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| It was. You play the game and you haven't seen it, and you're like, man, that was an ugly game. Then you look at the tape and you're like, maybe it wasn't that bad. But that game, it really was that bad, you know what I'm saying, for us. We executed, and my performance taking care of the ball and trying to set the table, it was pretty bad. But we came out with the win, and that's all really that matters. Well, I think my angles was just bad on it, my decisions wasn't fast enough on it. They were long. They've got a lot of long guys, and it was good. It worked; it was effective. Well, that's really not me. I've had a lot of games where I've taken less than ten shots, you know what I'm saying, but when I do do that, we've got at least three guys rolling. Last night we only had one guy, Rip, who pretty much carried us. You probably won't see that too often. He told me, settle down, relax, make the play, don't worry about it. We're there for one another like that, especially when one of us is struggling, the other one is always there to have his back. That's why we're such a great tandem. No, they usually showed real hard, but they never really trapped it hard. No matter what pick-and-roll we was running, it was high side, low, it didn't matter, they were just trying to take me away. I really don't blame them. But it won't be that effective anymore, I know that. Good teams win ugly games, man. Just find a way. You've just got to find a way sometimes, and that's exactly what we did yesterday. I thought our second half was pretty good, considering how bad the first half was. It was pretty good. We came out, turned the tide once again in the second half. Once we finally took the lead, we never looked back. Yeah, we planned on him being a lot more aggressive, and because he wasn't, a lot of the things that we planned on doing or talked about, we didn't even have to go to them as far as defending him. So I'm sure we'll have the opportunity the next game. He's going to be very aggressive, they're talking about having him shoot free throws and all of that. I'm sure he'll find a way to get on that free-throw line the next game. It doesn't really matter, we've just got to play. I thought it was a great play. I thought it was a great play. It was horrible defense by us, but it was a great play. It's been an ugly game, and you've got one of your best three-point shooters wide open. He just had six or seven in the last game. So I thought it was an excellent play. I think everybody just -- they want him to be the man so bad and want him to shoot every single time, and that's just unfair. The kid made a great, great play. If they would have made that shot, then they would have been talking about how wonderful the play was. I'm just glad they missed it. I think a lot of that is going to be on me, like the pick-and-rolls and the trap, you know what I'm saying, getting some early throw-backs, trying to get them going, just on pick-and-rolls and stuff like that. They played behind in the post, throw it in, let them go a little bit. We'll find out. They'll be fine. Yeah, that was. That was exciting. We scored, they scored, one big play after another. Both teams, really. That was a lot of fun. I'm just glad we came out on top. It did, it did. Obviously we don't shoot for games in the 70s, but it's like that sometimes, you know what I'm saying? That's the one thing I love about our team is we can love the games in the 70s and 80s and we can win in the 100s. We're versatile that way. You've just got to stay aggressive. I don't think so. I don't think so. I think we'll see a better effort probably on both sides, both teams. I think it's going to be a battle. |
| Well, we had a couple things in mind. Didn't end up having to use them because we had it going in the fourth quarter. A couple guys had it going, so we really didn't have to use it. We just kind of got away from it. Second half started to get a little more aggressive, not waiting for the plays to happen, just kind of bringing it on myself, getting a little more energy, and I was able to turn the tide a little bit personally, and as a team we started to step it up and play a little better, a little faster, a little more aggressive. Well, I would just speak for our team, I think we're playing great defensively and limiting those guys and trying to do what we have to do. Offensively we haven't played good in either game. In either game we haven't played good. You know, we look to try to turn that around, but try to keep our defense the same. One thing about our team is we can win both ways. We can win in the 80s, we can win in the 105 to 110 range. That's just how versatile we are. We're used to games like this where our defense has to carry us. We've done it for years. I thought we did good. We knew he was going to be more aggressive attacking the basket and we did that. We had guys helping and guys in position to be there and help. He still did a good job. He still had 19 points, had a chance to go up one late in the game, and Rip I thought made a great defensive play on him. I thought our defense was great. Well, our offense has just not been very good, and of course when you're at home, when your offense is good, it's a lot of energy in the building, you know, you can kind of feed off of that. Our offense hasn't been good, so we have not given our fans a lot to cheer about in these two games with the exception of our defense. So at halftime we come in down 12, mad, angry, but knowing what the problem is, and we made a couple adjustments, and like I said, stepped it up and was a little more aggressive. We was able to get back into the game. No, they're definitely doing some different things defensively. I mean, first and foremost, they are trapping on pick and rolls with me. They pretty much said, we're going to take him out of it, take him away from it. Second, when Rip is coming down they're soft trapping him, as well. Yeah, I think they're doing some really good things to us defensively, and for us to try to make some adjustments to. Sheed, man, he just never ceases to amaze me. When he's focused and he's trying to take a game over, there's nobody that can stop him. He scores in so many different ways, he's a great defender, he doesn't get a lot of press for the way that he defends guys, and his help defense, his man defense. He's a well-rounded player. He lives for moments like that. He lives for the playoffs and tight-game situations as a few of us on the team do. Well, it's not nothing that he really says, it's how the game is going, how the refs are calling it. When he feels like he's getting a tough whistle, he's more inspired and he's more motivated. We don't like to see him get them call bad calls on him, but when they do do that it works in our advantage because when he feels like everybody is against him, he's ready to rock and roll. That's what you seen tonight. They can't surprise us really at the end of games. They go to LeBron. I can't blame them. He's an unbelievable player. We've just got to stay locked in. Like I said, at the end of Game 1, we weren't as locked in as we should have been, giving Donyell an open look. Tonight, same situation, unbelievable, same situation; Rip plays great defense on him, makes him take a tough shot, he misses it. Ball's in the air, we're trying to rebound and we finally get the rebound and secure the game. Yeah, that was a little bit earlier. It wasn't like the second situation, but I kind of knew once he got in there, and Rasheed is just so long that Sasha was in the corner, so I was kind of cheating to him, and he was going to have to make a tough, tough shot. |
| I am what I am. I don't know how else to explain it. I've been the same way all my life, and it is what it is. But if you've got some endorsements out there that you can throw my way, I'll take them (laughter). I think he should retire so I can catch up with him. That's my personal opinion. You know, what he brings to the table year in and year out, it's something you can't measure. His experience, his timeliness, and of course we understand the way he hits big shots. But he's one of those guys you can put in the game and you're just never worried about what he's going to do because you know he's going to do the right thing. Of course it shows in the championships that he's won and the different teams you've done it with, and the right situations he continues to put himself in. What he does for us is immeasurable. I cannot relate to him in any way, honestly. I was in a much different situation. I was on a veteran squad and I was more of a piece of the puzzle. I think he's a much bigger piece of this puzzle. They're asking him to do a lot more. I don't know what our age difference was, but I'm going to imagine I think I was a little older than him. But I had guys like Avery and Dave and Sean and Mario. These were veteran guys that had been around the league. The ability to kind of lean on him and follow them through it is I think a bit of a different situation than LeBron has. Absolutely. It's absolutely impressive. I don't think I deny the fact that it's impressive what he's done thus far to get here. What the team was from a couple years back, and then to pick him and to put the right pieces around him, I think a lot of credit to Danny and Mike and the rest of the Cavs organization for putting that together. But of course, again, he's a big part of that and a big part of that turnaround in getting to this point. He'll prepare them well. I think him and Coach Egan and we've got a couple of other guys that were there that have been around our system and been with us for a couple years. But the beauty of the NBA Finals is there are not too many secrets. I think you go in and you face a team, there are not too many things you're going to sneak people with. You have to execute your stuff, you have to bring the effort, you have to be able to play well for all that we can bring to the table and all that he can bring to the table about the opposing teams. It's about going out there and actually doing it. Again, I can't answer that one. I've found it works for me and it's something I've stuck with. As I said, it makes shots easier for me, and as long as it works, I stick with it. I can't answer the question why nobody else uses it. Well, I think having another big guy in the backcourt in the NBA, having someone that you can count on, is a really big deal. You don't see that in too many places where you can look across and have two big guys that can play at the same level. And in saying that, I think you've got to give a lot of credit to the other guys that were on that team, also, along with Dave, Sean and Avery and Mario. As I said, of course, those guys along with Dave were the ones that kind of put that team together, kind of kept -- made it easier for me to play the game and not be so stressed about it. I'm expecting a lot of changes, a lot of different things. I'm guessing that Mike won't throw a steady diet of anything at me. I'll have some opportunities to play a little bit of one-on-one basketball, I'll see a lot of double teams, I'll see double teams come from different areas. I've got to imagine that he's got a bunch of things that he'll throw at me and not just -- try to change it up so I don't know what's coming. It was an evolution, and just as I was brought into the situation with those guys, same thing with me. I was given the opportunity to have an influx of kind of young guys with Manu and Tony and Bruce being here for a couple years, and it's our responsibility to kind of bring them along. I hate to say responsibility now because those guys have been through this situation and they've got the experience just like we do. So we're just at a good point with a good mix of guys, young, old, guys who have been through it. It's just a good mix right now. I don't know how else to answer that. The fly under the radar question. It doesn't matter to us. It doesn't matter. It's great, it's wonderful for the NBA, it's wonderful for NBA fans. I think there's a lot of hype behind these Finals, and that's great for us, too. We're not worried about who gets the hype or what gets the hype, we're about winning four games and worrying about it then. All in all I thought we did a pretty decent job. Fourth quarter we gave up a little more than we should have. I thought they did a good job of dissecting it big towards the end there. But all in all I thought we contained very well. We did a pretty good job on LeBron, not giving him the lanes that he's used to. We won the game, we held them to 76 points. That's right where we need to be. Honestly that's not something I was looking for. We were just trying to stick with the game plan and doing the same stuff. Honestly I didn't know he was 0-for-7. I knew we were doing a pretty good job on him, but I didn't know his numbers. He's so good at finding guys with his size, we just needed to keep hands in there. Like I said, we got a couple hands on balls, which helped our defense a whole lot. Well, you have to. You've got to in this league. Stars carry teams, and our coaches do a great job of putting a game plan together, and if we're able to stick to it, we do a pretty good job of containing people. It helps a little bit to have somebody like Bruce. That's definitely not something you look past. He's guarded every position throughout these playoffs, and he's done a great job with it. So a lot of credit to him. But all in all, our team defense tonight was really good, and I think that's what's going to be the key for us. It takes five guys understanding what we're doing, understanding a game plan and sticking with it. Even with the repicks and the reposts and everything else, it might be a different guy in the play, but we've been sticking to what we do. I think that's a lot of credit to our coaching staff getting us prepared at that point, and five guys on the floor, whoever it may be, getting it done. Five of them played great tonight. Francisco stepped up and played really well for us, got us some stops, some rebounds, scored a couple points. We just get play from different people. I think guys continue to step up, guys that aren't usually there continue to step up for us. I was surprised the first two shots I made that I got to the rim, yeah, absolutely. They adjusted their defense and I don't think I got as easy a look for the rest of the game. But to start the game, to come out of the gates and have two baskets like that helped me tremendously. Tony gets to the rim all the time, and there's no knocking anyone, the Cavs or anyone else. But with his quickness, his ability to finish in the lane, he gets in there almost at will. People make adjustments and he's got to make adjustments, too. I have no doubt they'll try to prevent that as much as possible and really pack that lane in. But night in and night out, he does it against just about anybody. It's night and day. I honestly didn't know what to expect with him coming in here. I knew he was incredibly young, I knew he had some quickness to him. I had no idea he'd become the player he is right now. Now he's, for lack of a better term, been through hell and back. He's been through every situation, every level of competition possible, and he's as much of that as anybody else at 25, 26 or 24, I don't know. Oh, I think we both -- he actually didn't see the play. He threw the ball and bumped into Varejao, went down on the ground, and when he got up, he was walking by me, and he kind of looked at me, and he was like, "Did you make that?" He's like, "You missed?" I'm like, "Yeah, sorry about that." But nothing more than that. I did see that, and we gave up 27 points in that fourth quarter, a couple more than we want to in a situation like that. We kind of let them back into the game a little bit. I think they only got it to nine or something like that, but striking distance at least. They got a couple easy things. Of course LeBron hit those two threes in a row, which were great shots, but they got a lay-up or two and they got a wide-open shot or two. Those are just things we've got to clean up. I think they started to figure some stuff out, and so it's just about getting back that focus that we had in those first three quarters. I don't know that we specifically need to change much of anything, but we just need to make some adjustments and make sure that we're not giving those easy shots up in the beginning of the game this next one. A little bit of loss of focus. They're smart basketball players, they're a smart team. It took them that long to figure out what we were doing, and maybe they have. I figure it's a little bit of lost focus, maybe they figured some stuff out. And the whole Finals, the series, every series is about a little bit of adjustments, and they'll make some adjustments and we'll have to do the same. What does he do better than anyone? He gets it in the lane and gets to the basket. He gets shots right up to the rim. They have arguments all the time about who's the fastest in the NBA, and I don't know if he's the fastest, but he will get around just about anybody and he'll get in that lane. For his size, he has just a great ability to make shots over people, and I think also his ability to stop on a dime, to shoot a floater or go right to the basket. It's so hard for a defender to stop and stay in front of that with all those options. So if it's one thing, I think it's just finishing at the basket, getting there and finishing. I think the team played well yesterday. I thought we played well yesterday. But those guys are going to make adjustments. Doing what we did last night is a promise those guys are going to be better defensively. They're going to change their game plan so Tony can't get in the lane as easily. And in years past it's been just that; teams have come out, we've played a good Game 1, Tony has played a good Game 1, myself, and they've made adjustments and things have changed a little bit. I think he's more adept now to being aware of those adjustments and being able to adjust on the fly. So that's something we're going to have to do anyway; we're going to have to be ready for what they're going to bring to us. They're not going to allow us to get to the basket as easily as we did. They're not going to allow us to get some of the shots that we did. They're going to make their adjustments and we're going to have to make ours. That never happened, so I'm happy about that and I'm happy that Tony is playing. Let's just leave it at that. |
| I don't think there's only one thing. I think every year we go through the situation where we don't start off the greatest and kind of work our way into it. I remember there were times where he pointed to that fact or those guys had more of a drive than we did. I don't believe that was the case. I don't honestly agree with him on that point. But we took some -- it took us some time to really start getting to play the right way, and once we started playing the right way, bang, we're right back in it. I cannot describe the style of play on the court, no. He's all over the place. He does -- he's great for our team because he brings the style of play where you can't really -- you don't know what he's going to do. He makes it up on the fly. He's an aggressive -- incredibly aggressive player. He just finds a way to make things happen. A lot of us play within our system, and he's one of the guys that will step out of that box, will can the whole thing and take it in a different direction. It can be an overwhelming situation with the attention, with how close you are to being that final team. It can be a lot of pressure, and being here for the first time, having a young team as they do, having a young leader as they do, that doesn't help. They have very few vets that have been to this level, and you don't want to give them a lot of credit, but it really does help when you have people that have been there and have been through the situation and can kind of flow with it a little bit more. As these games continue on, I can imagine those guys will get more and more comfortable and find out that it's still basketball and you're still out there. Once you get out on that court it's the same old game and they'll get a little more comfortable. Hopefully we can continue to play that to our advantage with our experience, but those guys are going to get comfortable and we're going to have to really bring our A games and understand that they're going to be playing their best at the right time. We've looked at some stuff, and we have to imagine they're going to make some changes. We anticipate a couple things, but there's no way to really tell. You have to anticipate some stuff and be able to counter it in game instead of waiting for a whole other game and letting it slip by. Our coaching staff is great at that. They're great at seeing things that happen, seeing things that could hurt us coming up and trying to give us a little bit of advance on it. We've done just that, and hopefully we can go into this game and do the same job in executing our game plan as we did in the first game. For whatever reason it's what the Spurs have been labeled as. For whatever reason, we're just kind of looked by in that respect. Honestly, I think Pop likes it that way. He's in it every step of the way. I believe he's as good as anyone ever, but it doesn't matter to him. He's about that challenge every year, about putting a team back together every year, about getting guys to play the right way, and whatever recognition comes with that down the line, it'll come in time. He'll deal without any extra needed attention. I can't answer that question. I don't know. I don't know why a small market would matter. Whether you win or lose games or win championships, I don't know why that would matter. I think some guys were nervous, absolutely, thinking that with our sporadic play that was going to happen to give us a little bit of a boost, and I think that was specifically what we needed. We needed him to come in there, and that's the change that he decided, that there weren't going to be any changes. I think that's the news that we got, and I think it helped. I think it pulled guys together, I think it got guys comfortable knowing that something was going to happen. They were here to play and this is who we had to o it with. I think it helped guys step up. There have been very few dynasties. I don't know that we can consider ourselves a dynasty, but that's me on the inside looking out. Dynasties are the things that the Lakers of the 80s and the Celtics, those are who you consider dynasties, teams that have done it for many, many, many years. Hopefully we can look back in a couple years and be considered something like that. But as of now, I can't imagine that we would be considered alongside those guys. Winning is our goal. What that equals in the long run, you can define it however you want to. Winning is our goal. Life would have been a lot different. It was probably a lot closer decision than people even think or even know, but it's worked out the right way, to say the least, and I can't even go through all the factors that went into making the final decision to come back here. But just the organization and the people and the situation, and as I said, obviously it worked out the right way. As I said, it was the people and the organization here at the Spurs that I was used to, and not only the players. Of course David was here, and that was great, and I had a couple other guys here that I loved being around. But even beyond that, the staff, the coaches, guys I was comfortable with, guys I enjoyed being around is probably what swayed it in the end. |
| I'd like to hope we had something to do with it. Like you said, they just didn't shoot the ball well. I thought they got some pretty decent looks. They hit some shots down the stretch there. We were up eight, ten points and they started making some shots. So the first stretch they started making some shots. Defensively I thought we were pretty solid. There weren't a whole lot of free throws on our end. There weren't a whole lot of easy looks on our end. But we kind of stuck with it. And the same with them, we made everything tough for them. We figured they were going to do something to change something. Gibson had been playing 30 something odd minutes anyway, so we've seen enough of him that we didn't have to make much of an adjustment. We didn't change a whole lot of what we did. We understood the kind of shooter that he was, and outside of that, we stuck with our same game plan. Brucey was unbelievable tonight. He did everything for us. He sat down and defended for 44 minutes out there. He made some big shots for us, rebounded the ball, just an unbelievable effort on his part. You can't say enough about him. He'll get it done, and it doesn't matter if he gets one shot or eight shots. He's going to be in the same place at the same time. He's going to do the same thing. That's what defines our team, what he does. I think he's doing a little bit of both. I think he's starting with the approach that he's going to make the right pass, he's going to make the right play. I think they count on him enough that in crunch time he feels like he has to make plays. But whether it be the starting play of the game or at crunch time, we're doing the same thing. I think we changed one time towards the end there where we went at him on a double-team and they hit a three, and then we kind of went back. Everything else was the same, so we're going to make him make decisions, make him make shots over the top of us, and for a while there, as I said before, he did a good job of penetrating. He got a couple of great back doors, but we're going to make it as tough as possible for him. I think he's trying. I think he's definitely trying. We're a pretty good defensive team. We're not bad (laughter). We can stay in front of people and we can challenge shots, and we do pretty good with sticking with our game plan. It's worked so far, and we're not going to change a whole lot. Whether he tries to impose his will or not, we're going to be standing in front of him. You know, in my experience the Game 3 is usually the toughest game possible, and Game 4 brings a whole other challenge. It's a little bit of desperation, it's a little bit of laying it all on the line, and it's about really sustaining, because if you can sustain with people early on, they make runs, they use their energy, the crowd is behind them, and you can sustain over a half or three or four quarters, that's what it's all about. We're going to play that way. We're going to come out knowing that they're going to have their foot on the pedal and be pushing and LeBron is going to try to get to the rack and make plays and carry his team, and guys will be trying to make plays the same way. As I said, we're going to do the same exact thing. We're going to try to stay in the game and give ourselves a chance to win when it's crunch time. Tony has been unbelievable. He's been great. As you said, he's not really a three-point shooter (smiling), and I think the coach has said I had kind of a weird look on my face when he shot that third one. But it went down, and I'm happy about that. You know what, he's so confident right now, he's feeling so good about his jump shot. They've been allowing him to shoot the jump shot, trying to keep him out of the paint, and when you do that, you basically warm somebody up. They're able to step into shots, able to take shots, and I think they've done that for him. That was a huge shot for us to give us a bit of a cushion, and I probably was questioning it on the release, but I was happy with the results (laughter). Sure. As long as we get to four that's all that matters. It's a lot of pressure, especially in this situation with the Finals. But at the same time it's a lot of fun. It's playing on the biggest stage, it's playing the game that you love to play, and it's playing for the biggest prize. So it's a lot of fun. |
| Best shape I've been in in a long time. I just had some time off in the summer, and with no other responsibilities playing on any other teams, I was just able to kind of concentrate on getting strong, getting in shape. Then did my entire summer workout, like I had done in the past, I was able to get healthy and feel good coming into the season. Absolutely, yeah, of course. Defensively they were a lot better. They were physical. Z did an excellent job on the offensive glass, gave them a lot of second shots. But I thought we also did a pretty good job on the defensive end. I think it was just a better energy game for them, a better effort game for them more than anything else. No. No. We've got people that we consider shooters of the three and we're trying to get them off the three. We consider some people that we'll live with their jump shot, just like any other player on any other team. They are on my team Oh, absolutely, I'm very happy for Fin. Hopefully we can get this done. Obviously it's not won until it's won, but every year that we've won we've had some guys on the team that have been around the league, have been journeymen, have done it year after year and just unable to kind of get to this level, get this opportunity. My first year, Jerome Kersey was -- it was Tony Massenburg, a lot of different guys, Kevin Willis along the way. So every year you're really proud to have a person like that, a guy like that. Now it's Jacque and it's nice to have those guys in this situation, to be able to win a championship after being in this league for so many years and playing the game the right way for so many years, such good guys. It means a lot more to just add one and win one for them. Playoffs are always more physical, and they have been. We've played some very physical teams. The game changes in the playoffs. It takes a little while to get used to it. You get hit for a couple games and you get pushed around for a couple games, you're thinking, hey, these have got to be fouls, and then you realize I'm in the playoffs. It's not going to be officiated the same. People are going to get away with more. Once you turn the corner and come to that realization, that players are more physical and they are going to get the players to kind of decide what happens, it's a great atmosphere to play in. Veering away from what? Yeah, you have times, and it takes an entire season. It takes those 82 games to get things moving in the right direction. At the beginning of the year one of the points coach makes is we want to be better for more of those 48 minutes and do thing the right way for more of those 48 minutes than anyone else. It's progressive. At the beginning of the year we might have been doing it for a quarter or maybe for a half. Being in these playoffs we might have been doing it for three quarters and giving a quarter away, and I think we're doing it for more of those 48 minutes right now than we've done it all year long. As I say, we're kind of a step ahead of ourselves. We've got to get this one done, and of course we're focusing on that. It was an honor to even be thought of as that even coming into this season. To have won three championships and to have had the opportunity to have done that is an unbelievable thing. Coming into the league as a player, nothing is promised. You don't know what road your seasons in the NBA will bring. To have won three already, I feel blessed by that, and to have a team that has the ability to challenge for a playoff run, a playoff championship year in and year out, that's all you can ask for. He's put in a system and he's stuck with it. It's a lot of fun to play for someone that knows exactly what they want, and he's done just that. He changes a little bit every year. He tweaks some stuff every year, but the basis of what he does and the basis of what he coaches is the same. He preaches defense, of course. Over the years we've changed our offense bit by bit to use what's worked in years past. But all in all, you walk in every year and you understand what he's going to ask from you, what he's going to need from you and what players he's going to put around myself and the rest of the guys to be able to have a good team. And to have that is outstanding. That's an impossible question to ask. I don't know. They're headed in the right direction. I think Mike has them on the right track. He has them playing the right way. Of course they use a lot of our stuff. They play the way we play, and they have LeBron, they have a couple other guys who are going to be very good for a lot of years here. All I can say is they're moving in the right direction. I don't know if you can compare them to anyone. I think they're a bit of a different team. I hate to just keep saying LeBron, because LeBron is a different player than anything we've ever had, but it's a bit different but they're going in the right direction. I can't say it's night and day. I said this at the beginning of the series. This is the toughest road that we've had to a Finals. The three teams that we've played, obviously you could -- no disrespect to any of the first round, second round or third round teams, but you could have put them in any order but we could have played them in that round and had the same kind of tough series, tough opponent. Denver was unbelievable with the two scorers they had and the physicality they have; Phoenix, of course; Utah did one heck of a job and you know what they're going to bring to the table. And we made it through all three of those teams. I'd say we were prepared for just about anything. With the teams that we played, we were prepared for anyone. I've got to admit, this one is sweeter. The road that we took to get here, it was as tough as we ever had it. Guys persevered, had great performances from 1 to 12. It was great. All around it was great, probably the best one. Absolutely. That boy over there took my other trophy so I'm going to keep this one at my house. He carried the team, and I'm just happy he was on my team. It was our team defense. It was Bruce Bowen sitting down on him for 40-some odd minutes every night. It was our guys understanding that he wasn't able to do it himself. But I think it just starts with Bruce. I've got to give a lot of credit to Bruce. He did an awesome job of standing in front of that guy and making life tough for him. We understood as a group that we were going to have to do our part. They fought, they hit the offensive glass, they did everything they could, but we sustained. They made runs, we never panicked. I think it just shows a lot of the experience, the poise that we've built over the years, and I think we just outlasted them. We devise our own game game plan. We don't rely on anyone else. It's all us (laughter). You learn from everything. I think our coaches are the best in the business at watching game film, and we see these guys two times a year. Honestly we probably would have been more comfortable playing Detroit because we had played them more times before. We play Cleveland twice a year, and it's spread out and this year was so early in the year. We were different teams. We had to watch a lot of film, we had to figure out their tendencies, we had to figure out our game plan walking into this gym before we actually even had played these guys and know what they were about. Our coaching staff, give them a whole lot of credit at getting us prepared, getting us ready to play these guys. You know, it was a tough close-out. Guys like Mike Fin is what it's all about, to win a championship, to see how much he appreciates it, to see Jacque Vaughn and even Robert Horry, to see the looks on their face and the understanding of how special and how tough it is to get here, it makes it all worth it. Not that it's not worth it by itself, but those guys make it epitomize and define what it is about a journey to get here and how hard it is to get here. It made it sweeter, it really did. It would have been -- it would have been sweet either way, but it made it sweeter for them to make a run, for us to answer, for us to keep our composure and to find a way to win, no matter what. Those guys played great in that fourth quarter. They outscored us in the fourth quarter, as they did most of the series. We made plays, we found ways to get it done. I didn't play the greatest, people missed shots, they got offensive rebounds, they made plays. But we found a way to win. That's what this team is all about. No matter what happens we find ways to win. Manu is our X factor. Manu is the guy that when it all breaks down, when it all goes bad, when our offense isn't clicking the right way, he's the guy that makes plays. That's his role. That's his role, and this team is about roles. This team is about people filling their spots when they have to, and that is absolutely his role. He was great tonight in it. It was huge. It was a great time to do it. Our effort was there. They were the team who was being the aggressor on the glass, and they were the ones getting it done on the glass. And we had a stretch there where we got extra possessions. We found a way to get it done. As I was saying with the last question, we made plays and found a way to get it done when it wasn't there. That effort and that perseverance is what defines this team. We find a way to get it done when it's time to get it done. Such a broad question. Coach Pop is -- he's the one that puts us together. He's the guy that makes it run. He's the one that stays on us, no matter how well or how badly we're playing. He finds the right way to approach us. I can say no more than he defines the team. He always has, and as long as he's here, he always will. We're sticklers, I don't know. That's probably bad (laughter). We should appreciate and enjoy the win. To end the season 4-of-15 and 4-of-10 game is disappointing. In this situation it shouldn't be, but I think we're all competitors, and it defines us as competitors. We want to be the best players that we can be in the biggest situations. Honestly, I thought those other guys were great, and I thought I was sub-par. But we got it done, and that's all that matters. That's all that matters. |
