

Washington Mystics vs. Indiana Fever
Home Game # 8
July 23, 2009 7:00 PM

MYSTICS HEAD COACH JULIE PLANK

On tonight's game:

"I'm very excited about tonight's win because this was a big game for us. I thought that we really battled and we had great contributions off the bench. Nikki Blue came in and did great job for us at the end of the first half, Matee Ajavon came in and hit a huge shot in the second half, and Monique Currie hit some big baskets. Lindsey Harding was huge down the stretch. I also think that our inside players really battled. Nakia and Chasity didn't get a lot of points but they competed. Langhorne has been very consistent and she did well tonight."

On defense:

"I think that we rely upon our defense. That's when we get out and run in transition and it's definitely the key for us. Coming in this game we knew that the Sky were number two in field goal percentage and number one in free throw shooting. We kept them low scoring. I think that we did a nice job on Candice Dupree which was much better than we did in Chicago."

MYSTICS GUARD MATEE AJAVON

On tonight's game:

"I think that we did pretty well tonight. Whenever you have a "W" at the end of the game it's always a positive thing. I really had the score mentality because I knew that we couldn't lose this game. I also tried to be as aggressive as I could."

On the All-Star game:

"Although the All-Star game is coming up we still have a game that we need to focus on so there are no breaks for us. Fortunately AB [Alana Beard] made the team but I hope that she doesn't play too hard because we need her for Saturday. We are defiantly supportive of her but we are still going to be working."

MYSTICS GUARD ALANA BEARD

On Lindsey Harding:

"Lindsey defiantly makes the game easy. It's obvious from the past years to now because we didn't really have a solid point guard. Lindsey can do it all. She can penetrate, shoot, and play defense really well. That helps open up everything else for everyone so it pretty easy out there."

On this season:

“The coaching staff that we have is great because they are very demanding and they hold everyone accountable. They push to get the best out of every single player. Every time we walk in the gym, even if it’s for practice, everyone knows that they have to be on point in order to play.”

Mystics at a glance:

Points: Crystal Langhorne -16

Rebounds: Crystal Langhorne -10

Assists: Lindsey Harding-6

Steals: Alana Beard-4

CHICAGO SKY HEAD COACH STEVE KEY

On his team's performance:

"If you turn the ball over the way we turned it over, that leads to direct scores and points in the paint. In the first half they got 24 points in the paint and 15 of those points were because of direct turnovers leading to the basket. There's no opportunity for defense in that situation. They [Washington] are a good team. So you have to give them credit for that that even when you're not turning the ball over, they're still going to score at times. For whatever reason, that deflated us. They made a couple of tough baskets here and there, but it's something we've got to do a better job of. Putting ourselves in a hole like that on the road against a good team and getting the crowd into it is not a good thing."

On Sylvia Fowles getting into foul trouble:

"I think anytime she's not out on the floor, it's a bad thing for us and a good thing for the other team. But the good thing about it is that we are a team and we should be able to overcome that. Our problem is not offensively, but it's on the defensive end. If we're allowing teams to do what they want to do and we're not aggressive, it's going to be hard for us no matter who's on the floor."

CHICAGO SKY CENTER SYLVIA FOWLES

On struggling against the Mystics:

"Washington is a very good team. They're going to come out hype; they're going to come out energized. They just came off of a loss as well. We know we were playing them on their home floor. You just have to be into tune of what you're doing and communicate more."

On Crystal Langhorne's performance:

"That's the beauty of anybody's team that you shut down their main players, your role players have to step up and that's what she did tonight. Not just (Crystal) Langhorne, but a lot of people stepped up as a matter of fact. But then again, you have to learn how to compose those players and you have to do your part and tonight we didn't do that at all."

CHICAGO SKY GUARD KRISTI TOLIVER

On playing against Marissa Coleman:

"It was good to see her playing again. I know she was frustrated when she was out with her ankle earlier in the year. But it's great to see her back and you can kind of see that she is definitely trying to get back in the swing but I think Washington is doing a great job with her and she did a great job today."

Sky at a glance:

Points: Jia Perkins-14

Rebounds: Sylvia Fowles-7

Assists: Kristi Toliver-2

Steals: Jia Perkins-4