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| I missed some shots and didn't get a rhythm, but the way that they defended, we'll be able to find some adjustments for Game 2. Not worried about that. Just really proud of the way everybody contributed. You don't win championships without the entire squad coming in and making an impact on games. And the way, obviously, Shaun came in, was so composed, got to his spot, had that confidence to knock them down. Andre the same way. L.B. That's why we're here, everybody having an impact on our team in the game. Yeah, I was just frustrated missing open shots and turning the ball over, not playing the way I should up until that point. You make a shot and you just let out that aggression. But our athletic trainer, Drew Yoder, has plenty in the holster for me. So I don't throw them too often, but he's got my back. No doubt. My recollection is correct, I think the first like five minutes of the fourth quarter me and him were on the bench and those guys go on a huge run. We're getting stops and pushing transition, making timely baskets and keeping our crowd in it. So they were doing their job and doing it topnotch. So regardless of how the night's going shooting for me, Klay, throughout the course of the night, we definitely get a boost when our bench guys come in and change the game. So we rely on that pretty much every night, whether it's 45 points off the bench or just playing aggressive and continuing what we start. But tonight it was the opposite. They really changed the game, and it allowed us to win tonight. No, nothing I haven't seen. It's something when I go back and look at the film I kind of rush in certain spots. I was a little indecisive, but the Xs and Os were pretty much kind of standard with how they guard the pick-and-roll. The way we play there's going to be a lot of cross-matching, and that's what we want in those situations where you take the defensive aggression and kind of work it against them, whether I get a shot or somebody else gets a shot. So we did a good job of kind of sticking with that plan. Over the course of the game, not turning the ball over was huge as a team. I did a lot of that. But getting a pretty good shot on every possession and making them work regardless of who's guarding who. He's amazing. Ever since he's been with us. I know me and Draymond talk about it all the time. When we're on the bench, we watch it. It's unbelievable. He has great timing, great eye-hand coordination, and obviously his wingspan works to his advantage to be able to close that space up. But it's really uncanny the way that he can do it without fouling. And for the most part, I think 99% of the time he really doesn't foul, and sometimes the refs might miss it because of how good he is and how consistent he is at doing it every single time. So he knows that's a strength of his and he waits for the right moments and attacks. Yeah, I mean, we've definitely got an edge and picked up a lot of momentum winning three straight just to get here. That taught us a great lesson of how important it is to obviously start a series off on a good foot and win Game 1, especially when you're at home. And we obviously learned a lesson last year, like you said. Same situation, came in and dropped Game 2. So now that we've got this first one under our belt, it doesn't mean anything for next game besides our confidence. But we have to come out and really execute the game plan again, understand they're probably going to make some adjustments and come out just focused and with a lot of energy. I think that was missing last year and obviously at the beginning of the Thunder series, so we're better because of those two situations. Sometimes there's really nothing you can do about it. You try to just contest his shot, but sometimes he won't even see you. For me in practice it's the loneliest feeling in the world because Draymond needs somebody to talk to and to talk trash to. And if he's on the other team -- sometimes even if he's on my team, he'll "mouse in the house" or whatever kind of phrase you want to talk about when [Livingston] gets in the post. And I'll play the best defense of my life, and he'll knock down a shot, and you've just got to live with the chatter. So it's not fun. |
| I mean, we haven't won anything really. I mean, we took care of homecourt advantage, which is what we're supposed to do. There's still a lot of basketball left. How we show up in Cleveland will be a big test for us. They have a great home atmosphere, and obviously the way the first two games have gone, you would expect Cleveland to come out with a lot of energy and feed off of that home crowd. So I'm only worried about Game 3. I mean, you could pick from a lot of guys. Draymond, what he did tonight; Shaun, what he did in Game 1; Andre with his defense on LeBron; Klay making timely shots. We're doing it by committee, and everybody's playing their role. The crazy thing is we can all play better. So we've got to continue to play the defense that we're doing and individuals will shine along the way, and that's what we're about. He's just smart. He knows how to close the space but also