

SPARKS

SPECIAL SPARKS MAGAZINE

5th Edition



NNEKA OGWUMIKE

A look into what makes one of the best women in the League such a success.

FEATURE

page 15



**Become a part of our
Adopt-A-Team Program!**

page 5



Community Corner
Your Sparks have been active this summer!

page 10



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YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Learn about our Adopt-A-Team program!

page 5

COMMUNITY CORNER

Your Sparks have been active in the community this summer – take a look at where we've been!

page 10

NNEKA OGWUMIKE

Read about one of the most talented women in the League.

page 15

also IN THIS ISSUE

4 Arena Map

6 Sparks Roster

7 Visiting Teams Rosters

17 Get Social with the Sparks

UPCOMING GAMES

Monday, July 17
7:30pm vs Indiana

Thursday, July 20
12:30pm vs Chicago

Tuesday, July 25
7:30pm vs Seattle

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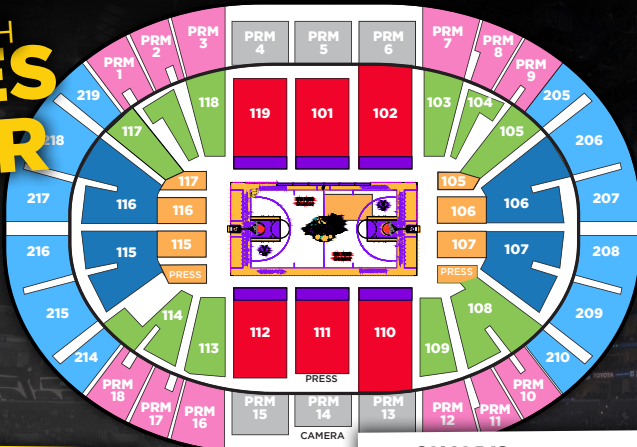
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DTLA
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Goose Island, Firestone, Kona,
Lagunitas, Stone

FIGUEROA BAR
Across from Section 101
Cocktails, Bud Light,
Goose Island, Stella, Wine

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STAPLES Center, so please
drink responsibly.



MCDONALD'S
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french fries

BLAZE PIZZA
Across from Section 109
Pizza, salad, desserts, beverages

WETZEL'S PRETZELS
Next to Section 103
Gourmet pretzels, snacks, beverages

and
**CONCESSION
STANDS!**

YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

ADOPT A TEAM

The Los Angeles Sparks have created a program designed to get youth basketball teams out to a game whom would otherwise not be able to do so.

The WNBA in itself is working hard to increase the number of powerful female role models in the spotlight whom young children have to look up to. While there are many powerful women, not all get the visibility they deserve, and not all children have access to those role models. The Sparks are working to change that.

Unfortunately, the opportunity to see our Championship team play is not afforded to all. The Sparks Community Relations Department works hard to donate tickets to any and all organizations it can. We alone cannot reach everyone.

Adopt-A-Team is a program anyone can get involved with to help get young basketball players, girls and boys, out to see the LA Sparks play.

HOW IT WORKS.

You can help support a local youth basketball team by adopting a team for the remainder of the 2017 season! The program provides tickets to the team for the players and family members attend a game. They will get to watch championship caliber women play, which helps to ignite a fire in the bellies of the youth to set a goal for themselves, work hard, and ultimately achieve their goal.

The teams will also be provided with special fan experiences during the Sparks game, providing them with a once in a lifetime opportunity. If you would like to get involved but would like to stay anonymous, just let us know.

HIGHLIGHTED TEAM.

Today, our highlighted Adopt-A-Team is the Hollywood YMCA. Instead of adopting just one team, a Sparks fan decided to adopt the ENTIRE basketball program in the Hollywood YMCA. She has purchased tickets for them to attend every game. Because of her, a different basketball team will be attending each game of the season!



LEGACY. REDEFINED.

#WeAre**STRONG** #WeAre**WOMEN**
8.27.17

presented by 

In 2015 and 2016, we broke records and barriers by impacting the community through sport and setting a new franchise record for the first STAPLES Center sell-out in Sparks Franchise history. This was all made possible by our team of Ambassadors. These women and men were our voices to make a difference.

We are proud to have diverse Ambassadors that represent all things L.A. As we prepare for the 2017 #WeAreWomen game on 8.27.17, we challenge you to lead with the Sparks and become an Ambassador.

