



NEWS RELEASE

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Sparks Win 2012 WNBA Draft Lottery, Earn No. 1 Overall Pick *Los Angeles Holds Five Total Selections in 2012 Draft*

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Sparks won the eleventh annual WNBA Draft Lottery and earned the top pick in the 2012 WNBA Draft, the league announced today.

This marks the second time in franchise history that Los Angeles has earned the top overall choice. In 2008, the Sparks used their No. 1 selection to draft Candace Parker from the Univ. of Tennessee.

“There are some excellent players in the 2012 Draft class, and we are very excited to get the No. 1 pick and have the opportunity to add a very talented player to the Sparks roster,” Sparks Vice President and General Manager Penny Toler said.

Los Angeles had 104 chances out of 1,000 to receive the first overall selection, the fewest of any of the four teams in the Lottery mix. This marks the second time in WNBA history that the team with the fewest chances to win has won the top pick. The other team to do so was the Phoenix Mercury, which won the Lottery held in advance of the 2007 WNBA Draft.

Including its No. 1 overall selection, Los Angeles holds five picks in the 2012 Draft, including three at the start of the second round: No. 13 overall (acquired in the Feb. 2011 trade that sent Andrea Riley to Tulsa), No. 15 (acquired in the May 2011 trade that send Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton to Chicago) and its original pick at No. 16. Rounding out the Sparks’ draft choices will be a third round selection at No. 28 overall.

The Chicago Sky, which had the second fewest chances to win the Lottery (178), will have the second pick in the Draft followed by the Minnesota Lynx. Minnesota, which, after winning the Lottery last year used the No. 1 overall pick to select Maya Moore and went on to earn its first WNBA championship, had the second best odds of winning the 2012 Lottery. The Lynx had a 27.6 percent chance of landing the top pick having obtained the first round selection of Washington (6-28) after trading forward/center Nicky Anosike to the Mystics two days prior to the 2011 Draft.

The Tulsa Shock, which had the most chances to win the Lottery (44.2%) will select fourth.

WNBA officials and a representative from the accounting firm of Ernst & Young conducted the Draft Lottery in New York City to establish the order of selection for the first four picks of the 2012 WNBA Draft. The order of selection for the remainder of the first round as well as the second and third round is determined by inverse order of the teams’ respective regular-season records.

The following are results of the 2012 WNBA Draft Lottery:

2012 WNBA DRAFT LOTTERY ORDER

	Team	2011 Record	Chances (out of 1,000)
1.	Los Angeles	15-19	104
2.	Chicago	14-20	178
3.	Minnesota (from Washington*)	6-28*	276
4.	Tulsa	3-31	442

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES SPARKS

The Los Angeles Sparks are an original Women's National Basketball Association team with a storied 15-year history dating to the league's inaugural season of 1997. 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 include 2008 WNBA MVP and Rookie of the Year Candace Parker, four-time WNBA champion 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.

ABOUT THE WNBA

The WNBA – which features 12 teams and is the most successful women's professional team sports league in the world – is a unique global sports property combining competition, sportsmanship, and entertainment value with its status as an icon for social change, achievement, and diversity. A fifth consecutive year of attendance growth, the highest ESPN2 viewership since 2005, increased viewership during the WNBA Finals, and the signing of a landmark multiyear deal with Boost Mobile as the first leaguewide marquee partner highlighted the WNBA's 2011 regular season.

Through WNBA Cares, the WNBA is deeply committed to creating programs that improve the quality of life for all people, with a special emphasis on programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and positive body image, increase breast and women's health awareness, support youth and family development, and focus on education. For more information on the WNBA, log on to www.wnba.com.