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| It was. You play the game and you haven't seen it, and you're like, man, that was an ugly game. Then you look at the tape and you're like, maybe it wasn't that bad. But that game, it really was that bad, you know what I'm saying, for us. We executed, and my performance taking care of the ball and trying to set the table, it was pretty bad. But we came out with the win, and that's all really that matters. Well, I think my angles was just bad on it, my decisions wasn't fast enough on it. They were long. They've got a lot of long guys, and it was good. It worked; it was effective. Well, that's really not me. I've had a lot of games where I've taken less than ten shots, you know what I'm saying, but when I do do that, we've got at least three guys rolling. Last night we only had one guy, Rip, who pretty much carried us. You probably won't see that too often. He told me, settle down, relax, make the play, don't worry about it. We're there for one another like that, especially when one of us is struggling, the other one is always there to have his back. That's why we're such a great tandem. No, they usually showed real hard, but they never really trapped it hard. No matter what pick-and-roll we was running, it was high side, low, it didn't matter, they were just trying to take me away. I really don't blame them. But it won't be that effective anymore, I know that. Good teams win ugly games, man. Just find a way. You've just got to find a way sometimes, and that's exactly what we did yesterday. I thought our second half was pretty good, considering how bad the first half was. It was pretty good. We came out, turned the tide once again in the second half. Once we finally took the lead, we never looked back. Yeah, we planned on him being a lot more aggressive, and because he wasn't, a lot of the things that we planned on doing or talked about, we didn't even have to go to them as far as defending him. So I'm sure we'll have the opportunity the next game. He's going to be very aggressive, they're talking about having him shoot free throws and all of that. I'm sure he'll find a way to get on that free-throw line the next game. It doesn't really matter, we've just got to play. I thought it was a great play. I thought it was a great play. It was horrible defense by us, but it was a great play. It's been an ugly game, and you've got one of your best three-point shooters wide open. He just had six or seven in the last game. So I thought it was an excellent play. I think everybody just -- they want him to be the man so bad and want him to shoot every single time, and that's just unfair. The kid made a great, great play. If they would have made that shot, then they would have been talking about how wonderful the play was. I'm just glad they missed it. I think a lot of that is going to be on me, like the pick-and-rolls and the trap, you know what I'm saying, getting some early throw-backs, trying to get them going, just on pick-and-rolls and stuff like that. They played behind in the post, throw it in, let them go a little bit. We'll find out. They'll be fine. Yeah, that was. That was exciting. We scored, they scored, one big play after another. Both teams, really. That was a lot of fun. I'm just glad we came out on top. It did, it did. Obviously we don't shoot for games in the 70s, but it's like that sometimes, you know what I'm saying? That's the one thing I love about our team is we can love the games in the 70s and 80s and we can win in the 100s. We're versatile that way. You've just got to stay aggressive. I don't think so. I don't think so. I think we'll see a better effort probably on both sides, both teams. I think it's going to be a battle. |
| Well, we had a couple things in mind. Didn't end up having to use them because we had it going in the fourth quarter. A couple guys had it going, so we really didn't have to use it. We just kind of got away from it. Second half started to get a little more aggressive, not waiting for the plays to happen, just kind of bringing it on myself, getting a little more energy, and I was able to turn the tide a little bit personally, and as a team we started to step it up and play a little better, a little faster, a little more aggressive. Well, I would just speak for our team, I think we're playing great defensively and limiting those guys and trying to do what we have to do. Offensively we haven't played good in either game. In either game we haven't played good. You know, we look to try to turn that around, but try to keep our defense the same. One thing about our team is we can win both ways. We can win in the 80s, we can win in the 105 to 110 range. That's just how versatile we are. We're used to games like this where our defense has to carry us. We've done it for years. I thought we did good. We knew he was going to be more aggressive attacking the basket and we did that. We had guys helping and guys in position to be there and help. He still did a good job. He still had 19 points, had a chance to go up one late in the game, and Rip I thought made a great defensive play on him. I thought our defense was great. Well, our offense has just not been very good, and of course when you're at home, when your offense is good, it's a lot of energy in the building, you know, you can kind of feed off of that. Our offense hasn't been good, so we have not given our fans a lot to cheer about in these two games with the exception of our defense. So at halftime we come in down 12, mad, angry, but knowing what the problem is, and we made a couple adjustments, and like I said, stepped it up and was a little more aggressive. We was able to get back into the game. No, they're definitely doing some different things defensively. I mean, first and foremost, they are trapping on pick and rolls with me. They pretty much said, we're going to take him out of it, take him away from it. Second, when Rip is coming down they're soft trapping him, as well. Yeah, I think they're doing some really good things to us defensively, and for us to try to make some adjustments to. Sheed, man, he just never ceases to amaze me. When he's focused and he's trying to take a game over, there's nobody that can stop him. He scores in so many different ways, he's a great defender, he doesn't get a lot of press for the way that he defends guys, and his help defense, his man defense. He's a well-rounded player. He lives for moments like that. He lives for the playoffs and tight-game situations as a few of us on the team do. Well, it's not nothing that he really says, it's how the game is going, how the refs are calling it. When he feels like he's getting a tough whistle, he's more inspired and he's more motivated. We don't like to see him get them call bad calls on him, but when they do do that it works in our advantage because when he feels like everybody is against him, he's ready to rock and roll. That's what you seen tonight. They can't surprise us really at the end of games. They go to LeBron. I can't blame them. He's an unbelievable player. We've just got to stay locked in. Like I said, at the end of Game 1, we weren't as locked in as we should have been, giving Donyell an open look. Tonight, same situation, unbelievable, same situation; Rip plays great defense on him, makes him take a tough shot, he misses it. Ball's in the air, we're trying to rebound and we finally get the rebound and secure the game. Yeah, that was a little bit earlier. It wasn't like the second situation, but I kind of knew once he got in there, and Rasheed is just so long that Sasha was in the corner, so I was kind of cheating to him, and he was going to have to make a tough, tough shot. |
| Yeah, I do. With our team, the way that we play and the way that our plays are set up, if Rip or myself -- if Rip and me are having a bad night, at the same time it's going to be tough for us to win. It doesn't happen often. Sometimes one of us gets going. Tonight neither one of us could really get going, and it was kind of funny, we still had chances to win the game. We still had great, great chances. You've got to tip your hats to them. They played good. They hit some tough, tough shots. LeBron hit some tough step-backs, Gooden hit a good clutch shot. You've got to tip your hats to them. You're right, when myself and Rip are not having a good game at the same time, it makes it tough. You know what, nothing really. There was nothing that they did differently tonight than they did the first two games. I mean, they helped on me and did a good job with me the first two games. There was no reason for them to really switch up, so I can't say that there's nothing that they did that was a change that made it effective. They stuck to the same thing. They just tried to trap, did the same kind of things that they did the first two games. Yeah, I think so. And like I said, they played good. I can't take nothing away from those guys. Got to tip your hats to them tonight. But when our top two scorers don't play very well and don't shoot very good, we're going to have tough chances to win. Like I say, if either one of us gets going tonight, we're sitting up here talking about we're 3-0. But we didn't, it is what it is, and we look forward to Tuesday. I thought Daniel Gibson was huge for them today. He hit some big, big baskets. He forced a couple turnovers. I thought he played great. He's a guy that they bring in, he spaces the floor because he can shoot it. He can shoot it, and not only that, he can get to the basket and make plays. He's a very good, young player. He made an impact for their win tonight. Go after who? It's not really him, that's the play. It doesn't matter who's guarding Tayshaun. We feel like we can get him with his back to the basket eight, nine feet away. It doesn't really matter who's guarding him, we feel it's an advantage. We run the pick-and-roll just to see sometimes what they're going to do. A lot of times they've been switching it with whoever it was, and sometimes the guard will go under. We just want to see if they'll change up their coverages, and they didn't, they continued to switch it, and we throw it back to Tay and just try to let him make a play. You've got to look at the film. You've got to look at the opportunities we had, why we couldn't take advantage of them. Right now all I can do is rewind it in my mind, and that's a little different from sitting down and watching it on tape. You know, I've got an idea, but we'll have to see. I'll look at that tape, and sometimes my idea isn't the right one, until I look at that tape and we'll make a collective effort to judge what's going on. I got an idea, but we'll see. Yeah, we will. We definitely have to find a way, either myself or Rip. I think everybody else is playing well. Tay bounced back and had a good game tonight. Sheed was good, our bench was good. It's myself and Rip that are lacking and not playing very great right now. As the leader of this team, you've got to take that responsibility head on and say we've got to play better. We've got to play better. For us to have a chance, we've got to play better, and that's all it is. That's all there is to it. |
| In the fourth quarter I was ready for him, hit a couple shots, but like I said, he's just too good, too good. I've got to give it to him. He hit a lot of shots, fadeaway three-pointers, and he's been known to hit bad shots, tough shots. He did that last night. Just winning. I don't really care how good I'm playing. As long as we're winning, y'all know that. I never play for stats or nothing like that, I play to win. But I have played better, of course. But as long as we win, it doesn't really matter. Well, my shot has been fine. Until yesterday I hadn't really gotten over seven shots, seven looks. Actually I got some really good looks yesterday. I think I had like four good looks early in the first quarter; didn't knock them down. But yesterday I shot bad. Other than that, my shot is fine. I think the turnovers are our biggest thing for me, you know what I'm saying? My shot, I'm not worried at all about my shot. I've never been in one like this as far as turning the ball over. My shot, look, shooters shoot, your shot is going to be on and off. I've had a tough stretch this year with my shot, and I'm not in that at all, which I'm happy about. You know, like I said, I've got to start playing a little bit better for us to win. They're a tough team, it's the Eastern Finals, and us as a team offensively, I think we've got to play a lot better for us to win. No, not at all, no. Well, it depends. I mean, I pick my spots. There's times in the game when I do need to be a little bit more aggressive and there's times when I need to take a step back, but that's nothing new. That's how I've always played. That's what I do. It's funny, when you have a couple tough games, you know, the way it always plays, I pick my spots to take over sometimes and I fall back sometimes, and now it's like, man, everybody wants to take over for the whole game, and I've never been like that, you know what I'm saying? That's not going to change the way I play, change my game. I haven't been playing out of character; I'm doing what I do. No. No, I'm not confused or concerned. You know, like I said, I could be taking care of the ball a little better. I had five turnovers yesterday via my travels, you know what I'm saying, not throw-aways, travels, but I'm not concerned at all. Like I said, could I be playing better? Yeah, no doubt about that. But I'm not concerned. We didn't run as many pick-and-rolls yesterday. We didn't run as many pick-and-rolls. We had C Webb going to the post, we had Sheed going -- the times that I did run a pick-and-roll, they trapped me. I mean, I think you look at any series, there's only four teams playing right now, you know what I'm saying? Any teams like us, two really good defensive teams, are going to be tough, grind-out games every night. That's what it's been every single game, and I expect it to continue like that. You act like we're down 3-0 and I'm having like three points. Come on, man, it's not that serious at all. It's not that serious. We're up 2-1, Eastern Finals, chance to win Game 4. It's not that serious. Yeah, then none of this is going on. Nobody is talking about nothing. We have two all-stars that haven't been playing like all-stars. And when you have that going on, when your all-stars aren't playing that great, it says the winners are going to be slim, you know what I'm saying? They're going to be slim. That's exactly what I said. If me or Rip get going yesterday, we win the ballgame because even with us not playing that great, we have a lot of chances at the end of the game to win. We still had a lot of chances. They hit some tough, tough shots to kind of ice it, and we couldn't catch up with them. And I understand. If you look at those situations at the start of the season, they said, look, the only way we've got a chance is if you cut their head off every single time. They know we run a lot of pick-and-rolls, so that's a big part of our offense. If you trap somebody and don't let them play, it makes it tough. It makes it tough. That's what you're seeing. We're starting to make some adjustments. I had 14 shots yesterday, so I feel good about just having some more opportunities. There's some things that we try to do, but sometimes you go through a game and other things start working. That's fine, too. Whatever works, I don't care, whether it's me or whoever. Not a particular person. They've got a particular two or three guys, you know what I'm saying, at one time that makes it difficult, not one guy. It's different because most times, a lot of times one of us might struggle, have a tough night, but at the same time, we haven't really seen a lot of that. So it's different, it's different. Like I said, that's why our team is such a great team is because of that. We've got guys that are capable of stepping up and having big nights. Man, we've got Game 4 tomorrow and we'll see what happens. I'm not concerned at all. Well, we go into every game with a different way. Sometimes we say, all right, look, we're going to go in the post, we're going to make them play us out of the post first four or five plays. Sometimes we say, all right, Rip, come with some energy, we're going to run the up screen, see how they're playing down screen. Let's see how they're playing. We've got LeBron guarding. It's different every night. But with that being said, a lot of these guys, our whole entire team looks to me and Rip to lead and to take big pieces of the responsibility, and we're always good for that. We never make excuses and say this is going on, that's going on. If we don't play good, we don't play good. We don't say that. Ain't no running around that. That's what leaders do. That's what leaders should do. |
| N/A |
| N/A |
| I am what I am. I don't know how else to explain it. I've been the same way all my life, and it is what it is. But if you've got some endorsements out there that you can throw my way, I'll take them (laughter). I think he should retire so I can catch up with him. That's my personal opinion. You know, what he brings to the table year in and year out, it's something you can't measure. His experience, his timeliness, and of course we understand the way he hits big shots. But he's one of those guys you can put in the game and you're just never worried about what he's going to do because you know he's going to do the right thing. Of course it shows in the championships that he's won and the different teams you've done it with, and the right situations he continues to put himself in. What he does for us is immeasurable. I cannot relate to him in any way, honestly. I was in a much different situation. I was on a veteran squad and I was more of a piece of the puzzle. I think he's a much bigger piece of this puzzle. They're asking him to do a lot more. I don't know what our age difference was, but I'm going to imagine I think I was a little older than him. But I had guys like Avery and Dave and Sean and Mario. These were veteran guys that had been around the league. The ability to kind of lean on him and follow them through it is I think a bit of a different situation than LeBron has. Absolutely. It's absolutely impressive. I don't think I deny the fact that it's impressive what he's done thus far to get here. What the team was from a couple years back, and then to pick him and to put the right pieces around him, I think a lot of credit to Danny and Mike and the rest of the Cavs organization for putting that together. But of course, again, he's a big part of that and a big part of that turnaround in getting to this point. He'll prepare them well. I think him and Coach Egan and we've got a couple of other guys that were there that have been around our system and been with us for a couple years. But the beauty of the NBA Finals is there are not too many secrets. I think you go in and you face a team, there are not too many things you're going to sneak people with. You have to execute your stuff, you have to bring the effort, you have to be able to play well for all that we can bring to the table and all that he can bring to the table about the opposing teams. It's about going out there and actually doing it. Again, I can't answer that one. I've found it works for me and it's something I've stuck with. As I said, it makes shots easier for me, and as long as it works, I stick with it. I can't answer the question why nobody else uses it. Well, I think having another big guy in the backcourt in the NBA, having someone that you can count on, is a really big deal. You don't see that in too many places where you can look across and have two big guys that can play at the same level. And in saying that, I think you've got to give a lot of credit to the other guys that were on that team, also, along with Dave, Sean and Avery and Mario. As I said, of course, those guys along with Dave were the ones that kind of put that team together, kind of kept -- made it easier for me to play the game and not be so stressed about it. I'm expecting a lot of changes, a lot of different things. I'm guessing that Mike won't throw a steady diet of anything at me. I'll have some opportunities to play a little bit of one-on-one basketball, I'll see a lot of double teams, I'll see double teams come from different areas. I've got to imagine that he's got a bunch of things that he'll throw at me and not just -- try to change it up so I don't know what's coming. It was an evolution, and just as I was brought into the situation with those guys, same thing with me. I was given the opportunity to have an influx of kind of young guys with Manu and Tony and Bruce being here for a couple years, and it's our responsibility to kind of bring them along. I hate to say responsibility now because those guys have been through this situation and they've got the experience just like we do. So we're just at a good point with a good mix of guys, young, old, guys who have been through it. It's just a good mix right now. I don't know how else to answer that. The fly under the radar question. It doesn't matter to us. It doesn't matter. It's great, it's wonderful for the NBA, it's wonderful for NBA fans. I think there's a lot of hype behind these Finals, and that's great for us, too. We're not worried about who gets the hype or what gets the hype, we're about winning four games and worrying about it then. All in all I thought we did a pretty decent job. Fourth quarter we gave up a little more than we should have. I thought they did a good job of dissecting it big towards the end there. But all in all I thought we contained very well. We did a pretty good job on LeBron, not giving him the lanes that he's used to. We won the game, we held them to 76 points. That's right where we need to be. Honestly that's not something I was looking for. We were just trying to stick with the game plan and doing the same stuff. Honestly I didn't know he was 0-for-7. I knew we were doing a pretty good job on him, but I didn't know his numbers. He's so good at finding guys with his size, we just needed to keep hands in there. Like I said, we got a couple hands on balls, which helped our defense a whole lot. Well, you have to. You've got to in this league. Stars carry teams, and our coaches do a great job of putting a game plan together, and if we're able to stick to it, we do a pretty good job of containing people. It helps a little bit to have somebody like Bruce. That's definitely not something you look past. He's guarded every position throughout these playoffs, and he's done a great job with it. So a lot of credit to him. But all in all, our team defense tonight was really good, and I think that's what's going to be the key for us. It takes five guys understanding what we're doing, understanding a game plan and sticking with it. Even with the repicks and the reposts and everything else, it might be a different guy in the play, but we've been sticking to what we do. I think that's a lot of credit to our coaching staff getting us prepared at that point, and five guys on the floor, whoever it may be, getting it done. Five of them played great tonight. Francisco stepped up and played really well for us, got us some stops, some rebounds, scored a couple points. We just get play from different people. I think guys continue to step up, guys that aren't usually there continue to step up for us. I was surprised the first two shots I made that I got to the rim, yeah, absolutely. They adjusted their defense and I don't think I got as easy a look for the rest of the game. But to start the game, to come out of the gates and have two baskets like that helped me tremendously. Tony gets to the rim all the time, and there's no knocking anyone, the Cavs or anyone else. But with his quickness, his ability to finish in the lane, he gets in there almost at will. People make adjustments and he's got to make adjustments, too. I have no doubt they'll try to prevent that as much as possible and really pack that lane in. But night in and night out, he does it against just about anybody. It's night and day. I honestly didn't know what to expect with him coming in here. I knew he was incredibly young, I knew he had some quickness to him. I had no idea he'd become the player he is right now. Now he's, for lack of a better term, been through hell and back. He's been through every situation, every level of competition possible, and he's as much of that as anybody else at 25, 26 or 24, I don't know. Oh, I think we both -- he actually didn't see the play. He threw the ball and bumped into Varejao, went down on the ground, and when he got up, he was walking by me, and he kind of looked at me, and he was like, "Did you make that?" He's like, "You missed?" I'm like, "Yeah, sorry about that." But nothing more than that. I did see that, and we gave up 27 points in that fourth quarter, a couple more than we want to in a situation like that. We kind of let them back into the game a little bit. I think they only got it to nine or something like that, but striking distance at least. They got a couple easy things. Of course LeBron hit those two threes in a row, which were great shots, but they got a lay-up or two and they got a wide-open shot or two. Those are just things we've got to clean up. I think they started to figure some stuff out, and so it's just about getting back that focus that we had in those first three quarters. I don't know that we specifically need to change much of anything, but we just need to make some adjustments and make sure that we're not giving those easy shots up in the beginning of the game this next one. A little bit of loss of focus. They're smart basketball players, they're a smart team. It took them that long to figure out what we were doing, and maybe they have. I figure it's a little bit of lost focus, maybe they figured some stuff out. And the whole Finals, the series, every series is about a little bit of adjustments, and they'll make some adjustments and we'll have to do the same. What does he do better than anyone? He gets it in the lane and gets to the basket. He gets shots right up to the rim. They have arguments all the time about who's the fastest in the NBA, and I don't know if he's the fastest, but he will get around just about anybody and he'll get in that lane. For his size, he has just a great ability to make shots over people, and I think also his ability to stop on a dime, to shoot a floater or go right to the basket. It's so hard for a defender to stop and stay in front of that with all those options. So if it's one thing, I think it's just finishing at the basket, getting there and finishing. I think the team played well yesterday. I thought we played well yesterday. But those guys are going to make adjustments. Doing what we did last night is a promise those guys are going to be better defensively. They're going to change their game plan so Tony can't get in the lane as easily. And in years past it's been just that; teams have come out, we've played a good Game 1, Tony has played a good Game 1, myself, and they've made adjustments and things have changed a little bit. I think he's more adept now to being aware of those adjustments and being able to adjust on the fly. So that's something we're going to have to do anyway; we're going to have to be ready for what they're going to bring to us. They're not going to allow us to get to the basket as easily as we did. They're not going to allow us to get some of the shots that we did. They're going to make their adjustments and we're going to have to make ours. That never happened, so I'm happy about that and I'm happy that Tony is playing. Let's just leave it at that. |
| I don't think there's only one thing. I think every year we go through the situation where we don't start off the greatest and kind of work our way into it. I remember there were times where he pointed to that fact or those guys had more of a drive than we did. I don't believe that was the case. I don't honestly agree with him on that point. But we took some -- it took us some time to really start getting to play the right way, and once we started playing the right way, bang, we're right back in it. I cannot describe the style of play on the court, no. He's all over the place. He does -- he's great for our team because he brings the style of play where you can't really -- you don't know what he's going to do. He makes it up on the fly. He's an aggressive -- incredibly aggressive player. He just finds a way to make things happen. A lot of us play within our system, and he's one of the guys that will step out of that box, will can the whole thing and take it in a different direction. It can be an overwhelming situation with the attention, with how close you are to being that final team. It can be a lot of pressure, and being here for the first time, having a young team as they do, having a young leader as they do, that doesn't help. They have very few vets that have been to this level, and you don't want to give them a lot of credit, but it really does help when you have people that have been there and have been through the situation and can kind of flow with it a little bit more. As these games continue on, I can imagine those guys will get more and more comfortable and find out that it's still basketball and you're still out there. Once you get out on that court it's the same old game and they'll get a little more comfortable. Hopefully we can continue to play that to our advantage with our experience, but those guys are going to get comfortable and we're going to have to really bring our A games and understand that they're going to be playing their best at the right time. We've looked at some stuff, and we have to imagine they're going to make some changes. We anticipate a couple things, but there's no way to really tell. You have to anticipate some stuff and be able to counter it in game instead of waiting for a whole other game and letting it slip by. Our coaching staff is great at that. They're great at seeing things that happen, seeing things that could hurt us coming up and trying to give us a little bit of advance on it. We've done just that, and hopefully we can go into this game and do the same job in executing our game plan as we did in the first game. For whatever reason it's what the Spurs have been labeled as. For whatever reason, we're just kind of looked by in that respect. Honestly, I think Pop likes it that way. He's in it every step of the way. I believe he's as good as anyone ever, but it doesn't matter to him. He's about that challenge every year, about putting a team back together every year, about getting guys to play the right way, and whatever recognition comes with that down the line, it'll come in time. He'll deal without any extra needed attention. I can't answer that question. I don't know. I don't know why a small market would matter. Whether you win or lose games or win championships, I don't know why that would matter. I think some guys were nervous, absolutely, thinking that with our sporadic play that was going to happen to give us a little bit of a boost, and I think that was specifically what we needed. We needed him to come in there, and that's the change that he decided, that there weren't going to be any changes. I think that's the news that we got, and I think it helped. I think it pulled guys together, I think it got guys comfortable knowing that something was going to happen. They were here to play and this is who we had to o it with. I think it helped guys step up. There have been very few dynasties. I don't know that we can consider ourselves a dynasty, but that's me on the inside looking out. Dynasties are the things that the Lakers of the 80s and the Celtics, those are who you consider dynasties, teams that have done it for many, many, many years. Hopefully we can look back in a couple years and be considered something like that. But as of now, I can't imagine that we would be considered alongside those guys. Winning is our goal. What that equals in the long run, you can define it however you want to. Winning is our goal. Life would have been a lot different. It was probably a lot closer decision than people even think or even know, but it's worked out the right way, to say the least, and I can't even go through all the factors that went into making the final decision to come back here. But just the organization and the people and the situation, and as I said, obviously it worked out the right way. As I said, it was the people and the organization here at the Spurs that I was used to, and not only the players. Of course David was here, and that was great, and I had a couple other guys here that I loved being around. But even beyond that, the staff, the coaches, guys I was comfortable with, guys I enjoyed being around is probably what swayed it in the end. |
| I'd like to hope we had something to do with it. Like you said, they just didn't shoot the ball well. I thought they got some pretty decent looks. They hit some shots down the stretch there. We were up eight, ten points and they started making some shots. So the first stretch they started making some shots. Defensively I thought we were pretty solid. There weren't a whole lot of free throws on our end. There weren't a whole lot of easy looks on our end. But we kind of stuck with it. And the same with them, we made everything tough for them. We figured they were going to do something to change something. Gibson had been playing 30 something odd minutes anyway, so we've seen enough of him that we didn't have to make much of an adjustment. We didn't change a whole lot of what we did. We understood the kind of shooter that he was, and outside of that, we stuck with our same game plan. Brucey was unbelievable tonight. He did everything for us. He sat down and defended for 44 minutes out there. He made some big shots for us, rebounded the ball, just an unbelievable effort on his part. You can't say enough about him. He'll get it done, and it doesn't matter if he gets one shot or eight shots. He's going to be in the same place at the same time. He's going to do the same thing. That's what defines our team, what he does. I think he's doing a little bit of both. I think he's starting with the approach that he's going to make the right pass, he's going to make the right play. I think they count on him enough that in crunch time he feels like he has to make plays. But whether it be the starting play of the game or at crunch time, we're doing the same thing. I think we changed one time towards the end there where we went at him on a double-team and they hit a three, and then we kind of went back. Everything else was the same, so we're going to make him make decisions, make him make shots over the top of us, and for a while there, as I said before, he did a good job of penetrating. He got a couple of great back doors, but we're going to make it as tough as possible for him. I think he's trying. I think he's definitely trying. We're a pretty good defensive team. We're not bad (laughter). We can stay in front of people and we can challenge shots, and we do pretty good with sticking with our game plan. It's worked so far, and we're not going to change a whole lot. Whether he tries to impose his will or not, we're going to be standing in front of him. You know, in my experience the Game 3 is usually the toughest game possible, and Game 4 brings a whole other challenge. It's a little bit of desperation, it's a little bit of laying it all on the line, and it's about really sustaining, because if you can sustain with people early on, they make runs, they use their energy, the crowd is behind them, and you can sustain over a half or three or four quarters, that's what it's all about. We're going to play that way. We're going to come out knowing that they're going to have their foot on the pedal and be pushing and LeBron is going to try to get to the rack and make plays and carry his team, and guys will be trying to make plays the same way. As I said, we're going to do the same exact thing. We're going to try to stay in the game and give ourselves a chance to win when it's crunch time. Tony has been unbelievable. He's been great. As you said, he's not really a three-point shooter (smiling), and I think the coach has said I had kind of a weird look on my face when he shot that third one. But it went down, and I'm happy about that. You know what, he's so confident right now, he's feeling so good about his jump shot. They've been allowing him to shoot the jump shot, trying to keep him out of the paint, and when you do that, you basically warm somebody up. They're able to step into shots, able to take shots, and I think they've done that for him. That was a huge shot for us to give us a bit of a cushion, and I probably was questioning it on the release, but I was happy with the results (laughter). Sure. As long as we get to four that's all that matters. It's a lot of pressure, especially in this situation with the Finals. But at the same time it's a lot of fun. It's playing on the biggest stage, it's playing the game that you love to play, and it's playing for the biggest prize. So it's a lot of fun. |
| Best shape I've been in in a long time. I just had some time off in the summer, and with no other responsibilities playing on any other teams, I was just able to kind of concentrate on getting strong, getting in shape. Then did my entire summer workout, like I had done in the past, I was able to get healthy and feel good coming into the season. Absolutely, yeah, of course. Defensively they were a lot better. They were physical. Z did an excellent job on the offensive glass, gave them a lot of second shots. But I thought we also did a pretty good job on the defensive end. I think it was just a better energy game for them, a better effort game for them more than anything else. No. No. We've got people that we consider shooters of the three and we're trying to get them off the three. We consider some people that we'll live with their jump shot, just like any other player on any other team. They are on my team Oh, absolutely, I'm very happy for Fin. Hopefully we can get this done. Obviously it's not won until it's won, but every year that we've won we've had some guys on the team that have been around the league, have been journeymen, have done it year after year and just unable to kind of get to this level, get this opportunity. My first year, Jerome Kersey was -- it was Tony Massenburg, a lot of different guys, Kevin Willis along the way. So every year you're really proud to have a person like that, a guy like that. Now it's Jacque and it's nice to have those guys in this situation, to be able to win a championship after being in this league for so many years and playing the game the right way for so many years, such good guys. It means a lot more to just add one and win one for them. Playoffs are always more physical, and they have been. We've played some very physical teams. The game changes in the playoffs. It takes a little while to get used to it. You get hit for a couple games and you get pushed around for a couple games, you're thinking, hey, these have got to be fouls, and then you realize I'm in the playoffs. It's not going to be officiated the same. People are going to get away with more. Once you turn the corner and come to that realization, that players are more physical and they are going to get the players to kind of decide what happens, it's a great atmosphere to play in. Veering away from what? Yeah, you have times, and it takes an entire season. It takes those 82 games to get things moving in the right direction. At the beginning of the year one of the points coach makes is we want to be better for more of those 48 minutes and do thing the right way for more of those 48 minutes than anyone else. It's progressive. At the beginning of the year we might have been doing it for a quarter or maybe for a half. Being in these playoffs we might have been doing it for three quarters and giving a quarter away, and I think we're doing it for more of those 48 minutes right now than we've done it all year long. As I say, we're kind of a step ahead of ourselves. We've got to get this one done, and of course we're focusing on that. It was an honor to even be thought of as that even coming into this season. To have won three championships and to have had the opportunity to have done that is an unbelievable thing. Coming into the league as a player, nothing is promised. You don't know what road your seasons in the NBA will bring. To have won three already, I feel blessed by that, and to have a team that has the ability to challenge for a playoff run, a playoff championship year in and year out, that's all you can ask for. He's put in a system and he's stuck with it. It's a lot of fun to play for someone that knows exactly what they want, and he's done just that. He changes a little bit every year. He tweaks some stuff every year, but the basis of what he does and the basis of what he coaches is the same. He preaches defense, of course. Over the years we've changed our offense bit by bit to use what's worked in years past. But all in all, you walk in every year and you understand what he's going to ask from you, what he's going to need from you and what players he's going to put around myself and the rest of the guys to be able to have a good team. And to have that is outstanding. That's an impossible question to ask. I don't know. They're headed in the right direction. I think Mike has them on the right track. He has them playing the right way. Of course they use a lot of our stuff. They play the way we play, and they have LeBron, they have a couple other guys who are going to be very good for a lot of years here. All I can say is they're moving in the right direction. I don't know if you can compare them to anyone. I think they're a bit of a different team. I hate to just keep saying LeBron, because LeBron is a different player than anything we've ever had, but it's a bit different but they're going in the right direction. I can't say it's night and day. I said this at the beginning of the series. This is the toughest road that we've had to a Finals. The three teams that we've played, obviously you could -- no disrespect to any of the first round, second round or third round teams, but you could have put them in any order but we could have played them in that round and had the same kind of tough series, tough opponent. Denver was unbelievable with the two scorers they had and the physicality they have; Phoenix, of course; Utah did one heck of a job and you know what they're going to bring to the table. And we made it through all three of those teams. I'd say we were prepared for just about anything. With the teams that we played, we were prepared for anyone. I've got to admit, this one is sweeter. The road that we took to get here, it was as tough as we ever had it. Guys persevered, had great performances from 1 to 12. It was great. All around it was great, probably the best one. Absolutely. That boy over there took my other trophy so I'm going to keep this one at my house. He carried the team, and I'm just happy he was on my team. It was our team defense. It was Bruce Bowen sitting down on him for 40-some odd minutes every night. It was our guys understanding that he wasn't able to do it himself. But I think it just starts with Bruce. I've got to give a lot of credit to Bruce. He did an awesome job of standing in front of that guy and making life tough for him. We understood as a group that we were going to have to do our part. They fought, they hit the offensive glass, they did everything they could, but we sustained. They made runs, we never panicked. I think it just shows a lot of the experience, the poise that we've built over the years, and I think we just outlasted them. We devise our own game game plan. We don't rely on anyone else. It's all us (laughter). You learn from everything. I think our coaches are the best in the business at watching game film, and we see these guys two times a year. Honestly we probably would have been more comfortable playing Detroit because we had played them more times before. We play Cleveland twice a year, and it's spread out and this year was so early in the year. We were different teams. We had to watch a lot of film, we had to figure out their tendencies, we had to figure out our game plan walking into this gym before we actually even had played these guys and know what they were about. Our coaching staff, give them a whole lot of credit at getting us prepared, getting us ready to play these guys. You know, it was a tough close-out. Guys like Mike Fin is what it's all about, to win a championship, to see how much he appreciates it, to see Jacque Vaughn and even Robert Horry, to see the looks on their face and the understanding of how special and how tough it is to get here, it makes it all worth it. Not that it's not worth it by itself, but those guys make it epitomize and define what it is about a journey to get here and how hard it is to get here. It made it sweeter, it really did. It would have been -- it would have been sweet either way, but it made it sweeter for them to make a run, for us to answer, for us to keep our composure and to find a way to win, no matter what. Those guys played great in that fourth quarter. They outscored us in the fourth quarter, as they did most of the series. We made plays, we found ways to get it done. I didn't play the greatest, people missed shots, they got offensive rebounds, they made plays. But we found a way to win. That's what this team is all about. No matter what happens we find ways to win. Manu is our X factor. Manu is the guy that when it all breaks down, when it all goes bad, when our offense isn't clicking the right way, he's the guy that makes plays. That's his role. That's his role, and this team is about roles. This team is about people filling their spots when they have to, and that is absolutely his role. He was great tonight in it. It was huge. It was a great time to do it. Our effort was there. They were the team who was being the aggressor on the glass, and they were the ones getting it done on the glass. And we had a stretch there where we got extra possessions. We found a way to get it done. As I was saying with the last question, we made plays and found a way to get it done when it wasn't there. That effort and that perseverance is what defines this team. We find a way to get it done when it's time to get it done. Such a broad question. Coach Pop is -- he's the one that puts us together. He's the guy that makes it run. He's the one that stays on us, no matter how well or how badly we're playing. He finds the right way to approach us. I can say no more than he defines the team. He always has, and as long as he's here, he always will. We're sticklers, I don't know. That's probably bad (laughter). We should appreciate and enjoy the win. To end the season 4-of-15 and 4-of-10 game is disappointing. In this situation it shouldn't be, but I think we're all competitors, and it defines us as competitors. We want to be the best players that we can be in the biggest situations. Honestly, I thought those other guys were great, and I thought I was sub-par. But we got it done, and that's all that matters. That's all that matters. |
| We just kept fighting and I kept telling my teammates the whole game that we got to fight if we want to get back in it. We did, and Rashard hit the big shot at the end. I just felt the whole game that if we played hard in the second half we was going to win. He said it the best. We have been in tough situations the whole playoffs, and we got a lot of guys who can step up and hit big shots. You know, Rashard did it tonight, but we stepped it up on the defensive end, I think, in the second quarter. And in the second half we played tremendous defense. We didn't let them get easy points in the paint as much as they did in the first quarter, second quarter. And we tried to keep LeBron from scoring 50. I think so. I felt that my team wasn't playing as hard as we needed to and just trying to be aggressive, attacking the basket and getting easy points. When we are down, somebody has to step up. And I just tried to be a leader and step up, not only on the offensive end but on the defensive end. He told us at halftime we are all witnesses. That's what he said to us, and it really motivated us when said y'all playing like y'all witnesses. You are watching them dunk. And he has a great way of motivating all of us. And that right there, you know, brought some fire out of us. And we came out in the second half, tried to do a better job on him. He still made a lot of shots. But we stepped it up on the defensive end, and the guys who came off the bench, they hit some big shots and also played great defense. Yeah, I've done it before a couple times. But I didn't even know what happened. I just heard the crowd say, oooh. I thought it was a regular dunk. Then I turned around and the whole thing was I tried to break the goal. So it was a fun thing to watch when I watched the replay. It was. Everybody is counting us out as a team, and we believe if we play Magic basketball for 48 minutes we can beat anybody. And when we run, defend and rebound, we win a lot of games. And if we want to win this series, that's what we have to do every night. I told our guys to pick our heads up. These are the playoffs. Teams will make runs. They will hit a lot of shots. We can't hold our heads down in any series. We got to keep our chins up and fight through any situation. I told the guys at halftime we got to fight. I just asked them, where is the fight at? And Rashard hit the big shot. I knew when I got the foul I was a little upset because I was sitting on the bench. Rashard looked at me and gave me three winks, signalling that he was going to hit a big 3 and he did it. No, not yet. Yeah, we'll see. When Shaq broke the post, they said they couldn't break it no more. I don't think it will break no more. There's nothing to worry about. Craziest question. No onions. I just get the Quarter Pounder with cheese. I will have it tomorrow. It is my pregame meal. It is just one game, and we understand that. Going into tomorrow -- we had a great chance of doing that in Boston after we won the first game. But Boston came out with a lot of energy, so we learned a big lesson from that. I think tomorrow we have to come out like we did in the second half and play great defense. At the end of the game, you play hard, we should be up. It is great. He actually tricked us yesterday. Usually he's . Yesterday he was . For real, Stan? He is just like that. He is a great motivator. Does a great job of keeping guys loose but at the same time motivating us to get the job done. I was really upset. I didn't want to be a witness. He really upset me. I wanted to come out in the second half with be a better effort, and I didn't want to be a witness. We still witnessed 49 points. Crazy. |
| Yeah, we have been beat by some tough shots. But we just got to come back Sunday and make sure that it doesn't happen again. But, you know, LeBron hit a tough shot, and nothing you can do about it. No, I'm fine. We almost had a chance to win and without me getting a lot of shots, so I'm not upset about that. My guys made some tough shots tonight. So there is no need for me to get frustrated because I didn't get enough touches. I think I did a good job of rebounding and defending. Then it came down to the last-second shot. Well, I think we really got to come out better in the first half. And we can't allow a team like Cleveland to get off to a good start. They will get in a big lead and we will fight our way back. If we want to win this series, we got to come out better. We got to be more mentally tough from the beginning of the game to the end of the game. I thought he took a tough shot. Coach said try to get the last shot, and one second left, LeBron through up a shot. And, man, it was crazy watching the ball when he threw it up. It was like watching a movie. The ball was just spinning. It was like watching a real movie. He hit the shot. It was a tough shot. We got to come back Sunday and get a win. We understand what we have to do to beat this team. We got -- one, we got to get off to a better start. Two, we got to be able to run and move the ball and make the big guys on their team move their feet. And we didn't start the game off that way. We allowed them to come out, guys hit big 3s, dunks, whatever. And took us a while to recover. So when we go home, we really got to capitalize on what we do best so we can get two good wins. No. You know, we got to understand that playing against a team like Cleveland they come out hard in the first quarter and we got to be able to match their intensity. With two games we haven't done it and we had to fight our way back, which is not good, especially in the playoffs, especially against a team like Cleveland. You know, it is not about scoring every night. I think that's -- people look at the box score and they say you didn't have a lot of points, that's not a productive night. But rebounding, trying to be aggressive on defense is what really matters. That's what got us back into the game tonight is not me getting points up. That's not me just going out there and trying to be a factor on offense but being a factor on defense, first of all. And I know my shots will come. I just got to be more aggressive going to the offensive glass, which I will do in the next game. But we come out and play Magic basketball, we should win. It was a tough shot, you know? I'm shocked anybody would make that shot. Everybody is watching. It was a tough shot. Turk played great defense. There was nothing he could do about it. LeBron hit a tough shot. He is MVP of the League, and that's what he do best. It's tough when you got to go home and watch it on T.V. over and over again, thanks to Rachel Nichols and ESPN. I know I won't be able to sleep and the rest of my teammates won't be able to sleep. We got to get over it. The series is tied 1-1. We are going home, and we know what we have to do to beat this team, but we have to do it for 48 minutes. |
