|  |
| --- |
| I think that through the regular season there was so much changes with our group, guys in and out of the lineup, different injuries, a lot of things like that. Once we've been able to settle down and kind of find what fits this group, I feel like that's what prompted us being better offensively. But you've just got to give credit to Coach [Brad Stevens], because he ends up making adjustments and being able to key in in the playoffs, whichever the matchup is, and giving us those options to go out there and execute on offense. I think it was our energy defensively. I felt like we really fed off a lot of our crowd, and then on offense, we were taking good shots. We were really moving the ball and really taking really good looks, that helped. We were knocking them down. Yeah, Marcus is one of our leaders, and he's been a presence since the first day he got here. So I think that taking on this challenge is something that we expect out of him. We have his back out there. Like he said, we're doing it as a unit. It's not all on him. But you do have to give him credit for his focus and his commitment for the team. I normally don't like comparing teams, but last year we came off of a grueling seven-game series against Washington, one day rest and we had to play Cleveland. Give them credit, they were the better team. This year we were able to close the series out with Philadelphia, have a couple days. I feel like the coaches came out with a great game plan for our group, and we just bought in and did what we were supposed to do. I think that the guys that started the fourth there were just great. They came out really focused on the defensive end. We got some stops. We turned the defense into offense. Just ran our offense well, and they really, I feel like, opened the game up at that point. They just kept attacking. Guys just kept playing the right way, and that's all it was. I mean, at times this year we've struggled early in the fourth with the leads and things like that. But I felt like the focus level was just really good, and guys were able to hold the lead. |
| Yeah, it was that point of the game where we needed to make plays. They went on a run, and we felt like we needed to go on a run of our own and make sure that we secured the win. You know, I think our team did a good job really keeping -- we kept our poise and just kept playing our basketball the way that we've been playing. Tough on defense, moving the ball on offense, and that's just the way that we tried to play throughout the whole game. Amazing. You know, Terry, just like a switch goes off, and he just goes out there and plays. Terry is fearless. He's always been like that. It's just now he's getting the opportunity to show it, and it's a lot of fun to see him just grow continually game by game. I think that we just have a group of guys that really believe in each other, and we are trying to play the right way, trying to play hard. Really just buying into what Coach [Brad Stevens] is telling us, and just have a lot of guys that have a lot of fight in them in the locker room. You've been following us, it's been like that all year. It's not like this is something new. Our group, in tough times, we've always found a way. Yeah, it was -- I felt like it was uncalled for, that type of play there, but that's the one thing about the group of our guys. We have each other's backs, and it is what it is. We moved on to the next play, and we just locked in even more after that. I mean, we just play hard. We go out there, we compete. It's Celtics basketball. We're really embracing Celtics basketball. We're playing hard. We've got each other's backs, and that's it. |
| Like you said, we've been in this position before. I think that obviously it's a different circumstance, but we'll go back and look at the film. I can tell you just from right off the top of my head, there was a lot of breakdown defensively for our group. We didn't have that the first two games. It's something that we need to address and be better Monday if we want to have any sort of chance of winning. I just think it's for us to learn from this. It's what we've been preaching all playoffs, good or bad. We're learning from the experiences, we're moving on and it just shows when you don't bring it as a team and you don't play the way you're supposed to play, these kind of things can happen. At the same time, you've got to give Cleveland credit. They played better. They were the better team tonight. Yeah, I think they did a good job of setting the tone in the game. I felt like we settled for a lot of mid-range shots. Credit to them for doing that. I just think that we need to run our offense just with more pace. I think tonight a lot of the times we got caught up in just being in a lot of isolation positions. We need to do a better job moving the ball. I think if we move the ball better, we will all benefit from that and it will be better. I don't know. I'm not really sure. I'll have to go back and look at it on film. I felt like we had a game plan. Offensively, we didn't quite execute it. On defense, that's what's most concerning to me. We weren't as sharp as we needed to be. |
| I don't think they're playing any different. Once we settled down after the first [quarter], we played much better. But I don't think they're doing anything different. Yeah, I think with our group, we just keep learning. We haven't been in these type of positions before. Playing on the road, I was telling the guys -- and they have a better feel, especially in the playoffs. It's much harder. We have to be better. We have to execute better. We have to do all those things in order to win. It's hard to win on the road, as we found out here. I think tonight we played much better once we settled down after the first quarter. I don't think people talk about who has the momentum. I think each game is its own. I do think that we played much better than we did on Saturday, and we're going to learn from this game and go back home and protect our home court. I think our focus is just on the next game, on Game 5. All season but specifically all playoffs, we've been taking it game to game. We can't look at it that way [of trying to win two of three]. Right now, we're fighting for our playoff lives, and our focus as a group is Wednesday, Game 5 at home. Well, no question about it. Obviously his physical abilities, everybody knows that. But he's a very smart player, like you said. He just knows how to read the game. He has a good feel for it, and he's usually making the right plays. Oh, of course. I mean, we handled home. They did what they were supposed to do, and they won here. Now we get to go back home, and we have a big challenge to protect our home court, Game 5. Yeah, it's something that people shouldn't take for granted. He's doing great things. But for our group, we need to be better, trying to contain him. He had a great game. We have to find a way to be better at home. We have no time to dwell on this game. We'll look at the film and prepare for the next one. I don't think it's necessarily tough. I just think that we have to be conscious -- everything that we do, we have to do it with pace. That's something that we walked into the game talking about, and I felt like we did a better job. We still can be much better. And yeah, give them credit; they defend the three-point line very well. But I feel like we still got some really good looks. Our offense was good. I think it can be way better, and it's something that we'll try to make adjustments and be ready for Wednesday. a group, we're excited to be back, going back home. Obviously we understand the challenge of it. We can't think about the past. We just have to worry about this opportunity. We have a Game 5 at home, and we have to make the most of it. |
