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Super sub White shines in lead role

By Kristen Leigh Porter

The Fever's sixth man the past few seasons won't be the sixth scoring option, at least not early in the season.

Fourth-year player Tan White didn't start in a 78-64 preseason loss to the Minnesota Lynx on Wednesday night at Consecro Fieldhouse, but she finished with a team-high 16 points and four assists. With Fever superstar Tamika Catchings sidelined due to injury, White will likely be the recipient of additional shots, just like last season.

"People will probably focus a little bit more on me since Catchings is out, so scoring will be something I have to do more of," said White, a 5-7 guard who played in Latvia in March and April. "I think my role is to keep my teammates up and do what I can offensively and defensively to step up and make stops and steals."

The No. 2 pick in the 2005 WNBA draft, White has started just 12 of 102 games with the Fever but averaged 10.8 points last season. With first-year Fever coach Lin Dunn favoring the transition game, White's ability to create in the open court for herself and her teammates also could earn her more minutes.

"We know when Tan's got the ball in her hands that there's a really good chance that somebody else is going to get a shot, because she's very unselfish, and she will draw the defense and kick to an open teammate," Dunn said.

Playing a leading role won't be a big deal for the normally quiet White, even when five Fever veterans still playing overseas return.

Said White: "I just (keep) to myself off the court, but on the court it's different. You don't have to speak, you just do."

The name's Bond. LaToya Bond.

Among the free agent and rookie players trying to make the team is point guard LaToya Bond, who had eight points in her second consecutive start. The 5-7 Missouri product played in 34 games for the Charlotte Sting in 2006 after being drafted in the second round, but the franchise folded. Bond was selected by Sacramento in the WNBA dispersal draft but did not make a roster last season.

"Last summer, I got cut and had my summer off," said Bond, who has played in Cyprus, Israel and Poland. "But this summer, I don't want to take another vacation. I want to be out there so I'm fighting hard."

In the preseason opener against the Chicago Sky, Bond had six points and four steals with no turnovers.

She tries to model her game after New Orleans Hornets star Chris Paul.

"Just watching him in the playoff games, he's out there dominating; he's scoring, he's dishing to his teammates, and taking care of the ball," Bond said. "That's a pretty good point guard that the coaches are looking for."

Etc.

Third-year Fever player Kasha Terry, a 6-3 center who spent most of the offseason attending classes at Georgia Tech, had 15 points on 7-of-10 shooting off the bench. . . . Rookie Fever free agent G Constance Jinks also had 15 points. . . . Former Fever assistant Julie Plank, who had been with the team from its inception through last season, made her first appearance at Consecro Fieldhouse as a Lynx assistant.