

Postgame Notes & Quotes

Seattle Storm 81, Chicago Sky70

Key Arena, Seattle, WA

September 11, 2011

Notes

- The Sky finished the season 14-20. The Storm finished 21-13.
- With the victory, the Storm evened the season series at 1-1.
- With the win, Brian Agler tied Van Chancellor for the most wins as a professional basketball coach with 211. Agler had 72 in the ABL and now has 139 in the WNBA.
- The Storm's 21 wins rank third in franchise history (28 in 2010, 22 in 2008) and tie Connecticut and Indiana for the WNBA's second-best record.
- Seattle finished the season with four consecutive wins and eight in the last nine games. Chicago finished with five losses in a row.
- With her three-pointer at the 2:44 mark of the first quarter, Katie Smith joined Lisa Leslie and Tina Thompson as the three players in WNBA history with at least 6,000 career points.
- Counting the 1,433 she scored in the ABL, Smith is the all-time leading scorer in women's professional basketball history with 7,448 points.
- Camille Little and Smith led the Storm with 17 points apiece. Little added five assists, a new career high (previously four).
- Swin Cash's 15 points were the most she's scored since Aug. 7 at Atlanta.
- Sylvia Fowles scored 19 of her 30 points in the fourth quarter. Fowles made 11 free throws, tying Shavonte Zellous for the WNBA quarter record.
- During the 21:08 she was matched with Ashley Robinson, Fowles scored nine points. In the 14:07 she played with Robinson on the bench, Fowles scored 21 points.
- With seven offensive rebounds, Fowles tied her career high.
- Fowles finished the season averaging 20.0 points and 10.2 rebounds per game. She joins Chamique Holdsclaw (2003) as the lone players in league history to average 20 and 10.
- Fowles led the league in field-goal percentage (.591), minutes per game (34.6) and blocks per game (2.0).
- Epiphanny Prince came into the day leading the WNBA in steals per game, but finished with 2.32, second to Sancho Lyttle's 2.36.

- The Storm allowed a league-low 69.8 points per game. No other team allowed fewer than 73.1 ppg.
- The last WNBA team to allow fewer than 70 per game was the 2007 Indiana Fever (69.7). The Storm has led the league in scoring defense three times in Agler's four seasons as head coach.
- Sue Bird scored 500 points in 2011, her highest season total. She averaged a career-best 14.7 points per game.
- Seattle shot a season-best 55.6 percent from the field.
- The Storm finished the season 15-2 at KeyArena, tying Connecticut for the league's best home record. Under Agler, the Storm is 61-7 (.897) at home.

Postgame Quotes

Sky Head Coach Pokey Chatman

On the game: This is always a tough place to play. They are a tremendous talent and they're well-coached, the fans, the environment – it was a special day. The 10-year anniversary (of 9/11) so there was a lot of emotion in the building. Seattle is getting ready for their postseason play so they went hard and were trying to fine-tune some things. We battled. We didn't shoot the basketball very well, but I thought we stayed aggressive and attacked. The bottom line is it's a loss. We're done and we have a lot of work to do in the offseason.

On Courtney Vandersloot's season: It's a lot of pressure at a premium position. The difficult part is you don't get a lot of time to grow up at all in this league. We had an injury early on so she was just thrown out there. I thought early on she did really well. But everybody talks about the rookie wall and it's real. Sometimes it's not physical, but mental – it's that's grind of going to places you've never gone to before. The back-to-backs, the turnarounds, the advance scouting – all those things are new. You're learning that side of it then you have to get on the court. I think she learned a lot, but she has to become a basketball junkie. At a different level than now.

On what she said to Vandersloot going into a few timeouts: I'll often remind her about change of pace and change of direction. She's pretty effective when she plays in the middle third of the floor. We have little inside thing with a drag screen so we want her to be a drag queen and drag the basketball and get screens in the middle of the floor. She's good with the pass, she's good with the shot, and she can penetrate and kick so it takes some time to get adjusted. And sometimes, it's just to get her relaxed. Everybody is coming at you ... you have the ball in your hands all the time. You're the new kid and they want to get after you. I just want her to relax, have some fun and take her mind off something bad that may have just happened (on the floor).

Sky Center Sylvia Fowles

On the game: Seattle started out very well. They came in with the mindset that they wanted to stay where they were in playoff position. They did what they had to do.