| Yeah, well, we can't focus on what other guys are saying. You know, we just got to go out there and play. It is not hard to stay hungry. Right now -- right now we are so close to our goal. The only thing on our mind is reaching that goal we want to accomplish so bad. That's what motivates us, is that goal that everybody wants, which is to win a championship; and we have a great chance of doing it. So we're hungry. We just got to come out and play. We can't focus on what the series is right now. We have to come out and treat it like it is a Game 7. It is do or die. Can't look at it as is it 2-1 and we can have them on the ropes. The talk? Yeah, we want to win a championship. We don't want the championship to be handed to somebody. So we go out every night and show everybody that we believe we can win. I like the commercials. They're funny. They are commercials that are very entertaining. So I love watching them. It is very entertaining. But our job is to go out there and play and not worry about what's on T.V. or in the paper or whatever. We just got to go out there and do that. It is disrespectful when everybody is counting us out trying to win a championship. They can beat the Magic and Denver. They want to see Kobe and LeBron go at it. Well, I just got to get up there and make my free throws. I know they are going to foul me. I just have to be prepared for it and go out there and make them. I don't think it is a tough spot for him. We've been in a lot of different situations. He's played where he started a couple games and I have been out, and he knows how to play. So he can get out there and do the job just as well as everybody else. We have full confidence in him. We know he can get the job done. He's done better. That's what it is going to take to win. Everybody has to be willing to work. So when game time comes, everybody is ready. We are focused. Nobody is talking about the win from last night. Our mind-set is coming in tomorrow and getting another game. There is no rivalry. We go out there and try to win basketball. There are only four teams left. So, you know, everybody is out there fighting. We don't want to go home, neither do they. Everybody wants to play. Anthony can play. We're just happy to see him out there playing. He is not scared of anything, and he is playing 100 percent so I'm happy for him. Soft-spoken? That's my Mickael Pietrus. He is not soft-spoken. He might not talk in front of you guys. It is not challenging. It is frustrating sometimes when you get hit. But I got to try to keep my cool and go to the next play. Getting too close to getting a technical foul, so got to find a way to keep my composure. No comment. No, I don't. I can't get any more. I have to keep my elbows down, my mouth shut. I'm thinking about duct taping my mouth tomorrow before the game. So that might be a good thing. I might have to duct tape my mouth and put some elbow pads on just in case my elbows fly. I will try to keep those down, too. Yes, I can. I can sing in my head. I won't sing to the refs. Carmelo? Carmelo is focusing on winning. I'm pretty sure he is not worried about the commercials. Well, I just tried to stay aggressive. I know I didn't play a lot of minutes, especially in the first half. And I just kept telling myself, stay in the game and get ready for the second half and come out and try to dominate. Free throws? I didn't think about it. I just went up there and tried to shoot, and it was working. It was actually -- I was actually singing a song tonight in my head, and it was working. So I ought to stick with it. It was a song I heard at halftime. It was one of the dance songs. I kept thinking about dancing the whole time and free throws was going in, so I might need to keep up that routine. Is that God? Say it again. Yes, I just really tried to be aggressive on the offensive end and make Big Z and the other bigs move their feet and try to get them in foul trouble. We can't get into it. We just got to go out there and play. When we play our basketball, we can beat anybody on the floor. That's our mentality. We have to play Magic basketball. When we do that, we can't worry about what other people are saying about us. We just go out there and win. I think so. I think so. Before the game, when I came out to warm up, I shot all free throws. Pat said, Are you going to work on your jump hook? I said I will work on my free throws tonight. I felt like I was going to go to the line a lot. I know I missed a couple early. But I tried to keep most of the same shot, and they was falling towards the end of the game. Oh, no, I can't gave you no notes. I was singing in My Dougie song that I heard. It was a dance song. I just felt good out there shooting it. I can't gave you no lines right now. I lost my voice screaming. I'm avoiding it. No, not tonight. No, I'm not going to get into it with any of the refs. My team and the city needs me, so -- I'm going to do a good job of keeping my head composed and trying not to allow things to happen on the floor to get me away from what our goal is, which is to win a championship. I can't allow anything to, you know, stop me mentally from achieving our goal. Pat tells me every day. My teammates tell me. I just got to try to stay focused, like I said. All it takes is one little incident, but I'm going to do my best to stay away from it. All we got to do is come out and play Magic basketball. We run, move the ball, and defend. Like I have been telling you guys, we can beat anybody. And those are going to be the three things, run, move the ball, and play defense. I'm not going to get into it. My job is to go out there and play hard, no matter if I foul out or not. If I give -- if I go out there and play 48 minutes hard and get six fouls and we get the win, that's all that matters. So I can't really concern myself with getting in foul trouble. Just got to go out there and play. In order for us to be the better team, like I have been telling you guys, we have to run. We have to defend and rebound. I think they beat us on the boards tonight. But as a team, we got to do a good job of rebounding and not letting them get more than one shot and try to contain LeBron. It is a tough thing to do, but when we run, nobody can beat us. We have a chance to win, you know? And if we go out there and play, we shouldn't worry about what we see on T.V., the commercials, the write-ups, whatever. Do we find it disrespectful that they're counting us out? Yeah. But there is nothing we can control. What we can control is how hard we play on the court, and that's when we get the job done. It is about effort. The team that wants it the most is going to get the win. We want it. We feel like we have a great chance of winning the championship. We believe. And all we got to do is go out there and play hard for 48 minutes. We know what it takes to win. We just have to be able to go out there and do it. It wasn't tough. I know my teammates have played without me, played with me having foul trouble. So I trust my teammates, and everything is going to work out for us if we just go out there and play. We can't worry so much and I can't worry about getting fouls or sitting on the bench. Just got to play through all that stuff. When you play through it and you fight and at the end of the day, you know, you should come out with a good result. The shot that he made? Was it tough? Yeah, you know. Hedo went down to hit the shot, and we thought Hedo shot it with no time where they didn't have a chance of getting a shot off. We celebrating. Then LeBron come down and hit, seemed like a movie 3. Yeah, you know, it was kind of hurting for us. But there was nothing you can do about it. He hit a tough shot. We had to move on. It was tough on the plane, riding back and just seeing that shot over and over in your head. But we knew we had to come out tonight and give 100 percent. He has been playing hard. He works hard every day in practice and he gets into LeBron to try to force him to take tough shots. In the offensive end, he shoots the ball with confidence, and he is just having fun. With a guy like Mike, you just want to give him the green light sometimes and just let him go to work. He makes big shots sometimes. You saw it. I'm not going to yell at the refs. I was talking to the bench. Instead of talking to the bench, I should have just walked to the sideline. No. I just should have kept my head and walked to the bench. |
| Well, one, I was -- the first time I think I got tired in a while. And I just tried to push myself. He said that I stopped going to the ball on the pick-and-roll, so I just tried to be aggressive toward the end of the game, and it worked. I really didn't know who to screen. Usually they switch the four and five pick-and-roll towards the end of the game. And I think Ben had a head start, so I tried to hit him before he got a chance to close out to Rashard. And then Rashard just hit the shot. I think as a team we want it more than any other year that I have been here. I have been talking about winning a championship since I have been here. But I think this is the first year that everybody is locked in on our goal. We just got to keep fighting, you know? We have an excellent opportunity in front of us, but we got to keep fighting. We can never give up, never think it is going to be easy because we got to work for everything that we get. I think as a team, coaching staff, everybody, we believe that every time we step on the floor, we play our brand of basketball, we can win. Well, first, you know, all I was doing was -- I was playing with emotion. You get in the game and you score a big bucket, you let your emotions take over. I wasn't tonguing Varejao or anything. My thing, it was a tough play. He grabbed me around my neck and made the shot. So hopefully they look at it. Whatever happens, though, I have full confidence in me and my teammates, and we can get the job done. I might have to really use some duct tape. (Smiling). My role? I think my role is to lead by example. I don't have to get in my teammates' face and yell at them and scream at them. That doesn't work with our team. If they see me out there, you know, fighting for every possession, going hard, then they tend to follow. So my role is to lead by example and the rest of my teammates follow. Well, like I said, at the end of regulation, our coach, he came to me and he said that I got to come to the ball. And I think earlier in my career, probably early this season, struggling from the free-throw line, I probably would have shied away from touching the ball towards the end of the game. But I just felt that if I stepped up to the free-throw line I can make it. My teammates found me in great positions to score, and I just tried to put the ball in the basket. Like I said, I have full confidence in my teammates. Every night somebody has to step up and play a major part for us to win games. It is going to be nice where me and Rashard are not making shots, somebody has to step up. Rafer stepped up tonight. He wasn't Dwight Howard. He was the playground legend skip-to-my-Lou. He was getting to the basket. He was finishing. He played with a lot of confidence. When plays like the playground legend, then he is tough to guard. I think it's all mental. At this point of the season, I got to be able to step up there and make the free throws. And my teammates have confidence in throwing me the ball. And so, you know, since they're having confidence in giving me the ball, I got to do something with it at the free-throw line. And it is just about practice. Every day I try to get a good amount of free throws up, and then before the game. When I step up there, just got to shoot it just like I have no care in the world. Just go out there and shoot it. When I do that, they go in. I think it will show how mentally tough we are as a team. We've had to overcome so many obstacles this playoffs. It will show a lot. We really got to be focused going into the next game. Tonight is over with. It is no time to celebrate. We really got to be focused going into Cleveland because it is probably going to be the hardest game of the season, you know, next game. So we really got to be focused. I'm happy with our progress. I'm not satisfied. We done a pretty good job this year, but the only way, I have been telling you all year, we get respect is by winning. We haven't won anything yet. We won a couple games, and that's our mind-set. We won a couple games. So what? We want the respect after winning the championship. That's the only way we are going to get anybody's respect, is by winning. We won a couple games. That's great. It feels good. We're not happy with just winning a couple games in the Eastern Conference Finals. We want to win the whole thing. That's when we will be happy. It is just like us against the world. Playing in a dog house like Cleveland, the whole crowd is against you. You want to go in somebody's home court and quiet the crowd. Nothing feels better than defeating a team on their home floor. It is one of the toughest things to do, especially against Cleveland. They have only lost a couple games at home. It feels good to win on the other team's home court and to do it in a dominate way. |
| Well, they just come out shooting the ball extremely well. I think the first quarter they shot 67 percent. So they didn't miss a lot of shots. And we came back. We just fought our way back. And I think down the stretch we made a lot of turnovers that got them going. Nothing. Can't worry about it. You know, they are either going to call a foul or they are not going to call it. My main job is to try to stay focused and, you know, not worry about some of the calls that tend not to go my way. It is tough, you know, because I want to be on the floor to help my teammates, but things happen. They had a lot of guys that shot the ball well, Mo Williams, Delonte, Daniel came off the bench with some big shots, and LeBron closed it out. It was a great team effort on their part. Everybody came out to play tonight, and that's what they got to go with. They hit shots. Next game we got to do a better job of containing LeBron at the top of the key. He got a lot of easy points. He created for others. So we got to do a better job when he catches at the elbow or in the middle of the free-throw line and he backs down and tries to force his way to the hole. We got to do a better job. We have. We lost tonight. It is over with. We got to come back ready for Game 6 from the start and protect our own floor. We bounce back well. We know what it is going to take. We just got to come out from the beginning. I don't think there is any pressure. We just have to step up our intensity, especially at the beginning of the games. We didn't do it tonight and they got off to a big lead. We had to try to fight our way back. And then turnovers was key for us. In the second half, we had too many, too many chances to take the lead and build upon it. We turned the ball over a lot, and that gave them a chance to really, you know, come back and, you know, knock the shots down and get their offense going. Maybe. We got to have a better defensive effort on him. It is just too easy for him right now. He's catching it in the sweet spot and it is one dribble to the basket. We got to make it a little bit tougher on him and make him take tough shots. Nope. No. We shouldn't have -- we shouldn't lose any confidence just because of the game tonight. If anything, we should learn, you know, from our mistakes tonight and make sure we don't do the same thing in the next game, and hopefully the outcome of the game will be a little bit different from tonight. I may shoot a lot of free throws. But like their coach said a couple games ago, he was going to make sure he was going to foul me to put me on the line. Does that mean we can still be as physical as I want to? I don't think so. But I just got to find a way to stay aggressive without fouling. It is tough, but just got to stay aggressive and not foul. |
| Well, first of all, I'm happy that we came out tonight and did what we had to do at home, but it's over with. It's done. I'm happy we won, but we got to move on to the next series, which is the Finals. So I'm happy about tonight. Go home and relax with my family and tomorrow wake up and get ready to go back to work. I believe in my team, first of all. I believe that we come out every night and play our brand of basketball. We can beat up. I have been telling you guys that all year. If we run, defend and, you know, rebound, we can win a lot of games. And everybody since I have been here, has always written us off. We work every day. We put the work in the gym to become a better team. We're not -- we're not at our best yet. But, you know, I'm happy with our progress. Yes, sir. I sent out a text message when I woke up yesterday to the whole team, and I just told them that, you know, when they wake up today, think about dominating. When they come to shoot-around, think about dominate. When they get to the gym for the game, think about dominate. And we started out the day great. We had a great shoot-around. Everybody was into it. Everybody was focused. And, you know, we came out tonight with the same mentality and we got a good win. Very happy with our progress. We still got a lot of work to do. It feels good to win, but we want to win a championship. That's the ultimate goal. So tonight was a big stepping stone for us as a team from what we were able to accomplish last year. But when we wake up tomorrow, we got to get ready to go back to work. Like I have been telling you guys, if we run, defend and rebound, we can beat anybody. We are at our best when we are running and we are having fun. So, you know, that's the mentality that we have to take into the next series. I've always been known as somebody who has never been serious or always playing around. But I take the game of basketball very seriously. Every time I step on the floor, I may have a smile on my face, but my main job, my main goal is to go out there and fight for my team. And I can do that with a smile on my face. For us as a team, we understand how everybody has talked about us for the past couple of years. But we understand that, you know, we get out on the floor, if we do what we do best, we can beat anybody. It's tough to not listen to the things that people have said about us. But that only fuels us. It pushes us to become a better team and to become, I would say, you know -- we became closer. With all the stuff that goes around us, what people say, we continue to get closer. Me and Coach have gotten a lot closer. It only helps us get better. Rafer came in right away knowing he is not Jameer Nelson and he didn't try to be Jameer. He came in doing what he do best. He pushed the pace, take the shots when he's open and just facilitate to the offense. He has done a great job of that since he has been here. And he is also a great motivator. He keeps us going out there on the floor and off the floor. He's silly just like all of us. He fits in with our team very well. Just happy he's here. I think it's great. I can remember, you know, coming to the games and nobody is in the stands until we play, like, a Kobe or LeBron. And now the stands are always filled up. I think we started to bring back some magic in Orlando, and that's one of the goals that I set out to do when I first got here. I felt that we were a laughing stock around the league. Everybody played the Magic, they thought about Disney World. So I just wanted to change that. We as a team wanted to change that. Me and Jameer, we sat and we talked about this a lot, and we put on ourselves to get better every day in the gym, work on the little things to get better because we want not only the respect of the NBA but we want our fans in Orlando to believe in us. We work extremely hard every day. We might have days where, just like anybody elsewhere, we mess up, we make mistakes. It is a bad day. But we wake up the next day with the mentality of getting better. Oh, I gave him five, you know. I knew he was trying to foul me. I knew he wasn't trying to hurt me or anything. So I was just letting him know that it is all love. I knew he was just trying to foul me. It wasn't no bad blood or nothing. My effort, I would say a B. And my teammates, an A plus. There was moments where we didn't play as hard as we need to. But for the most part, we came out with the mind-set of we run, really lock in on defense and try to rebound, we were going to have a great chance of winning the game. But going into the Finals is going to be a lot tougher. We really have to work on going hard for 48 minutes. If we go hard for 48 minutes at the end of the Finals, we should have a ring. We should have a trophy. Yeah, he's always been the same guy. He wants nothing but the best out of all of us. He pushes us to the limits. Me and Stan have had our ups and downs, but for the most part, he's always, you know, always did a great job of motivating me and my teammates. He is a great motivator. Even when he is yelling and screaming, throughout all that, he finds a way to put in just an ounce of something to get us fired up. He has been doing that since I've been here. He has been one of the best coaches I've ever said. Like I said, we had our ups and downs. I told him when he first got here, he was going to have a soldier in me and I was always going to go to battle for him. I appreciate everything he's done for us. Can change from possession to possession. we knew they would do the little things. Focus, rebounding. The second-chance shots. We did a good job of holding them to about 40%. We gave them 31 second-chance points. They shot 43, almost 44%. We can take losing. That's a part of the game. But losing that way is not the way . You have the guy has the backup they have with Taj Gibson and Noah helping them out. We just go on. We had a difficult time moving the ball. If you don't get the rebounds, it's going to be a long night. They did a good job of moving the ball, rebounding |
| That's the biggest thing we worry about, it's our defense. They got great players on their team. You have to make sure they don't get any open shots, contest all their shots, make sure they don't get to the lane. We did a good job making sure they're seeing bodies when they went to the lane. We were just hustling. They're a great team. We made sure that we tried to get out to their shooters. Tonight it just went our way. Yes. It was me. Careless turnovers. You can't do that against this team, where when they get in the open court they're too dangerous. Making sure I take care of the ball. I'm the point guard. I have to do way better. In the second half I think I did a good job making sure that our turnovers were down. It really wasn't me; it was defense. Our defense opened up everything, where when we rebound the ball, we play with a fast pace. Especially when it's a turnover. They were giving me mid-range jumpshots where they were backing up. My teammates trust in me and have a lot of confidence in me when I'm taking those shots. I thought tomorrow, after we look at film, this game is going to be out of our mind. We had too many turnovers in the beginning. There's a lot of things we can change. They're a good team. We have to keep going, keep fighting. But if anything, I think our defense has to be there. We just had to go out there and play with intensity. We knew them guys was going to come out and play aggressive. We tried to attack. We tried to make it hard. They're a great offensive team with great players that's very good in delay isolations and breaking people off -- going off the dribble to the basket. We just made sure that it was tough and Taj, Omer, Luol, everybody was making sure that their man was in front of them and contesting all their shots and lay-ups when they were going to the basket. We're not worried about that. All the off-season stuff, we're not worried about it. We're just trying to go out there and play hard and play with an edge, play with a lot of intensity, knowing the guys are going to bring it every single night. That's what we did tonight. I think it should help us out a lot. But we still have a lot of work to do. We're going into practice just closing down the middle when LeBron and Chris Bosh do pick-and-roll. Chris Bosh getting fouled -- he had too many lay-ups. Getting out to their shooters where they had open looks. We could work on a lot of things about that -- on that game. Everybody. About what, the turnovers? Yes. I tried to talk to them as much as I can. Just by nature I'm quiet, but being in this position, being the point guard, being one of the leaders on this team, you have to talk a little bit more. I tried to let them hear me during the game, in the locker room, wherever we're at. We have to communicate, because defensively if you don't have any communication, especially with the players that you're playing -- we're playing against, like LeBron and D-Wade, it can be a tough night any night. It was huge. Joakim, Omer, Taj, Booze. Just making sure they're getting in there playing physical. They got players like Joel Anthony, a lot of hustle plays. Chris Bosh getting a lot of hustle plays. We made sure we put bodies on them. And Joakim finishing lay-ups, dunking. Booze doing the same thing and Taj and Omer coming in and giving us energy every night. That's what we need every night from them. Three turnovers I think in the first quarter. Then I think we got ten total. I think one in the second half. It was tough. You just learn from it, look at the film after practice with coach. Just going through everything. I see the mistakes. It shouldn't happen anymore. Play aggressive and attack more. If anything, go quicker, probably, in transition. Get the ball up the floor quick so they can't go against our set defense. That's the way we've been all season. We're not satisfied. Every time we feel good about ourselves, something knocks us down. We're trying to keep things going, making sure everybody stays positive, stay right and stay hungry. Definitely. And Coach Thibs, you see how he focuses and prepares for the game, it makes you want to do the same. Stay in the office after the game. Not have a life. Not right now. I have to sacrifice a lot of things. We get used to it now. I swear. Sometimes you are talking and -- you get used to it. You have to live with it. They have great players. LeBron and D-Wade and Chris Bosh, they are great players. We just tried to make it tough. That's the only thing we did. Last night we made sure we closed down the lane, stopped them from penetrating, and shoot jumpshots. We have to come out and play with that edge every game. Just totally play with that edge. It gives you so much confidence, especially with this team. It feels great when we are swarming the ball, everybody is communicating, we're getting rebounds, hustle plays, things like that. The fans are into it. They know we're playing hard. It gives us an edge. It makes my job easy, especially when everybody is knocking down shots and playing with that confidence. If anything, our defense starts everything. Just making sure we play hard and we just got to stick together. There's going to be times where it's going to be tough. But we have to make sure we're all on the same page. You never know. I think we'll have a good shot of winning the next game if we come out and play with the edge like we did, play with a lot of intensity. We have to be ready with the ball. Next game they are definitely going to go out there and play hard. Everybody crashing. They are going to make sure they put bodies on people. We have to try hard. We've been doing this the whole season. I think we rebound the ball pretty well. So guys on our team, we just try hard to go out there and be together, have Joakim and Booze on the rebounding side. |
| You get used to it. Definitely get used to it. It comes with the territory, being able to talk, get comfortable. We know that they have our back. And when we're out, we're on the court yelling, celebrating on the sideline, letting them know we're right behind them. They've been playing great for us. Yes. They tell you what type of guys we have on the team. We have all -- like a whole new team, except for three or four of us who are still here. The guys that came in, they came in, great veterans. They know their role. They are just trying to win basketball games. Luol has been great -- like I said, Luol is my MVP for this year on this team. He's been a great leader, playing through pain, just giving us a lot of energy. He's in great condition. Helping us with his game, like shooting threes, working on his game every day. You see how hard he works, it makes you want to go harder. Not yet. I really don't know what's going to happen. Especially in the playoffs. Really don't know what's going to happen until the ball is in your hands and you see what's going on, like the first play. Other than that, you know we'll have to come out with a lot of intensity. You do what the game tells you to do. Like last game, it didn't take that much me scoring. My teammates are getting off a lot of shots, giving us a lot of energy. Never know, next game it could be passing. Next game it could be defense. Whatever the games tells you to do, that's what I try to do. Every game is huge. It's just going to get bigger every game. You just have to be prepared for it. I think we had a great practice today, making sure everybody keyed in and focused in on everything. Everybody was really professional. Not yet. there are very good fans of the Bench Mob. We know it's going to be long and hard. We know every game is going to be tough. Especially with the type of players they have on the other team. I'm having fun, man. All this attention, I'm getting used to it. The city is going crazy over us. We still have a long way to go. No. Probably in a championship game, or something like that, if we make it there. Not right now. We always play around saying that. Like we'll be in the locker room, we'll just be talking. We'll catch ourselves like, we sound like him. Damn, we sound like him. We've got to stop. It's all playing around. We know the big goal. We know we have to stick together through all this. If anything, they closed down the lane. But I missed a lot of lay-ups, shots that I normally hit. They just wasn't falling tonight. But if anything, I think we lost this game because our intensity and defense. I really don't know. We can't afford to go out there and play like this. I know that. They have great players on their team. We let them get easy baskets, especially in transition. We can't do that if we are trying to win this series. I didn't really know. We really shouldn't care who is out there. We still have to play the same way. He came in huge for them. Shooting the ball well, rebounding the ball well. That's something that it was too many hustle plays we didn't get, and led to them scoring the ball and getting easy baskets. We can't afford to let them do that, especially not with this team. We definitely shot poor from the three. Everybody was missing easy bunnies that we normally hit. Me missing lay-ups, Booze, everybody just missing shots that we normally just -- that's normally just easy for us. This is a series. It's the first of four. We just got to look at film and prepare for the next game. They were going to the rim, getting rebounds, hustle plays, kicking it back out, driving again, getting to the line. They were playing way more aggressive. We just got to pick up our intensity definitely on the defensive end. We made it too easy for them tonight. And they out-hustled us throughout the whole game. I definitely got to try to play the same way, driving. I didn't shoot that many floaters tonight like I usually do, especially against tall defenders. I missed a lot of shots, man, that I normally hit. It was just one of them nights, I guess. We're definitely confident. I know we can't wait to go out there and play again. We're the type of team where when things get tough, we stay together. We're not going different ways. Coach always talks about this, where the playoffs is going to challenge you every way possible. And we just got to stick together and know that it's going to be a fun series. I think I was just missing shots, flipping the ball up, not going strong, trying to get fouled. It was just one of them nights. |
| Just how we respond to it, that's the biggest thing. We just have to come back and stay focused. Coming in. Everybody has to be on the same page, where this is a big game coming up, because it's our next game. It's going to be definitely a hard game, especially going to their arena. And they're a great team when they are playing in there. We have to stay together. It's us against everybody. Yes, we missed shots we normally hit. Wide open threes, lay-ups, floaters, all that stuff. We were just missing them. If anything, I think that next game they should fall. Yes. Passing out of it. I think it's one time I think Thibs was looking at it where I easily could have hit Joakim. I thought in my mind I had the shot at the end of the clock. I stepped back and missed the shot. Just looking at things like that and working to make the game easier. It comes with us just making shots. If we make shots, there's no way they can help off anybody. Especially when Luol got it going, Kyle got it going, Joakim got it going. It's tough. Just keep driving. I know it's going to be hard, because they got shot-blockers back there, Chris and Anthony. But I just have to find a way to get there. Don't jinx us like that. If anything, we look at film, and we look at the reason that we lost. Our energy, our intensity wasn't there. Rebounding the ball, the smalls got to get back and rebound the ball. Thibs explained to us that we just didn't play with a good pace during the game, especially on the offensive end. And it shows on the film. We felt bad about it, and now we're on to the next game. He got to keep shooting. That's God's gift, the way he shoots the ball. We have a lot of confidence in him every time he comes off the pick that he's going to make the right decision. We tell him, if anything, just shoot it up there, because most of the time it's going to go in. It feels great. But it's nothing right now. We still feel a little fatigued. But you come in, you still get your work in. Now I feel great. No. There's no excuses anyway. If anything, I think they walked the ball up the court a little bit. So you get your breath right there. But I'm not tired at all. Physical. I stayed in the whole day. Just watched movies, playing a game, getting around to my friends. Stuff like that. Will. Definitely will. Every game is like that now, where the talent is equal, and it's all about will. Who wants it more. I wouldn't say "angry." Knowing it was a tie game, tie Game 73-73 with four minutes left, usually we would be the team that ends up winning that game. They made great plays. They've got great players on their team. Hopefully we learned from our mistakes. I really don't know right now. I could care less right now. I just want to win. Give me a win and I'm all right. I think their energy. Their energy, their awareness, the help side to come in and contest shots without fouling, rebound the ball. Just running. It's really up to me in the fourth quarter. We have to run more instead of walking the ball up, because their bigs -- where they can finish down there and easily get fouled. I just got to make the right decisions. This is going to be a crazy game, where I think they are going to have a lot of confidence. But some way, somehow we have to come up with this win, no matter how we get it. We just have to have more intensity than them, and we have to play way more aggressive. No. That's regular season. It's nothing like right now, where every little thing that you do is big. Especially in the playoffs right now. Turnovers, blown sets, everything can cost you the game. You get used to it. Especially when Oprah is here. Used to getting rest right now. I think it helped us out in practice. Really in the game that's what we're used to doing, because of practice, going through every set. When we're tired, when we're fatigued, just making sure that we run it to a T and towards the end of the game. That's why I could be wide open. Because we're used to running it when we're tired. Last game it just wasn't there. We missed a lot of sets. Missed communication. Things like that messed us up. We looked at film. I think we got things right in practice. |
| It's very important. Definitely a good session today. Guys were really keyed in on the mistakes they made yesterday and just trying to correct them. That's what it's all about. It's just double-teaming. Yesterday in the court I was trying to be able to pass. But I have to be more aggressive. I have to take the double-team on and play my regular game. I really don't know. Just not making the right plays. But if we're going to learn -- we learned today the passes and the plays we have to run when they do them type of things, when they trap and the release points and the offense. I'm definitely confident. The atmosphere was great. Guys were real positive, knowing they messed up yesterday. We are just trying to learn every single day. Still defense. We have to bring more intensity to the game. We have to be the first to the floor, first on the rebounding side. Guards still have to get in and rebound and help the bigs. And we have to play more aggressive on both ends. Way more. That would be great. I think like more step-ups, things like that, more isolation-type things instead of double-teaming all the time. I don't know. That's one of the things we were talking about today. If the bigs are going to have anything going up the side, give it right back to me, hands on, back-door, things like that to get me open and give me good looks. Not at all. You try to learn. This is just a learning experience, where the double-team -- Atlanta's double-team was different, Orlando was different. Theirs is where they show high, and sometimes they show and leave out early. Sometimes they show . I have to read what they're doing. It's totally different. They are way athletic. Every series, the team is different and they're doing something different. The thing is catching on to it and trying to do something different. I'm fine. I'm good with the teammates I've got right now. It's nothing about that. It's team basketball. I think that they are playing better team basketball now all around, defensively, offensively, communicating to one another. That's something we have to bring to the game. And I think we have to be aggressive. Really aggressive. Show too much emotions. I think that's what it was all about. It's one thing to have a passion about the game. But when you start bringing emotions into the game, I think that's when you can really get in trouble. But we just can't wait to play tomorrow. I know we're excited. My teammates are excited. I just can't wait to get out there and play. No. No, I think I was playing during that time. No. No, I didn't hear about it. We just got each other. This is a family. We're just trying to stay together, knowing that it's definitely harder now. But we're going to get through this. And this summer we're going to laugh about it later on. Just closing in on the paint. Just got to make shots. They're a good defensive team. We're loading in on one side, and going for steals. We just got to find a way to find easier baskets. It's definitely frustrated. Our will wasn't there tonight, where they still found a way to win playing good basketball, moving the ball to one another, playing easy basketball, I'll say. We just got to find a way to win the next game. No, I'm just trying to make it easy, where they're doubling me every pick-and-roll. So just get the ball out of my hands and try to let my teammates create for others. That's what I'm going to continue to try to do. Sometimes try to beat the double-team and sometimes try to pass and make it easy. Definitely. Definitely. They definitely hurt. I thought I had it. LeBron made a great steal. I was passing it to Luol, and D-Wade stepped in front, took a charge. Can't definitely get any charges. Not right now. Especially towards the end of the game. So just learn from it and try not to do it the next game. Just passing. I told you every pick-and-roll they were doubling me. So just got to find a way to sometimes beat it. I've been trying to beat it with the pass. Try to be more aggressive. Yes. If anything, you're going to miss shots, but our defense, that was the key of the game, where I think we let them shoot 50%. Something like that, in the playoffs, and we call ourselves a defensive team. That's definitely not going to work against a team like that, where they've got great players and great shooters on their team. With who? I guess he made the right decision. We're both playing in the Eastern Conference Finals. He teamed up with a great group of guys, where they're still playing good together. They're playing good basketball right now. So I guess he made the right decision. Just tried to get a good look, take the clock all the way down. LeBron played good defense. It was online, but it was just a little bit too short. Not at all. You're just trying to win. Tonight definitely it was on me. I had two opportunities to end the game. Couldn't do it. If anything, learn from it. Too many turnovers. Really was my fault, but I'm going to learn from it. It makes you play harder. I know that. As a basketball player, I know if you want to be great, you're going to want pressure. I think that my teammates have confidence in me to go out there and play -- love the way I play. I trust them, they trust me. Tonight was definitely a tough night where they had -- they played great defense I think on both sides. We did, too. But you have to find a way to finish the quarter out, finish the game off in the fourth quarter when we have the lead, and continue to play defense. I really don't know. I guess one of them nights. Losing the ball, careless turnovers. Only thing I can do now is put it behind me and go forward. It's hard, but it's no excuses right now. Everybody on their team, all the stars on their team is playing the same time. So you have to just play harder and just go out there and make it work. It's hard where a guy, he's running at top speed, he can easily catch up with you. If anything I was trying to hit my teammates at first, get easy baskets, because I think that they had like Mike Miller, someone sticking like Luol at first. That's when I tried to take things myself, go to the hole and just try to get fouled. But it's extremely hard where a 6'8" guy can easily defend you. It's not over. We still have games to play. Thibs talked to us in the locker room about it, where we're going back to play at home, and we have to stay positive, where they are beatable. But we just have to make sure that we play together and the turnovers have to be down, play defense. |
| It was me. Turnovers, I guess fouls, if you call it that. If anything, you just learn from it and just try to do better next year. Everything is a learning experience. We're definitely sad that we lost, but if anything, we'll take a lot from it. We'll getting closer as a team, get better, and only thing we can do now is work on our games in the summer and just try to get it next year. They're definitely a tough team to beat. They play well together, pass the ball. All the other guys know their role on the team. They play defense. Hit shots when they're open. They're a good team; that's why they made it this far. It is what it is. We ran the plays. They're a good defensive team. If my teammates were open, they would shoot the ball. They were just playing tough defense. At the end, I told you it's on me. Everything is on me. Turnovers, missed shots, fouls. If anything, learn from it. That's all I can do right now. The series is over with. No, I wasn't tired. I was just making dumb decisions, and it cost us this game. If anything, just get better. No, I wasn't fouled. If I was fouled, they would have called it, I guess. I'm going to get better. I'm not worried about that. If anything, this is going to make me hungry. Made it this far with this group. My teammates, great teammates. Too bad we couldn't get to The Finals, but we still got a shot next year. I won't take anything back from this year. It's been great. The coaching staff has been great. Organization has been great, the management, ownership, everybody has been great. But I think it's going to make everybody hungry. |
| I think we had a great playoff run so far. Beat some great teams. But it's the biggest challenge ahead of us. We face a team with three superstars and with a bunch of other players that can play, make shots around them. They are very good defensively. So this is the biggest challenge yet. But we've played well throughout the first couple of rounds. We got a bunch of veterans, I think, that want to win, that have been around forever. They're not selfish. We just want to play together and ultimately win and sacrifice. I think that's where we're at. We're going to start on the road this time around, but I thought we played well on the road this whole postseason run. We won a game in Portland. We won two in L.A. And we won two in Oklahoma last round. We feel confident, and we should be ready to go. Well, you know, ultimately that's where my heart was at. I almost felt like we had unfinished business after '06. Had a great meeting with Mark there, free agency. All I needed was reassurance that he was going to keep going and keep building around this team, and keep putting all his resources for us to hopefully be up there one day. We're here again at the big stage. Hopefully we can turn it around this year and finish strong. You know, both games are decided down the stretch. Both teams are very good down the stretch. Both teams are very good defensively, which you need. You need to lock down and get big stops. And both teams have guys down the stretch you can go to and create baskets. That's why both teams are here. They had a great comeback in Chicago, and we had one in OKC where we finished on a 16-2 run, or something. So both teams have what it takes to finish strong. So it's going to be a very interesting series. It's going to be fun games hopefully for everybody involved. We'll just see who are the winners at the end. Well, you know, there's been a lot made of what's my legacy without it, with it. I'm not really worried about all that. I'm trying to be on the best team. I'm trying to win it for this organization and for the owner and for myself and for the team. That's really all I'm worried about. I'm not worried about my legacy without the ring or with the ring. I'm living in the moment. We have another chance, and I'm going for it. Everything after that will fall into place the next couple of years. We can talk about my legacy once my career is over. I'm really just focused on winning and being on the best team left standing. I think what you learn pretty quick in this league, that nothing you can take -- you can take nothing for granted. There's a lot of things that play into our great season, injuries, the team and just the whole surrounding. The year after the Finals we won 70 games. We thought, this was our year. You run into a hot matchup or a bad matchup for you, some hot players, next thing you know you're a first-round exit. In this league you never know. You never know. It took a long five years to finally get back to this stage to be one of two teams still standing. It took a long time. Some ups and downs. But it's good to be back and hopefully we can make the most of it. I don't know what it's being looked at, we as players. I don't think we really care. We are facing a very tough team, a very good team with a bunch of closers and leaders. And so we've got to just go from there and bring our best game. But we as players, we're not really worried about who are the good guys or the bad guys, what the fans want. That's not going to matter to us anyhow. On paper they were. I think it took them a while there in November, December to kind of learn how to play off each other. I think D-Wade was basically hurt. He missed all pre-season. And then in November it was kind of natural, I guess, to struggle a little bit. Because they never had games with each other. But I think they're a completely new team now since the new year. They're way better defensively, and offensively they play off each other as good as anybody now. So, yeah, they're a different team than they were at the beginning of the season. Yeah, we were kind of fortunate I guess to play our two games early. We saw them in November and December. We haven't seen them since. Yeah, they're playing unbelievable basketball now both ends of the floor. I think Haslem is back now, a big key for them, a glue guy on both ends of the floor. So, yeah, they're a much better team now than they were. And they showed it in these playoffs. They got guys who close, they are good defensively. So they got what it takes to win it all. It's tough. Obviously you would love to keep those guys out of the lane. That's where Wade and LeBron are at their best, when they drive to get to the basket, they get fouled and go to the free-throw line. There's no defense for it. But obviously, that's the approach of 29 other teams, and nobody really could do it. Especially here in the playoffs. And they are both comfortable shooting the outside shot. I think LeBron is knocking down shots left and right now, which makes it tough to guard him. So it's not going to be on one guy. We have to have our defense set. You can't give them anything in transition. I think that's when they're tough, when they get run-outs. They are so fast. One or two dribbles they are at the other end laying it in. We have to make sure we get our defense set, make them attack against five guys. One-on-one, nobody can guard those guys. So we have to have five guys on the string and battle, and that's what we've been doing all year. With Tyson and Haywood for us in the middle, clogging up the middle, and the rest is kind of rotate around them and hopefully make it hard for them. Well, I think the experience has been a major key for us, just because we've been through a lot. We've seen a lot in the playoffs. You know, I always say in the regular season you don't want to get too high with the highs and too low with the lows. But in the playoffs, that's even more the case. You can get a big win, but you kind of want to forget about it the next day and go back because you don't want to lose the next game, the same with a loss. In the Portland series in Game 4, we blew a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter and came back in Game 5 and won a big game. Everybody said we're dead after that. But we're a bunch of veterans. We've seen it all in this league. And we recovered from both pretty quick, wins and losses. You know you have to keep an even keel throughout the playoffs. That's what we did and that's what got us here. A bunch of veterans, led by J-Kidd, who is a fossil, but he's amazing still on both ends of the floor and leading this team. He's been amazing. You know, they have two very good closers, two of the best in the game. Dwyane made some big shots there in the fourth quarter, and LeBron has been shooting the ball really well this playoffs. Yeah, he had some open looks and really made some tough shots. But what really killed us I thought was the offensive rebounds. Obviously those two guys are going to have you scramble some defensively. And we were just out of position sometimes to box out and get the rebounds. So even when we got the stop, we failed -- because we were scrambling so much, failed to get the rebounds. That was a tough break there. Especially in the fourth quarter. They had two or three at one time in a row. And that really hurt us. Well, you know, I think both teams didn't have a great offensive night. Both teams shot around 37, 38%. So it wasn't really an offensive battle out there. So I mean, both teams are good defensively. That's why both teams are in The Finals. Both teams scramble and they're able to flood the strong side and make the other team play on the weak side. I had my opportunities there. I had some good drives there in the first half. I just got to finish. I missed a righty lay-up. I missed a lefty lay-up that rolled around. I have to keep attacking and take my opportunities when they're there. We all know Haslem is a good defender at the four position. Probably one of the best in this league. I still got my opportunities there when I put the ball on the floor. I just got to finish. I mean, not really. We're a veteran team. So you can't get down with a loss. You have to come back strong on Thursday. I said it a couple of times this playoff run, if you're the road team, you're happy with the split. So we got another opportunity on Thursday to go get one. Obviously, we don't want to go home being down 0-2, which is a hole. So we would love to go home with a split. So we just have to be a little sharper there on Thursday in some areas. Didn't think we executed great there in the fourth quarter. And like I said, gave up too many offensive rebounds when it counted. Well, it was just a freaky play. Bosh got a bounce pass and I stepped in. I thought I stripped him clean, and then I kind of looked down and I couldn't straighten my finger out anymore. So I tore a tendon in there. I guess it will be all right. I have to wear a splint probably for the rest of the playoffs, for a couple of weeks. But it will be all right. It's on my left hand, so I'll be all right for Thursday. Yeah, I didn't think -- I actually thought coming in that our bench was going to be a key for us. They did a good job there on Jet. I think Jet did a good job in the first half. Got to some areas where he was knocking down some shots, and second half they didn't really let him get an open look. LeBron was on him some in the fourth quarter, to go big on him, and I guess bother his shot. And J.J.'s got to take his time when he gets in there. Obviously they are collapsing and trying to block his shot. I thought he was rushing some of his shots in the paint. And we just got to relax and, if it's not there, swing the ball to the weak side, because the shot is going to be there. I thought we rushed some shots there in the paint. We just got to finish. I already had an X-ray. I guess it's not broken, but there's a torn tendon in my finger. If you want more info, you have to talk to my trainer or doc. Well, I think, like I mentioned there, they're very good defensively. What makes them so good, they're so athletic on the wing that even when we swung it sometimes, they're able to cover a lot of ground, LeBron and Wade, and still run out at our shooters or contest the shots on the weak side. So you have to give them credit. They're long and active on the perimeter, and when we do get the opportunity to swing the ball, swing, swing, we have to knock the shots down. That's what it comes down to. They're very active and collapse in the paint. When we do have some looks, we have to knock them down. I'm not really worried about that label. I'm worried about winning. I'm not worried about my legacy at all. It's about me being on a winning team, on a team that's the best team that year and ends the season on a win. That's what I dream about. Everything else I'm not really worried about. I'm living in the moment. I'm not living in the past or the future. I want to make this work here and now. It took us five years to eventually get back to this stage. It's been a long and bumpy ride. So we want to make the most of it. That's really all I'm worried about. I don't think it's going to be necessarily bothering me on the shot. Obviously on the shot you only hold the ball with the left hand. It's not like you do anything crazy with it. It's going to be other stuff, dribbling, passing, catching, swiping down, stuff like that. I think it will be okay. I have this splint on for now. I think we're going to play around with some other stuff. Try tape, or try a splint from the back so I can feel the ball and not lose grip of the ball. We're going to play around with it today in practice, maybe tomorrow some in shoot-around. By then I'll have an idea how it feels and how it is to play with the thing. I'll be okay. I'm really not worried. It's not that sore, so it should be okay. I didn't know at all how it actually happened. It was like four minutes to go when Bosh slipped on a screen-and-roll and came towards me at the basket. I stripped him, I felt, clean. And, yeah, I was kind of talking to the referee about the play, and the next thing you know I run on offense after two free throws and I'm looking down and my finger was bent. I couldn't straighten it. It was a freakish play. I ran over to the sideline and showed our trainer. He knew right away what happened. We just taped it and went from there. So it didn't affect me afterwards. It didn't get as sore as I was anticipating last night. So it should be all right. Well, you know, the first thing is obvious: We gave up 16 offensive rebounds. I mean, that's way too many. They are already a very, very explosive offensive team with three superstars. But you can't give them second chances over and over. So we just got to protect the paint a little better. That's obvious. And then some of the other stuff, be a little sharper on the pick-and-roll coverages, rotate a little quicker. We lost Chalmers a bunch of times in the first half. He made us pay with some threes when we actually had a nice run there in the second quarter. And offensively, I think once we don't give up those 16 offensive rebounds, it should help us speed the game up some. If we get some rebounds, get the ball in J-Kidd's hands, I think that should play in our advantage. You look at his body. He's amazing. 6'8", 260, or whatever, and he moves like a football running back. He can guard any position on the floor. That's what makes him amazing on both ends of the floor. Yeah, he can guard multiple positions. He's quick. But he's also strong. Yeah, everybody knows that Jet is a big key to our success. When he plays well, we usually play well and we give ourselves a chance to win. Even though they put him on him in the fourth quarter, we have to keep going to Jet. He's got to produce for us. That's a big key why we're here. That's all right. I'm really not worried about that much. If they do, I have to fight through it. This is not my first injury I've played through in my career. And I'm not really worried about it. I think once the game starts, the adrenaline starts flowing, I don't think it will really slow me down much. I'm really more worried about ball handling with the left and finishing on some lay-ups with the left than about them swiping down, going for my finger. I think the mood is not great after a loss. I think that's natural. But it's the same way in the regular season. We're a veteran team that's seen a lot in this league. It was a tough loss. It was right there. As poorly as we played on both ends of the floor, I think we were only down four with a couple of minutes left. There's some positives to take out of this game. We just got to be a little sharper tomorrow. I think we've recovered from tough losses these playoffs already, and this is another one. We have to come back and be better. Hopefully our guys take the challenge. Everybody knows, watching me for 13 years, I like to go left and finish with my left. So I'm going to experiment around how the ball handling is going to be. But I'm not really that worried about it. It didn't throb as much as I anticipated yesterday. I don't think it's going to be that limiting. I think it's our whole bench has to play better. That's not a secret. I think they were the best scoring bench during the regular season, and that's for a reason. Because we feel like we've got some weapons. It's not only Jet coming off the bench. J.J. has been amazing in these playoffs so far. He had a subpar game yesterday, where he missed some lay-ups, missed some shots, with guys collapsing on him in the paint. Peja we feel had two or three good looks he can make anytime. We'll take those shots. If he's going to be open on two or three looks like that, we have more confidence in him that he will make some. I actually thought Haywood played well off the bench. Obviously, he's not a huge scorer for us. But he was active. He came in and had two or three blocks right away. Had some rebounds and made some of his free throws. So I actually thought he played really well. |
