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| It was definitely a physical game tonight. You know, fouls were called at times and weren't called at times. You know, this is what it's about. You know, you can't look to get fouls and you've got to try to be as aggressive as possible. No, I go for the winning play. If two guys come at you and your teammate is open, then give it up. Simple as that. No, you've just got to take what's there. It's not about taking a high volume of shots, it's about trying to win the basketball game. You've got to take what's there. We had an opportunity to me with me taking three shots in the fourth quarter. We game is not solely on taking a lot of shots. I'm going to continue to say that. That's the only answer I can give you. We had an opportunity to win. We definitely played pretty well. Both teams are going to make adjustments, you just do that in the playoffs. But as a whole we played pretty well. You can't ask for nothing more than what we did tonight. We always want to win the ballgame, but we always say if we play as hard as we did tonight for 48 minutes, like we did, we're not satisfied but we can look back and say, okay, we're okay with this loss tonight. Not sure. It's just something that we've got to work on and get better at. At times we look to take too many jump shots to start the third quarter instead of attacking. Definitely with a team like Detroit that's very efficient on the offensive end, we've got to know how to pick your poison at times, and if there's a jump shot that's open, take your shot. They played great. I mean, their defensive mindset is very good. But for me, I just -- you just take what's there. You know, if you get a good look at it, you go for it. If not you kick it to a teammate. Simple as that. |
| Just wanted to try to get the best shots possible to try to either give us the lead, get fouled, go to the line and try to send us home with a win. I believe there was some contact, but there's been a lot of contact throughout this series. We're a no-excuse team, you know, and we can't look at the last play as why we lost. We've just got to get better. But I do feel there was some contact. I think so. That was definitely a good look. I thought Sasha had the opportunity to shoot the ball, and I guess he seen Chauncey closing out and he couldn't get the shot up. It was a tough play for Sasha, tough play for us but we had to try to at least get the ball up at the rim. We can't have a turnover. I played pretty good. I can play a lot better. At the end of the day we didn't win. You know, we gave ourselves a chance to win the game, when it came down to the final possessions and we can't make the right plays and we didn't get the stop that we needed to win the ballgame. That was just me wanting to win the basketball game. I never felt frustrated. I just wanted to execute as best we can on the offensive and on the defensive end trying to get stops. No frustrations at all, though, in my teammates. I can't be frustrated out there me trying to be a leader. I just want to win the ballgame. That's over and done with. Me and the ref had a good conversation, and I've moved on as a player. I'm not sure. They've definitely got a good plan coming out in the third quarter. That's something as a team we've got to figure it out, but they do a great job in the third quarter of coming out and putting the pressure on you. We haven't been a good third quarter team all year. I don't know why. That's something we'll have to figure out very soon or we're going home. I seen Coach's reaction after the play. You seen me and the referee talk about what happened during the course of that play. I've just got to move on. I can't do nothing more than just try to be aggressive when I play. I made contact. I mean, things happen like that, I guess. Well, I thought so. You're not allowed to use your hands on the perimeter once a guy starts penetrating towards the basket. There was a lot of physical contact throughout the course of the game, so I don't want to look back at just that one play, but it could have made a difference. Absolutely not. I wanted to be aggressive, and I was able to do that and I was able to create some contact. Well, no, I found that he was right on one side of my move, so I was able to spin, and once I went up to my shot, I felt some more contact. But I guess -- you call this playoff basketball, I do the best I can do and hopefully we get some respect at some point. No, I still made some passes throughout the course of the ballgame. I made one that was called for a turnover that wasn't a turnover on Sasha. We had an open look and he was able to pass the ball before it landed. But I try to take what's there. You don't want to try to force anything because they're a very good defensive team. We fell short again. I don't know, I can't put a finger on it right now. If we could, we'd be able to fix it. We can't put our finger on it right now, but it has to get better and soon, or we're not going to be in the best position possible in this series. We have to try our best, try to fix it and come out in the third quarter with a little bit more focus, try to attack their pressure because they come out with a lot of aggressiveness on the defensive end and just try to get better. We have to do it now. We can't wait until Game 4. We have to do it now. We have to get better at it. We're starting off with too many jump shots. We're having a lead, we feel like we can continue to shoot jump shots and then they get on the other end and they get fouls or they get dunks or they get lay-ups. They do a better job of trying to go inside, trying to get some contact, trying to get early in the penalty in the third quarter. I have to do a better job of that, also, and my team has to do a better job of reacting to what's going on in the third. Yeah, I have to, or we're not going to win this series, simple as that. I'm the leader of this team and I have to do more on the defensive end and offensive end. For us to win ballgames, we have to make better decisions down the stretch and eliminate some of the mistakes that I make throughout the course of the ballgame. It is some room for improvement with us, and we have time. Have to win four out of five. It's not impossible, but we have to do it now. I don't know, you just have to wing it. You just have to see during the course of the ballgame what's there for you as an individual, what's there for your team, what's the best fit, and we have to go with it. At a point if we have something that's very comfortable to us, we have to stick with it. Everyone just has to continue to play hard, which we've done the first two games but we haven't played hard enough to win. He's playing great. I think we didn't know how well of a shot blocker he was until this series, and he's definitely playing great, using his length. He's definitely done a good job on the offensive end, too. He's definitely one of the best power forwards in this league. His numbers don't speak for it, but everyone knows how well of a player he is. Because I'm still in the playoffs, I guess. You wouldn't talk about it if I was at home, you know? You have to have something to talk about. I make the decisions and I live with them. You know, my teammates respect the decisions that I make and I've always come through for them, if it's either late or early in the game. It doesn't bother me at all. Definitely. You shut all that up by trying to win ballgames. You win and they have nothing to talk about. No, I wanted to -- when I decided to attack I wanted -- the best thing I wanted to do was, hey, if I get the ball to the rim, just give us another opportunity to get a look at it, and we did. Larry got a great look and Andy got a great tip at it. So I started to attack, I seen him start to shift and I backed up a little bit more and I started to attack again and created some contact and created some more contact and we was able to get another look at it. You live with it. I think it's all about paying dues right now, you know, earning respect. You look at it, you can say, hey, these guys have been in the Conference Finals five years in a row. This is our first time in a long time. Right now it seems like it's about paying our dues and earning respect to everybody. I'm not sure. It's a challenge, but it's nothing we haven't been part of before. We was down 2-0 to these guys last year, even though last year is not this year, but we've been in this situation. It's always good to be in certain situations. We've been up 2-0, we've been down 2-0, so we have to see how we react. Our fans are great and hopefully they'll do a great job of supporting us on Sunday. I think it is. You know, you just don't care about where your man is, they can just kind of react to letting the pass go and kind of react to it. They have a great defensive strategy. Those guys are doing a great job of just trying to make me do some things that's out of my comfort zone. It says that I'm just not a one-man show. That's what it says to me. I have a great team, and out of 30 teams we're still here. You know, no one ever looks at that, they just look at, hey, we had an easy run, we played a team in Washington that was depleted and we played a team in New Jersey that had no inside presence, but it's never the Cavs won these ballgames. It's never that. Whenever anybody else wins, they did a great job of executing, they did a great job of winning ballgames down the stretch. But when we win it's like the other team was depleted or they didn't do a great job of making things happen. It's just we have to earn respect. I don't know how we do that, but I guess you do it by winning, and we've done nothing but win in this postseason. We don't want to make excuses. We've been a no-excuse team all year. Everyone knows how we felt throughout the course of that game, but we got an opportunity to really calm down and prepare ourselves for Game 3. It was definitely a situation where maybe things could have got out of hand on that podium with me up there last night and with Coach, also. You guys could see it in our guys that we maybe wanted to say something, but it's not about that. You have to just learn from what happened and maybe try to execute a little bit better the next time. |
| Well, for us it really is. To everybody else it might not be the next game or next playoff series, but to us it is. That's how we've approached every game in this postseason, from round 1 all the way from the Eastern Conference Finals and now to The Finals. That's the way we approach it. We don't try to make it more than what it is. It's a basketball game and we have to approach it like that, with our same mindset we've been doing throughout this postseason. Well, for me growing up it really wasn't bad for me because I wasn't really on professional sports at all. I didn't know what was going on with professional sports. I was just trying to play AU basketball and play little league football and things like that. So it really wasn't a big deal for me. But as I grew up and started to learn more about it and then being the No. 1 pick to Cleveland and knowing the history about Cleveland sports, it really meant a lot to finally bring home a championship to the city of Cleveland. You just seen how the fans reacted after. Just to have fun. I mean, this is fun times for us, and there should be no reason to add any more pressure onto it. This is fun times for us, and we've earned it. We've played just as many games as everybody else in this postseason, so we've definitely earned the right to be here. And at the same time, we have to be mentally focused and approach it like it's business. It's always been business for us throughout this postseason, and him being the only one as a player, besides Coach Brown, and Danny Ferry being part of the Finals, he knows what it's about, so we listened to his word and we approached him in practice yesterday and we're going to try to do the same today. I think defensively they're one of the best teams in the NBA. You know, they work well together on the defensive end. You know if you beat one guy, another guy steps up. They've been pretty good throughout the years on the defensive end. But it's no added pressure for me. There's no added pressure for our team to go out there and try to pressure. We just know we've got to go out there and play as hard as we can and give ourselves an opportunity to win. We've definitely been able to do that. My favorite Finals moment is probably the last shot Michael had in Utah to end the series, thinking that was going to be his last shot ever in the NBA uniform and to retire on top like he did, hitting a game-winner on the road, was definitely my No. 1 favorite moment of watching the NBA Finals. That was pretty nice, too (laughter). Me? Cleveland? Yeah, that's why we're here (smiling). We're going to try to do our best to bring it there, absolutely. No, absolutely not (laughter). I feel like -- I just feel like a veteran. I don't say I don't feel 22, I'm not hurting or anything like that, my body is not down or anything like that. I just feel like when you look at a guy like Daniel Gibson playing on the backcourt with you, or you look at Sasha and Andy, you know these guys look like younger guys to you, but when you really look at it, Sasha and Andy are really older than me, but I'm kind of the leader and I'm kind of the role model for those guys. As a basketball player, I don't look -- I don't feel 22 until I really get off the court, and then I'm back and doing my usual video games and running around the house and stuff with my son, things like that. That's when I feel 22 again. I don't know. That's not my room to say. You know, when you look at guys who become greats, it's because of their athletic ability and their ability to do the things that they did as an individual, and I don't get involved in individual things like why do they base your game on and things like that. That satisfies me more than anything about winning a championship, just to get the satisfaction for my teammates. I think you become one of the greats by doing a lot of things as an individual. They don't base that on your team's perspective and things like that. That is definitely fun. It is fun to really know that you can get stops on the defensive end, and I've been on both sides of the fence where I couldn't get stops or as a team we couldn't get stops, and it made it harder on the offensive end. When you have a coach that tells you, hey, you guys go out there and get stops, you play defense for me and I'll let you do what you want on the offensive end, then it makes you play a lot harder. It's a pride thing for us, and it's a pride thing for me to say I don't want my man to score. You know, I kind of played both sides of the fence. I played offense and defense in the Detroit series and I took pride in doing it because I don't want to be the one guy on the court that's not playing defense and I've got four other guys working their ass off on the defensive end. It's not about that. You've got to play both sides of the fence. It just brings so much excitement when you know you can go out there and get a stop and get a run out on the other end. I'm very quick. I've always got compliments on that from coaches I've played for saying I'm a quick learner. I'm able to adjust fast to what's going on throughout the course of a game or throughout the course of life, honestly. I've been pretty good with it thus far. Well, it is, but it was a different situation for us also being in the Eastern Conference Finals, never being part of that as an individual. I learned from game to game to game how to adjust. How do you adjust for the road crowd, how do you adjust for the home crowd. I mean, I don't know, how can I explain it to you until I get into the fire, and then I'll be able to adjust on the fly and I'll be able to answer a lot better probably after Game 1, let you know how I was able to adjust throughout the course of the ballgame. I feel great. I'm ready. No, we haven't been on the everyone-picks-the-Cleveland-Cavaliers side yet (smiling), so there's nothing new for us. We just go out there and we play great basketball. You earn respect and you get respect by playing great basketball, and we've done that throughout the last two years. We haven't looked in the paper yet and seen the Cavaliers is picked to win the series or picked to win the game, so it's nothing new. You definitely give a lot of credit to the Spurs. They definitely played well tonight defensively, offensively. Some of it was me missing a lot of the shots that I usually make and some of it was the defense that they put on me and on our team in general. It's like a half and half thing. We're going to have to make adjustments. You're coming to Game 1 you don't know what to expect. We don't know what they're going to run against us offensively. We've got to make adjustments in Game 2. A lot of credit to the, they played extremely well defensively. It's a series. Things happen. They're up 1-0 and we'll make adjustments and be ready for Sunday. It was definitely crowded. They did a great job of shrinking the floor. If I went by one guy, another guy stepped up, something I'm going to have to make an adjustment for for Game 2. I'll definitely be ready to counter some of the things they did defensively. I didn't play extremely well, definitely. Not just shooting the ball, but the six turnovers was uncharacteristic of me in the postseason, tried to force a lot of passes in there that looked open at times but really wasn't. I have to play better, and for us to win, me being the leader of this team, I have to play better in order for us to have a chance to win down the stretch, and my teammates know I'm going to bring my better effort in Game 2. I feel good. A lot of shots I took is shots that I make. They felt pretty good, they just didn't fall for me. Things like that happen. You have one off night, but the thing like this is it's not like the NCAA tournament where you have one game and you're out. We've got to regroup and be ready for Game 2. Same answer I keep giving. We don't know. We haven't put our finger on the third quarter yet. We did a better job last year in Game 5 and Game 6 of playing great basketball in the third quarter, but once again it caught up with us again. We don't know what it is but we did a great job of figuring it out. We're going to do it pretty soon. We definitely want to get a win on this floor before we go back home. No, it doesn't. I know I'm going to see a lot of double teams, at times triple teams. It's something I've seen before and it's something I've been able to adjust to from game to game and in different series of this postseason. It's not like I've never seen a double-team or triple-team before, I just have to play better, and I definitely have a better effort on Sunday. I think defensively he's very good. He's one of the best defensive players in this league, and the guys behind him help him a lot. It gives him an opportunity to get up into me and force me into the bigs, and the bigs are very good, Elson and Duncan, of course. He has a lot behind him. He doesn't have to do it by himself. I'm able to go right and left, so there's nothing that I can't do out on the ball court. I'll just have to make an adjustment and come into Game 2 with a better mindset and try to get a win. That's definitely a fair assessment and I have to do a better job of trying to recognize that, trying to attack north and south instead of east and west. They tried to make me dribble out towards the side line. The bigs did a great job coming off pick-and-rolls, of showing hard and allowing Bruce to get underneath the big, try and attack me coming right underneath the big. I think our coaching staff is very aware of what was going on, what happened in Game 1. I think our players are very aware of what happened in Game 1, and we'll make an adjustment. It's not like we haven't been in this situation before. |
| I watched it twice, same answer as yesterday. I don't want to dwell on it. I don't want to put too much inside my thinking process on what I'm going to do to attack their defense. It's just mentally and just trying to read the defense as much as possible and just try to be better the next game. I've done a great job of preparing myself from one game to another, and I definitely feel like it's going to be a bounce-back game for me tomorrow night. that's a great question. I did have my girlfriend TiVo(r) the Sopranos definitely so when I get home I'll be able to watch it. But I think I'll be more focused on Tony Parker, even though I am a fan of Tony Soprano. Me and my guys have definitely sat down and think about it. My friends think that either the Feds are going to come and get him or he's going to make friends with the Feds and maybe snitch on a lot of people, or he's going to be whacked, which I don't think is going to happen. I hope that he's just able to get away and not worry about nothing (laughter). I'm serious, I'm a big Sopranos fan, and this is the first time I finally got a question which is not the same question I've been hearing all year. I appreciate that. That was awesome because I told you I'm pretty tired of answering the same questions, so I appreciate it. I hope not. No, absolutely not. Congratulations. I didn't know that. Congratulations to him and his family. That's awesome. I'm expecting any day. Well, I'm not (laughter). That would be kind of weird, but Savannah is expecting any day. I think it's a great time for his family, and it's not going to take away from nothing that he does on the basketball court. No, we're just going to -- she's going to just play it by ear. Whatever happens, happens. We're very excited about it, and we can't wait. Just like I said in the last series, I think they're very good when you allow them to set up in the half court defensively, and that's the same with Detroit. Just try to get up and down the court a little bit quicker and try to get some earlier looks on the shot clock where they're not set as much. Try and make the easy pass, don't go for the hard pass. They're very good at shrinking the floor and closing out some of my shooters. We have to do a better job of dribble penetrating, getting to the lane and then kicking out instead of just making the hard pass from one side of the court to the other side. Offensively and defensively we're a lot better. We did play pretty good defense, but offensively were weren't sharp at all. I wasn't sharp offensively, and that trickles down to the rest of our team. If I'm not sharp then it's going to be very tough for us to win ball games. Mentally we had a great practice yesterday and we're looking forward to having another one today. Are you a shooting coach? I'm looking for one (laughter). I've been told that before. It's just sometimes it's natural for me to fade. You know, I think a lot of my shots go in when I fade, a lot of them go in when I jump straight up, so it's something I'm definitely going to work on and get better with. But trajectory and all that stuff, I don't know. I don't know (smiling). I just think -- It's not easy at all. That's why I'm not sitting out there, I guess. He's definitely a team-oriented guy, and he communicates well with his teammates, and that's off the court. You know, it's definitely family first with him and basketball second, and any time you get an opportunity to sit down with a guy like that -- you know, we have a guy like that on our team, Eric Snow, who really cares about everything else besides basketball because basketball is going to take care of itself. You really respect a guy like that who really respects your family and things that you do off the court, community service, things like that and things besides basketball. I think that means a lot to a person like me, and I really respect Bruce and Eric being open like that. Well, you definitely look at it and see how you can attack it a little bit better. But it's not going to make me that much more passive. I've definitely faced double-teams and triple-teams throughout this postseason, so I have to do a better job of trying to attack the double-team early and see if I can swing it to the other side to a teammate that can make a play, also. We got into too many late shot clocks in Game 1, which is not good for us. We don't work well when we get into the shot clock down at 3 and 2 on the clock, and it makes us make bad plays. We just have to do a better job of trying to attack the double-team and being a little bit more aggressive getting to the lane. The last movie I saw was -- what was it? I don't remember. Spiderman III was the last movie I seen. It was a little bit too romantic, but it was very good. It was very long, but it was a little bit too romantic for me, I guess. I liked the black Spiderman. He was very funny. He couldn't dance at all, but he was very funny. We're definitely still confident. It doesn't matter if you lose by 1 or lose by 30 with us. A loss is a loss, and we've been down 2-0 before in this situation, so we have to find a way to bring the intensity that we did in the fourth quarter tonight and carry it on to Game 3. I don't know, I think the fourth quarter we just realize that it's a pride thing then, and we don't want to get blown out. We're here for a reason, and it becomes a pride thing in the fourth quarter when you're down so many points. I think it's just an upgrade from series to series, you know, from the first round to the second round, Conference Finals, and then to The Finals it's an upgrade. It doesn't matter who it is, the intensity level automatically picks up. The team is better. It doesn't matter if it's Detroit or the Spurs. Every round gets a little harder. I think the intensity is a big difference. Like I said, I don't -- you give the Spurs a lot of credit, but everyone knows that each round picks up, and the team picks up. You get better after you win one series. You get better when you win the Conference Finals and get to The Finals. You get better as a team, and the intensity definitely picks up. It's not a good thing for me. I can't remember the last time I didn't play 40-plus minutes. I got two quick fouls and it definitely didn't work in our team's favor. I wanted to be out there to try to help my team win, and being in early foul trouble definitely hurt us. We can play better. We can play harder. It shows, the difference the first three quarters or the first half compared to the second half. At one point we were shooting 57 percent from the field, and that hasn't been us. We have to find a way to pick up our intensity and carry on what happened in the fourth quarter into the rest of the game. I don't know (laughing) you know, he's very good, probably the second best point guard we've played in this postseason. Jason Kidd is one, I think Tony Parker is two. No matter what you do he's going to find a way to get into the paint. He can finish over big guys, finish over small guys. They have a great one in Tony Parker for sure. No, that's kind of a cop-out. We don't want to go zone. We're a man team, we have to man up and try to keep him out of the paint. We have to make our best effort. We made him take a lot of jump shots tonight, which he made. He made a three. I think when he's shooting the ball as well as he did tonight there's no way you can stop him. He definitely did a great job defensive, came up with a lot of blocked shots, rebounded the ball extremely well on the offensive and defensive rebound. He's been here before, and it's nothing new to him. It doesn't matter if he's out there for five minutes or for 25 minutes, he's definitely going to give his best effort, and he was definitely a spark off the bench. It's definitely going to be a great experience I think for all Cleveland fans, for northeast Ohio, for the whole state of Ohio. It's going to be something that hasn't been experienced in a long, long time for our city, for our fans. It's going to be electrifying. If you're not there, I expect you to try to get there. No I just think he understands how to play the game of basketball, and he knows that he's going to get some great looks, but he knows if the guys run him off the three-point line, he knows how to finish in the lane. He's getting better every game, every series, and it's great to see him grow and watch him continue to grow. I think he's definitely one of the best players on our team. |
| On the three-pointer? We had to go for a three, we were down three points. You know, it went in and it came out. No, incidental contact. Incidental contact. It didn't affect my shot. I had a good look at it and I missed. Oh, absolutely. I had been aggressive in the fourth quarter. I was definitely going to get it back from Andy, but Andy made a good move. He just over-shot it. I definitely wanted to try to get a good look at it or give my teammate a better look at it, but it was just miscommunication. Well, tonight was definitely a couple. I didn't think that went my way. I had an offensive foul, but I didn't think that was a foul. Their defense was definitely good, and they're definitely making me work for everything I do. Well, everybody has to still believe. You know, it is the first of four games, but we dug ourselves a big hole, and we have to come out aggressive and just continue to play hard. We gave ourselves a chance to win tonight and that's all we can ask for. Absolutely. We can't live on history, but at the same time we have dug ourselves a big hole, and we know that. We have to come out and try to win four straight games. This is all about them. They played very good defense. They played elbows and boxes and if I'm coming off someone that's there and I have to swing the ball to a teammate or I come off a pick-and-roll and they're there again. It's all about me not trying to force anything and to try to go for it when I can. I did a good job of not forcing it tonight, got into the lane and missed a couple bunnies that rimmed in and rimmed out. Definitely I found some creases tonight. It was definitely good for them because Manu struggled, Tony struggled, and Tim Duncan didn't shoot the ball well from the field, so Bruce definitely kept them in the game in the first half hitting three big threes, and defensively he's very good. So he definitely helped them. I'm not surprised on how tough it is. I kind of envisioned it being tough. I think the Eastern Conference Finals was tough, and I knew it was going to pick up another level. I think our team senses that, also. You know, the experience factor, we don't like to make any excuse, but it definitely played a part in this Finals against a world power team in the Spurs. Definitely. I think Coach Pop and their defensive staff has put in a great defensive plan against me. Any little crease I find they're still having guys coming over me, and if I do finish they make me finish over bodies. I really expect that and I love the challenge. It's fun going out there and seeing different defenses and trying a pick here and a pick there. You've got to give all the props to the Spurs and all the props to Coach Pop and his staff. They've done so far a wonderful job. |