On the season overall: A little disappointed. But with that said, I feel like we had the opportunity to make this thing happen and we just didn't utilize it. We have to be positive as much as possible and look forward next year. Keep working hard.

Sky Guard Courtney Vandersloot

On all the fans in the stands: I tried hard to focus. I don't want to let anything distract me. There are enough distractions at a game so I tried my best to just focus.

On what Coach Chatman said going into timeouts: I don't remember, but I remember it was encouraging. She was giving me some instruction on what to do. It was good. She's one of those coaches who knows just what to say to her players. Every player is different and react different. I get so caught up and a little bit tense that she knows how to calm me down.

On the reception she got tonight: It was great. It says a lot about the city, Gonzaga and Seattle included. I love the support, not only that they give at Storm games, but for us too.

On playing against Sue Bird: You can tell she kind of runs this place (laughs) and she does it well. She's a great player. It's just fun to be out there with her.

Coach Brian Angler:

(on tying the all-time women's professional coaching wins mark): The nice thing about this is every one of those wins someone in the locker-room was a part of, with Katie (Smith) being here. So that means a lot. You win with players and people. And you have to have great players and great people. And we've got both. And that's the only reason things like that happen. Other than this means I've been around a long time. It's easy to manage good people. You just sort of have to massage the situation. You rarely have to rule with an iron fist. You can reason, you can talk, you can communicate and things can get done. Obviously everyone is competitive so everyone has to be competitive. For the most part it's worked pretty well.

You have to have people give you opportunities so I got an opportunity and I got an opportunity in the ABL. The nice thing about the ABL, especially in Seattle because Seattle is an ABL city and they'll understand this, is that league at that point was much better than the WNBA. The talent was better. Then I got the opportunity in Minnesota and then there were several people who kept me in the league just being an assistant. Seth Salk in Phoenix and Dan Hughes in San Antonio kept me involved. Things played out and Karen (Bryant) gave me another opportunity. Without those individuals I wouldn't be able to be here talking about this.

(on eight straight 20+ win seasons): We sort of knew the personality we wanted the team to have. Bringing Swin (Cash) in, bringing Camille (Little) in, Tanisha (Wright) being a part of it, bringing Le'coe (Willingham) in, Ashley (Robinson) being a part of it. To go around the two pillars you have in Sue (Bird) and Lauren (Jackson). Things have just played out. When we first got this opportunity I thought Sue and Lauren could be the best at their positions in the world, so what kind of people and players are going to be a good match with those guys. Obviously, they're both quality people but they also are finesse players so you need to put toughness and tenacity and physical play and people to do the dirty around them. That's what we have and everybody plays and accepts their role. The longer we've played the tighter we've gotten. And I think this season is an example of that.

Katie Smith:

I said on Friday it's a mindset and just going out and playing. I might not have hit every shot but I'm going to take shots like I'm going to make them. It's an attack mentality. Tonight was more jumpers than it was driving to the basket, but every team is a little different.

(on Sylvia Fowles): She plays hard and consistently. She gets you deep and pinned, she's strong, she can jump, and she's just relentless. She's a handful. We have Le'coe, and Ashley and just battling and battling. IT was a team effort. We tried to make her work for everything. She's special. She's a tough one, but we were able to keep that distance so we were able to get out of here with the win.

Sue Bird:

(playing on the 9/11 anniversary): It's a day to remember and honor those that were victims of that day. And appreciate those who helped us get through it. To have the servicemen here it was pretty special.

(on playing Phoenix in the opening round of the playoffs): Home court advantage will probably play into it. I think we both know both each other very well. We've played against each other numerous times, this year and in the past two years. It's kind of who can impose their will on the other team. And who wants it more. Every team that's in the playoffs now is good. There is a reason why they're in the playoffs, it's just who wants it more. When all is said and done, if we make it to the finals and Atlanta or New York make it to the finals because we won tonight it will give us home court advantage over them. It's just one game and maybe some of us could have rested, but what's one more game. You already play 30-whatever games so one more is not going to make that much of a deal.

Camille Little:

(on her five assists): People were open. I had the confidence to throw it. A lot of post players don't have the confidence to throw those kinds of passes in between people, but they were catching them and making them. They finished the shots.