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| No, my mindset was we're either going to go out of here with a win or going into overtime. I'm going to get the last shot. Actually, Shumpert was able to get another look at it, but I got to where I wanted to get, step back, made them before. We had our chances. I mean, you just said it. We couldn't get a good look. We couldn't get nothing to drop, including myself. J.R. had a really good look on the three at one point, but they just ramped it up a little bit. They got to the free throw line, and we didn't get it. I mean, we really only had zero points, and I got the lay up at the end, but that didn't mean much because they did a good job closing it in overtime. Well, I mean, we had a lot of miscues tonight. I think they would say the same. We had a lot of breakdowns, a couple of transition threes they made that we kind of pinpointed on saying we don't want to give those up. But at the end of the day, we gave ourselves a chance, man. I missed a tough one. But we had so many opportunities to win this game, and we didn't. It's up to us now to look at the film, watch and make some adjustments, what you need to do and be ready for Sunday. It was very tough to see. I just see how hard he worked these last eight days just to get himself to play at this level tonight. Seeing him walk out of the locker room on crutches just now, that's a tough blow for our team. Well, I mean, it's the next man up. If Kyrie can't go, Delly's number is going to be called and everyone else has to pick each other up. They outscored us 35 9 on bench points. But, you know, we still had a chance to win. We had a few miscues defensively. Had a couple of turnovers offensively, but we were right there. Like I said, they just made a couple more plays than we made. We all have to be better, including myself. I don't think I was great. I've got to do better things out on the floor to help us be more precise offensively. I've got to communicate a little bit more defensively to help our team get over the hump. It's not about me. It's not about the next guy. It's about all of us. We have to we're going to watch the film and get better for Game 2. What do you mean? I mean, I think everyone was out there just playing through it, just trying to fight through it. Both teams have been off for so many days that fatigue may have set in. But both teams were fighting and both teams wanted to win really bad. Well, they expect for me to make plays. It's nothing I did tonight. It's nothing different than what I've been doing all postseason. That's just been our game plan. Guys have been able to step up and make shots and make plays. So it has nothing to do about beast mode or whatever the case. It's our game plan, and our game plan worked. We put ourselves in a position to win, we just didn't come through. |
| Well, our bench was big for us tonight. We needed everything that we got from them. They came in and did an excellent job of contributing offensively and defensively. They were pretty good. Well, it's going to be the same as it has been being out here. Round the clock treatment, get my body, get my mind ready for the game. I get an opportunity to go home. I haven't seen my wife, seen my kids in four or five days. Give them some big hugs, big kisses, and then I'm going to lock back in. So it's the same thing for me. Just letting them understand and telling them about the moment, the moment that we're in, not about the game. I think the game is such a small thing, when you think about the moment and compare it to the moment. We have a chance to be a part of history, but it's the small steps that you take to get to that point. So mentally, physically, just having those guys ready, throwing things in their ears to try to let them understand what this is all about, and they responded very well. No, I think he's unique in his own way. Obviously he's a guy that's been counted out his whole life. Probably people have been telling him he's too small, he's not fast enough, can't shoot it enough, can't handle it good enough, and he's beat the odds so many times. The confidence that we have in him allows him to be confident in himself. He goes out and he just plays his tail off, and when a guy like that does that, he gets great results. Well, he was very calm. Before you get to the free throws, just to follow up on the missed three by J.J., usually when J.J., J.R. and Mike Miller shoot, we don't rebound, because most of the time they make them. So for us, for Delly to be able to crash in and get that and go up there and knock two free throws down, that was huge. Well, I mean, I don't need any extra motivation. I think our guys love it. Our guys love the fact that we've been counted out and come into the series being an underdog. They're pretty much saying that especially after Kyrie got hurt and the series was over. I think our guys are using that as motivation. I use a little bit of it, but I have a lot of motivation already to just be a part of greatness and be a part of this and be a part of this atmosphere. My motivation is to make sure my guys are ready and prepared every night we step on the floor. And I have some other motivation that I won't talk about right now, but I have so many different things to worry about than being an underdog or guys counting us out. It had everything to do with Delly. He just kept a body on Steph. He made Steph work. He was spectacular, man, defensively. We needed everything from him. When Steph shoots the ball, you just automatically think it's going in because he shoots the ball so well. I mean, he stunned me on one in the fourth quarter where he just took an in and out dribble and raised for a three and he nailed it and that wasn't on Delly. He just did a great job. Just trying to make it tough on Steph. That's all you can do. You make it tough on him. You get a contest, and you live with the results, and I think Delly did that. Yeah, that's what it is, it's the grit squad that we have. It's not cute at all. If you're looking for us to play sexy, cute basketball, then that's not us. That's not us right now. Everything is tough. You know, we're going to come in with an aggressive mindset defensively and offensively. And for us to win a Finals game shooting 32 percent from the field, it's just a testament of how gritty we can be. It has to be that for the rest of the series, no matter how many games it takes. It just comes from the work ethic. When the 20,000 plus fans aren't there and you guys aren't there, I mean, you see it because you're probably with me every day and some of your other guys or some of our other beat writers, you guys see how much work I put into my craft every day, before, after practice. When you put that much work in there, you live with the results. For me to be able to go out on the biggest stage and to be able to make plays happen for my teammates is the ultimate feeling for myself. That's why I take my profession, I take my craft very seriously. Well, am I built for it? Well, of course I'm built for it . I mean, it's a maximum of five games left in the NBA season. So I'm ready for whatever. Did you see how I walked in here? I'm feeling it. I'm feeling it right now for sure. That's why I've got one of the best trainers in the world in Mike Mancias who will make sure I'm ready for Game 3. We already have started on my rehab. Already started on my session. I will get rehab on the plane. We've got a five hour flight back home, and we've got all around the clock treatment tomorrow and get ready for Game 3. I'll be ready. I mean, all we can do is go out and play hard. We're undermanned. I mean, we're without two All Stars, and I don't know any other team in this league that would be able to do that, to be able to be without two All Stars on their team and compete the way we compete and be a force. So the guys are taking that very personal. For us mentally we can't allow the one thing we can't allow is what everyone is saying about us affect what we need to do out on the floor, because that's just smoke and mirrors of what everybody else says about us or what they think is going to happen with the series. What truly matters is what we have as a game plan and how we go out and execute it. That's all that matters. Well, the good thing about tonight, I took 34 shots, but I had my 11 assists. Once again, I was knocking on the 40 door again. So they let me score 40 again. That felt pretty I'm happy I'm able to do that in a win. So just to go out I'm not a high volume shooter. I've never been in my career. But things have changed on our team where the shots that Kevin and Kyrie would have has now been placed on myself and the rest of the guys as well. It's what needs to be done to help our team win. Am I going to be in the 30s every game or things of that nature? I'm not sure. I would not like to. But if that's what the case has to be to help us win, then I don't have a choice. It means everything. It means everything to be able to be a part of history and to get this win for this franchise, for our city, for all the Cavs fans all over the world. And if I can leave my fans with something, these fans here are pretty loud, pretty good, really good. I'm looking forward to seeing our fans and I can't wait to see our fans. I've heard our fans pretty loud before. A couple instances my first postseason appearance was really loud, and me coming home against the Knicks at the start of the season was pretty good. But I know we can be much, much louder than any fan base in this league. I know they're getting ready, and I can't wait to see them. |
| No, I just seen them run that set before, and I was telling the coaching staff that I was in tune and I knew it was coming. Well, I mean, I know one thing I'm going to count on Delly as always is how hard he's going to play. He's going to give everything he's got. His body, he's going to throw his body all over the place. And he's going to compete at a high level however many minutes he's out on the floor. Tonight it was 30 1/2 minutes, and for 30 1/2 minutes he gave everything he's got. It was great to have someone like that out on the floor that was willing to sacrifice everything for the better of the team. Well, we said it from the beginning that in order for us to win, we have to defend. My guys do a great job of coming out and defending. Everyone knows their role, and we all play our role to the best of our ability. We don't step outside our box. When you have that type of chemistry out on the floor, it makes everything work. I don't have a reaction. I'm just trying to do whatever it takes to help our team win. If it's high volume shooting, if