

# NBA Finals: Thunder vs. Pacers

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Indiana Pacers

Rick Carlisle

Game 7: Pregame



**Q. Yesterday you talked about pressure and how this team has had so many comeback performances. How do you describe the team's effort and execution in those difficult circumstances?**

RICK CARLISLE: I just saw a video that's probably going to go viral of some buses, open-top buses, presumably for the parade that are already painted with them as champions. That's all I'm thinking about right now.

**Q. You guys play with obviously this very particular pace, very fast, you play 10 guys. I'm curious if you guys, with the way that you play on both ends of the ball with the amount of energy it requires, do you put any extra emphasis on conditioning?**

RICK CARLISLE: Yes.

**Q. Can you explain what that looks like and how that comes through compared to maybe other spots?**

RICK CARLISLE: We encourage our guys to be in top shape when they arrive at camp. We do a conditioning test, and you know, we have an active training camp, and we have to train to play this way.

**Q. Rick, it's not a normal day, obviously. Are there ways that you can make it seem somewhat normal? How do you navigate, when you want consistency and routine, on here it is, the biggest game of the year, obviously, how do you find that normalcy?**

RICK CARLISLE: Just a consistent message, really, from day one of training camp to focus on process. Keep our energy directed toward each other. We know it's a difficult environment. We know it's a great team.

Be ready to bounce back quickly when things don't go exactly right. But enjoy the privilege of being a part of a game like this.

**Q. What did you think when you saw that video?**

RICK CARLISLE: I already talked about it.

**Q. What about preparing for Game 7? Is there anything in particular that you've told the team about the stuck-in-the-mud nature and the fact that points, historically, I think it's been 35 years, have been hard to come by in these Game 7s?**

RICK CARLISLE: That hasn't come up.

**Q. Tyrese said after the last game that you guys had a real honest conversation about how he was going to look out there if he didn't look right, what was going to happen, like he may not be able to continue, etc. Did you have to have that same kind of conversation before this game, and if not, how would you characterize that first conversation before Game 6?**

RICK CARLISLE: You said before Game 6?

**Q. Yeah, he said before the last game, you guys had an honest conversation about how he was with his calf and if he didn't look right out there.**

RICK CARLISLE: As I stated, as I said the other day, we're going to be watching very closely. There's going to be a lot of eye contact. There's going to be a lot of communication. You know, we'll do whatever is best for him and for the team.

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