

VISITOR QUOTES

LOS ANGELES SPARKS vs. SEATTLE STORM

KEYARENA | AUG. 26, 2016

SPARKS HEAD COACH **BRIAN AGLER**

(On the game)

"We talked about this over August and it seemed to play out tonight – some of these teams, like Seattle and probably five or six others, are really fighting hard to get into the playoffs. They're going to play desperate and they're going to play hungry and they're going to be aggressive. (Seattle) played hungrier tonight than we did."

(On if the month off hurt the team)

"I think we sat around for six weeks and everybody told us how good we were and I think we softened up. That's why you don't see repeat champions. Everybody gets in the offseason and everybody tells them how good they are and then they don't have as good of a year. That's sort of what happened to us for six weeks."

(On how the team will get things turned around)

"Our players had some good things to say after the game and I hope that we'll develop that hunger again. We'll find out."

(On Breanna Stewart's overall game)

"She didn't have one of her better offensive games tonight, but she's a really good player. She'll be Rookie of the Year. Statistically she's done really well. She's going to be a really good player for a long time. She's extremely versatile. She can handle the ball, has good range, can put it on the floor and post up so she can score multiple ways. I think the thing that impressed me tonight was a couple of times taking the ball, putting it on the floor and making jump shots. When players can score three or four different ways, they have a chance to be very good."

SPARKS FORWARD **NNEKA OGWUMIKE** 28 POINTS, 7 REBOUNDS

(On the game)

"I thought we weren't ready. We weren't ready so we were just scrambling and fighting the whole game. ."

(On if the Olympic break was a hindrance)

"I don't think it was a hindrance, but it is like a new season. People are fighting for their playoff lives and we need to take that into account. I just think that our focus just wasn't there."

(On holding Seattle to nine points in the second quarter)

"We cranked up our defense in the second quarter and that was because they started shooting well in the first. Then we started the third quarter the same way we started the first. We gave them a lot of open shots. We were scrambling and pretty much letting them score however they wanted to."

(On what they need to do to re-focus)

"I think we really need to simplify what we do. I think we overcomplicate it by diving deep into our playbook. We really just need to stick to what we know and stick to what makes us who we are."