

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Posey, House spark C's off bench again

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BOSTON— The Garden crowd was lively, but ready to make some real noise by the middle of the second quarter of last night's Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

James Posey and Eddie House turned up the volume.

Coming off the bench to spark the Celtics yet again, Posey and House swished consecutive 3-pointers from just about the same spot in the left corner to start a key run and get the C's on their way to a 131-92 blowout victory over the Lakers and NBA championship No. 17.

Posey and House were both grade-schoolers when the Celtics claimed their last title, back in 1986.

It's a second NBA championship for Posey, who lived up to his "Big Game James" nickname during the Celtics' great playoff run. He was a member of the Heat during their 2005-06 title season.

House, playing for his eighth team in eight years, was in the NBA Finals for the first time.

Posey (11 points) and House (9 points) led Celtics' non-starters in scoring last night.

"It was just doing what we've been doing all season long," said House, as he got a can of beer sprayed on his head during the C's wild locker room celebration. "Come in and do our jobs, play hard and try to extend the lead when we get opportunities to do so. That's what we did tonight."

Posey and House scored all of the points during an 11-0, second-quarter spurt. Their back-to-back 3s were followed by a pair of free throws from House and another Posey 3-pointer, which gave the Celtics a 43-29 lead with 5:26 left before halftime.

Posey came in for Ray Allen with just over four minutes left in the first after Allen was poked in the left eye. Allen returned later in the second.

In addition to hitting the big baskets, Posey did an outstanding job defending Kobe Bryant in the second. Bryant got off to a hot start, making 4 of 7 shots — including 3 of 5 3-point tries — for 11 first-quarter points.

Bryant did not hit from the field in the second and took just four shots as the Celtics held the Lakers to 15 second-quarter points and led by 23 at halftime.

Posey and House, who were both signed by the Celtics as free agents last August, were major players in the C's amazing comeback in Game 4. Posey scored a series-high 18 points and House's 18-foot jumper gave the Celtics their first lead of the game with 4:17 to play.

Everyone knew about Boston's Big Three coming into the season, but not so much who would be coming off the C's bench. Celtics fans soon found out.

The Lakers figured to have the better bench coming into the series, but it was Boston's backups that came

up the biggest. The Celtics' bench outscored L.A.'s, 175-130.

"The bench played great," said backup center P.J. Brown, who added six points and three rebounds. "This is a great team top to bottom and everybody gave their best. We've got one of the stronger benches in the NBA."

Leon Powe had the crazy Game 2, when he scored 21 points in 14 minutes. Brown, on the verge of retiring four months ago, averaged 20 minutes filling in for the ailing Kendrick Perkins and hit the memorable slam at the end of the third quarter in Game 4. Even Glen "Big Baby" Davis got in on the action last night. The rookie logged his first minutes of the finals.

The championship was oh-so sweet for the 38-year-old Brown, a veteran of 15 NBA seasons, who was encouraged by Paul Pierce and Allen to come back for one more when they met up with him during NBA All-Star weekend in February.

"Fifteen years, it was a long wait," said Brown, his NBA champions shirt drenched in champagne, "but well worth it. It feels awesome."

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