






CHICAGO SKY (2-1) at MINNESOTA LYNX (2-1)

BRADENTON, FLA. | HOME OF 2020 WNBA SEASON | JULY 30, 2020

FINAL						
	CHI	18	16	20	27	81
	MIN 	21	17	19	26	83

TEAM	HIGH POINTS	HIGH ASSISTS	HIGH REBOUNDS
CHICAGO	STEVENS, VANDERSLOOT, PARKER (16)	DESHIELDS (5)	STEVENS (11)
MINNESOTA	COLLIER (20)	COLLIER, JOHNSON (4)	COLLIER (10)

KEY RUNS

- Minnesota went on a 12-4 run late in the second quarter, where its lead was extended to seven.
- About halfway through the fourth quarter, Minnesota pushed its lead to eight during a 6-0 run.
- Sky cut Minnesota's lead to 2 after Allie Quigley's three (83-81) while on a 17-7 run late in the fourth quarter.

KEY STATS

- Chicago outrebounded Minnesota 11-4 during the first seven minutes of the game.
- Neither team had a player register more than nine points in the first half.
- There were 8 lead changes and five ties in the game. Minnesota's biggest lead was 12 (74-62).
- Minnesota outscored Chicago 36 to 28 in the paint.
- The Sky had 10 team rebounds while the Lynx had 3.
- Overall, Minnesota had 35 total rebounds to Chicago's 33.

CHICAGO NOTES

- **Courtney Vandersloot** passed WNBA legend Becky Hammon for 5th on the WNBA's All-Time Assists list (1,705). Ironically, the 10-year veteran was held to zero assists in the first half for the first time since June 25, 2017 against the Washington Mystics. She also led the Sky in scoring in the first half with nine points.
- **Azurá Stevens** recorded her 1st double-double as a member of the Sky (and 1st of career).
- **Cheyenne Parker** recorded her 7th career double-double tonight.
- Parker grabbed six rebounds in just under seven minutes of play during the first quarter, and was the only player in the 1st half on Chicago with a positive plus-minus (4).
- Parker and Stevens accounted for 15 of the team's 20 rebounds in the first half.
- Between the end of the first half and five minutes through the third quarter, Vandersloot and Stevens accounted for 15 of the Sky's 20 points in that timeframe.
- Throughout the first three quarters, Stevens shot an efficient six for eight (75%) from the floor. She and Vandersloot recorded half (27) of the Sky's points (54) through three quarters.

MINNESOTA NOTES

- **Crystal Dangerfield** became 1st Lynx rookie to start at PG since Renee Montgomery did so in 2009.
- **Napheesa Collier** led the Lynx in scoring for the first time this season with 20 points.
- This is Minnesota's 4th straight win against the Sky.

POSTGAME QUOTES

SKY HEAD COACH/GM JAMES WADE

On tonight's game:

"I mean, I appreciated the fight. I just didn't think we had to be there. I would have rather had a sense of urgency from the get-go. I know we're tired but everybody's tired, like everybody's going to be tired. But you just have to dig down. You have to find something where it doesn't make that togetherness come apart and start thinking on your own. And we missed some key stops down in the second half that we should have gotten-straight line drives or rebounds, or them just being tougher than us, and that can't happen if you have goals that you need to get where you need to go."

On the balance of this season:

"We aren't going to go out and practice like crazy because we can't, it's just not smart. So we do a lot of things through filmwork, walkthroughs and things of that nature. But it's just tough, but everybody has the same issues, everybody has the same problems. And if we think that this is tough, we're going to have to do this for 10 straight games where we go we play, we're off a day, we play, we're off a day. And this is, this is what we signed up for. And I think us and Seattle are the only teams to have 10-plus games with one day off between. But, it won't be an excuse on our part. We know it's real that we do get tired. But at some point, that's what champions are made of. They're made of that extra that's going to be more. That's going to give a little bit more extra than the person that they're playing against or the team that they're playing against. And that's what we're trying to understand right now. We have to have more than the team we're playing against. We just have to, no matter how tired we are."