Become a 2017 #WeAreWomen Ambassador by contacting
Melissa Lopez at mlopez@la-sparks.com or call 323.431.3101.

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LOS ANGELES SPARKS

ROSTER



ALANA BEARD

Position: G-F
Height: 5-11
Age: 34 (5/14/82)
Duke



ESSENCE CARSON

Position: F-G
Height: 6-0
Age: 30 (7/28/86)
Rutgers



MAIMOUNA DIARRA

Position: C
Height: 6-6
Age: 26 (1/30/91)



CHELSEA GRAY

Position: G
Height: 5-11
Age: 24 (10/8/92)
Duke



TIFFANY JACKSON-JONES

Position: F
Height: 6-3
Age: 32 (4/26/85)
Texas



JANEL LAVENDER

Position: C
Height: 6-4
Age: 28 (11/12/88)
Ohio State



NNEKA OGUMIKE

Position: F
Height: 6-2
Age: 26 (7/2/90)
Stanford



CANDACE PARKER

Position: F-C
Height: 6-4
Age: 31 (4/19/86)
Tennessee



ODYSSEY SIMS

Position: G
Height: 5-8
Age: 24 (7/13/92)
Baylor



SYDNEY WIESE

Position: C
Height: 6-0
Age: 21 (6/16/95)
Oregon State



RIQUANA WILLIAMS

Position: G
Height: 5-7
Age: 26 (5/28/90)
Miami

Head Coach
Brian Agler (College - Wittenberg)

Assistant Coach
Tonya Edwards (College - Tennessee)

Assistant Coach
Bobbie Kelsey (College - Stanford)

Athletic Trainer
Courtney Watson (College - California)

Strength-and-Conditioning Coaching
Kelly Dormandy (College - Springfield)



CONNECTICUT
SUN

NUM	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	FROM
11	Danielle Adams	F-C	6-1	Texas A&M
1	Rachel Banham	G	5-9	Minnesota
20	Alex Bentley	G	5-7	Penn State
35	Jonquel Jones	F-C	6-6	George Washington
42	Brionna Jones	F	6-3	Maryland
12	Lynetta Kizer	F	6-4	Maryland
7	Kayla Pedersen	F	6-4	Stanford
40	Shekinna Stricklen	G-F	6-2	Tennessee
5	Jasmine Thomas	G	5-9	Duke
25	Alyssa Thomas	F	6-2	Maryland
33	Morgan Tuck	F	6-2	Connecticut
10	Courtney Williams	G	5-8	South Florida

Head Coach
Curt Miller

Assistant Coaches
Steve Smith
Nicki Collen

Athletic Trainer
Jeremy Norman

GAME MATCHUP

The Sparks and Sun meet up for what will be their second of three hard fought battles this season. Though the Sun started off cold, they have since heated up with an impressive win over the New York Liberty and followed it up by handing the Minnesota Lynx their first loss of the season. Nneka's sister, Chiney, is rebounding from a ruptured achilles but in her absence other players have stepped up big to fill her void. This includes potential all-star and MVP candidate, Jonquel Jones, who is on pace to break Tina Charles WNBA record for most rebounds in a season of 398.

The Los Angeles Sparks are looking to break records of their own as they continue their quest to be the first team to repeat titles since Lisa Leslie Sparks did back '01-'02. The Sparks are still unblemished at home this season and they are looking to keep it that way against a physical and playoff hopeful Sun team.

LIMITED EDITION

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INDIANA FEVER

NUM	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	FROM
11	Natalie Achonwa	C	6-4	Notre Dame
25	Marissa Coleman	G-F	6-1	Maryland
4	Candice Dupree	F	6-2	Temple
1	Jazmon Gwathmey	G	6-2	James Madison
20	Briann January	G	5-8	Arizona State
42	Shenise Johnson	G	5-11	Miami
2	Erlana Larkins	F	6-1	North Carolina
22	Erica McCall	F	6-2	Stanford
3	Tiffany Mitchell	G	5-9	South Carolina
32	Jeanette Pohlen-Mavunga	G	6-0	Stanford
17	Erica Wheeler	G	5-7	Rutgers

Head Coach
Pokey Chatman

Assistant Coaches
Steven Key
Jessie Miller

Athletic Trainer
Todd Champlin

Strength & Conditioning
Chase Campbell

Operations and Equipment Manager
Megan Tsangaris

GAME MATCHUP

This game marks the third and final time Indiana and Los Angeles will face off in the regular season. Both previous games were played in Indiana, so the Sparks hope to close out the series strong at home.

