

# LOS ANGELES SPARKS 2019 GAME NOTES



## Los Angeles Sparks (0-0) vs. Phoenix Mercury (0-0)

May 11, 2019

Talking Stick Resort Arena | 7:00 pm (PT) | Preseason Game



### PRESEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Record
5/11	at Phoenix*	7:00 p.m.	
5/17	SEATTLE*	7:30 p.m.	

### REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Record
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.	

\* = Preseason

All times listed are Pacific Time

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Los Angeles Sparks

### SPARKS STARS' 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

G	12								CHELSEA GRAY								5-11				170 LBS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
GP/GS	34/34	PPG	14.9	RPG	3.4	APG	5.1	SPG	1.4	FG%	48.4	3FG%	39.2	MPG	32.7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															</

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	13	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. Oguwmike 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	CANDACE PARKER								6'4"		175 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	ALANA BEARD								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	NNEKA OGWUMIKE								6'2"		174 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 Oguwmike led the Sparks in field goal percentage and steals per game last season. Oguwmike 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. Oguwmike 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.

## PLAYERS OUT

NUM.	PLAYER	POS.	REASON
12	Chelsea Gray	G	Overseas
42	Jantel Lavender	F/C	Overseas

## WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

NUM.	PLAYER	HOW ACQUIRED
0	Alana Beard	Free agent (2012)
1	Alexis Jones	Trade (2019)
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)
22	Ashley Walker	Free agent (2019)
24	Sydney Wiese	Draft (2017)
30	Nneka Ogwumike	Draft (2012)
32	Loryn Goodwin	Free agent (2019)
33	Gabby Green	Free agent (2019)
42	Jantel Lavender	Draft (2011)
44	Karlie Samuelson	Free agent (2018)
55	Rachel Hollivay	Free agent (2019)

## 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	Shin-AY Oh-gwoo-MIH-kay
Sydney Wiese	WEECE (rhymes with REESE)
Maria Vadeeva	vuh-DEE-vuh

## COACHING STAFF

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

## OPENING TIP

The Los Angeles Sparks are set to tip off their preseason on the road this Saturday, May 11, when they will take on the Phoenix Mercury. The Sparks went 2-1 against the Mercury last season, as each game was decided by an average of just 6.3 points. The Mercury will be without 10-time All-Star Diana Taurasi – who averaged 20.7 points last season – due to recovering from back surgery.

## FISHER'S NET

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. The Sparks also added free agents forward Ashley Walker, center Rachel Hollivay, guard Loryn Goodwin and guard Gabby Green to their training camp roster.

## IT ALL STARTS UP FRONT

Already with a deep frontcourt in forwards Candace Parker, Nneka Ogwumike, Jantel Lavender and Maria Vadeeva last season, the Sparks will add forward/center Chiney Ogwumike and center Kalani Brown to the rotation. The four were pivotal 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 league-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.

## 2019 LOS ANGELES SPARKS TRAINING CAMP ROSTER

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
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	C	6'7"	R	03/21/97	Baylor
22	Ashley Walker	F	6'1"	3	02/24/87	California
24	Sydney Wiese	G	6'0"	2	06/16/95	Oregon State
30	Nneka Ogwumike	F	6'2"	7	07/02/90	Stanford
32	Loryn Goodwin	G	5'9"	R	02/03/94	Oklahoma State
33	Gabby Green	G	6'2"	R	10/18/95	Loyola Marymount
42	Jantel Lavender	F/C	6'4"	8	11/12/88	Ohio State
44	Karlie Samuelson	G	6'0"	1	05/10/95	Stanford
55	Rachel Hollivay	C	6'4"	2	10/24/93	Rutgers

