# **LOS ANGELES SPARKS 2019 GAME NOTES**



# Los Angeles Sparks (0-0) at Las Vegas Aces (0-0) May 26, 2019



Mandalay Bay Events Center | 5:00 pm (PT) | Season Opener: Twitter, League Pass

	PRESEASO	ON SCHEDULE	
Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Record
5/11	at Phoenix*	L, 75-82	N/A
5/17	SEATTLE*	W, 92-85	N/A

# REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE ord

	REGULAR SEAS	SON SCHEDUI	_E
Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Reco
5/26	at Las Vegas	5:00 p.m.	
5/31	CONNECTICUT	7:30 p.m.	
6/4	at New York	8:00 a.m.	
6/6	at Connecticut	4:00 p.m.	
6/8	at Minnesota	12:30 p.m.	
6/14	at Phoenix	7:00 p.m.	
6/15	NEW YORK	7:00 p.m.	
6/18	WASHINGTON	7:30 p.m.	
6/21	at Seattle	7:00 p.m.	
6/23	at Phoenix	3:00 p.m.	
6/27	LAS VEGAS	7:30 p.m.	
6/30	CHICAGO	2:00 p.m.	
7/7	WASHINGTON	2:00 p.m.	
7/9	at Dallas	10:00 a.m.	
7/12	at Indiana	4:00 p.m.	
7/14	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.	
7/18	DALLAS	12:30 p.m.	
7/20	at New York	12:00 p.m.	
7/23	at Atlanta	4:00 p.m.	
8/1	LAS VEGAS	7:00 p.m.	
8/4	SEATTLE	2:00 p.m.	
8/8	PHOENIX	7:00 p.m.	
8/11	CHICAGO	2:00 p.m.	
8/14	at Dallas	5:00 p.m.	
8/16	at Chicago	5:00 p.m.	
8/20	MINNESOTA	7:30 p.m.	
8/22	INDIANA	7:30 p.m.	
8/25	CONNECTICUT	2:00 p.m.	
8/27	at Washington	4:00 p.m.	
8/29	at Indiana	4:00 p.m.	
8/31	at Las Vegas	7:30 p.m.	
9/3	ATLANTA	7:30 p.m.	
9/5	SEATTLE	7:30 p.m.	
9/8	MINNESOTA	1:00 p.m.	

\* = PreseasonAll times listed are Pacific Time

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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#### SPARKS ALL STARS' 2018 HIGHLIGHTS 12 **CHELSEA GRAY** 5-11 170 LBS GP/GS 34/34 PPG 14.9 RPG APG 5.1 SPG 1.4 3FG%

The 2018 All-Star finished last season sixth in the league in assists per game, tallying a career-high 11 dimes in the Sparks' 80-54 victory against the Liberty on June 24. Gray scored a career-high 26 points in the Sparks' 74-66 victory against New York Aug. 14. Gray also finished sixth in the league with 1.4 steals per game and led the Sparks in assists, averaging a career-high 5.1 per game.

F/C	1	3	С	CHINEY OGWUMIKE					6'4"				173 LBS		
GP/GS	31/31	PPG	14.4	RPG	7.3	APG	1.0	SPG	1.1	FG%	60.3	3FG%	50.0	MPG	25.5

The former Rookie of the Year and two-time All-Star appeared and started in all 31 games, averaging 14.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game with the Connecticut Sun. Oquwmike averaged a career-high 60.3 field goal percentage in her first WNBA season after sitting out the 2017 seasons due to injury. Oguwmike registered a new career-high of 30 points in a loss to Seattle on June 30 and helped the Sun finish fourth in the league with a 21-13 record.

F	3			CANDA	CE F	PARKER				6'4'	,		17	5 LBS	
GP/GS	31/30	PPG	17.9	RPG	8.2	APG	4.7	SPG	1.2	FG%	47.1	3FG%	34.5	MIN	30.6

The former Rookie of the Year, two-time MVP and 2016 WNBA Finals MVP passed the 5,000 career points milestone during the Sparks' 78-75 win over the Phoenix Mercury on Aug. 5. Parker averaged a team-high 17.9 points per game and her 4.7 assists per game ranks eighth overall in the WNBA and first overall for non-point guards. In the Sparks' Aug. 8 victory against New York, she became the 12th player in WNBA history to reach the 2,500 rebound milestone.