| We talked about it in our timeout. First of all, what a huge swing that was. I had a three. We go up three with 24 seconds to go. You figure we guard the three-point line, make them drive, and I don't really know what happened. We got to look at it. Chalmers was so wide open. Bangs the three. That was a big emotional play for us. Down the stretch, we talked about it, they had a foul to give. I actually drove a little earlier than I would have, knowing they had a foul to give, and made a move, and the foul never came. So I was able to get to the basket and lay it in. That was a big play. And then they didn't have a timeout left, so we had to scramble back, and Wade had to throw one up. So definitely a huge comeback for us. And we never gave up. So that was big. I'm not going to share that with the media. I'm sure there was a little cussing involved. Yeah, like I said, if you're down 15, you make an amazing run like that, and you're up three, you can't give up a wide-open three. It just can't happen. So we got to go back and look at stuff like that. Still proud of the team. Still proud of the team, how they battled, to be down 15 against a great team like that, and we kept plugging. Our defense finally got some big stops, and we rebounded the ball tonight, which we didn't in Game 1 finally. And that really opened up our offense there. I thought their defense was suffocating there throughout three quarters. We turned the ball over, made mistakes left and right. Couldn't really make shots. And then down the stretch, what helped us was our defense. It got us in the running game. It got us moving the ball a little better. Jet finally had some good looks. I had some good looks. And that really ignited our comeback. Well, you know, I think in this league you have to play till the end. Especially this is The Finals. You can be down 20. You have to keep plugging. You never know what's going to happen in this league. And we kept on fighting. And we got some lucky bounces there. LeBron went down the middle, had a wide-open lay-up, I thought. Short-armed it a little bit. We were able to get that rebound and go. So you have to be a little lucky, but we kept on plugging. And look, I said it all playoffs long, we're a veteran team. We don't get too high with the highs and too low with the lows. That was definitely a little hole we got ourselves in, but we kept believing, kept playing off each other, and that was big. Tyson has been our MVP defensively all season long. He's covered a lot of ground for us. We did a better job I thought of pick-and-roll coverage today. He really stepped out there, impacted the ball. We were still able to recover back some and scramble. Look, they have two of the best players in the game. So they are going to make you scramble. That's what we did and finally got some rebounds, which we didn't in Game 1. We can't turn the ball over against this team. They have two of the most athletic players I've ever seen. If you turn the ball over, it's one or two dribbles there at the rim, laying it in on the other end. So I thought finally there in the last couple of minutes we did a good job of not turning the ball over. And the defense was solid. We forced them into some shots that -- contested shots. And that was big. And rebounded the ball. We're not going to approach the next three. We're going to approach the next one like it's our last. You cannot get a split and get a huge emotional win in Game 2 and then go home and lose Game 3. As far as I'm concerned, the next one is the biggest game of them all. And hopefully our crowd will be rocking. They've been great to us and carried us throughout the playoffs so far. So we're going home to a great building, and hopefully get Game 3. It felt great. Like I said, I thought it wasn't going to bother me before the game, and it didn't. We were able to keep the tape a little lower, so I was able to keep my grip on the ball. Because my palm was open, and my fingertips were open. So I was able to get a good grip on the ball. Still didn't shoot the ball the way I wanted to tonight. Missed some open looks again, like in Game 1. I got to be sharper in Game 3 if we want to have a chance. Finger felt fine, and hopefully it's going to stay that way. You know, as much as '06 is still on mine and Jet's mind, during the game you don't think about anything like that. You're caught in the moment as a player out there. You compete right there. You take every position like it's the last in The Finals. You don't really think about anything else but trying to get this win. Like I said, we got some lucky bounces and we scrambled and that helped us. I didn't even see it that much, to be honest. Probably our other players saw it. I kind of had my head down. Obviously that was a big play to go down 15, so I must admit I didn't even watch it. Well, you kind of chip away one possession at a time. We talked about getting stops. That was the big thing. We scrambled on some pick-and-roll situations, where we forced them out a little bit. Offensively I think we made a couple of big plays in a row. Jet got open on the baseline once. He had a run-out. I had a run-out off kind of a loose ball that we were lucky to get. We had a three-on-one. I laid the ball in to tie it. I actually thought Jason Kidd had a big three on the wing when it was like an eight, nine-point game. They doubled me, I swung it out. He had a great look at three and made a three to cut into the lead more. If you're down 15, every play, every bounce of the ball could be big. We're lucky on a couple and it went our way. I mean, I can't really point one out. I mentioned that LeBron had a clean lane, went to the lane, and missed the lay-up. I thought that was big. I can't remember, I can't recall what the score was at that point. I thought we got really lucky. Obviously he's going to finish those ten out of ten times. That was a lucky bounce. But we had a couple of lucky bounces down the stretch. I feel we're a veteran team, and we've been through a lot already all season long. There were some ups and some downs we had to fight through and stick together. So we have come back before all season long on some deficits where we keep believing, where we stay together as a team, where we don't start pointing fingers. And we are obviously led by Jason Kidd, who obviously has seen everything in this league, who has been through everything. He's always calm out there. He's always pushing the guys in the right positions. He's always making the right plays for us. Well, I think we talked about it in the flow of the game that we just can't turn the ball over every time we mishandle the ball, it's an automatic lay-up against this team. It's one or two dribbles, either Wade or LeBron are at the rim at the other end, so quick and athletic. We talked about it during the flow of the game. Sometimes it just happens. They're so good. They have quick hands. They cover a lot of ground, the perimeter. And so turnovers unfortunately are a part of the game. But down the stretch, we did a good job, kept the ball in our playmaker's hands with Jet and Jason Kidd and did a good job of protecting the ball. Like I said, we got lucky down the stretch. Hopefully we can carry this momentum in Game 3. Which Jason? Yes, we have a kind of love-hate relationship. It is. It is. Because we ride each other a lot. We talk to each other a lot. We argue a lot, even during games, but it's all because we want to win, we want to play together. And I think it was big getting him. When we lost Steve, obviously this franchise was down, to lose a great player like that. But I give Donnie some credit. He brought in Jet, who has been a point guard in this league and a veteran and had a good career there in Atlanta. That was a big move. And for us he's been phenomenal. He's been our closer over the last couple of years. A great clutch player, and he's been our key guy for us the last couple of years. Like I said, we love each other, but we also argue a lot. Well, you know, I think we play to win. We always have. Our goal was to win it all since the last couple of years. We came so close in '06, and ultimately we kept the main core together, and we're just happy to be back on this stage. But Jet to me is a winner. I think he sacrificed for us coming off the bench the last few years where he could be a starter on other teams. That's ultimately what you have to do if you want to win a championship. I think we're a veteran team. We did a good job so far in these playoffs to kind of stay in the moment. We had some big wins, and kind of still recovered and came back and played a great game the next game. I remember the Lakers series we stole Game 1. It was easy to say let's get the split and get out of here. We went for it in Game 2 and stayed in the moment and were able to steal both games. So I think we just can't let up. We're not good enough to just relax. We need to play with an edge at all times in every game. So hopefully tomorrow with the crowd behind us, we're going to have a great game. Just looking at this one game. So we have to win tomorrow. Maybe. Maybe. Yesterday was good to get away a little bit, get a travel day. And today was all about refocusing on the task. We know they're going to throw everything at us. It's going to be a tough game. Maybe it was good to get away a little bit. Especially after an emotional game like that. I don't think either team got a lot of sleep after that one. Must have gotten like two or three hours, most. So it was good to kind of get away, have an extra day, get some sleep last night, and both teams will be ready to play tomorrow. Well, you know, I think they do a great job defensively really swarming me. The first two games I think every time I put the ball on the floor, there were two or three guys around me. They're so athletic. On the perimeter when I kick the ball to the shooter, somehow they're still there. They're still there to run our shooters off to contest the shots. They're really good defensively. On that last move, I spun and I expected actually somebody to be there, and there wasn't. So I was able to get to the left and get to the basket. That was a big play. If there would have been somebody there, I would have had to pass to somebody and hopefully let the weak side make a shot. Like I said, there was a big play. There was nobody there and I was able to take the lane and that was good. I actually thought he played phenomenal the first two games. He's making his three ball throughout the whole playoffs already, he's really shooting the ball well. He got down the lane a couple of times where we feel like we missed some assignments on the pick-and-rolls, and they got some run-out dunks. If you turn the ball over against this team, they're so athletic, it takes one or two steps, they're at the rim at the other end. Wade and LeBron, they're so athletic. Nothing like anything we've seen in the playoffs so far. You have to do a good job not turning the ball over. We turned it over 21 times. That's obviously not what we want to do, and that's not going to set us up to win. The finger is really good. Got to keep it straight. It was throbbing a little bit after the game the other night, but I guess that's normal. And it's going to be okay. Once the adrenaline always starts flowing during the game, I think I'm okay. It doesn't bother me during the game. That's the major thing. Ultimately if you want to go all the way, everybody has to step out of their ways a little bit and do a little more. I think that's something I grew into a little more and more comfortable with talking to the guys now. Obviously at the beginning I had a little language barrier. Over the years I got more comfortable taking the guys to the side and addressing something when I see something. I guess something that comes with experience. Just get it off the sheet. (Laughter). We didn't talk about it yet. He's been phenomenal just taking the challenge on both ends. I think it actually already started in the Oklahoma City series, when he had to guard one of the best scorers and the scoring leader with Durant. He really took the challenge on both ends of the floor. Just he can get up, he's athletic on the perimeter, he's long, he can contest shots. He's a good rebounder. But also on the offense, he's been phenomenal. He's been cutting for us, he's been posting up. He's been getting offensive rebounds, put-backs. So he looks really comfortable right now. He's got a bounce in his step, and it's fun to watch. So he's a competitor, and that's what he does out there against the best of the league. He's ready to play. |
| Well, I thought we had opportunities. First of all, we can't always fall down behind. I think we're always reacting. We did in the first quarter. We fell down big. Third quarter we came out slow, fell down big. Obviously it takes a lot of energy for us to fight back. But even down the stretch, I think there were opportunities. I thought Jet had a good look at the baseline. I think it was to tie it or go up two. And we had a mental breakdown, that one play Bosh gets the wide-open jumper the last minute. So I thought we had our opportunities, and just weren't good enough. You have to give them credit. Their defense is pretty good. They hold us to the low 40s every game, and they really take our shooters out of the game. We all understand that basketball is a game of runs. We have to stop the runs a little quicker. We can't go down 15 all the time and battle back. You can get like a five, six-point swing here and there. We can't always get in a deep hole like that. Well, be a little sharper at the beginning. I think they came out and were really attacking. I just thought it was a little too easy there. Wade got to the basket three times there in the first quarter. James did as well. So we have to be a little sharper at the beginning and not let them get their rhythm. And I thought the crowd pushed us forward. So we're going to need the same effort out of them. It's basically a must-win situation. Like I said, they do a pretty good job on our shooters. If we have the open looks, we just got to make them. We haven't made enough of them. If we're going to keep shooting in the low 40s, it's going to be tough to win. Yeah, I have to keep making plays, keep being aggressive and look for my shot. Cut it down a little bit. We're going to turn the ball over against that team. It's just gonna happen. They're so fast, long, athletic. They do a good job swarming the ball once we put it down. We're going to turn it over some. I already thought we cut it down from Game 2 to this one, so hopefully in Game 4 we can cut down a couple more and we'll be okay. Both good plays. Shawn Marion was in the corner, and Wade just left him. I still actually kind of wanted to shoot it. I think Wade would have blocked it kind of from the side. So I wanted to swing it, and Shawn is more like slash, a cutter. He was cutting and left the corner. So that was a tough play. And the look with four seconds to go, I think it was as good as you can get it. No. My view hasn't changed. This definitely was a big game. And a very tough loss. Emotional game, fought back, and to fall short at the end is tough. But they need two more. Hopefully we can play a better all-around game and finally get some shots to go down here at home and see what happens Tuesday. Like I said, this is a tough loss, and it's basically a must-win situation on Tuesday. We can't go down 3-1. He's fronting me everywhere, trying to keep the ball out of my hands. He does a good job. He's active, he's quick on his feet. Down the stretch, I think he stayed down and made me shoot a contested shot and a shot I can make, but unfortunately it didn't go. Sometimes I do that a lot. I go in the air and still kind of probe if I can get the shot up. If it's not there, I swing it. I do it all the time. At that point, yeah, I wanted to shoot it. But Wade really made a strong effort from the side, and I don't think I would have got it up. So I tried to swing it, and Shawn was cutting. So I guess it was a miscommunication. We messed up on the pick-and-roll in the middle and left I think James wide open. Tyson left the basket, had to rotate to LeBron, and he kicked it over to Bosh. I was over there with two on one, with Haslem and Bosh. Got to give Haslem credit. He set a god pick and Bosh was wide open. I don't really know what happened there in the screen-and-roll, but we definitely messed it up. I think Ian gave us energy. He's very athletic. He's quick on his feet. I actually think he played all right. But Haywood has been big for us in the paint over the last year and a half we had him. He's a big guy, and he can change a lot of shots at the rim. I actually thought Ian did his job tonight. Well, I think first of all, he's playing both ends of the floor. They keep sticking him on Jet in the fourth quarters, and he's been doing a good job. Jet hasn't really been a crunch-time, clutch player for us the way we need him to. So he's done a good job. Look, Wade has been great in the fourth quarter, so LeBron is being more of a facilitator. It worked so far. Well, I think they do a good job on our shooters. I think our ability to spread the floor and shoot is a big reason why we made it to the Finals, to really spread the ball around and shoot and make timely and big shots. But for some reason, they're so long and athletic on the perimeter that they're able to swarm me and my post-ups, and when we swing, swing they're still athletic and quick enough to get to our shooters on the weak side and run them off, or at least contest them. You have to give them credit. We just looked at the film. We had some opportunities, and if we do -- I remember J.J. had two or three good looks in a row to start the fourth quarter. And if we get those opportunities, we got to make the most out of it. You know, they're a tough team to guard, obviously. They've got three superstars, and their role players are really good and spread the floor. Chalmers has hurt us with some shots. So it's tough. But actually I thought we did a good job on Wade's pick-and-roll, and then at some point he just cleared it out and went one on one. That's where he's so tough to guard, because he stays in the middle of the floor. And then it's tough to send help. And he was able to like J-Kidd up a couple times and make timely shots. Look, he's a tough player. He's a great scorer. He can go both ways. He posted some yesterday. He got to the lane a couple time early in the first quarter. Kind of set the tone. He was in attack mode all night long. He was great. Well, he's one of the best defenders we have at the power forward spot. He's active. To me, it really hurt them him being out for so long. He's back in time. He's kind of a glue guy. He does all the little things. He sets screens, he does all the dirty work. He's a good rebounder. He's great in pick-and-rolls, showing. He does all the little things. They got him right back in time. We would have loved to have him. Unfortunately, obviously, he stayed there. I guess a good move on his part. Well, like I said, we have to find a way to get Jet some freedom and get him off some movement, and he's got to make some shots for us. He's a big reason why we're here, because he's one of the great fourth-quarter players we have in this league. But they've been able to really take that away. So if we can get him going and get him off some movement and free him and get him shots, and get our shooters some better looks, so when the fourth quarter comes they're going to step in there with confidence and be ready to play a little more defensively so we don't chase them down 15 all night long, which takes a lot of energy out of everybody. We'll see what happens tomorrow. Well, LeBron is tough. He's long, he's big. He guarded Rose unbelievable in the last series. So he's a very good defender. And he's big and strong, but also long to contest the shots. Like I said, we're trying to play off the movement. I think when Jet had his best fourth quarter in Game 2 when we didn't run a lot of plays, when he was able to run free in transition, we got some stops, pushed the ball up, he got some looks, got to the basket once or twice. And I think that seems to work best, if he's on the move. |
| It wasn't 103, but it was like 101 this morning. I didn't really have a good night's rest, so it was just under the weather a little bit, but just battle it out. I think it didn't look good there in the fourth quarter when we were down nine, but energy and defense really picked us up. Didn't shoot the ball well again. Had some good looks there in the fourth, but our defense grinded it out. There's no long-term. I'll be all right on Thursday. It's a little sinus infection. Hopefully I'll get some sleep tonight. Take some meds and be ready to go on Thursday. Just had a couple -- couldn't really finish around the rim. Had a couple of good looks today, but just really no lift. But like I said, the crew was outstanding. I thought Jet took it really upon himself today in the fourth when we were down nine. He made two back-to-back plays to get us right back in the game. So he was phenomenal today. Really, I was going to play the clock down, but I saw I had a little opening there. So I just went for it. I just went for it. Was able to rip through and go to the right. They really played my left, which obviously the whole league does. So I was able to rip through and get to my right and finally finish a lay-up. I thought I missed four or five good looks around the rim today. Kind of bounced around, bounced out. So that was unfortunate, but I was able to get one in. So that was good. You know, this is The Finals. You're going to leave it out there. Like I said earlier in the series, I think everybody -- it's June. We've been playing on a high level for eight, nine months. So everybody has a little something going, and this is The Finals. You have to go out there and compete and try your best for your team. So that's what I did. I never thought about MJ's performance. I was way off, looking at my line. I mean, that was a big free throw. First of all, I think we had a bunch of good looks there. I think Jet had one rattling out from the top of the key. He had one from the right wing, he had one from the left wing. And those are usually money for us in the fourth quarter. Then I think D-Steve had one in the left corner, who could have iced it. Wide-open look. So we had our good looks. Then Wade had a big run-out. And J-Kidd was able to get to him and foul him and, you know, the first one kind of bounced up and went in. And the second one a very fortunate roll for us. It was kind of in and rolled out and I was able to get the rebound that led to our last possession. And I was able to get to the rim. Hey, it's been always -- besides Game 1, all the games are like right there. A couple of bounces, a couple of defensive stops here and there could have gone either way. So sitting at a 2-2 right now. Obviously would love to get Game 5 at home before we go back to Miami. So that's a big game for us on Thursday. Phenomenal player. He's making tough shots this series from all over the place. He's getting to the rim and finishing like nobody else. Yeah, he's an unbelievable player. Yeah, I think our base did a good job helping on the screen-and-rolls. So that was big. And obviously, yeah, we would love to get Game 5 here. Don't want to go to Miami down 3-2, knowing they have two chances to close us out. Big game Thursday. Like I said, I thought our defense won us the game. To give up 14 points to an explosive team with LeBron, with Bosh and Wade on one team, if you give up 14 points in the quarter to close it out, I think that's huge. So hopefully we can carry that defense over into Game 5, and then we'll see what happens. First of all, I think they killed us on the glass in the first quarter. I think they had like ten offensive rebounds, or nine. Somewhere around there. And we obviously had to address that. We talked about it in between first quarter and second quarter, how we had to improve in that area. And then I think after that, we did a nice job. They only had a couple more, a handful more for the rest of the game. So that was big. Look, we're not a great rebounding team, so I think we got to have all five guys in there battling. Our go-to lineup sometimes is small with Kidd and Jet, one and two. So that means we're small there. We got to have five guys in there battling. We can't have anybody leak out. I think after the first quarter we did a better job protecting the paint and Tyson obviously with 16 boards was phenomenal. First of all, I think Kidd never ceases to amaze me. He can dominate a game without scoring one point. We've seen it the last three years here together, what kind of all-around player he is without even scoring. How he facilitates, how he defends, and how he runs the show is amazing. He's been great. I thought J.J. had some good looks again. But he kept attacking. You have to love the little guy. Fearless. Kept getting in there, had some tough finishes, tough lay-ups that went in. We need him to attack off the dribble, because he's good getting to the lane. Once you get to the lane against a team, they really suck in hard and open some of our shooters up. So J.J. has to keep attacking. Try to get out of here pretty quick, go home, take a long shower and just go to bed right away. I had some soup and had a good meal. Just drank some fluids, drank some tea and just feel a lot better today. I still got a little high temperature, but the fever is basically gone. So that's obviously the main concern always. Anything else, the sniffles or the cough, you don't really care about that as long as the fever is gone. That's the main thing you worry about. I felt I had an off-night really. Couldn't get anything going. Made my first three shots. After that really had nothing going all night. Was able to attack a little bit there in the fourth quarter, got to the free-throw line. But, really, I think our defense was what won us the game in the fourth. To give up 14 points on an explosive team like that, that was the key. I agree. Shooting 39% and getting a big win is unbelievable. I think Tyson added a lot to his defense. He's great in pick-and-rolls, he's showing he's still able to get back. He's so quick on his feet, protecting the paint and rebounding. Haywood some of the same things, when we got him last year in the trade. So I think those two guys are great for us in the back. And I think that really -- the front guys can be aggressive, if they know somebody is behind them that covers a lot of ground, that is able to be there for him. I think then J-Kidd can get up, Matrix can get up on their man and everybody is on the same page. Our comebacks have been really ignited by good defense. Well, I really like what Jet did there in the fourth quarter. We were down nine. He comes up two straight possessions, drove the ball at LeBron, got to the basket, finished, and then back to a five-point game. Then they had a timeout, and I think we kind of had the momentum after that. He really took it upon himself to really drive and be in attack mode. That's what we need out of him. He's one of our closers. Throughout the game I think we had our chances. We had our opportunities. We had good shots. For some reason this series we haven't made a ton of them, but we had opportunities. I thought Stevenson was great there in the first half. Gave us a lift. Made some big shots, corner shots, wing three. But we have to keep getting better. Hopefully tomorrow big game, hopefully we can make a couple more shots when they're there. Yeah, I said it already in Game 1 that everybody at this stage after playing eight, nine months on a high level has something going. Nobody is completely healthy. So it's time to fight through some stuff, and once the game gets going, the adrenaline starts flowing. I think everybody is out there and giving it their all. But the playoffs, I mean, we all know every game in the playoffs can be a huge momentum swing. So you always want to win the game. After the games you don't sleep much. So basically for a month and a half, two months, you're living on the edge every night. You're thinking about it, eat, breathe, sleep basketball, and that's what's fun about the playoffs, but also very draining. We have one more week to go, both teams, and we're going to go for it. Both teams are going to get their vacation afterwards. Yeah, I mean, they're a very explosive team. The thing is with them, who is going to have the ball? Is it Wade and he's going to take a shot? Bosh? Whoever has the ball, the other two can't have the ball. So sometimes it's hard if one guy is going, the other guy is hard to get the rhythm because you don't have a lot of touches. So they are obviously going to find a mix for everybody for them to attack in the fourth quarters, and we expect LeBron to be aggressive tomorrow and get to the basket and play his game. So we're got to be ready and we got to be a little sharper on the defensive end, especially early. Gave up ten offensive rebounds the first quarter, which was almost a killer. Where we actually felt we had everything going in the first quarter. We had the energy, we got stops and just the offensive rebounds were killing us. We have to be a little sharper tomorrow. It's a big game. Not much. I didn't do anything today. Slept in, basically, and just watched film and walked through some stuff. So that really hasn't changed from the other day. And then I'll probably come back tonight, get a little sweat for like 30 minutes, at least get the body used to sweating a little bit. And then I'll be ready tomorrow. Well, I think we have to be ready for anything. I think usually it's the team that loses that looks at the film and says, hey, we have to do this. Usually the team that loses has more of an edge, makes some adjustments with the coaches. So we've got to be ready for anything. Actually they did play a small lineup real quick. That was because Haslem had three fouls in the first half already. They went small for a second. So I think we got to adjust, and whatever happens happens. We all know if he wants to be, he's one of the best defenders in this league, because he can guard multiple positions, probably one through five if he wants to. He's long, he's strong, he's quick. So he's a great defender. Both. You know Jet, actually, it was earlier in the playoffs he said something, and I told him I was going to put him on a no-interview policy. But he didn't follow that either. He's a very confident young man. He believes in himself. That's what I like about him. When he has an off-night or going through a little slump, he's going to keep attacking, he's going to believe in himself. He's going to come back the next night and get some shots up in the gym, and he's a gym rat. He always works on his game. So Jet has been great here for the last six, seven years here we had him. Hopefully we can follow through. Yeah, like I said, it was great for me to see Jet like that. You can't expect him to always make huge, huge shots in the fourth quarters. But what I liked, he was just attacking. Even he missed some shots there at the end that kind of could have sealed it. But I like this mentality. We need him to be aggressive. We need him to get out and take those shots, because that's going to open up some stuff for our other guys. When he attacked and got some shots, that's actually opened the offensive glass up for Tyson, who was great there in the fourth. Had like two or three offensive rebounds. So, yeah, we need Jet to attack all the time. It makes us a better team. |
| Yeah, I mean that was a big win for us, obviously. We didn't want to go to Miami and give them basically two shots to close us out. So kept plugging there in the fourth. So definitely a big win for us. And now we have to go down there and basically approach Sunday's game as Game 7. You don't want to give this great team any hope or anything. So we got to play more of the same and keep attacking and we'll see what happens Sunday. Well, I don't actually think that was a good defensive night for us. All series long we're trying to figure out our offense. Tonight we're moving and shooting the ball well, but I thought all of a sudden we started giving up too many points. That's not how we won, and that's not how we want to win. We started trading baskets, even in the first half, when we were going well offensively. We traded baskets, gave up too many lay-ups. So that was a little disappointing. But at least we shot the ball well enough to get the win. I thought J.J. Barea was phenomenal behind screens, making shots, and Jet obviously in the fourth quarter made the big three top of the key to tie it. And basically made a tough one on the right wing to put the game away. Really, we kind of been waiting on an offensive night for us that we finally shoot the ball well. We felt like we had opportunities in the first four games, just couldn't knock anything down. So that was encouraging to see today that we made some shots. Jet was phenomenal. He was aggressive again from the get-go, I felt. Even the first half he came in, had a couple of pull-ups, got in the lane, got a floater, I remember. That's the Jet we need. We need him to attack and get in the lane. It opens up a lot of stuff for everybody else out there. It opens up Tyson on the rolls, that we actually hit him a bunch of times today. Our fives rolling, that was good. Also that opens up the corner threes and made a couple. We need Jet, Jet attacking. He was great. So did J.J. in the starting lineup attacking, got to the lane a couple of times, made some lay-ups. I thought that opened up his three ball. Well, I think if he just stands there and looks at him, I think LeBron is long enough and quick enough to kind of contest his shot late. So he's got to attack him. He's got to attack his feet. I thought the last two games he did a great job. We got to run -- obviously LeBron threw some screens when he's on him, screen-and-rolls for him. So LeBron constantly has to chase him and fight over some picks. I thought we did a better job of that tonight. We all know Jet is a confident young man. He always has a lot to say to us in the locker room. He's always talking. He's just an energetic guy. He loves to talk and he loves to hear himself talk. (Laughter). I thought we got in the fast break a little bit early. That was good. Had some good looks in the fast break. We were able to knock some shots down. But like I said, I thought in the first four games we looked at the film, we stepped into some good shots. We just for some reason we weren't knocking them down like we did in the first three series. I mean, if we would have struggled shooting the ball like that in the first three series, I don't know if we would have gotten here. Our ability to make shots in the weak side is a big part of what we do. Tonight we talked about it. Keep stepping into those shots when they're there. The J.J. screen-and-roll somewhere he stepped in and shot the ball great all season long. We kept telling him be aggressive and shoot those, and he was phenomenal, and so was Jet. J-Kidd had a big three there when we were up two. We swung it, swung it to go up five. That was a big shot. I thought we hit big, timely shots tonight. Yes, I think like I said, it's not a best-of-five series; it's a best-of-seven. So the first team to four wins. So we couldn't celebrate tonight, even though it was a big win for us. The series is not over. If you look at it really now, all that's happened, you can look they won their two home games, we won all three home games. That's how you look at it. They got two more. So far it looks like everybody protected their home court and they still have two games at home. So there's really nothing to celebrate. We're going in there Sunday swinging, like we did today, from the jump. And hopefully steal one Sunday. I really can't enjoy it much, because in the playoffs for some reason you're always on the edge. You don't sleep much. You think basketball 24/7. I can enjoy it hopefully next week when we're on vacation. As of right now, I'm always thinking ahead and thinking about the next game, what can I do better, what didn't I do and what I have to do to get other guys involved and more open. Hopefully I can enjoy it next week. Just stick with it. Just stick with it. First of all, this was the last home game in this building in front of our fans, who have been phenomenal all year and pushed us forward. We obviously didn't want to end this season here for them on a loss. I think we addressed that. We wanted to keep plugging, keep going. It was big, I think, when we were down four, the next offense I was able to get in the lane, get a pump fake, get to the free-throw line, kind of settle everybody down, make it a two-point game. And I thought that was big for us not to shoot a bad jumper and they go down in transition again. So it was good to kind of stop the clock, get two free throws and kind of set our defense. I thought that was a big momentum play. Well, we just don't allow ourselves to kind of be satisfied or be happy with anything. I think we did a good job in the first couple of rounds, always kind of keeping our edge to ourself. We won two games -- stole two games in L.A. and came back and still were able to win a big Game 3 at home. And I just think we're a veteran team, and we can't get too high with the highs. I've mentioned it all playoffs long. We addressed it today. Hopefully we'll be ready to play tomorrow. Well, you know, I never went back and watched the film. I never watched the celebration. But it is tough to always see another team win on your home court. It doesn't matter if it's a regular season or playoffs or championship. That's always tough in front of your home fans. Ultimately, that's what we got to do now. We've got to steal one more game on the road, hopefully the next one. We've been good on the road all playoffs long, we feel. We won a game in Portland. We won two in L.A. We won two in OKC and we won this series already. So we feel that we can execute on the road as well. We have a bunch of veterans that are road-tested, and hopefully we can get a big game tomorrow. Well, I feel like actually I haven't really shot the ball as well as I want to. I had some good looks, they just didn't go down. Just keep attacking. I think obviously my teammates are a big part of that. I think J-Kidd is able to give me the ball in situations where I want it. We got some good shooters around me. Tyson in the middle and Haywood have been great stepping in. So I don't have to force any shots if they're not there. Just swing it, run another pick-and-roll. So just experience, I guess, is a big factor. I just thought it was a little childish, a little ignorant. I've been in this league for 13 years. I've never faked an injury or an illness before. But it happened. It's over to me. It's not going to add anything extra to me. This is the NBA Finals. If you need an extra motivation, you have a problem. So we're one win away from my dream, what I've worked on for half of my life. This is really all I'm worried about. This is all I'm focusing on. And not really off-the-court stuff that happened. Well, kind of the same as yesterday or the day before that. I don't allow myself to sit back and relax now. In these playoffs, one win or one loss can switch the whole momentum. You don't ever want a snowball to start. I don't allow myself to sit back all of a sudden and be satisfied. We got one more big win hopefully to get, and then I can be satisfied. I think when we first started it was always about -- when you're 16 it's about other aspects of life, too. It's not just focusing too early on one thing and just get good at one thing and don't have anything else in life. So just challenging other aspects of the brain and stimulating it, and music is a big part and reading and other stuff, too. I just thought he was trying to show me other ways and not just on the court. That's tough. I love rock now. I have played the guitar for a couple of years. I listen to old-school rock. Led Zeppelin, Stones, stuff like that. Well, I think he's pushed the right buttons I think all season long. He's challenged us in ways. Sometimes he's backed off. Sometimes he's letting J-Kidd run the show. Sometimes he feels like things are not going the way he wants to and he's clamping down a little more. So I think that was the challenge the first two years, to find a good mix between play-calls and freedom and still play enough defense to win. And I just think he found a good mix and he found all the right buttons to motivate us every single night to get to this spot. I think every series, every time you go through a game, win or lose, you have to look at the film. You adjust. Sometimes it's major things, sometimes it's minor things the media doesn't even pick up. It might be little coverages. So I think every coach goes back after a game and adjusts, and we've done good so far. I think the major change was obviously starting J.J. He's been phenomenal for us attacking the paint. He was shooting the ball well last game. They were going under his screen-and-rolls. He was able to knock some big shots down. J.J. has been good in the starting lineup. You know, I feel we're a very close-knit group. We have a bunch of talent on the bench as well. Both of those guys bring us toughness. I think Mahinmi is very athletic, and Brian is a tough-nosed player who is very smart. They both gave us a huge lift last game, just by being in the right spot and kind of picking up our energy. Every player on the bench has been big at some point in these playoffs. I remember Brewer coming in and really changing Game 1 in L.A. We were down 15, or whatever, in the third. He came in and gave us a huge lift. At some point every player on this bench made a contribution. Well, I just think sometimes when you don't win, criticism comes with it. That's just a part of the game if you're the star or the face of the franchise. If you win, it's great for you, and everybody looks at you. And if you lose, you're going to get hammered. It's just the part of the business. I think we understand that. We've been around long enough. I got hammered the last 13 years, basically. So hopefully this year I can make the hammering go away for one year. Well, I don't know. I never really try to focus on other people, what other people say. I always try to worry about myself. Every summer go back home and try to work harder and come back next year, and during the series you can't worry about other stuff. You focus on the teammates. You watch the film, you talk to the teammates, see what they can do to help you, what you can do to help them. And that's all I was worried about in the playoffs, is trying to perform. I don't know. You never know. That's another thing I'm not really worried about. I said it before The Finals started, I said I'm not trying to win for my legacy or for anything other than for just me being on the best team there is for that year. You want to be a part of the best, and so hopefully we can fulfill that and everything else is kind of a side note to me right now. |
| Oh, man, I don't know. I mean, obviously that was one of my most disappointing losses in my career, to lose the Final series after being up 2-0. It took so long just to get here. I don't really know if it would have made a difference. Just this feeling to be on the best team of the world is just undescribable. Was he unbelievable tonight or what? Coming out right away in the first half and setting a tone. I think he watched me struggle there early, and he took it upon himself to really attack and look for his shot early and get going early. Man, he kept coming all night long. He was phenomenal. That one timeout he said to me, "Keep pushing. Remember '06." He said that to me in the fourth quarter. We kept plugging. It wasn't pretty for me, but I had to keep plugging and keep fighting. I don't really think that way right now. If you're in this league for 13 years of just battling and playoffs last basically ten years, 11 years, and always coming up a little short. That's why this is extra special. If I would have won one early in my career, maybe I would have never put all the work and the time in that I have over the last 13 years. So this feels amazing. I'm happy for Kidd. What a warrior he is at 38, chasing the most athletic players in this league out there and doing a great job on him, and also leading our squad. He's been in this league forever and had two chances. Just an unbelievable team. I said it all season long. We had great chemistry with the guys. We had fun in the locker room, on the buses and stuff. So this is a special group. We're world champions. It sounds unbelievable. Well, I just think we're a resilient bunch, and we saw it. This whole series we were down some. We kept battling back. Kept believing in each other. I just think this is a win of team basketball. This is a win for playing as a team on both ends of the floor, of sharing the ball, of passing the ball, and we've been doing that all season long. I'm happy. We never looked at ourselves as soft. Not for one minute. And we just kept fighting. Well, I think he's an experienced coach, and he pushed all the right buttons, and it took us a while to find a good mix. I think I mentioned that yesterday, of still keeping our defensive principles that Avery installed and also giving Kidd a little more freedom on the offensive end, letting him run the show a little bit, letting him create and letting him call some plays on the fly and push the pace up a little bit. So I think that he did a great job doing that, and during the course of the season, we had to adjust to some stuff. I thought in The Finals he did some phenomenal adjustments here to start J.J., and then decide to let Peja really sit for the series, bring Cardinal in, who has been phenomenal for us this series. Constant pro. Always stayed ready for us. It's an unbelievable team effort and the coaches and the whole organization. I give Mark a lot of credit. Cuban. He stuck with me through thick and thin. He brought all the right players always in, always trying to spend money and make this organization better and this team better. So Mark is the best. Man, this is what I obviously played for the last couple of years. I think when you come in in this league you want to establish yourself. All these All-Star Games and all those things are nice, in scoring, but when you get to a certain age, you've basically seen it all, and all you play for is for that ring. And I think that's the kind of energy we had from the beginning of the season this year, bringing Tyson in, who was unbelievable for us defensively again. Yeah, it feels amazing now to know that nobody can ever take this away from us again, and for one year we're the best team that was out there. That feels amazing. Well, I think in a lot of games we kept fighting back. All the wins we got in the fourth quarter, at some point we were down, besides today, and the way we kept plugging. Even in Game 5, we were up like 7 or 8. They made a huge run and they go up by a couple of points. And we had to battle back again and fight through it. So I don't really know where it happened, but we're just a resilient, veteran team that always kept coming. We never stopped playing, and we kept believing in each other. That was phenomenal. We talked about it in several time-outs, even when we were down, we have to keep executing, keep playing. You never know what's going to happen. And some of these wins we were able to come back. That was big. Well, you know, I think at the beginning I had some problems with the leadership role and talking. But over the last couple of years I think I've been more comfortable. Obviously my English is a lot better than it was when I first got here. So it's just being more experienced, more comfortable talking to the guys, talking to the fellows, and the experience of seeing something on the court that you want to address. And I just think it all came together for me with hard work and experience. It still feels unbelievable. It was weird. In the first half I had so many good looks. I can't even explain it. I had some threes top of the key. I had a wide-open three in the corner. I had some pull-ups. I had some one-leg fadeaways that I normally make. But like I said, the team always told me, stay with it, stay with it. You're too good of a shooter, too good of a player to keep missing. So finally there in the third I made a three, and there in the fourth I was able to make a couple of pull-ups. But like I said, this team every time somebody was down all season long, somebody else stepped in and picked them up. Mahinmi was unbelievable today, since Haywood went out a couple of days ago, and he gives us energy. All of a sudden makes some big shots today. So I think all season long if somebody was down, the team picked him up. So it was an amazing effort. I don't know. That's something I'll look back to and I can always look back to the '10-'11 season and say we're the world champs. Nobody can ever take that away from me. So that's really the best thing about this. Sticking to Dallas, that was the plan. We fell short so many times, and I committed for four more years this summer, and we didn't really know what was going to happen. We were a first-round, second-round exit a bunch of times. But consistency pays off. Like I said, Mark kept bringing in players. Losing Caron this year was an unbelievable blow. We kept playing, kept fighting through. Bringing Peja in, who was a big addition for us in earlier rounds of the playoffs. So it wouldn't have felt right to win it somewhere else. I'm happy. I obviously made the right decision. And this is also for the Mavs fans, who have been through a lot of disappointments with me over the last couple of years. And they always stuck with me and kept supporting us. And the gym was always full in Dallas during the regular season. This is for them. |
| I don't even like talking about. It's just part of what I'm dealing with. No. Yeah, but it's hard. In my predicament, I'm only going to do myself further damage. Yeah, there's an impact, but it's something that we all need to do. If you can occupy your man, get the ball moving and get bodies moving, that's important for all of us. So when I do it, if I get a shot or not, somebody is going to get a shot. So it just has to be a team thing. Not in one game, no. Who knows what it is. Who knows what it is. I know I shoot as many as I can. When you get over the line, it's important to get comfortable and to get a rhythm. When you fall out of it, you fall out of it. You figure out ways to get back into it and create that good rhythm going forward. I made 100 in a row and stopped. Because I believe that if I had kept going, I could make 500 in a row. So unless somebody I'm doing it for a record or somebody is challenging me, it's like I'm like Forrest Gump, I just stopped running. The thing is I don't want to change my technique. I just have to continue to work on getting my lift. My technique has been solid for a very long time, and it's successful. Anybody who I know is a shooter, encourage them to shoot certain ways. So I'm never going to stop doing the way I prepare and how I shoot. It's just getting to it and just kind of you know, it's like I'm trying not to push myself in shooting and jumping higher, but I have to find a happy medium. |
| The whole game I felt good today. I had really no issues moving around the floor. Started this morning, and I was able to shoot the way I normally do. And tonight starting the game, you know, it's like for me a wait and see I take a wait and see approach. As the game went on, it was almost like if I forget about it, then it's a good thing, and I forgot about my foot, and eventually I just kept playing and I didn't have any issues. Even right now I feel pretty good. Me, it's a day to day situation. So from day to day it seems like it's different. It's just what I'm dealing with. Keyon just made a great play. We moved the ball around, and he got the ball underneath the basket. They don't leave me often, but they left me that time, because he's underneath the basket. So he made a great play there. But it was definitely on time. At that point it was winning time. We had been in a situation similar in Game 7 at our place, and Paul fouled out. We have the guys capable to win games. We just got to make sure we execute down the stretch. We were in a similar position. We got beat in transition, and we fouled down the stretch, our guys were out of position. They ended up making plays down the stretch. I believe we just made sure the big that came up in pick and rolls, we didn't just show in and get out. We made sure we had a huge presence on him with the ball and made other guys beat us. We paid more attention to what he was doing in pick and rolls. I think in the third quarter he made some shots where he isoed and shot over the top of us. We all thought he got hit. I'll say it. He did, but what can you do about it? Yeah, we feed off what he's doing now. So much going on out there, both offensively and defensively, that on the offensive end when he has a night like that going, we just it's like those football players when everybody has got to be in sync, where they're cutting and rebound, get the ball back out. At some point you get to watch him. I stayed space, my guy wasn't leaking in, and let him go. I'm not concerned at all. After the game I think that everybody was I say everybody was in good spirits, but at the same time we were disappointed, we were upset. We know moving forward that we got to go home and we got to maintain home court. So it's an overtime game. It's the Conference Finals. Everybody on the team wants to be out on the floor as much as they can. Obviously we're not going to play extended minutes where you're playing the whole game. Rondo did today. We have plenty of guys on the bench. If Doc needs us in there, if he needs us on the bench, it's his call. Whatever he decides for us we'll live with it. |
