

Oklahoma City Thunder Media Conference

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Jaylen Hoard

Press Conference

Q. Jaylen, a guy in your situation just coming into the league, it seems like maybe your primary goal was to prove that you belong and that you can play in the NBA. Do you feel like you took a lot of major steps toward that with the Thunder this season?

JAYLEN HOARD: Yes, sir, I think I did. I was talking to some of the coaches about this today. I feel like this year if I compare it to last year, I got a lot more game experience, not just playing end of games when the score has already been decided, but meaningful minutes against good teams, good players and stuff like that. So I feel like a lot of times I feel like I did pretty well for myself. There's still a lot of areas of my game where I need to get better at, but I feel like I showed a little bit of what I can do this year.

Q. As you look back at those meaningful minutes, what are some things that you were able to actually do on the floor, ways in which you were able to kind of play with force that you're most proud of?

JAYLEN HOARD: Just I can get to the rim the same as I did anywhere else pretty much. I was still able to finish at a high rate. I was able to play defense, continue to play hard, continue to play unselfish, things like that. Just play my game pretty much, and I was just happy about that, because playing in the NBA you may not know what can translate or whatnot, so I feel like the strong parts of my game, I was able to make them translate over here, so that's something I was pretty proud of.

Q. One thing Coach Daigneault has pointed out about you personally is your professionalism. Obviously you've been kind of thrown into a lot of different situations in your time with the Thunder, whether it's playing the 5 or out on the perimeter. What was your mentality as you were approaching those very different situations on this team?

JAYLEN HOARD: The main thing for me was just to be ready and also be able to adapt to different situations because even if it's a different scenario than what you're used to, at the end of the day it's an opportunity. That's all



I ask for as a player, just to be on the court. Whatever opportunity that was, the 4, the 5, the 3, whatever, my main thing was just to do the best I could in those roles, try to help the team and try to show that I can be plugged in at any position, that regardless of the situation I'm going to be able to produce. That was kind of my mindset throughout whole thing.

Q. Jaylen, what are your plans for this off-season as far as where you'll be and some of the specific areas that you'll be focusing on?

JAYLEN HOARD: As far as where I'm going to be this summer, I'm not too sure yet. I'm going to talk about that with my agent this upcoming week, but as far as my game, I think the main thing for me is working on my shot, three-point shooting, getting reps up and then just getting comfortable out there so that I can elevate my game. I feel like if I do those things, I'll be able to take my game to the next level. That's really something I'm looking forward to working on this summer, and yeah, just getting better in that area.

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