

Forward/Center Azurá Stevens

Postgame Media Availability

July 26, 2020



"Before we start, I just want to say it was awesome being out there with my team. We're all fighting for justice this season for Breonna Taylor and still want those cops to be arrested. No justice, no peace. And so I just wanted to start with that."

On her experience from this game

"I felt really good to just get out there with this team, we've been working really hard. And I've obviously been off the court for a really long time so it was a really kind of emotional day for me before the game just with all that I've been through coming back from this injury. But being able to get out here with the team and get a win was really special."

On how she mentally prepared for this game

"Honestly, once we started playing and things started to settle in like I felt a lot better once I got on the court. But really just meditating a lot, praying a lot before the game. I'm just thinking about all the preparation that we put in as a team but even as myself that I put in to come back on the court really helps me to just stay rooted in reality while I got out there on the court."

On pulling the comeback together

"I think it's just about energy. Once we started getting stops, it kind of helped everything else flow on the offensive end. And we were stopping what they were doing and then we were able to exploit off of that. So I think that's really what turned it around for us in the second half was just not fouling. Obviously I'm not talking about myself because I fouled a lot but for the team like not fouling, just get-

ting solid stops, rebounding and then pushing it on the transition. We did really well I felt like in the second half with that. That all came from our defensive stops on the other end."

On whether her fouling was nerves or getting back in the rhythm

"It was a little bit of both, but I think it was more of just lack of discipline. I just have to be better. I'm taking away things that players do. Obviously Aj'a [Wilson] is a great talent but there's a scout for a reason. So I just have to be better with that. And just little things like staying on your feet, stuff like that. It's just discipline and especially once I get tired. We've gone up and down a couple of times like you really have to lock in mentally. So I think that's just going to be my focus moving forward."

On playing in a new environment in the bubble

"It definitely was different. But I think once we got on the court like we're playing basketball. Yes, we love the fans but I mean I'm sure we're going to adjust quickly to just not having them there. It was just really quiet. I think that's the only big difference is like you can literally hear everything that goes on. And so that was pretty much the only difference I felt. But I think speaking to that like for energy sake we have to bring more energy. And that's something that we talked about a little bit just because we don't have the fans. We don't have when we're making a run all the way back like usually fans

would be into that cheering us on, boosting us up. But we don't have that with this situation so that's something that we'll have to dig in a little bit more and do."

On how she can build off this performance for the rest of the season

"I mean I think the biggest thing for me is just taking it day by day. I can't get too focused on what happens, what's going to happen with the next opponent. I can't get stuck in this game like today, we played. We'll enjoy this, and then tomorrow is like flipping the switch and getting ready for LA. It's just taking each day for what it is and really staying locked into that. And staying locked into each moment. That's really what helped me with my injury coming back was staying focused on the present moment and not getting caught up on the past or the future. But just staying like rooted in the moment so that's what I'm trying to do for this whole season and I think even for us as a team that's what we're trying to do. We're trying to just take it game-by-game, practice-by-practice, recovery-by-recovery. Whatever we're doing, we're trying to stay focused on that one moment and build it up for us to win that championship at the end of the year."

On what it was like to officially play with Gabby Williams again

"It was really special. I mean, obviously we played together. We played together practice as well but to have it back on the game was really fun."

