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## **SPARKS SELECT ANDREA RILEY WITH #8 PICK IN 2010 WNBA DRAFT**

*Sparks Select Bianca Thomas #12, Angel Robinson #20 and Rashidat Junaid #32*

**LOS ANGELES** - The Los Angeles Sparks selected Andrea Riley 8<sup>th</sup> and Bianca Thomas 12<sup>th</sup> in the first round of the 2010 WNBA Draft. In the second round, the team selected Angel Robinson from the University of Georgia with the 20<sup>th</sup> pick and Rashidat Junaid from Rutgers University with the 32<sup>nd</sup> pick in the third round.

Riley was the nation's second-leading scorer at 26.7 points per game. She also led the Big 12 in assists at 6.5 per contest and led the Cowgirls to a 24-11 mark for the 2009-2010 season. A second-team Associated Press All-American, the 5'5" guard is a Dallas, TX native and scored 909 points this past season which is the 10<sup>th</sup> best single-season total in NCAA history.

"It feels great to have been selected by the Sparks," said Riley. "I'm excited to be playing with a team that has such great players and I truly believe that playing under these veterans will make me stronger. I can't wait to get out there and starting working so that I'm able to do whatever I can to help make the team successful."

Thomas finished the 2009-2010 season as the Southeastern Conference's leading scorer this season with 20.9 points per game. She was a first-team All-SEC pick by the league, coaches and the AP and finished her career sixth all-time at Ole Miss in scoring with 1,511 points. The 5'10" guard also was second in the SEC and ninth in the nation with 3.1 3-pointers per game setting Ole Miss' single-season record with 100, becoming the seventh player in SEC history with 100 or more 3-pointers in the same season. She was second all-time at Ole Miss with 226 career 3-pointers.

"I'm so very blessed and appreciative of the opportunity to play professional basketball," said Thomas. "LA is a very good team and they have great talent. This is a dream come true for me and I can't wait to get out there and get started."

Robinson averaged 7.3 points and 7.1 rebounds for the Georgia Bulldogs in 26 games during the 2009-2010 season. The 6'5" center enjoyed her best collegiate season in 2008-2009 when she averaged 11.5 points and 9.3 rebounds per game. An All-SEC Second Team selection in 2009, Robinson was also an AP SEC Honorable Mention selection in 2009 and was a member of the 2007 SEC All-Freshman Team.

Rashidat Junaid played in 130 career games for Rutgers with 17 starts, which is the fourth most career games for any Rutgers player. The 6'4" center finished the 2010 season averaging 5.7 points and 3.9 rebounds in 15.3 minutes per game.

"This was a great draft for us," said Sparks Head Coach Jennifer Gillom. "I thought we picked up four

players with incredible potential. For us to have been able to draft both Andrea Riley and Bianca Thomas in the first round, we feel like we have truly filled out our backcourt. Picking up the two centers in the second and third rounds brings us one step closer to filling the hole in the middle. We are very excited about training camp and the 2010 season."

The draftees will join a Sparks team eyeing a third championship after finishing just short in the Western Conference Finals last season. The Sparks tip-off the 2010 WNBA season against the defending champion Phoenix Mercury, May 15 at US Airways Center and open at STAPLES Center May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm against the Washington Mystics.

Sparks single game tickets are on sale now and the Sparks have launched their "72-Hour Fast Break Frenzy" to give fans the opportunity to score tickets at a discounted price: 20% off on Thursday, 15% off on Friday, and 10% off on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.LASparks.com](http://www.LASparks.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling 1-877-WNBA-TIX.