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A Gut-wrenching Effort....Win or Lose

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Was honored to be mentioned in a [Washington Post story](#) by [Sally Jenkins](#) about LeBron James after the Heat took the NBA Championship this week.

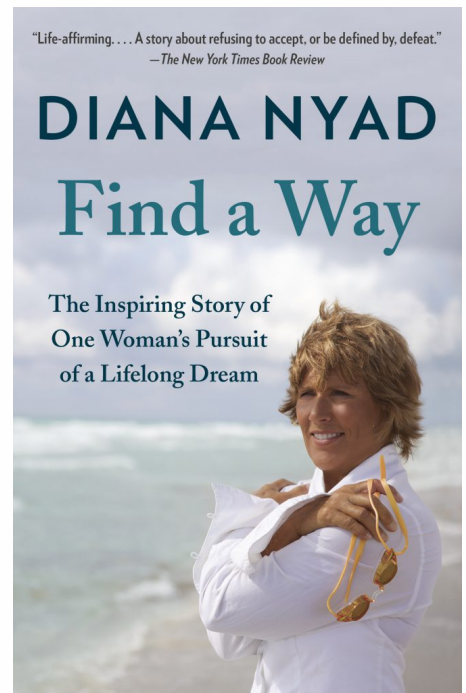
LeBron beautifully articulated his admiration for the “losers”, the San Antonio Spurs, by commenting how much respect we garner for 2nd place when that team or individual fights and scraps and leaves NOTHING on that floor, yet comes up short of the win.

When LeBron and Dwade and the victors embraced Tim Duncan and Tony Parker of the Spurs, they lingered, whispering in each others' ears, both sides sweaty and exhausted. We obviously witness in those tender moments two people who know better than anyone on the planet the superhuman effort they, both sides, just expended. The **WILL TO WIN** was equal on both sides.

When tennis players play an epic, five-set, five-hour match, to the point of wobbly legs and bleary eyes and they come to the net to shake hands, we the public respond to the mutual respect, the hard-fought spirit of both players. Who won, who was 2nd, is really a moot point.



So I was mentioned, along with Phil Mickelson, who just lost the U.S. Open for a sixth time but did so by playing his typical “no fears” brand of guts-out golf, in the Wash Post article. I was lauded as somebody who puts every ounce of hope and body and discipline and courage into every swim I do. I'll take that compliment....because those of us who give our all are brothers and sisters of passion and commitment, win or lose.



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Thanks to LeBron James for his thoughtful point of view. I don't know about you, but

I've turned a wide corner from disliking this guy who left his home-town Cavaliers

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immature disregard to now seeing a guy who is an ardent student of his game

and a ceaselessly supportive teammate. It's not his outrageous physicality that makes me his fan. It's his gut-wrenching effort....win or lose.

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Onward!

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