On Azurá Stevens:

"She's really good. I don't put a limit on what her ceiling would be. She could be a really good player. She has All-Star potential. Now it's about her fitting in and learning her sports and learning her own spots. But she's a good player. And she can be really good, really fast, really soon. So, we just have to make sure we use her in a direct way, we have to make sure we keep her healthy. And right now, we love having her with our team. We love what she's doing, so we just have to keep on going."

SKY FORWARD/CENTER AZURÁ STEVENS

"Well, always going to start with no justice, no peace. We still want those cops arrested. And we're going to keep talking about it until it happens."

On tonight's game:

"Yeah, it was a tough loss. I mean, we fought the whole game. But, it just didn't end our way and I think we have to be a little more locked in on certain details. They played us really tough. And, I mean, it was just a good game but I think when they kind of punched us a little bit we didn't take a step back, but it's just we lost focus of little details. And you can't do that. And that's all of us, and even just in key moments, towards the end of the game. There are certain plays where it would be a breakdown on defense, we didn't get a rebound. Just little things like that. We're fighting to win a championship and champions pay attention to detail in all moments, every game. So, we're definitely going to learn from it and we're gonna keep getting better. And we'll see them again."

On #SkyTakesAction:

"It's actually funny you mentioned that. When they did the 26 seconds for Breonna Taylor before the game I took a minute just to talk to myself like, 'I'm going to go out here and just play as hard as I can for that.' It's just crazy still that honestly like that happened and these cops haven't been arrested and people are just walking around like that's OK. And so I'm praying and hoping that they finally get the justice that they deserve. But yeah, I mean I think it motivates especially our team a little bit more because we're dedicating a season just to raise awareness and to make actual change. I don't know, like we've been talking about this for a long time before we even came here. Personal experiences we've all had just with racism and social injustice. And so, I mean it motivates me definitely a little bit extra because like that could have been my dad. George Floyd could've been my dad. Breonna Taylor could have been my sister. It could have been me. It could have been some of my teammates, like it's just this is real life right now, and it's a lot to take in but I mean I'm proud of our team for the awareness that we're raising and the stuff that we're doing. And I think even as a league like I'm grateful for the platform that we get from them, just to be able to speak out and make a change because we do have fans. We do have people that listen to us. We do have people that enjoy watching us and as athletes in the limelight with that responsibility comes like doing something with that. And we're doing that as the Chicago Sky organization, not just the team. Our GMs, our owners, we're all in it together, working on this fight and we're going to keep doing that."

SKY FORWARD CHEYENNE PARKER

On what she said to the team in the second half:

:"I'm just trying to get our energy up. We were lacking energy in the first half and it showed. It showed on the court, it showed in our body language so I was just trying to get us hyped up, get us going and encouraging us to just pick it up."

On keeping focus heading into the next game:

"Just knowing that we have a game on another day. We have to literally refocus our energy on the next game, learn from this. Let this be a lesson and not allow this to happen again because we definitely shouldn't have lost to them. But we just gotta let this be a lesson and refocus our energy onto the next game to make sure we don't let that happen again."

On how she evaluates her game right now:

"I'm getting better game by game. My biggest thing is just confidence when taking my shots and like I said I have teammates and coaches around me that are encouraging me to make sure I shoot the ball. So, just doing my part, just continuing to do my part and, I mean, I'm not satisfied. Obviously, I want to continue to get better and continue to contribute the best way I can."

SKY GUARD COURTNEY VANDERSLOOT

On answering from tonight's loss:

"That's the beauty of this league is that we all have time to dwell on missed opportunities, missed shots, losses. Because we do play again in probably about, I don't know, 36-40 hours. And that's one thing about this league, one loss can turn into two, to three really quick if you don't bounce back, if you don't focus and move on. Right now we're going to use this as a learning step, and we're going to improve because we have a very good Washington team that we need to focus on."

On passing Becky Hammon on the assists list:

"The players I looked up to are all the ones in that top five. I looked at the list today, and all those players, incredible point guard. Becky Hammon was so much fun to watch. Obviously coming from Seattle Sue Bird is somebody that I've watched for a really long time and she's still doing it at such a high level. So, Ticha [Penicheiro] Diana [Taurasi], all of them are just incredible. I looked at the numbers and I was like, 'I'm never catching them!' This might be the only time so I'm honored to be up on that list."