

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Chicago Sky 81, Atlanta Dream 69
Allstate Arena, Chicago, IL
July 9, 2011

NOTES

- The Sky won its second straight game and is now 6-6 overall.
- Chicago has split two games with Atlanta this season, and is now 10-4 overall vs. the Dream
- The Sky erased a 13 point second quarter lead, going ahead on the first possession of the fourth quarter on an Erin Thorn pull-up jump shot.
- Epiphanny Prince led all scorers with 24 points.
- Epiphanny Prince, who leads the league in steals, swiped 2 more on the night.
- Sylvia Fowles, who leads the league in blocked shots tied a career high with 5 blocked shots.
- Fowles registered her 34th game of 10+ rebounds, breaking the Sky record held by Candace Dupree.
- Courtney Vandersloot made up for 7 turnovers with 16 points and 9 assists.
- The Sky made 12 more trips to the free throw line than the Dream -- 29 to 17.
- The Sky outshot the Dream 45.2% to 38.4%.
- The Dream fell to 3-8 on the season.
- Sancho Lyttle did not suit up for the Dream due to injury. Dominique Canty was out for the Sky.
- Atlanta had 22 fast break points compared to 8 for the Sky.
- Angel McCoughtry led the Dream with 17 points while Erika DeSouza had 14 points and 7 rebounds. Iziane Castro Marque added 12 points.
- Both teams were cold from the outside. The Sky shot 3 for 14 from three point range. The Dream were only 1 for 7.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Chicago Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

(On what she said at halftime after a slow Sky start)

“Actually coming out the half we talked about the fortune of only being down by eight. They were plus eight on the boards, they had 23 in transition and we had 14 turnovers. So I said we should send them a thank you card because we should be down 18. I don’t want to say a tale of two halves but we did the difficult stuff. We got some good looks off the pick and roll, then we changed it and went for some off the wall screens and they executed. It was the game plan. You know the game plans for coaches are easy, the hard part is carrying them out under some adverse conditions. We found a way to play around her and through her and found a way to win.”

(On evaluating the team’s effectiveness)

“The way to evaluate is the post touches. The most encouraging is the play of Prince attacking and then Sloat. I thought she did a good job even though she had a slow start.”

(On the heart and character of the team)

“A lot of concentration, a lot of effort. What we think about as coaches is that stretch when Angie comes in a makes a three. You know, because you’re in foul trouble a little bit with T young, they’re running a different line up, Erin did a good job of running the offense early when Sloat was struggling a little bit. It is something that we desperately needed to not come play hard and come up short against a team that poses problems for everybody because they are big, they are fast, because they have players that can put their head down and attack you. And it’s a challenge and so for us it was definitely a baby step in the right direction. A win, yes.”

(On the team displaying resiliency)

“We try to take it one possession at a time. My biggest focus coming out of the half was get me a basket get me a stop. Two things. And just close the focus down on that moment.”

(On shutting down Armintie Price in the second half)

“All five people sprinting back on defense. We the biggest thing I always tell players about transition teams is if you take a quality shot and we shoot close to 48 percent, then they have to take it out under the net and by us a couple seconds to get back. And I thought we did a better job executing. And then we had all five players getting back not just whoever’s guarding Armintie. We have to have that second line of defense if she gets by one player because she’s gifted, she’s fast, she’s athletic, she’s powerful and I think we crowded it up down there.

Chicago Sky Guard Epiphanny Prince

(On her performance)

"I just wanted to be aggressive and attack the rim."

(On her defense leading to offense)

"I don't know if my defense did anything for my offense. I didn't think I was doing that well on defense. But I just wanted to be aggressive."

Chicago Sky Guard Courtney Vandersloot

(On starting off slow but getting the win)

"We just had to play hard. We came out a little bit slow, but we knew that if we played and fought hard we would be back into it. We just had to take it each possession at a time and focus and execute down the stretch."

(On the strategy for the second half)

"We wanted to focus on defense. We weren't getting enough stops. They were getting layups after layups. So we wanted to focus on defense and that's how we made our run-- getting stops."

Atlanta Head Coach Marynell Meadors

(On different halves)

"Well I thought we played a really good first half, but I thought Chicago played a really good second half. When it came down to the last couple minutes of the game I felt like we were making a lot of mistakes and they were taking advantage of ours and we did not take advantage of theirs. "

(On preparing for tonight's game against Fowles)

"She is a really tough player and she is tough to defend. We have some tall players – one is 6'5" and one is 6'7" – and we knew we would have to throw some size at her. I thought we did a really good job on her and I thought Prince hurt us there at the end and I thought looking back without looking at any film, I thought we did a pretty good job on Fowles."

(On Desouza guarding Fowles)

"She did pretty good. She had some help because we were trying to help if we needed to, but I thought she handled her pretty well."

(On the Sky's performance)

"We just didn't capitalize on their mistakes and they capitalized on ours. I think probably what we did was when we would make mistakes on offense they would carry over to the defensive end and they would score and that's what we have to try and iron out with our team."

Atlanta Guard Angel McCoughtry

(On Chicago coming back)

“They came out the second half more aggressive than we were. I think we weren’t as focused and they adjusted and I think that’s when they made their move.”

(On the difference in tempo between the first and second halves)

“I think we are just learning how to maintain leads and we have to learn how to keep our composure during a tough stretch and play smarter.”

(On moving on to the next game)

“I want to take that everything is not always going to go our way, but I am learning this year that when you can give it your all you still become a winner at the end of the day. So that’s what I am learning each game.”