| You know, definitely they're doing a great job. You know, I was definitely trying to read to see what they're doing at a particular time of the game. You know, you see one guy, you might see two and now you can see another one. So it's definitely a collective defensive attacks that they're putting on me and putting on our team. You know, I've got to read the defense first. I've always done that. I'd go on two dribbles and they'd go on the double-team. We had some great looks, we just didn't knock them down. All the shots we took from the outside was good looks. We've just got to step in and make them. Just got to continue to take them, feel confident about it and go up there and take that shot. You know, I know I can make them, I think my teammates know they can make outside shots, we've just got to continue to take them. Definitely I thought there was some contact, but we don't want to try to make that as an excuse of why we lost the game or if it could change the game. We had opportunities where we could have made shots before that and not put ourselves in a position to be down three with five seconds to play. I think we all know there was some contact, but that's neither here nor there, so we don't get involved in that. I play my game. My game is what I've been doing. I see a double-team, I get a ball up. If I don't see a double-team I try to attack and get into the lane. If I've got an outside shot, I'll take it. I can't change my game, what got us here. Everything I've been doing is the reason why we're here, and our team, everything we've been doing, is the reason we're here. We don't want to try to change anything but we know our backs are up against the wall and we have to try to win Game 4. Well, you have to. We have no choice but to win or the season is over and there's a new champion. We have to come out with the mindset to take one game at a time and just continue to try to win four in a row. Hopefully we can do that. I think individually he's great. I think what also helps him is the guys that's behind him. You know, it's not one guy in this league that can play defense on an individual by himself. I think as a team they're very good, which allows him to pressure, which allows him to do a lot of things that some other defenders can't do because they don't have that back line behind him. When you have a seven-footer in Tim Duncan and Oberto and Robert Horry, and you have Manu that closes in when they try to drive, it allows his one-on-one defense to be a lot more pressure, that much more physical because he knows he has that help behind him. Individually he's great, but those guys behind him also helps him. Well, I think Detroit, they tried to drop a lot of pick-and-rolls and tried to weak me left on the top. I wasn't as aggressive around the perimeter, which allowed me to get into the lane a little bit. I think San Antonio is not allowing me to come off screens without seeing another body, simple as that. I'm seeing one or two, and if I'm getting around two I'm seeing another third guy. They definitely have picked up in intensity, and we have to be able to exploit that. If they're going to put two guys on me, we have to be able to do something on the backside, and if I get a ball, I have to be even more aggressive on trying to get it back when we're swinging from one side to another. Well, definitely. We've had opportunities where I've kicked it out of the post and nobody has had an opportunity to swing, swing or we took that first look. Maybe we needed to swing it from one side to another to get something on the backside and therefore rotate. I think that would help. Well, it's just kind of a mental thing trying to get ready and get prepared for the game. You know those shots are not going to be there during the course of a game because you have defenders guarding you, of course, but I think just getting a warm-up, just getting a workout before the game mentally prepares you for the game definitely. We gave ourselves a chance to win last night, and I've always said, and I said all year and all throughout the postseason, you give yourself a chance to win you can't feel down about it. Defensively we were very active last night. Offensively we got some great looks, we just weren't falling. I was able to get into the lane a couple times and missed a couple bunnies. We don't want to get swept, of course. We're not even thinking about that. We're thinking about winning a game and continuing to try to win and win a championship. It's awesome. I think they have a dynasty already at work, and I think Coach Popovich and that staff and being able to get the No. 1 pick in Duncan has really helped their franchise and the pieces here and the pieces there to make that team a championship team. They don't have the greatest athletes in the world, they don't have the greatest shooters in the world, but they have probably the greatest team in the world, and that's what this sport is all about. It's not about an individual. It's not like tennis, it's not like golf. You have to have one unit. You have to have everybody on the same page at the same time to win basketball games. With him being a part of that franchise, why shy away from it? When you want to be the best, you want to try to mirror image the best, and they're definitely the best team in our league at this point in time. You want to try to do as close or exactly to what they do. And it's going to be tough because they've been together for so long, but at the same time, you want to try to just take a little bit of something from there and try to input it into your system, definitely. No, if they would have heard him we would have called a time-out. The time-out looking back at it when we got the ball, didn't seem like he was calling a time-out. I think he was trying to communicate more to the refs than to us, you know, and it's -- it's no one's fault but we didn't know. Look at that, we call a time-out there, then we don't have the two to try to tie the game up at the end, so it kind of worked in our favor. We took some confidence from Game 2 to Game 3. We played with that last night. We had a lot of energy, defensively we played extremely well. We didn't allow them to get whatever shot they wanted like in San Antonio. At the end we gave ourselves a chance to win. We still feel confident. It's all about the first team getting No. 4. They're definitely closer than we are, but at the same time, the series is not over until somebody hits four. It definitely could have been better. It could have been better in order for us to win. You know, if I don't play well, our team is not going to have a good chance to win. You know, I've got a lot of things to work on to get better for next year. There's no one thing that I want to focus on intensively, it's just everything. I need to definitely get better, and once I get better, our team will automatically get better, and I know that. I have to do everything that I've done well and try to improve in order for us to be a better team next year. I'm not sure. You know, you're definitely disappointed. I'm not disappointed in our effort the last two games, not at all. I think we played well. We definitely just faced a better team in this series, simple as that. I really think the team we have now is good enough to win a championship, and I really stressed that from the beginning. It just shows we went up against a better team, simple as that. We went up against a better team in this series, and everybody has to be better coming into next season. I have to be ten times better. Our team has to be ten times better. As individuals, if we all put in the work this summer and come to training camp next year, our level automatically rises. I'm just excited about what happened with our team this year. You know, we gave it all. We did what we said, made it to the championship, try to win the championship. We won the Eastern Conference Championship. We wanted to win the big thing, but when we look back on it, hopefully we can be satisfied, or not satisfied, but happy with what we have done. I didn't. I didn't want to turn around at all and look at it, but I've seen other teams win the title before, me watching on TV, so I know what they were doing. But I didn't turn around and look at it (smiling). I didn't want to look at it. I don't think so. I felt great throughout the whole season. Everyone at this point is -- everyone is injured at this point, everyone is a little fatigued. It's not an excuse. I definitely felt good coming into this series, and I think the defensive intensity and some of the things they did kept me off guard and kept the team off guard. The turnovers are uncharacteristic of what happened. It was a lot of unforced things, me losing the ball or me making bad passes. It's all things I can control, and I wasn't able to do that. We have to be better. Me, as an individual, I have to be much better on and off the court, and that will carry our team to higher levels. I think it starts with me first and then it will trickle down to everybody else. I'm not sure. We haven't really talked about it. You know, we went up against a better team. We know the Spurs is definitely the better team in this series. They played like it. They never got rattled when we made runs. They never sped up. They played their own tempo, and they kept us off balance. I think we learned that as good as we thought we was, there was still a team out there that was better than us. I was just basically congratulating him on a wonderful season, on his championship. He's definitely a great player and he has a great supporting cast around him. I think it's great. If I couldn't do it, why not Tim Duncan? He's definitely a very good player, and he definitely brings out the best in his teammates. I think I kind of want to do the same thing and try to do the same thing with my teammates, so we're kind of the same player, me in the perimeter, him in the post. So why you ask me what he said? |
| This is -- we had a good chance to win Game 1, but it was great plays made by both teams down the stretch. Two good teams continuing to execute down the stretch. It definitely hurt, but we got to adjust. Like we said before, a series is not won or lost in one game. It is a good start for them. We just have to make adjustments and get ready for Game 2. I'm not injured. Just caught a few cramps. That comes from maybe a little bit of dehydration. So I got to make sure I keep my fluids up for the next few days. I'm not hurt. Not an ankle, not a knee. I'm fine now. Just sometimes if you ever -- if you ever played sports before and you catch a cramp, your body will tell you when you are ready to move. If you try to move before your body tells you to move, it is going to hurt. I just got to stay a little more hydrated throughout these next few days. Mo knocked it right on the head. Some of the same shots they had missing in the first half they made in the second half. With Dwight's numbers, Dwight played great, of course. But we felt like Rashard was that X-factor tonight. He made some big shots for them at the start of the fourth. Every big shot they needed, they were down one, up one, he made shots, man. He had a heck of a game to help them win tonight. Well, my statistics don't mean anything when it ends in a loss. If I can do something else to help our team win, I'm going to do that. What I did is try to give us an opportunity to win. I tried to put us in the right position to win. That's all I can do as an individual. But you try to -- you got to find a way to will games away sometimes when they get away or continue with the same energy you had throughout the whole game. Tonight my individual performance means nothing, you know, because we didn't win the game. Him being 6'10", he can see over a lot of defense. He can still see over some of the guards or see over me sometimes when we are blitzing his pick-and-roll. He had to really -- he had a really all-around solid game. He adjusts in the second half, found some things that helped them win the game. We will prepare just like we do after a win. You make an adjustment. You try to play a little bit harder on the defensive end. For a team shooting 55 percent on our court in a game is unacceptable for all of us. We know that. That's not how we play basketball and that's not how we are going to win. We should have lost giving a team 55 percent from the field. So we are going to make adjustments tomorrow. We are going to watch some film. We are not going to add no more pressure on us than we need to be. Just go out there and play. I mean, offensively we were stagnant at times, maybe because I felt the hot hand. I got back to the one-on-one play that I had in the past. But I felt I had it going individually. But we only had five turnovers as a team. It is not like we were not playing basketball the right way. We missed some really good shots, some easy shots, we made shots. We shot 48 percent from the field offensively, so for the most part that's a pretty good game when you have 19 assists and only 5 turnovers. He missed two wide-open ones right before that, too. Yeah. I thought the last one was going to go in (smiling). All the easy ones. I think Sasha can be really good for us. Mentally if he is in tune with the game plan, he can give us some big minutes. His athleticism, his length, being 6'6", 6'7", he can help us. But the last play, Mo wanted the last shot, you know. He told me to tip it to him, he was going to take the last shot. We went with it. Almost went in. I think it is always good. Nobody said it was going to be easy. It's one game, and if we just look at it and just one game and we just move on to the next game, then we'll be fine. If we think the world is coming down on our heads, then, you know, we are going to get beat pretty bad in Game 2. So like I said before, we always have been a one game or, you know, one team. That's our attitude. So win, lose or draw, you move on to the next. It may have. Because I caught some cramps, too, before in Game 1 of the Atlanta series with the layoff that we had. You can never simulate practice or scrimmaging during practice because you can't add 20,000 fans, you can't add the lights, you can't add that type of atmosphere. With all the sweating that goes on during the course of the game, the mental and physical pounding that you take throughout the course of a game, it is easy for you to catch cramps. So it has something to do with it. That's called reverse psychology. Just trying to get his guys basically saying you guys need to play a little harder and don't worry about his name, just -- you guys are in the NBA for a reason. I got to just continue with what I got to do to help us win ball games. You guys hear Stan all the time in time-outs, you know how he is. He's funny (smiling). Rashard hit a big shot. Couldn't believe he took the shot, but that's him. If you look at any other series, if you look at statistics and you guard the stat sheets and know percentages and things like that and guy's tendencies, Orlando, they like to go for the win on the road. Hedo took a 3 in the Philly series with a tie game. And Rashard, you just need a little bit of air space to knock down a 3. The play was drawn up to me to make a play, to go quickly, to give us a chance to get an offensive rebound, and I was able to drive. And my man failed, so it kind of got me off balance. So I drove and seen Mo, I saw one guy guard Mo and Delonte. Just like any other play, any other time, I see that happen, I made the skip to Mo. I know Mo wanted to shoot it bad, but his basketball instinct say if a man comes to you, swing, swing. Delonte, same spot to put us up one, had a good look at it, just didn't fall. Yep, yep. You're done. What was the question? Game 2? It is. It is. It is a big game. We are looking forward to the challenge. Last night's game, we watched it. It was a great game. Great performance by both teams, the Final Four teams. You don't want to go down 0-2. We are going to try to even it tomorrow. It doesn't. Every game we play, we go out and try to win every game. We are looking forward to it tomorrow. I think we did a pretty good job of it last night. We watched the game. For the most part, when a guy has it going like that -- I mean, we was up two points. And if Rashard missed that 3, we aren't having that type of conversation. It is tough. You know, it is tough sometimes because you got the flow of the game and has it going like that, you have rhythm. But at the same time, you keep missing it. You have to try to balance it sometimes. It is going to be a long series, we believe. We got to approach every game like it is the last. We are just going to go out and play. Mo is that type of guy. Last night he didn't feel like he did enough. I really think he did. He is hard on himself and that's good. He played a great game. He didn't shoot the ball particularly well from the field, but his overall game was good. Got to stay hydrated. It is long, mentally and physically draining. I was doing the jumps and all those types of things. Hopefully after last night -- with nine days of layoffs, you can not simulate 40,000-plus fans. My body just didn't adjust well last night but I'm okay. No, a lot of water. I don't drink Gatorade. Like I said, we come out shooting like that, it is going to be tough to win. We know those guys are going to shoot a high percentage in the paint. A lot of the other guys played great. I think (inaudible) did a great job. We made a few mistakes getting the rebounds that needed to be put back. We didn't have one block last night. That was -- I mean, that shows how well offensively we played. He is a great player. Not many guys that can stop him in the low post. He had it going. |
| No. You just try to do anything and everything possible to try to help your team win. At this point everybody is fatigued. There is no -- there is no room for excuses at this point in the season. I mean, everybody is fatigued at this point in the season. There is no way you can hide away from it because of the intensity of the playoffs, the magnitude of the games, the possessions of the games, and the two teams trying to compete to move on to the next level. Fatigue is within everybody who approaches the game. I think -- we just got to man up a little bit and take responsibility of who you are guarding. We have done it all year, and guarding the guys in front of us and then rely on help second. That's a very, very good team. A lot of credit to the Orlando Magic because it is a very good team. Take nothing away from them. Well, we've had a few games this season where if no one is making shots then we don't look that good of a team. We've had -- we are a very good shooting team, but we've not found a way to find our stroke. I hope -- and I think we will. Guys are going to be confident about every shot that they take. And if they don't, they think about making the next one. At this point, we are. They create a lot of matchup problems. The way Rashard spaces the floor, our bigs are not used to it. I think our bigs will do a good job of continuing to watch film and find a way to stay out on the perimeter with Rashard. They do -- they got some very big players that can shoot the ball. Also, they can drive, too, if you close out on them a lot. They have done a good job of exploiting that. We run out their shooters, they go around us. If we don't, they stop and shoot the 3. They have done a good job, and their coach has prepared them the right way. He is a very active player. But, I mean, coming into this game I was shooting 60 percent from the field. So, you know, I missed a few shots tonight I'm capable of making. He is a very active defender, but I don't believe anybody is an individual that can guard me. Every time we got it close, there is a whistle blown. I think the refs did a great job tonight. There was a few of them we thought was a little ticky-tack, but, hey, it happens throughout the course of a game. I mean, you look at it and they shoot 51 free throws, and Hedo went 1-11 from the field and but he goes to the line 12 times and makes 11 of them. That's very difficult to guard. When a good shooting team like they are go to the free throw, Dwight goes to the free throw a lot, we can live with that. But we can't allow Hedo to go to the line 12 times and Pietrus come off the bench and go to the line seven times. It is not helping our cause. We are missing some very easy shots, shots that we've always made and continue to make throughout the playoffs and throughout the regular season. I don't think it is the matchup problems on the offensive end. We're very confident. I know I am as an individual. I make sure our team is. We will get ready for Game 4 and play the same intensity basketball that we played tonight. Hopefully a few shots can go in and a few of theirs can go out. So it is a very good team. Like I said, give them a lot of credit. I think it was. It was a little extra. The foul was called and he continued to swing his elbows. I mean -- I mean, you see Mo's face. It wasn't a pretty sight. It is not called for in this game. Is that it? Thanks. No. It is over and done with now, you know? Mo's -- his eye is definitely sore, and it is hurting pretty bad. But we are going to move on from that. It happened last night. It's not why we lost the game, so it is not something we are going to harp on. No. For what? We are just trying to get wins. Well, I think we just got to ramp up a little bit. It is a very good team, we know that. Defensively we just got to try to take responsibility and take pride in guarding the guys on us, first, and rely on help, second. That's the defensive team we have always been. They got a really -- they got some really good players personnel-wise. We got to buckle down a little bit more. I don't know. Like I said, they are a very good team. You know, we can't worry about, you know, teams winning 10-14. We got to worry about Game 4. If we harp on that, then it will not get us anywhere. I think he will be fine. I'm fine. I'm excited about Game 4. As long as I stay upbeat, we got a chance, of course. So I'm confident and I'm sure the rest of the guys are confident. Mo just has got to do all he has done all year. That's to continue play hard and continue to make shots and take a lot of pressure off me, take a lot of pressure off the rest of the guys. He has done a great job of doing that, and he hasn't shot the ball exceptionally well like he's capable of doing in this series. But he's due. You know, Game 4 would be the perfect time for him to come and take some pressure off me and the rest of the guys on the team. He should. We should be confident about winning this series. There is no reason why we shouldn't be here. A guarantee or you say you want to win the series, same thing. I don't believe in pressure, man. We got to come out and play hard. It is a very good team. We know that. We got to do it on both ends. And if we do that, we'll give ourselves a good chance. Definitely our bench is -- I can't put a lot of pressure on our bench because they haven't really got a great opportunity to go out there and perform, so it is hard to say our bench isn't producing. I think when they get an opportunity to come in, they play pretty well. Our bench is key because I think on the other end, their bench is definitely coming in and giving them a big boost and we need it. Our bench has have been strong for us all year. When they come in, they need to do a good job, which they have done when they got the opportunity. For me, I don't -- crowd is not intimidating to me at all. It really doesn't matter to me. Of course, adversity happens. That's how you overcome and become great. You are going to face adversity throughout life, in basketball and off the court. So this is an adverse time for us, but it is not the end of the world. We're looking forward to Game 4. I'm not down. We're down 2-1. It is not like the series is over at all. Sometimes you face a situation in a series that you may not want to be in before a series even started but it happened. It is not like the series is over. We are looking forward to Game 4. It will be really fun. |
| I think the guys really knew that they had to play well for us to have a chance in this game tonight. Those guys definitely made shots the whole first half, and it was good to see that. Mo definitely put a lot of pressure on himself and he played well. And I think our bench came in in the first half and gave us a great lift. We just got to continue to play hard, man. We've had -- we've lost two games off inbound plays. And being up two in Game 1, being up one, you know, tonight, and we've lost two games off inbound plays. So we got to be more in tune in our inbound plays. You got to communicate during that situation and not give up open shots or good looks down the stretch like that. Of course I want the shot, man. I always feel like I can make any shot that I take. As it traveled, it didn't look good. It felt good leaving my hand but didn't look good in the air. Those are the breaks we have gotten this series, man. It just didn't go. Well, it was a different situation because we had no time-outs. So we weren't able to get it at half court because we had to use our last time-out before I hit the 3 before that play. So it didn't go -- you know, I didn't go back to Game 2 and review it in my mind. I was just hoping that I could make one more. Well, we just allowed Dwight to get a lot of paint catches. And I think in that instance, if he got dunks, we got to try to wrap him up and try to foul him and make two free throws. I think Dwight has done a great job of making his free throws. But, you know, statistically he might miss one. And we know he ain't going to miss no dunks or no lay-ups. We got to foul him in those situations, especially in a close game like that. We got to close out games right away. We are giving ourselves a chance, and we are breaking down in areas that we haven't broke down all year. It is a great three-point shooting team. We got to give up something. I mean, Dwight is playing well, and he's a beast down the middle. So you try to shrink the floor. We open it up to their shooters, and then Dwight continues to get dunks and lay-ups. But we are executing on the other end. We need one stop. We haven't got one stop to win a ball game yet. I feel good, man. This is the best I felt during the post-season in my NBA career. So fatigue hasn't played a factor. I continue to try to help our team, put our team in a position to win ball games. The ball is in my hand a lot, and I may have a few turnovers. That happens. But I have to figure out how to not have eight. Eight is unacceptable for me. That's way over what I've done throughout the whole playoffs or throughout this series. I won't turn the ball over as much. Some of them is just misqueue, some of them is just trying to make the right play. But fatigue has nothing to do with it. Well, you deal with it, move on to the next game. We had our chances tonight. And we didn't execute. You move on to the next game. You try to get the game on Thursday back home and come back down here and try to get Game 6. We are looking forward to the challenge. I know I am. I'm up for the challenge, and I think my play, my leadership has spoke for that. So I will be ready, and I think our guys will be ready also. We had another play called. But I was doubled at the time-out. Courtney Lee played under and Pietrus played right behind. So by any means, I went to go get the ball. That's the shot I can definitely make from that range. Just didn't go. If I was Rashard Lewis, we would have won. I would have took the 3. But me being who I am, I took the two and got fouled and went up there and made two free throws. |
| N/A |
| Same thing. Treat every game like it's its own. That's why this is a series. You see the mistakes we made in Game 1, the things that we can control, and you come out with a better mindset and try to get Game 2. We're not worried about it. It's the series. That's it. We learn from our mistakes and come up with a better game plan. We can't give a team like that 31 second-chance points. We had so many turnovers. We can't allow a team like that Next question. We can lose by 100. This is the playoffs. This is only one game. It's just one game. You have to sit in and see how bad you played for a couple of days. Just resting our bodies a little bit. We can use a couple of days off, to make a couple of adjustments. They're up 1-0. It's our job to come back in Game 2. We come out and play. that game got away from us. . We have to go out and do the small things. We can't get get outrebounded by them. We've been outrebounded four straight games. It's not been draining. I planned on playing long this season. I knew everything I was going to cover this season as far as on the court and off the court. It hasn't been bad at all. She's very important. Not only to the world, but to this city. We'll take a back seat to Oprah. We don't have a problem with that. I've guarded five positions. Whatever it takes to win. I have no problem with that. |
| It was no celebration at all. I was excited about the fact that he hit a big shot, and we went up 15. The same thing we've done over the course of the season. There was no celebration at all. We knew we had seven minutes to go still to close out the game. As far as celebration, that word has been used with us all year. But we knew how much time was left in the game still. I think offensively we just weren't in a good rhythm. But it's not even -- offensively we've been out of rhythm before. At the end of the day, we hang our hats on our defense. I think they were 1-for-10 the first four or five minutes in the first part of the fourth quarter. It was 88-73; end up scoring 22 points in the last seven minutes. They only scored 24 in the whole fourth. We're up 15. If they go on a 12-0 run for the rest of the game, if we don't score another basket, we still win by three. Defensively we just have to be more in tune and not allow a great team, a great offensive team to get as many great looks as they did down the stretch. Jason Kidd had an open three. Jason Terry had a leak-out lay-up. He also had a corner jumper. Dirk 90/90 he hit a wide-open three. That's not our defense at all. We have to do a better job and be more in tune. It's a different mindset, of course. It's a ballgame now. With the series tied 1-1, we're looking forward to the challenge. It's going to be a difficult challenge for us but we're looking forward to it. We're a confident bunch. We play great on the road. It's going to be a hostile environment. Their fans and team are going to bring everything they have. We have to come out with it all. Play as close to 48 minutes as possible on both ends. Absolutely. We're a team that's confident. Every time we have had a pitfall, we've figured out how to bounce back. Right now we have another one. As a veteran ballclub and a team that's been through a lot, we understand how important this next one is with Game 3 being in Dallas and we look forward to the challenge. It's not going to affect us for Game 3. It hurts right now because it's right now. We're competitors. We want to win the game. We feel like we have a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter, that our defense will prevail. That's how much confidence we have in our defense. It hurts now, but we'll be fine. I don't feel like our confidence will be down going into Game 3. We'll be back to square one and figure out how to win the game. No, I don't think it's an issue. We were asked about it after Game 1, I said it would be a non-issue. He's a great scorer. He understands he can use both hands. He got the left-hand lay-up to tie the game up at 90, and then the game-winner going left once again. So as you can tell, it has no effect on his left hand at all, if any. They did. They did a great job of playing two on the ball. They used Tyson Chandler to come off pick-and-rolls, Tyson Chandler or Dirk. They blitzed me and D-Wade's pick-and-roll. Something different. Something we can go to the film to figure out how to exploit that or do a better job of executing later in the game. They didn't do that till the fourth quarter. They picked up the aggression and it got us out of the flow of the offense where we were taking shots at the end of the shot clock. I know I took a few fadeaway threes at the end of the shot clock because we couldn't get into our offense. It's something we'll work on and be better on in Game 3. That's part of the game. We're an emotional team. When we make plays, we can congratulate one another. I don't see why this whole thing has been blown out of proportion. I just look at it in the case of I think -- I've seen Dallas go on plenty of runs before. You know, if JT hits a three and they make a big run, if he runs down the court doing the whole wings expanded, do we count that as a celebration as well? I just think everything gets blown out of proportion when the Miami Heat does things. It's been our motto, it's been our make-up all year. In the playoffs it's a win or a loss. However it comes by, it's a win or a loss. We've moved on from Game 2, seen the mistakes we've made. Seen some of the great things we've done as well. It's a win or loss. The series is tied 1-1. We never get too high or too low in the series. We haven't gotten too high or low in the regular season as well. We move on to the next challenge and go from there. It's very important. We understand that. We are coming out with that mindset, like we had in Game 1 or Game 2. The same mindset. It starts defensively. We have to be in tune as close to 48 minutes as possible, especially versus this team who shoots the ball extremely well, who plays extremely well, especially at home. But it's a sense of urgency. That's the only way we have approached games. We've never went to a game saying this isn't a must-win for us or it's not a sense of urgency. That's the only way we know how to play, when we feel like we're desperate. It's the only way we approach games. Right. I think it was a few minor breakdowns we don't have. And once those minor breakdowns happened, it allowed them to get into a rhythm. Even though we played great defense in some of the later possessions, they were in a comfort zone at that point. We gave up two wide-open threes without contest to J-Kidd and to Dirk. A wide open lay-up to JT off a missed shot, a missed three, and he got a wide open lay-up. We did a lot of things uncharacteristic. It happened. I don't know why we couldn't score on offense. At the end of the day there's been times we haven't been able to score for quarters on offense, but we've been able to get the stops. That's the make-up of our team. We understand no matter what happens offensively we have to be in tune. We lost our edge. I don't think offensively -- after rewatching the film, we got into a lot of great sets. Besides two or three possessions out of our last 14 possessions, it was pretty good. We had a few shots, I missed a lay-up at the rim. Mario Chalmers missed a wide-open lay-up. We ran some offense where Chris Bosh got in the post. He mishandled it out of bounds. UD got an offensive rebound with a minute left and mishandled it, saved it and they got a lay-up to tie the game. So we had some really good possessions. They just didn't go down. At the end of the day, that's not where we lost the game. Like I said before, our team -- there has been times we haven't been able to score offensively, but it hasn't stopped us from keeping that same concentration or even more of a concerted effort to play defensively in the game. A little bit of both. I know I'm excited for the game tomorrow. It hurt. We had time to let it hurt us as much as it could yesterday after the game. But today is a new day. And we're back and focused. We're a confident bunch. Me personally, I'm looking forward to the challenge. It's going to be fun. I think Shawn Marion has done a great job. Especially offensively. He's picked up his game offensively. Hanging around the rim, getting some lay-ups, getting some tip-backs, playing around the rim. His activity throughout the first two games has been pretty good. I take it upon myself to not only lock in at the beginning, but whoever is on him to lock in a little bit more. Because he's been very effective. I don't feel like it's one guy in this league that can stop me one-on-one. There's always a defense that's looking at me when I have the ball. He's the guy that's guarding me, but there's no one-on-one guy that can guard me. Obviously, we look at it as we have enough guys not only can guard Jason Terry, guard Dirk. It's a team thing. It's not LeBron versus Shawn Marion, LeBron versus Dirk Nowitzki or LeBron versus JT or DeShawn Stevenson versus Dwyane Wade. It's not about that. It's about the team. Even though you have a one-on-one matchup on the court, there's a team defense that's put behind it. So if I get caught on him, it's not like I'm playing him one-on-one. We have a team defense and guys help each other. That's how you become successful in this league by being able to have a back line behind you. When you guard someone as great as Dirk or as great as JT is, you have to have a back line. It's never one-on-one. It's not a one-on-one thing. We get caught up on the one-on-one matchups a lot. There's always a defense that's behind it. I think personally I do have to be more aggressive in the paint. Six free-throws in two games -- I do that in my sleep in one game. So that's not me. So I'm going to make a concerted effort to be more aggressive to try to get to the rim, create some more opportunities for myself and my teammates. I understand that. But I think we just had a few -- they extended their defense late in the game. They did some things defensively that they hadn't done throughout the first two games all the way. They started to blitz me, D-Wade's pick-and-rolls, a lot of our sets kept us on the perimeter. We didn't get into our sets early enough to give us more time. So we had to take contested long-range threes. I think I took two. D-Wade actually took one. So I think the best thing about our team and the best thing about me and D-Wade individually, we get an opportunity to watch the film and know when that happens again, we know how to attack it. And to not settle as much or to get the defense moving a little bit more where we can create not only better shots for ourselves but for our team, and we're not forcing things at the end of the shot clock. |
