

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Los Angeles Sparks 88, Chicago Sky 84
Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL
July 30, 2011

NOTES

- The Sky fell to 9-11 on the season. The Sparks moved to 7-10.
- The Sky are now 0-1 vs. the Sparks this season (3-8 overall) with one game remaining (9/10/11) in Los Angeles.
- Epiphanny Prince, who leads the league in steals added 5 more to her total while scoring 16 points.
- Erin Thorn led the Sky in scoring with a season-high 17 points, including 14 in the second half.
- Thorn also had a season high 5 three pointers.
- The Sky as a team shot a season high 10 three pointers.
- The Sparks built up a 20 point lead with 7:43 remaining in the third quarter. The Sky closed the gap to 2 points on a Thorn jumper with 20.2 seconds remaining in the game.
- The Sky led in points in the paint 34 to 30.
- The Sky had only 12 turnovers equaling the 2011 team low.
- The Sky led in fast break points 15-6.
- Los Angeles had five players in double digit scoring, DeLisha Milton-Jones (19), Tina Thompson (14), Kristi Tolliver (12), Noelle Quinn (10) and Jantel Lavender (13).
- The Sparks shot 56.4%, the highest by any Sky opponent this season.
- The Sparks hit 8-18 three pointers including 4 by Tina Thompson.
- The Sparks committed 16 turnovers which led to 24 Sky points.
- Sparks center Candace Parker did not travel with the team.

Postgame Quotes

Chicago Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

(General Statement)

"We are not good enough to play 20 minute games. We are not good enough to have large lead and comebacks. We don't have the depth, we don't have the experience, and we're not that team. We have to play hard early, make it ugly and lock in and read situation and if we don't we will come up short."

(On the Sparks shooting and defense)

"They're good shooters, but I'm a good shooter if I can catch it, set my feet, fix the ball, read it. They're good shooters when they're wide open."

(On the lessons to take after this game)

"That we're not good enough to exercise every phase of the game. We don't turn it over, we rebound, we get a steal, we don't get in bad foul trouble, but we're not good enough to be relaxed on defense ever in our basketball lifetime. That's not an insult it is just a fact."

(On winning the turnover battle but still coming up short)

"Truth be told 8 turnovers against a zone is like 16, but they play zone. It wasn't a physical switch it was mental switch. It is disheartening to lose regardless of whatever the stats say. But we took care of the ball against a big active zone that went 3-2 and did some things. We didn't defend in the first half and that was our downfall."

(Comment on the game you should have won on paper)

"I classify all games we should win because of where we are. We should of won because we have played well at home, we've done well against veteran teams that schemes a little differently, and because we need to win."

Sky Guard Shay Murphy

(Half Time Adjustment)

"You know we were really attentive in the zone and we weren't aggressive offensively and late on defense. They are a good team and big, we just needed to attack the zone. So we just wanted to make adjustments like that, we needed to get better looks and attack. We feel they got to the free throw line too much and our defense was not too good."

(Stopping the Three and go inside)

"They are great shooters and a veteran team, and they can spread the court and everyone can knock down the long shot. Tina Thompson and Ebony Hoffman they all can shoot the ball. It was unfortunate we needed to rotate a little bit quicker keep Ticha Penicheiro in front of us. She likes to penetrate and dish the ball out and we could not get out there and did not put together a full 40 minutes."

(On Erin)

“Erin is a great shooter and a veteran player knocking down big shots to bring us back. It was great and once we started to penetrate the zone we hit Erin in transition and found her a couple times. She brought us back it was just unfortunate it was too late.”

Sky Guard Erin Thorn

(Getting back in the game)

“We just slowed down offensively and took care of things defensively. They scored 51 points in the first half and we can’t let a team do that and think we are going to be successful. We can’t wait to the second half to play defense and slow down and beat the zone. We just need to play 40 minutes.”

(On Elisha Milton Jones)

“We played defense. We got tough and got in front of her, made her make some decisions instead of her getting easy looks and easy catches. We stopped fouling so much, but it just came down to heart and came down to wanting to play defense and we have to want to for 40 minutes.”

(On Murphy)

“She brings energy and she plays hard and that’s what we need. We need people to play hard and that what she does.”

LA Sparks Head Coach Joe Bryant

(On his game plan/strategy against Chicago tonight)

“I wanted us to have patience on offense and not turn the ball over. We did a good job of playing zone and mixing up and I think it confused them which obviously helped us a lot.”

(On showing resiliency against Chicago’s late surge in the second half)

“I told them it was important for us to execute our plays all the way through. Eventually the defense is going to make mistakes and that’s what happened a couple of times down the stretch.”

(On the importance of winning big games on the road at this point in the season)

“It’s very important for us. It’s always tough on the road especially when you have your best player (Candace Parker) injured. Our bench players need to perform well for us if we want win our upcoming road games.”

Sparks forward Tina Thompson

(On the importance of maintaining a lead and playing consistently through 4 quarters)

“Simply put, it’s very important especially against a team like Chicago since they are so young and athletic. We knew at some point they were going to make a run so we need to always continue to play the same way.”

(On having to defend Big Syl)

“We needed make her as uncomfortable as possible. She’s so strong and she’s a tough guard for anybody. We needed to keep her out of her sweet spots and make her work a little bit more than usual.”

(On what her expectations are for the rest of the season)

"I want us all to defend well. We have a talented team but defense has been our achilles heel. If we can maintain a good effort on that end than I think we'll be okay."

Sparks forward Delisha Milton-Jones

(On how she felt she did during the game)

"I was hitting shots and my teammates were putting me in good positions on the block. We were able to connect on a lot of situations and it turned out to be positive for me and the rest of the team."

(On making sure the team didn't have a meltdown similar to the Washington game earlier in the year)

"The game against Washington was a morale deflator for us. We came in here tonight in the same situation but we need how to respond to that situation and keep the momentum while making good plays."

(On Coach Bryant's job so far since taking over midway through the season)

"I think he's handled it well. Any coach that adopts a team during the season is difficult so I think he's doing a good job. He wants us to be free mentally with our play and he wants us to enjoy ourselves."

Sparks forward Jantel Lavender

(On her performance tonight coming off the bench)

"I want to do what the team needs me to do while being a factor in the game. Whatever it takes for us to win. I was fortunate enough to get in the lane and make some big shots."

(On the team's performance in the second half)

"It's one of those situations where you live and you learn. We already know what has happened to us in the past so it's all about being resilient."

(On Coach Bryant's game plan)

"He wanted us to play hard, play great defense and rebound the ball. Defense to me wins championships and we did that tonight and that's why we got the win."