G/F	0	ļ	LANA	BEA	\RD				5'11	"	160	LBS	
GP/GS	30/30	PPG 4.0	RPG	3.3	APG	1.7	SPG	1.5	FG%	39.2	3FG% 40.0	MPG	25.5

The 2017 and 2018 Defensive Player of the Year scored 11 points, including five in overtime to help the Sparks beat the Storm 77-75 on July 10. Beard also scored 10 fourth-quarter points to lift the Sparks over the Mystics, winning 97-86 on June 15. Beard averaged 4.0 points, 3.3 rebounds and her 1.5 steals per game last season was good for fourth in the league last season.

F	30	0	N	INEKA	OGI	NUMIK	Έ			6'2	"		17	4 LBS	
GP/GS	27/27	PPG	15.5	RPG	6.8	APG	2.0	SPG	1.5	FG%	52.5	3FG%	34.6	MPG	30.8

Nneka Ogwumike led the Sparks in field goal percentage and steals per game last season. Ogwumike finished third in the WNBA in steals per game, averaging 1.6. She reached double-digit scoring in all but one of her 27 games in 2018. In the Sparks' victory over the Liberty on Aug. 8, she eclipsed 3,500 points for her career. Ogwumike scored in double-figures in 26 out of the 27 games and logged a season-high 25 points in a win over Indiana on May 22.

#### **INJURY REPORT**

NUM.	PLAYER	POS.	REASON
3	Candace Parker	F/C	Hamstring

#### WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

NUM.	PLAYER	HOW ACQUIRED
0	Alana Beard	Free agent (2012)
1	Alexis Jones	Trade (2019)
2	Riquna Williams	Trade (2016)
3	Candace Parker	Draft (2008)
5	Marina Mabrey	Draft (2019)
7	Maria Vadeeva	Draft (2018)
10	Tierra Ruffin-Pratt	Free agent (2019)
12	Chelsea Gray	Trade (2016)
13	Chiney Ogwumike	Trade (2019)
21	Kalani Brown	Draft (2019)
24	Sydney Wiese	Draft (2017)
30	Nneka Ogwumike	Draft (2012)

#### **MILESTONE WATCH**

PLAYER	MILESTONE (CURRENT)
Candace Parker	5500 points (5113)
	1200 assists (1154)
	3000 rebounds (2548)
	550 blocks (501)
Alana Beard	5000 points (4688)
	1100 assists (1038)
	250 blocks (217)
	700 steals (698)
Nneka Ogwumike	4000 points (3565)
	1500 rebounds (1652)
Chiney Ogwumike	1500 points (1343)
	1000 rebounds (712)
Chelsea Gray	1500 points (1437)
	500 assists (489)

#### **PRONOUNCIATION**

PLAYER/COACH	PRONOUNCIATION
Alana Beard	ah-LAY-nah
Nneka Ogwumike	NEH-kuh Oh-gwoo-MIH-kay
Chiney Ogwumike	Chin-AY Oh-gwoo-MIH-kay
Sydney Wiese	WEECE (rhymes with REESE)
Maria Vadeeva	vuh-DEE-vuh

COACLUNIC CTAFE

COAL	JIA	

NAME	ROLE
Derek Fisher	Head Coach
Latricia Trammell	Assistant Coach
Fred Williams	Assistant Coach
Jamal "Dash" Lovell	Player Development Coach
Courtney Watson	Athletic Trainer
Kelly Dormandy	Strength and Conditioning Coach
Rachel Schrote	Video Coordinator

#### **OPENING TIP**

The Los Angeles Sparks are set to tip off their season on the road this Sunday, May 26 against the Las Vegas Aces. The Sparks went 2-1 against the Aces last season, as each game was decided by over a tenpoints. The Aces added center Liz Cambage to their roster in the offseason. Cambage currently holds the WNBA single-game scoring record with a 53-point performance against NY on July 17, 2018.

