



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 27, 2011
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Knee Injury To Sideline Candace Parker Approximately Six Weeks

LOS ANGELES – An MRI on Monday revealed that Los Angeles Sparks post player Candace Parker has torn the lateral meniscus in her right knee and will be sidelined for approximately six weeks.

Parker suffered the injury during the third quarter of Sunday's game against the New York Liberty in Newark, N.J. With 5:56 remaining in period, Parker went down after grabbing a defensive rebound and then briefly making contact with the Liberty's Quanita Hollingsworth. The Naperville, Ill., native did not return to the contest.

"We look forward to Candace making a full recovery," Sparks Vice President and General Manager Penny Toler said.

"I appreciate all of the kind thoughts and prayers that have come my way in the last 24 hours. They have truly helped," Parker said. "I look forward to picking up where I left off and contending for a WNBA championship."

Prior to her injury, Parker averaged 17.7 points, 9.7 rebounds and 2.9 assists through seven games, recording four double-doubles. She began the 2011 campaign fully healthy after missing 34 regular season games over the past two seasons due to injury and pregnancy. In 2008 Parker became the first player in league history to capture both MVP and Rookie of the Year honors.

Los Angeles (4-3) continues its current seven-game road trip Tuesday at the Connecticut Sun (4-3). The nationally-televised game on ESPN2 is scheduled for a 5 p.m. PT tip-off.

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.