

2013

WNBA Draft Review

By: Sheri Sam



1. BRITTNEY GRINER
Baylor, 6'8 Center, Phoenix Mercury
3 games: 16.7 PPG, 6.7 RPG, 3.3 BPG

We have never before seen this type of player in the WNBA. She is a prodigy at 6-foot-8 with a 7-foot-2-inch wingspan. There is no question she will change the game. In fact, she already has with the implementation of the 3-second defensive rule. It will take her some time to adjust to the physicality of the WNBA, where she will have to compete with the likes of Tina Charles and Sylvia Fowles. Her offensive game will have to develop

as well. Look for her to have an immediate impact defensively, where she is a great shot blocker.

2. ELENA DELLE DONNE *Delaware*
6'5 Guard/Forward, Chicago Sky
5 games: 19.4 PPG, 4.8 RPG, 2.6 BPG

In my opinion, she is the best player in the draft. Her game is pro-ready. Her versatility sets her apart from any other player drafted. There are very few weaknesses in her offensive repertoire. She will have to improve defensively and adjust to guarding quicker players on the perimeter. She is my pick

for 2013 WNBA Rookie of the Year.

3. SKYLAR DIGGINS

Notre Dame, 5'9, PG, Tulsa Shock: 6 games: 10.3 PPG, 4.7 APG

Skylar had an excellent career at Notre Dame. She is a fierce competitor with great leadership skills who will benefit the Shock immediately. Her biggest asset will be her quickness and ability to break down defenses and find open shooters. She will have to improve her one-on-one defense and develop a more consistent outside shot.



4. TAYLER HILL *Ohio State*
5'10 Guard, Washington Mystics
4 games: 2.3 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 1.5 SPG

Hill is a flat-out scorer. She led the Big Ten in scoring this past season. She's also a very good defensive player and was selected to the Big Ten All-Defensive team. It was still somewhat of a surprise to see her drafted this high despite the upside. Tayler may need time to adapt to the pro game.

5. KELSEY BONE *Texas A&M*
6'4 Center, New York Liberty
5 games: 6 PPG, 4.8 RPG

Talented, strong, physical post player who could be a great draft choice for the Liberty. She should thrive in Bill Laimbeer's system. Bone has the potential to become a dominant low post player. She will have the opportunity to play early due to injuries to

Cheryl Ford and Plenette Pierson.

6. TIANNA HAWKINS *Maryland*
6'3 Forward, Seattle Storm
3 games: 3.3 PPG, 1.3 RPG

Hawkins is an aggressive, H-strong post player who led the nation in field goal percentage last season at Maryland. Although she has range up to 15-feet, she needs to work on extending her range out to the three-point line. It will be hard to get minutes in Seattle, but she could benefit from the tutelage of Tina Thompson.

7. TONI YOUNG *Oklahoma*
6'2, SF/PF, New York Liberty
5 games: 3.4 PPG, 1 RPG

Young is the "perfect" last name, because she's a raw talent. Her athleticism is unparalleled, as she qualified for the

Olympic trials in the high jump. She's still finding her way on the perimeter. Toni's ball handling needs work and she will have to develop a three-point shot. She attempted just three (0/3) in four years at Oklahoma. Defense and rebounding will be the keys to early playing time in Year One.

8. KAYLA ALEXANDER *Syracuse*
6'4 Center, San Antonio Silver Stars
5 games: 2.4 PPG, 1.6 RPG

Kayla had a successful career at Syracuse. She's a big-bodied center who can score on the low block. One of her strengths is her ability to block shots and that could speed her adjustment to the pace of the WNBA.

9. LAYSHIA CLARENDON *California, 5'9, SG, Indiana Fever*

One of the true surprises of the draft, Layshia had a great run in the 2013 NCAA Tournament. She went from mere prospect to first round selection. The former Bear has a good mid-range game and excels in the open court. While she will have to continue to work on her outside shot, she should fit well in Indiana's system.

10. A'DIA MATHIES *Kentucky, 5'9, Guard, Los Angeles Sparks*

Mathies -a back-to back SEC Player of the Year honoree- became the first to achieve this feat since Minnesota Lynx G/F Seimone Augustus (2005-06). Adia is a quick, streaky scorer who could have difficulty getting minutes in the Sparks' veteran rotation.

11. KELLY FARIS *Connecticut, 5'11, SG/SF, Connecticut Sun*

In my opinion, Faris was not a first round talent. Despite averaging 10.2 points per game for Connecticut in 2012-13, she shot just 41.5 percent from the field. Her size and rebounding skill (5.7 RPG) may have been a factor in this selection.

12. LINDSAY MOORE *Nebraska, 5'9, Guard, Minnesota Lynx*

Moore led the Big Ten in assist-to-turnover ratio because she sees the floor well. The Lynx are a good fit because she can learn under two-time WNBA All-Star Lindsay Whalen.

