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| When we score, we need to get back. They are attacking us in transition and we know that. We just need to be, the mindset needs to be get back, get back, get back. I think that's the first step. I think I started the game really good. Then I had three fouls and because of that, I kind of was off. And then I started the third quarter somehow good. I think I was aggressive. But, I mean, we need to do collectively a better job. They are really good shot blockers. They are attacking us off of the rebound. We just need to match that. I think we can, again, do collectively a better job of rebounding the ball a little bit better. And when someone is going to block the shot, just find open guy and make yourself an open guy. All three bigs. I think JaVale had a really good energy in the first half, in the first quarter. AD was really good scoring-wise. Dwight was really good. He kind of picked up their energy. , I think we can do a little bit different. Make a little bit of adjustments. Just try to make it a little bit harder to score. |
| I mean, we were there before, the second or third game against Clippers. I think we had it and we kind of lost it in the end. We put the effort there, we put in the fight. I think we played well most of the game. We were down, we came back again. We're going to keep our heads up and on to the next one. I mean, they have two really good, really good players. They have LeBron, who is probably the best player in the league, and they have AD, who is probably the best scorer in the league. I think it's not easy to figure them out. They are really talented. We can just make it tough, make them feel uncomfortable. To answer the question, maybe. But they're really talented. They're going to find solutions. We just need to kind of stay on top and just make them uncomfortable. I mean, it's a basketball game. He's a big guy. He knows his role. He's doing it really well. But it's not just me against him, it's Nuggets against Lakers. To be honest, I don't think about it. Whoever is over there, I'm going to try to beat him, try to win the game. It is what it is. Again, I say it's not just me against them, it's Nuggets against Lakers. Either going to be him or LeBron, so we kind of knew it. Just happened, a little bit of miscommunication. I think I had a really good contest, to be honest. I think I was right there. As soon as he shot the ball, he shot it really well. Like, I kind of felt it going in. I think great players make great shots. He did it. He's a really good player. I mean, we are here underdogs. That is how you say, underdogs? I mean, we need to fight. That's our only chance. They were up 15, isn't it, or 16? I don't know how much they were up. We could just call it a game and quit. I think we just want to give the fight. Maybe it's going to be 30 points, but fight needs to be there, and effort. I mean, to be honest, he did so many good things. He was aggressive. He was going to the paint. He was making advantage for us. He took two charges. Those two free throws don’t really matter that much. He played great. Just by looking at him, because he's shooting before me literally every time, I kind of see little bit of his workouts, how he's practicing. I'm nobody, but I see how he's developing. I see how he's into it. He buys in. He's listening to coaches. It's really nice to see the kind of up way that he did. He's not playing, but he's upgrading, he's getting better. |
| Of course, we know it's a game of runs. They had a really good run. I think we kind of stopped playing, waiting them to just quit, which would not happen. I think even we had open looks and they continued to play zone. Jamal made really, really big shots in the end of the game and that's why we won the game. I mean, no. I'm just whatever. If I can score, I'm going to score. If I don't need to score, I'm not going to. It happened that way. I’m never going into the game, I'm going to do this, this, this, this. I'm just going to take whatever the game's giving me. It's easier that way. I mean, again, they're doing their job. I'm trying to do my job. Sometimes they win, sometimes I win. It's a game, so I don't think about it as a matchup. I don't know the answer. I'm just trying to play the game how it's supposed to be played. If they're aggressive, try to attack me, if they backing off. I'm just going to play the game. Yeah, I mean, I said from where we were against Portland last year. We play four overtimes, lost, then we won the next game. Then the Clippers, too. We just don't want to quit. That's the mentality. Maybe they can beat us by 20, 30. But we just cannot quit, you know. Effort needs to be there. He's always good. I think he doesn't have a bad game. Sometimes he cannot score, but he's doing the right thing that he's supposed to do. He's helping us during the games. Sometimes it's the matchups. Sometimes it’s just the circumstances on the floor, that we cannot have him on the floor. I think he's doing a really good job of making plays for us. When he's open, he's knocking the shots down. He's playing really good for us. I mean, he was injured before. When we came here, he was kind of struggling with the shoulder, with the elbow, I don't know what it was. But I really believe in him. I think he can make the big shots. He is built for the big shots. I really, truly believe that he's a superstar and he's a really big part of this team. He carried us today, a bunch of nights. I'm really glad that he's my teammate. I think Monte played really well, too. I think Jerami played amazing. In that third quarter, I think he had like 