



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 30, 2015

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Twenty-Seven Olympic Hopefuls Expected To Attend USA Basketball Women's National Team Training Camp

-- Jewell Loyd, Tiffany Mitchell, Jen Hamson Invited To Train With USA National Team --

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (April 30, 2014) – Featuring 14 athletes who have captured a combined 16 Olympic and 18 FIBA World Championship gold medals and a total of 27 of the nation's top women's basketball players, the USA Basketball Women's National Team will tip-off training for the 2016 Olympic Games with a mini-camp May 4-6 at UNLV's Mendenhall Center in Las Vegas. Included in the list of athletes are three who will participate in their first USA National Team training camp, including **Jen Hamson** (Los Angeles Sparks), **Jewell Loyd** (Seattle Storm) and **Tiffany Mitchell** (South Carolina), who were invited to attend the camp by the USA Basketball Women's National Team Player Selection Committee.

"The committee has watched these three athletes compete at a high level collegiately, and they are all talented players," said **Carol Callan**, USA Basketball Women's National Team Director and chair of the selection committee. "We are always looking toward the future, and we feel that these camps not only help USA Basketball prepare for the next big event, which of course is the Olympic Games, but for competitions beyond 2016.

"Part of our success internationally has come from evaluating and training younger athletes in settings such as this camp. While we haven't had the opportunity to see Jen Hamson with USA Basketball, Tiffany and Jewell have won gold medals at the junior level, and based on their past experiences in college and with Jewell and Tiffany internationally, we wanted to see how they competed on the USA National Team level."

"I'm looking forward to next week's training camp," said USA National Team and University of Connecticut head coach **Geno Auremma**, who since being selected to coach the USA Basketball Women's National Team in 2009 has piloted the USA National Team to an overall 23-0 record and gold medals at the 2010 and 2014 FIBA World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Games. "We are going to have a great mix of young athletes who are hungry for a spot on the team and many veterans who might need to work a little harder because of it.

"And of course we're bringing in three who could shake things up. I'm interested to see how Jen Hamson stacks up against some of our bigs, she's got some good size to add to our mix. And then Jewell Loyd and Tiffany Mitchell are two very talented guards, who I had the opportunity to see up close in games this year. They both gave my team a tough time, and I can't wait to see them working alongside players like Sue Bird and Lindsay Whalen. We have a lot of work to do in three days, but I honestly can't wait to get out to Vegas and get started."

Members of the 2014-16 USA Basketball Women's National Team expected to participate in the training camp, include: **Jayne Appel** (San Antonio Stars), **Seimone Augustus** (Minnesota Lynx), **Sue Bird** (Seattle Storm), **Tina Charles** (New York Liberty), **Elena Delle Donne** (Chicago Sky), **Skylar Diggins** (Tulsa Shock), **Stefanie Dolson** (Washington Mystics), **Sylvia Fowles** (Chicago Sky), **Brittney Griner** (Phoenix Mercury), **Bria Hartley** (Washington Mystics), **Briann January** (Indiana Fever), **Jantel Lavender** (Los Angeles Sparks), **Angel McCoughtry** (Atlanta Dream), **Maya Moore** (Minnesota Lynx), **Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis** (Seattle Storm), **Nnemkadi Ogwumike** (Los Angeles Sparks), **Candace Parker** (Los Angeles Sparks), **Cappie Pondexter** (Chicago Sky), **Danielle Robinson** (San

Antonio Stars), **Odyssey Sims** (Tulsa Shock), **Breanna Stewart** (University of Connecticut), **Diana Taurasi** (Phoenix Mercury), **Courtney Vandersloot** (Chicago Sky) and **Monica Wright** (Minnesota Lynx).

Included on the training camp roster are three-time Olympic gold medalists Bird and Taurasi; two-time Olympic gold medalists Augustus, Fowles and Parker; 2008 Olympic gold medalist Pondexter; and Charles, McCoughtry and Moore, who helped the U.S. claim gold in 2012. Further, Bird is a three-time FIBA World Championship gold medalist; Charles, McCoughtry, Moore and Taurasi have captured two World Championship gold medals; Appel and Fowles earned gold at the 2010 Worlds; while Augustus, Griner, Ogwumike, Sims and Stewart earned a gold medal at the 2014 FIBA World Championship. Further, Augustus, Bird, Parker and Taurasi returned with a bronze medal from the 2006 FIBA World Championship.

