



SEE YOU IN BEIJING

As of today, the Raptors would like me to continue, however until the 1st of July we will not know anything about the possible renewal or other offers from teams interested in me for next season. What is clear is the fact that if I have to choose between a sports offer versus an economic offer, I will opt for the first. I want to be a starter and to be in a team that aspires for everything. Of course I will not be on a team in which I cannot be an important contributor nor if there is not a solid structure or if there are not options to be in the "Playoffs".

Everyone is how they are, but the main thing is the team, therefore I have sacrificed many things for the Raptors. During the season we lost against worse teams and, if I were to continue in Toronto, I would like to react to these losses. Maybe to think about the ring is an excessive aspiration but, of course, this is not a team that can only aspire to lose in the first round of the "Playoffs".

In any case, the season has ended and it is difficult to summarize. There are very good memories. For example, how well the team played through the middle of the season, especially December and January. Or the good personal games. Nevertheless it is hard to select any specific one. It has been a good year, but not for any particular moment. In reality it has been a very complete season. And in spite of everything, that my name was mentioned for the "All Star" was unthinkable. Of course it is something to be happy about.

Also, I am left with games like the one we played against San Antonio or those where my assists reached to 16 or 17 or the third game of the "Playoffs" against the Magic, where I almost made my first triple-double. In any case, it is a shame that in these last two years we lost in the first elimination rounds against Cleveland and Orlando. The most complicated rival of the season was Boston and we were even able to win a game against them.

Precisely I think that the Celtics will play in the NBA finals after beating Atlanta and Detroit. I imagine that they will do it against the Spurs, who will have advanced against New Orleans and the Lakers. I hope that it will not be like this, because I want to see Pau in the finals, but I have the feeling that San Antonio, today, has more experience. I hope that I am wrong.

Many thanks to everyone for having supported me during such a long season, although you do not have to see this as a goodbye but rather as a "see you later", because during the Olympic Games I will continue writing my thoughts through the online version of the Spanish Newspaper, "El mundo" (www.elmundo.es), as well as through my personal website www.josemanuelcalderon.com

See you in Beijing.

José Manuel Calderón