

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Chicago Sky 80, Washington Mystics 67
Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL
August 26, 2011

NOTES

- The Sky rose to 13-15 on the season. The Mystics fell to 5-22.
- The Sky victory gave Chicago a season sweep over Washington 4-0.
- Erin Thorn started her first game as a member of the Sky and first since 9/2/08.
- Epiphanny Prince led the Sky with 18 points coming off the bench for the first time this season.
- Sylvia Fowles was limited to five minutes in the first half but still finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds, her league-leading 19th double-double.
- Shay Murphy did not play due to a sprained left wrist.
- The Sky outshot the Mystics 48.3% to 33.8%.
- The Sky shot 61.5% from three points range, a season high.
- The Sky led in points in the paint 34 to 24.
- Cathrine Kraayeveld was 3-3 from the three-point line, making multiple baskets from beyond the arc for the fourth straight game.
- Crystal Langhorne led the Mystics with 19 points and 9 rebounds.
- DeMya Walker tallied six assists off the bench, a season high.
- It was the seventh straight loss for the Mystics.

Postgame Quotes

Chicago Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

(Opening statement)

"I'll start with several things. Not always pretty. The positive things: we're plus 40 points in transition, and we always talk to players about that's a nice tempo for us because it means we're defending, it means we're rebounding and getting people involved and when we can do that Sylvia on the bench playing 10 minutes in the first half, having people step up, you know. A few people are a little wounded, not feeling well physically but to step up was really important. Especially the way Washington has been playing as of late, and where we've been."

(On Canty)

"Dominique is feeling good. People forgot about the surgery but it's always the next day for her: how she's feeling. More importantly she's played well and she's attacking. And when you give yourself a chance, and you attack, that's Dominique's personality. It really helps with the games we have coming up. But it also alleviates some of the pressure off of Sloat, Piph and Erin when they can share the basketball or the responsibilities because we're not going to have both of them up there at the same time, you know, running one and two. I think Dominique, Erin did a nice job when Piph and Sloat came in the tempo stayed at a nice pace."

(On defensive schemes)

"The scheme is the easiest thing to come up with; the hard part is to carry it out. And that's the hard part is it's their responsibility. You know, we're not an elementary team we're a professional team, do your job and play like you want some post season play. That's not an "x", that's not an "o", it's heart."

(On her decision to bring Piph and Sloat off the bench tonight)

"It's several things. I thought, conservatively, Dominique's playing well, I thought Erin's done some good things. I think the opponent plays into it. I think it alleviates some pressure with Sloat or with Piph. I think their intentions are good, but they were just struggling a little bit so it's a chance for them to exhale and come in there."

(On coming off the bench motivating Piph)

"You could say that. I think it gave her a chance to relax and see the game then go out there and do things. And it could have been, you know, she's a competitive player. It wasn't a tactic, to shake it up, you know. It was something that needed to happen to help everybody."

(On Sylvia's foul trouble)

"We were behind seven or eight at one point but I think we ended up minus one. So that's difficult to do when Sylvia's averaging double digits. The thing for me with Sylvia sitting down and in being able to build a lead with different combinations of people it's huge for Sylvia, it's huge for those players and it was needed for our team."

Sky Guard Epiphanny Prince

(On coming off the bench)

"I am always ready. I need to stay prepared when my number is called and I always want to try and stay focused."

(On the importance of winning the game)

“It was really important because everything counts for us. We’re still trying to make the playoffs so we need to do well every game.”

(On what was the most important thing in the Sky getting the victory)

“The defensive end for sure. Washington is better than what their record shows. They can steal a win at anytime and they’re really talented on the offensive end.”

Sky Forward Cathrine Kraayeveld

(On shooting the ball well from behind the arc)

“It felt very good. I want to play and take what I get. I’m not going to force anything. I’m always going to be ready to shoot when I’m open. I just want to be solid.”

(On the team’s bench and how everyone stepped up)

“It’s been huge all around. We have a really deep team where anyone can just come off the bench and contribute. We use our strengths well so we count on everyone to play well and not skip a beat. It’s definitely one of our strengths.”

(On helping out the offense with Sylvia getting in early foul trouble)

“When she got in foul trouble, all of us did a really good job sharing the ball. Syl kept fighting though and she had a strong second half but all of us kept fighting with her.”

Sky Center Sylvia Fowles

(On the play of her teammates once she got into foul trouble)

“They did a really great job. It started from the beginning to the bench to the end of the bench. It’s a nice win. They carried me tonight and I appreciate it because sometimes you need that extra energy. They set the tone early.”

(On the matchup against Crystal Langhorne and how she played her defensively)

“Pretty much you just have to read her. She got off to a really good start against me when we played them last time but today my focal point was to come in here and key in on things I didn’t do well against her defensively from before.”

(On consistency and how important it’s going to be in making a run at a playoff spot)

“It’s going to be very important. We just need to lock down and be focused. When we focus we play good as a team and everybody does their part so if we can do that the next couple of games I think we’ll be alright.”

Washington Mystics Head Coach, Trudi Lacey

(On the Game)

“We tied the score in the fourth and then they went on a 7-0 run. A little bit too much Sylvia Fowles down the stretch, but it really started off with that first quarter. We got off to a really poor start, they scored 27 points in the first quarter. Then we spent the rest of the night trying to fight our way back into the game.”

(On Sylvia Fowles)

"It stems back from our last game, we did a good job on crowding her and not giving her a lot of space, taking away the easy shots, really pushing her away from the basket and really trying to make her work for her points tonight."

(On Prince)

"She got a lot of points coming off the pick and roll getting into the paint. We really did not do a good job getting over to screens and keeping her out of the paint."

(On her Tech-Fouls)

"I felt like we were getting blocked and hit and were not getting calls, it's frustrating. When they are getting called one way and called differently on the other end."

Washington Guard, Kelly Miller

(On the game)

"They went on a run and we did not get to many stops. They hurt us outside in the first half and outside the second half and our defense did not do what we should have done, so that hurt us."

(Match up with Thorn and Sloat)

"They are both really good and talented players and both very good shooters. I was trying to limit their open looks, so that was my goal and trying to pressure them as much as I could the whole game"

Washington Forward-Center, Crystal Langhorne

(Sky pulling away in the fourth)

"I think that they started to go into Syl and she made some big baskets. We just weren't scoring and missing a lot of shots. Credit goes to their defense, they played us really well and they took the game."

(Matching up with Syl)

"She was out with foul trouble in the first half, so she wasn't really playing. I was just trying to crowd her. You can't play her one-on-one you have to double her a lot."

(On losing 6 straight to Chicago)

"Chicago is really big and they get stops. We need to guard Sylvia better. She is the center of their team and we need to find a way to better guard her and their shooters."