup, I think that's what picked us up. And then Rashard was, obviously, the key to everything. His ability to stretch the floor, shoot the ball, and play the way he played tonight. Once those guys got it going, I think we all fed off of it. I always believe, a really good friend of mine told me that the best teacher in life is experience. When you go through so many things, you're able to learn from it. You're able to know how to go about it. Next time you face those trials and tribulations or whatever the case may come, and you're better prepared for it. So being around a group of guys like this, me being in positions that I've been in the past where I've failed, but I was never defeated. That was, for me, to be able to come back from failure and continue to come back and mentally be able to stay strong, it defines who you are as a man more than anything. Not at all. Not at all. I felt like I told the guys before the Eastern Conference or whatever, before the season even before the playoffs started, that this was going to be our path. It's different. We're going to have to win on the road. We're going to have to start on somebody else's floor in order to be able to represent the Eastern Conference in The Finals. The guys, we all responded. We all took that challenge. Obviously, we had the first two rounds on our floor, but we knew, if Indiana took care of business, we had to start on their floor, and we just had that mindset. We had that mindset, if we want to ultimately represent the Eastern Conference in The Finals, we had to win on the road, and we were able to accomplish that. Not for me? I wasn't here? No, I wasn't? I don't get a rematch? I believe, if we ever got to a point where our whole team was able to be available for Spo and for all of us, that we could compete with anybody. Never concerned about that. Obviously, going through the week and week and week and grinding months of a regular season, it was a toll on all of us. But I felt like down the stretch, if we could get healthy, we could get everyone in uniform and have our full strength, it didn't matter what seed we were. I felt like we can represent the Eastern Conference again The Finals if we had the health, and we were able to accomplish that. I don't know. I have no idea how I restrained. I don't know. I guess I just understand what the bigger picture is. It was uncalled for, for sure. That was I don't know. I'm at a loss of words with that, but it was uncalled for, and I was able to move on from it. I let him know how I felt. I felt it could have been the fact that it was Lance that hit Norris, it was a little bit you could have your own assumption of what it is. If it was C.J. Watson hitting Norris, we'd have said he went for the ball. The fact that it was Lance, we can say he went for his face. So wrong place at the wrong time or at the right time for Lance, in his case. Appreciate it. Me and D Wade grew up watching the great Chicago Bulls team and the great Michael Jordan and the rest of those guys. Any time I hear my name or our team in the same breath with legends and great teams and franchises, it's so humbling, man. It's like I really don't know. Just two kids from the inner cities, respective cities where they're from. We never thought we'd get to this point. So to be able to play the game that we love at a high level for one another, for our teammates, it's the ultimate. When you hear the comparisons, you respect it, you're humbled by it, and you just feel like while you're in the moment hopefully, while you're playing the game, that you can make an impact enough to where you move on and people will start comparing you to ones that's in the game at the present time. So it's very, very humbling. Not so well. We were down 9 2. Obviously, we didn't do our part. But we knew our fans were going to come out. It's a Friday night in Miami. We have an opportunity to close out, and our fans have been amazing thus far. We just want to try to do our part. Obviously, the first couple minutes wasn't the start that we wanted, but we were able to get back into the game, and we just fed off the energy from our fans, fed off the energy from one another, and just kept it going. He got it. |