

The WNBA logo is positioned at the top center of the image. It features the letters "WNBA" in a bold, pink, sans-serif font with a yellow outline, set against a blue rectangular background with rounded corners.

WNBA

The title "LOS ANGELES SPARKS" is displayed in large, bold, yellow 3D block letters. It is centered horizontally and partially overlaps the player and the basketball hoop. The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

**LOS ANGELES
SPARKS**



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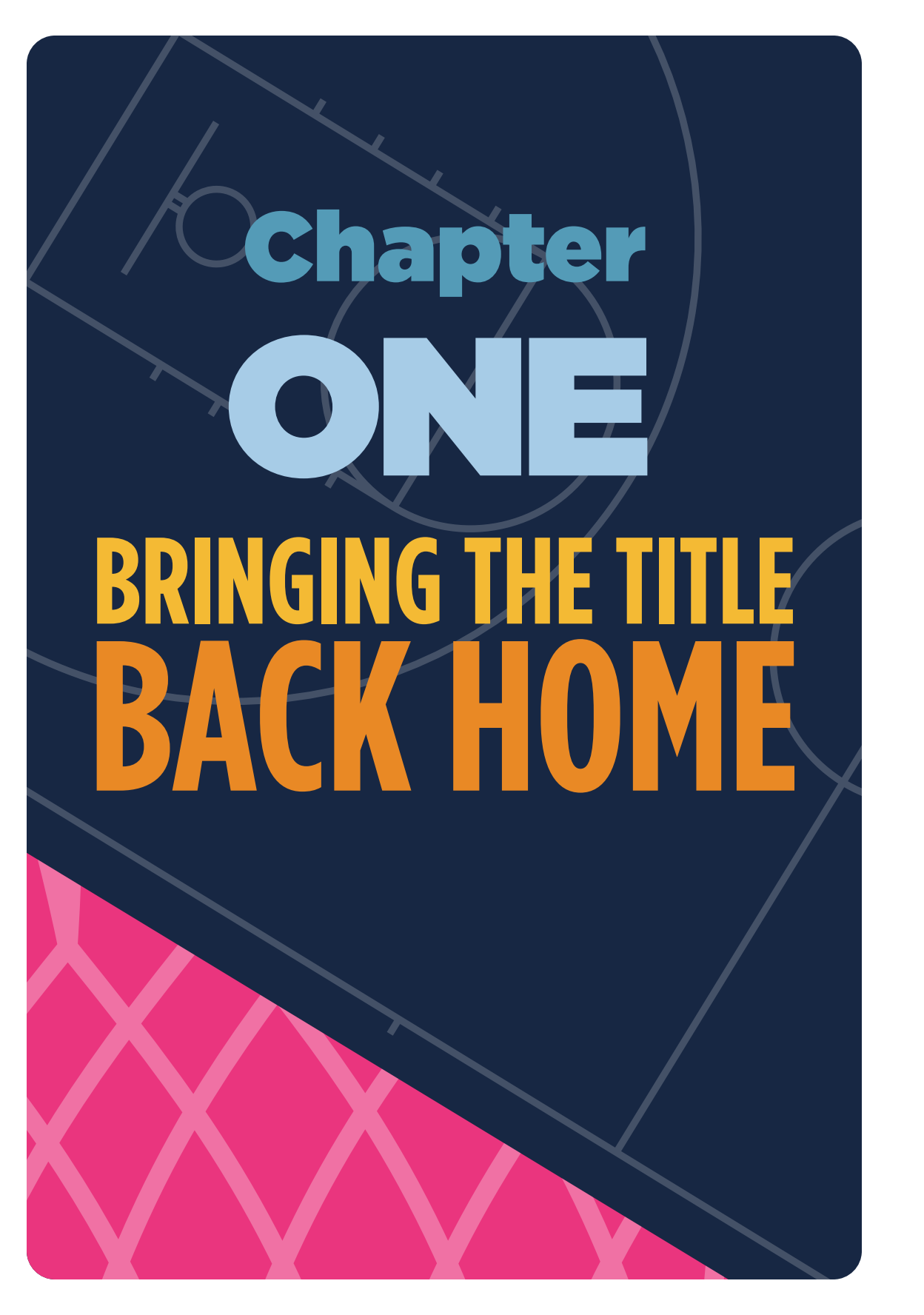
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Chapter **ONE**

BRINGING THE TITLE BACK HOME



Forward Nneka Ogwumike grabs a rebound from Lynx center Sylvia Fowles in game five of the 2016 WNBA Finals.

It was game five of the 2016 WNBA Finals. On October 20, the two top teams in the league, the Los Angeles (L.A.) Sparks and the Minnesota Lynx, were facing off in Minneapolis. The Lynx were the current champions and looking to hold onto the title. The Sparks were coming off two losing seasons.

CHAPTER ONE

The Sparks were back-to-back champs in 2001 and 2002. They wanted to bring the trophy back to Los Angeles. But they were facing a tough opponent in the Lynx, who led the league with a 28–6 record.

The best-of-five series was tied at two games each. Game five was a close one from the beginning. The lead changed eleven times in the first half.

It all came down to the final seconds. The Lynx's Rebekkah Brunson made one of two free throws with 23.4 seconds left to give her team a 74–73 lead. Sparks veteran Candace Parker scored, but she was matched by the Lynx's Maya Moore. Then with only seconds remaining, the Sparks' Nneka Ogwumike got the ball. Her first attempt was blocked, but she grabbed the rebound and finished what she started. The Sparks were bringing the title back to Los Angeles after fourteen years.

Bringing the Title Back Home



Lisa Leslie holds the WNBA Championship trophy as the Sparks celebrate their victory over the Charlotte Sting in the 2001 Finals.

FAST FACT

In 2001, the Sparks became the first WNBA team to go undefeated at home for a whole season.



CHAPTER ONE

Parker summed up the experience to ESPN. “The journey to get here, I wouldn’t have wanted to do it with anybody else. It’s amazing, when you surround yourself with good people, how fun it is.”

The Sparks were one of the original eight WNBA teams. They are one of only three teams that are still playing in their original cities. They’ve had ups and downs since the beginning, but their talent and dedication have made them a **legacy** in women’s basketball.



Bringing the Title Back Home



The Los Angeles Sparks celebrate after defeating the Minnesota Lynx for the WNBA Championship on October 20, 2016.

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