

THE POSTGAME WRAP

Kings vs. Spurs

Monday, November 26, 2007 – ARCO Arena, Sacramento, CA

Kings win 112-99

[Box Score](#) || [NBA Recap](#) || [Postgame Quotes](#)

The Kings came into Monday's game planning to impose their aggressive team defense against the San Antonio Spurs. The plan worked convincingly as the Kings won, 112-99, at ARCO Arena against the defending NBA champions.

The Kings set the tone early playing sound transition basketball while maintaining an unrelenting aggressiveness (five steals) in the first half to give themselves a 52-48 lead. Beno Udrih, Brad Miller and Ron Artest set up the first half with double-digit scoring performances and the Kings momentum carried through the remaining 24 minutes.

The former Spurs back up point guard, Udrih, turned in a sterling performance, highlighted by a career-high 27 points (8-of-12), five assists and four boards. Udrih not only played offensively like a man on a mission, he also helped keep three different Spurs point guards to just 20 points on 36 percent shooting from the field (8-of-22). Parker led those three - Darius Washington and Jacque Vaughn - with 12 points.

"Before the game I told Beno he has to let the game come to him, be aggressive and just remember that it's not personal." Coach Reggie Theus said. "And if you let the game come to you, you'll have a good night. If you chase it, you're going to struggle. This is not a team that you can just come out and decide you're going to do something against. You have to allow, and he did, he allowed the picks to come. When he didn't have the shot, he passed it. When he had the shot, he was aggressive and confident in what he had to do. I would imagine for him under the circumstances, it's pretty sweet."

Among many of the highlight reel plays the Kings made, including a shot-clock beating fallaway jumper by Artest, a Mikki Moore one hand throwdown over Tim Duncan and an array of outstanding team defensive stops, Udrih's play shined brightest at the end. With just 2:57 to go in the game and the Kings leading 103-92, Michael Finley finally missed a 3-pointer, after already sinking three in the fourth quarter. Beno gathered a deflected rebound and took it coast to coast in traffic, snaking his way through three Spurs defenders, for a miraculous lay up, plus the And One, which he sank. As Beno raced down the new ARCO Arena hardwood, the crowd began to stand and once the shot fell and the referee's whistle sounded for the foul, the entire arena erupted in jubilation.

"Beno was great tonight," Spurs forward Tim Duncan said. "They had a great team effort. I don't know if it was just Beno. I think he was possibly the head of it. But I thought all and all as a team, they moved the ball very well. Defensively, they were very solid. They just had a really good night."

While Udrih was clearly the man of the night, he wasn't the story. The Kings defensive effort and all around play was the story. The Kings held the Spurs terrific trio - Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Tim Duncan - to 38 points. The trio, which averages nearly 60 points per game, couldn't find a rhythm in the chaos caused by the Kings defense. Ginobili scored nine points (3-of-12), Duncan notched 15 (6-of-11) along with five boards and Parker concluded with 12 points (5-of-13), seven assists and four turnovers.

"Part of our goal was to make them change their lineup," Theus said. "With Ron being able to really play any place on the floor, we did that in the second quarter. I thought that it helped and it gave Brad and Mikki some rest. And really they were fresh and solid all the way down through the end of the game."

The Kings didn't boast a terrific trio, rather, a super sextet as six Kings players scored 10 points or more - Brad Miller, Moore, Artest, Kevin Martin, John Salmons and Udrih.

Moore played the way he became known for in New Jersey last season, connecting on eight of his nine shot attempts for 17 points. Brad Miller also stepped up for the Kings. Miller scored 17 points, dished out a game-high-tying seven assists, nabbed two steals, swatted two blocks and corralled 10 boards.

"It was great," Beno Udrih said of Miller's play. "Finally, we had more ball movement. Maybe it was because we had our first five-on-five practice since I got here, on Sunday. That was the first practice that was five on five after I came here.

"To me, you see what we can do more when you see (teammates) in front of you. It's totally different than five on zero. And we did it. Brad played great, Mikki played great, and everybody did their job."

The game was an astounding one to witness as the Kings confidence and composure carried them through the ebbs and flows of the matchup, including several Spurs attempts to make their trademark comeback in the final minutes.

"It definitely helps us that we beat the best team," Udrih said. "They were champions last year and we beat them at home. We have four more games coming at home so it's a big confidence (booster) for us. Hopefully we continue this winning streak and we'll get those four games at home at least."

The Kings won their first of what is the beginning of a five-game home stand. They face the Golden State Warriors, Houston Rockets, Utah Jazz and L.A. Clippers before heading back on the road on December 8th. The next contest comes quickly as the **Kings host the Warriors Wednesday at 7 p.m. [Be Here Live!](#) Tickets are available to see Kevin Martin and Baron Davis, of the Bay Area Rival Warriors, go head to head!**

Closing Thought:

It wasn't exactly a Spurs wave of the white flag, but it was an entertaining display of respect and suggestion from a four-time NBA champion coach. As the game wound toward a close, the Kings maintained a double-digit lead with 2:20 to go in the fourth quarter. The shot-clock malfunctioned. On the Kings first possession following the referee's decision to turn both shot-clocks off, Brad Miller threw a Hail Mary pass to Ron Artest who took a dribble and went up for a lay up and was fouled. The game-clock read 14 seconds had ran off the clock in the split second sequence. So the referees asked the game-clock keeper to put 2:19 on the clock, saying the play took just one second. Theus thought two seconds should have ran off the clock and brought his case to the referee. A moment later, Theus walked away from the exchange at center court smiling ear to ear for the first time all game as Coach Gregg Popovich said to Theus from the other side of the court with a huge grin, "Settle down Reggie!"

The passion and intensity Theus brings to the court every night is infectious and tonight everyone -- players, coaches and fans were all infected. Fortunately, Theus was able to enjoy the waning moments of his team's "best 48 minutes of the season so far," as he called it.

"The crowd helped us a lot today," Beno Udrih said. "They were right there with us. Everybody says they're the sixth man. They were the sixth man for sure."

ARCO Arena Celebrity Sightings Continue:

Eva Longoria is one of the stars of the hit ABC Show Desperate Housewives. Recently, she married San Antonio Spurs point guard, Tony Parker. Tonight she sat baseline for tonight's Kings/Spurs matchup and Kings.com garnered her attention long enough to ask one question.

How much of a basketball fan were you before marrying Tony?

"I was always a Spurs fan growing up. We watched them with my dad all the time. So I've always been a basketball fan."