

NBA Finals: Thunder vs. Pacers

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Oklahoma City Thunder

Aaron Wiggins

Media Day

Q. We don't get a lot of NBA Finals with two of the smaller markets. Is it good for the NBA when a couple of smaller markets are in the Finals?

AARON WIGGINS: I definitely think it's good for the NBA. Kind of shows that you can build regardless of where you are from within. Obviously, both of our teams didn't necessarily get superstars in the offseason or anything. Kind of drafted and built within. You find pieces that fit in the offseason.

It just kind of goes to show with the right personnel, with trust, the right development, you can get anywhere you want to get. We're two teams that are kind of proving that this year.

Q. Is there any difference between the way you guys approach these Finals than the previous series? Anything mentally, physically different?

AARON WIGGINS: No, nothing different other than we had a week for this one. Last time we had a week off was before the first round.

But no, nothing different. Same preparation. Obviously, the only thing that's different is team and personnel. We've continued to kind of just build on how we planned to approach the games with the personnel and their team, the way they play. Beyond that, same approach, same mentality, same readiness.

Q. Have you received any input from Alex, who has been to the Finals previously, how to approach this, the media that is here and stuff?

AARON WIGGINS: Yeah, I mean, obviously his experience is something that all of us kind of take heed to. We've heard him in his journey, in a time where he won his championship. Just kind of like what it was like for him and his team in the locker room, on the court, their approach going into the series.



We've been able to kind of take that and make sure that we're kind of, yeah, using some of the same things. We have a really good team when it comes to understanding and readiness for all those things.

Q. Were you aware that [Oklahoma City trainer] Donnie Strack was a Pacers ballboy, that's how he got a start in the league?

AARON WIGGINS: I didn't know he was a ballboy. I know he's from Indiana. It's a unique thing. Good for him. This is kind of full circle for him being able to play the Pacers in the Finals.

Q. What does he mean to this group in terms of keeping you guys healthy?

AARON WIGGINS: He's huge. He does his job the best he can obviously. He's one of the best in the business. He makes sure all of our guys are taken care of. I think everybody kind of trusts him, and regardless what we need, he's going to take care of us. Obviously huge support and help to where we are today.

Q. What memory do you have of the Thunder last time in the Finals?

AARON WIGGINS: A lot of my time when it came to that Thunder team was on video games with Russell Westbrook, I want to say like Jeremy Lamb was a part of that group, KD, all those guys.

I mean, obviously it kind of paved the way for us to be here. Don't take it for granted, being a part of this organization, being a part of history. Those guys kind of being here before us.

It's kind of crazy being here in this position knowing that I think they played the Heat when they made it to the Finals that year. It's awesome being a part of it.

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