# 2019 LOS ANGELES SPARKS TRAINING CAMP ROSTER



**#0 ALANA BEARD**



**#1 ALEXIS JONES**



**#3 CANDACE PARKER**



**#5 MARINA MABREY**



**#7 MARIA VADEEVA\***



**#10 TIERRA RUFFIN-PRATT**



**#12 CHELSEA GRAY\***



**#13 CHINEY OGWUMIKE**



**#21 KALANI BROWN**



**#22 ASHLEY WALKER**



**#24 SYDNEY WIESE**



**#30 NNEKA OGWUMIKE**



**#32 LORYN GOODWIN**



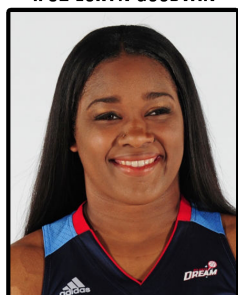
**#33 GABBY GREEN**



**#42 JANTEL LAVENDER\***



**#44 KARLIE SAMUELSON**



**#55 RACHEL HOLLIVAY**

*\*Will join team after overseas commitment*

## PHOENIX MERCURY

**PREVIEW:** The Los Angeles Sparks will take on the Phoenix Mercury in their first preseason game to kick off the WNBA 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.



The Mercury ranked fourth in the league in points per game (85.8) and third in field goal percentage (45.7) last season. Led by guard Diana Taurasi, forward DeWanna Bonner and center Brittney Griner, the Mercury finished the regular season second in the Western Conference standings and won both of their single-elimination playoff games against the Dallas Wings and the Connecticut Sun, before falling to the Seattle Storm in a five-game semifinal series.

During the regular season, the Mercury trio averaged a combined 58.5 points per game. The Mercury, however, will be without Taurasi – who underwent back surgery to repair a disc protrusion. The two-time Finals MVP and nine-time All-Star is expected to miss the first 10-12 weeks of the WNBA season.

With the big three down to a duo, the Mercury's backcourt will have the opportunity to step up during Taurasi's absence. Forward Sancho Lyttle – who averaged 7.9 points and 5.3 rebounds per game before getting tearing her ACL last season – will also sit out the beginning of the season.

During the offseason, however, Phoenix added some new faces who will have the chance to step into bigger roles. The Mercury signed former Sparks guard Essence Carson as a free agent during offseason, and picked forward Alanna Smith eighth overall in the WNBA Draft. Phoenix also traded center Marie Gulich to the Atlanta Dream in exchange for rookie forward Brianna Turner.

The Sparks and the Mercury faced each other three times last season, with the Sparks going 2-1. The three contests saw an average of just a 6.3-point margin, with Mercury winning the most recent one 86-78 on Aug. 12.

**HEAD COACH:** Sandy Brondello, 6th season

### PROBABLE STARTERS:

F	DeWanna Bonner
F	Essence Carson
G	Briann January
G	Yvonne Turner
C	Brittney Griner

### SPARKS LAST GAME AGAINST MERCURY (8/12/18)

	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL
LA	22	12	20	24	–	78
PHX	21	20	26	19	–	86

**Biggest Lead:** LA: 6 | PHX: 19

**Lead Changes:** 6 | **Times Tied:** 8

**Points:** LA: Parker 23, PHX: Bonner 31

**Rebounds:** LA: Parker 8, PHX: Griner 13

**Assists:** LA: Sims 6, PHX: Taurasi 14



## 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 alongside 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.



## 2018 REGULAR SEASON SUPERLATIVES

### LOS ANGELES SPARKS HIGHS

Points, Game.....	97 @ Washington 6/15
Points, First Half.....	59 vs. Las Vegas 7/1
Points, Second Half.....	51 @ Las Vegas 7/15
Points, 1Q.....	33 @ Indiana 5/22
Points, 2Q.....	32 vs. Phoenix 5/27
Points, 3Q.....	31 @ Chicago 6/22
Points, 4Q.....	35 @ Las Vegas 7/15
Points, Overtime.....	11 @ Seattle 7/10
Field Goals Made.....	35 - 3 times (Last: vs. Las Vegas 7/1)
Field Goals Att.....	75 @ Seattle 7/10
Field Goal Percentage...	62.5% @ Washington 6/15
3FG Made.....	13 @ Las Vegas 6/29
3FG Att.....	28 @ Las Vegas 6/29
3FG Percentage.....	80.0% @ Washington 6/15
Free Throws Made.....	21 vs. Phoenix 5/27
Free Throws Att.....	30 vs. Phoenix 5/27
FT Percentage.....	100% vs. Indiana 6/19,
Offensive Rebounds....	15 @ Seattle 6/28
Defensive Rebounds...	36 vs. New York 6/24
Total Rebounds.....	41 @ Chicago 6/17
Assists.....	29 @ Washington 6/15
Steals.....	14 - Twice (Last: vs. Dallas 6/26)
Turnovers.....	17 vs. Seattle 6/7
Blocked Shots.....	7 - 3 times (Last: at Las Vegas 6/29)
Personal Fouls.....	27 vs. Washington 7/7

