

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Connecticut Sun 77, Chicago Sky 66
Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL
July 26, 2011

NOTES

- The Sky fell to 8-10 on the season. The Sun moved to 10-5.
- The Sky are now 2-2 vs. the Sun this season with one game remaining (8/9/11) in Connecticut
- The leading candidate for the WNBA's Most Improved Player award, Epiphanny Prince, led the Sky with 16 points.
- Sylvia Fowles added 14 points and 12 rebounds, her league leading 11th double-double on the season.
- The Sky had a 10 point lead with 6:48 left in the second quarter but the Sun went on a 19-7 run to take a 2 point lead at the half.
- Tamera Young has a season high 5 assists.
- In her first game with the Sky since 2010, the newly signed Shay Murphy played 19 minutes, scored 6 points and grabbed 5 rebounds.
- The Sky led in points in the paint 36 to 32.
- The Sky had 20 turnovers leading to 17 Sun points, while the Sun had only 11 turnovers leading to 8 Sky points.
- The Sky, first in shooting defense, limited the Sun to 40.3% shooting.
- The Sun also shot only 3-16 from three point range.
- Tina Charles (21 points, 15 rebounds) and Asjha Jones (22 points, 6 rebounds) both had huge nights for the Sun.
- The Sun had four players in double digit scoring as Renee Montgomery and Kara Lawson added 14 points apiece.
- The Sun led in fast break points 12 to 7.
- The Sun also led in offensive rebounds 9 to 4.

Postgame Quotes

Chicago Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

(Opening statement)

“We’re not good enough to not play harder earlier, smarter earlier, with a sense of urgency because you negate some of the good things you do. Here’s the deal, the next game is tremendously important. We need to work tonight to get ready for that game Thursday night (against Tulsa).”

(Preparing for next games)

“We’re not closing out games. I’m not sure Tulsa was convinced we beat them the last time they were here. I remember a quote ‘it’s not about what they did it’s about what we didn’t do.’ Whether you believe that or not, if that’s what you believe that’s motivation going in (to the game). Here at home, we haven’t had success on the road. So put that all in the room and we need to grow up and handle it.”

(On halftime adjustments)

“I don’t think they were getting lethargic, I thought we were doing a defensive scheme that we didn’t do in the first half and that caused them a little bit of problems. They were fresh coming out of the lockers and that was frustration. Now, if we do this early we’re not in this position. I think what we have to do is start the game well, that means post players touching the ball, rebounding the ball when you create opportunities and quick shots and long shots and take care of the basketball. We do enough good stuff in between in terms of touches. I’ll tell you one thing we need to do – we need to run the basketball.”

(On Tina Charles defense)

“I think Tina’s a tremendous player I think they’re a good defensive team so I have to give her credit for some of that. But also our inability to get the ball not just the guards but also the timing of Sylvia posting up and getting into position. You know what they’re doing, they’re picking up their pressure a little bit and if you’re taking 9-10 seconds to get it across half court then you’re rushed in your offensive set. So I think it was a little bit of our inability to get into some of the offensive sets that we had to get into.”

(On last week’s games vs. this week’s game)

“You know when you play a team four times, it’s a chess match. What they’re going to take away what they’re going to add and change. And I think they won the chess match in terms of how they chose to guard certain things, I thought for about 22 minutes we did a decent job with our defensive scheme. I think the point to that is we have to really be concerned with we’re playing and we’re not very good if we don’t get transition baskets and we’re not very good (when we have so many turnovers). And it’s a lot about when you don’t have defense.”

Chicago Sky Guard Epiphanny Prince

(On tonight’s game)

“They are a great team and they have a great coach. They were more aggressive than us. Coach said they shot the ball sixteen more times than us, and that gave them an advantage right there.”

(On eliminating turnovers)

“We need to read situations better and trust each other more.”

(On playing Connecticut for the fourth time this season)

“It makes it harder because we have played them so many times and they have scouted us and they know how to make adjustments to our plays. But, at the same we did the same thing to them.”

Chicago Sky Guard Shay Murphy

(On first game with the team)

“It’s unfortunate that we lost because we were close. Tonight’s loss came down to minor mistakes, turnovers, and being late to our rotations on defense. I see a lot of improvement from last year’s team. I see a lot of excitement and positive energy from the team. Pokey and the rest of the coaching staff are great and I have seen a lot more positive aspects from the team. I am excited to be back and I want to help the team in any way I can, for as long as I can, whether that be on defense, offense, creating energy or talking.”

(On her role coming to the Sky)

“It is just doing whatever I can do, or whatever I am asked to do. Whether that’s rebounding, adding energy, or just learning. Sometimes it’s just about being out there and trying to get better. I am really fortunate and blessed to be here. There is a lot of great talent on this team and whatever is asked of me I want to do my best.”

(On trying to acclimate to the rhythm of the Sky)

“It’s really hard, but my teammates and everyone else have been extremely helpful, and very positive. Whether offensively or defensively in practice they have helped me since I have only been here less than 48 hours. Everyone is trying to make me feel welcome, and it just feels good to be back.”

Chicago Sky Center Sylvia Fowles

(On tonight’s game)

“There wasn’t one key element, but I know that we didn’t do well with was turnovers, and Connecticut capitalized and scored off turnovers and that put us in a slump. In any game when we can eliminate our turnovers it will help us, and it would have been a much closer game tonight.”

(On 4th quarter energy)

“I am not sure what triggered the spark, but it was something that we had and it is potential that we show. It shows that we need to start off games with a sense of urgency.”

Connecticut Sun Head Coach Mike Thibault

(On the Game)

“Any conference road win is a heck of a win. I had a feeling the game was going to be sloppy at times just because teams have had some days off because of the all-star break. We kept our composure and stayed in the game, we just kept saying to ourselves that we will get a run at some point if we defend, and we did. We forced a lot of turnover and we did a good job of rebounding the ball tonight. I thought those were the two differences in the game.”

(On post play)

“I thought our two post players played unbelievably well tonight, they had 43 points and 27 rebounds between them. That is just a huge game for us and we just have to keep playing well on the road.”

(On Fowles)

“Tina did a great job and was focused on making her work for everything she got. We tried to make her play in a crowd of people as best as we could. We did not do that good on her early, but as the game went on I thought we did a really good job on her. I know she got some points at the end, but we were trying to take away the three-point shot down the stretch.”

Connecticut Sun Center Tina Charles

(On Match up with Fowles)

“I tried to get her out of her rhythm, trying to play hard defense and I think me and her when we play against each other we try to take it personal against one another, so just that match up alone and the way my teammates helped me, telling me where she is and they had my back on defense it made it easier.”

(Winning fourth straight)

“It’s really big especially cause it is on the road. Last season we did not do so good on the road and I think that the more we take one game at a time and continue to be discipline on the road we will be fine.”

(Doing well in Chicago)

“Like I said, when you play against great post players especially in this league you have to play well. You just want to go out there and play well and just knowing that my teammates depend on me on offensively and defensively, so I just go out there and try and play well.”

(All-Star Game)

“We were just out there having fun together and we were looking forward to that and not really thinking about this game.”