The first game proved to be a battle. The score at the half was 55-41 Sparks, but the Fever came out strong in the 3rd quarter, outscoring the Sparks 27-10 in just the third. The game came down to the fourth quarter and Indiana was able to hold on and squeeze out a three point victory, finishing with a score of 93-90.

LA looks to defend their home court and finish the series out with a strong win as they head into the second half of the season.

SEATTLE STORM



NUM	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	FROM
10	Sue Bird	G	5-9	Connecticut
32	Alysha Clark	F	5-11	Middle Tenn. St.
1	Crystal Langhorne	F	6-2	Maryland
24	Jewell Loyd	G	5-10	Notre Dame
11	Lanay Montgomery	C	6-5	West Virginia
23	Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis	F	5-11	Connecticut
2	Alexis Peterson	G	5-7	Syracuse
45	Noelle Quinn	G	6-0	UCLA
30	Breanna Stewart	F	6-4	Connecticut
8	Carolyn Swords	C	6-6	Boston College
7	Ramu Tokashiki	F	6-3	Japan
3	Sami Whitcomb	G	5-10	-

Head Coach
Jenny Boucek

Assistant Coaches
Gary Kloppenburg
Ryan Webb

GAME MATCHUP

The Sparks and the Storm meet for the third and final time this regular season. Having opened the season playing against each other for two straight years in a row, these teams know each other well.

Seattle is coming off a 5 game home stand where they played the Sparks only four games ago on July 8. Jewell Lloyd and 2016 #1 draft pick Breanna Stewart lead the Storm in points per game, averaging 17.2 and 17.1 points per game respectively. Along with veteran Sue Bird, the Storm have a talented mix of rookies and veterans.

The Sparks are at the end of a four game home-stand, headed out on the road to play in San Antonio for their next game. The team is averaging 86.6 points per game while their opponent is averaging only 78.9 points per game. This discrepancy can be attributed to the 49.1 Field Goal Percentage and 37.8 3-PT Percentage that the team is shooting. Defense is key in defending a championship, and Parker and Ogwumike lead their team on defense too, averaging the most defensive rebounds.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

by Andrea Moiseve

What do you want your legacy to be?
On the court, we're ALL-STARS, MVPs, and 3x CHAMPIONS who work hard for every win. Off the court, we're COMMUNITY WARRIORS who work hard for everyone.

The Los Angeles Sparks organization takes great pride in the positive impact that our players and front office have had in the community over the last 20 years. From our annual game ticket and merchandise donation programs to our on-the-ground impact and events focused on: Health & Wellness, Education, Military & Veterans' Affairs, Youth Sports, Financial Literacy, and Women & Girls Community platforms --- #WeAreWomen. #WeAreStrong. #SparkTheCommunity.

Join with us at www.sparks.wnba.com/community/

The Summer Stride!

- Our amazing 24/7 Club Members crowdsourced 219 pieces of classic literature over the last three games. What #teamwork! Ranging from C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien to Dr. Seuss and Suzanne Collins - these books will directly benefit the children and families of Summer Night Lights, a public/private partnership undertaken by the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development and The GRYD Foundation.
- You are fabulous! was the theme of the day on Monday, June 19th for our Manager of Corporate Partnerships, Cay Young, as she spoke at the National Association of Women in Construction's annual summer camp for girls. Moving the needle forward - if you think the construction industry is just for guys...think again! Girls rule there too.
- Swoosh! In celebration of Title IX's 45th anniversary, the Los Angeles Sparks Front Office sponsored eight female student athletes as they made their way up and down the Buckets Basketball Camp court. Added W: the girl's special guest coach - Trevor Ariza of the Houston Rockets. Nice!
- Congratulations to our community partner, Brotherhood Crusade, on such a meaningful event! Danita Johnson, LA Sparks SVP, was in attendance on June 27th at the Owning Your Truth leadership luncheon and spent the afternoon offering career advice and professional mentorship to the organization's female youth. Learn. Connect. Lead. Thrive. When our girls succeed, we all do.