| I just think we have more of an awareness of what we need to do. It was a little surprise. Yeah, feeling pretty good. A little surprise. It was just one of those situations where we had played where we moved the ball around often. And you're so worried about the shooters, you're worried about Paul in the perimeter. Rondo got down the lane, because you're worried about getting out. I think it was an opportune time for me, because when I got to the paint, they were like, is he going to pass? We have to worry about the three point shot? I made it all the way. Anytime you have a scorer that gets to the free throw line easy, it gives you a rhythm, gets the ball in your hands, get your free throws, getting those easy lay ups in transition where you don't have to work as hard. Those are the things we have to work on early so they don't get in that offensive flow. It's really hard to say. We're prepared for whatever they do. We have a game plan to try to keep them from getting those easy buckets. It really changed because our lineup has been very untraditional. You know, when we go small, we can have four guys that are under 6'6" out there on the floor. So with that they go small, they have a shooting lineup in, it puts Rondo on Wade. Marquis was on him a little bit. It puts Keyon on him. So it just changes and we just have to adapt. For me personally, if I have to stop him, if I have to guard him, that's just what I have to do. The scoring aspect is I've always learned that you rest on offense. Defense is where you got to be there 100%. Right now the film work is important. Staying off your feet. You need what you're going to get from your guys in shoot arounds. I think the season prepared us, having such short time in between games. We really have had to focus in on getting stuff we need to get in with shoot around. Guys responded well to it. It's hard to say. It's a strategy. One thing I have learned over the course of my time is that I've been with plenty of coaches that never gave you any days off. You didn't do it was always coach always felt like you had to be in the gym. Sometimes it was at the detriment of players' bodies. At some point you just break down. Watching film and giving guys rest, you're going to with a veteran team, guys know how to get the work in they need. No. I've always felt that way with this crowd. I've always had great connection with these fans. I do believe that they think every shot I take is going to go in. I believe that. You don't want to wear him down. It's like trying to get him to it's like you get to the point where you use him to the point where almost he becomes a decoy. It's like you tip to the point where you know you're going to go to him, just like me on the perimeter, you know you're going to get to me, find me a good shot. But then somebody else gets the shot because the defense shades so heavily. So that's kind of what we do with him. If he has it, he has to take advantage of it. He got scores for us. Nothing. No. I don't attribute anything to this year from last year. I just know that they beat us last year and sent us home. So right now we know what the game plan is for this team. That's where my focus is. That he's been getting closer to the rim? Well, it's interesting, because Kevin, he's a jump shooter. But he's had such great match ups that we are getting him closer to the rim because we're staying so spaced on the perimeter. It's really it's a simple game that we play, and there's so many things, options we can run him through our offense. At the end of the day, it's just like you stay spaced, give him the ball and see how they guard him. Let him shoot over the top. That's what he's been doing. If you front him over the top, we're going to him. And that's what we've done a lot. And if you don't front him, give him the ball, and he still can shoot over the top of you. You contribute two guys. You have me, Paul, Rondo on the perimeter, then Brandon I think Brandon has helped a lot too. I don't think he understands his importance being able to shoot like he does. He's taken a lot of pressure off of him. It's a simple game. When we execute it, everybody is effective and everybody has an impact. |
| Just my legs, they've gotten considerably better. Actually, my leg, my ankle. Just going into the game, starting the game, having my legs underneath me is for me it's a huge deal now. How I feel now is a lot different from how I start the game. But that's what it's all about, like getting ourselves prepared, getting ourselves ready. So I feel like I have my lift starting the games. For me and for this team, that's huge. I try to keep myself ready. Off days you do what you can to stay off your feet. Well, at my lowest point I was ready to have surgery. I didn't think that I would get any better, because I was doing all the things I needed to do treatment wise and just staying off of it. It didn't seem like it was going to get any better. So I just stayed with it and stayed off of it and did what I had to do, and it just progressively got better over time. We'll see how I deal with it once the season is over. I would say there is a percentage of mind over matter. For me as aggressive as I run coming off screens, I have to almost be a little ginger going into certain directions, so I don't aggravate it too much more than it already is. I know what I'm dealing with, so I try to work through that. It was like chess, they took our queen, and we took their queen, so to speak. Paul went out, they both had five fouls. We always talk about getting it to the end of the game, and making sure we don't do anything where we get a call against us. And that was one of those situations. I told Paul before we came out of the timeout, be smart out there because you never know what can happen. That was just a bad situation we were in. We got plenty of guys. MP and Marquis and Keyon came in, and they did a great job defensively for us. Our guys were ready. I don't ever think I've seen that before, but Rondo was on the floor, I'm on the floor, Kevin is on the floor, Wade is on the floor. All the game has to be done all that has to happen is it has to be won. We don't care what it looks like. We just want to win the game. We have plenty from that point moving forward, we had an idea what we needed to do to close the game out. That was all that we cared about at that point. For me, the crowd has been great. It's as good as I've ever seen it. We all have friends in town, family, that's the one thing they commented on after Game 3, how amazing the building was, and how energetic they were. They got loud to some point where we couldn't even talk to each other standing next to each other on the floor. That's what you love about being home. And this building for me more than any building I've played in ever, it's my favorite building ever to play in. You got good eyesight. |
| N/A |
| Yeah. We got into the locker room after the game and collectively everybody talked about being better. We talked about the things that we needed to do. There was a great sense of disappointment amongst everybody, anger. But I know my guys will be ready next game. Well, we'll watch the film and look at the things we did poorly on defense, and then offensively we'll do the same. There was a lot of situations that we would like back, but we'll look at it these situations you always realize when you're good, you're not far from being bad. And then when you're bad, you're not far from being good. Well, defensively LeBron, he had a game. He had a game. You have to tip your hat to him. He carried his team tonight. We have to attack him defensively better than what we did. We talked about ball movement going into the third quarter. We talked about it at halftime and starting the game, we didn't have great flow, great rhythm going into the first half. Going into the third quarter we didn't establish that. We moved the ball around. I thought we still got good looks, looks we'll take, but we didn't move the ball. I don't know how many assists we had, but we didn't have a good movement of the ball night. Well, even just with winning, it's very short lived. You don't carry it with you for a day and a half, two days. You look at film. Even when we watch the film, looking at it from last game, you still see all the things that you need to do to be better. You have to have a short memory, but at the same time, you have to have a long term memory, because you want to make sure that a situation like this don't linger. But at the same time you have to think about all the things you need to do to improve. That's what we've done all year. Now everybody knows that we need to focus in. It's one game. This was basically our Game 7 on our floor, to win here on our floor. We had an opportunity. We still knew we had two games to win one. Obviously, you know, your greatest chance you want to give yourself on your floor. So anytime you lose an opportunity like that, you are angry with yourselves. Like I said, they played well. We'll be ready to play on Saturday. It was there. It was definitely there. We didn't have things go our way, not the way we wanted it. We could have been better on offense. We could have been better on defense. Just the small little plays, all the small things. It was there. Everybody from the starting five, everybody coming off the bench, it was there. It just sometimes doesn't go your way. It's hard to say. It's hard to say. I know that you look at field goal percentage, they started the game the way they wanted to offensively; we didn't. Again, we make it easy on ourselves when we move the ball around. When we find the easy shot, get into the second and third option. At this point it's Game 6, they know everything we're running as well as we know what they're running. So the small little plays we've been getting and the things they're getting, you're grabbing, scratching and clawing for that guy not to get it. So at this point we have to get to the second and third option, and sometimes the fourth option. It's the difference of getting a rebound. It seems like we got the 50 50 ball in Game 5 at their place. And tonight we didn't get into our stuff. We didn't develop or build our own rhythm. Kevin was sitting next to me, and I said these are I know I'm biased, but they're the best fans I've ever played in front of or ever seen in my life. They understand the situation that is before us, and we understand it. And that was basically them sending us off, letting us know, hey, this is still well and alive. We need you guys to go down there and get a win for us. We all felt it on the bench. I know the game was going on. It seemed like that three minutes lasted forever. It was special. I'll talk about that forever, just knowing being down 20 and these people are still standing up, cheering us on, because they know we just have to win one game. |
| When you lose, it always feels like it's it. There's a conclusion. Last year it felt like it was it. The year before it felt the same way. It's probably the worst feeling that we feel in our lives, in our careers. There's nothing you can do about it. There's one game that you want there's one team that wins that last game. We want to be that team every year. If we don't we've been through a lot. We won a lot of games. At the end of every season, it always feels like it's it. Up to this point we fought hard to keep it together. So I think now there's so many emotions. This one hit me hard. We wanted it so bad. We just got stagnant. The ball stayed on one side. Yeah, you're going to miss shots, but the ball stayed on one side. Put them in transition. They went on a run, and we couldn't get that offense going again. No, that's my first priority, just going into surgery sometime. If I can do it tomorrow, I would do it tomorrow. That's probably my main concern right now, is taking care of that. My body feels good. That's been my only issue. After that, it's hard to say. Well, with no disrespect to Seattle and Milwaukee, when we first came together, it seemed like it was up to this point five years has gone quickly, but it seems like it has lasted forever. We've played in a lot of big games. We won a championship together. The things that we do off the floor together. It's just been a special time. It's been a special moment. We'll remember a lot. Even with Kevin and myself in our past situations, we bring so much wealth of experience into Boston. The young guys we played here with, man, it's been a privilege. I can definitely say that. It's always been somewhat intimidating. You walk into a building every day and you see the banners and the retired jerseys in the building. It just always makes you work a little bit harder. When Havlicek is in the building, when Cousy is around. Tommy is watching us every day. Bill Russell is at the games. Those are like our big brothers. So we know that we have a lot to some big shoes to fill and a lot that we need to do to try to compare to what they've done. We have definitely fallen short, but we've gone out trying to play as hard as we can every night. I think a lot of people forget how we started the season. It was so helter skelter trying to put together a team. We went through a lot of adversity this year, losing Wilcox and losing Jeff Green. Under the circumstances, you know, we're proud of what we've accomplished. By no means do we think that it was a fluke or that our young guys, they played hard for us. Kevin, I don't know what Kevin's situation is. There's still a lot of basketball left in my legs. I know that for sure. So it's hard to say what can happen, what may happen. But four of us know how to play basketball. We know how to win games. |
| Well, those guys, they came out on fire. They were passing the ball well, knocking down shots. We just wanted to continue to keep playing. It's a long game, and every time our coach was just saying play harder, play harder, and that's what we did. It's a game of runs, man, so you just have to make sure that every time we got a good shot on the defensive end, we've just got to contest up and just play hard. We've got to continue to do that. I mean, we're just trying to take it a possession at a time. You know, this is a tough series. This level of basketball is the hardest we play, and we just want to take it slow, and take it, like I said, a possession at a time. Guys got to just continue to believe in themselves. If we do that as a group, we'll be all right. Like Russ said, it kind of took us a couple minutes to get the nervousness out of us and the jitters out of it. We've just got to play our game. Next game we've got to start a little better because this team is going to come out extremely hard. He means a lot to us. He's been sacrificing his body, taking charges all season. Just playing hard. He could care less about how many shots he takes or how many rebounds he gets, he's just going to play hard and do what the coaches tell him to do. He's just a great teammate to have. We've got to continue to just give him confidence by feeding him down low on those dump off passes for dunks and he's going to come back down and give it his all on the defensive end. We need that from everybody. Like I said, we've got a long ways to go, we've just got to continue playing. Well, coach just told me to match up with him early on. They do such a great job of going small, going big, they can play different ways, and Thabo did a good job of just making it tough on them. You can't really stop a guy like that, just got to play hard and contest. For me he got a few lay ups, but I've just got to continue to stay in front and play my hardest. It's a tough match up, but I've just got to play with some fire, and we'll see what happens. Well, he's such a versatile defender, he can guard one through five, and we used Perk in a lot of screen setting, and they switched a lot of it, and he guarded Russ, he guarded me, he guarded one through five. You know, I'm not worried about, like I said, the one on one match up, it's just about the team, and he does such a great job of guarding everybody. We've got to figure out a way to try to get some easy points and just play hard on both ends. I can't worry about which guy is guarding me, I've just got to play my game. Well, Russ came out, like you said, he wasn't makes his shots early, but he didn't let that get him down. He just tried to do other things to help us win, 11 assists, eight rebounds. He's a guy that can come out on the floor and do that for us every night. He controlled the game on the offensive end. Like I said, he wasn't making shots, but he was trying to get everybody else involved. We've got to do a better job of finishing for him. But he came out and made some big shots for us. We've got to continue just leaning on each other. It's a game where everybody is going to have to chip in, and Russ was just making sure everybody did so, and we followed his lead. Well, I'm not trying to force anything. For this whole Playoffs, I'm just trying to play my game, be aggressive, and if I see a shot I have to take it, and if I see a pass I have to pass it. I have to go back tomorrow and watch film and see how I can get better, and hopefully I have a better game, too. I wish I could tell you. You know, just being in The Finals, we kind of was nervous, I guess. That's something we can't it can't happen next game or the rest of the series. Just got to come out with a lot of energy, and hopefully we do it next game. But I really couldn't tell you why. Just not think about it. Just play. Pride myself on working hard and learning and being coachable. I have faith in all those things that I do day in and day out, coming in, working hard, believing in myself and my teammates, and believing in the system. Whatever happens after that, it happens, as long as I know that I come in and give it my all every single day. I can't worry about what other people say or expectations they put on me. It's just all about how I view myself and how my teammates view me, and we'll go from there. I'm just all about getting better and all about believing, man. If that stuff comes along, then it does. I have faith that if I keep doing what I'm doing and continue to just learn every single year, anything can happen. I don't want to sound like a jerk or anything, but I really don't care what people say outside the locker room, outside of this organization what I need to do or what I didn't do. I really don't care. You know, I'm a guy that lets the game come to me but is also aggressive at the same time. I know when to take shots, when to make the right play. People can say this and that. I learn to just tune it out and just play my game. I just know it's going to come back around. I'm just taking it a day at a time. It's just a blessing to be here, not just in The Finals but being in the NBA, having this opportunity to do something I love to do, and just take it slow, take it a day at a time, keep working every single day, and at the end we'll see where I'm at. But I can't think too far down the line. Just got to be ready for the next day and prepare myself right for whatever happens. We'll see. I love to do everything you just said, but I've just got to take it slow, and we'll see. I kind of figured they would mix it up a lot, throw different defenders. They did a great job of since Chris Bosh was out a few series back, they did a great job of just playing a lot of guys that can defend different positions. LeBron can defend one through five and Shane Battier can do the same, and Haslem is good at defending some perimeter guys, as well. They're just mixing it up, and we've just got to find a way to kind of offset that. It just goes down to playing hard and make the right basketball play. Yeah, I think, like I said, they're going to mix it up a lot. I've just got to be patient and be aggressive, and I just really can't worry about who's defending me, I've just got to play within the concept of the team and play my hardest. That means a lot. My goal as a kid was to be the best player ever in my area. That was my first goal before even thinking about going to college or the NBA. So that means a lot to me. But I don't think I'm up there with those guys. Elgin Baylor and Dave Bing and Adrian Dantley and guys like that yet. But I've got to keep working and hopefully I get there. That's always been a goal of mine, and hopefully I achieve it. Everybody has been physical with me since I got into the league at 19. I don't expect it to be any different. Those guys bump me, pushed me, confronted me and denied me the ball, and I expected it to be the same. But me, I've got to start the ball off better on the defensive end and the offensive end, just being stronger and trying to get the ball and making the right plays. I turned over the ball a few times I shouldn't have turned it over, but I've just got to be stronger. I expect them to be a lot more physical, so I'll be ready for it. Only adjustment we made was playing harder. I can tell you guys Xs and Os and the schemes, but it just comes down to playing harder. Those guys got open threes, open lay ups. That's not what we pride ourselves on. We can't do that to a championship caliber team, can't give those guys open shots. So we just tried to step it up on the defensive end and know that they're going to be aggressive and make shots, but we can't get discouraged, we've got to continue to play our game. And we just tried to step it up a little bit, get our karma behind us some, as well, and kind of push us over the top. He has a chip on his shoulder, and he wants to be the best. That's the best part about our team, we have guys that want to be the best. I don't know how many points he had, but he had eight rebounds and I think 11 assists. I don't know if you can talk too much about a guy who does that, who can do that night in and night out. He had great shots last game, missed a few lay ins and a few easy jumpers that I think he can make. We're not worried about what people are saying on the outside, we're just worried about coming together as a group, and he did a great job of controlling everything last night. Only thing I remember was that everybody ran on the court. That's probably one of the best moments I've had so far in my life, playing at the mecca of basketball in New York City, and I hit a few shots then. It felt like everybody just swarmed me so quickly, man, and it was just a fun moment for me and something I'm always going to remember. That's something we've been preaching for a while, always just staying together. And teams win, you know, individuals don't win basketball games. You may win a few here or there but you don't get to where you want to go by just one guy, so we've got to do it together. We know that. We don't care who takes the shots, we don't care who gets the rebounds or assists, as long as we do it together. We just believe in each other. We trust in each other, and we've got to continue to keep building that if we want to get to where we want to get to. We've just got to keep doing it. I absolutely hate it. But I've gotten used to it over the years playing Shane, ever since he was in Houston. Last year in the Playoffs against Memphis. He does it a lot. You've just got to be disciplined on your shot, and I think shooting so many shots, you know once you kind of let loose, you know where it's going to go. Got to free myself up from him. He is a good defender. But it's something that you can't control him doing, he's going to do it whenever he plays. I've just got to be confident in myself and in my shot. He's probably the only guy that does that, so I'm used to guys contesting the shot, but putting a hand in your face is a little different. I've just got to play through it. I tried to approach it as a regular game. I think all the stuff before the game kind of made me a little nervous, the intros and all the media here, so many people here. I never seen this many people here in Oklahoma City before at a basketball game. So it's a little different. But you got used to it once the ball is tipped. It goes back to when you're a kid playing a game, just playing. All that stuff is out of the way. We've just got to be focused on Game 2 and be ready to play. None of that stuff is going to change. All we're worried about is basketball. Well, it took us some time. I think we're both willing passers, but we do know when we have to be aggressive. Russ is great at knowing when we're down, he has to be aggressive. When we're down, I have to be aggressive. But when we have a good flow in the game, that's when everybody is touching the ball, we're moving it, we're finding a good shot, finding a great shot. But it's kind of weird, but I think it just kind of clicks for you when you know you have to shoot the ball and when you have to pass it. We've got to continue to watch film and see if we can get better in that area, and hopefully we do. |
| Oh, man, that was the game. We can't start off down 18 to 2. Thinking about it, though, I think we got some good looks. We missed a few chippies, lay ins, but we can't get down that much, especially at home. We've got to correct it. We've got to just stay positive, man. That's the whole deal. We've got to come ready Game 3. Defend. We weren't taking the ball out every time down the court. We weren't getting stops, getting down in transition, playing our game. It's tough to do that when you start off a little slow, you fall back and try to get the game at the end. It's tough to play with five, play with four in the third. It's tough, but I've got to stay aggressive. I tried to stay aggressive. I tried to keep my team in it. They believed in me, and we had a chance. We had a chance, man. It's tough. It's tough to lose that one. But like I said, I've got to stay positive. We've got to stay positive and watch film and get better. Well, we were supposed to run a little pin down play, but Fish made a great pass. I was open, and I missed the shot. You know, I think I shot a good shot. That's a shot I shoot all the time. I just missed. I was just worrying about the shot. I really couldn't tell you. I've got to watch the film, I guess. Yeah, it was just me. It was just me. I've got to make shots for my team. But I think on the defensive end, we all have to be better, and we can't really worry about the offensive end. We missed shots, but we can't let it dictate our defense. But I've got to stay positive, keep working, and we're looking forward to a Game 3. I missed the shot, man. Was that a question? We've just got to help each other out. We've got to close the paint out. He's a strong guy, he's getting to the rim and he's getting the calls, and we've just got to do a better job. Yeah, they're tough. They're tough. They're two good players. You know, LeBron made a tough fall away off the backboard, Dwyane made a tough fade away. I think with two or three minutes to go, Shane Battier hit a banked three. Made a few jumpers in the fourth. But we gave ourselves a chance, so we've just got to stay positive, keep pushing. |
| I think our defense was good. They got a few offensive rebounds early on we wish we could have back. We put ourselves in a position to win. That's what it's about. Tough loss. This is not over. It's not over. We've got to be ready for next game. Not foul. I mean, I don't know, I'm just trying to play aggressive on both ends, and unfortunately I'm getting some fouls called on me, but I've got to play through it. Two games in a row, man, so I've just got to play smarter next game, and hopefully I don't get no fouls called. Just making bad passes. We've got to do a better job and correct it. It's not like they're forcing us to just turn the ball over. We had 11 tonight, but we had some tough ones. We've just got to do a better job. I know I have to do a way better job. We've just got to own up to it and get better. Yeah, he did. He was tough all night, got 12 rebounds, played well for us. We just need that from him for the rest of the series. Also Serge and Nick, and guys are playing hard. Guys are playing hard, so we've just got to continue to keep playing together and believing. We'll be all right. That's Coach's call. I had four, I think, I want to say four or five minutes to go in the third, and we had a nice little rhythm going. I had a nice rhythm going on the offensive end, and for it to just stop like that by me going out of the game because of fouls is kind of tough. It was frustrating. Of course we had a good lead and they came back and made some shots. We fouled shooters on the three point line twice. It's a tough break for us, man. You know, I hate sitting on the bench, especially with fouls. Just got to do a better job next game of staying out of foul trouble. We're missing. We've just got to be focused and disciplined and knock them down. Last game we missed seven and lost by four; missed nine, lost by six. Just got to be disciplined. The fans are good. You know, but we can't really worry about that. We've just got to stick together as a group. No. I try not to concern myself with the officiating. They're going to make their calls, and there's nothing we can do about it. We can't change it. Just got to play through it. There's going to be some calls they may miss. They're human. There's going to be some calls that they get right. Just got to play through it. Today we could have been better, of course. Russell got a wide open three on the left corner I mean, the left wing. Looked good. But we missed some shots, missed some shots. But we put ourselves in a position to win. |
| Well, we're going to keep fighting. Frustrating to lose like that. It was just frustrating. But we're going to keep fighting, man. That's how we've been since I got here. We're going to keep fighting and just take it a possession and a game at a time. We'll see. Yeah, he had it going since the beginning of the game, and when a guy has got it going, we've got to keep feeding him. He was making shots and keeping us in the game, and we just tried to play off of him. He had a really, really good game. Unfortunately, like he said, it doesn't matter if we didn't get the win. We've just got to keep pushing and keep fighting. We did some good things. Well, we shot 49 percent from the field. We were 3 for 16 from the three. But we got confidence in everybody to make shots, and we're going to keep passing them the ball. We had 98 points, we didn't have 100. It was two points away from 100. We've just got to keep playing, keep passing the ball, and hopefully make some shots. I wasn't worried about that. I was just trying to rally our guys together and try to get a win. Unfortunately we lost. Yeah, they are. They're sitting guys in my lap. When I catch the ball, sometimes they're doubling. But I've just got to keep being aggressive. My teammates are going to keep looking for me. I find a way to score, I find a way to get the ball, and we'll be all right. We've got to keep believing, and that's what I'm going to keep doing. That's the message I'm going to feed to the guys. Me and Russell are going to tell them to keep believing, and next game is a must win. |
| It hurts. It hurts, man. We're all brothers on this team, and it just hurts to go out like this. We made it to The Finals, which was cool for us, but we didn't want to just make it there. Unfortunately we lost, so it's tough. It's tough, man. That's the only way I can explain it. But as a whole, I'm proud of the guys on how we fought all season. During the lockout we came together as a group and worked hard, and we will continue to work hard. I wouldn't want to play with anybody else. I wouldn't want to play for any other city. I'm just blessed to be a part of this organization, and hopefully we can get back. Well, whether we would have won or lost I was going to come back this summer, everybody was going to come back this summer and work extremely hard, win or lose. Tonight those guys were hot, Mike Miller's seven threes, they got hot at the right time. They made ten last game and 16 this game. They got hot. You've got to tip your hat to them. They came out and played a hell of a series, won four games in a row to take the championship. They played well. But we've just got to continue to keep working, keep working, and like I said, hopefully next year we come back stronger Their defense is really good. Those guys are really good over there. I didn't want to admit it during the series, but now that it's over, those guys are really good. Last team standing, so you've got to tip your hat. It was unfortunate for us, man, we wanted it so bad. But we've all got to keep our heads high. I'm a positive guy, so I am going to continue to keep my head high. Well, we're not frontrunners. We're not guys that are just happy when things are going well. It's the toughest time we've ever been through, and we want to do the same thing we would do if we won the game. We hug each other, tell each other how much we love playing alongside each other, and thank them for what they've done all season, every guy down the line, coaches, everybody that worked with us every single day, and we worked together and worked hard every single day. We just thanked each other for this season. But we all know this hurts. We've got to continue to keep working. He played extremely well, extremely well. Like I say, I'm not one for giving guy credit during the season, but it's over with, and that guy is an unbelievable player and an unbelievable person. I enjoyed working out with him this summer. It was fun playing against him in The Finals, but you could just tell he was very focused from the beginning of the season. You know, it was a storybook season for him, MVP, I'm assuming he got Finals MVP. Hopefully we can get a gold medal together this summer. That guy played phenomenal basketball all season, and congrats to them. I'm going to find the positives and the negatives. It was tough losing The Finals. We got to The Finals, had a tough road to get here. But we've just got to move past it, I guess, man. It's going to hurt for a little bit. We've got to move past it. I didn't think I would get that emotional. It was a tough, tough game, tough series. My mom and my dad have been there from the beginning. So like I said, win or lose, they're going to always be there for me. You know, I'm not going to just hug them because we won a game. We lost the series, lost The Finals, I'm still going to thank them for all their support they've showed me. They hurt like I hurt. That's what you want your parents to go through. It's tough for me, and I could tell in my mom's face and my dad's face, it was tough for them just to see us lose. I'm going to continue to be me. I'm going to continue to work hard every single day, and like Russell said, hopefully we get back, but we're just going to take it a day at a time. |
| Yeah. You know, everything that we did to battle back to that point, you know, just felt like everything was in our favor. And you know, when that three went down and obviously when I got fouled at the three point line, us being in position to win that game, you feel confident about we was going to be able to take care of business. I slipped up. I just slipped up at the end. I mean, we got to feel good about how we played, you know. At this point every possession counts. And that's what we've got to understand. Myself included. You know, a couple of turnovers that I wish we could take back I could take back. But the margin of error is so small at this level, so going into Game 2, we just got to improve off that. They ran the same play. Ray Allen went to the corner for their last possession, you know, and we all switched out, and it kind of threw me off, because I see Ray running by. It kind of threw me off a little bit. Which I had to fly out to LeBron. He made a good play. I can understand. You have to make LeBron shoot a jumper at that point. I mean, I gave him I pressured. I was up too close on him. You have to make him shoot a jumper. That's what we wanted. We wanted LeBron to shoot a jumper right there. Yeah, I think we all would. He does an amazing job of protecting the rim. I'm 100% sure he would have been there. I mean, ain't much I can say. But I felt comfortable coming off when David West handed the ball off to me. First option was to come off of that screen, but they switched it, so we looked for George coming off; that wasn't there. I knew we needed a shot, so was thankful that it went in. And again, I tried to make a play. We had the little scramble, George getting it, tried to make a play there, I got ticked on the arm. I think the ref saw it and gave us the three. Without a doubt. Without a doubt. I mean, I don't know. I think we're just a versatile group. I think we can play at their pace and at times we can slow it down when we need to. And us slowing it down, when we go to our power game. You look at David West and Roy, got 20 baskets themselves. That's all in the paint. So we do a good job of being versatile. I think we can play at any tempo. No. This one might be the toughest one to swallow. Talking about having an opportunity to take the first game. Kind of be in the lead of the series. And not being able to do it because of a last possession, that one hurts. It hurts. |
| N/a |
| Yeah, I mean, it's tough. They came out and played a great game. If that's how champions respond, we have to see where we're at. Well, we have to watch the film today and see the things that we could have got better at. But I thought offensively we played a pretty good and solid game. Where we didn't play nearly as good as we wanted to was on the defensive end. Allowing 70 points in the half against the defending champions is just not going to cut it. It's not much. It's one game. The series is not over. We're still planning on a long series. But it's one game at a time. We proved we can play well here and there, so it's one game at a time. Just got to be tied together. A lot of passes they got were just lay ups. We have to be tied together. Everybody has to be in sync, how we always are defensively. Especially at home. We're usually pretty at home. So that's what's got to change for us to be successful. No, I just have to battle him. Just push him out a little further. He just did a good job of moving the personnel around, have Roy not be down there. So we'll switch things up and figure out how to adjust to it. I mean, he's tough. He's obviously gifted physically and he's a strong dude, so it's tough. It's tough battling him down there. But again it's something I've learned and will continue to learn more and more when I'm down there guarding him. Yeah, yeah. It is. There's not much movement you can do when he's planted down there. Again, I just got to battle. Well, what made it tough was we was getting everything out of the net. There really wasn't no opportunities to attack, fast breaks or in transition, you know, when the defense is not set. That took a lot of play into what not being able to get to the rim and be aggressive off the bounce. So we just have to do a good job of forcing misses so we can get in transition and attack when the defense isn't set. LeBron has to know they're there. He can't feel like he's isolated by himself down there. He's, if not the best player, one of the best players in this league. You give him five dribbles at the block, you're giving him two points. So LeBron just got to know he sees David West, he sees George, he sees Lance. You have to make sure he feels our presence down there. It's real mandatory. It's us playing with our backs against the wall. We have to come out and feel that way. It's a must win for us. |
| We stay even keeled. But this time around we've got to understand the champions are going to they're going to come back ready to play a game. Them being at home should be another level that they'll kick it to. So we've got to come out and just match that energy. Not really. Not really. We just got to come out and continue to keep playing how we play. Don't let nothing distract us, but let nothing take away from what we do. Everybody play within themselves and continue to play how they've been playing this postseason. We know our defense, if it's as good as we want it to be, we'll have a shot at winning here. It is. It is. Because I'm not a player to try to force things to happen. I usually just try to let the game come to me. At times especially last night not being able to be on the floor for as long as I've been playing on the floor, I just tried to make up for lost time being on the bench and tried to make big plays and be aggressive. Got to do a better job with that. But the good thing is we had Lance Stephenson last night. Continue to keep rising to the occasion and continue to try to lead, and be someone that my team can rely on down the stretch. Again, just staying even keeled. How we play is that next play. Playing for that next possession and just forgetting whatever happened the last possession. It's been a key, especially down when you're playing in postseason, because games can turn so quick, and possessions are so big. We just got to go with the flow and let that last possession kind of air out of our minds and get ready for the next one. I mean it's a real grind. But we prefer it to be this way instead of having a couple of days, because you can lose your rhythm and lose your touch. I prefer I think our team prefers to play every other day just to stay in tune, because we're playing great basketball right now. Well, we played a full 48 minutes. In Game 1 we played about 47. Going into OT that last couple of seconds we slipped up. We played a full 48 minutes in that win in Miami. That's what it's going to take. We did it on the defensive end. We got off to a great start. We were able to rally their comeback and still find ways to score late. He's playing phenomenal. Other than Timmy, he's been the best center in this game right now, thus far in this postseason. That's the reason why we've done so well. Because we're getting a huge contribute from the post area. Yeah, that's huge. That's huge. Because their half court defense is so tough to score on. Roy takes it upon himself to create opportunities for us. Myself, Lance, George, we try to get our buckets in transition and early offense strikes. But when it's late in the shot clock, Roy finds a way to duck himself down there and get some easy baskets for us. Yeah. Yeah. Because we want to come out with energy. It's a three game series right now. We don't want to have to rely on doing our work here to not get eliminated. So we want to continue to keep the pressure on them. Yeah, but it is what it is. We will I will say settle. We have to settle for 2 2. We wish it would have been 3 1. We didn't take care of business when we needed to. So it just makes the job a little tougher. But that's the playoffs. |
| Well, this Game 6 will really determine how much we've grown, because we've been in the sameditch I guess, being in the same predicament. Going 2 2, losing in Miami, coming home and losing at home. We'll see where we're at. We've done well all year, especially in the postseason, dealing with adversity, and overcoming games where we didn't play as well as we wanted to and coming out with energy and the effort to get the job done. Again, we'll see when it comes to Game 6. I mean, I just saw somebody competing. It wasn't no look of determination or anything from what I saw. He just came out and made some shots. You take away that third, we're in the ballgame. We can't have flat quarters like that. Again, credit him for making shots, but most of it was us. We just didn't defend at a high enough level to get the job done. Same. I don't know what really went on. I just turned around, and it was confrontation. So I didn't know what really happened during that play. It's one game at a time. One game at a time. We have to come home and play a good game, bring it. Everybody is going to have to step up and play a huge role. I know in the back of their mind they want to get the job done and be finished. So we're going to have to come out and bring it. But it's one game at a time. We have to force a Game 7. They're at home. They're at home. Anytime a play like that happens, the crowd is going to go for their team. They just fed off that energy. They really just brought it. They were trying to make the big plays, to continue the momentum. And they did. So that was really what happened there, is they just started playing to the crowd. All the emotion, everything, the momentum just swung their way. This is all a learning process for Lance. It's just a learning process for Lance. It's something he's going to have to go through. We know he's going to have to go through. He's going to have to learn how to play through that. |
| David West understands what's at stake. You can tell at times he wasn't fully there. He was trying to fight through and give it his all. We very grateful to have a player like that. That's just David West stepping up to the challenge. And we still went to him, because we know David West, we'll take David West any day. Sick or healthy. He just gave us his all. Made some huge plays for us. The shots he knocked down really was in the clutch moments. And we needed those. That's just the kind of player David West is. I think it was a little bit of both. We executed well. No, but really, what separated was us being able to get in transition and trying to strike early against Miami, because their half court defense is tough. But still, we found opportunities to strike early. And we really executed. We were finding guys in the pick and roll and having Roy or David West make plays out of that. It was just Roy making a huge play. He's one of the, if not the best, defensive big in this league. And I'm glad he's being able to highlight that this series. I think if the voting if they continue to vote who is going to be Defensive Player of the Year, he would have gotten the award. But that's just him making a huge play at the rim. And then the refs calling the tech or whatnot, I didn't really know what was going on. I was just proud of the play that Roy made at the rim. We knew they were going to make a run. This team, they're deadly offensively. They can really put points up. That's just us staying together, being poised, and just rallying you know that effort they made. Again, Lance made some big plays offensively on the boards to get us some extra possessions. We shared the ball. We just made huge plays when we really needed to. It was just a credit to our guys playing our hearts out tonight. |
| N/A |
| We're here to win. It doesn't matter how we're categorized. It's been a lot of years since we've been here. We're just happy to be back here. Old veterans, whatever you want to call us. We're in the mix right now. Just great to get the first game under our belts. I didn't change anything, honestly. The first five shots I got were all good shots actually minus one. The first four shots were really good shots. Shots I usually make. Shots I'm comfortable taking. So I didn't change anything about it. I think I got a lay up to go, and that kind of changed it for me and just kind of went from there. We knew at some point they would do that. Tony made a couple of shots down the stretch there. That's when they switched it over. Tony made some great calls to get some switches in the right places, and then the unbelievable shot he made to obviously we're going to make adjustments. That's what Pop does. We understand that when it comes down to it, LeBron is going to be their best defender. They are going to put him on Tony. We have to continue to execute, continue to attack and just try to get TP as much space as possible. Yeah, they were great all around. I thought Kawhi did an excellent job staying in front of LeBron. You're not going to stop him. You just have to try to stay in front of him as much as possible and make his life as tough as possible. Our guys got a lot of open shots. We didn't shoot the ball real well, but we made enough shots down the stretch to extend a lead and get a win here. We'll shoot the ball better. We love the shots that we got. And all around I thought we did an excellent job. We made plays down the stretch. I think we got a couple of offensive rebounds down the stretch and put them back in. We did what we had to do. And all around the board we did a great job. Yeah. It was a key coming in here that we need to take care of the ball. Their pressure defense is what they do, their ability to get in the open court. I think it was a bit of a nightmare, the very first play they come and make a turnover, they run it back and they dunk it right down the middle. That's what we want to stay away from, obviously. That's where they're at their best. So we took care of the ball very well. As I said, we had some plays down the stretch on the offensive glass. I think we had one or two tip ins down the stretch there. That's where we have to continue to attack and continue to rebound the ball. Yeah. I would imagine they are going to use just about everybody they have there. It's usually Haslem starting on me. When they go smaller, I might have Bosh on me. Chris Andersen obviously can come in. So they are going to use all those guys. I know enough about them and I've prepared enough for them. Nothing really changes on how I attack. I just kind of play it as it comes. I don't know. I think at this point my mind was just blank. I just wanted him to get a shot up in the air. I was trying to get position on the board, trying to work Bosh up the lane a little bit, so I could get back to the board. I see him go down and I'm just praying he gets a shot off. Obviously, Tony makes an unbelievable play. He does just about everything in the book that he had. He fell to the ground, pump faked, stepped through and still got it off the ground. It was just amazing. |
| You know what, credit to Miami, honestly. First start there. They outplayed us. They ended quarters better than us. We turned the ball over more than we should have. Credit to them, first of all. We didn't play well. We didn't shoot well. I know I played awfully. Whatever it may be, they responded better than us. So hopefully we can look forward to this Game 3 and regain some of our composure. Not after tonight. I think they regained that. Obviously we were glad to win a game here in Game 1. Our goal was to get two. But they got the one tonight. We get to go back home. We got a game here. We have three at home, so we're excited about that. But if we play like we did tonight, that's not going to matter. It's about getting refocused here, playing a much better game, ending quarters better, and hopefully shooting better. I'm not sure what you're asking. Their pressure was turned up. They got a couple of turnovers and made some shots, bottom line. What did it feel like? It felt like any other game. You get into a situation, and things are getting away from you. You try to continue to play, play hard. The ball doesn't bounce your way, shots don't go in, whatever it may be. Again, credit to Miami. Their pressure. I think they made some adjustments that were key. Got their hands in a lot of stuff. But obviously four is what we want to be ideally. We knew we couldn't stay there. Keeping live ball turnovers where it turns into transition is really what kind of hurt us. Good question. I look at my shots and they the are shots I want. Obviously, they're contested shots, but they're the shots I feel I can make. So whether it be them or me or whatever it may be, I'm going to get back in the gym tomorrow and hopefully come out with a better stroke. But I'm getting the shots I want. I just have to knock them down. |
| Obviously, if that be the case, it would be a huge loss for us. We played all season long with minus a couple of guys in different cases for whatever amount. I was gone for ten games, Tony was gone for a little while, Manu was gone for a little while. We made adjustments. We played without individuals. On this stage at this time it would be obviously a huge loss for us. Just getting out and just shooting individually. Just getting out there and just working on my game individually more than anything. And obviously just in game rhythm doesn't come from anything but in game. Just being on the floor and seeing a shot go in or making a play somewhere and all that stuff helps your confidence. He's been great with some of the younger guys, with Kawhi, Gary and Danny. You see him talking to them all the time during time outs or practice. Just staying in their ears about different things. I thought he's done a really good job of that, giving them tips here and there. I think it will automatically swing that way. I don't think I would put it on myself per se, but it will kind of come that way. The responsibility will fall on my shoulders more, obviously, and Manu as well. So we both will try to step up even more in the absence of his. I don't think there's anything wrong with LeBron's offense. We're guarding him with five guys. We understand what kind of player he is. He's the best player in the world, so we're respecting him as that. So we're trying to make his life as difficult as possible every time he touches the ball. When he comes out in the open court, that's obviously where he really thrives. If we can keep those away and keep his rhythm down, it's better for us. I don't think he expresses enough emotion to know either way. He's always the same. He's always even keeled and he always looks like he's right where he wants to be. No, I don't think I heard him say more than four or five words in a row or he sounded displeased in some way. That was about it. Yes. All of that and probably a lot more. Honestly, I don't read anything. I don't watch SportsCenter. I don't watch sports. I don't watch anything. I don't know what's said and I don't really care. I show up to play the games. We're here at this point and that's all that matters. As I said, I kind of stay away from that. So I don't even know how I guess if you allow yourself to be affected by it, and you allow yourself to look and read everything, then everyone is under a microscope. As I said, I don't envy that kind of scrutiny and pressure in any way. |
| I think combination of us not being playing with two bigs as much. Obviously their effort was there. Defensively they were really solid. And we just didn't get our opportunities. We were crashing as much as we could to the glass, and we knew that there were some rebounds to be had there. They did a great job in controlling the glass. Yeah, that's a big problem. When we lose, that's the big deal right there. As I said, their defense was solid. They turned up their intensity, as we knew they would, and they got a lot of hands on balls, and they turned them into open plays for them, which is what we kind of talked about, trying to keep them out of that open court where they're most effective. They put all those things together and obviously we lose the game tonight. They come up with the win. I think he's just trying to be incredibly unselfish right now. I think he's trying to make the right play at the right time. He's trying to make the right pass, make the defense move instead of looking more for his own. So I think he's just trying to make the right play more than anything. We need him to be a little more aggressive, be a little more selfish, maybe and hopefully we can find him a way to get him to do that. We're going to keep giving credit to Miami. They played a very good game. Defensively they were solid. We had opportunities to get right back into it. We get it to whatever, three points, and we make a turnover and they turn it into a score. So we'll give credit to Miami and we'll leave it there. We're all trying to get to four games. Every game is a must win. Aggressive. His mid range game was working. I thought we did a lot of the same stuff we did last game, challenged his shot. But he made those shots. Once he made those shots, he was able to break our defense down a little better, get inside of us, get to the basket, get some easy ones there. So I think he kind of got everything he wanted. It's one game. We'll make adjustments. We'll see what happens next game. Obviously, when I heard about it. Fourth quarter last game, I had come to the back, he's back there getting treatment. Obviously that was a scary time. But he's played with injuries all year long, minor injuries all year long, and I had no doubt he would be there and be ready to play. And he played well. As I said, give credit to Miami in the second half, that they did a much better job. All in all I thought he played pretty well. Boris played well. He moved the ball well. He's kind of a pass first guy. But he did a great job of attacking once he caught the ball in the pick and rolls, getting into the middle, made some good passes, made a couple shots for us. The time he was in there he made a difference. So we'll see the adjustments we make. We'll watch the film and make some adjustments for the next game and come out and see what happens. We understood adjustments were being made. They're not going to let them run free and get as many shots off as they did in the game before that for obvious reasons. We knew those adjustments would be made. I thought they did a pretty decent job of not only once they were closed out on the line to driving those guys and trying to make plays. We just didn't make enough plays. They played better than us. |
