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| I thought we played through it well. I think it affected both teams. It definitely affected both teams. It got to a couple different of guys and cramps started setting in. I thought Pop continued to switch guys in and out, keep us as fresh as possible and we finally got to a point where we took care of the ball and we got a chance to make a run and made them pay. I think just that, just what I said. We took care of the ball finally. We had 20 some odd turnovers for 28 points the last seven or eight minutes. We only turned the ball over once or twice. And getting them out of the passing lanes, keeping them in front of us, making them score over us, and we found something that worked on the offensive end. Started moving the ball and Danny Green got hot and hit a couple of shots and really opened it up for us. Honestly, the way he shoots the ball, I assume every time he shoots it it's going to go in. So we want to get him as many shots as possible. He's a confident, capable shooter. And I think Pop has instilled a lot of confidence in him in the fact that when he has a crack, he can shoot the ball. And that takes a lot of pressure off him deciding what shots to shoot and what shots not to shoot. So he hits one or two and then we call a play for him, he hits another one and that really opens up the game for us. Yeah, pretty close. Pretty close. I don't think I've ever played in anything like this since I left the islands. It was pretty bad out there. I honestly didn't see it until we had numbers going the other way, and I looked back and he was kind of on the baseline, limping on the baseline. That's the first time I really noticed. I think he asked out of the game once or twice before that, so we knew he was getting tired but we were all getting tired out there. So I didn't assume it was anything more than him getting tired and getting a blow. Him in or out, obviously he's one of the best players in the league. He's going to make a difference, but we played through all that. And as I said, we started taking of the ball and that was the difference. He was great tonight, he was great. We continued to roll and get in the middle of the defense and make the right reads. He finished some great ones in there, made some plays for us, made some good reads and passed it out to shooters. He's been playing well all season long and he knows what he has to do now, and he knows what he has to do and he's confident if he gets fouled he can go to the line, and knock off free throws, with all that said he put it together tonight. I don't know how to respond to that. We wanted to win it badly, and we just kind of stuck with it. I think Manu was out there for the entire fourth quarter. He was very effective tonight, moving the ball, making the right passes and made some shots early that kept us in the game. We both want it bad and we're both willing to do whatever. We're trying to stick to the game plan as much as possible and make plays when we can. What adjustments we made? We had a bad third quarter, almost 10 turnovers, and that was the difference for us. It took us until halfway through the fourth until we really figured it out and started taking care of the ball. So I think the third was our worst quarter, and we allowed them to up their pressure, allowed them to get in the passing lanes and allowed them to get in the open court and score some easy ones when we were able to keep them in front of us, and make them work for what they got. They still scored the ball but this was tougher than them getting out and running out on us. We're one step closer to four wins, it doesn't matter what happened last year. We know there is a lot of things we can clean up, and we're going to come in here on Sunday and hopefully play better and come out with another one. |
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| Unfortunately it's how basketball goes. We knew they were going to make a run. We were obviously trying to stay away from that, but started out the third quarter, they made a quick three point play and a three pointer in transition. Just plays happen. That's how it happens. We were able to at the other end continue to take care of the ball, continue to attack. Understand that they're going to make a run, but even with their run, we're still up double digits at that point. And just not lose our composure and try to get it all back in one play. So we did just that. Finished out the quarter good, and continued in that fourth quarter to keep control. Well, they were the keys to the game. They took over the game. Kawhi was aggressive. He's been getting we've been on him about continuing to play. Foul trouble has been a problem for him in the first couple games and it kind of took him out of his game. And Danny's been shooting the ball well. They really got up and tried to make him do something else, and he made some great decisions there. Made some plays and finished them. Defensively, he was solid, he got hands on balls and knocked them away. Made some plays for himself, got himself in the open court and finished. Those guys were huge for us. They were the difference in the game tonight. Well, you don't tell them anything. You're either going to shoot well or you're not. The effort that they have there, the focus they have defensively, they can bring that nightly. They can bring that every night and they can make defensive efforts like they did tonight. Whatever happens on the other end happens on the other end. But it was a huge boost for us to get offensive performances like that from them. We're not going to expect to get that from them. But hopefully if we continue to get them shots and get them open, hopefully they'll continue to do that for us. I didn't know, honestly. I wasn't paying any attention to that. We were just kind of pushing the ball and things were working for us, and we were kind of going with the flow. I didn't look at a stat sheet. I didn't look up. I didn't look at the score. I just wanted to get a good start in, and things were falling how they were. Boris has been great all playoffs, in the entire playoffs. His ability to attack off the dribble, his passing ability. When they collapsed, he made some great passes, made some great plays, and his ability to finish at the basket as well. So just gave us another attack guy out there. Tiago's been playing great. He's finishing at the basket and making plays. But to have someone like Boris who can stretch your floor and make plays like a point guard in there and make decisions and punish them for their rotation, it was big for us. I don't know that there was much difference. I thought the Heat just turned up their intensity for a while and they got a couple turnovers, made a couple plays and made a couple shots. It was just the ebbs and flows of a game. We were able to only sustain it for a short while and get right back into it. They won that third quarter. We couldn't score the ball, but we were still up 10 or 11 at that point, and as I said, we just don't panic. We don't start forcing bad things, we continue to share the ball, move the ball, and get the lead back up. Luckily I played with him a bunch during the lockout time. He came down and worked out with us when we were before the team was together. So I kind of got an early look at him. I thought he had a lot of work to do. He wasn't shooting the ball like he does now. But Pop and the guys saw something in him and they allowed him to kind of develop and find his own way. Last year I think he really got his confidence and understood what had he to do, and he continues to evolve year after year. This year you can see when he gets in a groove like that, he can be special. |
