

# POSTGAME QUOTES



## **SKY GENERAL MANAGER & HEAD COACH JAMES WADE**

### **On finishing the season with a strong win:**

"I mean it, I think it feels good. They're in good spirits in the locker room, and the fact that we were able to secure a second straight playoff berth and finish off the season going into the playoffs with a win, especially one that I think we worked really hard. We had to work hard. They had the pressure on us and you saw a hungry team that's trying to secure a playoff spot. And so, we needed that pressure to push us and they stayed on the same page throughout the game and we never got rattled, even when Arike [Ogunbowale] caught fire a little bit Gabby [Williams] came in and had a good stance on her, Kah[leah] [Copper] did a good job on her so I was pretty pleased with it."

### **On Ruthy Hebard:**

"She was OK [laughs]. She got beat before that last backdoor with [Kayla] Thornton so I mean that was, that was something that I wasn't happy about but other than that she was, she was pretty solid, pretty consistent. You know, we know that when we go to her she's gonna take her time. She plays like a poised veteran especially on the offensive end so no I was happy with her. And, you know, we were pleased with her since the beginning, now she's getting more and more of an opportunity and she's just taken a grab on it and a hold of it and flourishing so that's good."

### **On having a few days before the postseason:**

"I mean, for them it's gonna give them a little rest and, you know, give them a good memory going into the playoffs and they're gonna need some rest. For me, it's just preparing and the coaching staff so we're back at the drawing board so the sooner the better. So after this game I'm just going to go dive into some film and do as much as I can to prepare for this first game."

## **SKY GUARD COURTNEY VANDERSLOOT**

### **On reaching the playoffs for the second straight season:**

"It's huge, you know, you go into every season, and you want to be a playoff team, and for us to be able to come here and especially lately fight through a little adversity and still being in a playoff position, and still have a chance to go for the championship. It's huge for this franchise, it's huge for the team that we have here and you know we were gonna look to keep growing that streak."

### **On preparations against the Connecticut Sun:**

"Well we've already been kind of plugging that seat a little and saying how you know playoff basketball is different. We got to step up the intensity, you know we've kind of already started that. And so we're just going to continue to just focus on us and realize that, you know, once playoffs start, the season's 0-0, and whatever happened, it doesn't matter. And, you know, we're in a little bit of a different situation where it's one game and we can go home. And so we're gonna, you know, make sure we lay it all out there."

### **On going into the playoffs on a win:**

"It's huge. It's huge for our morale and you know we knew that if we get this one off like just one win that we're gonna, you know, it just changes everything. And, you know, going into this game it was kind of like you know do we rest, do we whatever, because you know it doesn't change a lot but it was really important to us to get back to Chicago Sky basketball playing like we were earlier in the season and getting a win."

## **SKY FORWARD RUTHY HEBARD**

### **On scoring a career-high 22 points:**

"Yeah, I felt really good. I mean I'm lucky to have great teammates. You know [Courtney] [Vander]Sloot gave me the ball and Cheyenne [Parker] just being there to help me out, talk to me so I'm really just happy that you know my teammates helped me and support me through it."

### **On how she feels heading into her first playoffs:**

"I'm just super excited to keep going out and to try to help my team, however I can. I know the whole team is excited and ready so I'm really excited to see how I play and how the rest of the team plays throughout the playoffs."

### **On the team's performance for the full 40 minutes:**

"A lot better than the other night. We were locked in tonight and really wanted to come up with this win and it showed. That's how we need to play throughout the whole rest of the playoffs."

## **SKY GUARD/FORWARD KAHLEAH COPPER**

### **On the team returning to the postseason:**

"It means a lot, it's rewarding. Had a really up and down season, but to have a chance for a new season to start fresh is amazing, exciting."

### **On if there's a sense of relief now that the regular season is over:**

"Oh yeah, it's like we're good like we're here, we're going into it with a win. So, we're just focused on just moving forward."

### **On how big it is mentally to come off a really good game heading into the playoffs:**

"This was important for us going forward. We hadn't played well the last couple games and we wanted to really put together 40 minutes, and just come out with a win. And just to get back into winning rhythm and just a feeling of being a winner. I think that's important also going into the playoffs so it feels good to win and it feels good to be in the playoffs."