| We just kept fighting and I kept telling my teammates the whole game that we got to fight if we want to get back in it. We did, and Rashard hit the big shot at the end. I just felt the whole game that if we played hard in the second half we was going to win. He said it the best. We have been in tough situations the whole playoffs, and we got a lot of guys who can step up and hit big shots. You know, Rashard did it tonight, but we stepped it up on the defensive end, I think, in the second quarter. And in the second half we played tremendous defense. We didn't let them get easy points in the paint as much as they did in the first quarter, second quarter. And we tried to keep LeBron from scoring 50. I think so. I felt that my team wasn't playing as hard as we needed to and just trying to be aggressive, attacking the basket and getting easy points. When we are down, somebody has to step up. And I just tried to be a leader and step up, not only on the offensive end but on the defensive end. He told us at halftime we are all witnesses. That's what he said to us, and it really motivated us when said y'all playing like y'all witnesses. You are watching them dunk. And he has a great way of motivating all of us. And that right there, you know, brought some fire out of us. And we came out in the second half, tried to do a better job on him. He still made a lot of shots. But we stepped it up on the defensive end, and the guys who came off the bench, they hit some big shots and also played great defense. Yeah, I've done it before a couple times. But I didn't even know what happened. I just heard the crowd say, oooh. I thought it was a regular dunk. Then I turned around and the whole thing was I tried to break the goal. So it was a fun thing to watch when I watched the replay. It was. Everybody is counting us out as a team, and we believe if we play Magic basketball for 48 minutes we can beat anybody. And when we run, defend and rebound, we win a lot of games. And if we want to win this series, that's what we have to do every night. I told our guys to pick our heads up. These are the playoffs. Teams will make runs. They will hit a lot of shots. We can't hold our heads down in any series. We got to keep our chins up and fight through any situation. I told the guys at halftime we got to fight. I just asked them, where is the fight at? And Rashard hit the big shot. I knew when I got the foul I was a little upset because I was sitting on the bench. Rashard looked at me and gave me three winks, signalling that he was going to hit a big 3 and he did it. No, not yet. Yeah, we'll see. When Shaq broke the post, they said they couldn't break it no more. I don't think it will break no more. There's nothing to worry about. Craziest question. No onions. I just get the Quarter Pounder with cheese. I will have it tomorrow. It is my pregame meal. It is just one game, and we understand that. Going into tomorrow -- we had a great chance of doing that in Boston after we won the first game. But Boston came out with a lot of energy, so we learned a big lesson from that. I think tomorrow we have to come out like we did in the second half and play great defense. At the end of the game, you play hard, we should be up. It is great. He actually tricked us yesterday. Usually he's . Yesterday he was . For real, Stan? He is just like that. He is a great motivator. Does a great job of keeping guys loose but at the same time motivating us to get the job done. I was really upset. I didn't want to be a witness. He really upset me. I wanted to come out in the second half with be a better effort, and I didn't want to be a witness. We still witnessed 49 points. Crazy. |
| Yeah, well, we can't focus on what other guys are saying. You know, we just got to go out there and play. It is not hard to stay hungry. Right now -- right now we are so close to our goal. The only thing on our mind is reaching that goal we want to accomplish so bad. That's what motivates us, is that goal that everybody wants, which is to win a championship; and we have a great chance of doing it. So we're hungry. We just got to come out and play. We can't focus on what the series is right now. We have to come out and treat it like it is a Game 7. It is do or die. Can't look at it as is it 2-1 and we can have them on the ropes. The talk? Yeah, we want to win a championship. We don't want the championship to be handed to somebody. So we go out every night and show everybody that we believe we can win. I like the commercials. They're funny. They are commercials that are very entertaining. So I love watching them. It is very entertaining. But our job is to go out there and play and not worry about what's on T.V. or in the paper or whatever. We just got to go out there and do that. It is disrespectful when everybody is counting us out trying to win a championship. They can beat the Magic and Denver. They want to see Kobe and LeBron go at it. Well, I just got to get up there and make my free throws. I know they are going to foul me. I just have to be prepared for it and go out there and make them. I don't think it is a tough spot for him. We've been in a lot of different situations. He's played where he started a couple games and I have been out, and he knows how to play. So he can get out there and do the job just as well as everybody else. We have full confidence in him. We know he can get the job done. He's done better. That's what it is going to take to win. Everybody has to be willing to work. So when game time comes, everybody is ready. We are focused. Nobody is talking about the win from last night. Our mind-set is coming in tomorrow and getting another game. There is no rivalry. We go out there and try to win basketball. There are only four teams left. So, you know, everybody is out there fighting. We don't want to go home, neither do they. Everybody wants to play. Anthony can play. We're just happy to see him out there playing. He is not scared of anything, and he is playing 100 percent so I'm happy for him. Soft-spoken? That's my Mickael Pietrus. He is not soft-spoken. He might not talk in front of you guys. It is not challenging. It is frustrating sometimes when you get hit. But I got to try to keep my cool and go to the next play. Getting too close to getting a technical foul, so got to find a way to keep my composure. No comment. No, I don't. I can't get any more. I have to keep my elbows down, my mouth shut. I'm thinking about duct taping my mouth tomorrow before the game. So that might be a good thing. I might have to duct tape my mouth and put some elbow pads on just in case my elbows fly. I will try to keep those down, too. Yes, I can. I can sing in my head. I won't sing to the refs. Carmelo? Carmelo is focusing on winning. I'm pretty sure he is not worried about the commercials. Well, I just tried to stay aggressive. I know I didn't play a lot of minutes, especially in the first half. And I just kept telling myself, stay in the game and get ready for the second half and come out and try to dominate. Free throws? I didn't think about it. I just went up there and tried to shoot, and it was working. It was actually -- I was actually singing a song tonight in my head, and it was working. So I ought to stick with it. It was a song I heard at halftime. It was one of the dance songs. I kept thinking about dancing the whole time and free throws was going in, so I might need to keep up that routine. Is that God? Say it again. Yes, I just really tried to be aggressive on the offensive end and make Big Z and the other bigs move their feet and try to get them in foul trouble. We can't get into it. We just got to go out there and play. When we play our basketball, we can beat anybody on the floor. That's our mentality. We have to play Magic basketball. When we do that, we can't worry about what other people are saying about us. We just go out there and win. I think so. I think so. Before the game, when I came out to warm up, I shot all free throws. Pat said, Are you going to work on your jump hook? I said I will work on my free throws tonight. I felt like I was going to go to the line a lot. I know I missed a couple early. But I tried to keep most of the same shot, and they was falling towards the end of the game. Oh, no, I can't gave you no notes. I was singing in My Dougie song that I heard. It was a dance song. I just felt good out there shooting it. I can't gave you no lines right now. I lost my voice screaming. I'm avoiding it. No, not tonight. No, I'm not going to get into it with any of the refs. My team and the city needs me, so -- I'm going to do a good job of keeping my head composed and trying not to allow things to happen on the floor to get me away from what our goal is, which is to win a championship. I can't allow anything to, you know, stop me mentally from achieving our goal. Pat tells me every day. My teammates tell me. I just got to try to stay focused, like I said. All it takes is one little incident, but I'm going to do my best to stay away from it. All we got to do is come out and play Magic basketball. We run, move the ball, and defend. Like I have been telling you guys, we can beat anybody. And those are going to be the three things, run, move the ball, and play defense. I'm not going to get into it. My job is to go out there and play hard, no matter if I foul out or not. If I give -- if I go out there and play 48 minutes hard and get six fouls and we get the win, that's all that matters. So I can't really concern myself with getting in foul trouble. Just got to go out there and play. In order for us to be the better team, like I have been telling you guys, we have to run. We have to defend and rebound. I think they beat us on the boards tonight. But as a team, we got to do a good job of rebounding and not letting them get more than one shot and try to contain LeBron. It is a tough thing to do, but when we run, nobody can beat us. We have a chance to win, you know? And if we go out there and play, we shouldn't worry about what we see on T.V., the commercials, the write-ups, whatever. Do we find it disrespectful that they're counting us out? Yeah. But there is nothing we can control. What we can control is how hard we play on the court, and that's when we get the job done. It is about effort. The team that wants it the most is going to get the win. We want it. We feel like we have a great chance of winning the championship. We believe. And all we got to do is go out there and play hard for 48 minutes. We know what it takes to win. We just have to be able to go out there and do it. It wasn't tough. I know my teammates have played without me, played with me having foul trouble. So I trust my teammates, and everything is going to work out for us if we just go out there and play. We can't worry so much and I can't worry about getting fouls or sitting on the bench. Just got to play through all that stuff. When you play through it and you fight and at the end of the day, you know, you should come out with a good result. The shot that he made? Was it tough? Yeah, you know. Hedo went down to hit the shot, and we thought Hedo shot it with no time where they didn't have a chance of getting a shot off. We celebrating. Then LeBron come down and hit, seemed like a movie 3. Yeah, you know, it was kind of hurting for us. But there was nothing you can do about it. He hit a tough shot. We had to move on. It was tough on the plane, riding back and just seeing that shot over and over in your head. But we knew we had to come out tonight and give 100 percent. He has been playing hard. He works hard every day in practice and he gets into LeBron to try to force him to take tough shots. In the offensive end, he shoots the ball with confidence, and he is just having fun. With a guy like Mike, you just want to give him the green light sometimes and just let him go to work. He makes big shots sometimes. You saw it. I'm not going to yell at the refs. I was talking to the bench. Instead of talking to the bench, I should have just walked to the sideline. No. I just should have kept my head and walked to the bench. |
| Well, one, I was -- the first time I think I got tired in a while. And I just tried to push myself. He said that I stopped going to the ball on the pick-and-roll, so I just tried to be aggressive toward the end of the game, and it worked. I really didn't know who to screen. Usually they switch the four and five pick-and-roll towards the end of the game. And I think Ben had a head start, so I tried to hit him before he got a chance to close out to Rashard. And then Rashard just hit the shot. I think as a team we want it more than any other year that I have been here. I have been talking about winning a championship since I have been here. But I think this is the first year that everybody is locked in on our goal. We just got to keep fighting, you know? We have an excellent opportunity in front of us, but we got to keep fighting. We can never give up, never think it is going to be easy because we got to work for everything that we get. I think as a team, coaching staff, everybody, we believe that every time we step on the floor, we play our brand of basketball, we can win. Well, first, you know, all I was doing was -- I was playing with emotion. You get in the game and you score a big bucket, you let your emotions take over. I wasn't tonguing Varejao or anything. My thing, it was a tough play. He grabbed me around my neck and made the shot. So hopefully they look at it. Whatever happens, though, I have full confidence in me and my teammates, and we can get the job done. I might have to really use some duct tape. (Smiling). My role? I think my role is to lead by example. I don't have to get in my teammates' face and yell at them and scream at them. That doesn't work with our team. If they see me out there, you know, fighting for every possession, going hard, then they tend to follow. So my role is to lead by example and the rest of my teammates follow. Well, like I said, at the end of regulation, our coach, he came to me and he said that I got to come to the ball. And I think earlier in my career, probably early this season, struggling from the free-throw line, I probably would have shied away from touching the ball towards the end of the game. But I just felt that if I stepped up to the free-throw line I can make it. My teammates found me in great positions to score, and I just tried to put the ball in the basket. Like I said, I have full confidence in my teammates. Every night somebody has to step up and play a major part for us to win games. It is going to be nice where me and Rashard are not making shots, somebody has to step up. Rafer stepped up tonight. He wasn't Dwight Howard. He was the playground legend skip-to-my-Lou. He was getting to the basket. He was finishing. He played with a lot of confidence. When plays like the playground legend, then he is tough to guard. I think it's all mental. At this point of the season, I got to be able to step up there and make the free throws. And my teammates have confidence in throwing me the ball. And so, you know, since they're having confidence in giving me the ball, I got to do something with it at the free-throw line. And it is just about practice. Every day I try to get a good amount of free throws up, and then before the game. When I step up there, just got to shoot it just like I have no care in the world. Just go out there and shoot it. When I do that, they go in. I think it will show how mentally tough we are as a team. We've had to overcome so many obstacles this playoffs. It will show a lot. We really got to be focused going into the next game. Tonight is over with. It is no time to celebrate. We really got to be focused going into Cleveland because it is probably going to be the hardest game of the season, you know, next game. So we really got to be focused. I'm happy with our progress. I'm not satisfied. We done a pretty good job this year, but the only way, I have been telling you all year, we get respect is by winning. We haven't won anything yet. We won a couple games, and that's our mind-set. We won a couple games. So what? We want the respect after winning the championship. That's the only way we are going to get anybody's respect, is by winning. We won a couple games. That's great. It feels good. We're not happy with just winning a couple games in the Eastern Conference Finals. We want to win the whole thing. That's when we will be happy. It is just like us against the world. Playing in a dog house like Cleveland, the whole crowd is against you. You want to go in somebody's home court and quiet the crowd. Nothing feels better than defeating a team on their home floor. It is one of the toughest things to do, especially against Cleveland. They have only lost a couple games at home. It feels good to win on the other team's home court and to do it in a dominate way. |
| Well, first of all, I'm happy that we came out tonight and did what we had to do at home, but it's over with. It's done. I'm happy we won, but we got to move on to the next series, which is the Finals. So I'm happy about tonight. Go home and relax with my family and tomorrow wake up and get ready to go back to work. I believe in my team, first of all. I believe that we come out every night and play our brand of basketball. We can beat up. I have been telling you guys that all year. If we run, defend and, you know, rebound, we can win a lot of games. And everybody since I have been here, has always written us off. We work every day. We put the work in the gym to become a better team. We're not -- we're not at our best yet. But, you know, I'm happy with our progress. Yes, sir. I sent out a text message when I woke up yesterday to the whole team, and I just told them that, you know, when they wake up today, think about dominating. When they come to shoot-around, think about dominate. When they get to the gym for the game, think about dominate. And we started out the day great. We had a great shoot-around. Everybody was into it. Everybody was focused. And, you know, we came out tonight with the same mentality and we got a good win. Very happy with our progress. We still got a lot of work to do. It feels good to win, but we want to win a championship. That's the ultimate goal. So tonight was a big stepping stone for us as a team from what we were able to accomplish last year. But when we wake up tomorrow, we got to get ready to go back to work. Like I have been telling you guys, if we run, defend and rebound, we can beat anybody. We are at our best when we are running and we are having fun. So, you know, that's the mentality that we have to take into the next series. I've always been known as somebody who has never been serious or always playing around. But I take the game of basketball very seriously. Every time I step on the floor, I may have a smile on my face, but my main job, my main goal is to go out there and fight for my team. And I can do that with a smile on my face. For us as a team, we understand how everybody has talked about us for the past couple of years. But we understand that, you know, we get out on the floor, if we do what we do best, we can beat anybody. It's tough to not listen to the things that people have said about us. But that only fuels us. It pushes us to become a better team and to become, I would say, you know -- we became closer. With all the stuff that goes around us, what people say, we continue to get closer. Me and Coach have gotten a lot closer. It only helps us get better. Rafer came in right away knowing he is not Jameer Nelson and he didn't try to be Jameer. He came in doing what he do best. He pushed the pace, take the shots when he's open and just facilitate to the offense. He has done a great job of that since he has been here. And he is also a great motivator. He keeps us going out there on the floor and off the floor. He's silly just like all of us. He fits in with our team very well. Just happy he's here. I think it's great. I can remember, you know, coming to the games and nobody is in the stands until we play, like, a Kobe or LeBron. And now the stands are always filled up. I think we started to bring back some magic in Orlando, and that's one of the goals that I set out to do when I first got here. I felt that we were a laughing stock around the league. Everybody played the Magic, they thought about Disney World. So I just wanted to change that. We as a team wanted to change that. Me and Jameer, we sat and we talked about this a lot, and we put on ourselves to get better every day in the gym, work on the little things to get better because we want not only the respect of the NBA but we want our fans in Orlando to believe in us. We work extremely hard every day. We might have days where, just like anybody elsewhere, we mess up, we make mistakes. It is a bad day. But we wake up the next day with the mentality of getting better. Oh, I gave him five, you know. I knew he was trying to foul me. I knew he wasn't trying to hurt me or anything. So I was just letting him know that it is all love. I knew he was just trying to foul me. It wasn't no bad blood or nothing. My effort, I would say a B. And my teammates, an A plus. There was moments where we didn't play as hard as we need to. But for the most part, we came out with the mind-set of we run, really lock in on defense and try to rebound, we were going to have a great chance of winning the game. But going into the Finals is going to be a lot tougher. We really have to work on going hard for 48 minutes. If we go hard for 48 minutes at the end of the Finals, we should have a ring. We should have a trophy. Yeah, he's always been the same guy. He wants nothing but the best out of all of us. He pushes us to the limits. Me and Stan have had our ups and downs, but for the most part, he's always, you know, always did a great job of motivating me and my teammates. He is a great motivator. Even when he is yelling and screaming, throughout all that, he finds a way to put in just an ounce of something to get us fired up. He has been doing that since I've been here. He has been one of the best coaches I've ever said. Like I said, we had our ups and downs. I told him when he first got here, he was going to have a soldier in me and I was always going to go to battle for him. I appreciate everything he's done for us. Can change from possession to possession. we knew they would do the little things. Focus, rebounding. The second-chance shots. We did a good job of holding them to about 40%. We gave them 31 second-chance points. They shot 43, almost 44%. We can take losing. That's a part of the game. But losing that way is not the way . You have the guy has the backup they have with Taj Gibson and Noah helping them out. We just go on. We had a difficult time moving the ball. If you don't get the rebounds, it's going to be a long night. They did a good job of moving the ball, rebounding |
| That's the biggest thing we worry about, it's our defense. They got great players on their team. You have to make sure they don't get any open shots, contest all their shots, make sure they don't get to the lane. We did a good job making sure they're seeing bodies when they went to the lane. We were just hustling. They're a great team. We made sure that we tried to get out to their shooters. Tonight it just went our way. Yes. It was me. Careless turnovers. You can't do that against this team, where when they get in the open court they're too dangerous. Making sure I take care of the ball. I'm the point guard. I have to do way better. In the second half I think I did a good job making sure that our turnovers were down. It really wasn't me; it was defense. Our defense opened up everything, where when we rebound the ball, we play with a fast pace. Especially when it's a turnover. They were giving me mid-range jumpshots where they were backing up. My teammates trust in me and have a lot of confidence in me when I'm taking those shots. I thought tomorrow, after we look at film, this game is going to be out of our mind. We had too many turnovers in the beginning. There's a lot of things we can change. They're a good team. We have to keep going, keep fighting. But if anything, I think our defense has to be there. We just had to go out there and play with intensity. We knew them guys was going to come out and play aggressive. We tried to attack. We tried to make it hard. They're a great offensive team with great players that's very good in delay isolations and breaking people off -- going off the dribble to the basket. We just made sure that it was tough and Taj, Omer, Luol, everybody was making sure that their man was in front of them and contesting all their shots and lay-ups when they were going to the basket. We're not worried about that. All the off-season stuff, we're not worried about it. We're just trying to go out there and play hard and play with an edge, play with a lot of intensity, knowing the guys are going to bring it every single night. That's what we did tonight. I think it should help us out a lot. But we still have a lot of work to do. We're going into practice just closing down the middle when LeBron and Chris Bosh do pick-and-roll. Chris Bosh getting fouled -- he had too many lay-ups. Getting out to their shooters where they had open looks. We could work on a lot of things about that -- on that game. Everybody. About what, the turnovers? Yes. I tried to talk to them as much as I can. Just by nature I'm quiet, but being in this position, being the point guard, being one of the leaders on this team, you have to talk a little bit more. I tried to let them hear me during the game, in the locker room, wherever we're at. We have to communicate, because defensively if you don't have any communication, especially with the players that you're playing -- we're playing against, like LeBron and D-Wade, it can be a tough night any night. It was huge. Joakim, Omer, Taj, Booze. Just making sure they're getting in there playing physical. They got players like Joel Anthony, a lot of hustle plays. Chris Bosh getting a lot of hustle plays. We made sure we put bodies on them. And Joakim finishing lay-ups, dunking. Booze doing the same thing and Taj and Omer coming in and giving us energy every night. That's what we need every night from them. Three turnovers I think in the first quarter. Then I think we got ten total. I think one in the second half. It was tough. You just learn from it, look at the film after practice with coach. Just going through everything. I see the mistakes. It shouldn't happen anymore. Play aggressive and attack more. If anything, go quicker, probably, in transition. Get the ball up the floor quick so they can't go against our set defense. That's the way we've been all season. We're not satisfied. Every time we feel good about ourselves, something knocks us down. We're trying to keep things going, making sure everybody stays positive, stay right and stay hungry. Definitely. And Coach Thibs, you see how he focuses and prepares for the game, it makes you want to do the same. Stay in the office after the game. Not have a life. Not right now. I have to sacrifice a lot of things. We get used to it now. I swear. Sometimes you are talking and -- you get used to it. You have to live with it. They have great players. LeBron and D-Wade and Chris Bosh, they are great players. We just tried to make it tough. That's the only thing we did. Last night we made sure we closed down the lane, stopped them from penetrating, and shoot jumpshots. We have to come out and play with that edge every game. Just totally play with that edge. It gives you so much confidence, especially with this team. It feels great when we are swarming the ball, everybody is communicating, we're getting rebounds, hustle plays, things like that. The fans are into it. They know we're playing hard. It gives us an edge. It makes my job easy, especially when everybody is knocking down shots and playing with that confidence. If anything, our defense starts everything. Just making sure we play hard and we just got to stick together. There's going to be times where it's going to be tough. But we have to make sure we're all on the same page. You never know. I think we'll have a good shot of winning the next game if we come out and play with the edge like we did, play with a lot of intensity. We have to be ready with the ball. Next game they are definitely going to go out there and play hard. Everybody crashing. They are going to make sure they put bodies on people. We have to try hard. We've been doing this the whole season. I think we rebound the ball pretty well. So guys on our team, we just try hard to go out there and be together, have Joakim and Booze on the rebounding side. |