it's high rebounding, if it's high assists, whatever it takes to help our team win. We're out two All Stars, and we're out a starting center, so I have to pick up some of the shot attempts. I'm not a high volume guy. I don't like to shoot high volume shots, but it's The Finals, and it's whatever it takes. I don't have a comment for Steph. That's not my concern. What my concern is how I come out and play, be aggressive. If it's high volume shooting, I'm living in the paint. I'll shoot 34 shots, but I only took six threes, and one of them was a heave at the end of a shot clock. That lets me know I'm being aggressive. Absolutely. They were unbelievable from the start to the finish. We fed off them, and we just tried to give it all back to them for 48 minutes. As loud as they were, they need to go home now and start soaking up a lot of tea, drinking a lot of tea for the next 36 hours, whatever the case may be, because they need to be just as loud Thursday night. So I need you guys to get those voices right. But they're going to be unbelievable Thursday night as well. Those guys, everyone, they were amazing. I mean, I'm not okay with it. I'm not okay with it, but I'm so outside the box right now. I went seven straight seasons with improving my efficiency. Seven straight into this year, the previous seven seasons, seven straight seasons with improving my efficiency as far as shooting. But this is a different challenge. This is a totally different challenge. I've never played where two All Stars were out. So it's a different challenge for myself, and it's outside the box, but it's not too far. It's not far for me to go grab. I'm just trying to do whatever it takes to help. I know you guys keep hearing me elaborate on whatever it takes, but that's what I'm trying to do. I'm high volume shooting, but it's not like I'm going out there and I'm high volume shooting and I'm not doing anything else. I'm doing everything for our team to help our team win, and that's all that matters. No, I mean, I don't think those guys lacked life. I think they came in and we just tried to put pressure on them like we've done the first three games, the first two games and then tonight. But those guys, they got a rhythm in the fourth quarter. Part of it is because we allowed them to get into a rhythm in the start of the fourth. We had some costly turnovers as well. We let Steph shake three, but some of Steph's threes were some he made in the fourth quarter, were some of the same he missed in Game 2 or earlier in the game tonight. We had some heck of a contest, but he was just he let them go. But for us we've just got to continue to put the pressure on them. Try to keep them below their averages. They're going to make great shots. They're a great team, great players, great coaching staff. We'll just live with the results. It's not satisfying when they end the game with 91. We hold them to 55 points for three quarters and we allowed them to break off with 36. That's not satisfying at all. We've got a lot of film to watch tomorrow. We're a young group, and we have to learn from our mistakes. We had a lot of mistakes in the fourth quarter. I think everybody's going to remember the turnovers we had late. But it started from the beginning. We have to learn from those things. We're a young group, and like I told the guys, it's okay. It's okay. We haven't been in a lot of these situations, if any, with this group. But the best teacher in life is experience. We experienced it tonight. We're going to watch a lot of film tomorrow on ways we can get better, close out games the best way, and we'll be ready for Game 4. I think our relationship continues to grow every day. To have a guy like that who has been around the game of basketball for so many years, he wants the best out of his team. He wants the best for himself as well and his coaching staff and to be able to be the leader of the team. I just try to give it all back to him. My mind is always working throughout the game. Sometimes I'm able to say it verbally, sometimes I'm just thinking the game and hoping the coaching staff and players and the guys and Coach Blatt know whatever I'm doing, it's for the best of the team. And he's allowing me to do that, and I respect that a lot. We just can't afford any more injuries. We just can't, especially from a guard perspective. I just thought about his shoulder. As soon as it happened, I knew exactly which shoulder it was, and I was just hoping for the best. When he came back on the floor with his shoulder wrapped and knowing that he wasn't at a hundred percent, which is his body out there, and still competing, it means everything to the team. It means everything to me. It means everything to him as well. As you can tell, he came back out there. But, yeah, we just can't afford any injuries right now. We're already depleted. A scarier opponent in our league? I mean, we have some very great basketball players in our league, and Steph happens to be one of them. His ability to shoot the ball is probably I've never seen someone that can shoot the ball off the dribble like himself, ever. So he's always keeping you off balance. Every game is different. He caught a rhythm in the fourth quarter tonight and hit some big shots. But for us we just try to continue to make it tough on him. He's a great player. He's a league