| Definitely didn't play great offensively. I got to do a better job of being more assertive offensively, not staying out of rhythm offensively the whole game. But I think one thing I try to concentrate is, if I get two guys on me, try to make my teammates better, hit those guys for open looks. They made some great looks, but at the same time I have to keep myself in rhythm while I'm doing that as well. You know, with these games, every other day, there's not much gym time you can have. You want to try to stay off your feet as much as possible. If I feel like I need to come to the gym and get some extra shots up, I will. Absolutely just to get my shot back going and my confidence with my shot going. If I feel I need to do that after practice, tomorrow night I will do that. I'm confident with my ability. It's about going out there and knocking them down. When you have the opportunity, you have to knock them down. Your teammates give you the confidence. They give me the confidence all year, all postseason. So I have to go out there and make them count. I don't think anything is commanding in this series. These are two games teams trying to figure out a way to make plays down the stretch. We've seen in this series seven or eight-point lead is nothing. You just got to continue to execute offensively, continue to grind defensively. And put yourself in the best possible chance to win late. I think they haven't changed their coverages on me. Me just being more assertive, that's what it's about. I got the ball in the post a few times, and I seen double-teams. I tried to kick it out to guys and they've made shots for us. At the same time I can't let that stop my aggression when they bring two on the ball. I still got to make plays for my team, but also make plays for myself to keep me in the rhythm of the game. I think the fact that it happened in a loss is the anger part about it. That's all that matters to me. If I had had eight points and we won the game, I could be satisfied. I don't really care about that. The fact I could have did more offensively to help our team, that's the anger part about it, and myself. I'll come back in Game 5 and do things that needs to be done to help our team win. We've always been a good bounce-back team. Anytime we have a loss or we feel like we could have did better in one game, we've always been able to bounce back. Individuals have been able to bounce back, including myself, D-Wade and CB and the guys. We understand it's a golden opportunity. Game 5 we come here and we play as well as we did tonight, we execute a little better down the stretch, we give ourselves a good chance to win Game 5 and go home and be able to close out. Jason Terry is a great player. When he plays well, Dallas plays well. He's the reason why these guys are in The Finals and that's the reason why he's been one of the top guys and Sixth Man Award every year, because he plays well for this team. It's a good show tonight by both teams. They made one or two more plays down the stretch than we did. We look forward to Game 5, and try to come out here with a win. I don't think -- what do you mean? We have matchups. We have schemes. It's not one guy that's hurting us. I think Tyson Chandler had an unbelievable game last night. Offensive rebounds, he had nine offensive rebounds. Dirk made shots. He can make shots against anyone. He can make shots against me. He can make shots against anyone in this league. Just try to make it hard on him. We did that. You can always use -- if you can get a minute or two minutes there, it helps anyone. It would help me as well. I feel like I'm in condition where I can still be effective. I just have to figure a way I can be effective on both ends of the floor. Last night, you know, eight points is definitely inexcusable for myself. I hold myself up to a higher standard than that. I had to do a better job of putting myself in situations where I can benefit myself and my team, no matter how many minutes I'm out on the floor. You're at a point where you just not in a good rhythm. You start aiming shots, you start thinking about plays too much. You start thinking about the game too much and instead of going out and reading and react and playing the game. It happens to all of us where you get to a point where you feel so out of rhythm, you try to impact the game some other way than offensively. I try to rebound the ball, try to defend. If I wasn't -- had it going offensively, just trying to get guys to defend, to play two on the ball where I can give it up to someone so someone else can make the play. When you're out of rhythm, it's tough to get back into the flow in that particular game. I guess the best thing about it is you try to watch that film, see the things you can do better the next game and then go after it. You just have to pick your spots. At times -- I watched the film again last night when I got back to the room. I watched the film today with the whole unit, and there were times I definitely could have attacked. When you're out of rhythm, I guess it feels like you have nothing going offensively. You just try to focus your play somewhere else. At the same time I have to make sure I keep myself active, some way, somehow. Getting offensive rebound, the put-back, cutting when someone else has the ball. Figure out a way to still be effective even if I'm not bringing the ball up or initiating the offense. I think it's that time. I think it's that time that I try to get myself going individually. But at the same time still play my game. And when I say be more aggressive, that doesn't mean be more aggressive and have to shoot the ball. It just means being more aggressive and looking for opportunities to get a look. And if I bring two defenders and give the ball up. That's something I've done my whole career. Still be aggressive but at the same time get guys involved and have to do that. I like when I smile and the flashes go off and -- it's pretty cool. (Laughter). Like I said, I'm not -- DeShawn, he's been talking for a long time, since out Washington-Cleveland days. I don't let that get to us. Those guys are playing well. We're playing well. It's a three-game series. Talk is cheap. You have to play the game of basketball. Let the scores and the plays define the game. We don't get caught up in that too much. Just mental. It's just a mental -- your mind state going into the game tomorrow night. You watch film, you watch too much. You don't want to drag on what happened last night. You get into the books, you get into your studies, and then you move on. It's a new day. Tomorrow is a new game. And just like when we moved on from Game 2 to Game 3, we will move on from Game 4 to Game 5 and try to come out with a better outcome. No. Not really. Just being back on the court. Just rushing the opportunity to be back -- having another opportunity. If it was the Super Bowl, I would be kicking myself in the foot. We have one game. That's it. The great thing about this, it's a series. No matter if you can have a bad game, you can always make an imprint on the next game. Game 5 is a huge game. I haven't read anything that was written. I didn't play well, especially offensively. I know that. I've got to do a better job of helping this team win basketball games, especially late, no matter what it is. If that's getting an offensive rebound, like I said, making a couple of baskets, being more aggressive to give my guys opportunities to get open looks. I have to do that. That's what my job is. That's what I'm here for. You can. Because you know you have other guys. You have other options. You feel like you don't have to take over games. You don't have to take as many shots. Sometimes you can get out of rhythm doing it. I think we've all seen that at this point -- at some point this year. Kind of waiting and waiting and waiting, and then it gets to a point you're just out of rhythm. We've all been through that. But we figured it out through games, through practices, how we can all be effective at the same time. And we need to put it together now. I have. Both series, the Boston series and the Chicago series, there was a couple of games I didn't play well. You come back and you just do better the next game. I understand that I have the ability to go out there, my teammates give me all the confidence in the world to go out there and try to help them win a basketball game. You definitely relish the next moment. I'm looking forward to it. It's a challenge. But at the same time like I said, you have to figure out a way to still be active in the offense. That's cutting behind the defense and making yourself closer to the ball. You have to do that. D-Wade does a great job sometimes of cutting baseline getting dunks, getting lay-ups. I try to flash behind the defense at times when I don't have the ball necessarily and get some looks for myself or for my teammates. You can't ever feel like you're not in the offense even though you're on the weak side. You always have to be like the ball is coming to me, the ball is coming to me even when it's all the way on the other side. You have to stay in tune with whatever is going on if that instance. Absolutely. I criticized myself. I was hard on myself all last night. Anytime I feel like I could have played better and the team loses, that's what it's all about. If I have a bad game and we win, I'm hard on myself, but at the end of the day we win the basketball game. That's ultimately what it's all about. When we lose and I don't play well, and I feel like I could have did one or two more things to help our team win or get over the hump, you're definitely hard on yourself. That's just me. That's just the make-up of who I am. I have no idea. There's always opportunities you feel like you can get more in the paint. I had a few times -- I can always get more, be more aggressive. I said that last night after the game. I have to be more aggressive, even if that takes for me getting out in the open court sometimes, getting the rebound, getting out in the open court where I'm at my best or playing in the post. I'm playing a lot in the post, too. So I'm in the paint there. They're bringing double-teams, I'm able to get it out to a lot of our shooters. I don't know the exact number. I don't know at what instance I felt like I was out of rhythm. I think what bothered me the most is that it resulted in me being out of rhythm. It resulted in us having a loss. That's what it's all about for me. At no point should I ever feel like I'm out of rhythm, because my teammates key on me and they look at me to come through for them. There's times when you're out of rhythm, it's hard to get back into it. But you have to figure out a way to still be an impactful player on both ends of the floor. Like I said, if that's getting a defensive stop, if that's creating a charge defensively, or getting an offensive rebound to get us another possession, you have to figure out those ways to do it to help your team win. I didn't do that last night. Those are the things that I pride myself on that hurt me the most. I'll just be hard on myself and figure out a way to do it better the next game. |
| No, I don't think so. I don't believe so. I know I'm not. We as a team, we played good enough to win again. Put ourself in position to win down the stretch. Everyone, guys made plays. They just made a few more than we did. That's what it came down to. I don't think it was a case of offense again tonight. There was enough offensive play. We shot 52%, they shot 56%. We scored 103 points, they scored 112. The offense wasn't a problem. He made big shots. He made some great three-point shots tonight. A hand contested in his face. Some of them was open. He's just aggressive. We always said when he plays well, they're very tough to beat. That's what he's done the last two games. Well, it starts defensively. We've had a few breakdowns late in games in this series that we didn't have in the first three series. So it's something we know we can do. We just got to push through it. At this point we have no choice, honestly. We got two games left, and we worked hard all year to get home-court advantage. So we have to take advantage of it. Just try to work our same offense. I was able to get into the lane a couple of times, hit out for threes, hit out for guys that got some lay-ups, and also I was able to get to the rim a couple of times, put a little pressure on the defense. But it's nothing that you really can change. It's our habits we've been working through all season. With him being out, we just try to do the same thing as if he was in, but knowing that one of our scorers is down. But guys had to come in and try to make plays and pick up the slack while he was out. Absolutely. The only thing that applies to me is a win. A win or a loss. I could have made a couple more plays for my team. But at the end of the day, all it's about is a win or a loss. Triple-double means absolutely nothing in a loss. So we will be better in Game 6 on Sunday. Like I said, it's never a one-on-one matchup. I said that when he was struggling in the first couple of games, the games that we won. I said it's never a one-on-one matchup. JT is the reason why, like I said, in the top vote-getters of Sixth Man of the Year every year. He does a great job of staying active, staying in rhythm and they get him the ball in the fourth quarter. So I take pride in it. Like I said, I'm not going to always stop him or hold him under his average. I would hope so. He gets enough looks, he gets enough cracks at it, he's going to make a few in. We have to make sure we stay locked in and not allow him to get open ones like he had tonight. Honestly, we just worked our game. I was able to get the ball in the post a few times in the first half. It worked. Some of them didn't work. Second half with D-Wade being out to start the second half, I took it upon to be a little more of a ball-handler, get guys into our offense. But we just try to take what the defense gives us. We have nothing to say about our offense tonight. We shot 53% from the floor. These guys shot 57. Shot almost 70% from the three-point line. Offensively had nothing to do with why we lost this game. We just couldn't get enough stops down the stretch. I didn't think about it. D-Wade gave it to me, I had enough room and I shot it. Shots I made before. I just didn't make it that time. The last 48 hours have been thinking about Game 5. Some of the opportunities we had to win. Some of the opportunities I had to make plays, and either made them or didn't. At one point we look at it we're up three with three and a half minutes to go. We had an opportunity. We played well enough to win that game, even though with them making 13 threes, unbelievable shooting for them. We still had an opportunity to win. I thought about that and also kind of shifted my focus to how can I be better and how can our team be better in Game 6. We worked all year to get home court, and even though we're in an elimination game, we feel like we still have a great opportunity with this series coming back to Miami, two games on our home floor. I don't think it's too much. I feel like I'm in world-class condition. Like I said, anytime you get a little rest here, a little rest there, it definitely helps. I wouldn't say it's too much. I don't think so. I don't feel like I'm hurting my team for the time I'm out there. I don't feel like it's too much. It's frustrating, of course. When you look at the three games we lost, we all had the opportunity to win. Game 2 being up 15. In Game 4, we had an opportunity. And in Game 5 we had an opportunity. It is frustrating when you look back at the film and you watch and you see some of the mistakes that you had, not only individually but as a team. But it's something you can't -- you have to try to move on. But also learn from those games where you had an opportunity to win and seeing the games where you won, where you took advantage of them. So I think it's a new game, Game 6 being tomorrow night, and we're looking forward to it coming back to our home floor. At this point I don't think technique has anything to do with it. Shots go in, shots don't go in. I don't stop to think about my technique or anything like that. One thing about me, you just be aggressive. And when you have the shot, you take them. Some of the same shots I've taken in the other series, they went in. They're not going in for me right now, that won't deter me from taking that opportunity once I get them again. I think the game of basketball can be pressure. It doesn't matter if it's The Finals or the Conference Finals or first round. Playoff basketball is all about pressure, how you can handle it. There's a sense of urgency because we're on an elimination game coming into Game 6. But it's something if I sit here and say we haven't seen everything to help us out to get to this position this year, I would be lying to myself and lying to our team. This is a position -- I mean, we wouldn't want to be in this position being down 3-2. But at the same time we're going to relish the opportunity being back on our floor. I mean, honestly, J.J., he shot the ball extremely well. The guy hit four threes, three of them was at the end of the shot clock with him not even holding his follow-through. A guy like that once he gets into the lane and he gets a few lay-ups, get into the flow, his outside shot becomes better, just like a lot of us. Myself and D-Wade, if you allow us to get two or three lay-ups, we feel like we're in a good rhythm. So we have to do a better job of trying to keep him out the paint. If you keep him out of the paint early, that's better for us. He doesn't shoot the ball as well as he would if he gets a few lay-ups here, a few lay-ups there, a couple of free-throws. He's a key. We always say he's a key. J.J. being a key and J.T. being a key to their success. I've seen myself being less aggressive at times. A few reasons is most of the time I feel like D-Wade has it going. In situations where in the past in the last series there was times I had it going, in the Chicago series or in the Boston series, and our team just rolled me offensively. Guys just try to pick it up, some way, somehow. D-Wade has been playing extremely well in the fourth quarter. CB has played well. And just haven't found my niche in the fourth quarter thus far. You look at it, tomorrow is another opportunity for me to make an imprint on this series in the fourth quarter and help our team win. It's nothing that I've seen over The Finals that I didn't know coming into this series. I understood this is a huge series. It's a huge stage. I want to play well, of course. I want to help this team win a championship. That's all it's about. The things that you can't control, the ball going in for you, or you playing extremely well every single game. The game doesn't happen like that. If I wanted to be that way, I would love for it to be. I have to do what's best for our team to help put our team in a position to win ballgames. That's the only thing I can control. The losses do. That's all it's about for me, winning and losing. Of course, I get on myself, I'm hard on myself about wanting to play well, because I feel like that's what I need to do for my teammates. But to answer questions about what's written about me or anything like that, I don't really feed into it. It's going to be written no matter what, no matter if I play well or not. I had a triple-double last game. I had a bad game in a lot of people's eyes. I understand that. That's just the situation I'm in. That's the bowl I'm in right now. I can only satisfy my teammates. That's the way I look at it. I'm not feeding into that. If you guys want to feed into everything that not only myself or D-Wade or the Miami Heat do, I think that's a non-issue. There's bigger issues in this series than that. I don't think so. I think we have figured it out in the sense of what makes our team successful. Just like in the last series, I feel like D-Wade was out of rhythm, I just tried to pick it up offensively. And it's kind of vice versa right now. I haven't been in a good rhythm offensively. He's tried to pick it up. Guys have tried to pick it up in my absence offensively. That doesn't mean that we're back to square one. We've worked to playing too many games to go back to square one. If I make a few plays here, make a few plays there, then the whole course changes from me being 8-for-19 last game to being 10-for-19. You just got to be able to stick through it, watch film and figure out ways that you can help this team win offensively, because that's what it's about also. |
| I mean, sometimes you got it, sometimes you don't. And that was this case in this series. I was able to do things in the last two series to help us win ballgames. Wasn't able to do that in this series. Once you get to the playoffs, every game is pressure. You want to win. You have to win. And I mean, we've seen some of that in the Chicago series, we seen some of that in the Boston series. Even though we lost Game 4, we lost Game 4 in Philly, there's pressure in that series as well. So it doesn't matter which round it is. Once you get to the postseason, every possession counts. Live in the paint. They did a great job of every time I drove, they brought another extra defender in front of me. They did a great job defensively. Very underrated defensive team. Took me out of a lot of things that I'm capable of doing or used to doing. It took us out of a lot of things we're capable of doing, that's getting points to the paint and getting to the free-throw line. So they did a good job. Much respect to them. It hurts of course. I'm not going to hang my head low. I know how much work as a team we put into it. I know how much work individually that I've put into it, when you guys are not around. That's something people don't see. I think you can never hang your head low when you know how much work, how much dedication you put into the game of basketball when the lights are off and the cameras are not on. No, that doesn't bother me. I understand this is a huge stage, and you want to perform well for nobody else besides your teammates. That's ultimately what it's about for me. If I can play well for my teammates, help my teammates win basketball games, then I'm always satisfied with that. It hurts me, and I get on myself when I'm not able to play well and help my teammates win. Absolutely not. Because at the end of the day, all the people that was rooting on me to fail, at the end of the day they have to wake up tomorrow and have the same life that they had before they woke up today. They have the same personal problems they had today. I'm going to continue to live the way I want to live and continue to do the things that I want to do with me and my family and be happy with that. They can get a few days or a few months or whatever the case may be on being happy about not only myself, but the Miami Heat not accomplishing their goal, but they have to get back to the real world at some point. I don't think so. I pretty much don't listen to what everybody has to say about me or my game or what I've done with my career. I don't get involved in that. This is year after year after year for me. Me as an individual, people write or say what they want to say about me. It doesn't weigh on me at all. Like I said, the only thing that weighs on me is when I don't perform well for my teammates and the guys that I play for every day. That's the only thing that weighs on me. Because I take pride in going out there and doing the things that need to be done to help my teammates win. That's it. Honestly, it was about fourth-quarter defense and trying to get buckets. We got into a good groove to start the fourth. I think J.J. Barea's three at the end of the shot clock was a huge shot. Put them up seven. That was a huge shot. I think it was 81-77 at that time. He hit a shot, the three at the end of the shot clock. We played defense 23 straight -- great defense for 23 straight seconds and he hit a shot like that. So it took a little bit out of us. You don't want to dig a hole like that against anyone. Especially on your home floor going into the fourth. Any time you feel like you get to the top of the mountain and you fall off, there's definitely a personal failure. It was a failure in '07 when we lost to the Spurs when I was in Cleveland, it's a failure now for myself losing to the Mavericks. Absolutely. I can only prepare myself each year. In the summertime I'll put a lot of hard work into my individual game, try to bring my individual game to a team, and I work hard every day as an individual to go out there and perform at a high level for my teammates and for myself. I got close. Won two more games than I did in '07, and hopefully next time I get here I'll win two more games than I did in '11. I've been in this league eight years. There's no distractions that can stop me from trying to chase an NBA championship. Not you guys, not anything that goes on that's not focused on my team and my teammates and what we're out there -- what we're out set to do. Like I said before, I work hard to try to put myself in position to play at a high level. When you go out on the court, does the ball always go in? Absolutely not. But the one thing I know, I never hold my head low in saying, I didn't do it the right way or I wish I would have did this. It's not about that. I put a lot of hard work into this season individually. We all did. So we have nothing to hang our heads low. Just use this as an extra motivation to help myself become a better player for next year. |
