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| It was extremely important, you know, especially playing against the two time champs. This is a game we needed, and we couldn't let this one go. We had a past of dropping Game 1's in this playoff run, and that would have been a huge setback against this team. Yeah, yeah, I thought we just did a great job of moving the ball. We didn't let the ball sit in one person's hand all night or all afternoon. The ball constantly was in rotation. So guys were coming and stepping into shots with a rhythm, and that's the reason why we were able to get off to a hot start and shoot the ball well to start this game off. Well, having Battier on me, I think I'm a little quicker. So it doesn't pose that much of a threat for me. But I don't know. It was a move to kind of change the game up, for them to stay small. Obviously, LeBron can guard multiple positions. And they're aware of that, so I think that's what that move was for. In the past, David West has been pretty effective with Battier on him. So maybe that was the reason for the switch. I don't know. I don't know. That's something we'll have to look back on and a question Spo will have to answer about the adjustments they're going to make for Game 2. It was great. It was a fun matchup, the one that we've been waiting for all year, the chance to battle this team once again. We had a great crowd, great atmosphere. Just happy we were able to complete Game 1 and get this win. I think just getting into pick and rolls. We veered away from pick and rolls. I think we got back to being sharp as far as hitting a roll man and causing rotations against that. That's what's consistent with this group is hitting the pick and rolls and hitting our roll man. Yeah, because our bigs are great. We need a support system to help them when they're posting up and give them one on one matchups on the block. If we're not shooting the ball well, it's going to be a tough night for them as well. I thought it was a great job on our part, again, of getting guys great looks, getting shots in rhythm, and helping our bigs out. Energy. We played with a great energy tonight. That's been an area where we lacked this postseason, being consistent with our energy and urgency to start games off. I thought we brought that tonight. We brought a toughness. We brought an edge. We brought an aggression, or we were aggressive on both ends of the floor. I thought guys you know, if a play broke down, we made an extra effort to not, I guess, just take what was available, but we pushed the effort a little bit. At the end of the day, that's where we were able to really get a good lead on this team. A lot of times, we kind of just take whatever the defense gives us, but I thought George, Lance, myself, David, Roy, we all gave the extra effort to make plays. He's been able to control them. He's definitely been able to control them. That's as much as I could say on that. He's learned to be a professional. He's just an emotional person. That's what we need though. We need a guy with that energy, that toughness. He gets out of hand sometimes, but we can live with most of it. But I thought he did a great job tonight of just staying poised and keeping himself within the game. I don't know the track record, but we know we're playing against the champions, two time champions, and they're going to come out and make adjustments. It's not going to be nowhere close to Game 1. We expect that. So everything we did tonight has got to be that much more in Game 2 in order for us to move on. That will be the test. That will be the test. We've been complacent many times in series and throughout the whole year. We just can't get complacent. We've got to stay humbled off this win and come in with the same mindset that we've got to get another one and let it go from there. We know Miami's going to play well at home. They play well on the road as well, but we like our chances being at home. Roy. Roy was big. He was very big in the paint. Any time Roy is in the paint, he has a huge size advantage. So you've got to foul him. You've got to foul him. He's going to put himself in position to get fouled, and I thought he did that. But our guys did a great job of attacking, attacking to the rim, attacking their bigs. Again, posting with physicality. To really just shoulder everything. I think he's going to be much more aggressive with the ball. I think he's going to be looking to make more plays, looking to shoot more shots and really looking to get guys going. So it's going to be a tough night for me, but it's part of the league. It's tough because Bosh didn't have a good game. When those three are locked in, that's when they're really at their best, and their role players contribute from all over the floor. I think, had Bosh had a bigger role, played a bigger game for them, this game would have been a lot more tougher than it already was. But we got to just do a great job of containing the rest of their guys. They've got three great guys on their team who are going to make shots, make plays, make the special plays, but if we do a good job of containing everyone else, we'll be all right. |