MVP, and that's all you can ask. Our defense, we held this great team to 40 percent shooting. It's not just about one guy. Even though he's going to get it going, we've just got to make sure we do a good number on the rest of those guys. Well, the regular season can never compare to a playoff game. Just because we play so many games throughout the regular season, and you're going from city to city, players to players, different systems to different systems. You don't have much time to really get into the books and get into the tendencies and things of that nature. In the postseason you're able to kind of not get a rhythm, but know what's going to go on. Because once the playoffs start, not many teams are going to change. You've worked so many months to work a system that that's what you're going to see. For us, for our coaching staff to be able to put us in a position where we feel like this is best for us to win, as the players, we just try to go out and execute it the best way we can by playing hard, competing, making them take tough shots and also attacking them on the other end. The playoffs is definitely a great way to just lock in on a certain team and not worrying about having to fly out and be in another city here or be in another city there or see another opponent the next night. |
| We don't have many options as far as lineups we can go to, but we can make adjustments. That's what you do throughout a series. We'll get to the film and make the necessary adjustments coming into Game 5. But as far as lineup changes, we don't have many different lineup changes we can actually go to. I was just trying to regain my composure, and I was holding my head. It was hurting. I was just hoping I wasn't bleeding. But obviously the camera cut me pretty bad. Our medical staff did a great job of stopping the bleeding. I knew I had to shoot the free throws or I wasn't going to be able to come back into the game, so it didn't matter what was going on with my head at that point in time. I had to go up there and shoot those free throws so I could continue to play. I don't put too much pressure on anyone else. You continue to stick with them. We all struggle at times. We all have a couple games here, a couple games there we won't play so well. We know we can help the team, but just not falling for us. But you don't give up on anyone. We all got to this point together, and you stick with them. He's been huge for our team all year. We wouldn't be at this point without him. So hopefully he can get it going, which we believe. Oh, well, I was hoping our team could buy me a few minutes. I ran through those 12 minutes in the third, and I gassed out. Just tried to put us in a position Steph hit a big time three at the end of the third, put them up six, I missed one, but I was pretty much gassed either from driving, creating opportunities for my teammates, getting to the free throw line, getting offensive glass, just trying to make that push. And I was hoping our team could just buy me a couple minutes. We weren't able to do that tonight in the fourth quarter, and, I mean, it's difficult. You want to be out there, but also you don't want to be you want to be effective while you're out there too. So they made a huge run, and we just couldn't regather after that. No, I mean, no excuses. The schedule is what it is. We knew that coming into the series. We knew it was going to be every other day when we got home, and those guys were going to have two days in between when they went home. But I think defensively we were still very good. Offensively we were terrible. You can't always you can't always bank on your offense. Sometimes your offense just doesn't show up, and there is no way we go 4 for 27 from the three point line and expect to win. We outrebounded them still. We had 16 offensive rebounds. We had 20 second chance points. But we just couldn't get the long ball going tonight, and that definitely hurt our offense hurt us just as bad as anything. As far as Delly, I think Delly said he felt great. We thought he was great. He just didn't make shots, and that's what happens sometimes. Well, I already got the stitches. Obviously, you can't see them. That's the coach's decision if he decides he wants to go deeper in the bench. We haven't played many guys throughout this playoff run. I think it would help some of the guys that are playing some high minutes for sure. Just give guys a couple minutes here, a couple minutes there. But I think the coaching staff will try to do what's best to help us be physically and mentally prepared for Sunday. Enough to close it up. He's one of the X factors, and he came to play. He shot the ball extremely well. He hit four threes. He was in attack. He got a couple dunks in transition early on in the game which got him going, and he was really good for them. Coach Kerr did a great job of mixing the lineup up. They have so many different interchangeable players where he can kind of decide how he wants to go with his lineups in that nature, and to start him tonight gave them that boost. No, they doubled me a little bit more tonight. They kind of made me get a ball up, seeing if some of my teammates can beat those guys. Like I said, we couldn't make any shots from the outside, but we'll take those looks again. Those guys, my guys did a great job just stepping into