

# Los Angeles Clippers Media Conference

Sunday, August 16, 2020  
Los Angeles, California, USA

## Kawhi Leonard

### Press Conference

**Q. Kawhi, just wanted to see -- Luka Doncic was talking about you guys being physical defenders. Obviously that's something you've done your whole career. How do you share that with your teammates?**

KAWHI LEONARD: I think we already -- they're already a group of guys that have pretty much played physical, wanted to play defense. But it's just a part of winning. We've got to play defense to win games, can't just let guys score every possession down the court. So I guess it's just a collective mindset of wanting to win.

**Q. Paul said yesterday that in order to try to expedite the chemistry and not lose time in the pandemic, he and you got together a couple times and visited with each other. I was wondering, what did you guys do, what did you accomplish, and how has that helped you two entering the Playoffs?**

KAWHI LEONARD: We pretty much just went to the gym. When we were able to get to the gym, went to the gym, did shots, talked to each other, know what I mean, to see what we thought worked in games. You know, just talking about personal life, things like that. Just getting to know one another. You know, that to just build a long way from there, just getting comfortable with talking with someone. You could tell them what they're not doing or what they are doing well.

That's it really pretty much.

**Q. This is your first NBA playoff experience in the bubble, so how does it feel different?**

KAWHI LEONARD: Just you're not on the road, you're not home, obviously. Family members aren't around. You know, you're not seeing other cities. That's it.

**Q. What do you think you got out of these games as a team? Doc was talking about a lot of teams had changed and came in and were different than they were during the regular season. What do you think**



**your team got out of these preliminary games?**

KAWHI LEONARD: Really just team experience, really. Being able to play eight games, see what works for us, and going into these Playoffs, obviously we're around each other a lot more. That's it. Just able to somewhat get a team bond going on and just focusing on these Playoffs, taking those eight games one game at a time. Our team was different with guys in and out, but that's what it is for me.

**Q. Just curious, throughout the hiatus and the NBA suspension, what were your thoughts on this season potentially being canceled? Obviously there was a lot of talk about whether we didn't know whether the season would continue. Did that enter into your mind considering for a lot of guys this was their best opportunity for a championship?**

KAWHI LEONARD: Yeah. I mean, if you're not able to see what the outcome is, and we pretty much played 70 percent of the season and the Playoffs were around the corner, this definitely was a lost opportunity for everyone, even for guys that were rookies, just being able to get that experience of a full NBA season. So yeah, that definitely crept into my mind.

But we're here now.

**Q. How much of a challenge is Porzingis as a match-up problem, and is that a situation where you just have to try multiple looks and give him multiple defenders until you figure out what works?**

KAWHI LEONARD: Yeah, you know, he's, what, seven-something, seven-two, seven-foot, can shoot the ball, can dribble, make plays out of the post, even from that three-point line by dribble driving. You've just got to keep a high hand up and try to challenge his shots. He's very skilled.

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