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| We've got to start the game better, get settled into the game a lot quicker than we did tonight. We only had 12 turnovers, but it seemed like there were some timely ones that killed a little bit of momentum for us, and we'll look at that on film. But, I mean, over the course of the game I felt like we stuck to the game plan. LeBron's going to dominate the ball and make plays. We have to just make it hard on him every possession. Don't give him any easy buckets, and not let anybody else get a rhythm, and that's what we're going to try to do every game we play against them. Obviously, there are going to be adjustments here and there, and we'll figure that out, but you've got to compete, and that is the bottom line. Yeah, they only scored two points, and it was at the very end. Andre, Draymond, Klay, Harrison, Festus, when he was in there in that overtime period, all competed. We were kind of small and we had to defend the glass and rebound the ball. Everybody sacrificed their body and made it work. I think we just forced them into tough shots the whole overtime, and we were able to get stops with that lineup that we had. We were able to push in transition, get to the free throw line, which got some momentum on our side. It was just a classic five minutes that we needed to get that win. If we win every game at home we'll be all right in the series, so that is a start. You have to come in ready to compete and kind of just, especially in the first game, kind of feel it out because it's our fourth team we're playing in the playoffs, and they've got a different style, and you've got to adjust, and we need to be able to do that. Yeah, just reading the situation. They had switched a couple pick and rolls, and you just go into your move and make a read, and thankfully he bit on the pump fake and I was able to kind of slow the game down and get to the free throw line. Did it again right after that. But after that, it all doesn't work if we don't get stops, so that's what fuelled all of that. It was just a read. Andre had him bodied up at the free throw line, and they had made a pass and kind of short distance, so I didn't have to run very far to get a hand in there. I got a deflection, but Andre chased it down. Used his length and speed to get to the ball, which I had no chance to get to it after I deflected it. He was the only one that had a chance to get it, and we were able to lock it down. He gets fouled, and we have control of the game at that point. So just a read that thankfully worked out. If I remember correctly he went out later in the overtime, so it was about three minutes where you were just out there playing and you have to adjust to his play making that he was doing all game. But at that point I felt like we had control of the overtime, and just about finishing out. So I don't know if it had a huge impact or not. |
| No, it didn't feel right, but there is no time to really worry about that. You've got to keep shooting and try to figure it out. I don't expect to shoot like this. I've got to play better, find better shots and be more in a rhythm throughout the course of the game for us to really assert ourselves as a team. Klay did a great job of keeping us in it all night when our offense was struggling and we still had a chance to win. So just got to play better, move past this game, and keep the confidence. No, he played hard and stuck to the game plan. Early in the game I thought I was a little hesitant when I had an open shot, kind of pausing for a second and then trying to raise up and shoot it, and you just don't get a rhythm that way. I was able to get to the paint a little bit more in the second half. I didn't finish many of them, but I was able to get in there and either make a play or try to especially that last shot down the stretch in overtime I mean of regulation. But I'll look at the film and try to figure out exactly what adjustments they made, specifically on ball screens, and I'll be ready for Game 3. No, just tonight. Shots I normally make I knew as soon as they left my hand that they were off. That doesn't usually happen. I mean, mechanically I don't know if there is an explanation for it, just didn't have a rhythm and didn't find one the whole game. I'm not going to let one game kind of alter my confidence. I know as a team we're not going to let one team alter our belief that we're going to win the series. So nothing we can do about tonight. We've got to move on and be ready to play a good team that's ready to go home. Nothing really just besides playing their game plan and playing defense like every pro is supposed to. Not giving up on any possession. But I doubt this will happen again, with the adjustments I'll make once I'll look at the film. And like I said, one game is not going to make me stop shooting or alter my confidence at all. I think both teams are probably thinking we both should be up 2 0. Shumpert's shot goes in and then tonight happens and they're up 2. If you look at little play after Draymond made the huge block, Andre gets the loose ball, I can't get my hands down quick enough to catch the pass, and we maybe get to the free throw line to finish off the game. Obviously we're going to look at it as a positive. We haven't played well offensively in two games. We've made some plays when it counted and when it mattered