them, trying to make them being confident about them. But when you go 4 for 27 from the three point line, there's not much success offensively. Yeah, their pace has been pretty good all series. It's just that we've made shots and we've made them take the ball out of the basket instead of getting it off a rebound. Tonight we shot 33 percent from the field. So when you're getting the ball off the glass or you're getting the ball off the rim, your pace is much better than when you're taking the ball off the net. So it's just a product of us not shooting the ball well at all. That's a decision I think Coach Blatt and the coaching staff will either make or not make. He's been great for us coming off the bench. He's been great for us starting. So we'll see. We'll see what the coaches have him playing. We're going to go with him, we'll continue to give him the ball. He's a spark for our team, whether he's in the starting role or not. I don't have any comment about it. I mean, I came out of the game as well early. So we were on the same page. Well, obviously, you're going to have a lot of guys on the perimeter. When your big is accustomed to guarding a big for three straight games and there is a change, now our big, meaning Timo, has to make a change. He has to guard a smaller guy, which he's not been accustomed to ever. So he definitely gave us a little different look defensively to start the game. We still started the game pretty well. We were up 7 0, but Steph making the three, Iguodala hits the three, Harrison Barnes makes one, Draymond hits one. And they offensively got it going. They got in a rhythm, and you could start seeing it. It's something like I said, while it's going on, you kind of like: What do we do here? What do we do there? And that's what the days in between games are for. You're able to look at the film and go from there and see ways you can just be better. I mean, it's three games left possibly. You just go out and play. You know you go out, you play hard. Coaching staff gives you a great game plan, you go out and execute it and live with the results at the end of the day. That's all you can ask. It's the biggest stage in the world, but I don't put too much added pressure on myself about basketball. It's just that's all it is. It's just basketball. No, I didn't have to go through any concussion protocol. I had a slight headache, which I think every last one of you guys would probably have if you ran into a camera. You might have a little bit more than that. But I didn't go through any protocol. I'm fine. Like I said, I got a few stitches and I got a little slight headache right now, but I'll be fine with that. I don't know if I get the feeling or not, because I don't really get involved in it, the whole thing. I understand how important this city is and what I mean to this city and what our team means to the city as far as even with other professional sports teams that we have in this city, but I don't get caught up into it. I just go out and play my game. I try to lead the best way I can, and if I can put my team and this franchise in a position to win the title, I'm grateful for that, and that's what I'm trying to do. Well, I mean, if I told my teammates six months ago or whatever the case may be that it would be 2 2 and we had an opportunity to be 2 2 in The Finals going on the road, would you take it? With three games left, I think all of them would accept that, and that's what it's about. I mean, this is the biggest stage. It's being covered by everyone in the world, and you should just be happy to go out and just compete. Win, lose or draw, you go out and compete. And that's all that should matter. It shouldn't matter what everyone is talking about or what everyone is putting pressure on you or things of that nature. It means nothing. I mean, in the scheme of things. You go out and you play, and you've been playing basketball your whole life. You live with the results after that. You don't let any of them go. Both teams are in The Finals for a reason. You can either look at it, okay, we stole home court and they stole it back. Or you could look at it and say they won two on their floor; we won two on our floor. It would be the same thing. If they won Game 1 and Game 2 and we came home and protected home court, it would be 2 2 and we're heading to Game 5. So the story line is different. It just depends on what day it is and how you guys want to write the story. Biggest challenge of my career was being down 3 2 going into Boston. That's probably the biggest challenge of my career. Game 5 at Golden State is not that big when it comes to going to Boston and you lose multiple times in that arena, and the franchise that I was with at the time had never won a playoff game in Boston. Now that's pretty challenging. So I've been through a little bit in my pretty cool career. |