| I mean, KG is a difficult match up for a lot of guys, period. He started off really well. I think he had 12 points in the first quarter and got them off to a good start. That's part of the reason why they had 58 points in the paint. He opened up a lot for not only himself but for his teammates as well. And he's definitely a threat down there, and he made some huge shots. I had a game this year when I didn't have an assist. Do you remember that? They do. You don't know what game it was? I think we played great ball since he's been out, Game 1 of last round. We've played some great ball. Guys have stepped up in his absence. Guys are going to have to continue to step up in his absence. We don't know when Chris will be back. We're not going into next game hoping that he's going to be there, or whatever the case may be. We have to prepare like he's not playing. We will prepare for Game 4 like he's not playing. It started way before that. We can't dig that big of a hole on ourselves. We were down 24 points. When you start fighting uphill, we made a run, but any little mistake defensively or offensive rebound we give up or we miss a shot, we feel like we could have made it, or anything and they come down and get a bucket, it hurts, because you're trying to fight back the whole time. So we made a good run, but they was up too much and we got in too much in the hole. I think we still was in attack mode. Just the free throw attempts just doesn't show for it. I hit a few jumpers as well, but I got into the lane. D Wade definitely got into the lane, got some attack points. We had 46 points in the paint, which is a really good clip. We only made five threes, so it does show we had to make some shots in the paint as well. It just doesn't show for us. But we're attack guys. We'll continue to attack and try to, you know, force the issue. That's what we do, and that's why we're in this position now. No, we're going to keep attacking. That's what it's about. We're attack players. We don't shoot many jumpers. We never got to this point by shooting a lot of jumpers. But we're an attack team. It starts with us. And it trickles down to everybody else. KG is a difficult cover. First of all, he's a more prolific scorer than of Chandler and of Hibbert. And when he gets to shoot, his wing span is he shoots higher than anybody we have in this league. So we have to do a better job of trying to help each other out and not expose ourselves as much with our coverages. Well, we're going to have to go to it. It's just how our lineup is being played right now, especially with CB being out. I'm going to be guarding him either in the case of lining up against him to start the possession or a switch. I'm confident in it. Just try to make it a little bit more tough on him and not give him so many relief lay ups with us being so aggressive on Ray in the post. Absolutely. I know that D Wade, once he gets a few easy buckets, he starts to shoot his jumper, he starts to get to the free throw line and he's very aggressive from that point on. I had it going early on in Game 3, but I'm going to need his dominant play as well. So I will make a conscious effort to try to get him going early. No, nothing changed in our approach. For me, I made a lot more jumpers than I've made in the first two days. But I still got into the paint. I still put some pressure on the defenses, and D Wade did the same way. It just didn't result in the stat sheet saying we shot free throws. No, they played great ball. We came in with a game plan. They executed it more than we did. And it showed in all the big points, as far as free throws, the points in the paint, things like that. So they played good ball. Well, we're going to meet after this. 'Spo is going to give us a game plan for Game 4. And if there's something as players that we see, we're going to give our opinion, and then we go and get ready. We don't honestly, we don't see it too much. We don't read into it. I know I don't personally. I don't get involved in it. It's one game. They protected the home court for Game 3. We get another opportunity. That's the best thing about it. We get another opportunity to play tomorrow, and we're going to try to win a game, go back home and try to finish it up. We have to get back, first of all, in transition. Also low to Rondo and then KG. They do a good job of getting points in the paint with Rondo's attacks and KG posting and in transition. And also Paul, he gets into the paint as well. So you have to be a little bit more aggressive defensively, but also a little bit smarter too. These fans, they support their team. Of course we all know the history of this team, the history of the league. So they give great support to their team, and their team fires up after it. And they love it. It's always great to be a part of it. Like I said, I've been on both sides. Been able to win. I've lost more in this building than I've won. But it's always exciting. As a team we have to figure out ways to exploit the double team. He's going he's always going to try to either come off the pick and roll, and when he posts up, he's going to bring two defenders. So as his teammates, we have to make ourselves available and we have to make plays for ourself. And also when the double team is not there, early and often try to get the ball to him early so he can attack without a double team. Hungrier? No, I don't need to be hungrier at this point. It's the Conference Finals. I'm fine and looking forward to it |
| N/a |
| Some of them we wish we could have come up with. Some of them we haven't been able to come up with. The ball bounces in crazy ways at times. Sometimes you get them, sometimes you can't. We feel like we gave ourselves a chance. I mean, you don't need much motivation right now. It is what it is. You win and you bring it back here, or you go home. It's that simple. I don't need no extra motivation at this point. I've been motivated since the playoffs started. I mean, for me, I just got to keep playing my game. If I can get a couple more points here, a couple more rebounds there, a couple more assists, maybe we win more games. I don't know, man. I put a lot of pressure on myself to try to come through for our team. Last night I felt like I could have made a couple more plays, and I didn't. But at the end of the day, if you play hard, you go out there and lay it on the line, the numbers will take care of itself. And you can be happy with it. I'm not. I won't. I'm going to go into the game just knowing that I got to try to make plays to help our team win and not put too much pressure on myself. I understand what I do for our team. They are going I'll be satisfied because they know how hard I play. I'll be fine. I feel confident. I feel confident we can go up and get one. Then we're focusing on Game 6. That's what it's all about. It's definitely different. Last night we was down. We didn't want to lose that game. We played hard. Gave ourselves a chance to win. But you have to have a new mindset when you come in here today. You have to focus on Game 6. I know we have to go in with a mindset that we're going to win and bring it home for Game 7. We feel confident now. It does. It means a lot to me. How much work I've put into this year. No one said it was going to be easy. I'm looking forward to the challenge, me personally. I'm looking forward to it more than probably anyone on the team. So I'm going to lead these guys in the right direction, and hopefully it results in us winning. I put a lot on myself, like I do any game. I do a lot for the team. I hold myself to a high standard. So I want to play well. I want to play well for sure. I'm not going to put too much pressure saying these are the numbers I'm going to get. I'm going to go out and play my game. At the end of the day we'll see what happens. No, it is fitting. I know how much pain this team has given me over the years. I think I guess it's only right that we will be going up there in an elimination game. In order for us to keep our season going, we have to win in their building. . What do you mean? Let it not get in my head? It's a new day. It's a new game. But it's obviously a great team, and if we go in with a game plan and we go in and play hard, all we can ask for is to give ourselves a chance to win late in the game. We can be satisfied with that. Game 3 it wasn't close. They pretty much got whatever they wanted. Game 4 we gave ourselves a chance to win. We didn't make enough plays. It was a great game. And last night we also had I mean there were some tough bounces. I know a few plays went right off the top of my head. D Wade got the block off Bass. It was a 50 50 ball in the air. Rondo punched it to Pietrus for a three. That was a big play. And then another play was Ray Allen went down the lane, kind of kicked it off his foot, picked it up and hit Pietrus again for another three. Sometimes the ball bounces in different ways. Momentum plays happen. But like I said, last night we gave ourselves a chance to win. That's all you got to do. I mean, he's our coach. I don't need to defend him. I'm here. We got a lot of respect for Spo. We have all the confidence he's going to give us a game plan to help us win. Me personally, I don't even hear what goes on out there. I only hear it until you guys tell me about it. So it's always new to me. I know he's heard it before. That's not new to him either. I mean, they definitely come up. Of course. It's human for them to come up. You got to approach tomorrow's game like it's its own. And we look forward to the challenge. I know I do. We can use his we're going to have to have him out there on the court. I think he played great in his minutes he had last night. 14 minutes, 9 7, that's really good production. The fact that we're a whole finally for a game that means a lot to us all, it should help us. |
| No, it wasn't my choice, it was a suggestion that Spoel brought up, and I thought it was good early on for us. It gave us an opportunity to switch a lot of pick and rolls when Perk went down and did a screen for KD and I was able to switch off for him. Whatever the case may be, we had a good game plan to start the game, and the third quarter hurt us. I don't think so. You know, we know we have to have more production for sure. We're going to have to have more guys in there to give me and D Wade a rest. And Shane, Shane played a lot of minutes. But Spoel will figure that out. We'll be more conscious about it, just trying to get a minute or two here or there so we can finish strong, but I don't think it was much of a problem tonight. I think offensively we just moved the ball. We moved the ball, and Shane was the recipient of those of us moving the ball, especially in the first half. He knocked down a lot of shots, you know, and he helped us a lot to spread the floor. He's a big part of our unit, and when he knocks down shots, we're a very, very good team. He was just the recipient of us moving the ball and getting the ball from one side to another, and he was able to get some shots down. think they made shots and we missed shots. The couple offensive rebounds they got, they didn't make many mistakes in the fourth quarter. I don't think we made many mistakes in the fourth quarter, it's just they made more plays, especially offensively. They made more shots. Russell made some big time shots, KD made some big time shots, and Nick Collison got a few offensive rebounds that allowed him to extra possessions when we did a stop. So I think that's what it's about. You take them with confidence, take more shots with confidence, and at the end of the day you live with it. All your shots are not going to go in, of course not, but you try to put pressure on the defense, and then when you shoot the ball, you shoot it with confidence. Not give up 56 points in the paint Well, first of all, those two guys are all stars for a reason. You can't stop them, you just try to limit them. And Russ made some big plays late, but I think we can live with him shooting 10 for 24 from the field. I think KD got a couple looks that we don't like. He had two transition threes that we gave up where he had nobody on him, and he had a couple jumpers that we didn't like, either, with nobody on him. We need to make adjustments with that. We will make adjustments. Like D Wade said, this was the feel out game. We come out with a lot of energy, try to steal Game 1, and now we get an opportunity to go to the chalkboard, go to the film and have a better game plan in Game 2 since we've already seen them to see to see what they're capable of doing. He's always aggressive. Any time he's on the floor, tonight 46 minutes, he's always aggressive. It doesn't matter what court it is. It's not been too difficult. It's just been challenging. When you go out there with different lineups from game to game, it's challenging for sure. But we've been able to figure it out. We've been able to figure it out on the fly and find ways to make it successful either for that game or that series in general. Yeah, I think so. Just because of the depth of teams and both teams have so many guys that can do so many things defensively, that can guard multiple positions defensively. You know, it allows both coaches to be flexible. You can see that throughout the course of the series. No, that's not right. There's no stories behind it. You know, it's a look, it's a fashion thing. But he absolutely didn't start it. I don't know who started it, honestly. I think know I've wearing mine for about two years now. But I don't know who started it. None of us started it. It could have started back in the '70s or '80s. I'm serious. I mean, fashion comes and goes, decades No, we didn't. It just happened like that. Absolutely, I tell him a lot. A lot of times I try to let him figure it out on his own, but sometimes I go to him and tell him I need one of those games from him, I need one of those performances from him because he still has it. He knows he still has it, too, but every player needs a little kick every now and then, no matter how time tested they are. Yeah, I try to continue to let him know how important he is to this team, which he should know, but he also needs to be D Wade and not worry about deferring as much. I'm not surprised because it's nowhere near close to last year. This year it's happened maybe a handful of times, I can probably count on my hands as many times it happened as much basketball as we play. Last year it happened a lot. It happened every week or every other week where we was trying to figure out ways we can help our team or we can figure out ways we can help one another. But it wasn't happened much this year, so it's not surprising when it comes up. It's just reassurance. I think I have a lot of fun with the game. You know, I'm back to having this year in particular, I have a lot of fun or I've had a lot of fun with the game. I got back to what drove me to the game and what made me fall in love with the game. It's been a great ride this whole year, and just doing the things that need to be done to help our ballclub win and for me to have fun on and off the floor. I feel good. I mean, it's whatever, honestly. I mean, I will do whatever it takes for our team to win. If I need to start on him, I will. I kind of coach gave us an idea for Game 1, and we went with it. We still had an opportunity to win Game 1, we just didn't make enough plays. Oh, I don't know. Like I said, I don't say something to him before every game. I don't know even if I will for Game 2. We'll see. I don't have nothing planned as of right now what I may say to him to prepare him. I mean, he's a winner, he's a veteran, he knows how to prepare, so forth, for a Finals game, this being his third. We'll see. I mean, when you're at ease, honestly, the game becomes very easy for you. For me it's just once I was comfortable with everything that was going on off the court, I was able just to let my preparation and all the years that I've put into playing the game of basketball just take care of itself. I know how much work I've put into the game, and I don't dis appreciate the game in no way, I don't take it for granted me being in the position I'm in. I kind of let it take care of itself, and it rewards me. Well, it's a fine line, honestly, especially now being in The Finals. There's always times where you would like to get a minute here, a minute there, two minutes there, and I've got to be more out with my coaching staff, as well, when I feel like I may need a minute here or a minute there and then I can go back into the game. But there's also times where I may feel tired, but I'm playing well, we're playing well, so I don't want to mess up the rhythm, and this is a rhythm game. It's a fine line with getting rest and just playing through it because I don't feel like I hurt my teammates when I am out there. But it's just all about a communication thing, getting two minutes rest here, three minutes there. It may can help. Well, I mean, any time the timeouts or the TV timeouts, the breaks, halftime, you get rest, you're able to recoup and reenergize. I mean, it helps. Well, this is one game. We will make adjustments. This is going to be a long series. I'm not worried about the end of the series right now. It is. It is necessary for any scorer. I mean, you look at last night, I mean, Kevin Durant had 10 points in transition, Russell Westbrook had 10 points in transition. Scorers, when you get those easy transition buckets, the jump shot starts to feel more better, the pull up jumpers that are contested feel more better, and for D Wade and for myself, we feel the same way. When you guys see us get out on the break and we got alley oop dunks and lay ups and things like that, we start to make a lot of plays. I always try to make a conscious effort especially with D Wade to try to get him some easy ones, you know, get him a dunk in transition or get him a lay up or in half court where he's not facing the double team, what he's going to be facing for most of the game. So it helps. Well, I mean, every game is its own. Sometimes we're good, we're great when we're playing our two man game, and other times it has our offense stagnant and it's not allowing us to get the ball from one side to the other. I think we're very good offensively and in the half court when we're attacking, no matter what we're doing, either we're playing two man game or we're moving the ball from one side to the other and we're attacking the rim and getting to the free throw line. So that's when we're at our best. |
| First one, Ray came to set a pick and roll in the first one, and David West basically just put his hands up and he was able to get his hands on the ball. A little careless on my part obviously. And then the second go round, I was able to get in the lane, I spun and I seen Ray once again wide open and I was careless once again. I had the lane for Ray. I maybe should have jump passed it over the top. I tried to throw it through the lane, and they was able to get the hand on it again. Can't happen in that situation. Especially being down two in a big game. Very disappointing, of course, for me. That's the first thing I always look at on the stat sheet is my turnovers. I had two key ones at a big point of the game. I am very disappointed in my judgment and my plays down the stretch. But I'll make up for them. I get ready for Game 3, like I did in Game 1 and Game 2. I didn't have any emotions after making the game winner in Game 1. We won one game and tonight we lost one. So emotionally I'm still at the same level I've been at. We had an opportunity, but they played well enough to win Game 2. We're just two guys trying to do what it takes to help our team win. He's really good. He's going to be a great one. His maturity and his game has definitely risen in just one year because of the opportunity Frank Vogel has given him. His teammates have a lot of confidence in him, and he has confidence in himself. I love competition. I try to step up to the challenge and try to be there for my team as well. I think the outside shot isn't there for the guys who have been hitting all year for a couple of reasons; the rhythm. We have to figure out a way to get our shooters into the game more instead of trying to get them the ball and make them make a tough one late in the game for Ray or from Rio or from Shane. We have to figure out how to get them some shots early in the game, where they feel like they're part of the offense. That has to come from me, come from D Wade, come from CB. We're the three guys that have the ball in our hands a lot. Try to get our shooters in the game early. We know they've been there for us all year. We're going to continue to have confidence in them. We know it'll help us out a lot. I think having them a part of the flow offensively, they'll feel like they're part of the offense, they'll be there late for us. I mean, I know the answer to that. I'm not going to say it right now while I'm competing against the guy. He may try to use that during our match up right now. I know the answer to that. I'll answer it after the series. Just our experiences over the years. We've had home court and we lost a game at home. But like I said, every game, every series is different. We will figure out ways what we could have did better. Tonight we had some opportunities. We had some really, really good opportunities tonight. One that sticks out in my head a couple of plays, I think we were up four, got a stop, CB got a good look at a three. We missed it. Then Lance Stephenson I think hit a three. If CB makes that, it may be a different ballgame. Also getting another stop and Rio having a clean look from the corner. But I mean, there are experiences over the year, we just stay even keeled. We don't get too high, we don't get too low in the series. We know we're going to go into a hostile environment against a very good team, and we look forward to the challenge. I'm nowhere near close. I made two mistakes tonight. That hurt our team. And that hurt more than anything. Let my teammates down. They expect me to make plays down the stretch, and I had the ballwith the opportunity to make a couple of plays and I came up short. That burns. But the best thing about it is this isn't college. It's not one loss and you're done. I have another opportunity to get better in Game 3, and if I'm put in that position again, to be able to learn from it. My turnovers hurt more than anything. I think the careless turnovers. My mind seen the right play in my head; two guys on the ball, Ray Allen is open. But if I could take it back, I would maybe throw the bounce pass on the first one, because David West had high hands. And on the second one I would still make the same play, but I would probably jump pass over the defense instead of going through the lane, the passing lane. When I took the spin on Paul George, I seen Ray wide open. So I tried to throw the ball through the lane, through the passing lane instead of doing the jump pass. And I would have been able to complete it. Me turning the ball over, no matter what point of the game, but especially like tonight, with us down to a one possession game, those hurt more than anything, more than missing a free throw, more than missing a shot, more than anything. It is disappointing. But at the end of the day, we had a chance to win. We still had a chance to win. I thought Hibbert was big tonight. Every time we kind of made a run, he was able to make some big shots. Especially in the fourth quarter. He had his jump hook going, he had his rolls going. I thought George Hill was the X factor tonight. 18 points, hit some big shots, some big free throws. Just kept them above water. We can't allow 50% on our floor. But at the end of the day, it was 40 points in the paint. It was 9 8 second chance points, 8 6 fast break points. We had 14 turnovers; they had 13. It was a pretty much even game. And they just made one more play, or two more plays than we made down the stretch. Again? No. No. The first play, like I said, I was careless with it. I threw it back to Ray. He was open. I was still on the perimeter. Hibbert was not even around. The second play I drove and I spun away from Hibbert, and seen Ray and turned the ball over. So, no, he wasn't a distraction for me at all. |
| You would like to be out there on the floor, especially me. Be there for my teammates especially in the closing minutes when we have a chance to win. Wasn't able to do that. That's obvious. They did a good job of taking away our first option. Sometimes our second option. I believe though we had some really good looks and some of them just didn't go down. You give a lot of credit to their D. As a team they D'ed in on me, especially in the low post. But for me, I've seen every defense, I've seen every individual. I was able to get it going a little bit in the second half. I played mostly with foul trouble. I thought we got some great looks. I thought CB had a great look by their bench, a three pointer. I thought D Wade was going to get a good look on my offensive foul. You know, you give some credit to them for sure, for holding us to only three points. But some of the shots that we had just didn't go down. We can't afford to get beat on the glass by 20. Can't happen. It allows them to get second chance points. Then they shot the ball from the field 50%. As a collective group, we can't allow that. But we don't need confidence to go into any game. We're a confident bunch. We're excited to get the opportunity to go back to our home and play Game 5. I thought, I mean, offensively he played extremely well. He attacked us. He got some offensive rebounds. He got one offensive rebound for a tip back. I think he played well. He played really well. But if you are sitting here and talking about an individual one on one match up between me and Lance Stephenson, I'm not going to harp on that. I didn't believe it was an offensive foul. I was going to set a screen, and I felt like I was stationary. And D Wade rejected the pick and roll. Lance actually ran into me. I believe I was straight up and down on Paul George's drive, on the and one. Hibbert, they reversed a call with Hibbert, called a foul for me on that one. And at the end of the third they called a push off on David West in the end of the third. It was a couple of calls that I didn't feel like were fouls, personal fouls on me. That's how the game goes sometimes. He's playing well. He has his jump hook going. I think we just got to try to clean up some of those offensive rebounds that he's getting, because he's going to make some shots in the low post. We're playing some great defense, getting them down to late seconds. One that sticks out in my mind tonight is the long heave three by Paul George that went off the backboard, and he got the offensive rebound. That was a big time play. I think I fouled him on that to give him a three point play. And then there's a couple of other ones. He's so big and being around the rim, he's able to get a lot of offensive rebounds. If we can cut that in half, it would help us out a lot. Yeah. We wanted to be greedy and get two. We were able to come here and regain home court. We feel good about that. It's a three game series with two on our home floor, if needed. We look forward to Game 5. D Wade told me about it today. Obviously I'm not on social media right now during the playoffs. D Wade came to me with the story today, and it was a no brainer for me. It's sad. It puts everything in perspective. At the end of the day, this game is just basketball. Two great teams, we're competing. But it's just basketball. You have a little girl or any kid that loses her life over an illness, it's very sad. It's very sad. It puts everything in perspective. I understand that this game is so magnified, and this is the talk of a lot of people throughout the day. But what happened to Bella puts everything in perspective. |
| Explain it? You seen it. It was total domination by the Pacers in the third. They made a lot of shots. We didn't get too many stops. And we missed some very, very easy shots. D Wade had a chippy in transition. Rio had a chippy in transition. We bobbled a turnover on a three on one break. CB had a couple of good looks. They pushed it up. It just needed one quarter. One quarter to separate the two teams. 23 21 first. 17 18 second, 23 22 fourth. And you know, 29 15 in that third. That was the separation. No. No. I believe in my teammates. They are struggling right now, obviously. So they got another opportunity on Monday, and I look forward to the challenge. I know they do as well. I mean, obviously it's a little bit of both. They're two great players. When they don't shoot well or play well, it's more them. It's not taking no discredit away from Indiana's defense; they were amazing tonight. They forced us to have more turnovers than assists. And we only shot 36% from the floor. But I think Dwyane and Chris have seen every defense ever been applied to them in their ten year career, and they've been able to figure it out. This one just took a little longer. had to run down the court to stop from being kicked out. I thought it was a pretty bad call. I don't complain about calls too much. I thought me and Hibbert met at the mountaintop. I didn't throw an elbow. Basically I went straight up. And I knew he was going to go high hands, like he had been doing. So I went to a double clutch to try to let him go down. Then I was able to go over the top. I don't have no idea why that was called an offensive foul. So, you know, just stopped me from being ejected. I think at that moment I just got away from the ref that called it. I said absolutely nothing. I ran down the court to get me away from the scene of the crime, I guess. I may have to look over the film. I am able to replay a lot of plays in my head. I know for him I know he missed a couple of chippies that he wished he could get back. He had a lay up or two lay ups in the third, pretty good ones, pretty good looks, some looks he hadn't had all series. He went around Hibbert I think and he missed one at the rim, it rimmed out. He had another one that rimmed out for him as well. I know he wish he could get those back. Those are rhythm plays for anyone. When you're struggling, the best thing to get is a lay up or a dunk. He missed a couple of them. So I can go over the film. I will watch the film tonight and I will watch it tomorrow and see ways that we can try to help him get on track. That will be great for our team. I mean, we can state the obvious; they're both struggling. Chris is struggling with his shot, and him hurting his ankle didn't help him a lot as well. I think he will find it. He will find it. It's my job as a leader to keep him motivated, to let him know how important he is to our movement, to our chances of returning to The Finals. The best thing about this opportunity is right here we worked all season long to get home court advantage. If we ever had an opportunity or we put ourselves in position where we weren't taking care of business on the road, we always have one more to fall back on at home. This is the position we're in and those guys as professionals, as champions, we'll figure it out. And me as the leader, I'll have to help them figure it out. It's going to be tough. I probably won't be able to relax just because of the excitement of having the Game 7 in our building, the opportunity to go to the NBA Finals. I probably will not be able to relax until the game starts. It's an opportunity for us. And like I said, that's why we had the best record in the league for. If we didn't take care of business on the road at some point in the playoffs, we can always fall back on this. We'd hate to be in this position, but it's an opportunity and we look forward to it on Monday, I believe. Do the opposite of what you just said. It's not promised. Each and every year there are 30 teams that would love to be a part of this. To have one game to advance to the NBA Finals. And there's two teams that's in this position. And it's something that you can't substitute this feeling. You can't substitute the atmosphere that we're going to be in on Monday night for both teams. We should all cherish this moment. At the end of the day, go out and play, have fun. It's just a game of basketball. That's all it is. It's just a game of basketball at the end of the day |
| It was tough. You're going to make me go back to that play? Tony did everything wrong and did everything right in the same possession. He stumbled two or three times, he fell over, and when he fell over, I was like, okay, I'm going to have to tie this ball up. He got up and went under my arm. I got a great contest, and he even double pumped it and barely got it off. That was the longest 24 seconds that I've been a part of. It is what it is. It's a seven game series. You know, we got to see ways we can get better for Game 2. We can only focus on the next game. That's what it's about. Well, yeah. They did a good job of putting two guys on the ball. When I got the ball, they kind of shrunk the floor and set a guy at the elbow and dared me to pass the ball. I know my guys will be there to knock those shots down the next game. We had some really good looks, especially in the third quarter. Rio had some very good looks. It just didn't go down. They did a good job tonight. We had our chances to win. We go into the fourth quarter with a three point lead. So we had our chances. We had five turnovers in the fourth. We gave them some offensive rebounds in the fourth as well. And Tim Duncan had one putback; Kawhi Leonard had another one. We can't allow that. Yeah, against this team you can't make many mistakes. You look at statistics, you know, we put in ourselves in position to win. They shot 31%. We outrebounded them by 9. We had more assists. But we turned the ball over five times in the fourth. I was looking at the stat sheet. It says they had 21 second chance points. I don't really understand how is that possible with only six offensive rebounds. I'm very good at math, and the only way you can get a second chance point is if you get off a rebound. Am I correct? Even if you hit a three, six offensive rebounds, that's still 18 points. I don't understand how that works. But we had chances. That's kind of weird. I don't understand this. Am I right or am I wrong? Am I right? Okay. It's crazy. The Spurs are the Spurs. They're going to put you in positions where you feel uncomfortable offensively and defensively. And every time you make a mistake, they're going to capitalize on it. I told him I needed one. At that point I had played the whole third. I had been accustomed to being able to start the fourth. But the third quarter was so I was in the paint, defensive rebounding, I was closing out Kawhi Leonard on shooters. It took all in the tank from me in the third quarter. So I needed a little breather. The fourth quarter was the difference. I can see it on a few of our guys' faces. Felt a little fatigued, still a little banged up from that seven game series. They looked like they were rested in the fourth quarter. They took advantage of that. We had some mental mistakes, and we played some really good basketball. But in the closing quarter we had some mental mistakes. And it's only a couple of teams you can't have mistakes against, especially in the fourth. And San Antonio is definitely the number one team. It's the first team to four. They came in and beat us on our own floor in Game 1. I know they're going to be hungry to try to get two. So we have to be able to combat that and come back with a Game 2 plan that's better than Game 1 and even the series. I mean, I missed some shots. I missed some really good looks. As far as being efficient, I'm not worried about that. I also had 18 rebounds and 10 assists as well. So you know, I'm not too much worried about what I do as far as scoring. I think one thing about our team we've gotten better as the series went on. We hate to lose before we start to get a little edge, but that's what happens. We'll see if we can continue to repeat what we've been doing in the series, being down, and come back on Sunday with a like I say, with a better game plan, you know, and try to even the series. |
