

POSTGAME QUOTES



SKY GENERAL MANAGER & HEAD COACH JAMES WADE

On the eventual game-winning basket:

"We actually ran it this morning but I put it in yesterday. I like to play with stuff and just stuff goes on in my head and I just try to put it on paper and see how it works in practice. I saw how they played that situation, how I thought that they would play that situation and it just played out the way it played out."

On the defensive scheme from tonight:

"We had schemes and we didn't respect them as much in the first half but in the second half we settled down and we just trusted what the message was and they executed it to a good level. I think our energy was better in the second half too. You saw more communication, more enthusiasm and what we were doing. And we got to spots early on the floor like we wanted to so I was pretty pleased with them."

On Courtney Vandersloot's 15 assists going to greater cause:

"It gives it meaning. It gives it depth. It's something that's more everlasting than records, because after tonight we have another game to get ready for. But that actual 15 assists game actually means something even more than a big victory. It means a victory toward a cause. I think it's really special and unique what Sky Takes Action has given our team definition and meaning for. So, you get excited when you hear things like that, especially when it's going toward something so meaningful."

SKY GUARD COURTNEY VANDERSLOOT

On what she said to the team after tonight's game:

"We were just discussing how it seems like we have this habit of letting teams back in the game. We need to do better towards the end to finish out games and I was just telling them like that. But that was a gutsy win and we figured out how to win and it's tough to win in this league so that's most important. We're going to celebrate every win but just trying to take things away, take things from every game and that being the big one that letting teams back in the game in the fourth quarter."

On the Sky's defensive gameplan:

"That was our main emphasis. She's [A'ja Wilson] an incredible player. She's really the head of the snake for them [Las Vegas]. And we were trying to make it difficult for her., I think we let Angel [McCoughtry] , maybe get a few easy buckets. That was another one of our focuses but the job Z [Azurá Stevens] did on A'ja is, I've never seen anybody defend her like that. She was really a little bit uncomfortable, I think. But, hey, she works hard for it, like I said A'ja's an incredible player and that was really a huge defensive matchup for us."

On the her 15 assists contributing \$300 to DonorsChoose:

"This is what it's all about. I decided to do this. I knew that doing something like assisting was what I do best and I wanted to kind of make something out of it, trying to make a difference. So, these were the nights that I was hoping for. Since announcing [on August 12] I hadn't really had too many big assist games, so I was feeling a little bad about that. I really want to make a difference and I hope that people can help out and we can get a lot of these projects completed for DonorsChoose."

SKY FORWARD AZURÁ STEVENS

On making A'ja Wilson uncomfortable:

"First just want to start off with, no justice, no peace. Another day has gone by where Breonna Taylor's killers haven't been arrested, so I just wanted to start with that. But yeah, defensively, I was just really trying to lock in on taking away what she does the most. I mean, she's a great player so she's gonna score. But I was focused on making her score in other ways besides going to her left, her usual moves. Then, I have to give credit to the team, honestly they helped a lot too. It wasn't just a one player thing. I could always trust that my teammates were helping me on the backside."

On asserting herself offensively:

"Just staying aggressive. I think I've just been in my head recently with offense. Because I have been focusing a lot more on defense, but, I mean I'm a good scorrr player, and my teammates are always telling me that. I put up shots a lot in practice, I do all the things to prepare and so I just tried to not overthink ... Sloot and other people, they just found me in good spots where all I had to do is really knock in shots, so I was just trying to be aggressive, honestly."

On if playing against A'ja Wilson makes her step up her game defensively:

"Yeah, honestly, I love that this season, being put in opportunities to guard some of the greatest players in the league. [Breanna Stewart] Stewie, obviously, and other players, too. I've really enjoyed embracing the challenge and I'm just trying to do the best that I can. I haven't been perfect in it, but I'm learning a lot about myself offensively. And that's really all you can do in these situations when you're guarding these players, by having the experience of guarding them you're able to learn better ways to defend, so I really enjoyed taking on these challenges."

POSTGAME QUOTES



SKY GUARD KAHLEAH COPPER

On the attention and playing time she is getting this year:

"I think it's rewarding. [As I've] said before, just about trusting your process. I think that it's easy to just to give up. Like, [when you're] not playing a lot, and just working real hard and not getting what you want out of it and I think that it's just rewarding for me to be in my was my fifth year for me to really come into my own and have an opportunity to show who I am and to really take that role and really, really be playing at a good level and winning. So I think that is rewarding for me and also humbling and it just really fires me up, to just keep going and keep going hard and just keep getting better."

On her on-court presence:

"This is just me. This is just me embracing the role that I have now and just taking advantage of the opportunity that's in front of me. And I think that that's just what I'm doing. It feels good to be doing this and also winning. I think that's most important. So, yes, I'm happy. If I don't look like it, I'm happy."

On beating Las Vegas twice this season:

"I think this is a really good one, a really big one for us. It just shows us who we are. I think that we are we've been a little bit up and down and we've just been trying to work on that consistency and just coming out and playing hard in the beginning. I think that this was a really big win for us, especially as far as the standings and Vegas was playing great. It was good to snap their win streak, and beat them for a second time."

On the relationship she has with James Wade:

"James is is good because he challenges me and he knows how to get me to respond, and it's different for different people, but I think that he really knows what to do to get me going, and I think that that's important for us and that player-coach relationship."

###

WATCH, LISTEN, OR DOWNLOAD FULL POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Topic: CHI Sky Post-Game Media Availability

Start Time : Aug 18, 2020 11:00 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/39VVd6Pyxl9Jfa_SuWKCSqc6RtnvT6a8gSIW-vYlxE7TjWewOjaUF16Tfrin9oz1