give some room to move his feet and stay in front of him and obviously use his hands and get deflections and get steals. So you kind of underestimate his length when he's guarding you because he can be two feet off you and still impact the ball and contest shots. He's obviously not going to give any ground if you try to go through him. So he's done a great job. And being so versatile, he can guard a bunch of different guys and make those adjustments pretty quick. So it's pretty fun to watch. Yeah, it's the first time we've met. L.B. and Varejao talk about him all the time. But obviously a star in the soccer world, and such skill and kind of grace when he's out there on the field. So he's fun to watch. I know he's a basketball fan. I saw him dribbling two basketballs the other day trying to mimic my two-ball routine. I told him I appreciate that and he doesn't want to see me with a soccer ball because I wouldn't know what to do. It's pretty cool to know we've got fans all over, and obviously it's inspiring what he does on the soccer field. I mean, you know how he's going to impact the game consistently every night with his defense and playmaking, getting guys involved. The way he was shooting the ball and having that confidence and bailing us out of a couple of possessions, knocking down his threes, whether they were open or contested. The one stepback one, that's when I kind of lost my mind watching him just impact the game on the offensive end the way he did. So we needed that push to separate ourselves, and he provided it, for sure. It's been three or four years he's been with us, so I want him to keep shooting. He's got some work to do, though . For sure, that's what we're about. If you watch us play, you know how we get the job done. Everybody falls in love obviously with how me and Klay shoot the ball, and that's a big part of what we do, and having success over the course of the season in a Playoff run, you need to have that punch. But you look at the stat sheet and look at some names that jump off, whether it be Shaun, L.B., Andre, H.B., obviously Draymond, what he did tonight offensively, that's huge, but it's the little stuff that you don't see on the stat sheet that has gotten us to this position. I'm talking about Andre's defense, talking about L.B. being ready, that microwave we need off the bench, and Shaun's steady hand. That's where you become a consistent team. We need that along the way for sure. I mean, the overall theme was we have each other's backs and the way that we're playing right now is great, and we're obviously closing on a second win, but there's a long way to go. Me and him need to continue to bring energy and just do what we can to focus on Game 3 and not getting ahead of ourselves. So he did a great job of really all night kind of being vocal and allowing us to stay in the moment and understand we did what we're supposed to do, taking care of homecourt, but Game 3 is when it will be a big test. I mean, I would say we'd like to get to the free-throw line a little bit more. We're probably going to need to do that in Cleveland. But some things, the way they guard and what might be open, you know, shots-wise, might cater to that lack of a lot of free throws. But for the most part when you're out there on the court, you kind of feel the flow and understand the way that we cut and screen for each other, you're going to get a lot of open jumpshots, you've just got to make them. But on the road, I think we need to focus on maybe getting to the paint a little bit more, putting pressure on defense in the paint and swinging it out and getting to the free-throw line if we need to slow momentum down if it gets away from us. But during the course of tonight, you're not really worried about it if you're getting open shots and making them. I mean, I'm not surprised that we won, but, yeah, the margin. Nobody would have guessed that coming in. But every game is different in the Playoffs. You can't really rely on the fact that the margin is what it is. Game 3's going to be totally different, and we need to play like that for sure. What was the first question? Our defense clicked in and we had a brief moment where we didn't turn the ball over. Obviously we had 20 tonight, and a lot of those were early and a little bit of third quarter. But when we're going on those runs, that means we're taking care of the ball, getting stops and getting in transition and have their defense on their heels. That's the thing Coach has been so adamant about throughout the course of these last two games is we can play a lot better and be more composed with the ball, taking care of it and not giving them opportunities to, again, use those turnovers against us. They had 26 points off those turnovers, so thank God our defense was good in the half court, because that's not a number that you can probably win with on the road. Yeah, obviously schedules didn't work out. But he's got business to take care of, so good luck to him. I know he's going to be ready. I'm sure we'll be watching in Cleveland. Just playing smarter and letting the individual defensive talents that we have on this team, letting them shine. Because