to keep ourselves in it or, like we did in Game 1, win the game. But we haven't really clicked. You credit their defense. They've done something that maybe has taken us out of our rhythm, and we have to figure out what that is specifically. But I think we're still confident. We still believe that we're going to win the series. That's their bread and butter play when they need to try to get a mismatch and need a shot. They free LeBron up on the perimeter. They set a 1 3 pick and roll, and we knew that coming in. We had a game plan to attack that play. They hit two. Dellavedova hit a three, and to start overtime Shumpert hit a three out of that play that we don't want to give up. That's something we'll have to figure out before Game 3. But for the most part, our defense shot 33 percent from the field. Obviously we were under 100, but we kept them under 100, too, so we can take some positives out of that on our defense, but offensively we've just got to be better. I mean, they're up there. That's why they're here. They don't get to The Finals without some sort of defensive presence. Having that mentality, that's what's going to help you win. So they have talent on that end. They hustle. They work hard, and they have athleticism that helps them in the situation. So they're a great defensive team. I think they relied on that, obviously, in the playoffs to get them to this level. We're a great offensive team when we click, and we've got to get to that point. Yeah, my first Finals appearance and my first Finals loss, so it's definitely tough. Dealing with the emotions of it and the highs and lows of this game, you try to leave it on the floor because it's a long series and you know we can come back Game 3 and really take control of the series right back. But it's frustrating because we're at home. We're supposed to win. Once we got into overtime, we had all the confidence in the world that we were going to get it done, but fell a little bit short. Just got to handle it the right way and get ready for Tuesday. We have to use our depth and our versatility in whatever lineup we throw out there. We've got to keep the pace up. Every game your legs get a little heavier as you go through the series and the amount of effort that you have to put into it. You want to rely on the we go ten, we could go 11 deep, and we want to use that to our advantage. The only way we can do it, though, is if we push the pace, push the tempo, and get stops and turn it into offense. We did it at times tonight, but not for 48 minutes and overtime. |
| I mean, we all know the accolades he has. He's a great player. He's shooting an okay percentage in our eyes. He's getting up a lot of attempts, and anybody that's that much of a volume shooter when he needs to be for his team, he's going to have points. But the timely ones are the ones that killed us. The three late in the fourth quarter, certain easy buckets that you allow him to get. But that's not the issue why we're down 2 1 right now. It's the way we're playing on the offensive end, especially to start games. We'll fix that as we try to even the series on Thursday. We became the aggressors. Just like the last three minutes of Game 2. For us to win this series, we have to play that way the whole game. We have the depth, we have the talent to do it, whether we're at home or on the road. So no excuse why for three quarters we were kind of I think we were playing hard and we were into it, but there were no results to show for it and you can't really get any spark. Especially, especially on the road, we have to just play free, have fun, and be the aggressors if we're going to win this series. I mean, he's a playmaker, so if they want to try the pick and roll in that situation, getting it to him on the free throw line and him making plays whether he's finishing at the rim or finding some guys on the wings for open threes or open shots, that's what he does. We'll see what adjustments we need to make going into Game 4 with lineups or even just match ups when we look at their lineups. So we'll figure that out. It was great to see him out there playing the minutes that he did, and giving us a big spark especially in that fourth quarter. So I assume he'll have a huge role in our play going forward. I've got to be aggressive. I said that going into tonight that's what I was going to do. Obviously, I didn't make any shots in the first half. But I thought, especially in the first quarter I was able to get in the paint a couple times, make some plays, kick it out. Then it kind of hit a stall in the second quarter. But whether I'm making shots or not, I've got to stay I'll use the word vibrant just kind of having fun out there. Because the team definitely feeds off of my energy and the joy for the game. So if it's not going our way, or not going my way specifically, I've got to find different ways to get us going. So I like that challenge because this is going to be a hard fought series, and I've got to have a huge part in it. I mean, it's a different team, but the same situation we were in. Like you said, exactly. Win Game 1 at home and lose two straight. We've just got to bottle up what we did in the fourth quarter and bring that for 48 minutes starting in Game 4. I think the confidence that we have knowing we've come back from 2 1, it means a lot. Regardless if it's The Finals or not, that's a huge