



# CONNECTICUT SUN POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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**Sun vs. Chicago Sky**

**June 19, 2009**

**Mohegan Sun Arena**

**Final Score: Connecticut 91, Chicago 61**

- With the win, Connecticut is now 2-3. With the loss, Chicago is now 3-2. It was Connecticut's first win at home this season.
- The 30 assists for the Sun tonight is a franchise record. The previous best was 27 by the Sun on August 29, 2008 at Atlanta. The all-time WNBA record is 32 (6/21/01) in a game played – New York at Phoenix. Only the sixth time in league history that a team has recorded as many as 30 assists.
- The 46 points Connecticut scored in the first half were the most a Sun team has scored in any half in the five games the Sun has played thus far this year. The previous best was the 42 it scored at Washington in the season opener on June 6.
- The 23 points in the first quarter for the Sun tied a season high for points in a quarter. The Sun had done it twice before.
- The 91 points Connecticut scored in this game is the most it has scored in any game this season. The previous best was the 75 it tallied at Chicago last Tuesday (June 16).
- The 30-point victory margin was the Sun's best versus a Chicago Sky team. The previous highest was 26 at Chicago in an 85-59 Sun victory on August 8, 2006.
- The 12 points Kerri Gardin scored and the 11 rebounds Kerri Gardin pulled down in this game were both season highs. Her previous season highs were 7 points (twice) and 3 rebounds (twice).
- Tan White, signed by the Sun earlier on Friday, paid immediate dividends by scoring 13 points in her initial appearance for the Sun. Six of those points came in the second quarter.
- The nine rebounds for the Sun's Asjha Jones tonight were a season high. The previous season-high for Jones was 6.
- The eight points for the Sun's Lauren Ervin tonight were a season high.
- The Sun's previous season-high in FG% was .439 at Chicago last Tuesday. Tonight, the Sun shot .479 from the floor.
- The Sun led by as many as 17 points in the second quarter (43-6 with 2:04 left) before settling for an 11-point halftime lead (46-35).

- By winning tonight, the Sun halted a two-game losing streak. By losing tonight, the Sky had a three-game winning streak snapped.
- The 30 assists (in 35 baskets) was a season high for the Sun. Their previous season high was 24 at Chicago last Tuesday.
- For Chicago, their bench outscored the starters by a total of 43-18.
- Kristi Toliver had scored 14 total points in her team's first four games. Tonight, she scored 14.

## CONNECTICUT SUN QUOTES

### Head Coach Mike Thibault

#### *On Tonight's Game*

"This was a team I recognized a little bit, finally tonight. It's a 30-point win where we won every quarter and kind of had the best of all worlds. We scored, rebounded. We needed a game like that badly for our confidence, psyche, everything else. I'm pretty happy. We held them to about thirty-six percent (shooting) in the second half. Not a lot to complain about tonight."

#### *On the team's shooting*

"There was a good flow to it and we scored. We got penetration from our guards into the lane where we could draw defenders and kick it out to open shooters. Our shooters, for the most part, didn't hesitate. They weren't backing off from shooting the ball. A good shooting night for us shows up in high assists. Those are fun games to play in and coach."

#### *On the defensive match-ups*

"We started a little bit differently. I thought the start of the game was key. We switched the match-ups around; we put KG [Kerri Gardin] on [Jia] Perkins. It changed up the pressure and we were able to apply more defensive pressure. I think all of our players were geeked up to play Perkins a little bit tonight and not let her get rolling. Obviously it paid off."

#### *On Tan White's first Connecticut Sun game*

"She got a chance to go through shoot around and learn a few plays. We kept the number of plays we ran when she was in the game to a pretty simple number. We tried to put her on the weak side to be the receiver at the end of the play to step into shots. She's an innate, smart basketball player. I told her that you have a fresh start here and go play basketball. You're playing with some pretty good point guards who will throw you the ball so make the most of it."

### Asjha Jones

#### *On the play of the Sun reserves*

"They were awesome. We have a team full of players who could start at any given moment. I think everybody came in tonight more focused and just really wanted to play better individually. We talk about a team game but that only comes from the play of each person stepping up and doing what they are supposed to do."

#### *On the Sun winning its first home game of the season*

"We didn't start out the season so great. We weren't playing the way we wanted to play or with the intensity we come into each practice with. In Chicago (on Tuesday, June 16), I think we got going with that but we just didn't finish that game well. We are just trying to build on that game by game by game. We're not going to play well on Sunday if we don't come out and play like we did today. We don't want to have another setback, so we are just going to try to keep building on what we saw today."

#### *On the Sun's overall success tonight*

"I think tonight we did a good job getting back in transition defense. There were a few lapses here and there, but we didn't let them turn into more. We shut that down early. In the past, we would have two or three lapses early and it would be all downhill from there. We realized what some of those problems were and we tried to fix them. Tonight we did a good job of keeping the tempo up and when something went wrong, we didn't dwell on it. We just moved on to the next play."