when we don't have breakdowns, we can use our length, we can use our quickness, our speed, our IQ on the defensive end and for the most part in this series, specifically, we haven't had many, many breakdowns with the game plan. So that's kind of what it's all about. Granted there's been a couple possession where's they've gotten open shots and just missed, and we want to shore those up, but a team shoots 35%, that means you're doing something good. And the key now is for our defense to travel on the road and be the most consistent part about what we do. I mean, Kyrie and LeBron are two different players than Russell and K.D., but they all have, obviously, amazing strengths which have put them in the category they are. So there's no real comparison. It's just you know what their strengths are and what our game plan is to attack them, and we've done a good job of just staying consistent with it in our game plan this series. That's all you can ask for is try to make them take contested shots, tough shots, make them work to get open, and you live with the results. If they go off and make tough shots all game, then you tip your hat to them. But you don't want to have breakdowns where you're giving them easy looks, and we've done a good job of that so far. I don't really have a favorite one, but Baby-Faced Assassin was first one I ever got when I was in college. That was like the first one that became popular, so it has a special place in my heart, even though I've got a little bit more facial hair now. I don't know how to answer that one . No, you can fall in love with numbers and averages and comparing averages to what people might expect or whatnot. Right now we're up 2 games to 0, and everybody's doing what we need to do to make that happen. So looking forward to trying to get Game 3. That's it. That's all I'm worried about. I mean, we're feeling confident, but, like I said, we're not getting ahead of ourselves. There's no point in celebrating or jumping up and down and saying look at us. We're two games away from winning a championship. We still have to go out and get the job done. It's a trap to think that we've figured things out and that we have the perfect formula to beat Cleveland and they have no chance in the series. Like that's not how we're supposed to think. I mean, that's probably going to be the chatter the next 48 hours, but we have to stay in our own little bubble and worry about what we're doing and how we're going to go out and win Game 3. That's all we can really worry about. So we've been on the other side where people may have thought we didn't have a chance to come back in the series, and now we have a good handle on it, so we know how quickly it can go away if you don't come out and play the way you're supposed to and keep the focus and the edge that we've played with these first two games. So Game 3 will be fun |
| Unfortunately, it was all me. They were playing aggressive defense and they came out with a big punch. I didn't do anything about it or play my game, and for me to do what I need to do to help my team, I have to play a hundred times better than that, especially in the first quarter, to kind of control the game, and I didn't do it. I'm fine. We're in good shape. I mean, it's not the way we wanted the night to go, myself included, but glad we obviously took care of home court so that we're still in a good position. Obviously it's a series, and they did what they're supposed to do, took care of their home court. But we have a great opportunity on Friday to keep control of the series, and that's going to be a challenge for us. No, I'm disappointed that I didn't do anything to help my team win tonight. It's not about living up to a certain expectation other than the one that I have for myself, and I haven't done that, or I didn't do that tonight, and I've got to be better. We've been in situations like these before where you have a night that just doesn't go your way from start to finish, and for us, we've been able to bounce back pretty quick because we can turn the page and understand, like I said, we're still in a good position. So like Klay said, I think we understand why we lost that game. It was that first eight to ten minutes where they came out with a huge punch and we didn't handle it well at all. Basically lost the game in that stretch. From then on, we played pretty tough and gave ourselves a little bit of hope in the second half. We had only an 8-point deficit, but then it slipped away. If we could shore up that first punch that they're going to throw, especially with the home crowd, home energy, we'll be in a good position. I've just got to be aggressive and play better, and be more assertive in my scoring positions and my playmaking positions on the floor. Yeah, there's a sense of urgency knowing how big Game 4 is, and I need to be ready. For sure. I'm not a front runner when it comes to having a 2-0 lead and doing anything different to prepare for games. Just in the first half I had a couple lapses where I didn't follow the game plan, and Kyrie gets an easy lay-up, gets his confidence going, a couple of switches where I didn't hear the guy behind me