bonus for us to have gone through that experience before. So we have to rely on that. It all starts with Game 4. We've got to win that and then go home and protect our home court the rest of the series. So that's the mission. Good thing about him is he's low maintenance in that category. He never is out of it. Whether he's making shots or not, he might get frustrated, but he's always going to stay confident and keep shooting. When it clicks, it's going to be fun to watch, and I expect him to be ready to go for Game 4. Never really have to worry about him. He likes a little trash talk at him, and maybe I'll throw him some in practice tomorrow. He definitely responds to that well. I expect him to play well, give us some offensive punch in Game 4 and be himself. That was a huge turning point. Like you said, we were down 17 going into the fourth. Bring it all the way back to 1, and I tried to get out of the way. I don't know if I hit him or not, but he makes a great play off the backboard. We still had a chance to win regardless of that play. But it was a good turning point for him to get the crowd back into it. They obviously love the way he plays. He made some timely buckets, and that was one of them. The pass to Draymond I've got to stay sound fundamentally in that situation. I was trying to get free, and they had LeBron and Mozgov, I think it was, just chasing me in there and double teaming me for about four or five dribbles. And Draymond released. I thought he was going to be at the three point line, he took a step lower and wrapped around my back and obviously didn't connect on that pass. That's one that you just make a simple pivot move and throw it to him and he can make a play. The other two, LeBron, he stole both of them. The one I thought he slid into my legs and kind of took me out, but I kind of drove it in traffic and whatever. The last one was he made a good play. He read my eyes. We had a play drawn up to get a three. It was all starting with the inbound pass, and he made a good play. Just got to stay sound fundamentally down the stretch of games, especially in the fourth quarter. No. You didn't hear any of us say this was going to be easy with him out. We knew that they had won plenty of games in the playoffs without him leading up to The Finals. I mean, I don't know, they might feel more comfortable just because they had gone through so many situations like that in the Eastern Conference Finals against Atlanta. So, I mean, they're a great team. LeBron's making some crazy plays. I think they're all just fighting hard, and we have to match their intensity, especially to start games because we haven't really left our imprint on the game in any of these first quarters. You can't rely on your comeback abilities every game to win a series like this. Yeah, I mean, nothing felt different about the fourth quarter than it did early in the game or even Game 2. All the shots felt except I was out of rhythm a little bit in Game 2. But early in this game I felt like they were right there. So I still felt confident. It's obviously good to see a couple shots go in. I think I found something when it comes to how I'm going to be able to attack their pick and rolls and even certain iso situations. I'll keep that in the memory bank going into Game 4, and hopefully it has a trickle over effect into the first quarter of the next game. |
| We want to make it as tough on him as possible. He obviously has a game plan for his defense on us to try to get into you and do whatever he can to try to make you uncomfortable, so you're going to do it back to him and make him work on the offensive end. Because he obviously had some pivotal shots in game or a pivotal shot in Game 3 that helped them get the win. So if you try to make him uncomfortable the whole game, you might wear him down and get into that battle a little more. So I think it worked. And to answer your question, he pretty much embodies what he just talked about, always being ready. I think he likes the challenge of his match up, and especially in this series and throughout the course of the season. Or each game no matter what he's asked to do, being ready to do it. Confidence in knocking down his shots when he's open, making plays. And we know his knack for just being impactful on the defensive end, whether it's playing one on one defense, getting steals, rebounds, blocking shots, he does it all. So it showed tonight and a huge reason why we're 2 2 going home. I think it I mean, it made sense when he told us just because we've been getting off to such slow starts. When we have that lineup out there in parts of the game, we were able to turn defensive stops into transition and just pick the tempo and the pace of the game up. And if we can do that from the jump, we thought we'd put some pressure on them and not let them be so comfortable with the lead like they've had the last couple games. Obviously, they jumped out to a 7 0 run, but we settled in and played that first quarter, I think, pretty aggressively on both ends of the floor. Gave them a different look, and I think it worked. So he mentioned, obviously, just because we started that lineup tonight doesn't mean you can just go out there and expect to have the same results in Game 5. We have to actually do something about it and execute the game plan with whoever's out there. So we've got to be ready for any