Selected by the Los Angeles Sparks in the 2014 WNBA Draft, the 6-foot-7 Hamson was a two-sport athlete at Brigham Young University. She deferred playing in the WNBA for a year and returned to BYU to complete her eligibility in volleyball. She was the 2014 West Coast Conference Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year as a senior basketball player, while also being named a 2014 Associated Press (AP) All-American honorable mention and helped lead the Cougars to the 2014 NCAA Sweet 16. In her final season of volleyball in 2014, the two-time volleyball All-American first team selection led BYU to the NCAA title game.

The No. 1 pick in the 2015 WNBA Draft, Loyd is a two-time world champion with USA Basketball. She helped the 2010 USA U17 World Championship Team collect gold with a perfect 8-0 record and returned this past summer as a member of the 2014 USA 3x3 World Championship Team that swept its competition for an unblemished 9-0 record and gold medal at the FIBA 3x3 World Championship. Helping Notre Dame to the NCAA Final Four in each of her three seasons, including the past two national championship games, the two-time All-American was the 2015 espnW National Player of the Year and was runner-up for the 2015 AP National Player of the Year and Wooden Award. She also earned 2015 Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year and ACC Tournament MVP honors.

A teammate of Loyd's on the 2014 USA 3x3 World Championship Team and a participant in the 2010 USA U17 World Championship Team Trials, this will be Mitchell's third USA Basketball experience. Mitchell earned the 2015 Dawn Staley Award, presented by the Phoenix Club of Philadelphia to the nation's top guard who best defines the way Staley played the game. The two-time All-American and two-time Southeastern Conference Player of the Year has competed in three NCAA Tournaments and helped the Gamecocks advance to the 2014 NCAA Sweet 16 and the program's first NCAA Final Four in 2015.

Auriemma will be assisted through the 2016 Olympic Games by DePaul University's **Doug Bruno**, the Minnesota Lynx' **Cheryl Reeve** and University of South Carolina's **Dawn Staley**.

Additionally, University of Hartford head coach **Jennifer Rizzotti** will serve as a court coach and assist the USA National Team staff during the three-day camp.

The final 12-player 2016 U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team will be selected from the 2014-16 USA National Team pool by the USA Basketball Women's National Team Player Selection Committee. Chaired by USA Basketball women's national team director Callan, the committee includes WNBA appointees **Reneé Brown**, WNBA chief of basketball operations and player relations; **Dan Hughes**, head coach and general manager of the San Antonio Stars; and **Chris Sienko**, vice president and general manager of the Connecticut Sun; and three-time Olympic and two-time FIBA World Championship gold medalist **Katie Smith**, who played in nearly 200 games for USA Basketball from 1993-2008, and serves as the athlete representative.

2016 Olympic Games

The 2016 Olympic Games will be held Aug. 5-21 in Rio de Janeiro. A total of 12 nations will compete in the Olympic women's basketball competition, including host Brazil and the USA, which earned its berth by virtue of claiming the gold medal at the 2014 FIBA World Championship. The gold-medal winning nations from each of the five FIBA zone Olympic qualifying tournaments in 2015 also will punch their tickets to Rio, while the remaining berths will be awarded to the top five finishing teams at the 2016 FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament (dates and site TBD).

U.S. Olympic women's basketball teams have earned a record seven gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal, and are 58-3 all-time in Olympic competition. The 2016 U.S. team will enter Rio riding a 41-game Olympic winning streak that dates back to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medal game.

Since the inception of the 1995-96 USA Basketball Women's National Team program, the USA National Team, in addition to its record five-straight Olympic gold medals, has captured four FIBA World Championship gold medals, one FIBA World Championship bronze medal and one FIBA Americas Championship gold medal, while compiling a remarkable 86-1 record for a .989 winning percentage in those events. Further, USA National Teams in exhibition contests since 1995 boast of a 186-15 record (.925 winning percentage).

USA Basketball

Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA Basketball, chaired by **Jerry Colangelo**, is a nonprofit organization and the national governing body for men's and women's basketball in the United States. As the recognized governing body for basketball in the U.S. by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), USA Basketball is responsible for the selection, training and fielding of USA teams that compete in FIBA-sponsored international competitions, as well as for some national competitions, and for the development of youth basketball initiatives that address player development, coach education and safety.

USA Basketball men's and women's teams between 2012-14 compiled a spectacular 122-4 win-loss record in FIBA and FIBA Americas competitions, the World University Games and the Nike Hoop Summit, and posted a 65-8 win-loss record in official FIBA and FIBA Americas 3x3 competitions.