talking and being quicker with my reads in that situation. So I obviously take the blame for that. But nothing about my preparation for tonight mentally or physically was different. It's just didn't go out and execute as well as I wanted to. I would have done the same thing. He's trying to get it some life and figure out a way to maybe get me going. It was a short talk, but it will carry over to Game 4, for sure, with the way we'll start the game. Not turn the ball over and be more assertive. In the second half, the way they were pressuring on the paint, got into the lane, made a couple lay-ups, we were more precise with our screening and cutting and got open looks. I think the way Klay came back after he got hurt and came back in the game, he got into the paint. He made some great one-on-one moves to get free. Obviously knocked down a three to keep the momentum going. So that's the way we have to play in the first six minutes and not wait for them to throw the first punch or be on our heels. And that will be the adjustment, if there is one for Game 4 I mean, the Playoffs are hard. It's a tough grind to win a championship, and we understand that and we obviously want to play perfect basketball, we want to win every game, but it doesn't happen that way. But we hope that the better team will show throughout the course of the series and that's our mindset. We would have loved to have been up 3-0 and have a chance to win it on Friday. Doesn't go our way. How we bounce back on Friday will show our heart and our kind of soul about winning. This is hard. Got to embrace the challenge. I mean, make sharper cuts. Maybe get the ref's attention a little quicker. But you can't go into games worrying about getting calls. They're going to play with a certain physicality and we have to do the same on both ends of the floor and not worry about if we're going to get a call or not. You've got to finish plays. You've got to get open. You've got to not let them do anything to take you out of your spots. In the second half we did a better job, which we'll carry that over to the first half on Friday. It was a moment where it was a 20-point lead or something like that with 18 minutes left in the game including the fourth quarter, and my message was to stay together and understand -- we had a chance to maybe come back in this game, but find ourselves as we finished out the game because, you know, we're still in a good position. And he chimed in, and obviously wanted to make sure our focus was on winning this game and giving it all we had and fighting. So it was good timing for sure to keep us locked in and understand you've got to find something down the stretch of this game so that we can carry some good mojo over to Game 4. |
| I mean, it's business as usual. Obviously it's a big game, and one we needed to bounce back individually as a team to figure out how to get a win on the road and put ourselves in pretty good position. So, you know, we answered the bell, especially in the first quarter, controlling the pace of the game and not losing it like we did in Game 3. And for 48 minutes we executed a lot better, and I think we got back to enjoying the process and the challenge of winning playoff games, especially in The Finals. Yeah, if I had them in the road bag I would have definitely worn them and showed you how fire they are. I love the nicknames, though, they came up with, but I like them. Why would I be angry at him? That's just normal basketball talk. I wanted a foul. He didn't think he fouled, and we were just jabbering. There was nothing to that at all. And we as a team had to understand that, yeah, we were a little lackadaisical, didn't really show up, and myself included in that. Today is a new day, a new opportunity for a fresh start to come out and get back to who we are as a team on both ends of the floor and play with aggression and assertiveness and confidence. Like I said, we did that in the first quarter, took their first punch and handled it well and then came right back at them. So we did what we were supposed to do. Just took what the defense gave us in that situation, not pressing or trying to force something that's not there. And the way that they were defending and have been for most of the series, they're trying to take away our perimeter shot. We found it a little bit tonight, but like you said, early in the game there were driving lanes, and instead of settling, just tried to attack and be on the downhill as opposed to allowing them to get into us. I honestly don't remember much about last year. It was a huge win in Game 5 at home and then you're going on the road, so you have to kind of understand and get your travel mindset ready. But we need some rest and need to take advantage of being at home and getting back into our routine and be ready to go on Monday. It's going to be our biggest game of the year, obviously. We always talk about just because we're going home doesn't mean you can relax or take things for granted. You work all regular season to have home-court advantage, and this is a great opportunity for us, and we need to play with a sense of urgency and a sense of aggression like we did