



NEWS RELEASE

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Los Angeles Sparks To Play Pair of 2011 Preseason Games *Sparks Face Defending Champion Seattle on May 25 and Phoenix on May 28*

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Sparks will prepare for their 15th WNBA campaign with a pair of neutral-site preseason games, first hitting the hardwood Wednesday, May 25 vs. defending champion Seattle at Cal State University Dominguez Hills in Carson, Calif., before traveling to Albuquerque, N.M., to face the Diana Taurasi-led Phoenix Mercury three days later.

The 12 p.m. game at CSUDH's Torodome marks the return of Candace Parker from her injury-shortened 2010 season as well as the Sparks debut of forward Ebony Hoffman and guard Loree Moore, former teammates at nearby Narbonne High School in Harbor City. Also making a South Bay homecoming on May 25 is guard Noelle Quinn, who prepped at Torrance's Bishop Montgomery High School.

General admission tickets for the Sparks-Storm showdown are \$10 in advance, with courtside seats and special group pricing also available. Tickets are only available by calling the LA Sparks front office at 877-44-SPARKS (772757).

On Saturday, May 28 at 6 p.m. PT/7 p.m. MT, the Sparks head to the recently-renovated University Arena ("The Pit") in Albuquerque to take on Western Conference rival Phoenix. The game will feature five Olympic medalists (Parker, DeLisha Milton-Jones and Tina Thompson from the Sparks, plus Taurasi and Penny Taylor of the Mercury) and marks the first WNBA preseason contest in Albuquerque since 2006. Ticket information will be available on LASparks.com at a later date.

Following the two preseason games, the Sparks begin the 2011 regular season on Friday, June 3, hosting the Minnesota Lynx at STAPLES Center at 8 p.m. Sixteen-game season ticket packages are available now.

About the Los Angeles Sparks

The Los Angeles Sparks, an original Women's National Basketball Association team, enter their 15th season in 2011. The Sparks are one of six WNBA franchises that fall under the league's independent ownership model. Winner of back-to-back WNBA championships in 2001 and 2002, Los Angeles' roster of star athletes includes 2008 WNBA MVP and Rookie of the Year Candace Parker, four-time WNBA champion and all-time leading scorer Tina Thompson, and two-time WNBA champion DeLisha Milton-Jones. The Sparks play their home games at STAPLES Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. For ticket information, call 877-44-SPARKS (772757) or visit LASparks.com.