| Good. Ready to go, hopefully. I'm still going through the protocol, the league protocols to get clear. Still wait for the doctors. No. Everything has been pretty good so far. I mean, just going through all the stuff that I need to go through to get cleared, battling through that as well as trying to stay sharp at the same time. So it's a little bit of both. It's been a rough two days, but I've been able to rest a little bit this week. Yeah, but I probably should have kept that to myself. It just made a mess. That's something that, going forward, just keep that between myself and the training staff. Yeah, yeah, yeah. We've got so many weapons on this team. When one guy goes down, this team really comes together. Although I want to be out there and would like to be out there, I still feel confident, not being out there, that we'll still be able to come away with a win. I want to say 100. I want to say 100, but I could possibly and should possibly play. No, no. I'm going to approach it the best way I can to make sure I finish out all the tests I need to as well as get rest and time to be able to play come Saturday night. Yeah, I did about two or three tests so far. Just a little bit of stuff left in order to be cleared. I'm not even sure. About two days now. I mean, right after it happened, I was kind of just hitting the last stages of it, but we had to go through the whole protocol to make sure I was good. Yeah, this is the first one I've ever had. Today was just getting up shots. I got the red jersey on so not even doing contact. Just making shots. Yeah, they've been calling me Peyton. That's perfect. I'll wear this until the end of the year. Yeah, we're more focused, especially playing against this team in this series. We're more focused this time around. The loss that we took was really uncharacteristic because we've learned so much as a team. But I do feel like we're night and day in terms of of how good we are this year compared to last year. I do. For the second half, I didn't shoot as many, but I think I was 3 for 4, 3 for 5, and I was feeling a rhythm. I was starting to knock down some shots. I didn't get a shot for the rest of that seven, eight minutes because it was kind of blurry out there. So I do feel like it had a little effect of how the game ended. |
| No, it's the same story. We turn the ball over, they've got great guys that are going to make plays in open court. For them, Ray got hot, and they kept finding him in transition. That's really where he got his four threes and really broke this game open. No, I spent most of my night on the bench. So I was good. I mean, you can't play around with this team. I thought we got comfortable at one point in this game, you know, just being up early. This game is all about runs, and ultimately, the team that takes the biggest run or the last run is the team that's going to win. It's not about the first run. That's what they did. They made the last run and the final push to give themselves some cushion. I don't. I don't. It's always in the pick and rolls, too. We get careless in the pick and rolls. We've got the formula to attack them on the pick and rolls, but we've got to do a better job of how we carry it out. I thought we just went away from it. I thought westill did a great job of attacking them the way we attacked them. That's definitely got to be an emphasis to continue on, going inside to our bigs. Again, whatever we do, we just can't turn over the ball. We've got to take care of it. I don't know. I don't know. That's an area we've got to improve in. I didn't. I didn't. It's hard to make a couple of shots and then get sent to the bench, especially when I won't get into it. It's tough |
| I think just in the first quarter, they played with a lot of energy. I think we had like five or six turnovers or something like that in the first quarter, where we just didn't take care of the ball. They got out, and they were able to score on those possessions. I don't know. Looking at the stat sheet, we outplayed them. You got to give them credit. They won this game at the free throw line. They really just were able to get to the line more than we were, but I thought we outplayed them tonight. It's just demoralizing when a game is lopsided. I mean, I'm sorry to say, but that was the case, again. How rare is it we shoot 50 percent, turn the ball over around 13 or so times, outrebound a team, and lose a ball game? This one I thought we did a great job. I just thought we did a great job. We rallied at the end to try to make a push. But, again, they made 30 free throws, and that put them over the edge. You know, Lance is young, and that's a teaching point. That's a learning lesson for him. Sometimes you've just got to watch what you say. You're on the big stage. Everything we say is going to be bulletin board