tonight. So it will be a fun 48 hours to wrap our minds around the opportunity we have in front of us. A little bit of both, but more so when I had the ball in my hands, I had to be assertive and decisive with what I was doing. I was in between in Game 3. I obviously didn't have to deal with foul trouble, so I was on the floor a lot more. And my teammates set great screens. We got the ball moving from side to side, so I got some better looks off the ball as well. When you have obviously Klay knocking down threes on the wing, H.B. [Harrison Barnes] the way he stepped up and made some timely buckets for us, it kind of softens the defense because they've got to be aware of everybody, and then lanes open up and that's when we're at our best. So just kind of feeding off of that rhythm. Getting stops. When we have the lineup we had out there, we were obviously really small with Draymond at the center and going down the line. So if you get rebounds, you can push in transition. And Andre, when he gets the ball in open lanes, he's able to play-make and either look for a shot or find guys on the wing. He found, I think H.B. twice, like you said, and just that's when we get our rhythm. And in that moment, our endurance and our depth shows because I think we have fresher legs, and that's the time when everybody's locked in. |
| I mean, you tip your hat to them. They had a great night, made some tough shots, made some open shots that we had miscommunication on. They did what they needed to do to help their team get a win. So over the course of this series we've done a pretty good job of containing them and trying to force them into tough spots on the floor. Tonight they kind of overcame that. Like Klay said, we like our chances going forward and continuing to just try to be us, the best we can, and get one more win. I mean, he's usually pretty, obviously, vocal. He's our centerfielder in the back when he's able to see the whole floor. Tonight it was obviously different rotations and we tried to adjust on the fly with the different matchups, but we just didn't execute as well. Like he said, there were a couple switches that we were very lazy on, and when guys get hot like that, if you don't kind of shore up your defense, especially in pivotal moments where you have momentum and can get one or two stops away from either taking the lead or finishing quarters out strong or what have you, that's when it comes back to bite you. So that's what happened tonight. I mean, like Klay said, they're two talented players that are capable of big games like that. You don't want it to happen on you or especially in a situation like tonight. But I wouldn't say surprised because of what their talent level is and what they've shown in the past and, like he said, LeBron in big games. It sucks that it happened tonight with the opportunity we had in front of us to close out a series at home in front of our home fans, and it's a tough feeling. But you work hard in the series early to put ourselves in this position again on Thursday, and we'll be ready. We'll obviously watch the film and understand the way the mishaps were, especially on the defensive end against those two guys. Come out with confidence and get the job done. |
| Yeah, I've thrown my mouthpiece before. I usually aim at the scorer's table. I was off aim. I definitely didn't mean to throw it at a fan, but it happened. I went over and apologized to him because that's obviously not where I was trying to take my frustration out. But the last two fouls I had I thought were -- I didn't think I fouled either Kyrie or LeBron. That's just kind of my perception of the plays and I had a reaction to it. It was obviously frustrating fouling out in the fourth quarter of a clinching game and not being out there with my teammates. So it got the best of me, but I'll be all right for next game. No, I mean, we have to show some fire for Game 7. It's a great opportunity for us at home in front of our fans to, again, try to win a championship. So we're going to need some emotion and some grit and toughness for that game. I had some stuff I wanted to get off my chest tonight after the way the game went and that was it. Thankfully I didn't have much time. I just sat in my chair. I've never been ejected before, so it was a weird feeling. It was just frustration and also kind of, like you said, I thought it was kind of hilarious the way the last two fouls and me blowing up kind of unfolded, and some of the things that were said out there. So it was just kind of, like you said, it is a long walk because, one, you don't want to foul out, you don't want to be ejected, you want to be out there with your teammates. But I immediately kind of started thinking about Game 7 and just the opportunity we've got one game to win it all, and got to take advantage of it. No, that's why we're in The Finals. We were in adversity the last series down 3-1, and had to rattle off three straight wins. So things haven't gone our way despite how the regular season went. The Playoffs hasn't been easy. Hasn't been a breeze. Hasn't been anything perfect about it. So, yeah, it's frustrating, but the work we've put in and the