| No, I mean, at the end of the day no matter who is on the floor, we have to come up with that rebound. That's what it is. We just have to come up with the rebound no matter if Double T or Mozzy are not in the game. We've got to come up with those rebounds. That just can't happen at the free throw line. I don't know what happened with him. I mean, we kept going to him. He just missed some shots. He came out aggressive, which we wanted him to do. We kept finding him. He started off well, he just cooled down. It's just a make or miss league. He took some great shots. Some of them was in a rhythm, and some of them after he hit a few, he loves to go to the heat check, and we're all okay with that, and he just missed them. Well, you cope with it by understanding it's just one game and looking at the opportunity we have on Tuesday to force a Game 7. Obviously, for myself, I want to do whatever it takes to help our team win, and I haven't been able to do that the last two. So hopefully I can do a better job coming in on Tuesday. We all as a unit can do a better job, and we'll be fine. Well, we don't want them celebrating at all, no matter if it's on our home floor or their home floor. We've come this far, and we've been very good at home. We have to understand why we weren't good in Game 4. We had a lack of energy. We had a lack of effort in a lot of areas in Game 4, and we can't repeat that or they'll raise the trophy for sure. I thought he was great. You tip your hat off to a guy like that. He made seven threes. I don't know, were any of them not contested, hand in his face, falling, stepback off the dribble? I'm okay with that. We're okay with that. I mean, you tip your hat to a guy who makes shots like that, and he's the guy that can do it in our league. He's the best shooter in our league. But that's not why we lost. We gave up 18 fast breakpoints. We gave up 15 second chance points. Steph was special, obviously, but him hitting those stepback threes is not why we lost the game. I think tonight, obviously, Steph got it going. He hit some huge shots which kept us at bay. They got a couple of offensive rebounds that didn't work to our favor. You know, we needed our best defensive quarter tonight in the fourth quarter, and we didn't get it. We gave up 31 points in the fourth. Some of them were free throws, but a lot of them were them just breaking us down. So we've got to do a better job of that. I don't know. I don't put a ceiling on what I can do. I don't know. I mean, tonight I gave up two offensive rebounds one to Barbosa in the first half, one to Harrison Barnes, which allowed him to get an and one with Iguodala with the left hand trick shot. I had a couple turnovers, a couple miscues defensively, and I've got to be better. I don't know. Like I said, I don't put a ceiling on what I'm capable of doing. I know I'm shouldering a lot of the burden, but it is what it is. No. No, I feel confident because I'm the best player in the world. It's that simple. No, I mean, it's The Finals. It's something you dream of when you're a kid. For me, I put the work in. I put the work in every single day, either when you guys are there, either when you're not there. Some of our beat writers see me. They know how much work I put into it, and I give everything to my teammates. When you're true to the game, it doesn't matter if it's a regular season game or a Finals game, you just go out and trust what you put into the game and you live with the results. So shouldn't be crazy when I make threes, though. It's just a shot. Okay. All right . When you're going up against a high offensive power team like this, to get them to miss, it's very deflating when they get a second chance point or a second chance crack. Even when they don't make it, they're looking for those three pointers, they're looking for Klay and Steph when they get offensive rebounds. So those are very deflating. But we've got to do a better job of hitting bodies, coming over the ball. They're going to get offensive rebounds because they shoot a lot of jump shots and a lot of long rebounds, but when that happens, we've got to match up very quickly and not allow them to make shots. Nope. Nope we're going home with a Game 6, and we've got enough to win it. We protect home we come here. We'll worry about Tuesday first. But if we protect home like we're capable of doing, we force a Game 7. I feel confident. Well, there are a lot of things that hurt us tonight. Steph being one of them. That had nothing to do with going small. I think we were much more active tonight than we were in Game 4. And some of the shots that they made, like I said, some of the shots that Steph made, you've got to tip your hat to a guy like that. I mean, he's between, behind, crossover, stepback threes, with a contest, you're okay with that. That had nothing to do with us being small. When we don't get back in transition, those are things we can clean up. When we get offensive rebounds on free throws, those are things we can clean up. Those are things that can hurt you. But it had nothing to do with us being small. Whoever's in the game needs to do their job and do it at a high level, do it to the best of their ability and you live with the aftermath after that. |
