

Postgame Notes & Quotes

ATLANTA DREAM 76, CHICAGO SKY 68

Phillips Arena, Atlanta, GA

July 16, 2011

SKY NOTES

- The Sky fell to 7-8 on the season.
- Chicago recorded 23 turnovers, which the Dream converted into 28 points.
- The Sky shot 35.7% from the field, while giving up 50% shooting to the Dream.
- Chicago was able to stay in the game shooting 7-15 from three (46.7%) and 11-13 from the line (84.6%).
- Sylvia Fowles finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds and Michelle Snow added 11 points and 12 rebounds.
- Fowles 8 blocked shots set a new Sky record for a game. Her 6 blocks in the first half set a Sky record for a half.
- Epiphanny Prince tied her career high with 5 steals.
- Off the bench, Erin Thorn set a new career high in assists with 9.
- Tamera Young had her second start of the year.

DREAM NOTES

- The Dream snapped a two-game losing streak, moving to 4-9 on the season.
- The Dream shot a season-high 50% from the field (32-64) and scored 28 points off of 23 Sky turnovers.
- The Dream jumped out to an early lead and led 20-11 after the first quarter.
- Angel McCoughtry finished with a game-high 24 points. She has scored 15+ in four straight games.
- In her second start of the season, Armintie Price tied finished with a double-double. She tied her season-high with 13 points and recorded a career-high 10 assists. She also added six rebounds. This is her third straight game in double figures scoring.
- Erika de Souza (12 points) and Lindsey Harding (14 points) also finished in double figures.
- Sancho Lyttle missed her third straight game due to a back injury.
- Coco Miller did not play due to a sprained right ankle. She is listed as day to day.

Postgame Quotes

DREAM COACH MARYNELL MEADORS

On tonight's performance

"That was our best outing of the year. We shot the ball well, 50%. We had a valuable contribution from a lot of people tonight since we were down to nine players. And even the players that were not able to play provided us great support. It was a great team win. We outscored them 42-22 in the paint, and that was huge."

On Angel McCoughtry's performance

"She has realized how she has been playing earlier in the season. That started when she hurt her knee. We have been going at such a rapid pace that she hasn't been able to catch-up. She is focusing on what we have to do, since we have our back to the wall. We have been trying to get her to play like she did tonight. She was in total control, which was very good to see."

On Armintie Price

"I think she helped win the game. She was so terrific with her performance tonight. The great thing about Armintie is that she is not only a professional player, but also a coach. And when you have someone that caliber with that mentality on the floor that helps the others. I thought she did a great job of keeping the team organized even though she wasn't the point guard. Her communication on the court is really big for us as a team."

On offensive execution

We felt that if we didn't have a fast break off our defense we would set up our offenses. And we ran our offenses and kept up with the pace of the game. That was a huge difference. We have had opportunities to do this before, but this is the first time we have actually put in into action on the floor. We were more disciplined in the game in what we had to do to beat them.

On Lindsey Harding's play

"Lindsey is a great defensive player, and she quick. And you combine those two things and she is going against a rookie, she knows the rope better. Nothing against Vandersloot, she is a really great point guard, and she will continue to be one of the best point guards in the league. But the pressure bothered her. We did this to her the first time we played and beat Chicago here at home. But then when we were in Chicago we didn't defend her that well, so she scored a bunch of points."

DREAM GUARD ARMINTIE PRICE

"In the fourth quarter we were trying to get the final punch. So we just tried to keep each other together because we know we have been kind of rocky in the final minutes of the game. We tried really hard to use our possessions wisely."

On game plan

"We knew we had to keep Sylvia out of the paint, and hold her down. Erika and Courtney did a great job of doing that."

On balanced effort

"I think we really stayed together. When we made runs we didn't get too high or too low. So we kept our composure. We put ourselves in a good position to win the game."

On 28 points off Chicago's turnovers

"That was a big emphasis for us. The coaches were telling us we need to score more off our defense and that means getting into the passing lanes and get rebounds and steals.

DREAM FORWARD ANGEL MCCOUGHTRY

On importance of win

"We needed this. We have got to keep our confidence up and continue to play hard. If we keep the confidence, I know we can continue to do this. From this point we just need to work on our chemistry and play together. I think that was the key tonight. We played together so this helped get the win. The fans were great tonight. They really were our sixth man and pushed us."

On balanced effort

"I think everyone stepped up. We had many double-doubles tonight. I am so proud of everyone. We have been working really hard. We just need to build from here."

On Lisa Leslie attending the game at her request

"She was our good luck charm. I was so happy she came. She really helped us tonight. Just seeing her brought something out of us."

CHICAGO SKY HEAD COACH POKEY CHATMAN

On tonight's performance

"I give credit to Atlanta. They did a good job and took advantage of some things. We spotted them 15 and were fortunate enough to have a tied game at halftime. But when it came down to it, they were tougher, they were stronger. They're always going to be faster, but there are ways we can combat that. But I feel like we did not. They had 42 points in the paint and that wasn't just from post players, it was penetration and stepping up the lane, stuff like that. You don't give yourself a chance when you allow a team to do that, especially combined with 21 turnovers.

On gaining momentum after slow start

"At timeouts you just remind them what you're not doing and what you're playing for, in a very direct way. Shake the slow start off and get back to the basics of playing basketball: high/low, pick and rolls, some flairs and just settle in and play basketball. And I think we did a decent job of doing that but when it got down to it, we go up by 7 in the second half, and just let it evaporate. You can't play a 40 minute game for 30 minutes against anybody in this league."

On Atlanta's field goal percentage (50%)

"Lay-ups were the key. They made lay-ups a variety of ways tonight. And their prime players stepped up and hit shots. Erika hit a couple on the base line. I think when you have those easy shots you get confidence and momentum. She was just catching and shooting. I think their prime time players stepped up for prime time."

SKY CENTER SYLVIA FOWLES

On team's performance

"We got off to a slow start, and then we got it back to where we wanted it. But when the 4th quarter came we didn't do anything that was planned, we didn't do any of the things that got us back in during the 2nd and 3rd quarter. We lacked focus, lacked concentration, and gave up our

opportunities. We weren't getting back in transition. We know Atlanta is a transition team and they run on offense and have high pass action. They were doing and utilizing all the things we weren't doing."

On moving forward to the next game

"We just have to keep pressing forward. We have to look at some of the things that we didn't get done tonight. It's not about going out there and doing it as much as it's about getting locked in and being prepared to contribute."

SKY FORWARD MICHELLE SNOW

On team's performance

"We had a slow start with a bunch of turnovers. We know with a team like Atlanta, that if you turn the ball over they're going to punish you & make you pay for it. We have to play for 40 minutes, we have to take advantage of whatever they give us. We didn't take advantage tonight and it cost us another game."

On Atlanta's transition play

"They're a running team, they're going to attack the basket on every play. Every team knows that and understands that. You must come ready to run and stop them, rebound, and punish them on the other end. You cannot turn the ball over."

On areas of improvement

"Turnovers. Turnovers were big for us. We're leading the league in turnovers and those are points you end up missing. If you look at the end of the game, those possessions could've been used to score 150% of the time. And with those additional points, it could've been a different game."