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LISA LESLIE NAMED TO WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STAR TEAM STARTING LINE-UP

Leslie is the Lead Vote-getter Among WNBA Centers

LOS ANGELES – Sparks veteran center Lisa Leslie has been named to the Western Conference starting line-up of the 2009 WNBA All-Star game it was announced today. Leslie, who announced that 2009 will be her final season, is the leading vote-getter among WNBA centers and will be playing in her league best, eighth All-Star game.

Leslie, the WNBA's leader in career points and rebounds, is no stranger to the WNBA All-Star game having been selected as a Western Conference All-Star eight times. In the inaugural WNBA All-Star game in 1999, Leslie led the Western Conference All-Stars to victory and garnered her first of three All-Star game MVP awards. She later won the award back to back, as a reserve in 2001 and as a starter in 2002.

"I am so thankful to the fans for voting me to start on the 2009 All-Star team," said Leslie. "It is truly an honor being that this is my final season. It's always exciting to just be an All-Star but being voted a starter by the fans makes it even more special."

Of Leslie's eight All-Star selections, she has been named to the starting line-up five times, (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009), and has career All-Star game averages of 14.6 points, 6.9 rebounds and 1.4 blocks.

Following are the starting lineups for the 2009 WNBA All-Star Game:

Eastern Conference Starters:

Katie Douglas, Guard (Indiana Fever)
Alana Beard, Guard (Washington Mystics)
Sylvia Fowles, Center (Chicago Sky)
Candice Dupree, Forward (Chicago Sky)
Tamika Catchings, Forward (Indiana Fever)

Western Conference Starters:

Sue Bird, Guard (Seattle Storm)
Becky Hammon, Guard (San Antonio Silver Stars)
Lisa Leslie, Center (Los Angeles Sparks)
Swin Cash, Forward (Seattle Storm)
Lauren Jackson, Forward (Seattle Storm)

The 13 WNBA head coaches will select the reserves by voting for six players within their conference, including two guards, two forwards, one center and one player regardless of position. Coaches are not permitted to vote for players on their team.

The 2009 WNBA All-Star game will be nationally televised on ABC at 3:30pm ET and a limited number of tickets are still available by going online to ticketmaster.com.