| We talked about it in our timeout. First of all, what a huge swing that was. I had a three. We go up three with 24 seconds to go. You figure we guard the three-point line, make them drive, and I don't really know what happened. We got to look at it. Chalmers was so wide open. Bangs the three. That was a big emotional play for us. Down the stretch, we talked about it, they had a foul to give. I actually drove a little earlier than I would have, knowing they had a foul to give, and made a move, and the foul never came. So I was able to get to the basket and lay it in. That was a big play. And then they didn't have a timeout left, so we had to scramble back, and Wade had to throw one up. So definitely a huge comeback for us. And we never gave up. So that was big. I'm not going to share that with the media. I'm sure there was a little cussing involved. Yeah, like I said, if you're down 15, you make an amazing run like that, and you're up three, you can't give up a wide-open three. It just can't happen. So we got to go back and look at stuff like that. Still proud of the team. Still proud of the team, how they battled, to be down 15 against a great team like that, and we kept plugging. Our defense finally got some big stops, and we rebounded the ball tonight, which we didn't in Game 1 finally. And that really opened up our offense there. I thought their defense was suffocating there throughout three quarters. We turned the ball over, made mistakes left and right. Couldn't really make shots. And then down the stretch, what helped us was our defense. It got us in the running game. It got us moving the ball a little better. Jet finally had some good looks. I had some good looks. And that really ignited our comeback. Well, you know, I think in this league you have to play till the end. Especially this is The Finals. You can be down 20. You have to keep plugging. You never know what's going to happen in this league. And we kept on fighting. And we got some lucky bounces there. LeBron went down the middle, had a wide-open lay-up, I thought. Short-armed it a little bit. We were able to get that rebound and go. So you have to be a little lucky, but we kept on plugging. And look, I said it all playoffs long, we're a veteran team. We don't get too high with the highs and too low with the lows. That was definitely a little hole we got ourselves in, but we kept believing, kept playing off each other, and that was big. Tyson has been our MVP defensively all season long. He's covered a lot of ground for us. We did a better job I thought of pick-and-roll coverage today. He really stepped out there, impacted the ball. We were still able to recover back some and scramble. Look, they have two of the best players in the game. So they are going to make you scramble. That's what we did and finally got some rebounds, which we didn't in Game 1. We can't turn the ball over against this team. They have two of the most athletic players I've ever seen. If you turn the ball over, it's one or two dribbles there at the rim, laying it in on the other end. So I thought finally there in the last couple of minutes we did a good job of not turning the ball over. And the defense was solid. We forced them into some shots that -- contested shots. And that was big. And rebounded the ball. We're not going to approach the next three. We're going to approach the next one like it's our last. You cannot get a split and get a huge emotional win in Game 2 and then go home and lose Game 3. As far as I'm concerned, the next one is the biggest game of them all. And hopefully our crowd will be rocking. They've been great to us and carried us throughout the playoffs so far. So we're going home to a great building, and hopefully get Game 3. It felt great. Like I said, I thought it wasn't going to bother me before the game, and it didn't. We were able to keep the tape a little lower, so I was able to keep my grip on the ball. Because my palm was open, and my fingertips were open. So I was able to get a good grip on the ball. Still didn't shoot the ball the way I wanted to tonight. Missed some open looks again, like in Game 1. I got to be sharper in Game 3 if we want to have a chance. Finger felt fine, and hopefully it's going to stay that way. You know, as much as '06 is still on mine and Jet's mind, during the game you don't think about anything like that. You're caught in the moment as a player out there. You compete right there. You take every position like it's the last in The Finals. You don't really think about anything else but trying to get this win. Like I said, we got some lucky bounces and we scrambled and that helped us. I didn't even see it that much, to be honest. Probably our other players saw it. I kind of had my head down. Obviously that was a big play to go down 15, so I must admit I didn't even watch it. Well, you kind of chip away one possession at a time. We talked about getting stops. That was the big thing. We scrambled on some pick-and-roll situations, where we forced them out a little bit. Offensively I think we made a couple of big plays in a row. Jet got open on the baseline once. He had a run-out. I had a run-out off kind of a loose ball that we were lucky to get. We had a three-on-one. I laid the ball in to tie it. I actually thought Jason Kidd had a big three on the wing when it was like an eight, nine-point game. They doubled me, I swung it out. He had a great look at three and made a three to cut into the lead more. If you're down 15, every play, every bounce of the ball could be big. We're lucky on a couple and it went our way. I mean, I can't really point one out. I mentioned that LeBron had a clean lane, went to the lane, and missed the lay-up. I thought that was big. I can't remember, I can't recall what the score was at that point. I thought we got really lucky. Obviously he's going to finish those ten out of ten times. That was a lucky bounce. But we had a couple of lucky bounces down the stretch. I feel we're a veteran team, and we've been through a lot already all season long. There were some ups and some downs we had to fight through and stick together. So we have come back before all season long on some deficits where we keep believing, where we stay together as a team, where we don't start pointing fingers. And we are obviously led by Jason Kidd, who obviously has seen everything in this league, who has been through everything. He's always calm out there. He's always pushing the guys in the right positions. He's always making the right plays for us. Well, I think we talked about it in the flow of the game that we just can't turn the ball over every time we mishandle the ball, it's an automatic lay-up against this team. It's one or two dribbles, either Wade or LeBron are at the rim at the other end, so quick and athletic. We talked about it during the flow of the game. Sometimes it just happens. They're so good. They have quick hands. They cover a lot of ground, the perimeter. And so turnovers unfortunately are a part of the game. But down the stretch, we did a good job, kept the ball in our playmaker's hands with Jet and Jason Kidd and did a good job of protecting the ball. Like I said, we got lucky down the stretch. Hopefully we can carry this momentum in Game 3. Which Jason? Yes, we have a kind of love-hate relationship. It is. It is. Because we ride each other a lot. We talk to each other a lot. We argue a lot, even during games, but it's all because we want to win, we want to play together. And I think it was big getting him. When we lost Steve, obviously this franchise was down, to lose a great player like that. But I give Donnie some credit. He brought in Jet, who has been a point guard in this league and a veteran and had a good career there in Atlanta. That was a big move. And for us he's been phenomenal. He's been our closer over the last couple of years. A great clutch player, and he's been our key guy for us the last couple of years. Like I said, we love each other, but we also argue a lot. Well, you know, I think we play to win. We always have. Our goal was to win it all since the last couple of years. We came so close in '06, and ultimately we kept the main core together, and we're just happy to be back on this stage. But Jet to me is a winner. I think he sacrificed for us coming off the bench the last few years where he could be a starter on other teams. That's ultimately what you have to do if you want to win a championship. I think we're a veteran team. We did a good job so far in these playoffs to kind of stay in the moment. We had some big wins, and kind of still recovered and came back and played a great game the next game. I remember the Lakers series we stole Game 1. It was easy to say let's get the split and get out of here. We went for it in Game 2 and stayed in the moment and were able to steal both games. So I think we just can't let up. We're not good enough to just relax. We need to play with an edge at all times in every game. So hopefully tomorrow with the crowd behind us, we're going to have a great game. Just looking at this one game. So we have to win tomorrow. Maybe. Maybe. Yesterday was good to get away a little bit, get a travel day. And today was all about refocusing on the task. We know they're going to throw everything at us. It's going to be a tough game. Maybe it was good to get away a little bit. Especially after an emotional game like that. I don't think either team got a lot of sleep after that one. Must have gotten like two or three hours, most. So it was good to kind of get away, have an extra day, get some sleep last night, and both teams will be ready to play tomorrow. Well, you know, I think they do a great job defensively really swarming me. The first two games I think every time I put the ball on the floor, there were two or three guys around me. They're so athletic. On the perimeter when I kick the ball to the shooter, somehow they're still there. They're still there to run our shooters off to contest the shots. They're really good defensively. On that last move, I spun and I expected actually somebody to be there, and there wasn't. So I was able to get to the left and get to the basket. That was a big play. If there would have been somebody there, I would have had to pass to somebody and hopefully let the weak side make a shot. Like I said, there was a big play. There was nobody there and I was able to take the lane and that was good. I actually thought he played phenomenal the first two games. He's making his three ball throughout the whole playoffs already, he's really shooting the ball well. He got down the lane a couple of times where we feel like we missed some assignments on the pick-and-rolls, and they got some run-out dunks. If you turn the ball over against this team, they're so athletic, it takes one or two steps, they're at the rim at the other end. Wade and LeBron, they're so athletic. Nothing like anything we've seen in the playoffs so far. You have to do a good job not turning the ball over. We turned it over 21 times. That's obviously not what we want to do, and that's not going to set us up to win. The finger is really good. Got to keep it straight. It was throbbing a little bit after the game the other night, but I guess that's normal. And it's going to be okay. Once the adrenaline always starts flowing during the game, I think I'm okay. It doesn't bother me during the game. That's the major thing. Ultimately if you want to go all the way, everybody has to step out of their ways a little bit and do a little more. I think that's something I grew into a little more and more comfortable with talking to the guys now. Obviously at the beginning I had a little language barrier. Over the years I got more comfortable taking the guys to the side and addressing something when I see something. I guess something that comes with experience. Just get it off the sheet. (Laughter). We didn't talk about it yet. He's been phenomenal just taking the challenge on both ends. I think it actually already started in the Oklahoma City series, when he had to guard one of the best scorers and the scoring leader with Durant. He really took the challenge on both ends of the floor. Just he can get up, he's athletic on the perimeter, he's long, he can contest shots. He's a good rebounder. But also on the offense, he's been phenomenal. He's been cutting for us, he's been posting up. He's been getting offensive rebounds, put-backs. So he looks really comfortable right now. He's got a bounce in his step, and it's fun to watch. So he's a competitor, and that's what he does out there against the best of the league. He's ready to play. |
| It wasn't 103, but it was like 101 this morning. I didn't really have a good night's rest, so it was just under the weather a little bit, but just battle it out. I think it didn't look good there in the fourth quarter when we were down nine, but energy and defense really picked us up. Didn't shoot the ball well again. Had some good looks there in the fourth, but our defense grinded it out. There's no long-term. I'll be all right on Thursday. It's a little sinus infection. Hopefully I'll get some sleep tonight. Take some meds and be ready to go on Thursday. Just had a couple -- couldn't really finish around the rim. Had a couple of good looks today, but just really no lift. But like I said, the crew was outstanding. I thought Jet took it really upon himself today in the fourth when we were down nine. He made two back-to-back plays to get us right back in the game. So he was phenomenal today. Really, I was going to play the clock down, but I saw I had a little opening there. So I just went for it. I just went for it. Was able to rip through and go to the right. They really played my left, which obviously the whole league does. So I was able to rip through and get to my right and finally finish a lay-up. I thought I missed four or five good looks around the rim today. Kind of bounced around, bounced out. So that was unfortunate, but I was able to get one in. So that was good. You know, this is The Finals. You're going to leave it out there. Like I said earlier in the series, I think everybody -- it's June. We've been playing on a high level for eight, nine months. So everybody has a little something going, and this is The Finals. You have to go out there and compete and try your best for your team. So that's what I did. I never thought about MJ's performance. I was way off, looking at my line. I mean, that was a big free throw. First of all, I think we had a bunch of good looks there. I think Jet had one rattling out from the top of the key. He had one from the right wing, he had one from the left wing. And those are usually money for us in the fourth quarter. Then I think D-Steve had one in the left corner, who could have iced it. Wide-open look. So we had our good looks. Then Wade had a big run-out. And J-Kidd was able to get to him and foul him and, you know, the first one kind of bounced up and went in. And the second one a very fortunate roll for us. It was kind of in and rolled out and I was able to get the rebound that led to our last possession. And I was able to get to the rim. Hey, it's been always -- besides Game 1, all the games are like right there. A couple of bounces, a couple of defensive stops here and there could have gone either way. So sitting at a 2-2 right now. Obviously would love to get Game 5 at home before we go back to Miami. So that's a big game for us on Thursday. Phenomenal player. He's making tough shots this series from all over the place. He's getting to the rim and finishing like nobody else. Yeah, he's an unbelievable player. Yeah, I think our base did a good job helping on the screen-and-rolls. So that was big. And obviously, yeah, we would love to get Game 5 here. Don't want to go to Miami down 3-2, knowing they have two chances to close us out. Big game Thursday. Like I said, I thought our defense won us the game. To give up 14 points to an explosive team with LeBron, with Bosh and Wade on one team, if you give up 14 points in the quarter to close it out, I think that's huge. So hopefully we can carry that defense over into Game 5, and then we'll see what happens. First of all, I think they killed us on the glass in the first quarter. I think they had like ten offensive rebounds, or nine. Somewhere around there. And we obviously had to address that. We talked about it in between first quarter and second quarter, how we had to improve in that area. And then I think after that, we did a nice job. They only had a couple more, a handful more for the rest of the game. So that was big. Look, we're not a great rebounding team, so I think we got to have all five guys in there battling. Our go-to lineup sometimes is small with Kidd and Jet, one and two. So that means we're small there. We got to have five guys in there battling. We can't have anybody leak out. I think after the first quarter we did a better job protecting the paint and Tyson obviously with 16 boards was phenomenal. First of all, I think Kidd never ceases to amaze me. He can dominate a game without scoring one point. We've seen it the last three years here together, what kind of all-around player he is without even scoring. How he facilitates, how he defends, and how he runs the show is amazing. He's been great. I thought J.J. had some good looks again. But he kept attacking. You have to love the little guy. Fearless. Kept getting in there, had some tough finishes, tough lay-ups that went in. We need him to attack off the dribble, because he's good getting to the lane. Once you get to the lane against a team, they really suck in hard and open some of our shooters up. So J.J. has to keep attacking. Try to get out of here pretty quick, go home, take a long shower and just go to bed right away. I had some soup and had a good meal. Just drank some fluids, drank some tea and just feel a lot better today. I still got a little high temperature, but the fever is basically gone. So that's obviously the main concern always. Anything else, the sniffles or the cough, you don't really care about that as long as the fever is gone. That's the main thing you worry about. I felt I had an off-night really. Couldn't get anything going. Made my first three shots. After that really had nothing going all night. Was able to attack a little bit there in the fourth quarter, got to the free-throw line. But, really, I think our defense was what won us the game in the fourth. To give up 14 points on an explosive team like that, that was the key. I agree. Shooting 39% and getting a big win is unbelievable. I think Tyson added a lot to his defense. He's great in pick-and-rolls, he's showing he's still able to get back. He's so quick on his feet, protecting the paint and rebounding. Haywood some of the same things, when we got him last year in the trade. So I think those two guys are great for us in the back. And I think that really -- the front guys can be aggressive, if they know somebody is behind them that covers a lot of ground, that is able to be there for him. I think then J-Kidd can get up, Matrix can get up on their man and everybody is on the same page. Our comebacks have been really ignited by good defense. Well, I really like what Jet did there in the fourth quarter. We were down nine. He comes up two straight possessions, drove the ball at LeBron, got to the basket, finished, and then back to a five-point game. Then they had a timeout, and I think we kind of had the momentum after that. He really took it upon himself to really drive and be in attack mode. That's what we need out of him. He's one of our closers. Throughout the game I think we had our chances. We had our opportunities. We had good shots. For some reason this series we haven't made a ton of them, but we had opportunities. I thought Stevenson was great there in the first half. Gave us a lift. Made some big shots, corner shots, wing three. But we have to keep getting better. Hopefully tomorrow big game, hopefully we can make a couple more shots when they're there. Yeah, I said it already in Game 1 that everybody at this stage after playing eight, nine months on a high level has something going. Nobody is completely healthy. So it's time to fight through some stuff, and once the game gets going, the adrenaline starts flowing. I think everybody is out there and giving it their all. But the playoffs, I mean, we all know every game in the playoffs can be a huge momentum swing. So you always want to win the game. After the games you don't sleep much. So basically for a month and a half, two months, you're living on the edge every night. You're thinking about it, eat, breathe, sleep basketball, and that's what's fun about the playoffs, but also very draining. We have one more week to go, both teams, and we're going to go for it. Both teams are going to get their vacation afterwards. Yeah, I mean, they're a very explosive team. The thing is with them, who is going to have the ball? Is it Wade and he's going to take a shot? Bosh? Whoever has the ball, the other two can't have the ball. So sometimes it's hard if one guy is going, the other guy is hard to get the rhythm because you don't have a lot of touches. So they are obviously going to find a mix for everybody for them to attack in the fourth quarters, and we expect LeBron to be aggressive tomorrow and get to the basket and play his game. So we're got to be ready and we got to be a little sharper on the defensive end, especially early. Gave up ten offensive rebounds the first quarter, which was almost a killer. Where we actually felt we had everything going in the first quarter. We had the energy, we got stops and just the offensive rebounds were killing us. We have to be a little sharper tomorrow. It's a big game. Not much. I didn't do anything today. Slept in, basically, and just watched film and walked through some stuff. So that really hasn't changed from the other day. And then I'll probably come back tonight, get a little sweat for like 30 minutes, at least get the body used to sweating a little bit. And then I'll be ready tomorrow. Well, I think we have to be ready for anything. I think usually it's the team that loses that looks at the film and says, hey, we have to do this. Usually the team that loses has more of an edge, makes some adjustments with the coaches. So we've got to be ready for anything. Actually they did play a small lineup real quick. That was because Haslem had three fouls in the first half already. They went small for a second. So I think we got to adjust, and whatever happens happens. We all know if he wants to be, he's one of the best defenders in this league, because he can guard multiple positions, probably one through five if he wants to. He's long, he's strong, he's quick. So he's a great defender. Both. You know Jet, actually, it was earlier in the playoffs he said something, and I told him I was going to put him on a no-interview policy. But he didn't follow that either. He's a very confident young man. He believes in himself. That's what I like about him. When he has an off-night or going through a little slump, he's going to keep attacking, he's going to believe in himself. He's going to come back the next night and get some shots up in the gym, and he's a gym rat. He always works on his game. So Jet has been great here for the last six, seven years here we had him. Hopefully we can follow through. Yeah, like I said, it was great for me to see Jet like that. You can't expect him to always make huge, huge shots in the fourth quarters. But what I liked, he was just attacking. Even he missed some shots there at the end that kind of could have sealed it. But I like this mentality. We need him to be aggressive. We need him to get out and take those shots, because that's going to open up some stuff for our other guys. When he attacked and got some shots, that's actually opened the offensive glass up for Tyson, who was great there in the fourth. Had like two or three offensive rebounds. So, yeah, we need Jet to attack all the time. It makes us a better team. |
| Yeah, I mean that was a big win for us, obviously. We didn't want to go to Miami and give them basically two shots to close us out. So kept plugging there in the fourth. So definitely a big win for us. And now we have to go down there and basically approach Sunday's game as Game 7. You don't want to give this great team any hope or anything. So we got to play more of the same and keep attacking and we'll see what happens Sunday. Well, I don't actually think that was a good defensive night for us. All series long we're trying to figure out our offense. Tonight we're moving and shooting the ball well, but I thought all of a sudden we started giving up too many points. That's not how we won, and that's not how we want to win. We started trading baskets, even in the first half, when we were going well offensively. We traded baskets, gave up too many lay-ups. So that was a little disappointing. But at least we shot the ball well enough to get the win. I thought J.J. Barea was phenomenal behind screens, making shots, and Jet obviously in the fourth quarter made the big three top of the key to tie it. And basically made a tough one on the right wing to put the game away. Really, we kind of been waiting on an offensive night for us that we finally shoot the ball well. We felt like we had opportunities in the first four games, just couldn't knock anything down. So that was encouraging to see today that we made some shots. Jet was phenomenal. He was aggressive again from the get-go, I felt. Even the first half he came in, had a couple of pull-ups, got in the lane, got a floater, I remember. That's the Jet we need. We need him to attack and get in the lane. It opens up a lot of stuff for everybody else out there. It opens up Tyson on the rolls, that we actually hit him a bunch of times today. Our fives rolling, that was good. Also that opens up the corner threes and made a couple. We need Jet, Jet attacking. He was great. So did J.J. in the starting lineup attacking, got to the lane a couple of times, made some lay-ups. I thought that opened up his three ball. Well, I think if he just stands there and looks at him, I think LeBron is long enough and quick enough to kind of contest his shot late. So he's got to attack him. He's got to attack his feet. I thought the last two games he did a great job. We got to run -- obviously LeBron threw some screens when he's on him, screen-and-rolls for him. So LeBron constantly has to chase him and fight over some picks. I thought we did a better job of that tonight. We all know Jet is a confident young man. He always has a lot to say to us in the locker room. He's always talking. He's just an energetic guy. He loves to talk and he loves to hear himself talk. (Laughter). I thought we got in the fast break a little bit early. That was good. Had some good looks in the fast break. We were able to knock some shots down. But like I said, I thought in the first four games we looked at the film, we stepped into some good shots. We just for some reason we weren't knocking them down like we did in the first three series. I mean, if we would have struggled shooting the ball like that in the first three series, I don't know if we would have gotten here. Our ability to make shots in the weak side is a big part of what we do. Tonight we talked about it. Keep stepping into those shots when they're there. The J.J. screen-and-roll somewhere he stepped in and shot the ball great all season long. We kept telling him be aggressive and shoot those, and he was phenomenal, and so was Jet. J-Kidd had a big three there when we were up two. We swung it, swung it to go up five. That was a big shot. I thought we hit big, timely shots tonight. Yes, I think like I said, it's not a best-of-five series; it's a best-of-seven. So the first team to four wins. So we couldn't celebrate tonight, even though it was a big win for us. The series is not over. If you look at it really now, all that's happened, you can look they won their two home games, we won all three home games. That's how you look at it. They got two more. So far it looks like everybody protected their home court and they still have two games at home. So there's really nothing to celebrate. We're going in there Sunday swinging, like we did today, from the jump. And hopefully steal one Sunday. I really can't enjoy it much, because in the playoffs for some reason you're always on the edge. You don't sleep much. You think basketball 24/7. I can enjoy it hopefully next week when we're on vacation. As of right now, I'm always thinking ahead and thinking about the next game, what can I do better, what didn't I do and what I have to do to get other guys involved and more open. Hopefully I can enjoy it next week. Just stick with it. Just stick with it. First of all, this was the last home game in this building in front of our fans, who have been phenomenal all year and pushed us forward. We obviously didn't want to end this season here for them on a loss. I think we addressed that. We wanted to keep plugging, keep going. It was big, I think, when we were down four, the next offense I was able to get in the lane, get a pump fake, get to the free-throw line, kind of settle everybody down, make it a two-point game. And I thought that was big for us not to shoot a bad jumper and they go down in transition again. So it was good to kind of stop the clock, get two free throws and kind of set our defense. I thought that was a big momentum play. Well, we just don't allow ourselves to kind of be satisfied or be happy with anything. I think we did a good job in the first couple of rounds, always kind of keeping our edge to ourself. We won two games -- stole two games in L.A. and came back and still were able to win a big Game 3 at home. And I just think we're a veteran team, and we can't get too high with the highs. I've mentioned it all playoffs long. We addressed it today. Hopefully we'll be ready to play tomorrow. Well, you know, I never went back and watched the film. I never watched the celebration. But it is tough to always see another team win on your home court. It doesn't matter if it's a regular season or playoffs or championship. That's always tough in front of your home fans. Ultimately, that's what we got to do now. We've got to steal one more game on the road, hopefully the next one. We've been good on the road all playoffs long, we feel. We won a game in Portland. We won two in L.A. We won two in OKC and we won this series already. So we feel that we can execute on the road as well. We have a bunch of veterans that are road-tested, and hopefully we can get a big game tomorrow. Well, I feel like actually I haven't really shot the ball as well as I want to. I had some good looks, they just didn't go down. Just keep attacking. I think obviously my teammates are a big part of that. I think J-Kidd is able to give me the ball in situations where I want it. We got some good shooters around me. Tyson in the middle and Haywood have been great stepping in. So I don't have to force any shots if they're not there. Just swing it, run another pick-and-roll. So just experience, I guess, is a big factor. I just thought it was a little childish, a little ignorant. I've been in this league for 13 years. I've never faked an injury or an illness before. But it happened. It's over to me. It's not going to add anything extra to me. This is the NBA Finals. If you need an extra motivation, you have a problem. So we're one win away from my dream, what I've worked on for half of my life. This is really all I'm worried about. This is all I'm focusing on. And not really off-the-court stuff that happened. Well, kind of the same as yesterday or the day before that. I don't allow myself to sit back and relax now. In these playoffs, one win or one loss can switch the whole momentum. You don't ever want a snowball to start. I don't allow myself to sit back all of a sudden and be satisfied. We got one more big win hopefully to get, and then I can be satisfied. I think when we first started it was always about -- when you're 16 it's about other aspects of life, too. It's not just focusing too early on one thing and just get good at one thing and don't have anything else in life. So just challenging other aspects of the brain and stimulating it, and music is a big part and reading and other stuff, too. I just thought he was trying to show me other ways and not just on the court. That's tough. I love rock now. I have played the guitar for a couple of years. I listen to old-school rock. Led Zeppelin, Stones, stuff like that. Well, I think he's pushed the right buttons I think all season long. He's challenged us in ways. Sometimes he's backed off. Sometimes he's letting J-Kidd run the show. Sometimes he feels like things are not going the way he wants to and he's clamping down a little more. So I think that was the challenge the first two years, to find a good mix between play-calls and freedom and still play enough defense to win. And I just think he found a good mix and he found all the right buttons to motivate us every single night to get to this spot. I think every series, every time you go through a game, win or lose, you have to look at the film. You adjust. Sometimes it's major things, sometimes it's minor things the media doesn't even pick up. It might be little coverages. So I think every coach goes back after a game and adjusts, and we've done good so far. I think the major change was obviously starting J.J. He's been phenomenal for us attacking the paint. He was shooting the ball well last game. They were going under his screen-and-rolls. He was able to knock some big shots down. J.J. has been good in the starting lineup. You know, I feel we're a very close-knit group. We have a bunch of talent on the bench as well. Both of those guys bring us toughness. I think Mahinmi is very athletic, and Brian is a tough-nosed player who is very smart. They both gave us a huge lift last game, just by being in the right spot and kind of picking up our energy. Every player on the bench has been big at some point in these playoffs. I remember Brewer coming in and really changing Game 1 in L.A. We were down 15, or whatever, in the third. He came in and gave us a huge lift. At some point every player on this bench made a contribution. Well, I just think sometimes when you don't win, criticism comes with it. That's just a part of the game if you're the star or the face of the franchise. If you win, it's great for you, and everybody looks at you. And if you lose, you're going to get hammered. It's just the part of the business. I think we understand that. We've been around long enough. I got hammered the last 13 years, basically. So hopefully this year I can make the hammering go away for one year. Well, I don't know. I never really try to focus on other people, what other people say. I always try to worry about myself. Every summer go back home and try to work harder and come back next year, and during the series you can't worry about other stuff. You focus on the teammates. You watch the film, you talk to the teammates, see what they can do to help you, what you can do to help them. And that's all I was worried about in the playoffs, is trying to perform. I don't know. You never know. That's another thing I'm not really worried about. I said it before The Finals started, I said I'm not trying to win for my legacy or for anything other than for just me being on the best team there is for that year. You want to be a part of the best, and so hopefully we can fulfill that and everything else is kind of a side note to me right now. |
