

# Nets' Thomas fined 40K for anti-gay slur

By ANDREW CRANE

Nets guard Cam Thomas apologized after using an anti-gay phrase in his postgame interview Thursday night.

In a live interview on TNT following the Nets' 116-105 win over the Bulls, Thomas was asked about a comment by recently acquired teammate Spencer Dinwiddie in his introductory press conference. Dinwiddie said he and Dorian Finney-Smith "might not be the best trade package, but we're the best-looking. And the Nets need some help in that department."

"I seen it, but I was like, 'He just talking,'" Thomas told TNT's Jared Greenberg, with Dinwiddie, who returned

to Brooklyn as part of the Kyrie Irving trade, at his side. "We already had good-looking dudes, no homo."

Before transitioning into the next question, Greenberg replied with, "All right, I'm sure the league office will enjoy that one."

The league office did not, fining Thomas \$40,000, after he apologized on Friday morning.

"I want to apologize for the insensitive word I used in the postgame interview," Thomas wrote on Twitter.

"I was excited about the win and was being playful. I definitely didn't intend to offend anyone, but realize that I probably did. My apologies again. Much love."

Thomas has become a budding star for the Nets across the last seven days, stringing together three consecutive games with 40-plus points. It marked the first time a Nets player had ever accomplished that feat, while the 21-year-old guard also became the youngest player in NBA history to surpass that 40-point threshold in three straight games.

But in the win Thursday, his shots didn't fall at the same clip. Thomas didn't

score in the first half, though he still finished with 20 points on 3-for-16 shooting — with 13 of those points coming via free throws. Thomas also dished out four assists and grabbed a season-high six rebounds.

The Nets will rely on Thomas, who has averaged 10.6 points per game this season, to help plug the role vacated by Irving and Kevin Durant, who were traded to the Mavericks and Suns, respectively, at the NBA trade deadline.



**CAM THOMAS**  
Made remark in his postgame interview.

# Tiger to play Genesis Invitational next week

By JEREMY LAYTON

Tiger Woods is back.

The 15-time major champion made a surprise announcement Friday that he will be returning to PGA Tour action next week at the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club.

"I'm ready to play an ACTUAL PGA Tour event next week," Woods tweeted Friday afternoon, tagging the Genesis tournament, which he runs and which benefits his foundation.

That will mark Woods' first appearance at a PGA Tour event since the 2022 British Open at St. Andrews in Scotland, at which he missed the

cut after finishing the first two rounds at 9-over. He was scheduled to compete in the Hero World Challenge this past December, which his foundation also hosts, but had to pull out because of lingering plantar fasciitis.

Apparently, that has cleared up, and the golf legend is ready to play once again.

Woods has not completed a round in a non-major on the PGA Tour since the Zozo Championship in October 2020. That means he will have gone 850 days between tournaments on the PGA Tour when he gets to Riviera Country Club outside Los Angeles next week. Since suffering se-

vere injuries to his leg and ankle in a 2021 car crash, Woods has competed sparingly and has said he will play a limited schedule.

Last year, Woods played in just three tournaments, finishing 47th at the Masters and withdrawing from the PGA Championship at Southern Hills in Tulsa, Okla., following the third round.

Where Woods will play beyond the Genesis remains unknown. With the Masters just under two months away, it's possible he could tee it up at the Players Championship a month from now, which would give him three weeks off before he heads to Augusta National.

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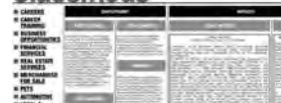
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