| Some of it both. They're doing a great job of putting bodies in front of me and not allowing me to have some of the creases I have had throughout the playoffs. Some of it is me being out of rhythm. It's a little bit of both. No, I figure it out. I'll be better. I'll be much better tomorrow night. Better than last night. I played like . Yeah. Absolutely. I take full responsibility for our team's performance last night. Me as a leader, I can't afford to perform like I did last night and expect us to win on the road. It's that simple. So I'm putting all the pressure on my chest, on my shoulders to come through for our team. That's the way it is. I have to do whatever it takes. I mean, 7 for 21 isn't going to cut it. Zero free throws. I had 11 rebounds, I had 5 assists, but 7 for 21 and zero free throws ain't going to cut it. So I will be better tomorrow. We've been at our best when I guess our backs are up against the wall. And we're at it again. We'll see how we respond tomorrow. We have to have a collective group to win, especially against this team. And everyone has to perform at a high level. No, I'm not discounting anyone. We wouldn't be at this point without my teammates. I have all the confidence in the world in my teammates. But I am the star, I am the leader. And they look at me to do things on the court, to make plays, and if I'm not doing it, I'm not doing my job. Absolutely. We'll see what happens. Something has to give tomorrow night. They have a championship pedigree. They have four. We have two. So something has to give. We'll see what happens. We've been able to bounce back throughout adverse times throughout the season throughout the years that we've been together, these three years. We'll see. You can't have both of them. If you can go 7 for 21, but you get to the free throw line ten plus times, you're being aggressive. You have to be able to shoot the ball high clip from the field if you're not going to the free throw line. You can't have both. It's impossible for me to go 7 for 21, shoot 33% from the field and not have free throws. You have to figure out ways offensively that you can make an impact. At times it has. Last night a few of them did. A few of them didn't. But I know, I've shot the ball my rhythm, I've been in good rhythm all year. I've worked on it enough. Mentally it's not a problem. Mentally I'm not out of it, saying that my shot is gone. I know what I can do. It's just about going up there and knocking them down. I will do that. 19 offensive rebounds, 20 points in transition for the Spurs. I don't know. It's just something we've grown over the years, being able to bounce back in adverse situations. And no matter the circumstances, this is going to be probably one of the toughest, because this is like you said, we're going against a team championship DNA and championship pedigree on the floor and a must win. We're going to be ready for it. We're going to accept the challenge and see what happens. I don't believe I was settling. I think I took the shots that was there. I had some really good looks that didn't go down. But I just didn't get to the free throw line. I can't allow that to happen. I have to try to put more pressure on the defense. Not saying the whistle is going to be blown, putting pressure on their defensive interior and for myself to kick it out for my guys to have to do that. That's what I was brought here to do. And it can't be anything less than that. I'm just confident in my ability. And my teammates are going to put me in positions to succeed. And the coaching staff will put us in positions to succeed. I'm a positive guy. I love the game. I have fun with the game. As dark as it was last night, can't get no darker than that, especially for me. So I guarantee I'll be better tomorrow for sure. I don't know. I don't know what they don't understand. I guess they're not on the floor. But for me, I don't really get involved in what people say that I should do. I just do what I need to do to help our team win. I can't worry about what guys are saying or writing. I don't really get involved in it. Is in my head? Right now? Well, I'm better today than I was last night, obviously. I mean, if you see my comments and you see my interview, it'll let you know it was weighing heavily on me, right after getting blown out in a Finals game. So it was weighing heavily on me. With my performance, I didn't particularly care for myself at that point in time. So obviously it was in my head. I think that's one way. Another way is for us to get we have to get stops, too. And defensive rebounding, where I'm getting the ball off the backboard and trying to create some early offense instead of playing against their half court defense. But, yeah, I may use that adjustment. Thanks, David. Appreciate it. My man. He's doing something they haven't done this year. They're 29th in offensive rebounding this year. And Kawhi has found a way to I think he's made an adjustment to get offensive rebounds. So it's part of my job, too. It's part of my job, too. I'm matched up with him a lot. I get caught sometimes trying to help out our bigs and rebounding. He's coming in flying in when I'm helping out with our bigs, he's coming in and getting rebounds. I think in Game 2 he had eight offensive rebounds in Game 2. He had a couple last night as well. That's part of my job, too. I'm okay with that. Specifically what do you mean? Well, I mean, I think first of all, I think David said it well, getting the ball on the move. Get some early offense. Not playing against their set defense as much. They're doing a good job of when I come off pick and rolls, they have a guy shrink the floor at the elbow and getting a big in front of my body and a guy guarding to pursue the ball as well. They are putting me in a position where they can crowd me a lot. If I can get the ball in transition where I'm facing my defender or maybe just one other defender, I can break their defense down. But I will watch film today. I'm going to break down the film. We already watched a lot of film. I'm going to break it down some more, and do a better job of attacking their defense tomorrow |
| Absolutely. That's the position we're in. The most important game is Game 6. We can't worry about a Game 7. We have to worry about Game 6 and going back home, being confident about our game, being confident about getting a win, which we are. So it is what it is. We have a Game 6 on our home floor. He said it. He said it. We're going to see if we're a better team than we were our first year together. I always kind of focus on the present. And for us the next challenge is Tuesday night. We will get better tomorrow. We're going to watch film, see ways we can clean up our starts, especially our first quarter. We're not playing well in the first quarter. We have to figure that out. But our next challenge, biggest challenge will be Tuesday night. We have an opportunity on our home floor with our home fans to keep the series going, and we look forward to it. Well, I mean, for me I think opportunity is everything. Pop gave him an opportunity. He's trying to seize the moment, and he's doing great for his team so far. If I knew the answer we would have won two games in a row. I don't know. Just haven't been able to do it. I think that's where it starts for us, honestly. Getting into the paint. I think between the two of us, we probably missed 12 lay ups tonight. Transition lay ups that we usually convert. I missed a lob. I missed two lay ups. Transition on the same possession. I know D Wade had a few lay ups that we're accustomed to making. Those are points in the paint that we weren't able to convert which we are not worried about. Those are shots we make. And maybe it would be a different turnout at that point. Ray is a big part of our team. So when he's on the floor, he's a threat. We try to find him. I think just to piggyback on what he said, it don't matter if you are up, you need one more win or one more win you're out. You can't sleep. Especially at this point. It's a great opportunity for both teams. For them to close this out for them to win it, and for us to force a Game 7. So we look forward to the challenge. We've been here before. And like you said, we've been on both sides of the fences. See what happens, and we got an opportunity to do something special. And we look forward to it. |
| I don't think we played a solid game all the way through. We had a lot of mistakes, and they took advantage of it. Obviously, a three point shot is a big thing for our team, and tonight they weren't there. No one had it going. We had some really good looks. They didn't fall, and we just got to do a better job executing in the next game. A little bit of everywhere. I mean, they got some threes early on. Our pick and roll coverage had a lot of breakdowns, including myself; I broke down a few times defensively, and we allowed them to get into the paint. I mean, they shot 37 free throws to our 15, which is definitely something that we can't duplicate going into Game 2. But we had some breakdowns throughout the game, and that's what resulted in us losing this game. As a veteran ball club, we will watch the film and break it down and be better prepared in Game 2. It will be a little bit of both. Just because you watch it on film doesn't mean it's going to be exactly how you want to play in it. You've got to be able to read and adjust on the fly. But I think going into Game 2 we'll be more mentally prepared for their actions and have a game plan of how we're going to cover their pick and rolls. They did a great job with their pick and rolls, with Roy setting it or David setting it and exploited us. The game's still so fresh. It's too hard just to say, well, we need to do this better in Game 2. We need to evaluate our mistakes and things we did well in Game 1 first before I can say what we need to bring to Game 2. Tomorrow will be a game I mean, will be a day when we watch film and start to prepare for Tuesday. We wasn't surprised because Spo told us what the lineup was going to be. So we weren't surprised. It's got to be a collective group, not just one guys or two guys. We all have to get down there and help everybody out. They outrebounded us by nine. So we've got to do a better job of that. We will see. We'll make adjustments, and we'll be a better team in Game 2. We just gave them too many points in the first quarter. We let George Hill get into a real good groove to start the game. And from that point on, I mean, they hit 30 on us, and we just broke down defensively, had a couple of breakdowns, couple of miscommunication errors. Like I said, which we will clean up. They took care of business Game 1, and we'll figure it out going into Game 2. |
| I picked up some early fouls. It's definitely something I'm not accustomed to, but my teammates kept it going and put us in a position to win. That's all we can ask for. We needed it. We needed every bit of it. Wish it would have resulted in a win when he started to make shots, it was big time. He gave us huge minutes. His timely shots, defensive activity. He's been great ever since he's been inserted into the lineup for sure. Just called it out. I was able to get into the paint, drew two, and saw C.B. in the corner in his sweet spot. Thought we got a pretty good look. You live with the result. I don't really I mean, I'm just here to play basketball, man. All the extracurricular activities, I don't really get into. I mean, I'm just trying to win. We need one more game to get The Finals. That's my only concern. We put ourselves in a position to win tonight, and as competitors, as professionals, that's what we are. At the end of the day, we put ourself in a position to win. All the extra, whatever Lance wants to deal with, I don't really care about that. Absolutely not. It's a clean slate for myself. It sucks for me because I'm not able to make plays to help our team win. I made a couple in the fourth, but 24 minutes is not enough for me to make an imprint on the game like I know I'm accustomed to doing or I know I can do. So you just continue to help the guys from the bench, let them know what you can see when you're in foul trouble, and ways we can try to exploit them. But I'm much better on the floor than I am off of it for sure. I mean, it is what it is. We go back home. We learn from our mistakes tonight, and tomorrow we get ready for Friday. I said that? You think or I said that? Yeah, I don't think I said that. Yeah, okay. Don't worry about it. Obviously, we don't want to come back. We come here to win. We'll focus on Game 6 now. Like I said before, we focus on the things that we can control and not the things we can't control. We learn from our mistakes. 17 turnovers on the road for 21 points is definitely not winning basketball in no way, shape, or form. Like D Wade said, this game is imperfect. You cover for those mistakes. At the end of the day we put ourselves in position to win, and we look forward to the game on Friday. It's Eastern Conference Finals, it should be urgency no matter what. You can't control shots going in. It's a make or miss league. I think turnovers for sure. You can control that. You're going to have some. We're an attack team. We're going to have attack turnovers. Some of the careless turnovers, some of the swing passes, some of the entry passes where we were careless with them and we allowed them to get into the open floor, those are some of the things we can clear. No. We don't get involved in things that we can't control. That's not how we play ball. Only thing we can control is how we approach the game in Game 6. Lance is Lance. He's going to do what he needs to do to help his team win. As to the leaders of our team, we're going to do what it takes to help our team win. The game is reffed by the refs. They ref how they see it. We play it, and you live with the results. I mean, it's easy to say that after the fact. It's like playing cards, that's why they got backs on them. You don't know what's going to happen. For me, my teammates trust me that I'm going to make the right play to help us win. I trust myself that I'm going to make the right play to help us win. And win, lose, or draw, you live with that. I don't it doesn't matter from somebody else's perspective. We got a great look. C.B. makes that shot, then we go, we get a stop, and we're headed to The Finals. So it's a make or miss league. You don't think about things you could do in the past. You just correct them in the future. Probably my wife. I blew in my wife's ear before. That was definitely a defensive tactic. That's the second time it's happened to me, right? |
| I'm feeling better than I did when I came off the floor. So, doing better. I was going to try to give it a go and Spo said no. It sucks at this point in time in the season. You know, after I made that layup we was down two and, you know, as well as they played we still had a chance. You know, after I came out of the game, they kinda took off. And it was frustrating sitting out and not be able to help our team. Yeah, it's both. I mean, it's frustration and anger, but at the same time it's something that you try to prevent, you try to control. I mean, I got all the fluids I need to get, I do my normal routine I've done and it was inevitable for me tonight, throughout the conditions, you know, out there on the floor. I lost all the fluids that I was putting in in the last couple of days out there on the floor. It sucks not being out there for your team, especially at this point in the season. The best option for me to do was not to move. I tried and any little step or nudge, it would get worse. It would lock up worse and my muscles spasmed 10 out of 10. Best thing for me to do was just not to move, and, you know, it was frustrating. Well, no, it was the whole left leg, damn near the whole left side. I was losing a lot throughout the game. It was extremely hot in the building, you know, both teams, fans, everybody could feel it. I was the one that had to take the shot. Drank a lot at halftime, even changed my uniform, just tried to get the sweat up off of you. Our training staff tried to do the best they could by giving us ice bags and cold towels on timeouts, keep us dry. It was an unusual circumstance, I never played in a building like that, it's been a while, like high school game or CYO and everybody is sitting on top and you feel good being in a building like that. But, you know, at the end of the day, it's no discredit for what they did. They played extremely well. They moved the ball extremely well. I think they had 30 assists. You know, even from the turnovers both teams were committing, uncharacteristic of both teams, they played extremely well. I need it, I need it, I need it. We're going to start tonight, continue to get the fluids in me and get me ready for Sunday. Thankful for the fact that I can get on it tonight, and put myself in a position where I can be out there for my team for the long haul. And sitting on the sideline, you know, if I'm not in foul trouble, is not good for us and not good for me. Look forward to Game 2 and go from there. |
| Oh, they jumped on us, and they were the aggressor tonight, and they had us on our heels from the beginning. This is something that at this point in the season shouldn't happen, but they were more aggressive an us and they got off to that 41 25 lead at the end of the first. Well, I mean, of course. I mean, it's The Finals, so everything is magnified. You want to win at this point in the season but for us, we will get better from tonight. We hate the performance that we put on, but it's 2 1. It's not 4 1. It's 2 1, and we have to make some adjustments tomorrow. We're going to come in and learn from our mistakes, as we always do after a loss, and get ready and prepared from the beginning. You know, this is the last team in the NBA that you can dig yourself a hole against. You just can't do it, and we learned from that tonight. I think it was a little bit of everything. It was a cumulative of everything. Some possessions we played extremely well and they hit shots. Some possessions we weren't quite there and they hit shots as well. One thing about this team, if you make a mistake, they're going to make you pay, and they made us pay more often than not tonight from some of the mistakes that we made defensively. I was in a pretty good rhythm tonight as well. I just turned the ball over way too much. I had two at halftime, I had five in the second half, and some of them were trying to make some plays to my teammates, and some of them were just overdribbling at times. So I've got to do a better job with that for sure. It's not surprising that I have a Finals record for something I don't want to have, you know, so there we go. It's a new storyline for LeBron. I don't think we had a lack of urgency. Just they were very aggressive and we didn't match that. They came in with a desperation that we just didn't match. Just because it's our fourth Finals doesn't mean anything. That doesn't guarantee you a win. It doesn't guarantee you that you'll be more urgent or less urgent than the next team. You just have to prepare for each and every game. We've got to have a better performance in Game 4, for sure. We definitely can't get behind this team like we did tonight. Well, we want them to run the offense and we want them to defend. When they get open looks, we want them to take them with confidence. When they have an opportunity, we want them to be aggressive. Obviously, with Tony and Patty, those guys are very high motors, so we want them to match that effort. One thing you can't control in the game of basketball if a shot goes in or not, but you can control how you defend. You can control how much energy you bring to the game, how much effort you bring to the game. If our two point guards do that, we can be okay with that. I know our two point guards, they're very passionate. They've got a lot of pride. And I know they're looking forward to learning from what they did tonight, and trying to be much better in Game 4. Well, they spread you out. They have multiple guys that can make plays. It's kind of like us. They share the ball extremely well, and those guys are always in the right spot. I mean, if they ran the set and closed their eyes, they know exactly where the guys going to be at. It's a system they've been in. They do a great job of feeling one another out. And every guy that's on the floor can make a play. You know, it's very challenging mentally and physically for a defense. So you always have to be in tune. |
| No, first time I left I went to go get retaped, retape my ankle. It's been kind of bothering me for the last couple days, but I felt okay. Second time I went back, I just had to use the restroom. Well, I mean, man, we put ourselves in a position where it is about making history. But all we can do is worry about Game 5. We've got to worry about Sunday first. Try to go up there in a hostile environment, where we were able to steal one in Game 2, and try to get another one and go on from there. Obviously, I do know the numbers. It's never been done before, but we're still a confident bunch, even though our heads are lowered down right now. Of course, being down 3 1, and losing two straight games at home, that's just human nature. But we've still got to go out and play on Sunday. That didn't mean nothing, you know. If it's not helping us get into the game, it didn't mean nothing. I tried to will us back into the game, but they continued to execute. I continued to make shots. I had a huge third quarter, but it meant nothing. I mean, they smashed us. Two straight home games, got off to awful starts. They came in and were much better than us in these two games. It's just that simple. I mean, coming into the series we knew that that's what it was going to be about. They're a high oil machine and they move the ball extremely well. They put you in so many difficult positions. If you're not right on time, right on target, they're going to make you pay for it. Well, I mean, the series is not over. We've got guys with too much pride to even start thinking about that. At the end of the day, our focus will be, how do we get better than we did in Game 3 and Game 4 here at home? We're going with that bunker mentality in Game 5. Like D Wade said, we'll get away from it tomorrow physically. Mentally it will still be lingering around. Saturday you start to get back into the flow of things, and then Sunday you go out and play and see what happens. That sounds like a set up question. Not really? Man, they move the ball extremely well. They put you in positions that no other team in this league does, and it's tough because you have to cover the ball first, but also those guys on the weak side can do multiple things. They can shoot the ball from outside, they can also penetrate. So our defense is geared towards running guys off the three point line, but at the same time those guys are getting full steam ahead and getting to the rim, too. The challenge is as well, with them, implementing Diaw into the lineup has given them another point guard on the floor. So Manu, Tony, and Diaw and Patty Mills on the floor at once, they've got four point guards basically on the floor at once. So all of them are live and they all can make plays. So it's a challenge for us all. No, because I didn't even remember that until you just told me. Obviously, I'm a guy who always just kind of lives in the moment, man. One thing you can't do is control what happened in the past. You can only focus on the present and hopefully you can do better in the future from your present time. For me, I'm here at this point. I'm here with the 3 1 deficit, and me as one of the leaders of the team, I have to figure out a way to get us to a 3 2 deficit. And you worry about that, and everything else that's happened before you, you can't control it at this point. Well, I mean, they're a difficult challenge. Like I said, I stated it before because they have so many guys that can do multiple things. Any little mistake you make, they make you pay for it. So we have to go back to the drawing board once again, figure out ways we can slow down on the mistakes that we had and get better from it on Sunday. Soul searching, there won't be much of that. There won't be much of that at all for me. Crazy thing is my two boys are running around in the locker room after the game was over, so I had no time to even think about the game anymore. They want to know what's going on right when we get home. So having my boys around will allow me to get away from the game. But I will still be in tune with what I need to do to help our team win, and that's my mindset. But as far as soul searching, we're a veteran ballclub that's won a championship, that's won a couple championships, that's been to four straight Finals. We know what it takes to win. We've just got to go out and do it. I don't really get caught up in what pressure is all about. I mean, just go out and play basketball, play as hard as you can and live with the results. For me, I do whatever it takes to help our team win. If it's me going one on one to try to help us win, if it's me getting guys involved and taking threes in rhythm, then I'll do it. But I don't really get caught up in the pressure. You definitely don't want to it's not on my shoulder. It's not. I understand I get a lot of the limelight in the press and all that, but it's not all on my shoulder. I take a lot of it, but I do it for my teammates and I want them to put a lot of pressure on me in that sense. But going into the first quarter is how you start games off, and you don't ever want to go into the second quarter being down. But it is what it is. That is the way the series has played out thus far. You know, we have another game on Sunday to kind of right the ship and get better from it, and not be down like we've done in these first four games, because it's not been a successful ingredient for us. I don't even know what that means . I got an engine underneath my hood. I have no idea what that means. I mean, that should be the goal from the start, you know. Whoever can make plays and put your teammates in position to win, all the stones should be unturned. That shouldn't happen in The Finals. That should happen from day one. You come into training camp and you find guys, you put guys on the floor to complement each other, and you put guys on the floor, and we all help each other on the floor from the coaches to the players. So shouldn't wait until you get to The Finals for that. Thanks for clarifying that, too, because I had no idea what you were talking about |
| Oh, I mean, mixed emotions. Started off very well as a team. We had a great first quarter. But from that point on, they were the better team, and that's why they're the champions in 2014. I haven't even really thought about that just yet. Not disappointed in any of my teammates, just wish we could have came through, played a better series, but obviously we ran up against a better team this year. Like I said, I haven't even thought about it yet. I'm not even nowhere near at that point. You know, we went to four straight Finals in four years. You know, we're not discrediting what we were able to accomplish in these four years. We lost one, we won two, and we lost another one. Take 50% in four years in championships any day. Obviously, you want to win all of them, but that's just the nature of the game. You win some; you lose some. You've just got to come back the next year and be better as an individual, as a team, and go from there. But I know me and D. Wade and C.B., not proud of the way we played. All three of us, that's the last thing we're thinking about is what's going on this summer. I haven't heard it. It really doesn't matter to me what people say at all. Just wanted to try to inspire my teammates and came out very aggressive, made some shots, got to the free throw line. Tried to inspire my teammates to try to get a win. Obviously, I didn't do enough. I would agree. They were the much better team. That's what team basketball and that's how team basketball should be played. You know, it's selfless. Guys move, cut, pass, you've got a shot, you take it, but it's all for the team and it's never about the individual. That's the brand of basketball, and that's how team basketball should be played. I mean, it's hard to say anything. I mean, everyone is going through their own emotions right now. Everyone deals with it a little differently. For me, I keep my head high. I understand the position I've been able to put myself and put this team in since I got here, so my head stays high and I'm going to stay positive and use this as another opportunity to get better next year. But everyone is different. I mean, I play for my teammates every single night. I don't really get involved in management and all of that. That's not my job. I play for my teammates. I try to lead my teammates. I try to inspire my teammates. I let guys do their job and I do mine. Very efficient. I mean, he's very efficient. The first two games he didn't play so well. I thought he attacked more in the last three games, shot the ball extremely well. Every year you gain more and more confidence. Guys give you confidence, and he played extremely well. I mean, I will deal with my summer when I get to that point. Me and my team will sit down and deal with it. I love Miami. My family loves it. But obviously right now that's not even what I'm thinking about. You guys are trying to find answers. I'm not going to give you one. I'm just not going to give it to you. When I get to that point, I'll deal with it, and when it gets to that point. First time I lost, as a team we were excited to get there. We were more excited to get there than to win. You know, obviously, we would have loved to win that game and win that series, but the Spurs were more dominant than us. They were more seasoned. They had been there a few years and they took advantage of our youth and inexperience. Three years ago, our first year here, that was probably more hurtful than this one in the sense of we had put so much into it, we were going through so much. That Dallas team was the better team in that series as well. Obviously, they all hurt. This year they dominated us from every facet of the game offensively, defensively. I mean, they all hurt, but I've been able to be a part of five of them, and I would love to sit up here and say I was 5 0, but I'm not. I'm 2 3. But a lot of guys don't get this opportunity to even compete for a championship, and I've been blessed to compete for five of them in my 11 years so far. I don't think it's just the Spurs. It's the whole league. The whole league continues to get better every single year. Obviously we would need to get better from every facet, every position. It's just how the league works. The Spurs continue to get better. Obviously, they kept those three guys intact, but they continue to put guys around them, high basketball IQ guys around them, high energy guys around them that fit into the system of what Pop wanted to do. Obviously, it's not just about the Spurs. It's about the whole league. The whole league is excited about returning next season, and we'll see what happens. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Well, first of all, I give a lot of credit to Toronto. They played an exceptional game tonight. We didn't play our game, and they made us pay for it. I mean, it is a little adversity. Why not? It's the postseason, and you lose a game. This is our first loss of the postseason. I would count it as a little adversity. We've got to go back to the drawing board, not fix everything, just fix a few things, and be much better on Monday. Obviously we weren't as great as we've been tonight. I think early on at the start of the game we weren't as physical as we should have been, especially coming into a building that we knew we had to be a little bit more physical. Understanding they were going to play with a lot of speed, a lot of force, so we didn't start the game as physical as we should have at the point of attack. Also I think we lost track of some of our keys that we came into the game with, allowed us to kind of get sidetracked throughout the course of the game. Then in the second quarter, our second-quarter lineup didn't do a great job of paying attention to detail, and they was able to bust the game open and score 33 points in that second quarter. They had 39 for the whole second half. Allowing them to score 60 in the first half is not the type of game that we want to play. I think it's good for them. It's good for them. First little adversity, first individually in a long time, and I think it's good for them. I think they'll be much better obviously on Monday, but it's good for them. When someone is not shooting the ball extremely well, obviously we don't want two of our big guys not to shoot the ball -- it's going to be difficult for us to pull the game out like that. Even though with our shooting in the 30s, it was still a five-point game at one point in the third quarter. But we know they'll be much better. J.R. did a great job of trying to pick the slack up for both Kyrie and for Kev. Channing [Frye] tried as well and I did as well. But those guys will be better. They'll watch the film, and they'll be much better on Monday. That's what he's been at home and every playoff and every regular-season game. We understand he feeds off the crowd, but he's also a huge impact on the glass at home. He gives them a lot of energy, he gives them a lot of second-chance points. He had eight offensive rebounds. He cleaned up the glass on all of our misses in the first half. I think he had at one point 14 rebounds and no points. The guy just stays in his lane. He definitely gave them a boost tonight. Same way you've got right now. We don't really have a reaction. He has a great block, we're trying to get back on defense. We're not watching him wave his finger. But he probably admires him. We all take something from somebody. If I shoot a fadeaway, I got it from MJ. Throw a no-look pass, I get it from Magic. He [J.R. Smith] shoots fadeaway threes, I don't know where he gets those from. We all admire somebody, so it's no big deal. That's a great question. You know, obviously teams and a lot of players are kind of taking it a little bit. At the end of the day, I'm important to this team. I can't afford to react in any kind of way that will get me thrown out of a game, but I will protect myself. I will protect myself. When I was in high school, I got low-bridged playing in an AAU tournament as a junior in high school. A kid just low-bridged me and I fell and broke my wrist. That kind of thought always plays in my mind either when I'm getting thrown to the ground or if it's a borderline dirty play. I always think back to the Jay Z phrase and a line he had: "If I shoot you, then I'm brainless; if you shoot me, you're famous. What am I to do?" That always plays in my head. Every time I feel like I want to react, I've got to keep my brain. I'm not trying to sell a call. I got hit with an elbow. I didn't know from my own teammate. I thought it was DeMarre , but I watched the replay, it was from my teammate. So no -- sell a call for what? There was no call there to be sold. That's it. I was going to say something else to you, but I'm going to leave it alone. |