| Oh, man, I don't know. I mean, obviously that was one of my most disappointing losses in my career, to lose the Final series after being up 2-0. It took so long just to get here. I don't really know if it would have made a difference. Just this feeling to be on the best team of the world is just undescribable. Was he unbelievable tonight or what? Coming out right away in the first half and setting a tone. I think he watched me struggle there early, and he took it upon himself to really attack and look for his shot early and get going early. Man, he kept coming all night long. He was phenomenal. That one timeout he said to me, "Keep pushing. Remember '06." He said that to me in the fourth quarter. We kept plugging. It wasn't pretty for me, but I had to keep plugging and keep fighting. I don't really think that way right now. If you're in this league for 13 years of just battling and playoffs last basically ten years, 11 years, and always coming up a little short. That's why this is extra special. If I would have won one early in my career, maybe I would have never put all the work and the time in that I have over the last 13 years. So this feels amazing. I'm happy for Kidd. What a warrior he is at 38, chasing the most athletic players in this league out there and doing a great job on him, and also leading our squad. He's been in this league forever and had two chances. Just an unbelievable team. I said it all season long. We had great chemistry with the guys. We had fun in the locker room, on the buses and stuff. So this is a special group. We're world champions. It sounds unbelievable. Well, I just think we're a resilient bunch, and we saw it. This whole series we were down some. We kept battling back. Kept believing in each other. I just think this is a win of team basketball. This is a win for playing as a team on both ends of the floor, of sharing the ball, of passing the ball, and we've been doing that all season long. I'm happy. We never looked at ourselves as soft. Not for one minute. And we just kept fighting. Well, I think he's an experienced coach, and he pushed all the right buttons, and it took us a while to find a good mix. I think I mentioned that yesterday, of still keeping our defensive principles that Avery installed and also giving Kidd a little more freedom on the offensive end, letting him run the show a little bit, letting him create and letting him call some plays on the fly and push the pace up a little bit. So I think that he did a great job doing that, and during the course of the season, we had to adjust to some stuff. I thought in The Finals he did some phenomenal adjustments here to start J.J., and then decide to let Peja really sit for the series, bring Cardinal in, who has been phenomenal for us this series. Constant pro. Always stayed ready for us. It's an unbelievable team effort and the coaches and the whole organization. I give Mark a lot of credit. Cuban. He stuck with me through thick and thin. He brought all the right players always in, always trying to spend money and make this organization better and this team better. So Mark is the best. Man, this is what I obviously played for the last couple of years. I think when you come in in this league you want to establish yourself. All these All-Star Games and all those things are nice, in scoring, but when you get to a certain age, you've basically seen it all, and all you play for is for that ring. And I think that's the kind of energy we had from the beginning of the season this year, bringing Tyson in, who was unbelievable for us defensively again. Yeah, it feels amazing now to know that nobody can ever take this away from us again, and for one year we're the best team that was out there. That feels amazing. Well, I think in a lot of games we kept fighting back. All the wins we got in the fourth quarter, at some point we were down, besides today, and the way we kept plugging. Even in Game 5, we were up like 7 or 8. They made a huge run and they go up by a couple of points. And we had to battle back again and fight through it. So I don't really know where it happened, but we're just a resilient, veteran team that always kept coming. We never stopped playing, and we kept believing in each other. That was phenomenal. We talked about it in several time-outs, even when we were down, we have to keep executing, keep playing. You never know what's going to happen. And some of these wins we were able to come back. That was big. Well, you know, I think at the beginning I had some problems with the leadership role and talking. But over the last couple of years I think I've been more comfortable. Obviously my English is a lot better than it was when I first got here. So it's just being more experienced, more comfortable talking to the guys, talking to the fellows, and the experience of seeing something on the court that you want to address. And I just think it all came together for me with hard work and experience. It still feels unbelievable. It was weird. In the first half I had so many good looks. I can't even explain it. I had some threes top of the key. I had a wide-open three in the corner. I had some pull-ups. I had some one-leg fadeaways that I normally make. But like I said, the team always told me, stay with it, stay with it. You're too good of a shooter, too good of a player to keep missing. So finally there in the third I made a three, and there in the fourth I was able to make a couple of pull-ups. But like I said, this team every time somebody was down all season long, somebody else stepped in and picked them up. Mahinmi was unbelievable today, since Haywood went out a couple of days ago, and he gives us energy. All of a sudden makes some big shots today. So I think all season long if somebody was down, the team picked him up. So it was an amazing effort. I don't know. That's something I'll look back to and I can always look back to the '10-'11 season and say we're the world champs. Nobody can ever take that away from me. So that's really the best thing about this. Sticking to Dallas, that was the plan. We fell short so many times, and I committed for four more years this summer, and we didn't really know what was going to happen. We were a first-round, second-round exit a bunch of times. But consistency pays off. Like I said, Mark kept bringing in players. Losing Caron this year was an unbelievable blow. We kept playing, kept fighting through. Bringing Peja in, who was a big addition for us in earlier rounds of the playoffs. So it wouldn't have felt right to win it somewhere else. I'm happy. I obviously made the right decision. And this is also for the Mavs fans, who have been through a lot of disappointments with me over the last couple of years. And they always stuck with me and kept supporting us. And the gym was always full in Dallas during the regular season. This is for them. |
| I just think we have more of an awareness of what we need to do. It was a little surprise. Yeah, feeling pretty good. A little surprise. It was just one of those situations where we had played where we moved the ball around often. And you're so worried about the shooters, you're worried about Paul in the perimeter. Rondo got down the lane, because you're worried about getting out. I think it was an opportune time for me, because when I got to the paint, they were like, is he going to pass? We have to worry about the three point shot? I made it all the way. Anytime you have a scorer that gets to the free throw line easy, it gives you a rhythm, gets the ball in your hands, get your free throws, getting those easy lay ups in transition where you don't have to work as hard. Those are the things we have to work on early so they don't get in that offensive flow. It's really hard to say. We're prepared for whatever they do. We have a game plan to try to keep them from getting those easy buckets. It really changed because our lineup has been very untraditional. You know, when we go small, we can have four guys that are under 6'6" out there on the floor. So with that they go small, they have a shooting lineup in, it puts Rondo on Wade. Marquis was on him a little bit. It puts Keyon on him. So it just changes and we just have to adapt. For me personally, if I have to stop him, if I have to guard him, that's just what I have to do. The scoring aspect is I've always learned that you rest on offense. Defense is where you got to be there 100%. Right now the film work is important. Staying off your feet. You need what you're going to get from your guys in shoot arounds. I think the season prepared us, having such short time in between games. We really have had to focus in on getting stuff we need to get in with shoot around. Guys responded well to it. It's hard to say. It's a strategy. One thing I have learned over the course of my time is that I've been with plenty of coaches that never gave you any days off. You didn't do it was always coach always felt like you had to be in the gym. Sometimes it was at the detriment of players' bodies. At some point you just break down. Watching film and giving guys rest, you're going to with a veteran team, guys know how to get the work in they need. No. I've always felt that way with this crowd. I've always had great connection with these fans. I do believe that they think every shot I take is going to go in. I believe that. You don't want to wear him down. It's like trying to get him to it's like you get to the point where you use him to the point where almost he becomes a decoy. It's like you tip to the point where you know you're going to go to him, just like me on the perimeter, you know you're going to get to me, find me a good shot. But then somebody else gets the shot because the defense shades so heavily. So that's kind of what we do with him. If he has it, he has to take advantage of it. He got scores for us. Nothing. No. I don't attribute anything to this year from last year. I just know that they beat us last year and sent us home. So right now we know what the game plan is for this team. That's where my focus is. That he's been getting closer to the rim? Well, it's interesting, because Kevin, he's a jump shooter. But he's had such great match ups that we are getting him closer to the rim because we're staying so spaced on the perimeter. It's really it's a simple game that we play, and there's so many things, options we can run him through our offense. At the end of the day, it's just like you stay spaced, give him the ball and see how they guard him. Let him shoot over the top. That's what he's been doing. If you front him over the top, we're going to him. And that's what we've done a lot. And if you don't front him, give him the ball, and he still can shoot over the top of you. You contribute two guys. You have me, Paul, Rondo on the perimeter, then Brandon I think Brandon has helped a lot too. I don't think he understands his importance being able to shoot like he does. He's taken a lot of pressure off of him. It's a simple game. When we execute it, everybody is effective and everybody has an impact. |
| Just my legs, they've gotten considerably better. Actually, my leg, my ankle. Just going into the game, starting the game, having my legs underneath me is for me it's a huge deal now. How I feel now is a lot different from how I start the game. But that's what it's all about, like getting ourselves prepared, getting ourselves ready. So I feel like I have my lift starting the games. For me and for this team, that's huge. I try to keep myself ready. Off days you do what you can to stay off your feet. Well, at my lowest point I was ready to have surgery. I didn't think that I would get any better, because I was doing all the things I needed to do treatment wise and just staying off of it. It didn't seem like it was going to get any better. So I just stayed with it and stayed off of it and did what I had to do, and it just progressively got better over time. We'll see how I deal with it once the season is over. I would say there is a percentage of mind over matter. For me as aggressive as I run coming off screens, I have to almost be a little ginger going into certain directions, so I don't aggravate it too much more than it already is. I know what I'm dealing with, so I try to work through that. It was like chess, they took our queen, and we took their queen, so to speak. Paul went out, they both had five fouls. We always talk about getting it to the end of the game, and making sure we don't do anything where we get a call against us. And that was one of those situations. I told Paul before we came out of the timeout, be smart out there because you never know what can happen. That was just a bad situation we were in. We got plenty of guys. MP and Marquis and Keyon came in, and they did a great job defensively for us. Our guys were ready. I don't ever think I've seen that before, but Rondo was on the floor, I'm on the floor, Kevin is on the floor, Wade is on the floor. All the game has to be done all that has to happen is it has to be won. We don't care what it looks like. We just want to win the game. We have plenty from that point moving forward, we had an idea what we needed to do to close the game out. That was all that we cared about at that point. For me, the crowd has been great. It's as good as I've ever seen it. We all have friends in town, family, that's the one thing they commented on after Game 3, how amazing the building was, and how energetic they were. They got loud to some point where we couldn't even talk to each other standing next to each other on the floor. That's what you love about being home. And this building for me more than any building I've played in ever, it's my favorite building ever to play in. You got good eyesight. |
| N/A |
| Well, those guys, they came out on fire. They were passing the ball well, knocking down shots. We just wanted to continue to keep playing. It's a long game, and every time our coach was just saying play harder, play harder, and that's what we did. It's a game of runs, man, so you just have to make sure that every time we got a good shot on the defensive end, we've just got to contest up and just play hard. We've got to continue to do that. I mean, we're just trying to take it a possession at a time. You know, this is a tough series. This level of basketball is the hardest we play, and we just want to take it slow, and take it, like I said, a possession at a time. Guys got to just continue to believe in themselves. If we do that as a group, we'll be all right. Like Russ said, it kind of took us a couple minutes to get the nervousness out of us and the jitters out of it. We've just got to play our game. Next game we've got to start a little better because this team is going to come out extremely hard. He means a lot to us. He's been sacrificing his body, taking charges all season. Just playing hard. He could care less about how many shots he takes or how many rebounds he gets, he's just going to play hard and do what the coaches tell him to do. He's just a great teammate to have. We've got to continue to just give him confidence by feeding him down low on those dump off passes for dunks and he's going to come back down and give it his all on the defensive end. We need that from everybody. Like I said, we've got a long ways to go, we've just got to continue playing. Well, coach just told me to match up with him early on. They do such a great job of going small, going big, they can play different ways, and Thabo did a good job of just making it tough on them. You can't really stop a guy like that, just got to play hard and contest. For me he got a few lay ups, but I've just got to continue to stay in front and play my hardest. It's a tough match up, but I've just got to play with some fire, and we'll see what happens. Well, he's such a versatile defender, he can guard one through five, and we used Perk in a lot of screen setting, and they switched a lot of it, and he guarded Russ, he guarded me, he guarded one through five. You know, I'm not worried about, like I said, the one on one match up, it's just about the team, and he does such a great job of guarding everybody. We've got to figure out a way to try to get some easy points and just play hard on both ends. I can't worry about which guy is guarding me, I've just got to play my game. Well, Russ came out, like you said, he wasn't makes his shots early, but he didn't let that get him down. He just tried to do other things to help us win, 11 assists, eight rebounds. He's a guy that can come out on the floor and do that for us every night. He controlled the game on the offensive end. Like I said, he wasn't making shots, but he was trying to get everybody else involved. We've got to do a better job of finishing for him. But he came out and made some big shots for us. We've got to continue just leaning on each other. It's a game where everybody is going to have to chip in, and Russ was just making sure everybody did so, and we followed his lead. Well, I'm not trying to force anything. For this whole Playoffs, I'm just trying to play my game, be aggressive, and if I see a shot I have to take it, and if I see a pass I have to pass it. I have to go back tomorrow and watch film and see how I can get better, and hopefully I have a better game, too. I wish I could tell you. You know, just being in The Finals, we kind of was nervous, I guess. That's something we can't it can't happen next game or the rest of the series. Just got to come out with a lot of energy, and hopefully we do it next game. But I really couldn't tell you why. Just not think about it. Just play. Pride myself on working hard and learning and being coachable. I have faith in all those things that I do day in and day out, coming in, working hard, believing in myself and my teammates, and believing in the system. Whatever happens after that, it happens, as long as I know that I come in and give it my all every single day. I can't worry about what other people say or expectations they put on me. It's just all about how I view myself and how my teammates view me, and we'll go from there. I'm just all about getting better and all about believing, man. If that stuff comes along, then it does. I have faith that if I keep doing what I'm doing and continue to just learn every single year, anything can happen. I don't want to sound like a jerk or anything, but I really don't care what people say outside the locker room, outside of this organization what I need to do or what I didn't do. I really don't care. You know, I'm a guy that lets the game come to me but is also aggressive at the same time. I know when to take shots, when to make the right play. People can say this and that. I learn to just tune it out and just play my game. I just know it's going to come back around. I'm just taking it a day at a time. It's just a blessing to be here, not just in The Finals but being in the NBA, having this opportunity to do something I love to do, and just take it slow, take it a day at a time, keep working every single day, and at the end we'll see where I'm at. But I can't think too far down the line. Just got to be ready for the next day and prepare myself right for whatever happens. We'll see. I love to do everything you just said, but I've just got to take it slow, and we'll see. I kind of figured they would mix it up a lot, throw different defenders. They did a great job of since Chris Bosh was out a few series back, they did a great job of just playing a lot of guys that can defend different positions. LeBron can defend one through five and Shane Battier can do the same, and Haslem is good at defending some perimeter guys, as well. They're just mixing it up, and we've just got to find a way to kind of offset that. It just goes down to playing hard and make the right basketball play. Yeah, I think, like I said, they're going to mix it up a lot. I've just got to be patient and be aggressive, and I just really can't worry about who's defending me, I've just got to play within the concept of the team and play my hardest. That means a lot. My goal as a kid was to be the best player ever in my area. That was my first goal before even thinking about going to college or the NBA. So that means a lot to me. But I don't think I'm up there with those guys. Elgin Baylor and Dave Bing and Adrian Dantley and guys like that yet. But I've got to keep working and hopefully I get there. That's always been a goal of mine, and hopefully I achieve it. Everybody has been physical with me since I got into the league at 19. I don't expect it to be any different. Those guys bump me, pushed me, confronted me and denied me the ball, and I expected it to be the same. But me, I've got to start the ball off better on the defensive end and the offensive end, just being stronger and trying to get the ball and making the right plays. I turned over the ball a few times I shouldn't have turned it over, but I've just got to be stronger. I expect them to be a lot more physical, so I'll be ready for it. Only adjustment we made was playing harder. I can tell you guys Xs and Os and the schemes, but it just comes down to playing harder. Those guys got open threes, open lay ups. That's not what we pride ourselves on. We can't do that to a championship caliber team, can't give those guys open shots. So we just tried to step it up on the defensive end and know that they're going to be aggressive and make shots, but we can't get discouraged, we've got to continue to play our game. And we just tried to step it up a little bit, get our karma behind us some, as well, and kind of push us over the top. He has a chip on his shoulder, and he wants to be the best. That's the best part about our team, we have guys that want to be the best. I don't know how many points he had, but he had eight rebounds and I think 11 assists. I don't know if you can talk too much about a guy who does that, who can do that night in and night out. He had great shots last game, missed a few lay ins and a few easy jumpers that I think he can make. We're not worried about what people are saying on the outside, we're just worried about coming together as a group, and he did a great job of controlling everything last night. Only thing I remember was that everybody ran on the court. That's probably one of the best moments I've had so far in my life, playing at the mecca of basketball in New York City, and I hit a few shots then. It felt like everybody just swarmed me so quickly, man, and it was just a fun moment for me and something I'm always going to remember. That's something we've been preaching for a while, always just staying together. And teams win, you know, individuals don't win basketball games. You may win a few here or there but you don't get to where you want to go by just one guy, so we've got to do it together. We know that. We don't care who takes the shots, we don't care who gets the rebounds or assists, as long as we do it together. We just believe in each other. We trust in each other, and we've got to continue to keep building that if we want to get to where we want to get to. We've just got to keep doing it. I absolutely hate it. But I've gotten used to it over the years playing Shane, ever since he was in Houston. Last year in the Playoffs against Memphis. He does it a lot. You've just got to be disciplined on your shot, and I think shooting so many shots, you know once you kind of let loose, you know where it's going to go. Got to free myself up from him. He is a good defender. But it's something that you can't control him doing, he's going to do it whenever he plays. I've just got to be confident in myself and in my shot. He's probably the only guy that does that, so I'm used to guys contesting the shot, but putting a hand in your face is a little different. I've just got to play through it. I tried to approach it as a regular game. I think all the stuff before the game kind of made me a little nervous, the intros and all the media here, so many people here. I never seen this many people here in Oklahoma City before at a basketball game. So it's a little different. But you got used to it once the ball is tipped. It goes back to when you're a kid playing a game, just playing. All that stuff is out of the way. We've just got to be focused on Game 2 and be ready to play. None of that stuff is going to change. All we're worried about is basketball. Well, it took us some time. I think we're both willing passers, but we do know when we have to be aggressive. Russ is great at knowing when we're down, he has to be aggressive. When we're down, I have to be aggressive. But when we have a good flow in the game, that's when everybody is touching the ball, we're moving it, we're finding a good shot, finding a great shot. But it's kind of weird, but I think it just kind of clicks for you when you know you have to shoot the ball and when you have to pass it. We've got to continue to watch film and see if we can get better in that area, and hopefully we do. |
| N/a |
| We stay even keeled. But this time around we've got to understand the champions are going to they're going to come back ready to play a game. Them being at home should be another level that they'll kick it to. So we've got to come out and just match that energy. Not really. Not really. We just got to come out and continue to keep playing how we play. Don't let nothing distract us, but let nothing take away from what we do. Everybody play within themselves and continue to play how they've been playing this postseason. We know our defense, if it's as good as we want it to be, we'll have a shot at winning here. It is. It is. Because I'm not a player to try to force things to happen. I usually just try to let the game come to me. At times especially last night not being able to be on the floor for as long as I've been playing on the floor, I just tried to make up for lost time being on the bench and tried to make big plays and be aggressive. Got to do a better job with that. But the good thing is we had Lance Stephenson last night. Continue to keep rising to the occasion and continue to try to lead, and be someone that my team can rely on down the stretch. Again, just staying even keeled. How we play is that next play. Playing for that next possession and just forgetting whatever happened the last possession. It's been a key, especially down when you're playing in postseason, because games can turn so quick, and possessions are so big. We just got to go with the flow and let that last possession kind of air out of our minds and get ready for the next one. I mean it's a real grind. But we prefer it to be this way instead of having a couple of days, because you can lose your rhythm and lose your touch. I prefer I think our team prefers to play every other day just to stay in tune, because we're playing great basketball right now. Well, we played a full 48 minutes. In Game 1 we played about 47. Going into OT that last couple of seconds we slipped up. We played a full 48 minutes in that win in Miami. That's what it's going to take. We did it on the defensive end. We got off to a great start. We were able to rally their comeback and still find ways to score late. He's playing phenomenal. Other than Timmy, he's been the best center in this game right now, thus far in this postseason. That's the reason why we've done so well. Because we're getting a huge contribute from the post area. Yeah, that's huge. That's huge. Because their half court defense is so tough to score on. Roy takes it upon himself to create opportunities for us. Myself, Lance, George, we try to get our buckets in transition and early offense strikes. But when it's late in the shot clock, Roy finds a way to duck himself down there and get some easy baskets for us. Yeah. Yeah. Because we want to come out with energy. It's a three game series right now. We don't want to have to rely on doing our work here to not get eliminated. So we want to continue to keep the pressure on them. Yeah, but it is what it is. We will I will say settle. We have to settle for 2 2. We wish it would have been 3 1. We didn't take care of business when we needed to. So it just makes the job a little tougher. But that's the playoffs. |
| David West understands what's at stake. You can tell at times he wasn't fully there. He was trying to fight through and give it his all. We very grateful to have a player like that. That's just David West stepping up to the challenge. And we still went to him, because we know David West, we'll take David West any day. Sick or healthy. He just gave us his all. Made some huge plays for us. The shots he knocked down really was in the clutch moments. And we needed those. That's just the kind of player David West is. I think it was a little bit of both. We executed well. No, but really, what separated was us being able to get in transition and trying to strike early against Miami, because their half court defense is tough. But still, we found opportunities to strike early. And we really executed. We were finding guys in the pick and roll and having Roy or David West make plays out of that. It was just Roy making a huge play. He's one of the, if not the best, defensive big in this league. And I'm glad he's being able to highlight that this series. I think if the voting if they continue to vote who is going to be Defensive Player of the Year, he would have gotten the award. But that's just him making a huge play at the rim. And then the refs calling the tech or whatnot, I didn't really know what was going on. I was just proud of the play that Roy made at the rim. We knew they were going to make a run. This team, they're deadly offensively. They can really put points up. That's just us staying together, being poised, and just rallying you know that effort they made. Again, Lance made some big plays offensively on the boards to get us some extra possessions. We shared the ball. We just made huge plays when we really needed to. It was just a credit to our guys playing our hearts out tonight. |
| We're here to win. It doesn't matter how we're categorized. It's been a lot of years since we've been here. We're just happy to be back here. Old veterans, whatever you want to call us. We're in the mix right now. Just great to get the first game under our belts. I didn't change anything, honestly. The first five shots I got were all good shots actually minus one. The first four shots were really good shots. Shots I usually make. Shots I'm comfortable taking. So I didn't change anything about it. I think I got a lay up to go, and that kind of changed it for me and just kind of went from there. We knew at some point they would do that. Tony made a couple of shots down the stretch there. That's when they switched it over. Tony made some great calls to get some switches in the right places, and then the unbelievable shot he made to obviously we're going to make adjustments. That's what Pop does. We understand that when it comes down to it, LeBron is going to be their best defender. They are going to put him on Tony. We have to continue to execute, continue to attack and just try to get TP as much space as possible. Yeah, they were great all around. I thought Kawhi did an excellent job staying in front of LeBron. You're not going to stop him. You just have to try to stay in front of him as much as possible and make his life as tough as possible. Our guys got a lot of open shots. We didn't shoot the ball real well, but we made enough shots down the stretch to extend a lead and get a win here. We'll shoot the ball better. We love the shots that we got. And all around I thought we did an excellent job. We made plays down the stretch. I think we got a couple of offensive rebounds down the stretch and put them back in. We did what we had to do. And all around the board we did a great job. Yeah. It was a key coming in here that we need to take care of the ball. Their pressure defense is what they do, their ability to get in the open court. I think it was a bit of a nightmare, the very first play they come and make a turnover, they run it back and they dunk it right down the middle. That's what we want to stay away from, obviously. That's where they're at their best. So we took care of the ball very well. As I said, we had some plays down the stretch on the offensive glass. I think we had one or two tip ins down the stretch there. That's where we have to continue to attack and continue to rebound the ball. Yeah. I would imagine they are going to use just about everybody they have there. It's usually Haslem starting on me. When they go smaller, I might have Bosh on me. Chris Andersen obviously can come in. So they are going to use all those guys. I know enough about them and I've prepared enough for them. Nothing really changes on how I attack. I just kind of play it as it comes. I don't know. I think at this point my mind was just blank. I just wanted him to get a shot up in the air. I was trying to get position on the board, trying to work Bosh up the lane a little bit, so I could get back to the board. I see him go down and I'm just praying he gets a shot off. Obviously, Tony makes an unbelievable play. He does just about everything in the book that he had. He fell to the ground, pump faked, stepped through and still got it off the ground. It was just amazing. |
