

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Chicago Sky 78, Seattle Storm 69
Allstate Arena, Chicago, IL
July 19, 2011

NOTES

- The Sky won its fourth straight game at Allstate Arena and is now 7-2 at home, 8-8 overall.
- The Sky is now 4-7 vs. the Storm, but have won 2 of the last 3.
- Sylvia Fowles led the Sky with 24 points, including 18 in the second half, and grabbed a team-high 9 rebounds.
- Fowles' second block was the 200th of her career.
- The Sky outscored the Storm in the paint 42 to 24.
- Epiphanny Prince scored 23 points on 9-15 shooting. She also had 5 assists.
- Prince, who leads the league in steals, swiped 3 more on the night including a key steal with 45 seconds remaining that led to a Fowles layup, free throw and a 7 point lead.
- The Sky scored the last 7 points of the game.
- The 9 point margin of victory was the largest lead by either team all game and there were 12 lead changes.
- Dominique Canty did not dress, missing her 10th straight game.
- The Storm fell to 7-7, 2-6 on the road.
- Sue Bird led the Storm with 26 points on 10-23 shooting.
- Ashley Robinson added 14 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 3:03 remaining in the fourth quarter.
- Swin Cash (ten points and 4 rebounds) also fouled out with 16 seconds left in the game.
- The Sky outshot the Storm 47.6% to 41.3%.
- Lauren Jackson did not travel with the Storm.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Chicago Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

(Opening Statement)

"We did a better job with taking care of the ball in the second half-- we did a better job at going plus on the boards. I thought when we stole a few possessions with our zone it really gave us some momentum. And then when it boils down to it they had a couple of runs but we answered. That's a step in the right direction against a veteran team that really makes you think and scrap and change your scheme. I think from that standpoint that it's a valid win for us."

(On the team playing consistently)

"I think certain individuals are improving in areas that we are asking them to improve. Courtney had 7 (assists) and 2 (turnovers) in 28 minutes and that's what we need. We had 37 post touches. To make the ball go into the post 37 times is deliberate but that's Sylvia and Michelle working also. Those are the things that we've talked about over and over that we are trying to do a better job on."

(On Courtney's decisions in the 4th quarter)

"The big thing is that we kept the ball in her hands a lot. I told her in transition to not give it up and that we need the ball in her hands. I tell her that we trust her-- we believe in her. "

(On Epiphanny having a good night all-round and being efficient offensively)

"It makes it extremely pleasant for us. We screened for Piph and got them switching. It happened once and she scored--twice she scored-- and she looked at me and I said do it again."

Chicago Sky guard Epiphanny Prince

(On her performance against Seattle)

"I never stopped being aggressive. I was definitely looking for my shot and I saw what their defense gave me and took advantage of the mismatches."

(On taking over in the second and fourth quarter)

"Whenever my number is called I will always want to attack the rim. I feel like Sloat found me for some key jumpers and layups and it helped get me going. It made me feel comfortable."

(On other players stepping up when Sylvia is double-teamed)

"It was really important for us to help her. If the guards can hit outside shots, than Syl can play one on one down there so we always need to contribute when we can."

Chicago Sky guard Courtney Vandersloot

(On Going head to head with Sue Bird)

“She’s a great player and you can tell. She is what makes that team go and regardless of the score she had a good game. There were parts of the game where she really exposed us but luckily we buckled down and got stops.”

(On taking control of the game against Seattle’s defense)

“It’s about keeping the ball in my hands and keeping your poise. I really wanted to take care of the ball and I didn’t want to let my teammates down. I needed to play with confidence and attack just enough so I had a presence on the court.”

(On the play of Epiphanny Prince)

“She impresses me every night. Some of the shot she makes you can tell it isn’t luck. She does it every game and it’s fun to watch.”

Chicago Sky center Sylvia Fowles

(On the team’s first game against Seattle this season)

“We did pretty good. They are a veteran team and know how to play together. They made some switch-ups on the floor but we stayed to our game and did what we needed to do defensively to win.”

(On playing well despite the defense pressure put on her by Seattle)

“I guess there’s some luck involved but I always stay positive. My teammates also help me a lot and once everyone started getting involved it made it easier for me to get my points.”

(On the play of Epiphanny Prince)

“I think she got her mojo back. That’s what we need from her every night and I’m glad she helped us get this win.”

Seattle Storm Head Coach Brian Agler

(On the game)

“I just don’t think that we came out strong in the second half. At 1:20 we were down by six points, and they scored quite a few points off of our turnovers. It’s not just one major thing. We turned it over in critical times, we missed some free throws, defensive breakdowns, it is a combination of multiple things. But we are not sitting here feeling sorry for ourselves. We have a lot of the season to be played, and hey we are going to keep working on it and get ready for the next one.”

(On matching up and guarding Fowles)

“I think she played with a lot more authority in the second half, and I don’t think we came out really focused to do a good job on her in the second half.”

(On the Sky’s strengths)

“I think they have a strong inside presence with Sylvia and Michelle Snow does a good job as well. They have a couple good young guards, Courtney and Epiphanny both can really penetrate and both can really pass the basketball.”

Seattle Storm center Ashley Robinson

(On tonight’s matchup)

“They are good, they have big posts. Sylvia is really good, and Prince is a good guard, but we have good post players and good guards too. So I think we were matched up pretty evenly.”

(On guarding Sylvia Fowles)

“They got her the ball every single time in the second half, and I mean she is a great player and probably one of the best post players in the world so she is going to get her points. We tried to limit her as much as possible, but they got her the ball and were smart.

Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird

(On Courtney Vandersloot)

“She definitely has a calm demeanor about her and doesn’t really get rattled, she just kind of plays her game. That is good enough for a point guard and a young player. And you can see it, she has a role out there and she is going to play to the best of her ability. “

(On getting open looks)

“I am like the quarterback of a football team, and you have to give a lot of credit to your offensive line, right? What the girls do screening wise, we run a ton of pick and rolls and there is no way that I would get a glimpse if it wasn’t for my teammates.”

(On playing against the Sky)

“Offensively they have a lot of threats with Sylvia and Piph, and I think they then have the point guard that then gets those starts where they need to be. So offensively they are very tough. Height for us when you look at our roster, we have two players over 6’1” and there front line is huge which is obviously tough. And I think on the boards you saw it late when they were jumping right over us, sometimes it is hard to guard that.”