| No, we didn't plan on that, but we thought that we could come in here and win these games. We've won games on the road in the playoffs, and we thought we could win here. We hoped to win two, obviously, but we were happy to win one. Then came the second game we didn't want to rest and say, hey, we've got one and let's just rest on that. We came in here tonight and had great focus, put a great game together, and came out with two. Yeah, great position for us, obviously, going back home with a closeout game. They're a very, very good ballclub. Obviously, they're the champions, and they're going to come out and show a lot of fire and come with a lot of energy. We're going to use our homecourt and we're going to come with the same focus that we did in these last two games, and hopefully close it out at home. It's not a focus on building a wall in the paint, but making their shots as tough as possible. They're both unbelievable players. They're both very good at getting to the rim, very good at finishing around the rim, and we just wanted to stay in front of them and make their shots tough. Whatever that turned into, that's what we needed it to be. So we're sending more than one defender against them. We're asking Kawhi and Danny and the rest of our perimeter guys to do a very tough job in pressuring them and making their life difficult, and we're using our team defense to make everything as tough as possible. I can appreciate you saying the names and having passed them in anything. It's an honor to be in that position. Having won helps, obviously, but the focus is winning one more, and once that one more is done, I can look back and say, hey, it's truly an honor. It will definitely come up. It will definitely come up. As I said, we know the caliber team they are, and we have a lot of respect for what they're able to do. They're able to throw it into another gear, and they're going to do just that. They don't want this to be done. They feel they can they've already won on our homecourt, so they feel they can do it again, and we don't want to give them any life. So we're going to use these two days to really get rested up, come out on Sunday and lay it on the line. Yeah, there was, there was. We won big in that first game, and we knew that they were going to come back with a kind of energy and kind of really attack the rim and make us play a different way. I thought our game plan pretty much remained the same. I thought we executed very effectively, shot the ball really well and got some play, great play from Tony, and Kawhi and Boris. Guys stepped up and made plays when we had to. At the same time, we continued to move the ball, share the ball, and just find a way to get it done. Yeah, he's been amazing, especially this series. I think he's really found his rhythm. He's always been effective with what he's done using his body, using his ability to pass and his ability to attack the basket and smaller players, and it's really showing in this series. He's been the key for us early, catching and driving, making the right plays, finding open people. He's really changed the game for us, along with rebounding, defending as well as he has. He hasn't really even scored that much, but he's found a way to be really effective getting in the paint and finding people and making plays for us. |
| Very special. It was already a special day, but to do it at home, to do it with my kids and my family and my friends here made it so much more special. Just a great experience, and a great experience for them. It is. It is. For whatever reason, it is sweeter than any other, whether it be because of the timeframe, because I'm coming towards the end of my career, because I can have these two here and really remember it and enjoy the experience, all of those things make it that much more special. It helped. What happened last year definitely helped our drive and stay focused for an extended period of time. It very easily could have hit us in different ways and we could have reacted in different ways. But we reacted the right way. We got great leadership from the top in Pop who came back absolutely fired up and ready to go, and to push us this far and this hard and to come out with the championship is amazing. It's amazing to think about having done this five times. The kind of company I'm in, the people who have had such amazing careers and having had the ability to have one, and for the stretch, and the span between them, to still be in a situation where we can win or I can win another championship is just an amazing blessing, and it's not taken lightly. I'll say a little bit of both . Very, very old when you put it like that. But as I said, that span and to be effective and to be on teams and to be starting, I feel a real part of what we had done this year, just it's an amazing feeling. Honestly? Don't listen to the media He's been unbelievable. He came in here after a lockout season, worked hard with us during that summer, and I can't say that I saw the player that I saw tonight at that point. What R.C. and Pop saw in him for him to become the player he is today, it's amazing because that summer I was like, hey, we gave up someone. It was George Hill who had been playing really solid for us. Obviously, you get attached to people and disappointed in that. He comes in here and don't know a thing about him. He works hard and continues to improve year after year. You see him play the first two games and everybody's talking to him. Everybody's saying to him: Just stick with it, just play hard, do the little things, whatever, whatever, whatever. And he shows up in the last three games and just plays out of his mind. He's not worried about just doing the little things. He wants to do it all, and he plays with a confidence that is just amazing. I'm honored to be on this team right now because he's going to be great for years to come, and I'm going to hold on as long as I can. Going from the youngest to the oldest? It happens. It happens. I'm blessed to be in the position that I can sit here and be asked that question and to be on a championship team and to even think about what that means. It's I can't explain. It's amazing to be a part of this for so long. Yeah, I have no idea. I don't know. I told someone I don't think we heard the horn in the beginning. We just we knew they'd come out with energy. We knew they'd come out and try to knock us down early, and I think we helped that. We just came out, we weren't getting shots up, we were turning the ball over. We were doing exactly what we did when we lost Game 2. But we kept our focus. We kept saying to each other that it's a long game and it's going to turn. And we get guys like Patty Mills step in and Kawhi starts stepping up, and Manu coming in with some great energy. That is the beauty of the team that we've had this year. We've had 10, 12 guys with the ability to step in and make a difference, and you see that tonight with the guys stepping in and finding a way to turn the game for us and give us a chance to win. It will be easy to remember from what we went through last year to every little step that we took this year. It was a very hard working team, a very focused and resilient team. This will be a very easy to team to remember top to bottom. We had a lot of guys that really laid it on the line, gave of themselves. We had guys that could have scored more, could have done more, could have been more this and more of that, but they gave it all up to be a part of one of the best teams in basketball, and that's what we'll remember them for. Yeah. I don't know. I'm guessing you're leading me into a question that I'm not going to answer, so I'll just go ahead and avoid that one. He said what do you think of your dad tonight Say something nice about me. |