10, 12, 15 points. I don't know how many. He was really aggressive. He was going to the rims. That's what we need from him. He was going to the defense. He's a big guy, can finish around the rim. He played really well today. He's going to do that in the next games. It seems like every series is kind of the same for us. Even Utah, we lost the first. Did we? The first game? Sorry, it's not (smiling). I mean, I think the game before, we saw that we could play with them. The first game, they were just really aggressive. They were making shots. We were kind of one step slower than them. They were kind of surprising us in every way, by the pace, by the rebounding. Second game we kind of knew what we were going to see out on the floor. Today it was just a really good night for us. We were playing really good defense I think. Just we need to figure out that big run that they had, we cannot let that happen. But, yeah, it was a big win for us today. |
| Yeah, I think the rebounding was the problem. We gave them a lot of second-chances. We kind of played good defense, in the end we didn't rebound, we didn't finish the possession. Too many fouls. I think they were on the line too many time. I mean, I think we were good except for those two segments. I mean, we need to box out of course. I think we just need to focus on who is going to go and who needs to box out. But on the other hand, there needs to be effort. All five guys need to rebound. It's a team effort. He did his job. He had a really good first quarter. He kind of brought energy for them with AD, of course, who scored a lot in the first quarter. I mean, yes and no. I think we had a lot of, kind of cheap fouls. Like if you're going to make a foul, just make a foul, don't let him chance to shoot it. I think we can stop the break a little bit. I think we can be a little bit smarter, not giving them easy points on the line. Yeah, he was playing really good. His energy on the floor was really, really... We all felt it. Maybe the last one, the left handed, I think that was a big one. I did not understand. Is it physicality or foul calls? What was the question? I mean, I think first of all, it needs to be a foul. I mean, I don't know. If it’s a foul, the ref is going to call it. If it's not, he's not going to call it. I'm going to stick with that. |
| It was an experience. It was something that we are going to remember our whole life. We're going to remember this our whole life. We had a really good group of guys. There was a lot of fight in us. Like you said, we had six elimination games. We didn't want to quit. Today they were good. They were better. They won the game. LeBron was amazing. AD was good. He scored a lot of points. He's really good, a really big attraction to us, like, we need to think about him all the time. I think Caruso played well. Dwight Howard played well. So I think everybody step up on their team. But I think we made an interesting series. They beat us at the buzzer, then we won the one game, then next game after that it was a close game. So, I mean, we made at least a little bit interesting. So, I don't know what your question actually was. Yeah, it was takeaways, yeah. Great experience. That we fight. That's something that, even today they were up 16, I think, we didn't quit. We didn't quit. We didn't throw the game away. And that's something that is going to be our mentality and our focus in the next years. So just don't quit, keep fighting, effort, and just give yourself a chance to win the game. That's the only thing that we can ask. I mean, he's amazing. He was our leader. His energy through the whole playoffs. He was banged up. He was injured before, even when I came here, he was a little bit banged up, he didn't play a couple games. But he's a dog. He's a fighter. He's a competitor. He's an amazing shooter. He played amazing. He was amazing. Since when I came here five years ago or six years ago, we had 33 wins, I think, that season. And today we're in the Western Conference Finals. So, I think it's interesting to think about it, just the huge improvement that we have, me as a player, as a group, as a whole organization. It was amazing. It was amazing improvement. We have a couple guys that it's the last year in their contract. I mean, it depends. I don't know. I mean, I'm just, I'm happy that we know the way and we showed the way to the young guys how we need to play and how we need to look on the court. So, I think that's the one thing that we can point to the young guys. I mean Jerami was guarding every single best player on their team, you know, so he's, today he was the best scorer -- was he? How much did Jerami score today? Yeah, so he was probably the best scorer on our team and he was guarding the best players on their team. So that's really tough to do. That's really something that you need to have a lot of pride in yourself, defending and then just to have energy and still have effort to score. And Mike, I think he surprised probably a bunch of the players, a bunch of the teams with his shooting ability and just how talented he is. But I think it's a great experience for him too, just to see, like every ball matters, every possession matters. So, I think he learned a lot during these playoffs. I mean, maybe that's why we didn't quit in the Utah series, maybe that's why we didn't quit in the Clippers series, you know, because we are nobody. We are just someone who've work to be here. You know, some didn't play for a season or two, so we know what the feeling of working hard for something and working and not playing. So, when you play in the Western Conference Finals you know how big it is. |