

NBA Finals: Thunder vs. Pacers

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Oklahoma City Thunder

Luguentz Dort

Media Day



Q. Question about the significance of having four players from Canada in the NBA Finals.

LUGUENTZ DORT: It's big. It's showing that Canada basketball keeps growing. I feel like there's been a Canadian NBA player in the Finals for the last how many years. Just shows how there's a lot of talent there. Every time we sacrifice our summer to play with the national team, it prepares us for the whole season. I'm happy that there's a lot of Canadians on this stage right now.

Q. What message do you hope to send to those fans in Canada watching you guys?

LUGUENTZ DORT: To enjoy. To enjoy. Obviously we represent our teams here. But at the end of the day we represent our country, as well. It's going to be really fun. They should enjoy it.

Q. You're one of the best defenses in the league. You or Caruso can guard Haliburton or Siakam or whatever. Do you think the Pacers are worried about that?

LUGUENTZ DORT: I mean, we've been a good defensive team all season. That's the thing that we've been about. I don't know what they're worrying about. I know on our side, we're really good on that end of the floor.

We'll keep making everything tough. That's been our identity all season.

Q. Do you think they have an answer for Shai?

LUGUENTZ DORT: I don't know. I don't know yet. We'll see.

Q. What does it mean for you to get that public recognition as an All-NBA defender?

LUGUENTZ DORT: It was good. Honestly, I feel like the work I've been doing on that end of the floor has been the

same for the past years. It's good that I finally got recognized for it. I give a lot of credit to my teammates and this whole team for the success that we've had. But I'm happy I got recognized for it.

Q. That matchup between Andrew and Shai. Andrew is a pretty good defender. You saw him all last summer. How do you scout that?

LUGUENTZ DORT: I mean, Shai is a tough cover. I don't know what plan they got. It's going to be hard, obviously. Shai will be ready for anything that they throw at him.

Q. Did Andrew impress you as a teammate this summer, as a defender?

LUGUENTZ DORT: For sure, yeah. I've been playing against Drew since I was in high school. I kind of know what type of defensive player he is. It's been impressive to see it up close this past summer.

Q. What makes Alex Caruso such a special defender? How does he make life easier for you?

LUGUENTZ DORT: He's a leader. He's vocal. He plays really hard. Whenever you have somebody on the court that plays like that, you just want to do the same thing. He communicates really well on the floor. Whenever AC is out there, you'll feel it. It's been huge all season.

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