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ENGL 1013

Date

WNBA Versus NBA

The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and National Basketball Association (NBA) are two of the most electrifying basketball leagues in the world. These two leagues showcase a very high level of competitive basketball; however, they are different in salaries, the way they play, and coaching.

First, one of the main differences between the two leagues is the salary. The WNBA's average salary of the 157 players is around \$78,000. The highest contract a WNBA player can earn is \$110,000; in fact, Brittney Griner, the forward for the Phoenix Mercury, and fellow superstars in the WNBA have the maximum salary a player can be paid. There are many players that have second jobs so that they are able to pay bills, support their families, and fulfill their needs. For example, 89 out of 157 WNBA players, such as superstars Maya Moore from the Minnesota Lynx and Nneka Ogumike from the Los Angeles Sparks, are also paying overseas in Europe to make extra money.

While the WNBA's average salary is around \$78,000, the NBA's average is at a whopping \$6.4 million. The highest-paid player in the NBA, Steph Curry, is making over \$34.7 million, not including endorsements. Like Curry, many NBA players also make extra money above their already-high salary by being sponsored, being on TV, setting up camps, and having many other kinds of endorsements.

Besides the massive difference in salaries, another difference between the two basketball

leagues is the way they play. The WNBA's play style is mostly based on fundamentals and very precise ball movement. The WNBA uses these methods to get shooters open or to get a wide-open lay-up. Women base most of their points off three-pointers, transition points, or setting up a very quick set play. That means women that are in the league have a very high IQ in basketball and are required to remember a lot of important plays. Professional women basketball players are also well known for their strong team chemistry; as a result, female teams are great with communication and have good chances of winning games.

The way the NBA players play is very different from how the WNBA players play. NBA players are very athletic and play at a very fast pace. NBA players do not have to be fundamental; however, they need to be able to jump and run and be very well conditioned. A normal game looks like a track meet with how much sprinting back and forth the players have to do. Male players base their scoring on transition points, dunks, or three-pointers in important situations. NBA players do not have to have a high team chemistry because the NBA plays with a one-one play style.

In addition to the differences in the way each league plays, coaching is also different to a certain extent in the two leagues. Coaches in the WNBA need to break down plays and drills to get the women prepared for the game. Women's coaches need to set up certain plays for zone and man defenses along with ways to handle full-court pressure. The coaches of the WNBA have great connections with their players and are careful about what they say to their players. The coaches of the WNBA want to build up trust with their players so that the players will come back for many more seasons.

On the other hand, NBA coaches coach quite differently from the coaches in the WNBA. NBA coaches usually teach their players with fast-paced and full-court drills to get their players

familiar with what the game is going to be like. NBA coaches run a motion or a one-on-one offense against most defenses to be able to score. NBA coaches do not care much about their players. The reason is that coaches in the NBA see this as strictly business. If a player does not like that the coach is not friendly or caring, the coach does not care and likely either cuts the player or trades him away.

In conclusion, the WNBA and NBA are very different from one another. The WNBA and NBA have a tremendous difference in salaries and play differently. Coaching is also very different between the two leagues.