| Obviously, if that be the case, it would be a huge loss for us. We played all season long with minus a couple of guys in different cases for whatever amount. I was gone for ten games, Tony was gone for a little while, Manu was gone for a little while. We made adjustments. We played without individuals. On this stage at this time it would be obviously a huge loss for us. Just getting out and just shooting individually. Just getting out there and just working on my game individually more than anything. And obviously just in game rhythm doesn't come from anything but in game. Just being on the floor and seeing a shot go in or making a play somewhere and all that stuff helps your confidence. He's been great with some of the younger guys, with Kawhi, Gary and Danny. You see him talking to them all the time during time outs or practice. Just staying in their ears about different things. I thought he's done a really good job of that, giving them tips here and there. I think it will automatically swing that way. I don't think I would put it on myself per se, but it will kind of come that way. The responsibility will fall on my shoulders more, obviously, and Manu as well. So we both will try to step up even more in the absence of his. I don't think there's anything wrong with LeBron's offense. We're guarding him with five guys. We understand what kind of player he is. He's the best player in the world, so we're respecting him as that. So we're trying to make his life as difficult as possible every time he touches the ball. When he comes out in the open court, that's obviously where he really thrives. If we can keep those away and keep his rhythm down, it's better for us. I don't think he expresses enough emotion to know either way. He's always the same. He's always even keeled and he always looks like he's right where he wants to be. No, I don't think I heard him say more than four or five words in a row or he sounded displeased in some way. That was about it. Yes. All of that and probably a lot more. Honestly, I don't read anything. I don't watch SportsCenter. I don't watch sports. I don't watch anything. I don't know what's said and I don't really care. I show up to play the games. We're here at this point and that's all that matters. As I said, I kind of stay away from that. So I don't even know how I guess if you allow yourself to be affected by it, and you allow yourself to look and read everything, then everyone is under a microscope. As I said, I don't envy that kind of scrutiny and pressure in any way. |
| I just thought he was a bit more aggressive. I know that's kind of the answer to everything. He's a bit more aggressive. He looked for his shot a bit more. And on top of that, just let the game come to him. He made some great plays, got the floor spread for him, got to attack the basket. Just got more opportunities more than anything. I think that's what it came down, just get more opportunities. A tremendous amount. A tremendous amount. We're not a team or an organization that kind of points fingers in that respect. I know it's on the media to find out what's wrong with everybody, what happened whatever game, but he's such a huge part of what we do. And how far we've come. And you can see it tonight in how we played and the results of the game. So we're always confident in him. We don't look at the stats and say, hey, it's his fault or his fault or his fault. We know he has it in him and we hope he can bring it for at least one more win. I waited for my opportunities. I played off the pick and rolls. I got to open spots. I played off of people more than anything. It's what's being given to me this series. It's what my role is. And I'm just playing that. Yeah, he's been unbelievable. Especially on this stage. He's shooting the ball so well. We're asking him to defend Dwyane Wade and LeBron and all these guys. He's got a lot on his shoulders and he's stepped up and answered the bell. He's been unbelievable. I hope he doesn't wake up and keeps playing this way. Yeah, we played more the minutes better. We still had too many turnovers. We still ended with 18 turnovers. That's still a bit much. But we shot the ball a lot better, moved the ball a lot better. We moved their defense very well. And we had a lot of guys attacking and making shots. So if we're going to turn the ball over that much, we have to play as well as we did. We still have things we can clean up in that respect, which is great. If we can take care of those turnovers, because we can't expect to shoot that well in every game, but we just need one more. So hopefully we can. Experience plays a role. We've been in situations like this. We've been together for a long time. So that definitely plays a role. I think we're just trying to do all we can to will it to happen. We hope we can respond better next game than we have after wins. That's the one thing we want to clean up. I think every one of us wants this very badly from the top on down. We're trying to play that way. We just need to put it on the floor and understand the kind of energy and the kind of aggression they're going to come with next game, and counter that with continuing to play well, moving the ball, and finding ways to find open guys. He did seem dejected. He was obviously he's a competitor, an extreme competitor. And he wants to play well and he wants to help our team do well. Just like a lot of us, we lose games and we take the blame for it. He's just the same way. And he wanted to play well. He wanted to play well really badly. I knew he would come out tonight. I knew he would play well. Everything that happens happens because of Pop. He makes all the calls. He let us know yesterday that he was going to start, and we were all excited about it. I'm really excited for Manu, for his performance tonight, but we need him to do it one more time. We need one more win. We need all of us to show up and play well. We'll be satisfied and happy about all that stuff if we can win one more. We honestly didn't change a whole lot. I thought we put a little more effort into it. We cleaned up a couple of mistakes. We're just trying to make their life as hard as possible. There are three incredible players that obviously have gotten their team to this point for three years in a row. They're some of the best players in the league. All we can do is try to do the best we can to make their life as hard as possible. I thought we did a better job in the open court, trying to keep them in front of us, not giving up lay ups like we did in that past game, that last game, and in that respect that changed the game a bit for us. |
| It was extremely important, you know, especially playing against the two time champs. This is a game we needed, and we couldn't let this one go. We had a past of dropping Game 1's in this playoff run, and that would have been a huge setback against this team. Yeah, yeah, I thought we just did a great job of moving the ball. We didn't let the ball sit in one person's hand all night or all afternoon. The ball constantly was in rotation. So guys were coming and stepping into shots with a rhythm, and that's the reason why we were able to get off to a hot start and shoot the ball well to start this game off. Well, having Battier on me, I think I'm a little quicker. So it doesn't pose that much of a threat for me. But I don't know. It was a move to kind of change the game up, for them to stay small. Obviously, LeBron can guard multiple positions. And they're aware of that, so I think that's what that move was for. In the past, David West has been pretty effective with Battier on him. So maybe that was the reason for the switch. I don't know. I don't know. That's something we'll have to look back on and a question Spo will have to answer about the adjustments they're going to make for Game 2. It was great. It was a fun matchup, the one that we've been waiting for all year, the chance to battle this team once again. We had a great crowd, great atmosphere. Just happy we were able to complete Game 1 and get this win. I think just getting into pick and rolls. We veered away from pick and rolls. I think we got back to being sharp as far as hitting a roll man and causing rotations against that. That's what's consistent with this group is hitting the pick and rolls and hitting our roll man. Yeah, because our bigs are great. We need a support system to help them when they're posting up and give them one on one matchups on the block. If we're not shooting the ball well, it's going to be a tough night for them as well. I thought it was a great job on our part, again, of getting guys great looks, getting shots in rhythm, and helping our bigs out. Energy. We played with a great energy tonight. That's been an area where we lacked this postseason, being consistent with our energy and urgency to start games off. I thought we brought that tonight. We brought a toughness. We brought an edge. We brought an aggression, or we were aggressive on both ends of the floor. I thought guys you know, if a play broke down, we made an extra effort to not, I guess, just take what was available, but we pushed the effort a little bit. At the end of the day, that's where we were able to really get a good lead on this team. A lot of times, we kind of just take whatever the defense gives us, but I thought George, Lance, myself, David, Roy, we all gave the extra effort to make plays. He's been able to control them. He's definitely been able to control them. That's as much as I could say on that. He's learned to be a professional. He's just an emotional person. That's what we need though. We need a guy with that energy, that toughness. He gets out of hand sometimes, but we can live with most of it. But I thought he did a great job tonight of just staying poised and keeping himself within the game. I don't know the track record, but we know we're playing against the champions, two time champions, and they're going to come out and make adjustments. It's not going to be nowhere close to Game 1. We expect that. So everything we did tonight has got to be that much more in Game 2 in order for us to move on. That will be the test. That will be the test. We've been complacent many times in series and throughout the whole year. We just can't get complacent. We've got to stay humbled off this win and come in with the same mindset that we've got to get another one and let it go from there. We know Miami's going to play well at home. They play well on the road as well, but we like our chances being at home. Roy. Roy was big. He was very big in the paint. Any time Roy is in the paint, he has a huge size advantage. So you've got to foul him. You've got to foul him. He's going to put himself in position to get fouled, and I thought he did that. But our guys did a great job of attacking, attacking to the rim, attacking their bigs. Again, posting with physicality. To really just shoulder everything. I think he's going to be much more aggressive with the ball. I think he's going to be looking to make more plays, looking to shoot more shots and really looking to get guys going. So it's going to be a tough night for me, but it's part of the league. It's tough because Bosh didn't have a good game. When those three are locked in, that's when they're really at their best, and their role players contribute from all over the floor. I think, had Bosh had a bigger role, played a bigger game for them, this game would have been a lot more tougher than it already was. But we got to just do a great job of containing the rest of their guys. They've got three great guys on their team who are going to make shots, make plays, make the special plays, but if we do a good job of containing everyone else, we'll be all right. |
| Excuse me if I'm a little shaken up. I was in a cold tub. I didn't start this game off hot. Early on, I got into a rhythm for the first couple of possessions. Really the first quarter, I felt good. Second quarter, the ball didn't drop, but I knew we were facing elimination. Coach told me green light. Stay on green. D. West kept telling me, "Don't keep no bullets in the chamber." So I really just came out firing. My teammates found me, and I got hot. Yeah. I like to just play. Let us play. It's the Conference Finals. Let everything just be left on the floor. I knew I was going to have to step to the plate. My teammates needed me to make plays down the stretch, and I was fortunate enough to do so for us. No, you know, I felt in the rhythm, regardless of who was guarding me. I think I seen every defender from the Heat tonight. I was just in the zone. Again, regardless of who was guarding me, I felt like that ball was going to go in that net, and that's a great, unbelievable feeling. It's always tough. It's always tough night in and night out to guard the best player in this league. It wears on you. You're going to be inconsistent shooting the ball when you're shooting jumpers. But tonight it went my way, and I was going to keep my foot on the gas. I knew I couldn't let up because they were making plays on the other end as well. My teammates was aware of it. They kept feeding me the ball and looking for me on the offensive end. I mean, we're going against history, but we can't feel like it can't be done. Every player in our locker room, every trainer, every coach, everybody in this organization have to feel like we can accomplish this. And we believe. We honestly believe we can accomplish this one. It's going to be tough. Like we say, it's one game at a time. That's just how we've got to treat it. It's Lance being Lance. He's been special for us, and whether he's scoring the ball, making plays, causing confrontation, you know, Lance is special, and there's a reason why we gain an edge and some opportunities during games. A lot of it comes from Lance. So we need that. Again, he's always got to make sure he's monitoring it, but I didn't think nothing was out of the spirit of the game tonight. Yeah, I just saw it. I just saw it. I hope his breath wasn't too bad for LeBron. What was it like? When he was in foul trouble, everybody had to be aggressive. That's a huge weapon that they're missing. Everybody was aware that he was on the bench and how limited this team was without him and how much everybody had to step up. And they did. They knocked down 15 threes. I thought a lot of players took on a huge role. But it's not going to be like that in Game 6. We're expecting LeBron to be LeBron, and that's how we want it. LeBron is the smartest player in this league. He's going to make the right play, and he thought that was the right play. They made 15 threes tonight. So obviously, they were hot behind the three point line. He found a three point shooter that's been hot lately for them in Chris Bosh. We were fortunate he missed. We walk away with a win. We're capable of winning the ballgame with LeBron scoring 30 to 40 points. It's Rashard Lewis having six threes that we've got to be cautious of. Ray contributing with 15 off the bench we've got to be cautious of. It's some areas where we can hold up with LeBron having a spectacular game. You know, again, it's containing the role players to make sure they don't have big nights. We know, with our backs against the wall, we've proved that we can come out. This is different. This is definitely different. We're playing against the champions. So we're happy to get this win, have our season still be alive, but it's going to be tough. It's going to be tough. We're not expecting any of this to be easy, this whole trip. We've got to do one possession at a time down in Miami, and we can't turn the ball over in this Game 6. This Game 6 is going to be about performing like champions. Well, I was asked earlier today about having my print on this game, and I felt I needed to have a print on this game. So that was always in the back of my mind is, how can I impact this game where we can continue to keep playing? So that was it. I knew I had to make some plays on the defensive end, getting steals, playing scrappy basketball, as well as trying to contribute on the offensive end. Again, that was in the back of my mind the whole night is, how can I be an impactful player for us? Well, this year, everybody I'll go on last year. Last year was me stepping up to the plate and rising to a new level. This year was about how can I grow from that and expand to another level? So it's just about rising to the occasion every night, you know, how can I we've got a great team. We've got a great group and a group that can very well move on to the championship. So I just have to make sure every night just ask myself, did I leave everything on the floor? Whether I'm making shots or not, whether I'm rebounding every ball, getting steals, deflections, I just ask myself, am I doing enough? At the end of the day, more times than not, I feel like I'm giving my all. No. I mean, Dwyane was the one that was going. Dwyane was the one that was taking all the load when LeBron was out, and I still was matching up with Dwyane. It was just the flow of the game. It was really just the flow of the game. It wasn't no where we came together and me and Lance decided to guard different matchups. It was just the flow of the game. If LeBron was on one side of the floor, Lance was going to stay and guard whoever was on the side of that floor. |
| I thought we played through it well. I think it affected both teams. It definitely affected both teams. It got to a couple different of guys and cramps started setting in. I thought Pop continued to switch guys in and out, keep us as fresh as possible and we finally got to a point where we took care of the ball and we got a chance to make a run and made 'em pay. I think just that, just what I said. We took care of the ball finally. We had 20 some odd turnovers for 28 points the last seven or eight minutes. We only turned the ball over once or twice. And getting them out of the passing lanes, keeping them in front of us, making them score over us, and we found something that worked on the offensive end. Started moving the ball and Danny Green got hot and hit a couple of shots and really opened it up for us. Honestly, the way he shoots the ball, I assume every time he shoots it it's going to go in. So we want to get him as many shots as possible. He's a confident, capable shooter. And I think Pop has instilled a lot of confidence in him in the fact that when he has a crack, he can shoot the ball. And that takes a lot of pressure off him deciding what shots to shoot and what shots not to shoot. So he hits one or two and then we call a play for him, he hits another one and that really opens up the game for us. Yeah, pretty close. Pretty close. I don't think I've ever played in anything like this since I left the islands. It was pretty bad out there. I honestly didn't see it until we had numbers going the other way, and I looked back and he was kind of on the baseline, limping on the baseline. That's the first time I really noticed. I think he asked out of the game once or twice before that, so we knew he was getting tired but we were all getting tired out there. So I didn't assume it was anything more than him getting tired and getting a blow. Him in or out, obviously he's one of the best players in the league. He's going to make a difference, but we played through all that. And as I said, we started taking of the ball and that was the difference. He was great tonight, he was great. We continued to roll and get in the middle of the defense and make the right reads. He finished some great ones in there, made some plays for us, made some good reads and passed it out to shooters. He's been playing well all season long and he knows what he has to do now, and he knows what he has to do and he's confident if he gets fouled he can go to the line, and knock off free throws, with all that said he put it together tonight. I don't know how to respond to that. We wanted to win it badly, and we just kind of stuck with it. I think Manu was out there for the entire fourth quarter. He was very effective tonight, moving the ball, making the right passes and made some shots early that kept us in the game. We both want it bad and we're both willing to do whatever. We're trying to stick to the game plan as much as possible and make plays when we can. What adjustments we made? We had a bad third quarter, almost 10 turnovers, and that was the difference for us. It took us until halfway through the fourth until we really figured it out and started taking care of the ball. So I think the third was our worst quarter, and we allowed them to up their pressure, allowed them to get in the passing lanes and allowed them to get in the open court and score some easy ones when we were able to keep them in front of us, and make them work for what they got. They still scored the ball but this was tougher than them getting out and running out on us. We're one step closer to four wins, it doesn't matter what happened last year. We know there is a lot of things we can clean up, and we're going to come in here on Sunday and hopefully play better and come out with another one. |
| Unfortunately it's how basketball goes. We knew they were going to make a run. We were obviously trying to stay away from that, but started out the third quarter, they made a quick three point play and a three pointer in transition. Just plays happen. That's how it happens. We were able to at the other end continue to take care of the ball, continue to attack. Understand that they're going to make a run, but even with their run, we're still up double digits at that point. And just not lose our composure and try to get it all back in one play. So we did just that. Finished out the quarter good, and continued in that fourth quarter to keep control. Well, they were the keys to the game. They took over the game. Kawhi was aggressive. He's been getting we've been on him about continuing to play. Foul trouble has been a problem for him in the first couple games and it kind of took him out of his game. And Danny's been shooting the ball well. They really got up and tried to make him do something else, and he made some great decisions there. Made some plays and finished them. Defensively, he was solid, he got hands on balls and knocked them away. Made some plays for himself, got himself in the open court and finished. Those guys were huge for us. They were the difference in the game tonight. Well, you don't tell them anything. You're either going to shoot well or you're not. The effort that they have there, the focus they have defensively, they can bring that nightly. They can bring that every night and they can make defensive efforts like they did tonight. Whatever happens on the other end happens on the other end. But it was a huge boost for us to get offensive performances like that from them. We're not going to expect to get that from them. But hopefully if we continue to get them shots and get them open, hopefully they'll continue to do that for us. I didn't know, honestly. I wasn't paying any attention to that. We were just kind of pushing the ball and things were working for us, and we were kind of going with the flow. I didn't look at a stat sheet. I didn't look up. I didn't look at the score. I just wanted to get a good start in, and things were falling how they were. Boris has been great all playoffs, in the entire playoffs. His ability to attack off the dribble, his passing ability. When they collapsed, he made some great passes, made some great plays, and his ability to finish at the basket as well. So just gave us another attack guy out there. Tiago's been playing great. He's finishing at the basket and making plays. But to have someone like Boris who can stretch your floor and make plays like a point guard in there and make decisions and punish them for their rotation, it was big for us. I don't know that there was much difference. I thought the Heat just turned up their intensity for a while and they got a couple turnovers, made a couple plays and made a couple shots. It was just the ebbs and flows of a game. We were able to only sustain it for a short while and get right back into it. They won that third quarter. We couldn't score the ball, but we were still up 10 or 11 at that point, and as I said, we just don't panic. We don't start forcing bad things, we continue to share the ball, move the ball, and get the lead back up. Luckily I played with him a bunch during the lockout time. He came down and worked out with us when we were before the team was together. So I kind of got an early look at him. I thought he had a lot of work to do. He wasn't shooting the ball like he does now. But Pop and the guys saw something in him and they allowed him to kind of develop and find his own way. Last year I think he really got his confidence and understood what had he to do, and he continues to evolve year after year. This year you can see when he gets in a groove like that, he can be special. |
| No, we didn't plan on that, but we thought that we could come in here and win these games. We've won games on the road in the playoffs, and we thought we could win here. We hoped to win two, obviously, but we were happy to win one. Then came the second game we didn't want to rest and say, hey, we've got one and let's just rest on that. We came in here tonight and had great focus, put a great game together, and came out with two. Yeah, great position for us, obviously, going back home with a closeout game. They're a very, very good ballclub. Obviously, they're the champions, and they're going to come out and show a lot of fire and come with a lot of energy. We're going to use our homecourt and we're going to come with the same focus that we did in these last two games, and hopefully close it out at home. It's not a focus on building a wall in the paint, but making their shots as tough as possible. They're both unbelievable players. They're both very good at getting to the rim, very good at finishing around the rim, and we just wanted to stay in front of them and make their shots tough. Whatever that turned into, that's what we needed it to be. So we're sending more than one defender against them. We're asking Kawhi and Danny and the rest of our perimeter guys to do a very tough job in pressuring them and making their life difficult, and we're using our team defense to make everything as tough as possible. I can appreciate you saying the names and having passed them in anything. It's an honor to be in that position. Having won helps, obviously, but the focus is winning one more, and once that one more is done, I can look back and say, hey, it's truly an honor. It will definitely come up. It will definitely come up. As I said, we know the caliber team they are, and we have a lot of respect for what they're able to do. They're able to throw it into another gear, and they're going to do just that. They don't want this to be done. They feel they can they've already won on our homecourt, so they feel they can do it again, and we don't want to give them any life. So we're going to use these two days to really get rested up, come out on Sunday and lay it on the line. Yeah, there was, there was. We won big in that first game, and we knew that they were going to come back with a kind of energy and kind of really attack the rim and make us play a different way. I thought our game plan pretty much remained the same. I thought we executed very effectively, shot the ball really well and got some play, great play from Tony, and Kawhi and Boris. Guys stepped up and made plays when we had to. At the same time, we continued to move the ball, share the ball, and just find a way to get it done. Yeah, he's been amazing, especially this series. I think he's really found his rhythm. He's always been effective with what he's done using his body, using his ability to pass and his ability to attack the basket and smaller players, and it's really showing in this series. He's been the key for us early, catching and driving, making the right plays, finding open people. He's really changed the game for us, along with rebounding, defending as well as he has. He hasn't really even scored that much, but he's found a way to be really effective getting in the paint and finding people and making plays for us. |
| Very special. It was already a special day, but to do it at home, to do it with my kids and my family and my friends here made it so much more special. Just a great experience, and a great experience for them. It is. It is. For whatever reason, it is sweeter than any other, whether it be because of the timeframe, because I'm coming towards the end of my career, because I can have these two here and really remember it and enjoy the experience, all of those things make it that much more special. It helped. What happened last year definitely helped our drive and stay focused for an extended period of time. It very easily could have hit us in different ways and we could have reacted in different ways. But we reacted the right way. We got great leadership from the top in Pop who came back absolutely fired up and ready to go, and to push us this far and this hard and to come out with the championship is amazing. It's amazing to think about having done this five times. The kind of company I'm in, the people who have had such amazing careers and having had the ability to have one, and for the stretch, and the span between them, to still be in a situation where we can win or I can win another championship is just an amazing blessing, and it's not taken lightly. I'll say a little bit of both . Very, very old when you put it like that. But as I said, that span and to be effective and to be on teams and to be starting, I feel a real part of what we had done this year, just it's an amazing feeling. Honestly? Don't listen to the media He's been unbelievable. He came in here after a lockout season, worked hard with us during that summer, and I can't say that I saw the player that I saw tonight at that point. What R.C. and Pop saw in him for him to become the player he is today, it's amazing because that summer I was like, hey, we gave up someone. It was George Hill who had been playing really solid for us. Obviously, you get attached to people and disappointed in that. He comes in here and don't know a thing about him. He works hard and continues to improve year after year. You see him play the first two games and everybody's talking to him. Everybody's saying to him: Just stick with it, just play hard, do the little things, whatever, whatever, whatever. And he shows up in the last three games and just plays out of his mind. He's not worried about just doing the little things. He wants to do it all, and he plays with a confidence that is just amazing. I'm honored to be on this team right now because he's going to be great for years to come, and I'm going to hold on as long as I can. Going from the youngest to the oldest? It happens. It happens. I'm blessed to be in the position that I can sit here and be asked that question and to be on a championship team and to even think about what that means. It's I can't explain. It's amazing to be a part of this for so long. Yeah, I have no idea. I don't know. I told someone I don't think we heard the horn in the beginning. We just we knew they'd come out with energy. We knew they'd come out and try to knock us down early, and I think we helped that. We just came out, we weren't getting shots up, we were turning the ball over. We were doing exactly what we did when we lost Game 2. But we kept our focus. We kept saying to each other that it's a long game and it's going to turn. And we get guys like Patty Mills step in and Kawhi starts stepping up, and Manu coming in with some great energy. That is the beauty of the team that we've had this year. We've had 10, 12 guys with the ability to step in and make a difference, and you see that tonight with the guys stepping in and finding a way to turn the game for us and give us a chance to win. It will be easy to remember from what we went through last year to every little step that we took this year. It was a very hard working team, a very focused and resilient team. This will be a very easy to team to remember top to bottom. We had a lot of guys that really laid it on the line, gave of themselves. We had guys that could have scored more, could have done more, could have been more this and more of that, but they gave it all up to be a part of one of the best teams in basketball, and that's what we'll remember them for. Yeah. I don't know. I'm guessing you're leading me into a question that I'm not going to answer, so I'll just go ahead and avoid that one. He said what do you think of your dad tonight Say something nice about me. |
| We've got to start the game better, get settled into the game a lot quicker than we did tonight. We only had 12 turnovers, but it seemed like there were some timely ones that killed a little bit of momentum for us, and we'll look at that on film. But, I mean, over the course of the game I felt like we stuck to the game plan. LeBron's going to dominate the ball and make plays. We have to just make it hard on him every possession. Don't give him any easy buckets, and not let anybody else get a rhythm, and that's what we're going to try to do every game we play against them. Obviously, there are going to be adjustments here and there, and we'll figure that out, but you've got to compete, and that is the bottom line. Yeah, they only scored two points, and it was at the very end. Andre, Draymond, Klay, Harrison, Festus, when he was in there in that overtime period, all competed. We were kind of small and we had to defend the glass and rebound the ball. Everybody sacrificed their body and made it work. I think we just forced them into tough shots the whole overtime, and we were able to get stops with that lineup that we had. We were able to push in transition, get to the free throw line, which got some momentum on our side. It was just a classic five minutes that we needed to get that win. If we win every game at home we'll be all right in the series, so that is a start. You have to come in ready to compete and kind of just, especially in the first game, kind of feel it out because it's our fourth team we're playing in the playoffs, and they've got a different style, and you've got to adjust, and we need to be able to do that. Yeah, just reading the situation. They had switched a couple pick and rolls, and you just go into your move and make a read, and thankfully he bit on the pump fake and I was able to kind of slow the game down and get to the free throw line. Did it again right after that. But after that, it all doesn't work if we don't get stops, so that's what fuelled all of that. It was just a read. Andre had him bodied up at the free throw line, and they had made a pass and kind of short distance, so I didn't have to run very far to get a hand in there. I got a deflection, but Andre chased it down. Used his length and speed to get to the ball, which I had no chance to get to it after I deflected it. He was the only one that had a chance to get it, and we were able to lock it down. He gets fouled, and we have control of the game at that point. So just a read that thankfully worked out. If I remember correctly he went out later in the overtime, so it was about three minutes where you were just out there playing and you have to adjust to his play making that he was doing all game. But at that point I felt like we had control of the overtime, and just about finishing out. So I don't know if it had a huge impact or not. |
