

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Minnesota Lynx 78, Chicago Sky 69
Target Center, Minneapolis, MN
September 8, 2011

Notes

- The Sky fell to 14-18 on the season. The Lynx rose to 26-7.
- The Lynx swept the season series 2-0.
- Sylvia Fowles and Erin Thorn led the Sky with 17 points each.
- Carolyn Swords in her second career start led the Sky with 8 rebounds.
- Seimone Augustus had a game high 22 points.
- The Lynx outscored the Sky in fast break points 17-2.

Postgame Quotes

Lynx Coach Cheryl Reeve

"I guess for starters, I'm just really happy with the way we've approached our home games this season. Finishing the regular season home schedule with a win over Chicago -- who plays awfully hard and obviously has a couple of good players -- to kind of exclamation-point the regular season with a win was fun for us. It was a goal of ours, to win our last home game on Fan Appreciation Night. We went out and got the W."

On Lindsay Whalen:

"MVP. It's just one of those things that if you don't watch us, maybe I understand that if you're only looking at statistics, maybe it's not so impressive to an average person that doesn't watch our team. If you watch our team, I say this, too -- Seimone is right there as well. I thought Whay kind of solidified herself tonight with an exclamation point. Don't think that Chicago wasn't scheming for Whay, trying to stop her. It was very clear that they were trying to do some things, and Lindsay was just awfully good. As I told her -- well, two things -- I said, one: you had your swag on. Hornbuckle taught me this phrase, 'That's how you feel, Whay? That's how you feel?' So that's what we said to Whay, and she said, 'Yep, Coach, that's how I feel,' and went out there and nearly had a triple-double."

On fine-tuning the post play:

"I don't know that we'd do anything to fine tune. This next game is kind of interesting. I think getting minutes and resting starters will be a goal in this game. I don't know that I'd do anything to fine tune our post play. This was a hard game for our bigs. They (Chicago) are trees in there, 6'5" or 6'6". We knew it'd be difficult to get any clean looks on the inside. Sunday's game is one of those that we'll go play it, play our reserves and hope they get better. Use that time to instruct and coach them and then it's really all about next week in our preparation. We will have really solid post play throughout the playoffs."

Lynx Guard Seimone Augustus

On Whalen's game:

"Twenty points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and no turnovers. That's an MVP candidate right there. That's the leader of our team. That's why we have the record that we have. That's why we're so successful this year, because of the way she's playing."

On whether Whalen is the team MVP:

"Yeah, of course. I'll give it to her. That's Whalen. She's the floor general. She gives me the ball where I need it. She gets everybody in places where they're comfortable. You have to give her that nod."

On the fans:

"They were awesome. The fans are always awesome. They were into the game, they were ready for this, fan appreciation and ready for our autographs. We appreciate that they come out and show us love every night."

Lynx Guard Lindsay Whalen

On the fourth quarter:

"We knew we needed to execute down the stretch. That was what we needed to do. We needed to just come out and find out who the better team was in that last five minutes. It was pretty even and we got the win."

On preferring 20 points or 10 assists:

"Definitely the assists. Always looking to penetrate and get people good shots."

On the MVP race:

"We're not even worried about that at this point."

Sky Coach Pokey Chatman

"(You can play for) an opportunity to win more games than have ever been won in franchise history, or you can play for a paycheck. Pick one. There's a lot of things. I don't like to play for pride. I think whenever you suit up to play a game that you love, and you're getting paid to do it -- my gosh, people would kill for that. The whole 'Coach, play for pride' -- that's nice and all, but I think play to make some progress, make a point and try to get better."

On who she'd vote for MVP, other than Fowles:

"Seimone. It's not because I coached her, I just think -- without being too technical with coach talk -- she's a difficult person to defend because she played motion offense for four years in college, so if you lock and trail, she curls. If you try to take away the pass, she back cuts and knows when to flare. On top of that, she keeps herself on the floor because she's svelte now, a good defender. She's a rebounding guard. I think she's always someone you can go to when a team is struggling. When you have a player that you can run a play and it breaks down, 'Come here, 'Mone.' That's pretty encouraging. I say that, but to compliment that, I think Lindsay Whalen is having a tremendous year. I say that because I'm a point guard and I watch that spot a little bit."

But I think 'Mone has had a meteoric rise after the knee and then stomach issues, in that regard, so we'll see."

On seeing Fowles and Augustus on the same court just like college:

"I've known them for so long, Seimone since she was in middle school. It's just nice to see them grow as individual players, but also on the various teams they've played on and overcoming some injuries and change.

All the non-basketball stuff that you guys don't see, but to see them handle that, then come into the situation and still kind of spread their wings, makes myself sound old but it kind of makes you proud. I didn't want to be too proud when she's nailing us for 22, but I'm proud of them both."

Sky Center Carolyn Swords

"Minnesota's a very talented team. I think we just need to stick to what we know and try to finish out those tough possessions, but they played a very great game defensively and we came up a little short."

On the next two games:

"We're just trying to play a solid 40 minutes of basketball as a team together, playing like we can and getting better for next year."

On her game:

"I was really just trying to do what I can to help. It really helps having a dominant player like Syl in there to play off of. She makes it easy to pass into her and I get open because she draws attention. It's really in the system and with my teammates who are really helping me out."

Sky Center Sylvia Fowles

On playing Minnesota:

"I feel like we've played good against them, but we just have those moments where we lose our concentration and they utilize our turnovers and stuff like that."

On her success:

"I think it's mostly my guards getting me good looks. They're crowding them on the wings, so the middle will always open up for me early. Throughout the game, they always crowd me, so they get good looks outside."

On the next two games:

"Just getting better as a team. Focusing on the things that we need to do to get better."