



NEWS RELEASE

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Sparks Return to STAPLES Center for Home Games July 17 and 18 *Downtown Dribble, Ruben Studdard Performance Highlight Exciting Schedule of Events*

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Sparks play their only two home games of the month this Sunday and Monday – July 17 and 18 – at STAPLES Center, with a number of exciting promotions planned.

Prior to the Sunday's 5:30 p.m. tip-off vs. the Washington Mystics, Sparks fans ages 18 and under are invited to join the second-annual [Downtown Dribble](#) at L.A. Live, presented by Farmers Insurance and First 5 LA. For only \$20, participants will receive a game ticket, Sparks basketball and t-shirt, and have the opportunity to flaunt their ball-handling skills in such challenges as Dribble Tag, the Dribble-A-Thon and Dribble Like a Pro. Parents can [download the registration form](#) on LASparks.com, or register in person beginning at noon for the event running 2-5 p.m.

That same day, Sparks fans can beat the traffic woes by riding [Metrolink/Metro](#) to STAPLES Center, and by doing so will receive a special ticket discount! In "honor" of the impending 405 freeway shut down, the Sparks are offering admission for only \$4.05 to all fans who show their Metrolink/Metro ticket at the STAPLES Center box office.

When the Sparks face Western Conference rival San Antonio on Monday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m., fans will also be treated to a special musical performance by a true "American Idol." GMC, America's Favorite Channel for Uplifting Music and Entertainment, is bringing the [UPLIFT SOMEONE AMERICA Bus Tour](#) to STAPLES Center with featured guest [Ruben Studdard](#). The Grammy-nominated R&B, pop and gospel singer – who rose to fame when he won the second season of *American Idol* - will perform the National Anthem as well as some of his hit songs at halftime.

Tickets for Sunday and Monday's games, as well as all remaining home contests, are available online at LASparks.com, by phone at 877-44-SPARKS (772757), at the STAPLES Center box office and at all [Ticketmaster](#) outlets. Season tickets, as well as flexible mini-plan options, are also available.

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.