| We want to make it as tough on him as possible. He obviously has a game plan for his defense on us to try to get into you and do whatever he can to try to make you uncomfortable, so you\'re going to do it back to him and make him work on the offensive end. Because he obviously had some pivotal shots in game or a pivotal shot in Game 3 that helped them get the win. So if you try to make him uncomfortable the whole game, you might wear him down and get into that battle a little more. So I think it worked. And to answer your question, he pretty much embodies what he just talked about, always being ready. I think he likes the challenge of his match up, and especially in this series and throughout the course of the season. Or each game no matter what he\'s asked to do, being ready to do it. Confidence in knocking down his shots when he\'s open, making plays. And we know his knack for just being impactful on the defensive end, whether it\'s playing one on one defense, getting steals, rebounds, blocking shots, he does it all. So it showed tonight and a huge reason why we\'re 2 2 going home. I think it I mean, it made sense when he told us just because we\'ve been getting off to such slow starts. When we have that lineup out there in parts of the game, we were able to turn defensive stops into transition and just pick the tempo and the pace of the game up. And if we can do that from the jump, we thought we\'d put some pressure on them and not let them be so comfortable with the lead like they\'ve had the last couple games. Obviously, they jumped out to a 7 0 run, but we settled in and played that first quarter, I think, pretty aggressively on both ends of the floor. Gave them a different look, and I think it worked. So he mentioned, obviously, just because we started that lineup tonight doesn\'t mean you can just go out there and expect to have the same results in Game 5. We have to actually do something about it and execute the game plan with whoever\'s out there. So we\'ve got to be ready for any adjustment we\'re going to make. Not afraid to take a chance, and obviously it\'s not a blind guess. He\'s obviously invested in our team and a smart coach that is willing to, like you said, make adjustments to help us be in a better position to win a game. We still need Bogut to be productive when he gets on the floor, and he\'s obviously going to play minutes and have an impact throughout the rest of the series, so we want to make sure he\'s still locked in. I know he will be. But Coach manages all that really well. You\'ve got to take a chance, I think, with the situation that we were in tonight. For a total of 48 minutes, definitely, since Game 1. We\'ve had spurts where, obviously, the last quarter in Game 3, the last 3:00 minutes of Game 2 we got to our identity, but it was a little too late. Tonight we came in with the mentality that, obviously, like we were saying, we had to win this game. It was about effort and consistent effort every possession. It\'s obviously not perfect. We still can play a little bit better, I think. But the effort was at a level that it erased some of those mistakes and we just battled from the start. So we gave ourselves a shot, and shots go in. Everybody starts to feel good. You pick up some momentum, and you get a big road win. I was kind of at fault for a lot of that. I had two turnovers in transition, where you can\'t have that and you give them extra possessions. Once we settled down, Coach got into us during the timeout and challenged us to answer their run, which we knew they were going to make. We weren\'t going to run away with the game at halftime. We knew we would really have to put together a solid effort in the second half to withstand the run that they were going to have, and that was a good calling card moment for us. H.B. comes out of the timeout and knocks down the three. We close out the last three minutes strong, and have a six point lead going into the fourth quarter, and the rest is kind of history. Just our effort in the fourth quarter knowing it was winning time. I don\'t know if there was a specific adjustment other than just playing smarter and keeping our composure |
| What is the best way to say really bad? I mean, a long season goes into these last moments of The Finals series. We fought hard all year and put ourselves in good position now to go to Cleveland and hopefully close it out. So we're confident. We're not getting ahead of ourselves. In the locker room, if you walked in there was the exact same after a regular season win. But we know the sense of urgency of the moment. It's a good feeling to get a win in Cleveland and understand we can get it done and how we need to get it done. So ready for the opportunity. It's a chess match, and we both have a lot of wings and guards that can fill a five man lineup. And they made an adjustment. Didn't play Mozgov pretty much at all in the whole game. So they tried to match our lineup. Obviously over 48 minutes we feel like we can be versatile with who we can throw out there and how we're going to win games. I'm sure there will be another adjustment going into Game 6 that our coaching staff will make and obviously theirs as well. We've just got to be 1 through 14 locked in. That's been our calling card all year. Whoever steps on the floor is going to give us something. L.B. came in tonight and did what he was supposed to do and impacted the game on the offensive end and defensive end. Can't be said enough what H.B. was able to do in his minutes with putbacks, giving us extra possessions, being physical in the paint. He really changed the game. Especially in the fourth quarter he got us three extra possessions that we needed. So everybody's got to be ready, and I think that will hopefully give us a good chance to win in Game 6. I mean, those are plays I've been making all year and the ones I feel confident in. I think it helps to have gone through Game 2 where we were rushing a little bit in the same situation. A one or two possession game in the fourth quarter, and we got I call them better shots because they were more in rhythm than in Game 2 where it was come down, look for the first shot. Don't even run any sets, only running screen and rolls, and we didn't kind of settle into them. And obviously when one goes in, it helps keep your confidence high. Yeah. It's more screen and roll heavy, and I love the chemistry I have with this guy right next to me to be able to make those plays. Because if he's not a threat, then they can kind of go all out and sell out on the traps. And that's how we've been effective all year, like I said, because we have the versatility and the talent, all 1 through 5 on the floor, to be able to make those plays. If I come off and they trap, I've got faith in Draymond to make the right play. He finds open guy or he's able to finish. He got us like six free throw attempts just off of him catching in that wide open space and making the play and attacking the big or whoever was rotating at the rim, knowing they didn't have really a shot blocker besides Tristan. So he was able to get to the free throw line and get us some easy points and I was able to attack when they were kind of in between, not really knowing what they wanted to do in the pick and roll, and gave me some open looks from three too. I mean, it was a fun moment, but it only means something, and I'll probably have a better answer for that question after we win the championship because signature moments only come for players who are holding the trophy at the end of the day. So I can sit here and talk about what a great play it was and what a turning moment it might have been, but we have to be able to back it up and finish the job. It helped us win this game, and hopefully after our next win we can talk about all the great moments in the series. I thought it was a heady play. A fouling situation. He did tell me well, we won't go into that. But I think I two shots I'll knock them down, he'll probably knock them down too. But I need to get that ball. |
| It makes it so much more special to have gone through some down years and injuries and transition from a roster standpoint and to be able to sit here six years later from my rookie year and hold this trophy, this is an unbelievable experience. Love every single one of my teammates that sacrificed, put in the work, the time for us to be able to enjoy this. The coaching staff as well. So it just makes it so much more special to have gone through some lows, gradually work your way up every year, learn some things, and it all came to fruition with the championship trophy. Same thing. He's taken a solid foundation that we built over the last three years. Obviously Coach Jackson had a huge part in changing our identity, and Coach Kerr came in and was very humble about how he was going to approach his job. Because, like I said, he had a lot of talent to work with, a great coaching staff, but he had some ideas as well that he wanted to implement. Ball movement, player movement, managing all the different personalities and situations, handled them so well. Made sure everybody was accountable, like Klay said. Every decision he made, I think everybody bought into it. Whether you understood it or not, you bought into it. Because he's a champion. He's won five of these or something like that, so you've got to trust a guy that's been here before and his view for our team. To block out the noise. That's the biggest thing. Because it's obviously just you and another team, and all eyes are on you every single step you take. But it's all about winning. Stats really don't matter. I mean, guys have great series and all that and people take notice and take their place in history with those stats and all that stuff. But at the end of the day, it's all about winning and what you can do to help your team get to that point. I can speak volumes about the guy sitting next to me. You look at his stat line tonight, he had a lot of foul trouble and didn't really get going, but when he was in there, he was defending. He was playing physical, and he was doing everything he could to help us win. Little things like that make this trophy possible. And it takes every guy that steps on the floor. So that's the biggest thing I learned. Stats and numbers and story lines, they're fun to kind of watch, but you've got to kind of block that out and just worry about winning. Oh, man, he was special. Obviously he deserved that Finals MVP for the way he impacted the game on both ends and was always ready. I don't think I learned anything new about him because I know that's who he is, and he's shown that all year and throughout his career. He just needed an opportunity and stage to show the world. Playing against a great talent on the other side that was determined to try to help his team win. And Andre stepped up to that challenge every single night and a huge reason why we're celebrating right now. So can't say enough about that guy. For him to have gone through all the different things he's gone through in his career, to be able to hold a championship trophy, I know it's special. Well, I mean, we'll see. We found a recipe for success, and that's the most important thing for us. Now that we have this under our belt, I think we can actually appreciate what we were able to do this year from start to finish. It's hard in the moment to really understood what 67 wins means in the grand scheme of the history of the NBA, how hard that is. But then also to cap that off with a championship playoff run. So we'll appreciate, I think, that whole journey a lot more now, be able to reflect. I think we definitely are a great team, and a team that should go down in history as one of the best teams from top to bottom. We have a lot of things to be proud of this season. I'm just so happy, man. God is great. For us to be able to have this opportunity, and I'm going to try 1800 more ways to explain this, because this is amazing. Yes, it's an unbelievable feeling in that moment. I followed in his footsteps. I've talked about how impactful he's been in my life, just being an example on and off the court of what a true professional is and how he raised me and my brother and my sister. So to be able to have that moment was special. He's living through me and my teammates this and my whole family through this whole journey. I can't be more proud of him as a father and a role model and example for me. I hope it made him proud tonight. I know Klay is probably going to I don't know if you had that moment or not. You probably did. But your dad was a champion before. But it's special to have a guy that plays 16 years in the league, and you understand how hard it is to get to this point, and that makes it so much more special for me to have this for my family. |
| Well, he gives us that confidence. He gives us that rim protection. I think he had another game like this in Indiana where he had like 25 rebounds. He's been doing a great job of filling in when Jonas went down. But it gives us the confidence. It gives us the energy. It gets the crowd into it. Bis does a great job of just getting the crowd into it, and the crowd gets us into it. We feed off of that energy. Four blocks, 26 rebounds, there's no substitution for that. With Bis, you want to throw it up. He's super athletic. One thing about it, if you get it up in the air, he's going to go get it. You can throw him bounce passes. He's going to attempt to catch the ball. If he doesn't catch it, it's not our fault. It's nobody's fault at the end of the day. We've just got to throw him the ball. We trust in our teammates to make the right plays. For Bis, you throw it up to the rim, he's going to go get it, because there are not many guys who can jump up there with him. We get nights like this often now, and it's fun. We need it. We want it. I don't know if the fans know how much we appreciate it, but we really do appreciate it, and we want them to be as loud as they possibly can. I think it affects other teams, and it gives us just that energy. We know we make a big run or we make a big shot or Bis gets a block and he goes and does his little thing, they love it. We feed off that positive energy. No comment on that. No comment on that. |
| My background has kind of made me the man I am today. But coming into this situation where we're down 0-2, they did what they were supposed to do on their home floor, and we had an opportunity to do what we had to do on our home floor. Just understanding the situation and taking advantage of being at home and completing the task. So now we've got to go on the road and try to get one. He's a legend. Just having him around -- he doesn't say much, but we understand what he's done, and we've got some things in our locker room and in the training room, his words. He's just a good, positive-vibe guy. He doesn't say much at all. We just know he's there and supporting us. It's really that simple. People have their own opinions. Everybody has their own opinions, like I always say. We go and do what we do and that's all we're focused on is our team and what we believe. Not aware at all. All we worry about is what's in our locker room. That's all that matters. They shot 47 percent. They made 13 threes out of 41. We only made seven. We could always play better. They won the second half, and we've got to continue to get better. I don't rate any game. I don't think we have a perfect game. There's no such thing as a perfect game unless you shoot 100 percent from the field. We've got to continue to look at it and tweak what we need to tweak and get better and continue to get the things we need to do execution-wise. I think we're four games deep into learning, and vice versa. I'm sure they've figured out some things that we've done, and we've figured out some things that they've done. But it's a match. We've got to figure it out. You've got to tweak things. You've got to see things. You've got to watch the film and see where you can get better at, see where you can get an open shot at, see the things that we are executing, but also see the things that we are executing and making sure that we keep continuing to do that. Game 2, I think we finished the first quarter well. The second quarter it was tied. We've got to go into halftime close. We can't let them get on one of those big runs. We really can't. That's where they start to make separation, and that's what they did the first two games. They'd make a big run, they'd get a double-digit lead. We can't have them get a double-digit lead. We have to make sure when they punch, we punch back, and if they punch three times, we punch four times. We've got to continue to understand that they're not going to just lay down. They're going to continue to go, push, push, push, push. We ain't laying down, either. I don't think they ever looked at us like inferior opponents. They did what they were supposed to do on their home floor. I don't think they -- I said it before, we won 56 games. We got the 2 seed for a reason. They played well their first two games and they protected home, and now we came home and protected home. I don't think they looked at us any different. We knew and they knew it was going to be a battle. Them winning the first two games, that was what they were supposed to do and now we won our two games, now it's the best of three. I think some games we haven't shot the ball well, and we just continue to go back and understand the work that we've put in. I know the work he's put in and I know the work I've put in. You can't go away from that. You have to continue to stay with the work and the process that you've put in throughout your career, throughout the years. I think the things that we've learned from ourselves is one game, two games erases everything that has happened before. Yes, we have the memory, but you win a game, it's like, oh, then you lose a game, it's like, aww. It's just back and forth. But you've got to find a way to be more consistent. I think both of us want to do that, be more consistent throughout the whole series. |
| I missed some shots and didn't get a rhythm, but the way that they defended, we'll be able to find some adjustments for Game 2. Not worried about that. Just really proud of the way everybody contributed. You don't win championships without the entire squad coming in and making an impact on games. And the way, obviously, Shaun came in, was so composed, got to his spot, had that confidence to knock them down. Andre the same way. L.B. That's why we're here, everybody having an impact on our team in the game. Yeah, I was just frustrated missing open shots and turning the ball over, not playing the way I should up until that point. You make a shot and you just let out that aggression. But our athletic trainer, Drew Yoder, has plenty in the holster for me. So I don't throw them too often, but he's got my back. No doubt. My recollection is correct, I think the first like five minutes of the fourth quarter me and him were on the bench and those guys go on a huge run. We're getting stops and pushing transition, making timely baskets and keeping our crowd in it. So they were doing their job and doing it topnotch. So regardless of how the night's going shooting for me, Klay, throughout the course of the night, we definitely get a boost when our bench guys come in and change the game. So we rely on that pretty much every night, whether it's 45 points off the bench or just playing aggressive and continuing what we start. But tonight it was the opposite. They really changed the game, and it allowed us to win tonight. No, nothing I haven't seen. It's something when I go back and look at the film I kind of rush in certain spots. I was a little indecisive, but the Xs and Os were pretty much kind of standard with how they guard the pick-and-roll. The way we play there's going to be a lot of cross-matching, and that's what we want in those situations where you take the defensive aggression and kind of work it against them, whether I get a shot or somebody else gets a shot. So we did a good job of kind of sticking with that plan. Over the course of the game, not turning the ball over was huge as a team. I did a lot of that. But getting a pretty good shot on every possession and making them work regardless of who's guarding who. He's amazing. Ever since he's been with us. I know me and Draymond talk about it all the time. When we're on the bench, we watch it. It's unbelievable. He has great timing, great eye-hand coordination, and obviously his wingspan works to his advantage to be able to close that space up. But it's really uncanny the way that he can do it without fouling. And for the most part, I think 99% of the time he really doesn't foul, and sometimes the refs might miss it because of how good he is and how consistent he is at doing it every single time. So he knows that's a strength of his and he waits for the right moments and attacks. Yeah, I mean, we've definitely got an edge and picked up a lot of momentum winning three straight just to get here. That taught us a great lesson of how important it is to obviously start a series off on a good foot and win Game 1, especially when you're at home. And we obviously learned a lesson last year, like you said. Same situation, came in and dropped Game 2. So now that we've got this first one under our belt, it doesn't mean anything for next game besides our confidence. But we have to come out and really execute the game plan again, understand they're probably going to make some adjustments and come out just focused and with a lot of energy. I think that was missing last year and obviously at the beginning of the Thunder series, so we're better because of those two situations. Sometimes there's really nothing you can do about it. You try to just contest his shot, but sometimes he won't even see you. For me in practice it's the loneliest feeling in the world because Draymond needs somebody to talk to and to talk trash to. And if he's on the other team -- sometimes even if he's on my team, he'll "mouse in the house" or whatever kind of phrase you want to talk about when [Livingston] gets in the post. And I'll play the best defense of my life, and he'll knock down a shot, and you've just got to live with the chatter. So it's not fun. |
| I mean, we haven't won anything really. I mean, we took care of homecourt advantage, which is what we're supposed to do. There's still a lot of basketball left. How we show up in Cleveland will be a big test for us. They have a great home atmosphere, and obviously the way the first two games have gone, you would expect Cleveland to come out with a lot of energy and feed off of that home crowd. So I'm only worried about Game 3. I mean, you could pick from a lot of guys. Draymond, what he did tonight; Shaun, what he did in Game 1; Andre with his defense on LeBron; Klay making timely shots. We're doing it by committee, and everybody's playing their role. The crazy thing is we can all play better. So we've got to continue to play the defense that we're doing and individuals will shine along the way, and that's what we're about. He's just smart. He knows how to close the space but also give some room to move his feet and stay in front of him and obviously use his hands and get deflections and get steals. So you kind of underestimate his length when he's guarding you because he can be two feet off you and still impact the ball and contest shots. He's obviously not going to give any ground if you try to go through him. So he's done a great job. And being so versatile, he can guard a bunch of different guys and make those adjustments pretty quick. So it's pretty fun to watch. Yeah, it's the first time we've met. L.B. and Varejao talk about him all the time. But obviously a star in the soccer world, and such skill and kind of grace when he's out there on the field. So he's fun to watch. I know he's a basketball fan. I saw him dribbling two basketballs the other day trying to mimic my two-ball routine. I told him I appreciate that and he doesn't want to see me with a soccer ball because I wouldn't know what to do. It's pretty cool to know we've got fans all over, and obviously it's inspiring what he does on the soccer field. I mean, you know how he's going to impact the game consistently every night with his defense and playmaking, getting guys involved. The way he was shooting the ball and having that confidence and bailing us out of a couple of possessions, knocking down his threes, whether they were open or contested. The one stepback one, that's when I kind of lost my mind watching him just impact the game on the offensive end the way he did. So we needed that push to separate ourselves, and he provided it, for sure. It's been three or four years he's been with us, so I want him to keep shooting. He's got some work to do, though . For sure, that's what we're about. If you watch us play, you know how we get the job done. Everybody falls in love obviously with how me and Klay shoot the ball, and that's a big part of what we do, and having success over the course of the season in a Playoff run, you need to have that punch. But you look at the stat sheet and look at some names that jump off, whether it be Shaun, L.B., Andre, H.B., obviously Draymond, what he did tonight offensively, that's huge, but it's the little stuff that you don't see on the stat sheet that has gotten us to this position. I'm talking about Andre's defense, talking about L.B. being ready, that microwave we need off the bench, and Shaun's steady hand. That's where you become a consistent team. We need that along the way for sure. I mean, the overall theme was we have each other's backs and the way that we're playing right now is great, and we're obviously closing on a second win, but there's a long way to go. Me and him need to continue to bring energy and just do what we can to focus on Game 3 and not getting ahead of ourselves. So he did a great job of really all night kind of being vocal and allowing us to stay in the moment and understand we did what we're supposed to do, taking care of homecourt, but Game 3 is when it will be a big test. I mean, I would say we'd like to get to the free-throw line a little bit more. We're probably going to need to do that in Cleveland. But some things, the way they guard and what might be open, you know, shots-wise, might cater to that lack of a lot of free throws. But for the most part when you're out there on the court, you kind of feel the flow and understand the way that we cut and screen for each other, you're going to get a lot of open jumpshots, you've just got to make them. But on the road, I think we need to focus on maybe getting to the paint a little bit more, putting pressure on defense in the paint and swinging it out and getting to the free-throw line if we need to slow momentum down if it gets away from us. But during the course of tonight, you're not really worried about it if you're getting open shots and making them. I mean, I'm not surprised that we won, but, yeah, the margin. Nobody would have guessed that coming in. But every game is different in the Playoffs. You can't really rely on the fact that the margin is what it is. Game 3's going to be totally different, and we need to play like that for sure. What was the first question? Our defense clicked in and we had a brief moment where we didn't turn the ball over. Obviously we had 20 tonight, and a lot of those were early and a little bit of third quarter. But when we're going on those runs, that means we're taking care of the ball, getting stops and getting in transition and have their defense on their heels. That's the thing Coach has been so adamant about throughout the course of these last two games is we can play a lot better and be more composed with the ball, taking care of it and not giving them opportunities to, again, use those turnovers against us. They had 26 points off those turnovers, so thank God our defense was good in the half court, because that's not a number that you can probably win with on the road. Yeah, obviously schedules didn't work out. But he's got business to take care of, so good luck to him. I know he's going to be ready. I'm sure we'll be watching in Cleveland. Just playing smarter and letting the individual defensive talents that we have on this team, letting them shine. Because when we don't have breakdowns, we can use our length, we can use our quickness, our speed, our IQ on the defensive end and for the most part in this series, specifically, we haven't had many, many breakdowns with the game plan. So that's kind of what it's all about. Granted there's been a couple possession where's they've gotten open shots and just missed, and we want to shore those up, but a team shoots 35%, that means you're doing something good. And the key now is for our defense to travel on the road and be the most consistent part about what we do. I mean, Kyrie and LeBron are two different players than Russell and K.D., but they all have, obviously, amazing strengths which have put them in the category they are. So there's no real comparison. It's just you know what their strengths are and what our game plan is to attack them, and we've done a good job of just staying consistent with it in our game plan this series. That's all you can ask for is try to make them take contested shots, tough shots, make them work to get open, and you live with the results. If they go off and make tough shots all game, then you tip your hat to them. But you don't want to have breakdowns where you're giving them easy looks, and we've done a good job of that so far. I don't really have a favorite one, but Baby-Faced Assassin was first one I ever got when I was in college. That was like the first one that became popular, so it has a special place in my heart, even though I've got a little bit more facial hair now. I don't know how to answer that one . No, you can fall in love with numbers and averages and comparing averages to what people might expect or whatnot. Right now we're up 2 games to 0, and everybody's doing what we need to do to make that happen. So looking forward to trying to get Game 3. That's it. That's all I'm worried about. I mean, we're feeling confident, but, like I said, we're not getting ahead of ourselves. There's no point in celebrating or jumping up and down and saying look at us. We're two games away from winning a championship. We still have to go out and get the job done. It's a trap to think that we've figured things out and that we have the perfect formula to beat Cleveland and they have no chance in the series. Like that's not how we're supposed to think. I mean, that's probably going to be the chatter the next 48 hours, but we have to stay in our own little bubble and worry about what we're doing and how we're going to go out and win Game 3. That's all we can really worry about. So we've been on the other side where people may have thought we didn't have a chance to come back in the series, and now we have a good handle on it, so we know how quickly it can go away if you don't come out and play the way you're supposed to and keep the focus and the edge that we've played with these first two games. So Game 3 will be fun |
| I mean, it's business as usual. Obviously it's a big game, and one we needed to bounce back individually as a team to figure out how to get a win on the road and put ourselves in pretty good position. So, you know, we answered the bell, especially in the first quarter, controlling the pace of the game and not losing it like we did in Game 3. And for 48 minutes we executed a lot better, and I think we got back to enjoying the process and the challenge of winning playoff games, especially in The Finals. Yeah, if I had them in the road bag I would have definitely worn them and showed you how fire they are. I love the nicknames, though, they came up with, but I like them. Why would I be angry at him? That's just normal basketball talk. I wanted a foul. He didn't think he fouled, and we were just jabbering. There was nothing to that at all. And we as a team had to understand that, yeah, we were a little lackadaisical, didn't really show up, and myself included in that. Today is a new day, a new opportunity for a fresh start to come out and get back to who we are as a team on both ends of the floor and play with aggression and assertiveness and confidence. Like I said, we did that in the first quarter, took their first punch and handled it well and then came right back at them. So we did what we were supposed to do. Just took what the defense gave us in that situation, not pressing or trying to force something that's not there. And the way that they were defending and have been for most of the series, they're trying to take away our perimeter shot. We found it a little bit tonight, but like you said, early in the game there were driving lanes, and instead of settling, just tried to attack and be on the downhill as opposed to allowing them to get into us. I honestly don't remember much about last year. It was a huge win in Game 5 at home and then you're going on the road, so you have to kind of understand and get your travel mindset ready. But we need some rest and need to take advantage of being at home and getting back into our routine and be ready to go on Monday. It's going to be our biggest game of the year, obviously. We always talk about just because we're going home doesn't mean you can relax or take things for granted. You work all regular season to have home-court advantage, and this is a great opportunity for us, and we need to play with a sense of urgency and a sense of aggression like we did tonight. So it will be a fun 48 hours to wrap our minds around the opportunity we have in front of us. A little bit of both, but more so when I had the ball in my hands, I had to be assertive and decisive with what I was doing. I was in between in Game 3. I obviously didn't have to deal with foul trouble, so I was on the floor a lot more. And my teammates set great screens. We got the ball moving from side to side, so I got some better looks off the ball as well. When you have obviously Klay knocking down threes on the wing, H.B. [Harrison Barnes] the way he stepped up and made some timely buckets for us, it kind of softens the defense because they've got to be aware of everybody, and then lanes open up and that's when we're at our best. So just kind of feeding off of that rhythm. Getting stops. When we have the lineup we had out there, we were obviously really small with Draymond at the center and going down the line. So if you get rebounds, you can push in transition. And Andre, when he gets the ball in open lanes, he's able to play-make and either look for a shot or find guys on the wing. He found, I think H.B. twice, like you said, and just that's when we get our rhythm. And in that moment, our endurance and our depth shows because I think we have fresher legs, and that's the time when everybody's locked in. |