adjustment we're going to make. Not afraid to take a chance, and obviously it's not a blind guess. He's obviously invested in our team and a smart coach that is willing to, like you said, make adjustments to help us be in a better position to win a game. We still need Bogut to be productive when he gets on the floor, and he's obviously going to play minutes and have an impact throughout the rest of the series, so we want to make sure he's still locked in. I know he will be. But Coach manages all that really well. You've got to take a chance, I think, with the situation that we were in tonight. For a total of 48 minutes, definitely, since Game 1. We've had spurts where, obviously, the last quarter in Game 3, the last 3:00 minutes of Game 2 we got to our identity, but it was a little too late. Tonight we came in with the mentality that, obviously, like we were saying, we had to win this game. It was about effort and consistent effort every possession. It's obviously not perfect. We still can play a little bit better, I think. But the effort was at a level that it erased some of those mistakes and we just battled from the start. So we gave ourselves a shot, and shots go in. Everybody starts to feel good. You pick up some momentum, and you get a big road win. I was kind of at fault for a lot of that. I had two turnovers in transition, where you can't have that and you give them extra possessions. Once we settled down, Coach got into us during the timeout and challenged us to answer their run, which we knew they were going to make. We weren't going to run away with the game at halftime. We knew we would really have to put together a solid effort in the second half to withstand the run that they were going to have, and that was a good calling card moment for us. H.B. comes out of the timeout and knocks down the three. We close out the last three minutes strong, and have a six point lead going into the fourth quarter, and the rest is kind of history. Just our effort in the fourth quarter knowing it was winning time. I don't know if there was a specific adjustment other than just playing smarter and keeping our composure |
| What is the best way to say really bad? I mean, a long season goes into these last moments of The Finals series. We fought hard all year and put ourselves in good position now to go to Cleveland and hopefully close it out. So we're confident. We're not getting ahead of ourselves. In the locker room, if you walked in there was the exact same after a regular season win. But we know the sense of urgency of the moment. It's a good feeling to get a win in Cleveland and understand we can get it done and how we need to get it done. So ready for the opportunity. It's a chess match, and we both have a lot of wings and guards that can fill a five man lineup. And they made an adjustment. Didn't play Mozgov pretty much at all in the whole game. So they tried to match our lineup. Obviously over 48 minutes we feel like we can be versatile with who we can throw out there and how we're going to win games. I'm sure there will be another adjustment going into Game 6 that our coaching staff will make and obviously theirs as well. We've just got to be 1 through 14 locked in. That's been our calling card all year. Whoever steps on the floor is going to give us something. L.B. came in tonight and did what he was supposed to do and impacted the game on the offensive end and defensive end. Can't be said enough what H.B. was able to do in his minutes with putbacks, giving us extra possessions, being physical in the paint. He really changed the game. Especially in the fourth quarter he got us three extra possessions that we needed. So everybody's got to be ready, and I think that will hopefully give us a good chance to win in Game 6. I mean, those are plays I've been making all year and the ones I feel confident in. I think it helps to have gone through Game 2 where we were rushing a little bit in the same situation. A one or two possession game in the fourth quarter, and we got I call them better shots because they were more in rhythm than in Game 2 where it was come down, look for the first shot. Don't even run any sets, only running screen and rolls, and we didn't kind of settle into them. And obviously when one goes in, it helps keep your confidence high. Yeah. It's more screen and roll heavy, and I love the chemistry I have with this guy right next to me to be able to make those plays. Because if he's not a threat, then they can kind of go all out and sell out on the traps. And that's how we've been effective all year, like I said, because we have the versatility and the talent, all 1 through 5 on the floor, to be able to make those plays. If I come off and they trap, I've got faith in Draymond to make the right play. He finds open guy or he's able to finish. He got us like six free throw attempts just off of him catching in that wide open space and making the play and attacking the big or whoever was rotating at the rim, knowing they didn't have really a shot blocker besides Tristan. So he was able to get to the free throw line and get us some easy points and I was able to attack when they were kind of in between, not really knowing what they wanted to do in the pick and roll, and gave me some open looks from three too. I mean, it was a fun moment, but it only means something, and I'll probably have a better answer for that question after we win the championship because signature moments only come for players who are holding the trophy at the end of the day. So I can sit here and talk about what a great play it was and what a turning moment it might have been, but we have to be able to back it up and finish the job. It helped us win this game, and hopefully after our next win we can talk about all the great moments in the series. I thought it was a heady play. A fouling situation. He did tell me well, we won't go into that. But I think I two shots I'll knock them down, he'll probably knock them down too. But I need to get that ball. |
