Wow. What a basketball game! As is often the case when the Cavs and Heat get it on, LeBron James and Dwayne Wade waged a personal war of three point bombs, drives to the hoop and thumping dunks in the first half. James may have saved his best for last though. With Miami clinging to a one point lead and ten seconds remaining in the ballgame, LeBron read Wade's behind-the-back pass attempt, picked it off and raced to the other of the floor. He was nearly beheaded on the drive to the basket but he calmly sank the two free throws to lift the Cavs to their fifth win a row. Brian McPeek tells our readers about the epic win.

Wow.

There are certain games on the schedule you look at and rub your hands in anticipation. And there are certain moments in such games that validate the anticipation.

And with about five and a half minutes remaining in the second quarter of the Cavaliers 92-91 win in Miami validation arrived.

Loudly.

It was at about that point that Dwyane Wade and LeBron James decided to ignore the eight other guys on the court and the 20,000 or so fans that packed into American Airlines Arena and just decided to fight it out mano y mano, much to the delight of basketball fans everywhere.

Wade and James waged a personal war of three point bombs, drives to the hoop and thumping dunks that dominated the night in Miami and dominated the highlight shows for hours afterward. From the 5:30 mark in the 2nd quarter up until Daniel Gibson hit a lay up with 1:35 left in the half the two teams combined to score 23 points. James had 12 of them and Wade had 11. After Gibson's bucket and after Udonis Haslem hit a free throw for Miami, Wade capped off Miami's first half scoring with a silky smooth step-back three pointer.

But he left six seconds on the clock.

That was more than enough time for James to calmly trot the ball up the court and step into his own 27-foot exclamation point of a three as the first half ended, James and Wade smiled at each other and fans gasped for breath.

James may have saved his best for last though. With Miami clinging to a one point lead and ten seconds remaining in the ballgame, LeBron read Wade's behind-the-back pass attempt, picked it off and raced to the other of the floor. He was nearly beheaded on the drive to the basket but he calmly sank the two free throws to lift the Cavs to their fifth win a row. That's five in a row and the last four have come against superstars Chris Bosh, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant and Wade.

LBJ scored 32 points and grabbed nine rebounds in a virtuoso performance. Shaquille O'Neal backed him up with 19 points and five boards. Daniel Gibson scored 15 big points and even tallied one assist while Anderson Varejao added 13 points and hauled down 10 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Wade was masterful in the first half. His 30 points in the first two quarters came on a variety of jumpers and graceful slashes to the rim. But he paid a price for that first half after the intermission. Wade scored just two points in the second half to equal LeBron's 32 on the night. Much of Wade's struggle in the second half was due to fatigue. But some of it was due to Anthony Parker, Jamario Moon and James draping themselves all over Wade and refusing to allow him to get loose.

Jermaine O'Neal and Michael Beasley backed Wade with 18 and 16 points respectively.

Takeaways

- That might have been the most impressive win of the season for the Cavaliers. The Lakers Christmas Day game may out kick it, but Monday's win was extremely satisfying. The Cavs had no drive, no focus and very little energy at the outset and Miami threatened to run away and hide early on. The Cavs were also again without Mo Williams and Delonte West. But they just kept doing enough to pull back into the ballgame and after the James-Wade shootout late in the first half the Cavs

were right there.

They put the clamps down on Wade in the second half, survived as God-awful a night of officiating as you're likely to see and then made more big plays down the stretch than Miami did to get the win.

It's the signature of a talented team that can put the past behind them and scratch out a win in a hostile arena on a night when they could easily have packed it in and been content with last week's results.

- It's scary how reliant on Wade the Heat actually is. Look at the play-by-play of that 2nd quarter if you don't believe that. Wade was the only Heat player to make a field goal in the second quarter. Beasley hit one free throw and Haslem hit two but Wade scored all of the other remaining 17 points in the 2nd quarter for Miami.

The Cavs bench, much of it due to Varejao, also outscored the Heat bench by a 24-13 margin.

- Much is made about the physical skills and offensive abilities of James. But the steal that resulted in the clinching free throws was a terrific example of James basketball IQ. Isolated on Wade as the clock ticked

down, James watched Wade motion a teammate to the wing and then turn his body away from that spot. James anticipated the behind-the-back attempt perfectly and had the quickness and strength to make a play on the ball, keep it bounds and then gather it in and streak to the opposite end of the floor. It was one of those stunning plays that James makes on a nightly basis that cause you to hit the DVR rewind. That he makes that play at that time of the game is what puts LeBron in a class by himself.

They Got Next

The 35-11 Cavaliers look to make it straight wins Wednesday night at ‘The Q' against the Minnesota Timberwolves. You can check it out starting at 7pm on FSN Ohio.