#### **SCHOOL OF FISHER**

The Los Angeles Sparks named Derek Fisher as its new head coach during the offseason on December 5, 2018. Fisher won five titles in 18 NBA seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers, and played alongside Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal en route to three consecutive titles from 2000 to 2002. Fisher began his coaching career as the head coach of the New York Knicks during the 2015-2016 season. The Sparks' 12th head coach hopes to translate his championship experience to the Sparks as he enters his first season in the league for the 2019 WNBA season.

#### **NEW FACES**

In addition to bringing in head coach Derek Fisher, the Los Angeles Sparks also made some roster changes as well. The Sparks took center Kalani Brown as the seventh overall pick and guard Marina Mabrey as the 19th overall pick in the 2019 WNBA Draft. Following the draft, Los Angeles acquired guard Alexis Jones from the Minnesota Lynx in exchange for guard Odyssey Sims, before trading a first-round pick to the Connecticut Sun in exchange for two-time All-Star forward/center Chiney Ogwumike. Before the draft, the Sparks signed free agent guard Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, who played six seasons with the Washington Mystics and helped them reach the 2018 WNBA Finals.

#### IT ALL STARTS UP FRONT

Already with a deep frontcourt in forwards Candace Parker, Nneka Ogwumike, and Maria Vadeeva last season, the Sparks will add forward/center Chiney Ogwumike and center Kalani Brown to the rotation. The three were vital to the Sparks posting the WNBA's fifth best field goal percentage of 45.2 during Los Angeles' 2018 year campaign. Ogwumike averaged 14.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game in Connecticut, shooting a career-high 60.3 percent from the field. Brown — who helped Baylor win the 2019 NCAA Championship — averaged 15.6 points and 8.1 rebounds per game during her senior season.

#### AB'S D

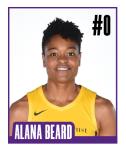
Guard/forward Alana Beard earned WNBA's Defensive Player of the Year award for the second consecutive season after winning the award in 2018. Beard is just the second Sparks player to earn the award, joining Lisa Leslie (2004, 2008). Entering her 14th season in 2019, Beard started in the 30 regular-season games that she played, after starting 34 regular-season games in back-to-back seasons in 2017 and 2018. Beard was a catalyst of a Sparks defense that averaged a leagaue-best 8.5 steals per game — the second straight season Los Angeles has lead the WNBA in steals.

#### **GRAY SCALE**

The Sparks announced the resigning of guard Chelsea Gray on April 30. Gray evolved into one of the best point guards in the league, averaging new career-highs in points (14.9), assists (5.1), rebounds (3.4) and steals (1.4) in her second season as a full time starter. In her fourth season in the league, Gray earned her second consecutive WNBA All-Star honors after having a breakout season in 2017. Gray opened last season with a game-winning buzzer-beater to give the Sparks a 77-76 win over the Minnesota Lynx.

	20	19 LOS AN	NGELES S	PARKS ROS	STER	
NUM.	PLAYER	POS.	HT.	YRS OF EXP.	DOB	COLLEGE
0	Alana Beard	G/F	5'11"	13	05/14/82	Duke
1	Alexis Jones	G	5'9"	2	05/08/94	Baylor
2	Riquna Williams	G	5'7"	6	05/28/90	Miami (Fla.)
3	Candace Parker	F/C	6'4"	11	04/19/86	Tennessee
5	Marina Mabrey	G	5'11"	R	11/14/96	Notre Dame
7	Maria Vadeeva	F/C	6'4"	1	07/16/98	Russia
10	Tierra Ruffin-Pratt	G/F	5'11"	6	04/11/91	North Carolina
12	Chelsea Gray	G	5'11"	4	10/08/92	Duke
13	Chiney Ogwumike	F/C	6'4"	3	03/22/92	Stanford
21	Kalani Brown	С	6'7"	R	03/21/97	Baylor
24	Sydney Wiese	G	6'0"	2	06/16/95	Oregon State
30	Nneka Ogwumike	F	6'2"	7	07/02/90	Stanford