| I just thought he was a bit more aggressive. I know that's kind of the answer to everything. He's a bit more aggressive. He looked for his shot a bit more. And on top of that, just let the game come to him. He made some great plays, got the floor spread for him, got to attack the basket. Just got more opportunities more than anything. I think that's what it came down, just get more opportunities. A tremendous amount. A tremendous amount. We're not a team or an organization that kind of points fingers in that respect. I know it's on the media to find out what's wrong with everybody, what happened whatever game, but he's such a huge part of what we do. And how far we've come. And you can see it tonight in how we played and the results of the game. So we're always confident in him. We don't look at the stats and say, hey, it's his fault or his fault or his fault. We know he has it in him and we hope he can bring it for at least one more win. I waited for my opportunities. I played off the pick and rolls. I got to open spots. I played off of people more than anything. It's what's being given to me this series. It's what my role is. And I'm just playing that. Yeah, he's been unbelievable. Especially on this stage. He's shooting the ball so well. We're asking him to defend Dwyane Wade and LeBron and all these guys. He's got a lot on his shoulders and he's stepped up and answered the bell. He's been unbelievable. I hope he doesn't wake up and keeps playing this way. Yeah, we played more the minutes better. We still had too many turnovers. We still ended with 18 turnovers. That's still a bit much. But we shot the ball a lot better, moved the ball a lot better. We moved their defense very well. And we had a lot of guys attacking and making shots. So if we're going to turn the ball over that much, we have to play as well as we did. We still have things we can clean up in that respect, which is great. If we can take care of those turnovers, because we can't expect to shoot that well in every game, but we just need one more. So hopefully we can. Experience plays a role. We've been in situations like this. We've been together for a long time. So that definitely plays a role. I think we're just trying to do all we can to will it to happen. We hope we can respond better next game than we have after wins. That's the one thing we want to clean up. I think every one of us wants this very badly from the top on down. We're trying to play that way. We just need to put it on the floor and understand the kind of energy and the kind of aggression they're going to come with next game, and counter that with continuing to play well, moving the ball, and finding ways to find open guys. He did seem dejected. He was obviously he's a competitor, an extreme competitor. And he wants to play well and he wants to help our team do well. Just like a lot of us, we lose games and we take the blame for it. He's just the same way. And he wanted to play well. He wanted to play well really badly. I knew he would come out tonight. I knew he would play well. Everything that happens happens because of Pop. He makes all the calls. He let us know yesterday that he was going to start, and we were all excited about it. I'm really excited for Manu, for his performance tonight, but we need him to do it one more time. We need one more win. We need all of us to show up and play well. We'll be satisfied and happy about all that stuff if we can win one more. We honestly didn't change a whole lot. I thought we put a little more effort into it. We cleaned up a couple of mistakes. We're just trying to make their life as hard as possible. There are three incredible players that obviously have gotten their team to this point for three years in a row. They're some of the best players in the league. All we can do is try to do the best we can to make their life as hard as possible. I thought we did a better job in the open court, trying to keep them in front of us, not giving up lay ups like we did in that past game, that last game, and in that respect that changed the game a bit for us. |
| It's obviously disappointing, having the lead that we went into the fourth with. The opportunities we had to close it out. It is what it is. It's a one game series now. I don't know what happened in the fourth and in overtime. Just the opportunities weren't there. I did have some opportunities, just missed shots. Whatever you want to call it. Just a disappointing loss. It's what we've done all year. In a situation where we were going to switch a lot of things, and just unfortunate the way it happened. We got a stop, and we got a bad bounce, and right out to Ray Allen for a three. Just situational. But there's no questions there. It's the plays we've been making all season long. We do exactly that, we recover. We'll use these 48 hours until the next one to get physically right, get reenergized. We'll do what we usually do. We'll watch a little bit of film, and make a couple of little tweaks. We put ourselves in a position to win a game. They made plays down the stretch to take it from us, but we know what we can do. We know that we can win games either here or anywhere else, and we just have to execute for a longer period of time. We had a lapse for a couple of minutes here and there. As I said, up 10 points going into the fourth quarter, we like our chances. We didn't exhale at all. We continued to make some plays. We missed some free throws down the stretch that could have clinched it for us. As I said, we get a stop, we get a bad bounce and right out to Ray for a three. We get stops before that and get rebounds, push them out, we put ourselves in a great situation. It was just unfortunate the bounces that we get, but that's how basketball goes. They're a very good team over there and they continue to play right down to the wire. Yeah, he played great down the stretch. Just as you said, he kind of willed it. Defensively he made some plays. I know he had a block on me, and then a score on the other end back to back. He just he made plays. I don't think there's any two ways to put it. We were in the right position. We were in the right position to close it out. He found a way to put his team over the top. And we just didn't make enough plays to do that. I don't know that's it's any more complicated than that. You're in a situation in a closeout game and you have a lead like we did, it's just unfortunate we didn't take advantage of it. Manu will be good. He'll be fine. He made some turnovers and some unfortunate plays, but honestly, the last play down the stretch there, it can go either way. We obviously believe it was a foul going down the middle. We get two free throws and we're talking about something different here, if that happens. So he'll be just fine. He'll blame himself and put it on himself. That just makes him more aggressive and more ready to play the next one. |
| The obvious word is "disappointing." Tough end to the game. Made some bad decisions, missed some shots. I don't know what to say. Just give credit to the Miami Heat. LeBron was unbelievable. Dwyane was great. I just think they found a way to get it done. We stayed in the game. We gave ourselves opportunities to win the game, we just couldn't turn that corner. They made more plays down the stretch, bottom line. We made adjustments throughout the game. They were making shots. We made adjustments. We closed, we double teamed every once in a while just to change the look on them. They made shots. They made enough shots to put them over the top. Something we were willing to live with. Keeping them away from the basket. As I said, LeBron was unbelievable. He stepped up in this last game and he made enough shots to make us change our defense over and over again. We just couldn't find a way to stop him. It's a hard question to answer right now. To be at this point with this team in a situation where people kind of counted us out, is a great accomplishment to be in a Game 7. Or to be in a Game 6 up one and two chances to win an NBA championship and not do it, that's tough to swallow. For me, no. Game 7, missing a lay up to tie the game. Making a bad decision down the stretch. Just unable to stop Dwyane and LeBron. Probably for me Game 7 is always going to haunt me. Back for what? I have a contract that says I am. Not right now. You'll have to ask Manu that. That's out of me just missing a bunny. Got by Shane and had a lay up to tie the game. That's just frustration. |
| It was extremely important, you know, especially playing against the two time champs. This is a game we needed, and we couldn't let this one go. We had a past of dropping Game 1's in this playoff run, and that would have been a huge setback against this team. Yeah, yeah, I thought we just did a great job of moving the ball. We didn't let the ball sit in one person's hand all night or all afternoon. The ball constantly was in rotation. So guys were coming and stepping into shots with a rhythm, and that's the reason why we were able to get off to a hot start and shoot the ball well to start this game off. Well, having Battier on me, I think I'm a little quicker. So it doesn't pose that much of a threat for me. But I don't know. It was a move to kind of change the game up, for them to stay small. Obviously, LeBron can guard multiple positions. And they're aware of that, so I think that's what that move was for. In the past, David West has been pretty effective with Battier on him. So maybe that was the reason for the switch. I don't know. I don't know. That's something we'll have to look back on and a question Spo will have to answer about the adjustments they're going to make for Game 2. It was great. It was a fun matchup, the one that we've been waiting for all year, the chance to battle this team once again. We had a great crowd, great atmosphere. Just happy we were able to complete Game 1 and get this win. I think just getting into pick and rolls. We veered away from pick and rolls. I think we got back to being sharp as far as hitting a roll man and causing rotations against that. That's what's consistent with this group is hitting the pick and rolls and hitting our roll man. Yeah, because our bigs are great. We need a support system to help them when they're posting up and give them one on one matchups on the block. If we're not shooting the ball well, it's going to be a tough night for them as well. I thought it was a great job on our part, again, of getting guys great looks, getting shots in rhythm, and helping our bigs out. Energy. We played with a great energy tonight. That's been an area where we lacked this postseason, being consistent with our energy and urgency to start games off. I thought we brought that tonight. We brought a toughness. We brought an edge. We brought an aggression, or we were aggressive on both ends of the floor. I thought guys you know, if a play broke down, we made an extra effort to not, I guess, just take what was available, but we pushed the effort a little bit. At the end of the day, that's where we were able to really get a good lead on this team. A lot of times, we kind of just take whatever the defense gives us, but I thought George, Lance, myself, David, Roy, we all gave the extra effort to make plays. He's been able to control them. He's definitely been able to control them. That's as much as I could say on that. He's learned to be a professional. He's just an emotional person. That's what we need though. We need a guy with that energy, that toughness. He gets out of hand sometimes, but we can live with most of it. But I thought he did a great job tonight of just staying poised and keeping himself within the game. I don't know the track record, but we know we're playing against the champions, two time champions, and they're going to come out and make adjustments. It's not going to be nowhere close to Game 1. We expect that. So everything we did tonight has got to be that much more in Game 2 in order for us to move on. That will be the test. That will be the test. We've been complacent many times in series and throughout the whole year. We just can't get complacent. We've got to stay humbled off this win and come in with the same mindset that we've got to get another one and let it go from there. We know Miami's going to play well at home. They play well on the road as well, but we like our chances being at home. Roy. Roy was big. He was very big in the paint. Any time Roy is in the paint, he has a huge size advantage. So you've got to foul him. You've got to foul him. He's going to put himself in position to get fouled, and I thought he did that. But our guys did a great job of attacking, attacking to the rim, attacking their bigs. Again, posting with physicality. To really just shoulder everything. I think he's going to be much more aggressive with the ball. I think he's going to be looking to make more plays, looking to shoot more shots and really looking to get guys going. So it's going to be a tough night for me, but it's part of the league. It's tough because Bosh didn't have a good game. When those three are locked in, that's when they're really at their best, and their role players contribute from all over the floor. I think, had Bosh had a bigger role, played a bigger game for them, this game would have been a lot more tougher than it already was. But we got to just do a great job of containing the rest of their guys. They've got three great guys on their team who are going to make shots, make plays, make the special plays, but if we do a good job of containing everyone else, we'll be all right. |
| Good. Ready to go, hopefully. I'm still going through the protocol, the league protocols to get clear. Still wait for the doctors. No. Everything has been pretty good so far. I mean, just going through all the stuff that I need to go through to get cleared, battling through that as well as trying to stay sharp at the same time. So it's a little bit of both. It's been a rough two days, but I've been able to rest a little bit this week. Yeah, but I probably should have kept that to myself. It just made a mess. That's something that, going forward, just keep that between myself and the training staff. Yeah, yeah, yeah. We've got so many weapons on this team. When one guy goes down, this team really comes together. Although I want to be out there and would like to be out there, I still feel confident, not being out there, that we'll still be able to come away with a win. I want to say 100. I want to say 100, but I could possibly and should possibly play. No, no. I'm going to approach it the best way I can to make sure I finish out all the tests I need to as well as get rest and time to be able to play come Saturday night. Yeah, I did about two or three tests so far. Just a little bit of stuff left in order to be cleared. I'm not even sure. About two days now. I mean, right after it happened, I was kind of just hitting the last stages of it, but we had to go through the whole protocol to make sure I was good. Yeah, this is the first one I've ever had. Today was just getting up shots. I got the red jersey on so not even doing contact. Just making shots. Yeah, they've been calling me Peyton. That's perfect. I'll wear this until the end of the year. Yeah, we're more focused, especially playing against this team in this series. We're more focused this time around. The loss that we took was really uncharacteristic because we've learned so much as a team. But I do feel like we're night and day in terms of of how good we are this year compared to last year. I do. For the second half, I didn't shoot as many, but I think I was 3 for 4, 3 for 5, and I was feeling a rhythm. I was starting to knock down some shots. I didn't get a shot for the rest of that seven, eight minutes because it was kind of blurry out there. So I do feel like it had a little effect of how the game ended. |
| No, it's the same story. We turn the ball over, they've got great guys that are going to make plays in open court. For them, Ray got hot, and they kept finding him in transition. That's really where he got his four threes and really broke this game open. No, I spent most of my night on the bench. So I was good. I mean, you can't play around with this team. I thought we got comfortable at one point in this game, you know, just being up early. This game is all about runs, and ultimately, the team that takes the biggest run or the last run is the team that's going to win. It's not about the first run. That's what they did. They made the last run and the final push to give themselves some cushion. I don't. I don't. It's always in the pick and rolls, too. We get careless in the pick and rolls. We've got the formula to attack them on the pick and rolls, but we've got to do a better job of how we carry it out. I thought we just went away from it. I thought westill did a great job of attacking them the way we attacked them. That's definitely got to be an emphasis to continue on, going inside to our bigs. Again, whatever we do, we just can't turn over the ball. We've got to take care of it. I don't know. I don't know. That's an area we've got to improve in. I didn't. I didn't. It's hard to make a couple of shots and then get sent to the bench, especially when I won't get into it. It's tough |
| I think just in the first quarter, they played with a lot of energy. I think we had like five or six turnovers or something like that in the first quarter, where we just didn't take care of the ball. They got out, and they were able to score on those possessions. I don't know. Looking at the stat sheet, we outplayed them. You got to give them credit. They won this game at the free throw line. They really just were able to get to the line more than we were, but I thought we outplayed them tonight. It's just demoralizing when a game is lopsided. I mean, I'm sorry to say, but that was the case, again. How rare is it we shoot 50 percent, turn the ball over around 13 or so times, outrebound a team, and lose a ball game? This one I thought we did a great job. I just thought we did a great job. We rallied at the end to try to make a push. But, again, they made 30 free throws, and that put them over the edge. You know, Lance is young, and that's a teaching point. That's a learning lesson for him. Sometimes you've just got to watch what you say. You're on the big stage. Everything we say is going to be bulletin board material. It's really going to have a powerful meaning behind it. We've just got to be smarter with situations and just voicing our opinion sometimes. What do you think? I mean, you can't tell me we don't attack the basket as much as they attack the basket. You can't tell me we're not aggressive. Maybe we're too aggressive. But I feel like we're just as aggressive as they are attacking the basket and making plays at the rim. Maybe this was just home cooking. Yeah, maybe so. You know, maybe so. When you make comments regarding trash talking and just being caught up between another player in a matchup, you got to bring it. You got to bring it. I'm pretty sure a lot of people were going to be tuned in to see what Lance was going to do because of what he said. Maybe there's a lot of pressure on him. And everybody goes through situations where you just struggle. Just because of what was said and what was done, it just wasn't a good time for him. Probably free throws. Probably free throws. I know we gave up 20 points on or turnovers, points off turnovers. But we can overcome that. You can't overcome a 20 point differential in free throws. |
| Excuse me if I'm a little shaken up. I was in a cold tub. I didn't start this game off hot. Early on, I got into a rhythm for the first couple of possessions. Really the first quarter, I felt good. Second quarter, the ball didn't drop, but I knew we were facing elimination. Coach told me green light. Stay on green. D. West kept telling me, "Don't keep no bullets in the chamber." So I really just came out firing. My teammates found me, and I got hot. Yeah. I like to just play. Let us play. It's the Conference Finals. Let everything just be left on the floor. I knew I was going to have to step to the plate. My teammates needed me to make plays down the stretch, and I was fortunate enough to do so for us. No, you know, I felt in the rhythm, regardless of who was guarding me. I think I seen every defender from the Heat tonight. I was just in the zone. Again, regardless of who was guarding me, I felt like that ball was going to go in that net, and that's a great, unbelievable feeling. It's always tough. It's always tough night in and night out to guard the best player in this league. It wears on you. You're going to be inconsistent shooting the ball when you're shooting jumpers. But tonight it went my way, and I was going to keep my foot on the gas. I knew I couldn't let up because they were making plays on the other end as well. My teammates was aware of it. They kept feeding me the ball and looking for me on the offensive end. I mean, we're going against history, but we can't feel like it can't be done. Every player in our locker room, every trainer, every coach, everybody in this organization have to feel like we can accomplish this. And we believe. We honestly believe we can accomplish this one. It's going to be tough. Like we say, it's one game at a time. That's just how we've got to treat it. It's Lance being Lance. He's been special for us, and whether he's scoring the ball, making plays, causing confrontation, you know, Lance is special, and there's a reason why we gain an edge and some opportunities during games. A lot of it comes from Lance. So we need that. Again, he's always got to make sure he's monitoring it, but I didn't think nothing was out of the spirit of the game tonight. Yeah, I just saw it. I just saw it. I hope his breath wasn't too bad for LeBron. What was it like? When he was in foul trouble, everybody had to be aggressive. That's a huge weapon that they're missing. Everybody was aware that he was on the bench and how limited this team was without him and how much everybody had to step up. And they did. They knocked down 15 threes. I thought a lot of players took on a huge role. But it's not going to be like that in Game 6. We're expecting LeBron to be LeBron, and that's how we want it. LeBron is the smartest player in this league. He's going to make the right play, and he thought that was the right play. They made 15 threes tonight. So obviously, they were hot behind the three point line. He found a three point shooter that's been hot lately for them in Chris Bosh. We were fortunate he missed. We walk away with a win. We're capable of winning the ballgame with LeBron scoring 30 to 40 points. It's Rashard Lewis having six threes that we've got to be cautious of. Ray contributing with 15 off the bench we've got to be cautious of. It's some areas where we can hold up with LeBron having a spectacular game. You know, again, it's containing the role players to make sure they don't have big nights. We know, with our backs against the wall, we've proved that we can come out. This is different. This is definitely different. We're playing against the champions. So we're happy to get this win, have our season still be alive, but it's going to be tough. It's going to be tough. We're not expecting any of this to be easy, this whole trip. We've got to do one possession at a time down in Miami, and we can't turn the ball over in this Game 6. This Game 6 is going to be about performing like champions. Well, I was asked earlier today about having my print on this game, and I felt I needed to have a print on this game. So that was always in the back of my mind is, how can I impact this game where we can continue to keep playing? So that was it. I knew I had to make some plays on the defensive end, getting steals, playing scrappy basketball, as well as trying to contribute on the offensive end. Again, that was in the back of my mind the whole night is, how can I be an impactful player for us? Well, this year, everybody I'll go on last year. Last year was me stepping up to the plate and rising to a new level. This year was about how can I grow from that and expand to another level? So it's just about rising to the occasion every night, you know, how can I we've got a great team. We've got a great group and a group that can very well move on to the championship. So I just have to make sure every night just ask myself, did I leave everything on the floor? Whether I'm making shots or not, whether I'm rebounding every ball, getting steals, deflections, I just ask myself, am I doing enough? At the end of the day, more times than not, I feel like I'm giving my all. No. I mean, Dwyane was the one that was going. Dwyane was the one that was taking all the load when LeBron was out, and I still was matching up with Dwyane. It was just the flow of the game. It was really just the flow of the game. It wasn't no where we came together and me and Lance decided to guard different matchups. It was just the flow of the game. If LeBron was on one side of the floor, Lance was going to stay and guard whoever was on the side of that floor. |
| Yes, it is frustrating, especially when we set out a goal to earn the No.1 seed, and we didn't get to that goal of playing a Game 7 on our floor. We've got to give them credit for coming into our building in Game 2 to really change this whole series up. For the most part, what we've got on our side is youth. For us to continue to keep getting to the Conference Finals, it's good. It's something that we can look forward to. Eventually, we've got to be able to get past this point with how young we are and the experience we continue to keep gaining. That's the only positive light that we have on our young future. A little bit of everything. They came out, and I thought LeBron really just imposed his will to start this game off. Every time he caught the ball, he was ducking his head, getting to the basket. He really just sunk his teeth all over this game. He was tough. He was tough for us to really just overcome. Everybody was just on board. They came out hot, and it was hard to just slow them down and get a stop because they were making everything, it felt like. That's where this game was lost. You know at times it feels like we're there, and then there's games where it still feels like we're not at that point yet. Coach says it, I mean, in order for us to beat this team, we've got to play like champions. More times than not, we didn't do so. I don't know. That's for Larry, Kevin, for them to decide. It would be great. We came into this league together. It would be great for us to continue our journey together. But he's played a huge year this whole season and in this postseason. So it's definitely put pressure on us to make decisions going forward with Lance. This fourth quarter tonight? I mean, I wouldn't really even count the performance I had in the fourth quarter. At that point, we was just down 30. That rhythm I needed that rhythm in the first half. But it is motivation. It is motivation to be better. I really put this loss on us. If I came out making shots and the offense was flowing through me, then this game would have turned out a little different. I don't know. If I could answer that, we definitely would have been playing at that level. What are you asking me again? I just think, for a lot of guys, we hit a wall, for one. And then there was pressure for us to play at a level that we were supposed to be playing at. I think we were just getting pulled from multiple directions, from dealing with success early. We didn't think at some point in the season, we felt we could turn on a switch and play when we needed to play, and it's hard to do that when teams are coming after you. We weren't the team coming after teams anymore. We were being the hunted. And it's hard to try to carry that mindset that we can just turn the switch on and play when we needed to play. I think that took a lot out of this team as well as just hitting the wall. I mean, it hurt us. But I think it's more on us than Roy. Last year we did a great job, just finding Roy and giving Roy the ball where he needed the ball. This series, we really didn't get to that. So it was more on us. It's not on Roy. No, I mentioned the offense flowed through me. I just wasn't making shots. If I was making those shots, this game would have been different. |
| I thought we played through it well. I think it affected both teams. It definitely affected both teams. It got to a couple different of guys and cramps started setting in. I thought Pop continued to switch guys in and out, keep us as fresh as possible and we finally got to a point where we took care of the ball and we got a chance to make a run and made 'em pay. I think just that, just what I said. We took care of the ball finally. We had 20 some odd turnovers for 28 points the last seven or eight minutes. We only turned the ball over once or twice. And getting them out of the passing lanes, keeping them in front of us, making them score over us, and we found something that worked on the offensive end. Started moving the ball and Danny Green got hot and hit a couple of shots and really opened it up for us. Honestly, the way he shoots the ball, I assume every time he shoots it it's going to go in. So we want to get him as many shots as possible. He's a confident, capable shooter. And I think Pop has instilled a lot of confidence in him in the fact that when he has a crack, he can shoot the ball. And that takes a lot of pressure off him deciding what shots to shoot and what shots not to shoot. So he hits one or two and then we call a play for him, he hits another one and that really opens up the game for us. Yeah, pretty close. Pretty close. I don't think I've ever played in anything like this since I left the islands. It was pretty bad out there. I honestly didn't see it until we had numbers going the other way, and I looked back and he was kind of on the baseline, limping on the baseline. That's the first time I really noticed. I think he asked out of the game once or twice before that, so we knew he was getting tired but we were all getting tired out there. So I didn't assume it was anything more than him getting tired and getting a blow. Him in or out, obviously he's one of the best players in the league. He's going to make a difference, but we played through all that. And as I said, we started taking of the ball and that was the difference. He was great tonight, he was great. We continued to roll and get in the middle of the defense and make the right reads. He finished some great ones in there, made some plays for us, made some good reads and passed it out to shooters. He's been playing well all season long and he knows what he has to do now, and he knows what he has to do and he's confident if he gets fouled he can go to the line, and knock off free throws, with all that said he put it together tonight. I don't know how to respond to that. We wanted to win it badly, and we just kind of stuck with it. I think Manu was out there for the entire fourth quarter. He was very effective tonight, moving the ball, making the right passes and made some shots early that kept us in the game. We both want it bad and we're both willing to do whatever. We're trying to stick to the game plan as much as possible and make plays when we can. What adjustments we made? We had a bad third quarter, almost 10 turnovers, and that was the difference for us. It took us until halfway through the fourth until we really figured it out and started taking care of the ball. So I think the third was our worst quarter, and we allowed them to up their pressure, allowed them to get in the passing lanes and allowed them to get in the open court and score some easy ones when we were able to keep them in front of us, and make them work for what they got. They still scored the ball but this was tougher than them getting out and running out on us. We're one step closer to four wins, it doesn't matter what happened last year. We know there is a lot of things we can clean up, and we're going to come in here on Sunday and hopefully play better and come out with another one. |
| N/A |
| Unfortunately it's how basketball goes. We knew they were going to make a run. We were obviously trying to stay away from that, but started out the third quarter, they made a quick three point play and a three pointer in transition. Just plays happen. That's how it happens. We were able to at the other end continue to take care of the ball, continue to attack. Understand that they're going to make a run, but even with their run, we're still up double digits at that point. And just not lose our composure and try to get it all back in one play. So we did just that. Finished out the quarter good, and continued in that fourth quarter to keep control. Well, they were the keys to the game. They took over the game. Kawhi was aggressive. He's been getting we've been on him about continuing to play. Foul trouble has been a problem for him in the first couple games and it kind of took him out of his game. And Danny's been shooting the ball well. They really got up and tried to make him do something else, and he made some great decisions there. Made some plays and finished them. Defensively, he was solid, he got hands on balls and knocked them away. Made some plays for himself, got himself in the open court and finished. Those guys were huge for us. They were the difference in the game tonight. Well, you don't tell them anything. You're either going to shoot well or you're not. The effort that they have there, the focus they have defensively, they can bring that nightly. They can bring that every night and they can make defensive efforts like they did tonight. Whatever happens on the other end happens on the other end. But it was a huge boost for us to get offensive performances like that from them. We're not going to expect to get that from them. But hopefully if we continue to get them shots and get them open, hopefully they'll continue to do that for us. I didn't know, honestly. I wasn't paying any attention to that. We were just kind of pushing the ball and things were working for us, and we were kind of going with the flow. I didn't look at a stat sheet. I didn't look up. I didn't look at the score. I just wanted to get a good start in, and things were falling how they were. Boris has been great all playoffs, in the entire playoffs. His ability to attack off the dribble, his passing ability. When they collapsed, he made some great passes, made some great plays, and his ability to finish at the basket as well. So just gave us another attack guy out there. Tiago's been playing great. He's finishing at the basket and making plays. But to have someone like Boris who can stretch your floor and make plays like a point guard in there and make decisions and punish them for their rotation, it was big for us. I don't know that there was much difference. I thought the Heat just turned up their intensity for a while and they got a couple turnovers, made a couple plays and made a couple shots. It was just the ebbs and flows of a game. We were able to only sustain it for a short while and get right back into it. They won that third quarter. We couldn't score the ball, but we were still up 10 or 11 at that point, and as I said, we just don't panic. We don't start forcing bad things, we continue to share the ball, move the ball, and get the lead back up. Luckily I played with him a bunch during the lockout time. He came down and worked out with us when we were before the team was together. So I kind of got an early look at him. I thought he had a lot of work to do. He wasn't shooting the ball like he does now. But Pop and the guys saw something in him and they allowed him to kind of develop and find his own way. Last year I think he really got his confidence and understood what had he to do, and he continues to evolve year after year. This year you can see when he gets in a groove like that, he can be special. |
| No, we didn't plan on that, but we thought that we could come in here and win these games. We've won games on the road in the playoffs, and we thought we could win here. We hoped to win two, obviously, but we were happy to win one. Then came the second game we didn't want to rest and say, hey, we've got one and let's just rest on that. We came in here tonight and had great focus, put a great game together, and came out with two. Yeah, great position for us, obviously, going back home with a closeout game. They're a very, very good ballclub. Obviously, they're the champions, and they're going to come out and show a lot of fire and come with a lot of energy. We're going to use our homecourt and we're going to come with the same focus that we did in these last two games, and hopefully close it out at home. It's not a focus on building a wall in the paint, but making their shots as tough as possible. They're both unbelievable players. They're both very good at getting to the rim, very good at finishing around the rim, and we just wanted to stay in front of them and make their shots tough. Whatever that turned into, that's what we needed it to be. So we're sending more than one defender against them. We're asking Kawhi and Danny and the rest of our perimeter guys to do a very tough job in pressuring them and making their life difficult, and we're using our team defense to make everything as tough as possible. I can appreciate you saying the names and having passed them in anything. It's an honor to be in that position. Having won helps, obviously, but the focus is winning one more, and once that one more is done, I can look back and say, hey, it's truly an honor. It will definitely come up. It will definitely come up. As I said, we know the caliber team they are, and we have a lot of respect for what they're able to do. They're able to throw it into another gear, and they're going to do just that. They don't want this to be done. They feel they can they've already won on our homecourt, so they feel they can do it again, and we don't want to give them any life. So we're going to use these two days to really get rested up, come out on Sunday and lay it on the line. Yeah, there was, there was. We won big in that first game, and we knew that they were going to come back with a kind of energy and kind of really attack the rim and make us play a different way. I thought our game plan pretty much remained the same. I thought we executed very effectively, shot the ball really well and got some play, great play from Tony, and Kawhi and Boris. Guys stepped up and made plays when we had to. At the same time, we continued to move the ball, share the ball, and just find a way to get it done. Yeah, he's been amazing, especially this series. I think he's really found his rhythm. He's always been effective with what he's done using his body, using his ability to pass and his ability to attack the basket and smaller players, and it's really showing in this series. He's been the key for us early, catching and driving, making the right plays, finding open people. He's really changed the game for us, along with rebounding, defending as well as he has. He hasn't really even scored that much, but he's found a way to be really effective getting in the paint and finding people and making plays for us. |
| Very special. It was already a special day, but to do it at home, to do it with my kids and my family and my friends here made it so much more special. Just a great experience, and a great experience for them. It is. It is. For whatever reason, it is sweeter than any other, whether it be because of the timeframe, because I'm coming towards the end of my career, because I can have these two here and really remember it and enjoy the experience, all of those things make it that much more special. It helped. What happened last year definitely helped our drive and stay focused for an extended period of time. It very easily could have hit us in different ways and we could have reacted in different ways. But we reacted the right way. We got great leadership from the top in Pop who came back absolutely fired up and ready to go, and to push us this far and this hard and to come out with the championship is amazing. It's amazing to think about having done this five times. The kind of company I'm in, the people who have had such amazing careers and having had the ability to have one, and for the stretch, and the span between them, to still be in a situation where we can win or I can win another championship is just an amazing blessing, and it's not taken lightly. I'll say a little bit of both . Very, very old when you put it like that. But as I said, that span and to be effective and to be on teams and to be starting, I feel a real part of what we had done this year, just it's an amazing feeling. Honestly? Don't listen to the media He's been unbelievable. He came in here after a lockout season, worked hard with us during that summer, and I can't say that I saw the player that I saw tonight at that point. What R.C. and Pop saw in him for him to become the player he is today, it's amazing because that summer I was like, hey, we gave up someone. It was George Hill who had been playing really solid for us. Obviously, you get attached to people and disappointed in that. He comes in here and don't know a thing about him. He works hard and continues to improve year after year. You see him play the first two games and everybody's talking to him. Everybody's saying to him: Just stick with it, just play hard, do the little things, whatever, whatever, whatever. And he shows up in the last three games and just plays out of his mind. He's not worried about just doing the little things. He wants to do it all, and he plays with a confidence that is just amazing. I'm honored to be on this team right now because he's going to be great for years to come, and I'm going to hold on as long as I can. Going from the youngest to the oldest? It happens. It happens. I'm blessed to be in the position that I can sit here and be asked that question and to be on a championship team and to even think about what that means. It's I can't explain. It's amazing to be a part of this for so long. Yeah, I have no idea. I don't know. I told someone I don't think we heard the horn in the beginning. We just we knew they'd come out with energy. We knew they'd come out and try to knock us down early, and I think we helped that. We just came out, we weren't getting shots up, we were turning the ball over. We were doing exactly what we did when we lost Game 2. But we kept our focus. We kept saying to each other that it's a long game and it's going to turn. And we get guys like Patty Mills step in and Kawhi starts stepping up, and Manu coming in with some great energy. That is the beauty of the team that we've had this year. We've had 10, 12 guys with the ability to step in and make a difference, and you see that tonight with the guys stepping in and finding a way to turn the game for us and give us a chance to win. It will be easy to remember from what we went through last year to every little step that we took this year. It was a very hard working team, a very focused and resilient team. This will be a very easy to team to remember top to bottom. We had a lot of guys that really laid it on the line, gave of themselves. We had guys that could have scored more, could have done more, could have been more this and more of that, but they gave it all up to be a part of one of the best teams in basketball, and that's what we'll remember them for. Yeah. I don't know. I'm guessing you're leading me into a question that I'm not going to answer, so I'll just go ahead and avoid that one. He said what do you think of your dad tonight Say something nice about me. |
| He didn't get away. He just made some tough threes. He's a good player. He made shots with people draped all over him, hands in his face. Just got to tip your hat off to him. Just got to come out fighting, come out ready to play with a lot of intensity. It's going to be a war the next couple of games; we know that. So it's a must win for us next game with our backs against the wall. Shots weren't falling. Guys were open, but we just didn't capitalize on the shots tonight. got to continue to keep playing. Somebody has to step up. DeMarre's been our glue guy all year, been playing well in the playoffs, been our best player in the past couple of series. Hopefully, he can get back healthy soon, but one of the guys in there has to step up. Something we planned going into the game, figured it was something that would help us. But in the second half, we went back to our normal defense. They were effective with both of them, so it really didn't matter. |
| N/A |
| I wasn't thinking about that play. I was thinking about the play, where I think we got a steal like 22 seconds to go, 18 on the shot clock. Should have held it a little longer. That's what I was thinking about. We're a really good team. We played well the whole season. Things just happen. This team is playing really well. We have really good players. We never said this was going to be easy, but we're not going to discredit what we did out here. Yeah, we know we can play. We know we can compete at a high level. We know we can beat this team. Just a tough loss last night. We just have to bounce back. Who, me? No. We just competed. We just came out and played and moved the ball, got back to moving the ball. In the first half when Al was out there, he demanded the ball on the low block, and he was scoring well for us, and Paul in the second half did the same thing too. It was just a tough break for us. We enjoy playing basketball. So we want to continue to keep playing. Nobody wants their season to end. We love each other in the locker room. We enjoy playing with one another. So we know we've just got to keep playing harder and harder to keep surviving. I don't think we've played to our best ability in every game, but we have moments where we're really good, and we have moments where we've not been that good. This team's been working hard all year. We've been playing together all year, and we'll continue to keep playing together. , that hurt. We had a good opportunity in Game 1 and 2, but they played well, we didn't. We came out in Game 3 and played hard. We just needed that same effort in both 1 and 2. We've just got to keep working. It's only our second year together. We've got to keep working, stay at a team and grow as a team and as players individually. The series is not over. We still have an opportunity to do something special. It's part of the game. Injuries happen. Things happen during the course of the game. The good teams recover and bounce back from those kinds of things. That's what we have to do. Yeah, definitely, especially with your home crowd behind you and being familiar with that gym. So that's on us that we didn't play as well as we could in Game 1 and 2, but we still have an opportunity in Game 4. DeMarre's a high character guy, great teammate, and he always puts his body on the line for us. His effort is always great on the floor. So him being out there on one leg basically and giving us his all, you can't do nothing else but respect what he does and try to go out there and give your best effort. I mean, we depend on everyone on our team. So guys had an opportunity to come in and step up, and I think guys came in and played well last night. It just we just came up short. That's all that really happened. |
| Proud of everybody in that locker room. We had a great season. Guys played hard. We did a lot of things in Atlanta basketball history this year. We had a great season, won a lot of games, but we ended on a disappointing note, and I think everyone in the locker room is disappointed in themselves. It's early for our team. It's only our second year together. We're looking forward to getting back in the gym and getting ready for next year. No. I think we were ready to play, just they play well. They made shots. Kyrie Irving came in and gave them a boost during the game, and I think they just fed off of that energy from the crowd; we just couldn't recover. Yes, we've seen it. We have a similar system as the Spurs, and you've seen them win championships. So it's possible. You've just got to be able to play well all the time, and we didn't in this series. It was a learning experience for, I think, everybody in our group. It was new for me playing in the Eastern Conference Finals, and I enjoyed the whole run. We had battles in the first series, second series, but it was just an honor to be here. I think we enjoyed it. I enjoyed every moment playing with him. It made me a better player. I think he enjoys being around all the guys, him and DeMarre. I'm looking forward for them guys to be back and get another crack at it. They have some great players. So anything is possible when you get in a series. Somebody can get hot. So I don't know, maybe. |
| We've got to start the game better, get settled into the game a lot quicker than we did tonight. We only had 12 turnovers, but it seemed like there were some timely ones that killed a little bit of momentum for us, and we'll look at that on film. But, I mean, over the course of the game I felt like we stuck to the game plan. LeBron's going to dominate the ball and make plays. We have to just make it hard on him every possession. Don't give him any easy buckets, and not let anybody else get a rhythm, and that's what we're going to try to do every game we play against them. Obviously, there are going to be adjustments here and there, and we'll figure that out, but you've got to compete, and that is the bottom line. Yeah, they only scored two points, and it was at the very end. Andre, Draymond, Klay, Harrison, Festus, when he was in there in that overtime period, all competed. We were kind of small and we had to defend the glass and rebound the ball. Everybody sacrificed their body and made it work. I think we just forced them into tough shots the whole overtime, and we were able to get stops with that lineup that we had. We were able to push in transition, get to the free throw line, which got some momentum on our side. It was just a classic five minutes that we needed to get that win. If we win every game at home we'll be all right in the series, so that is a start. You have to come in ready to compete and kind of just, especially in the first game, kind of feel it out because it's our fourth team we're playing in the playoffs, and they've got a different style, and you've got to adjust, and we need to be able to do that. Yeah, just reading the situation. They had switched a couple pick and rolls, and you just go into your move and make a read, and thankfully he bit on the pump fake and I was able to kind of slow the game down and get to the free throw line. Did it again right after that. But after that, it all doesn't work if we don't get stops, so that's what fuelled all of that. It was just a read. Andre had him bodied up at the free throw line, and they had made a pass and kind of short distance, so I didn't have to run very far to get a hand in there. I got a deflection, but Andre chased it down. Used his length and speed to get to the ball, which I had no chance to get to it after I deflected it. He was the only one that had a chance to get it, and we were able to lock it down. He gets fouled, and we have control of the game at that point. So just a read that thankfully worked out. If I remember correctly he went out later in the overtime, so it was about three minutes where you were just out there playing and you have to adjust to his play making that he was doing all game. But at that point I felt like we had control of the overtime, and just about finishing out. So I don't know if it had a huge impact or not. |
| No, it didn't feel right, but there is no time to really worry about that. You've got to keep shooting and try to figure it out. I don't expect to shoot like this. I've got to play better, find better shots and be more in a rhythm throughout the course of the game for us to really assert ourselves as a team. Klay did a great job of keeping us in it all night when our offense was struggling and we still had a chance to win. So just got to play better, move past this game, and keep the confidence. No, he played hard and stuck to the game plan. Early in the game I thought I was a little hesitant when I had an open shot, kind of pausing for a second and then trying to raise up and shoot it, and you just don't get a rhythm that way. I was able to get to the paint a little bit more in the second half. I didn't finish many of them, but I was able to get in there and either make a play or try to especially that last shot down the stretch in overtime I mean of regulation. But I'll look at the film and try to figure out exactly what adjustments they made, specifically on ball screens, and I'll be ready for Game 3. No, just tonight. Shots I normally make I knew as soon as they left my hand that they were off. That doesn't usually happen. I mean, mechanically I don't know if there is an explanation for it, just didn't have a rhythm and didn't find one the whole game. I'm not going to let one game kind of alter my confidence. I know as a team we're not going to let one team alter our belief that we're going to win the series. So nothing we can do about tonight. We've got to move on and be ready to play a good team that's ready to go home. Nothing really just besides playing their game plan and playing defense like every pro is supposed to. Not giving up on any possession. But I doubt this will happen again, with the adjustments I'll make once I'll look at the film. And like I said, one game is not going to make me stop shooting or alter my confidence at all. I think both teams are probably thinking we both should be up 2 0. Shumpert's shot goes in and then tonight happens and they're up 2. If you look at little play after Draymond made the huge block, Andre gets the loose ball, I can't get my hands down quick enough to catch the pass, and we maybe get to the free throw line to finish off the game. Obviously we're going to look at it as a positive. We haven't played well offensively in two games. We've made some plays when it counted and when it mattered to keep ourselves in it or, like we did in Game 1, win the game. But we haven't really clicked. You credit their defense. They've done something that maybe has taken us out of our rhythm, and we have to figure out what that is specifically. But I think we're still confident. We still believe that we're going to win the series. That's their bread and butter play when they need to try to get a mismatch and need a shot. They free LeBron up on the perimeter. They set a 1 3 pick and roll, and we knew that coming in. We had a game plan to attack that play. They hit two. Dellavedova hit a three, and to start overtime Shumpert hit a three out of that play that we don't want to give up. That's something we'll have to figure out before Game 3. But for the most part, our defense shot 33 percent from the field. Obviously we were under 100, but we kept them under 100, too, so we can take some positives out of that on our defense, but offensively we've just got to be better. I mean, they're up there. That's why they're here. They don't get to The Finals without some sort of defensive presence. Having that mentality, that's what's going to help you win. So they have talent on that end. They hustle. They work hard, and they have athleticism that helps them in the situation. So they're a great defensive team. I think they relied on that, obviously, in the playoffs to get them to this level. We're a great offensive team when we click, and we've got to get to that point. Yeah, my first Finals appearance and my first Finals loss, so it's definitely tough. Dealing with the emotions of it and the highs and lows of this game, you try to leave it on the floor because it's a long series and you know we can come back Game 3 and really take control of the series right back. But it's frustrating because we're at home. We're supposed to win. Once we got into overtime, we had all the confidence in the world that we were going to get it done, but fell a little bit short. Just got to handle it the right way and get ready for Tuesday. We have to use our depth and our versatility in whatever lineup we throw out there. We've got to keep the pace up. Every game your legs get a little heavier as you go through the series and the amount of effort that you have to put into it. You want to rely on the we go ten, we could go 11 deep, and we want to use that to our advantage. The only way we can do it, though, is if we push the pace, push the tempo, and get stops and turn it into offense. We did it at times tonight, but not for 48 minutes and overtime. |