| It wasn't enough because we got off to a horrible first half once again in this building, and you're playing catch-up the whole game. So every defensive possession feels even more intensified when you've given up so many points in the first half. I think they've averaged 58 or something like that in the first half here, and in the high 30s the second half. It gets a little bit more intensified, but it just goes back to the first half. We're not starting off games the right way. The second quarter has been really bad for us here, so we've got do a better job of that where we can't dig ourselves such a big hole and now every possession feels even more intensified late in the game. Well, I mean, of course. We've got to be more well-balanced. We started the game, we had some great looks, but when they're not going, you've got to be able to try to switch it up and get into the paint and see what you can do. I was able to get into the paint a little bit, Kyrie [Irving] as well. But we just haven't shot the ball from the three-point line. That's part of what they're doing as well, but it's part of us being a little bit more conscious about, okay, if it's not going down, then we've got to get into the paint a little bit more and then kick out for threes as well. I think I played to the game plan that I wanted to play, both offensively and defensively. For me, I gave everything that I had in the 46 minutes that I played, both offensively and defensively. I felt great. Tried to get my guys involved, get myself involved. My individual game plan was pretty good. I don't know. I've got to watch the film to see the mistakes that we made. But they put it on us good in the second quarter, obviously 30-17. I think Kyle [Lowry] hit some huge shots in that second quarter. DeRozan hit some big shots as well. I've got to go over the film, but obviously 30-17 is not a good ingredient for a win. Well, first of all you tip your hat to DeMar and Kyle. They did a great job. They're All-Stars for a reason. That's why they're here today. They've carried this team all season. But even at the end of the day, as well as they played, we still had a chance. We still had a chance to win the ballgame. That's all you can ask for. But what we can't do is dig ourselves the hole that we did in the first half. I think defensively when we made that run, we played some really good defense. I think we had a couple breakdowns that I know in my head that happened throughout the run, but they also made some tough shots. They made some tough shots. They made some tough shots while we were making that run. Cory Joseph made a tough runner over the top of me going right. I think Kyle made a couple tough ones. DeMar made a couple pull-ups as well. We followed our game plan as much as 95 percent of the time. I can remember two plays that I'm not going to say right now that I wish we had back. But while we made our run, our defense stepped up, and that was good to see. I think whatever lineup coach [Tyronn] Lue puts on the floor can go the distance. We're all professionals. We have a great group of guys, so no matter who's on the floor, we have to execute. We have to play to our identity. I think our second unit did a great job of giving us a boost and whoever comes in after that has to continue to play at a high level. We do a great job as a first unit at times of picking up our second unit, and then at times our second unit does a great job of picking us up. At the end of the day, whoever is on the floor, we have to play with the same intensity both offensively and defensively. I've been blessed with a gift to pass the ball and to see the floor, and I just try to take advantage to help my teammates. I think that's one of my biggest gifts. I love getting my guys involved and making them feel a part of something special. Even me being in my 13th year in the NBA, it all started when I was a kid. My little league coach always said, There's no I in team. Obviously, we've all heard that, but when you get guys involved, it makes the game a lot easier. It's always stuck with me to this point today. I think it's a sense of the outsiders, which I've never really got involved with, saying we may never lose another game. I don't get involved in it, besides talking to you guys and when I see you guys, is all I know about it. I don't know anything that's going on outside because I don't watch. I don't watch sports TV. I don't read news clippings. I go home and I watch cartoons with my kids and watch movie channels and Man Vs. Wild and things like that because that's what really is important to me. What the outside people say, I don't really get involved with. And I am a confident guy. I'm always confident in my ability and what I can bring to my team, whatever the case may be, whatever the circumstances are. Going back home, we have to play a lot better, and I think we will. I definitely thought we had finally got over the curve of how we wanted to play here in this building. But you've still got to get stops, and they did a great job of just making shot after shot after shot, even when our run was happening. You give them a lot of credit with that. They withstand our run and us giving up 54 percent shooting, a lot of it in the first half. Like I said, when you dig a hole like that, I think we were down by 18 at one point. Again, when you dig a hole like that, like I said, every possession after that is so intensified. We got to a point where we were up, but we made a couple more mistakes and they was able to pull away. I think they did a good job of kind of moving him around. With me on him, they feel like trying to get me up off of him with a screen, either with a guard so they can force the switch -- that's part of our defense. But when they screen with a big, we have a goal that we want to try to attack. I think we'll be a lot better on what we want to do and how we want to handle those two guys, because they're playing exceptional basketball. They're 28 for 43. I mean, that's top-of-the-tier numbers right there, and they both went for 30. We've got to be much better in our schemes and doing it a little bit harder as well. |
| No, we're not a team that loses our composure over anything. We played well in the third quarter to get ourselves back into the game, even taking the lead a couple times. It was a six-point game to start the fourth, and we just didn't start the quarter like we should have, and they did a great job of pushing the lead up to double digits really fast. When you get outscored 45-10 on the bench and give up 25 points off 17 turnovers, no matter what someone does or doesn't do, it's going to be hard to win, especially on the road. And that's what it was. Obviously the game ball goes to Shaun Livingston. Came in, gave them a huge spark. But don't matter what you do with Steph and Klay, don't matter what you do with Draymond. Give up 45 points off the bench and 25 points off turnovers on the road, it's not a good ingredient to win. Well, we've got to be much better in Game 2, obviously. I think defensively we had a game plan and we followed it as much as possible. Well, as great as we could for 48 minutes. We had some breakdowns, which we know we can get better with. Offensively, we've got to be much better. We've got to be much better moving the ball, moving bodies. They're a great team when you just hold the ball and pound the ball. So we've got to do a better job with that, which Coach Lue and the coaching staff will make sure we do in Game 2. So we look forward to the challenge again. Just two days in between doesn't help. It doesn't feel good. But it gives our body a chance to get some rest. I don't quite get your question. I think you're wrong in the fact of saying it was just Klay and Steph. I mean, they got to the point where they were last year and won a championship because of their whole team and their bench. And they're here once again in The Finals because of their whole team. So nothing has really changed. They're a team that's had another year under their belt, and they've exceeded what they did last year. So it's kind of hard to answer that question because it's not really true. What happened? They scored 45 points, we scored 10. That's what happened. Well, I think they look forward to seeing what we can do better tomorrow in our film session and seeing ways we can get better going into Game 2. Yeah, we've got some young guys, but as far as confidence in those guys not believing, that's never been the case for us or any of the guys in the locker room. I know they're excited. We had a chance in that third quarter to do something special, but we didn't counter and do it. Didn't make it happen in the fourth quarter. So I'm looking forward to seeing the film session and seeing ways we can get better going into Game 2, and I think our team will as well. At times I was and at times I wasn't. We've definitely got to do a better job getting the ball moving side-to-side, getting their bodies moving. They're a great team. When you have the ball on one side, they're able to load and do things of that nature. So, you know, we will have a better game plan going into Game 2 for sure offensively. Sometimes your offense dictates your defense, and the fact that we had 17 turnovers and that led to 25 points is not a good ingredient for our offense for sure. Well, he's great at doing that, for sure. Just got to do a better job protecting the ball. It's that simple. |
| Neither. I'm not disappointed in our guys or frustrated. We've just got to do a better job. We've got to be better at all facets of the game both offensively and defensively, both physically and mentally. They just beat us at every -- we didn't win anything. No points of the game did we beat them in anything. Even when we had an early lead, they beat us to 50-50 balls, they got extra possessions, they got extra tip-ins. They beat us pretty good tonight. Selfish is probably the wrong term. I got myself in a lot of trouble tonight personally. Turned the ball over way too much. And I said after Game 1 we just can't turn the ball over against a great team and expect to win, and I had basically half of the turnovers. We had some in the fourth quarter, but we had our third group in. They had some. But I had half of the turnovers when I came out, and it resulted in them getting some easy baskets. So I've got to be better. I've got to be better with the ball. You know, trying to play make for myself and play make for my teammates at the same time, I've just got to be more solid. Well, that's one of them. That's one way to slow them down a little bit. You're able to set your defense. The game kind of broke open when we had two straight turnovers. I think game was at 28-22, I turned the ball over. Draymond got it and was able to hit I think Livingston for a dunk. And then we had another turnover and Klay hit a three, and that kind of slowed us down. Even though we were still getting back in the game, it just slowed us down from that point on. We had the lead, and it started with my turnover, and I can't just be careless with the ball, especially in the paint where a lot of reaching and things of that nature happen. So 18 turnovers once again for 26 points, I think it was 17 for 25 in Game 1. It's just not good basketball. I give my teammates stuff throughout the whole year. All the time. It's no different. We understand the moment that we're in, and it's not -- it's not every year that you get an opportunity to be in this situation, you know? And some of the guys on our team, it's their first time and they've waited their whole life to get to this point. So we know we've got to just do a little bit better. We've got to play better. We've got to play a lot better in order to get this series turned around. I know the other side is looking forward to coming to our building where they had a lot of success last year, so we've got to bear down. We've got to get back to the film and we all have to figure out ways we can help the team be successful. It's hard for me to kind of pinpoint what's not working and what could work right now. Obviously not much is working, especially offensively. Defensively we've been good at times and then at times we just looked like, okay, we're a step slow. We messed up on the coverage. We don't get back or we're just one step behind where we should be. We should be closer to our man. When you're behind these guys, they make you pay every single time. We can't have as many mental lapses. More on the physical, it's a lot of mental as well. These guys put you in so many mental positions where you have to figure it out, and they make you pay for it when you don't. What we've done these last two games doesn't put a damper or a cloud over how we got to this point. We're still here and we have a chance to turn this series around if we come in and do what we need to do both offensively and defensively. So I'm not worried about that side or what the conversations may be about. Internally we have to figure out how we can be better. We have to figure out how we can help one another. We definitely have to figure out how we can get more guys involved. 15 assists, it's not winning basketball, especially versus this team. We've just got to figure it out. Coaching staff will give us a game plan, and it's up to us to go out and execute it. 2014 is something I haven't even thought about. This is a great team, and I stated that before the series ever started. They've got two of the best shooters that we've ever seen, and they're a great team. So I've already stated that. The next couple days will be not -- I won't be reflecting. I'll figure out ways I can be better, starting as soon as I leave this podium. Probably go back to the room and watch the game, re-watch for ways I could have been better. I had a lot of uncharacteristic unforced turnovers which resulted in those guys getting 26 points off turnovers. So I'm one of the guys who kind of always wants to shoulder the blame and take the blame when we don't play as well as we should. It's just who I am, and I've got to be better. He made shots. Give credit where credit is due. The guy made shots. Not only when we left him open and contested late, but he made shots in our face. He had five threes. And we know he's a key for their team, we all know that, an All-Star for their team. And he made some big plays both offensively and defensively, obviously. We know what he does defensively for that team, so game ball to him. |
| I don't know. I'm trying to replay it back. I'm not quite sure what we ran out of timeout. Yeah, I'm not sure what we ran out the timeout when we came back out on the floor. But our offense did stall a little bit in the fourth quarter. We played a little bit too much random, trying to dribble drive, get guys looks, and then we started settling a little bit for the three-point shot when we kind of got down. Which obviously we've got to do a better job of that. But we had our chances. I think the third quarter was a momentum swing for us, and they took advantage of it. My mindset is get one. You know, we've got to go out there and play obviously better than we played tonight. Better than even we played in Game 3. But we've got to get one. It's not about overlooking this. It's about getting one on their home floor where they've been very successful. So, you know, we've got to come in with the mindset that our coaching staff is going to give us a great game plan and we've got to execute that. We're about the results after. Oh, nothing got me going. You know, Draymond just said something that I don't agree with. I'm all cool with the competition. I'm all fine with that, but some of the words that came out of his mouth were a little bit overboard, and being a guy with pride, a guy with three kids and a family, things of that nature, some things just go overboard and that's where he took it, and that was it. No, no. That conversation was competitive conversation. I'm okay with that. Well, it's been like that all year for the most part. I'm not quite sure what I can do personally to get to the free-throw line, but I've got to continue to be aggressive for our team. I'm getting hit, but the refs are not seeing it that way, on my drives. But I've got to continue to be aggressive for our team. That's who I am, that's what opens up the floor for a lot of our shooters, and just worry about the results afterwards. You know, it's tough playing 46 minutes and only going to the line four times, as much as I attack the rim. So it's just a tough situation for our team. Well, I don't know what should happen. It's not my call. That's the league office. They'll take a look at it. We all saw it in the locker room. You know, like I said, as a competitor, I love going against Draymond, and I'm all about going out there and leaving it out on the floor. But when it gets a little bit more than what it should be, that's what caused me to have words with him. So as far as the play, I think the league will take a look at it. Obviously our locker room has seen it, and we'll see what they say. No. Obviously, if you want to look to that side, then you put too much pressure on yourself. I think for me as the leader of this team, we've just got to get one. Let's get one. We've already got to take a flight home back anyways, so we might as well come home with a win and play on our home floor again. Being a confident bunch we feel like the chips have been stacked up against us all year anyway. So we've got to learn from our mistakes tonight, which we made some and we go out with the mindset let's get one and then bring it home. No. Not at all. Well, we've got to be aggressive. Our coach, Coach Lue told us to be aggressive. And obviously, we don't like to hear it in that form. We want to get our guys involved and keep our guys in a good rhythm. I just think it was just the way the game played out tonight. Well, first of all, he's a great player, and we know that. And we knew he was going to come out and be aggressive. Because of how the first three games went, and we knew he was going to be aggressive. We made some mistakes and he made us pay for them. He made us pay every time we made a mistake defensively, and he shot the ball extremely well from the three-point line. We tried to keep a body on him when he went to the paint, where he struggled a little bit, but when he went to the three-point line, he made us pay. They started making shots and then they started getting stops. They did it on both sides of the floor. It starts with, I believe, Harrison Barnes' three at the top of the key. That was a big shot to kind of get their rhythm going. Then they got some offensive rebounds, some second-chance points and then defensively they got stops. I didn't talk about the referees. I was asked a question and I answered it. I'm going to save my 25K, okay. So I have not talked about the referees. Don't put me in that cloud. I haven't been solid with the basketball. A lot of it is making plays not only for myself but for my teammates. Some of my aggression turnovers I'm okay with. I think I had two careless ones. One came at the end of the game where Steph picked it off. Another one came early in the third quarter where Bogut trapped the box and I tried to hit Double T. Draymond stepped in front of it. But some of them were attack turnovers. Trying to squeeze the ball into tight places as a quarterback would, and I'm okay with those. But some of those that are careless, I'm not okay with that. Well, for two years, any time we've gotten anyone back from injury or sickness or whatever, it's been a boost for our team, and tonight was another one. I mean, getting them back, seeing him out on the floor and him making the impact, especially in the first half when he hit a couple shots, he was able to get a layup off a offensive rebound. He started the fourth on a post-up, that was a big play for us. So I know he probably felt out of rhythm. It was a different situation for him that he hasn't experienced in quite a few years. But anytime we get someone back from injury or anything, it's a boost for our team. |
| Momentum. We didn't continue to press the tempo. Marcus Smart started to hit a lot of threes. They started to get momentum, and that's what happens -- you give a team a life. They played so freely without IT, and they just made play after play after play, and we couldn't weather the storm. I had a tough game, period. Not just in the second half. Me personally, I didn't have it. My teammates did a great job of keeping us in the game, building that lead. But me personally, I didn't have it. That's all I've got to say about my performance. No, it's never that. We've been playing so well, but like I said, you let a team grab momentum like that, you almost knew that that last shot was going to go in. It was like, you already knew. As soon as the ball went out his hands, you kind of knew that shot was going to go in because of how the game was just played throughout the second half. No, no, they didn't mix up the coverage. They did a good job of sprinting back, leveling to the ball, doubling me a little bit more in the post. But like I said, my performance personally was all on me. I mean, a lot of things went wrong. I don't know; I can't play the game right back in my head right now, and I'm looking forward to seeing the film tomorrow when we get together. But they moved the ball, like Double-T said -- 28 assists -- and they kept us at bay. We couldn't get stops. We couldn't get out in transition a lot. Those guys made plays. They made a lot of plays. They got some second-chance points. We only had two fast-break points, so they neutralized what we wanted to do. No, I was just pretty poor. I mean, what do you want me to say? Well, we're going to crack down on the film tomorrow, for sure. We've got to be a lot better. It's the postseason. You win some, you lose a couple, maybe, but how can you be better from game to game? And like I said, they was better today than we were, and we've got to figure out how to be better than them in Game 4. But we look forward to the challenge. I think it's great -- what happened hurts. It's a loss in the postseason. But I'm glad it kind of hurt, that it happened the way it did -- let our foot off the gas a little bit, didn't keep the pressure on them like we have been accustomed to. But we have to play a lot better in Game 4. I said that before the series even started about Brad Stevens' ATOs. If you go back and look at my transcript, I said he's very good out of ATOs. He has so many different wrinkles, misdirection, thinking the ball is going this way, he has a misdirection going the other way. You've got to kind of keep your head on a swivel. He has a lot of packages. So you can plan for a few, but then he might run something you've never seen before. If we communicate a little bit better out of timeouts, it'll put us in position to be more successful against that. A little bit of both. A little bit of carelessness. I had one when Kev ducked in, I should have faked high, bounced low. But I just threw it, and that lets me know I didn't have it tonight. Jae Crowder got his hands on it. We had a couple more turnovers where we just were either overpassing or overthinking or whatever the case may be. That definitely resulted in us not being as fluent as we've been offensively. Well, I feel some adversity is all part of the postseason. I feel like you have to have some type of adversity in order to be successful. If it was going to happen, let it happen now; let us regroup. Let us regroup and all the narrative and everything that was going on, let's regroup and let's get back to playing desperate basketball, which they did tonight. So we've got to be a lot better, for sure. |
| And that's -- it wasn't just the third quarter, it was the whole game. It started with myself having some turnovers, especially in the first half. I pride myself on not turning the ball over, and I did it too much. So 20 turnovers for 21 points on the road and 56 points in the paint, we did a great job of covering the 3-point line, but other than that, they played a hell of a game. No, I don't think so. But I also know that you cannot simulate what they bring to the table. No matter how many days that you have to prepare, you can't simulate what they have. So it's great to get the first game up underneath us. We made a lot of mistakes; they capitalized. And we get an opportunity to get a couple days to see what they did and see what we did wrong and how we can be better in Game 2. Kevin Durant. I mean, you take one of the best teams that we had ever assembled last year, that we saw in the regular season and in the post-season, and then in the off-season you add a high-powered offensive talent like that and a great basketball IQ like that, that's what stands out. I mean, it's no if, ands, or buts. It is what it is. We got to figure out how to combat that, which is going to be a tough challenge for us. But that's what stands out. No, we was victims of ourself, for one. Like I said, we had 20 turnovers, and there's no way you're going to win a ball game having 20 turnovers against this team and on the road. But at the end of the day, we gave up a lot in transition. They had 27 points on fast breaks. That's part of our game. That's part of our game. It's what got us here. So we definitely want to be more in the 20s in assists, but that's what got us here. And we got to be able to make shots. We got to be able to move the ball. We know that. But playing iso ball has helped us get to this point, and it has gave us success in the last three years. So we don't want to have a high steady diet of it because the defense becomes stagnant and our players become stagnant, but that's part of our package. Well, I think that -- I mean, a couple instances. First of all, we got to stop the ball in transition. There was a few times where we fanned out to the 3-point line and let guys just go right down the middle for a dunk. And I know, I believe, K.D. had two or three of those. So when you turn the ball over, you got to know that that's their best. That's when they become very dangerous because those guys, they sprint down the lane, they sprint to the 3-point line, they put a lot of pressure on your defense. But the ball is the number one thing. We got to stop the ball first and then fan out to the 3-point line if those guys go there. No, I wasn't surprised at anything. They are a high-powered offensive team. They can shoot the ball from the perimeter, they can get into the paint. They do everything exceptionally well, if not great. So never surprised by anything that they can do. Just get focused on Game 2. We made a lot of mistakes. There's nothing really needs to be said. We know we're capable of playing a lot better. We didn't play as well as we know we're capable of, so we look forward to the next one. Just to be themselves and do what they have done throughout the course of the season, throughout the course of the last couple years. Play with energy, play with effort, play with their mind and their bodies and understand what we're trying to accomplish. So it's going to be -- this is The Finals, and we don't care about making mistakes, just play as hard as you can and follow the game plan, have your mind in it. And if your mind is fresh and your mind is into it, then a lot of things take care of itself. Well, the game is -- I mean, it's played how it's played. I don't know. I mean, first half I had six turnovers, second half I had two. So could I have turned the ball over more in the second half? I mean, the game is just -- the game is just played that way. |