# **2019 LA SPARKS ROSTER**



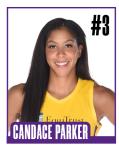
Position: G/F Height: 5'11" DOB: 5/14/82 College: Duke



Position: G Height: 5'9" DOB: 5/8/94 College: Baylor



Position: G Height: 5'7" DOB: 5/28/90 College: Miami



Position: F/C Height: 6'4" DOB: 4/19/86 College: Tennessee



Position: G Height: 5'11" DOB: 9/14/96 College: Notre Dame



Position: F/C Height: 6'4" DOB: 7/16/98 College: Russia



Position: G/F Height: 5'11" DOB: 4/11/91 College: North Carolina



Position: G Height: 5'11" DOB: 10/8/92 College: Duke



Position: F/C Height: 6'4" DOB: 3/22/92 College: Stanford



Position: C Height: 6'7" DOB: 3/21/97 College: Baylor

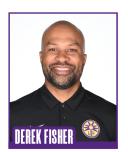


Position: G Height: 6'0 DOB: 6/16/95 College: Oregon State



Position: F Height: 6'2" DOB: 7/2/90 College: Stanford

# **COACHING STAFF**



HEAD COACH



**ASSISTANT COACH** 



**ASSISTANT COACH** 



DIRECTOR OF SPORTS MEDICINE/ HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER



STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACHING



PLAYER
DEVELOPEMENT
COACH

#### **TODAY'S OPPONENT - MAY 26, 2019**

#### LAS VEGAS ACES

**PREVIEW:** The Los Angeles Sparks will take on the Las Vegas Aces to kick off the 2019 WNBA regular season. The Sparks finished the 2018 season with a 19-15 record and solidified a playoff spot before falling to the Washington Mystics in an elimination game in the second round.

In their first season in the WNBA, the Las Vegas Aces finished seventh in points per game (81.9) and tied for third in rebounds per game (35.8). Led by forward A'ja Wilson and guards Kayla McBride and Kelsey Plum, the Aces finished the regular season in sixth place in the Western Conference, missing out on the postseason.





During the offseason, Las Vegas added one of the most coveted players in the league, acquiring Australian center Liz Cambage from the Dallas Wings, in exchange for guard Moriah Jefferson, forward Isabelle Harrison and the Aces' first and second round draft picks in the 2020 WNBA Draft. Cambage, the 2018 MVP Runner-Up, finished first in the WNBA in points per game (23.0), second in rebounds (9.7), fourth in field goal percentage (58.9%), and fifth in blocked shots (1.8). On July 17th, Cambage scored 53 points against the New York Liberty, which set a WNBA record for most points in a single game.

In addition to acquiring Cambage, the Aces also received the first overall pick of the 2019 WNBA Draft, their third straight selection at number one. With the pick, the Aces selected Notre Dame guard Jackie Young, who averaged 12.4 points per game and 6.3 rebounds per game during her three years in college. Young was a part of Notre Dame's 2018 Championship team, and was named ACC Tournament MVP during the same season.

The Sparks and the Aces faced each other three times last season, with the Sparks going 2-1. The three contests saw high scoring affairs, with Sparks forward Candace Parker scoring 34 points against the Aces in a 99-78 victory on July 15th. Parker's 34 points was the highest solo scoring effort in the 2018 season for the Sparks