| I mean, we all know the accolades he has. He's a great player. He's shooting an okay percentage in our eyes. He's getting up a lot of attempts, and anybody that's that much of a volume shooter when he needs to be for his team, he's going to have points. But the timely ones are the ones that killed us. The three late in the fourth quarter, certain easy buckets that you allow him to get. But that's not the issue why we're down 2 1 right now. It's the way we're playing on the offensive end, especially to start games. We'll fix that as we try to even the series on Thursday. We became the aggressors. Just like the last three minutes of Game 2. For us to win this series, we have to play that way the whole game. We have the depth, we have the talent to do it, whether we're at home or on the road. So no excuse why for three quarters we were kind of I think we were playing hard and we were into it, but there were no results to show for it and you can't really get any spark. Especially, especially on the road, we have to just play free, have fun, and be the aggressors if we're going to win this series. I mean, he's a playmaker, so if they want to try the pick and roll in that situation, getting it to him on the free throw line and him making plays whether he's finishing at the rim or finding some guys on the wings for open threes or open shots, that's what he does. We'll see what adjustments we need to make going into Game 4 with lineups or even just match ups when we look at their lineups. So we'll figure that out. It was great to see him out there playing the minutes that he did, and giving us a big spark especially in that fourth quarter. So I assume he'll have a huge role in our play going forward. I've got to be aggressive. I said that going into tonight that's what I was going to do. Obviously, I didn't make any shots in the first half. But I thought, especially in the first quarter I was able to get in the paint a couple times, make some plays, kick it out. Then it kind of hit a stall in the second quarter. But whether I'm making shots or not, I've got to stay I'll use the word vibrant just kind of having fun out there. Because the team definitely feeds off of my energy and the joy for the game. So if it's not going our way, or not going my way specifically, I've got to find different ways to get us going. So I like that challenge because this is going to be a hard fought series, and I've got to have a huge part in it. I mean, it's a different team, but the same situation we were in. Like you said, exactly. Win Game 1 at home and lose two straight. We've just got to bottle up what we did in the fourth quarter and bring that for 48 minutes starting in Game 4. I think the confidence that we have knowing we've come back from 2 1, it means a lot. Regardless if it's The Finals or not, that's a huge bonus for us to have gone through that experience before. So we have to rely on that. It all starts with Game 4. We've got to win that and then go home and protect our home court the rest of the series. So that's the mission. Good thing about him is he's low maintenance in that category. He never is out of it. Whether he's making shots or not, he might get frustrated, but he's always going to stay confident and keep shooting. When it clicks, it's going to be fun to watch, and I expect him to be ready to go for Game 4. Never really have to worry about him. He likes a little trash talk at him, and maybe I'll throw him some in practice tomorrow. He definitely responds to that well. I expect him to play well, give us some offensive punch in Game 4 and be himself. That was a huge turning point. Like you said, we were down 17 going into the fourth. Bring it all the way back to 1, and I tried to get out of the way. I don't know if I hit him or not, but he makes a great play off the backboard. We still had a chance to win regardless of that play. But it was a good turning point for him to get the crowd back into it. They obviously love the way he plays. He made some timely buckets, and that was one of them. The pass to Draymond I've got to stay sound fundamentally in that situation. I was trying to get free, and they had LeBron and Mozgov, I think it was, just chasing me in there and double teaming me for about four or five dribbles. And Draymond released. I thought he was going to be at the three point line, he took a step lower and wrapped around my back and obviously didn't connect on that pass. That's one that you just make a simple pivot move and throw it to him and he can make a play. The other two, LeBron, he stole both of them. The one I thought he slid into my legs and kind of took me out, but I kind of drove it in traffic and whatever. The last one was he made a good play. He read my eyes. We had a play drawn up to get a three. It was all starting with the inbound pass, and he made a good play. Just got to stay sound fundamentally down the stretch of games, especially in the fourth quarter. No. You didn't hear any of us say this was going to be easy with him out. We knew that they had won plenty of games in the playoffs without him leading up to The Finals. I mean, I don't know, they might feel more comfortable just because they had gone through so many situations like that in the Eastern Conference Finals against Atlanta. So, I mean, they're a great team. LeBron's making some crazy plays. I think they're all just fighting hard, and we have to match their intensity, especially to start games because we haven't really left our imprint on the game in any of these first quarters. You can't rely on your comeback abilities every game to win a series like this. Yeah, I mean, nothing felt different about the fourth quarter than it did early in the game or even Game 2. All the shots felt except I was out of rhythm a little bit in Game 2. But early in this game I felt like they were right there. So I still felt confident. It's obviously good to see a couple shots go in. I think I found something when it comes to how I'm going to be able to attack their pick and rolls and even certain iso situations. I'll keep that in the memory bank going into Game 4, and hopefully it has a trickle over effect into the first quarter of the next game. |
| We want to make it as tough on him as possible. He obviously has a game plan for his defense on us to try to get into you and do whatever he can to try to make you uncomfortable, so you\'re going to do it back to him and make him work on the offensive end. Because he obviously had some pivotal shots in game or a pivotal shot in Game 3 that helped them get the win. So if you try to make him uncomfortable the whole game, you might wear him down and get into that battle a little more. So I think it worked. And to answer your question, he pretty much embodies what he just talked about, always being ready. I think he likes the challenge of his match up, and especially in this series and throughout the course of the season. Or each game no matter what he\'s asked to do, being ready to do it. Confidence in knocking down his shots when he\'s open, making plays. And we know his knack for just being impactful on the defensive end, whether it\'s playing one on one defense, getting steals, rebounds, blocking shots, he does it all. So it showed tonight and a huge reason why we\'re 2 2 going home. I think it I mean, it made sense when he told us just because we\'ve been getting off to such slow starts. When we have that lineup out there in parts of the game, we were able to turn defensive stops into transition and just pick the tempo and the pace of the game up. And if we can do that from the jump, we thought we\'d put some pressure on them and not let them be so comfortable with the lead like they\'ve had the last couple games. Obviously, they jumped out to a 7 0 run, but we settled in and played that first quarter, I think, pretty aggressively on both ends of the floor. Gave them a different look, and I think it worked. So he mentioned, obviously, just because we started that lineup tonight doesn\'t mean you can just go out there and expect to have the same results in Game 5. We have to actually do something about it and execute the game plan with whoever\'s out there. So we\'ve got to be ready for any adjustment we\'re going to make. Not afraid to take a chance, and obviously it\'s not a blind guess. He\'s obviously invested in our team and a smart coach that is willing to, like you said, make adjustments to help us be in a better position to win a game. We still need Bogut to be productive when he gets on the floor, and he\'s obviously going to play minutes and have an impact throughout the rest of the series, so we want to make sure he\'s still locked in. I know he will be. But Coach manages all that really well. You\'ve got to take a chance, I think, with the situation that we were in tonight. For a total of 48 minutes, definitely, since Game 1. We\'ve had spurts where, obviously, the last quarter in Game 3, the last 3:00 minutes of Game 2 we got to our identity, but it was a little too late. Tonight we came in with the mentality that, obviously, like we were saying, we had to win this game. It was about effort and consistent effort every possession. It\'s obviously not perfect. We still can play a little bit better, I think. But the effort was at a level that it erased some of those mistakes and we just battled from the start. So we gave ourselves a shot, and shots go in. Everybody starts to feel good. You pick up some momentum, and you get a big road win. I was kind of at fault for a lot of that. I had two turnovers in transition, where you can\'t have that and you give them extra possessions. Once we settled down, Coach got into us during the timeout and challenged us to answer their run, which we knew they were going to make. We weren\'t going to run away with the game at halftime. We knew we would really have to put together a solid effort in the second half to withstand the run that they were going to have, and that was a good calling card moment for us. H.B. comes out of the timeout and knocks down the three. We close out the last three minutes strong, and have a six point lead going into the fourth quarter, and the rest is kind of history. Just our effort in the fourth quarter knowing it was winning time. I don\'t know if there was a specific adjustment other than just playing smarter and keeping our composure |
| What is the best way to say really bad? I mean, a long season goes into these last moments of The Finals series. We fought hard all year and put ourselves in good position now to go to Cleveland and hopefully close it out. So we're confident. We're not getting ahead of ourselves. In the locker room, if you walked in there was the exact same after a regular season win. But we know the sense of urgency of the moment. It's a good feeling to get a win in Cleveland and understand we can get it done and how we need to get it done. So ready for the opportunity. It's a chess match, and we both have a lot of wings and guards that can fill a five man lineup. And they made an adjustment. Didn't play Mozgov pretty much at all in the whole game. So they tried to match our lineup. Obviously over 48 minutes we feel like we can be versatile with who we can throw out there and how we're going to win games. I'm sure there will be another adjustment going into Game 6 that our coaching staff will make and obviously theirs as well. We've just got to be 1 through 14 locked in. That's been our calling card all year. Whoever steps on the floor is going to give us something. L.B. came in tonight and did what he was supposed to do and impacted the game on the offensive end and defensive end. Can't be said enough what H.B. was able to do in his minutes with putbacks, giving us extra possessions, being physical in the paint. He really changed the game. Especially in the fourth quarter he got us three extra possessions that we needed. So everybody's got to be ready, and I think that will hopefully give us a good chance to win in Game 6. I mean, those are plays I've been making all year and the ones I feel confident in. I think it helps to have gone through Game 2 where we were rushing a little bit in the same situation. A one or two possession game in the fourth quarter, and we got I call them better shots because they were more in rhythm than in Game 2 where it was come down, look for the first shot. Don't even run any sets, only running screen and rolls, and we didn't kind of settle into them. And obviously when one goes in, it helps keep your confidence high. Yeah. It's more screen and roll heavy, and I love the chemistry I have with this guy right next to me to be able to make those plays. Because if he's not a threat, then they can kind of go all out and sell out on the traps. And that's how we've been effective all year, like I said, because we have the versatility and the talent, all 1 through 5 on the floor, to be able to make those plays. If I come off and they trap, I've got faith in Draymond to make the right play. He finds open guy or he's able to finish. He got us like six free throw attempts just off of him catching in that wide open space and making the play and attacking the big or whoever was rotating at the rim, knowing they didn't have really a shot blocker besides Tristan. So he was able to get to the free throw line and get us some easy points and I was able to attack when they were kind of in between, not really knowing what they wanted to do in the pick and roll, and gave me some open looks from three too. I mean, it was a fun moment, but it only means something, and I'll probably have a better answer for that question after we win the championship because signature moments only come for players who are holding the trophy at the end of the day. So I can sit here and talk about what a great play it was and what a turning moment it might have been, but we have to be able to back it up and finish the job. It helped us win this game, and hopefully after our next win we can talk about all the great moments in the series. I thought it was a heady play. A fouling situation. He did tell me well, we won't go into that. But I think I two shots I'll knock them down, he'll probably knock them down too. But I need to get that ball. |
| It makes it so much more special to have gone through some down years and injuries and transition from a roster standpoint and to be able to sit here six years later from my rookie year and hold this trophy, this is an unbelievable experience. Love every single one of my teammates that sacrificed, put in the work, the time for us to be able to enjoy this. The coaching staff as well. So it just makes it so much more special to have gone through some lows, gradually work your way up every year, learn some things, and it all came to fruition with the championship trophy. Same thing. He's taken a solid foundation that we built over the last three years. Obviously Coach Jackson had a huge part in changing our identity, and Coach Kerr came in and was very humble about how he was going to approach his job. Because, like I said, he had a lot of talent to work with, a great coaching staff, but he had some ideas as well that he wanted to implement. Ball movement, player movement, managing all the different personalities and situations, handled them so well. Made sure everybody was accountable, like Klay said. Every decision he made, I think everybody bought into it. Whether you understood it or not, you bought into it. Because he's a champion. He's won five of these or something like that, so you've got to trust a guy that's been here before and his view for our team. To block out the noise. That's the biggest thing. Because it's obviously just you and another team, and all eyes are on you every single step you take. But it's all about winning. Stats really don't matter. I mean, guys have great series and all that and people take notice and take their place in history with those stats and all that stuff. But at the end of the day, it's all about winning and what you can do to help your team get to that point. I can speak volumes about the guy sitting next to me. You look at his stat line tonight, he had a lot of foul trouble and didn't really get going, but when he was in there, he was defending. He was playing physical, and he was doing everything he could to help us win. Little things like that make this trophy possible. And it takes every guy that steps on the floor. So that's the biggest thing I learned. Stats and numbers and story lines, they're fun to kind of watch, but you've got to kind of block that out and just worry about winning. Oh, man, he was special. Obviously he deserved that Finals MVP for the way he impacted the game on both ends and was always ready. I don't think I learned anything new about him because I know that's who he is, and he's shown that all year and throughout his career. He just needed an opportunity and stage to show the world. Playing against a great talent on the other side that was determined to try to help his team win. And Andre stepped up to that challenge every single night and a huge reason why we're celebrating right now. So can't say enough about that guy. For him to have gone through all the different things he's gone through in his career, to be able to hold a championship trophy, I know it's special. Well, I mean, we'll see. We found a recipe for success, and that's the most important thing for us. Now that we have this under our belt, I think we can actually appreciate what we were able to do this year from start to finish. It's hard in the moment to really understood what 67 wins means in the grand scheme of the history of the NBA, how hard that is. But then also to cap that off with a championship playoff run. So we'll appreciate, I think, that whole journey a lot more now, be able to reflect. I think we definitely are a great team, and a team that should go down in history as one of the best teams from top to bottom. We have a lot of things to be proud of this season. I'm just so happy, man. God is great. For us to be able to have this opportunity, and I'm going to try 1800 more ways to explain this, because this is amazing. Yes, it's an unbelievable feeling in that moment. I followed in his footsteps. I've talked about how impactful he's been in my life, just being an example on and off the court of what a true professional is and how he raised me and my brother and my sister. So to be able to have that moment was special. He's living through me and my teammates this and my whole family through this whole journey. I can't be more proud of him as a father and a role model and example for me. I hope it made him proud tonight. I know Klay is probably going to I don't know if you had that moment or not. You probably did. But your dad was a champion before. But it's special to have a guy that plays 16 years in the league, and you understand how hard it is to get to this point, and that makes it so much more special for me to have this for my family. |
| He's playing fantastic right now, making shots, getting in transition. He's doing a good job of picking and choosing his spots, and he's been extremely efficient. It was just throughout the season he's got more comfortable coming back from his injury, so he's playing extremely well right now. You know, we planned -- we knew the three ball was big, but they did a good job. We left the floor and the paint too open tonight, I think, and they took advantage of that. I think they just did an overall good job of picking and choosing their spots. 7-for-20 from three, but counting some free throws and they attacked the paint, that's something we have to look at and make an adjustment for. |
| Of course. I think that's one thing teams have done throughout the postseason with me and DeMar is try to take the ball out of our hands. I found ways. We've got a chance to. I've got a game on Saturday, and to turn around and be more effective, and I know I can be more effective, that I will be more effective on Saturday. I'm missing some shots, and give credit to their defense, they're showing hard, they're rotating, and they're being active. But I'm getting some good looks that I've missed, and I don't think I'll be missing many more of those. Just to kind of decompress, get back there, kind of relax my body and relax my mind and knowing that we had a chance to kind of make some things, and I wanted to get myself going and get my teammates going and get the team going. It was nothing more than just kind of to decompress, breathe, get back out. Yeah, I've done it plenty of times. Just now the magnitude of the situation it shows a little bit more. I'm super confident. I missed countless threes that I thought were good and that I made last series. That's why I'm not down on myself. I'm not like down -- I'm really like, listen, we've got a game on Saturday, and I know I'm going to be much more effective on Saturday. Simple as that. |
| Well, he gives us that confidence. He gives us that rim protection. I think he had another game like this in Indiana where he had like 25 rebounds. He's been doing a great job of filling in when Jonas went down. But it gives us the confidence. It gives us the energy. It gets the crowd into it. Bis does a great job of just getting the crowd into it, and the crowd gets us into it. We feed off of that energy. Four blocks, 26 rebounds, there's no substitution for that. With Bis, you want to throw it up. He's super athletic. One thing about it, if you get it up in the air, he's going to go get it. You can throw him bounce passes. He's going to attempt to catch the ball. If he doesn't catch it, it's not our fault. It's nobody's fault at the end of the day. We've just got to throw him the ball. We trust in our teammates to make the right plays. For Bis, you throw it up to the rim, he's going to go get it, because there are not many guys who can jump up there with him. We get nights like this often now, and it's fun. We need it. We want it. I don't know if the fans know how much we appreciate it, but we really do appreciate it, and we want them to be as loud as they possibly can. I think it affects other teams, and it gives us just that energy. We know we make a big run or we make a big shot or Bis gets a block and he goes and does his little thing, they love it. We feed off that positive energy. No comment on that. No comment on that. |
| My background has kind of made me the man I am today. But coming into this situation where we're down 0-2, they did what they were supposed to do on their home floor, and we had an opportunity to do what we had to do on our home floor. Just understanding the situation and taking advantage of being at home and completing the task. So now we've got to go on the road and try to get one. He's a legend. Just having him around -- he doesn't say much, but we understand what he's done, and we've got some things in our locker room and in the training room, his words. He's just a good, positive-vibe guy. He doesn't say much at all. We just know he's there and supporting us. It's really that simple. People have their own opinions. Everybody has their own opinions, like I always say. We go and do what we do and that's all we're focused on is our team and what we believe. Not aware at all. All we worry about is what's in our locker room. That's all that matters. They shot 47 percent. They made 13 threes out of 41. We only made seven. We could always play better. They won the second half, and we've got to continue to get better. I don't rate any game. I don't think we have a perfect game. There's no such thing as a perfect game unless you shoot 100 percent from the field. We've got to continue to look at it and tweak what we need to tweak and get better and continue to get the things we need to do execution-wise. I think we're four games deep into learning, and vice versa. I'm sure they've figured out some things that we've done, and we've figured out some things that they've done. But it's a match. We've got to figure it out. You've got to tweak things. You've got to see things. You've got to watch the film and see where you can get better at, see where you can get an open shot at, see the things that we are executing, but also see the things that we are executing and making sure that we keep continuing to do that. Game 2, I think we finished the first quarter well. The second quarter it was tied. We've got to go into halftime close. We can't let them get on one of those big runs. We really can't. That's where they start to make separation, and that's what they did the first two games. They'd make a big run, they'd get a double-digit lead. We can't have them get a double-digit lead. We have to make sure when they punch, we punch back, and if they punch three times, we punch four times. We've got to continue to understand that they're not going to just lay down. They're going to continue to go, push, push, push, push. We ain't laying down, either. I don't think they ever looked at us like inferior opponents. They did what they were supposed to do on their home floor. I don't think they -- I said it before, we won 56 games. We got the 2 seed for a reason. They played well their first two games and they protected home, and now we came home and protected home. I don't think they looked at us any different. We knew and they knew it was going to be a battle. Them winning the first two games, that was what they were supposed to do and now we won our two games, now it's the best of three. I think some games we haven't shot the ball well, and we just continue to go back and understand the work that we've put in. I know the work he's put in and I know the work I've put in. You can't go away from that. You have to continue to stay with the work and the process that you've put in throughout your career, throughout the years. I think the things that we've learned from ourselves is one game, two games erases everything that has happened before. Yes, we have the memory, but you win a game, it's like, oh, then you lose a game, it's like, aww. It's just back and forth. But you've got to find a way to be more consistent. I think both of us want to do that, be more consistent throughout the whole series. |
| I don't know. They play extremely well here. Tonight Kevin Love got it going early. Kyrie got it going early. LeBron did what he usually does. But we've got to take one of them out of the game. They can't all have 23-plus points. Kevin started the game -- he only played 23 minutes and had 25 points. They went to him early and got him going early. They played very well here. They protect home, and they've protected home all year. |
| Yeah, of course you're going to look back at some point, but right now, I'm disappointed. Simple as that. I'm disappointed. Tip our hats to those guys. They did what we want to do, and they've been to where we want to get to. They played unbelievable so far this playoffs. Give them all the credit; they beat us fair and square, and their guys played well. They're a talented group, and they've got a chance to win an NBA championship. That's where we want to be. This series was fun to be a part of. Like I say, I'm disappointed, but it just shows how much harder it is to get to that point. |
| I missed some shots and didn't get a rhythm, but the way that they defended, we'll be able to find some adjustments for Game 2. Not worried about that. Just really proud of the way everybody contributed. You don't win championships without the entire squad coming in and making an impact on games. And the way, obviously, Shaun came in, was so composed, got to his spot, had that confidence to knock them down. Andre the same way. L.B. That's why we're here, everybody having an impact on our team in the game. Yeah, I was just frustrated missing open shots and turning the ball over, not playing the way I should up until that point. You make a shot and you just let out that aggression. But our athletic trainer, Drew Yoder, has plenty in the holster for me. So I don't throw them too often, but he's got my back. No doubt. My recollection is correct, I think the first like five minutes of the fourth quarter me and him were on the bench and those guys go on a huge run. We're getting stops and pushing transition, making timely baskets and keeping our crowd in it. So they were doing their job and doing it topnotch. So regardless of how the night's going shooting for me, Klay, throughout the course of the night, we definitely get a boost when our bench guys come in and change the game. So we rely on that pretty much every night, whether it's 45 points off the bench or just playing aggressive and continuing what we start. But tonight it was the opposite. They really changed the game, and it allowed us to win tonight. No, nothing I haven't seen. It's something when I go back and look at the film I kind of rush in certain spots. I was a little indecisive, but the Xs and Os were pretty much kind of standard with how they guard the pick-and-roll. The way we play there's going to be a lot of cross-matching, and that's what we want in those situations where you take the defensive aggression and kind of work it against them, whether I get a shot or somebody else gets a shot. So we did a good job of kind of sticking with that plan. Over the course of the game, not turning the ball over was huge as a team. I did a lot of that. But getting a pretty good shot on every possession and making them work regardless of who's guarding who. He's amazing. Ever since he's been with us. I know me and Draymond talk about it all the time. When we're on the bench, we watch it. It's unbelievable. He has great timing, great eye-hand coordination, and obviously his wingspan works to his advantage to be able to close that space up. But it's really uncanny the way that he can do it without fouling. And for the most part, I think 99% of the time he really doesn't foul, and sometimes the refs might miss it because of how good he is and how consistent he is at doing it every single time. So he knows that's a strength of his and he waits for the right moments and attacks. Yeah, I mean, we've definitely got an edge and picked up a lot of momentum winning three straight just to get here. That taught us a great lesson of how important it is to obviously start a series off on a good foot and win Game 1, especially when you're at home. And we obviously learned a lesson last year, like you said. Same situation, came in and dropped Game 2. So now that we've got this first one under our belt, it doesn't mean anything for next game besides our confidence. But we have to come out and really execute the game plan again, understand they're probably going to make some adjustments and come out just focused and with a lot of energy. I think that was missing last year and obviously at the beginning of the Thunder series, so we're better because of those two situations. Sometimes there's really nothing you can do about it. You try to just contest his shot, but sometimes he won't even see you. For me in practice it's the loneliest feeling in the world because Draymond needs somebody to talk to and to talk trash to. And if he's on the other team -- sometimes even if he's on my team, he'll "mouse in the house" or whatever kind of phrase you want to talk about when [Livingston] gets in the post. And I'll play the best defense of my life, and he'll knock down a shot, and you've just got to live with the chatter. So it's not fun. |
| I mean, we haven't won anything really. I mean, we took care of homecourt advantage, which is what we're supposed to do. There's still a lot of basketball left. How we show up in Cleveland will be a big test for us. They have a great home atmosphere, and obviously the way the first two games have gone, you would expect Cleveland to come out with a lot of energy and feed off of that home crowd. So I'm only worried about Game 3. I mean, you could pick from a lot of guys. Draymond, what he did tonight; Shaun, what he did in Game 1; Andre with his defense on LeBron; Klay making timely shots. We're doing it by committee, and everybody's playing their role. The crazy thing is we can all play better. So we've got to continue to play the defense that we're doing and individuals will shine along the way, and that's what we're about. He's just smart. He knows how to close the space but also give some room to move his feet and stay in front of him and obviously use his hands and get deflections and get steals. So you kind of underestimate his length when he's guarding you because he can be two feet off you and still impact the ball and contest shots. He's obviously not going to give any ground if you try to go through him. So he's done a great job. And being so versatile, he can guard a bunch of different guys and make those adjustments pretty quick. So it's pretty fun to watch. Yeah, it's the first time we've met. L.B. and Varejao talk about him all the time. But obviously a star in the soccer world, and such skill and kind of grace when he's out there on the field. So he's fun to watch. I know he's a basketball fan. I saw him dribbling two basketballs the other day trying to mimic my two-ball routine. I told him I appreciate that and he doesn't want to see me with a soccer ball because I wouldn't know what to do. It's pretty cool to know we've got fans all over, and obviously it's inspiring what he does on the soccer field. I mean, you know how he's going to impact the game consistently every night with his defense and playmaking, getting guys involved. The way he was shooting the ball and having that confidence and bailing us out of a couple of possessions, knocking down his threes, whether they were open or contested. The one stepback one, that's when I kind of lost my mind watching him just impact the game on the offensive end the way he did. So we needed that push to separate ourselves, and he provided it, for sure. It's been three or four years he's been with us, so I want him to keep shooting. He's got some work to do, though . For sure, that's what we're about. If you watch us play, you know how we get the job done. Everybody falls in love obviously with how me and Klay shoot the ball, and that's a big part of what we do, and having success over the course of the season in a Playoff run, you need to have that punch. But you look at the stat sheet and look at some names that jump off, whether it be Shaun, L.B., Andre, H.B., obviously Draymond, what he did tonight offensively, that's huge, but it's the little stuff that you don't see on the stat sheet that has gotten us to this position. I'm talking about Andre's defense, talking about L.B. being ready, that microwave we need off the bench, and Shaun's steady hand. That's where you become a consistent team. We need that along the way for sure. I mean, the overall theme was we have each other's backs and the way that we're playing right now is great, and we're obviously closing on a second win, but there's a long way to go. Me and him need to continue to bring energy and just do what we can to focus on Game 3 and not getting ahead of ourselves. So he did a great job of really all night kind of being vocal and allowing us to stay in the moment and understand we did what we're supposed to do, taking care of homecourt, but Game 3 is when it will be a big test. I mean, I would say we'd like to get to the free-throw line a little bit more. We're probably going to need to do that in Cleveland. But some things, the way they guard and what might be open, you know, shots-wise, might cater to that lack of a lot of free throws. But for the most part when you're out there on the court, you kind of feel the flow and understand the way that we cut and screen for each other, you're going to get a lot of open jumpshots, you've just got to make them. But on the road, I think we need to focus on maybe getting to the paint a little bit more, putting pressure on defense in the paint and swinging it out and getting to the free-throw line if we need to slow momentum down if it gets away from us. But during the course of tonight, you're not really worried about it if you're getting open shots and making them. I mean, I'm not surprised that we won, but, yeah, the margin. Nobody would have guessed that coming in. But every game is different in the Playoffs. You can't really rely on the fact that the margin is what it is. Game 3's going to be totally different, and we need to play like that for sure. What was the first question? Our defense clicked in and we had a brief moment where we didn't turn the ball over. Obviously we had 20 tonight, and a lot of those were early and a little bit of third quarter. But when we're going on those runs, that means we're taking care of the ball, getting stops and getting in transition and have their defense on their heels. That's the thing Coach has been so adamant about throughout the course of these last two games is we can play a lot better and be more composed with the ball, taking care of it and not giving them opportunities to, again, use those turnovers against us. They had 26 points off those turnovers, so thank God our defense was good in the half court, because that's not a number that you can probably win with on the road. Yeah, obviously schedules didn't work out. But he's got business to take care of, so good luck to him. I know he's going to be ready. I'm sure we'll be watching in Cleveland. Just playing smarter and letting the individual defensive talents that we have on this team, letting them shine. Because when we don't have breakdowns, we can use our length, we can use our quickness, our speed, our IQ on the defensive end and for the most part in this series, specifically, we haven't had many, many breakdowns with the game plan. So that's kind of what it's all about. Granted there's been a couple possession where's they've gotten open shots and just missed, and we want to shore those up, but a team shoots 35%, that means you're doing something good. And the key now is for our defense to travel on the road and be the most consistent part about what we do. I mean, Kyrie and LeBron are two different players than Russell and K.D., but they all have, obviously, amazing strengths which have put them in the category they are. So there's no real comparison. It's just you know what their strengths are and what our game plan is to attack them, and we've done a good job of just staying consistent with it in our game plan this series. That's all you can ask for is try to make them take contested shots, tough shots, make them work to get open, and you live with the results. If they go off and make tough shots all game, then you tip your hat to them. But you don't want to have breakdowns where you're giving them easy looks, and we've done a good job of that so far. I don't really have a favorite one, but Baby-Faced Assassin was first one I ever got when I was in college. That was like the first one that became popular, so it has a special place in my heart, even though I've got a little bit more facial hair now. I don't know how to answer that one . No, you can fall in love with numbers and averages and comparing averages to what people might expect or whatnot. Right now we're up 2 games to 0, and everybody's doing what we need to do to make that happen. So looking forward to trying to get Game 3. That's it. That's all I'm worried about. I mean, we're feeling confident, but, like I said, we're not getting ahead of ourselves. There's no point in celebrating or jumping up and down and saying look at us. We're two games away from winning a championship. We still have to go out and get the job done. It's a trap to think that we've figured things out and that we have the perfect formula to beat Cleveland and they have no chance in the series. Like that's not how we're supposed to think. I mean, that's probably going to be the chatter the next 48 hours, but we have to stay in our own little bubble and worry about what we're doing and how we're going to go out and win Game 3. That's all we can really worry about. So we've been on the other side where people may have thought we didn't have a chance to come back in the series, and now we have a good handle on it, so we know how quickly it can go away if you don't come out and play the way you're supposed to and keep the focus and the edge that we've played with these first two games. So Game 3 will be fun |
| Unfortunately, it was all me. They were playing aggressive defense and they came out with a big punch. I didn't do anything about it or play my game, and for me to do what I need to do to help my team, I have to play a hundred times better than that, especially in the first quarter, to kind of control the game, and I didn't do it. I'm fine. We're in good shape. I mean, it's not the way we wanted the night to go, myself included, but glad we obviously took care of home court so that we're still in a good position. Obviously it's a series, and they did what they're supposed to do, took care of their home court. But we have a great opportunity on Friday to keep control of the series, and that's going to be a challenge for us. No, I'm disappointed that I didn't do anything to help my team win tonight. It's not about living up to a certain expectation other than the one that I have for myself, and I haven't done that, or I didn't do that tonight, and I've got to be better. We've been in situations like these before where you have a night that just doesn't go your way from start to finish, and for us, we've been able to bounce back pretty quick because we can turn the page and understand, like I said, we're still in a good position. So like Klay said, I think we understand why we lost that game. It was that first eight to ten minutes where they came out with a huge punch and we didn't handle it well at all. Basically lost the game in that stretch. From then on, we played pretty tough and gave ourselves a little bit of hope in the second half. We had only an 8-point deficit, but then it slipped away. If we could shore up that first punch that they're going to throw, especially with the home crowd, home energy, we'll be in a good position. I've just got to be aggressive and play better, and be more assertive in my scoring positions and my playmaking positions on the floor. Yeah, there's a sense of urgency knowing how big Game 4 is, and I need to be ready. For sure. I'm not a front runner when it comes to having a 2-0 lead and doing anything different to prepare for games. Just in the first half I had a couple lapses where I didn't follow the game plan, and Kyrie gets an easy lay-up, gets his confidence going, a couple of switches where I didn't hear the guy behind me talking and being quicker with my reads in that situation. So I obviously take the blame for that. But nothing about my preparation for tonight mentally or physically was different. It's just didn't go out and execute as well as I wanted to. I would have done the same thing. He's trying to get it some life and figure out a way to maybe get me going. It was a short talk, but it will carry over to Game 4, for sure, with the way we'll start the game. Not turn the ball over and be more assertive. In the second half, the way they were pressuring on the paint, got into the lane, made a couple lay-ups, we were more precise with our screening and cutting and got open looks. I think the way Klay came back after he got hurt and came back in the game, he got into the paint. He made some great one-on-one moves to get free. Obviously knocked down a three to keep the momentum going. So that's the way we have to play in the first six minutes and not wait for them to throw the first punch or be on our heels. And that will be the adjustment, if there is one for Game 4 I mean, the Playoffs are hard. It's a tough grind to win a championship, and we understand that and we obviously want to play perfect basketball, we want to win every game, but it doesn't happen that way. But we hope that the better team will show throughout the course of the series and that's our mindset. We would have loved to have been up 3-0 and have a chance to win it on Friday. Doesn't go our way. How we bounce back on Friday will show our heart and our kind of soul about winning. This is hard. Got to embrace the challenge. I mean, make sharper cuts. Maybe get the ref's attention a little quicker. But you can't go into games worrying about getting calls. They're going to play with a certain physicality and we have to do the same on both ends of the floor and not worry about if we're going to get a call or not. You've got to finish plays. You've got to get open. You've got to not let them do anything to take you out of your spots. In the second half we did a better job, which we'll carry that over to the first half on Friday. It was a moment where it was a 20-point lead or something like that with 18 minutes left in the game including the fourth quarter, and my message was to stay together and understand -- we had a chance to maybe come back in this game, but find ourselves as we finished out the game because, you know, we're still in a good position. And he chimed in, and obviously wanted to make sure our focus was on winning this game and giving it all we had and fighting. So it was good timing for sure to keep us locked in and understand you've got to find something down the stretch of this game so that we can carry some good mojo over to Game 4. |
| I mean, it's business as usual. Obviously it's a big game, and one we needed to bounce back individually as a team to figure out how to get a win on the road and put ourselves in pretty good position. So, you know, we answered the bell, especially in the first quarter, controlling the pace of the game and not losing it like we did in Game 3. And for 48 minutes we executed a lot better, and I think we got back to enjoying the process and the challenge of winning playoff games, especially in The Finals. Yeah, if I had them in the road bag I would have definitely worn them and showed you how fire they are. I love the nicknames, though, they came up with, but I like them. Why would I be angry at him? That's just normal basketball talk. I wanted a foul. He didn't think he fouled, and we were just jabbering. There was nothing to that at all. And we as a team had to understand that, yeah, we were a little lackadaisical, didn't really show up, and myself included in that. Today is a new day, a new opportunity for a fresh start to come out and get back to who we are as a team on both ends of the floor and play with aggression and assertiveness and confidence. Like I said, we did that in the first quarter, took their first punch and handled it well and then came right back at them. So we did what we were supposed to do. Just took what the defense gave us in that situation, not pressing or trying to force something that's not there. And the way that they were defending and have been for most of the series, they're trying to take away our perimeter shot. We found it a little bit tonight, but like you said, early in the game there were driving lanes, and instead of settling, just tried to attack and be on the downhill as opposed to allowing them to get into us. I honestly don't remember much about last year. It was a huge win in Game 5 at home and then you're going on the road, so you have to kind of understand and get your travel mindset ready. But we need some rest and need to take advantage of being at home and getting back into our routine and be ready to go on Monday. It's going to be our biggest game of the year, obviously. We always talk about just because we're going home doesn't mean you can relax or take things for granted. You work all regular season to have home-court advantage, and this is a great opportunity for us, and we need to play with a sense of urgency and a sense of aggression like we did tonight. So it will be a fun 48 hours to wrap our minds around the opportunity we have in front of us. A little bit of both, but more so when I had the ball in my hands, I had to be assertive and decisive with what I was doing. I was in between in Game 3. I obviously didn't have to deal with foul trouble, so I was on the floor a lot more. And my teammates set great screens. We got the ball moving from side to side, so I got some better looks off the ball as well. When you have obviously Klay knocking down threes on the wing, H.B. [Harrison Barnes] the way he stepped up and made some timely buckets for us, it kind of softens the defense because they've got to be aware of everybody, and then lanes open up and that's when we're at our best. So just kind of feeding off of that rhythm. Getting stops. When we have the lineup we had out there, we were obviously really small with Draymond at the center and going down the line. So if you get rebounds, you can push in transition. And Andre, when he gets the ball in open lanes, he's able to play-make and either look for a shot or find guys on the wing. He found, I think H.B. twice, like you said, and just that's when we get our rhythm. And in that moment, our endurance and our depth shows because I think we have fresher legs, and that's the time when everybody's locked in. |
| I mean, you tip your hat to them. They had a great night, made some tough shots, made some open shots that we had miscommunication on. They did what they needed to do to help their team get a win. So over the course of this series we've done a pretty good job of containing them and trying to force them into tough spots on the floor. Tonight they kind of overcame that. Like Klay said, we like our chances going forward and continuing to just try to be us, the best we can, and get one more win. I mean, he's usually pretty, obviously, vocal. He's our centerfielder in the back when he's able to see the whole floor. Tonight it was obviously different rotations and we tried to adjust on the fly with the different matchups, but we just didn't execute as well. Like he said, there were a couple switches that we were very lazy on, and when guys get hot like that, if you don't kind of shore up your defense, especially in pivotal moments where you have momentum and can get one or two stops away from either taking the lead or finishing quarters out strong or what have you, that's when it comes back to bite you. So that's what happened tonight. I mean, like Klay said, they're two talented players that are capable of big games like that. You don't want it to happen on you or especially in a situation like tonight. But I wouldn't say surprised because of what their talent level is and what they've shown in the past and, like he said, LeBron in big games. It sucks that it happened tonight with the opportunity we had in front of us to close out a series at home in front of our home fans, and it's a tough feeling. But you work hard in the series early to put ourselves in this position again on Thursday, and we'll be ready. We'll obviously watch the film and understand the way the mishaps were, especially on the defensive end against those two guys. Come out with confidence and get the job done. |
| Yeah, I've thrown my mouthpiece before. I usually aim at the scorer's table. I was off aim. I definitely didn't mean to throw it at a fan, but it happened. I went over and apologized to him because that's obviously not where I was trying to take my frustration out. But the last two fouls I had I thought were -- I didn't think I fouled either Kyrie or LeBron. That's just kind of my perception of the plays and I had a reaction to it. It was obviously frustrating fouling out in the fourth quarter of a clinching game and not being out there with my teammates. So it got the best of me, but I'll be all right for next game. No, I mean, we have to show some fire for Game 7. It's a great opportunity for us at home in front of our fans to, again, try to win a championship. So we're going to need some emotion and some grit and toughness for that game. I had some stuff I wanted to get off my chest tonight after the way the game went and that was it. Thankfully I didn't have much time. I just sat in my chair. I've never been ejected before, so it was a weird feeling. It was just frustration and also kind of, like you said, I thought it was kind of hilarious the way the last two fouls and me blowing up kind of unfolded, and some of the things that were said out there. So it was just kind of, like you said, it is a long walk because, one, you don't want to foul out, you don't want to be ejected, you want to be out there with your teammates. But I immediately kind of started thinking about Game 7 and just the opportunity we've got one game to win it all, and got to take advantage of it. No, that's why we're in The Finals. We were in adversity the last series down 3-1, and had to rattle off three straight wins. So things haven't gone our way despite how the regular season went. The Playoffs hasn't been easy. Hasn't been a breeze. Hasn't been anything perfect about it. So, yeah, it's frustrating, but the work we've put in and the opportunity we've given ourselves with a Game 7 to win The Finals at home, you've got to be excited about that regardless of how these two games went. Obviously we've got to figure it out and make the necessary adjustments to slow them down a bit and get our offense going so that we can take advantage of our home court, but nothing about our playoff run has been perfect and that's kind of the consistent thing right now, and we've got another opportunity on Sunday. He's playing great. He's doing things that are game-changing and helping his team win. He's been more aggressive, I think, shooting the ball. We've had some breakdowns, but he's played well. There's no two ways around it. So tip your hat to him and come out Sunday with aggression to hopefully clog some driving lanes early, not let him get a rhythm, try to make him as uncomfortable as you can. Force him into as many tough shots as you can. Live with the results. You just play with toughness for 48 minutes while we're out there, and we can do it. We've shown we can do it, and excited for that opportunity. They fed off their crowd's energy, and it wasn't all that bad like the first six minutes. We didn't score for like the first three or four minutes of the game, but it was like 6-0, so that's nothing for us. But at that point they hit some open threes, we turned the ball over. They got in transition, and obviously foul trouble changed our rotation. So they pretty much won the game again in the first quarter, like they did in Game 3. We made plenty of runs and clawed our way back to within 8, I think, twice. Gave ourselves a chance. But on the road we've learned that lesson before and we learned it again tonight. When you get down that much in the first quarter, it takes so much and so many things have to go right to get back into the game. So just didn't go our way. What did he say? Nothing. He's made two good plays on the fast break, and obviously tonight on the block, made great defensive plays. However he wants to celebrate or whatever he wants to do to kind of take in that moment, it is what it is. I stay aggressive. Don't let that try to get in my head. Obviously, he's pretty athletic, so he's capable of doing that, and we've got to make adjustments. I mean, he's had two great games to keep his team alive. You know, that's what he's supposed to do. I'm out there trying to do the same for my team. We don't go one-on-one at each other a lot, but it's a pretty competitive feeling out there with the situation of playing in The Finals and playing for something special. So at the end of the day, seven games to figure out who is going to be holding that trophy on Sunday, you've got to love that kind of environment and that battle. So haven't enjoyed it much the last two games, but there are 48 minutes left. The last two games obviously not having Draymond was different for us, not an excuse for us losing, but different because of rotations and whatnot, and we kind of stalled down the stretch of that game offensively. And we haven't gotten enough stops in the last two games consecutively to build momentum at any point in the game, so that's the biggest thing, I think. The first quarter tonight, didn't give ourselves a chance in that first 12 minutes, and Game 5 at home just our defense didn't show up. So both of those kind of factors, how we start and how we defend will determine Game 7. Nothing. Everybody's got to stay confident, stay in the moment. Have confidence in themselves. All across the floor, when you step foot on the floor, you have a chance to impact the game, and it hasn't gone our way the last two. I like our chances in Game 7 to have everything click at the right time and win this thing. We know what kind of team we are, what we're capable of, what we've accomplished so far, and how together we are. We haven't splintered at all. I think we're more mentally tough than letting two games not go our way kind of put any doubt in our heads. So like Coach said, if you started the season in October and said you'd be at home Game 7 with a chance to win the NBA Finals, you've got to love that kind of opportunity regardless of how it happened. : Yeah, I think it's just a focus on not turning the ball over and setting better screens and moving bodies better on the offensive end. The fourth quarter of Game 5 we didn't move at all. There were a lot of isos, but nobody was moving around the perimeter, and tonight we just turned the ball over too much early and gave them run-outs. And they're setting up their defense. Their crowd's into it, and it's just a bad situation. So those two things we have to clear up and understand how we start the game in Game 7, how we set the tone, and hopefully build momentum and just keep it the entire game and bring that effort that it requires to win a championship. |