| Well, I wouldn't say frustrated. Just you never want to be down 2-0 in a series against anybody. So we had some things that we need to do better obviously from Game 1 and Game 2 to get Game 3 tomorrow, and we look forward to the challenge once again. We know it's a tall challenge for us, but it's a great moment to be a part of, so we look forward to what tomorrow brings. Well, at the end of the day there's other things that I can do better and hope that I can do better to help this team be successful. It is my leadership, and try to use my inspiration to help the guys as well. So we all have a job to do, and we want to all try to do it even better than we can at times. So if I can give a little bit more, then I will. But I leave everything that I have out on the floor every night, so I'm always satisfied with the way I play. I don't know, I don't remember how I felt last year being down 2-0. That's last year and I don't even know the feeling anymore. So just mentally I'm just mentally strengthening my mind and getting my mind ready and focused on what tomorrow's going to bring, and so I look forward to it. No, it doesn't change anything. We got to protect home. It starts with tomorrow. One game at a time, one possession at a time, and cleaning up on some of the miscues that we have had in the first couple games and not have as many. I don't know. It takes a mental toll just when you lose. No matter if it's a series or game or whatever the case may be, in the post-season any loss always takes a mental toll on you. But how can you refocus your mind, how can you refuel it to understand that at the end of the day it is a series. So you got to try to focus on the next game and focus on your job and what you can do to help your team be successful going into the following game. Yeah, it's something I am accustomed to. It's something that I feel like is -- that it's okay for me to kind of always go back and know that I can refocus. I can get my guys ready, get myself ready. But you hate to continue to put yourself in these positions, but at the end of the day it's still just basketball, man, and that's what gives me comfortable and I'm more comfortable about it because it's just a game. I prepare myself, I'm going to go out and do my job and live with the results. I don't really know. I never really understood that question as far as my game. I play my game and I don't change it no matter what the series is, I don't change it what the course of the day is, I don't change it what the score is. I just play my game. My game is being aggressive. My game is getting my guys involved. My game is getting into the paint, shooting some outside shots when they're available. But my game is -- it is what it is. So it's not going to change because a series -- I'm down 2-0 or up 2-0. It's going to be the same. That's not our game. We don't play slowdown basketball. We play at our pace. We play our game. We got to this point playing our way. We have won a lot of games playing the way we play, so we're not going to change. For myself, I can only speak for myself, I don't know what -- I mean, for me, like I said, no matter win, lose, or draw, if you give everything you got to the game and you prepare yourself mentally, physically, you do your job, then there's nothing to be afraid of the moment for, there's nothing to be disappointed or about the game or how the outcome is. If you prepare yourself, then you can be okay with the outcome. I mean I can. I speak for myself. Take great shots and not turn the ball over. We had an opportunity, last game, we cut it to four, and then they made a couple plays here, I think. If I remember, it was -- I think it was 86-82, they come out, I did a stupid strip foul on Livingston, he hits two free throws, we come down and turn the ball over, and then they hit a three and it went from a four-point game to a 10-point game that fast. So just can't make bad plays against a team that's that great. I think he does a great job of it as well, but it's just some of the sets that we call, and that's just -- you can say it, you can put him in position to be successful, and we just try to lay bodies on his guys that's guarding him, make -- if he's open, just get him the ball on time, on target, and let his talent take over from there. Yeah, I mean, some of these questions are kind of out of my hands, as far as when you talk about lineup changes and what y'all should do offensively. I'm one of the players on the team. I'm a big piece of the team, I know that, but I'm not in control of who should be in inserted into the lineup, who shouldn't be. I think we have all trusted each other, we have all been in position where we trust each other out on the floor. And whoever is on the floor has to do their job, and we trust that they will do their job. So we look forward, like I said, to whatever our coaching staff has planned for us tomorrow night. We just want to continue to play how we did in Game 2. I thought we were much more physical, we had bodies on bodies and we have to do that against those guys, because if we let them run free, then they are even that more dangerous. So like I said, if we do a good job of not turning the ball over and forcing turnovers like we did in Game 3, that will put us in a lot better position as well and just continue to get contesting their shots. They do make a lot of contested shots, and some of those we can live with, but some of the ones that we can't live with or we don't have a hand in or we give them open looks or things of that nature or messing up on communication on some of our defensive sets, but if we -- we have a great game plan, and if can follow that for the full 48 minutes, then we give ourselves a great chance to win. |
| Well, we didn't have any -- not many worries after the game. I'll figure it out within the next 48 hours. Obviously it's a dramatic situation to be in, but it is what it is and we got to get ready for Game 4. So we're going to come in tomorrow, watch some film, see ways we can get better and just try to take it one game at a time. They made some shots and we didn't. We had some really good looks. We had some really good looks. I had a turnaround jumper in the post fade-away, I make a ton, didn't go in. Kyle had a corner three, really good look, right in front of their bench, didn't go in. They came down and Steph, one ricocheted off the backboard, he got a tip in, K.D. got a pull-up on Tristan, and then he shoots a bomb in transition. So it's a miss-or-make league. We make a couple, they miss a couple, and it's the other way around. But it didn't happen that way. Well, of course, but for me personally I don't get involved in what people talk about. That's not -- I've been out of that department I told you guys for a long time now. So mentally, me personally, I got to go home, start my treatment right now, get my mind focused and get my body focused and get my body ready for Game 4, and we take it one possession at a time. No, only missed shots. We missed shots. I gave everything that I had, so at times throughout the game I was tired, but that's just because I was just playing as hard as I could. But I was able to get second and third and fourth winds. I don't contribute as losing this game because we got tired. We missed some shots, and they made some. What do you mean my mindset? Well, I seen him getting ready to pull up, he uses a rhythm dribble to get a good look, and when K.D. shoots, he falls forward, and I wanted to get a contest. The last thing I want to do is foul a jump shooter. So I wanted to jump and contest it, but I know he -- when he shoots, he kind of leans forward a little bit. So I just stayed there, high hands, contested, and he made it. Of course we thought we was going to win. That's just -- we had an opportunity. They had opportunities as well. And they made the most of them, and we didn't. So, yeah, we came in the game believing we was going to win for sure. We were playing good basketball. Kyrie got it going, JR got it going as well, so we had some really good looks, like I said. I can't go back and think of it right now exactly all the possessions that we had in the fourth quarter, but we had some good looks. I mean, it's so hard to say, but like I said, for me personally, I gave everything I had tonight. So win, lose, or draw, you live with the results. Like I said, they played a really good game as well, but they made shots, they made shot down the stretch. They got stops, which they have been doing. We shot in the low 40s again. They got stops and then they made play after play down the stretch. Yeah, I mean, before the series even started we knew what we was dealing with. I said it after we won the Eastern Conference Finals that we're getting ready for a juggernaut. It's probably the most, most firepower I've played in my career. I played against some great teams, but I don't think no team has had this type of firepower. So even when you're playing well, you got to play like A plus plus, because they're going to make runs and they're going to make shots and they got guys that's going to make plays. So we made enough plays tonight to still win the ball game, but they made a couple more. On me personally, I mean, obviously it's physically and emotionally draining because I give everything to the game and want to put myself and my teammates in a position to be successful. So but I lay it all on the floor, and I did that tonight, gave everything that I had, both mentally and physically. So obviously I'm drained right now, ready to get home. But you're going against a team like this and you put together a game like we had where we had an opportunity, it's definitely draining. No. No, I did, like I said, I gave everything that I had to this game, so I don't look at it saying I wish I could have did this or I would have did that. I left it out on the floor. |
| Well, for me personally, I left everything on the floor every game, all five games. So for me personally I have nothing to be -- I have no reason to put my head down. I have no reason to look back at what I could have done or what I shouldn't have done or what I could have done better for the team. I left everything I had out on the floor every single game for five games in this Finals, and you come up short. So it would be the same if you feel like you wrote the best column of you your life and somebody picked another one over you. That's -- how would you feel? You know, so you wouldn't hold your head down, but you would be like, okay, it's just not my time. So Golden State is a worthy opponent, obviously been the best team in our league for the last three years, the best team this year, and they showcased that throughout the post-season, and we were another opponent in their way. It's just unfortunate for some of the guys on our team that's never been able to get this far and not be able to hold the trophy up. And those are things that kind of bother me more than anything. Guys like Kyle and Derrick and Deron and Kay and Edy. So, emotions are all over the place right now. No, I don't think I've ever -- not one time did I feel like we were overmatched until probably like I looked up, there was like a minute 20, and we were down 13, I believe, or something at that point. And I was like, okay, we left everything on the floor, and it still wasn't enough. So that's -- they assembled a great team. We were able to get them last year, and they went out and got one of the best players that this league has ever seen, so they did a good job of -- a great job, their front office and their players, by doing that recruiting, the things that they did in the summertime, and obviously it paid dividends. Well, it's a two-sided question because for me personally -- I don't know. I need to sit down and figure this thing out. And so I don't know as far as me personally right now. But as far as that team, they're going to be here for a while. They're going to be around for a while. Pretty much all their guys are in their 20s. Pretty much all their big-name guys are in their 20s, and they don't show any signs of slowing down. So there's going to be a lot of teams that's trying to figure out ways to put personnel together to try and match that if they're able to actually face them in the Playoff series, both Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Because they're built for -- from my eyes, they're built to last a few years. So we'll see. I don't know. This is my 8th trip to the Finals, and I've had some pretty good ones in my day. And like I said, I just try to do everything to just try to help this team win and more. For me to go out there and for the guys that allowed me to be the leader that I am and allow me and trust me that I'm going to make the right plays and I'm going to do the right things and have the right intention, that's a compliment to a my guys, it's a compliment to the 14 guys that allow me to do at that and the coaching staff. And I just try to put in the work. I put in the work individually, in the film room, in my mind, my body every single day to prepare myself for whatever obstacle that this ball club entails. Does it always result in us winning? No. This is my third year here, and we haven't won every game. We haven't won every Finals, obviously. We lost two of them. So but like I've always told myself, if you feel like you put in the work and you leave it out on the floor, then you can always push forward and not look backwards. I don't know. I probably won't stop working out. I think it's just a lifestyle for me. So I probably will be back in my gym in the next couple days just because it's just who I am. As far as being back on the basketball court, I'm going to take a while. I don't need to be back on the basketball court right now. I need to get off of my feet and let my joints and let my body kind of recover from being out on the floor for 14 straight years. So but I'll train. I'll train all summer. It's just a part of who I am now, just a part of my lifestyle. It's a great feeling. When you're able to work hard, you're able to put in the work and accomplish a feat like that, it's something that we all dream about. Growing up in our inner cities, a lot of hard work and through high school, through college, if you went to college, and through the NBA, you always hope that you will be in a position to be able to not only compete for a championship but win a championship, and it's a great feeling. Our team, our ball club? We had some good times. We had some bad times. We had some times where -- the biggest thing of this season is we weren't able to get healthy. When we finally got healthy, the Playoffs was right around the corner. And we showed what we're capable of doing when we got a full unit. It would have been great to see us at a full unit throughout the whole season so we can continue to build and build the camaraderie and build the chemistry out on the floor so you don't have to wait until April to see what you're capable of doing. And, yes, we were able to hit the switch, but those games in January, those games in November, games that people think that's not important, they're important to me, and they would have been important to our ball club. But, whatever, we figured it out and got to the post-season as a two seed. We controlled home court and were able to win on the road in the Eastern Conference Finals in Boston, and we were able to punch our clock into competing for a championship. And as a ball club and as an individual, that's all you want, is an opportunity. Now, obviously, we ran against, like I said, a worthy opponent, one of the best Playoff teams that this league has ever seen, obviously, and we weren't able to get over the hump and accomplish what we ultimately wanted to do. But it's no such thing as a failed season when you put in as much work as we have done individually and as a ball club since September. Since late September. Well, I don't know. I'm not a -- I'm not the GM of the team. I'm not in the front office, but I know our front office is going to continue to try to put our ball club, put our franchise in a position where we can compete for a championship year in and year out. Like I said, teams and franchises are going to be trying to figure out ways that they can put personnel together, the right group of guys together to be able to hopefully compete against this team. They're assembled as good as you can assemble, and I played against some really, really good teams that was assembled perfectly, and they're right up there. So we will see, but I will get away from the game a little bit, probably watch some WNBA games, though. Can't get away from it. I'll probably watch -- my son's tournament is this summer, so I'll be a part of the game. But as far as me actually playing, I won't. I won't be a part of the game much this summer. No, not really. I don't believe I've played for a super team. I don't believe in that. I don't believe we're a super team here. So, no, I don't really, I don't -- you guys want one more question before I leave and not see you guys for a long time? Well, I'm not happy he won his first. I'm not happy at all. But at the end of the day from when I played him in the 2012 Finals to now, like I said, experience is the best teacher in life, and he's just experiencing and experiencing and experiencing. And it also helps when you are able to experience some things with this team as well. He felt like he needed to reassemble and reassess his career and come here. So like I said, having -- getting that first championship for me was like having my first son. It was just a proud moment, something that you never, ever forget. And at the end of the day, nobody can -- no matter what anybody says from now on in your career or whatever they say, they can never take away from you being a champion. That's something that they are always going to speak about, about you. It may be like the last thing they may say, but they are always going to have to say that you're a champion. Like I said, when you put in the work and things pay off, then you can always be okay with whatever else that happens in your career. |
| I thought they had great game plan Game 1. He was the start of it. He was my matchup, and I think they did a great job of communicating throughout the whole game, knowing where I was and knowing where our teammates was. Brad and the coaching staff did a great job in Game 1. You commend that. We have an opportunity to look at a lot of film tomorrow, and see ways they were making us uncomfortable, making myself off balance and not have a rhythm all game. So we'll be much better in Game 2. No, I've seen every coverage, pretty much. For me, Game 1 has always been a feel-out game for me, if you've ever followed my history. So I've got a good sense of the way they played me today and how I'll play going into Game 2. Every year is a different challenge, no matter if you're going against the previous Celtics team or the present. They've always been well coached. They've always had multiple guys on the floor that can do multiple things, and they've always had two-way players. That challenge has never -- it's not like it's been different. It's always been that same challenge. So for me as an individual I just try to get better every year to put myself in a position where I can be successful. Well, I mean, three-point shots is a part of our DNA. It's what makes us the best team that we can be. I think even early on with the shots that we had, we had some wide-open looks that just didn't go. I think in the first quarter, J.R. [Smith] and Kev [Kevin Love], G. Hill [George Hill], they had some great looks, they just didn't go. We're okay with that. We're absolutely okay with that. And we're going to take those same looks going into Game 2 if the opportunity presents itself. Well, like I said, I'm going to get the opportunity to break down the film tonight and tomorrow and see ways that we can be better to offensively have a much better rhythm. Well, I mean, you definitely have to adjust. That's what part of the playoff series is about. The teams adjusting from game to game and seeing ways you can be better. I think that's an obvious question. Well, I mean, you're asking a tactical question as far as something I can't control. That would be a Coach [Tyronn] Lue question if he wants to change the lineup or not. I think our coaching staff will give us the best game plan to go out and win, no matter who is in the starting lineup going into Game 2. The three-point shot has been a big part since we pretty much assembled this team four years ago, and I think it's going to be a big part of it throughout the series, as long as we continue to get the ball moving and guys feel in good rhythm. I think it started from their momentum and what they wanted to do started from the tip ball. Horford tipped it right to Jaylen Brown and it looked like we had two on them, and next thing you know he's getting a lay-up right off the tip. So that kind of set the tone right there. We missed some shots, they made some shots. Horford hit a big three and also was able to get an and one and get Kev his early two quick fouls. So it kind of just started from the beginning. What do you mean? Are you asking me were they more physical or are you saying? No, physical basketball is part of playoffs. That's what you expect. I don't think you can just say that because you're not on the floor, but physical basketball is part of the postseason. So it's easy to make a narrative when you win or lose to say, okay, you guys played bad offensively and you lost, and then you win, and it's like, oh, you played better. So physical basketball started from Game 1 in the Indiana series when Indiana punched us in the mouth too in Game 1, and it's been like that throughout. I don't think so. I thought offensively we got to where we wanted to get to, but they also shut off a few things that they wanted to do as well. But I don't think it was a rhythm thing. We had some really good looks. We had been off before in previous years when we had weeks and week and a half. So that has nothing to do with it. At the end of the day you play the game when the schedule comes out and you get ready to go. What happened? We ran them -- the first possession we ran them down all the way to two on the shot clock. Marcus Morris missed the jumpshot, fouled it up, they got a dunk. We came back down, we ran a set for Jordan Clarkson, and he came off and missed it. They rebounded it, and we came back on the defensive end and we got a stop. They took it out on the sideline. Jayson Tatum took the ball out, through it to Marcus Morris in the short corner, he made a three. We come back down, missed another shot. Then Tatum came down and went 94 feet, did a Euro step and made a right-hand lay-up, timeout. There you go. I have zero level of concern at this stage. I didn't go to college, so it's not March Madness. You know, you get better throughout the series. You see ways you can get better throughout the series. But I've been down 0-1, I've been down 0-2. I've been down before in the postseason. But for me, there's never no level of concern no matter how bad I played tonight with seven turnovers, how inefficient I was shooting the ball. I'm just as confident going into a series whether it's a 0-0 series or I'm down 0-1. So we have another opportunity to be better as a ball club coming in Tuesday night, and we'll see what happens. |
| I felt like I needed to go back to the locker room, which I did, and kind of recalibrate. It was a tough blow. Obviously incidental. His shoulder hit me right square in my jaw. Just wanted to go back to the back and make sure everything was fine. But I don't think it -- it didn't affect my game after that. No, I don't think so. I think that's easy to say. I think we had some good looks. We had an opportunity. It was a two-possession game. We were down six. We had a great trap in the corner on Jaylen Brown, and I felt like we played great defense and a foul was called on Al Horford, he goes and makes two, we don't score, and it kind of sends it back to a 10-point game after that. Not as well as we would like to play in the second half. It was a two-possession game at one point. We had a great defensive sequence that ended up in a foul for them, so that didn't work out for us. I think Marcus always makes plays at the right time. His ability to play multiple positions, but they put the ball in his hands and they trust him to take plays for others. He has a really uncanny ability to get into the lane and either creates for himself or create for others, and he did that tonight with the nine assists and also had some offensive rebounds and also some missed shots. He's always been very productive for their ballclub. With turnovers. Turnovers and not defending full shot clock, especially in that third quarter. We've had our third quarter woes this whole season, and tonight was another example of that. We have an opportunity to go back home, protect home court. We're going to use these days to really dive in on what needs to be done to help our ballclub be successful. They did what they had to do, and that was protect home, and now it's our time to try to do that, as well. We have a few days, like I said, and we're going to see what we're made of on Saturday. I was checked for multiple things, and I passed them all. That's why I was able to come back and finish the half. How will I digest it? I'm going to go home tonight and see my three kids, see my family, recalibrate, see my mom. I think I'll be fine. I'm not going to lose sleep over it. You go out and when you lay everything on the line, at the end of the day, you can live with that. I'll recalibrate as far as how I can help this team continue to be successful, how I can do some things to make us be even more complete, and I probably -- the only way I probably won't get no sleep tonight is if Kev [Love] don't get asked a question asked. I'm going to lose a lot of sleep if someone doesn't ask him a question. I'm leaving. I mean, it's the Playoffs, so we expected for it to be physical. I wouldn't expect anything less. I think we matched the physicality today. We gave ourselves a pretty good chance with 36 minutes, and that 12 minutes in the third quarter, that killed us. But as far as the physicality of the game, I think we was what we needed to be as far as that. |
| I had my moments. But I think everybody at this point is tired or worn down or whatever the case may be. Still trying to make plays to help our team win, put us in position to win. We had moments. We had an opportunity, but we didn't make enough plays. Well, I think defensively we held them to 36 percent shooting. I think turnovers was another thing. We had 15 turnovers for 15 points. But defensively we were in tune. We gave up 96 points. Offensively, we couldn't make. We couldn't make. We were 9-for-34 from the three-point line, missed seven free throws. Obviously in the postseason, scoring 83 points, you're not going to win many games like that. But defensively we gave ourselves a chance. We stuck in the game. Even in the fourth quarter we made a run and cut it down to 11. At one point we had two opportunities to cut it to single digits and missed some really good looks, two three-pointers. We couldn't make. And if you don't make, it's going to come back to bite you. We've got to defend like we did tonight. We've got to make some shots; that definitely would help. I think going back home, we have a comfort level. A lot of our guys have a comfort level of being back home and playing off the fans and playing off our crowd, playing off that court, being more comfortable being back home for Game 6. We look forward to having an opportunity to force a Game 7. It's up to us to see if we can come back here for one more. No, not at all, because I've never went to any season saying, OK, let's have a Finals streak. It's just all about just win every game and it should put us in position to play for a championship. I've been in championship mode since probably '09. We weren't able to get there then. Obviously I made the move to Miami. I was able to go there four straight. And three straight since I've been back here. It just happens because I've been able to play with some great players, play with some great teammates, coaching staffs that have been able to put us in position to go to The Finals. I've never said, OK, this is my third one or let's try to take to a fourth. It's just the way the game has been played and I've been able to be successful. We have another opportunity on Friday to be as good as we can be, play Cavs basketball on our home floor and force a Game 7. You're asking me or -- my confidence? Well, for me I think I look forward to seeing us respond on Friday night. I know how well we've played at home in this postseason. That's the only thing I can worry about right now. I'm not worried about a Game 7. You have to worry about Game 6. You can't put yourself in that moment until you take care of the present. We're going to have another opportunity tomorrow to watch some film, go over some things that we can do better -- as we've done after every game in the postseason -- and see ways we can be even better for Game 6. I don't know. I have no idea. You have your coaching staff prep you. They put you in position. They feel like this is the best for us to be as good as we can be as a ballclub, and it's up to us to go out and execute it. Everybody is different. I know how I prepare myself. I know how I prepare going into each and every game, no matter if it's elimination or 0-0, whatever the case may be in a playoff game. So I can speak for myself and know what my mindset will be on just trying to help us, like I said, do every facet of the game, to try to extend the series. We'll see what happens. No, I knew exactly what they were going to do tonight. They switched it up a couple times with their defense as far as what they were doing with my pick-and-rolls when I was either setting or handling. But at this point, it's not even really about X's and O's. I've seen all the defenses that they can put out there, so nothing was surprising. I'll speak in the present, and I think they're a very well-coached, well-balanced, hungry team. They've got a bunch of young guys that were drafted very high and drafted very high for a reason, because they can do multiple things. They can be aggressive offensively. They can defend. They can shoot. They can put the ball on the floor. They can make plays for themselves and for others. I can speak for this moment right now. I don't want to really talk about other previous teams I've played against. I've played against a championship Boston Celtics team before, in '08, when they beat us in seven games. But right now this is the present, and this team is really good. Like I said, they're well-coached, they're well-balanced and we like the challenge. No. No. I'm fine. And I didn't mention the fatigue, either. One of you guys did. I'm fine. I had two turnovers where I felt like they were really bad. My first turnover, I saw something happening and Marcus Morris did a great job of reading it. I threw it up ahead to Kev [Kevin Love], and he picked it off. My second turnover, I went baseline, lost my footing on Marcus Morris, another turnover. A couple of them, one in transition to Jeff Green, I thought I put it on his hands, and he kind of fumbled it. Wish I could have that one back and maybe bounce pass that one. I had a backdoor one to Swish [J.R. Smith]. It hit his hands. Maybe I should have not thrown that one. It was a little bit in traffic. Al Horford was right there, but it hit Swish's hands. Maybe I should have taken that one back. I had a post-up on Terry Rozier that they doubled from the baseline. Jayson Tatum got his hands on him and I had a guy wide open. I should have faked high and thrown it low. My last turnover was just very, very careless on Terry Rozier. We had a pick-and-roll, I got the switch and I just lost it out of bounds away from their basket. So that's my six turnovers. I think out of those six, maybe three of them were just careless. I think the other three were attack turnovers, and I'm OK with that. |
