

# Candace Parker: A Basketball Star Shining Brightly on the Court



Candace Parker is an American professional basketball player for the Las Vegas Aces of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). A two-time WNBA MVP, she has also led the league in scoring, rebounding,

and steals. Parker is one of the most decorated players in WNBA history, having been named an All-Star eight times, an All-WNBA Team selection seven times, and a WNBA All-Defensive Team selection six times. She has also won two Olympic gold medals with the United States national team.



## Candace Parker: Basketball Star (Stars of Sports)

by Shane Frederick

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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### Early Life and Basketball Beginnings

Parker was born on April 19, 1986, in St. Louis, Missouri. She began playing basketball at an early age, and quickly developed a passion for the game. Parker attended Naperville Central High School in Naperville, Illinois, where she led her team to two state championships. She was named a McDonald's All-American and was considered one of the top recruits in the country.

### College Career at Tennessee

Parker attended the University of Tennessee, where she played for the Lady Volunteers basketball team. She was a key contributor to the team's four consecutive NCAA Final Four appearances, and helped Tennessee win the NCAA championship in 2007 and 2008. Parker was named the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player in both years.

## **WNBA Career**

Parker was drafted first overall by the Los Angeles Sparks in the 2008 WNBA Draft. She quickly became a star, averaging 18.5 points, 9.5 rebounds, and 4.7 assists per game in her rookie season. She led the Sparks to the WNBA Finals in 2009, where they lost to the Detroit Shock.

In 2010, Parker won her first WNBA MVP award. She led the Sparks to the WNBA Finals again in 2012, where they defeated the Minnesota Lynx to win the championship. Parker won her second WNBA MVP award in 2013.

Parker continued to excel in the WNBA, leading the league in scoring in 2014 and 2016. She was named an All-Star eight times and an All-WNBA Team selection seven times.

## **International Career**

Parker has also represented the United States on the international stage. She won a gold medal with the US national team at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. She also won a gold medal at the 2010 FIBA World Championship.

## **Personal Life**

Parker is married to Anna Petrakova, a former professional basketball player. They have one daughter together.

## **Legacy**

Candace Parker is one of the most decorated players in WNBA history. She is a two-time WNBA MVP, a seven-time All-WNBA Team selection, and a six-time WNBA All-Defensive Team selection. She has also won two

Olympic gold medals with the United States national team. Parker is a role model for young basketball players and an inspiration to all.



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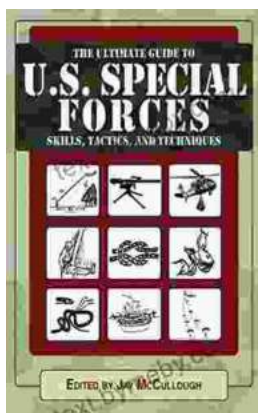
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