material. It's really going to have a powerful meaning behind it. We've just got to be smarter with situations and just voicing our opinion sometimes. What do you think? I mean, you can't tell me we don't attack the basket as much as they attack the basket. You can't tell me we're not aggressive. Maybe we're too aggressive. But I feel like we're just as aggressive as they are attacking the basket and making plays at the rim. Maybe this was just home cooking. Yeah, maybe so. You know, maybe so. When you make comments regarding trash talking and just being caught up between another player in a matchup, you got to bring it. You got to bring it. I'm pretty sure a lot of people were going to be tuned in to see what Lance was going to do because of what he said. Maybe there's a lot of pressure on him. And everybody goes through situations where you just struggle. Just because of what was said and what was done, it just wasn't a good time for him. Probably free throws. Probably free throws. I know we gave up 20 points on or turnovers, points off turnovers. But we can overcome that. You can't overcome a 20 point differential in free throws. |
| Excuse me if I'm a little shaken up. I was in a cold tub. I didn't start this game off hot. Early on, I got into a rhythm for the first couple of possessions. Really the first quarter, I felt good. Second quarter, the ball didn't drop, but I knew we were facing elimination. Coach told me green light. Stay on green. D. West kept telling me, "Don't keep no bullets in the chamber." So I really just came out firing. My teammates found me, and I got hot. Yeah. I like to just play. Let us play. It's the Conference Finals. Let everything just be left on the floor. I knew I was going to have to step to the plate. My teammates needed me to make plays down the stretch, and I was fortunate enough to do so for us. No, you know, I felt in the rhythm, regardless of who was guarding me. I think I seen every defender from the Heat tonight. I was just in the zone. Again, regardless of who was guarding me, I felt like that ball was going to go in that net, and that's a great, unbelievable feeling. It's always tough. It's always tough night in and night out to guard the best player in this league. It wears on you. You're going to be inconsistent shooting the ball when you're shooting jumpers. But tonight it went my way, and I was going to keep my foot on the gas. I knew I couldn't let up because they were making plays on the other end as well. My teammates was aware of it. They kept feeding me the ball and looking for me on the offensive end. I mean, we're going against history, but we can't feel like it can't be done. Every player in our locker room, every trainer, every coach, everybody in this organization have to feel like we can accomplish this. And we believe. We honestly believe we can accomplish this one. It's going to be tough. Like we say, it's one game at a time. That's just how we've got to treat it. It's Lance being Lance. He's been special for us, and whether he's scoring the ball, making plays, causing confrontation, you know, Lance is special, and there's a reason why we gain an edge and some opportunities during games. A lot of it comes from Lance. So we need that. Again, he's always got to make sure he's monitoring it, but I didn't think nothing was out of the spirit of the game tonight. Yeah, I just saw it. I just saw it. I hope his breath wasn't too bad for LeBron. What was it like? When he was in foul trouble, everybody had to be aggressive. That's a huge weapon that they're missing. Everybody was aware that he was on the bench and how limited this team was without him and how much everybody had to step up. And they did. They knocked down 15 threes. I thought a lot of players took on a huge role. But it's not going to be like that in Game 6. We're expecting LeBron to be LeBron, and that's how we want it. LeBron is the smartest player in this league. He's going to make the right play, and he thought that was the right play. They made 15 threes tonight. So obviously, they were hot behind the three point line. He found a three point shooter that's been hot lately for them in Chris Bosh. We were fortunate he missed. We walk away with a win. We're capable of winning the ballgame with LeBron scoring 30 to 40 points. It's Rashard Lewis having six threes that we've got to be cautious of. Ray contributing with 15 off the bench we've got to be cautious of. It's some areas where we can hold up with LeBron having a spectacular game. You know, again, it's containing the role players to make sure they don't have big nights. We know, with our backs against the wall, we've proved that we can come out. This is different. This is definitely different. We're playing against the champions. So we're happy to get this win, have our season still be alive, but it's going to be tough. It's going to be tough. We're not expecting any of this to be easy, this whole trip. We've got to do one possession at a time down in Miami, and