

Washington Mystics vs. Chicago Sky
Home Game #2
June 20, 2009 7:00 PM

MYSTICS HEAD COACH JULIE PLANK

On tonight's game:

“We are very excited with this win. I thought we had a huge second half. After last night, we were very disappointed with how we played in Atlanta. We came back and wanted to play well in front of our home crowd. I thought we turned it up and really picked up our defensive pressure and got out in transition. The crowd was awesome and totally into it and I am very proud of our team.”

On bouncing back after last night's loss in Atlanta:

“Our team is tough. I think defensively we made big stops and we got out in transition. I think Alana Beard put us on her back and was very impressive in getting to the rim. Our post players, Chasity Melvin, played excellent in getting second shots and I think that's what got the crowd into the game as well.”

MYSTICS GUARD ALANA BEARD

On bouncing back after being down at the half:

“I think we came in and changed the tempo. First of all, we got stops which we weren't doing towards the end of the second quarter and then we started pushing the tempo. We started bringing the ball up instead of setting up plays. And then they started having problems getting back in transition and stopping our fast break game.”

On bouncing back after last night's loss:

“Coach said before the game that we have to have that bounce-back ability. We have to come with that mentality that this is our house and we have to protect it. And I thought everyone did a great job of coming in and having that focus.”

Mystics at a glance:

Points: Alana Beard, 31

Rebounds: Chasity Melvin, 9

Assists: Alana Beard, 5

Steals: Beard, Harding 3

SKY HEAD COACH STEVEN KEY

On tonight's game:

"I'm a little disappointed with our performance tonight because we didn't protect the paint and we allowed a lot of offensive rebounds. We allowed the Mystics to score 42 points in the paint and they had 11 offensive rebounds which lead to a lot of second chance points. We did a poor job of defending the perimeter and they got what they wanted. "

On Sky's defense:

"We didn't have much defense tonight. We allowed the Mystics to go where they wanted to go and we were just simply reacting to what they wanted to do. Overall our defense was poor and it needs to be improved."

SKY GUARD KRISTI TOLIVER

On Adjusting to the WNBA:

"I think that the length, the speed and the athleticism of the league has been the biggest adjustment. With the 11 man roster it's the best of the best playing night in and night out. It's great to play against that kind of competition."

On Marissa Coleman:

"I saw her out in the hallway and it was tough to see her injured but hopefully she will make a quick recovery. We still keep in touch and talk about how this first year has been for us."

SKY CENTER SYLVIA FOWLES

On tonight's game:

"I think we started out sluggish and then once we did get in our groove by getting on defense we kind of let that slip away from us in the second half. Defense says a lot about how we play and if we don't play defense then we don't get into our offense."

Sky at a glance:

Points: Jia Perkins, 15

Rebounds: Dupree, Fowles, Perkins 6

Assists: Jia Perkins 6

Steals: Armintie Price, 2