| Yes, that was very encouraging to see Jayson really just taking on the challenge, really playing well on offense, playing well on defense. Just very poised for most of the night. I was just very happy to see him have such a good game. Yeah. I felt like we played much better tonight defensively. The energy was much better. I was encouraged by the performance of our group tonight. I just think that at home, one of the big things is I truly believe it's our fans. I feel like our guys feed off of them and it really just drives us as a group. When we're sometimes on the road, it's just different in the playoffs. You get on the road and you're just out there against everybody else. Here, I just think that our guys just feel comfortable and good. It's a credit to the atmosphere that's here. It's just a lot of fun to play in right now. We did what we were supposed to do. We won here, a big Game 5 for us. Now we have a big challenge to go on the road. The first game [in Cleveland], we didn't play very well. The second one, I felt like we played a little better over there. We're going to have to play a great game come Friday because they're tough at home. At least in our series, they just had their way. So we have to make sure that we're really focused and committed to playing the right way the whole game. I think that we've done it at spurts over there. We have to be more consistent. I haven't talked to him personally. I know that Coach is always staying on him and Jaylen [Brown] and Terry [Rozier], just all our guys. Just talking to them about the intensity and making sure that we're doing things with pace, that we're playing the right way. Honestly, with Jayson, all I talk to him about is defense. Most of the guys, most of the time, that's all I'm talking is defense out there. I feel like he's doing a good job on that end. We just have to go out and play. We can't think about it as a Game 7. Just like today, we were thinking this was a Game 5. We have a good challenge to go on the road. We haven't won there this season. It's going to be very difficult, but we have a great opportunity in front of us. Our approach as a group, we're going in there, staying together, playing the right way. We want to be more consistent playing the right way on the road. It's a lot of fun, just because these guys, they want to play the right way. They play hard. I feel like we hold each other accountable out there. I think that's a big thing. And when those things happen, it becomes fun. It's fun to me. And there's no coincidence why we're in this position right now. The guys have really bought into what Coach wanted from them. We've been preparing the same way all season. We're having some success that's paying off because of the commitment that we're doing as a team. I think for our team in general, it's the lineup that we were going with most of the year, or for a good part of the year. I felt like it was great for us defensively. They made adjustments after Game 1. We kind of stuck around with the same lineup. But I think that just by doing that, it was a change that worked in our favor. Aron was great tonight -- his energy, his physicality. Just very happy that he had a good game as well. Feels great. It's definitely a lot of fun. For whatever reason, we were just so locked in, so engaged. It's not like we haven't been in the past, but I just felt like the guys were just ready to get on the floor tonight after the loss in Game 4 and just get it going again. So it just felt good to be able to do that. It was a lot of fun playing in this game tonight. Yeah. It's our defense. We always preached all year, or Coach preached all year, he would say there are going to be nights that we're not going to shoot it well, but we have to rely on our defense. Since the first day of training camp, that's what we've hung our hat on as a group. Tonight, it paid off because we had a lot of good looks. They had a lot of good looks as well. But for us, we didn't drop them. Missed a lot of layups. Things like that. But defense was the difference for us tonight. |
|  |
| Unbelievable. Just the way that he took the season in stride and just kept pushing. For somebody to go through this their first time and go through a full NBA season -- he played, I think, pretty much every game -- and to be in these pressure situations in the playoffs, his composure, making play after play and really just poised and ready for moments all year. I couldn't ever imagine him playing at this level and in this magnitude. As a group, we have nothing to hang our heads about. I think the effort was great. Obviously, I'm disappointed that we couldn't reach that next level. I just think that for our group, for myself, we all need to look at the work that we did this season and understand that there's a lot more work to do in order to reach that next level. So individually this summer, it's something that I will work even harder on my body, on the court, taking care of myself to help our team be in these type of positions again. It's definitely tough, but we have nothing to hang our heads about. It's difficult. I think that we always try to compare him to other players of all time and criticize that -- people have to understand that he is playing at a different level. Just his ability, his stamina, just his feel of the game. There's just a lot of positive things about him and how he's able to have those repeated efforts time and time again. It's one of those things that I've got to tip my hat to him. As a group, we really fought hard. We did everything we could. We put ourselves in position. We were one or two shots away from being there, and it just wasn't enough for our group. Credit to him and their team. It's difficult. It's difficult for our group. Obviously we're disappointed, and we had our opportunities. We had our opportunities. Things just didn't happen. But what I've been telling you guys throughout the playoffs, as a team, we're learning. We haven't been in these positions before as a group, and all of this has been great learning experience for our group. I know that we'll be better from this. Yeah. It's something that we'll definitely look forward to as a group, to have the team back together and complete. I'm sure I'll think about that as the summer goes on. Right now, almost for me I can't look that far. It's too soon. I just really appreciate this group of guys. No excuses. Fighting every night, just tough. I'm just proud of this group and what this team was able to do this year. Yeah. It's one of those things that we felt like we had some good momentum going there, and then we had some great looks that just literally went in and out and that we missed. I think they gained some momentum; they made some plays. Earlier in the series at home, we would hit them like that. It seemed like they were able to put them down, and they just found their way back into it. But yeah, I think that was definitely a turning point. |