opportunity we've given ourselves with a Game 7 to win The Finals at home, you've got to be excited about that regardless of how these two games went. Obviously we've got to figure it out and make the necessary adjustments to slow them down a bit and get our offense going so that we can take advantage of our home court, but nothing about our playoff run has been perfect and that's kind of the consistent thing right now, and we've got another opportunity on Sunday. He's playing great. He's doing things that are game-changing and helping his team win. He's been more aggressive, I think, shooting the ball. We've had some breakdowns, but he's played well. There's no two ways around it. So tip your hat to him and come out Sunday with aggression to hopefully clog some driving lanes early, not let him get a rhythm, try to make him as uncomfortable as you can. Force him into as many tough shots as you can. Live with the results. You just play with toughness for 48 minutes while we're out there, and we can do it. We've shown we can do it, and excited for that opportunity. They fed off their crowd's energy, and it wasn't all that bad like the first six minutes. We didn't score for like the first three or four minutes of the game, but it was like 6-0, so that's nothing for us. But at that point they hit some open threes, we turned the ball over. They got in transition, and obviously foul trouble changed our rotation. So they pretty much won the game again in the first quarter, like they did in Game 3. We made plenty of runs and clawed our way back to within 8, I think, twice. Gave ourselves a chance. But on the road we've learned that lesson before and we learned it again tonight. When you get down that much in the first quarter, it takes so much and so many things have to go right to get back into the game. So just didn't go our way. What did he say? Nothing. He's made two good plays on the fast break, and obviously tonight on the block, made great defensive plays. However he wants to celebrate or whatever he wants to do to kind of take in that moment, it is what it is. I stay aggressive. Don't let that try to get in my head. Obviously, he's pretty athletic, so he's capable of doing that, and we've got to make adjustments. I mean, he's had two great games to keep his team alive. You know, that's what he's supposed to do. I'm out there trying to do the same for my team. We don't go one-on-one at each other a lot, but it's a pretty competitive feeling out there with the situation of playing in The Finals and playing for something special. So at the end of the day, seven games to figure out who is going to be holding that trophy on Sunday, you've got to love that kind of environment and that battle. So haven't enjoyed it much the last two games, but there are 48 minutes left. The last two games obviously not having Draymond was different for us, not an excuse for us losing, but different because of rotations and whatnot, and we kind of stalled down the stretch of that game offensively. And we haven't gotten enough stops in the last two games consecutively to build momentum at any point in the game, so that's the biggest thing, I think. The first quarter tonight, didn't give ourselves a chance in that first 12 minutes, and Game 5 at home just our defense didn't show up. So both of those kind of factors, how we start and how we defend will determine Game 7. Nothing. Everybody's got to stay confident, stay in the moment. Have confidence in themselves. All across the floor, when you step foot on the floor, you have a chance to impact the game, and it hasn't gone our way the last two. I like our chances in Game 7 to have everything click at the right time and win this thing. We know what kind of team we are, what we're capable of, what we've accomplished so far, and how together we are. We haven't splintered at all. I think we're more mentally tough than letting two games not go our way kind of put any doubt in our heads. So like Coach said, if you started the season in October and said you'd be at home Game 7 with a chance to win the NBA Finals, you've got to love that kind of opportunity regardless of how it happened. : Yeah, I think it's just a focus on not turning the ball over and setting better screens and moving bodies better on the offensive end. The fourth quarter of Game 5 we didn't move at all. There were a lot of isos, but nobody was moving around the perimeter, and tonight we just turned the ball over too much early and gave them run-outs. And they're setting up their defense. Their crowd's into it, and it's just a bad situation. So those two things we have to clear up and understand how we start the game in Game 7, how we set the tone, and hopefully build momentum and just keep it the entire game and bring that effort that it requires to win a championship. |