| Well, I mean, we had many chapters. We had many chapters in the season. I don't know. I mean, for me, it's never a success if you go out losing. But I think we put ourselves back where this franchise needs to be, being a contender. But we've still got a lot of work to do. Well, I think you even go before that, losing Andy, one of our heartbeats of our team, another playmaker for our team. Then you lose Kev, an All Star, and then you lose Kyrie, another All Star. Tried as much as we could to try to make up for those guys, but it's a lot of talent sitting in suits. I've had a lot of playoff runs, been on both ends, and I know one thing that you've got to have during the playoff run, you've got to be healthy. You've got to be healthy. You've got to be playing great at the right time. You've got to have a little luck. And we were playing great, but we had no luck and we weren't healthy. My family is happy. That makes my job a lot easier. For the fans, I go out and try to just leave it all on the floor and hope it's enough. There's not much you can say really. I mean, you get to this point, and I've been on the short end of this four times, and I've been able to win it twice. It's really no great feeling when you lose. Only thing you can do is just try to pick yourself back up whenever that time may be and then just go at it again. I'm a guy who is just trying to be successful in whatever I do, and I give everything to my teammates, give everything to the coaching staff. When you fall short, it hurts and it eats at you, and it hurts me to know that I wish I could have done better and done more and just put a little bit more effort or whatever the case may be to help us get over the hump. But it just wasn't our time. I haven't thought about next season at all. Yeah, when the numbers went to zero and we lost tonight. That's when I doubted. That's when it was over. I mean, obviously, I knew it was going to be a tough task, and I continued to tell you guys we were undermanned. I don't know any other team I've been watching basketball for a long time. I'm an historian of the game. I don't know any other team that's gotten to The Finals without two All Stars. I cannot remember thinking of it. I can't remember in the back I don't even know if it's ever happened, for a team to lose two All Stars and still be able to make it to The Finals. Even what Andy brings to our team as well, that's another double double guy. We had three playmakers in suits this round and even throughout the playoffs. You've got to have all the playmakers. You've got to be healthy. You've got to be at full strength to win it. We weren't. We just wasn't. Well, I mean, I enjoy the competition. And whatever it takes throughout the competition I'm fine with. I don't enjoy being as non efficient as I was. I don't enjoy that. I don't enjoy dribbling the ball for countless seconds on the shot clock and the team looking at me to make a play. We had 14 assists tonight. I had nine of them. I did not enjoy that. That's not winning basketball. Like I said, we had two big time playmakers on the sideline. We've got another one that's been out since early in the season. And it was what I had to do. It was what was needed. If I could have gave more, I would have done it, but I gave everything I had. I felt I mean, it was a great series up until they blew the game open in the fourth in Game 5, but we had a chance there. Tonight we had our chances, but, you know, we ran out of talent. We ran out of talent tonight. We gave everything we had. The guys played as hard as they could as long as we could. But that team across the way, you tip your hats to them. I cannot remember a team like them being healthy all year for the most part. All the guys, I mean, they did a great job. Guys being healthy, guys playing their system, and it showed in these Finals. Well, of course you question it, especially when you get to this point. I always look at it would I rather not make the playoffs or lose in The Finals? I don't know. I don't know. I've missed the playoffs twice. I lost in The Finals four times. I'm almost starting to be like I'd rather not even make the playoffs than to lose in The Finals. It would hurt a lot easier if I just didn't make the playoffs and I didn't have a shot at it. But then I lock back in and I start thinking about how fun it is to compete during the playoffs and the first round, the second round, and Eastern Conference Finals. If I'm lucky enough to get here again, it will be fun to do it. But put my body through a lot, you know, but it's the price for your body feeling this way for winning. Did I win? I didn't win a championship, but I've done a lot of good things in this first year back, and hopefully I can continue it. All four of them are disappointing. It's not one that's higher or lower or in the middle. You don't win, it's disappointing. It's not just one is bigger than the other. No, you lose in The Finals, they're all disappointing. Doesn't matter if I'm playing in Miami or playing in Cleveland or playing on Mars. You lose The Finals, it's disappointing. Well, I think the last couple games he played well. He played great, especially offensively. He made us defend him. He knocked down open shots. Defensively, it's never a one on one battle. Guys get caught up in this whole one on one thing, and it's never a one on one battle. Every time I'd get past him, another guy would step up, Draymond Green or whatever the case may be. It's never one on one. It's not this isn't Bird versus Magic or that old video game, Jordan versus Bird, or whatever the case may be. There's no one on one. But I think his ability to play multiple positions for their team along with some of those other guys allowed their team to be so dynamic. He made us pay. He made us pay tonight with big shots, timely shots, getting out on the break, getting rebounds, getting assists. He was pretty good for their team. |