Written by Rockets.com Wednesday, 01 May 2013 00:00



Just as he's done throughout his first two seasons in the NBA, Chandler Parsons has continued to improve every step of the way through his initial foray into the world of NBA playoff basketball. The 24-year-old's numbers have spiked through each of his first four games thus far, culminating with a monster 27-point, 10-rebound, 8-assist performance that carried the Rockets to a season-saving win in Game 4 of their first round matchup against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

With his team prepping to once again fight for its playoff life, Rockets.com's Jason Friedman sat down with Parsons for an exclusive interview to talk about life in the playoff spotlight, playing in high-pressure situations and of course, his oft-discussed sense of style. What follows is the transcript of that conversation.

JCF: Do you feel as if the last couple weeks have been a bit of a national coming out party for you? You hit that crazy buzzer-beater against the Lakers in the season finale that even prompted Lindsay Lohan to send a tweet in your direction, the big spread in the style section of the Houston Chronicle and a huge Game 4 performance to keep the Rockets' season alive. Does it seem like you're getting more attention than ever?

CP: Don't forget the guy I left hanging with the fist bump because that got more attention than



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CP: I just came out aggressive. I don't want to make our team easy to guard and I don't want us to be stagnant and bogged down so everybody can focus on James. When they play the Rockets, I want them to be focused on everybody and especially me, so I want to be aggressive right from the start and if I'm open I'm going to take the shot, if I'm not I'm going to try to put pressure on them by making plays for others.

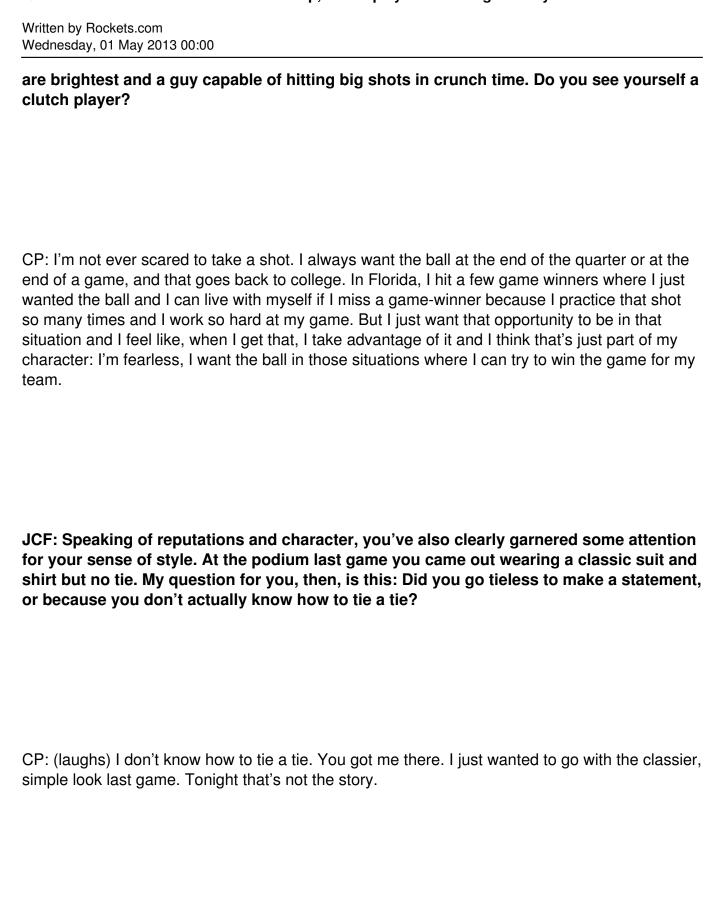
The first two games I felt like I was just kind of feeling it out. I had zero assists in the first two games and I wasn't really getting my teammates involved. So the last two games I've just been trying to make it easier for everybody else and just be ultra aggressive because of how good they are offensively and how good of a team they are. I feel like I can expose them defensively, though, because when we go small and they have a big guy on me, they can't guard me.

JCF: You mentioned the occasional stagnation on offense. That's obviously been a big issue of late. Do you think it's a result of a young team trying to figure things out and find its identity on the fly? More importantly, how do you fix it going forward, especially this time of year?

CP: I'm not sure. I guess one way to limit it would be to just get more stops so we're able to get out more in transition and don't have to bring the ball up slowly. But I think sometimes we get worried about what they're doing; when they score we feel we have to get a good shot and for

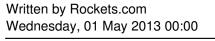


JCF: You're starting to develop a reputation as a guy who performs best when the lights



JCF: Oh really?

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CP: Yeah, so I'm hoping for a big win so I can get up there and show you what I'm working with tonight.

JCF: Well it's good to see that your priorities and motivations are in the right place.

CP: Hey listen: I'm focused on the game but you've got to look good afterwards, too.