we can't turn the ball over in this Game 6. This Game 6 is going to be about performing like champions. Well, I was asked earlier today about having my print on this game, and I felt I needed to have a print on this game. So that was always in the back of my mind is, how can I impact this game where we can continue to keep playing? So that was it. I knew I had to make some plays on the defensive end, getting steals, playing scrappy basketball, as well as trying to contribute on the offensive end. Again, that was in the back of my mind the whole night is, how can I be an impactful player for us? Well, this year, everybody I'll go on last year. Last year was me stepping up to the plate and rising to a new level. This year was about how can I grow from that and expand to another level? So it's just about rising to the occasion every night, you know, how can I we've got a great team. We've got a great group and a group that can very well move on to the championship. So I just have to make sure every night just ask myself, did I leave everything on the floor? Whether I'm making shots or not, whether I'm rebounding every ball, getting steals, deflections, I just ask myself, am I doing enough? At the end of the day, more times than not, I feel like I'm giving my all. No. I mean, Dwyane was the one that was going. Dwyane was the one that was taking all the load when LeBron was out, and I still was matching up with Dwyane. It was just the flow of the game. It was really just the flow of the game. It wasn't no where we came together and me and Lance decided to guard different matchups. It was just the flow of the game. If LeBron was on one side of the floor, Lance was going to stay and guard whoever was on the side of that floor. |
| Yes, it is frustrating, especially when we set out a goal to earn the No.1 seed, and we didn't get to that goal of playing a Game 7 on our floor. We've got to give them credit for coming into our building in Game 2 to really change this whole series up. For the most part, what we've got on our side is youth. For us to continue to keep getting to the Conference Finals, it's good. It's something that we can look forward to. Eventually, we've got to be able to get past this point with how young we are and the experience we continue to keep gaining. That's the only positive light that we have on our young future. A little bit of everything. They came out, and I thought LeBron really just imposed his will to start this game off. Every time he caught the ball, he was ducking his head, getting to the basket. He really just sunk his teeth all over this game. He was tough. He was tough for us to really just overcome. Everybody was just on board. They came out hot, and it was hard to just slow them down and get a stop because they were making everything, it felt like. That's where this game was lost. You know at times it feels like we're there, and then there's games where it still feels like we're not at that point yet. Coach says it, I mean, in order for us to beat this team, we've got to play like champions. More times than not, we didn't do so. I don't know. That's for Larry, Kevin, for them to decide. It would be great. We came into this league together. It would be great for us to continue our journey together. But he's played a huge year this whole season and in this postseason. So it's definitely put pressure on us to make decisions going forward with Lance. This fourth quarter tonight? I mean, I wouldn't really even count the performance I had in the fourth quarter. At that point, we was just down 30. That rhythm I needed that rhythm in the first half. But it is motivation. It is motivation to be better. I really put this loss on us. If I came out making shots and the offense was flowing through me, then this game would have turned out a little different. I don't know. If I could answer that, we definitely would have been playing at that level. What are you asking me again? I just think, for a lot of guys, we hit a wall, for one. And then there was pressure for us to play at a level that we were supposed to be playing at. I think we were just getting pulled from multiple directions, from dealing with success early. We didn't think at some point in the season, we felt we could turn on a switch and play when we needed to play, and it's hard to do that when teams are coming after you. We weren't the team coming after teams anymore. We were being the hunted. And it's hard to try to carry that mindset that we can just turn the switch on and play when we needed to play. I think that took a lot out of this team as well as just hitting the wall. I mean, it hurt us. But I think it's more on us than Roy. Last year we did a great job, just finding Roy and giving Roy the ball where he needed the ball. This series, we really didn't get to that. So it was more on us. It's not on Roy. No, I mentioned the offense flowed through me. I just wasn't making shots. If I was making those shots, this game would have been different. |