

# Postgame Notes & Quotes

**PHOENIX MERCURY 86, CHICAGO SKY 78**

**Allstate Arena, Chicago, IL**

**June 25, 2011**

## **SKY NOTES**

- The Sky lost their first home game of the season, and are now 3-1 at Allstate Arena, 4-4 overall.
- Sylvia Fowles scored a season-high 28 points, her seventh straight 20+ point performance, adding to her Sky record.
- The Sky shot 5 of 18 from beyond the arc and only 27 for 67 from the field.
- The Sky committed 9 turnovers in the third quarter alone and finished with 17 on the game.
- The Sky grabbed a season high 12 offensive rebounds.
- The team had 11 steals, the most for the 2011 season.
- Tamera Young played extended minutes off the bench for the third game in a row, scoring 7 points and grabbing 3 rebounds.
- Dominique Canty missed her second straight game due to injury.
- The Sky lost for the first time in 2011 after leading at the half.

## **MERCURY NOTES**

- Phoenix out rebounded the Sky 40-29 and outscored the Sky 28 to 10 in second chance points.
- Diana Taurasi led the Mercury with 23 points on 8 for 15 shooting
- Phoenix's big three (Taurasi, Dupree and Taylor) combined for 55 of the Mercury's 86 points.
- Phoenix recorded 19 team assists while the Sky had just 13.
- Guard Temeka Johnson did not play due to a sprained right ankle.
- The Mercury shot 100 percent from the free throw line going 17 of 17.
- Penny Taylor had 19 points, 7 assists and 9 rebounds.
- The Mercury extended the lead to 16 points in the fourth

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

### **Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman**

#### **(On what went wrong in the second half)**

“Lot of things. Paint points, boards, attacking. We can’t wait till the last moments of the game to decide we’re going to get 13 points in transition. We knew they were going to come back. I said I must be the worst coach in the world because I couldn’t get my team to play a hard 40 minutes so I’m going to take responsibility for that.”

**(On the second half)**

Well first of all and phoenix has 8 points in transition. What did they do differently? Nothing, so it's on us. Its balance offensively, it's making a commitment to get back and being ready. It can't be 3 or 4; it's a matter of all 5 people being back and being ready.

**(On losing)**

"We were soft we lost the game because we were soft. That sums up a lot."

**(On what happened)**

"Penny Taylor chases down a loose ball, saves it with her left hand and puts it up and makes a three. I don't have an x or an o or a play or a time out for that. Make up your mind and get it done or we'll be 4 and 30."

**(On toughness)**

"You know, it's not always physical it's mental. Its spring to screen, it's push the ball, it's pass fake its screen in the middle of the floor like we talk about because if they catch you in the middle of the court they can't isolate you."

**(On the difference between today and Thursday)**

"We won that game in an exciting fashion. I beg to differ that we played well. I'm not deceived by that, neither are the players. If they are, then we make sure to tell them that you were fortunate to win that game."

**Sky Guard Epiphanny Prince**

**(On the second half)**

"We should have been more aggressive. We came out kind of slow and lethargic and they capitalized off that."

**(On Sylvia Fowles)**

"Obviously she's great and is the best post player in the world. She does it all."

**Sky Guard Courtney Vandersloot**

**(Defending Diana Taurasi)**

"We wanted to jump switch and try to take her out of her game as much as possible. But they had two good players out there that we were switching on so either way it was tough to stop."

**(On Sylvia Fowles)**

"Like Piph said she's the best post player in the world and every night she's going to give it her all. She works harder than anybody I've ever played with down there and she gets rewarded because of it."

**Sky Center Sylvia Fowles**

**(In general)**

"Diana is Diana and she is going to get her points. We could have rebounded better overall as a team and stuck to our game plan."

**(On keeping Candice Dupree in check)**

"That's all we held her to. I actually thought she had more than that. Our plan was just to box out and keep her off the boards as much as possible."

**(On what they could have done better)**

"We stuck together as a team when things got tough-- we didn't buckle down even when they made their run. But we could have played better as a team."

**Phoenix Mercury Coach Corey Gaines**

**(On the team consistently doing well against the Sky)**

"There really is no secret to doing well, they are an expansion team they came in a little later and we have been around a long time. The Sky has changed coaches and this is a new team. Pokey is doing a great job and I think it is going to take time to gel a little more, but they are a good team this year."

**(On making adjustments at half)**

"I really didn't say anything to the team, they are a running team and we had a game last night and it probably took a while for them to get started and it just kicked in."

**(On preparing for Sylvia)**

"We try and make every basket she gets tough and try and scheme against her so she does not know what's coming and make her play hard basically."

**Phoenix Mercury Forward Candice Durpre**

**(On playing against your old team)**

"It's just another game, it's a back to back win and we needed to get the win and it put us above five hundred now, so it's a good win for us."

**(On her matchup with Snow)**

"It went pretty good she is extremely long and connects on the 15 footers and crashes the boards, so I knew how to contest all her shots and box out as much as possible."

**(On friends and family at the game tonight)**

"Ya, of course I have some friends and family at the game and I knew some people that work for the Sky and I am excited to see them all after the game."

**Phoenix Mercury Forward Penny Taylor**

**(In fourth straight win- team coming together)**

“We had a slow start and this road trip we really got it together and I feel like that we are playing well and determined and I feel like we found our legs again and running more and were feeling really positive about that.”

**(How she did in tonight’s game)**

“I think we were attacking the basket really well. Defensively we did a great job of rotation and making sure we were getting the ball to the people we needed to and just running. The key for us is when we get the rebounds to run, so I think I played really well.”

**Phoenix Mercury Guard Diana Taurasi**

**(On playing in Chicago)**

“Ya, there is definitely a great feel when you come to Chicago, its one of the basketball capitals of our country and I always want to play well and I think today we were moving the ball and getting good looks and we did some good things out there.”

**(How big is the fourth straight win)**

“You know after 0-3 you can’t get too low and after four in a row you can’t get to high. Things in this league can change really quick, so you kind of just have to continue the course and play better and hopefully we are doing that.”

**(On Piph guarding her)**

“Piph is a tough defender, sometimes you get a little help by your teammates getting open and I have known Piph for a while and we were teammates in turkey and I have the most respect for Piph.”

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