| I mean, a lot of it was kind of myself kind of leading the charge and settling too much. At home in the fourth quarter, I felt like we could go for that dagger punch and didn't really put any pressure on the defense getting to the paint and trying to force the issue that way, and really just kind of settled too much. That's something that is tough to kind of swallow with the opportunity we had in front of us. I think we've obviously been on the other side of the situation last year, and know how great a feeling that is when you accomplish your goal. I think me and him were kind of just waiting for it to calm down a little bit so we could congratulate the individual guys. Because the competition was amazing in the series, and that's what basketball's all about. So win or lose, you appreciate the stage we were on and just that back and forth that we live for. So, yeah, it stung. It sucked to watch them celebrate, and we wish that would have been us. But at the end of the day, you congratulate them for accomplishing what they set out to do, and it will be a good image for us over the summer and all next season to remember so that we can come back stronger. That's all you can do. I don't know. I mean, we had a great regular season. Did something no team's done before. Fell short in the last game of the season. It hurts, man. I mean, that's all I'm really kind of marinating on right now. Just proud of every single guy that stepped foot on the floor for our team this year. It wasn't easy what we accomplished, and it's not an easy pill to swallow what we didn't accomplish. So got to just take the good with the bad. Understand that we hopefully will have many more opportunities to fight for championships and be on this stage because it is what it's all about. Proud of every single one of our guys that helped us get here. I haven't seen the play. I don't know how close I was to him. I tried to reach at the ball, stay in front of him, make it a tough shot. It was a tough step-back that he just stepped up and made. It doesn't matter how good or bad defense I played, he made the shot. So credit to him. He stepped up and took advantage of the moment. It was not a good feeling turning around and seeing it go in. Of course. I didn't play efficient. I had some good moments, but didn't do enough to help my team win, especially down the stretch. I was aggressive, but in the wrong ways settling. It will haunt me for a while because it means a lot to me to try to lead my team and do what I need to do on the court and big stages. Done it before. Didn't do it tonight. It will be good down the stretch or next year coming back and kind of remembering this feeling and being an even better player. I was searching for a three and rushed and didn't take what was there, which was probably better to go around him and try to get into the paint. That's basically it. I mean, it doesn't help missing the time, but that was never an excuse for me when I came back from the injury. I've always said if I'm out there playing, hurt or not hurt, it doesn't matter. It's what the results are. And that stays true to till today. There's no room for anecdotes other than we didn't get it done, and I didn't play my best for the majority of the series. It's not a good feeling, like I said. At the end of the day, we want to keep this memory so that it will fuel us as we stay together as a team. Because like Draymond said, this ain't the last time you're going to see us on this stage. Just a tough feeling. I mean, you learn from this. We learn from what it was like to win a championship last year, which I think made us the best regular season team in history, and we'll learn from how the playoff run went when we get back here next year. Obviously the biggest lesson is nothing's ever guaranteed. You can't take this stage for granted, and it is extremely hard to win a championship. That's why you pour champagne on yourselves. That's why they're doing it in the locker room right now. We understand, I think, when you look at the history of the league, how few teams repeated. That was our goal, and we didn't do it. It's going to be a long three months over the summer thinking about it. But that doesn't mean we can't put this as another little unfortunate notch in the belt and move forward and come back stronger next year. That's the mindset. I'm fine. I mean, I have three months to obviously get ready for next season. I won't get injured celebrating tonight, I can tell you that much. I didn't get -- he had a lot of people around him congratulating him. But there's no denying what he was able to accomplish this series. He played pretty great basketball, made some timely shots. Definitely was a huge reason they got it done. So hat's off to him. Winning a championship is no easy task, and he was able to accomplish it with his guys. So you congratulate him. If I do see him, that's basically what I'd say. Enjoy. Obviously he's done it before, but enjoy the moment. They definitely deserve it. They played their butts off and got it done. That's a special moment for them. Every person I've seen, I've talked to, I'd tell them enjoy it because we know how it feels as well. I mean, I don't think there is -- I mean, there isn't any surgery or anything in my future this summer. I need to get healthier, but there is no excuses for what happened on the floor. I was out there, ready to play. I had a some good games; I had some bad games. And that's it. I'll come back stronger next season and be ready to go. |