**HEAD COACH:** Bill Laimbeer, 2nd season with Aces

#### **PROBABLE STARTERS:**

C Liz Cambage

G Jackie Young

G Kelsey Plum

F A'ja Wilson

F Kayla McBride

#### SPARKS LAST GAME AGAINST ACES (7/15/18)

LA 27 21 16 35 - 99 LV 24 23 16 15 - 78

**Biggest Lead:** LA: 6 | LV: 19 **Lead Changes:** 19 | **Times Tied:** 6

Points: LA: Parker 34, LV: McBride 18

Rebounds: LA: Parker 11, LV: T. Young/Wilson 8

Assists: LA: Parker 9, LV: Jefferson 3

### **2018 REGULAR SEASON SUPERLATIVES**

Points, Game
Points, Second Half         51 @ Las Vegas 7/15         -Points, Second Half         27 vs. Dallas 7/12           Points, 1Q
Points, 1Q
Points, 2Q
Points, 3Q
Points, 4Q
Points, 4Q
Field Goals Made
Field Goals Att
Field Goal Percentage       62.5% @ Washington 6/15       -Field Goal Percentage.       36.7% vs. New York 8/14         3FG Made
3FG Made
3FG Att
3FG Percentage
Free Throws Made 21 vs. Phoenix 5/27 -Free Throws Made 6 vs. Indiana 6/19 Free Throws Att 30 vs. Phoenix 5/27 -Free Throws Att 6 vs. Indiana 6/19 FT Percentage 100% vs. Indiana 6/19, -FT Percentage 55.6% vs. New York 6/24 @ Las Vegas 7/15, Washington 8/17 Offensive Rebounds
Free Throws Att
FT Percentage
Offensive Rebounds 15 @ Seattle 6/28 -Offensive Rebounds 2 vs. Las Vegas 7/15, Washington 8/17  Defensive Rebounds 36 vs. New York 6/24 -Defensive Rebounds 9 at Connecticut 5/24  Total Rebounds 14 @ Connecticut 5/24  Assists 29 @ Washington 6/15 -Assists 8 @ Seattle 6/28
Offensive Rebounds 15 @ Seattle 6/28 -Offensive Rebounds 2 vs. Las Vegas 7/1 Defensive Rebounds 36 vs. New York 6/24 Total Rebounds 41 @ Chicago 6/17 -Total Rebounds 14 @ Connecticut 5/24 Assists 29 @ Washington 6/15 -Assists 8 @ Seattle 6/28
Defensive Rebounds 36 vs. New York 6/24 Total Rebounds 41 @ Chicago 6/17  Assists 29 @ Washington 6/15  -Defensive Rebounds 9 at Connecticut 5/24 14 @ Connecticut 5/24  -Assists 8 @ Seattle 6/28
Total Rebounds
Assists
Ÿ
Steals 14 - Twice (Last: vs. Dallas 6/26) -Steals 3 vs. Indina 7/20
3tedi3 3 v3. Indina 7/20
Turnovers
Blocked Shots
Personal Fouls
OPPONENT HIGHS OPPNONENT LOWS
Points, Game
Points, First Half
Points, Second Half 56 @ Connecticut 5/24 -Points, Second Half 22 vs. Indiana 6/19
Points, 1Q
Points, 2Q
vs. Washington 7/7
Points, 3Q
Points, 4Q
Points, Overtime
Field Goals Made
Field Goals Att
Field Goal Percentage 62.5% @ Connecticut 5/24 -Field Goal Percentage. 28.4% vs. Chicago 6/10
3FG Made
3FG Att
3FG Percentage 62.5% @ Las Vegas 6/29 -3FG Percentage 6.2% vs. Washington 7/7
Free Throws Made 32 vs. Washington 7/7 -Free Throws Made 3 vs. New York 6/24
Free Throws Att
FT Percentage

#### **DEREK FISHER BIOGRAPHY**

### **HEAD COACH DEREK FISHER**



Derek Fisher was named the 12th head coach of the Los Angeles Sparks on December 5, 2018. Fisher is a Los Angeles basketball legend, playing 18 seasons in the NBA and winning five championships with the Los Angeles Lakers. Fisher was drafted 24th overall by the Lakers in 1996, and played along-side Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'neal en route to three consecutive titles from 2000-2002. He later added two more rings in 2009 and 2010 with Los Angeles. Fisher also played for the Golden State Warriors, Utah Jazz, Dallas Mavericks and Oklahoma City Thunder.

Fisher's accolades include holding the all-time NBA record for playoff game appearances (259). He's also known for hitting a buzzer-beater with 0.4 seconds left against the San Antonio Spurs in Game 5 of the 2004 Western Conference Semifinals as a member of the Lakers. In his time as a player, he served as president of the players' union from 2006-2013.