| I thought I read that play just as well as I read any play in my career, defensively. I seen the drive, I was outside the charge line, I stepped in, took the contact. It's a huge play. It's a huge play. We got to move on. This game is over and done with. We had opportunities. I would never give up on JR. That's not my MO. I don't give up on any of my players, any of my teammates, so I don't think that even needs to be said. No, he didn't. My eye's been better. It's pretty much blurry, and it kind of got worse and worse as the game went on, after I drove and Draymond poked me right square in the eye. So I'll deal with that over the next couple days. I don't think a message needs to be said. We're in the fight now. The Finals have started, and they've got a great taste of it tonight. They know what to expect when we play again. Like I said, I read that play just as well as I've read any play in my career, maybe in my life. I seen the play happening. I knew I was outside the charge line, and I knew I took the hit. I don't know what else to say. I just try to do whatever it takes to help our team win and try to be a triple threat out on the floor offensively and being able to score, rebound, and get my guys involved. So I just tried to do that tonight. No, we were told they were reviewing if I had my feet outside the line. And when I knew that, I was like, okay, that's going to be our ball. I knew I was outside the charge line, so that's what the communication was to us. We were over on the sideline, drawing up a play, you know, to try to execute, try to go up a couple possessions. Well, I mean, we take this one. We understand how difficult and how challenging this task is. You take it all the way throughout the night thinking about it and ways you could have been better and plays that could have happened that could have gone your way and didn't go your way or things you could have done, and you wake up tomorrow with a fresh mind and you move forward. I don't know. I do not. I do not. Because it's right now, I would say yeah. I always live in the present. I don't know how frustrated I was after a loss in the past. I think we played as well as -- tonight we played as well as we've played all postseason, and we gave ourselves a chance possession after possession after possession. There were just some plays that were kind of taken away from us. Simple as that. What do you mean what's my version? How do I know that? No, they asked me if I talked to JR about it. I said no already. I knew it was a tie game. We were down 1. George Hill went up, he made the first one. We got the offensive rebound, you know, I thought we were all aware of what was going on. That's my view. So I don't know what JR was thinking. I don't know the question you're trying to ask. No. No, I don't know his state of mind. |
| I think I only got tired once tonight. So, I mean, they doubled me a few times when I caught the ball in the post, something they didn't do in Game 1. So I got off the ball, trusted my teammates. But as far as working harder, I think I got tired once. Every shot that he takes that goes in, he has the business of making them. That's what he does. So shouldn't be surprised or deflated at it. Take the ball out, move it forward, and try to execute on the other end. I mean, they're a dangerous ballclub no matter what. It starts with those four guys, obviously, the four All-Stars. Everyone else just does their job, and they don't miss a beat when they put someone in or they take someone out. You know, it's not something that's surprising. Well, I think at the end of the day we have a Game 3 to play. You know, we've got an opportunity to go home, and we played some really good basketball on our home floor. But that shouldn't give us any comfort. We should still be uncomfortable with the series as we were in Game 1 and as we were tonight. No, I don't really get caught up in that. I mean, the odds have been against me since -- I don't know, since I was five, six years old. So we're talking about basketball here. It seems like I come up here and tell you guys this all the time. The odds have been stacked up against me since I was an adolescent. So I put our team in position to try to win a championship, to compete for a championship. You know, it's my job to make sure that we're as focused, laser focused as possible, do my job, and continue to instill confidence into my teammates until the last horn sounds. That's my job. That's my responsibility. That's my obligation, and I need to continue to do that, which I will. They did that. But like I said, we want to continue to be uncomfortable. Just because we're going home doesn't mean we can relax. This is the last team in the world you want to relax against. They've proven they can win on someone else's floor, no matter if it's through adversity as people may call it like when they were going through the Rockets series or whatever the case may be. They've proven they can win on someone else's floor and do it in any fashion, in any way. I will continue to stay uncomfortable, and I hope our guys continue to stay uncomfortable no matter with us going back home. No. Absolutely not. I mean, it sucks to lose. It sucks when you go out there and you give it everything that you have and you prep and your mind is in it and your body is in it and you come out on the losing end. But nothing would ever take the love of the game away from me. I think the love of the competition is something I live for and something I wake up every day and train my body for and train my mind for. Yeah, I mean, it sucks to lose, that's for sure, but it definitely won't stop me from preparing to be better the next day. Yeah, I mean, I'm going to have to work around it until it's not bloody anymore. I mean, it's not going to keep me out of a game. I'll be active -- what's today? What is today? Sunday? When do we play again? Wednesday? So I'll be active. I'll be in uniform, and I'll continue to try to make plays and help our team be successful and try to get one up on the board. The eye has looked a lot better. My daughter don't like the way I look right now (laughing). Yeah, she didn't like the FaceTime that we had earlier. She was a little weirded out about it. But I'll be fine. So everything's good. Appreciate it. |
| I mean, it's definitely a tough loss, and we had our chances. But we have another opportunity on Friday to win on our home floor. We've been pretty good throughout the postseason. So that's a good thing for us that we have an opportunity to extend the series, but we've got to come out and play 48 minutes. We know this team that we're going against are the best -- first of all, the best third quarter team in the NBA, and once again they showed that tonight by outscoring us by 8 after we had a lead at halftime. So we have to be dialed in and play like we did in the first half and in the fourth quarter tonight. To answer your second question first, the margin of error is very low. You can't -- I mean, it's almost like playing the Patriots, you can't have mistakes. They're not going to beat themselves. You know, so when you're able to either force a miscue on them, you have to be able to capitalize and you have to be so in tuned and razor sharp and focused every single possession. You can't have miscommunication, you can't have flaws, you can't have "my faults" or "my bads" or things like that, because they're going to make you pay. When they make you pay, it's a 3-0 or 6-0 or 9-0 run, and it comes in bunches. The room for error, you just can't have it. We know throughout the course of a 48-minute game there are going to be plays where, you know, it was a miscue there, it was a miscue there. But for the most part throughout 48 minutes you just can't have a bunch of those, not especially against this team. To answer your first question, yeah, I twisted it pretty good, but I'll be in the lineup on Friday. Oh, well, I mean, you guys ask me what is the difference between the Warriors -- you guys asked me this last year, what was the difference between the Warriors the previous year and this year, and what was my answer? All right. There it is. Kevin Durant was my answer. He's one of the best players that I've ever played against that this league has ever seen. His ability to handle the ball, shoot the ball, make plays at his length, his size, his speed. So there it is. At the end of the day, if you want to compete for a championship or win a championship, you've got to go through the champion, and they're the champion. No matter -- everyone gets so caught up on saying they're vulnerable or they're not playing so well, and then they go down 3-2, and then they go to somebody else's floor and win. Or they win at home and send it back to somebody else's floor and win in a Game 7. That's what championship teams do. That's what championship players do. They rise to the occasion, and that's what Golden State has done the last four years. Tim, for me, tonight will be tough. Tomorrow I'll replay some plays and some moments and things of that nature. When I wake up Friday morning I'll be locked in on the game plan of what needs to be done to help our team win. That's just who I am. So the rest of the night will be tough. I'm not sure what time I'll end up getting to bed. Tomorrow we'll come in and watch film, so it will replay in my mind throughout the day. But Friday morning when I wake up, I'll be locked in and ready for Game 4. No, that wasn't the same shot. The one he made tonight was about four or five feet behind the one he made last year. Last year we were up 2, and he pulled up pretty much right at the three-point line and got a great contest, but he made it. Tonight they're up 3. They come off a pick-and-roll and he just stopped behind and pulled four or five feet behind the three-point line. So same wing, different location. But you definitely tip your hat. I mean, that's what he does. He's a scorer. You know, he's assassin, and that was one of those assassin plays right there. That's the challenge right there. That's the challenge. You know, that's why they've retooled this team, went out and got K.D. to where there's really not much pressure on -- you know, I won't say any of them to score, but if one of them has a bad game, they have three or four guys that can actually pick up the load. And as you've seen with K.D. picking it up today and Steph picking it up in Game 2, they all have the ability to -- we can't ever forget about Klay. He's a guy that scored 40 in a quarter before. So that's the luxury of having guys like that that you can always -- any given moment, they can kind of go off for a game. Even though we held Steph to one three tonight, the one he made was huge, huge. So we've got to continue to just grind and defend as we did tonight. I mean, out of the nine threes made, K.D. had six of them. They were 9 for 36. And that's, you know, pretty daggone good, holding that team to shooting to the free-throw line. But we've got to add a little bit more, keep grinding. To your second question, I thought Rodney Hood was Rodney Hood tonight. That was Rodney Hood, man. He was just aggressive from the beginning when he got in the game, even though he missed his first three. He had a wide-open shot, but he just continued to push and push. His athleticism and his length and his touch around the rim, you know, it was more than just what he did for the team, I think for himself, that was just a huge moment for himself. That was good to see. That was great to see, actually. I actually think you should be like a psychiatrist. You want to keep trying to get inside somebody's mind, is the whole thing, Mark. What's in my mind? Miss it so we can get the rebound. No. Say that again, please? Well, I can take you back kind of to the battles I had with the Spurs when I was in Miami. You just knew that they wouldn't beat themselves. You just knew that like every possession we were playing San Antonio when I was in Miami, you just knew if you made a mistake, Manu, Tim, Tony, Pop will make you pay. At times they did make us pay, and then you sprinkle in what Gary Neal did to us one game, what Danny Green did to us one game. Then Kawhi, you just couldn't -- you could never relax. When you have great basketball players but also that can also think the game and be very cerebral about the game, that's what adds the level of stress, because you know that you can never, ever relax. And you should never want to relax. It's The Finals. It's the playoffs. Even though this is a regular season game, you should always want to be on your toes. That's what the part of competition is about. So it adds to the level of stress. When you have Timmy D. and Manu and Kawhi and Manu, and now Draymond and Klay, Steph and K.D., and then you sprinkle in Iguodala and Livingston and all those guys as well, it adds a level of stress. Because you know that you can never relax. You know if you relax, they make you pay, and making you pay could cost you a game. So it's tough, but it's all part of the competition, which I love and which I continue to lace them up every night. Hopefully I got your answer for you. Appreciate it. |
| What happened? Self-inflicted, postgame after Game 1. Very emotional. For a lot of different reasons, understanding how important a Game 1 is on the road for our ballclub, what would that have done for us, the way we played, the calls that were made throughout the course of that game. I had emotions on the game was taken away from us. I had emotions of you just don't get an opportunity like this on the road versus Golden State to be able to get a Game 1, and I let the emotions get the best of me. Pretty much played the last three games with a broken hand, so that's what it is. I mean, I have no idea at this point. The one thing that I've always done is considered, obviously, my family. Understanding especially where my boys are at this point in their age. They were a lot younger the last time I made a decision like this four years ago. I've got a teenage boy, a pre-teen and a little girl that wasn't around as well. So sitting down and considering everything, my family is a huge part of whatever I'll decide to do in my career, and it will continue to be that. So I don't have an answer for you right now as far as that. For me personally? I have no idea. That's for you guys to kind of figure out how you want to characterize my 15th season. It's definitely been a whirlwind. There's been ups and downs. It's been good, it's been bad. For me, I just try to be consistent throughout the course of the season. Be the leader I know I can be for this ballclub, for this franchise every night, no matter what was going on from the outside or the inside, and be reliable every single day. Showing up to work every single day. Putting in the work and grinding every single day. I have no idea how the story will be talked about of my season, but, I know I punched the clock in every single day. That's for me to understand that, and I'm okay with that. No, I feel like '10 was the toughest. For me personally? And the team. I wondered if we could hit a switch some way, somehow, just because the course of the regular season it was just like, I don't know. You guys ask me a lot, our beat writers kind of ask us throughout the whole season, and then we made the trades. And right before the playoffs, a couple weeks before the playoffs: Do you feel like your team is ready for the postseason. I didn't know. It was just the unknown. I mean, our season was kind of the unknown. I wondered if we could hit a switch in the postseason. I figured if I stayed laser sharp, if I came in with the right mentality, if I came in with the right mindset, that I could help fast-track this throughout a lot of the games in the postseason because of my experience and because of some of the other guys that experienced a lot of games. I was able to do that. We were able to do that. I mean, I don't know. I think it's never a success in the postseason when you lose, not for me. I have no idea. But for me personally, like I said, being reliable to my teammates, being able to play the game at a high level with as many games and as many miles as I have on my body and put together a run like I had in the postseason, it's something that I can kind of remember. The ending is obviously still fresh and still new, and you never want to lose, especially in this fashion, being a competitor. But it is what it is. Like I said, I punch my clock every day. Well, I mean, at the end of the day, I came back because I felt like I had some unfinished business. To be able to be a part of a championship team two years ago with the team that we had and in the fashion that we had is something I will always remember. Honestly, I think we'll all remember that. It ended a drought for Cleveland of 50-plus years, so I think we'll all remember that in sports history. When you have a goal, I think any individual, anybody, male, female, whatever the case may be, when you have a goal and you seek that goal out and you dream about that dream, and you put everything, and you care to -- you guys like this brace, huh ? You guys like this cast, huh? You want me to sit it right here for you? I don't even know where I was. I'm sorry. Next question. I'm sorry. Well, it's definitely not the most comfortable thing to start a team from scratch, because the most important is health, because you need to build chemistry so fast and camaraderie so fast on the floor. And if you have multiple injuries or you have multiple bodies out, when you're starting fresh, it's too hard. I think with this season, that's what you kind of saw. The difference between this season and the difference between my first year in Miami, we didn't have many injuries at all. And we were definitely fresh together. But myself and D-Wade and Bosh, you know, UD (Udonis Haslem), Mike Miller had a few injuries, but (Mario) Chalmers was available, and pretty much our team, we were pretty solid as far as being injury -- not being injury-prone. Obviously, my first year back here we were headed in the right direct, and then we hit the postseason. Kev had a separated shoulder, and then Kyrie goes down in the first, second possession of overtime of Game 1 in The Finals. So, I mean, that's just huge. So being a part of the start-fresh mode is something that you definitely don't want to be a part of. It has its pros and it definitely has its cons. I mean, that's a trick question at the end of the day, and I'm not falling for that. Yes, it is. I mean, for me, I still have so much to give to the game. Like I said, when you have a goal and you're able to accomplish that goal, it actually -- for me personally, it made me even more hungry to continue to try to win championships, and I still want to be in championship mode. I think I've shown this year why I will still continue to be in championship mode. Well, I mean, I'm not going to take you throughout the whole process. That's not fun. But at the end of the day, like I said, when I decide what I'm going to do with my future, my family and the folks that have been with me for the last, you know, 20 years, pretty much, will have a say-so. Then it ultimately will come down to me, and so we'll see what happens. No, I don't think so. I made the move in 2010 to be able to play with talented players, cerebral players that you could see things that happen before they happened on the floor, and your teammate can do the same throughout the course of a season, throughout the course of a game, throughout the course of a playoffs, throughout the course of a Finals. So when you feel like you're really good at your craft, I think it's always great to be able to be around other great minds as well and other great ballplayers, in my instance, and other great just, I think, studies of the game itself. That's never changed. Even when I came here in '14, I wanted to try to surround myself and surround this franchise with great minds and guys that actually think outside the box of the game and not just go out and play it. Well, that top athlete money-per-year thing came out last week and I was sixth, so I'm in no way, shape and form putting myself in a position right now to own a team. I think Floyd (Mayweather) was 1 at like 252. Obviously, I don't have a boxing hand. So boxing won't be the sport I'll be going to. I don't know. At the end of the day, for me, staying around the game, being around the game will be something I'll probably do for the rest of my life, either while I'm playing for this later stage of my career, advising people in the NBA or whatever the case may be. I've got two boys that play the game as well. So I don't know. I can't predict the future on ownership and things of that nature. But I have a lot of knowledge of the game. I understand talent. I know talent. I know the right questions to ask certain guys and see if they're smart enough to actually think the game as well. So we'll see what happens. |
| I think it was the same in Game 2, same thing that we were able to get by with AD's shot, turned the ball over too much. We couldn't get to the free throw line, and you know, I give credit where credit is due, though. Denver came in and played exceptionally well. They played better than us, more aggressive than us through three quarters, 36 minutes, but you know, we've got into the penalty in the third quarter with like nine and a half minutes to go and we had some turnovers that led to some easy buckets for them. We had 16 turnovers for 25 points and put them to the line 29 times. It's not going to be winning ingredients for us if we continue to do that and we knew that, even after Game 2, we talked about that, trying to assure that. Got to be better than that Game 4. I think offensively we were very good. At times, we weren't. I think we just got to do a better job, like Coach was saying, of getting to the paint and once the defense collapses, just finding our guys weak side; if it's a guy that's slashing, through a weak side to the paint or if it's a guy that's spotted up on our side off one of our bigs, getting behind the defense for a lob. So Denver has been a pretty good defensive team all year. We understand that. I'm looking forward to seeing our film -- our film session tomorrow and continue to get better. I think it's a bit of both. I think we played with a lot more energy, and we understand we had 12 minutes left to try to make a game out of it and we were able to do that. We were able to switch some things up defensively, going zone here, man here, trying to keep them off balance. When you dig yourself a hole like that, every shot that they make and every shot that we miss, feels like the game is collapsing. So you know, we played some pretty good ball in the fourth quarter, but those first 36 minutes, that hurt us obviously. I've never in my 35 years ever condoned violence. Never have. But I also know what's right is right and what's wrong is wrong and I grew up in an inner city in a black community, in what we call the "hood," the "ghetto," however you want to picture it. And I've seen a lot of counts, firsthand, of a lot of black people being, you know, I guess racially profiled because of our color, and I've seen it, you know, throughout my whole life. You know, and I'm not saying that all cops are bad, because I actually throughout high school and things of that nature, I'm around them all the time and they are not all bad. But when you see the videos that's going on and you can see not only my hometown but all over America, you continue to see the acts of violence towards my kind, I can't do nothing but to speak about it and see the common denominator. But not one time have I ever said, you know, let's act violent towards cops. I just said that what's going on in our community is not okay, and we fear for that and we fear for our lives. It's something that we go on every single day as a black man and a black woman and a black kid and a black girl, we fear; we fear that moment where we are pulled over or -- I just seen something, I believe yesterday or the day before, of a guy in Wisconsin was renting a house, and the next door neighbor called the police on him, and the police came in the house without a warrant, without anything, and arrested the guy, a black man because he was sitting out on the porch, and if you can't tell me that's not racial profiling, then I don't know what the hell -- or what the hell we are looking at. But I do not condone violence towards anyone, police, black people, white people, anyone of color, anyone not of color, because that's not going to ever make this world or America what we want it to be. So -- and I have zero comment on the sheriff. It's some of the risk passes that we're making, including myself. I mean, I had five turnovers in the first half and one in the second half, so I understood what I was doing in the first half and made an adjustment. There are some passes that we have been able to complete throughout this season, but versus Denver we have to be a little bit more careful and make more -- more sound plays with the ball, and protect the ball, because like we always preach, every possession is very important. When you give up 25 points off 16 turnovers, that's not good. We did the same thing in Game 2, we had 24 turnovers and luckily it didn't bite us in the butt but it should have. We just got to do a better job of that and it's a conscious effort that not only starts with me because I'm the point guard of the team, and it trickles down to everyone else. I was just setting a screen and his elbow got high and was able to strike me -- strike me across the jaw. I don't -- I don't care about flagrant ones or flagrant twos. I don't want him to come out of the game. I like the competition. I don't think it was blatant but I don't know mindset, but I don't think he did it on purpose. I was okay with it. You know, went down for a little bit. Got back up and was ready to play. I was cool with the ruling. I was okay with them saying a flagrant one. I ain't here to fight. |
| We know that we can't turn the ball over versus this team. They are very active defensively. It starts with myself, being the starting point guard of the team, having five first-half turnovers, eight total for the game. Can't do that, obviously, because it gives them more possessions and doesn't allow us to set our defense. They are really, really good offensively, so you just can't turn the ball over against that team. I take full responsibility for that. I thought Jimmy was phenomenal. He did everything that they needed him to do tonight and he came through big time in a big-time game. We'll watch film and see ways we can be better going into Game 4. But I thought he was great. I mean, you just said it, he got into some foul trouble. You know, they even -- one of the shots he made when he had four fouls, they still tried to slide underneath him and get him a fifth in the third. I think the foul trouble made him a little passive, because he wanted to be out on the floor but he couldn't be his aggressive self offensively and defensively. I think the fouls slowed him down a lot tonight. They continued to make shots, and we had some turnovers. We didn't make shots. They came out and executed after we took the lead. Jimmy, like I said, he had his hand on all those plays pretty much. Obviously, we have to do a better job of that coming down the stretch. But I like our fight tonight, even as poorly as I believe we played. When you have an opportunity and you don't make the most of it, then you come back the next time. I mean, it's not like the series was over if we won tonight. We know for sure that Miami is never going to quit, no matter if we won tonight and they go into a Game 4, 3-0. I know how resilient that bunch is and how resilient that coaching staff is and their franchise. I don't ever feel like we let our guard down. Also, I don't feel like we're concerned. We're not concerned. We know we can play a lot better. We have another opportunity to take a commanding lead on Tuesday. You relish that opportunity. We learn from our mistakes pretty quick. You know, obviously right now with the games being every other day pretty much, it's the film room. It's the film room and it's how well we can make adjustments from the film and take it to the floor, and we have done a great job throughout this postseason. So we are going to definitely have to do that because we're playing against a very, very, very, very good team. We have to learn from our mistakes and be better on Tuesday. Love it. Love it. One of the best competitors we have in our game. We love that opportunity. For me personally, I don't know how many more opportunities I'm going to have, so to be able to go against a fierce competitor like that is something I'll look back on when I'm done playing. I'll miss those moments. Both. I just think we can be better, obviously. I don't think we started the game defensively in tune, and then offensively taking care of the ball. Like I said, we had some careless turnovers. It starts with me, like I said, and I take full responsibility for that. I'll be a lot better on Tuesday with that, understanding that they are very good with their hands. They are very good with the stripping. You can't allow this team to have extra possessions. You can't turn the ball over at that high a rate, especially at this point in the season, as well. I'll be a lot better with the security of the ball and the turnovers and things of that nature. We as a team will be a lot better defensively with our game plan. |
| I mean for me, I've always stayed even keeled. You know, throughout the highs, throughout the lows, you stay even keeled and get better with the process. You stay in the moment, which I am, and understanding that we can be better. And how we make the adjustments and how we learn from tonight, tomorrow in our film session and when we get together and prepare ourselves for Sunday, will show the difference. Obviously it was back and forth, big play after big play. A couple, you know, questionable calls that swayed their way and put Jimmy to the free-throw line. Obviously, we can't do that. He's been damn near perfect at the free-throw line in the series. We just needed to get one stop. We felt like if we could get one stop, we could do something on the offensive end. But we got a hell of a look. We got a hell of a look to win the game, to win the series. Didn't go down. And then we got the offensive rebound, we turned the ball over. I thought we had a lot more time than I think we even thought after the offensive rebound, and a pass wasn't executed as we would like. But we've got to be better. We've just got to be better in Game 6 and close the series. Listen, at the end of the day, you don't predetermine anything and you take the game as it's going and you play. You play each quarter, you play each possession and you live with the results. You don't think about what could happen at the end of the game and things of that nature. You don't get caught up in the aftermath. You have to live in the moment and prepare yourself each and every possession, because if you start to wander and your mind starts to go, you make a mistake. One thing about this team that we are playing, they make you pay for every mistake. It's the same as when I was playing against Golden State all those years, you make a mistake, they make you pay. So we have to understand that. I mean, they’re vets. They’re vets. I don't think too much need to be said to them. I believe they will be much better and I'm not saying they even played bad tonight. Everybody in the lineup tonight that got minutes gave the effort. We just had some mental breakdowns at times, and they make you pay for it, like I said. We've got to look at the film tomorrow and see how we can be better. That's the beauty of the game, being able to compete at the highest level. You take those opportunities and you live in the moment. You're trying to make plays for your team and be successful on both ends, and we were both just trying to do that and trying to will our team to a victory. You know, he was able to make one more play than I was able to make tonight and come away with a victory. I thought AD made a heck of a play at the rim. I felt he was chest to chest with Jimmy, making him change the trajectory of his shot and the call didn't go our way. I felt like, you know, at that point in time, I think it was a tough call, but they made the call. We still had an opportunity to win. But we feel like, you know, with AD and with him at the rim and him contesting things like that, it could have swayed our way, but it didn't. Well, if he's on the floor – I mean he's a warrior, man. Just him being out there, hobbled, just brings a lot more confidence to myself and our team. We know the nicks and bumps and bruises he's played through throughout the whole season. We have to pick it up for him and pick it up for any one of our brothers if they are hobbling or lobbying or not at their full strength. Just the makeup of our brotherhood. I've always played the game the same way since I was a kid and I've had success doing it. And I won't let a play here or a play there change my outlook on the game and how I play the game. I mean, if you just look at the play, I was able to draw two defenders below the free-throw line and find one of our shooters at the top of the key for a wide open three to win a championship. I trusted him, we trusted him, and it just didn't go. You live with that. You live with that. It's one of the best shots that we could have got, I feel, in that fourth quarter, especially down the stretch with two guys on me, Duncan Robinson and Jimmy, and Danny had a hell of a look. It just didn't go down. I know he wish he can have it again. I wish I could make a better pass. You know, but you just live with it. |