



**Washington Mystics (2-0) vs. Chicago Sky (1-1)
Preseason Game #2
May 26, 2011 11:30 a.m.**

NOTEWORTHY:

- Mystics forward Crystal Langhorne led all scorers with 15 points, nine rebounds and three steals in their win over the Chicago Sky. Langhorne shot 5-for-8 from the field and 5-for-8 from the free throw line
- The Mystics led by as much as 14 points in the game which featured five lead changes and four ties
- The Mystics rookie duo from Duke University (Jasmine Thomas and Karima Christmas) scored five points apiece off the bench and played a combined 37 minutes total
- The Mystics bench outscored the Sky bench 30-20
- The Sky were led by guard Epiphanny Prince who scored 12 points and dished out four assists and collected five steals in 30 minutes of play. Center Sylvia Fowles added 10 points along with six rebounds in their loss to the Mystics

WASHINGTON MYSTICS HEAD COACH TRUDI LACEY:

Overall thoughts on the game:

“Overall I thought there were areas that we showed improvement. I was disappointed in our defensive effort in the first half but then we came out and everybody made a contribution defensively the second half. I’d like to see us push the ball a little more and run better. It’s a work in progress. We are still learning each other and learning the timing offensively, but overall I thought it was a great team effort.”

What do you plan to work on now and until the regular season starts?

“Always our defense, we will run several defensive schemes and change up defensive schemes during the game, so the players have to know those schemes. We can’t have mental breakdowns in terms of what we are doing defensively and obviously our offense, timing, screening, ball movement, improving our ability to get open shots and offensive rebounding. Again, we still have a long way to go. Training camp is a process; you learn a lot and give a lot of feedback. These two games will give our staff a lot of information about our team and we’ll figure out ways to get better.”

What kind of impact do you think Nikki's presence had today?

“She’s my rock star of the day simply because she shows no fear and that is the type of tenacity and confidence I want in our players. She did the same thing in New York. She really has a great presence about her and loves to play defense. So of course I love that and she’s just a worker, so I think her and [Crystal] Langhorne complement each other very well. Langhorne is another player that is so consistent. You can see her looking on the outside shooting, developing different aspects of her game so I think they are going to play really well together.”

WASHINGTON MYSTICS FORWARD CRYSTAL LANGHORNE

How Nicky Anosike complements your game.

“Nicky is a great post player to have. She can pass. She can score. She can defend. When you have a post player like that with such a high intensity mix, you want to play with a high intensity mix. She is only going to help me become a better player.”

The overall development and improvement of Langhorne's game:

“I really worked on my game with my ball hand and right hand. I continue to work on my shooting. With my footing I did a lot work. I worked on my running form and just getting better defensively.”

WASHINGTON MYSTICS FORWARD MARISSA COLEMAN

Defense during the first half vs. the second half of the game:

“I think everybody just buckled down on their assignments and just did what they had to do; knowing we needed defense to spark our offenses.”

Mystics at a glance:

Points: Crystal Langhorne -15

Rebounds: Crystal Langhorne -9

Assists: Jasmine Thomas - 3

Steals: Langhorne, Karima Christmas - 3

CHICAGO SKY HEAD COACH POKEY CHATMAN

On how she felt the Mystics played:

“They shot 27 free throws. I credit them for being attack mode and we need to do a better job.”

On how she felt the Mystics defense played:

“You look at the fact that we were in the fifties. You give that to the entire team; the coaching staff in terms of their defensive pressure. But you have to be able to defend that way without fouling. Part of it was us not being aggressive but part of it was that they were in pretty good positions. I don’t know if they chart deflections but I’m sure they were probably up around forty deflections. And we try to get around thirty-five to forty a game. So I just think the overall mentality of aggressive was really good on their part.”

CHICAGO SKY GUARD COURTNEY VANDERSLOOT

Thoughts on the game and coming in to the season as a rookie point guard:

“It’s a tough game to start like this. Nobody likes to start like this. We’re going to learn from it. Obviously I have a lot to learn and I have some players who can really help. I have a long way

to go. I was kind of thrown into the mix and I think that's the only way to learn and it's going to make you learn fast, especially playing games like that."

On the matchup with Kelly Miller:

"That's what it's like in the league. It's going to be aggressive, especially since I'm a [smaller] guard. So I'm going to get used to that quick. It was a good matchup though, I enjoyed playing against her and she made me look like a rookie."

On caused turnovers during the second half that still didn't get an offense going:

"That's what we want to focus on, is getting deflections and getting stops. But we couldn't make plays down the stretch and they did and that kind of hurt us."

CHICAGO SKY CENTER SYLVIA FOWLES

On the team dynamic from training camp into the preseason:

"Preseason has been going well for the most part. We got a loss today but I think it's a good loss because we can definitely point out things that we need to work on. But overall I'm happy with the team and how they went out there and performed. I think they played hard and they showed a lot of character because they just didn't give up."

On the rookies:

"Vandersloot has been doing a good job, just trying to take on her role and by getting the team involved and doing what she have to do to be that role leader of the team because it starts with the guard. She still has a lot to learn and that's going to come with getting experience. Angie's got a lot to learn as well but at the same time she's a hustler. She's going to go out there and do the dirty work. Swords is big in the post. She's hungry and I like the way she goes out there and she wants it."

On playing with Michelle Snow:

"Working with Snow makes my job a tad bit easier. And I love the combination we have out there. We're still not clicking just yet. We still have a lot to work on, where I want the ball and where she wants the ball. Once we get that down pat things will be a lot smoother for us."

Sky at a glance:

Points: Epiphanny Prince - 12

Rebounds: Sylvia Fowles - 6

Assists: Epiphanny Prince - 4

Steals: Epiphanny Prince - 5

Scott Hall
Sr. Director of Communications
202-292-1936
shall@monumentalsoorts.com

Brian Sereno
Director of Basketball Communications
202-292-1949
bsereno@monumentalsoorts.com

Ketsia Colimon
Director of Corporate Communications
202-527-7535
kcolimon@monumentalsoorts.com