



39 CURRENT AND FORMER WNBA PLAYERS COMPRISE 2008 OLYMPIC BASKETBALL ROSTERS

*U.S. Olympic Team Features Lisa Leslie, Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird & Candace Parker
Lauren Jackson to Lead Australians; Becky Hammon on Russian Team
Women's Basketball Competition Begins Saturday, Aug. 9*

NEW YORK, Aug. 8, 2008 – Today the IOC officially posted complete rosters for each of the 12 women's basketball teams competing in the 2008 Olympic Games. The WNBA is heavily represented with 39 current and former players among those who will go for the gold beginning Saturday, Aug. 9. In all, a current or former WNBA player dots the roster of 10 of the 12 countries participating in this year's Olympics.

Each of the 12 members of the U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team currently play in the WNBA, led by three-time Olympic gold medalist **Lisa Leslie** (Los Angeles Sparks) and two-time Olympic gold medalist **Katie Smith** (Detroit Shock). **Sue Bird** (Seattle Storm), **Tamika Catchings** (Indiana Fever), **Diana Taurasi** (Phoenix Mercury) and **Tina Thompson** (Houston Comets) also return from the gold-medal winning 2004 U.S. Olympic Team in Athens while **DeLisha Milton-Jones** (Los Angeles Sparks) previously won gold with the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team in Sydney.

First-time Olympians for the United States include rookie standouts **Candace Parker** (Los Angeles Sparks) and **Sylvia Fowles** (Chicago Sky) as well as **Kara Lawson** (Sacramento Monarchs), **Seimone Augustus** (Minnesota Lynx) and **Cappie Pondexter** (Phoenix Mercury). Collectively, the U.S. Olympic Team boasts 10 gold medals and will go for their fourth Olympic gold in a row.

The Australian Olympic Team features eight current or former WNBA players, led by reigning WNBA MVP **Lauren Jackson** (Seattle Storm) and **Tully Bevilaqua** (Indiana Fever).

Several other active WNBA players will appear in Beijing. **Becky Hammon** (San Antonio Silver Stars) will play for the Russian Olympic squad, while **Hamchetou Maiga-Ba** (Houston Comets) will represent Mali and **Kelly Santos** (Seattle Storm) will play for Brazil.

Current WNBA rosters featuring more than one Olympian include the Los Angeles Sparks (3- Leslie, Parker, Milton-Jones), Seattle Storm (3- Bird, Jackson, Santos), Phoenix Mercury (2- Taurasi, Pondexter), Houston Comets (2- Thompson, Maiga-Ba) and Indiana Fever (2- Catchings, Bevilaqua).

Coaches also bring WNBA pedigrees as well. Former WNBA head coaches **Anne Donovan** (Charlotte Sting, Fever, Storm) and **Tom Maher** (Washington Mystics) will coach the United States and China, respectively while current Connecticut Sun head coach **Mike Thibault** will serve as an assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic Team. Two former WNBA players will also serve as assistant coaches. **Dawn Staley**, previously a star player with the Sting and Comets, joins Donovan's staff and **Michele Timms**, an original player for the Mercury, will assist Maher.

The 2008 WNBA season will resume play on Aug. 28 following the Olympics. A complete list of Olympic basketball players with WNBA experience follows.

(more)

Current and Former WNBA Players in the 2008 Olympics

Player	Team	WNBA Years
Seimone Augustus	United States	2006-present
Sue Bird	United States	2002-present
Tamika Catchings	United States	2001-present
Sylvia Fowles	United States	2008-present
Kara Lawson	United States	2003-present
Lisa Leslie	United States	1997-present
DeLisha Milton-Jones	United States	1999-present
Candace Parker	United States	2008-present
Cappie Pondexter	United States	2006-present
Katie Smith	United States	1999-present
Diana Taurasi	United States	2004-present
Tina Thompson	United States	1997-present
Suzy Batkovic	Australia	2005
Tully Bevilaqua	Australia	1998, 2000-present
Kristi Harrower	Australia	1998-99, 2001-03, 2005
Lauren Jackson	Australia	2001-present
Erin Phillips	Australia	2006
Belinda Snell	Australia	2005-07
Laura Summerton	Australia	2005-06
Penny Taylor	Australia	2001-2007
Yelena Leuchanka	Belarus	2006-07
Claudia das Neves	Brazil	1999-02
Adriana Moises Pinto	Brazil	2001-02, 2007
Kelly Santos	Brazil	2001-02, 2008
Sui Feifei	China	2005
Miao Lijie	China	2005
Zane Teilane Tamane	Latvia	2006
Hamchetou Maiga-Ba	Mali	2002-present
Svetlana Abrosimova	Russia	2001-07
Becky Hammon	Russia	1999-present
Ilona Korstine	Russia	2001
Irina Osipova	Russia	2006
Maria Stepanova	Russia	1998-2001, 2005
Natalia Vodopyanova	Russia	2005
Elisa Aguilar	Spain	2002
Nuria Martinez	Spain	2005
Isabel Sanchez	Spain	2004
Amaya Valdemoro	Spain	1998-2000
Jung Sun-Min	South Korea	2003

(more)

About the WNBA

Comprised of 14 teams and entering its 12th season, the WNBA is the most successful women's professional team sports league in the world. The 2008 season tipped off May 17 with ESPN2 again providing appointment viewing in the form of its "WNBA Tuesdays" telecasts. During the 2008 season, combined coverage on ABC and ESPN2 will include 21 national telecasts, while NBA TV, the league's 24-hour television network, will offer 70 regular-season contests.

Through WNBA Cares, the WNBA is deeply committed to creating programs that improve the quality of life for all people, with a special emphasis on programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and positive body image, increase breast and women's health awareness, support youth and family development, and focus on education. For more information on the WNBA, log on to www.wnba.com.