| I mean, a lot of it was kind of myself kind of leading the charge and settling too much. At home in the fourth quarter, I felt like we could go for that dagger punch and didn't really put any pressure on the defense getting to the paint and trying to force the issue that way, and really just kind of settled too much. That's something that is tough to kind of swallow with the opportunity we had in front of us. I think we've obviously been on the other side of the situation last year, and know how great a feeling that is when you accomplish your goal. I think me and him were kind of just waiting for it to calm down a little bit so we could congratulate the individual guys. Because the competition was amazing in the series, and that's what basketball's all about. So win or lose, you appreciate the stage we were on and just that back and forth that we live for. So, yeah, it stung. It sucked to watch them celebrate, and we wish that would have been us. But at the end of the day, you congratulate them for accomplishing what they set out to do, and it will be a good image for us over the summer and all next season to remember so that we can come back stronger. That's all you can do. I don't know. I mean, we had a great regular season. Did something no team's done before. Fell short in the last game of the season. It hurts, man. I mean, that's all I'm really kind of marinating on right now. Just proud of every single guy that stepped foot on the floor for our team this year. It wasn't easy what we accomplished, and it's not an easy pill to swallow what we didn't accomplish. So got to just take the good with the bad. Understand that we hopefully will have many more opportunities to fight for championships and be on this stage because it is what it's all about. Proud of every single one of our guys that helped us get here. I haven't seen the play. I don't know how close I was to him. I tried to reach at the ball, stay in front of him, make it a tough shot. It was a tough step-back that he just stepped up and made. It doesn't matter how good or bad defense I played, he made the shot. So credit to him. He stepped up and took advantage of the moment. It was not a good feeling turning around and seeing it go in. Of course. I didn't play efficient. I had some good moments, but didn't do enough to help my team win, especially down the stretch. I was aggressive, but in the wrong ways settling. It will haunt me for a while because it means a lot to me to try to lead my team and do what I need to do on the court and big stages. Done it before. Didn't do it tonight. It will be good down the stretch or next year coming back and kind of remembering this feeling and being an even better player. I was searching for a three and rushed and didn't take what was there, which was probably better to go around him and try to get into the paint. That's basically it. I mean, it doesn't help missing the time, but that was never an excuse for me when I came back from the injury. I've always said if I'm out there playing, hurt or not hurt, it doesn't matter. It's what the results are. And that stays true to till today. There's no room for anecdotes other than we didn't get it done, and I didn't play my best for the majority of the series. It's not a good feeling, like I said. At the end of the day, we want to keep this memory so that it will fuel us as we stay together as a team. Because like Draymond said, this ain't the last time you're going to see us on this stage. Just a tough feeling. I mean, you learn from this. We learn from what it was like to win a championship last year, which I think made us the best regular season team in history, and we'll learn from how the playoff run went when we get back here next year. Obviously the biggest lesson is nothing's ever guaranteed. You can't take this stage for granted, and it is extremely hard to win a championship. That's why you pour champagne on yourselves. That's why they're doing it in the locker room right now. We understand, I think, when you look at the history of the league, how few teams repeated. That was our goal, and we didn't do it. It's going to be a long three months over the summer thinking about it. But that doesn't mean we can't put this as another little unfortunate notch in the belt and move forward and come back stronger next year. That's the mindset. I'm fine. I mean, I have three months to obviously get ready for next season. I won't get injured celebrating tonight, I can tell you that much. I didn't get -- he had a lot of people around him congratulating him. But there's no denying what he was able to accomplish this series. He played pretty great basketball, made some timely shots. Definitely was a huge reason they got it done. So hat's off to him. Winning a championship is no easy task, and he was able to accomplish it with his guys. So you congratulate him. If I do see him, that's basically what I'd say. Enjoy. Obviously he's done it before, but enjoy the moment. They definitely deserve it. They played their butts off and got it done. That's a special moment for them. Every person I've seen, I've talked to, I'd tell them enjoy it because we know how it feels as well. I mean, I don't think there is -- I mean, there isn't any surgery or anything in my future this summer. I need to get healthier, but there is no excuses for what happened on the floor. I was out there, ready to play. I had a some good games; I had some bad games. And that's it. I'll come back stronger next season and be ready to go. |
| N/A |
| N/A |
| I think it was the play called by Brad Stevens. He did a great job of putting us in the right position, forcing them to have to help and not be able to switch. Al Horford made a great screen and Marcus Smart made an even better pass, and I was able to knock down a shot. It was a great play by Brad. He was aggressive from the beginning of the game. That's what we needed him to be. A lot of people counted us out with Isaiah not being here, and he is a big part of this team. But Smart took this opportunity to come out and be aggressive on both ends of the floor and make plays for our team. He was able to do that tonight. We need Smart to play that way all the time. He's a very good player. We know he's capable of having big games for us on the offensive end, and I think it's definitely going to give him confidence for the rest of the series. I think that one of the good things about this team is we're able to believe in whatever Brad draws up. If it's a good play, bad play, whatever it is, we all believe in it. I think that always helps because you're able to just read and react after that. One of the plays that he drew up when Jonas Jerebko hit the shot, it was for me to lay the ball up. But it was a play that I knew that if they helped, Jonas would be wide open, and he was able to knock down his shot. Those are all plays that Brad makes, and then it's our job to go out there and make sure that we make the next right play. I knew LeBron was going to help. I knew I was going to suck the defense in, and it was my job to act like I was going to lay the ball up, and kick it out to Jonas. I told Jonas to make sure he was ready. I wish he shot a three. But I'm just happy for Jonas. He was prepared and ready to shoot the ball, and he made some really big plays for our team tonight. He made the most of his opportunity. Jonas went games without playing, and now he was able to come in and make some really big plays for us tonight. I just want him to keep being ready to shoot the ball, because we're going to make sure we find him. It was hard. It was embarrassing. I know everyone leaving the arena after last game, we were pretty down. But once we were able to get together the next day, we decided that we're just going to go out and play hard, and whatever happens, happens. We're going to go play with our backs against the wall, come out swinging. We're going to go and play as hard as we can. We're going to be the toughest team. We're going to battle for the loose balls. We're going to play hard consistently the entire game. We wanted to be that team. That was our mindset. We never counted ourselves out. We knew that if we came out and played hard, we would give ourselves a chance. You saw that tonight. And we're going to continue to play that way throughout the series. I think it helped us out a lot. They're going to make plays. It's our job to make sure we're out there playing basketball, not complaining. That was the main thing for us tonight. The foul count wasn't where we wanted it to be. We can't complain about that. We can't control that. All we can control is the way that we play. I kept telling everybody that we can't complain, because it's hurting us on the offensive end because you're thinking about it. You just have to go out there and play the game of basketball. If we continue to play that way and stick together and play hard no matter what adversity we go through, I feel like we're going to be the best team that we can be. It showed tonight. We had a few times down the floor where we were complaining, and it ended up hurting us on both ends of the floor. But we got over it and we were able to stick together at the end of the game and make some big plays. I think it started with Marcus Smart, how poised he was at the end of the game. He was able to get us in our sets and make the right play, make some really big plays for our team tonight. I feel like guys like Jae Crowder and Al Horford, whoever switched on him, they did a great job. Like I said, we understand not only him but Kyrie, they're going to make tough shots. It's our job to make sure that we try to make everything hard on him and have a mindset to chip away. What I mean by chip away is not try to win the game or get back in the game with one shot. Just force enough shots. We understood that we needed to move the ball around, get good shots and get continuous stops on the defensive end. That's big. For a team that you could say that is a young team, we came out here and I feel like we were mature tonight with the way that we played. We were able to stick together, get consistent stop. We're playing against a really good team. LeBron, we understand that down the stretch of the game, he's going to make plays for his team. I felt like we did a great job trying to box guys out, defending him. He's a tough guard, but we really did a good job of forcing everything, making everything hard on him. Marcus did a great job on Kyrie tonight. It's our job to make sure that we have that same mindset next game because if we don't, we're not going to have a chance to win the game. |
| Not only me but Al [Horford]. He helps our team out a lot. You know, as far as talking and trying to lead by example, just playing the right way. You know, that's all we can do. Obviously we're missing one of our leaders, and the good thing about our team, guys -- even Marcus [Smart] before the game, you know, everyone is just making sure we're all locked in and trying to help in any way we can, and if that's by leading by example or being vocal, whatever it is, we try to fill that void. Well, tonight, credit to him. Kyrie had a great game. I got in foul trouble a little bit, and I got switched off, you know, a lot of the times. But we have to do a better job as a team at the end of the day. We understand that he's a good player, LeBron is a good player. It's not just going to be one guy that's going to stop them. It's going to take an entire team, and tonight I felt like our team defense wasn't good on a consistent basis, and that's what led to those guys scoring and getting going. I think all the counters, and he's able to shoot the ball. You know, you can't get into him too much. You can't back off, back off him. He's a great finisher. He's a good player. He's one of the best point guards in the NBA, and you know, you can tell he puts in a lot of work in his game, a lot of respect from myself, my teammates, but like I said, we have to do a better job at defending him as a unit, trying to make everything hard on him. He definitely got a great rhythm going tonight, and I felt like we had a chance to make it harder on him. We'll watch film and figure out what we need to do better, but we will be better next game. I think we might have had one in the first half, and then we had three quick ones, which led to baskets for those guys. That [was an] emphasis that Brad had at the beginning of the game, make sure we're getting good shots because that helps our defense, and we weren't able to, we were forcing the ball a little bit, not making the same passes we were making in the first half. And against a team like this, you don't have room for errors like that because it usually leads to buckets on the other end. I mean, it's our defensive principles. Obviously you have to be smart about who you're guarding, but we can do a better job at the same time stopping someone that's getting going that way. Even if it's just showing your hands or talking, letting them know that you're right there beside them to give them a little more confidence to be able to guard the ball. I feel like we can do a better job at that. Get good shots, stop turning the ball over. He wanted us to stay together make sure we're not pointing fingers. That's a time when leadership is important because you know whenever a team gets on a run, sometimes you try to get it back in one play or sometimes you try to play one-on-one basketball, but we needed to continue to play the same way that helped us get the lead and helped us get easy baskets, and that's one of the things that he told us, and I feel like it was an important time of the game, and it definitely shows his leadership. I think just taking care of home. We owe our fans a better performance, and we know that, and we're going to play hard. You're going to see a team playing hard, very hard, the entire game. |
| We're definitely disappointed. I feel like if we weren't, there would be a problem. We all feel like we put ourselves in a great position to go further in the season, especially the last game. We were in a good place to be able to win a second game in a row, but it's been unfortunate for us. The injuries, and not only that, but us not being able to finish games the way we wanted to. We've been playing against a very good team, all credit to those guys, but we feel like we should be here and we feel like we should be a championship-contending team. The great thing about this is the experience. We were able to go to the Eastern Conference Finals, learn a lot about being in this position, and I feel like it's going to help us for next year. I learned a lot. As a player, the coaches, the players, my teammates, they pushed me the entire year to be the best player I can be. It's all credit to those guys. They brought the best out of me. Every single practice, every single time we watched film, as far as holding me accountable. Those guys just wanted me to be the best player I could be. I feel like them pushing me every single day and Brad pushing me every day made me the player I am. I'm going to use this time during the summer to continue to grow as a player so I can come back next year and help our team in any way I can. I think we've always responded to the doubt, people not believing in us. It was just unfortunate today. We got a bad start, and we couldn't get the lead. We had some great stretches where we were playing good basketball, but the start of the game was so bad, I felt like it was hard for us to come back. Even when we scored six or seven points in a row, I mean, we were still down by 20 points. Like I said, we can learn from all the mistakes that we made this year, get better as individuals over the summertime and be ready for next year. After the game, obviously, we were all disappointed in the way we ended the season, especially with the losses at home. But like you said, we were able to take a lot of positives away. Out of all the teams in the NBA, we're one of the three teams left at this time of the year, and that was one of our goals. Obviously our main goal was to make it to the championship and win it. But for us to be in the Eastern Conference Finals after the first year of this team really being together, adding additions like Al Horford and Gerald Green, I can go down the list of guys that we needed to learn to play with, and for us to talk about where we wanted to be and actually make it, it's a big-time accomplishment. But this leaves a certain taste in our mouth, getting here and not getting to the championship. Cleveland just outplayed us in this series; credit to those guys. But we'll be a better team next year, and we will make sure that we put ourselves in a great position to make the Eastern Conference Finals and give ourselves a better chance at making the championship. Yeah, it could be. I mean, it's out of our control as players. The organization is going to do whatever is best for the Celtics, which I totally respect, and I know my teammates do as well. But we can't worry about that. We had a great year together. If guys are here, if guys aren't, we all wish the best for each other. But I do feel like this is a special group. We all gave our heart every single night, played as hard as we could. I respect all my teammates, and I really appreciated playing with all the guys I had a chance to play with this year. A special group. I do. Like I said, this is our first year together -- adding Al Horford, who's a very good player -- and I feel like you only get better the more you play with each other. The sky's the limit for this team if we're able to keep together core guys and add some new pieces. I feel like Danny Ainge and our entire organization do a great job of putting the right guys together to help us be a contender for a championship. |
| That was just -- that was organic. I was just -- I don't know. I don't know when I'm going to dunk or when I'm going to get the wide-open three. I just go out there and play. I try not to predetermine anything, just go out there and hoop. And tonight, we could be a lot better than we were tonight. But in The Finals, you get the W, we'll take it. Well, it's not about me. He's going to do what he does. He's LeBron James. He can, you know -- you guys know what he can do. So I just tried to play as hard as I can and not make it about a matchup, it's about us, it's about the Golden State Warriors versus the Cleveland Cavaliers and we're only going to do it together. That's just our whole mindset. So I just tried to do my part, stay locked in on both ends and have some fun out there. But they're tough to stop, but I think we did it as a group tonight. Like I said, I'm only as good as my teammates. I didn't say that here, but I said that to Doris Burke. But I'm only as good as my teammates. And Steph and Klay and Draymond and Zaza and the rest of the guys, we just complement each other, try to complement each other and try to make the game easier for each other. And in transition, I only can get in transition because we got stops and rebounding. And they're a great offensive rebounding team, and we got to take them off the glass if we want to win. I think we did a solid job of that. They did have, what, 15 offensive rebounds? So we got to correct that. But only way you get out in transition and get those baskets and get the crowd into it is if we get stops. So I just try to focus on defense. It's not easy at all. We got to go out there and execute. It's hard to try to do it every possession. You got to stay locked in and focus every possession if you want to do it. So it's not easy at all. I don't even remember that. Really? Yeah, I won't get into that. I'm cool. Have fun with that. What other option did I have? This is what every player wants to be, is the highest level of basketball. That's what you dream about as a kid, is to play at the highest level. So I would have -- I wouldn't done my teammates any good if I wasn't just enjoying the moment, no matter what. So I just tried to stay locked in on that, at the same time have some fun. But know that it's hard to do what we want to do and it's hard to stay locked in for 48 minutes. So just trying to do my best to be there for my teammates and to play up to my standards as an individual as well. So just trying to -- I'm probably going to say this a lot over the next couple days, we're just trying to stay locked in, man. That's all it's about. Yeah, I mean, we moved the ball and we just tried to move our bodies. If I see a lane, just try to attack. Coach and my teammates always want me to attack and try to open it up for everybody else and try to score as well. So I felt like in transition they were running out to the 3-point line, and we got the best 3-point shooters in the world on our team, so obviously teams want to take away our 3-pointer, but just tried to be aggressive to the rim and loosen them up a bit. And Steph was able to hit a couple in transition. But like I said, it all starts from getting stops. We get stops, we worry about defense first, and offensively we can move the ball around, drive and kick and try to find shots as well. So I'm more focused on defense. |
| Geez. You waiting on him to go across the line. Well, that was a good play by Steph, just driving to the rim, just trying to be aggressive. We love when he's aggressive. And tonight he shot 14 free throws, so that's huge for us. We needed that, especially when we were struggling a bit, turning the ball over, not getting shots up. He was great. And he controlled the game from the point guard position really, really well tonight. As far as Klay, no matter if he's making them or not, he's still drawing a lot of attention because he can shoot so well. But I think that his driving to the rim, his defense got him going and knocking down his three, so he drove to the rim a few times. He had what? Seven rebounds. Never seen it. But all in all he just played with confidence, he just tried to follow the game plan on the defensive end, and it was good for us. Yeah, they were, they came on through a nice blow to start the game, getting to the paint, and I think that's one thing we got to cover. We can't give up 23 points off our turnovers. Especially a championship team like that, they're going to thrive off of it. So they were going downhill, getting into the paint, but I just think we just stayed poised and tried to play better one-on-one defense and make them shoot over or contest. And they're going to make some, but if we just try to make it tough on them, it will be in our favor. I'm not going to take a step back. Like I said, we're worried about the series right now. So we're just trying to just stay in the moment. But for the most part we just try to play hard and try to play smart every possession down. Can we do that? We could play hard every possession, but can we play smart? That's the question sometimes. And so we're just trying to stay with it. We know this is far from over. We know how hard it is to be the best team in the league. So we got to just keep going, man, keep our foot on the gas and keep getting better every day. Yeah, when Draymond went out, I just tried to do my best to help everybody out. He's so good at just sniffing out plays before they happen. And so I just tried to follow his lead with that, and I learned so much from him throughout the season. But I'm just trying to play hard, man. I keep saying that. Just play hard every possession. I'm going to make mistakes but not get discouraged because guys make shots over me or I gave up an and-one the first play of the game. So I just try to just keep my head up and think about the next play and just play hard for my teammates. First off, and Andre Iguodala was guarding him for the most part in the second half, and Draymond was out, so I had to play four and guard a big. So Andre did a solid job with just trying to make it tough on him. And we just tried to help him out as well. Offensively, I just tried to play within the offense and move and be aggressive when the ball's in my hands. And so there you go with that part. Oh, my gosh. |
| Yeah, you answered your own question. I just tried to -- first off, it was a great stop. Who got that stop? Klay maybe? Somebody got the stop, and always starts on the defensive side with us. We know if we get off the board and push, we're a dangerous team. And I seen him backing up, and I just wanted to take that shot. Also it was a good time, it was 45 seconds to go, we were down two, if I miss, we could have got another stop. But glad I was able to knock that down. I just tried to stay disciplined in my shot, hold my followthrough, and it went in. So but more importantly we got two stops after that. So we got to build on that. But we got to be better in Game 4. Well, it's not over. Job's not done. Closeout games are always the toughest. As you heard from many players in this league over the years, how tough closeout games are on the road. I never been in this position being up in The Finals and trying to close it out. So I know how exciting that's going to be for us as a team, but their fans are going to be into it. They're going to be wanting a win from their team. And tonight it showed. Fans were great. They obviously fed off their energy. Kevin Love, of course, LeBron and Kyrie did. And we got to be even better in Game 4 if we want to take this. So it's an exciting time. The job's not done, but we still got a lot of work left to do. I think, I mean, basketball is a feisty sport. Both teams want to win. The crowd was giving them a lot of energy, and those guys came out with a lot of force. And sometimes that brings some commotion out there between two teams. So it's nothing personal, it's nothing serious. We moved on. Draymond got a tech, he gathered, got it back together, we moved on. So it just didn't linger. We didn't let a call we didn't like or a turnover or a missed assignment linger over to the next play. It was always about the next possession. And even when things aren't going your way with the refs or a shot or anything, we just try to move on, and tonight it showed over the year that we talked about that a lot. It's not worrying about the refs, not getting distracted, and tonight it was -- it kind of came full circle. Chanting who? It didn't look like it to me. I mean, they both shot over 50 percent from the field, over, yeah, 50 percent. My math's not really good, but they shot over 50 percent, they both had almost 40 points, and they did it for 40-plus minutes. They played extremely well, but I just think we stayed in front of them late in the game and got to contest some shots and rebound the basketball. But they had it going all night, you got to give them credit. Yeah, like I said earlier, I never been in this position before. I don't want to relax. It's not over. This is a crazy game. Anything can happen. So I don't want to relax or feel like it's over, it's not. And I'm just trying to enjoy this moment and not -- trying not to look in the future or in the past, just try to just stay in the present and enjoy this moment and for what it's worth and just keep pushing, keep getting better until -- and then I'll sit back and probably reflect on everything once the season's over. But for now I'm just trying to stay in the moment, enjoy every single minute and just keep getting better. I didn't look at it as an unsuccessful third quarter. That's just half of the battle there. I just tried to stay positive and move on to the next play and know in the fourth that Coach is going to call my number and my teammates are going to look for me and it's up to me to finish. I work on my game every day, and I just had to trust in this, and I was able to get some shots to go in. And but we played with force in the fourth, and the in the third quarter we were a little bit too relaxed. We were up six, and that was a good place for us to be coming out of the half, but we didn't do what we were supposed to do in the third. So I think we just played with more force as a group in the fourth quarter and they put it on us in the third. So we got to watch some film and see how we can be better coming out of half. |
| I think they did a good job of attacking early and it opened up their three-point game. And they made some tough ones and they also just caught some, caught them in rhythm and knocked them down. That's the team they have been all season, is knocking down deep shots and difficult shots as well. But if you give them some open ones, like we did early on, they will knock them in at some point. So we got to be better. After that first quarter, they were only up, what, four points, from the second to the fourth they only beat us by four points the last three quarters. So that first quarter they came out and hit us with that amazing punch. 49 points in the first quarter is way too much. But you got to give them credit, they played extremely well tonight. Yeah, you can't take everything away from the game. You're taking the hard fouls out of the game, calling them flagrants, taking a lot of stuff out of game, but you can take the emotion out of the game. We weren't coming to blows, we were just talking. That's a part of basketball. The game of basketball created that. The refs didn't. We didn't as players. It's like the aura of the game created trash talk and just communication out there. So I know you could take away the physical part of the game as far as controlling stuff, but emotionally that should be us, that should be what the players have as their own out there. So I'm sure it's going to continue. There's nothing malicious or we didn't say anything malicious, it was just a part of the game. Emotions are what keeps this game alive, it keeps it going. It's for the players. You got to be better. You got to be better than that. You got to be better, man. I like you, but you got to be better Yeah, that was great. I think he was better, he was better tonight as far as just like keeping basketballs alive, just doing what he's paid to do. He had five assists, 10 rebounds, five points, four offensive rebounds, that's a great game for him. So he was great tonight. We got to do a better job of being more physical but not fouling. I think we did that early on. We tried to match their physicality, but we got -- we were -- we weren't smart enough in that area. So that got them going. We got to be way better. We can't go home and just expect that just because we're at home it's our game. We got to go take it, and I think it starts on the physical side of it. And both teams are going to be battling. So it should be fun. |
| I remember the first day of camp and I walk into camp, and I didn't know what to expect, I didn't know what these guys were like on the court and how they came in and worked. I didn't know anything about the team. I just wanted to come in there and just be me. And I did that from day one, and I just tried to stay with that. I had my lows in the season where I was beating myself up, where I was struggling throughout the year, but the great part about it is I'll get a tap on the head from Steph or a Draymond or -- I can remember when we were in Sacramento and we just lost to Memphis, we gave up the lead, we were up 20 -- I'm sure you guys remember -- Draymond pulled me aside, we were having dinner the next night in Sacramento, and he told me to be myself. Don't worry about anything, just be you, keep working, everything's going to come around. And I was struggling at that point. And to have teammates that encourage you, that lift you up, that's what we all need in life. And it was amazing to just see that all year, and right now just to be here with these guys, it's amazing. Yeah, it was 55 seconds left, and I went other over to half court line and I bent down, and I'm like, is this really happening? And Draymond was like, Keep playing to the end. Andre is like, Keep playing. We have like 50 seconds left. And I'm like, Bro, we're about to win the title. So I just tried to stay in the moment the whole series, and I think that worked for me. I remember plenty of times throughout my career I continued to just look in the past and look ahead and not stay in the moment. In this series I just stayed in the moment. And we did it together. Without the whole team, you got to -- what about Patrick McCaw tonight? What about Zaza Pachulia to start the game? He was amazing. What about Stephen Curry after not having a great game in Game 4, came out tonight, played like a big dog. 15 free throws, 10 assists, 34 points. Say what you want about him, but he played like a big dog all series. And so to do that as a group, call us a super team, and I go with 20 off the bench, you a call us a super team, but it's been a lot of super teams that hasn't worked, and we came together and we continued to just believe in each other and we sacrificed, and we're champions now. Like I said, just the encouragement every single day, just the belief that I could -- I can do whatever I want in life, not just basketball, everything. So I carried that all season, especially when I made the decision. And you hear so much chatter about what I should do. To have Rich, Tom, my brother, my mom, my dad, all my friends, just continue to just pour into me, just pour into me every single day, people that you don't even probably won't even meet in your life, pour it in me, John Gray, Carl Lentz, Adam Harrington, just to shout out a few names. Everybody, just from -- so many people poured into me every single day, and I just tried to continue to keep grinding and let them know that it doesn't -- it doesn't go in vain, I'm just working and I believe. And just every day, man, I'm just grinding and believing in myself that I can make this happen, and to do it feels great. The toughest challenge was to come in here and see how I can help Steph get better, see how I can help Klay get better, Draymond, Shaun Livingston, Andre Iguodala, JaVale McGee, the whole team, just see how I can help them get better, that was more important to me than anything. Proving haters wrong, like that's cool, that's cool for me to talk about it on Instagram or Twitter. But like you don't concern me, I'm coming in and working every day, seeing how I can be the best teammate I can be, the best player I can be. You can talk about whatever you want to talk about, but nobody comes in and cares about the game or loves the game as much as I do or works as hard as do I at the basketball game. You can talk about whatever happens on the outside, but inside those lines, I come to bring it every day. I work hard, I believe in myself, I believe in the game, I respect the game, I love the game, and I knew at some point in my life that it will come around for me. So I just tried to stay with those principles and keep grinding. I'm kind of lost for words right now. It meant a lot. Steph is -- I never seen nobody like him. I told him last night. I said, When you play with force, like I never seen a player like you before. And he played with force tonight. The stuff you hear about Steph as far as sacrificing and being selfless and caring about his teammates, caring about other people is real. It's not a fake. It's not a facade. He doesn't put on this mask or this suit every single day to come in here and fake in front of you guys. He really is like that. And it's amazing to see a superstar who sacrifices, who doesn't care about nothing but the group. He obviously wants to play well. He obviously wants to show who he is, because he's competitive, but it's all about the group. So when I asked him, like, Yo, you want to work out, some guys want to keep it to themselves. But he's like, No, let's get some work in. We have been doing these 30-35 sessions, is what we call it. We have been doing it all season, and we have been doing it every -- probably since the second round of the Playoffs, and definitely paid off for us tonight. I found that at the beginning of the year when we first went to Vancouver in the first pre-season game, just the camaraderie, just the togetherness of the whole organization. That's what it was about. We just kept -- I kept building on that from day one. So that's what I found when I came here, and I definitely appreciate just the type of people we have here from the top to bottom. So a championship is just a cherry on top. Well, we have grown closer and closer as the year's gone on and as the Playoffs have started, and he's -- we're always are encouraging each other. So it feels good to win one with him. And for him to play so well throughout the whole series, it's -- it feels great. A lot of people have been doubting him and been hoping that he fails and hoping that I fail, hoping that we fail as a group. And the one thing that it was a constant with us was the joy that we have for the game of basketball. I learned -- I got a lot from him from that. He enjoys playing basketball. And his energy -- I told him, his energy, we feed off of him. He's our leader. He's our vocal leader. He talks up -- like I said, 15 free throws. He missed three free throws tonight I was pissed about, but 15 free throws and in a closeout game in The Finals, he's a big dog. You better start respecting him. man averaged a triple-double. I ain't doing no slaying. Feels great. It feels great to win, but to go up against somebody I view as like a rival, personally, is an amazing feeling to beat him. But one thing I know about LeBron James, though, he'll probably be back in the gym the start of July getting ready for next season. So I probably got to beat him in the gym -- beat him to the gym. But just the mutual respect, it's -- we talk about guys being too friendly, but like it's a game and we compete on the court hard as we can, both of us, and after the game it's respect. And I did that, I respected him, and he won his first one in 2012, and he reciprocated that. So I got nothing but love and respect for him, and I can't wait to compete against him again next season. Yeah, I hear all the narratives throughout the season that I was joining, I was hopping on bandwagons, I was letting everybody else do the work. But then that was far from the truth. I came in and tried to help my team. Like I said, tried to be myself, be aggressive and sacrifice as well. There's some games I might not get shots, as many shots as I'm used to getting. Some games where Steph is going to go off and hit 13 threes or Klay might hit 60 or Draymond might get a triple-double with no points. But nobody cared, as long as we won. Andre Iguodala, who is right there, he continued to preach that every single day. It's all about the group. If your intentions are good, then that means as a team that we're moving in the right direction. So I just tried to think about that, but also add my flair to the game. And it feels amazing to win a championship with these guys. I can't wait to celebrate for the rest of the night -- well, maybe the rest of the summer. It feels so great because, like I said, it's a team sport. Man, you got to want to sacrifice. You got to want to put your teammates in front of yourself sometimes. And I just tried to do that but also be aggressive. Andre told me all the time, it is your time, go take it, it's about you. But I'm like, no, it's about us. It's about us. But I'm still going to be me. I'm talking too much at this point. I had a couple too many beers. I haven't had a beer since February. So to have a beer right now and come talk to you guys, it feels great. |
| I think that through the regular season there was so much changes with our group, guys in and out of the lineup, different injuries, a lot of things like that. Once we've been able to settle down and kind of find what fits this group, I feel like that's what prompted us being better offensively. But you've just got to give credit to Coach [Brad Stevens], because he ends up making adjustments and being able to key in in the playoffs, whichever the matchup is, and giving us those options to go out there and execute on offense. I think it was our energy defensively. I felt like we really fed off a lot of our crowd, and then on offense, we were taking good shots. We were really moving the ball and really taking really good looks, that helped. We were knocking them down. Yeah, Marcus is one of our leaders, and he's been a presence since the first day he got here. So I think that taking on this challenge is something that we expect out of him. We have his back out there. Like he said, we're doing it as a unit. It's not all on him. But you do have to give him credit for his focus and his commitment for the team. I normally don't like comparing teams, but last year we came off of a grueling seven-game series against Washington, one day rest and we had to play Cleveland. Give them credit, they were the better team. This year we were able to close the series out with Philadelphia, have a couple days. I feel like the coaches came out with a great game plan for our group, and we just bought in and did what we were supposed to do. I think that the guys that started the fourth there were just great. They came out really focused on the defensive end. We got some stops. We turned the defense into offense. Just ran our offense well, and they really, I feel like, opened the game up at that point. They just kept attacking. Guys just kept playing the right way, and that's all it was. I mean, at times this year we've struggled early in the fourth with the leads and things like that. But I felt like the focus level was just really good, and guys were able to hold the lead. |
| Yeah, it was that point of the game where we needed to make plays. They went on a run, and we felt like we needed to go on a run of our own and make sure that we secured the win. You know, I think our team did a good job really keeping -- we kept our poise and just kept playing our basketball the way that we've been playing. Tough on defense, moving the ball on offense, and that's just the way that we tried to play throughout the whole game. Amazing. You know, Terry, just like a switch goes off, and he just goes out there and plays. Terry is fearless. He's always been like that. It's just now he's getting the opportunity to show it, and it's a lot of fun to see him just grow continually game by game. I think that we just have a group of guys that really believe in each other, and we are trying to play the right way, trying to play hard. Really just buying into what Coach [Brad Stevens] is telling us, and just have a lot of guys that have a lot of fight in them in the locker room. You've been following us, it's been like that all year. It's not like this is something new. Our group, in tough times, we've always found a way. Yeah, it was -- I felt like it was uncalled for, that type of play there, but that's the one thing about the group of our guys. We have each other's backs, and it is what it is. We moved on to the next play, and we just locked in even more after that. I mean, we just play hard. We go out there, we compete. It's Celtics basketball. We're really embracing Celtics basketball. We're playing hard. We've got each other's backs, and that's it. |
| Like you said, we've been in this position before. I think that obviously it's a different circumstance, but we'll go back and look at the film. I can tell you just from right off the top of my head, there was a lot of breakdown defensively for our group. We didn't have that the first two games. It's something that we need to address and be better Monday if we want to have any sort of chance of winning. I just think it's for us to learn from this. It's what we've been preaching all playoffs, good or bad. We're learning from the experiences, we're moving on and it just shows when you don't bring it as a team and you don't play the way you're supposed to play, these kind of things can happen. At the same time, you've got to give Cleveland credit. They played better. They were the better team tonight. Yeah, I think they did a good job of setting the tone in the game. I felt like we settled for a lot of mid-range shots. Credit to them for doing that. I just think that we need to run our offense just with more pace. I think tonight a lot of the times we got caught up in just being in a lot of isolation positions. We need to do a better job moving the ball. I think if we move the ball better, we will all benefit from that and it will be better. I don't know. I'm not really sure. I'll have to go back and look at it on film. I felt like we had a game plan. Offensively, we didn't quite execute it. On defense, that's what's most concerning to me. We weren't as sharp as we needed to be. |
| I don't think they're playing any different. Once we settled down after the first [quarter], we played much better. But I don't think they're doing anything different. Yeah, I think with our group, we just keep learning. We haven't been in these type of positions before. Playing on the road, I was telling the guys -- and they have a better feel, especially in the playoffs. It's much harder. We have to be better. We have to execute better. We have to do all those things in order to win. It's hard to win on the road, as we found out here. I think tonight we played much better once we settled down after the first quarter. I don't think people talk about who has the momentum. I think each game is its own. I do think that we played much better than we did on Saturday, and we're going to learn from this game and go back home and protect our home court. I think our focus is just on the next game, on Game 5. All season but specifically all playoffs, we've been taking it game to game. We can't look at it that way [of trying to win two of three]. Right now, we're fighting for our playoff lives, and our focus as a group is Wednesday, Game 5 at home. Well, no question about it. Obviously his physical abilities, everybody knows that. But he's a very smart player, like you said. He just knows how to read the game. He has a good feel for it, and he's usually making the right plays. Oh, of course. I mean, we handled home. They did what they were supposed to do, and they won here. Now we get to go back home, and we have a big challenge to protect our home court, Game 5. Yeah, it's something that people shouldn't take for granted. He's doing great things. But for our group, we need to be better, trying to contain him. He had a great game. We have to find a way to be better at home. We have no time to dwell on this game. We'll look at the film and prepare for the next one. I don't think it's necessarily tough. I just think that we have to be conscious -- everything that we do, we have to do it with pace. That's something that we walked into the game talking about, and I felt like we did a better job. We still can be much better. And yeah, give them credit; they defend the three-point line very well. But I feel like we still got some really good looks. Our offense was good. I think it can be way better, and it's something that we'll try to make adjustments and be ready for Wednesday. a group, we're excited to be back, going back home. Obviously we understand the challenge of it. We can't think about the past. We just have to worry about this opportunity. We have a Game 5 at home, and we have to make the most of it. |
| Yes, that was very encouraging to see Jayson really just taking on the challenge, really playing well on offense, playing well on defense. Just very poised for most of the night. I was just very happy to see him have such a good game. Yeah. I felt like we played much better tonight defensively. The energy was much better. I was encouraged by the performance of our group tonight. I just think that at home, one of the big things is I truly believe it's our fans. I feel like our guys feed off of them and it really just drives us as a group. When we're sometimes on the road, it's just different in the playoffs. You get on the road and you're just out there against everybody else. Here, I just think that our guys just feel comfortable and good. It's a credit to the atmosphere that's here. It's just a lot of fun to play in right now. We did what we were supposed to do. We won here, a big Game 5 for us. Now we have a big challenge to go on the road. The first game [in Cleveland], we didn't play very well. The second one, I felt like we played a little better over there. We're going to have to play a great game come Friday because they're tough at home. At least in our series, they just had their way. So we have to make sure that we're really focused and committed to playing the right way the whole game. I think that we've done it at spurts over there. We have to be more consistent. I haven't talked to him personally. I know that Coach is always staying on him and Jaylen [Brown] and Terry [Rozier], just all our guys. Just talking to them about the intensity and making sure that we're doing things with pace, that we're playing the right way. Honestly, with Jayson, all I talk to him about is defense. Most of the guys, most of the time, that's all I'm talking is defense out there. I feel like he's doing a good job on that end. We just have to go out and play. We can't think about it as a Game 7. Just like today, we were thinking this was a Game 5. We have a good challenge to go on the road. We haven't won there this season. It's going to be very difficult, but we have a great opportunity in front of us. Our approach as a group, we're going in there, staying together, playing the right way. We want to be more consistent playing the right way on the road. It's a lot of fun, just because these guys, they want to play the right way. They play hard. I feel like we hold each other accountable out there. I think that's a big thing. And when those things happen, it becomes fun. It's fun to me. And there's no coincidence why we're in this position right now. The guys have really bought into what Coach wanted from them. We've been preparing the same way all season. We're having some success that's paying off because of the commitment that we're doing as a team. I think for our team in general, it's the lineup that we were going with most of the year, or for a good part of the year. I felt like it was great for us defensively. They made adjustments after Game 1. We kind of stuck around with the same lineup. But I think that just by doing that, it was a change that worked in our favor. Aron was great tonight -- his energy, his physicality. Just very happy that he had a good game as well. Feels great. It's definitely a lot of fun. For whatever reason, we were just so locked in, so engaged. It's not like we haven't been in the past, but I just felt like the guys were just ready to get on the floor tonight after the loss in Game 4 and just get it going again. So it just felt good to be able to do that. It was a lot of fun playing in this game tonight. Yeah. It's our defense. We always preached all year, or Coach preached all year, he would say there are going to be nights that we're not going to shoot it well, but we have to rely on our defense. Since the first day of training camp, that's what we've hung our hat on as a group. Tonight, it paid off because we had a lot of good looks. They had a lot of good looks as well. But for us, we didn't drop them. Missed a lot of layups. Things like that. But defense was the difference for us tonight. |
| N/A |
| Unbelievable. Just the way that he took the season in stride and just kept pushing. For somebody to go through this their first time and go through a full NBA season -- he played, I think, pretty much every game -- and to be in these pressure situations in the playoffs, his composure, making play after play and really just poised and ready for moments all year. I couldn't ever imagine him playing at this level and in this magnitude. As a group, we have nothing to hang our heads about. I think the effort was great. Obviously, I'm disappointed that we couldn't reach that next level. I just think that for our group, for myself, we all need to look at the work that we did this season and understand that there's a lot more work to do in order to reach that next level. So individually this summer, it's something that I will work even harder on my body, on the court, taking care of myself to help our team be in these type of positions again. It's definitely tough, but we have nothing to hang our heads about. It's difficult. I think that we always try to compare him to other players of all time and criticize that -- people have to understand that he is playing at a different level. Just his ability, his stamina, just his feel of the game. There's just a lot of positive things about him and how he's able to have those repeated efforts time and time again. It's one of those things that I've got to tip my hat to him. As a group, we really fought hard. We did everything we could. We put ourselves in position. We were one or two shots away from being there, and it just wasn't enough for our group. Credit to him and their team. It's difficult. It's difficult for our group. Obviously we're disappointed, and we had our opportunities. We had our opportunities. Things just didn't happen. But what I've been telling you guys throughout the playoffs, as a team, we're learning. We haven't been in these positions before as a group, and all of this has been great learning experience for our group. I know that we'll be better from this. Yeah. It's something that we'll definitely look forward to as a group, to have the team back together and complete. I'm sure I'll think about that as the summer goes on. Right now, almost for me I can't look that far. It's too soon. I just really appreciate this group of guys. No excuses. Fighting every night, just tough. I'm just proud of this group and what this team was able to do this year. Yeah. It's one of those things that we felt like we had some good momentum going there, and then we had some great looks that just literally went in and out and that we missed. I think they gained some momentum; they made some plays. Earlier in the series at home, we would hit them like that. It seemed like they were able to put them down, and they just found their way back into it. But yeah, I think that was definitely a turning point. |