| I think it was the play called by Brad Stevens. He did a great job of putting us in the right position, forcing them to have to help and not be able to switch. Al Horford made a great screen and Marcus Smart made an even better pass, and I was able to knock down a shot. It was a great play by Brad. He was aggressive from the beginning of the game. That's what we needed him to be. A lot of people counted us out with Isaiah not being here, and he is a big part of this team. But Smart took this opportunity to come out and be aggressive on both ends of the floor and make plays for our team. He was able to do that tonight. We need Smart to play that way all the time. He's a very good player. We know he's capable of having big games for us on the offensive end, and I think it's definitely going to give him confidence for the rest of the series. I think that one of the good things about this team is we're able to believe in whatever Brad draws up. If it's a good play, bad play, whatever it is, we all believe in it. I think that always helps because you're able to just read and react after that. One of the plays that he drew up when Jonas Jerebko hit the shot, it was for me to lay the ball up. But it was a play that I knew that if they helped, Jonas would be wide open, and he was able to knock down his shot. Those are all plays that Brad makes, and then it's our job to go out there and make sure that we make the next right play. I knew LeBron was going to help. I knew I was going to suck the defense in, and it was my job to act like I was going to lay the ball up, and kick it out to Jonas. I told Jonas to make sure he was ready. I wish he shot a three. But I'm just happy for Jonas. He was prepared and ready to shoot the ball, and he made some really big plays for our team tonight. He made the most of his opportunity. Jonas went games without playing, and now he was able to come in and make some really big plays for us tonight. I just want him to keep being ready to shoot the ball, because we're going to make sure we find him. It was hard. It was embarrassing. I know everyone leaving the arena after last game, we were pretty down. But once we were able to get together the next day, we decided that we're just going to go out and play hard, and whatever happens, happens. We're going to go play with our backs against the wall, come out swinging. We're going to go and play as hard as we can. We're going to be the toughest team. We're going to battle for the loose balls. We're going to play hard consistently the entire game. We wanted to be that team. That was our mindset. We never counted ourselves out. We knew that if we came out and played hard, we would give ourselves a chance. You saw that tonight. And we're going to continue to play that way throughout the series. I think it helped us out a lot. They're going to make plays. It's our job to make sure we're out there playing basketball, not complaining. That was the main thing for us tonight. The foul count wasn't where we wanted it to be. We can't complain about that. We can't control that. All we can control is the way that we play. I kept telling everybody that we can't complain, because it's hurting us on the offensive end because you're thinking about it. You just have to go out there and play the game of basketball. If we continue to play that way and stick together and play hard no matter what adversity we go through, I feel like we're going to be the best team that we can be. It showed tonight. We had a few times down the floor where we were complaining, and it ended up hurting us on both ends of the floor. But we got over it and we were able to stick together at the end of the game and make some big plays. I think it started with Marcus Smart, how poised he was at the end of the game. He was able to get us in our sets and make the right play, make some really big plays for our team tonight. I feel like guys like Jae Crowder and Al Horford, whoever switched on him, they did a great job. Like I said, we understand not only him but Kyrie, they're going to make tough shots. It's our job to make sure that we try to make everything hard on him and have a mindset to chip away. What I mean by chip away is not try to win the game or get back in the game with one shot. Just force enough shots. We understood that we needed to move the ball around, get good shots and get continuous stops on the defensive end. That's big. For a team that you could say that is a young team, we came out here and I feel like we were mature tonight with the way that we played. We were able to stick together, get consistent stop. We're playing against a really good team. LeBron, we understand that down the stretch of the game, he's going to make plays for his team. I felt like we did a great job trying to box guys out, defending him. He's a tough guard, but we really did a good job of forcing everything, making everything hard on him. Marcus did a great job on Kyrie tonight. It's our job to make sure that we have that same mindset next game because if we don't, we're not going to have a chance to win the game. |
| That was just -- that was organic. I was just -- I don't know. I don't know when I'm going to dunk or when I'm going to get the wide-open three. I just go out there and play. I try not to predetermine anything, just go out there and hoop. And tonight, we could be a lot better than we were tonight. But in The Finals, you get the W, we'll take it. Well, it's not about me. He's going to do what he does. He's LeBron James. He can, you know -- you guys know what he can do. So I just tried to play as hard as I can and not make it about a matchup, it's about us, it's about the Golden State Warriors versus the Cleveland Cavaliers and we're only going to do it together. That's just our whole mindset. So I just tried to do my part, stay locked in on both ends and have some fun out there. But they're tough to stop, but I think we did it as a group tonight. Like I said, I'm only as good as my teammates. I didn't say that here, but I said that to Doris Burke. But I'm only as good as my teammates. And Steph and Klay and Draymond and Zaza and the rest of the guys, we just complement each other, try to complement each other and try to make the game easier for each other. And in transition, I only can get in transition because we got stops and rebounding. And they're a great offensive rebounding team, and we got to take them off the glass if we want to win. I think we did a solid job of that. They did have, what, 15 offensive rebounds? So we got to correct that. But only way you get out in transition and get those baskets and get the crowd into it is if we get stops. So I just try to focus on defense. It's not easy at all. We got to go out there and execute. It's hard to try to do it every possession. You got to stay locked in and focus every possession if you want to do it. So it's not easy at all. I don't even remember that. Really? Yeah, I won't get into that. I'm cool. Have fun with that. What other option did I have? This is what every player wants to be, is the highest level of basketball. That's what you dream about as a kid, is to play at the highest level. So I would have -- I wouldn't done my teammates any good if I wasn't just enjoying the moment, no matter what. So I just tried to stay locked in on that, at the same time have some fun. But know that it's hard to do what we want to do and it's hard to stay locked in for 48 minutes. So just trying to do my best to be there for my teammates and to play up to my standards as an individual as well. So just trying to -- I'm probably going to say this a lot over the next couple days, we're just trying to stay locked in, man. That's all it's about. Yeah, I mean, we moved the ball and we just tried to move our bodies. If I see a lane, just try to attack. Coach and my teammates always want me to attack and try to open it up for everybody else and try to score as well. So I felt like in transition they were running out to the 3-point line, and we got the best 3-point shooters in the world on our team, so obviously teams want to take away our 3-pointer, but just tried to be aggressive to the rim and loosen them up a bit. And Steph was able to hit a couple in transition. But like I said, it all starts from getting stops. We get stops, we worry about defense first, and offensively we can move the ball around, drive and kick and try to find shots as well. So I'm more focused on defense. |
| Geez. You waiting on him to go across the line. Well, that was a good play by Steph, just driving to the rim, just trying to be aggressive. We love when he's aggressive. And tonight he shot 14 free throws, so that's huge for us. We needed that, especially when we were struggling a bit, turning the ball over, not getting shots up. He was great. And he controlled the game from the point guard position really, really well tonight. As far as Klay, no matter if he's making them or not, he's still drawing a lot of attention because he can shoot so well. But I think that his driving to the rim, his defense got him going and knocking down his three, so he drove to the rim a few times. He had what? Seven rebounds. Never seen it. But all in all he just played with confidence, he just tried to follow the game plan on the defensive end, and it was good for us. Yeah, they were, they came on through a nice blow to start the game, getting to the paint, and I think that's one thing we got to cover. We can't give up 23 points off our turnovers. Especially a championship team like that, they're going to thrive off of it. So they were going downhill, getting into the paint, but I just think we just stayed poised and tried to play better one-on-one defense and make them shoot over or contest. And they're going to make some, but if we just try to make it tough on them, it will be in our favor. I'm not going to take a step back. Like I said, we're worried about the series right now. So we're just trying to just stay in the moment. But for the most part we just try to play hard and try to play smart every possession down. Can we do that? We could play hard every possession, but can we play smart? That's the question sometimes. And so we're just trying to stay with it. We know this is far from over. We know how hard it is to be the best team in the league. So we got to just keep going, man, keep our foot on the gas and keep getting better every day. Yeah, when Draymond went out, I just tried to do my best to help everybody out. He's so good at just sniffing out plays before they happen. And so I just tried to follow his lead with that, and I learned so much from him throughout the season. But I'm just trying to play hard, man. I keep saying that. Just play hard every possession. I'm going to make mistakes but not get discouraged because guys make shots over me or I gave up an and-one the first play of the game. So I just try to just keep my head up and think about the next play and just play hard for my teammates. First off, and Andre Iguodala was guarding him for the most part in the second half, and Draymond was out, so I had to play four and guard a big. So Andre did a solid job with just trying to make it tough on him. And we just tried to help him out as well. Offensively, I just tried to play within the offense and move and be aggressive when the ball's in my hands. And so there you go with that part. Oh, my gosh. |
| Yeah, you answered your own question. I just tried to -- first off, it was a great stop. Who got that stop? Klay maybe? Somebody got the stop, and always starts on the defensive side with us. We know if we get off the board and push, we're a dangerous team. And I seen him backing up, and I just wanted to take that shot. Also it was a good time, it was 45 seconds to go, we were down two, if I miss, we could have got another stop. But glad I was able to knock that down. I just tried to stay disciplined in my shot, hold my followthrough, and it went in. So but more importantly we got two stops after that. So we got to build on that. But we got to be better in Game 4. Well, it's not over. Job's not done. Closeout games are always the toughest. As you heard from many players in this league over the years, how tough closeout games are on the road. I never been in this position being up in The Finals and trying to close it out. So I know how exciting that's going to be for us as a team, but their fans are going to be into it. They're going to be wanting a win from their team. And tonight it showed. Fans were great. They obviously fed off their energy. Kevin Love, of course, LeBron and Kyrie did. And we got to be even better in Game 4 if we want to take this. So it's an exciting time. The job's not done, but we still got a lot of work left to do. I think, I mean, basketball is a feisty sport. Both teams want to win. The crowd was giving them a lot of energy, and those guys came out with a lot of force. And sometimes that brings some commotion out there between two teams. So it's nothing personal, it's nothing serious. We moved on. Draymond got a tech, he gathered, got it back together, we moved on. So it just didn't linger. We didn't let a call we didn't like or a turnover or a missed assignment linger over to the next play. It was always about the next possession. And even when things aren't going your way with the refs or a shot or anything, we just try to move on, and tonight it showed over the year that we talked about that a lot. It's not worrying about the refs, not getting distracted, and tonight it was -- it kind of came full circle. Chanting who? It didn't look like it to me. I mean, they both shot over 50 percent from the field, over, yeah, 50 percent. My math's not really good, but they shot over 50 percent, they both had almost 40 points, and they did it for 40-plus minutes. They played extremely well, but I just think we stayed in front of them late in the game and got to contest some shots and rebound the basketball. But they had it going all night, you got to give them credit. Yeah, like I said earlier, I never been in this position before. I don't want to relax. It's not over. This is a crazy game. Anything can happen. So I don't want to relax or feel like it's over, it's not. And I'm just trying to enjoy this moment and not -- trying not to look in the future or in the past, just try to just stay in the present and enjoy this moment and for what it's worth and just keep pushing, keep getting better until -- and then I'll sit back and probably reflect on everything once the season's over. But for now I'm just trying to stay in the moment, enjoy every single minute and just keep getting better. I didn't look at it as an unsuccessful third quarter. That's just half of the battle there. I just tried to stay positive and move on to the next play and know in the fourth that Coach is going to call my number and my teammates are going to look for me and it's up to me to finish. I work on my game every day, and I just had to trust in this, and I was able to get some shots to go in. And but we played with force in the fourth, and the in the third quarter we were a little bit too relaxed. We were up six, and that was a good place for us to be coming out of the half, but we didn't do what we were supposed to do in the third. So I think we just played with more force as a group in the fourth quarter and they put it on us in the third. So we got to watch some film and see how we can be better coming out of half. |
| I remember the first day of camp and I walk into camp, and I didn't know what to expect, I didn't know what these guys were like on the court and how they came in and worked. I didn't know anything about the team. I just wanted to come in there and just be me. And I did that from day one, and I just tried to stay with that. I had my lows in the season where I was beating myself up, where I was struggling throughout the year, but the great part about it is I'll get a tap on the head from Steph or a Draymond or -- I can remember when we were in Sacramento and we just lost to Memphis, we gave up the lead, we were up 20 -- I'm sure you guys remember -- Draymond pulled me aside, we were having dinner the next night in Sacramento, and he told me to be myself. Don't worry about anything, just be you, keep working, everything's going to come around. And I was struggling at that point. And to have teammates that encourage you, that lift you up, that's what we all need in life. And it was amazing to just see that all year, and right now just to be here with these guys, it's amazing. Yeah, it was 55 seconds left, and I went other over to half court line and I bent down, and I'm like, is this really happening? And Draymond was like, Keep playing to the end. Andre is like, Keep playing. We have like 50 seconds left. And I'm like, Bro, we're about to win the title. So I just tried to stay in the moment the whole series, and I think that worked for me. I remember plenty of times throughout my career I continued to just look in the past and look ahead and not stay in the moment. In this series I just stayed in the moment. And we did it together. Without the whole team, you got to -- what about Patrick McCaw tonight? What about Zaza Pachulia to start the game? He was amazing. What about Stephen Curry after not having a great game in Game 4, came out tonight, played like a big dog. 15 free throws, 10 assists, 34 points. Say what you want about him, but he played like a big dog all series. And so to do that as a group, call us a super team, and I go with 20 off the bench, you a call us a super team, but it's been a lot of super teams that hasn't worked, and we came together and we continued to just believe in each other and we sacrificed, and we're champions now. Like I said, just the encouragement every single day, just the belief that I could -- I can do whatever I want in life, not just basketball, everything. So I carried that all season, especially when I made the decision. And you hear so much chatter about what I should do. To have Rich, Tom, my brother, my mom, my dad, all my friends, just continue to just pour into me, just pour into me every single day, people that you don't even probably won't even meet in your life, pour it in me, John Gray, Carl Lentz, Adam Harrington, just to shout out a few names. Everybody, just from -- so many people poured into me every single day, and I just tried to continue to keep grinding and let them know that it doesn't -- it doesn't go in vain, I'm just working and I believe. And just every day, man, I'm just grinding and believing in myself that I can make this happen, and to do it feels great. The toughest challenge was to come in here and see how I can help Steph get better, see how I can help Klay get better, Draymond, Shaun Livingston, Andre Iguodala, JaVale McGee, the whole team, just see how I can help them get better, that was more important to me than anything. Proving haters wrong, like that's cool, that's cool for me to talk about it on Instagram or Twitter. But like you don't concern me, I'm coming in and working every day, seeing how I can be the best teammate I can be, the best player I can be. You can talk about whatever you want to talk about, but nobody comes in and cares about the game or loves the game as much as I do or works as hard as do I at the basketball game. You can talk about whatever happens on the outside, but inside those lines, I come to bring it every day. I work hard, I believe in myself, I believe in the game, I respect the game, I love the game, and I knew at some point in my life that it will come around for me. So I just tried to stay with those principles and keep grinding. I'm kind of lost for words right now. It meant a lot. Steph is -- I never seen nobody like him. I told him last night. I said, When you play with force, like I never seen a player like you before. And he played with force tonight. The stuff you hear about Steph as far as sacrificing and being selfless and caring about his teammates, caring about other people is real. It's not a fake. It's not a facade. He doesn't put on this mask or this suit every single day to come in here and fake in front of you guys. He really is like that. And it's amazing to see a superstar who sacrifices, who doesn't care about nothing but the group. He obviously wants to play well. He obviously wants to show who he is, because he's competitive, but it's all about the group. So when I asked him, like, Yo, you want to work out, some guys want to keep it to themselves. But he's like, No, let's get some work in. We have been doing these 30-35 sessions, is what we call it. We have been doing it all season, and we have been doing it every -- probably since the second round of the Playoffs, and definitely paid off for us tonight. I found that at the beginning of the year when we first went to Vancouver in the first pre-season game, just the camaraderie, just the togetherness of the whole organization. That's what it was about. We just kept -- I kept building on that from day one. So that's what I found when I came here, and I definitely appreciate just the type of people we have here from the top to bottom. So a championship is just a cherry on top. Well, we have grown closer and closer as the year's gone on and as the Playoffs have started, and he's -- we're always are encouraging each other. So it feels good to win one with him. And for him to play so well throughout the whole series, it's -- it feels great. A lot of people have been doubting him and been hoping that he fails and hoping that I fail, hoping that we fail as a group. And the one thing that it was a constant with us was the joy that we have for the game of basketball. I learned -- I got a lot from him from that. He enjoys playing basketball. And his energy -- I told him, his energy, we feed off of him. He's our leader. He's our vocal leader. He talks up -- like I said, 15 free throws. He missed three free throws tonight I was pissed about, but 15 free throws and in a closeout game in The Finals, he's a big dog. You better start respecting him. man averaged a triple-double. I ain't doing no slaying. Feels great. It feels great to win, but to go up against somebody I view as like a rival, personally, is an amazing feeling to beat him. But one thing I know about LeBron James, though, he'll probably be back in the gym the start of July getting ready for next season. So I probably got to beat him in the gym -- beat him to the gym. But just the mutual respect, it's -- we talk about guys being too friendly, but like it's a game and we compete on the court hard as we can, both of us, and after the game it's respect. And I did that, I respected him, and he won his first one in 2012, and he reciprocated that. So I got nothing but love and respect for him, and I can't wait to compete against him again next season. Yeah, I hear all the narratives throughout the season that I was joining, I was hopping on bandwagons, I was letting everybody else do the work. But then that was far from the truth. I came in and tried to help my team. Like I said, tried to be myself, be aggressive and sacrifice as well. There's some games I might not get shots, as many shots as I'm used to getting. Some games where Steph is going to go off and hit 13 threes or Klay might hit 60 or Draymond might get a triple-double with no points. But nobody cared, as long as we won. Andre Iguodala, who is right there, he continued to preach that every single day. It's all about the group. If your intentions are good, then that means as a team that we're moving in the right direction. So I just tried to think about that, but also add my flair to the game. And it feels amazing to win a championship with these guys. I can't wait to celebrate for the rest of the night -- well, maybe the rest of the summer. It feels so great because, like I said, it's a team sport. Man, you got to want to sacrifice. You got to want to put your teammates in front of yourself sometimes. And I just tried to do that but also be aggressive. Andre told me all the time, it is your time, go take it, it's about you. But I'm like, no, it's about us. It's about us. But I'm still going to be me. I'm talking too much at this point. I had a couple too many beers. I haven't had a beer since February. So to have a beer right now and come talk to you guys, it feels great. |
| I think that through the regular season there was so much changes with our group, guys in and out of the lineup, different injuries, a lot of things like that. Once we've been able to settle down and kind of find what fits this group, I feel like that's what prompted us being better offensively. But you've just got to give credit to Coach [Brad Stevens], because he ends up making adjustments and being able to key in in the playoffs, whichever the matchup is, and giving us those options to go out there and execute on offense. I think it was our energy defensively. I felt like we really fed off a lot of our crowd, and then on offense, we were taking good shots. We were really moving the ball and really taking really good looks, that helped. We were knocking them down. Yeah, Marcus is one of our leaders, and he's been a presence since the first day he got here. So I think that taking on this challenge is something that we expect out of him. We have his back out there. Like he said, we're doing it as a unit. It's not all on him. But you do have to give him credit for his focus and his commitment for the team. I normally don't like comparing teams, but last year we came off of a grueling seven-game series against Washington, one day rest and we had to play Cleveland. Give them credit, they were the better team. This year we were able to close the series out with Philadelphia, have a couple days. I feel like the coaches came out with a great game plan for our group, and we just bought in and did what we were supposed to do. I think that the guys that started the fourth there were just great. They came out really focused on the defensive end. We got some stops. We turned the defense into offense. Just ran our offense well, and they really, I feel like, opened the game up at that point. They just kept attacking. Guys just kept playing the right way, and that's all it was. I mean, at times this year we've struggled early in the fourth with the leads and things like that. But I felt like the focus level was just really good, and guys were able to hold the lead. |
| Yeah, it was that point of the game where we needed to make plays. They went on a run, and we felt like we needed to go on a run of our own and make sure that we secured the win. You know, I think our team did a good job really keeping -- we kept our poise and just kept playing our basketball the way that we've been playing. Tough on defense, moving the ball on offense, and that's just the way that we tried to play throughout the whole game. Amazing. You know, Terry, just like a switch goes off, and he just goes out there and plays. Terry is fearless. He's always been like that. It's just now he's getting the opportunity to show it, and it's a lot of fun to see him just grow continually game by game. I think that we just have a group of guys that really believe in each other, and we are trying to play the right way, trying to play hard. Really just buying into what Coach [Brad Stevens] is telling us, and just have a lot of guys that have a lot of fight in them in the locker room. You've been following us, it's been like that all year. It's not like this is something new. Our group, in tough times, we've always found a way. Yeah, it was -- I felt like it was uncalled for, that type of play there, but that's the one thing about the group of our guys. We have each other's backs, and it is what it is. We moved on to the next play, and we just locked in even more after that. I mean, we just play hard. We go out there, we compete. It's Celtics basketball. We're really embracing Celtics basketball. We're playing hard. We've got each other's backs, and that's it. |
| Yes, that was very encouraging to see Jayson really just taking on the challenge, really playing well on offense, playing well on defense. Just very poised for most of the night. I was just very happy to see him have such a good game. Yeah. I felt like we played much better tonight defensively. The energy was much better. I was encouraged by the performance of our group tonight. I just think that at home, one of the big things is I truly believe it's our fans. I feel like our guys feed off of them and it really just drives us as a group. When we're sometimes on the road, it's just different in the playoffs. You get on the road and you're just out there against everybody else. Here, I just think that our guys just feel comfortable and good. It's a credit to the atmosphere that's here. It's just a lot of fun to play in right now. We did what we were supposed to do. We won here, a big Game 5 for us. Now we have a big challenge to go on the road. The first game [in Cleveland], we didn't play very well. The second one, I felt like we played a little better over there. We're going to have to play a great game come Friday because they're tough at home. At least in our series, they just had their way. So we have to make sure that we're really focused and committed to playing the right way the whole game. I think that we've done it at spurts over there. We have to be more consistent. I haven't talked to him personally. I know that Coach is always staying on him and Jaylen [Brown] and Terry [Rozier], just all our guys. Just talking to them about the intensity and making sure that we're doing things with pace, that we're playing the right way. Honestly, with Jayson, all I talk to him about is defense. Most of the guys, most of the time, that's all I'm talking is defense out there. I feel like he's doing a good job on that end. We just have to go out and play. We can't think about it as a Game 7. Just like today, we were thinking this was a Game 5. We have a good challenge to go on the road. We haven't won there this season. It's going to be very difficult, but we have a great opportunity in front of us. Our approach as a group, we're going in there, staying together, playing the right way. We want to be more consistent playing the right way on the road. It's a lot of fun, just because these guys, they want to play the right way. They play hard. I feel like we hold each other accountable out there. I think that's a big thing. And when those things happen, it becomes fun. It's fun to me. And there's no coincidence why we're in this position right now. The guys have really bought into what Coach wanted from them. We've been preparing the same way all season. We're having some success that's paying off because of the commitment that we're doing as a team. I think for our team in general, it's the lineup that we were going with most of the year, or for a good part of the year. I felt like it was great for us defensively. They made adjustments after Game 1. We kind of stuck around with the same lineup. But I think that just by doing that, it was a change that worked in our favor. Aron was great tonight -- his energy, his physicality. Just very happy that he had a good game as well. Feels great. It's definitely a lot of fun. For whatever reason, we were just so locked in, so engaged. It's not like we haven't been in the past, but I just felt like the guys were just ready to get on the floor tonight after the loss in Game 4 and just get it going again. So it just felt good to be able to do that. It was a lot of fun playing in this game tonight. Yeah. It's our defense. We always preached all year, or Coach preached all year, he would say there are going to be nights that we're not going to shoot it well, but we have to rely on our defense. Since the first day of training camp, that's what we've hung our hat on as a group. Tonight, it paid off because we had a lot of good looks. They had a lot of good looks as well. But for us, we didn't drop them. Missed a lot of layups. Things like that. But defense was the difference for us tonight. |
