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LOS ANGELES SPARKS SIGN FORWARD LATOYA PRINGLE

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Sparks have signed forward LaToya Pringle, announced today by Sparks head coach Jennifer Gillom. Per team policy, terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Pringle joins the Sparks after being drafted 13th overall by the Phoenix Mercury in the 2008 WNBA Draft. Making a big splash in her rookie season, she finished the season by starting the Mercury's final seven games and shooting an impressive 44.8% from the floor and 82.4% from the free-throw line. Her rookie year ended with her being ranked 5th in the WNBA in blocked shots (1.52 bpg) and first in the WNBA in blocks per 40 minutes (4.66).

"I saw the type of player and person LaToya is when I had the opportunity to coach her in Minnesota," said Sparks head coach Jennifer Gillom. "I knew we could use her because she is a fantastic defensive player and has a great locker room presence. I look forward to the impact she will have on our team."

After spending one season in Phoenix, she was traded to the Minnesota Lynx in a multi-player trade. With the Mercury, Pringle saw action in 29 games and averaged 4.4 points and 3.5 rebounds. In 2009, she played in 17 games for the Lynx and averaged 2.2 points and 2.2 rebounds in 9.4 minutes/game.

"I am very excited to join the Sparks," said Pringle. "It is a great organization with a great team and great players. I am truly looking forward to playing with this group of talented players and I hope that I can make this team even better."

A native of Nuremberg, Germany, Pringle played college basketball at the University of North Carolina where she helped the Tar Heels reach the NCAA Elite Eight in each of her four years with the program. As a senior she was named the 2008 ACC Defensive Player of the Year and received First-Team All-Defensive honors. In her final campaign, she ranked second in the ACC in blocks (3.18bpg) which was good for 5th in the NCAA. Pringle finished her career averaging 8.8 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.43 blocks in 110 career games played.

See LaToya at STAPLES Center this summer. Don't miss the Sparks home opener on May 28th against the Washington Mystics! Visit www.LASparks.com or call 1-877-44-SPARKS to purchase season tickets today!

About the Los Angeles Sparks

The Los Angeles Sparks are entering their 14th season in the Women's National Basketball Association. The Sparks are one of the five original teams still operating in the WNBA. In December 2006, the Sparks were purchased by a group of investors, led by Carla Christofferson and Kathy Goodman and they are one of six WNBA teams owned and operated independent of NBA teams. The Sparks won back-to-back WNBA Championships in 2001 & 2002. The team's roster of star athletes includes 2008 WNBA MVP & Rookie of the Year Candace Parker, All-Star DeLisha Milton-Jones, four-time WNBA Champion Tina Thompson and 2005 WNBA Champion Ticha Penicheiro. The Sparks play their home games at STAPLES Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. For Sparks ticket information, call 1-877-44-SPARKS.