



VISITOR QUOTES

CHICAGO SKY vs. SEATTLE STORM

KEYARENA | JULY 17, 2016

CHICAGO SKY HEAD COACH **POKEY CHATMAN**

(On the game)

"It was entertaining for the fans. I say that tongue in cheek. I credit Seattle for making a valiant comeback, but also not lost in that is we had a different starting lineup. That group came out and jumped on them really early and gave us that cushion. I think that was important. There were a couple of key areas that we emphasized in preparing for this game. We thought we could rebound ... to the tune of 21 second-chance points. I think when all the dust settles, that's where you won the game. And also with Elena Delle Donne. Not just the last shot, but I just told Elena she was excellent in her decision making – when to attack the basket, when to pull up for the mid-range and when to spot up. Sometimes when you're tired you don't think, but I thought she played extremely well on both ends of the floor. We had a bit of foul trouble and some people going down with injuries. At the end of the day, I told them no one will remember the score in seven days, it'll be a win and we'll take it. We'll look at why we're so inconsistent defensively and try to continue some of this momentum for Tuesday at Phoenix."

(On if she told Elena Delle Donne to take over at the end of the game)

"Great players, who are also unselfish, you play to them, you play through them and you play off of them. The play was for Elena to get the ball and make a read. I told her, if you catch it way out and want to go one-on-one, just get some space. They've seen her do that and they trust her. At that point, the adrenaline is pumping and how many did she score? It felt like 40. But also she was defending some pretty damn good players at the other end. I thought we managed things towards the end ... and I didn't see bad body language when Seattle was making a run. They connected to the message and like I said, we're happy to get a win. We've been on the struggle bus – the struggle is real – so we're trying to gain a little momentum as we finish up this road swing."

SKY CENTER **ELENA DELLE DONNE** 35 POINTS, 11 REBOUNDS

(On taking the game-winning shot)

"I knew the play was going to get me in that position and I wanted to make sure the clock went down enough where they wouldn't be able to run a play if we scored or if we missed. I just felt confident, was able to get into a rhythm, let it fly and it felt great to see it go in because we really needed that win."

(On Lauren Jackson and their similarities and differences)

"I always looked up to her as a player. Her versatility was something that I admired so I would say that's our similarity right there – being tall, but also being able to shoot the ball and having some guard skills. Differences ... I would say she was a little bit more of a post and I'm a little bit more outside. It was definitely an incredible career and I was excited for her to get her jersey retired – seems like a no-brainer. But she's an amazing player and truly someone who inspired me."

(On Breanna Stewart, the comparisons there and any added motivation for this game because of that)

"It's funny, everybody wants to compare the versatile players – Candace Parker, Lauren Jackson, myself, Stewie – all incredible players and all different in our own ways. It's really great for the league and fun to watch. This game, more than anything, we just needed a win. We're trying to get to .500 before the Olympic break so I was really motivated to come in here. They have a great crowd and we knew they were going to go on a run, but we needed to come away with a win."



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(On what the team needs to improve upon going forward)

"Our defense has been inconsistent. As you can see, we had a great first half and then gave up 56 points in the second half. Inconsistencies on defense are our biggest struggle and something we have to figure out or we'll continue to struggle because defense is what wins games."

(On what the media can do to get more attention on the WNBA)

"It's all fun talking about on-court stuff, but it's more interesting and you might grab a new fan if you tell a story outside of basketball, what a player is into and their interests or something that's inspiring about them. I always think it's important to talk about the basketball, but also get people to know about the person."