| It makes it so much more special to have gone through some down years and injuries and transition from a roster standpoint and to be able to sit here six years later from my rookie year and hold this trophy, this is an unbelievable experience. Love every single one of my teammates that sacrificed, put in the work, the time for us to be able to enjoy this. The coaching staff as well. So it just makes it so much more special to have gone through some lows, gradually work your way up every year, learn some things, and it all came to fruition with the championship trophy. Same thing. He's taken a solid foundation that we built over the last three years. Obviously Coach Jackson had a huge part in changing our identity, and Coach Kerr came in and was very humble about how he was going to approach his job. Because, like I said, he had a lot of talent to work with, a great coaching staff, but he had some ideas as well that he wanted to implement. Ball movement, player movement, managing all the different personalities and situations, handled them so well. Made sure everybody was accountable, like Klay said. Every decision he made, I think everybody bought into it. Whether you understood it or not, you bought into it. Because he's a champion. He's won five of these or something like that, so you've got to trust a guy that's been here before and his view for our team. To block out the noise. That's the biggest thing. Because it's obviously just you and another team, and all eyes are on you every single step you take. But it's all about winning. Stats really don't matter. I mean, guys have great series and all that and people take notice and take their place in history with those stats and all that stuff. But at the end of the day, it's all about winning and what you can do to help your team get to that point. I can speak volumes about the guy sitting next to me. You look at his stat line tonight, he had a lot of foul trouble and didn't really get going, but when he was in there, he was defending. He was playing physical, and he was doing everything he could to help us win. Little things like that make this trophy possible. And it takes every guy that steps on the floor. So that's the biggest thing I learned. Stats and numbers and story lines, they're fun to kind of watch, but you've got to kind of block that out and just worry about winning. Oh, man, he was special. Obviously he deserved that Finals MVP for the way he impacted the game on both ends and was always ready. I don't think I learned anything new about him because I know that's who he is, and he's shown that all year and throughout his career. He just needed an opportunity and stage to show the world. Playing against a great talent on the other side that was determined to try to help his team win. And Andre stepped up to that challenge every single night and a huge reason why we're celebrating right now. So can't say enough about that guy. For him to have gone through all the different things he's gone through in his career, to be able to hold a championship trophy, I know it's special. Well, I mean, we'll see. We found a recipe for success, and that's the most important thing for us. Now that we have this under our belt, I think we can actually appreciate what we were able to do this year from start to finish. It's hard in the moment to really understood what 67 wins means in the grand scheme of the history of the NBA, how hard that is. But then also to cap that off with a championship playoff run. So we'll appreciate, I think, that whole journey a lot more now, be able to reflect. I think we definitely are a great team, and a team that should go down in history as one of the best teams from top to bottom. We have a lot of things to be proud of this season. I'm just so happy, man. God is great. For us to be able to have this opportunity, and I'm going to try 1800 more ways to explain this, because this is amazing. Yes, it's an unbelievable feeling in that moment. I followed in his footsteps. I've talked about how impactful he's been in my life, just being an example on and off the court of what a true professional is and how he raised me and my brother and my sister. So to be able to have that moment was special. He's living through me and my teammates this and my whole family through this whole journey. I can't be more proud of him as a father and a role model and example for me. I hope it made him proud tonight. I know Klay is probably going to I don't know if you had that moment or not. You probably did. But your dad was a champion before. But it's special to have a guy that plays 16 years in the league, and you understand how hard it is to get to this point, and that makes it so much more special for me to have this for my family. |