### OPPONENT HIGHS

Points, Game.....	102 @ Indiana 5/24
Points, First Half.....	52 @ Connecticut 8/19
Points, Second Half.....	56 @ Connecticut 5/24
Points, 1Q.....	26 @ Dallas 6/22, vs. Seattle 6/28
Points, 2Q.....	27 vs. Dallas 7/12
Points, 3Q.....	31 vs. Seattle 6/7
Points, 4Q.....	37 @ Connecticut 5/24
Points, Overtime.....	9 vs. Seattle 6/10
Field Goals Made.....	36 @ Indiana 5/24
Field Goals Att.....	75 @ Las Vegas 7/15
Field Goal Percentage..	62.5% @ Connecticut 5/24
3FG Made.....	12 @ Dallas 6/22
3FG Att.....	25 @ Dallas 6/22
3FG Percentage.....	62.5% @ Las Vegas 6/29
Free Throws Made.....	32 vs. Washington 7/7
Free Throws Att.....	35 vs. Washington 7/7
FT Percentage.....	100% @ Indiana 5/22

### LOS ANGELES SPARKS LOWS

-Points, Game.....	63 vs. Seattle 6/7
-Points, First Half.....	25 vs. Connecticut 7/3
-Points, Second Half.....	27 vs. Dallas 7/12
-Points, 1Q.....	8 vs. Connecticut 7/3
-Points, 2Q.....	12 vs. Chicago 6/10
-Points, 3Q.....	10 @ Phoenix 5/27
-Points, 4Q.....	9 vs. Washington 8/17
-Points, Overtime.....	11 @ Seattle 7/10
-Field Goals Made.....	25 vs. Seattle 6/7, @ Wash 8/17
-Field Goals Att.....	56 @ Washington 6/15
-Field Goal Percentage.	36.7% vs. New York 8/14
-3FG Made.....	2 @ Twice (Last: vs. Chicago 6/10)
-3FG Att.....	12 @ vs. Seattle 6/7
-3FG Percentage.....	16.7% at Minnesota 5/20
-Free Throws Made.....	6 vs. Indiana 6/19
-Free Throws Att.....	6 vs. Indiana 6/19
-FT Percentage.....	55.6% vs. New York 6/24 @ Las Vegas 7/15, Washington 8/17
-Offensive Rebounds....	2 vs. Las Vegas 7/1
-Defensive Rebounds...	9 at Connecticut 5/24
-Total Rebounds.....	14 @ Connecticut 5/24
-Assists.....	8 @ Seattle 6/28
-Steals.....	3 vs. Indiana 7/20
-Turnovers.....	6 at Minnesota 5/20
-Blocked Shots.....	0 - Twice (Last: at Phoenix 8/12)
-Personal Fouls.....	12 - 3 times (Last: vs. Indiana 7/20)

### OPPONENT LOWS

-Points, Game.....	54 vs. New York 6/24
-Points, First Half.....	27 vs. New York 6/24
-Points, Second Half.....	22 vs. Indiana 6/19
-Points, 1Q.....	8 vs. Minnesota 8/2
-Points, 2Q.....	11 vs. Atlanta 6/12, vs. Washington 7/7
-Points, 3Q.....	10 vs. Minnesota 6/3
-Points, 4Q.....	6 vs. Indiana 6/19, @ Seattle 7/10
-Points, Overtime.....	9 vs. Seattle 6/10
-Field Goals Made.....	26 vs. Phoenix 8/5
-Field Goals Att.....	55 @ Minnesota 5/20, 6/3
-Field Goal Percentage.	28.4% vs. Chicago 6/10
-3FG Made.....	1 vs. Washington 7/7
-3FG Att.....	6 vs. Las Vegas 7/1
-3FG Percentage.....	6.2% vs. Washington 7/7
-Free Throws Made.....	3 vs. New York 6/24
-Free Throws Att.....	10 vs. New York 6/24
-FT Percentage.....	30% vs. New York 6/24