#### *On the Sun's inside success*

"Every game we go into, we talk about playing inside-out on offense and defense. Sometimes, we kind of get away from that. Tonight, we focused in and keyed in on our inside play. It probably helped that we played these guys a few days ago, so we knew what to expect. We just set our plan and stuck to it tonight."

#### *On Kerri Gardin's play*

"I was just telling her that I didn't see some of her points and rebounds. She worked diligently. She had no wasted motion. Sometimes, if you're not paying attention to her, you don't even see the things that she does well. She did a great job tonight. Going into the season, Coach Thibault sat her down and talked to her about what her role was going to be. She is that person that can do a little bit of everything. She can play multiple positions. She did a good job of being moved around tonight and still getting the job done."

### **Kerri Gardin**

#### *On how well she played tonight*

"I think it started on the defensive end tonight for everybody, getting those first couple of steals and then being able to relax a bit on offense. I was talking with Coach Mattox and she said it is like I go full speed all of the time and I never take my time on the offensive end. I am starting to understand and realize on the offensive end that once I get there, I need to calm down and take my time before I get into the offense."

#### *On how good she was feeling in pregame*

"My knees were hurting a little bit before but they were feeling really good today. I am just not thinking about my shots and just shooting. I think that helped tonight."

### **Tan White**

#### *On playing so well with very little preparation*

"I have been preparing myself for the last five months to play this summer. I was ready whenever they gave me the call to come play for them. I was very excited. I just looked at the situation that this was another opportunity for me to come out and play as well as I know that I can. The type of system that they run here is kind of simple for me. I didn't have to work much for my shots tonight. I was pretty much open. I just have to thank this team for coming out ready to play and played aggressive. It gave me the comfort that I needed tonight. When I came into the game, I was relaxed and just got into the flow of the game."

#### *On how long it took to get into the flow of the game without knowing most of the plays*

"There were a lot of things that I had to learn on the go. My game is based on my defense. I was a little out of sync because I don't know the defensive schemes, but with the little I did know, I tried to come out and not let it interfere with how I played. I just tried to stay out of the way and find open areas. For me not to know any of the plays and come out tonight and contribute is a really good feeling for me. I was excited to be out on the court and was glad that I could just contribute."

# CHICAGO SKY QUOTES

## Head Coach Steven Key

*On the difference between Tuesday nights win and the loss tonight*

"Our defense from the opening tip was poor at best. We were guessing a lot what we wanted to do and they took advantage of it."

*On the play of Kristi Toliver, who scored a career-high 14 points*

"We are not worried about Kristi of them being able to score. What we are worried about is can she run our team. I drafted her to be a point guard not to be a shooter, so I'm not worried about her points. If everyone else does their job while she is out there playing, I guarantee that she will be able to shoot like that the entire season."

*On what Connecticut has done to shutdown Dupree, who is 1-15 from the floor the last two games.*

"It's because of their defense. They do a good job of preparing, they are not going to let her do what she wants to do. We did not do a good job tonight finding ways to get her involved, but it happens. It shouldn't happen two games in a row, but it did and we will make our adjustments."

*On if the 22 turnovers were just bad play of if Connecticut had a lot to do with the turnovers.*

"It's pretty good D, but a lot of but of them were poor decisions and when you have poor decisions it leads directly to points one way or another. I give them credit. I'm not going to take anything away from them, but I don't think they are doing anything extraordinary to make us have these turnovers. They had a few steals, but the rest were just turnovers."

## Sylvia Fowles

*On the difference between the win on Tuesday and tonight's loss*

"Our defense. We didn't get off to a good start and I think they were ready and they proved it. They came out from the jump ball and got after it and our defense just wasn't on point at all tonight."

*On what the Sun did to shut her down tonight*

"It wasn't anything they did, it's all about us and if we the ball inside and if I'm working hard enough to post up, all that stuff matters."

*On the play of the bench and Toliver*

"That's the beauty of our bench. Kristi came in and got shots and she is here for a reason, to help us win, unfortunately tonight we got off to a bad start. Our bench has showed in practice that they can play with us, so why not show it in a game."

## Kristi Toliver

*On the difference between the game on Tuesday and tonight*

"They played really well as a team, they took what the defense gave them and didn't force anything and they looked a lot more comfortable. They executed on all cylinders tonight."

*On her play with a career-high 14 points*

"I just take the opportunity that I get and tonight I had a good one. I just want to make the most of the time that I get so I try to go in and do the best I can and offensively shooting the ball, well today, I shot it pretty well."

*On the play of the Sky bench which had 43 of the 61 points*

"We talked about how our bench needs to step up and if we can get great bench play we should be very successful. It's a good sign, obviously, the result isn't what we wanted, but it's a baby step."