| I can't control that. Well, I could have boxed JR out, I could have done a better job, so I'm glad we were able to get the win with that happening. But the blocked charge thing, last year in the regular season same play happened to me. It was a block. They called it a block, and they went and reviewed it and changed it to a charge. So I knew once it was 30 seconds to go that they could review that situation. There were a couple, like goaltending and block/charge a couple years ago, they put those rules in that you could review them. Just like you can review out of bounds calls. So I knew that. I knew he was late on the drive, and I knew I had my man beat and he came over a little late. So when they called the charge, I was surprised, but I'm glad they reviewed it. Well, they still had enough time to get a shot off. They still got a shot off with that. But I thought he was looking for LeBron, because I was right there. If he had tried to put a lay-up up, I thought I had a good chance to contest it. But I'm glad we don't even got to think about that. They did a good job tonight coming in and hitting us in the mouth. They outrebounded us. I think that's always the way they get us, on the offensive rebounds. So they had 18 of them. We can't give that up if we want to win. Yeah, Bron does a good job on the screen and roll, kind of balancing and unbalancing the floor and in match-ups and getting a lot of screens to get guys on him. Then after that, it's hard to stop him. I thought JaVale did a good job of using his length. I know as a wing player, when you see a big, you feel like you've got so many moves in your bag that you don't know which one to bring out. And I think after while, LeBron just got a little confused, and it was good that JaVale was able to stay in front of him. We've got to be better next game. We know he's going to come out and be super, super aggressive. He made shots tonight and he rebounded well, so we've got to try to control that. I mean, anything can happen on the basketball court, you know? We've all done stuff like that on the basketball court. You know, I can't talk about a guy like -- I can't talk about a situation that way because I do some dumb stuff on the court. So I can't really talk about that. But I'm glad we got a W. I don't know what was going through JR's head, but he made a great rebound and gave them an opportunity to win the basketball game. I didn't get a good look at it, but obviously I was right in the middle of the scuffle. But, it's what happens when you play in The Finals. I don't think it's anything that we should be concerned about. I think it's something we could easily move past. Well, that's our thing. That's our thing. It's no disrespect to any other team, it's just what we do. We don't want to take the turnover. We take the shot. So we've been doing that all year, since I've been here too. Well, I mean, it's all him. It's tough to stop him. Especially, you know, he's getting a lot of screens, he's getting Steph on him a lot, and that's what the mismatch is, and getting the bigs on him. So we've got to do a better job of helping him out. In transition, you've got to be aware of his catches. Because he wants to catch and go to the rim, but, you know, that's what he does. He's been in the league for so long doing the same thing. We've just got to try to make it tougher on him. But he got the ball in his hands all game. He's playing -- well, without the overtime, he's playing 42 minutes in regulation. So he got the ball, and he could orchestrate the offense. So we've got to be patient and not get discouraged when he makes shots and just keep playing hard. If I get a three-pointer up, it's because I want to. Well, actually, one of them Kevin Love did play great defense over on the wing and rushed the shot. But I'm glad I made up for it at the free-throw line. |
| Yeah, I agree with that. That's about true. What else do you expect Trump to do? When somebody says they don't want to come to the White House, he disinvites them so the photo op don't look bad. We get it at this point. It's good that guys are sticking to what they believe in and what they want to do. Like guys said before me, I'm sure whoever wins this series won't be going. Just being patient. Just taking what the defense gives you. Just slowing down a bit. I think defensively we focused in a little more, which always allows our offense to have a little bit more freedom, when you're getting stops. Just try to be patient as much as we could. Find things that were there. But also play with some pace as well. If they make a shot or if we get a rebound, just try to play with some pace too. We know it's going to be different coming into this building tomorrow. So we've just got to be even more on point. Two years together, two seasons together, I think we've figured out a good balance. I think being able to play off of each other definitely helps. But not just us two. Everybody else on the court kind of plays off each other well. We just try to do whatever it takes to get the W. Run the right plays. Run them with force and with pace. When you get your opportunities, be disciplined in your work and trust in your work. That will dictate the outcome. So just try to keep things as simple as possible. I think a lot of people lately have been talking about that because of how we played in Houston. Houston did such a good job of switching everything. And in basketball, when you switch everything -- meaning pin downs, cross screens, just everything -- it takes you out of your movement of your offense, and it puts the ball into the guys that create off the dribble the most. We had a lot of those opportunities because of the switching defense. So I think that's the reason why things may look a little bit bigger than what they really are as far as the iso stuff is concerned. But I thought we did a good job of navigating through it all and still playing our game and just showing that we can adapt to different situations. I don't really think about being up 2-0 because the series could turn so fast. It's a great position to be in. I don't want to take that for granted; don't get me wrong. But the job is not done, and you can't relax or be comfortable when you're still trying to win this thing. We know coming on the road is going to be tougher. We just want to play our best brand of basketball and play as hard as we can when we step out on the court. We didn't play well. They shot the ball extremely well, and we were a step slow on everything. So we can't be that way. He doesn't complain., He's low maintenance. He doesn't really care for the celebrity or the fame that comes with being an NBA player. He just works hard every day, comes and plays defense hard. And he cares. You see that. Sometimes you see it, sometimes you don't with Klay, but we know it's there all the time because he's so consistent every day. Somebody who just genuinely loves to play ball and wants to do it as best as he can, because he knows his time is short. So somebody who embraces every single day, that's toughness to me. Just another guy with veteran experience that can do multiple things; that can pass; that can rebound, dribble, can shoot the ball. Just smart. Just knows how to play the game of basketball, especially the Warrior way of playing basketball for us. He kind of settles us down a little bit. You look at 'Dre, he has an even keel for the game. Somebody that's just always dependable. We're looking forward to getting him back. Hopefully he's here soon. Don't know the significance of the injury, but just knowing that we miss him out on the court and we want him back out there. Yes, so he really is hurt. It really didn't do anything for me, to be honest. We won a championship, but me personally, I mean, there were just so many other plays in that game that helped us get that championship that were just as important. That's how I approach the game. Just knowing that everything that led up to the win, it happened the days before. It happened in practice. It happened in the first quarter, second quarter. So we just know how important every possession is. That situation may not happen again. So we've just got to embrace whatever happens and look forward to a crazy, crazy environment with a team that's desperate. Those combinations are tough to stop. We're looking forward to it, though. We've got a great opportunity, being up 2-0, and we can't wait to go out there and take advantage of it. |
| It's a different game, different season. I mean, different feel. Just a different vibe around the team, around just -- everything's just different. But I'm not done playing basketball yet, so I don't really look at these as defining moments. I don't want to downplay anything, but I don't want to act like this is the end of the road. So just get back to work tomorrow and figure out a better game plan. I thought we did some things tonight that we need to correct if we want to win the next game. So I'm just really trying to come in and be the best teammate, player I can be until this thing is over. I've just got to stay locked in. I didn't think about it at all. I just tried to play hard defense, tried to rebound as best as I could. If my shots were there, I just take them patiently and with poise. I found some good spots, and my teammates did a great job of setting screens for me, setting me up. Coach did a great job of calling plays for me, and I just tried to come through and be aggressive, just to do something, you know? But my main concern was defensive effort, intensity and rebounding. I just felt like especially the way he was missing shots tonight, he was struggling to shoot the ball, and the confidence that he had to pull that one up, and just the momentum of the game just kind of turned in our favor at that point. I know they hit a three coming back down afterwards, but they took like three or four shots to get one. So I felt like they were searching for a three. But we stayed poised through it all. We made good plays, and Andre came down and hit a dunk. And that just -- that momentum -- came down and got a nice dunk. But that momentum started when we had a stop first. And when Steph came down and took that three, no conscience, no matter how many shots he missed. That's what I love about him. Yeah, just tried to focus on each possession down. If we get a good shot down, no matter who takes it, I think we're all cool with that. I think defensively is when we came to play in the second half. We're going to need more of that effort, especially for a full 48, if we want to win. Yes. Don't get me wrong, every time I make a shot in the NBA I get excited. I just internalize it a little bit as I get older a little bit more than I did as a younger player. So I was definitely excited. It's hard to make shots at this level in the NBA, and I understand that. But at the same time I knew the game wasn't over. I've seen some crazy stuff happen in my years of playing basketball, not just in the NBA but just overall. We were up 6 with 25 seconds to go, I think. So anything could happen, man. You know, I just tried to make sure that we came out and didn't foul a three-point shooter or didn't give up a wide-open three or got too excited about that play. I just try to stay in the zone of trying to win the game and we'll figure everything else out after the game's over. So I just try to wait until the buzzer goes off to even think about anything else. No, not at all. I just took the shot. It just happened within the flow. I wasn't expecting to come out or shoot a lot of shots or look to score. I was just trying to play great defense and run the plays that Coach draws up and just run with the flow of what our offense is like throughout the game. I try not to think about just scoring. But, you know, we struggled to shoot the ball early on, and I felt like I had some good looks. I started asking for more of them, and I was able to knock down some shots for us. I mean, I just love that support from my teammates, and I think we all just support each other in a real -- with a real childlike approach to the game. That's rare in the NBA because we're all professionals. We're all grown men. But I think having guys that get so excited about a good play, a good block or a good rotation or a good shot or dagger shot. I think everybody gets excited for the small parts of the game, and Steph is one of those guys that just brings that joy. That's what the Warriors are all about, is just us having some fun out there, but also being, you know, poised and all those good words. Yeah, we just -- we didn't want to panic and let them push the lead from 12 to 16, 17 going into the half. So we knew that they were knocking down shots, and we knew we had some breakdowns that we could correct. On the offensive side of the ball, we just kept moving and moving the ball, finding the mismatches, and just being aggressive, all of us, to score. I thought Jordan Bell was tremendous tonight, Javale McGee was tremendous tonight, just giving us that, you know, rim presence, might catch the lob and it opened it up for everybody else. It's stuff that you really don't see as a normal fan or somebody watching the game, like JaVale and Jordan brought that for us. I think that was key in the first half, at the end of the first half, those guys coming in, and Andre and the bench did a great job of kind of settling us down a little bit. I didn't. I didn't beat myself up about that one. But this team, Cleveland especially, I think a lot of teams just try to beat us up on the glass and get more possessions than us. After Game 1, I had nine rebounds, but they were just like a soft nine rebounds, just ball falling in my hand or I'm in the right spot or uncontested rebounds. So I knew coming in that should be my focus because these guys are so great at getting extra possessions for their team. So, you know, Draymond and JaVale and D. West, they do a good job of boxing out, so I wanted to come in there and help out as much as I can and help us kind of push the break if we get a rebound. |
| Does it matter? Does it? Does it? We won two championships. We just won back-to-back. I don't think anybody's even worried about that type of stuff. I'm glad that we came out and played a great game tonight. We were able to finish the series off. That's the only thing that matters to us. All of us. We all want something that's bigger than ourselves. I think we love to see each other succeed. We love to come together and figure stuff out on the basketball court. And I think tonight everybody just played their roles well. Steph came out, was aggressive for us early. Got us -- set the nice tone for us, and everybody else kind of filled in. Our defense was great. 34% from the field, I think, the whole series. The whole playoffs our defense has been great. We finished it off with a championship, so we've got a bunch of guys in the locker room that don't care about anything but just being better basketball players every day and winning. It makes the environment great. Yeah, you could see it when you play against them and through the TV. But when you get up close and personal on an everyday basis, you really, really feel that way. Grateful and excited that I get this opportunity, and it feels so good to be a part of a group like this. To win two championships is -- that's what you want as an NBA player. That's how you know we're a great team is when everybody's coming after us. Whether it's opponents, whether it's different coaches panning for us, whether it's the fans, the media that hate us, it feels good when you're the team that everybody's gunning for. It makes us better. It makes us come to work and try to play at that championship level every single day, and that's the hardest part. But, you know, I'm glad we were able to lock in, especially in the playoffs, and do what we were supposed to do to win this thing. I've just got to keep getting better. I don't think I prove -- I proved to myself I picked the right career as a kid. I think I've got a lot more to go. So I'm just trying to prove to myself that I could just stay in it for the long haul, and hopefully I continue to have some success. Just keep growing as a player. That's my only concern. Late Registration. Yeah, that's probably equivalent. But it feels good. You know, when you experience something for the first time and you do it again, those emotions aren't going to be there as they were the first time. But just knowing that the work that you put in paid off and the care that you have for something, you know, it means something. I feel like I did something that pulled back into this Earth, I pull good energy back into the Earth when I go and work hard every day on my game, and I care about the game, and I watch basketball and care for my teammates, and we care for each other. I think we're doing something good in the world. I feel really good. Former players and players now that got a lot to say about what I did, they know how I play. They know exactly what I bring. They know. They know. They understand when they get on the court with me or they check up with me. They know what it is. So I kind of try to just stand on that, but I know what I bring to the game. I know how I approach the game, how hard I work, how much I care. I think that's the stuff I try to focus on more than anything is just being a professional basketball player and doing stuff for me and the team. So I pride myself on that and everything else is just noise. Oh, it feels great to go out there and win a championship with these guys, the way we did it. Like Draymond said earlier, it's the season, it was just an up-and-down season, so many guys got hurt. We were going through so much. When Pat McCaw went down, that put a lot on us emotionally as a team, and we got through that. I feel like we had a lot of those episodes throughout the year. To finish it off with a championship, especially in a sweep, it feels so good. I'm just so happy for Nick Young, Quinn Cook, their first championships. It feels great that we can go out there and give an experience to guys that haven't been here before, just like they did to me last year. So it feels great that we can do that. Just the brotherhood that we have in that locker room, and just the family atmosphere that we take on the road, not just the players, but support staff and everybody in the organization. You know, they don't get the credit. They don't get the praise, but so many people helped us get to this point, and we appreciate them. And it feels good to kind of win it for them. No. Just the product of hard work, and care and love for the game. I treat this game with -- I just feel indebted to the game. I feel like it saved my life, it changed my life. It took me out of an environment that I didn't think I'd ever be out of. Living in Maryland my whole life. I thought I was going to live in Maryland my whole life. But to travel the world and meet different people, and go to different arenas and different cities and countries around the world, I'm just forever grateful for this opportunity. So however it came, the championship and all that stuff, it means a lot. But just to be able to change my life in picking up a basketball and change my family's life, you know, this is the cherry on top, and I'm definitely excited about it. But just to be able to leave Maryland and experience and see different parts of the world, that was -- that's why I love this game of basketball. It was able to teach me so much about life. To win a championship on top of that means a lot. One thing about our team is that a lot of guys really don't care about statements. We just want to win the basketball game. If we happened to lose tonight, we were just going to focus on going back home and trying to finish it off. We weren't thinking about a sweep coming in. We knew we had a good chance to play well this series. But we were just trying to play great basketball, especially after coming out of that Houston series where it was a tough, grind-out series. We just wanted to win, and however it came we were excited about it. But to win in a sweep feels pretty good. I want to see Jordan Bell come back a better player. I want to see Quinn Cook come back a better player. That's all I'm concerned about. And I know the veterans are going to come back and do exactly what they need to do. But to have two young guys that contributed and helped us out the whole season, I'm excited to see how they come back next year. Looking forward to just to different tricks that we use throughout the season next year. I can't wait. Thank you guys for whatever you did all season. I appreciate the love and support, and we're back-to-back champs. |
| Of course, we know it's a game of runs. They had a really good run. I think we kind of stopped playing, waiting them to just quit, which would not happen. I think even we had open looks and they continued to play zone. Jamal made really, really big shots in the end of the game and that's why we won the game. I mean, no. I'm just whatever. If I can score, I'm going to score. If I don't need to score, I'm not going to. It happened that way. I’m never going into the game, I'm going to do this, this, this, this. I'm just going to take whatever the game's giving me. It's easier that way. I mean, again, they're doing their job. I'm trying to do my job. Sometimes they win, sometimes I win. It's a game, so I don't think about it as a matchup. I don't know the answer. I'm just trying to play the game how it's supposed to be played. If they're aggressive, try to attack me, if they backing off. I'm just going to play the game. Yeah, I mean, I said from where we were against Portland last year. We play four overtimes, lost, then we won the next game. Then the Clippers, too. We just don't want to quit. That's the mentality. Maybe they can beat us by 20, 30. But we just cannot quit, you know. Effort needs to be there. He's always good. I think he doesn't have a bad game. Sometimes he cannot score, but he's doing the right thing that he's supposed to do. He's helping us during the games. Sometimes it's the matchups. Sometimes it’s just the circumstances on the floor, that we cannot have him on the floor. I think he's doing a really good job of making plays for us. When he's open, he's knocking the shots down. He's playing really good for us. I mean, he was injured before. When we came here, he was kind of struggling with the shoulder, with the elbow, I don't know what it was. But I really believe in him. I think he can make the big shots. He is built for the big shots. I really, truly believe that he's a superstar and he's a really big part of this team. He carried us today, a bunch of nights. I'm really glad that he's my teammate. I think Monte played really well, too. I think Jerami played amazing. In that third quarter, I think he had like 10, 12, 15 points. I don't know how many. He was really aggressive. He was going to the rims. That's what we need from him. He was going to the defense. He's a big guy, can finish around the rim. He played really well today. He's going to do that in the next games. It seems like every series is kind of the same for us. Even Utah, we lost the first. Did we? The first game? Sorry, it's not (smiling). I mean, I think the game before, we saw that we could play with them. The first game, they were just really aggressive. They were making shots. We were kind of one step slower than them. They were kind of surprising us in every way, by the pace, by the rebounding. Second game we kind of knew what we were going to see out on the floor. Today it was just a really good night for us. We were playing really good defense I think. Just we need to figure out that big run that they had, we cannot let that happen. But, yeah, it was a big win for us today. |
| We won. I could care less about a triple-double. We play this game to win. I'm glad my teammates got a lot of trust and faith in me to go out there and hoop like that, but like I always say, you guarantee me a win, I could care less. My trainer James Scott does a great job of making sure that I'm strong enough to play through contact and just be conditioned. That's what we do here in the Heat. We pride ourselves on that and I love it. I love the work and I tell Coach all the time, I'm ready for this. Like the biggest stage, whatever you ask me to do I can do. I mean, that's competition at its finest. I think LeBron has got the best of me way too many times. I respect the guy for it, but this is a different time now, a different group of guys that I have around me, and we are here to win, we are here to compete. But we're not going to lay down, we're going to fight back in this thing, even it up 2-2. No. You got to empty the tank on every possession, especially playing against a great team like the Lakers. But we got a good team. Like I say, I got the easy job. These guys create so much space for me, I get to shoot it whenever I'm open, pass it whenever I'm not. I really do have the easy job. But none of us, none of us are ever going to leave anything in the tank. We're going to lay it all out there on the floor. I saw him just hoop, which is what I tell him every single chance I get. This isn't a big stage for him, this is just basketball. Do what you've been doing all year long and we're going to live with it. We ride with you, we're supporting you and we're constantly giving you confidence. There's no shot that you've never seen that you don't like, and we love you for that. So you take those because that's what's going to help us win games, compete, guard. And being the youngest to play or start, it's another day for him. It is. Everybody remembers winning, that's it. They don't care how many points you score, they only care if you won or lost. For us we're all about winning. We are. I say it all the time but I mean it. The guys that we have, the group that Coach Pat and Coach Spo put together it's always to win, nothing else. So I hope the next game I score zero and y'all talk all you want to talk and we win so I come up here and say the same thing. It means a lot. I go out there and I go to war for those guys because whenever they're out there, they're going to war with and for me. Whatever they ask me to do, I want to do it to the best of my ability, obviously. They asked me to go out there and win, like they did the previous two games, and tonight I couldn't hold up my end of the bargain. Tonight I did that -- we did that, I should say, and give them an extra couple days and get those guys back. That is what I said. First of all, I'm not just out there talking trash because I'm not. LeBron said that to me at the end of the first, that's what happened. I just said it to him in the fourth quarter. And talking about playing damn near perfect, we did a good job of that tonight. We rebounded the basketball, which is what we always talked about. We got back. But I think guys are starting to realize how much we belong on this stage and that we are in The Finals for a reason. To tell you the truth, I think when we get these other two guys back, they're going to make everybody's job including mine a lot easier. So I'm excited, but we still got to play better moving forward. The offensive player is always at the advantage, as long as you can get to your spot, you do what you really want to do. But like I always say, like my teammates do that for me, you can't leave those guys, because if you do I'm passing it to them. Half the time it's a bad pass and it will be at their feet, but they always find a way to make the shot. I have so much confidence in this group of guys, as does Coach Spo, it's so fun to play with them guys, even better to win with them. I saw it. He did that thing with his lip, I saw that. Tyler's always going to be Tyler. I think we all love him for that. But like I tell T all the time, he's my third favorite Herro. His little brother Myles is definitely my favorite, so I'll talk more to Myles tomorrow than I will to Tyler because I think he is the reason that Tyler plays like that. He understands that he looks up to Tyler, and so Tyler goes out there and plays with so much confidence because he knows that his brother is watching. No, it means nothing. I, we stay focused on ourselves that's how we got here. But we're just settling down. I think it's a lot of bright lights, it's a big stage for almost everybody except for Coach Spo, Andre, OG [Udonis Haslem], and nobody been here before. But we're coming to realize that we belong here. We're a really good team and we can win, as we have shown tonight, if we play basketball the right way, if we do what we say we're going to do. So everybody is just becoming more and more comfortable as the days go by. We put bodies on bodies. We played a lot more man, which I think we all agreed was a good call on coach's part. He's great at adjusting. We rebounded the basketball. We made a lot of things difficult for them, all hands on deck, getting into the paint and I think that it's going to be even better whenever we get Bam back. It doesn't. I don't care. We don't, we really don't care. We could care less if they pick us to win. Obviously ya'll picking us to lose. We're just going to go out there and compete, do what we know that we're capable of. I will say, Duncan needs to shoot the ball a lot more. He needs to hunt shots because he's going to be a reason that we win one of these games. He's going to hit six, seven 3s and I'm going to jump up and down and I'm going to give him a big hug, maybe a slight kiss on the back of his head, because I know how important that that guy is to our team. We're always confident. We know that we can win any game if we rebound, if we don't turn the ball over, if we get back, things like that. But we got a group that, like we're, I don't like the word "underdog" so -- nobody's picking us, there you go, nobody's picking us. And we really don't care. We're going to go out there and compete that's what we have been doing all year long, all playoffs, the time that we have been here. Stay confident because we know we're a good team. |
| Nothing. I left it all out there on the floor along with my guys, and that's how we're going to have to play from here on out. Like I always say, it's win or win for us. But this is the position that we're in. We like it this way. We got two more in a row to get. Because that's what my team asks of me, that's what they need me to do, and I think Coach Pat and Coach Spo brought me here for that reason; to help us win games and I have to continue to do that for two more games. I know that I'm capable of it, but I got a hell of a group of guys around me that make my job a lot easier. I'm fortunate for those guys because when I pass it to them they make shots. When I get beat going to the rim, they're there. So we're in this thing together and they give me a lot of confidence to go out there and hoop. Look, man, I can say it every time I'm up here, but we live for these moments. Like the work that we put in, we're built for this, we have been doing this all year long. This didn't just start in the bubble. We have been playing together, win, loss, draw, whatever, we're in this thing together. And that's what's going to win us games. I think night in and night out it could be anybody. It could be Bam, it could be hopefully Goran. Like we're so together when we're out there on the floor, off the floor, that's why we win because everybody wants everybody to be successful. I mean, if you're the best player in the world, you're supposed to be able to do that. We keep our head high knowing that he's going to hit some tough ones. That's what really, really, really great players do. But we ain't backing down. We ain't shying away. We can go on the other end and do what we do. I think he had a hell of a performance tonight, along with AD, the whole team. But we're still fighting. We're in it to win it, we're not backing down, we're not scared of nobody. I think it's easy whenever I have the group of guys that I have around me and that I have the coaching staff that believes I can play at a high level. Coach Pat brought me here to play at a high level. I got so many people in my ear just telling me to keep doing what I've been doing, play basketball the right way and we're going to end up winning. So that's why I smile, knowing that we're always going to play the right way and we're always going to live with the result, because we're going to leave it all out there on the floor. I know that I'm capable of it. I believe in my skill set and my talent. My teammates do as well. But it's not just me, Duncan had a hell of a game, K-Nunn came in and did what K-Nunn did. Bam had a huge one. All of us, all of us was the reason that we won this game and it's going to be the same way for the next two. To stop running from the basketball, can't shoot the ball if you don't have the ball. I think he gets lost in trying to get other people open, when everybody is going to react to him probably more so than they're going to react to me. A three is worth more than a two. So as long as he's coming to the ball, shooting the ball when he's open, when he's not open, that's the Duncan Robinson that we need, that we want, because that's how he's been playing all year long. And we're going to need him to be even more aggressive for Game 6. To tell you the truth, I don't know. I'm going to go back and talk to Armando and whatever he says do, I guess I got to do. I really hate when people tell me what to do, by the way, but I know that he has my best interests at heart and he'll probably tell me what to do in Spanish as well. Just stay aggressive. I don't know what they're going to throw at me on any given night, but I think whatever you throw at me it's not going to work because if I'm open I'm going to shoot it. If I'm not I'm going to pass it to Duncan or Tyler or K-Nunn or Bam or Jae and they're going to make the shot. So as long as we stay together and play basketball the right way, no matter how they guard me, I'm going to make the right play. I started to put people into positions that they need to be put in. I think I rushed a lot, I didn't have guys knowing where they were supposed to be. And that's my fault, because coach is telling me the play and I'm not echoing it down the line. And I can't let that happen because then you go on a 10-0 run or whatever they went on. We'll watch it, we'll be better, but we got to know, I have to let everybody know where we're supposed to be at. I mean, I'm sure they wanted to win, thought they was going to win coming into it. As did we. But it was a hard-fought game, I think it's going to be even harder for us next game, but I like our chances. Not really, I don't be paying attention to them over there. I don't pay attention to the confetti machines. I do pay attention to Rondo's son, Pierre though, that's my guy. Other than that, I’ll be so locked in on the game, I’ll be locked in on my squad, because we're here to win, we're here to win. So for these next two we're going to, we're in the trenches. This is over with. We got to get better, even from wins. I don't think we ended the game the way we were supposed to. We didn't rebound when we needed to. We got lucky. Luck is a part of everything and that's what that was. Now don't get me wrong, I'm taking the W, but I think going into the next one got to play even more perfect. We got to secure the ball, we got to get back, we got to do everything right to give us a chance to win. |