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| 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. |
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| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
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| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
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| 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. |
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| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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, 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. |
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| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
|  |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |