

Talks at GS
Candace Parker
WNBA Champion
Susie Scher, Moderator
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[MUSIC INTRO]

Susie Scher: Welcome to Talks at GS. I'm Susie Scher. I'm Chair of the Global Financing Group within the Investment Banking Division. And it is my great pleasure to welcome a real trailblazer who's changed the face of sport. Candace Parker. It's impossible to describe her in just a few words, but I'm going to try. She's a record setter, a rule breaker, and a revolutionary with two WNBA titles, two Olympic gold medals, two League MVP awards, and two NCAA championships under her belt.

She's been called the biggest star women's basketball has ever seen. She's a vocal advocate of racial and gender

equity. And was recognized as one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2022. And when she's not on the court doing endorsement deals or producing documentaries, she's schooling Shaq on the finer points of the game as a broadcast analyst. She just told me she goes between Atlanta, Chicago, and LA. That's a lot. Candace, welcome.

So, we're going to start with your game on the court since you're in season. Let's talk about, to begin with, your friend and broadcast colleague Dwyane Wade said you built a legacy by revolutionizing your game. What do you think he meant? How did you revolutionize the game of basketball for women?

Candace Parker: I think for me growing up, I just give a nod to my parents because in my household, like, my parents were like, "You can do it." Like, I had two older brothers and there was no real difference in the way that they treated us.

Some of my biggest conversations at dinner was centered around competition. And so, I think by doing that, by empowering young girls and empowering me, my parents,

like, made it so that it was just a person. I wanted to dunk before my brothers did. That was what I wanted to do. It wasn't, like, girls can't dunk, or girls shouldn't do this move. And so, I think by having that belief and having that instilled by my parents at such a young age-- like, my nickname was Can Do. So, any time I'd be like, "Mom." She'd be like, "Can Do." And I'd be like, "You're right. Can do. I can do it." You know?

So, it's like that empowerment, I think, is what kind of set the stage. You know, I think that that's shown on the court in my game is that I don't think that there are limitations that you should have. Like, I'm 6'4" and I wanted to dribble. Like I wanted to play point guard. And I think, excuse me, I think that that's important for any young athlete or anybody that wants to do anything in any field.

Susie Scher: So, listen. You've done it all when it comes to basketball. I just talked about it. Won championships. Set records. Won gold medals. What do you still want to achieve? Do you have anything left to prove? Or are you just playing for yourself? Or are you playing for your kids?

Candace Parker: Well, first and foremost, I just think

winning is one of those things where when you win a championship, like, you want to do it again. It's like that feeling that you get where you're cutting down the net and you're already plotting to do it again. And it just gnaws at you. Like, it just wakes you up at night.

So, like, I'm playing still to win more championships. And, you know, we've been fortunate. We won last year. And I'm into, you know, like I said, competition. You tell me I can't do something. And the WNBA hasn't had a repeat champion in 20 years. So, I think those are the things that I think the games that you have to play as you get older, when you become 30 - [COUGH] - something in this game, you have to start having those goals.

And then also, like, my daughter, she's starting to play now. You know? She yelled at the ref the way I did. So, I know she's watching. And so, I'm definitely playing for my kids. My son, I'll be long retired by the time he probably remembers. But at least we'll have pictures.

Susie Scher: Lucky him. So, you've recently said it's a different game these days. That it's chess instead of checkers. What did you mean by that? Is there anything

you try to add to your game at this point in your career?
Any refining? Fine tuning? Or is it perfect?

Candace Parker: It's definitely not perfect. I think there's been the debate, and this is, like, in basketball in general about, you know, when is your prime? When is the prime? And a lot of people settle on 27 to 30 or it's 27 to 32. Whatever.

But for me, I feel like I was young, and I was playing, and I was way more athletic. But now, it's more of like you're dictating the way the game is played at this point. Like, I know when I take a defender here, that my teammate's going to cut and I'm going to initiate that.

And I think when you're young, you're just kind of just out there playing. And using your athleticism. And not necessarily using your brain. And so, I think it becomes more of, like, a mental game as you get older. And I mean, it has too because, you know, physically you're not able to do the things that you used to. But I definitely think that that has always been a strength.

Susie Scher: Let's pivot a second and talk about resilience.

Your career has been frequently interrupted by knee, shoulder, and ankle injuries. Began with a torn ACL on your knee during high school. Dislocated shoulder when you played in college. Multiple surgeries and rehabs. How did you engineer your mind to overcome those setbacks? And what does this speak to in terms of facing adversity and exceeding expectations?

Candace Parker: Adversity, I feel like, reveals and it builds character. It's whatever you decide. You know, I remember basketball was everything to me. And at 16 when I tore my ACL I remember, you know, feeling sorry for myself and being upset. But I rehabbed back. I wanted to make it for my senior year to play. And, you know, I got back in five and a half months. I played in a game, and we ended up winning the state championship. But my knee wasn't right. And I went to Tennessee to play under the legendary coach Summitt. And I get there and my knee's swelling up. And I end up having to have total knee reconstruction.

At the time, it was, I think only three or four people had had that surgery. And I was really upset. And I remember my dad came and he, like, took me and made me look in

the mirror. And he's like, "You need to make promises to yourself. Because if you make promises to yourself, then you'll hold yourself accountable." He said, "So many times we make promises to other people. And we actually hold true to those more so than we do to ourselves. So, you need to start consistently making promises to yourself. And holding them. And holding yourself accountable." And he said, "This is the last time that you're going to feel sorry for yourself."

And I held onto that. So, like, you know, you're going to have ups and downs and days that, you know, happen. And you can look to your right and compare your adversity to somebody else. Or you can just look yourself in the mirror and it's what you're going to face with that person you're looking in the mirror.

And so, I think just through every injury or shortcoming, like I think about how lucky I am in so many other aspects. But also, you know, that you can do it. And I think that that was the most valuable lesson that I learned early on. And that's helped me in injuries in the future.

Susie Scher: Let's pivot a little bit, talk a little bit about

women's rights and gender rights, something you're really, really passionate about. You recently gave a TED Talk about breaking down barriers where you said the world had a way of putting differences in a box and then getting mad when we had the audacity not to fit. And boy, do I feel that. I mean, I watched that TED Talk and heard you say that, and I thought, wow, you know? How were you put in a box as a young girl? And what did you do to break out of it?

Candace Parker: I remember in soccer, again, I'm going to hit this home, I come from an extremely competitive family. Okay? We competed at everything. Monopoly. There were boards flipped. I think my mom is still finding Monopoly pieces behind the refrigerator from all the boards that were flipped because we lost. We are a competitive family.

And one thing that my parents always instilled in us is that you can do and be anything that you work for. That you belong to walk into any room. And you don't have to fit into a certain mold. And I took that literal.

So, as a little girl with pigtails and bows, I'm on the soccer field pushing and shoving. You know? Like super

competitive and mad when we lost. And I just looked at the way that the world reacted. To even me in the WNBA showing emotion, that's not lady like. But my brother gets a pat on the butt and is called emotional and-- you know? He's described in a different way because the world sees us differently.

And it bothered me. Like, why can't women do that? Why can't we behave in that way or show emotion or be competitive and things like that? And so, I think when we go down the line, especially as an African American woman, you see that a lot in the world. And I would always get mad at the individuals that would put me in a place and then get upset when I don't want to fit in the place that they put me.

Susie Scher: You were 11 years old when the WNBA was created back in 1997. Did that represent a turning point for you? Did basketball become the vehicle that allowed you to kind of break out of this box? You talked a little bit about soccer. And then, so, pivot to what happened when the WNBA was born.

Candace Parker: I grew up in the Chicagoland area

during the '90s. So, of course I was a Bulls fan. And I would go out with my Ron Harper jersey on, and my backwards cap and I would try to shoot fade aways. And then in '97 when the WNBA started, I was, like, raising the roof like Cynthia Cooper and trying to get buckets like Tina Thompson.

Like, to be able to see yourself on television playing a game that you love, and you envision that, and that's when you start dreaming. You know? And that's when you start being like, "Okay, that's what I want to do." You start seeing people that are like you, that act like you, that have the same passion for the game that you love. You know, it changed my entire trajectory, I feel like, even just a young girl being able to aspire to play there.

Susie Scher: Talk about a game changer. You produced a documentary this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX and how it advanced the cause of gender equality. Where would you be today if Title IX didn't exist?

Candace Parker: I think so many times we look at Title IX as just sports or just things like that. But it's not about being professional in a sport. It's about learning the

necessary skills to survive in the world. You know, there's a statistic out there that talks about women in leadership positions and how many of them played team sports.

Just we played last night, right? The amount of emotions that I have gone through from last night just in terms of, like, you know, you sit in your bed and you're like, "Do I really want to get up for practice?" And then you get up for practice. Or, like, you know, you're upset at the coach, and you have to figure out how to behave. That happens at a grassroots level. You know? Teamwork. Embracing differences. Understanding our common goal. I mean, that's the workforce.

And so, by taking out an entire generation of our population and not equipping them with those skills from before 1972, and then being like, well, you have a fair shot at this in the workforce. That's not true. And so, Title IX, I would not be sitting here today if Billie Jean King, if Lisa Leslie, if they didn't pave the way so that, you know, other young girls would be able to be-- to be able to have the skills to live in this world.

Susie Scher: And then in all honesty, I mean, you're

paying it forward in an incredible way. You're not afraid to use your platform to represent issues or causes you believe in. And one of the things that I've read so much about you occurred when you held up your MVP and rookie of the year trophies while pregnant. That's just amazing. Just, like, looking back and thinking, like, you're pregnant and you're MVP and rookie of the year.

And then you return to the Sparks just nine weeks after delivering. And nursed your daughter for 13 months while playing. Talk about that and what it was like. And then what message did that send to female athletes in the greater world? What impact did it have on sports?

Candace Parker: Well, my daughter is, like, the best thing that has ever happened to me just because we've grown up together. I was 22 when I had her. It was right after my rookie year. I don't know life, especially with basketball, before her. It was just kind of like, well, she would, at three, like, "Mom. Time for our pre-game nap." I'm like, "Yeah, it is." That was how we operated. You know, I wasn't the typical mom where the kid goes to bed at 8 o'clock. It was like, no, you have to stay up for games. So, you go to bed at 11. You sleep till 11. Like, that's how it was.

But I will say, I think there were challenges at that point in time. But mentally, I grew up where my mom was a stay-at-home mom. So, my mom was at everything. So, I think the mom guilt, some of that, went into the things that I did with her.

Like, I didn't spend a night away from her until she was two because I was nursing. You know, just the mom guilt of not being able to be at all of her activities and things like that. But then also looking across the board and seeing that we are a women's league. And we don't empower mothers in an all-women's league. Like, we didn't have maternity leave. We didn't get paid if we had a child.

For my rookie year, we were still sharing rooms. So, I had to buy out half the room so that my mom could come on the trip. I had to buy my mom's seat. We didn't get childcare in these other cities. Like, there were things that were wrong.

And especially in terms of fertility, we're playing basketball in our prime years of having children. And there was no talk about fertility at that point in time. So, I think there's

so many things that, at the time, you don't see as wrong. They're just normal. But now, looking back, you know, you see that we're having more athletes that are moms that are having conversations. And there are different ways to become a mom as well. So, we're able to have those conversations.

And I think, in essence, like our last CBA that we signed, you know, there are a lot of strides that we've made. And there are still more to come. But you see now, like, you want to empower moms. You know? You do. You want to empower parents. And not just when the kid is six or seven. You know? While they're pregnant. Through the journey. And I think that's what we're doing a better job of now.

Susie Scher: Yeah. I mean, there's clearly been a Candace Parker effect for athletes who want to have kids. Pivoting a sec, it's June. It's Pride month. You decided to come out at the end of last year. I don't know if that's exactly the case. But, like, publicly come out. Make a statement. Announce that you and your wife Anna were expecting Airr. So, you came out because Anna was pregnant. On the one hand, you coming out is a personal choice and you've said you

never felt like you should have to come out. But on the other hand, you send a message to both the LGBTQ community, like, look at you. You're out. You're queer. That tells people that you can have this life. And then one of the things I love about being out, actively out, is you also send a message to the haters, right? Like, "Oh, you're a hater? Well, I'm Candace Parker." Right?

And so, talk a little bit about that. No, you know, what I mean. I mean, don't say gay.

Candace Parker: This is like dropping bars up here.

Susie Scher: No, but it's true.

Candace Parker: You're dropping lyrics up here.

Susie Scher: Like don't say gay. Or don't say gay to you. Right? Where should we go with our flag? I'm getting riled up. But talk about that. Talk about that a little bit. I want to hear your thoughts on that. Respectfully.

Candace Parker: Well, first and foremost, I think some of our choices was my wife is Russian. And so, I think a lot of

some of that was making sure that, you know, she's going to be able to stay in the country and everything. So, once we got all of that sorted out.

But secondly, Anna was court side every game. Like, I never hid her. Like everybody always knew who she was and, you know, things like that. But publicly, I think it is-- I didn't see it as valuable as now I'm able to, in retrospect, see how valuable it is.

There are so many young kids or there are so many times where even adults come up and say, "thank you." And I didn't realize the importance of visibility. I think it's important for everybody to be able to live their life. And I think it's also important for my daughter. Because I always tell her "be you." I always tell her "be happy." I always tell her "choose yourself." And I don't ever want my son or my daughter to look back and think that in any way, shape, or form that I wasn't choosing happy by not speaking about my family and at home and things like that.

So, I think that that was a conversation that we had. And then, like you said, like with Airr coming into the world, I mean, you know, you have that joy, and you want to share

that. And you know, her belly is getting big. So, it was kind of like one of those situations.

But I think that there's value in being you. And I have to show that. I can't just say it.

Susie Scher: Well, thanks for that. Because I know it's one thing to be a basketball icon. But then to become that queer basketball icon. You know, it is a burden. And once you do it, you don't necessarily get a break from it. But, you know, the burden is you're paying it forward. And that's amazing. So, thank you for that.

Candace Parker: But you're paying it forward, but also because of individuals like you. Because there was a post about Ellen when she came out and how, like, amazing that was for so many people. Hopefully, my daughter won't have to make an announcement. And I think that's the biggest thing is, is like finding that generation of when do you have to? When can we stop? When do you have to stop coming out? Like you should never have to be in.

And that's my thing is I think this next generation, I have so much hope because I feel like they're going to finally

figure it out.

Susie Scher: Talk a little bit where you've seen gaps between diversity and inclusion as it pertains to LGBTQ in all the worlds you walk in, sports and news. Are there gaps?

Candace Parker: There are not a lot of mes walking into rooms. And there are definitely not two or three. To me, diversity and inclusion, I mean, they talk about it in our diversity and inclusion meeting in WNBA, it's not one person. It's three or four. And diversity and inclusion is diversity of thought as well.

And so, I think it's-- and it's perspective. I mean, if you think about television, especially television, you think about the perspective. You think about your audience. And if you're able to have that on a set where you're able to reach different people, in business, in television, whatever, then you're really going to have some valuable conversations and some valuable perspective. And you're really going to reach certain audience members.

And for me, I think that that's the importance of it. The

gaps are an ability to start conversations. And so, if you don't have people that are different in those rooms, how do you start those conversations? How do you continue those conversations? And then that's when change comes.

And so, I think for me just being a walking billboard of all the differences when we walk into rooms, like I mean I'm 6'4". There's not many 6'4" Black women that, you know, have a wife that are walking into rooms. And so, like, I think it's being unapologetic about it. I think it's being unafraid about it. And it's a process. You know?

But I think it is important when you are that only one, it is your responsibility to not always have to start those conversations. And I think it's people around you understanding that, you know, it is necessary. The burden is not just on us.

Susie Scher: You said you've gotten in trouble at times for saying things people think about but are too afraid to say. But you've also said that it started conversations that needed to be had. You know? And it's interesting, here we are, it's hard to believe, summer of 2022. Everybody trapped at home summer of 2020. A lot of folks who always

say they missed Black Lives Matter 1.0, somehow, woke up to 2.0 and there was this whole call for anti-racism and call for racial equity.

But, you know, we just had this, and I hate to bring us down, but we have to talk about it, and we just had this terrible massacre in Buffalo that's been charged as a hate crime. What conversations are we not having about events like Buffalo bringing us back? You know, we're summer of 2022. Some things have changed. Some things haven't. What hard conversations do we need to be having? And how can, you know, as allies to the African American Black community, how can we do more and be part of your voice? Because you're right, you can't do it alone.

Candace Parker: I was just fortunate enough to be able to go to DC and go to the African American History Museum there. And if anybody hasn't gone to that museum, it's impactful. We went as a tourist. My second time going. And we went as a tour, as a team, and we were only able to spend two and a half hours. I mean, you could spend eight hours there.

And it talks about the foundation of our country that has

been built upon words. And through that is the Declaration of Independence. And it says, "all men are created equal." Which I still have a problem with because, like, we still haven't talked about women. But, okay, we'll go with it. But all men are created equal. Like, it says it right there.

So, the conversations and the words, those are all great. We've had those from the start of our country. It's about action, to me. It's about actionable change. It's about putting measures and principles and rules and laws in place to empower our words.

And I think that, yes, we had a lot of conversations in 2020. And you know, now the Shut Up and Dribble with athletes and things like that. Like we've had these conversations. But it really is about what are we going to do within our community?

And I think as athletes, we took that as a challenge. You know, we want people to get out and vote. We want a change. I mean, a number of NBA athletes now have schools. You know? There are things that I think that are actionable items that we can do that are going to be more than just conversations and words. And I think as athletes,

I'm proud to say that we have really continued to have those conversations, even in 2022. But back them up with actionable items.

And I think as allies, it's supporting those initiatives. It's supporting those causes. And sometimes, like you said, it's more powerful. I always tell my brother this all the time. I said, "I can scream about women's basketball all I want. But if you say it, if you say that women's basketball is valuable, women's basketball is important and it's fun to watch, it's way more powerful than if I say it." So, as allies, sometimes it is more powerful if our allies step up and do some of those causes and have some of those conversations.

Susie Scher: Teams and entire leagues have mobilized to take a stand. Are you satisfied with the progress that teams and leagues, NBA, NFL have taken around racial equity? Or is there more to do? What can they be doing together and not putting the burden on just you or individual athletes who are powerful?

Candace Parker: There is way more to do. And there's way more that we as athletes can do. But I like to look at

the differences in the way things are handled. Right? Like the NBA is a predominantly African American league. And the way that they talk about social injustice and the way that they empower their players to talk about it. Then you go across the aisle, and you see the differences of NFL. You see the differences of MLB and the way and the discussions that we had. So, I think that there are a lot more conversations to be had.

But as athletes, I mean, I'm proud at what we've done. I think there are a lot of people that have led the charge. You look at Muhammad Ali back in the day and the Cleveland Summit with what they did. Now you have an entire league, entire leagues that have shut down play in the summer of 2020.

You look at LeBron James and, love him or hate him, I came from Chicago, so Michael Jordan to me is better than LeBron. However, in terms of what he's done for our community, what he's doing continually for where he came from, his community in Akron, a school. Now they're going to have a mental health facility that they're building. Across the board, Russell Westbrook, same thing, has a school. Chris Paul, you know, just in terms of across the

board.

So, I think that there's a number of things as athletes that we're going to continue to give to the next generation so that they can be better and see that somebody cares about them.

Susie Scher: What should a bunch of finance geeks here at Goldman Sachs know about what female athletes need to grow their teams and their leagues, like the WNBA, but not exclusively talking about basketball?

Candace Parker: This is a person that is not patient at all saying this, so, you know, might be tongue and cheek. But patience. Time. Like, we're comparing the WNBA to an NBA that has a 50-year head start. Like, we're expecting the WNBA to be where the MLB is. Like my grandfather told me that I am a Cubs fan. And I'm a Cubs fan because my grandfather was a Cubs fan. So, it's generational. NFL. I'm a Bears fan. It's terrible. But I am. And I'm a Bears fan because that's what my family was.

And so, now, it's like we have it. And it's not even been a generation. I was 11 when the WNBA started. So, we have

this expectation that this league is going to have everything figured out. And especially in the time where we are a Title IX baby. So, because of Title IX, now we have the WNBA. We're figuring it out.

And so, I think in terms of finance, in terms of exposure, yes, visibility is the key. I think storylines are key. But I also think in terms of the support and it being the right target audience.

For so long we didn't even know who our target audience was. Like, we were talking to dads and daughters. Then we were like, no, we'll ignore this side of the crowd. I just think that we're going to figure it out. And so, with that comes investment and comes support. It comes partnerships. It comes empowering the players.

When the NBA started excelling, it was because of the empowerment of the players. You wanted to hear about Magic Johnson and his competition with Larry Bird. Like, you wanted to hear about that. And we have that in the WNBA. But it's not going to be shown if you don't have the visibility.

So, I think television, obviously. Getting more butts in the seats. But also, you know, I think it is that exposure and time.

Susie Scher: Pivoting for a second. Hard topic. And any thoughts on Brittney Griner who, as everybody knows, has been detained in Russia. I know her image and jersey number will be on each team's court throughout the season. LeBron recently called for her release. You know, her trip to Russia in the off season underscores the issue of pay and inequality. That's why she was there.

Many WNBA players play overseas in the off season because they don't make enough money during the season. And it's just not an issue that's as prevalent for the NBA. What needs to change? And how far away are we from seeing that change?

Candace Parker: Well, first and foremost, I think Brittney is on the top of our mind. You know? Just in terms of I can't even imagine. I think I always reflect on as a mom, because I can't even imagine, you know, as a mom. She's actually playing for the club that I played for for six seasons. And I can't even imagine.

So, obviously, we want to get her home. And I think raising awareness and raising attention has been, you know, the top of every WNBA call, every Zoom, every everything. We were just actually in DC. We were fortunate enough to be able to sit down with President Obama and he said that they're working to try to get her back.

But then that goes into, you know, inequality and the inequities in America. Like, why is America the best in basketball but we can't pay our women to stay here? And I think that's a conversation.

I mean, I always said that WNBA was my summer job. That that was my job, you know, overseas, because you make way more overseas than you do here. And so, I mean, I think, like, in the previous question, I think it's sponsorship. I think it's time. A lot of people forget that the NBA was on tape delay in the '80s and '90s. Their playoff playback. Forget. I work with Isaiah Thomas. He reminds me constantly that they used to fly commercial. So, it is about time. It is.

Susie Scher: Definitely makes you feel hopeful. Let's talk a

little bit about the future and your business and the business of being Candace Parker. You've got your own basketball sneaker. Partnership deals with Adidas and Gatorade. You also have two podcasts, your own production company. I don't know how you do all this, but anyway, and a multi year deal with TNT as a commentator. How did you go about building your business portfolio and creating a successful enterprise around your brand?

Candace Parker: Some of the best advice I ever got was from the late, great Pat Summitt at Tennessee. She said surround yourself with people in passion and you'll never fail. And honestly, I've been fortunate enough to have amazing people. From my parents, obviously, starting out. But then just our team. You know? Like just in general, amazing to have people that care. And people that help me plan. I think that that's my biggest thing, is I want to do all these things, but how do you do it?

Susie Scher: Let's talk for a second about the TNT gig alongside Shaq and Dwyane and how you've gone viral more than once for your acumen and cool. How important is it to hear female voices in sports? And how has it changed the way people think about sports? And also, give

us a little flavor of what it's like to school Shaq on the finer points of the game.

Candace Parker: Those are my big brothers. I really enjoy working with them. It's literally like sitting at the dinner table with my actual brothers and debating. With Shaq, you've got to come with straight facts because he's just going to pull out some G14 classification and just hold up his finger and be like, "I have this many rings." Like that's Shaq. So, you literally have to come with facts with him.

But it's an amazing environment. And here's the thing. This is what I ask, because I think that there's always like that elephant in the room, you know, with women in sports and women when you walk onto a set with all men. And I said I am not trying to be one of the guys, I'm trying to be one of the players. And so, I think from there we're able to be more like, I call them, my teammates. Like, they're my teammates. I'm their teammate.

And so, that way, like, got it out of the way. Like, I'm not trying to be one of the boys. I'm not trying to be one of the guys. I want to be your teammate. I want to be one of the players. And I think from that, you know, we found that

common ground of just loving basketball. Loving discussing it. Challenging one another.

I mean, I get to work with people that I had posters on my wall. You know? Like I sometimes have to sit in the chair and like pinch myself. Like, I watched basketball. It's the second-best job. Playing is first. Second is talking about it. And, you know, I'm fortunate enough to be able to do that with people that I idolized.

Susie Scher: That is really fun.

Candace Parker: Don't tell them I said that.

Susie Scher: I won't tell them. I think they're, just having watched a little, I think they're a little intimidated by you.

So, aside from your production company and broadcast career, what's next after basketball? Not that I'm rushing you to get off the court.

Candace Parker: My knees are rushing me to get off the court.

Susie Scher: Well, you know. So, you said you always want to be a part of the game in some capacity. Would you like to own a team one day? I mean, what's next?

Candace Parker: For sure. I think that basketball has been so important in my life. This orange ball has taken me all around the world and different relationships that I've had and friendships and things like that. It's unbelievable. So, I definitely would love to be a part of an ownership group.

My daughter and myself, actually, are part owner of the Angel City FC in LA. So, I think continuing to support in the investment in women sports, again, she called me on my stuff. She was, like, "Mom, you say that others should invest in women sports. What are you doing?" So then--

Susie Scher: That's amazing. I love that.

Candace Parker: Yeah, that's my kid. So, I think, you know, continuing to go where the game leads me. Kind of ventured into this side of things a little bit, in the business world. And yeah, so I think that that's kind of where hopefully it goes.

Susie Scher: That's great. Well basketball definitely needs you in its future. So, all basketball. So, I hope you will do that. Thank you so much for being here today.

Candace Parker: Thank you so much. Thank you.

Susie Scher: This was amazing.

Candace Parker: Thank you for having me.

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