

POSTGAME QUOTES



SKY GENERAL MANAGER & HEAD COACH JAMES WADE

On if this was a James Wade style of game:

“This is what we like. Of course we would’ve loved for them to shoot under 50% but beggars can’t be choosy. But I really liked our grit in that game and us being able to execute at a high level, even though they shot over 50%. We shut down who we wanted to shut down. So we just have to stay with that. We have to stay consistent with that and I was pretty pleased. I still have to watch the game again tonight and I guess see spots where we can improve for next week.”

On the plan for the next few days:

“We’ll have a full day off. I think tomorrow we’re going to do something together as a team that’s non-basketball related. And we just want to get them refreshed. We’ll do something before New York, but it’ll be really short and sweet. I’m really proud of them because in the last 19 days that we’ve had these 10 games we went seven and three. So I’m really proud of the effort, it’s tough. Only three teams have to go to ten games where it’s just the off day in between: Us, Connecticut and Seattle. So I was just proud of them for responding and going 7-3 in that stretch with not the easiest schedule was pretty good.”

On Gabby Williams having a plus-minus of 40 over her last two games:

“So this is the special thing about her. She’s very unique. Nobody in the league has a player like that, that can play one through four consistently. And her presence is more than scoring, it’s not in the stat sheet. She’s going to be in places to help out her teammates on defense, she’s going to help out her teammates on offense. So, it’s not a surprise for us that she’s plus 40. And what we have to get her to understand, like a young player to understand is her value is much bigger than a stat sheet. It’s much bigger than the points column, and you can’t say that about everybody. But the coaching staff and her teammates know how special she is, especially when she plays like she plays tonight. The scoring nights are going to come for her. But her value goes across the board, and I think it’s a value that’s unmatched by anyone.”

SKY GUARD COURTNEY VANDERSLOOT

On her offensive performance:

“With Z [Azurá Stevens] not being in the lineup, the last couple of games she was a big scorer for us so I knew I was going to be aggressive from the get-go, see how they were going to play pick and rolls. We wanted to put them in a lot of pick and roles. They were going under and I was getting open shots. So, in the first half I was fortunate to knock some down early.”

On transitioning her game to complement the rest of the team:

“Well, that’s my role. That’s what I’m here to do. I am looking to just help the team any way I can. Sometimes it’s boring, sometimes it’s not. I’m more of a distributor, but James [Wade] has made it very clear since he got here that he wants to ball in my hands. He wants it to be that way. I’m just going to keep doing what’s best for the team and help us win some games.”

On what the team still needs to improve on:

“What we need to do is keep getting better. We need to really lock in and know that we could easily just take a dive. So right now we’re playing well, things are going well for us. We need to lock in and continue to get better every game so we’re peaking right around playoff time.”

SKY GUARD KAHLEAH COPPER

On stepping up when being without Azura Stevens and Diamond DeShields:

"I think that when people go down, it's just important for everybody to just bring it up another notch. We talked about that before the game, and I think Sloat made a great point of, 'Yeah, we're short, but we have enough right here to win this game.' And I think that got us goin', got us fueled and got us ready for the beginning of the game. So, it sucks that they're down but we got to always hold them up as much as we can."

On Gabby Williams:

"Gabby was great. She had a lot of things that won't show up in the stats sheet, just the deflections and just getting those deflections was getting us in transition and that was important. She played great defense, and she had the highest plus-minus today so she was really effective out there."

On what changed for the team between the first half and the second half:

"We just needed to keep our foot on the gas. We talked about it and just were trying to come out in the third quarter really strong because they were going to get going, it's a game of runs and they were going to have their run but we just needed to make sure we maintained and just kept going."

SKY FORWARD GABBY WILLIAMS

On holding Indiana to only 12 points in the first quarter:

"I think we came out really motivated. We have a lot of reasons to step up right now, with injuries and whatever so we knew that we just had to come out and hit them hard."

On the energy she brought to give the Sky it's big lead:

"Sloat and Allie talked to me a lot coming into this game. You know, I think the past few games I kind of got away from what I do best and they were just like, 'We just need you to be you. We don't need you to be anything else, just be you and that's that's enough and that's valuable.' It really really helped, and James as well ... That's what I do, I play hard, I defend well, and I just had to get back to that."

On Chicago Sky players having donated more than \$13,000 to #SkyTakesAction:

"I'm excited because we have people who are going to be matching that, so I couldn't be more excited about what we're doing. And now we're going to start doing those donation items and soon and raising even more money. I want everyone to please go check out the Chicago Sky website because we have players who have individual initiatives as well. I'm just so proud of what these girls are doing on this team, everyone's just so involved."

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WATCH, LISTEN, OR DOWNLOAD FULL POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Topic: CHI Sky Post-Game Media Availability

Date: Aug 22, 2020 07:06 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/xMpsF5rp3X9JS6-K-RzCR7NmP6jKaaa8hHAY_cFzE3pOfJLJ5Md8eb8dB4mTXPW