| I can't control that. Well, I could have boxed JR out, I could have done a better job, so I'm glad we were able to get the win with that happening. But the blocked charge thing, last year in the regular season same play happened to me. It was a block. They called it a block, and they went and reviewed it and changed it to a charge. So I knew once it was 30 seconds to go that they could review that situation. There were a couple, like goaltending and block/charge a couple years ago, they put those rules in that you could review them. Just like you can review out of bounds calls. So I knew that. I knew he was late on the drive, and I knew I had my man beat and he came over a little late. So when they called the charge, I was surprised, but I'm glad they reviewed it. Well, they still had enough time to get a shot off. They still got a shot off with that. But I thought he was looking for LeBron, because I was right there. If he had tried to put a lay-up up, I thought I had a good chance to contest it. But I'm glad we don't even got to think about that. They did a good job tonight coming in and hitting us in the mouth. They outrebounded us. I think that's always the way they get us, on the offensive rebounds. So they had 18 of them. We can't give that up if we want to win. Yeah, Bron does a good job on the screen and roll, kind of balancing and unbalancing the floor and in match-ups and getting a lot of screens to get guys on him. Then after that, it's hard to stop him. I thought JaVale did a good job of using his length. I know as a wing player, when you see a big, you feel like you've got so many moves in your bag that you don't know which one to bring out. And I think after while, LeBron just got a little confused, and it was good that JaVale was able to stay in front of him. We've got to be better next game. We know he's going to come out and be super, super aggressive. He made shots tonight and he rebounded well, so we've got to try to control that. I mean, anything can happen on the basketball court, you know? We've all done stuff like that on the basketball court. You know, I can't talk about a guy like -- I can't talk about a situation that way because I do some dumb stuff on the court. So I can't really talk about that. But I'm glad we got a W. I don't know what was going through JR's head, but he made a great rebound and gave them an opportunity to win the basketball game. I didn't get a good look at it, but obviously I was right in the middle of the scuffle. But, it's what happens when you play in The Finals. I don't think it's anything that we should be concerned about. I think it's something we could easily move past. Well, that's our thing. That's our thing. It's no disrespect to any other team, it's just what we do. We don't want to take the turnover. We take the shot. So we've been doing that all year, since I've been here too. Well, I mean, it's all him. It's tough to stop him. Especially, you know, he's getting a lot of screens, he's getting Steph on him a lot, and that's what the mismatch is, and getting the bigs on him. So we've got to do a better job of helping him out. In transition, you've got to be aware of his catches. Because he wants to catch and go to the rim, but, you know, that's what he does. He's been in the league for so long doing the same thing. We've just got to try to make it tougher on him. But he got the ball in his hands all game. He's playing -- well, without the overtime, he's playing 42 minutes in regulation. So he got the ball, and he could orchestrate the offense. So we've got to be patient and not get discouraged when he makes shots and just keep playing hard. If I get a three-pointer up, it's because I want to. Well, actually, one of them Kevin Love did play great defense over on the wing and rushed the shot. But I'm glad I made up for it at the free-throw line. |
| Yeah, I agree with that. That's about true. What else do you expect Trump to do? When somebody says they don't want to come to the White House, he disinvites them so the photo op don't look bad. We get it at this point. It's good that guys are sticking to what they believe in and what they want to do. Like guys said before me, I'm sure whoever wins this series won't be going. Just being patient. Just taking what the defense gives you. Just slowing down a bit. I think defensively we focused in a little more, which always allows our offense to have a little bit more freedom, when you're getting stops. Just try to be patient as much as we could. Find things that were there. But also play with some pace as well. If they make a shot or if we get a rebound, just try to play with some pace too. We know it's going to be different coming into this building tomorrow. So we've just got to be even more on point. Two years together, two seasons together, I think we've figured out a good balance. I think being able to play off of each other definitely helps. But not just us two. Everybody else on the court kind of plays off each other well. We just try to do whatever it takes to get the W. Run the right plays. Run them with force and with pace. When you get your opportunities, be disciplined in your work and trust in your work. That will dictate the outcome. So just try to keep things as simple as possible. I think a lot of people lately have been talking about that because of how we played in Houston. Houston did such a good job of switching everything. And in basketball, when you switch everything -- meaning pin downs, cross screens, just everything -- it takes you out of your movement of your offense, and it puts the ball into the guys that create off the dribble the most. We had a lot of those opportunities because of the switching defense. So I think that's the reason why things may look a little bit bigger than what they really are as far as the iso stuff is concerned. But I thought we did a good job of navigating through it all and still playing our game and just showing that we can adapt to different situations. I don't really think about being up 2-0 because the series could turn so fast. It's a great position to be in. I don't want to take that for granted; don't get me wrong. But the job is not done, and you can't relax or be comfortable when you're still trying to win this thing. We know coming on the road is going to be tougher. We just want to play our best brand of basketball and play as hard as we can when we step out on the court. We didn't play well. They shot the ball extremely well, and we were a step slow on everything. So we can't be that way. He doesn't complain., He's low maintenance. He doesn't really care for the celebrity or the fame that comes with being an NBA player. He just works hard every day, comes and plays defense hard. And he cares. You see that. Sometimes you see it, sometimes you don't with Klay, but we know it's there all the time because he's so consistent every day. Somebody who just genuinely loves to play ball and wants to do it as best as he can, because he knows his time is short. So somebody who embraces every single day, that's toughness to me. Just another guy with veteran experience that can do multiple things; that can pass; that can rebound, dribble, can shoot the ball. Just smart. Just knows how to play the game of basketball, especially the Warrior way of playing basketball for us. He kind of settles us down a little bit. You look at 'Dre, he has an even keel for the game. Somebody that's just always dependable. We're looking forward to getting him back. Hopefully he's here soon. Don't know the significance of the injury, but just knowing that we miss him out on the court and we want him back out there. Yes, so he really is hurt. It really didn't do anything for me, to be honest. We won a championship, but me personally, I mean, there were just so many other plays in that game that helped us get that championship that were just as important. That's how I approach the game. Just knowing that everything that led up to the win, it happened the days before. It happened in practice. It happened in the first quarter, second quarter. So we just know how important every possession is. That situation may not happen again. So we've just got to embrace whatever happens and look forward to a crazy, crazy environment with a team that's desperate. Those combinations are tough to stop. We're looking forward to it, though. We've got a great opportunity, being up 2-0, and we can't wait to go out there and take advantage of it. |
| It's a different game, different season. I mean, different feel. Just a different vibe around the team, around just -- everything's just different. But I'm not done playing basketball yet, so I don't really look at these as defining moments. I don't want to downplay anything, but I don't want to act like this is the end of the road. So just get back to work tomorrow and figure out a better game plan. I thought we did some things tonight that we need to correct if we want to win the next game. So I'm just really trying to come in and be the best teammate, player I can be until this thing is over. I've just got to stay locked in. I didn't think about it at all. I just tried to play hard defense, tried to rebound as best as I could. If my shots were there, I just take them patiently and with poise. I found some good spots, and my teammates did a great job of setting screens for me, setting me up. Coach did a great job of calling plays for me, and I just tried to come through and be aggressive, just to do something, you know? But my main concern was defensive effort, intensity and rebounding. I just felt like especially the way he was missing shots tonight, he was struggling to shoot the ball, and the confidence that he had to pull that one up, and just the momentum of the game just kind of turned in our favor at that point. I know they hit a three coming back down afterwards, but they took like three or four shots to get one. So I felt like they were searching for a three. But we stayed poised through it all. We made good plays, and Andre came down and hit a dunk. And that just -- that momentum -- came down and got a nice dunk. But that momentum started when we had a stop first. And when Steph came down and took that three, no conscience, no matter how many shots he missed. That's what I love about him. Yeah, just tried to focus on each possession down. If we get a good shot down, no matter who takes it, I think we're all cool with that. I think defensively is when we came to play in the second half. We're going to need more of that effort, especially for a full 48, if we want to win. Yes. Don't get me wrong, every time I make a shot in the NBA I get excited. I just internalize it a little bit as I get older a little bit more than I did as a younger player. So I was definitely excited. It's hard to make shots at this level in the NBA, and I understand that. But at the same time I knew the game wasn't over. I've seen some crazy stuff happen in my years of playing basketball, not just in the NBA but just overall. We were up 6 with 25 seconds to go, I think. So anything could happen, man. You know, I just tried to make sure that we came out and didn't foul a three-point shooter or didn't give up a wide-open three or got too excited about that play. I just try to stay in the zone of trying to win the game and we'll figure everything else out after the game's over. So I just try to wait until the buzzer goes off to even think about anything else. No, not at all. I just took the shot. It just happened within the flow. I wasn't expecting to come out or shoot a lot of shots or look to score. I was just trying to play great defense and run the plays that Coach draws up and just run with the flow of what our offense is like throughout the game. I try not to think about just scoring. But, you know, we struggled to shoot the ball early on, and I felt like I had some good looks. I started asking for more of them, and I was able to knock down some shots for us. I mean, I just love that support from my teammates, and I think we all just support each other in a real -- with a real childlike approach to the game. That's rare in the NBA because we're all professionals. We're all grown men. But I think having guys that get so excited about a good play, a good block or a good rotation or a good shot or dagger shot. I think everybody gets excited for the small parts of the game, and Steph is one of those guys that just brings that joy. That's what the Warriors are all about, is just us having some fun out there, but also being, you know, poised and all those good words. Yeah, we just -- we didn't want to panic and let them push the lead from 12 to 16, 17 going into the half. So we knew that they were knocking down shots, and we knew we had some breakdowns that we could correct. On the offensive side of the ball, we just kept moving and moving the ball, finding the mismatches, and just being aggressive, all of us, to score. I thought Jordan Bell was tremendous tonight, Javale McGee was tremendous tonight, just giving us that, you know, rim presence, might catch the lob and it opened it up for everybody else. It's stuff that you really don't see as a normal fan or somebody watching the game, like JaVale and Jordan brought that for us. I think that was key in the first half, at the end of the first half, those guys coming in, and Andre and the bench did a great job of kind of settling us down a little bit. I didn't. I didn't beat myself up about that one. But this team, Cleveland especially, I think a lot of teams just try to beat us up on the glass and get more possessions than us. After Game 1, I had nine rebounds, but they were just like a soft nine rebounds, just ball falling in my hand or I'm in the right spot or uncontested rebounds. So I knew coming in that should be my focus because these guys are so great at getting extra possessions for their team. So, you know, Draymond and JaVale and D. West, they do a good job of boxing out, so I wanted to come in there and help out as much as I can and help us kind of push the break if we get a rebound. |
| Does it matter? Does it? Does it? We won two championships. We just won back-to-back. I don't think anybody's even worried about that type of stuff. I'm glad that we came out and played a great game tonight. We were able to finish the series off. That's the only thing that matters to us. All of us. We all want something that's bigger than ourselves. I think we love to see each other succeed. We love to come together and figure stuff out on the basketball court. And I think tonight everybody just played their roles well. Steph came out, was aggressive for us early. Got us -- set the nice tone for us, and everybody else kind of filled in. Our defense was great. 34% from the field, I think, the whole series. The whole playoffs our defense has been great. We finished it off with a championship, so we've got a bunch of guys in the locker room that don't care about anything but just being better basketball players every day and winning. It makes the environment great. Yeah, you could see it when you play against them and through the TV. But when you get up close and personal on an everyday basis, you really, really feel that way. Grateful and excited that I get this opportunity, and it feels so good to be a part of a group like this. To win two championships is -- that's what you want as an NBA player. That's how you know we're a great team is when everybody's coming after us. Whether it's opponents, whether it's different coaches panning for us, whether it's the fans, the media that hate us, it feels good when you're the team that everybody's gunning for. It makes us better. It makes us come to work and try to play at that championship level every single day, and that's the hardest part. But, you know, I'm glad we were able to lock in, especially in the playoffs, and do what we were supposed to do to win this thing. I've just got to keep getting better. I don't think I prove -- I proved to myself I picked the right career as a kid. I think I've got a lot more to go. So I'm just trying to prove to myself that I could just stay in it for the long haul, and hopefully I continue to have some success. Just keep growing as a player. That's my only concern. Late Registration. Yeah, that's probably equivalent. But it feels good. You know, when you experience something for the first time and you do it again, those emotions aren't going to be there as they were the first time. But just knowing that the work that you put in paid off and the care that you have for something, you know, it means something. I feel like I did something that pulled back into this Earth, I pull good energy back into the Earth when I go and work hard every day on my game, and I care about the game, and I watch basketball and care for my teammates, and we care for each other. I think we're doing something good in the world. I feel really good. Former players and players now that got a lot to say about what I did, they know how I play. They know exactly what I bring. They know. They know. They understand when they get on the court with me or they check up with me. They know what it is. So I kind of try to just stand on that, but I know what I bring to the game. I know how I approach the game, how hard I work, how much I care. I think that's the stuff I try to focus on more than anything is just being a professional basketball player and doing stuff for me and the team. So I pride myself on that and everything else is just noise. Oh, it feels great to go out there and win a championship with these guys, the way we did it. Like Draymond said earlier, it's the season, it was just an up-and-down season, so many guys got hurt. We were going through so much. When Pat McCaw went down, that put a lot on us emotionally as a team, and we got through that. I feel like we had a lot of those episodes throughout the year. To finish it off with a championship, especially in a sweep, it feels so good. I'm just so happy for Nick Young, Quinn Cook, their first championships. It feels great that we can go out there and give an experience to guys that haven't been here before, just like they did to me last year. So it feels great that we can do that. Just the brotherhood that we have in that locker room, and just the family atmosphere that we take on the road, not just the players, but support staff and everybody in the organization. You know, they don't get the credit. They don't get the praise, but so many people helped us get to this point, and we appreciate them. And it feels good to kind of win it for them. No. Just the product of hard work, and care and love for the game. I treat this game with -- I just feel indebted to the game. I feel like it saved my life, it changed my life. It took me out of an environment that I didn't think I'd ever be out of. Living in Maryland my whole life. I thought I was going to live in Maryland my whole life. But to travel the world and meet different people, and go to different arenas and different cities and countries around the world, I'm just forever grateful for this opportunity. So however it came, the championship and all that stuff, it means a lot. But just to be able to change my life in picking up a basketball and change my family's life, you know, this is the cherry on top, and I'm definitely excited about it. But just to be able to leave Maryland and experience and see different parts of the world, that was -- that's why I love this game of basketball. It was able to teach me so much about life. To win a championship on top of that means a lot. One thing about our team is that a lot of guys really don't care about statements. We just want to win the basketball game. If we happened to lose tonight, we were just going to focus on going back home and trying to finish it off. We weren't thinking about a sweep coming in. We knew we had a good chance to play well this series. But we were just trying to play great basketball, especially after coming out of that Houston series where it was a tough, grind-out series. We just wanted to win, and however it came we were excited about it. But to win in a sweep feels pretty good. I want to see Jordan Bell come back a better player. I want to see Quinn Cook come back a better player. That's all I'm concerned about. And I know the veterans are going to come back and do exactly what they need to do. But to have two young guys that contributed and helped us out the whole season, I'm excited to see how they come back next year. Looking forward to just to different tricks that we use throughout the season next year. I can't wait. Thank you guys for whatever you did all season. I appreciate the love and support, and we're back-to-back champs. |
| When we score, we need to get back. They are attacking us in transition and we know that. We just need to be, the mindset needs to be get back, get back, get back. I think that's the first step. I think I started the game really good. Then I had three fouls and because of that, I kind of was off. And then I started the third quarter somehow good. I think I was aggressive. But, I mean, we need to do collectively a better job. They are really good shot blockers. They are attacking us off of the rebound. We just need to match that. I think we can, again, do collectively a better job of rebounding the ball a little bit better. And when someone is going to block the shot, just find open guy and make yourself an open guy. All three bigs. I think JaVale had a really good energy in the first half, in the first quarter. AD was really good scoring-wise. Dwight was really good. He kind of picked up their energy. , I think we can do a little bit different. Make a little bit of adjustments. Just try to make it a little bit harder to score. |
| I mean, we were there before, the second or third game against Clippers. I think we had it and we kind of lost it in the end. We put the effort there, we put in the fight. I think we played well most of the game. We were down, we came back again. We're going to keep our heads up and on to the next one. I mean, they have two really good, really good players. They have LeBron, who is probably the best player in the league, and they have AD, who is probably the best scorer in the league. I think it's not easy to figure them out. They are really talented. We can just make it tough, make them feel uncomfortable. To answer the question, maybe. But they're really talented. They're going to find solutions. We just need to kind of stay on top and just make them uncomfortable. I mean, it's a basketball game. He's a big guy. He knows his role. He's doing it really well. But it's not just me against him, it's Nuggets against Lakers. To be honest, I don't think about it. Whoever is over there, I'm going to try to beat him, try to win the game. It is what it is. Again, I say it's not just me against them, it's Nuggets against Lakers. Either going to be him or LeBron, so we kind of knew it. Just happened, a little bit of miscommunication. I think I had a really good contest, to be honest. I think I was right there. As soon as he shot the ball, he shot it really well. Like, I kind of felt it going in. I think great players make great shots. He did it. He's a really good player. I mean, we are here underdogs. That is how you say, underdogs? I mean, we need to fight. That's our only chance. They were up 15, isn't it, or 16? I don't know how much they were up. We could just call it a game and quit. I think we just want to give the fight. Maybe it's going to be 30 points, but fight needs to be there, and effort. I mean, to be honest, he did so many good things. He was aggressive. He was going to the paint. He was making advantage for us. He took two charges. Those two free throws don’t really matter that much. He played great. Just by looking at him, because he's shooting before me literally every time, I kind of see little bit of his workouts, how he's practicing. I'm nobody, but I see how he's developing. I see how he's into it. He buys in. He's listening to coaches. It's really nice to see the kind of up way that he did. He's not playing, but he's upgrading, he's getting better. |
| Of course, we know it's a game of runs. They had a really good run. I think we kind of stopped playing, waiting them to just quit, which would not happen. I think even we had open looks and they continued to play zone. Jamal made really, really big shots in the end of the game and that's why we won the game. I mean, no. I'm just whatever. If I can score, I'm going to score. If I don't need to score, I'm not going to. It happened that way. I’m never going into the game, I'm going to do this, this, this, this. I'm just going to take whatever the game's giving me. It's easier that way. I mean, again, they're doing their job. I'm trying to do my job. Sometimes they win, sometimes I win. It's a game, so I don't think about it as a matchup. I don't know the answer. I'm just trying to play the game how it's supposed to be played. If they're aggressive, try to attack me, if they backing off. I'm just going to play the game. Yeah, I mean, I said from where we were against Portland last year. We play four overtimes, lost, then we won the next game. Then the Clippers, too. We just don't want to quit. That's the mentality. Maybe they can beat us by 20, 30. But we just cannot quit, you know. Effort needs to be there. He's always good. I think he doesn't have a bad game. Sometimes he cannot score, but he's doing the right thing that he's supposed to do. He's helping us during the games. Sometimes it's the matchups. Sometimes it’s just the circumstances on the floor, that we cannot have him on the floor. I think he's doing a really good job of making plays for us. When he's open, he's knocking the shots down. He's playing really good for us. I mean, he was injured before. When we came here, he was kind of struggling with the shoulder, with the elbow, I don't know what it was. But I really believe in him. I think he can make the big shots. He is built for the big shots. I really, truly believe that he's a superstar and he's a really big part of this team. He carried us today, a bunch of nights. I'm really glad that he's my teammate. I think Monte played really well, too. I think Jerami played amazing. In that third quarter, I think he had like 10, 12, 15 points. I don't know how many. He was really aggressive. He was going to the rims. That's what we need from him. He was going to the defense. He's a big guy, can finish around the rim. He played really well today. He's going to do that in the next games. It seems like every series is kind of the same for us. Even Utah, we lost the first. Did we? The first game? Sorry, it's not (smiling). I mean, I think the game before, we saw that we could play with them. The first game, they were just really aggressive. They were making shots. We were kind of one step slower than them. They were kind of surprising us in every way, by the pace, by the rebounding. Second game we kind of knew what we were going to see out on the floor. Today it was just a really good night for us. We were playing really good defense I think. Just we need to figure out that big run that they had, we cannot let that happen. But, yeah, it was a big win for us today. |
| Yeah, I think the rebounding was the problem. We gave them a lot of second-chances. We kind of played good defense, in the end we didn't rebound, we didn't finish the possession. Too many fouls. I think they were on the line too many time. I mean, I think we were good except for those two segments. I mean, we need to box out of course. I think we just need to focus on who is going to go and who needs to box out. But on the other hand, there needs to be effort. All five guys need to rebound. It's a team effort. He did his job. He had a really good first quarter. He kind of brought energy for them with AD, of course, who scored a lot in the first quarter. I mean, yes and no. I think we had a lot of, kind of cheap fouls. Like if you're going to make a foul, just make a foul, don't let him chance to shoot it. I think we can stop the break a little bit. I think we can be a little bit smarter, not giving them easy points on the line. Yeah, he was playing really good. His energy on the floor was really, really... We all felt it. Maybe the last one, the left handed, I think that was a big one. I did not understand. Is it physicality or foul calls? What was the question? I mean, I think first of all, it needs to be a foul. I mean, I don't know. If it’s a foul, the ref is going to call it. If it's not, he's not going to call it. I'm going to stick with that. |
| It was an experience. It was something that we are going to remember our whole life. We're going to remember this our whole life. We had a really good group of guys. There was a lot of fight in us. Like you said, we had six elimination games. We didn't want to quit. Today they were good. They were better. They won the game. LeBron was amazing. AD was good. He scored a lot of points. He's really good, a really big attraction to us, like, we need to think about him all the time. I think Caruso played well. Dwight Howard played well. So I think everybody step up on their team. But I think we made an interesting series. They beat us at the buzzer, then we won the one game, then next game after that it was a close game. So, I mean, we made at least a little bit interesting. So, I don't know what your question actually was. Yeah, it was takeaways, yeah. Great experience. That we fight. That's something that, even today they were up 16, I think, we didn't quit. We didn't quit. We didn't throw the game away. And that's something that is going to be our mentality and our focus in the next years. So just don't quit, keep fighting, effort, and just give yourself a chance to win the game. That's the only thing that we can ask. I mean, he's amazing. He was our leader. His energy through the whole playoffs. He was banged up. He was injured before, even when I came here, he was a little bit banged up, he didn't play a couple games. But he's a dog. He's a fighter. He's a competitor. He's an amazing shooter. He played amazing. He was amazing. Since when I came here five years ago or six years ago, we had 33 wins, I think, that season. And today we're in the Western Conference Finals. So, I think it's interesting to think about it, just the huge improvement that we have, me as a player, as a group, as a whole organization. It was amazing. It was amazing improvement. We have a couple guys that it's the last year in their contract. I mean, it depends. I don't know. I mean, I'm just, I'm happy that we know the way and we showed the way to the young guys how we need to play and how we need to look on the court. So, I think that's the one thing that we can point to the young guys. I mean Jerami was guarding every single best player on their team, you know, so he's, today he was the best scorer -- was he? How much did Jerami score today? Yeah, so he was probably the best scorer on our team and he was guarding the best players on their team. So that's really tough to do. That's really something that you need to have a lot of pride in yourself, defending and then just to have energy and still have effort to score. And Mike, I think he surprised probably a bunch of the players, a bunch of the teams with his shooting ability and just how talented he is. But I think it's a great experience for him too, just to see, like every ball matters, every possession matters. So, I think he learned a lot during these playoffs. I mean, maybe that's why we didn't quit in the Utah series, maybe that's why we didn't quit in the Clippers series, you know, because we are nobody. We are just someone who've work to be here. You know, some didn't play for a season or two, so we know what the feeling of working hard for something and working and not playing. So, when you play in the Western Conference Finals you know how big it is. |
| A little bit sore. I'll be okay with some treatment. I'll get ready to go again. I think I got to be ready to go. So we'll see how it feels tomorrow, but I'm going to be fine. I just take what the game gives me for the most part. I still have a lot of belief in all of my teammates, I will continually play that way. But, yeah, maybe so, maybe try to score a little bit more. But I still got to make sure that everybody else is getting their touches and getting the shots that they need, because we have been playing this way all year long and that's our formula to success. We just got to be tougher. We got to put up more of a fight. I don't think we did that. And then it doesn't help whenever we don't make shots. It's been that way all year long, whenever we start to miss a couple shots, we don't do what we're supposed to do on the other end. So I think we should always think about letting our defense, for sure our rebounding, start it off for us and then hopefully we start to make shots. Just let him know that I and we are here for him. We know how much he wants to win, how much he wants to go to war and battle with us. Obviously we love him for that and we want him out there with us. But whatever the doctor tells him to do, that's what he’s got to do. I understand that he wants to go out there and compete and obviously we want him out there with us. But he got to take care of himself first. That's what he does, he stayed ready, he's working on his game and he's in it to win it. Whenever his number and name's called, he's ready to play. He knows the schemes. And it looks like he's going to be in this rotation, I sure hope so, because he definitely showed what he can do on the big stage tonight. Nothing. We talk about how damn near perfect that we have to play, and that was nowhere near it. There's nothing to be said. We can watch all the film in the world, we understand, we know what we did not do, what we talked about we were going to do, we didn't do. We didn't rebound, we didn't make them miss any shots, we didn't get back, all of those things led to the deficit that we put ourselves in. Be ready to go with or without Goran. We're still expecting to win. We still know that we can. Like I said earlier, we want that guy out there with us. He's a big part of what we're trying to do, but until we can have him back, we got to go out there and we got to fight even harder. We got to try to cover up what he gives us and make up for it. We're capable of it. We have to be capable of it. Moving forward with or without Goran we better hurry up and tie it up 1-1. They did well, they did great and we appreciate them for going out there and competing, knowing the schemes, knowing guys on the opposing team. But they know that. They know that any, any day, any quarter, any minute Coach could call on them and they're expected to produce and know what they're doing out there. But they're pros, they have been going about this the right way all year long, we're going to need those guys to really get back in this thing. |
| That we're never giving up. We're going to fight and we're going to ride with this thing until the wheels fall off. It's not over. We're just down 0-2, so we got to do something special. We're capable of it and I wouldn't want to be in the trenches with any other guys except for the ones that we have. I think we just believe. We believe in one another. We believe in what we put together and we believe in what we do every day. But like I said at the beginning of this thing, we got to play damn near perfect in order to beat those guys over there. We have yet to do it and if we don't do it soon, it's not going to be pretty. Play harder. Play harder. Empty the tanks. That's what we're going to have to do when we're down two stars like Bam and Goran. Everybody got to lock in, we got to be, you know, three places at once. It's so hard to do but we got guys that have to do it. That's what it's going to take to beat this team. That's what he said, play harder. That's what it's going to take for to us win a championship, play harder. What he said? Oh, yeah, yeah. I think that we got to do it from the jump though, it shouldn't take him telling us to do that. But I like the way that we responded to it. But we got guys that when you tell them what it is, we normally respond. So maybe he should just start the game off cussing people out. I think everybody's spirits are already up. I think we know that we still have yet to rebound the basketball. I mean, when you're giving guys two, three shots to put the ball in the basket, eventually one of them is going to go in. I like the looks that we're taking on offense. We generated enough points, maybe we get back a little bit, foul a little bit less, but the main thing is rebounding. I don't think that we have to tell anybody that. Like I said earlier, maybe we just got to play a lot harder and know that that's how we're going to squeak out a win in the end, but there's really not too much to say to our guys, we understand what we have to do. Just make the right basketball play, knowing that I need my guys in order to win the game, I definitely do. They know that and I will continue to play that way because that's how we're going to win, that's how we played all year long. Just because we're in The Finals it's not going to change. I'm comfortable with the guys taking the shots that they take, creating the offense that they create and we're going to always live with what we get on offense. Yeah, all in all I just think what we took from the second half is how hard you really have to play. I think that's the main thing. We got all the shots we wanted, got to rebound, but I think that just goes to the playing hard. Putting your nose on the ball, affecting the game in so many different ways. Yeah, we miss those guys. Obviously, what they do for us on both ends of the floor, but just as people we feel for them. This is what they have played basketball their entire lives for and for them not to be able to go out there and compete I can only, I can only understand. Every second before the game. They want to play. They do. But coach understands that you got to take care of your guys. You don't want it to get too bad. But, yeah, we need those guys, we want those guys out there with us. But it's just bigger than basketball. We want them to have a long career and whenever they do get back in this series we want them to be ready to go. We didn't rebound. They were getting all types of offensive rebounds in the paint. We didn't get back. Same thing as the first game. Eventually we're going to have to fix it because that's how we're going to win. We got to secure the ball, we got to get back and stop them from dunking and getting layups and free throws. If we do that, I think we might be all right. I think so, yeah. Whatever it takes to win. You guarantee me a win with me playing 48 minutes I'll take it. Yup. I think so. I think that if we get more shots up, make them get a little bit off on them offensive rebounding the ball so well, I think we're in a better position. And like I said, I like what we’ve have been doing. It's just we got to play harder, we got to rebound the basketball, we got to get back, we really got to lock in to what we're supposed to be doing. If we do that, we can turn this thing around. |
| We won. I could care less about a triple-double. We play this game to win. I'm glad my teammates got a lot of trust and faith in me to go out there and hoop like that, but like I always say, you guarantee me a win, I could care less. My trainer James Scott does a great job of making sure that I'm strong enough to play through contact and just be conditioned. That's what we do here in the Heat. We pride ourselves on that and I love it. I love the work and I tell Coach all the time, I'm ready for this. Like the biggest stage, whatever you ask me to do I can do. I mean, that's competition at its finest. I think LeBron has got the best of me way too many times. I respect the guy for it, but this is a different time now, a different group of guys that I have around me, and we are here to win, we are here to compete. But we're not going to lay down, we're going to fight back in this thing, even it up 2-2. No. You got to empty the tank on every possession, especially playing against a great team like the Lakers. But we got a good team. Like I say, I got the easy job. These guys create so much space for me, I get to shoot it whenever I'm open, pass it whenever I'm not. I really do have the easy job. But none of us, none of us are ever going to leave anything in the tank. We're going to lay it all out there on the floor. I saw him just hoop, which is what I tell him every single chance I get. This isn't a big stage for him, this is just basketball. Do what you've been doing all year long and we're going to live with it. We ride with you, we're supporting you and we're constantly giving you confidence. There's no shot that you've never seen that you don't like, and we love you for that. So you take those because that's what's going to help us win games, compete, guard. And being the youngest to play or start, it's another day for him. It is. Everybody remembers winning, that's it. They don't care how many points you score, they only care if you won or lost. For us we're all about winning. We are. I say it all the time but I mean it. The guys that we have, the group that Coach Pat and Coach Spo put together it's always to win, nothing else. So I hope the next game I score zero and y'all talk all you want to talk and we win so I come up here and say the same thing. It means a lot. I go out there and I go to war for those guys because whenever they're out there, they're going to war with and for me. Whatever they ask me to do, I want to do it to the best of my ability, obviously. They asked me to go out there and win, like they did the previous two games, and tonight I couldn't hold up my end of the bargain. Tonight I did that -- we did that, I should say, and give them an extra couple days and get those guys back. That is what I said. First of all, I'm not just out there talking trash because I'm not. LeBron said that to me at the end of the first, that's what happened. I just said it to him in the fourth quarter. And talking about playing damn near perfect, we did a good job of that tonight. We rebounded the basketball, which is what we always talked about. We got back. But I think guys are starting to realize how much we belong on this stage and that we are in The Finals for a reason. To tell you the truth, I think when we get these other two guys back, they're going to make everybody's job including mine a lot easier. So I'm excited, but we still got to play better moving forward. The offensive player is always at the advantage, as long as you can get to your spot, you do what you really want to do. But like I always say, like my teammates do that for me, you can't leave those guys, because if you do I'm passing it to them. Half the time it's a bad pass and it will be at their feet, but they always find a way to make the shot. I have so much confidence in this group of guys, as does Coach Spo, it's so fun to play with them guys, even better to win with them. I saw it. He did that thing with his lip, I saw that. Tyler's always going to be Tyler. I think we all love him for that. But like I tell T all the time, he's my third favorite Herro. His little brother Myles is definitely my favorite, so I'll talk more to Myles tomorrow than I will to Tyler because I think he is the reason that Tyler plays like that. He understands that he looks up to Tyler, and so Tyler goes out there and plays with so much confidence because he knows that his brother is watching. No, it means nothing. I, we stay focused on ourselves that's how we got here. But we're just settling down. I think it's a lot of bright lights, it's a big stage for almost everybody except for Coach Spo, Andre, OG [Udonis Haslem], and nobody been here before. But we're coming to realize that we belong here. We're a really good team and we can win, as we have shown tonight, if we play basketball the right way, if we do what we say we're going to do. So everybody is just becoming more and more comfortable as the days go by. We put bodies on bodies. We played a lot more man, which I think we all agreed was a good call on coach's part. He's great at adjusting. We rebounded the basketball. We made a lot of things difficult for them, all hands on deck, getting into the paint and I think that it's going to be even better whenever we get Bam back. It doesn't. I don't care. We don't, we really don't care. We could care less if they pick us to win. Obviously ya'll picking us to lose. We're just going to go out there and compete, do what we know that we're capable of. I will say, Duncan needs to shoot the ball a lot more. He needs to hunt shots because he's going to be a reason that we win one of these games. He's going to hit six, seven 3s and I'm going to jump up and down and I'm going to give him a big hug, maybe a slight kiss on the back of his head, because I know how important that that guy is to our team. We're always confident. We know that we can win any game if we rebound, if we don't turn the ball over, if we get back, things like that. But we got a group that, like we're, I don't like the word "underdog" so -- nobody's picking us, there you go, nobody's picking us. And we really don't care. We're going to go out there and compete that's what we have been doing all year long, all playoffs, the time that we have been here. Stay confident because we know we're a good team. |
| That's okay. We know we got to be better. We know that we can be better, as I've been saying this entire time. We showed glimpses of it and then we made some crucial mistakes whether it be on the defensive end or the offensive end and beat ourselves in the end. But like I always say, they're a really, really, really good team, we got to play damn near perfect to beat them. We didn't do that tonight. Move with a purpose, screen a little bit better, and make some shots. It's going to be some tough ones, it is. They're contesting every shot. I don't know what everybody's average wingspan is, but it's going to be tough. I just think that we got to do better getting ourselves in triggers, myself, Bam, Tyler, Duncan and take it from there. But we'll watch this, learn from it, but we can't lose another one. I mean, he's an incredible defender. He contests a lot of shots, blocks shots. But I just think I got to be better at getting my guys involved, more dribble hand-offs, more screens, maybe playing a little bit without the ball, playing off the ball. That's something that I can learn from that I got to be better because I think that's my role is to make sure that everybody's in the right spot and that I'm putting us in the best position to win. So we got to switch it up a little bit. Whoever they put on me I got to do a better job of making sure we win, no matter if it's AD or anybody else that they have on their roster. I have a job to do, we have a job to do and we didn't do that. I think he's been playing incredible. He's making all the right decisions, he's taking all the right shots, he's just out there playing carefree, as he should. We want him to stay aggressive, be aggressive and continue playing the best version of basketball that he has. He's been helping us all year long, he's going to continue to help us, and I tell him, keep going, always keep going, if you make a mistake, forget about it, get back and let's try to run the next play. I don't think that it should. I just think we're so comfortable with who we are and how we play that that's what we're going to go out there and do. We're going to live with the end result. Obviously we want it to be a win, but we just got to lock in on us, knowing that we can control a lot of these things. But our confidence ain't going nowhere, it's going to stay high, I'm going to make sure that it stays high, because it's going to have to be at an all-time high to get this next win. I was happy for him. I think the entire team and organization was happy for him too. He does so many things for us; another guy that can handle the ball, score the ball, defend, rebound, all that good stuff. I think that as we get him back into it and he watches the film with everybody else he's going to see how he can really, really, really put his imprint on the game. So I'm excited to have him back and we're going to do something special with him. Keep fighting. It's kind of a back breaker though whenever you get a stop and then they get an offensive rebound. You talk about it and then it happens. And that's crucial possessions late in the fourth. I got to get in there and help rebound, everybody, we just got to put our nose on that basketball and get it up out of there. So I'm excited to see how we bounce back, it's a hard time to bounce back, but I know we can do it. |
| Nothing. I left it all out there on the floor along with my guys, and that's how we're going to have to play from here on out. Like I always say, it's win or win for us. But this is the position that we're in. We like it this way. We got two more in a row to get. Because that's what my team asks of me, that's what they need me to do, and I think Coach Pat and Coach Spo brought me here for that reason; to help us win games and I have to continue to do that for two more games. I know that I'm capable of it, but I got a hell of a group of guys around me that make my job a lot easier. I'm fortunate for those guys because when I pass it to them they make shots. When I get beat going to the rim, they're there. So we're in this thing together and they give me a lot of confidence to go out there and hoop. Look, man, I can say it every time I'm up here, but we live for these moments. Like the work that we put in, we're built for this, we have been doing this all year long. This didn't just start in the bubble. We have been playing together, win, loss, draw, whatever, we're in this thing together. And that's what's going to win us games. I think night in and night out it could be anybody. It could be Bam, it could be hopefully Goran. Like we're so together when we're out there on the floor, off the floor, that's why we win because everybody wants everybody to be successful. I mean, if you're the best player in the world, you're supposed to be able to do that. We keep our head high knowing that he's going to hit some tough ones. That's what really, really, really great players do. But we ain't backing down. We ain't shying away. We can go on the other end and do what we do. I think he had a hell of a performance tonight, along with AD, the whole team. But we're still fighting. We're in it to win it, we're not backing down, we're not scared of nobody. I think it's easy whenever I have the group of guys that I have around me and that I have the coaching staff that believes I can play at a high level. Coach Pat brought me here to play at a high level. I got so many people in my ear just telling me to keep doing what I've been doing, play basketball the right way and we're going to end up winning. So that's why I smile, knowing that we're always going to play the right way and we're always going to live with the result, because we're going to leave it all out there on the floor. I know that I'm capable of it. I believe in my skill set and my talent. My teammates do as well. But it's not just me, Duncan had a hell of a game, K-Nunn came in and did what K-Nunn did. Bam had a huge one. All of us, all of us was the reason that we won this game and it's going to be the same way for the next two. To stop running from the basketball, can't shoot the ball if you don't have the ball. I think he gets lost in trying to get other people open, when everybody is going to react to him probably more so than they're going to react to me. A three is worth more than a two. So as long as he's coming to the ball, shooting the ball when he's open, when he's not open, that's the Duncan Robinson that we need, that we want, because that's how he's been playing all year long. And we're going to need him to be even more aggressive for Game 6. To tell you the truth, I don't know. I'm going to go back and talk to Armando and whatever he says do, I guess I got to do. I really hate when people tell me what to do, by the way, but I know that he has my best interests at heart and he'll probably tell me what to do in Spanish as well. Just stay aggressive. I don't know what they're going to throw at me on any given night, but I think whatever you throw at me it's not going to work because if I'm open I'm going to shoot it. If I'm not I'm going to pass it to Duncan or Tyler or K-Nunn or Bam or Jae and they're going to make the shot. So as long as we stay together and play basketball the right way, no matter how they guard me, I'm going to make the right play. I started to put people into positions that they need to be put in. I think I rushed a lot, I didn't have guys knowing where they were supposed to be. And that's my fault, because coach is telling me the play and I'm not echoing it down the line. And I can't let that happen because then you go on a 10-0 run or whatever they went on. We'll watch it, we'll be better, but we got to know, I have to let everybody know where we're supposed to be at. I mean, I'm sure they wanted to win, thought they was going to win coming into it. As did we. But it was a hard-fought game, I think it's going to be even harder for us next game, but I like our chances. Not really, I don't be paying attention to them over there. I don't pay attention to the confetti machines. I do pay attention to Rondo's son, Pierre though, that's my guy. Other than that, I’ll be so locked in on the game, I’ll be locked in on my squad, because we're here to win, we're here to win. So for these next two we're going to, we're in the trenches. This is over with. We got to get better, even from wins. I don't think we ended the game the way we were supposed to. We didn't rebound when we needed to. We got lucky. Luck is a part of everything and that's what that was. Now don't get me wrong, I'm taking the W, but I think going into the next one got to play even more perfect. We got to secure the ball, we got to get back, we got to do everything right to give us a chance to win. |
| It's hard because it was special to us. We really enjoy playing with one another, really enjoy being around one another. I just appreciate it and I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to be able to do that. Obviously, nobody likes to lose. But I think we fought all year long. Ups and downs, we stayed together. I think that's what it's all about. I don't know what next year looks like, what it brings, but I'm very grateful, thankful and blessed to have played with these guys. That I'm a decent player. I think that I grew in every aspect of the game. So I can smile about that. More than anything, I've learned that here, me works. Here, I'm always, always, always, always going to believe in my guys. I think the one thing that I learned more than anything is how fun it is to play with these guys. It really was fun watching all my young fellas grow. Having vets come in and showcase what they can still do and teach me so much. It was a great time. Just got a group that's a lot like me. The fan base is incredible. The organization keeps it real all the time, the coaches do and the players do as well. They embraced me. They want me to be here. It's fortunate to be able to be around people like that. I'm very fortunate. This is where I belong. This is what makes me smile. This is what makes me happy. I wish I could have done it for the city. I wish I could have done it for my teammates, for the organization. But I'm still glad that it happened. A lot. I love him to death. I love him to death. I wish I could play with him as a teammate for forever. Because these are the moments that you cherish. He put his body on the line for me and the rest of our guys for this organization. That shows the type of player that he is and the type of person that he is. We go down swinging, I'm glad he was out there fighting with us. We're trending in the right direction. We're going to learn from this. We're going to get better. We're going to come back. We're going to come back. We'll be back. That's what we're all saying in that locker room. We got guys that want to do it. We got guys that already want to get back in the gym and get to working at this thing. That's what we do here. Like I said, it was a pleasure to play with these guys. We're definitely moving in the right direction. Just the bond that this group built. I wouldn't give that back for the world. We really, really, really love being around one another and competing with one another. I wouldn't trade that for the world. If I had to spend three months around some people, these people, they're the ones that I want to do it with. I didn't win, so none of the stats matter. We don't play for stats here. We don't play for anything else except for the win. I didn't do that. I didn't do my job. I'll be better, along with everybody else. I'll be better coming back. You sulk on this because of what could have been, but it didn't happen. We didn't win, and that's what you leave this at. This is what my team needed me to do, the organization asked of me. I told them that I would win them one and I didn't hold up my end of the bargain, so that means I got to do it next year. I told Coach Pat, I told Coach Spo I'm here to win one. I didn't do my job, so moving forward, I got to hold up my end of the bargain. |