After finishing the 2013 season with the Thunder, Fisher transitioned to the sidelines, being named head coach of the New York Knicks on June 10, 2014. Fisher coached into the 2015-2016 season with New York, helping develop then-rookie Kristaps Porzingis.

Fisher is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas where he attended Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School, lettering in basketball. He then attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he finished his four-year career second all-time in school history in points (1,393), assists (472) and steals (189). His senior year, he was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year.

In the spring of 2016, Fisher became a television analyst for TNT, NBA TV and later Spectrum SportsNet as an in-studio analyst for the Lakers.





#### **ASSISTANT COACHES**

# **Assistant Coach Fred Williams**



Fred Williams was named assistant coach of the Los Angeles Sparks on Jan. 22, 2019 and brings over 35 years of collegiate and professional coaching experience. Most recently, Williams served as the Dallas Wings, previously Tulsa Shock, head coach from 2014-2018 where he coached WNBA All-Stars Skylar Diggins and Liz Cambage.

Williams launched his coaching career in 1983 as an assistant coach at USC where he coached standouts Cynthia Cooper, Pamela McGee,

Cheryl Miller, Lisa Leslie and Tina Thompson. Williams helped lead the Trojans to back-to-back NCAA titles in 1983 and 1984 before serving as head coach from 1995-1997.

In addition to his time in Dallas, Williams previously served as head coach of the Utah Starzz from 1999-2001. Williams then spent six seasons with the Atlanta Dream, winning three WNBA Eastern Conference Championships. Williams took over Atlanta's head coach in 2012 and led the Dream to the WNBA finals in 2013.

Williams played for Boise State men's basketball program from 1976-1979 and averaged 12.0 points and 5.8 assists in his final season. The All-Big Sky Conference point guard played briefly in the NBA for the Utah Jazz before transitioning to a role on the sidelines. He also served as an advance scout for the Washington Mystics, Utah Jazz, Seattle Supersonics and Sacramento Kings.

Off the court, Williams is an avid musician who produces jazz music under the name "Freddy Bass Williams." He has released two jazz albums titled "Game Time" and "My Gift to You." Williams is originally from Inglewood, California, but currently resides in Irving, Texas with his wife Bo and their five children.

# Assistant Coach Latricia Trammell



Latricia Trammell was named assistant coach of the Los Angeles Sparks on Jan. 22, 2019. Trammell most recently served as an assistant coach for the San Antonio Stars in 2017 where she worked with the first overall pick Kelsey Plum.

Trammell also served as head coach at Oklahoma State University, producing an 85-10 record with the Stars. She led the team to back-to-back NAIA Division I women's

basketball national championships in 2014 and 2015, which earned her National Coach of the Year honors in those two years.

After her two titles at OCU, Trammell transitioned to Division I basketball and became an assistant coach for Georgia State from 2015-2017 before transitioning to the WNBA. Trammell holds a 255-131 overall high school and college coaching record in her 24 years on the sidelines.

The Oklahoma native debuted as a head coach when she took over the job at Western State (Colo.) University. Trammell spent five seasons with the Mountaineers and built Western State to be a top contender in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Trammell's team notched a 105-76 record and made five consecutive RMAC Shootout appearances, catapulting her to become the third winningest coach in program history.

Trammell formally served on the WBCA National Convention Advisory Board and on the voting committee for USA Today/ESPN D-II Top 25. The Seminole, Oklahoma native is also a frequent basketball clinician and was a former player for both Seminole State College and East Central Oklahoma.

# Player Development Coach Jamal "Dash" Lovell



The Los Angeles Sparks named Jamal "Dash" Lovell their player development assistant coach on March 4, 2019. Lovell is a professional basketball skills trainer bringing over 11 years of experience working with NBA, WNBA and NCAA athletes, including Candace Parker, Paul George and Dwyane Wade.

Lovell is currently involved with high-profile training clinics in Los Angeles, New York and Miam. In total, Lovell has helped 22 players play NCAA Division I basketball and has worked with over 30 NBA and WNBA players. Lovell, who's known for his training brand DashLetics, believes that aggressiveness, balance and footwork are the key components for success on the court.