For more information on how to take part in our community programs contact Andrea Moiseve at amoiseve@la-sparks.com



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When in doubt...
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A full-page photograph of WNBA player Nneka Ogwumike. She is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt with the LA Sparks logo and yellow shorts. She is sitting on the court, looking up and to the left with a focused expression. The background shows the arena seating and lights.

NNEKA OGWUMIKE

by Romana Bholat

It's been quite the journey for WNBA superstar, Nneka Ogwumike. After being drafted number one overall in the 2012 draft, Nneka has lived up to her high expectations, blossoming into one of the best players in the league and the reigning MVP.

Nneka's history of winning started before her professional playing career; she led her high school team to a state championship in her senior season and transitioned to Stanford University where her successes only grew. Ogwumike led the Stanford

women's team to the Final Four in each of her four collegiate years and established herself as the best women's basketball player in the country. In 2012, Ogwumike made her leap into professional sports as she donned the bright gold LA Sparks jersey with her signature smile and dreams to take the league by storm. That same year, she won Rookie of the Year and proved to the world that she could handle the great expectations which were bestowed upon her.



An integral part of the LA Sparks success over the last six seasons, Nneka has been an absolute force on both the offensive and defensive sides of the floor. Her stats have been atop of the league leaders and her play has consistently improved, as exemplified by her season averages in both points and assists having risen every season in the league. In the 2012-2013 offseason, Ogwumike played in Poland for the CCC Polkowice team and won a championship, but she was still looking to hoist the WNBA trophy.

That all changed in 2016 when Nneka led the Sparks to their first championship in fourteen seasons, culminating an incredible post-season run and hitting the game-winning shot in the last few seconds of the fifth and final game of the WNBA finals. Along with achieving the incredible team goal of being the world champions, Nneka was also awarded with the honors of being named the WNBA MVP for the 2016 season where she boasted career highs in points per game, blocks per game, rebounds per game, and field goal percentage. The girl can do it all!

After the 2016 championship season, Nneka had no shortage of motivation to stay on top of the game. In 2017, she won a Euroleague championship with Dynamo Kursk in Russia and added yet another accomplishment to her already impressive resume. She returned to Los Angeles in search of repeating as WNBA champions and leading her team back to the top. Thus far in the 2017 season, she is averaging 19.9 points per game, 2.1 offensive rebounds per game, 5.1 defensive rebounds per game, 1.9 assists per game, and 1.9 steals per game.

Nneka Ogwumike has been a dominant force in women's basketball since she stepped foot onto the hardwood. She has been a fan favorite around the league, as exemplified by the raucous cheers and countless jerseys adorned with her name on the back. The three time WNBA all-star, reigning league MVP and champion, Nneka Ogwumike is only getting started on her quest to greatness.

GET SOCIAL WITH THE SPARKS



Sydney Wiese @swiesebaby24 ·

This is wisdom at its finest.

Jeff Macy @jeffmacy

Replying to @ruthhamblin

Waffles are pancakes with abs.



@alanabeard Recovery time!
#withmybowllofruit



@swiesebaby24 This was supposed to be the album cover #2chainz



LosAngelesSparks



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@candaceparker #GetItDone
#WhenBrianSaysItsGoTime



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ORANGE	\$640
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2017 SPARKS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 13	2PM	SEATTLE STORM
FRIDAY, MAY 19	7:30PM	WASHINGTON MYSTICS
TUESDAY, JUNE 6	7:30PM	CHICAGO SKY
TUESDAY, JUNE 13	7PM	DALLAS WINGS
THURSDAY, JUNE 15	7:30PM	SAN ANTONIO STARS
SUNDAY, JUNE 18	2PM	PHOENIX MERCURY
SUNDAY, JULY 2	2PM	WASHINGTON MYSTICS
THURSDAY, JULY 13	7:30PM	CONNECTICUT SUN
MONDAY, JULY 17	7:30PM	INDIANA FEVER
THURSDAY, JULY 20	12:30PM	CHICAGO SKY
TUESDAY, JULY 25	7:30PM	SEATTLE STORM
SUNDAY, JULY 30	2PM	DALLAS WINGS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 4	7:30PM	NEW YORK LIBERTY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18	5:30PM	CHICAGO SKY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22	7:30PM	SAN ANTONIO STARS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27	4PM	MINNESOTA LYNX
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	7:30PM	ATLANTA DREAM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	1PM	CONNECTICUT SUN

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