

## **Seattle Storm Head Coach Jenny Boucek**

*(On getting the Olympians back...)*

“It’s good. It’s taken us a little while to get them re-integrated, but I think our other players made great improvements over the break and so we’re seeing a lot more bench production since the break. So we’re really excited about that and now we just continue to re-integrate our Olympians back in.”

*(On what non-Olympic players did to improve...)*

“They worked really hard. Individual stuff, team stuff, mentality, I mean we really worked on a lot of different things trying to get them confident and ready to compete at a higher level.”

*(On losing Crystal Langhorne early changing the game...)*

“No question. Crystal’s been playing really, really well for us. Tok [Ramu Tokashiki] did a great job, but Lang is an important piece of what we do, and it also impacts our depth and our rotation.”

*(On what she told the team after a slow start...)*

“I just tried to settle them and try to give them some tips on what we need to do defensively because they [Chicago] were taking it to us on that end of the floor. But it took us until halftime to really get it figured out.”

## **Seattle Storm Forward Breanna Stewart | 13 points, 10 rebounds**

*(On her first Olympic experience and returning to the Seattle team...)*

“It was amazing. To be able to go and be apart of that and to win a gold medal, and just experience all of that...representing your country at the highest level, those are things you dream of doing.”

“It’s good to come back and see the work that they’ve put in during the Olympic break; and these are people we’ve been with for the past few months, so it’s fun to come back and be back with them.”

*(On their slow start tonight...)*

“We really don’t have room for error and especially on the road, you can’t have a slow start against the home team because they’ll just get momentum through the crowd.”

*(On matchup against Elena Delle Donne after playing with her in Rio...)*

“I think it’s exciting. Obviously during the Olympic break we kind of created a strong friendship and just going through the Olympics together for the first time and be able to square up against her on the court. She’s one of the best and it’s always going to be a challenge, but it’s fun.”

**Seattle Storm Guard Sue Bird | 15 points, 4 assists**

*(On getting back to the WNBA after the Olympics...)*

“It hasn’t been so bad. I think for anyone, meaning whether you went to the Olympics or not; it’s a month without games. So for everyone, you have to get into the swing of things.”

*(On if there’s a different schedule between Olympics/WNBA...)*

“When you’re with the Olympic team, you’re kind of in a mini training camp for a couple weeks and then you go to the event itself and you play every other day for almost two weeks. It’s similar, but it’s different. You stay in the same place, so that’s nice. You don’t have to travel.”

*(On going from being teammates to opponents with Olympians...)*

“At this point, especially for me being one of the older players, it’s kind of the norm. All of us play together on this team in the WNBA, then play against each other overseas, then you might be teammates again somewhere else...every year is a new team, especially in Europe. It’s kind of old hat at this point. I don’t really think twice about it.”

*(On what about tonight could’ve gone better...)*

“We had a little bit of a rough start, they came out pretty aggressive, obviously scored I want to say it was like 9-0 to start the game. And I’m sure if you look at the stats, that right there could’ve been the game-changer. So getting off to a good start is always important, especially on the road, and we didn’t do that.”

*(On what they did well to come back...)*

“Our second half was much better. Not necessarily the start of the third quarter, but probably midway and on. Our coach told us some stats like we only had one turnover, we went to the free throw line well, and we gave ourselves a chance.”