

## Press Conference Quotes:

### Cheryl Reeve Named 2021-2024 USA Basketball Women's National Team Head Coach

Dec. 8, 2021

**Jim Tooley**, USA Basketball CEO

*Opening statement:*

We're excited to be here and be a part of this announcement. I want to thank the Lynx for hosting us here today. I want to recognize four-time Olympian **Sylvia Fowles**, two-time Olympian **Lindsay Whalen**. **Rebekkah Brunson** was a Pan Am (Pan American Games) athlete for us, so it's nice to see some familiar faces here. Cheryl (Reeve) goes back to 2014 with USA Basketball. She helped us win two World Cup gold medals, two Olympic gold medals, which were our sixth and seventh consecutive gold medals for our Women's National Team in Olympic competition, which is extraordinary. And today is a big step towards going towards number eight in a row. And we're very excited about that. No pressure, by the way, right (laughing)? How's that for an intro? But, we're very excited about it. And what I've learned with working with Cheryl and getting to know her over several years, is that when you get Cheryl involved, you get all of her. She's engaged. She's committed, and her passion and enthusiasm are contagious. So, I'm pleased and proud to announce that Cheryl Reeve is named our USA Basketball Women's National Team head coach.

**Cheryl Reeve**, 2021-24 USA Basketball Women's National Team head coach

*Opening statement:*

Gosh, since I received the call from Bri (**Briana Weiss**, Women's National Team director) sharing that they'd like me to be the National Team coach. I thought, 'Boy, they let anybody do these things' (joking).

It was very surreal. It was the initial kind of like, 'did this really happen?' Things start to settle in, and then you just start to have feelings. You feel honored. You feel humbled. You feel grateful, and you feel excited. There's just so many things that you go through and, you know, honored to be able to be a part of one of the greatest sports dynasties, ever. And to have so many people ... We have some Lynx greats, **Andrea Lloyd**, **Katie Smith**, **Teresa Edwards**, that were all part of forming this great dynasty. And, to represent your country at the highest level of sport, you just feel tremendously honored, humbled. You think about **Tara VanDerveer**, **Nell Fortner**, **Anne Donovan**, **Van Chancellor**, **Geno Auriemma**, **Dawn Staley**, and now, Cheryl Reeve -- incredibly, incredibly humbling.

I'm grateful. I can't say enough about our Lynx family, starting with our ownership. There's not a better family to work for than Glenn and Becky Taylor. So, I'm so appreciative of their support through the years. So appreciative all of you. (Lynx players and alumni). All of you have a hand in this. Think about all that you've done for the Lynx through the years to help us be positioned in this way. To the many great staffs that we had along the way, and it's not lost on me that I'm sitting here because of some really great players that we've had. You mentioned.

Lindsay Whalen, Rebekkah Brunson, Sylvia Fowles, **Maya Moore, Seimone Augustus, Napheesa Collier**, are you kidding me? So, that's not lost on me, that the opportunity that was given to be able to be here with the Lynx at this time for the last decade positioned me to be able to be a part of this great opportunity.

Grateful for my family, my wife and my son, who is so excited to be out of school. 'Do I really have to go back, Mom?' But you know, the sacrifices are many. And I just appreciate you guys always jumping in with two feet. It's not easy to do, and there are many more sacrifices ahead. So, thank you in advance (laughing). To my (New) Jersey family, my mom, my brothers and my sisters in law, my nieces, my nephews, my aunts and uncles that all get to share in this wonderful journey. I appreciate their support through the years.

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank the selection committee, **Jim Tooley** and Briana Weiss, to have confidence in me. I'm so appreciative.

So, I'm just full of, you know, Geno Auriemma, Dawn Staley, who put me in this position, just so incredibly grateful.

And then the last piece is excitement. I just feel so excited to get started. We get past this, and I can't wait. We have a tremendous amount of talent in the WNBA and the college ranks if you're watching. There's a lot of talent. I know there'll be some new faces. I'm still working on Syl (Sylvia Fowles), to see if maybe she can still be one of our old faces, but not much luck so far, but we still got time. But, really exciting opportunity, and I just feel incredibly blessed to be able to work with the best athletes in the world. And so, I'm excited about the opportunity to bring us all together and try to qualify for the Olympics and compete for gold. Thank you, all of you, for being here and supporting us here today.

**Briana Weiss**, USA Basketball Women's National Team director

*Opening statement:*

The USA Basketball Women's National Team will first compete in the FIBA World Cup Qualifying Tournament from February 10-13 next year in Washington D.C. Our opponents will be Puerto Rico, Belgium and Russia. Later next year we will compete in the World Cup. That is in Sydney, Australia, from Sept. 22-Oct. 1. The winner of the World Cup qualifies for the 2024 Olympic Games. Between the World Cup and the Olympics, the team will also participate in the 2023-24 Olympic Qualifying Tournaments. Players and coaches for the February window will be announced at a separate date. Obviously, the first task is why we're here today, to have a head coach for the next three years, and I could not be more thrilled to be sharing the stage with that person – Cheryl Reeve.