USA teams are the current men's and women's champions in the Olympics; men's FIBA World Cup and women's FIBA World Championship; men's and women's FIBA U19 and U17 World Championships; men's and women's U18 and U16 FIBA Americas Championships; the FIBA 3x3 Women's World Championship; the FIBA 3x3 Women's U18 World Championship; and the women's Youth Olympic Games. USA Basketball currently ranks No. 1 in all five of FIBA's world-ranking categories, including combined, men's, women's, boys and girls.

For further information about USA Basketball, go to the official Website of USA Basketball at usab.com, and connect with us on [facebook/usabasketball](https://www.facebook.com/usabasketball), [twitter/usabasketball](https://twitter.com/usabasketball), [youtube/usab](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv0M1U1U1U1U1U1U1U1U1U1), [plus.google/+usabasketball](https://plus.google.com/+usabasketball) and [instagram.com/usabasketball](https://www.instagram.com/usabasketball).

2015 USA Basketball Women's National Team Training Camp Roster

NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	DOB	TEAM	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
Jayne Appel	C	6-4	210	05/14/88	San Antonio Stars	Stanford	Pleasant Hill, CA
Seimone Augustus	G/F	6-0	166	04/30/84	Minnesota Lynx	Louisiana State	Baton Rouge, LA
Sue Bird	G	5-9	150	10/16/80	Seattle Storm	Connecticut	Syosset, NY
Tina Charles	C	6-4	198	12/05/88	New York Liberty	Connecticut	Jamaica, NY
Elena Delle Donne	G/F	6-5	188	09/05/89	Chicago Sky	Delaware	Wilmington, DE
Skylar Diggins	G	5-9	145	08/02/90	Tulsa Shock	Notre Dame	South Bend, IN
Stefanie Dolson	C	6-5	210	01/08/92	Washington Mystics	Connecticut	Port Jervis, NY
Sylvia Fowles	C	6-6	200	10/06/85	Chicago Sky	Louisiana State	Miami, FL
Brittney Griner	C	6-8	199	10/18/90	Phoenix Mercury	Baylor	Houston, TX
*Jen Hamson	C	6-7	000	01/23/92	Los Angeles Sparks	BYU	Lindon, UT
Bria Hartley	G	5-7	145	09/30/92	Washington Mystics	Connecticut	North Babylon, NY
Briann January	G	5-8	144	01/11/87	Indiana Fever	Arizona State	Spokane, WA
Jantel Lavender	C	6-4	185	11/12/88	Los Angeles Sparks	Ohio State	Cleveland, OH
*Jewell Loyd	G	5-10	150	10/05/93	Seattle Storm	Notre Dame	Lincolnwood, IL
Angel McCoughtry	G/F	6-1	160	09/10/86	Atlanta Dream	Louisville	Baltimore, MD
*Tiffany Mitchell	G	5-10	154	09/23/94	n/a	South Carolina	Charlotte, NC
Maya Moore	F	6-0	176	06/11/89	Minnesota Lynx	Connecticut	Lawrenceville, GA
Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis	F	6-0	185	11/03/93	Seattle Storm	Connecticut	Anaheim Hills, CA
Nnemkadi Ogwumike	F	6-2	188	07/02/90	Los Angeles Sparks	Stanford	Cypress, TX
Candace Parker	F/C	6-4	175	04/19/86	Los Angeles Sparks	Tennessee	Naperville, IL
Cappie Pondexter	G	5-9	160	01/07/83	Chicago Sky	Rutgers	Chicago, IL
Danielle Robinson	G	5-9	125	05/10/89	San Antonio Stars	Oklahoma	San Jose, CA
Odyssey Sims	G	5-8	155	07/13/92	Tulsa Shock	Baylor	Irving, TX
Breanna Stewart	F/C	6-4	175	08/27/94	n/a	Connecticut	North Syracuse, NY
Diana Taurasi	G	6-0	163	06/11/82	Phoenix Mercury	Connecticut	Chino, CA
Courtney Vandersloot	G	5-8	145	02/08/89	Chicago Sky	Gonzaga	Kent, WA
Monica Wright	G/F	5-10	170	07/15/88	Minnesota Lynx	Virginia	Woodbridge, VA

Head Coach: Geno Auriemma, University of Connecticut

Assistant Coach: Doug Bruno, DePaul University

Assistant Coach: Cheryl Reeve, Minnesota Lynx

Assistant Coach: Dawn Staley, University of South Carolina

Court Coach: Jennifer Rizzotti, University of Hartford

**Not a member of the 2014-16 USA Basketball Women's National Team.*