

Latta chats about WNBA season

WNBA star Ivory Latta is easily one of my favorite professional athletes. And, she's also one of my favorite people to interview. Each interview seems like our first. I always learn something new when I talk with Latta.

I thought this would be a good time to see how things were going for my favorite WNBA player, who recently joined the Atlanta Dream from the Detroit Shock. I asked the second-year point guard how she's been adjusting to the switch, as well as the added pressure of being a marquee player again. She said that she's handling things well. I also wanted to get her thoughts on Camille Little joining her again. Most of you remember the two of them from their days at UNC.

We also discussed her coming to Winston for CP's Weekend, the hot weather, Lil Wayne and a few other things. Take a look at some of the things Ivory and I talked about during a very fun interview on Tuesday.

Ivory: Hey, Anthony. What's going on?

Anthony: Not too much. How are you?

Ivory: I'm doing pretty good. I'm doing pretty good.

Anthony: Things are going kind of slow for you all in Atlanta. Kind of give me your thoughts on how things are going for the team.

Ivory: It's going pretty good. I can't complain. Like you said, it's a little slow. But things are going to pick up for us. We're all going to come together, and everything will be good for us in the end.

Anthony: Things have worked out kind of quick for you. You went from being a rookie to being one of the premier players in the league this year.

Ivory: (Laughs.)

Anthony: (Smiles.) How have you been adjusting to that?

Ivory: It's definitely been a good adjustment. It hasn't been that bad. But I still have a lot of things to work on, as far as me and the team. Like I said, everything will work out in the end, buddy.

Anthony: OK. Do you feel any pressure?

Ivory: No.

Anthony: I mean, you're all over Phillips Arena. There's billboard photos of you everywhere. You don't feel the pressure to do a lot right away?

Ivory: None what-so-ever. None. I'm just blessed to be in this position. It's a great opportunity for me to be down here in Atlanta. But there's no pressure at all. None what-so-ever.

Anthony: (Smiles.) How much are you enjoying being back in that Carolina blue (Atlanta Dream colors)?

Ivory: Aw man, it's great. (Both laugh.) It's like the old times. It's good.

Anthony: Speaking of old times, you have your girl Camille (Little) back with you.

Ivory: Oh yeah, definitely. She's doing a great job too. So, it is great.

Anthony: I hear that. Have you been watching the Finals?

Ivory: The NBA Finals?

Anthony: Yes.

Ivory: Oh man. They come on too late. I'm in the bed by 8:30, 9 o'clock. So, I'm usually sleep when the game starts. I'm catching the highlights and stuff.

Anthony: OK. Which team will win between Boston and L.A.? Who are you picking?

Ivory: Ah man. I'm a Kobe fan. But I really want KG to win a ring. So, I would pick Boston. But I became a Kobe fan this year. I'm picking Boston, though.

Anthony: I know you like Kobe. Me too. But you know the MVP should've gone to Chris Paul.

Ivory: What? Beyond that. That's who I'm actually watching right now to help my game out. I've definitely got a couple clips on him. I believe he should've gotten the MVP. His play was outstanding.

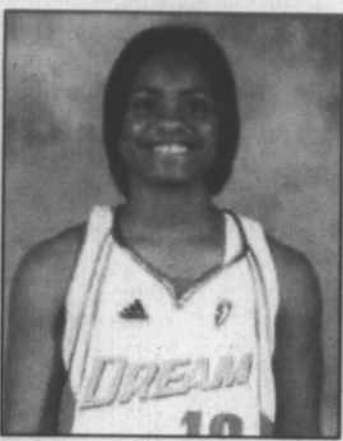
Anthony: No doubt. What about you? How much have you improved since last year?

Ivory: A lot. At Detroit, I didn't get to play as much. I'm getting the opportunity to do what I love here. I'm trying to get better every day. I have a great guard to look up to in Betty Lennox. You can't go



Ivory Latta slows down for interview.

Photo by Getty Images



Latta

Anthony: How's everything back in South Carolina?

Ivory: Everything is good. The fam is doing good. Friends are doing great. Everybody is just excited. Ya know.

Anthony: Who's gives you the hardest time in the WNBA?

Ivory: I would have to say Tamika Catchings. She plays on both ends. She does it all.

Anthony: What's the best part about playing with the Atlanta Dream?

Ivory: The atmosphere. Our fans are great. We have, by far, the best fans in the WNBA. They come out and support us.

Anthony: What music have you been listening to?

Ivory: Oh, you cut my car on and it's nothing but Lil Wayne. Come on, man. All day.

Anthony: (Smiles.) Let's finish up with free association. Um, Ivory Latta.

Ivory: (Laughs.) Funny.

Anthony: Point guard.

Ivory: The best.

Anthony: Porsche Jones.

Ivory: (Giggles.) I don't know. I only played against her one time, I think. She's cool.

Anthony: Candace Parker.

Ivory: Good player.

Anthony: Camille Little.

Ivory: (Laughs.) Great person.

Anthony: UNC.

Ivory: The best school ever.

Anthony: Best female point guard to come out of Carolina.

Ivory: Me.

Anthony: That's what's up. We're down. Thank you for the time, Ivory.

Ivory: No problem. You take care, baby.

Anthony: (Smiles.) No doubt.

wrong with that.

Anthony: I hate to dwell on the start of the season. But how hard is it for you to be patient with the way things are going?

Ivory: It's hard, without a doubt. But God has been teaching me patience my whole life. I've really been put into situations that really require my

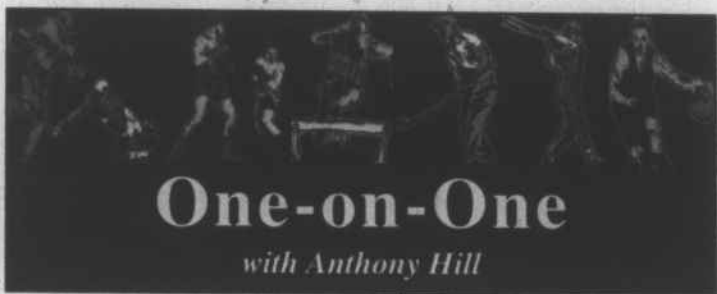
Ivory: Yeah. That's the bowling weekend, right?

Anthony: Yeah.

Ivory: Let me know when it is. I definitely want to come.

Anthony: I don't know the exact date right now. Text him or something. He'll hit you back.

Ivory: I'm going to do that. I will hit his brother up and see



patience. I know things will workout for us in the end.

Anthony: OK. Let's move on. If you could play anyone, one-on-one, who would it be?

Ivory: I'd probably have to say Chris Paul. He's outstanding. We're good friends too.

Anthony: So, we need to get you down here for his weekend in September.

what the dates with that is.

Anthony: Cool. So, what else is new?

Ivory: Nothing much. Just enjoying this hot weather.

Anthony: It's way too hot in Atlanta.

Ivory: That's why they call it Hotlanta. I'm used to the hot weather, but this weather is just too hot. I don't be outside that much.

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